

# North Dallas Gazette



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## EXCLUSIVE: Clinton, Obama Promise Unity Against GOP in Historic Interviews With N.C. Black Press

By Cash Michaels  
Special to the NNPA from  
the Carolinian

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (NNPA) - In perhaps their most heartfelt assurances thus far amid growing party concerns, Democratic presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama promised that whichever aspirant loses their rough-and-



Democratic presidential frontrunner Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) talks about his vision for America April 29 during the NC Black Publishers Association's 2008 NC Black Press Presidential Roundtable.

Photo: Cash Michaels/The Carolinian

tumble contest for their party's nomination, the second-place finisher will passionately urge their most ardent supporters - many of whom say they will not vote for a Democratic nominee they oppose - to put aside their bitter feelings, and wholeheartedly join with rival Democrats in the fall to beat the Republicans.

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## Al Sharpton and Sean Bell's Fiancee Arrested During Protest

NEW YORK - The Rev. Al Sharpton was arrested at the Brooklyn Bridge on Wednesday as he and hundreds of demonstrators blocked traffic to protest the acquittal of three detectives in the 50-bullet shooting of an unarmed black man on his wedding day.



The Rev. Al Sharpton, center, and Nicole Pauline Bell, right, are led away in handcuffs after being arrested at the Brooklyn Bridge Wednesday, May 7, 2008 in New York. Hundreds of demonstrators blocked traffic at the Manhattan entrance to the Brooklyn Bridge Wednesday to protest the acquittals of three detectives in the 50-bullet shooting of Sean Bell. (AP Photo/Jason DeCrow)

Sharpton, two survivors of the shooting and the slain man's fiancée were among about a dozen people arrested on disorderly conduct charges near the base of the bridge. Police led away demonstrators at several other bridges and tunnels in the city.

The protests were

part of a coordinated campaign to urge federal authorities to investigate the November 2006 shooting of Sean Bell. Three officers were acquitted of state charges last month.

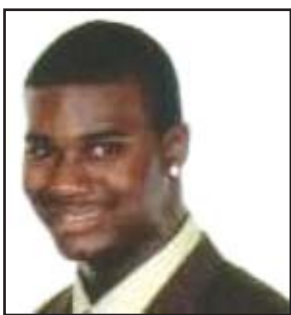
Sharpton, shooting survivors Trent

See Sharpton, Page 5

## PVNAA – Hamilton Park Legacy Committee Announces its First Four-Year Academic Scholarship Awardee

The PVNAA-Hamilton Park Legacy Committee announces its first four-year academic scholarship award to Mr. Rodney Dewayne Yarbrough of the Dallas Metropolitan area.

Mr. Yarbrough is a graduate of Naaman Forest High School



Rodney Yarbrough

located in Garland, Texas where he graduated among the top of his class. He was one of the few African American students who graduated in his class with a GPA of a 3.5 or higher. He has been a member of Who's Who among American School Students since he was in

the seventh grade as well as being a part of the National Spanish Club for one year. He was also a part of the National Honor Society and excelled tremendously. Mr. Yarbrough was on the Naaman Forest High School football team

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## Mrs. Hallie Carter Conwright



Mr. Monaque Carter Sr., Mrs. Conwright, Curtis Conwright Sr., Gloria Holmes, and Darren Calvin Andrews entering the celebration.

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## Other Views

## My Motive for Wright Breakfast

By Dr. Barbara Reynolds-NNPA Religion Columnist

As a member of the speakers' committee of the National Press Club, upon the invitation of the Club President Sylvia Smith, I helped organize the press breakfast that featured Pastor Jeremiah Wright. Since my role - and my motive - have been questioned by some commentators, bloggers, columnists and journalists, I feel I owe my readers an honest answer.

I began suggesting Pastor Jeremiah Wright as a speaker about three years ago when I met him at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor

Conference that was convening in Washington, DC. At that conference, Sen. Barack Obama was the morning keynote speaker and I was the afternoon keynote speaker. After seeing that Wright and Obama had such powerful, but distinct social justice messages to lift people up, I wondered why the public had not heard more from this Conference of which Wright was the founder.

As a minister, I served as a commissioner on the Conference's Truth and Justice Hearings on Katrina. Sen. Hillary Clinton testified at the hearings and attacked the Bush administration for its negli-

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## People In The News...



Ann Williams



Ernest D. Levert Jr.



Eddie S. Glaude, Jr.

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## Ann Williams

Texas Woman's University (TWU) will honor Ann Williams, the founder and artistic director of the world-renowned Dallas Black Dance Theatre, with an Honorary Doctor of Philosophy in Dance at spring commencement on May 10 (Saturday). The ceremony will be held at 3 p.m. in Pioneer Hall, Bell Avenue at University Drive, on the TWU Denton campus.

Williams is a graduate of Prairie View A&M University and earned a Master of Arts



Degree in Dance and Related Arts from Texas Woman's University. She is a TWU Distinguished Alumna, a former member of the university's Board of Regents and the TWU Foundation, and a past president of the TWU Former Students Association. In September 2002, she was inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame, and in April 2005 she was honored at The Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. as a part of the Masters of African-American Choreography series. She also has been

honored by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"It is rare for TWU to award an honorary degree," said Dr. Ann Stuart, TWU Chancellor and President. "Ann Williams has made profound contributions in the arts and is most deserving of this prestigious recognition – one of the highest commendations the university can confer on an individual. Her work embodies the mission of TWU, providing opportunities for students; advancing education in the arts and humanities;

and serving this community and beyond. With an international reputation, Ann Williams continues to bring distinction and prominence to the university."

For 32 years, Ms. Williams has led the Dallas Black Dance

Theatre from what began as a community-based and semi-professional organization to a full professional dance company with an international reputation. It is the oldest, continuously operating professional dance company in Dallas.

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## Ernest D. Levert Jr.

Ernest D. Levert Jr. was awarded the Boy Scouts of America's highest rank of Eagle Scout at a Court of Honor held at Westside Baptist Church in Lewisville, TX.. Ernest Jr. is the son of Rhonda and Ernest Levert Sr.

Ernest Jr. joined scouting as a Tiger Scout in the fall of 1997.

During scouting, he has attended Aquatic School at Sid Richardson Scout Ranch, Twin Arrows at Sid Richardson Scout Ranch, Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico, and numerous summer



Ernest is currently a

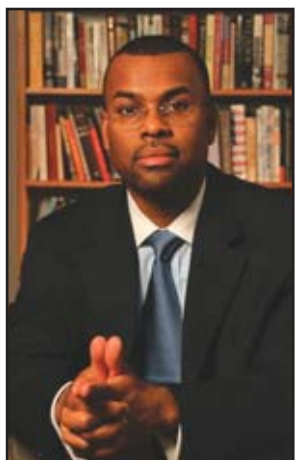
junior at Marcus High School where he is a member of numerous activities including football, English Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Academic Decathlon, and the National Honor Society, among others. He has served as senior patrol leader, patrol leader, and assistant patrol leader, and quartermaster.

In addition to earning 31 Merit Badges, one of the final requirements for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout was to, plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project helpful to any religious institution, any

school, or their community. For his Eagle Scout Project, Ernest constructed mobile storage units with three units supporting tables and three supporting metal folding chairs. The process included determining measurements and design, calculating costs, coordinating building schedules, preparation of materials, assembling and welding parts.

## Eddie S. Glaude, Jr.

Eddie S. Glaude, Jr. is currently Professor of Religion & African



American Studies at Princeton University. He is also a senior fellow at The Jamestown Project. Prior to his appointment at Princeton, he taught at Bowdoin College and Amherst College in African American Studies

and Religion. He received his B.A. from Morehouse College, his M.A. and Ph.D. from Princeton University. According to Michael Dyson, writing in The Chicago Sun-Times, "Glaude is one of the most gifted young scholars in black religion today. He is a charismatic thinker and insightful writer who is breaking new ground by imaginatively treating primary sources in his scholarly ventures. Glaude's star will only get brighter."

Glaude is the author of Exodus! Religion, Race, and Nation in Early 19th Century Black America, recipient of the Modern Language Association's William Sanders Scarborough Book Prize for outstanding scholarly study of black cultural life and/or literature. Professor Glaude is also editor of Is

it Nation Time? Contemporary Essays on Black Power and Black Nationalism. This edited collection has been described as "a standard reference for students and scholars of African American intellectual history." He has also co-edited, with Cornel West, African American Religious Thought: An Anthology. This text is widely viewed as one of the most important books published in African American religion in the last five years. Professor Glaude's public speeches are known throughout the country as not only intellectually challenging but filled with conviction and inspiration, urging his listeners to speak out against social injustice and to imagine a better world for us and our children.

Glaude's newest book, In a Shade of Blue was published March, 2007.

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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 carving a world of opportunity for those seeking to provide quality services. Should you dare to expand your quest for economic parity outside the southern region or just want to know what is going on up north- Think of MON-The Gazette as your paper of opportunity!

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

# THE TRUTH CLINIC

## Jeremiah Goes Forth As A Whirlwind

*For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind. (Hosea 8:7)*

Listen up you Jeremiah Wright bashers and especially you political opportunists that initiated the Wright sound bite craze a few weeks ago. It is simply mind boggling how so many people feel compelled to shake the mothballs off their patriotic, moralistic, anti-racist, "can't we all get along" uniforms and join the sneak Obama attack squad without a full understanding of what they are attacking and the potential negative consequences.

One would think that after Americans had experienced the disastrous after effects of the Bush "act now-think later" policy for making critical decisions they would be just a little cautious about making the same mistake.

Instead of castigating Reverend Wright, and by default Obama, the naysayers should be grateful to him and other preachers like him for preventing possible turmoil in our cities.

If the pent up energy of millions of black folk who have been traumatized by the shackles of frustration, hopelessness, helplessness, poverty, hunger, and racism were not given an outlet by the Rev. Wrights in America how would this energy be vented? Might it be in the streets in the form of protest marches, riots or other undesirable eruptions?

Instead the angry blacks go to church and whoop, holler, shout, sing, pray,

dance, moan and say Amen when the pastor denounces the injustice that has long impacted their lives. Moreover, it turns their minds from the sufferings and privations of this unjust world to the after death just world where the weary will find rest. By the time benediction is rendered the anger has been released and the people are ready to return from their religious haven to a secular world that has not been socially, economically or politically fair to them.

While many have expressed negative opinions about Rev. Wright's brash statements no one has stepped forward to say he lied in making any of his denunciations? How many deaths can be attributed to his stormy words?

The president has lied about the Iraq war, illegal wiretapping, and secret renditions. But more important than his words are his irresponsible actions that have resulted in over 4,000 American soldiers and hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians killed. Who is pillorying him for these dastardly deeds?

The devious presumption that Sen. Obama must bear the responsibility for the fiery rhetoric of Rev. Wright is blatantly wrong. However, if this criterion must be applied to Obama why not apply it to Sen. McCain also?

John McCain actively sought the endorsement of John Hagee who was reported to be a war mongering, racist,

radical right wing preacher known for his fiery inflammatory rhetoric. McCain has still not rejected the support of Hagee nor has he said anything about Hagee's claims that America's foreign policy towards Palestine is causing God to attack the United States with terrorists.

The media and Obama naysayers continue to give McCain a pass on this relationship yet Obama is constantly raked over the coals for his relationship with Rev. Wright. Does this obvious inconsistency seem strange?

Black religion is self-consciously committed to the destruction of caste in America and is moving quite visibly in many instances toward the principle that Christian commitment is inconsistent with powerlessness and lack of freedom.

But perhaps more significant is the fact that for the first time the Black Church has the available intellectual resources to engage in serious theological debate allowing it to construct for itself a theology consistent with its needs.

The last decade has produced an ever widening cadre of Black scholars with superior credentials who are willing to look for truth beyond the bounds that their mentors, black and white, knew. Black theology thus emerges as a plausible vehicle to achieve Black America's quest for meaning, for relevance, and for justification in an America that hardly

recognized his presence.

Is it realistically possible or probable that any legislation requiring the equal treatment of blacks is capable of eliminating the nefarious ways in which America has biased the law against blacks throughout our entire national history? We claim to be a raceless society, but can we truly be or become one when the objective of banishing racial prejudice has not been achieved in America or anyplace else in the world?

Obama has pledged to bridge this prejudice gap that was defined so eloquently forty years ago in the Kerner Commission report.

Black theology is a theology of liberation. A theology of liberation does not require fiery rhetoric or violence, but neither does it deny fiery rhetoric or violence as a legitimate instrument of freedom enlightenment. Men belong to God, and no man who is in bondage to another is free to answer God if he must first answer to some other man claiming to be his master.

The tragic paradox of this twenty first century is that a society that tries to become just, and may even eventually succeed in becoming just, may in fact remain unjust simply because it cannot escape the legacy of it's past.

James W. Breedlove

Comments or opinions may be sent to the writer at: [www.truthclinic.com](http://www.truthclinic.com).

# Freedom Day Draws Thousands in Kwazulu-Natal

(NNPA) - The 14th anniversary of Freedom Day marks the day when millions of South Africans voted in the country's first democratic elections - a right won through courage and sacrifice over years of struggle.

This year, thousands converged at the Macambini Sports field

outside Mandeni in the north of KwaZulu-Natal to see cultural performances and speeches by local politicians - both positive and critical.

Helen Zille, Mayor of Cape Town and a leader of the Democratic Alliance, recalled some of the unfulfilled promises, saying: "when 53 people are mur-

dered every day, we cannot say that the right to life is upheld. When 144 women and children are raped every single day, we cannot say that the right to be free from violence is protected, and when 15 million people are without access to basic sanitation, we cannot say that the right to dignity is enjoyed by all."

Senzo Madiya from the Mandeni area said since 1994 a lot has been done in the country, but a lot was still needed in order to

change the lives of the poor.

"Once all the poor people have proper housing and access to basic services

like clean water and electricity, we can say then we are all enjoying the democracy of this country," said Mr Madiya.

## TXU Energy, Dallas County Health and Human Services Partner to Help Local Families in Need of Assistance

For Dallas County residents most in need of assistance, TXU Energy and Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) have joined forces to help customers facing unforeseen financial hardship keep their electricity flowing. In 2008, TXU Energy will provide DCHHS with approximately \$1 million to help low-income customers with temporary bill-payment assistance.

"We graciously recognize and thank TXU Energy for its continuous commitment to support our agency," said DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson. "Our relationship with TXU Energy has allowed us to provide bill-payment assistance and

relief to many families throughout Dallas County."

Dallas County residents needing assistance with their electric bills can contact the DCHHS Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program at (214) 819-1848.

"We want customers in the Dallas community to know that bill-payment assistance is available when they need it," said Jim Burke, CEO of TXU Energy.

This year, TXU Energy Aid celebrates 25 consecutive years of providing bill-payment assistance to hundreds of thousands of customers in critical situations. This program helps families in critical situa-

tions meet their electricity needs through generous company contributions and customer and employee donations.

TXU Energy customers who want to make a contribution to help others in their community can contact the TXU Energy Aid contribution line at 1-877-281-6359 or by sending an e-mail to [energyaid@txu.com](mailto:energyaid@txu.com). Customers can also make a one-time contribution or a recurring pledge to TXU Energy Aid by completing the information on the back of their TXU Energy bill. 100% of all customer donations are returned to the local communities in which they are donated to help families in need.

## Peace Deal Near Collapse in Burundi

(NNPA) - Fresh fighting has broken out in Burundi, a coffee growing nation of 8 million which is emerging from more than a decade of ethnic war that killed 300,000 people.

Fighters from the Forces for National Liberation (FNL) fired mortar bombs into the capital Bujumbura, hitting the residence of the pope's envoy, who was out of the country at the time. The latest offensive reportedly killed 33 people in a week.

The FNL blames the

government for the latest violence in the country.

"The government has chosen to chase and eliminate all FNL fighters and members, instead of granting them amnesty," said FNL leader Agathon Rwaso from Dar es Salaam.

The government claims that rebels were given immunity in 2006, when both sides signed a ceasefire deal in 2006, which has yet to come into effect. It called on the FLN to revert to the terms of that deal.

"The Burundian government remains convinced that putting this accord into action is the only way for Burundians to have lasting peace," Pres. Pierre Nkurunziza said.

His words were echoed in the U.N. Security Council by Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo of South Africa, which holds the rotating Council presidency this month. Kumalo said: "Any attempt to jeopardize peace in Burundi through violent means is unacceptable."

## India to the Rescue in Senegalese Rice Shortfall

(NNPA) - India has agreed to sell 600,000 tons of rice to the West African nation of Senegal where critical shortages of the food staple triggered a recent protest of over 1000 people who marched in downtown Dakar.

Senegal imports almost 80 percent of its rice - which is a staple. At the Sunday protest, people carried empty rice sacks and shouted "We are hun-

gry!" President Abdoulaye Wade said the deal with India would satisfy the country's total rice needs for the next six years.

Earlier this month, India announced it would restrict global rice exports as concerns grow over rice sufficiency at home. India also increased the export price for basmati rice from \$1,100 to \$1,200 per metric ton.

A deal was also reached with Sierra Leone where the price of the food staple has nearly doubled. Rice-short countries are now scrambling to re-start rice growing as the global food crisis spreads.

African countries were granted preferential status at an Indian-African summit held earlier this month for urgently needed rice imports.



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## Air North Texas Partners Go Green, Breathe Clean

*New air quality campaign emphasizes regional coordination, seeks additional partners*

(Arlington, Texas) – A new partnership underway in North Texas will help give the region a breath of fresh air—in more ways than one. Partners from 20 area and statewide agencies will ink agreements in the coming months pledging to improve air quality and ask others to join the effort and educate residents about improving the air we breathe.

The new Air North Texas campaign is a regional partnership and outreach effort that will:

- Offer the public a comprehensive resource with air quality informa-

tion and education.

- Promote a consistent air quality message across the region.

- Leverage existing resources and program strengths in a collaborative effort.

- Increase public awareness of specific opportunities for residents to reduce emissions.

- Motivate residents to make choices that reduce emissions.

Charter partners will help recruit other public, private and nonprofit organizations to sign additional Air North Texas partner agreements

and help reduce harmful emissions, protect public health and welfare, and preserve the economic vitality in the region. The recruitment effort kickoff coincides with the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's National Air Quality Week, April 28 – May 2.

Air North Texas partners will officially launch the integrated public awareness campaign this summer and combine print, Internet and non-traditional communication with outreach efforts to encourage residents to make clean-air choices.

The Web site launches this summer and will feature sections for partners, the general public, and children.

The nine counties of Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall and Tarrant have been classified by the Environmental Protection Agency as moderate nonattainment for 8-hour ozone levels. North Texas must meet the ozone emissions standards set by the EPA or face federal sanctions.

Air North Texas is a voluntary, regional effort to encourage residents to Go Green, Breathe Clean.

## CE Will Host Free Healthcare Information Sessions May 15

Collin College Continuing Education will host free Healthcare Information Sessions at 11 a.m. and at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, May 15.

Programs and courses offered by the continuing education division for healthcare include Dental Assistant/RDA, Practice Administrator, Medical Coding, Pharmacy Technician, Health Unit Clerk, EKG, Rehabilitation Aide and Healthcare Leadership courses. Registration and financial aid information will be available.

The open house will be at the Courtyard Center for Professional and Economic Development at 4800 Preston Park Blvd. in Plano, in Room A134.

To sign up for this free information session, call 972.985.3711 or register online at [www.ccccd.edu/ce](http://www.ccccd.edu/ce).

Sharpton, pg 1

Benfield and Joseph Guzman, and Bell's fiancée, Nicole Paultre Bell, lined up and peacefully put their hands behind their backs as police put plastic handcuffs on them. Sharpton and Bell were placed in a police vehicle.

The civil rights leader is seeking a federal civil rights probe into Bell's shooting outside a Queens nightclub. The case raised questions about police use of deadly force in minority neighborhoods.

Sharpton had promised recently to "close this city down" with civil disobedience.

Bell was black, as are his friends Benfield and Guzman; the three officers acquitted in the case are Hispanic, black and white.

U.S. attorney spokesman Robert Nardoza said the case was under review, but he declined to comment further.

## Church Anniversary

Owenwood United Methodist Church Family, will celebrate 85 years of "Reaching Up To God and Reaching Out into the Community," on May 11, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. at 1451 John West Road in

Dallas, Texas.

Please join us for an afternoon of praise, worship and thanksgiving. The renowned, spirit-filled pastor, Dr. Zan Wesley Holmes Jr., former Senior Pastor, and presently Pastor

Emeritus, of St. Luke Community United Methodist Church, will share words of encouragement and inspiration that will permeate our souls and challenge us to reach mightily toward the next

plateau on our Christian journey.

Owenwood was originally located at 5710 E. R.L. Thornton Freeway, which is presently the home of St. Luke Community United Methodist Church.



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# UT-Austin lawsuit could open Pandora's box of legal challenges

by Royce West  
Texas Senate

The recent lawsuit contesting The University of Texas' use of race as a factor in school admissions policy adds yet another chapter to the book on Texas' Top 10 Percent Law. On April 7, the Washington, D.C. based Project on Fair Representation filed suit on behalf of a Texas high school senior who says the factoring of race in admissions decisions provides an advantage to some students that are not available to the plaintiff.

In 1997, the Texas Legislature created the Top 10 Percent Law that guarantees automatic admission to any state-supported college or university for students who graduate in the top 10 percent of their respective high school class. It sought a remedy to the

1996 court ruling that barred the use of race consideration in admissions policies.

The aftermath of the 1996 Hopwood Decision saw minority enrollment at Texas' universities plummet. The collateral damage witnessed numerous minority students become attracted to schools outside Texas where race could be considered when recruiting student candidates.

It took the Top 10 Percent Rule to get minority students back - particularly on the UT-Austin campus - to levels at least equal to pre-Hopwood figures. I am happy to report that the number of minority students now attending UT-Austin now exceeds those of pre-Hopwood.

In 2003, the U.S. Supreme Court opined that race could be used as a factor when determined that other means of obtain-

ing diversity have proven unsuccessful. UT's revised policy using race as a factor in admissions was adopted before the ink dried on Grutter v. Bollinger.

Top 10 opponents were soon to say that with the reintroduction of race in admissions policies, the 1997 law was no longer needed. But if the present High Court's 2007 ruling in cases involving Seattle and Louisville public schools are any indication, it would not be a safe bet to use race when devising college admissions policies. But UT's current push to cap Top 10 admissions using a policy where race is a factor would do just that.

In every legislative session since 2003, there's been a flurry of bills to repeal or cap Top 10 admits. Last year's proposal would limit Top 10 admits to 50 percent. UT-

Austin says ("sky is falling") that Top 10 admits will soon make up the entire incoming freshman class. They argue that by capping Top 10 admits, a more holistic review could help attract an even more diverse student body - including minorities and applicants with "special" attributes.

Meanwhile, the current policy that includes the use of race has not proven more effective than the policy prior to Grutter absent the use of race. So why risk certain future court challenges?

While capacity concerns are real, my sense of alarm does not match that of UT. I say - and UT figures agree - that the Top 10 Percent Law has produced the school's most ethnically and geographically diverse student body ever for several years running. Those Top 10 students have higher GPAs

and graduate at rates higher than their non-Top 10 peers. So if student success is the desired objective, why put a cap on that success?

The current lawsuit does not knock the race-neutral Top 10 law. Rather, it says that the version of the Top 10 Percent Law used between 1998-2004 has produced as good or better results as the 2005 policy that uses race. I say that more such lawsuits

could surface at any time. I also say that given the current court where justices John Roberts, Antonin Scalia, Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas preside, it is not safe to gamble on how issues involving race will be treated in coming years.

Bottom line: using any available measure, the Top 10 Percent Law works. UT should stop tinkering with the lock on Pandora's box.

## Ephren Taylor Entrepreneurial Academy At Cheyney University Now Accepting Applications For Summer 2008

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — Applications are now being accepted for the Ephren Taylor Entrepreneurial Academy's (ETEA) second annual Entrepreneurship Learning Camp. The leadership and business training program is in collaboration with Cheyney University, the nation's oldest Historically Black College or University (HBCU) located in Pennsylvania, and will be held on Cheyney's campus from July 13-18. Students entering grades 10 thru 12 are eligible to attend. Housing, meals and program materials are free to students selected to attend; enrollment is limited to 25 students. The application deadline to register for the camp is June 6. Applications are available online at [www.ephren.com](http://www.ephren.com) or [www.cheyney.edu/documents/pdf/entcam-](http://www.cheyney.edu/documents/pdf/entcam-papp.pdf)

[papp.pdf](http://papp.pdf).

The Learning Camp provides an interactive curriculum about entrepreneurship during an intense six-day training period that educates students on the process of starting and operating a business. Students will learn about the impact small businesses have on the global economy, and how entrepreneurship is a viable and rewarding career choice. Facilitators will include Cheyney University faculty, popular media personalities, and successful business owners. Ultimately, students will leave the camp with the tools necessary to launch their journey toward entrepreneurship.

"The Entrepreneurship Learning Camp is a great opportunity for young people to acquire the necessary skills to become successful business owners and community

leaders," Taylor said. "I look forward to being a part of developing their visions and dreams, and teaching them not only about entrepreneurship, but also the significance of working to serve their community and uplift others."

Taylor, 25, is a self-made millionaire and the youngest African American CEO of any publicly traded company. Author of the newly released book, "Creating Success from the Inside Out" ([www.CreatetheSuccess.com](http://www.CreatetheSuccess.com)), Taylor and his company are engaged in leveraging investments, holdings and other assets, building value for investors and shareholders, and creating positive change and self-sufficiency for communities.

For more information about the Entrepreneurship Learning Academy, or to download an appli-

cation, visit [www.cheyney.edu/documents/pdf/entcam-papp.pdf](http://www.cheyney.edu/documents/pdf/entcam-papp.pdf).

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**"Focus on your future and believe in your dreams."**

The program is held on Tuesday's and Thursday's, from 6:00 - 7:15 pm, in the clubhouse at Indigo On Forest Apartments, 9669 Forest Lane, Dallas TX 75243.

**Topics Discussed:** Family Values, Juvenile Homes, Alcoholism & Drug Addiction, Teenage Pregnancy & Self Preservation, etc.

Lake Highlands Recreation Center 9940 White Rock Trail, Dallas, Texas "Presents" N2NE Basketball and Soccer League. Registration deadline is May 24th 2008. Registration fee: \$25.00 per youth. League starts June 7th -July 31st We are in need of referee's and coaches for our league if you are interested please send your resume to one of the following: [Rich\\_etta@n2ne-ym.com](mailto:Rich_etta@n2ne-ym.com), [penny@n2ne-ym.com](mailto:penny@n2ne-ym.com), or [kdedmon@cokeccc.com](mailto:kdedmon@cokeccc.com)

For more information, please contact:  
Founder/CEO - Rich Etta Weathersbee (469) 223-5618  
or VP - Penny Francis (214) 793-7178.



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**Ongoing**

**African American Republican Club of Collin County** meets 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm (Doors will open at 6:30 pm) Collin County Republican Party Headquarters 8416 Stacy Road, McKinney Call Fred Moses at 972 618 7027 or [fred@tes.com](mailto:fred@tes.com) for more information.

**Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce General Meeting** is 2nd Thursday monthly, 6:30pm - 7:30pm. McKinney Housing Authority 1200 N Tennessee St McKinney 75069 The general public is welcome. For additional information call 469-424-0120.

**Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce Monthly Lunch & Learn** every 3rd Thursday \$15 for members; \$20 for non-members, 11:00am-1:00pm, Ralph and Kacoos - 401 S. Central Expwy, Allen. For general information and reservations call 469-424-0120.

**DFW Financially Empowered Women** meet monthly for lunch or dinner and a fun, informative seminar on various financial topics. For more information call 469-952-0809 or [www.meetup.com/378](http://www.meetup.com/378).

**Marriage Prep Class** 1st Saturdays monthly 423 West Wheatland Road Suite 101, Duncanville 75116 \$10 fee for materials. For more info call Karen Duval at 972-709-1180.

**No Limit Network Business Networking Lunch** 1st and 3rd Thursday 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. every Thursday at Texas Land & Cattle Steak House 3945 N. Central Expressway Plano 75023 Must RSVP at [www.TheNoLimitNetwork.com](http://www.TheNoLimitNetwork.com) or call Sylvia Williams at 972-898-5882.

**SHARE! PISD International Exchange Student Program** is in the process of finding new host families to share their hearts and home with an exchange student for the 2008/2009 School Year. For more information on or how to become a host family, call 1-800-941-3738, or [www.sharesouthwest.org](http://www.sharesouthwest.org).

[www.sharesouthwest.org](http://www.sharesouthwest.org).

**Watermarks Invitational Exhibit** runs through April 12th 9:00 am - 8:00 pm Mondays through Thursdays, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Fridays, and 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Saturdays. FREE Collin College 800 E. Spring Creek Parkway. For more info call 972-881-5873, or visit [www.ccccd.edu](http://www.ccccd.edu).

**The National Business Women Enterprise Network (NBWEN)** hosts monthly lunch and learn workshop and networking event giving members and guests the opportunity to network, build relationships, present information on their business and services, and most importantly, learn different ways to improve upon and grow their business. For more information or [info@nbwen.org](mailto:info@nbwen.org).

**Wit Women Conference** Call join this weekly conference call if you need encouragement, prayer, or inspiration. Dial in Tuesdays 7:00pm-7:15pm to 218-486-1616, Code 10984 (may change each week).

**May 8 - 11**

**Paul Mooney Performing Live at the Addison Improv**, 4980 Beltline Road #250 Addison, 75254; Call 972-404-8501 for tickets or times.

**May 9**

**READY. SET. SHOOT. Registration is underway for the 7th Annual Dallas 24-Hour Video Race**, a filmmaking competition sponsored by the Video Association of Dallas. The race will begin Friday, May 16 at 11:59 p.m. at the Magnolia Lounge at Fair Park with a theme, prop, location and line of dialogue assignment for the film and concludes 24 hours later with a race to the finish line. Registration requires a flat fee per team, plus a small fee of \$5 per team member, which must be received by Friday, May 9. Up to 100 teams made up of elementary aged future videographers to seasoned video professionals will create, shoot, and edit a digital video up to five minutes in length. Completed videotapes must cross the finish line at the Magnolia Lounge by midnight

Saturday. All entries that complete the race will be screened at the Angelika Film Center at Mockingbird Station on May 20th - 22nd. Registration and full details on this ever-growing and popular local event can be found at [www.24HourVideoRaceDallas.com](http://www.24HourVideoRaceDallas.com).

**May 9, 11 and 12**

**Taste of Addison** is located in Addison Circle Park, 4970 Addison Circle Drive from 5:00 p.m. - midnight, pay the fee (\$5 - \$10) and enjoy sampling Addison's famous cuisine as you tour the restaurants. For more info email [webmaster@addisontx.gov](mailto:webmaster@addisontx.gov) or call 1-800-233-4766.

**May 10**

**TBAAL Black Academy: Divas and Daughters Tribute** at the Dallas Black Academy of Arts and Letters, Dallas Convention Center Theatre Complex. The Tribute presentation will begin at 8:00 pm. Admission to the event is \$25. For further info please call TBAAL at 214-943-2442.

**Free Kidney Screening** The Kidney Early Evaluation Program (KEEP) is a pre-screen for kidney disease. The purpose of the program is to provide the community with valuable health information. This program is targeted towards at risk individuals, who are hypertensive, diabetic or have a 1st degree family member with kidney disease or a transplant. The free Kidney Screening will be located at 3732 Miller Avenue in Fort Worth from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. For any additional information please email [lhensley@nkft.org](mailto:lhensley@nkft.org), or call 214-351-2393.

**The Anti-Gang, Guns & Violence Workshops** located at the African American Museum, 3536 Grand Avenue from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Call 214-421-1363 for more information.

**Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group** meeting at the Timberglen Branch library, 18505 Midway Road, at 12 noon. Call the library at 214-671-1365 for details. For more information please contact the Dallas County KinCare Network warmline at 214-670-1866 or email

[Belinda.glenn@dallascity-hall.com](mailto:Belinda.glenn@dallascity-hall.com).

**La Bella Belly Maternity and MetroMoms** have teamed to host "Mocktails and Massages" a special Mother's Day event for the lovely mother-to-be. This spring Mother's Day gathering will take place at La Bella Belly Maternity from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 10. The fee to attend the "Mocktails and Massages" Mother's Day event is \$20 and space is limited. To register for this exclusive Mother's Day treat, please visit [www.metroplexbaby.com](http://www.metroplexbaby.com) or call 972-385-4022.

**May 11**

**Dick's Last Resort Brings Back Original Gospel Brunch Featuring Betty Lewis and the Angelics** in Concert for Mother's Day. Brunch hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday.

**TBAAL Brunch Buffet and Entertainment** is an afternoon of dining and entertainment exclusively for the woman that brought you into this world. Music will be provided by Jared Coleman and the buffet will be catered in room T-312/313 at the Dallas Convention Center Theater Complex (at the corner of Canton and Akard Streets). Brunch begins at 11:00 a.m. and lasts through 2:00 p.m. Tickets to the brunch are \$30 and may be purchased through TBAAL at 214-743-2400

**Cirque Chinois VIP Mother's Day Brunch** see acrobats from Shanghai perform feats you will remember for a lifetime at the Plano Centre 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway. There will be a Brunch performance from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon; and additional performances at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$25.00 - \$100.00. For more information call 214-331-3333 or visit [www.ticketsplano.com](http://www.ticketsplano.com).

**May 13 and 14**

**African Stories: Laughter and Wonder with Audrey McClure** Through the interactive dramatization of folktales, Audrey takes students on a journey through Africa, developing an appreciation for its literature, oral traditions, and cultures. African

stories is located at the Mountain Creek Branch Library, 6102 Mountain Creek Parkway at 4:00 p.m. Call 214-670-6704 for details.

**May 14**

**Alicia Keys** performs at the Nokia Theatre, 1001 Performance Place in Grand Prairie from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. For ticket info call 214-373-8000.

**Douglass Community Center's Open House** from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the Douglass Community Center, 1111 Ave. H, Building B, Plano, 75074. The open house is free and food will be provided. For more information contact Dianne Dillon at 972-941-7174.

**May 14 - 18**

**Gary Owen** performs live at the Addison Improv, located at 4980 Beltline Road #250, Addison, 75254. Admission is \$15. Call 972-404-8501 for more information.

**May 15**

**A Bone Marrow Registry Drive** has been organized by the friends and family of a brave Shepton High School Student named Austin, who could die without a bone marrow transplant. The Bone Marrow Registry Drive will last from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at PUMP IT UP, 3632 Frankford Road (SE Corner of Frankford and Marsh, behind the 99 Cent Store). The registration is usually \$52, but for this special occasion registrations will be free for one night! To register you must be 18-60 years of age and in general good health (health guidelines are found @ [http://www.marow.org/H\\_ELP/Join\\_the\\_Donor\\_Registry/Med\\_Guidelines\\_Join/index.html](http://www.marow.org/H_ELP/Join_the_Donor_Registry/Med_Guidelines_Join/index.html)), and you have to be willing to donate to anyone who's found as a match. To become part of the registry, all you have to do is give either a swab of cheek cells or a blood sample so your tissue type can be tested. Pump It Up is donating the place that night, meaning anyone that comes for the drive can play for FREE. Also, CiCi's Pizza (in the same strip center) is giving away coupons for a free buffet to participants. For more information, go to [www.marow.org](http://www.marow.org).

**Collin College Continuing Education will host free Healthcare Information Sessions** at 11 a.m. and at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, May 15. Programs and courses offered by the continuing education division for healthcare include Dental Assistant/RDA, Practice Administrator, Medical Coding, Pharmacy Technician, Health Unit Clerk, EKG, Rehabilitation Aide and Healthcare Leadership courses. Registration and financial aid information will be available. The open house will be at the Courtyard Center for Professional and Economic Development at 4800 Preston Park Boulevard Plano, in Room A134. To sign up for this free information session, call 972-985-3711 or register online at [www.ccccd.edu/ce](http://www.ccccd.edu/ce).

**May 16**

**The Peddler Show** returns to the Plano Centre at 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway. The peddler show features unique jewelry and gifts. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and free for children under 12. For more information, or to inquire about booth space, call 1-800-775-2774 or visit [www.peddlershow.com](http://www.peddlershow.com).

**Beatles Tribute Night** will be at The Amphitheater at Oak Point Park at 2801 E. Spring Creek Parkway. The Concert will feature Beatlegras, a local Beatles cover band who plays the original songs with a bluegrass twist; and American English, another modern cover band visiting from Chicago. Admission to the Beatles Tribute Night Concert is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.planostages.tix.com](http://www.planostages.tix.com) or at the gate. For more information, visit [www.planostages.com](http://www.planostages.com).

**May 16 and 17**

**Dallas Black Dance Theatre's Spring Celebration** is located at the Majestic Theatre, 1925 Elm Street Dallas, 75201. This is the Dallas Black Dance Theater's Season Finale; Admission will be \$20 - \$35. Call 214-871-2390 for more info.

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# Mrs. Hallie Carter Conwright

By Shirley Demus Tarpley

With Mother's Day this Sunday, Mrs. Hallie Carter Conwright is a distinguished lady that is worthy of being celebrated. Her

of the late Mr. F.T. Conwright & Mrs. Tessie Miles who live in Ore City, Texas with her spouse, Mr. R.T. Miles, they planned a grand 100th Celebration that no one is soon to forget.

the union of Mr. Lige & Mrs. Dothia Jones Carter. There are three children left to carry on the family tradition: Mrs. Conwright (100) a long time Ora City resident, who currently

Texas did not attend the celebration.

Mrs. Conwright has 38 grandchildren; 68 great grandchildren, and 20 great great grandchildren in and around the area.

The centurion believes that she must look to the hills from whence come her health and her long life. "God has always blessed me," she states. Her favorite Scripture is the 23rd Psalm; favorite saying is, "99 1/2 won't do!" And, her favorite songs are "I Won't Complain" and "When All of God's Children Get Together." Her advice for the younger generations is to be obedient to God's Word and have faith in Him.

Grandson Craig Conwright remembers that in his early years Mrs. Conwright loved eating healthy, but on occasion she liked to indulge in eating a What-a-Burger and drinking a Dr. Pepper. Craig also designed and printed the beautiful baby blue, black and white T-Shirts worn by relatives. They will wear them again at their Family Reunion on July 27, 2008 in honor of the centurion.

Grandson Michael Conwright is the caretaker and grounds keeper for the Conwright's family house and farm in Ora City where Mrs. Conwright lived before relocating to Dallas County to live with granddaughter Chandra Bones. Ms. Bones did not attend the celebration either. In Ora City, the centurion was a long-time member of



Rev. Sammie Davis, Pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church in Dallas, said the opening prayer.

St. Paul Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Johnny Q. Brown.

Rev. Fred Conwright, Pastor of Greater Mount Hebron Baptist Church (GMHBC) in Dallas is Mrs. Conwright's oldest grandchild. He is also Founder and CEO of Two Podners B a r - B - Q u e Restaurants. Rev. Conwright and GMHBC hosted the 100th birthday party for Rev. Fred's grandmother.

Her last grandchild is Sonya Giles, who brought the beautiful birthday cake; she lives in Cedar Hill, Texas. She is also the daughter of Mr. I.V. & the late Mrs. Dothia Jones. The enormous flower arrangement center piece was brought by nephew J.B. Parks of J.B. Parks Wholesale Florist, Inc. in Dallas.

At the celebration it was revealed that Mrs. Conwright has a passion for loving everyone; and she is at her best singing Christian songs and playing the piano.

Relatives and friends on program were: The GMHBC

Praise Dance Team and Church Choir; Raeanna Williams, sang "Amazing Grace;" Linika Jones, recalled famous inventions for each decade of the centurion's life; LaShon Anderson, sang "I'm Still Holding on to His Hand;" Vergie Goosby sang "Father I Stretch My Hands to Thee;" and The Conwright Group, sang two of Mrs. Conwright's favorite songs, "When All of God's Children Get Together;" and "I'm A Living Testimony." Nephews Heath Harris, Randy McCarthy and Robert (Bue) Conwright sang, "Swing Low Sweet Chariot."

Mrs. Conwright has received proclamations from The Honorable Royce West, Texas Senator; and Honorable Tom Leppert, Mayor, City of Dallas. A con-



Ms. Erma Jean McDonald with daughter Charlotte Grant.

gratulations letter was received from the Honorable Dwayne Caraway, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem, City of Dallas. Proclamations expected soon will be from: The Honorable George W. Bush, U.S. President; and The Honorable Rick Perry, Governor of Texas.



Group picture with baby-blue & black T-shirts designed and printed by grandson Craig Conwright. 1st row (left to right): Linda Pearson, Briana Birdine, honoree Ms. Conwright, Destiny Jones, Kennedy Watkins, and Gloria Holmes. 2nd row: Brandon Conwright, Bobbie Black, Rose Conwright, Carolyn Jones, and Glenda Howard. 3rd row: Adrean Johnson, Craig Conwright, Jr., Curtis Conwright II, Curtis Conwright Sr., Fred Conwright Sr., Jason London, and Vern Howard.

granddaughter, Ms. Carolyn Jones, Mistress of Ceremonies, is the daughter of Mr. I.V. & the late Mrs. Dothia Jones; along with grandson Rev. Fred Conwright, son

Ms. Jones is also responsible for the beautiful decorations.

Born April 5, 1908 in Gilmer, Texas Upshur County the second of ten children born to

resides in Dallas County; Mrs. Mozell Carter Crowe (86) in Upshur County; and Mr. Monaque Carter, Sr. (76) in Dallas County.

Mrs. Conwright married the late Mr. Ethridge Conwright on January 17, 1926; nine children were born to them; six are deceased. Three daughters are living. Daughters, Mrs. Gloria Etta Holmes from San Francisco, California and Mrs. Bobbie Jean Black from Oakland, California, traveled a great distance to help celebrate the centurion's birthday. The third daughter, Mrs. Doris Dunlap, wife of Rev. J. B. Dunlap, Pastor of Galilee Baptist Church in Longview,



Rev. Fred Conwright, Oldest Grandchild and Pastor of Greater Mt. Hebron Baptist Church, with daughter, Ms. Bobbie Black standing in foreground.

See Conwright, Page 16



## On-Site Registration for the 24-Hour Video Race

Participants may register online at [www.24hourvideo-race.com](http://www.24hourvideo-race.com) or in person on Saturday, May 10 noon-2 p.m. at the Magnolia Lounge in Fair Park, located at 1121 First Avenue in Dallas. The in-person registration provides an opportunity for participants new to the 24-Hour Video Race to view the winning videos from past Races, to get their questions answered, to meet other teams, and to pay for their registration. The FREE screenings of the past winners will be at 12:30 p.m. and 1:15 p.m.

Registration fees start at \$50. Fees include admission to future screenings. Call 214-428-8700 for more information.

### THE 24-HOUR VIDEO RACE:

The 24-Hour Video Race will begin Friday, May 16th at midnight at the Magnolia Lounge in Fair Park, located at 1121 First Avenue in Dallas, when up to 100 teams made up of elementary-aged future videographers to seasoned video professionals will be told their video's

required theme, prop, location, and line of dialogue. Teams are requested to arrive at 10 p.m. to sign in.

A digital video up to five minutes in length must be created, shot, and edited on Saturday, May 17th. Completed videotapes must cross the finish line at the Magnolia Lounge by midnight Saturday, May 17.

### SCREENINGS OF THE 24-HOUR VIDEO RACE ENTRIES:

All entries that complete the race will be screened at the Angelika Film Center, 5321 E. Mockingbird, at Mockingbird Station on Tuesday, May 20th, Wednesday, May 21 and Thursday, May 22nd at 6 p.m.-10 p.m. See the website on May 19 for final screening details at [www.24HourVideoRaceDallas.com](http://www.24HourVideoRaceDallas.com). (Teams will have drawn for their screening times when they turned in their tapes on May 17.) The screenings are \$5 at the door and open to the public.

An esteemed group of media professionals will serve as judges and will

advance the videos they feel best incorporate the required elements and creatively represent the theme to final judging. Jury deliberations immediately follow the screenings and are closed to the public. Videos will be grouped and judged in five divisions, Pixelvision (K-12), Futurevision (college), Auteur (1-2 team members), Guerilla (3-5), and Hollywood (6 or more) - with the top three videos in each division receiving awards.

### SCREENINGS OF THE 24-HOUR VIDEO RACE WINNERS:

Screenings of the winners will take place at the Angelika Film Center, 5321 E. Mockingbird Ln., located at Mockingbird Station on Tuesday, May 27th at 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. The winners screening is \$5 and open to the public. Full details on this ever-growing and popular local event can be found at [www.24HourVideoRaceDallas.com](http://www.24HourVideoRaceDallas.com). In addition, KERA-TV Channel 13 will screen the winners on its station (date and time TBA).

## Freakshow: A Lovable Anomaly



by  
**Rick  
Elina**

Anticipation builds when a check of the time reveals that there's only two minutes to curtain. When the doors open and the crowd files into the theatre, almost immediately, something seems amiss. Rather than the usual waiting for the lights to go down and the play to begin, the audience finds itself right in the middle of an early 20th century Freakshow.

Core Performance Manufactory's production of Freakshow, by Carson Kreitzer, is quite simply a remarkable performance by an extremely talented and accomplished cast. In the opening minutes of the show, the audience realizes that they are the

surreal life spectators of the various oddities and mutants starring in Mr. Flips traveling show. We get an immediate sense that our price of admission will include more than pointing and gawking. This is no casual walk through a side show tent. We are about to become intimate with these unfortunates who rarely feel a connection with the outside world, unless it involves heads turning away in disgust.

The story begins when the talking torso of a beautiful woman, tells us, without reservation, what we are all thinking. Thoughts better left private. But isn't that the joy of being a spectator? We are privy to the sins of the confessors without the responsibility of giving absolution. Mr. Flip directs his opening comments to the audience and tells

us in the confident voice of a carnival barker that he's not a bad man. Played convincingly by the gifted Kent Williams, Mr. Flip, an ever so aptly named character, reveals alternate sides of the same coin with remarkable deftness. Is he a savior or an exploiter of human misery?

Amalia, portrayed by Morgana Shaw, is the enchanting woman with no arms or legs. Ironically, even without appendages, Amalia reveals a capacity to feel that helps us to better understand the other characters. She provides us with the true magnetic north to which the other "attractions" of the Freakshow are attracted. Judith, the dog-faced girl (LuLu Ward), tends to Amalia with the attention given to a new-born child. Matthew, the stable worker (Daniel R.

See *Freakshow*, Page 12

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Here's to you, Mom. Celebrating the way you laugh, the way you smile, and the way you hold it together for all of us, without missing a beat.

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Exclusive, pg 1

"We did fight the good fight," Clinton told National Newspaper Publishers Association member The Carolinian she would tell her disheartened supporters if she lost her historic bid to become the first female president of the United States, "and I am proud of the support I have, and am very grateful for everyone who worked for me and voted for me."

"But now we have to close ranks, and come together," the senator from New York continued, "because this is bigger than me, it's bigger than Sen. Obama, [and] it is bigger than any of my supporters or his."

Sen. Clinton's extraordinary statement came April 28 as she was still fighting mightily against Obama, and her critics, to keep her presidential campaign alive past this week's crucial May 6 primaries in North Carolina and Indiana.

In a separate interview, Sen. Obama, who despite his substantial lead in the delegate race could still lose the nomination to Sen. Clinton if a majority of the undecided superdelegates swing her way, agreed that the ultimate goal for all Democrats is to defeat presumptive Republican nominee Sen. John McCain in November.

"This campaign is not about myself or Sen. Clinton," the Illinois Democrat told The Carolinian April 29. "It's about the American people and the struggles they're going through."

"What I am convinced of is that we cannot afford four more years of the same policies that we've seen under George W. Bush, and that's essentially what John McCain is offering."

Well aware that he was speaking to Black North Carolina voters, the majority of whom overwhelmingly

support Obama, but have vowed to sit out the general election if he is denied the Democratic Party's nomination that, they feel, the African-American frontrunner has rightfully earned, Obama said, "We have no choice when it comes to sitting out. We are doing this for our children and our grandchildren."

Clinton's explicit assurance of post-primary unity came amid recent concerns expressed by House Majority Whip Rep. James Clyburn [D-SC] and other prominent Democrats that her constant attacks against frontrunner Obama, coupled with the divisive tone and tenor of the Democratic primary race thus far, may leave the party divided, and the eventual nominee damaged in the general election.

"The conduct of this campaign in Indiana and North Carolina could very well be determinative of what we will have after we get a nominee," Clyburn, the most powerful African-American member of Congress, told MSNBC's "Countdown with Keith Olbermann" April 25.

He added Democratic Party unity for November would depend on the second-place finisher's ability to pull the disparate factions together.

That same concern was expressed by former Democratic National Committee Chairman Joe Andrew, a prominent Indiana political figure and superdelegate with close ties to Bill and Hillary Clinton, who shocked the Clinton campaign by formally endorsing Sen. Obama, citing concerns about growing party divisions.

The growing division has even boiled over on the popular political Internet blogs like Daily Kos, where both Clinton and Obama supporters rhetorically fight tooth and

nailed over who the ultimate Democratic Party champion should be.

"The Obama-ites exuded the confidence of those who feel that they embody the future and are the seed bearers of energies and new modalities too long smothered under the thick haunches of the tired, old, entrenched way of doing things," wrote James Wolcott in his piece, "When Democrats Go Post-al" in the June edition of Vanity Fair magazine. "The Hillarions felt a different imperative knocking at the gate of history, the long-overdue prospect of the first woman taking the presidential oath of office."

"For them," Wolcott continued, "Hillary's time had come, she had paid her dues, she had been thoroughly vetted, she had survived hairdos that would have sunk lesser mortals, and she didn't let a little thing like being loathed by nearly half of the country burn her out and clog her transmission... Democrats have pulled their punches for so long [against the Republicans], "Wolcott adds, "that they know only how to hit themselves in the face..."

Clyburn warned on MSNBC, "We're in a very critical point in this process and if we're not careful, we could do irreparable harm... We're trying to do something that's never been done in this country before."

"Whatever differences Sen. Obama and I may have with one another, they pale in com-

parison with the differences we have with Sen. McCain and the Republican Party," Clinton said.

She adds, "I am going to be so explicit, and I'm going to campaign hard, and I'm going to speak out, because I believe with all of my heart... that the people of this country will be so much better served by a Democratic president whose last name is one of ours. We're going to go to make that case in every part of America."

Sen. Obama acknowledged that while he and his feisty Democratic rival are indeed in a tough battle, "Some of these divisions are overstated."

He said, "We're in the middle of a nomination battle right now. November is an eternity away, and I think when you go through a convention, and folks are making speeches; people are seen unifying together to talk about the principles behind the Democratic Party, I think that will go a long way towards the healing... This is not a cult of personality; this is not about one particular candidate. I think this is about the need for all of us to get engaged in the political process in ways we haven't for a very long time."

Sen. Obama later told the NC Black Press Presidential Roundtable that if, by some chance, he should lose the Democratic Party nomination, he will remain loyal to the party, and not mount an independent bid for the presidency.

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# Irving Mayor Gears up for Heated Municipal Race

By Stephanie Ward

Irving Mayor Herbert Gears has been an active figure in Irving politics for more than 10 years, but says this year's election is the worst he has seen with other candidates languishing in the negative.

"I have chosen to be positive about about the city's future, while other candidates are creating frenzies," he says calling his opponents "domestic extremist."

Voters will go to the polls to elect a mayor on May 10. Gears, the incumbent, has two challengers, Rigoberto Reza and Roland Jeter.

"If reelected mayor, I'll continue to help bring down crime rates; continue to grow the tax base which has grown over 30 percent in the last three years, and continue to lower taxes," he said. "We have lowered the burden on homeowners

over 16 percent."

Mr. Gears hopes that the citizen of Irving will re-elect him so that he can continue building on successes from his previous term.

Gears, a 45 year old financial consultant, says under his administration, The City of Irving saw a huge reduction in crime.

"Violent crimes are down 15% and down 7% overall, and we have the lowest crime rate in the city's history," the Mayor said.

Gears said as mayor, he likes serving and helping others, but dislikes dealing with people who are racists.

Dealing with the city's growing illegal Hispanic population has been a hotly debated issue in this municipal race.

The city also has the highest number of deported illegal aliens of any city with about

3,000. Anyone arrested in Irving must prove their citizenship. Illegals that are arrested are immediately deported.

Mr. Gears says he is vehemently against discriminating against anyone. He says 75% of the children in the Irving schools are Hispanic and 95% of them are American citizens.

"Those children are our future and we should do all we can to promote a bright future for them and not rag on their parents," he said, responding to the fury of racism surrounding the campaign.

"Some people always have to have someone to hate," he said. "After they get rid of them, they will get back to hating the old ones."

Irving citizen and activist, Anthony Bond applauds Gears' efforts and tenure as mayor, saying that he is a very fair and compassionate

person.

"Herb has been the best mayor ever. I have watched him bring people together," he said.

Bond points to the mayors new Minority and Women Owned business program as proof that Gears is concerned about the welfare of all Irving's citizens and businesses.

Under the new M/WBE program, the city has a goal to spend 28% of its budget and funds for new projects with minority and women owned businesses. The city currently has \$5 billion worth of projects planned and annual spending of \$100 million.

The city recently hired Reginald Coleman to oversee the program and help minority and women owned businesses get contract from the city.

"I hope to put information in people's hand

that will help them with the bid process," he said.

Gears says that Irving is a city that works, and it is his plan to keep it that way. He points to continual growth and development in Las Colinas.

Irving is the headquarters for many corporations such as Exxon Mobil, Kimberly Clark, Michael Stores and Zales Corporation. Gears said having these large company's help to reduce the property tax burden on homeowners

and help to make Irving a great place to live.

While being the mayor of a growing city is a challenge, Gears says he loves it and looks forward to another 3-year term.

"I care about everybody and I want people to be happy," he said.

Gears states that about 90 percent of his time is spent on mayoral duties and that if it weren't for his wife's of 17 years, Christina's involvement in their business, he could not handle it.

*Freakshow, pg 10*

States), loves Amalia and takes her for "walks," boasting that she doesn't weigh very much. Aquaboy (Sachin Patel), constantly seeks her counsel after discovering love for the first time. Pinhead, the caged simpleton (M. Shane Hurst), sings to Amalia. And it should be pointed out, that Mr. Hurst has a professional quality to his voice that alone, is worth the price of admission.

Freakshow is one of those rare gems of the theatre that, though lacking in plot, makes up for this forgivable shortcoming through its depth of character development. And these characters are memorable. They are lovable. They will stay with you long after the show is over. But great characters

require great actors, and Freakshow delivers on both counts, under the solid direction of Elizabeth Ware. She says, "The play is a unique blend of beauty, poetry, and raw animalism. I am fascinated to explore Kreitzer's world where the profane and the divine coexist so effortlessly."

In the final analysis, the ultimate question of Freakshow must be resolved in the context of the day. In this present age of self-destructive celebrities, we are reminded once again of the harsh price of "shameless exhibition."

*Rick A. Elina is a playwright based in Plano, Texas and is the Theatre Critic for The North Dallas Gazette. He can be reached at: rickaelina@aol.com.*

*PVNAA, pg 1*

and was their starting quarterback during the three years he participated in the program.

After completing high school, Rodney was accepted for admission at Prairie View A&M University for the 2007-08 school year. According to Mr. Yarbrough, he chose Electrical Engineering as his major because he likes to work with circuits and to be able to

do more hands on kind of work. As a second semester freshman, it appears that he has adapted extremely well to college life and being away from home. This adjustment fact can readily be attested to by virtue of his ability to earn better than a 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale at Prairie View during his first semester.

Just this past year, Mr. Yarbrough was offered an internship to

work and gain experience at Frito-Lay. He was pleased with the offer and plans to start the internship this summer. It is envisioned that this unique opportunity will help him gain the experience he needs to work in an engineering firm and better understand what engineers do in their jobs.

Giving back to the community has been a major factor in Mr.

Yarbrough's life. He has helped with the Hurricane Katrina victims by donating food and clothing. In addition, he served as a volunteer helper for the elderly at a nursing home program. It is for these reasons that the members of the Hamilton Park Legacy Committee are proud to present Mr. Rodney D. Yarbrough as its first four-year scholarship recipient.



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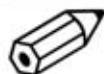
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## Church Happenings

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May 10, 9 am – 12 pm

You are invited to our "Prayer Breakfast" with Evangelist Clara Glover. RSVP @ 469-952-4828 or 469-360-6908.

**Back To God Ministries**  
Bishop Raymond Richard,  
Senior Pastor  
1200 Tennessee Street  
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469-952-4828

### **CONCORD BAPTIST CHURCH**

June 6, 7 pm

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Rev. Bryan Carter,  
Senior Pastor  
6808 Pastor Bailey Drive  
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214-331-8522

### **CUSTER ROAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

May 18, 12 Noon-2 pm

Camp Big Church is a \$5 Church prep for all children

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**Custer Road UMC**  
Rev. Ronald Henderson,  
Senior Minister  
6601 Custer Road  
Plano, TX 75023  
972-618-3450

### **DFW INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ALLIANCE**

May 31, 4 pm

The DFW Unity Cup Championship Games will be held @ Lake Highlands North Field #1, 9300 Church Road, Dallas, TX 75238. Tickets are \$5, children under 10 are FREE

June 1, 1 pm - 5 pm

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June 1, 6 pm

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**DFW International Community Alliance**  
Anne Marie Weiss,  
President  
12800 Hillcrest Road  
Suite A211  
Dallas, TX 75230  
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Speakers include: Minister Lucilla Richards, Prayer Garden Ministries, Evanston, IL; Evangelist Easter Stevenson, New Zion

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*A Special Mother's Day to Minister Sheila, my sisters: Eloyd Avery, Evangelist Ida Eggins and Rose Fielding. To my mother's sisters and Sister-in-Law: Aunts Jessie Baker Green, Willie Mae Baker Thomas, Jeri Baker Carter, Toby Baker Childs, and Eva Joyce Baker. To my sister-in-laws, Dorothy Tarpley Henderson and Laverne Tarpley Solomon. To all my family, cousins, church members and friends, including Denise Avery, Nana Avery Brown, Vina Williamson, LaKieth Robeson, Vanessa Raymond, Delorise Jean Demus, Eleana Demus, Sherry Gambrell, Phemia Tinner, Esther Dugay, Angela Dugay, Theresa Simpson, Barbara Lewis, Ora Lee Roberts, Vivian Evans, Eloise Joiner, Annie Pearl Williams, Joyce Evans, Renee Tinner Allen, Regina Tinner Green, etc.*

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## Happy Mother's Day to All!

nizational skills and be willing to work variable hours, which will include evenings and weekends, and frequent 24 hour shifts on call. Some overnight travel required, including trips to primitive camping sites on rainy weekends and endless tournaments in far away cities. Travel expenses not reimbursed. Extensive courier duties also required.



(L to R): Mistress of Ceremony & Granddaughter Carolyn Jones and Cousin Lisa Jones at Mrs. Hallie Conwright's 100th birthday party.

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Wright, pg 1

gence and Sen. Obama also addressed the group in Washington and encouraged its mission. I saw the Conference message as a part of the legacy of the Black Church that was either being drowned out by the conservative evangelicals or the prosperity preachers.

For two years Wright and the Conference took their message to Washington and the National Press Club. Many eloquent and renown theologians - including Pastors Wright, James Forbes, Freddie Haynes, Cynthia Hale and others spoke. Unfortunately only one reporter, Hamil Harris of the Washington Post reported it, but there was little other coverage.

Ironically I remember praying that somehow this group directed by Rev. Dr. Iva Carruthers and composed of some of the most dedicated and progressive preachers and theologians in the country would gain more public exposure.

I soon found there is much truth to the old saying, "Be careful what you pray for because God may not come the way you want Him but when He comes He is right on time." So when the recent controversy around Wright erupted, Sylvia Smith, the president of the press club, asked if I could get Wright as a speaker, the man I had been suggesting even before she became president. I was delighted because the Samuel Proctor Conference was again coming to Washington for its legislative conference and Wright could now bring the social justice message with its promise of equality and inclusion to an international level.

That was my only motivation.

I have been attacked for my role in all this. What is fueling it is because I stated publicly that I voted for Sen. Clinton in the primary as my way of thanking her for how she stood up for the poor when she had a chance. Few have written that I also publicly criticized the Senator for not firing Geraldine Ferraro when she insinuated that Senator Obama was an "affirmative action" presidential candidate. Few have written that in lectures and sermons I have spoken highly of Senator Obama and how his message of hope offers a great opportunity to bring a divided nation together.

I believe in the First Amendment. I believe that people of different views should have a voice as citizens. I believe that pastors, preachers and prophets should NOT go to the rulers and politicians and ask permission from them to speak truth to power or to speak the Word that God places in their heart. If they did that, most of the churches, synagogues and mosques in America would shut down.

Black journalists who are criticizing me now as I continue to fight for inclusion and diversity, are there as a result of myself and others fighting the corporate media to hire them.

Shortly before the press club breakfast, I helped organized a press luncheon for Secretary Jackson of HUD and worked very hard to make it a sold out event, as was the Wright event. I am not a Republican.

I am neither an Obama surrogate nor a Clinton surrogate. If either one becomes President- or neither, I will still be challenging the next President to lift up the poor

and the powerless as I have challenged presidents for the last four decades.

One thing I learned from Dr. Betty Shabazz, the wife of the late Malcolm X, is to "find the good and praise it." I think this country would be better served if either Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama became president instead of John McCain. And I think this country is better served by an ex-Marine like Pastor Jeremiah Wright standing up for his beliefs and like the Jeremiah in the Bible, standing up for his country in pointing out the nation's past sins and pleading for change and reconciliation, which is the message I heard at the National Press Club.

In his powerful speech before the NAACP on the previous evening, he made the case that we are a nation of differences and different does not mean deficient. Why can't we accept the different message, style of Wright? Meanwhile, Pastor Wright and his family are receiving death threats and his church bomb threats. This is very sad. I do not believe that tearing down and hating on either Barack or Clinton or Wright is honorable. If this level of hate continues, it will only spell disaster for our nation.

At this writing, Sen. Obama appears favored to be the nominee. If he prevails, I will most certainly support him and vote for him in the general election. Then I will have voted-in the primary and in the general election - for two of the most phenomenal politicians this country has produced. And at the same time, I am proud to stand beside Pastor Jeremiah Wright, one of the most brilliant and courageous preachers I have ever known.

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Monday & Friday ..... 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday ... 9:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Saturday & Sunday ..... Closed

### Contact Info

Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church  
11611 Webb Chapel Road • Dallas, TX 75229  
Office: 972-241-6151  
Email: [info@dallasmtpisgah.org](mailto:info@dallasmtpisgah.org)  
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website: [www.fbc-online.net](http://www.fbc-online.net)

**Schedule of Services:**

**Sunday**  
Early Morning Worship-8:00 a.m.  
Sunday School Classes-9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship-11:00 a.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.

**"The Church with a Vision"**



## Church Directory

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Dignitaries with words of encouragement and wisdom were: Rev. Sammie Davis, Pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church in Dallas; Mr. William (Bill) Blair, Founder/Editor of the Elite News, and Mrs. Shirley Demus Tarpley, the first African American Councilwoman and

Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Carrollton, and she is currently the Religious Editor for the North Dallas Gazette.

During her life time, Mrs. Conwright has lived to know of 17 U.S. Presidents from Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt in 1908 through George W. Bush; and will



The last three living children of Mr. & Mrs. Lige Carter (left to right): Mrs. Mozell Crowe (86), Mr. Monaque Carter (76), and the honoree, Mrs. Conwright (100).

perhaps, live to know of history being made again, the first female U.S. Presidential Candidate; or the first African American U.S. Presidential Candidate in the Democrat's Party. Although Mrs. Conwright didn't vote in the Texas Primary this year, she believes that if Christians would pray and let

God lead the elections that America would be okay because God's got the whole world in His hands.

The Centurion thinks the best thing about America is that its citizens have the right of freedom of religion and speech. She thinks the worst thing about America is that not everyone is treated equal.

**Ben Washington Baptist Church, Inc.**  
3901 Frisco Avenue  
Irving, TX 75061  
Church 972-790-8421 Fax 972-986-6590  
Email: church@bwbcirving.org  
Web: bwbcirving.org  
Dr. Joseph R. Sheppard, Pastor  
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<b>Sunday Worship Services</b> 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 6:00 p.m. Baptist Training Union	<b>Wednesday</b> 12:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Prayer Hour 7:30 p.m. Bible Study
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Evening Worship	6:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Class	7:00 pm

Radio Program @ 7:30 am on KHVN 970 AM Sunday Mornings  
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www.avefchurchofchrist.org  
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templeoffaith\_cme@sbcglobal.net (Email)  
Healthy Beginnings Child Development Center - 972-404-1412  
Dr. Jerome E. McNeil, Jr., Pastor

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