

North Dallas Gazette



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NAACP urge Texans to oppose confederate flag license plate design

The Texas State Conference of NAACP Branches is asking all Texans of good will to please write the Board of the Department of Motor Vehicles to let them know you oppose the proposed plates that would bear the insignia of a confederate flag on the license plate. The flag in question never flew

over the State of Texas according to our own state archives department, was never the official flag of the Confederacy and has been adopted by many hate groups around the nation. After being used by a Northern Virginia regiment during the war, it was adopted by hate groups that used it to

terrorize blacks throughout the South after the war. The flag was also used in the 1950's and 1960's as a means of sending a signal to the African-American community that the governments of the South were not in favor of the civil rights movement. Gary Bledsoe, president of the Texas NAACP offers

a haunting analogy: What is next? If this government-issued license plate is approved, the board should also stand ready to approve a license plate with a swastika on it. Revisionism that tries to paint the Confederacy as a symbol of

See FLAG, Page 4

Teen Graffiti's Keepin' It Real! Youth Summit Back for its 8th Year

Keepin' it real. That's what teens want to do today. Prompted by the continued enthusiastic responses to *Keepin' It Real!*, Sharon-Jones Scaife, publisher of *Teen Graffiti* magazine and board president of Teens Reaching Teens, Inc. recently announced the return of *Keepin' It Real!* for 2011, making this the eighth con-



Tamme Gaddis talks to youth during workshop.

secutive year for this popular

back-to-school event for teens. *Keepin' It Real 2011* will be held Saturday, August 13, 2011 at Mountain View College, 4849 W. Illinois Avenue in Dallas, Texas 75211 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30

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Win tickets to DCT's Pied Piper's Magic at Facebook.com/NorthDallasGazette

Keeping young Texans safe on digital playgrounds this summer

by Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott With the end of the school year and the arrival of summer, some young Texans will have more unsupervised time at home – and in an increasingly digital world, that means more

opportunities to visit potentially dangerous online playgrounds. Unfortunately, cyber predators do not take summer breaks. Texas parents are the first line of defense against criminals who use the Internet to prey upon children.

Families must stay engaged in their child's activities online, set boundaries and know the capabilities of minors' mobile phones and handheld gaming devices. Cyber crime investigators across the state have seen firsthand the danger-

ous criminals that lurk online. Texas parents must remain vigilant and remind their children that cyber predators pose a constant and very real threat. Parents should make sure children

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People In The News...



Cornel West Theory



Calvin Spann

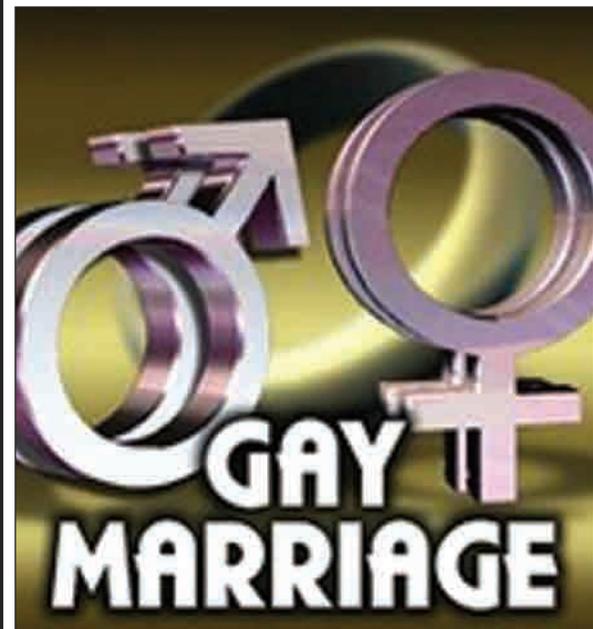


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Why Obama still says no to gay marriages



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Chaka Khan's revealing Essence Music Festival performance

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COMMENTARY

Michele Bachmann: The John Wayne of political lies

By George E. Curry (NNPA) Whether making the round of Sunday morning talk shows, giving the Tea Party response to President Obama's State of the Union address, or announcing her own presidential candidacy, Michele Bachmann does one thing consistently – lie. The Republican congresswoman from Minnesota, who has been described as Sarah Palin with a brain, has enjoyed a dramatic rise in public opinion polls following the latest debate among GOP candidates seeking the party's

presidential nomination. But Bachmann's comments are a reminder of the adage: Figures can lie and liars can figure. Here are some of the most egregious examples: BACHMANN [CBS "Face the Nation," June 26]: The Congressional Budget Office estimated Obamacare will cost economy 800,000 jobs, probably the – HOST BOB SCHIEFFER: Again, that is data that other people would question. BACHMANN: That's – See LIES, Page 3

Cornel West Theory

The Cornel West Theory is launching their new LP, "The Shape of Hip-Hop to Come," on July 19. This record features the six-member band and chief collaborator, Princeton Professor Dr. Cornel West.

In releasing their second full-length album, the Cornel West Theory continues to evolve its Type I style, which is based in the progressive hip-hop tradition established by artists such as Public Enemy, Rage Against the Machine

and KRS-One. The album was created out of an appreciation for several music genres - hip-hop, jazz, punk, blues, go-go, rock - and takes its name from Ornette Coleman's "The Shape of Jazz to Come" and Re-fused's "The Shape of Punk to Come."

The Cornel West Theory has once again teamed with Dr. West. In 2009, the band recorded with its



namesake on its critically-acclaimed release "Second Rome." Back then, Dr. West commented: "I think what we have with 'Second Rome' is an instant classic of its generation. And if the

subsequent generations understand the depths of it, they will see what is at stake here in this album is the making of a new wave of new voices in a new generation that we haven't seen in decades."

"The Shape of Hip-Hop to Come" also represents the tradition of hip-hop as a rebellious art form, one that pushes creative boundaries,

champions the common man and speaks with a genuine love for humanity. This album makes a bold statement about where hip-hop has been and can go.

"Hip-hop is really one dimensional right now," says Cornel West Theory Emcee Rashad Dobbins. "Hip-Hop has four elements: Graffiti, dj'ing, rhyming and B-boying. Now the fifth element of money has taken over. ... It's a contradiction to a rebellious music from the start."

With the release of

"The Shape of Hip-Hop To Come," Dr. West says, "It builds on the best of the past. Yes, but it's something new, something novel."

The intent of "The Shape of Hip-Hop to Come" is to display traditions from hip-hop and spoken word and show how those styles can expand with the fusion of other genres. The album takes traditional elements - electronic loops and beats - and evolves them by fusing live instruments and other ele-

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Calvin Spann

By Tom Keener

NDG Special Contributor

The Allen Public Library will feature Tuskegee Airman Lt. Calvin Spann, at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, July 14, Allen Public Library Civic Auditorium, 300 N. Allen Dr. He will discuss the rigorous training at the Tuskegee University Moton Airfield, aerial campaigns during World War II that included traversing the treacherous Alps and encountering a newly invented German weapon-jet aircraft.

Under the direction of Col. Benjamin Davis, Jr., 450

of the Tuskegee Airman, as the Tuskegee-trained pilots came to be known, flew World War II missions over North Africa and Europe in P-39, P-40, P-47 and P-50 aircraft. These men served in either the 99th Fighter Squadron or the 332nd Fighter Group. The first black West Point graduate, Col. Davis was one of the five who graduated from of a class of originally 13 men in the first nine-month training at Tuskegee. Col. Davis later earned the distinction of being the U.S. Air Force's

first African American general.

Eventually, the 332nd Fighter Group consisted of four fighter squadrons—the 99th, 100th, 301st, and 302nd. The 99th Fighter Squadron received two Presidential Unit Citations for their tactical air support and air combat in Italy in 1943 and 1944, and the 332nd Fighter Group earned a Presidential Unit Citation for their mission escorting bombers to Berlin in March of 1945. These brave airmen also distinguished themselves by achieving the singular distinction of never losing an escorted bomber to



enemy plane fire.

Juanita Posey, Commander of Armistice Memorial Post 2195, declares, "As a young, black woman from

the South in the late 80's, my future opportunities were presented to me in minimal options. As a Naval JROTC student, my exposure of heroism in the face of racism was amplified with my introduction to the Tuskegee Airmen. Their sacrifice to prove that they were capable in spite of their skin color gives a me the courage to do the same."

This is an exciting opportunity to hear an eyewitness to history's biggest war. Boy Scout Troop 328 will present

the colors to commence the program. After the program, Mr. Spann will be available for questions and photographs. A reception with refreshments will follow.

Calvin and his wife Gwenelle, reside in Allen and give talks to schools and libraries on the role of Tuskegee Airmen.

This free program is sponsored by the Friends of the Allen Public Library Bach to Books and the Allen Public Library's Adult Services department. No reservations are required.

For more information, call Tom Keener at 214-509-4911.

Roland Martin

Chevrolet is sponsoring the "Table of Brotherhood Project," a four-city tour honoring the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. that cul-

minates with the Aug. 28 dedication of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial in Washington, D.C. Roland Martin is slated to serve as a moderator during



lanta, Memphis, Chicago, and Washington, where diverse community leaders will evoke King's spirit through dialogue on topical social issues. Tour stops will feature a

table designed by Scott Tucker of Raunjiba furniture, where people of all backgrounds and opinions are invited to participate in culturally and socially relevant conversations around King's vision. The discussions will be moderated by Roland Martin, a CNN News contributor and commentator for TV One Cable Network.

The Table of Brotherhood Project is highlighted in a TV ad that aired during the recent BET Awards. The ad features Americans from all walks of life taking their seats at an endless table weaving its way through beaches, schools, streets and restaurants to Washington, D.C. The ad was created for Chevrolet by SpikeDDB, its African-American advertising agency of record.

To date, General Motors and the General Motors Foundation are among the largest sponsors of the King

memorial, having donated more than \$10 million to the Washington, DC Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, Inc. Both are committed to raising public awareness of the Memorial in the nation's capital.

The Memorial will be positioned in a direct line between the Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials on the National Mall, where King delivered his most famous speech on Aug. 28, 1963. The centerpiece of the Memorial, the "Stone of Hope," will feature a 30-foot likeness of King made of natural elements. It will contain excerpts of his sermons and public addresses to serve as living testaments of his vision of America. It will be the first memorial on the National Mall to honor someone other than a U.S. President.

"We are deeply grateful to General Motors and the General Motors Foundation

for their consistent and steadfast support, which has helped build the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in our nation's capital," said

Harry E. Johnson, Sr., president and CEO of the Washington, DC Martin Luther

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P. O. Box 763866 • Dallas, Texas 75376-3866

Phone: 972-516-4191

Fax: 972-509-9058



Publisher's Office:

publisher@northdallasgazette.com

Sales Department:

opportunity@northdallasgazette.com

Editorial Department:

editor@northdallasgazette.com

Online:

www.twitter.com/NDGEditor

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Website:

www.NorthDallasGazette.com

STAFF

Chairman Emeritus

Jim Bochum

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Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

Production

Sharon Jones-Scaife

Special Projects Manager

Edward Dewayne

"Preacher Boy" Gibson, Jr.

Religious/

Marketing Editor

Shirley Demus Tarpley

Editor

Ruth Ferguson

Business Manager

Lora Cormier

Staff Writer

Tonya Whitaker

Contributing Writer

Jackie Hardy

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Rick Elina

Advisory Board:

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To break the NFL lockout, the fans need to get mobilized

By Bill Fletcher, Jr.
(NNPA) After constant attention on negotiations in the National Football League and the subsequent lockout [where the employers refuse to let the employees work] by the owners, there has been something close to silence. Recent court rulings have permitted the owners to go forward with their lockout, at least for now. And, the rest of us just sit back and watch the calendar slowly approach the beginning of the next season.

The gist of the dispute, as I have discussed in earlier commentaries, has been the greed of the owners. There is really no other way to put it. They are seeking conces-

sions from the player, including an extension of the football season, in a situation where the owners cannot demonstrate any economic need for such givebacks. The only logical conclusion as to why the owners have pushed this dispute to the point of a lockout is so that they can destroy the union of the players—the NFL Players Association—and achieve total dominance over the players and the sport.

The Players Association, under its relatively new Executive Director DeMaurice Smith, has been doing a great job of fighting the good fight. In fact, sports writers and fans have expressed significant support

for the Players and have, correctly, identified the greed on the part of the owners as the major source of this conflict. Yet the owners see no particular reason to back down. Conservative court decisions in their favor, along with a national political climate that promotes the destruction of labor unions, encourages their arrogance.

What the owners seem to be counting upon is passivity on the part of the fans. The owners actually do not care whether the fans support them or not. What they are concerned with, however, is what the fans do. It is for this reason that the fans of football need to become motivated and active if we want justice to be won by the

players. Here are a few ideas:

1. There needs to be a highly visible organization of the fans, something like "We stand with the Players" or something like that. This needs to be more than a couple of people setting up a website. There need to be thousands of active members who sign up to participate.

2. This organization of fans needs to ensure that governmental bodies, particularly municipalities, that have been considering or negotiating any deals that concern new stadiums, put such talks on hold. Not only do most sports stadiums NOT bring economic advance-

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LIES, continued from Page 1

well, that's what the Congressional Budget Office, that's not Michele Bachmann, that's Congressional Budget Office figures saying that we're – we have the potential of losing 800,000 jobs.

FACTS: As Factcheck.org noted, "The CBO didn't say that. Instead the CBO said that the law would cause a reduction in the amount of labor workers choose to supply. Some Americans would decide to work fewer hours or retire earlier because their ability to get health insurance would be more secure. And low-income workers would receive subsidies to purchase insurance, putting more money into their pockets. Overall, the CBO said the impact on jobs would be 'small.'"

BACHMANN [Jan. 25 Tea Party Response to the State of the Union address]: Unfortunately, the president's strategy for recovery was to spend a trillion dollars on a failed stimulus program, fueled by borrowed money... Not only did that plan fail to deliver, but within three months the national jobless rate spiked to 9.4 percent. And sadly, it hasn't been lower for 20 straight months. While the government grew, we lost more than 2 million jobs. Let me show you a chart. Here are unemployment rates over the past 10 years. In October 2001, our national un-

employment rate was 5.3 percent. In 2008...it was just 6.6 percent. But, just eight months after President Obama promised lower unemployment, that rate spike to a staggering 10.1 percent.

FACTS: The watchdog group Media Matters, on its politicalcorrection.org site, stated: "From December 2007 to July 2009 – the last year of the Bush second term and the first six months of the Obama presidency, before his policies could affect the economy – private sector employment crashed from 115,574,000 jobs to 107,778,000 jobs. Employment continued to fall, however, for the next six months, reaching a low of 107,107,000 in December of 2009. So, out of 8,467,000 private sector jobs lost in this dismal cycle, 7,796,000 of those jobs or 92 percent were lost on the Republican watch or under their policies. Some 671,000 additional jobs were lost as the stimulus and other moves by the administration kicked in, but 630,000 jobs came back in the following six months. The tally, to date: Mr. Obama can be held accountable for the net loss of 41,000 jobs (671,000-630,000), while the Republicans should be held responsible for the net losses of 7,796,000 jobs."

BACHMANN [Tea Party State of the Union response]: But instead of cutting, we saw

an unprecedented explosion of government spending and debt, unlike anything we have seen in the history of our country. Deficits were unacceptably high under President Bush, but they exploded under President Obama's direction, growing the national debt by an astounding \$3.1 trillion dollars.

FACTS: The rising debt can be attributed to Bush-era policies and the recession that began before Obama took office. As the conservative Washington Times observed, "The Congressional Budget Office announced a projected fiscal 2009 deficit of \$1.2 trillion even if Congress doesn't enact any new programs... About the only person who was silent on the deficit projection was Mr. Bush, who took office facing a surplus but who saw spending balloon and the country notch the highest deficits on record."

BACHMANN [Tea Party response]: We need to start making things again in this country. And we can do that by reducing the tax and regulatory burden on job creators. America will have the highest corporate tax rate in the world. Think about that.

FACTS: Researchers at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities have thought about it and what they realize is that to grasp the corporate tax burden, one needs to look beyond statutory tax rates to

the effective tax rate, which takes into account tax deductions. Judging by that standard, the Center notes, "The U.S. corporate tax burden is smaller than average for developed countries. Corporations in 19 of the member states of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development paid 16.1 percent of their profits in taxes between 2000 and 2005, on average, while corporations in the United States paid 13.4 percent."

Appearing on Fox News after officially declaring her candidacy for president, Bachmann said on June 27: "What I want them to know is, just like John Wayne is from Waterloo, Iowa, that's the kind of spirit that I have too."

John Wayne wasn't from Waterloo. He was born in Winterset, Iowa and grew up in California. Bachmann apparently got John Wayne mixed up with another John Wayne – John Wayne Gacy, the serial killer who was from Waterloo.

George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of Emerge magazine and the NNPA News Service, is a keynote speaker, moderator, and media coach. He can be reached through his Web site, www.georgecurry.com You can also follow him at www.twitter.com/curry-george.

Ladies, it's not just you! globally – we're all stressed!

By Cheryl Pearson-McNeil (NNPA) So ladies, I'm sure if you're like me and any of the women I know personally, you have been running hither and yon to keep all of your hats – home, work, parents, children, finances, and relationships – in the air all at once. And sometimes, you find yourself wondering, "Is it just me? Am I the only one feeling like I'm an exotic juggling act in the three ring circus of life trying to keep all these things balanced?" Well, shout hallelujah and signal the ringmaster to shine the spotlight on you in the center ring because the answer is a resounding No! You are not alone! Nielsen's latest comprehensive report *Women of Tomorrow: a Study of Women around the World* confirms women around the globe are feeling pressure like never before and are stressed!

Nielsen is known for its measurement capabilities and for analyzing consumer behavior and trends in media, online, mobile and more around the globe. We recently con-

ducted this study among nearly 6500 women in 21 countries throughout Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America, and North America, representing 60% of the world's population and 78% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). We included women in both developed markets – like ours – and several emerging markets like India and Nigeria. Some of the key findings:

- 90% of women believe their role is evolving for the better from gender equality to workplace opportunities.
- Women control 12 trillion dollars in global spending of 18 trillion dollars, but want to share jointly in life responsibilities and decision making
- While women are indeed increasingly empowered, we are increasingly stressed.

Whoop! There it is! Call your girlfriends and tell them "Girl, it's official! Women everywhere around the world report being pressured for time, rarely have the time to unwind; feel stressed and overworked most of the time. And yes, want just a

tad bit of help from the fellas' time to time. It is NOT just us!"

How we cope with stress varies between developed and emerging markets. Our sisters in emerging countries are often faced with maintaining every day basics like food and clothing. The percentage of their household spend on food is staggering. In Nigeria, for example, 40% of household spending is on food, vs. 7% in the US. So if women in emerging countries found themselves with any additional dollars it would go toward savings, clothes and education. While women in developed countries like ours are more likely to use extra cash for luxuries like vacations, savings and paying off debt.

In conducting this research, women were divided into three segments – daughters (average age 30), mothers (average age 47) and grandmothers (average age 67). The high



stress factor is universal, but it breaks down generationally. The "daughter" generation is the most stressed. This stands to reason as this woman's family is young and she has not likely achieved her full earning potential. Among "mothers" the stress is mid-level. Makes sense because by the average age of 47, income levels are (usually) higher; but finances are still cause for concern. Lastly, "grandmothers" are the least stressed segment. Perhaps not surprisingly, grandmothers are also

most likely to believe that they have successfully achieved that delicate work-life balance.

Fellas, I think the most notable take away from this study for you is that women would like to share more male/female responsibilities. We may be doing it all but would love to have a little more help from you. Umm hmm, did you hear that? Ladies, they may have missed that point, so if you want to cut this column out and post it up on the 'fridge for those times when you need a little back up, feel free. Guys

don't like arguing with you, let alone taking on women from 21 countries and arguing in multiple languages! (You should highlight the multiple languages part).

Consider this ladies: if based on our global spending power of \$12 trillion we were our own country (and lord knows there are times we wish we were don't we?) we'd be about the size of the United

States (based on GDP). That's a lot of power. So, there's no doubt that you and I and our sisters across the globe are agents of change. Can you imagine how much more powerful we'd be if we got a little more support on the home front? So, when's the last time you actually asked for the help you need? I'm just sayin'.

Cheryl Pearson-McNeil is senior vice president of public affairs and government relations for Nielsen. For more information and studies go to www.nielsenwire.com

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TSTC Network Security/
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Meadow's Foundation gives Baylor Irving \$100,000 grant



The Meadows Foundation has awarded a grant to Baylor Irving's Our Children's Hospital at Baylor-Irving (OCHI) for \$100,000. The grant will be used to help Irving families who have children with special medical needs with the ability to afford specialized childcare and therapy services at OCHI.

The grant was secured for OCHI by the Irving Health-

care Foundation (IHF). IHF raises funds for five health-care-related beneficiaries in the Irving community.

With the fiscal year ending on June 30, this grant helped with OCHI's goal of \$300,000 to cover the gap between tuition income and program expenses. "The costs are significant to provide a nurse-

See GRANT, Page 13

Paul Salos Returns to the Central Library for Senior Social Hour!

Paul Salos is back by popular demand at the Nicholson Memorial Library. Salos previously performed for the Library's 2009 Adult Summer Reading Program to great acclaim and has once again agreed to appear at Senior Social Hour on Tuesday, July 19, at 2 p.m. at the Central Library.

Fans of *America's Got Talent* may remember Salos from the 2008 season when he placed sixth out of thousands of performers. In the interim, Salos has played to audiences in New York, Las Vegas, and Spain.

For Senior Social Hour, Salos will showcase a diverse selection of Frank Sinatra's greatest hits,

which are sure to please.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Senior Social Hour programs are free and open to anyone 55 years of age and older. Registration is not required. Seating is limited and is on a first-come first-served basis. Please call 972-205-2502 for more information.

1,000 tickets to be given away to Lewisville events

Music and theater fans are invited to register to be one of up to 1,000 winners in a free-ticket promotion, the Grand Summer Giveaway, being conducted by the Medical Center of Lewisville Grand Theater.

To enter, sign up for MCL Grand event emails at www.MCLGrand.com/1000. Entry is free, and no purchase is necessary. Drawings will be held throughout the summer for free tickets to concerts and plays being held at the city-operated facility. Official rules are posted on the contest website.

Winners will be notified by email and announced online through the center's Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/MCLGrand.

Upcoming events that will be included in the giveaway include concerts by Lannaya West African Drum & Dance Ensemble, classical guitarist Maud LaForest, and Texas band Del Castillo. Tickets will be awarded in groups of two or four.

Medical Center of Lewisville Grand Theater, located at 100 N. Charles Street, between Main and

Church streets, opened in January. The 40,000-square-foot facility features a 296-seat proscenium theater, black box theater, dance recital hall, art gallery, five art classrooms and a large courtyard. Medical Center of Lewisville reached a multi-year agreement with the city last year for naming rights at the center.

For details about upcoming events, or rental information for the facility, please visit www.MCLGrand.com or call 972.219.8446.

Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. – Psi Chapter, Dallas celebrates its diamond jubilee



has worked tirelessly in and around the Dallas community fulfilling the vision of the Sorority's founder, Lola M. Parker, and upholding the legacy of Psi Chapter's charter members.

Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. – Psi Chapter, Dallas will celebrate 75 years of service to the greater Dallas community on July 31, 2011 at the Hilton Garden Inn Duncanville/Dallas.

Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. is a professional businesswomen's sorority founded in Chicago, Illinois in 1929 by Lola M. Parker. The Sorority seeks to unite in sisterhood qualified business and professional women in order to enhance and improve the status of women in our highly complex, competitive business and professional world; Promote increased interest

in the broad field of business education among high school and college young women through planned programs and scholarships; Encourage the development of personal goals and leadership potential; and Establish and promote civic and social service activities for youth and adults.

In July 1936, Psi Chapter was chartered with 14 wonderful women of Dallas at the historic Pythian Temple. Since then, Psi Chapter

For 75 years Psi Chapter has recognized, honored, and fostered business development and entrepreneurship in the greater Dallas community. Please join us as we celebrate this momentous occasion. RSVP is required. For details contact, Talmadge M. Jacques, 75th Anniversary Chair at psijournalist@aol.com or (214) 375-3577.

Visit Iota on the web at www.iota1929.org or www.iota-psi.org.

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Tea Party Set for New Mothers

Do you have questions now that your new baby has arrived? You are not alone. Come join a friendly and fun environment to gather ideas to cope with everyday issues.

The Going Out With Baby: Fun and Challenging conversation will take place in the Weatherford Room located on the first floor of Methodist Dallas Medical Center, 1441 N. Beckley Ave., Dallas 75203, off the main lobby, adjacent to the visitors' parking elevator on Thursday July 14, 1 - 2 p.m.

New moms and their babies are welcome to this support group. The event is free and validation for free parking will be provided. RSVP to Connie Rico at 214-947-1161.

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Apprenticeships Touted As Viable Career Route

Largely overlooked by policymakers, educators, and the public, apprenticeships offer a promising route for preparing large numbers of students for high-skilled jobs and professions, according to an article in the Summer 2011 Issues in Science and Technology.

Diane Auer Jones, a former

assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, argues that college is not a good fit for many students but that students often enroll because they lack other career preparation alternatives. She calls for an expansion of the options available so that each student can find the right path to success based on his

or her personal and professional goals, life circumstances, learning style, and academic preparedness.

Jones writes that in countries such as Germany and Switzerland, apprenticeships are a critical part of the secondary education system, and the majority of students complete an apprenticeship even if they

later plan to pursue postsecondary education. It is not uncommon for German or Swiss postsecondary institutions to require students to complete an apprenticeship prior to enrolling in a tertiary education program. In this way, apprenticeships are used to train engineers, nurses, teachers, finance workers and myriad other

professionals.

In the United States, however, apprenticeships generally have been considered to be labor programs for training students to work in the skilled trades or crafts. They are not viewed as education programs, so they have not become a conventional part of most secondary or postsecondary

systems or programs.

“Apprenticeships should be developed for occupations traditionally associated with a liberal arts education,” she writes. “It is shortsighted to assume that only economically disadvantaged or low-achieving students can benefit from apprenticeship training.”

Dallas Bar hosting Law Jam 3

“The most fun place to be in Dallas, Texas, on August 20, 2011 will be the Granada Theater, where the coolest lawyer bands in the state—Big Wheel, Black Dirt Tango, Blue Collar Crime, The Catdaddies, Texas Rock Association, The Usuals and the Wrecking Crew—will be rockin’ for pro bono,” said DBA President Barry Sorrels. “This event raises money for the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program, which provides legal services to the poor. So put on your t-shirts and jeans and get ready to party!”

All proceeds will benefit



the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program, a joint initiative of the Dallas Bar Association and Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, which assists approximately 3,475 families per year. In addition, a silent auction will be available.

The band lineup includes:
 •6:00 p.m. – The Usuals
 •7:00 p.m. – Big Wheel
 •8:00 p.m. – Black Dirt Tango
 •9:00 p.m. – The Catdaddies
 •10:00 p.m. – Blue Collar

Crime

•11:00 p.m. – The Wrecking Crew
 •Midnight – Texas Rock Association

Sponsored by the Dallas Bar Association, Law Jam 3 is Saturday, August 20, 2011, beginning at 6 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. at The Granada Theater, 3524 Greenville Ave., Dallas.

The tickets are \$25 advance purchase general admission ticket or \$30 at the door. Or for \$100, you can purchase a “Groupie” package which includes admission and a beverage. For more informa-

tion, or to purchase tickets, log on to www.dbalawjam.org or

contact Judi Smalling at jsmalling@dallasbar.org.

SUMMIT, continued from Page 1

p.m. Last year nearly 700 youth attended this magnificent one-day conference. Our goal this year is to continue to empower young people (grades 6-12) from the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex and surrounding areas with information that will help them be successful students and responsible citizens in their communities.

This FREE one-day youth conference provides our teens with “real life” solutions to problems they face and in the process help build their self-confidence as they prepare to return to school. As with previous *Keepin’ It Real!* youth empowerment conferences, the 2011 event is lining up to be just as lively, educational, and fun.

Designed to build self-confidence as teens prepare to return to school this fall, the summit offers seven breakout sessions and a college/community fair, plus workshops about health, wellness, finances and other issues.

This year’s event will involve approximately 700 youths, ages 12 to 18 who come from across the metroplex to share a day of activities and information. Teens will also have an opportunity during a moderated panel discussion to meet local leaders and to ask challenging questions of their own. The summit also includes entertainment for participants, who each will leave with a complimentary backpack and school supplies.

The event is free, but participants must pre-register in advance at www.keepinitreal.org or www.teengraffiti.com.

For the eighth year, Backpacking for Education (BFE) also returns. BFE is a program that supplies the attending youth with backpacks filled with school supplies and well wishes for a safe and productive school year. Additionally, some students will walk away with door prizes and all will receive giveaways.

Keepin’ It Real! 2011 will be held at Mountain View College, 4849 W. Illinois Avenue in Dallas, Texas. Teens, youth organizations, YMCA’s, Boys and Girls Clubs, etc. from all over the

Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex are invited to make plans now to attend and are encouraged to register now. Additionally, sponsors and vendors are invited to contact *Teen Graffiti* magazine to secure their participation in this highly anticipated and successful event.

Registration is FREE! However, pre-registration is required! EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE: AUGUST 1, 2011. Late Registration Deadline is August 8, 2011.

To register for this conference or for more information on sponsorship opportunities, vendors, or entertainment, please visit www.keepinitreal.org or www.teengraffiti.com or call (972) 496-9457.

FLAG, continued from Page 1

states’ rights could in the same breath repaint the Nazi regime (because after all, didn’t Hitler bring Germany out of a recession?). Both symbols are inextricably linked to horrible human atrocities, and should not be dignified by the state of Texas through a prominent feature on a state-issued li-

cence plate. Whether individuals have a right to display the flag is an entirely separate issue from whether the government should do so on state-issued property. It is important that Texas not go the way of other states like Virginia and Florida that have lost battles trying to keep this hate-filled

insignia off of their license plates.

Please send your faxes or emails to both the Commission and the State NAACP Office so that we can keep tabs of the numbers who have weighed in. Recent reports indicate that there were originally 127 people who wrote in favor of the pro-

posed new plates and 9 people who opposed. The numbers and names for the Department of Motor Vehicles is Julie Beisert (Julie.beisert@txdmv.gov), the liaison for the Board. Main number is 888-368-4689. Fax a copy of your letter to the Texas State NAACP at 512-322-0757.

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McDonald's® 365Black® Awards - July 5, 2011 – New Orleans



MOM Winners & Celeb Ambassadors (L to R) Harold Burnett II of Dover, DE, Phil Solomon of Brunswick, NJ, BET's The Game star Hosea Chanchez, TBS's House of Payne star Lamann Rucker, TBS's Meet the Browns' Lance Gross, Maurice Lee of Orangeburg, SC, Billy Walker of Southaven, MS and Lucas Boyce of Orlando, FL.

Men of McCafé Casting Call winners Harold Burnett II, Phil Solomon, Maurice Lee, Billy Walker and Lucas Boyd make their first official public appearance as Men of McCafé along with Men of McCafé Celebrity Ambassadors Hosea Chanchez, Lamann Rucker and Lance Gross. The McDonald's Men of McCafé Casting Call is a national search to identify five community service-oriented men who are "making a difference" in the African American community.



(L to R) National Black McDonald's Operators Association (NBMOA) Chair and CEO Roland Parrish, McDonald's African American Consumer Market Committee Chairman Marty Gillis, Mary J. Blige, McDonald's Director of African American Consumer Marketing Robert Jackson, Steve Stoute, Record Producer and Co-founder of FFAWN (Foundation For the Advancement of Women Now).

Rob Jackson, McDonald's USA, presents a check for \$40,000 to Mary J. Blige and Steve Stoute for the Foundation For the Advancement of Women Now (FFAWN) during the 2011 365Black Awards ceremony. McDonald's® 365Black Awards recognizes individuals who make significant contributions to the African American community year round.



(L to R) 2011 McDonald's 365Black Awards Honorees; civil rights "Freedom Rider" and McDonald's owner/operator Henry "Hank" Thomas, Radio One network founder Cathy Hughes, multi-platinum recording artist Mary J. Blige, legendary Broadway actress Ruby Dee and NAACP president & CEO Benjamin Jealous, pose for photos on the red carpet after receiving a 2011 365Black Award. The 365Black Awards is an extension of McDonald's 365Black initiative, created to celebrate the pride, heritage and achievements of African-Americans year round.

See AWARDS, Page 16

Plano food bank awarded \$25,000 by The Keg

The votes are in and winners of The Keg Steakhouse & Bar's *Thanks A Million* campaign have been decided by community members across North America. The Keg is awarding \$25,000 to 40 community-based projects for a total of \$1 million. Plano group, Seven Loaves Food Pantry & Community Center, has been named a winner in The Keg's *Thanks A Million* campaign and was awarded a \$25,000 grant to fund

than 1,300 submissions for funding. Members of the public then voted to decide which projects should receive grants. Over 200,000 votes were received from people helping their favorite community-based project receive one of The Keg's \$25,000 grants.

"On behalf of the entire Keg family, I'd like to extend heartfelt congratulations to all the winning submissions and to everyone who participated in *Thanks A Million*," said

so greatly to our success over the years. I have no doubt the 40 grants will help strengthen these communities, empower people to get involved and create a positive impact on the lives of others."

The winning projects come in all shapes and sizes – from school initiatives and playgrounds to food banks and shelters. On June 29th the recipients celebrated their \$25,000 award at events held at their local Keg Steakhouse

and the communities it serves," said Carolyn Torhjelm, Executive Director of The Keg Spirit Foundation. "Our tradition of giving has been engrained in The Keg's culture from the very beginning and it started at

a grassroots level, with employee involvement in community events and projects, just like these ones."

In 2001, The Keg Spirit Foundation was created to coordinate and focus The

Keg's charitable efforts. The *Thanks A Million* campaign continues this tradition of giving.

For a list of the *Thanks A Million* grant recipients please visit www.kegsteakhouse.com



Photo credit: The Keg Steakhouse & Bar

Plano group, Seven Loaves Food Pantry & Community Center, has been named a winner in The Keg's *Thanks A Million* campaign and was awarded a \$25,000 grant to fund Seven Loaves Summer Lunch Program. Attached is a photo from yesterday's check presentation event. More details about their winning project can be found at www.thekegthanksamillion.com.

Seven Loaves Summer Lunch Program.

The Keg's *Thanks A Million* campaign – created in honor of its 40th Anniversary – received more

David Aisenstat, President and CEO, The Keg Steakhouse & Bar. "This initiative was our way of saying 'thank you' to the communities who have contributed

& Bar, surrounded by friends, family, project supporters and Keg employees.

"The Keg has a long history of giving back to

MODEL CALL

Who: CITIGIRL

What: HAIR MODEL SEARCH

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When: CURRENTLY - NOW

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Email Contact Information: Name, Daytime Number and (Home/ Cell Numbers).

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Ongoing

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce, CC-BCC General Meetings, 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:30pm. Call 469-424-1020 or email: info@CCBlackChamber.org for location.

DFW Financially Empowered Women meet monthly for lunch or dinner and a fun, informative seminar on various financial topics. Info: 469-942-0809 or meeetup.com/378.

Group Business Seminars at 4907 Spring Avenue, Dallas, 11:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.; 3rd Friday of the month 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for those interested in starting your own business, it is a Brown Bag Lunch with Free Parking

No Limit Network Business Networking Lunch 1st Thursday at 1 pm in Plano Must RSVP at www.TheNoLimitNetwork.com or 972-898-5882.

The National Business Women Enterprise Network (NBWEN) Learning Over Lunch Series: 4th Saturdays, 11am-1pm, Remarkable Affairs Cafe, 2727 LBJ Fwy., Suite 140, Dallas. \$20 for members; \$35 for non-members, \$5 off for early bird registration. www.nbwenorg.ning.com.

North Dallas Texas Democratic Women Regular Meetings 4th Thursday, 6:45 p.m. Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Rd (between Forest & Royal Lanes).

Target Second Saturdays at Latino Cultural Center On the second Saturday of every month family-fri-endly activities celebrating Latino arts and culture. Come in for one hour, or stay the whole day.

Business Empowerment Sessions. Learn to grow a successful small business. 1st Thursday of each month at Christian Chapel Temple of Faith, 14120 Noel Rd., Dallas. Info @ 214-942-6698.

How to start a business. Free sessions on getting started the right way. Sessions held the last Monday of each month. Call The PLAN Fund for details 214-942-6698.

Oak Cliff Cultural Center, 223 West Jefferson Blvd. in Dallas, offers Tango classes every Wed-nesday from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person or \$15 per couple per class. www.tangocanyen-guedallas.com

The **Art Centre Theatre,** 5220 Village Creek Drive in Plano, will hold auditions for its summer productions. *Seussical* on May 7 and May 14; *Into the Woods* on May 21 and May 28 and 13 on June 11 and June 18. All auditions will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The theatre will also host a slew of summer dances for young children. www.artcentretheatre.com

July 8
The "Down Under's" Homebrew concerts scheduled for: June 30 9:30 – 11 p.m. at the Lakewood Bar & Grill- 6340 Gaston Ave. Dallas, TX, cost is \$5. July 1 9 p.m. -1 a.m. at Lone Star Legends, 1146 Beltline Rd.-Garland and July 8 9:30 p.m. -11 p.m. at the Lakewood Bar & Grill- 6340 Gaston Ave., Dallas, visit www.lbgdallas.com for more info

July 8
In preparation for the premiere of the Dallas Theatre Center's *The Wiz*, an Ease on Down the Road block party is slated for the AT&T Performance Arts Center,

2403 Flora St. in Dallas, from 5 to 8 p.m. Live disco music by Le Freak in Strauss Square gourmet food trucks on Flora Street, fun challenges and games and a live remote broadcast from KRN radio station. After the party, ease on over to the Wyly Theatre for the first-ever performance of the show, produced in collaboration with Dallas Black Dance Theatre. Tickets will be available on a first-come, first-served basis and seating is limited, so make sure to get there early. For this one-time special event, the Wyly Theatre box office will open at 5 p.m. for ticket purchases.

July 8-10
Taste of Dallas at Fair Park

July 9
Cedric the Entertainer will perform at Verizon Theatre in Grand Prairie. www.aeglive.com

July 11-July 12
Rover Dramawerks will hold auditions for **Black Comedy** on Monday from 6 to 9 p.m. and Tuesday from 7 to 10 p.m. Callbacks, if needed, will be July 13. www.roverdramawerks.com

July 10
2:30 Rising Star Recital: Sam Hong, piano. In May of 2011 at the age of 16, Mr. Hong graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance from TCU. **3:00 Feature Performance:** Gary Levinson, Senior Associate Concertmaster of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, and pianist Daredjan Baya Kakouberi perform an all-Beethoven program featuring sonatas from Levinson/Kakouberi's soon-to-be-released CD of the complete Sonatas for Piano and Violin by Beethoven.

Through July 22
Shakespeare Dallas pres-

ents performances of *Cyrano De Bergerac* on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 8:15 p.m. at the Samuell Grand Amphitheatre, 1500 Tenison Parkway in Dallas. Admission for shows is \$10 adults and \$7 seniors and students. Tuesday and Wednesday are free. Children 12 and under are always free.

Through July 23
Shakespeare Dallas presents performances of *As You Like It* on Sunday, Tuesday and Saturday evenings at 8:15 at the Samuell Grand Amphitheatre. Admission for shows is \$10 adults and \$7 seniors and students. Tuesday and Wednesday are free. Children 12 and under are always free.

July 12
Workshop and Book Signing by Latina author Rozhy Talisman as she speaks about happiness and dreams at the Borders Book Store at Lovers-5500 Greenville in Dallas at 6:30 p.m. the event is free. Info: rozhy.t@gmail.com 214-587-430

July 14 - 30
Rover Dramawerks presents the charming musical *Little Mary* at the Courtyard Theater, 1509 H Avenue in Plano, next to the Cox Building Playhouse with shows on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and an additional matinee performance on Saturday, July 23 at 2 p.m.

July 20
Fossil Fun with Science Safari - Children ages 6+ are invited to attend this free session at Carrollton's Hebron and Josey Library (4220 N. Josey Lane) on Wednesday, July 20 at 2 p.m. to learn about paleontology in the Dallas area and to use tools to extract fossils from limestone, some from 90 million years ago. Visit cityofcarrollton.com/library or call 972-466-4800 or for more information.

ofcarrollton.com/library or call 972-466-4800 or for more information.

July 22
The gospel stage play *Ain't Nothin Like The Family* featuring singers Tony Terry and Dave Hollister is slated for 8 p.m. at Friendship West Baptist Church, 2020 West Wheatland Road in Dallas. Call 903-283-5799 or 903-520-5977.

Swim-In Cinema – Enjoy a poolside movie, *Despicable Me*, on July 22 from 7-10 p.m. at Rosemeade Rainforest Aquatic Complex (1334 E. Rosemeade Parkway). Tickets sold at the event. Open swim from 7 p.m. to dusk; movie from dusk until 10 p.m. The cost to attend is \$5 for residents, \$7 for non-residents and \$3 for all children ages 4-6 (swim pass holders receive a \$2 discount). For more information, call 972-466-9833 or visit cityofcarrollton.com/pools

July 26
Irving's Business Welcome to Mayor Beth Van Duyn from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn DFW Airport South, 2001 Valley View Lane, Irving RSVP at irvingchamber.com

August 20
AnyEvent Event Planning Services is hosting **Event Planners Boot Camp** at UTA, 701 S. Nedderman Dr. Arlington, from 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Info: Teri Robinson at 214-376-6530 or at teri@anyevent.org. Register online at www.anyevent.org.

Aug. 1-Sept. 2:
"Citizens at Last: The Women's Suffrage Movement in Texas," at The Women's Museum, Dallas

August 13
5th Annual "Do the Write

Thing" Writing Workshop 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at Tarrant County College – Northeast Campus, 828 W. Harwood in Hurst, Texas. The cost is \$50.00; includes meals and workshop materials; Onsite registration is \$75.00; \$25.00 for students

Steve Harvey to host the **2011 Ford Hoodie Awards** at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas

Amon Carter Museum's 50th Anniversary Bash in Fort Worth

August 14
Hatch Chile Festival on Market Street in Colleyville

August 19-21
Tax-free weekend

September 10
It's My Park Day 8 a.m. – noon hosted by City of Dallas

September 15-18
Addison Oktoberfest

GrapeFest in downtown Grapevine

September 23-24
Jazz by the Boulevard in the Cultural District in Fort Worth

September 30
State Fair of Texas opens at Fair Park

October 22-23
Fort Worth Alliance Air Show

November 3-6
AAA Texas 500 Weekend at the Texas Motor Speedway

November 9-13
Lone Star International Film Festival in Fort Worth's Sundance Square

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Why Obama still says no to gay marriages

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson (New America Media)
President Barack Obama thundered to the throngs at the recent LGBT Leadership Council fundraising bash in New York. "I believe that gay couples deserve the same legal rights as every couple in the country," he said. This was not hyperbole that he had to shout to one of the country's most prominent, and influential gay rights groups to get gay activists off his back about his opposition to gay marriage.

Despite the withering heat he has taken for that opposition, Obama has been the best friend that gays have ever had in the White House.

He backed gay rights in speeches and legislation more than a dozen times as an Illinois state legislator and U.S. Senator. The record number of gay appointments, and the speed with which he's made them, were just the extension of his personal and political conviction that discrimina-



President Barack Obama

tion against gays is every bit the civil rights issue that discrimination against women and minorities is. He issued executive orders mandating that hospitals treat gay and lesbian couples the same as heterosexual ones, and at the same time expanded rights for gay couples who work in the federal government. He vigorously opposed Proposition 8, the California initiative that would have effectively banned gay marriage. He reversed his position on the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act and calls it abhorrent.

But he won't take the final step and flatly say 'I support gay marriage and will back every effort in

full-throated, all-out backing.

Obama may in time back gay marriage -- he's said his position is "evolving" -- but it's not going to happen just yet.

This would require Obama to reverse not his political thinking, but his fundamental and personal beliefs. He made that perfectly clear in a blog talk last October when he flatly said he wouldn't sign on to same sex marriage because of his "understandings" of

just an antiquated, bigoted, and rapidly discredited understanding that Obama refers to, and that he's still stuck on.

Obama is no different than many other fiercely liberal, tolerant and broad-minded African-American when it comes to diversity issues. But he, like many others, still can draw the line on gay marriage and that's fueled by deeply ingrained notions of family, church, and community, and the need to defend the terribly frayed and fragmented black family structure. This mix of fear, be-

defensive end Reggie White, an ordained fundamentalist minister stirred a firestorm when he took a huge swipe at gay rights and gay marriage in a speech to the Wisconsin state legislature. White became the first celebrity black evangelical to say publicly what many black religious leaders said and believed privately about gay issues. Few blacks joined in the loud chorus that condemned his remarks.

A year before White's outburst, a Pew Poll measured black attitudes toward

Pew also found that for the first time in the decade and half that it had been polling Americans on attitudes toward gay rights, and that includes gay marriage, less than half of Americans opposed same sex marriage.

It's wrong-headed and wildly inaccurate to think that President Obama opposes same sex marriage out of narrow religious belief, conservative family upbringing, or a racial herd mentality that is unyielding on the traditional defense of family values. But it's just as wrongheaded to say that none of these things have



Protestors on both sides of the gay marriage fight



President Obama speaking to gay and lesbian supporters at White House event.

every state to pass a gay marriage law'. This refusal mystifies, rankles and angers gay rights organizations and is the single biggest stumbling block to them giving Obama their

what traditional marriage should be. That's the decades old unambiguous and universally consecrated notion that marriage is and should only be between a man and a woman. It's not

gay marriage and found that blacks opposed it by an overwhelming margin. A CNN poll eight years later showed that anti-gay attitudes among blacks had softened at least publicly among many blacks. But the line continued to be just as firmly drawn on same sex marriage.

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life in polls in 2009 and 2010 found that blacks opposed same sex marriage by gaping margins over whites or Hispanics. The finding was even more striking in that

and do weigh in the president's unwillingness to take the final step and say yes to gay marriage.

Time will tell when he will finally change, but that time hasn't come yet and there are reasons why.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is an author and political analyst. He is an associate editor of New America Media. He is host of the weekly Hutchinson Report Newsmaker Hour on KTYM Radio Los Angeles streamed on ktym.com and podcast on blogtalkradio.com and internet TV broadcast on thehutchinsonreport-news.com

The warning signs that many blacks were susceptible to religious and conservative pitches to oppose gay marriage lit up in 1997. Then the late Green Bay Packers perennial all-pro

even more striking in that

'Round About DFW

July 8-July 10
Taste of Dallas 2011 slated for Friday from 4 to 11 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Fair Park, 1010 First Avenue in Dallas. Admission is \$8. Children 12 and younger admitted free.

July 8
 New Orleans musician and

poet **Sunni Patterson** will make an appearance at The Dock Bookshop, 6637 Meadowbrook Drive in Fort Worth at 8 p.m. Event is free. Call 817-457-5700.

July 9
The Reebok 2011 Heroes Celebrity Baseball Game will feature famous faces from the sports world to Hollywood, at 6 p.m. at the

Dr Pepper Ballpark in Frisco. Players confirmed include **Bradie James, Mike Modano, Mark Cuban, Everson Walls, Donnie Nelson** and other figures of the sports realm, plus Oscar nominee **Michael Clarke Duncan, Geoff Stults, Dave Annable, Donald Faison.** Former American Idol runner-up David Archuleta will

sing God Bless America during the seventh-inning stretch. Tickets are \$5-\$15 with proceeds benefiting the Heroes Foundation and the Mike Modano Foundation.

Cedric the Entertainer will perform his comedy act at the Verizon Theatre at Grand Prairie. Doors open at 7 p.m.; show begins at 8.

Tickets are available starting at \$35 through www.ticketmaster.com.

ing is free. Order tickets online at www.ticketmaster.com.

July 14
The Ultimate Ladies Night Out Volume 1 concert featuring Ginuwine, Silk, H-Town and Avant is slated for 8 p.m. at the music hall at Fair Park, 909 1st Avenue in Dallas. Doors open at 7 p.m. Event park-

July 24
SADE with special guest **John Legend** at American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave. in Dallas at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$52.50 to \$152.50. www.ticketmaster.com.

NDG Gossip: Chaka Khan's revealing Essence Music Festival performance

By Tonya Whitaker
 NDG Staff Writer
 The New Orleans Superdome was the place to be for black music enthusiasts this past weekend as the Essence Music Festival arrived in the Crescent City. **Chaka Kahn**



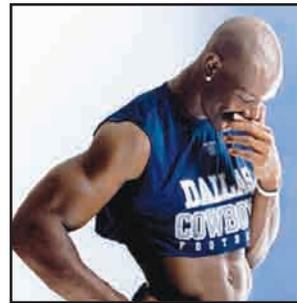
Chaka Kahn

was one of the many acts to participate. Talent aside, but it is strange how some people decide to testify their problems – and who they testify to. On Saturday, during a high-energy jam that in-

cluded *I Feel For You, Through the Wire, I'm Every Woman and Ain't Nobody*, the legendary singer admitted to the crowd that she had a drug addiction and that she has been clean for seven years. How random. She said before singing Angel, "This next song is a song I wrote but I don't remember writing it because I was high." Great for Chaka for being upfront and honest about her past ills with her adoring fans.

Emotional roller coaster
 Just when you think the world of **Terrell Owens** could not get any shakier, it does. Since we last spoke, the Pro Bowl wide receiver has encountered knee surgery and some baby support issues. His baby momma recently filed papers in an Atlanta court seeking to hold the player in contempt after

he stopped paying the full amount of child support – five grand a month – for their



Terrell Owens

child. Well dang T.O.! You know you just cannot stop paying child support. Obviously your financial advisors have no clue if they told you to do that. When it comes to kids, baby mommas and the court, whatever personal issues you got going on NFL lockout, surgery, free agent status, etc., etc., etc. don't matter.

Hatin the kids?

Well, well, well. I was wondering when the realities of rearing 14 kids alone would hit that nutcase **Octomom Nadya Suleman**. Straight From The A.com reported June 30 that the unemployed mom said she hates every one of her kids. Suleman said, "I hate the babies, they disgust me! My older six are animals, getting more and more out of control, because I have no time to properly discipline them." Uh, no time? They actin' disorderly because you ain't got your stuff together. I have always said no woman in her right mind would want to be a single mother of 14 kids. Suleman needs help. Better yet, those kids need help. OMG! Call Child Protective Services on this woman before she harms those kids.

LOCKOUT, continued from Page 3

ment to locales, but they almost always involve major financial concessions by cities and counties, that is, by the taxpayers. Let's temper the greed of the owners by putting a freeze on further talks for the moment.

3. Few fans, except the most tried and true, have any idea who the actual owners are. So, let's go visit them and introduce ourselves. Let's have large delegations of fans show up at the offices of the owners and make clear, non-violently, our concern about their greed. Perhaps we should have mas-

sive vigils to pray for the souls of the owners.

This is a start. It is not a complete list but it is enough to get us running. Time to get away from the television and the sports bars and into the streets. Let's get the voices of the fans heard and put the owners on the hot seats.

Bill Fletcher, Jr. is a Senior Scholar with the Institute for Policy Studies, the immediate past president of TransAfrica Forum, and the co-author of Solidarity Divided. He can be reached at papaq54@hotmail.com.

USA Film Festival hosting TexFest next week

The USA Film Festival and the Texas Association of Film & Tape Professionals will once again partner to present **TexFest**, a community showcase screening series featuring works shot in Texas by Texas filmmakers.

The third installment of the series will take place on Monday, July 11, 2011, with various showtimes beginning

at 7:00pm, at the Angelika Film Center, 5321 E. Mockingbird Lane, Dallas, Texas.

The program will include screenings of three new works -- one new feature film and two short films:

Program 1 at 7 p.m.

I Become Gilgamesh, written and directed by Juan Francisco de la Guardia; Additional information can be

found at <http://www.ibecomegilgamesh.com/>

Program 2 at 7 p.m.

Dirty Laundry, written and directed by Sabra Young; Additional information can be found at <http://www.dirty-laundryshortfilm.com/>

Program 3 at 8 p.m.

God's Pub, written and directed by Jay Gormley; Additional information can

be found at <http://godspub.filmcynix.com/>

All film presentations will be followed by on stage Q&A sessions with the directors and other guests.

Tickets for each program are \$10 and may be obtained by contacting the USA Film Festival by telephone at 214-821-6300 or via email at usafilmfestival@aol.com

MARTIN, continued from Page 2

King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, Inc. "We look forward to the conversations the Table of Brotherhood project tour will create and are certain

they will be a meaningful prelude to the August 28 dedication of our nation's memorial to Dr. King, one of the world's most influential leaders."

The Chevrolet.com/MLK site is the hub for all information related to the Table of Brotherhood Project. The site also has space for visitors to join a virtual

Table of Brotherhood conversation by posting thoughts through video and photos around a number of topics inspired by King.

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Resistance to financial reform reunites pro-consumer interests

Federal agency challenged on cutting states out of enforcement actions

By Charlene Crowell

NDG Special Contributor

Nearly a year ago, President Obama signed the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. At the time, consumers and their advocates rejoiced in the success of the most comprehensive financial reform enacted since that of the 1930s New Deal. Now as the newly-created Consumer Finance Protection Bureau (CFPB) prepares its formal launch on July 21, anti-consumer forces have emerged again. Those who lost the battle on pro-consumer legislation are shifting gears to thwart reform through regulation and a series of legislative amendments. Sadly, a federal office is supporting those efforts.

The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) is now proposing federal preemption that would allow national banks to side-step state regulation and resume their old practices – many of which contributed to the recession that continues to affect both businesses and citizens alike. OCC is also the federal agency charged with regulating national banks and functions as an independent bureau within the U.S. Treasury Department.

According to OCC's fiscal year 2010 annual report, the national banks represent \$8.5 trillion in assets -- 71 percent of the value of all U.S. commercial banks. It is also relevant to note that OCC's operations are funded

by assessments paid by these banks. National banks pay OCC for their respective examinations and corporate application fees.

Fortunately, many of the same advocates that fought for and won Dodd-Frank's enactment are actively opposing this OCC action. Voices opposing OCC include federal state and federal officials and reinvigorated groups representing the pro-consumer alliances of last year.

For example, on June 27, the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) was joined by Consumers Union, the National Consumer Law Center, Public Citizen and the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty law in filing joint

comments in opposition to OCC's proposed regulations.

Together, the groups said in part, "The creation of the CFPB was designed to remedy some of the consumer protection failures of federal regulators; but the CFPB cannot do the work alone. . . . States also bolster the resources of the CFPB and the federal banking agencies. The states have a critical role to play and that is why Congress reaffirmed and reinvigorated the states' role as part of financial reform."

Continuing the groups observed, "States are our nation's first responders when new threats target consumers. States see abuses sooner, react more quickly, and can address local problems before

they become national ones.... The OCC's regulations are completely inconsistent with the Dodd-Frank requirements."

In a recent report by the New York Times, Paul Bland, a senior staff lawyer with Public Justice said, "In these proposals, the OCC is very close to trying to pretend that the Dodd-Frank Act never passed."

Comments filed by George Madison, the federal Treasury General Counsel, succinctly said to OCC, "In our view, this position is contrary to Dodd-Frank."

Other offices that have publicly expressed opposition to the OCC action include the National Association of Attorneys General and New

York State's Financial Services Department.

Any effort to preserve the ill-advised financial status quo is short-sighted at best. To avoid another financial crisis, we need more financial regulatory cops on the beat. To maximize real reform, consumers need regulators working in concert at both the state and federal levels. If allowed, Dodd-Frank will operate as originally intended – to correct the neglectful oversight and abusive financial practices that together have created the current financial crisis.

It would be foolish to expect old practices to bring new or different results. Perhaps OCC has yet to learn that lesson.

New IMF Leadership Ignores World Realities

By Julianne Malveaux

Editor's note: This column was written prior to the release of Dominique Strauss-Kahn from jail following the discover of problems with the accuser's credibility.

Part of me is delighted that France's Finance Minister Christine Lagarde will replace the accused rapist Dominique Strauss-Kahn as managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). She will be the first woman to hold this position, and her background makes her a good pick for this important position. That she is a Frenchwoman replacing another French national suggests no loss of power or influence for France after the national soul-searching on gender attitudes that the DSK imbroglio sparked. While gender is not likely to shape the ways that Lagarde approaches IMF business, interest in her gender and her background may motivate more women to consider international finance as a career path.

While the woman that I am is cheering at the selection of Christine Lagarde, the woman of color in me wonders when the United States and Europe will loosen their lock on key global finance position. Customarily, someone from the United States leads the World Bank, and someone from Europe the International

Monetary Fund. Last year, at the G20 Summit in Seoul, representatives from China, Brazil, and other countries balked that their economies are not only influential, but also growing. When they argued that they, too, should be considered for leadership positions, there was concurrence. The selection of Christine Lagarde suggests that concurrence was only lip service.

When one considers the growing role that China plays in the world economy, including its recent bet on the euro, it is beyond myopic that China should have such a minimal role in international finance. One might argue, too, that leadership of the IMF or the World Bank should not simply be reflective of the size of a national economy, or a regional one. What about the African continent or Latin America? How would perspective change, if financiers from these countries had the opportunity to provide global financial leadership?

To be sure, neither gender nor nationality will shape an approach to the faltering economy in Greece, nor to the world economic slowdown. Except the whole world really isn't slowing down. While Western economies are relatively stagnant, economies in developing countries are showing much more robust

growth. Leaders from these countries may have different perspective on bailouts and other ways to induce world financial stability.

The world GDP is roughly \$78 trillion; the U.S. GDP is \$14 trillion, or about 17 percent of that. The GDP of the European Union is a bit higher, at \$16 trillion. The U.S. and the EU have about 38 percent of world GDP. While the Chinese economy is growing rapidly, its GDP was just \$5.8 trillion in 2009. Though China and India's have more people than the United States, they have much smaller GDPs, with India's hovering at just \$1.5 trillion. Still, if the U.S. and the EU argue that size is the only thing that matters, then we had better enjoy our hegemony while we can. Certainly at the pace it is growing, and with the currency reserves it has on hand, China is poised to topple the United States within the next two to three decades.

(By the way I am aware that the larger economies pay a larger share of the operating funds of the IMF and the World Bank, and one might argue that she who pays the band calls the tune. She might find herself at a rather unruly party, if no one gets the beat).

Instead of the "might matters" argument, we might look at other things that matter in terms of international finan-

cial leadership. What about growth rate? Educational development? Energy efficiency? These are all metrics that could be considered when

leadership is being selected. Of course, the United States might not fare well when different metrics are used, which is why we've held fast to the

notion that size is the most important things.

China's presence at the

See LEADERSHIP, Page 12

District Attorney to Appoint Law Firm to Collect Outstanding Bond Forfeitures

Dallas County District Attorney (DA) Craig Watkins announced that he will appoint a local law firm to collect an estimated \$35 million in outstanding bond forfeitures owed to the county. The District Attorney's Office, which is understaffed and underfunded for a jurisdiction of its size, does not have the resources to designate assistant district attorneys to focus on the collection of bond forfeitures. Thus, the DA will select and hire a law firm (as allowed by the statute) to handle the outstanding funds from default judgments that had gone uncollected for years prior to Mr. Watkins taking office in 2007. The firm hired to spearhead this effort will retain 25 percent of the total amount collected and the remaining balance will go into the county's general fund.

"A recent report stating that there are no policies

and procedures in place at the DA's office is absolutely incorrect," said Dallas County District At-



torney Craig Watkins. "We have been looking into this issue for the past two years. In 2010, we hired a bond forfeiture subject matter expert to work full-time in our Civil Division to seek forfeiture judgments in current civil cases. However, it is going to take more than one individual to proactively go after default judgments that were never collected. Therefore, we will have to bring in someone from the outside to manage the collection of these funds as our

civil attorneys are already busy representing the county on a host of other civil matters. During my first term, we focused on cleaning up the failures of the past and improving policies and procedures to operate more efficiently. This is among many issues that still need to be corrected and hiring a law firm to dedicate their time and attention to resolving this issue is the first step."

The Dallas County District Attorney's (DA) Office is located at the Frank Crowley Courts Building in Dallas, Texas, and is led by District Attorney Craig Watkins, who began his second term on January 1, 2011. The DA's Office represents the State of Texas in the prosecution of all Dallas County criminal cases. For more information about the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, please visit www.dallasda.com.

LEADERSHIP, continued from Page 10

world financial table is bound to push the envelope of western hegemony in coming years. As the Chinese economy gets larger, and as China claims a larger role in the development of other countries,

including those on the African continent, it is likely that many will make the case that non-Western countries deserve more of a voice in world economic matters. Even as Christine Lagarde was being

selected to lead the IMF there were rumblings from Brazil, especially, that there ought to be alternatives. When these rumblings become a roar, and they will, then the United States had better watch out.

As we struggle to lift the debt ceiling, we might also ask who holds our debt. Are we beholden to some of the countries that we refuse to treat fairly? This isn't a question that will be resolved this

year or next, but as world demographics shift, it is a question that will have to be answered. We in the United States must examine the advantages we enjoy from our "might is right" posture, and

ask what we are prepared to give up in the interest of fairness.

Julianne Malveaux is President of Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, North Carolina.

SAFE, continued from Page 1

know never to agree to a face-to-face meeting with a stranger they meet online and never to share their personal information with Internet acquaintances.

Informed and active parents can help protect their children from all types of online threats. By surfing the Internet with their children and fostering open conversations about the websites they visit, parents can both teach and learn from their children. Parents should give children and teenagers ground rules for their Internet usage – including the hours they can access the Web and the types of websites children can visit.

Texas parents should also establish boundaries for children's mobile phone

usage. Cyber Crimes Unit investigators with the Attorney General's Office have arrested several sexual predators who used wireless devices to call or text children. These communications often include sexually explicit language or images and are intended to lure children into a sexual encounter. Wireless devices that allow users to surf the Internet may also give children an opportunity to go online and access sexually explicit content, chat rooms and social networking sites.

Parents should monitor their children's mobile phone Web usage and teach them to avoid calling or texting people they do not actually know. Young Texans should also avoid giving out personal information via

their wireless device. Any child who receives a communication – including a photo or video – that is inappropriate, hurtful or otherwise makes them feel uncomfortable should immediately notify their parents. If parents suspect criminal activity or believe that their child is in danger, they should save the image or message and immediately contact law enforcement authorities.

Fortunately, many wireless carriers offer controls that allow parents to monitor and manage their child's cell phone usage. These controls allow parents to set limits on incoming and outgoing text messages and phone calls. For example, parents can restrict specific phone numbers, limit the

quantity of text messages and prohibit communications during certain hours. Depending on the provider, parents can also filter or completely block websites from being accessed by their child's wireless device. Increasingly, wireless devices are also equipped with global positioning system (GPS) features that give parents the ability to track their child's whereabouts.

Finally, Texas parents should be aware that video game systems now have many of the same capabilities as home computers. In particular, these gaming devices allow users to interact with other players through typed messages, voice communication or even online video chats. Parents should be cognizant of the fact that

child predators can use these game systems to prey upon and contact children.

Although children may enjoy playing video games with their friends online, parents should carefully consider whether to enable a gaming system's online chat feature. During online conversations, predators may look for clues that reveal a child's physical location. Parents who choose to allow online chatting should strongly caution their children not to discuss anything personal while playing online games with players they do not know.

Video game systems typically have parental control features that can be used to restrict game features that pose increased risks. These controls allow a parent to:

- Enable or disable a game console's chat features or manage with whom and how a user can communicate and play;

- Enable or disable Web browsing;

- Permit or block access to online games; and

- Restrict games based on maturity ratings.

Parental control features on a wireless phone or game system are designed to give parents peace of mind. While these tools are important, actual parental supervision offers the best level of control. To keep young Texans safe while they enjoy their summer break, parents should communicate openly with their kids and set clear limits on Internet, wireless device and gaming system usage.

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GRANT, continued from Page 4

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The Bible is the greatest instruction book you will ever read and study. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness . . . **II Timothy 3:16-17 (KJV)**

I have learned that true success goes beyond the trappings of wealth, power, and prestige; it is honoring God in your everyday life. It's honoring Him in your home, your school, your workplace, at church, and in your community.

An unknown author once said of the Bible: **The Bible**, "Contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrine is Holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true and its decisions are immutable." "Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be Holy."

The Bible contains, "Light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, and the soldier's sword." "In The Bible paradise is restored, Heaven is opened, and the gates of hell dis-

closed. Christ is its main object, and the glory of God is its end."

The Bible should, "Fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. It is a source of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of joy."

The Bible is, "Given in life, it will be opened at the judgment and it will be remembered forever." "It involves the highest responsibilities; it will reward the greatest labor; and it

"The Bible should, 'Fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. It is a source of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of joy.'"

will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents."

Many young people have what seems like insurmountable problems, they have parents, and peer pressures. The Bible says, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray . . . **II Chronicles 7:14 (KJV)**

I believe that if people revered the Scriptures as they once did, this world would be a much better place for everybody.

THINGS TO RETAIN ON LIFE'S JOURNEY: Work on your weaknesses until they be-

come your strong points. Bear in mind that a great effort is usually the result of a great attitude. Learn to accept your winning battles with humility, and your losing battles with grace. Ignore those who discourage you, they don't know "your story." Mark Twain once said, "Keep away from People who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that . . ." Remember that **talent** is God-given; learn to be humble

and thankful. **Fame** in life is man-given; and **conceit** is self-given, therefore be very careful; and understand the difference.

Do what has to be done, when it has to be done, and as well as it can be done. Always give your best; a successful life is built one day at a time. Tough decisions that you make will test your courage, improve your

strengths, and reveal your weaknesses. The importance of a lesson learned is not what you get from it, but what you become because of it.

Don't allow yourself to be like concrete—all mixed up and permanently set. In real life, people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. Henry Ford once said, "Even a mistake may turn out to be the one thing necessary to a worthwhile achievement." Some life changing inventions are often the result of an error.

Young people, you may not be able to change the world you see around you, but you can change the way you see the world. You will be measured by your reactions to life's inequities. Never accept the negative until you have thoroughly explored the positive. People that never do any more than they get paid for will never get paid for any more than they do. My maternal grandfather, Mr. James Baker once said, "You can't pay a man enough money to do a good job, the good job that he will do comes from within."



Mary, Founder and CEO of Mary's Southern Cuisine and Entertainment and Rachael Lewis enjoying the scenery.



Ramon Hodridge, Minister

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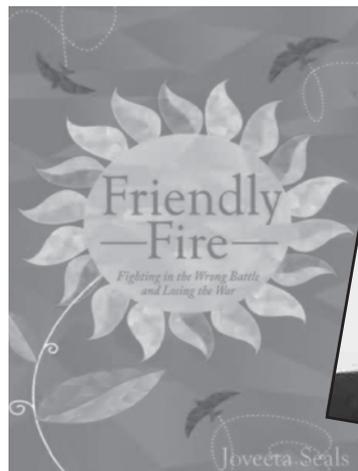
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THEORY, continued from Page 2

ments from industrial, jazz, gospel, go-go, reggae and rock music. Hard, thoughtful, introspective, literary-esque lyrics are a mainstay of the Cornel West Theory. The group's lyrical range and depth are placed on display in this record.

Tim Hicks rhymes on the song, "The Contradiction:" "This is exercise, bench pressing, soul weapons, fortified live/Christ died and my mom's still praying/And this is what I'm saying/That this time it's no more contradictions, platinum changes or chrome benzes."

The Cornel West Theory (www.thecornelwesttheory.com) is a Washington, DC-based ensemble, proudly born from the hip-hop aesthetic, but not bound by limitations of any genre. It's an eclectic amalgam of spoken word, lyricism, instruments, electronics and vocals, which draw from genres ranging from home-grown go-go to jazz to rock to hip-hop. This

"musical theory" hits you aesthetically, emotionally and intellectually.

With the blessing of Dr. Cornel West, the Princeton University professor and renowned author, the band takes its name from his prolific writings and philosophies, which have shaped contemporary thought throughout the world. The group formed in 2004 and has performed throughout the country.

The band delivers music that holds a mirror to the world, with a core focus on political, cultural and spiritual commentary. They combine the essence of hip-hop with the original purpose of its movement: to speak truth to the masses. The ultimate griot, Dr. Cornel West, has recorded and appeared live with the band, sharing his unifying philosophy and highlighting the talents of this extraordinary ensemble.

"The Shape of Hip-Hop To Come" takes its name from Ornette Coleman's

The Shape of Jazz to Come" and inspiration from what he accomplished in borrowing from the best of his genre and striving to push it somewhere else. Coleman's seminal work, released in 1959, made its mark on the jazz community and is considered one of the genre's most influential. And this album takes its form from "The Shape of Punk to Come." Refused released that album in 1998 as a studio album, which was unusual for punk music. Refused revisited the tradition of punk with a rebel spirit reflected in the politics of the album, adding drum and bass as a twist to the traditional.

The Cornel West theory band Members include: Tim Hicks (MC), Rashad Dobbins (MC), Yvonne Gilmore (Spoken word), Katrina Lorraine Starr (Spoken Word), John Wesley Moon (Electronics) and Sam Lavine (Drums). The band is managed by Seven Fields Productions, LLC.

AWARDS, continued from Page 7



(L to R) McDonald's Men of McCafé Celebrity Ambassadors NFL Star Isaac Keys, TBS's Meet the Browns Lamann Rucker, 2011 McDonald's 365Black Awards recipient Mary J. Blige and TBS's House of Payne Lance Gross.



Phil Solomon of Brunswick, NJ, Lucas Boyce of Orlando, FL, Maurice Lee of Orangeburg, SC, Steve Soute and Mary J. Blige, Billy Walker of Southaven, MS and Harold Burnett II of Dover, DE.

Caption: Men of McCafé Casting Call winners share the spotlight on the red carpet with Steve Stoute and Mary J. Blige at the 2011 McDonald's 365Black Awards in New Orleans during Essence Music Festival weekend. Ms. Blige and Mr. Stoute accepted a check on behalf of their Foundation for the Advancement of Women Now (FAWN) from McDonald's for \$40,000. The McDonald's Men of McCafé Casting Call is a national search conducted to identify five community service-oriented men who are "making a difference" in the African American community.

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