

## The Truth Clinic

A Division of

**MON**  
Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

## Giving Thanks On Thanksgiving

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## Texas Sports Hall of Fame Inductees

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## Kanye West To Get Billboard Artist Award

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# The Gazette

Volume XIV, Number XXXXV

November 24 - November 30, 2005

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## People In The News



Shilah Phillips has recently been named Miss Frisco 2006, in the Miss Plano Frisco Scholarship Organization pageant.

The singing beauty is a Plano resident who moved to Texas from Los Angeles with her family five years ago. Ms. Phillips has been one of the final contestants for on air consideration in the American Idol contest and was runner up in the Texas Idol contest in 2004. Shilah is also a lead singer in the local group "Mad Skills".

Ms. Phillips has recently begun working with producer Jeremy Webster of MBK Entertainment who has worked with artists like Alicia Keys. Shilah is looking to start a professional singing career in addition to making appearances in the area as Miss Frisco 2006.

The Miss Plano Frisco Scholarship Organization is a local franchise of the Miss Texas Organization and the Miss America Organization. They are committed to helping young women achieve excellence and providing positive growth opportunities. Their primary objectives are to help young women build confidence, cultivate skills, earn scholarships, showcase strengths, and serve the community.

For more information about Shilah Phillips or the Miss Plano Frisco Scholarship Organization, visit www.mpfso.com.

Jennifer Cox is no stranger to the importance of organ donation. Following her kidney transplant from a deceased donor in 1995, Ms. Cox felt compelled to volunteer at the Southwest Transplant Alliance in Dallas.



"After receiving such a gift, I felt I had a responsibility to help others by spreading the word on the importance of organ donation, particularly to African Americans," she said.

Ms. Cox went from volunteer to employee Southwest Transplant Alliance in 1998 as Community Advocate. Her role in that position includes reaching the African American community by speaking to church congregations, at health fairs and at special events. That role continues on Sunday, November 27th, when Ms. Cox will speak at Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship church as part of the National Donor Sabbath celebration.

Organ donation became of greater importance to Ms. Cox in October 2004, when her husband Henry's kidneys failed, and again in August 2005, when her daughter Tiffany suffered kidney failure. Tiffany is now off dialysis and recovering, the family is seeking to get Henry on the national transplant list.

For more information on organ donation or National Donor Sabbath, call 214-522-0255 or visit www.organ.org.



DeMetris A. Sampson is many things to many people. At the recent Texas NAACP State Conference she was honored for her continued humanitarian and philanthropic efforts. She is the first African American woman to become a partner in a majority firm in Dallas and is the managing partner of the Dallas office of Lineberger Grogan Blair & Sampson, LLP.

With a busy and challenging law career what seems to amaze many and add to her list of admirers is that she "serves" the community. She presently serves on the Board of the Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce.

She has served or been appointed to the following boards and committees:

- The advisory panel of the North Texas Future Fund and the Executive Committee of the University of Texas Law School Alumni Association.
- Charter Review Commission for Dallas
- Appointed by former Mayor Ron Kirk to serve on the Mayor's Complete Count Committee in which she also co-chaired and the Mayor's Domestic Task Force.

An active member of St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church and a Life Member of the NAACP, friends and associates say that Sampson shares her time, talents and her money willingly to make a difference in the community.

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## FEMA To Stop Paying For Evacuees' Hotels

By: Lara Jakes Jordan

FEMA is stepping up the pressure on some 53,000 families left homeless by hurricanes to leave government-paid hotel rooms and find long-term housing.

The agency said Tuesday that it will stop paying hotel bills by the end of the month for most of the families devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, even though housing advocates fear they won't have enough time to find other places.

Most of the people still staying in hotels and motels are in Texas, Louisiana, Georgia and Mississippi.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency had previously set the December deadline as a goal to have evacuees out of hotels and into travel trailers, mobile homes or apartments until they find permanent homes.



Tuesday's announcement marked the first time the agency said it would cease directly paying for hotel rooms that have cost FEMA \$274 million since the storms struck.

FEMA granted exceptions to evacuees in hotels in Louisiana and Mississippi, where there is

FEMA Stops Paying Page 6

## Senator Barack Obama, Democrats Predict Democratic Resurgence At Dallas Rally



Sen. Barack Obama signs autographs and shakes hands with Dallasites at Lee Park Rally.

By: Paul Hailey

The lone African American in the U.S. Senate, Barack Obama, was recently in Dallas as part of

the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee rally. A crowd of over 2500 gathered in Lee Park to hear Senator Obama, D-Ill, Senator Joe Biden of Delaware and Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada blast the Bush Administration and predict a Democratic resurgence. They were joined by city, state and national North Texas Democratic elected officials, and were introduced by U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson whose

Dallas Rally Page 8

## Let's Boycott Boycotting

By: James Clingman - NNPA Columnist

As we continue to celebrate the life of Rosa Parks and the Montgomery bus boycott that was started because of her defiant act, let's take a look at boycotts and maybe even reevaluate Black folks' participation in and support of them. After all, the very lady whose life we celebrate and are now planning, in some circles, to erect a statue in recognition of, the lady we call the "Mother of Civil Rights," was the lightning rod for the most famous boycott called and sustained by Black people. As we reflect on Rosa's life, shouldn't we also reflect on the power of boycotts?

The term boycott comes from a fellow named Charles C. Boycott, an Englishman who managed the estate of the Earl of Erne in County

Mayo, Ireland. In defiance of an outcry for land reform lower rents called by members of the Irish Land League, Boycott refused to lower his rent, and he evicted his tenants. In response, the people refused to have anything to do with Boycott and his family, leaving them isolated and without workers, service in stores, servants, and even mail delivery. Boycott was boycotted and his name was adopted for this kind treatment.

While other groups have ini-

Blackonomics Page 6

## Move To Erect Parks' Statue Could Heal Old Political Wounds

By: Hazel Trice Edney

U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., who introduced a historic bill, passed by the House and Senate last week to place a life-size statue of civil rights heroine Rosa Parks in Statuary Hall, says the ceremonies surrounding the passage of the bipartisan legislation could provide great opportunities to address long-ignored problems.

"A signing ceremony would provide an opportunity - if the White House had this kind of vision - not only to invite the family, but to invite leaders from the civil rights community to have an opportunity to, one, participate in any kind of ceremony, but to also have an



opportunity to meet with them and to talk about the Voting Rights Act and other critical

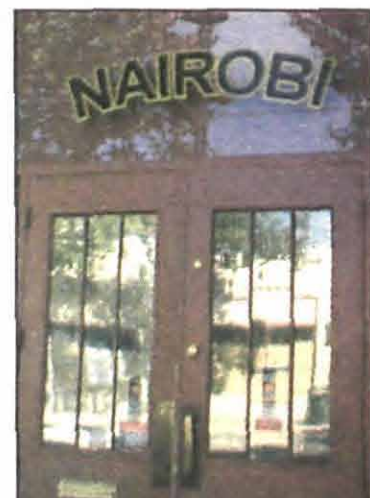
Parks' Statue Page 10

## Business Owners Succeed Despite Police Hassles

By: Paul Hailey

Ken Muthoka and Fred Ombiri are two black business partners who expected a spirit of cooperation with Dallas police when they opened the Nairobi dance club in Deep Ellum in August of 2002. After all, they were simply law abiding club owners bringing revenue to the district through their business. Three years later, the businessmen can only tell a tale of police intimidation of their employees and patrons, and of a police presence that borders on harassment with possible racial motivations.

"I was directly told by a member of the Dallas Police Department that police response at our club was designed to get rid of businesses that brought an 'undesirable



element' to Deep Ellum," said Ken Muthoka. "I took that to mean clubs that cater to a predominantly black clientele."

Problems began for the owners in March of 2003, when a fight broke out in their

Nairobi Page 5

## Muhammad Ali Honored



Muhammad Ali with wife Lonnie at Louisville Center bearing his name

By: Bruce Schreiner

Muhammad Ali can still draw a big crowd. The boxing great took center stage in his hometown Saturday night to celebrate the opening of the Muhammad Ali Center, a six-story tribute to Ali's storied career and a legacy to his ideals of peace and tolerance.

The Hollywood-style event, at a performing arts center next door to the Ali Center, drew an adoring cast of actors, singers, athletes and even a former president, Bill Clinton - reflecting the champ's star appeal.

"The world is a better place

because of you," Clinton said. "You thrilled us as a fighter and you inspired us even more as a force for peace and reconciliation, understanding and respect."

Though frail, Ali still flashed his famous playfulness. As Clinton praised him, Ali discreetly put two fingers in a V-shape behind the former president's head, drawing laughter from the crowd and Clinton. Ali entered the stage holding his wife's hand, and it was Lonnie Ali who spoke for him as the champ sat on a stool. She said the center's opening showed that "if you work hard and you believe in yourself, you can accomplish great things."

Video clips showed a brash, fast-talking Ali and his epic bouts. Another showed a trembling Ali, who is battling Parkinson's disease, lighting the torch at the Summer

Ali Honored Page 9

## High Five Immediately Eases Northern Traffic Problems

By: Kimberly Durnan

Commuters began coursing through the newly opened High Five on Monday morning, praising the improvements to one of Dallas' most notorious highway interchanges but also noting their good fortune may be attributed to lighter Thanksgiving week traffic.

"It's a lot better than it was," said Ron Hutch, 56, of Plano as he stopped at a Starbucks at Forest Lane and Park Central Drive. "And it looks nice. It looks inviting, really."

Texas Department of Transportation officials announced last week that the project, originally estimated at \$261 million, would be completed over the weekend with the removal of the final barriers



that restrict main lane traffic of northbound traffic on Central Expressway at the LBJ Freeway.

"We're nearing what we consider substantial completion, essentially meaning that all ramps and main lanes are open," said Dan Peden, TxDOT project manager. "All the lanes (are) in their final configuration."

High Five Finished Page 2



# Texas Black Sports Hall Of Fame To Induct Ten New Members To Mark Its Tenth Anniversary

The Texas Black Sports Hall of Fame at the African American Museum in Fair Park will add ten new members at its annual banquet December 3, 2005, held at the Wyndham Anatole Hotel in Dallas.

The Texas Black Sports Hall of Fame was established to chronicle the contributions made by African Americans who were born, lived, or played in Texas, to the history of sports. Each year ten athletes and/or coaches are recognized.

Nominated athletes must have been retired from sports for at least five years and must possess exemplary sportsmanship and citizenship records. There is no retirement requirement for coaches. The general public submits the nominees, and a panel of judges makes the final selection.

**The 2005 Inductees to the Texas Black Sports Hall of Fame are:**

Hon. Royce West (Football)  
Dave Bethany (Coach)  
Leon H. O'Neal II (Football)

Charles L. "Tank" Marshall (Football)  
John Payton (Basketball)  
Debra E. Sapenter-Christopher (Track)  
Dave "The Rave" Stallworth (Basketball)  
William Sims (Coach)  
Robert Brown (Coach, Track)  
Sam Wicks (Sports Journalism)

The newest members of the Texas Black Sports Hall of Fame will receive their honors at the annual banquet held at 7 p.m. on

Saturday, December 3, 2005 at the Wyndham Anatole Hotel on Stemmons Expressway in Dallas. Tickets are \$50.00. For information contact the African American Museum, 214 565-9026 ext 309.

The African American Museum, a Smithsonian Institution affiliate, is supported, in part, by funds from the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs, The Texas Commission on the Arts and The National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.



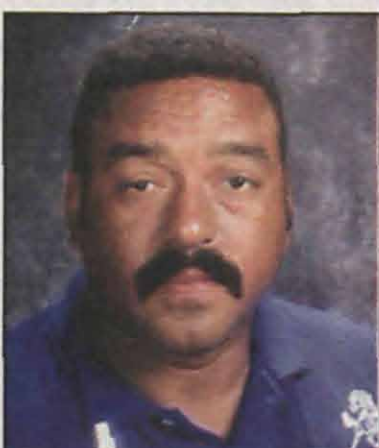
Debra E. Sapenter-Christopher



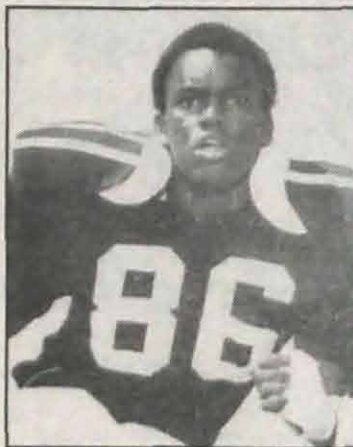
Dave Bethany



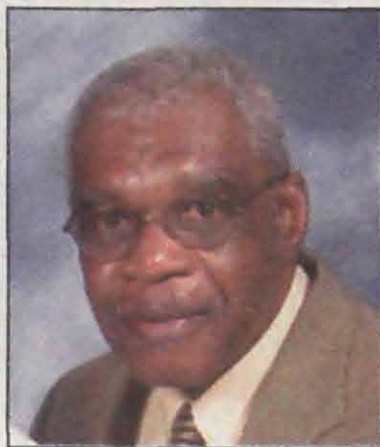
John Payton



Leon H. O'Neal II



Charles L. "Tank" Marshall



William Sims



Sam Wicks



Hon. Royce West

## Mesquite NAACP ACT-SO Hosts Fundraiser

ACT-SO is an acronym for Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics. This is a year long enrichment program designed to recruit, stimulate, improve and encourage

high academic and cultural achievement among African American high school students.

There are 25 categories of competition representing the sciences, humanities, perform-

ing and visual arts. The National competition will be held in Washington, D.C., July 2006.

To support this program the organization will host an "All

You Can Eat Pancakes" on Saturday, December 17, from 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m., at Applebee's, 19035 I-635.

For more information call 972-288-0281.

High Five Finished Page 1

"I'd like to think it's going to be utopia someday," Peden said. "But time will tell."

What was once the state's most expensive project (now surpassed by construction on Houston's Katy Freeway) has been under way for nearly four years. And although it is wrapping up a year ahead of schedule, TxDOT officials caution that work remains on the high-occupancy vehicle lanes, frontage roads, landscaping and other aesthetics.

"I don't think it's going to be a great thing for the motorists until we walk away from this project," Peden said. "When there's simply no more lane closures, no more temporary signs. It'll be better - don't get me wrong. It will definitely improve. It's a lot safer than it has been."

Some weekend travelers found the interchange as frustrating and jammed as ever, which assistant project manager Mickey Matthews blamed on the weather. Workers were supposed to stripe lanes on Friday night, but the surface temperature fell below 50 degrees. So the work began Saturday, requiring lane shutdowns.

"It was a serious backup," he

acknowledged.

By Monday, engineers on the project were cautiously optimistic about how their baby was handling the first day of rush-hour traffic. They had expected delays and confusion as commuters figured out the new system.

"We are creatures of habit," said Mark Ball, a spokesman for TxDOT's Dallas district.

"Eventually, we'll figure out what lane we'll want to be in and it's going to work very well."

Commuters also were cautious.

Robert Coker, 46, of Dallas doesn't go all the way north through the exchange to reach work - he exits at Forest Lane. But the traffic is always backed up, so he expects that the completed construction will help his commute.

"Today it seemed lighter, but some of it could be the holiday coming up," he said. "I'm glad it's over. I think if they can fix LBJ it will be a great system."

Work on constructing two three-lane tunnels under LBJ Freeway, approximately from the High Five to Stemmons Freeway, could begin in January 2007.

## \$69\* DIVORCE

### Criminal Defense

- DWI / Suspended License
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- Misdemeanor/Felonies\*

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## Around The Town

### Ongoing

The SPCA celebrating its 15th year in NorthPark with adoptable animals and merchandise at its all new Paws and Presents storefront on the upper level between Neiman Marcus and Nordstrom, next to Santa's Workshop, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Mon-Sat. For information call 214-651-9611, ext 118 or ext. 143.

At Risk African American, Latino and Asian women who wish to participate in a study to find ways to increase breast cancer survival are ask to call Kirsten Shelby, 214-648-1919 for information.

The Women's Museum Premieres "Artist Among Us", featuring 10 local women artists' perspective on how art is found in daily life and how communities are affected in which they work. Tuesday- Sunday, Noon to 5:00 p.m. Call 214-915-0871 for information.

The Plano Symphony Orchestra and the Chamberlain Ballet presents The Nutcracker at the Eiseman Center, Hill Performance Hall, Friday, 7:00 p.m., Saturday, 2:00 p.m. and Sunday, 2:00 p.m. Call 214-570-3431 for information.

"If This Hat Could Talk", the compelling new musical set to the sounds of R&B, Jazz, Blues and Gospel about civil rights icon Dorothy Height. Presented by the

Black Academy of Arts and Letters, corner of Canton and Akard Streets. For ticket information call 214-373-8000.

### November 24

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!

The Collin County offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 24-25 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. This includes parks offices, public works, courts and all other administrative offices. Offices will reopen on Monday, November 28th.

Mt. Carmel Baptist Church 3122 Metropolitan Ave. in Dallas will sponsor its annual Thanksgiving dinner from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed for preparation, packaging and driving. Call 214-428-2873 or 214-946-9448 for information.

Dallas residents can contribute to a holiday drive during November for soldiers in Iraq. Stop by Classic Residence Hyatt, 5455 La Sierra Drive to make donations. Call 214-691-7612 for information.

All City of Plano offices and Facilities will be closed except for the Pecan Hollow Golf Course.

4th Annual Thanksgiving Meal hosted by the Plano Sunrise Rotary Club is free to families who are in need of a wonderful home-cooked meal. The event will feature a visit from Santa and gifts to all children. Contact 972-633-6695.

### November 25

November is National Diabetes Awareness Month. KSoul 94.5 and the MLK Medical Health Center will be offering free diabetes screenings at the radio sta-

tion located in the Valley View Mall. Call 214-787-1945 for information.

Sundance Square Parade of Lights, make plans to attend the 23rd annual event in downtown Fort Worth. This year's theme is "Holiday Storytime". Information www.fortworthparadeoflights.com

SMU Women's Basketball Hoops for the Cure Tournament. Teams include SMU, Denver, La-Monroe and Virginia Tech. Call 214-SMU-GAME for information.

### November 26

Kanye West Touch the Sky Tour, Nokia Theatre, Grand Prairie. Guest stars Fantasia and Keyshia Cole. Tickets available at Ticketmaster outlets.

"If This Hat Could Talk" a theatrical musical celebration about the life of civil rights activist Dorothy Height. Black Academy of Arts, Dallas Convention Center, (corner of Akard and Canton)

### November 27

Little Hands...Big Hearts Presents: "When Christmas Comes to Town!", Plano Centre, 2000 East Spring Creek Pkwy. Call 469-774-5092 for information.

Plano Centre presents Little Hands...Big Hearts Presents "When Christmas Comes to Town!" Information call 469-774-5092.

Salem Baptist Church presents 52nd Annual Women's Day Celebration, 3918 Crozier (Dallas).

A Poetic Reception hosted by

5th Avenue Spoken Word Showcase, 5th Ave. and Abbottsford Court, 14775 Midway Rd., 7:30 p.m. Call 817-937-8301 or visit www.mikguinn.com

### November 28

Plano City Council bi-monthly meeting will be held at the Municipal Center, 1520 K Ave.

Burkina Faso film: Zan Boko (Upper Volta) follows the father of rural family who resists the encroaching urbanization of territory. Room 184 of Univ. of North Texas Radio, Television, Film and Petroleum Building, 2279 Union Cir., UNT campus in Denton, 7:00 p.m.

### November 29

Fall into Winter with the Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas, Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, 8:00 p.m. Call 214-965-0491 for information.

Communities Project is looking for Mentors and tutors for the Mobility Assistance Program. A session will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Center for Community Cooperation, 2900 Live Oak. To RSVP call 214-658-1330.

The Senior Source representing senior citizens of greater Dallas present the 2005 Spirit of Generations Awards Luncheon, 12 noon, Chantilly Ballroom, Wyndam Anatole Hotel.

Call 214-823-5700 for information.

RaceTrac Petroleum Job Fair. They are looking for full-time associate and entry level management positions. For information call 877-622-6222.

The City of Plano Health Department will offer Hepatitis A

vaccinations at the Plano Municipal Center, 1520 Avenue K, Conference Rm 2C. Call 972-941-7143 for information.

### November 30

The City of Plano in partnership with the Junior League of Plano invites the public to a meeting to learn more about a planned spring 2006 community garden, Parkway Service Center, Training Rm A, 4120 W. Plano Pkwy, 7-8:30 p.m.. Call 972-766-4111 for information.

You are invited to meet the "unofficial mascot" of the Dallas Cowboys Wilford "Crazy Ray" and his wife Mattie Jones. Fund-raising activities are taking place to help make Ray's home handicap accessible due to the fact he is going blind and has other diabetes related health issues. "Crazy Ray" will autograph his poster at 1103 Fawn Ridge Dr, Duncanville, 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 pm. Call 214-202-9180 for information.

Stephen Fite Children's Concert for ages 3 yrs to 7 yrs., Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Pkwy. For information call 800-234-9228.

Thanksgiving and Native American Indian Heritage Month. Stories and activities for ages 3-5 and their parents/caregivers, Hampton-Illinois Library, 3:30 p.m. Call 214-670-7646 for information.

Stephen Fite Children's Concert, Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway, Spring Creek and Jupiter Roads. Geared for ages 3 to 7, 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Call 800234-9228 for information.

Smooth Jazz Christmas, featuring jazz artists Dav Koz, Patti Austin, David Benoit and Jonathan Butler, 7:00 p.m. at the Nokia Theatre, 10001 NextStage Dr. (Garland) For information call Ticketmaster at 214-373-8000.

### December 1

World Aids Day  
The Project Hope Foundation Pastor's Initiative against HIV/AIDS presents 2nd Annual Praise 7 Workshop Service, 7:00 p.m. at ST. Paul AME Church, 2420 Metropolitan. Call 214-421-1344 for information.

Come see Westlake Park transformed into a winter wonderland. The 19th annual Christmas in the Park will be held from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at Westlake Park 600 Grossman. (Mesquite) Call 972-216-6260 for information.

Mark your calendar for the City's annual Christmas on the Square and Parade of Lights (Garland)

"What I Want You To Know Before I Go", turn simple memories into a treasured family heirloom. Attend a workshop on writing memoirs. Call 214-331-2677 or manelock@sbcglobal.net.

A French wine tasting event hosted by the African American Wine Tasting Society, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at VINO 100, 2909 McKinney Ave. For information call 214-255-0124.

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# THE TRUTH CLINIC

## Giving Thanks On Thanksgiving

By: James W. Breedlove

As the nation prepares for thanksgiving our collective consciousness is being inundated with ominous and foreboding news about terrorism, economic uncertainty, social unrest, natural disasters, and war. The despair and despondency we experience, compounded by the constant struggle to survive and the anticipation of worse things to come, make it difficult to look up and be thankful.

But if we would just take a moment from the daily challenges of mortgages, hectic schedules, bills, and personal conflicts and become aware of God's great purpose for our lives a ray of hope could be kindled that renews the soul now filled with hopelessness.

Looking back through time we see the long and tortuous paths that lie between our ancient past and the civilization of today that took us from the den to a mansion, from leaves to clothes, from a flickering branch to the electric light, from fear to reason, and from slavery to freedom.

And yet man has traveled those roads overcoming countless obstacles and numberless enemies and in doing so millions have lived, labored and died for the blessings we enjoy and we ought to be grateful. We should be fountains of thankfulness.

Be thankful for the measure of physical strength and the ability you have to still reach for His guiding hand. Give gratitude for the soundness of mind and the desire to look upon each day as an opportunity to accept fresh challenges and fulfill God's purpose for your life.

Do not be consumed with self centered negativity but

open your eyes and see those with even harsher burdens and more immediate difficulties to face. Then the old adage, "There but for the grace of God go I", will have meaning and your heart will overflow with thanks.

Give thanks for America, that still has free expression and religious choice, in spite of the Patriot Act, the misdeeds of false prophet leaders that speak peace but pursue illegal and unwarranted war, whose hands are stained with the blood of thousands of innocents, and who have made the world a more dangerous less hospitable place in which to live.

Be grateful for the difficult times that you have overcome, and in the process gained an additional measure of confidence and an expanded base of experience. Be grateful for overcoming life's mistakes. You have been provided with valuable practical lessons that move you into a closer harmony with your fellow man.

Tribulations have their purpose. They make us struggle -- often bringing us to our knees. They are the prisons of personal doubt in which we find ourselves locked. It is then that faith in the Almighty helps lift us above the doubt.

Of course you don't need a holiday to be deeply thankful for the beauty in your life. Give thanks for that which you have today. The future cannot be experienced in the present. So never let future concerns ruin the awe-inspiring amazing beauty right at hand.

Give thanks for the few God fearing men who do not aspire to persecute or imprison their fellow man. They do not pretend to be inspired and do not claim to be prophets or saints or to have been born again.

They do not require or use unlawful force or fear--speaking love with their mouths while hating with their hearts. They do not regard their constituents as pawns to be manipulated for personal gain, nor as children to be regaled with illusions while being lulled into submission with idiotic policies and soothed by a lullaby of lies.

Faith and thanksgiving are partners. Faith in the Almighty encourages thankfulness because you become aware that His loving grace embraces all, even though at any moment you may be mired in one of life's hellholes. That deep sense of peace, joy and serenity that comes from the knowledge that HE will be with you always deserves our gratitude.

The Bible stresses that the greatest praise should go to the Father. Give thanks to Him for each astonishing sunrise, each breathtaking rainbow, and each spectacular sunset. Recognize that all blessings and good fortune are not of our own making. Set aside the cynicism and the bitterness. Go to your quiet place and look deep inside yourself. You will find something to be thankful for.

So on this Thanksgiving Day there is no need to try and enumerate the innumerable ways

that the Almighty has blessed us far beyond anyone's imagination. Be reminded of the greatest treasure that God has given in sending His Son to bring eternal life to each and every one of us. There is no better time than to look up now in prayerful gratitude and give Him thanks on this Thanksgiving Day.

Email Comments to: [Politics@MonTheGazette.com](mailto:Politics@MonTheGazette.com)

# Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor,

I was just reading an article in your October 15 issue concerning a flap over the Firewheel Town Center ignoring Black consumers. Seems to me that they would want everyone to visit their mall, not just Whites. Well, I read your paper also, and I happen to be white. I also have to disagree with you on this one.

First, I visited the mall a couple of weeks ago and noticed that Black people were there. No one came in with handcuffs and chains and hauled any of them away. Second, I noticed that Blacks are employed there. I am sure that they are thankful of having a job, and if Blacks do not shop there those jobs will be gone. Please correct me if I lost

you somewhere.

B. Wheeler, Garland, TX  
Ben, thanks for your email. Every once in a while there comes a time to encourage our readers to stand up and be counted, and that time is now. While it is true that African Americans can wonder out to Simon's Firewheel Town Center and shop and spend to our hearts content, it is equally true that we are showing up unwelcomed.

As we look back this week on the legacy of Rosa Parks, it is ironic that like second class citizens we quietly applaud not having our bones broken for showing up unwelcomed at Firewheel.

To deny us curious shoppers the benefit of having been messaged or summoned through our African American owned media is a denial

of Free Trade. When our constituents see an opportunity at the Firewheel Mall for jobs and careers, trade at vendors within the mall complex, or to get a good consumer deal without advertising and promotions in local area publications, these opportunities are denied to our readership and our Black-owned media institutions and businesses are poorer for it.

The Firewheel Mall has received tax incentives and other breaks and benefits paid for by African American tax dollars. Firewheel Town Center needs to be a good citizen to our community in Fair Trade, not only as an ethical policy, but as a good neighbor as the city government said they would.

# Some Get It, Some Don't

By: Paul Hailey

As my brother is fond of saying about people, "some get it, some don't". Add the folks at FEMA to the group that just doesn't get it.

Totally ignoring their poor public image as a result of incompetence in handling Hurricane Katrina, the Federal Emergency Management Association announced last week that it will stop paying for Katrina evacuees staying in hotels as of December 1.

This decision will affect some 53,000 evacuees, most of those in Texas, including 2,792 families in Dallas. Great news for Katrina evacuees just in time for the holidays.

"There are still too many people living in hotel rooms, and we want to help them get into longer-term homes before the holidays," FEMA Acting Director R. David Paulison said in a statement. "Across the country, there are readily available, longer-term housing solutions."

So what our government is basically telling hurricane victims is: "Look, we know you've had a really bad past 90 days, what with the hurricane and losing everything you own, and being separated from your loved ones and not having a job, and living in this

hotel for temporary housing, etc. But we have a couple of words for you during this holiday season: get out. By December 1- and we really don't care about how much of the Thanksgiving weekend will be eaten up by people traveling and businesses closing. And no, we can't tell you exactly where you will live after this, but we're here to help."

Please. FEMA officials have openly acknowledged that evacuees living in storm-damaged Mississippi and Louisiana may have trouble finding alternate housing. Their solution?

The possibility of two-week extensions of the deadline for residents of those two states.

There may actually be a sufficient supply of apartments elsewhere in the nation to house the evacuees, as officials have said. However, these officials have no information for evacuees on how, or whether, the government might help in finding and paying for accommodations.

In total, FEMA has doled out \$1.2 billion in transitional housing assistance to more than 500,000 households. Included in that figure is \$274 million for hotel rooms. My reply to those num-

bers is an indignant-so what?

Our government is currently spending over \$5.6 BILLION per month on a conflict in Iraq that can only be explained as creating an environment of democracy for the Iraqis. How about spending some that money on the citizens of this democracy?

Once again, FEMA has no plan. The agency has said it is committed to paying apartment rents for evacuees for months after leaving the hotels, but what happens after that?

Texas Governor Rick Perry, along with Governor Haley Barbour of Mississippi and Houston Mayor Bill White, has proposed some sort of deadline extension for evacuees living in hotels. Whether that deadline is January 1 or March 1, it would give evacuees time use FEMA vouchers to find housing on their own; give time to city and county housing authorities to assist in their search; or give time for evacuees to secure transitional housing through non-governmental agencies.

An extension would also give FEMA time to finally "get it", and to possibly get their act together.

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## Where Are Voting Rights For Ex-Felons?

By: Derrick Z. Jackson

AS WE claim to be spreading democracy to Iraq and Afghanistan, we continue to deny full voting rights at home. This week the Supreme Court refused to hear a challenge to the Florida law that bars felons who have served their time from voting.

The law goes back to 1868 when white political forces did everything they could to block freed slaves from voting during Reconstruction. A class-action challenge to the law was filed on behalf of 600,000 former felons in Florida just before the bitter 2000 presidential election, one marred by bitter claims of hundreds of black people mistakenly purged from voter rolls in Florida, many of them because they were listed as felons.

President Bush was handed the presidency by the high court, which froze the Florida recount with Bush holding a 537-vote lead.

The state of Florida argued that it modernized the law in the 1960s in such a way that it had no ties to the racism of 1868 and said that felons today can appeal for clemency to restore their vote.

A lawyer for the ex-felons, Catherine Weiss, saw it much differently. "The court not only missed an opportunity to right a great historic injustice, it has shut the courthouse door in the face of hundreds of thousands of disenfranchised citizens," she said.

The court not only missed an opportunity, it reaffirmed an American hypocrisy. We are a nation that claims you are innocent until proven guilty, but the high court lets states declare you guilty forever.

Fortunately, most states have now rescinded permanent bans

on voting by ex-felons.

Only Florida, Kentucky, and Virginia, which all happen to be former Confederate states, cling to lifetime bans that can only be changed through individual appeals.

But for even three states to have the ban risks tipping the hand of democracy, especially when the disenfranchised people with prison records may be majority white but disproportionately black. No one knows where we would be at this moment if all ex-felons had the right to vote in Florida in 2000.

The high court's latest statement of disinterest in ex-prisoner rights comes as the Sentencing Project, the nation's think-tank that believes America has abused incarceration as a solution to crime, is publishing a report this week that finds that the nation continues to incarcerate people despite dramatic drops in violent crime.

The report, using federal statistics, found that violent crime and property crime have declined by 33 percent and 23 percent, respectively, since 1994. But incarceration rates since 1994 shot up in 24 percent. Some get-tough-on-crime proponents use such simple figures to claim their policies work.

The Sentencing Project looked beneath the surface to find something else. It found that from 1991-1998, states that were below the average national rate of incarceration saw crime decrease by 17 percent. States that were above the national rate of incarceration saw crime decrease by only 13 percent. That means there are factors much more complex than just throwing away the key that account for drops in crime, such as an improved economy, church organizing, and commu-

nity policing.

With the declines in violent crime, the jails are being filled with nonviolent offenders, most of whom would be better served by education, rehabilitation, and maintaining connections with families than being isolated and being taught how to become more mean.

The number of drug offenders in jails and prisons has grown eleven-fold since 1980 to 450,000. The imbalance has reached unconscionable levels. In federal prisons, only 13 percent of inmates are there for violent crimes compared with 55 percent who are there for drug offenses. In 1980, only 25 percent of federal inmates were drug offenders.

In a system in which the prison-building boom of the 1990s demands fresh inmates, the percentage of low-level street sellers and couriers -- who are often under severe threats of intimidation -- shot up dramatically. Even though Americans use illegal drugs at roughly the same percentage as their racial group, African-Americans and Latinos -- because they have been easier to sweep off the streets than a suburban white coke snorter behind a fenced-in lawn -- remain vastly overrepresented in the system.

Even though crime has gone down, the prison population has risen to 2.1 million from 330,000 in 1972.

Even though felons have served their time, the Supreme Court says Florida can still ban them from voting.

If you are to judge a nation by how it treats the lowest among us, the United States still refuses to take the highest road to democracy.



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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-

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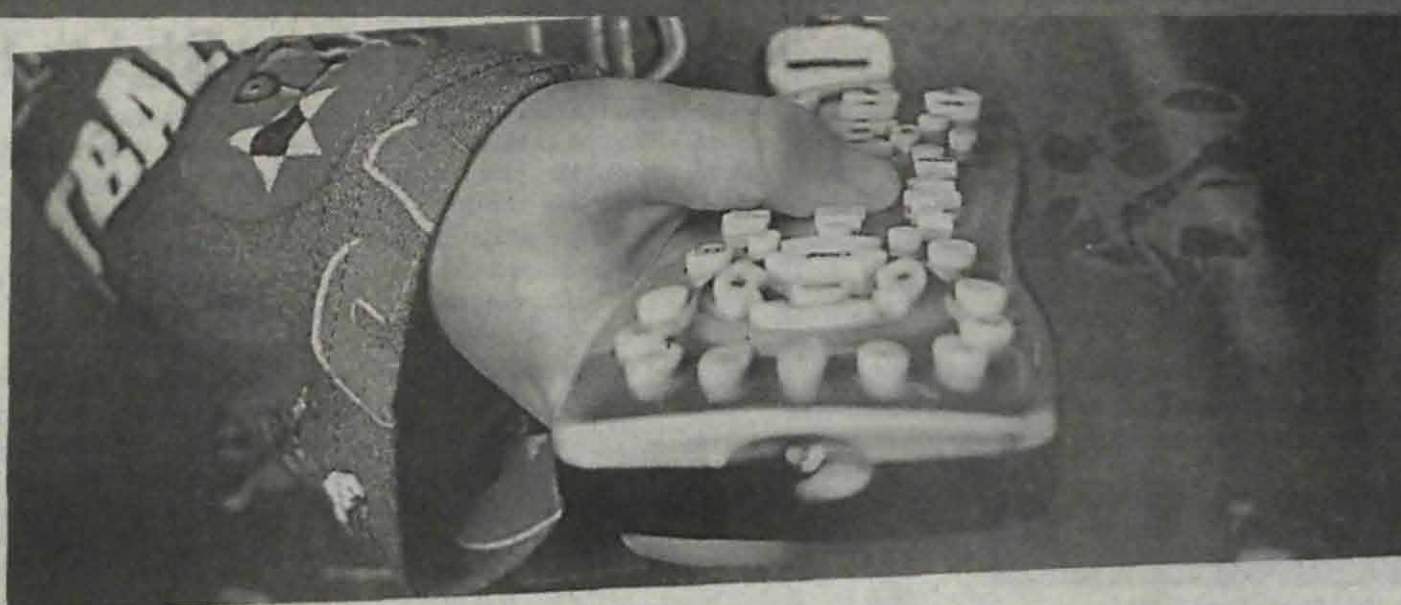
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## Two Area Employers Selected For National Award

Park Place Lexus and Richland College in Dallas are recipients of the 2005 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, the highest level of national recognition for excellence.

The awards were among six announced Tuesday by President George Bush and Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez. The awards are the nation's only presidential awards for quality and organizational performance.

The six award winners were selected out of 64 applicants. Park Place Lexus, which has dealerships in Plano and Grapevine, was selected in the small business category. Richland College was one of two winners for education.

"Receiving the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award is the greatest honor a business can receive," said Ken Schnitzer, chairman of Park Place Dealerships. "This award is a reflection of the day-to-day processes that Park Place

Lexus has implemented to ensure quality and performance of the highest level."

Park Place is the first car dealership and Richland is the first community college to receive the honor.

"We are extremely proud of Richland College and its continuing effort to achieve performance excellence," said Dr. Jesus Carreon, DCCCD's chancellor. "Richland administrators, faculty and staff have worked for a dozen years to earn this national honor, and we are excited that Richland is the first community college in this country to receive the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award."

The recipients of the award are selected by an independent board that evaluates applicants in the areas of leadership, strategic planning, customer and market focus and other areas.

Park Place, which has 420 employees, says both its locations have maintained a low employee turnover rate of 22

percent for the past three years. The average turnover rate for the Southwest is 55 percent. The dealership also excelled in sales volume, with its Plano dealership ranking seventh and Grapevine ranking 27th out of 213 Lexus dealers in the nation.

The dealership has such programs as 50/50 committee meetings, which allow members to point out problems and provide solutions. The dealership also sponsors and supports events for organizations such as the Texas Rangers Foundation, Children's Medical Center, Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure and the Crystal Charity Ball.

The other 2005 Baldrige Award recipients are:

- Sunny Fresh Foods, Inc., Monticello, Minn. (manufacturing);
- DynMcDermott Petroleum Operations, New Orleans, La. (service);
- Jenks Public Schools, Jenks, Okla. (education); and
- Bronson Methodist Hospital, Kalamazoo, Mich. (health care).

## Arlington Escapes GM Cuts

General Motors Corp.'s Arlington assembly plant wasn't included Monday in the company's list of three U.S. assembly lines it will close in 2006 as it aims to save \$7 billion by the end of 2006.

Detroit-based GM (NYSE: GM) said it will shave 30,000 positions from its work force between 2005 and 2008.

"These are difficult moves that will affect thousands of dedicated GM employees and families, as well as state and

local governments," said GM Chairman and CEO Rick Wagoner in a written statement. "We will work our hardest to mitigate that impact."

GM said it will close plants in Oklahoma City; Lansing, Mich.; and Spring Hill, Tenn., in 2006. By 2008 it will close two more plants, in Doraville, Ga., and Ontario, Canada. The 30,000 job cuts represent 9 percent of GM's 325,000 employees.

The moves will affect nine plants in all.

GM spokesman Dan Flores said the Arlington assembly plant will be unaffected by the cuts. The plant, which employs about 3,000 people and produced about 238,000 vehicles last year, is getting ready to launch all new full size SUVs, including the new Tahoes and Escalades.

"Arlington assembly has been and will continue to be an important part of our North American business," Flores said.

## Cingular Will Be Sold Under Name Of AT&T

SBC, which closed its merger with AT&T on Friday, plans to sell Cingular Wireless under the fabled AT&T name, Ed Whitacre, the chairman and CEO of the combined company, has confirmed to USA TODAY.

Cingular, the USA's No. 1 wireless company, is 60% owned by the new AT&T; BellSouth controls 40%.

SBC recently said it would adopt AT&T's name, putting to rest questions about what would happen to the famous name. But speculation had also swirled about what would happen to the Cingular brand name once the AT&T deal closed.

In an interview with USA TODAY on Friday, Whitacre left no doubt about his plans. Asked if the company planned to drop the Cingular name in favor of the AT&T brand, Whitacre said, "Yes, we do."

Whitacre said AT&T might still use the Cingular name in some markets. But the overall plan, he said, is to use the AT&T name to market all the company's products — local, long-distance, wireless, data and video.

He conceded that the move could strain AT&T's relationship with BellSouth. The two carriers have worked to promote Cingular as a national brand. But for now at least, BellSouth isn't resisting.

BellSouth spokesman Jeff Battcher says anything that boosts Cingular's revenue is good for BellSouth. "This is not an issue," he said Sunday.

Whitacre also sees a silver lining, of sorts, for BellSouth. If the switch to the AT&T name helps attract customers to the wireless company, he noted, both carriers will benefit.

The Cingular decision is the first of what will likely be a string of strategic changes for the new AT&T. As a regional carrier, SBC focused mostly on its 13-state footprint. Now that it's tethered to AT&T, it has a global reach.

For SBC, getting to the finish line was a major achievement. The merger was announced Jan. 31. Since then, SBC and AT&T have worked to earn the blessing of state and federal regulators.

Regulators in California — the last state — approved the AT&T-SBC merger Friday, allowing the deal to close. SBC, as expected,

promptly adopted the AT&T name.

AT&T's logo has been rejiggered to give it a 3-D effect. The actual name will look different, too. Instead of using capital letters, AT&T's name in marketing materials will be spelled with lower-case letters: at&t. The corporate name — AT&T Inc. — will retain the capital letters.

The overhaul is aimed at freshening up the brand, Whitacre says. He says the pint-sized letters, reminiscent of alphabet soup, were a tough sell internally.

"We agonized over the letters," says Whitacre, who made the final call on the name and the logo.

He says marketing people finally convinced him that the new look was more evocative of the Internet generation: "They tell me it's more trendy and modern."

One thing that won't change is AT&T's long-standing trading symbol: "T." The merged company will start trading on the New York Stock Exchange under that symbol on Dec. 1.

## Texas Employers Continue Adding Jobs, Unemployment Rate Drops

Seasonally Adjusted Non-agricultural Employment in Texas grew by 14,700 jobs in October, marking 14 consecutive months of job growth. Over the year, Texas employers have added 131,300 jobs, with an annual growth rate of 1.4 percent and job additions in all nine major industry sectors. The unemployment rate fell from an initial 5.7 percent in September (revised to 5.3 percent) to 5.2 percent for October.

"Job growth continues at a modest yet constant pace," said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chair Diane Rath. "The revision and following drop of the unemployment rate is welcome and a more realistic picture of the Texas labor market. At 5.2 percent, the current unemployment rate is well below the October 2004 rate of 6.0 percent."

Most of the major industry

sectors showed employment growth over the month, the largest being Professional & Business Services. After an increase of 2,500 jobs in September, employment in Professional & Business Services posted a boost of 5,300 positions in October. Following a gain of 400 positions in September, employment in Leisure & Hospitality increased by 3,400 jobs in October, continuing a five-month streak of positive over-the-month change.

Employment in Trade, Transportation & Utilities (TTU) rebounded from a small decrease in September with a gain of 2,800 jobs in October.

"Job growth has been consistent as Texas employers have added more than 260,000 jobs in the last 24 months," said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ron Lehman. "Moreover, job growth continues to be broad based, with jobs

added over the year in all nine major industries."

"The Texas unemployment rate showed a welcome drop, as some 19,325 more Texans found jobs," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. "It is also worthy to note that the number of employed Texans now stands at 10,703,600, an all-time record."

Nairobi Page 1

club. One of the participants in the fight was cut on broken glass, and the altercation warranted a Texas Alcohol Beverage Control (TABC) investigation. The investigation revealed no negligence on behalf of the club, however; the Dallas Police categorized the fight as a stabbing, and a pattern of intimidation soon developed.

"No one was stabbed. Our security screens every person coming in the club with a hand wand for metal objects, said Mr. Ombiri.

"The police started showing up in large numbers every night at closing and harassing our patrons," said Mr. Muthoka. "They told our customers they had to keep moving and could not stand on the sidewalk, and threatened to take people to jail if they took too long to get to their cars. We are just one of several clubs on this strip of Main Street, but ours is the only one the police routinely came to."

For the next year, the police presence at the club became increasingly intense.

Patrons were ticketed for charges such as "dancing after hours" on the sidewalk outside the club, employee cars were ticketed for parking in designated areas and some club patrons were arrested simply for asking questions.

Mr. Muthoka reflected on the events of that time.

"It got to a point that when the Fire Marshall came for a standard capacity check, 15 Dallas Police officers would show up with him. Police

would come to the club and ask for TABC records on specific employees, something TABC told us was not normal."

One officer was particularly unpleasant to deal with according to the owners, and went so far as to come to the club's city hearing on an extension of their permit to operate until 4:00 a.m. and speak against the club. The officer was involved in an incident regarding the arrest of one of the clubs' security guards for asking for help with an unruly patron.

Upon filing their second claim with the Internal Affairs Division of the Dallas Police Department, Mr. Muthoka and Mr. Ombiri were told that several complaints had been filed against the officer in question. That officer has since been reassigned.

Calls to the Dallas Central Business District Police Precinct for comment on this story were not returned.

The partners hope the worst is over and now have a good working relationship with the new officers assigned to the area. They are looking forward to the grand opening of their new endeavor, NAI Restaurant and Bar in the space on Lower Greenville Ave once occupied by the Filling Station on Wednesday, November 23rd.

Fred Ombiri sums up the owner's current sentiments.

"All we have ever wanted to do was comply and do what the police want us to do in order to have a safe place for people to come and have a good time. We don't anticipate any of the same type of problems in our new, second location."

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named similar treatment against transgressors. White folks came up with the term boycott and will use it quite effectively today. Black folks effectively used it to obtain civil rights, public access, and reciprocity in the marketplace; but the success of our boycotts today is questionable at best.

Consider: A boycott was called by White folks, via television personalities and others, against France for its failure to support the Iraq war, thus, causing a loss of some \$300 million. Most recently, the governor of Alabama called for a boycott of Aruba because the family of the missing girl, Natalie Holloway, cannot get

justice.

White folks obviously feel that one of their children, missing or possibly killed on this popular island, is a serious enough occurrence for them to withdraw their money until they get justice. They also know that boycotting is the ultimate punishment and the most effective way to get what they want. Will Whites get what they want? Yes. Why? Because it's always about the money.

Have Blacks gotten what they wanted? No. Why not? Because too many Black people continue to spend their money in the boycott zone of Cincinnati instead of withdrawing their money from it. If Black people would do as White people do, when it

comes to boycotts, we would be just as successful as Whites are, which begs the question: Are we really serious about boycotts?

We come up with all sorts of reasons for not boycotting, not the least of which is the "who it will hurt" excuse. The governor of Alabama must know that there are White folks from the U.S. who have business interests in Aruba. White television and radio commentators must realize that their brothers and sisters in the tourism industry might suffer as a result of calling a boycott against Aruba, but that didn't stop them from calling for it.

Black folks don't fully follow through with the boycotts of today, as opposed to the Montgomery Bus Boycott where

brothers and sisters sacrificed to get what they wanted. Boycotts called by Blacks also suffer because in many cases some Black "leader" will take some money from White folks to put an end to the boycott. I wonder if the government of Aruba will offer the governor of Alabama or the talking-head commentators some money; and I wonder if they will take it.

Compare: One missing White girl. The answer: boycott the entire island of Aruba until justice is won. Five dead Black men and economic apartheid. The answer: boycott Cincinnati until justice is won. It is obvious, as we look back at recent boycotts called by Whites and Blacks, that White people are definitely more serious about getting what they want than Black people are. And when you add the reasons for boycotts called by both groups, we can also see that White folks understand the economic implications of boycotting a whole lot better than we do.

Just as the people of Ireland boycotted their Boycott, Charles C. that is, maybe Black people should consider boycotting boycotts for a while, until we learn how to conduct and support them properly.

#### FEMA Stops Paying Page 1

a shortage of housing. Evacuees in those states have until Jan. 7 to find homes, said David Garratt, FEMA's acting director of recovery. He said 9,830 households remain in hotels in Louisiana and 2,508 in Mississippi.

"There are still too many people living in hotel rooms, and we want to help them get into longer-term homes before the holidays," FEMA Acting Director R. David Paulison said in a statement. "Across the country, there are readily available, longer-term housing solutions for these victims that can give greater privacy and stability than hotel and motel rooms."

"Those affected by these storms should have the opportunity to become self-reliant again and reclaim some normalcy in their lives," Paulison said.

After Dec. 1, most hurricane evacuees who aren't ready to leave hotels will have to pay the costs out of pocket either with FEMA rental housing aid they receive or from their own funds.

Katrina hit on Aug. 29, followed by Rita on Sept. 24.

In Houston, Mayor Bill

White demanded that FEMA grant a similar extension to the city as it moves 19,158 evacuees out of city hotels.

"We have moved more evacuees out of hotels than any other city has ever had in hotels," White said in a statement. "So we encourage those new to it to ask us, not tell us, how to do it."

The hotel program marked FEMA's second step in finding homes for hundreds of thousands of evacuees displaced after the storms. Over the last month, FEMA has moved 8,748 people out of emergency shelters and into hotels and other transitional housing, Garratt said. As of Tuesday, 2,491 evacuees remain in shelters, down from a high of 321,000, he said.

Also by Dec. 1, thousands of evacuees who receive FEMA housing aid in vouchers issued through state or local authorities will have to sign a rental lease to remain eligible for the funding. Three months later, on March 1, FEMA will end the voucher program and send housing aid directly to evacuees who qualify.

Additionally, the six-month leases for evacuees living on cruise ships will end March 1, Garratt said.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry, whose

state welcomed many Katrina evacuees, said: "We recognize and agree with FEMA's decision to make personal responsibility a part of the hurricane recovery process. However, my great concern is that there is still no long-term housing plan for the hundreds of thousands of Katrina victims who lost everything — including their homes — as a result of the storm, and come March 1 many of them may find themselves with no long-term housing options."

Housing advocates said FEMA has not given evacuees enough time to find homes and sign leases — a process that can take months in rental markets already nearing capacity.

So far, FEMA says it has provided \$1.2 billion in transitional housing assistance to more than 500,000 households displaced by the hurricanes.

The Red Cross had not seen details of the plan Tuesday, but spokesman Michael Spencer said "the time has passed for emergency housing."

"Interim housing is the responsibility of the state and federal government, and we have to assume they have a plan in place," he said.

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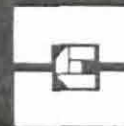
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## Mike Phillips Brings His 'Uncommon Denominator' To Jazz:

By: DeBorah B. Pryor  
Saxophonist Mike Phillips doesn't want you to listen to his music. He doesn't even want you to hear it; he won't be satisfied unless you feel it; and with Uncommon Denominator, his second offering on the Hidden Beach Recordings label, the hairs on the back of your neck has got to be agitated in order for him to feel he's done his job.

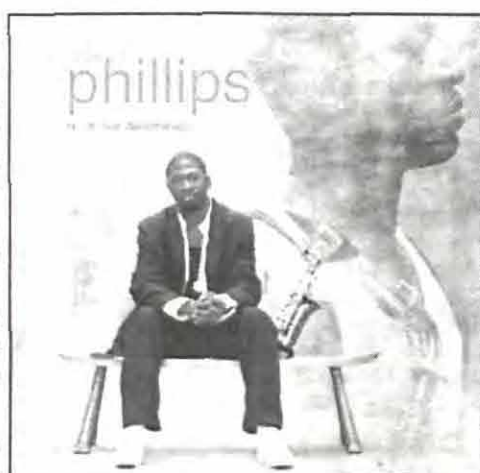
An inquisitive risk taker since age 5, Phillips bypassed Mr. Rogers and Sesame Street and went straight towards the exploration of instruments he could barely pronounce.

A native of Mount Vernon, New York, his formative years encompassed the acoustic and electric bass; the French horn; the violin and piano. But everything else paled when he found his soul mate: the sax, the perfect vehicle through which he could funnel his enormous creative passion.

A musician who is as diverse as he is gifted, Phillips, currently in town for "The Jazz in Drew" benefit concert for Drew Medical College, has performed for the realm of heavyweights that dreams are made of.

Invited to play at both President Bill Clinton's Inaugural Gala and Nelson Mandela's 80th Birthday celebration before ever releasing a single record, he can and has crossed musical genres effortlessly; touring the U. S. and abroad with such artists as Teddy Riley and Blackstreet, Simply Red, Rachelle

Ferrell, Wayman Tisdale and Kenny Lattimore. From gospel to rap and everywhere in between, he has held recording sessions with artists



including Anointed, the late Notorious B.I.G., Mariah Carey, and Will Smith; And in between albums, he even toured with Stevie Wonder and Prince. It's hard to believe that anyone housing such a resume is only now embarking on something, well ... sophomore.

On You Have Reached Mike Phillips, his 2002 release, he showed strong signs of an artist to be reckoned with. While expectations from jazz fanatics may have prepared for an impressive array of melodic riffs and instrumental trickery, Phillips piqued our interest instead by incorporating hip hop overtones, sound bites from unlikely sources and a poetically romantic encounter between a man and his ... um, "instrument." This effort strayed greatly from the "jazz norm." But when you think about it, what else

would one expect from a young cat who, early in his career, made a bodacious, uninvited trek onstage at the popular Wilson's nightclub in New York City and stole the thunder from right under the house-band's nose? With mentors like Cannonball Adderly, John Coltrane, and Charlie Parker; not to mention new buddies Stevie Wonder and Prince, if you thought he'd be just another jazz musician; I guess you'd better think again.

"There's nobody in the genre taking chances," offers Phillips, a sure-fire phenom-in-the-making, from his hotel room near Los Angeles International Airport. "I think sometimes when you take a chance, it's a high probability that your records don't get played or they don't get sanctioned by the consultants."

With this in mind, the self-proclaimed "old soul," shares executive producing credits on Uncommon Denominator, with Hidden Beach Recordings head honcho Steve McKeever - who incidentally, plays keyboards on one of the cuts.

You'll have several favorites on this 16-track disc from the start; with Phillips' sassy sax doing a delightful dance with keyboards on Uncommon Denominator, followed by an intense dialogue between a man's conscience and his horn on "Crazy," the seductive ambience of "If it Takes All Night," the hook on "G-Money" alone will stay with you; and there's a nice back East feel to "Flow."

## Jennifer Hudson, Not Fantasia, To Play Effie In 'Dreamgirls':

It's only fitting that the role of Effie White in the upcoming film adaptation of "Dreamgirls" will be filled with another vocal powerhouse named Jennifer H.

In its original Broadway run, Jennifer Holiday became an instant star as the memorable character left behind when her singing group, The Dreams, decided to go mainstream. Holiday's show-stopping performance of "And I'm Telling You I'm Not Going," just before the curtain falls on the first act, became bigger than the play itself and set the bar for any future actress who should take on the role.

After an exhaustive search to find the perfect Effie, "American Idol" finalist Jennifer Hudson has been chosen to play the pivotal part for the "Dreamgirls" feature film, clearing the way for production to begin as scheduled on Jan. 9 for a December 2006 release.

"Effie is such a hugely complex role," director and writer Bill Condon (Chicago) told USA

Today. "She is at once exasperating and heartbreaking. Jennifer emerged as the person who captured both sides."

Hudson, a gospel-reared singer with a six-octave range, lost her "American Idol" run to Fantasia Barrino, who ironically, was a strong frontrunner among the 783 hopefuls who auditioned for the part. Jamie Foxx, who will play the manager of The Dreams, even lobbied for Fantasia to be cast in the role. But this time, it was Hudson who emerged with the win.

"It is the ultimate, the greatest role in theater history," says the Chicago native, who was given the good news Saturday while in Orlando working on her first album. "Why me? I'm still in shock. I just got to Los Angeles Monday night and started rehearsals yesterday."

The Chicago native first heard the news Saturday while in Orlando putting the finishing touches on her still-untitled first album. In addition to Foxx,

Hudson's first feature film will co-star Beyoncé Knowles and Eddie Murphy.



Meanwhile, Condon said it was difficult to tell Fantasia that she would not be in the film.

"We talked about it," Condon says. "She has a lot of fans, including me. She is an amazing human being and has an abundance of talent. No one lost. Someone just emerged who was perfect."

"A lot of people auditioned, and the director made the decision," Hudson said of her casting over Fantasia. "I'm glad to be here. ...It was my destiny."

## Kanye West To Get Billboard Artist Award

Kanye West will receive the Artist Achievement Award at the 2005 Billboard Music Awards, which will be presented Dec. 6 in Las Vegas.

Past recipients of the award, which recognizes both artistic excellence and Billboard chart success, include Rod Stewart, Eric Clapton, Madonna, Garth Brooks, Aerosmith, Janet Jackson, Cher and Destiny's Child.

The awards will air live from the MGM Grand Garden Arena on Fox (8 p.m. EST).

"Kanye West has not only had a huge impact on R&B/hip-hop, he has transformed modern music as a whole," Tamara Conniff, co-executive editor of Billboard, said in a statement Thursday.

The Billboard Music Awards recognize the year's leading artists and songs as determined

by performance on Billboard's weekly charts.



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Well, it looks like the public, or at least some members of the public who have read an advance copy, have decided that it is a winner! Dr. Ginger Smith honored as one of the top twenty teachers in the nation by USA Today said, "an explosion of color and values; if you like the won-

der and imagination of Dr. Seuss and the quality of Walt Disney then you'll like this too! And the accolades do not stop there, Stephanie Strickland WJTV News Channel 12 said, "I loved it! This book manages in simple words to echo Dr. King's dream. Every child should read this!" Judge Houston Patton remarked, "Cherub -The Human Race is an exceptional book that depicts positive images of children's perception of humanity."

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# Texas Supreme Court Rules In School Finance Case

The Texas Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that local property taxes used to fund public schools violate the state Constitution, according to a court advisory issued Tuesday.

The court gave the state until June 1 to fix the constitutional problems with the system.

The Supreme Court also agreed 7-1 with one of the arguments brought against the state by hundreds of districts -- that it is the Legislature's responsibility to provide for school financing -- but overall said the state's school finance system is "constitutionally adequate as a matter of law."

"Ultimately the state has to come up with a fix that takes some of the pressure off the local taxpayer," said Philip Fraissinet of Houston-based Bracewell & Giuliani L.L.P.

While the school finance

system was deemed to be adequate, the opinion expressed concern that drastic measures were required to remain that way.

"It remains to be seen whether the system's predicted drift toward constitutional inadequacy will be avoided by legislative reaction to widespread calls for changes," the opinion said.

More than two-thirds of Texas' school districts are taxing at or very near the maximum tax rate.

"The court reaffirmed that the legislature has a constitutional duty to provide an adequate level of funding," said George Bramblett, of Haynes and Boone L.L.P. in Dallas. "This duty is enforceable by the courts."

Texas Gov. Rick Perry said Tuesday that the court ruling reaffirms that the state's system of educational funding is fair and meets or exceeds

constitutional standards.

"And just as importantly, the court ruling validates the demands of Texas taxpayers who are fed up with property tax bills that climb higher and higher with each passing year and who want and deserve substantial and lasting relief," Perry said.

Perry added that the state's entire tax system "needs substantial reform to make it fairer, more modern and that will ensure schools have a reliable stream of revenue. That is why I appointed 24 private sector leaders and experts to the Texas Tax Reform Commission led by John Sharp who will develop tax reform recommendations before the Legislature next meets," he said.

Perry said he will call a special session before the June 1 deadline.

Rep. Kent Grusendorf, R-Arlington, chairman of the

Texas House Committee on Public Education, also applauded the court's ruling.

"I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues and other state leaders to find a more permanent and constitutional solution to the current school finance system. The Supreme Court confirmed what many of us have said for some time -- Texas has an unconstitutional statewide property tax that must be corrected," Grusendorf said. "I have confidence that our state leadership will work together to craft a system that will address the court's decision."

Hundreds of property rich and poor school districts sued the state, saying its method for paying for public schools was inadequate and that the Legislature, not the courts, should fix Texas school finance system, according to an Associated Press timeline

of events.

In September 2004, State District Judge John Dietz said the coalition of districts, including Dallas, Allen, Coppell and Carrollton-Farmer's Branch, had proven that the school finance system fails to provide the plaintiff districts access to funds sufficient to provide a constitutionally adequate education.

The Texas Legislature convened during its regular session to come up with a school finance plan. Two special sessions were called over the summer to consider the issue, but legislators couldn't agree on a solution.

The Texas Supreme Court's opinion also expressed doubt that any of the proposals considered during those sessions would suffice.

"While we express no view on the appropriateness of any of these proposals, we are

constrained to caution, as we have before, that a cap to which districts are inexorably forced ... will in short order violate the prohibition of a state property tax," the opinion stated.

Texas Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Lewisville, said the ruling has a two-fold effect.

"It takes the option of doing nothing off the table and provides a deadline for property tax reform," said Nelson, a former public school teacher who served two terms on the State Board of Education. "In the larger picture, it affirms what many of us who opposed Robin Hood from the beginning have been saying for a very long time ... Now that this issue has been put to rest, it is much more likely that the Legislature will be able to reach consensus on ways to reduce."

## Graduate Newspaper Fellowships Available

Minority students seeking careers as newspaper journalists are invited to apply for the Newhouse Graduate Newspaper Fellowship and Apprenticeship Program.

The fellowship underwrites master's level study at the acclaimed S. I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University, while providing on-the-job training at the Newhouse Newspapers.

Two winners per year receive

free tuition, monthly stipends of \$1,100, health insurance coverage and up to \$3,300 in other benefits for 18 months of graduate study during which time they also work as interns at The Post-Standard in Syracuse, N.Y.

After receiving a master's degree, the fellows work for a year as full-time apprentices either at The Post-Standard, or at one of the other Newhouse newspapers across the country, earning competitive, entry-level salaries.

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To apply you must submit a complete application for admission to the newspaper track of Syracuse University's master's

program in Magazine, Newspaper and On-line Journalism by February 1, 2006. This requires taking the graduate Record Examination no later than January, 2006. The \$65 Syracuse University graduate application fee will be waived for all eligible Newhouse Fellow candidates.

For more information contact the Newhouse School Graduate Records Office, 315-443-1124; e-mail, pegrad@sy.edu; Fax, 315-443-3946.

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## UTD President To Chair New Orleans Levee Review Panel

University of Texas at Dallas President David E. Daniel has been named chairman of a panel reviewing the New Orleans levee breaches during Hurricane Katrina.

The American Society of Civil Engineers external review panel has been commissioned at the direction of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld,

along with the Interagency Performance Evaluation Task Force commissioned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and a National Research Council independent review panel.

Daniel said he was honored to have been trusted with such a great responsibility.

"This very important and necessary review process will

provide technically sound and credible assessments that will prove invaluable to the region and nation as we move forward in rebuilding New Orleans' hurricane protection system," he said.

The ASCE sent a technical assessment team to New Orleans in October to collect data on the levee breaches.

### Dallas Rally Page 1

represents most of Oak Lawn.

The purpose of the rally was to raise funds for Democratic senators running for re-election in 2006, and challenger to Republican incumbents.

Senator Obama offered a list of values and principles that are reflective of the Democratic party, while also taking the Bush Administration to task.

"We have a tradition that says we care about everybody. No one should go bankrupt because of an illness and everyone should be able to find a job that pays a living wage. Every child should have a decent education and should be able to go to college even if they are not wealthy," he said.

"If we are going to go to war, it shouldn't be a faith-based initiative," Obama quipped, which drew laughter and cheers from the crowd.

"I know this is the President's home state. We were going to go to Crawford," he added. "But we're here in Dallas to let everyone know a new day is coming."

Senator Biden also excited the crowd with his statements about the Republicans.

"They misrepresented, misunderstood and misled us into that war. ... They have no strategy to win that war," he said. "Then along came Katrina and literally the winds of Katrina blew away the facade that these folks know how to manage anything."

Senator Reid, who as minority leader called for a closed session in the Senate to discuss the Iraq war last month, also criticized the administration.

"We do not believe in staying the course in Iraq, but changing the course," he said. "Texas

State Senator Royce West, D-Dallas, used the event as an opportunity put to rest rumors that he is running for Dallas County District Attorney.

"I'm making it known this day, I am not running for District Attorney, I'm going to stay in the Senate," West announced. "But I will be working closely with the Dallas DA's office."

Senator West then threw his support behind candidate Craig Watkins, a Dallas attorney.

"There are a number of young

Democrats that have paid their dues and have earned the right to lead," said Sen. West. "Craig Watkins is one of them, and I fully support him and I will work closely with him."

Senator Reid concluded the rally by boldly predicting Democratic majorities in the House and Senate after the next election.

"We are going to continue fighting so everyone in America has a chance. That's what the Democrats are about."

### Church Directory

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## Church News



### Sister Tarpley

By: Rev. Jarry Autrey  
Some years ago, I heard this message; the fact that I still remember it tells you that it made an impact in my life. With so many disasters in the world today and with most of the Christmas decorations up in the stores, and Christmas themes in commercials on T.V. etc.; and it's not even Thanksgiving Day, I thought, it is now a good time to remind U. S. Citizens the importance of our National Holiday, Thanksgiving with this timely message from Rev. Jarry Autrey.

The First Level of Thanksgiving is the Grammar School (Elementary School.) This is when we give Thanksgiving to God for what He gives us. God gives us families, friends, protection, provisions (heat, cooling air, clothes, health, cars, jobs, houses, money, etc.) Believers and unbelievers have all or most of these things at some point in their lives. It has been said that it rains on the just as well as the unjust. Don't minimize this level of Thanksgiving, but it is the lowest level of Thanksgiving.

The Second Level of Thanksgiving is the High School Level. This is the level when we give Thanksgiving to God for what He does through us. God gives us compassion to help others. He uses us to bring happiness to others, to comfort and to pray for others.

The Third Level of Thanksgiving is the College Level.

## Four Levels Of Thanksgiving St. Luke 10:1-24

This is the level when we give Thanksgiving to God for what He has done for and in us. His Son paid a price that He didn't owe for all of our sins. Jesus gave us salvation; He justified us; He sanctified us; He regenerates us; and one day He will glorify us.



Picture Of The Week

(L to R) El Centro student Ms. Tonneau Wallace; El Centro Instructor Ms. Jacqueline Eldridge, SMU Professor Dr. Njoki McElroy, and Attorney Lewis Hill, Jr. at a recent poetry reading at SMU.

The Fourth Level of Thanksgiving is the Graduate Level. This is the level when we give Thanksgiving to God for what He is to us. There are great blessings for us when we are at the point of the Fourth Level. We are truly, "Born Again Christians." We are saved by His Grace. We are believers in the Most High God. It is prerequisite (imperative) that you are a child of God to reach the Fourth Level of Thanksgiving; this is the highest level of Thanksgiving.

Make no mistake about it, true Thanksgiving doesn't come naturally. The Bible is full of Thanksgiving. II Thessalonians 2:13, states that thanks are given for our duty. "But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you..." I Samuel, states, "... God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in

ceasing to pray..." Philippians 1:4 states that praying should be spontaneous. "Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy..." We should realize what God has done for us and give thanks to Him. In John 6:11 & 23 it states that we should

give thanks for our food. In Daniels 2:23 it states that we should give thanks for wisdom and might. I Thessalonians 1:2 states we should give thanks for converts. "We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;" John 11:41 states that we should give thanks for "answered prayers." I Corinthians 15:57 states that we should give thanks for victory. "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." And II Corinthians 9:15(b) states that we should give thanks for salvation; "... for it were better for me to die, than that any man should make my glorying void."

The next Holiday after Thanksgiving is our celebration of Christmas, the stated and accepted birth of Jesus Christ, I will conclude this message on the Fourth Level of Thanksgiving next week. Don't forget to read my column on December 1, 2005. I believe that you will be glad that you did.

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Ali Honored Page 1  
Olympics in Atlanta. A parade of speakers said the three-time heavyweight champion displayed courage outside the ring for his stance on such fundamental issues as war, civil rights and religious expression.

Lonnie Ali said in an interview Friday that her husband hopes for a peaceful solution in Iraq. "He just wishes there could have been an alterna-

tive way to achieve what we wanted to achieve without going to war," she said.

Ali basked in adulation for the second time this month. The 63-year-old fighter recently received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, from President Bush, who called Ali "the greatest of all time."

Ali, born Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr. in Louisville in 1942, learned to fight after having his

bicycle stolen as a boy. He won a gold medal at the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome and went on to win the heavyweight title three times as a professional until retiring in 1981.

Lonnie Ali has said her husband hopes the center, an \$80 million project, will inspire visitors, especially youngsters, to reach their potential and promote peace. The center will open to the public on Monday.

## Church Happenings

### COALITION OF CHURCHES IN PRISON MINISTRY

#### On-Going Mentor Program

Our host church, True Lee Baptist Church, 3907 Bertrand Avenue, Dallas, TX 75210, 214-421-9435 where Rev. Donald Parish is the Pastor, is working with a mentor program for children of parents that are incarcerated. Come or call to find out how to get involved. For more information, please call Carolyn Johnson @ 972-235-6432.

### Coalition of Churches in Prison Ministry

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### NEW NEXT GENERATION

November 27, 3:00 pm - 5:30 pm  
We are hosting a dinner and play at the Carrollton Library located at the Josey Ranch Lake

on Keller Springs Road in Carrollton, TX. Our great and dramatic play "Oh, My Child" which has now been shown in California and Mesquite, TX; is now moving across Texas. The meal and play is free for ticket holders of "Oh, My Child." For additional information and to RSVP, email: newnextgen2@msn.com.

#### December 3, 12:00 pm

Our play, "Oh, My Child!" a play about Christian relationships will be shown at the Dallas Central Library, 1515 Young Street, Downtown Dallas. Showtime is 12:00 pm and a Buffet will be served at 2:00 pm. For more information about ticket price and the buffet, please email: newnextgen2@msn.com

### New Next Generation Ms. Rosie McGee

Founder/CEO  
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For more details about this wonderful project, please contact Juanita Lee, Administrative Assistant at 972-437-3801 or call Toll Free at 1-800-370Oasis (376-2747)

North Dallas Community Bible Fellowship in Richardson  
Dr. Leslie W. Smith, Senior Pastor  
1010-1020 South Sherman Street  
Richardson, TX 75081  
972-437-3493

### OASIS INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

December 10, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

The public is invited to join Women's International Network (WIN) as they present a Special Holiday Meeting and Auction which will include a full buffet breakfast with special speaker Evelina Ruth. Benefits from the auction will go to Hartman House that promotes better education for disadvantaged children in the U.S. and Haiti. There will also be time for you to introduce your business or organization. Men are invited! Dr. Charles Hughes will share information on launching Men's International Network of Dallas (MIND.)

For more information, registration, or donations call 214-289-4802 or 214-924-0177.

### Oasis International Church

Doctors Charles & Vera Hughes, Founders/Overseers  
P. O. Box 941192  
Plano, TX 75093  
469-4676797

Church Happenings Page 10

## Church Directory

### Temple of Faith Christian Chapel C.M.E. Church

#### "Where Jesus is the Main Attraction"

Sunday Worship Experience - 8:00 am & 10:45 am  
Wednesday Bible Study - 12:00 Noon & 7:00 pm

14120 Noel Road • Dallas, TX 75254

972-239-1120 (Office) • 972-239-5925 (Fax)

templeoffaith\_cme@sbcglobal.net (Email)

Healthy Beginnings Child Development Center - 972-404-1412

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

The Equipping Church, "Serving Together To Transform Lives"

Sunday Service Times  
9:00 am - Corporate Prayer  
9:30 am - Sunday School  
11:00 am - Morning Worship

Wednesday Night  
7:00 pm - Teacher's Meeting,  
Bible Study, & Mid-Week Service

2nd and 4th Tuesday: 7:30 pm - Family Night

526 Compton Avenue • Irving, TX 75061

972-986-5552

1-888-9-Outreach (Prayer Line)

Email: equippingchurch@sbcglobal.net

### NORTH DALLAS COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

"A Spiritual Oasis for a Thirsty World" Isaiah 55:1

#### SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:

8:00 AM • 9:30 AM • 11:30 AM

972-437-3493

1010-1020 South Sherman Street • Richardson, TX 75081

www.ndcbf.org

### New Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Dallas

#### Sunday Service

Morning Worship  
7:30 am & 10:30 am  
9:00 am Sunday School

#### Wednesday Service

Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm  
Brotherhood 7:00 pm  
Missions 7:00 pm  
Singles Group 7:00 pm  
Bible Study 7:45 pm



Dr. Robert E. Price, Senior Pastor

A Praying Church Family  
"Watchmen on the Walls"

214-341-6459 (Phone) • 214-342-8403 (Fax)  
9550 Shepard Road  
Dallas, TX 75243

www.nmzb.org (Website) • newmzb@aol.com (Email)

### St. Andrew Church of God In Christ

Supt. Kenneth D. Davis, Pastor  
608 Lakey Street • Denton, TX 76205  
940-243-3797 (Metro)  
www.standrewcogic.org  
standrew@charterinternet.com



"Building to Reach... Reaching to Change... Changing to Impact"

#### Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesday Bible Study: 7:15 pm • Youth Bible Study: 7:30 pm

#### Friday Intercourse Prayer

Early Morning: 6:00 am to 7:00 am • Evening: 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

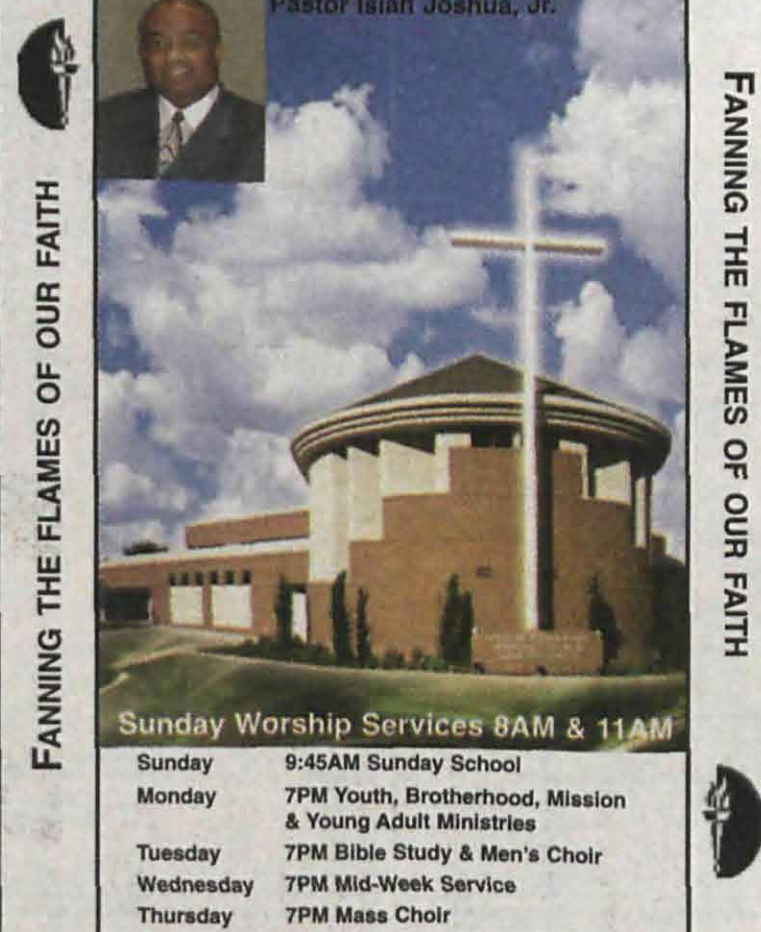
#### Worship Celebrations

1st & 3rd Sundays: ... 8:30 am Sunday School: ... 9:30 am  
Every Sunday: ... 10:50 am Evening Worship: ... 7:00 pm

### Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

920 E. 14th Street Plano, TX

Pastor Isiah Joshua, Jr.



FANNING THE FLAMES OF OUR FAITH

FANNING THE FLAMES OF OUR FAITH

#### Sunday Worship Services 8AM & 11AM

Sunday 9:45AM Sunday School  
Monday 7PM Youth, Brotherhood, Mission & Young Adult Ministries  
Tuesday 7PM Bible Study & Men's Choir  
Wednesday 7PM Mid-Week Service  
Thursday 7PM Mass Choir

For more information call (972) 423-6695  
www.shilohbaptistchurch.org

**MICHELLE S FIRST LADY FASHION BOUTIQUE**  
Spring/Summer Suits now 20% - 50% off!

Fall 2005/2006 Donna Vinci, Lisa Rene, Milano, and Ben Marc Suits Now Available for Pre-Order! These suits are selling fast!!

Ask us how your First Lady, Church Choir, Praise Team, or Usher Ministry can save 10% - 20% on each purchase.

2305 South Business Hwy 121, Suite 138  
Lewisville, Texas 75067

Closed: Sunday & Tuesday  
Monday - Friday: 10 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

972-956-0030 or 972-898-0361  
Website: www.firstlady-fashions.com

Come Share The St. John Experience

**St. John Baptist Church**

1701 W. Jefferson St., Grand Prairie, Texas 75051  
2805 Market Loop, Suite 300, Southlake, Texas 76092  
Denny D. Davis, Servant

One Church - Two Locations

Four Morning Worship Services  
7:00 A.M. • 9:00 A.M. • 10:00 A.M. and 11:15 A.M.

**FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN**  
Pastor W.L. Stafford Sr., M.Div

"A Ministry that is on the Move for Christ"

Sunday School  
Sunday Morning Worship  
Children's Church  
Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study  
Wed & 4th Monday "Youth for Christ"

Come experience the Worship Atmosphere at Fellowship, you will never be the same.

200 Belmont Drive • Allen, Texas • 75013  
Phone 972-359-9956 • www.fbcfoallen.org  
\*If you need a ride to worship with us, please call the church.



## Who Gets The Organs?

### Experts Say Transplant Medicine Has A Race Problem.

During the three and a half years she waited for a kidney transplant, retired paralegal Mia Ray left her home in Orange, N.J., every other day and drove to a dialysis center in nearby Livingston. Sitting in a cubicle for hours at a time, Ray watched videos while her blood was cleansed of toxins. Over time she got to know most of the other patients, and as they came and went, she began to notice something. "You hate to say it, or even think it," says Ray, who is African-American. "But it was very rare that I knew someone of color who got a kidney."

Ray received her new kidney in August. But her suspicion turns out to be well founded. According to figures from the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), which administers the organ-allocation system, ethnic minorities make up 50 percent of the 96,581 people on the waiting list, but white patients receive 63 percent of organs. Even for kidney transplants, for which Medicare funding should provide a level playing field, minorities made up 60 percent of the waiting list, but less than 45 percent of transplants.

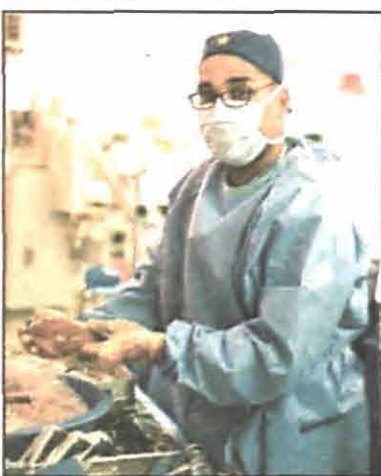
The disparities have prompted soul-searching in the medical community. "This is well recognized, but highly controversial," says Dr. Devon John, a black transplant surgeon at NYU Medical Center. In theory, allocation of organs is race-neutral. Patients receive points for medical need, tissue type and time on the waiting list;

doctors use a computer algorithm to decide who gets organs. But they admit the system doesn't always work as intended. Computer programs alone can't eliminate the potential for subconscious bias—or overt racism—among the physicians who use them. "The computer may be colorblind, but the people who put information into the computer are not," says Dr. Clive Callender, director of the Howard University Hospital transplant center. "This is directly the consequence of institutionalized racism." UNOS admits the disparity is a problem, but denies racism. "I don't believe the transplant system is racist," says Dr. Carlton Young, chair of the group's minority-affairs committee. "It's an issue of American medicine and the biases that have always existed there."

But some researchers point to more tangible factors, including an imbalance in supply and demand of suitable organs for minorities. Although race isn't an explicit factor, minority patients—especially African-Americans—are more genetically diverse, making it harder for them to find suitable tissue matches. Black and Hispanic people donate organs at the same rate as whites, but they are predisposed to organ-damaging diseases like diabetes, so that in spite of campaigns to promote organ donation in minority communities, there's no way for minority donation alone to keep up with the minority demand for organs. Doctors must struggle to find suitable matches for black

and Hispanic patients among predominantly white donors.

In 2003, UNOS set less-stringent matching criteria for kidney transplants to channel more organs to minority candidates, while in the organ-procurement district covering northern California, doctors eliminated tissue typing altogether and now match organs by blood type



alone. Modern immunosuppressants help compensate for less-than-perfect matches, although inevitably, more organs are rejected. "It's a trade-off between utility and justice," said Dr. John Roberts, chief of kidney, pancreas and liver transplantation at UCSF Medical Center. But, he warns, tinkering with tissue matching will eliminate only a tiny percent of the access gap. Policymakers hope a Medicare-funded tracking system and new rules that streamline passage onto the waiting list—both due to start regional trials next year—will help. But to find a real solution, the transplant community itself may have to undergo a change of heart.

#### Parks' Statue Page 1

agenda items that are confronting African-Americans from [Hurricane] Katrina on back to issues of education," Jackson tells the NNPA New Service.

Yet another honor for Parks, the mother of the civil rights movement who died Oct. 24, the twin bill was initiated in the Senate by Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.).

The five-sentence bill, H.R. 4145 is concise and direct: "To direct the Architect of the

Capitol to obtain a statue of Rosa Parks and to place the statue in the United States Capitol in National Statuary Hall," it states. "Placement - Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act."

But, Jackson's hopes that excitement surrounding the historic statue will transform into anything more than symbolism from President Bush may be far-fetched.

President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act

into law on Aug. 6 that year. In 2007, significant parts of the act will come up for renewal by Congress, including the clause that requires some states to seek approval from the Justice Department for changes. President Bush, who will still be in office has not said whether he will support renewal. In a meeting with the Congressional Black Caucus earlier this year, Bush told Jackson that he knew too little about the act to discuss it at that time.

## Church Happenings

#### Church Happenings Page 9

#### PILLAR OF TRUTH CHURCH INTERNATIONAL

November 27, 6:30 pm  
The public is invited as we host a Thanksgiving Concert featuring the Pillar of Truth Praise Singers.

Pillar of Truth Church International  
Pastors C. R. & Malinda Scott, Founders/Overseers  
Service Location: Southfork Hotel  
1600 E. Central Expwy (Hwy 75)  
Plano, TX 75074  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 452141  
Garland, TX 75045  
972-675-4231

#### RHEMA LIFE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Tuesdays, 7:00 pm  
Please join us and bring a friend as we study Women of The Word in our Truth on Tuesday Bible Study Night.

Rhema Life Fellowship Church  
Reverend James W. Thomas, Pastor  
3801 Avenue K  
Plano, TX 75074  
469-467-7575

#### THE INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH (IBOC)

Sign Up Now  
FREE Computer Training classes by Christian Business Services. For more information and registration call Rev. C. Greer @ 214-796-1294 or Email: ccgreer@sbcglobal.net

Mondays, 7:00 pm  
Monday School with Holy Spirit Bible Teachings

The Inspiring Body of Christ Church (IBOC)  
Dr. Rickie G. Rush, Pastor  
7710 South Westmoreland  
Dallas, TX 75237  
972-572-IBOC (4262)

#### TRINITY PRAYER CHAPEL

Sign Up Now  
Reynolds Wood Ministries is now conducting FREE GED and ESL Classes, Mentoring Program, and Dance/Ballet/Karate Classes (scholarships are available.)  
For more information and registration, please call 214-544-1886.

Trinity Prayer Chapel  
Rev. Reynolds Wood,

Senior Pastor  
P. O. Box 650  
Dallas, TX 75251

Service Location is:  
406 N. Tennessee  
McKinney, TX 75069  
214-544-1886

#### WOMEN PRAYING FOR CHRIST MINISTRIES

December 3,  
9:00 am - 12:00 Noon  
We are having a FREE Prayer & Praise Breakfast @ The Radisson Hotel & Suites Dallas, 2320 W. Northwest Highway @ Highway 35, Dallas, TX. Our speaker will be Angela S. King, Founder/President. You MUST pre-register for this event by November 30, 2005. For more information and registration, please call 214-450-7634.

Women Praying For Christ Ministries  
Ms. Angela S. King, Founder/President  
P. O. Box 863766  
Plano, TX 75086-3766  
972-618-1247 or 214-450-7634

Send your church announcements to: religion@monthegazette.com or fax to 972-516-4197 c/o Church Happenings. Deadlines are Fridays before publication date. (MON-The Gazette is published each Thursday.)

**Faithway Fellowship Baptist Church**  
8219 Bunche Dr. Dallas, TX 75243  
Church Office: (972) 792-0239  
Pastor's Office: (972) 792-0240

**Service Times**  
Sunday School: 9:45AM  
Morning Worship: 11:00AM  
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00PM

*Pastor Derrick L. Bowman, Sr.*

PEOPLE OF FAITH WITH A MIND TO WORK

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

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

*Pastor Rickie G. Rush*

Website: www.ibocjoy.org

**RHEMA LIFE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH**  
3801 Avenue K.  
Plano, TX 75074 469-467-7575

**SERVICE TIMES**  
Sunday School: 9:00 am  
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:15 am  
Tuesday Night Bible Study: 7:00 pm

*Reverend James W. Thomas, Servant*

Raised to Walk in the Newness of Life. Romans 6:4

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

**Sunday School:** 9:30 A.M.  
**Sunday Worship Service:** 11:00 A.M.  
**Wednesday Night-Community Bible Class:** 7:30 P.M.

**St. Luke A.M.E. Church (aka - SLAME)**  
"Where we slam dunk the devil and serve up Jesus"  
521 W. Avenue E Garland, TX 75040 972.487.9703  
Email: slamechurch@aol.com

**Sunday**  
8:45 a.m. Church School  
9:45 a.m. Praise & Worship  
10:15 a.m. Worship Experience

**Tuesday**  
7:15 p.m. Bible Study

**Wednesday**  
6:30 p.m. Prayer Service  
7:00 p.m. Church School

**Thursday**  
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

*Reverend Charles E. Franklin, Pastor*

**OPEN BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH**

**Sunday Services**  
9:00 am - Prayer Ministry  
9:30 am - Sunday School  
10:45 am - Morning Worship & Children's Church

**Tuesday Service**  
7:00 pm - Bible Study

**Our Hearts, Our Arms and Our Doors Are Always Open to YOU!**

**2701 Briarwood Drive # Plano, TX 75074**  
**972-422-4248**

*Rev. Don Bright, Pastor  
M.A. Counseling, LPC*

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

**Sunday**  
Education Ministries... 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Celebration... 11:00 am.  
- Nursery Facilities Available -

**Wednesday**  
Family Ministries... 7:00 p.m.

Friendly Fellowship with A Family Focus  
For More Information Call  
972.542.6178  
www.saintmarkbc.com  
stmarkmissionary@aol.com

**Little Flock Baptist Church**  
Pastor Louis E. Laurent  
Internet Broadcast: www.krgm.com  
(Mon - Fri @ 12 Noon)

A Place Where a "Taste of the Word" is Guaranteed

Sunday School..... 9:30 am  
Sunday Morning Worship ..... 10:45 am  
Sunday Night Service ..... 6:30 pm  
Tuesday Night Brotherhood ..... 7:00 pm  
Wednesday Prayer Meeting/Bible Study.... 7:00 pm

704 E. Aimee Street • P.O. Box 903 • Forney, Texas 75126  
Phone: 214-325-7021  
Fax: 214-371-8922 or 214-372-2135  
Email: thewordcuts@yahoo.com

**New Life Fellowship Church**  
New Worship Location:  
Wyndham Garden Hotel-Park Central  
8051 LBJ Freeway • Dallas, TX 75251  
Bishop Miller E. Johnson Jr., Senior Pastor

Mailing Address:  
P. O. Box 940466 • Plano, TX 75094-0466  
972-671-1096 (Church)

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

Sunday Life Bible School ..... 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Life Worship Service ..... 10:00 a.m.  
Life In The Word Prayer and Bible Study (Wednesdays) ..... 7:00 p.m.

**Friendship Baptist Church**  
Dr. C. Paul McBride, Pastor

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

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

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

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