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Civics 101: The Role of the Electoral College

The passion generated by the heated race between Senators Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama has resulted in this being perhaps the most watched/followed presidential races in modern history. Throughout the process the American public is learning a great deal about the process of nominating and electing the leader of our country.

A common misconception revisited each election cycle is the role of the popular vote versus the electoral college vote. It is not the popular vote that determines the U. S. President and Vice President; it is the vote of the Electoral College.

What or who is the electoral college, how are they selected and what is the role of the popular vote are questions that arise during the presidential elections. The popular website Wikipedia provides an excellent outline of the role and activities of the Electoral College.

The Electoral College is a

term used to describe the 538 Presidential Electors who meet every four years to cast their votes for President and Vice President of the United States. The Presidential Electors of each state are elected by a vote of the people of that state on the day traditionally called

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The Texas Two Step

Supporters of Senators Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama agree on two things: first, Texas is a key state, (and for Sen. Clinton some pundits suggest possibly a must win); and secondly the hybrid Texas primary / caucus is complicated and confusing to voters and even the campaigns.

Dubbed the Texas Two

Step, voters have to cast a ballot either during early voting which began on Tuesday and ends on February 29th and then on the evening of March 4th they have to show up for their precinct caucus meeting promptly at 7:00 p.m. It is during these meetings that delegates are assigned. Voters, who cast their ballot earlier, are asked to

attend the meetings in their district on the evening of March 4th and pledge support to their candidate of choice. Sixty-seven of Texas' 228 delegates to the party's national convention are slated to be selected based on attendance at precinct caucuses.

Another wrinkle in the Texas system according to an AP news report is the

fact Texas delegates are not assigned according to congressional districts in the same manner as other states. "Texas distributes 126 of its delegates among its 31 state Senate districts using a formula based on Democratic voter turnout in the 2004 and 2006 general elections. The 31 districts

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Dr. Maya Angelou to be Keynote Speaker for "Voices of Peace" Hope for Peace & Justice to honor activist's life and work

Dallas, TX --- Hope for Peace & Justice (H4PJ) will present "Voices of Peace" on Saturday, March 1, 2008 at 2 p.m. at the Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas. The event will honor one of the greatest peacemakers of our time, keynote speaker Dr.



Dr. Maya Angelou

Maya Angelou. H4PJ will present Dr. Angelou with the first "Voice of Peace" award in recognition of a life lived in the pursuit of peace and justice. The afternoon also will celebrate Dr. Angelou's 80th birthday, April 4.

n addition, th

Meyerson will be filled with music. The Voices of Peace Chorus, under the direction of Timothy Seelig, will include singers from The Women's Chorus of Dallas, the Turtle Creek Chorale, One Achord, the Cathedral of Hope

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Cover Story P

Black, Republican, and Proud



Linda Drain

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Blackonomic

Spreading the Gain

By James Clingman

In MLK's Mountaintop speech he noted that Black people, in our quest for economic reciprocity, should "spread the pain" by withholding our dollars from various companies and by refusing to purchase certain products. It seems that part of his message has gone unheeded as Black people continue to struggle for parity, equity, and fairness in this country.

It would now be much easier for us if we had started and sustained a "spread the pain" campaign back then. Since we did not, let's look at "Spreading the Gain" in

Georgia State Rep. Winfred Dukes (Albany) invited me to speak at the annual African-American Business Enterprise Day in Atlanta. The theme of the meeting centered on the importance of Black business owners doing business with other Black businesses, something I have advocated for years via this column.

Brother Dukes and

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People In The News...



William Earl Ray



Vince McGill



Regina Washington

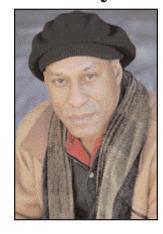
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People In The News

March 14-30, 2008 Teatro delle Muse, is featuring an all African-American production of the American classic The Glass Menagerie written by Tennessee Williams, Directed, by William (Bill) Earl Ray, and starring Vince McGill* as Tom Wingfield and Regina Washington as Amanda. For tickets and information call 972.424.MUSE (6873).

William Earl Ray

William (Bill) Earl Ray (Director)-After a six year absence from the theatrical scene Mr. Ray made his comeback in 2006, acting in the highly acclaimed production of "Blues for an Alabama Sky" at the Jubilee Theatre in Fort Worth. Mr. Ray's next endeavor was directing a production of "A Raisin



in the Sun", (starring the incredible Ms. Irma P. Hall (Big Mama from the movie Soul Food), at the Corner Theatre in Desoto. His then revisted Jubilee Theatre to directed another production "A Lovesong for Miss Lydia". Other directing credits would include "Annie Get Your Gun", "The Gospel At Colonus", "Jerry's Girls", "Fires in the

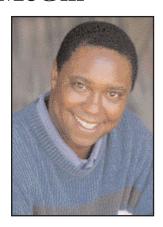
"Ain't Mirror", Misbehavin'", "Agnes of God", "Sea Marks", "The Heiress". "Ceremonies in Dark Old Men", "The Gin Game", "Medal of Honor Rag", "For Colored Girls...", "God's Favorite", "The Amen Corner", "Lilies of the Field", "Working-the "Happy Musical", Ending & Day of Absence", and many

As an actor William has been seen on stage in such shows as "A Raisin in the Sun", "Blues for an Alabama Sky", "Driving Miss Daisy", "Two Trains Running", "Joe Turner's Come and Gone", "Cobb", "Miss Evers Boys", "Piano Lesson", "Orphans", "Audience", "One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest", "Home", "Hospitality",

and many more. On film and television some of William's credits would include "The Tuskegee Airmen", "Terror in The Towers", "Better Off Dead", "Dallas-The Reunion", "Walker Texas Ranger", "Dr. "The Gas Giggles", Cafe'", and more. William is a graduate from The Evergreen State College Olympia, Washington.

Vince McGill

Vince McGill* (Tom Wingfield) - is a member of Actor's Equity Association and has been acting professionally for more than twenty years. His professional experience began in Houston performing for local children's theatre tours throughout Houston/Galveston area. He has been seen on many stages including: Stages in Houston, Dallas Theatre Center, Dallas Children's Theatre, Gryphon Wickerplane Players,



Productions, Addison Centre Theatre, Dallas Shakespeare

Festival, Jubilee Theatre, Lyric Stage, and Desoto Corner Theatre, to name a few. Some of his favorite and award winning roles, Paul in "Six Degrees of Separation", at The Zachary Scott Theatre in Austin where he won Best Actor in a Drama from the Austin Circle of Drama Critics, Antonio in "The Tempest" at Dallas Shakespeare Festival, Little Joe in "Cabin In The Sky" at Lyric Stage (which drew national attention), Walter Lee in "A Raisin In The Sun" at the Desoto Corner Theatre. Friar Lawrence in "Romeo

and Juliet" Dallas at Shakespeare Festival (chosen as one of the top three shows in the metroplex for the 2007 season by Dallas Morning News reviewer Lawson Taitte). Currently he is part of a start up team for a new theatre in the Dallas Area. Partnered with Irma P. Hall and Regina Washington, The African American Repertory Theatre, the new resident company at the Desoto Corner Theatre will produce a series of readings through the spring and summer of 2009 and will begin mainstage productions in the fall.

Regina Washington



Regina Washington**
(Amanda Wingfield) Regina was born and
raised in Italy, Texas.
She received her bachelor's degree from the
University of Texas in
Austin. Regina is committed to public service
and from 2004-2006
served as the treasure
for the Southwest
Dallas County Chapter
of Delta Sigma Theta
Sorority, Inc. (a public

service sorority). Regina has worked as an actress for over ten years. She was last seen on stage as Miss Lydia in "A Lovesong For Miss Lydia" at Jubilee Theatre and Beneatha in "A Raisin In The Sun" at the Desoto Corner Theatre where she starred along side the legendary Irma P. Hall. Some of her favorite roles Shelita Burnes in "Bee Luther Hatchee", Rose in "Fences", Risa in "Two Trains Running", Mattie Campbell in "Joe Turner's Come And Gone", and the young servant in "Ion". Regina is a past recipient of the Best Actress Award from Tarrant

County and several All Star Cast awards from Jubilee Theater. Regina is also one of the founders of the newly formed African-American Repertory Theatre.

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Hot Off the Press

Senior's Quarterly

January-March 2008 Edition

Our first edition for 2008 of the Senior's Quarterly is now available at news outlets across the Metroplex. Senior's Quarterly provides valuable information for the Baby Boomer readers in the orea.



Also available is North Dallas Gazette's October-December 2007 Edition.



To advertise in the North Dallas Gazette Senior's Quarterly, contact Ms. Terry at 972-509-9049



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

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

le you ponder that thought we would like to announce that Minority Opportunity News, nerly a Dallas based renaissance community tabloid, founded in 1991, has relocated to Pla changed our name to MON-The Gazette. In addition to movour offices to Plano, our editorial coverage has also shifted to ompass Dallas' Northern Corridor. The Northern Corridor is

encompass Dallas' Northern Corridor. The Northern Corridor is clearly the fastest growing region in Texas, if not in America.

MON-The Gazette believes that the engine to continue this growth is the airport expansion in McKinney, which is the largest and most visible of many area opportunities. As always, and true to tradition, MON-The Gazette will be there carving a world of opportunity for those seeking to provide quality services. Should you dare to expand your quest for economic parity outside the southern region or just want to know what is easing on up north.

rn region or just want to know what is going on up north-Think of MON-The Gazette as your paper of opportunity!

The North Dallas Gazette formally Minority Opportunity News, was founded July, 1991, by Jim Bochum and Thurman R. Jones

THE TRUTH CLINIC Letter To Obama Naysayers

Senator Barack Obama, shortly after announcing that he was candidate President of the United States of America, began receiving sharp criticism from a number of high profile black academics, activists, politicians, and media celebrities. Their concern was that Mr. Obama was not speaking out about the legacy of racism in America or focusing enough attention on the myriad problems that disproportionately affect blacks.

As the primary campaign moves on and Obama racks up more victories and builds momentum both white and black naysayers try to slice and dice the Obama candidacy along race parameters such as white atonement or various forms of "uncle tomism."

They claim the presidential campaign of Barack Obama following the Super Tuesday victories has become a celebratory parade on its way to an unwarranted veritable coronation.

However, in light of two terms of an inept and corrupt Bush presidency there should be no question about Obama being qualified. But to let that be the only confirmation of his candidacy would undermine the high stature and importance the Office President of the United States of America.

We do need to understand some of the intricacies associated with playing in the game of

national politics. First, for a black to be in the game it is well known that he cannot depend totally on a black focused campaign. There just are not enough black voters. Second, campaigns cost tons of money and black folks are neither inclined to give nor do they have substantial discretionary income from which to give. Therefore, on a practical basis a national black candidate has to set up a non-conventional strategy just to be in the game. Study the presidential forays of Shirley Chisholm, Rev. Jesse Jackson or Rev. Al Sharpton to understand the short half life of a black based candidacy.

The white pundits and skeptical blacks can sit around and intellectualize infinitum but there is not denying that something special unique is happening. And because it is unlike anything we have seen in this country perhaps it is time to discard the generally accepted methods of evaluating Obama's candidacy. While Senator Obama should be critically challenged on his views on the Iraq War, health care, the economy and other issues skimmed over in his "change" proclamations the unique qualities he possesses take on special importance at this time.

Obama has shown a rare insight and practical understanding of the national game of politics for a young

politician participating in his first national campaign. He has a keen intelligence, a creative imagination, and the oratorical skill to translate that imagination into a vision that average working people relate to no matter what their race or gen-He is inspiring and giving new hope to millions with notion of change.

Following the Iowa caucus results a different opinion about the unusual depth Obama's white support seemed warranted. What seems to be happening is that instead of racial atonement many people have become so disgusted and disillusioned with the disastrous Bush agenda that they are desperately looking for something very different.

Whites want to break from the failed domestic and international policies that America has been implementing. Their desperate cry for help has in fact been so desperate that they were willing to look beyond color and reach out to a smart young black man. That man, at this historic moment, is Barack Obama.

Over the last seven years America has lost all credibility and respect with the world community. Almost 80 percent of the world's population is colored. Of every 100 people, 61 live in Asia, 14 in Africa, 11 in Europe, nine in Latin America, five in North America and less than one in Oceania. Obama

stands a better chance of neutralizing the ingrained distrust these countries have of dealing with the perception of "white empire." The willingness to negotiate will be a welcomed icebreaker to the world community that currently reacts from a mindset of perpetual fear.

He also understands that you cannot change the system from the outside. To get inside you must win and to win you have to convince a variety of constituencies, some of which may be borderline supporters, that you understand their needs. Barack Obama has clearly demonstrated a unique ability to reach across political lines, independents, youth, men, women, the affluent, blue collar workers, and bridge a variety of ideologies to mobilize and reinvigorate the Democratic Party. The democratic voter turnout during this primary campaign has consistently been twice the norm.

Obama may not win the top prize this time but he is shaking the tree like no other black man has. He is planting seeds of hope not only in a diverse group of voters but in the minds of the nation's youth who see him on TV and may be motivated to reach far beyond the low expectations they currently

James W. Breedlove Comments or opinions may be sent to the writer at: www.truthclinic.com

Nigeria Marks 50 Years Since Oil Discovery

(NNPA) - Fifty years of oil production and exports in Nigeria has left a mixed record — phenomenal wealth for some and a trail of deprivation, environmental degradation and poverty for others.

These were some of the views expressed in Abuja at the 'Two-Day International Conference on 50 Years of Oil in Nigeria', sponsored by Tell Magazine. It was one of several planned events leading to the 50th anniversary on Sunday, Feb. 17.

Following the discovery of oil in commercial quantity in Bayelsa State in the late 1950s, Nigeria shipped out oil for the first time from its shores on Feb. 17, 1958.

Editor-in-chief/CEO of

Tell Communications Ltd, Nosa Igiebor, wrote: "In just half a century, oil has invested Nigeria with incredibly enormous wealth. In a country that is Africa's largest nation, and with the world's biggest black population, the oil wealth has helped to transform our economy, as well as our role in regional and global politics.

"This is amidst the great challenges thrown up in the oil-producing Niger/Delta region, among which are grave environmental issues and poverty, the consequent perennial agitation for resource control and, lately, widespread armed militancy."

Delta State Governor, Dr. Emmanuel Uduaghan, expressed regret that 50 years of oil exploration in Nigeria had only brought underdevelopment and unrest.

"The overdependence on oil has put an unpleasant bracket in our national economic freedom," concurred Vice President Goodluck Jonathan.

The conference, to be opened by President Umar Yar'Adua, is expected to draw officials of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), oil ministers of OPEC and non-OPEC countries, executives of international bodies, oil companies and financial institutions from the local area.

Nigeria is the 14th largest producer of oil in the world and sixth in the OPEC

AIDS Arms, Inc. & Coalition Of Life Celebrates National Women And Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

Dallas, TX – AIDS Arms, Inc. & Coalition of Life is joining the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in celebrating National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. On Friday March 7, 2008 AIDS Arms, Inc. & Coalition of Life will host a community seminar where women and girls in the community will be able to attend a health and information with free confidential HIV testing.

National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is a nationwide initiative to raise awareness of the increasing impact of HIV/AIDS on women and girls. Families, health organizations, businesses, communities, the government and individuals come together to provide support and educate

women and girls about practicing safe methods, getting tested, and encouraging the community to talk about HIV/AIDS prevention. The theme for National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day 2008 is "Honoring Our Sisters: Women Living with HIV/AIDS."

The event is free to the community and will be held at the Hitt Auditorium, located at the Methodist Dallas Medical Center on the corner of Colorado Blvd and Bishop Avenue. The health information fair begins at 6:00 pm with light refreshments being served and the program beginning at 6:45 pm. Free confidential HIV testing will be available at the event. Free parking is available and the location is on a direct bus

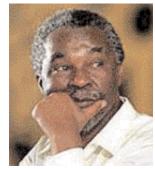
line. The event is open to the community of clients, service providers and committed stakeholders in the fight against AIDS.

National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is important because it encourages women and girls in our community to get tested and educate themselves about HIV/AIDS. The local community needs to educate women and girls and provide prevent support to HIV/AIDS. With National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, we remind women and girls to talk to their doctor, avoid high-risk behaviors, and routinely get tested for HIV/AIDS.

National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is being celebrated on March 10.

Energy Crisis Prompts Call for Mbeki to Resign

(NNPA) – Rolling blackouts and a critical electricity shortage in the country may take months to resolve, South African Public Enterprises Minister Alec Erwin has acknowledged. A "tight" supply situation may persist for another four years, he added, until new gener-



President Thabo Mbeki

ation capacity is installed.

The crisis has prompted at least one political leader to demand that President Thabo Mbeki and his entire cabinet resign.

"We fail to see how we can trust those who created the electricity crisis also to deliver us from it. It is unacceptable that they are still making decisions about our future energy path and committing us to spending millions of rands," said Patricia de Lille, leader of the Independent Democrats.

So bad is the energy crisis that one of every

four power plants is standing idle. Electric power to the nation's mines was cut last month – an unprecedented step. Government officials blame unexpected economic growth. But some question whether the ANC, now a major stakeholder in the power company Eskom, is seek-

ing windfall profits from the billions to be made by power station construction.

A new energy policy paper has already come under fire for ignoring renewable energy options, cheaper off-peak rates, and allowing users to sell energy to the grid.

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Election Day. They meet in their respective state capitol buildings (or in the District of Columbia) on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December, but never as a national body. At the 51 separate meetings, held on the same day, the electors cast their votes. As such, the collective concept of the 51 groups is the technical definition of the college, despite never convening together. The Electoral College system, like the national convention, is an indirect element in the process of electing the president. What is important to emphasize here is that the Constitution does not require the electors to vote as pledged, but many states do.

The original mechanics of presidential elections were established by Article II, Section 1, Clause 3 Jof the U. S. Constitution.. The Twelfth

Amendment revised those mechanics, including that each elector vote separately for President and Vice President. Today, the mechanics of the Presidential election are administered by the National Archives and Records Administration .

The number of electoral votes of each state is the sum of its number of U.S. Senators (always two) and its U.S. Representatives, Texas has thirty-two. In each state, voters vote for a slate of precandidates selected Presidential Elector, representing the various candidates for President. However, State ballots suggest that the voters are voting for actual candidates for President. Usually states use what is termed the short ballot, in which a vote for one party (such as Democratic or Republican) is interpreted as a vote for the entire slate of Presidential Electors. With rare exceptions, one party wins the entire electoral vote of the state (by either plurality or majority). Maine and Nebraska choose Presidential Electors using what is termed the District Method, which makes it possible for the voters to choose electors of different political parties and split the electoral vote of these two states.

The Presidential Electors of each state, and Washington, D.C., meet to cast their electoral votes 41 days after the Election Day popular vote. The electors' ballot is first for President, then for Vice President. On rare occasions, an elector does not cast the electoral vote for the party's national ticket, usually as a political statement; these people are called faithless electors. Each elector signs a document entitled the Certificate of

Vote which sets forth the electoral vote of the state (or district). One original Certificate of Vote is sent by certified mail to the Office of the Vice President.

Approximately one month following the casting of the electoral votes, the newly seated U.S. Congress meets in joint session to declare the winner of the election. If a candidate for President or Vice President, separately, receives the vote of 270 (more than half of 538) or more Presidential Electors, the presiding officer (usually the sitting Vice President) declares that candidate to be the President-elect or Vice-President-elect.

The nature of the process and its complication has been critiqued, with its detractors proposing several alternative methods of electing the president. This issue was revisited following the Presidential Election of 2000 when Democratic candidate Al Gore received the plurality of the national vote, but failed to win the majority of the Electoral College. Advocates of the current system have similarly set forth arguments for its advantages.

The election of the leader of the U. S. and the Vice President is indirect. The constitutional theory is that, while the Congress is popularly elected by the people, the President and Vice President are elected to be executives of a federation of independent states.

Electors are selected on a state-by-state basis as determined by the laws of each state. Currently each state uses the popular vote on Election Day to appoint electors. Although ballots list the names of the presidential candidates, voters within the 50

states and Washington, D.C. are actually choosing electors from their state when they vote for President and Vice President. These Presidential Electors in turn cast the official electoral votes for those two offices. Although the aggregate national popular vote is calculated by official and media organizations, it has no bearing in regards to determining the winner of the election.

A candidate must receive an absolute majority of electoral votes (currently 270) to win the Presidency. If no candidate receives a majority in either election for President or Vice President, the election is determined via a contingency procedure in the Twelfth Amendment

For more information, visit http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U nited_States_Electoral_Colleg e

Black History Event

The Marian Anderson String Quartet

By Pietro Elina

For nearly twenty years, four women have traveled the world, sharing their musical talents to bring hope and inspiration to the downtrodden. The Marian Anderson Quartet is composed of Marianne Henry (violin), Nicole Cherry (violin), Diedra Lawrence (viola), and Prudence McDaniel (vello). The group acquired its name in 1991, when the quartet won the International Cleveland Quartet Competition becoming first African-American ensemble to ever win a classical musical competition. It was upon winning the competition and conquering racial barriers, that the quartet requested permission of the great contralto, Marian Anderson, if Hall in New York, the they could use her name. Since the group's

Corcoran Gallery, the Library of Congress, the



inception they have performed for the needy in soup kitchens, the worn and beaten down in correctional facilities, and even had a chance to perform for their namesake heroine, Marian Anderson. The ladies have performed at a number of concert venues including Alice Tully

Chateu Cantanac-Boardeaux in France and even the San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival. On January 20, 1993 the quartet played at the Kennedy Centre Washington D.C. for the 52nd Presidential inauguration.

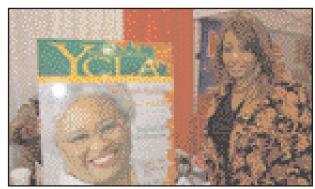
The Marian Anderson Quartet is currently the Ensemble in Residence at Texas A&M University, and Quartet in Residence with the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra in Bryan Texas. To honor Black History Month, the Allen Public Library in collaboration with Bach to Books, has invited the Marian Anderson String Quartet to perform live. The performance will be on February 28th at 7:00 p.m. at the Allen Public Library, 300 North Allen Drive, in Allen, Texas 75002. This program is free and open to the public. Come share this magnificent experience with your community, honor of your heritage. For more information on this event, please contact Tom Keener at 214-509-4911.

Recent Sister to Sister Health Fair in Dallas

Women's Heart Health Fair Held on February 7



Debbie Denmon, Freda Horrace, Linda Koop and Laural V. Estrada



Kertrina Dauway President-CEO of, You Can Live Again

Congresswoman Johnson Receives Congressional Leadership **Award From Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America**

Washington, D.C. -Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson has been awarded the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America's (CADCA) annual Congressional Leadership Award. Each year this award is given to Members of Congress who have exhibited outstanding dedication to eradicating drug and alcohol abuse in our schools and communi-

Congresswoman Johnson accepted the award as part CADCA's National Leadership Forum. which brought together more than 3,000 substance abuse prevention and treatment specialists from throughout the including country -

members of the Greater Dallas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

I was extremely honored to be acknowledged by CADCA and their dedicated membership," Congresswoman Johnson. "They are truly the ones who deserve recognition as they are working everyday to end substance abuse in our communities."

Prior to becoming an elected official I was a psychiatric nurse. From that experience I understand the challenges and often stigmas surrounding both mental health care and substance abuse treatment. We have come a long way over the last 30 years, but there is still work to be It is through groups like CADCA that

we are able to work together to accomplish these goals."

In 2007, Congresswoman Johnson successfully passed an amendment to the fiscal year 2008 Labor, Health and Human Services, and **Education appropriations** bill that restored \$46.5 million in funding to the state grants portion of the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities program.

"I remain committed to keeping our communities, and in particular our young people, free from drugs and alcohol abuse. This award is truly an honor and I look forward to a continued partnership with CADCA to strengthen our resolve to protect our communities.

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Dr. Michael L. Lomax Offers Praise on House Passage Of HR 4137 The College Opportunity & Affordability Act Of 2008

(Fairfax, Va.)-- Dr. Michael L. Lomax CEO of the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) released a statement regarding passage of the College Opportunity & Affordability Act of 2008.

The UNCF commends Chairman George Miller (D-CA) for leading a bipartisan effort, in collaboration with ranking member Rep. Buck McKeon (R-CA) and members of the Congressional Black Caucus who assisted in

securing today's passage of H.R. 4137, the College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2008. UNCF has waited nearly ten years for Congress to reauthorize the Higher Education Act. (HEA). On behalf of the 39 historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) that make up UNCF and their 55,000 students, I want to express our gratitude to Chairman Miller for his leadership in the long and difficult reauthorization process.

Three of the bill's provisions will make especially important contributions to the work of HBCUs and other minority-serving institutions (MSIs):

• The inclusion in the HEA Reauthorization of the provisions of the MSI Digital Divide bill will make an important contribution to giving minority colleges and universities and their students access to levels of technology that many other institutions take

for granted. Rep. Edolphus Towns (D-NY) of New York, an HBCU graduate, deserves a great deal of credit for assuring that technology equity will finally become federal policy.

• Working with Majority Whip Jim Clyburn (D-SC), also an HBCU graduate, and others on the Education Committee, UNCF led the successful effort to include provisions that make credit more accessible and affordable so

that HBCUs can support campus construction and renovation projects.

Additionally, Rep. Clyburn spearheaded language increasing the program's lending authority to \$1.1 billion.

• The increase from \$300 million to \$500 million in the authorization levels for HBCUs, and the increase from \$100 million to \$125 million for historically black graduate institutions. We are grateful to Rep. Jim Cooper (D-TN), who represents

UNCF member college Fisk University, for his commitment and leadership in supporting capacity building by HBCUs.

The House's action brings us a big step closer to giving HBCUs the

support they need to educate their students to become full participants in their communities and in the global economy. We look forward to the Conference of the bill and final Congressional passage.

Wal-Mart Foundation Donates \$250,000 to Museum of African American History

In celebration of Black History Month, the Wal-Mart Foundation announced that it is donating \$250,000 to the Museum of African American History in Boston. These funds will be used for the restoration of the African Meeting House. National Historic Landmark and the oldest extant black church building built by free African Americans in the United States.

"The African Meeting House was the nexus of black abolitionist communities in the Northeast. It was a place for education, economic development and social justice. It stands as a singular structure that housed the institutional prowess of an empowering Boston black community," said Beverly Morgan-Welch, executive director of the Museum of African American History.

Wal-Mart Foundation
President Margaret
McKenna joined
Morgan-Welch and State
Senator Dianne
Wilkerson at the Museum
today to celebrate the
company's donation as
well as to recognize federal and state government
funding that have been
critical to the effort.

The Wal-Mart Foundation donation helps the Museum surpass the 50 percent mark of the \$8 million of fund-

ing needed to complete the African Meeting House restoration effort.

"The Wal-Mart Foundation is pleased to join this public-private partnership to restore an important historic site that educates and inspires everyone who visits," said McKenna. "This gift can be leveraged by the Museum to gather the rest of the funds it needs to bring this very important project to completion."

Built in 1806 and acquired by the Museum in 1972, the African Meeting House offers a unique window on a powerful history that begins with the actual physical structures where

people worked together to secure the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. As the Center of both religious and civic activity, the African Meeting House played host to giants in the Abolitionist Movement including William Lloyd Garrison, Frederick Douglass, John Brown, Lewis Hayden, Sojourner Truth and many more. In celebration of the 200th anniversary of this majestic building, the Museum of African American History launched a major restoration that is critical to its preservation. The African Meeting House will be restored to its appearance in 1855.

The newly restored

200-seat African Meeting House will be home to programs that feature stories of African Americans from 1638 through the Civil War and will give names, faces and voices to dynamic historic figures. In addition, in the tradition of the African Meeting Houses of the 19th century, it will serve as an important gathering place and venue for the discussion of contemporary issues.

Wal-Mart has a long

tradition of supporting diverse communities throughout the year, and this year is proud to celebrate Black History Month by honoring the living history of African Americans. The company is hosting several Black History Month activities throughout the month of February in Wal-Mart Stores

and Sam's Clubs. For more information, visit http://www.walmart.com/blackhistory.

Texas, Page 1

contain from two to eight delegates. The March 4 primary vote in each Senate district will allocate that district's delegates." Supposedly the formula is designed to provide more delegates to urban cities.

Early signs could be favorable for Sen. Obama. First, across the country he has done well in urban areas, he has won more caucuses 12-3, and early voting on the first day was

in record numbers. This includes a symbolic seven mile march of 1,000 students at Prairie View, upset at the lack of an early voting place on campus. The Justice Department has questioned the county's reasons for failing to provide early-voting site on The Dallas campus. County Democratic primary had a record breaking 8,599 ballots cast on Tuesday.

For more information about early voting dates, locations and times in your community visit the following websites [links will be posted on our website, visit and simply click on the appropriate county.]

Collin County: http://www.collincountytx.gov/elections/election_information/2008/ 030408/EV030408.html

Dallas County: http://www.dalcoelec-

tions.org/march42008/EV Locations.htm

Denton County: http://elections.denton-county.com/go.asp?Dept= 82&Link=975

Rockwall County:

http://www.rockwallcountytexas.com/elecadm/2008/march4th/PRIMARY-Early%20Voting%20Locations-March%204%202008.pdf



The program is held on.
Toesday's and Thursday's,
From fills 1015 one in the

from 640 - 745 pm, in the clubbonse at Indign On Forest Apartments, 2665 Forest Lanc, Dallas TX 25245.

Topics Discussed: Family Values, Juvenile Honses & Pelsous, Alcoholism & Deug Addiction, Teenage Pregnancy & Self Preservation, Date Rape, and Missions.



N2ND is expanding to Plann and Allen, TX. If you are interested in volunteering phase send year information to:

R5cb_cttu3@nc-yuccom. We are also partnering with Plano
Housing Amborby Pamily Self Sufficiency Program to reach the powents of my future generation. These meetings will be held at Plano Housing Authority. 1740 Account G, Plano. TX.

For more information, please contact.

Founder/CEO - Blob Ertz-Wientherdes (199) 274-9618
or VP - Penny Francis (114) 798-7178.

Let's Twirl!!

Tri-City Twirlers Host Their 4th Annual Spring Break Camp For Girls

During the week of March 10-14, girls from ages 5 to 17 will come to the heart of Oak Cliff to participate in the 4th Annual Spring Twirler Training Camp, a workshop5-day for new and experienced baton twirlers. Hosted by the Tri-City Twirlers of Dallas, the camp will be

held at the Thurgood Marshall Recreation Center from 9:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m. which ends with a showcase for parents, friends and the community. camp is designed to introduce young girls to the basics of baton twirling and teach competitive twirling to current majorette

squads in the area.

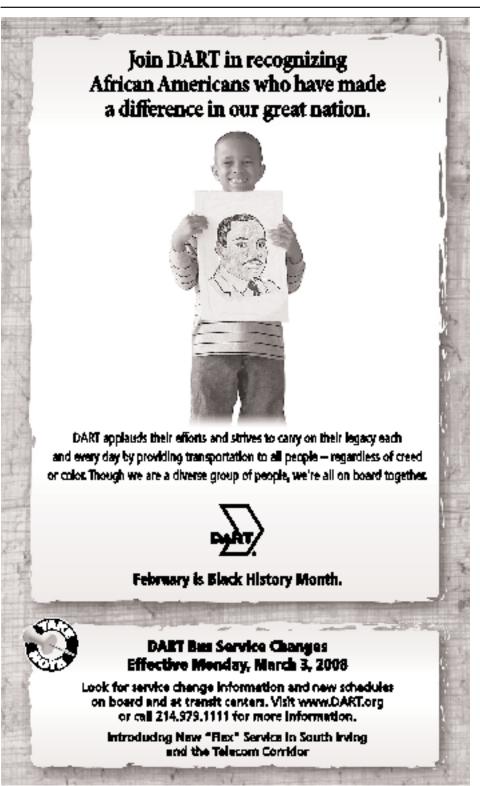
The camp costs \$35.00 person and includes intensive training for beginning, intermediate advanced twirlers, daily snacks and awards and the opportunity for girls to create positive friendships and build inner confidence. Participants must bring their own

baton and dress appropriately. Onregistration site will be held on the first day only from 9:00 a.m. - 9:30 For more a.m. information or to pre-register, call (214) 773-3393 or www.tctwirlersdallas.com to download a camp registration form.

The Tri-City

Twirlers of Dallas is the brainchild of two former Justin F. Kimball High School majorettes, Ms. Tonya Caston (91-94) and Ms. Kiana Lynn-Cooks (92-95). Both individuals have worked collectively and independently in the field of baton twirling and have experience in grooming

young twirlers into highly skilled performers and competitors. Combining unique teaching styles, talents, and love of twirling, Tri-City Twirlers of Dallas aim to be the pretwirling organization in the Southwest Dallas and beyond.





Community Calendar

February 21

The Black Business Directory with the Dallas Black Chamber Commerce presented by Seagram's Apple Twisted and Enigma Entertainment. Celebrate at The Black Academy of Arts & Letters from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Local business owners, entrepreneurs, corporate and community leaders will attend to learn how this powerful tool can help their organization, company or business grow. Admission is free, but RSVP is required. You can RSVP at rsvp@goblackbusiness.com. For more information visit www.GoBlackBusiness.c

February 22

You Betta Ask Somebody ah, finally one of Snoop Dogg's songs is immortalized at the Corner Theater at Desoto Civic Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run Road in Desoto. The performance begins at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance, or \$20 at the door. For further information please call 817-595-7280 or email wearefierce@yahoo.com.

February 22

Urban League's 41st Annual Meeting Luncheon, themed The Legacy Continues: The Passing of the Torch will honor three very prominent figureheads in the community. The annual meeting, which will kickoff this year's fundraising season, begins at 11:45 a.m. at the Hilton Anatole Hotel, 2201 Stemmons Freeway. The Urban League of Greater Dallas' mission is to secure economic self-reliance, civil rights, and empowerment into the social mainstream for our African-American community. Admission into the luncheon is \$45 per individual, and sponsorship opportunities are available. Please contact the Urban League at 214-915-4600, for ticket or sponsorship information

February 22 and 23

TBAAL Black Academy: A Song for You... The Civil Rights Journey of a Negro Woman: Lena Calhoun Horne's story presented at the Dallas Convention Center Theatre Complex, at The Dallas Black Academy of Arts and Letters. The shows will begin at 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$15. Please call 214-943-2442 for more information.

February 23

of Sanctuary Praise Fellowship of Allen, Texas cordially invites the public to "A Taste of Soul 2008- A Tasting Extraordinaire." The Taste of Soul will begin this Saturday morning at 11:00 a.m. and last clear through 6:00 p.m. This tasty celebration of African-American Cuisine is being held at 1001 E. Main Street (Twin Oaks Private School). The menu will consist of: New Orleans Gumbo, Shrimp Pasta, Southern Fried Chicken and Catfish, Mouthwatering Ribs and Brisket, Ham, Collard Greens, Mac and Cheese, Potato Salad, Candied Yams, Peach Cobbler, 7-11 Cake, Sweet Potato Pie, plus a whole lot more. Tickets are only \$10 for adults and \$8 for children 12 and younger. For more information please call 469-853-2380.

February 23

The 2nd Annual Cupids Arrow Chess Tournament! (The 2nd out of 5 Tournaments in the Longhorn Cup Grand Prix)

A 5 round chess tournament that is open to anyone from Kindergarten to 5th grade. There is no elimination as everybody plays all 5 games! Trophies and prizes will be given to the top individual scorers as well as the top teams in each division. Top teams and players based on their best 4 out of 5 tournaments will be awarded the Longhorn Cup. National Expert Herminio Baez will be teaching group lessons in between the rounds. The tournament will be located at the Plano Centre 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway, at Spring Creek & Jupiter Roads in Plano Texas. Admission into the tournament requires a fee of \$20 if before February 22, or \$25 at the door. The tournament is free to watch of course. Contact Herminio Baez at 347-731-5861 or email bgschess@yahoo.com or visit www.bgschess.com for more info.

February 23

The Wells Fargo Money Management Series, a special family event will be taking place at the African American Museum from 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. The African American Museum is located at 3536 Grand Avenue, Fair Park Dallas, Texas 75315-0157. For further information please call 214-565-9026

February 23

70's Blast Dance Party Old Settler's recreation Center and the McKinney Housing Authority are sponsoring the grooviest dance party on this side of town! The 70's Blast will feature a live DJ playing your favorite 70's hits, a best dressed contest, for all you cool cats, and a free buffet! What more could you ask for? Anyone looking to relive the 70's (21 and older) will come to 1201 East Louisiana Street, McKinney,

Texas 75069 from 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Admission to the dance is \$7.00, tickets will be on sale at the McKinney Housing Authority 1200 North Tennessee Street. For more information, please call 972-542-5641.

February 25

A Black Tie Celebration of Dancing ~Through Poetry, Art and Jazz will include a performance by renowned master poet and playwright, McCorvey. Morris McCorvey will exhibit "A Tour of the Harlem Gallery with Melvin B. Tolson: Coach of the Great Debaters", an exciting performance for all ages. This event is the 3rd Annual McKinney North Black History. The presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m. at McKinney North High School, 2550 Wilmeth Road. For more information please call 469-742-4555.

February 25

Texas Democratic Women of Collin County will hold their next meeting on Monday at 6:45 p.m. at Legacy Bank, 3512 Preston Road (just north of Parker) 2nd Floor Conference Room. Listen in on a panel LGBT (Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Tran sgender) issues, politics, and advocacy. Board members from Stonewall Democrats, Collin County Gay & Lesbian Alliance and Equality Texas will talk about the mission of their organizations' and how straight allies can get involved both locally and at the national level. Hear more about our plan to Get Out The Vote (GOTV) and how you can be a part of this historic election! For more information on the Texas Democratic Women of Collin County, visit www.tdwcc.org or email jrubin1@sbcglobal.net.

February 26

NAACP Monthly meeting of Executive Committee will kickoff at 6:15 p.m. Come to the Women's Activity Building, 713 Austin and Glenbrook. There will be an African- American History Month Tribute Program at 7:15 p.m. For further info please contact the Garland Branch NAACP at 972-381-5044.

February 28

"The Sales Doctor" Sandler Training cordially invites you to attend a complimentary executive briefing for business owners, presidents, and directors of sales. This free informative seminar entitled, How To Hire The Best & Coach The Rest In 2008, will equip you with necessary resources to maximize sales, and sales management assessment tools. This awesome opportunity is brought to you by Sandler Training on Thursday, February 28th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at 13111 North Central Expressway, Suite 400, Dallas, Texas 75243 (Off of the Midpark exit on Central Expressway next to the Embassy Suites Hotel). Remember, seating is limited to the first twenty guests. Please be sure and RSVP to salestrac@sandler.com or call David Tyson 972-644-0454.

February 28

TBAAL Black Academy: Ellis Island at The Dallas Black Academy of Arts and Letters, Dallas Convention Center Theatre Complex. The show begins at 10:00 a.m. Admission is \$10. Call 214-943-2442 for any additional information.

February 28

The Marian Anderson String Quartet will perform live at the Allen Public Library, 300 North Allen Drive, starting at 7:00 p.m. This performance is free and open to the public. Please contact Tom Keener at 972-359-0656, for more information.

February 28

Top Funder's Workshop will help you identify new funding resources, learn more about your current donors and develop more effective fundraising strategies. The informative workshop will be held at the Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway (Spring Creek & Jupiter Roads) from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. All participants will receive our Top Funders disk that lists hundreds of major funders/donors in area. FundraisingINFO.com is a FREE workshop. For more information or to register, call 1-888-256-3229 or http://wwwfund raisinginfo.com/fristore/Df wfeb2008.htm online.

February 28th

Estate Planning Seminar Discover how easy it is to use a Living Trust or a Properly Drafted Will to save on Estate Taxes and Control vour Assets. This free, 90-minute, educational program will be presented by Dallas Estate Planning Attorney, Richard P. Johnson, who is Board Certified in Estate Planning and Probate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Come to the Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway, (Spring Creek & Jupiter Roads) on Thursday at 10:00 a.m. or at 7:00 p.m. to learn important information on Texas probate laws. For reservations please contact Karen at 972-497-1010 or email Karen@Richard

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Black, Republican, and Proud Don't Call It an Oxymoron in Collin County

By Ken Parish Perkins

Though wide-eyed and politically curious at age 19, Linda Drain didn't quite grasp the stark divide of race and politics until the day she handed a leaflet to an older black woman walking along a downtown Houston street.

"Thank you darlin'," the woman would say, obviously impressed with the young woman's initiative.

Then she read what it said.

What followed is something that Drain, now a criminal defense attorney in Plano with a 26year-old daughter of her own, has never forgotten.

First the woman screamed "you ought to be ashamed of yourself."
Then she spat at her.

"I couldn't believe it," says Drain. "Frankly, I put down my leaflets and said I'm done."

Drain obviously was not aware of how Ronald Regan played among some black folks in Houston, so sticking a Reagan-For-President leaflet in the hands of a black Democrat was something akin to a personal affront.

While Drain now lives in Collin County where "nearly everybody seem to be Republican" little has changed elsewhere. Stick a leaflet touting, say, Republican Presidential nominee John McCain in the palm of a random black person in Dallas, chances are you'll earn a dirty look.

"What has happened with African Americans is that they don't get involved with substance," says Fred N. Moses, president of the African American Republican Club of Collin County (AARCCC). "It's always an emotion issue. They



(left to right) Dr. Cary Israel, Herbert Miller, State Representative Jerry Madden, and Karl Voightberger

don't pull the covers back. They don't ask the question, 'why are you following someone? Why are following a particular party? Who really gets things done for us?"

AARCCC members consider themselves foot soldiers in a sort of war of words, myths and images that starkly represents the lopsided political view African Americans have for one party over another. Blacks who have long voted Democrat have done so because they perceive Republicans as white, rich and racist - mostly men who neither understand nor care about African Americans.

So far that perception has stuck, particularly in Dallas County, where nearly 90 percent of minorities support the Democratic Party. With minorities accounting for 64 percent of Dallas County residents in 2007, it is clear Republicans are outnumbered.

It's an about-face in

Collin County where the African American population hovers around 8 percent trailing Hispanics at 15 and Asians around 10 percent. Republicans have been so dominate in county elections the past two American running for a countywide office.

While De Coux says he's not trying to make his campaign racially-based, his platform is about safe neighborhoods and schools he says, "I'd love

"What has happened with
African Americans is that they don't
get involved with substance,"
says Fred N. Moses, president of the
African American Republican Club of
Collin County (AARCCC).
It's always an emotion issue."

decades that a Democrat has never even held an office.

But elected black Republicans are just as rare in the county, which is one of the reasons the AARCCC was formed. "It has to start somewhere" says James De

AARCCC was formed.
"It has to start somewhere," says James De Coux, a candidate for Constable in Precinct 3 and the only African

to be the first."

Opportunities are out there, says Moses, who owns Telecom Electric Supply Company. But he knows the word republican leaves a bitter taste among many blacks because of a losing pubic relations battle.

"What we're trying to do is get the right information out there on Republicans and African Americans," says Moses. "Republicans have been in the forefront of this country in civil rights and they don't get credit for that. Our whole thing is to educate people and get more African Americans elected as Republicans."

Indeed, there are no black elected Republicans in Collin County, there are only three in the state, in fact, including a pair of judges and Railroad Commissioner Michael L. Williams.

When organizations hosted candidate forums for Dallas County on Feb. 18 at Paul Quinn College and for Collin County at the Collin County Republican Headquarters in McKinney the following evening, the racial makeup of candidates, mostly white, was obvious.

Black Republican Arthur Young, a retired postmaster from Plano, says you can't get caught up in race that it's vital to "look beneath the surface of what is being said." While he'd like to see more black representation, he backs candidates based on issues and values over any thing else.

Moses himself was attracted to the Republican Party because Democrats "weren't getting anything done in our community," he says.

Black Republicans point proudly and swiftly to history, and how it was Democrats, not Republicans, who blocked black progress in voting rights and civil rights, and, going back even further, slavery. George Wallace was a Democrat. So was Bull Connor, the law enforcer who turned water hoses and dogs on civil rights protestors.

Drain, the attorney, says unlike many African Americans she's never felt an obligation to vote Democratic.

"I put a lot of stock in my family and my church and my community," says Drain, whose husband, Ed Drain, is assistant police chief of Plano. "That's how I identify with the Republican Party. It's about people working hard for their family and community. It's about traditional values. I grew up in a very small town in East Texas and those were the values my parents taught me before I knew what they were."

What will it take to lure more African Americans is merely education, says Drain. "If people of color understand concepts and values of what the Republican Party is really all about I think that's all it would take. They'd never vote Democratic again."

Even with the prospect of a first black president? Doesn't that

See Republican, Page 13

SMU's Meadows School of the Arts Presents "Trouble In Mind," Feb. 27 – Mar. 2

Award-winning play by African-American playwright Alice Childress tackles issues of racial stereotypes

DALLAS – The Division of Theatre at SMU's Meadows School of the Arts will present the play Trouble in Mind from February 27 through March 2 in the Greer Garson Theatre of the Owen Arts Center, 6101 Bishop Blvd. on the SMU campus. Written in the 1950s by prominent African-American playwright, actress and novelist Alice Childress, the play



revolves around the character of Wiletta Mayer, an African-American actress of a certain age who has spent

her career playing stereotypes, trapped on a merrygo-round of mammies, maids and other menials. The curtain rises on the first day of rehearsal for "Chaos in Belleville," a Broadwaybound play that tackles the harsh truths of racism in America. But when those truths spill out of the play and into the rehearsal hall, will Wiletta's insistence on

her dignity cost her the work she desperately needs?

Trouble in Mind became a smash hit off-Broadway in 1955, making Childress the first female winner of an Obie Award for best off -Broadway play of the year, and soon a move to Broadway was announced. But when Childress refused to accommodate the producers' request to brighten the

ending of the play for a commercial audience, the move was cancelled. Half a century later, the time for this wise and witty play has come again.

The production is directed by Stan Wojewodski, Distinguished Professor of Directing at the Meadows School and former dean of the Yale School of Drama. Show times are 8 p.m. Wed.- Sat. and 2 p.m. Sat. and Sun. Tickets are \$13 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$7 for SMU students, faculty and staff. Parking is available at Hillcrest and Binkley and in the garage beneath the Meadows Museum. For more information, call the Meadows Ticket Office at 214.768.2787 or visit the Meadows Web site at meadows.smu.edu.

The Dallas Opera's Porgy & Bess Benefiting the United Negro College Fund on Thursday, Feb. 28th

The Dallas Opera has announced its intention to donate a portion of the proceeds from each ticket sold to the Thursday, February 28th performance of George Gershwin's acclaimed American masterpiece, PORGY & BESS, to the United Negro College Fund (UNCF).

A portion of the proceeds from each ticket sold will be donated to the highly regarded philanthropic organization based in Fairfax, Virginia. UNCF provides over 100 million dollars a year in college tuition monies for minority students, while at the same time providing financial support for scholarship funds at 39 historically black colleges and universities, both public and private.

PORGY & BESS stars the remarkable soprano Indira Mahajan as Bess (the 2004 winner of the Maria Callas Debut Artist of the Year Award) and internationally renowned baritone Gordon Hawkins as Porgy, a role he first tackled in Australia at the age of 26.

Speaking to the North Dallas

Gazette by phone last week, Hawkins shared that he has actually performed in seven or eight productions of Porgy & Bess throughout his career. "When I come back to it is like a good old friend." Hawkins shared.

Recognizing that African Americans are not a large segment of the opera audience, Hawkins believes the appeal for this production is the fact, "It is in English and very accessible, very lyrical," adding, "The emotions are like any other opera, all that love and hate. However, what

they will be most attracted to is the sheer beautiful music."

Set on "Catfish Row" (a fictitious section of Charleston, South Carolina), PORGY & BESS teems with unforgettable lyrics and melodies that entered the American popular music lexicon long, long ago; including "Summertime," "Bess, You Is My Woman Now," "It Ain't Necessarily So," and "I Got Plenty o' Nuttin'."

Composed in 1935, this selfproclaimed "folk opera" is comic, poignant and actionpacked in its exploration of the lives of the working poor during one of the most difficult economic periods in American history.

Hawkins encourages newcomers to attend the production, promising, "One of the most beautiful evening you have spent in your life, heart lifting."

PORGY & BESS, a co-production of The Dallas Opera, will be performed on Friday, February 22nd at 7:30 pm and Sunday, February 24th at 2:00 p.m. followed by performances on Tuesday, February 26th;

Thursday, February 28th and Saturday, March 1st beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Dancers appear in cooperation with Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Ann Williams, Artistic Director

The benefit performance will be Thursday, February 28th at 7:30 pm in the Music Hall at Fair Park. Single tickets are priced at \$15 to \$235. Tickets may be purchased in advance by calling The Dallas Opera Ticket Services Office at 214-443-1000 or visiting us online at dallas opera.org.



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Blacks, Hispanics Still Going Without Bank Accounts

By. Jesse Muhammad

(NNPA) — "When times got hard, I started having too many overdrafts and eventually the accounts I had were closed," says Tory Watterson, a single mother of two children in Northeast Houston.

"Instead of dealing with the stress of that, it's much easier to just cash my check at a check cashing center and pay my bills all at the same time. A lot of times our people just don't want to deal with or know how to handle debit cards, online payment centers or credit cards."

Watterson recognizes the downside to not have a stable banking relationship with a financial institution. "Not having a bank account adversely affects your future ability to secure financing for large purchases such as homes, and business loans. It proves responsibility to the

Dallas, TX - Friday, February

29, 2008 at 12:00 Noon citizens who

are tired of racist acts in Arlington will

join with the group, Enough Racism

in Arlington (ERA), at Arlington City

Hall, 101 W. Abram Street, Arlington,

TX, to call attention to what they say

is the most hideous racist attack the

area has seen since a black man.

Donald Thomas, was shot by a racist

skinhead as he sat on the back of a

pick-up truck in his Arlington neigh-

Broderick Gamble and Silk Littleiohn, moved into their Arlington

home in the summer of 2005 it was burned to the ground. Fire officials

ruled it an accidental blaze caused by an iron that was left on. Over the next

two years the couple found dozens of

dead animals in their yard and witnessed other experiences with racist

Snowden Head, an elderly white

woman, trashed the couple's front

yard. Later that day she came back to

their home, using racial slurs and

threats, while also commanding her

Doberman Pinscher to attack the cou-

ple. While the couple was distracted defending against the dog, Ms. Head picked up a two-by-four board and hit

Ms. Littlejohn in the face. She contin-

ued her tirade by jumping on top of

with aggravated assault, criminal trespass and failure to identify herself to a

police officer. Jail Supervisor Sgt. B.

Bates concluded that a two-by-four

was not considered a deadly weapon;

the couple's car and stomping.

Ms. Head was originally charged

On December 19, 2007 Grace

Two days after a black couple,

borhood in 1991.

overtones.

financial institution, so years later you can get approved for loans and credit. But that takes discipline," she says.

Over 25 million households in America do not have bank accounts, according to a study conducted by the South Carolina Council on Economic Education, based in Columbia, S.C. Even more alarming is that 80 percent of those households are Blacks (46 percent) and Hispanics (34 percent).

Reasons cited in the study for not having a bank account were poor account management skills; infrequent check writing; a dislike for dealing with banks; lack of enough money; high service charges; high minimum bank balances; credit problems; and no banks near home.

Many, like Ms. Watterson, also see check cashing centers as a cheaper way to handle their payroll checks ver-

therefore he dropped the original

charge down to simple assault. Ms.

Head was then released on \$

4000bond and was not charged with a

hate crime even though Lt. Blake

Miller told the media, "It was clearly a

racial tirade [that] Ms. Head went on."

He also said Ms. Head refused to

leave the couple's property even after

Citizens Rally Against Racist

Attacks On Arlington Couple

sus banks. But according to a Consumer Federation of America survey of check cashing outlets, on average it cost \$24.45 to cash a \$1,002 Social Security check in 2006 and a worker paid \$19.66 every week to cash a \$478.41 handwritten paper check.

Still if not managed properly having a bank account can be greatly expensive especially for someone living



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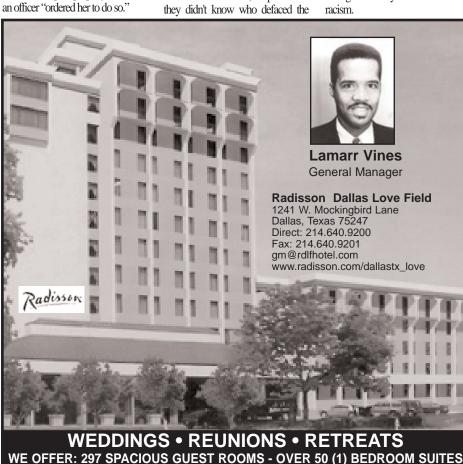
www.garlandpurchasing.com

February 20, Collin County Purchasers Forum March 14, City of Garland April 16, Lancaster

Two days after the attack Mr. Gamble was called by a neighbor to his home where he found the words "KILL" and "DIE NIGGER" spraypainted on his garage doors. Although Ms. Head had already posted bond and was on the streets, the police said

property

Mr. Gamble and Ms. Littlejohn, along with ERA spokesperson Rev. Frederick D. Haynes, III, will be speaking out about the many racial problems occurring in the city of Arlington as they call for an end to procism.



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Gain, Page 1

those in attendance understand the importance of the continuous movement of the Black dollar among Black people, for as long as it is possible. A major part of that movement is from Black business to Black business.

I call it "Spreading the Gain." It is important for consumers, not just Black consumers but especially Black consumers, to support Black owned businesses. Let me say it before you do, not because they are Black but because they are good at what they do. Also, consumer support is vital to the growth of any business, and the more we support our own businesses the larger and more viable they will become.

If there is nothing wrong with other groups doing this, and there isn't, please don't come up with the same excuses for not offering your support, the same way you provide support to the businesses of others.

The second leg of the Black dollar's journey is between and among Black businesses, which always need to restock, retool, and reproduce. Imagine the exponential effect of more Black businesses seeking out other Black businesses from which to make their purchases. That Black dollar we talk about circulating and recycling would multiply many times over.

The third leg of the journey is related to business growth/expansion and job creation. Mutual, concentrated, and collective support of Black businesses create the opportunity to hire more employees, among who could be your children or grandchildren.

The cyclical effect of Black dollars will surely increase Black economic empowerment while instilling pride among Black people. It will also cause us to be more conscious of where our money goes, what is done with it, and how we can do even more with the resources in our possession.

Black people control a great deal of money in the public sector. We have high level jobs that give us management authority over billions of dollars. We oversee the purchasing of supplies and professional services, and we dole out contracts for construction and other municipal necessities.

Black folks are on school Boards and sit as superintendents over school systems in which the vast majority of the students are Black, similar to the urban centers over which many Blacks have

political control. With that kind of scenario repeating itself all over this country, why are so few Black companies being advantaged by it?

I have noticed that many Black public administrators and many Black politicians, even though they are "large and in charge," are reluctant or afraid to do whatever they can to help Black businesses get contracts.

Unlike Winfred Dukes and those attending his meeting in Atlanta, many Black folks in those high level jobs never even speak about supporting Black businesses, much less do anything to encourage and assure that support.

What a sad commentary for our people. Why? White public administrators channel the resources under their control to their white constituents all the time. We have seen the results of it in the Disparity Studies, sometimes called Croson Studies, which have been done in various municipalities across this country.

In those reports we can see statistical and anecdotal evidence of discrimination and "good ole boy" networks among purchasing agents and administrators. Yes, it's illegal, well supposedly; but it's done, nevertheless.

I am not suggesting we do anything illegal, but I am saying that Black public administrators should look for every opportunity to support Black businesses and make certain they are not discriminated against by their subordinates. The same thing applies to Black folks who manage private not-forprofit organizations, such as the Urban League,

Community Action Agencies, SCLC, and the NAACP, and let's not forget those money pits known as Black church organizations.

Business to business support is vitally important to the progress of Black people in this country. Please take your cue from State Representative Winfred Dukes and his cohorts in Georgia.

Theirs is a glowing example of what can be done with resources, some of which emanate from Black people via our tax dollars. Theirs is the model of consciousness and commitment necessary to move us forward.

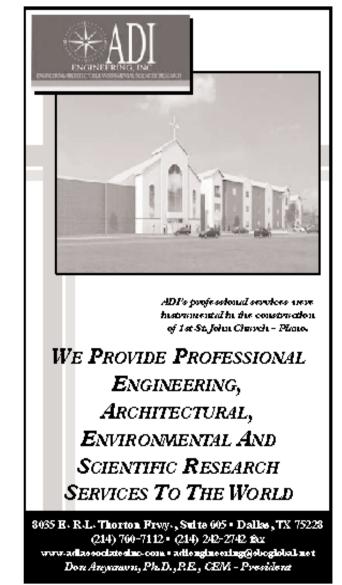
Theirs is the beacon that will guide us to a brighter collective economic future. Thanks so much, Brother Dukes, for "Spreading the Gain" among Black people.

Community Event

Sanctuary of Praise Fellowship of Allen, Texas cordially invites the public to "A Taste of Soul 2008- A Food Tasting Event Extraordinaire." This celebration of African-American Cuisine will held Saturday, February 23, 2008, 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. at 1001 E. Main Street (Twin Oaks Private School). The menu will consist of: New Orleans Gumbo, Shrimp Pasta, Southern Fried Chicken Catfish, Mouthwatering Ribs and Brisket. Ham. Collard Greens, Mac and Cheese, Potato Salad, Candied Yams, Peach Cobbler, 7-11 Cake, Sweet Potato Pie, plus a whole lot more.

Tickets are only \$10 for adults and \$8 for children 12 and younger.

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Republican, Page 9

pose an inner struggle with black Republicans? Only

that as a black person. He seems to have a lot of energy. I'm very, very

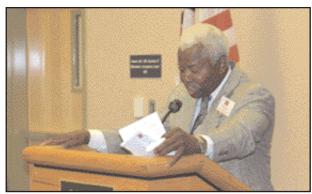


Fred Moses

slightly, those interviewed said.

> Young "quite

proud of him as a black person. I just wish he were Republican."



Arthur Young

proud" to see Obama run while Moses think the candidate has done "a great job" in terms of breaking down stereotypes.

But, says Moses, "what does he believe? Who are the people surrounding him?"

"I don't think it should be about race; it should be about who you identify with or the values you are looking for in a president," says Drain, who vows to vote for McCain. (Her daughter became "very impressed" with Obama after reading his book.)

"(Obama) seems very articulate and I like



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Church Happenings

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(Women WIT Transition) invites you to an exciting and fresh approach to Godly exhortation! Once a week, chime in to bond, via, Wit Women's conference call led by Pastor Minnie Hawthorne-Ewing of DayStar Deliverance Ministries in Richardson, TX. Dial 218-486-1616, Code: 106984 (this code may change each week.)

DayStar Deliverance Ministries WIT (Women in Transition) **Apostle Minnie** Hawthorne-**Ewing, Senior Pastor** 635 W. Campbell Rd, Ste 210 Richardson, TX 75080 972-480-0200

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN

February 22 & 29, 7:30 pm Last two Fridays in February

Please join us for Black History Friday. The last two Fridays in February there will be a movie shown about Black History. There will be a historical overview before and after the movie. FREE hot dogs, popcorn and candy will be served. We encourage everyone to come out and celebrate Black History month with us. Childcare will be provided for toddlers.

February 24, 11 am

Our 11:00 am Morning Worship Service will be held @ Story Elementary School, 1550 Edelweiss in Allen, TX. Children's Church and the Nursery will also be available @ the school during this time.

March 14 - 16, 2008

It's coming! Its coming and you are invited to join us at our Holy-Spirited 2008 Men's Empowerment Conference. Our theme: "Seasons of Change"; it will be held @ the Hilton Garden Inn, 705 N. Central Expressway in Allen,

For more information about the above events, please call the church @ 972-359-9956.

Fellowship B. C. of Allen Rev. W. L. Stafford, Sr., M. **Senior Pastor** 200 Belmont Drive Allen, TX 75013 972-359-9956

ST. JAMES CME **CHURCH**

February 24, 3 pm - 4:30 pm Join us as we partner with McKinney Memorial Public Library to celebrate Black History Month with "An African American Read-In Experience" featuring "Local Authors Tasha Douglas and J. Who Disclose Rock) Treasures for Women and Children. Come hear the touching expressions that reveal the strength of these women who dare to share the

For information call McKinney Memorial Public Library @ 972-547-7300 or Mrs. Bentley of St. James CME @ 214-498-3540.

St. James CME Church Rev. Thomas Jagours 316 Watt Street @ Hwy 5 McKinney, TX 75069 972-529-2970

SAINT MARK BAPTIST **CHURCH IN MCKINNEY**

February 23, 5 pm - 7 pm (Last Saturday in February)

Please join us for our FREE ADMISSION Annual Black History Film Fest each Saturday in February. We will have popcorn, drinks, and of course wonderful movies. All movies being shown are safe and entertaining for the whole family. These Saturday's events at the church are opened to the Community and they are FREE!

Saint Mark Baptist Church Rev. Charles Wattley, **Pastor** 1308 Wilcox Street McKinney, TX 75069 972-542-6178

ST. MARK BAPTIST CHURCH IN GARLAND

February 24, 4 pm

You are invited to our Black History Program as we reflect on the events that lead to Jena, LA March; the importance of peaceful assemble to protest injustice, and to create positive futures for our youth.

St. Mark Baptist Church Dr. R. A. Griffin, Pastor 601 Rowlett Road Garland, TX 75040 972-240-6674

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 23, 3 pm We will host a FREE concert performance by the Fine Arts Chamber Players (FACP.) This concert is part of our celebration of African-American Heritage Month. The important works of George Walker, the first African-American composer to win the Pulitzer Prize for Music, will be presented. An art exhibit by local African-American artists will be on display at 2:00 p.m., prior to the concert.

St. Paul UMC Rev. Elzie Odom, Jr., **Senior Pastor** 1816 Routh Street **Dallas, TX** 75201 214-922-0000

aaaaaaaaaaaaaLet North Dallas Gazette help you to get the word out in the Southern and the Northern Sectors of the Dallas Metroplex. Your church service times, your motto, your email, and your webpage. You can surely 'Enlarge your territory to expand opportunities that will help you to touch more lives for God's Glory. Do more for God's Kingdom.'

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Christian Methodist Episcopal Church 1113 Ave. I, Plano, TX 75074 (972) 423-4090 Rev. Clarence J. Ford, Jr., Pastor

Sunday School: 9:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M. Sunday Worship Service: 7:30 P.M.



Wednesday Night-Community Bible Class:

Sister Tarpley



Sister **Tarpley**

The road to success begins with education. My ancestors stressed this, my father emphasized this, and I in turn stressed this to my son Jarrell and daughter Minister Sheila. Education was so important to my grandfather, Deacon David N. Demus in Freestone County and my great grandfather, Mr. Wiley Baker in Limestone County that each started a school in their respective counties for Black children with their own money and paid the teachers salaries.

I have read and heard of famous Black leaders such as Educator Booker T. Washington; Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Nobel Peace Prize winner: Ronald McNair. Space Shuttle Astronaut and a magna cum laude graduate of a Historically Black College and University school (HBCU); Mary McLeod Bethune, started Bethune-Cookman University, etc. have said the same thing. Many Black leaders, mentors, and role models of today graduated from a HBCU school; each received a quality education. The importance of an education cannot be over-stated.

Mrs. Jewel P. McKenzie, my high school mentor, encouraged and helped me to graduate from Prairie View A & M University, a HBCU school; I am grateful to God and Mrs. McKenzie. With this being Black History Month, I will update you about HBCUs.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CONTINUES

HBCUs, the backbone of African American Education, helped build America by educating African Americans when

educational opportunities were limited. Many of the early colleges were private institutions started by Black churches, African Americans,



Dr. Frederick D. Patterson. founded United Negro College fund in 1943, and namesake of the Frederick D. Patterson Institute established in 1996.

Missionary Association and the Freedmen's Bureau. After the Civil War, public colleges and universities were formed by state legislatures. The nation's 103 HBCUs continued to mold African American leaders and role models. HBCU schools award nearly one in every four bachelor's degrees earned by African Americans.

In 1965, Congress defined an HBCU as "any historically Black college or university that was established prior to 1964, whose principal mission was, and is, the education of Black Americans . . . " In 1981, the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities was established to expand funding and strengthen the institutions, located mostly in

the Southeast. Since then, the White House Initiative on HBCUs has broadened the nation's knowledge of HBCUs, including their significant educational and economic impact on the nation.

The years following World War II were difficult for HBCUs and in 1944 twenty-seven HBCUs banded to launch the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) to fund-raise together and to influence the nation's thinking about educating African Americans. Principal organizer Dr. Frederick D. Patterson, a graduate of Prairie View A & M University in 1915, had a vision that "a unified financial campaign for several Negro colleges seems to be an idea worth toying with."

The State of Alabama has 15 HBCUs: Arkansas has three: Delaware has one; District of Columbia has two: Florida has four; Georgia has ten; Kentucky has one; Louisiana has six; Maryland has four; Michigan has one; Mississippi has seven; Missouri has two; North Carolina has ten; Ohio has two; Oklahoma has Pennsylvania has to; South Carolina has eight; Tennessee has six, Texas has nine; U.S. Virgin Islands has one; Virginia has six; and West Virginia has

When considering a college or university for your child or you to attend, you can find a HBCU near you. The movie "The Great Debaters" proved that you can obtain a quality education with a reasonable tuition.

Maya, Page 1

Sanctuary Choir, and MosaicSong. The chorus will be accompanied by the New Texas Symphony and Orchestra, the Meyerson Symphony Center's spectacular Lay Family Organ. The male chorus from First Baptist Church, Hamilton Park also will be featured. The afternoon will culminate with all in attendance raising their voices for peace.

'Voices of Peace' will help launch a month-long, worldwide effort by the organization Song of Peace (www.songofpeace.org), which is encouraging one million people around the world to sing "Dona Nobis Pacem" (give us peace) in communities, churches, synagogues, schools or even on street corners, proclaiming that peace in our world is of fundamental importance. March 2008 was chosen to observe the fifth anniversary of the United States' invasion of Iraq on March 18, 2003.

Individual tickets range in price from \$30-\$100 and available are www.h4pj.org. Individual and corporate sponsorships are available by contacting Executive Director Jim Powell at 214-351-1432.

Hope for Peace & Justice (www.h4pj.org), based in Dallas, Texas is equipping progressive people of faith to be champions for peace and justice by creating profaith-based gressive activists; a cultural orienta-

tion/bias toward peace and justice through the arts and artists; and faith-based practitioners of peace. Serving a national membership through web-based programming, H4PJ seeks to give voice to principles such as the creation of a culture of peace, equal rights for all people, and education as a means of societal transformation. H4PJ is partnering with the Cathedral of Hope to build Philip Johnsonthe designed Interfaith Peace Chapel.



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Schedule of Services: Sunday

Early Morning Worship 8:00 a.m. Sunday School Classes 9:30 a.m.

> Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Dr. C. Paul McBride, Pastor 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 7:30 p.m. **Evening Bible Study**

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dnesday Service: Family Bible Study @ 6:30 pm

Girl Scout Cookie Booth Sales Begin

Haven't had a chance to purchase your favorite Girl Scout Cookies this year? Don't worry starting February 29th Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas will be outside your local stores selling their famous Girl Scout Cookies! This year's Girl Scout Cookie line-up



includes two new delicious Girl Scout Cookies: Lemon Chalet Crèmes and

Sugar Free Chocolate Chips. But don't worry, your favorite Girl Scout Cookies are still available: Do-Si-Dos, Samoas, Tagalongs, Trefoils, All Abouts and the famous Thin Mints.

And don't forget to purchase a couple extra Girl Scout Cookie packages for

Project Troop to Troop! This Girl Scout service initiative encourages members of the community to buy packages of Girl Scout Cookies to donate to the U.S. Armed Forces. Last year, Project Troop to Troop generated more than 100,000 packages of cookies; this year's challenge is 120,000 packages. The 2008 Project Troop to Troop Cookies will be transported to Fort Hood, the USO, the American Red Cross and ultimately to service men and service women at home and abroad. Cookies will also reach local Veterans Organi-zations and

wounded soldiers. Go to www.gsnetx.org/cookies/t roop2troop.stm to donate directly to Project Troop to Troop.

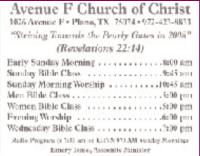
Please call 1-800-882-MINT (6468) or email cookies@gsnetx.org for more information about the Girl Scout Cookie Program!

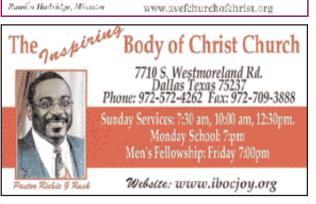


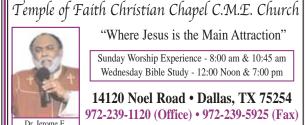
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<u>Wednesday</u> 12:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Prayer Hour 7:30 p.m. Bible Study









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