

The Truth Clinic

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 Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

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The Gazette

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People In The News



The Ayubu Karamu Sacred African Drum and Dance Society have assisted in continuing the Karamu Ya Kwanzaa (meaning a Feast for Kwanzaa) each year in the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex.

The idea of Karamu Ya Kwanzaa (formally called the Kwanzaa Ball) was brought to Dallas, Texas by Asha and Merita Kweisi of "KemetNu Know Thyself Educational Tours", back in 1998 and was originally held in Los Angeles, California on the seventh day of Kwanzaa (IMAND) meaning faith.

The Kwanzaa celebration continues to be a way of bringing African-Americans together in a clean, safe and elegant setting providing an educational and entertaining event for people who have never before attended a Kwanzaa program. Guest can socialize while enjoying in a culturally centered gala affair full of good food (vegetarian and meat entrees), fun and an array of live entertainment including African Drum and Dance.

Kwanzaa Karamu will take place at 8 p.m. on December 31st, at 3023 Park Row Dr., Arlington. For more information call Metro 817-648-1716 or visit www.SeaMcOnline.com.

The Ayubu Karamu Sacred African Drum and Dance Society offers adult African dance and drum classes and workshops, as well as an African Music and Lecture series for schools. For more info visit www.ayubukaramu.com.

Author Marietta Montello will visit Dallas on January 20th, signing copies of her new novel "Make Me Hot" at Black Images Book Bazaar at 8 p.m.

Ms. Montello, a former model, television news reporter, and commercial actress, originally self-published her first book, "Make Me Hot", in November 2000. By the following January, Marietta signed a two-book deal with Harper Collins, who released "Make Me Hot" in March 2002, and then released her second book, "The In July 2004, Marietta signed a two-book deal with Kensington Books. The first work, "Make Me Hot", the story of how desiring beauty can get ugly, will be released in January through Kensington's Dafnia imprint.

Marietta contributes to various magazines, is a member of the L.A. Black Writers and the Antelope Valley Writers Group, and mentors new writers who desire to self-publish. She is a member of FeminaeFeminist, a group of six fantastic female authors who tour military bases and other venues throughout the country to promote reading. The 2005 tour was so successful that the group plans to tour in 2006 and beyond.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, she now resides just outside of Atlanta, Georgia, is the mother of three, and a proud grandmother.

For more info visit www.blackimages.com



Rhonda teaches practical techniques for dealing with issues in the home and workplace. Her message is one of hope, empowerment, and encouragement to anyone who has a dream, desire, and a willingness to overcome obstacles. She is also the published author of the phenomenal book, *Workplace Devotions Volume I*.

Rhonda is a member of Toastmasters International of America. She holds the title of Advanced Speaker and Competent Leader, and is Vice President of Education for her local club. Rhonda is also a licensed Minister of The Potter's House in Dallas, TX where she serves in various positions under the leadership of Bishop TD Jakes. She is most passionate about using her gifts in writing and speaking to edify the body of Christ.

For more info on booking Rhonda Hale as a speaker, visit www.donahallentertainment.com.

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New Orleans To Probe Latest Police Shooting



Police officers shot and killed a man brandishing a knife in a confrontation that was partially videotaped by a bystander, setting off another internal investigation of the embattled department. Monday's daylight shooting on a busy street was the first involving police since New Orleans reopened after Hurricane Katrina. It follows the videotaped police beating of a man that led to two firings in the department.

A police spokesman, Sgt. David Adams, said Tuesday that the officers who fired on the man were reassigned pending the outcome of the

probe, but he defended their response, saying at least one officer's life was in danger just before the barrage of gunfire.

"You have a subject who's lunging at them with a knife ... swinging wildly at them and they're fearing for their life," Adams said. "They had no other choice but to resort to lethal force."

Adams would not disclose on Tuesday how many officers fired at the man, but said investigators found 10 shell casings on the ground. Witnesses said a half dozen or more shots were fired.

Officers repeatedly asked the man to drop the knife and used pepper spray to try to subdue him, but he covered his face

New Orleans Shooting Page 10

Garland Is First Suburb To Buy A Police Helicopter

Garland plans to buy a police helicopter and become the only area suburb to operate one.

The \$2.5 million aircraft would be paid for with a certificate of obligation, under a plan approved Tuesday night by the City Council. The operating cost of \$1.2 million annually would be paid with money from the city's red-light camera program.

"I believe the helicopter will be a force multiplier to enhance police presence and efficiency," said Terri Dunn, the strongest advocate on the council for the purchase. "I'm very proud of this."

The 5-4 vote mirrored one last month in which members decided not to have City

Council elections in May. Ms. Dunn was joined by council members Weldon Bradley, John Garner, Harry Hickey and Michael Holden - the same five who said no to elections - in voting to buy the helicopter.

"This is one of the easiest decisions I've ever made, once I understood all the issues," Mr. Holden said. "I didn't support it when Ms. Dunn first brought it up."

Mayor Bob Day and council

Garland Police Helicopter Page 4

Dallas Properties Part Of Alleged Race Discrimination In Post-Katrina Renting



A fair-housing watchdog has accused five apartment complexes in Texas, Florida and

Alabama of discriminating against Hurricane Katrina evacuees who are black. The complaints filed with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development were based on a telephone survey by the National Fair Housing Alliance.

The group said white callers posing as hurricane victims were treated more favorably than black applicants in 66 percent of its inquiries. NFHA president Shanna Smith said

Race Discrimination Page 10

Congress Extends Patriot Act

Congress last week approved a one-month extension of the Patriot Act and sent it to President Bush in a pre-Christmas scramble to prevent many of its anti-terrorism provisions from expiring Dec. 31.

The Senate, with only Sen. John Warner, R-Va., present, approved the Feb. 3 expiration date four hours after the House, with a nearly empty chamber, bowed to Rep. James Sensenbrenner's refusal to agree to a six-month extension.

Congress can pass legislation with only a few lawmakers present as long as no member of the House or Senate objects. The Senate session lasted four minutes.

Sensenbrenner, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, said the shorter extension would force swifter Senate action and had the support of the White House and Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill. The Senate reconvenes Jan. 18 and the House Jan. 26.

"A six-month extension, in my opinion, would have simply allowed the Senate to duck the issue until the last week in June," the Wisconsin Republican told reporters.

Patriot Act Extension Page 12

Irving Guardsmen Get Holiday Homecoming



By Deborah Fleck

Pride and relief filled the cavernous Texas National Guard Armory in Irving last week. Soldiers in the Charlie Company of the 111th Engineer Battalion were welcomed home from Iraq and dismissed from

active duty, just in time for the holidays.

Spc. Christopher Odette of Keller kissed his daughter Chishia, 4, at a celebration on Wednesday at the Texas National Guard Armory in Irving. Guardsmen Page 11

Iraqis March, Say Elections Were Rigged



By Sinan Salabeddin

Large demonstrations broke out across the country Friday to denounce parliamentary elections that protesters called rigged in favor of the main religious Shiite coalition.

In Baghdad, unknown assailants kidnapped a Sudanese diplomat and five other men as they left prayers at a mosque, a spokesman for Sudan's Foreign Ministry said. An Iraqi Foreign Ministry official said he had not heard of the

abduction. As many as 20,000 people demonstrated after noon prayers in southern Baghdad Friday, many carrying banners decrying last week's elections. Many Iraqis outside the religious Shiite coalition allege that the elections were unfair to smaller Sunni Arab and secular Shiite groups.

"We refuse the cheating and forgery in the elections," one banner read.

Iraqis March Page 11

Kwanzaa: Respect Is Tops On Wish List

Created in 1966 by Maulana Karenga, chair of the Department of Black Studies at California State University, Kwanzaa, which begins today, grew from a decade of change.

It is a cultural holiday deeply rooted in the African philosophy of respect for self and those around you.

According to the founder of the seven-day Kwanzaa, Karenga, the holiday reflects the best of African thought in its reaffirmation of the dignity of the individual, the well-being of family and community, and the integrity of the environment.

The focus of Kwanzaa is the



seven principles known as Nguzo Saba, and the holiday provides a time for family gathering and introspection.

When Laquasia Clinkscales of Melbourne, Fla., first met her husband-to-be, Jalik, he was already celebrating Kwanzaa every year. Twenty-four Kwanzaas later, they're still committed to the principles.

Kwanzaa Page 11

Jason Terry And Credit Union Of Texas To Donate To Gilda's Club North Texas

Many guard Jason Terry and Credit Union of Texas will each donate \$100 per three-point shot Terry makes during the regular season to Gilda's Club North Texas. Last year Terry completed a total of 103 three-point shots and donated a total of \$10,300 to Gilda's Club.

Comedian Gilda Radner reclaimed her gift of laughter and feeling of control when she joined with others who also had cancer. Gilda discovered hope and a way to share the wisdom of experience while learning strategies for living with cancer. The mission of Gilda's Club North Texas is to provide a non-residential meeting place, where people with cancer and their families and friends can join with others to build social and emotional support as a supplement to medical care - FREE of charge.

"Many of us have had the unfortunate experience of dealing with cancer on many levels, and it is always devastating. I, along with Credit Union of Texas, am proud to partner with Gilda's Club and assist in helping to alleviate the stress of this disease on families," said Terry. "We are honored to be a part of the good work of Gilda's Club, and hope that each and every individual and family receives the support and love they need during this personal struggle."

"Credit Union of Texas is pleased to be part of this opportunity to give back to the communities in which we serve," said Karen Coffey, Vice President of Marketing at

Credit Union of Texas. "We are proud of the support Gilda's Club provides for the many individuals and families affected by cancer."

Gilda's Club North Texas has developed a strong medical resource council with physicians and other health professionals from area hospitals and cancer centers, including University of Texas South Western Health Science Center, Baylor University Medical Center, Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas, Methodist Medical Center, St. Paul Medical Center and Medical City Dallas. This board is chaired by Dr. Marvin Stone, Chief of the Department of Oncology at Baylor University Medical Center and Director of the Sammons Cancer Center at Baylor University Medical Center. The American Cancer Society and the Susan G. Komen Foundation have offered support and partnership.

Gilda's Club North Texas creates a support community for people with cancer, their families and friends in a non-residential, home-like setting. Free "membership" is open to anyone who is newly diagnosed, is in treatment for cancer, has completed treatment and is

learning to live with cancer, is a family member or close friend, is an adult, child or anywhere in between. For more information, please call 214-219-8877 or visit www.gildasclubtx.com.

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This New Year, try an alternate route around town.



Dallas Mavericks
Season continues at
American Airlines Center
www.nba.com/mavericks
214.747.6287

Take any Red or Blue Line train to West End Station, and transfer to any train displaying the word "DART" in its overhead destination signs. If you're already on a train with "DART" in its destination signs, you're on your way to Victory Station at American Airlines Center!

Elite News Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade
Monday, January 16 at 10 a.m.
Starts at the corner of MLK Jr. Blvd. and Lamar
From West Transfer Center Route 26 (Proctor Courts) or from Cityplace Station Route 409 (Uptown Station)

African-American Read-In
Saturday, February 4 at the
Majestic Theatre
(925 Elm Street), 2 p.m.
www.readin.dcccd.edu
Red or Blue Line to St. Paul Station

214.979.1111

www.DART.org transporteDART.org

DART Service Change
Effective Monday,
February 6, 2006

Look for a service change brochure and new schedules on board and at transit centers after January 16.
Visit www.DART.org or call 214.979.1111 for more information.
Try the new DART On-Call service in Lake Highlands!

National Woman's Heart Day Health Fair
Friday, February 17 at
American Airlines Center,
8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
www.sistersister.org/dallas
214.871.3029
Take any Red or Blue Line train to West End Station, and transfer to any train displaying the word "DART" in its overhead destination signs. If you're already on a train with "DART" in its destination signs, you're on your way to Victory Station at American Airlines Center!

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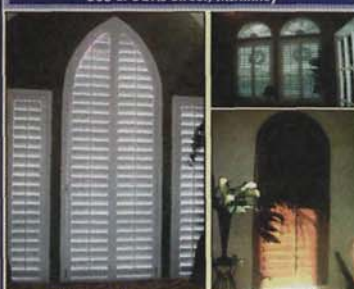
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Around The Town

Ongoing

The McKinney SPCA at 8411 FM720 is offering an adoption special for all dogs 36 pounds and more thru the end of the year. Call 972-562-7297 for information.

Collin County Health Care Services will offer flu shots at a reduced cost beginning December 26. Flu vaccinations are given Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m., 825 N. McDonald Street in McKinney. Call 972-548-5578 for information.

A Tuna Christmas, Eisenmann Center, 2351 Performance Dr., 8:00 p.m. Call 972-744-4650 for ticket information. December 27-Jan. 1.

Pharmacy Compounding Specialties, an independent pharmacy in North Dallas will collect canned goods for the North Texas Food Bank through December 31 at 8061 Walnut Hill Lane. Call 214-327-8200.

The Garland ISD Faculty Art Show continues through January 3 at the Granville Arts Center, 300 N. Fifth St. Proceeds benefit the Memorial Senior Scholarship Fund. Call 972-205-2790 for information.

"Ebony Nutcracker", starring Brykah Badu, 2:00 p.m., Majestic Theater, 1925

Elm St. Call 214-373-8000. Thru-January 5

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. November 17-January 29, 2006

The Richardson Optimist Club is selling mixed nuts, fudge, etc. to raise funds for its youth activities. Contact any Optimist Club member or call 972-233-9597.

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. November 16.

Blue Horizon Chorus, a volunteer chorus seeks seniors to sign at retirement and nursing homes. It meets from 10 a.m.-Noon, Wednesdays at the Mesquite Arts Center, 1572 N. Galloway Ave. Call 214-566-8459.

A Free Legal Clinic is offered at 6:00 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at First United Methodist Church, 601 S. Greenville Ave. Must be Collin County residents and income eligible. Call 1-800-906-3045.

Allen Public Library's Genre Book Club meets at 7:00 p.m. every third Monday in the Library Board Room, 300 N. Allen Dr. Call 214-509-4906 for information.

Assistance League of Greater Collin County meets the third Wednesday of each month. Visit www.assistance-league-gcc.org.

Collin County Health Care Services continues offering flu shots from 8:00-11:00 a.m., Monday-Friday at 825 N. McDonald St., McKinney. Call 972-548-5532 for information.

Spirit of Praise Community and Youth Choir now forming. Participants are needed who sing and play instruments. Practices begin on the 2nd and 4th Sunday. For information call 817-626-7342.

Allen Public Library's Genre Book Club meets at 7:00 p.m. every third Monday in the Library Board Rm., 300 N. Allen Drive. Call 214-509-4906 for information.

Alcoholics Anonymous: Garland Clean Air, a local Alcoholics Anonymous Chapter, has extended its hours. The group meets at noon Mondays thru Fridays, 11:00 a.m. Saturdays and 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. First Christian Church, 115 S. Glenbrook Drive. Call 972-994-7879.

December 30
B.G. Live in Concert, 4:15 p.m. at Club Blue. Call 214-880-0888 for information

December 31
5th Annual Ultimate New Years Eve Classic, Abbottford Court (5th Ave), 14775 Midway Rd. (Addison), 9:30 p.m. Call 817-937-8301 for information.
Watch Night Kwanzaa

Celebration, St. Paul Methodist Church. Call 214-922-0000

Teens ages 13-18 interested in entering the 2006 Mr. & Miss Teen Graffiti Scholarship Pageant must apply by December 31. The winners will be featured on the cover of Teen Graffiti Magazine. Visit www.teengraffiti.com or call 972-996-9457.

Music Under the Dome featuring the band Faces, 7:00 p.m., African American Museum Fair Park. Call 214-565-9026 ext. 304.

Karamu Ya Kwanzaa (Feast of Kwanzaa) 8:00 p.m. at Eban Village Center, 3023 Park Row Drive. Call 817-640-1716 for information.

New Year's Ongoing 2006
January Times Arts 7 Leisure Weekend comes to Dallas. January 5-9

Kings of the Court Basketball Tournament hosted by The Candy Castle II, Larry Johnson Recreation Center, 3700 Dixon Ave. Registration deadline is January 2, 2006. Call 214-670-8495 for information. January 13-15

The First Baptist Church is again offering "DivorceCare" beginning January 15 and running for 13 weeks. Call 972-727-8241 for information.

The RISD collecting used books new and used videos, CD's for the PTAs' Used Book Fair. January 17-27.

Free classes available on how to repair credit and prepare to buy a home will be offered from 9:00-3:00 p.m. each second Saturday

of the month. The meetings will be held at the Jeffries Street Learning Center, 3001 Grand Ave. in South Dallas. Call 214-426-1834.

January 6
United Negro College Fund "Celebrates the World's Greatest Wonder", a tribute to Stevie Wonder. Check your local TV listings for times.
House and Garden Show will be from 2 to 8 p.m., 10:00 a.m., Frisco Conference Center, 6801 Gaylord Parkway.

January 7
Huston-Tillotson University will be featured during the 27th Annual broadcast of "An Evening of Stars-A Celebration of Educational Excellence" benefiting the United Negro College Fund on KJVA-TV Channel 54, 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

Casa Linda AARP Chapter 3880 will meet at 10 a.m. at the Community Life Center of Casa Linda United Methodist Church, 1800 Barnes Bridge Road in Dallas. Call 214-321-1705 for information.

January 8
Texas Area Artists will host its monthly meeting at 2:00 p.m., Mesquite Arts Center. Call 214-566-8269 for information.

January 12
Ricker Retirement Specialists presents "Retire Smart", 6:00 p.m. at 3200 Broadway Blvd., Suite 150 (Garland). Call 972-840-3764 for information.

January 14
MLK Celebration Parade, downtown Plano, 10:00 am.

How to Organize an Effective Summer Learning Program, 2900 Live Oak St. Call 214-235-2352 for information.

January 16
Author Drew Hansen will discuss his book, The Dream-Martin Luther King, Jr. and the speech that inspired a nation. Sponsored by Parks and Recreation, 7:00 p.m., 333 West MacArthur Blvd., 872-721-2716.

January 17
The Dallas Society of Women Engineers will meet at 6:15 p.m. in the community room at Nedley's Restaurant, 1801 N. Plano Road in Richardson. Call 214-226-6967 for information.

January 19
Celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. The Plano ISD invites the community to join in a "Symphony of Brotherhood" at Plano Center, Collinwood Hall, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway.

February
All new Sesame Street Live Production, Nokia Theatre at Grand Prairie, 1001 Performance Pl., 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Call 972-854-5111 for information.

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THE TRUTH CLINIC Peace On Earth - Good Will To All

By: James W. Hrevelove

It seems that Iraq is not the only place where Americans are enmeshed in a war. On the main streets, town squares, schools, government buildings, and shopping malls in communities throughout the country a domestic war is being waged over a controversial trend focused on whether or not the term "Christ" should be included in any of the holiday activities or whether any public facility should display the word "Christmas" or any other religious symbolism surrounding the meaning of this religious holiday.

When I was growing up in the middle of the 1930's great depression Christmas had its primary emphasis on the birth of a Lord and Savior, Jesus. Now, Christmas seems to be the lightning rod for secular and religious skirmishes. In the litigious environment we live in, where public displays of religion are routinely challenged, many public officials take the easy way out and surrender to a complete secularization of the winter holidays. No manger. No menorah. No lawsuit.

Under our Constitution, there's nothing wrong with acknowledging the historical origins of a religious holiday. Elected officials and federal judges are neither required nor should they take sides in this religious freedom debate. However, when the government steps in and decrees that all public places be purged of all religious images, even the pretense of neutrality becomes a lie. We are a diverse people with rich religious traditions. There should be room in the public square for us all.

The real issue is not that anyone is truly offended; it's just that it is more tellable if the politically correct forces can make us believe that we are offending someone through our religious expressions. Do

the politically correct among us really expect us to believe that the presence of a religious symbol on the county courthouse might make "non-believers" appearing in court feel that they are being oppressed? Or that a manger scene displayed on city property may convince "non-believers" that they are singled out for traffic tickets just because of their non-belief?

For those fond of celebrating the religious meaning of the holidays, this season has brought a mixed bag. If some citizens prefer celebrating a secular holiday that is their prerogative. For others, celebrating Christmas without the manger is similar to celebrating a wedding without the groom.

We know from experience, men differ widely in knowledge, virtue, intelligence and wealth. That is not a valid argument in favor of a political system whereby those in a position of superior power impose their will arbitrarily on others.

Universal peace and harmony cannot be achieved through forcing one's will on others. It must be with the willing consent of all who desire peace. While a ruling authority is indispensable to peace in a civil society, such authority cannot be misdirected against God's moral order. God Himself warns us of this, "Hear, therefore, ye kings, and understand. Give ear, you that rule the people, and that please yourselves in multitudes of nations. For power is given you by the Lord, and strength by the Most High, who will examine your works, and search out your thoughts."

The extent of the hyper-consumerism that has become the focus of America's Christmas season is a debatable national tragedy. What is beyond dispute is that the Christ of Christmas has endured and been consistent through the ages, while the doctrines of men change with the tides of current public opinion.

Horrible wrongdoings such as the Inquisition or the Holocaust perpetrated by people who purportedly embraced the Christ principle has not been able to kill it. The story of Christ has been told through plague, war, famine and all manner of natural disasters, and the lesson learned, of love for neighbors, of charity toward the poor. And today it cannot be tarnished by the sheer foolishness of the trite arguments that attempt to undermine Christmas and Christianity.

According to the scriptures, Jesus threw the moneychangers out of the temple, saying that they'd made his father's house into a den of thieves. Have we become so shallow that we believe that Jesus Christ desires to be formally recognized in the ads from Sears and Walgreens, as though his legacy depended upon being branded with the clothes, shoes, appliances, and cuddly toys?

It is hard ascertain how a snub by a home-improvement center can diminish Christmas one bit. Wal-Mart is not a temple, and the star of Bethlehem was nothing like a twenty-minute instant blue-light special. As the pope recently noted, "commercial pollution" is contrary to the spirit of the season and the message of Christmas. It's an insult to the power and the glory of faith to seek this meaning in material things or the perfunctory greetings of an overworked store clerk.

We can obligate ourselves to the world's substitute for Christmas: Presents, tinsel, football, tension, conflict, pretense, counting, and comparison. Or we can have God's gift: Rejoicing, Thankfulness, Submission, Humility, and Salvation. Which do you prefer?

Merry Christmas and a Happy Prosperous New Year from the Truth Clinic.

Email Comments to: Politics@MonTheGazette.com

"Faith And Poverty: Rediscovering The Back Story Of Christmas"

By: Robert M. Franklin

This year I viewed the familiar Christmas story through a new lens. Hurricane Katrina and the proposed federal budget compelled us to pay attention to the 'back story' of the Christmas narrative. It's a story about fragile families, poverty, and the good community.

You don't have to be Christian to know something about the foreground of the basic narrative. While traveling a great distance, an inconvenience imposed by a government census, a young, pregnant mother realizes that she is about to give birth. The couple learns that there's no room in the local inn (maybe, they lacked sufficient personal responsibility to make an advance reservation.) In a humble setting, surrounded by strangers and warm animals, a special child was born. For most people, that's about as far as the plot goes. But there are other interesting things unfolding in the background.

Earlier this month, Capitol police arrested more than 100 people of faith, many of them my friends. They were protesting a budget passed by the House of Representatives that Rep. Harry Reid (D-Nev.) called a war on the middle class and poor. At the same time, it awards tax cuts and other nice gifts to the rich. Meanwhile, leaders from the Gulf left Capitol Hill with the promise of more resources even as the evacuees reminded them of their continued suffering of

displacement, unemployment and homelessness.

Watching all this, I realized that the complexity behind Christmas is trying to break through the holiday selling and shopping frenzy. Let's look again at the back story.

First, although the popular version of the story presents images of joy and peace, there's an awful lot of political violence in the background. King Herod seems to operate with unchecked executive power as he orders the murder of the male babies under 2 years of age after being outsmarted by the wise men on his payroll.

Second, isn't it odd that although Joseph is part of the royal lineage of David, that doesn't seem to help him much when the going gets rough. The surprise birth on the road places him, a productive, working-class carpenter in his hometown, in the precarious position of having to rely on strangers for assistance. Through no fault of his own, he has to depend on others.

Third, the fact that the parents of the child were not married at the time of 'conception' added a stigma to an already fragile family that may have further complicated their relationship with their extended families and home town folks. Still, amazingly, the couple stayed together and the baby was born into a uniquely blended family.

And, finally, the fact that the child finds refuge in a manger suggests that they did not have the resources to command a bet-

ter environment. But, in the end, they were surrounded by people who cared for, and supported them. They were strangers who become a good community for each other.

After a difficult year for so many of our fellow citizens, perhaps the back story of Christmas offers many lessons and challenges. We must be suspicious of unchecked executive power and hold officials accountable for policies that affect children and families. Second, those who are doing well economically should show greater compassion and generosity for those who have slipped into poverty through no fault of their own. At any moment, the economy could change and we could join them. Third, we should not indulge in the self-righteousness of stigmatizing people who have made bad decisions but are trying to make the best of it. They need our support, not our judgment. Finally, we all can become members of the good community that shows solidarity with those who feel rejected and outcast.

I did my shopping and enjoyed Christmas cheer and fellowship, but remembered that there's a lot more to that story than angels, wise men, and a sweet little baby boy.

Robert M. Franklin is Presidential Distinguished Professor of Social Ethics, Chandler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta.

Cheap Politicians

By: Thomas Sowell

I don't make a million dollars a year but I think every member of Congress should be paid at least that much. It's not because those turkeys in Washington deserve it. It's because we deserve a lot better people than we have in Congress.

The cost of paying every member of Congress a million dollars a year is absolutely trivial compared to the vast amounts of the taxpayers' money wasted by cheap politicians doing things to get themselves re-elected. You could pay every member of Congress a million dollars a year for a century for less money than it costs to run the Department of Agriculture for one year.

There is no point complaining about the ineptness, deception or corruption of government while refusing to do anything to change the incentives and constraints which lead to ineptness, deception and corruption.

You are not going to get the most highly skilled or intelligent people in the country, people with real-world experience, while offering them one-tenth or less of what such people can earn in the private sector.

A professor of economics at a leading university earns more than a member of Congress or a justice of the Supreme Court — and a surgeon earns at least twice as much as an economics professor, though still only about a tenth of what a successful corporate executive can make.

How many people in the top layer of their respective professions are going to sacrifice the future of their families — the ability to give their children the best education, the ability to have something to fall back on in

case of illness or tragedy, the ability to retire in comfort and with peace of mind — in order to go into politics?

A few people here and there may be willing to make such sacrifices for the good of the country but, by and large, you get what you pay for. What we are getting are cheap politicians are



Thomas Sowell

often a disgrace — and enormously costly as reckless spenders of the taxpayers' money in order to keep themselves getting re-elected.

Whatever the problems faced by the country, the number one priority of elected officials is to get re-elected. Nothing does that better than handing out money from the public treasury. Cheap politicians are expensive politicians, currently costing the taxpayers more than a trillion dollars a year.

If you have trouble visualizing what a trillion is, just remember that a trillion seconds ago, no one on this planet could read or write. A trillion seconds is thousands of years. That's the kind of money our cheap politicians are spending in order to keep getting re-elected.

Since re-election is the key, term limits are effective only in

so far as they get rid of re-election. If the limit is three terms, then two of those three terms will be spent trying to get re-elected — and the third term will be spent trying to get elected to some other office.

What term limits need to do is make it nearly impossible to spend a whole career in politics. One term per office and some period of years outside of politics before running again would be a good principle.

Many people today marvel when looking back at the leaders who created the United States of America. Most of the founders of this country had day jobs for years. They were not career politicians.

George Washington, who took pride in his self-control, lost his temper completely when someone told him that a decision he was going to make could cost him re-election as President. He blew up at the suggestion that he wanted to be President, rather than serving as a duty when he would rather be back home.

Power is such a dangerous thing that ideally it should be wielded by people who don't want to use power, who would rather be doing something else, but who are willing to serve a certain number of years as a one-time duty, preferably at the end of a career doing something else.

What about all the experience we would lose? Most of that is experience in creating appearances, posturing, rhetoric, and spin — in a word, deception. We need leaders with experience in the real world, not experience in the phony world of politics.

Thomas Sowell is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution in Stanford, California.

New Year's Resolution #37: Stop Being A Racist

By: Maria Luisa Tucker

There have been enough tense moments in 2005 to create a "Top 10 Race Stories of 2005" list. This imaginary list would undoubtedly include the disastrous Hurricane Katrina response, Kanye West's controversial declaration that "George Bush doesn't care about black

people," the riots in Paris, the riots in Australia, Rosa Parks' death, and the critically-acclaimed film *Crash*. I'm sure there are about 15 other big stories about racism, racists, or race relations that I'm missing. The point is, it's been a difficult year.

So what do we do after a dis-

astrous year that has left like the gods have picked open the scabs of the civil rights movement and left it bleeding again? Apparently, we make New Year's resolutions.

This week's U.S. News & World Report cover story, "50 Ways to Improve Your Life,"

New Year's Resolution Page 10

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

While you ponder that thought we would like to announce that Minority Opportunity News, Inc., formerly a Dallas based renaissance community tabloid, founded in 1991, has relocated to Plano, Texas and changed our name to MON-The Gazette. In addition to moving our offices to Plano, our editorial coverage has also shifted to encompass Dallas' Northern Corridor. The Northern Corridor is clearly the fastest growing region in Texas, if not in America. MON-The Gazette believes that the engine to continue this growth is the airport expansion in McKinney, which is the largest and most visible of many area opportunities. As always, and true to tradition, MON-The Gazette will be there carving a world of opportunity for those seeking to provide quality services. Should you dare to expand your quest for economic parity outside the southern region or just want to know what is going on up north?

Think of MON-The Gazette as your paper of opportunity!

MON-The Gazette formerly Minority Opportunity News, was founded July, 1991 by Jim Bochum and Thurman R. Jones

Tax Breaks Help Plano Lure Firms

Underwriters Labs, Texatronics Assisted; Countrywide Is Next Up

By Jake Bassell

The Plano City Council wrapped up 2005 by granting extended tax breaks to a pair of technical firms, the last of seven such abatements approved this year.

City officials say each will bring jobs and revenue to the city and help foster a local climate of innovation.

Council members unanimously voted to cut city property taxes in half for Underwriters Laboratories and Texatronics over the next eight to 10 years.

The value of the abatements depends on yearly appraisals.

But next year, the breaks

amount to roughly \$5,500 for Texatronics and \$2,300 for Underwriters Laboratories, to be shared by the companies and their landlords.

That's small potatoes compared with the blockbuster agreements that helped bring high-profile corporate campuses to Plano over the past two decades.

"In the last year or two, there haven't been any major, major ones," said John McGrane, the city's finance director. "There hasn't been a huge J.C. Penney or EDS."

Still, Mr. McGrane said, tax abatements remain an "essential tool" in attracting and retaining businesses.

"Most companies, when they narrow their list, you have to have some kind of a tax-abatement incentive," he said. "You stand a much better chance of making the first cut."

No one challenged the abatements.

Texatronics, which manufactures and tests circuit boards, would add about 150 jobs at a leased facility at 1601 Summit Ave., moving from Richardson. Its tax break averages 50 percent over eight years - 75 percent for the first two years, 50 percent for the next four years and 25 percent for the final two years.

Underwriters Laboratories, a global engineering company

that tests the safety of products, has already moved from Addison to its new field office on Plano Parkway. Its tax break is for 10 years at 50 percent.

In addition to 29 jobs, Underwriters will bring a stream of corporate clients to Plano, council member Scott Johnson said.

"They will have a number of technical people, engineers and customer companies coming to Plano," Mr. Johnson said. "I think it's a great opportunity for Plano to host them."

Other tax abatements granted by the council this year were for Rent-A-Center, Data Flow Systems, Creation Technology, Nationwide Rigging & Crating

and Heiland Electronics.

Next month, the council is scheduled to consider a tax abatement for California-based mortgage lender Countrywide Financial Corp., which this year announced plans to open

a 420,000-square-foot office and data center on Coit Road.

Sally Bane, executive director of the Plano Economic Development Board, has said the Countrywide office will add 1,500 jobs.

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SBA Hurricane Loans Surpass \$1.5 Billion; Agency Approves \$500 Million In Two Weeks

More than \$1.56 billion in U.S. Small Business Administration disaster assistance loans have been approved for almost 23,000 residents and business owners affected by the devastating hurricanes that struck earlier this year. Loan approvals are averaging approximately \$37 million per day in December, with \$500 million approved in two weeks time.

"The steps we have taken thus far to enhance our loan processing capabilities are beginning to pay off, and the SBA is approving disaster loans at a near-record pace, despite the substantial hurdles

caused by the damage and dislocation of these storms," said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto.

"While maintaining our responsibility to the taxpayer, we have reached the \$1.5 billion mark four months faster than we did after the Florida hurricanes of 2004," Barreto said.

"I have recently returned from my fifth trip to the Gulf Coast, and I can tell you that our people in the Gulf Coast areas are working tirelessly, with the greatest dedication and compassion to help those affected by this terrible disaster," Barreto said.

Barreto noted that only three

previous disasters in history led to more than \$1 billion in SBA loans: the Northridge earthquake in 1994; the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks; and the multiple hurricanes that struck Florida last year.

"The number of SBA staff devoted to responding to disasters has more than quadrupled, from 880 before Katrina struck to nearly 4,000 today," Barreto said. "And they are processing loans for the people of the Gulf Coast just as fast as they can. They have processed more than 119,000 applications and performed almost 118,000 site inspections - a normal year's worth in just three months."

The SBA has taken a number of steps to accelerate loan-processing and expand loan-processing capacity:

- Hiring and training nearly 3,100 employees
- Doubling the size of the loan processing center, and quadrupling the size of the call center
- Doubling access to the loan processing system
- Streamlining documentation for all business loans
- Simplifying approvals and processes for business loans under \$100,000
- Expediting approvals with credit scoring
- Creating a new system for tax verification with IRS

DFW Sets Standard For Minority Retailers; Over Half Of Airport's \$763 Million In Retail And Restaurant Revenues Generated By MWBE Firms

DFW International Airport's nationally-recognized Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) program generated more than \$431 million in retail business over the past three years, which accounts for over half of the Airport's total revenues for concessions in that time period. The results were part of a study of the economic and fiscal impact of DFW's concessionaires presented by the Center for Economic Development and Research from the University of North Texas, and announced during the 12th Annual Airports Economic Forum held at DFW's Grand Hyatt Hotel.

"The Airport's level of MWBE participation offers further proof that DFW has one of the most successful small business programs in the country," said Dr. Bernard L. Weinstein, co-author of the

study. "By ensuring that vendor and concessionaire opportunities are available to businesses that reflect the cultural and ethnic diversity of North Texas, DFW strengthens the region's capacity to grow and maintain its competitiveness in a global marketplace. A critical component of DFW International Airport becoming what many consider to be the 'economic engine' of the North Texas is a commitment to support small businesses."

Over the course of the three-year study period, retail sales at DFW generated a total of \$763 million in regional economic activity - boosting salaries, wages and benefits by more than \$283 million. DFW retailers produced \$85.6 million in revenue for state and local taxing entities and supported more than 3,800 North Texas jobs. The study shows DFW's concessions business has strengthened

despite the many challenges and disruptions Airport concessionaires faced during the last year, including Delta Air Lines' reduction of service. Remarkably, overall revenue sales increased \$2 million compared to a similar period in 2003 to 2004.

However, the focal point of study highlighted concessions revenue earned by minority- and women-owned business enterprises. MWBE businesses generated more than half of the total Airport retail revenue - bringing in more than \$287 million and supporting more than 2,200 Metroplex jobs. During the study period, MWBE concessionaires generated \$431 million in regional economic activity, adding \$157 million to regional labor income.

DFW's proven track record of developing and assisting MWBE firms was highlighted

by U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Dallas) in her keynote address at the Airports Economic Forum, themed "Airports: Developing Today's Businesses and Tomorrow's Future."

"As a senior member of the House Aviation Subcommittee, I have long advocated that the inclusion of minority- and women-owned businesses in airport contracting not only makes good business sense, but also serves as a catalyst in ensuring our nation's airports are reflective of the communities they service," said Rep. Johnson. "I am delighted to take part in the 12th Annual Airports Economic Forum sponsored by the Airport Minority Advisory Council (AMAC). For nearly two decades the Airport Minority Advisory Council has been at the forefront of national policy initiatives that impact MWBEs in airport contracting."

Calif. Jury Orders Wal-Mart To Pay \$172 Million

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. (WMTN) must pay \$172 million in damages and compensation to about 116,000 current and former employees for denying meal breaks, a California jury ruled on Thursday.

Concluding a class-action court challenge against the world's biggest retailer, the Alameda County, California jury held that Wal-Mart had

broken a state law on breaks for meals.

The ruling applies only to current and former Wal-Mart employees in California, said Chris Lebock, an attorney for the plaintiffs.

The four plaintiffs who launched the lawsuit in 2001 had claimed Wal-Mart had failed to pay hourly employees for missed or interrupted meal breaks.

The jury ruled Wal-Mart must pay \$57.2 million in compensation and \$115 million in punitive damages, said Jessica Grant, another lawyer for the plaintiffs.

"What was compelling for the jury was that we put a lot of evidence before them of memos by Wal-Mart from seven years ago that concluded they had been breaking the law," said Grant.

"Instead of taking steps to solve the problem, Wal-Mart concealed it."

Wal-Mart faces similar lawsuits in over 30 states, said Grant, whose firm is pressing two of the court challenges, one in Maryland and the other in Massachusetts, on behalf of 80,000 class-action plaintiffs.

Wal-Mart was not immediately available for comment.

departments aren't sold.

"We don't need one," said Plano Officer Carl Duke. "We have an agreement with the Dallas Police Department and DPS [Texas Department of Public Safety]. We don't use one that often."

Sgt. Kevin Perlich of Richardson said a helicopter would be cost prohibitive for his department.

"We're not as big as Dallas or Garland," he said. "It takes a lot of money and we could probably use it for other purposes, like K-9 units, that are more fitting to our size."

Garland Police Helicopter Page 1

members Randall Dunning, Barbara Chick and Mark Monroe were in the minority.

Opponents called a police helicopter a precariously funded luxury at a time when the department is so short-handed that officials recently considered transferring school resource officers to patrol to help handle calls for service.

That plan was shelved after it drew fire from parents.

"I don't believe the case has been made that we need it," Mr. Dunning said. "I think the case has been made that we

want it."

Bryan Bradford, Garland's senior managing director for research and budget, explained that the city would issue a certificate of obligation for \$2.5 million when it takes delivery of the helicopter, probably in December 2006.

The city would make payments of \$244,000 a year. After seven years, there would be a balloon payment of about \$1.1 million.

Police aviation officials stressed the upside.

"It's always beneficial," said Lt. Anthony Williams, com-

mander of the Dallas Police Department aviation unit. "One aircraft could do the work of 15 ground officers on surveillance."

If Garland takes delivery of a new American Eurocopter AS350B2 - a single-engine six-seater - in December 2006 as planned, it would become the only Dallas-Fort Worth area suburb with more than 100,000 people to have its own police helicopter.

The consultant Garland hired said that 11 California cities Garland's size or smaller have helicopters, and there are a handful in other states. But area

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Bay Area Singer Goapele Poised For Wider Exposure

With fans like Prince and Stevie Wonder, is it any surprise that Oakland, Calif.-based singer/songwriter Goapele is feeling pretty good about her prospects?

Her sophomore album, "Change It All," comes out Tuesday, and it will be her first release under a joint venture between Columbia/Sony Urban and her own Skyblaze Recordings.

Goapele independently released her first full-length album, "Even Closer," following an EP, "Closer." An expanded version of "Even Closer" was then rereleased through Sony Urban. The title has sold 147,000 copies, according to Nielsen SoundScan.

After performing music from that album for a couple of years, Goapele, who writes her own songs, built her Bay Area studio. She created the new project there.

"I could spend most of my days and months in there, unlike on the last album where we barely

had any budget at all and it was hard to get into studios," Goapele says. "I didn't feel like I got to do as much experimenting and take as much time" on the last album.

"The experimenting she did on 'Change It All' led to an eclectic



sound that ranges from vintage soul to edgy pop. Goapele, who counts Nina Simone and Bjork among her musical influences, worked with a bevy of producers, including Linda Perry. However, only two tracks feature guest spots from singer Dovele and newcomer Clyde Carson.

The singer held onto much of her independence and creative control even after signing with Sony Music. "It felt good to have the support of a major label, and I'm extremely grateful that my label Skyblaze is still involved," she says.

Although Goapele's album is coming out during a crowded fourth quarter, Sony Urban product manager David Belgrave does not believe she will have any trouble standing out. "She's her own best salesman," Belgrave says. "She's had a great deal of success because of people connecting with her."

To reach new fans, Goapele recently toured with Life Jennings, and Bay Area shows are planned. She has aligned with the Youth Aids Foundation and the Keep a Child Alive Foundation. Also, a Web site, changeitall.org, which promotes Goapele's musical themes of social/political activism and creativity, has been launched as a sideline campaign for her album.

Toni Braxton To Perform In Rose Bowl Parade

NAMM (the International Music Products Association) announced that the association will team with The Baby Einstein Company to present an interactive float entitled Making Music is Magical in the 117th annual Tournament of Roses Parade, to be held in Pasadena, Calif., on Monday, January 2, 2006.

GRAMMY Award-winning, platinum-record-selling singer Toni Braxton will perform live during the multi-network broadcast from the not-for-profit association's float, a ground-breaking event in the history of the 117-year-old parade. "The Making Music is Magical float, designed

to communicate NAMM's messages about the proven benefits of making music for people of all ages, will feature characters from Disney's new Little Einsteins television show.

Braxton's sixth studio album, LIBRA, features the hit song "Trippin'," which debuted at #1 on Billboard's R&B chart. The six-time GRAMMY-winning mother of two is known for the #1 smash "Unbreak My Heart" and other Top 5 hits such as "You Mean the World to Me" and "Another Sad Love Song." For more information about Toni Braxton, visit www.toni-online.com

Parade fans will not only hear the

magic of music, but those on the parade route can also participate as part of the float's live drum circle, a highlight of the Rose Parade that has become NAMM's signature each year, proving that anyone with any level of musical ability can participate in the joy and benefits of making music.



Blacktrospective 2005: A Look Back At The Best (And Worst) In Black Cinema

By: Kam Williams

2004 may have been the Year of the Fox (Jamie, that is) but 2005 has certainly turned out to be a breakout year for Terrence Howard. The versatile thespian received rave reviews for his powerful performances in a half-dozen feature films, most notably, *Crash*, *Hustle & Flow*, *Animal* and *Four Brothers*.

He also appeared in *Get Rich or Die Tryin'* and *The Salton*, and a couple of made-for-TV movies, *Lackawanna Blues* and *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Just like Jamie, he has a shot at landing Oscar nominations in both the lead (for *Hustle & Flow*) and supporting (for *Crash*) actor categories.

But Terrence wasn't the only brother or sister in the industry to distinguish him or herself, so far better or worse. So without further ado, in the interest of celebrating excellence and of eradicating mediocrity in movies, permit me to present Blacktrospective 2005, an annual report card which shines a light on black overachievement and underachievement in cinema.

Best Black Films of 2005

1. *Crash*
2. *Coach Carter*
3. *Hustle & Flow*
4. *Hitch*
5. *The Gospel*
6. *Four Brothers*
7. *G*
8. *The Reception*
9. *Guess Who*
10. *In the Mix*

Documentaries

1. *The Vanishing Black Male*
2. *Calypsos Dreams*
3. *The Untold Story of Emmett Till*
4. *Emmanuel's Gift*

5. *After Innocence*
6. *Darwin's Nightmare*
7. *Aristide and the Endless Revolution*
8. *Congo: White King, Red Rubber, Black Death*
9. *Mad Hot Ballroom*
10. *The Swenkas*

Best Actors

1. Terrence Howard (*Crash*, *Animal*, *Hustle & Flow*, *Four Brothers*)
2. Samuel L. Jackson (*Coach Carter*)
3. Clifton Powell (*The Gospel*)
4. Will Smith (*Hitch*)
5. Ving Rhames (*Animal*)
6. Larenz Tate (*Crash*)
7. Blair Underwood (*G*)
8. Boris Kodjoe (*The Gospel*)
9. Ludacris (*Crash*)
10. Bernie Mac (*Guess Who*)

- (Rebound)
9. Dianne Reeves (*Good Night, and Good Luck*)
10. Gabrielle Union (*The Honeyymooners*)

Best Directors

1. Hisani Dubose (*The Vanishing Black Male*)
2. Thomas Carter (*Coach Carter*)
3. Keith Beauchamp (*The Untold Story of Emmett Till*)
4. Rob Hardy (*The Gospel*)
5. John Singleton (*Four Brothers*)
6. Christopher Scott Cherot (*G*)
7. Kevin Rodney Sullivan (*Guess Who*)
8. Angela Robinson (*Herbie: Fully Loaded*)
9. Tim Story (*Fantastic Four*)
10. Billie Woodruff (*Beauty Shop*)

Worst Movies

1. *Get Rich or Die Tryin'*
2. *Roll Bounce*
3. *The Man*
4. *King's Ransom*
5. *Death of a Dynasty*

Worst Actors

1. 50 Cent (*Get Rich or Die Tryin'*)
2. *The Rock* (Be Cool)
3. *Bow Wow* (Roll Bounce)
4. *Ice Cube* (sXs 2, Are We There Yet)
5. *Chris Rock* (*The Longest Yard*)

Worst Actresses

1. Tyler Perry (*Diary of a Mad Black Woman*)
2. Regina Hall (*Miss Congeniality 2: King's Ransom*)
3. Rosario Dawson (*Sin City*)
4. Nia Long (*Are We There Yet*)
5. Kimberly Elise (*Diary of a Mad Black Woman*)



Thandie Newton

Best Actresses

1. Thandie Newton (*Crash*)
2. Wanda Sykes (*Monster-in-Law*)
3. Taraji Henson (*Hustle & Flow*, *Four Brothers*, *Animal*)
4. Paula Jai Parker (*Hustle & Flow*, *Animal*)
5. Tammy Gray (*The Gospel*)
6. Zoe Saldana (*Guess Who*)
7. Nona Gaye (*The Gospel*)
8. Wendy Raquel Robinson

TOP 10

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The Honorable Pat Evans,
Mayor for the City of Plano, TX



To Our Soldiers:

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The Honorable Gary Slagel,
Mayor of Richardson, TX



To Our Military Heroes:

You are proving that, "Bravery never goes out of fashion." Thank you for doing big things in a great way! I Thank You for Your Courage!

The Honorable Joe Chow,
Mayor for the Town of Addison, TX;
and CEO of May Dragon Restaurant in Dallas



Honoring Our Military Men and Women Abroad

"Your sacrifices to preserve freedom for all do not go unnoticed. Our thoughts, prayers and gratitude are always with you."

The Honorable Stephen Terrell,
Mayor of the City of Allen, TX

To Our Military Troops World Wide:



You are valuable to God. Not one sparrow will fall to the ground without the knowledge of God. Even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Stay as brave as you are. We are proud of you!

Deceasee Lisa Tarpley, Senior Pastor & Congregation Community World Outreach International Ministry
The Equipping Church,
"Serving Together To Transform Lives"
equippingchurch@sbglobal.net
972-986-5552 and 1-888-9-Outreach (Prayer Line)



To Our Beloved Son, CPO Terrance Dugan and all Military Personnel:

We are very proud; and thankful for your commitment to keep our country "Free and Strong." Continue the good work.

Herman & Esther Terry Dugan
Retired Soldier and Retired Teacher
from Fort Worth, Texas



To Our Soldiers:

May the angels in Heaven protect you and give you comfort and peace. We are proud of you.

Dr. Paul & Mrs. Ida McBride,
Senior Pastor
Friendship Baptist Church of The Colony

To Our Navy Reservist LaKeshia Oatman & All Our Military Men & Women World Wide:



You are someone special to God, and you are special to us. No one else has your ideas, your talents, your abilities, or your unique point of view. Thank you for your sacrifices and your courageous spirit.

Elder Tommy & Sis. Mattie Chalk, Sr.
Senior Pastor of Greater Davis Chapel Church of God in Christ in Garland, TX.
"The Vision Shall Come to Pass"
972-864-1047 and www.davischapel.org

To Our Brave Troopers:



Mrs. Price and I praise and thank God for you and your sacrifices in keeping America safe and free.

We are proud of you! Applause! Applause!

In your hour of need, call on God;
He will answer you.

Dr. Robert E. & Mrs. Deloris Price, Senior Pastor of
New Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Dallas, TX 75243
A Praying Church Family, "Watchmen on the Walls"
www.mzbc.org

To Our Military Force Everywhere:



We are safer in the United States because of you. I Am Proud of You! I Thank You!

Xavier Motley, CEO
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Choices Leadership Academy Salutes Our Heroes

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To Our Navy Man Abubakar Oluwale Betts and Our Other Military Heroes:

The children and I are very proud of your courage in keeping America, The Land of the Brave; and The Home of the Free. Thanks, we are proud of you!

Back (L to R): Elicka Monet, Mrs. Avery (Grandma), and Dawn Rae Antwanette. Front (L to R): Brandon Matthews (Twin B), Alexis Nwome, and Bryan Michael (Twin A)

Mrs. Eloyd (Grandma) Demus Avery and the children, Dallas, TX 75232

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We are thankful for the heroic sacrifices made by the brave men and women who serve and protect our country. May God be with you and bring you home safely.

J. Renee (Carrollton, TX) jreneec.com

J. Renee!
"Never Be Understated"

God bless our soldiers everywhere!

We are thankful for your commitment to keep our country free and strong. We are proud of you!

Mr. Eugene & Mrs. Phenia Tinner; and Beverly, Renee, Rebecca, Regina, Reginald (Reggie) and Wilford (Deak) Tinner in Hamilton Park, Dallas, TX 75243-3638

"Speaking to Nations..."



Dear Soldiers:

Thank you for your courage in helping to keep America free and strong. Continue to, "Trust God, and believe in yourself!"

Does your cell phone company pay you to talk? If not, we will! Call 972-231-0071 and ask me how. We will pay you \$400 a month to talk! **EXTRA INCOME** Robert Beachum, Representative

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Stand Tall Soldiers!

The life you lead now will determine the life you'll lead later. You are doing a great job and we are proud of you. But most of all... God knows all about you. Don't forget to pray. He hears you.

A Fellow Soldier, Rosie McGee
U.S. Navy - Retired
CEO, New Next Generation
Newnextgen2@aol.com

To Our Mom and Special Soldier, Navy Reservist LaKeshia Oatman, and Our Other Great Military Heroes:



The Gift of Peace Group
Sister LaKeshia Oatman, Special Soldier, "Daughters of Peace"
Mother's Group: Beverly, LaKeshia, and Robert J. Oatman
Mother's Group: Beverly, LaKeshia, and Robert J. Oatman
Mother's Group: Beverly, LaKeshia, and Robert J. Oatman
Mother's Group: Beverly, LaKeshia, and Robert J. Oatman

We are proud of you; say we are proud of you! We salute you for your outstanding courage and love of our country. We pray for your safe return.

Greater Davis Chapel COGIC
"The Vision Shall Come to Pass"
Senior Pastor:
Elder Tommy & Sister Mattie Chalk, Sr.
1941 Burke Street • Garland, TX 75040
972-864-1047

God Bless Our Soldiers As You Continue to Fight For Our Freedom and Peace.



"Let all Your enemies die this way, Lord! But all the people who love you be as strong as the rising sun!" Then there was peace in the land for forty years... Judges 5:32

Remember Brave Soldier, for your Military Service you are entitled to a VA Home Loan; let us help you receive this benefit.

Call 972-424-0206 or visit Website: LogiHerb.maxxis200.com and leave the rest to us.

MFC Williams (Retired) & Cris Gilbert
(TX Distinguished Civilian Mediator in Plano, TX; and serving the Dallas Metroplex)



To: America's Brave From: America's Proud

DFW International Airport salutes and thanks all of the men and women serving our country. Every day, our team of dedicated community leaders, volunteers, Airport Ambassadors and personnel greet Rest and Recuperation (R&R) flights from Iraq and Afghanistan, and our Chaplains and USO assist with daily departures. We also salute and thank all of our military families and friends who are a critical part of the team.

For more information on having your group volunteer to meet flights: North Texas Commission, 972-621-0400, Liz Samuels: liz@ntc-dfw.org



Dear Soldiers:

We thank God for you. We salute You! We appreciate you for your willingness to sacrifice in helping to keep our country strong.

Dr. Reynolds & Maury Wood, Founder/Pastor
Trinity Prayer Chapel in McKinney, TX 75069
www.trinityprayerchapel.org
Reynolds & Wood Ministries, Founder/CEO
<http://drreynoldswood.org>



To Our Military Heroes:

On behalf of my husband, the late Professor John Freeman Hightower, "Who always sought to make the world a better place," and in his precious memory, I thank you for choosing to serve our great country. I will continue to salute and pray for you.

Dr. Maury Wood Hightower, Co-Founder/Office Chairman
The John Freeman Hightower Foundation and FLL
Member of John Freeman Hightower
Elementary School in Plano, Texas

To Our Courageous Soldiers:

Carlton, Jr.; Chris, and Jonathan Reid; Jim Holland, III; and all our brave troops, we thank you for your service to our country. May God continue to protect you and to bless you and your families.

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From One Soldier to Another:

You stood up, reported for duty, and you are counted. For that we are proud of you! Thanks!

Billy & Neta Heath, President
North Dallas, Texas, Collin Counties (NDDC)
Prairie View (JCM) University Alumni Chapter,
Dallas, TX 75243



To our military personnel:
Rest in God's peace and keep your faith in Him. We thank you for all that you have done. We appreciate you!

Pastors Sam & Gloria Fenceroy,
Mt. Olive Church of Plano
(MOCOP)
972-671-5511
www.mocop.org

Saluting Our Own When It Was Time, They Went To War.

By Paul Bailey
They had no choice in the matter since they were volunteers in the U.S. Military. They had no input regarding policy, if they had opinions, those opinions didn't matter. They were given orders to fight, and they simply carried out those orders.

For all the rhetoric on both sides of the debate, for all of the protests stating why the war is wrong or why we must stay in Iraq-the one enduring constant is the U.S. Troops

that are representing this country abroad. MON-The Gazette would like to express our most heartfelt gratitude in saluting those serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

What has been lost in the furor over the Iraq war is the fact that we have a right to voice our opinion. We have a right to freely say whatever we want about any topic we choose. We have a right to criticize our elected leaders, and

we have a right to vote those leaders out of office if we are inclined. We have a right to

liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. What has become buried in all the debate and discussions is that we have these rights because the extreme sacrifices of those in our military.

Officially, 2,174 U.S. Military personnel have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, and over 14,000 have been wounded.

WE SUPPORT OUR TROOPS



ed. Statistics can never tell us anything about those soldiers. Those troops, and the ones still fighting, are our people. They are soldiers, sailors, reservists and National Guard troops. They are our brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, aunts and uncles. They should be honored. They deserve to be honored.

In the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on American soil, our military answered the call to take the fight to Iran and Afghanistan. The horror of 9/11 demonstrated that we cannot take our past peace and prosperity for granted, something every soldier already knows. They know that freedom isn't free and that there is a price to be paid for liberty.

We must all resolve to thank and support all our troops for their outstanding and selfless service to our country. Not just on Memorial Day or Veteran's Day-but every day. We must never forget those that pay the price physically and emotionally to keep us safe and protect our rights. We must also thank the military families that have paid a price for freedom. We must thank them and support them.

As the country splits itself over the necessity of war, let's remember who is paying a price that is greater than just dollars. Let's salute the young, the valiant and the brave soldiers who do what so many of would not-serve our country.

To Our Military Men and Women Everywhere:



Donald & Mrs. Dolly Rhodes, Retired Soldier
Little Rock, Arkansas *2211

We thank you for your bravery and sacrifices in keeping America free and strong. May God supply you with His peace and bring you safely back home to your loved ones. Our prayers are with you. We are proud of you.



To Our Son, Major Duane Henderson and all of our wonderful soldiers who give so much to protect our fellow Americans at home and those abroad. We are proud of you and we thank you.

Retired LTC Isaiah Henderson and Queen Henderson Consulting Services
Carrollton, TX *5006



Terry Dugan
Swainport, Texas *4000

To My Brave Nephew,
CPO Terrance Dugan and all our Military Heroes:

How proud I am of you and what you are standing for, our freedom, and the privileges that we have as Americans. I am praying for your safe return.

With Love and God's Blessings
Uncle R.B. Levy,
Port Arthur, Texas

To Our Military Heroes:



We express our thankfulness and appreciation for your unselfish, grateful, and devoted service to America.

"May God Bless and Keep You Always."

Charles & Lillie Lawrence
U.S.R. Retired
Carrollton, TX *5007

To Our Men and Women of The Military



MC DATA SOLUTIONS
Mr. Michael Chien, CEO
(1111) America's Low Cost IT Solution Provider

No man that warrenth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please Him who hath dropt him to be a soldier.

Matthew 23:4

THANKS AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL

We Pray For Our Military Personnel!

"We Thank You Lord, for the men and women of our Armed Forces. Protect them as they protect us. Defend them as they defend us. Encourage and strengthen their spirits, souls, and bodies as they perform their duties. Father God, We Thank You for the dedication, faith, and fortitude of our military personnel everywhere. We ask that you give our Military Your favor all over this world."

In the Blessed Name of Jesus, Amen
Pastor Charles S. Wattleby
And

The Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church Family
1108 Wilcox Street, McKinney, TX 75069
972-542-6178
www.saintmarkbhc.com



To Our Soldiers

We thank GOD for you and we appreciate the sacrifice and the commitment you have made for our country
GOD Bless You!

Robert & Madelon Qualls

To Our Distinguished Heroes:



We are especially proud of you and your great sacrifice to our country. We pray for "your inner peace" and God's rich blessings on you and your family. Thank you for caring, thank you for your willingness to take a stand for all of us. When you get discouraged as we will all do at times, look to God. He is your source of strength.

Homer and Joyce Fagan; Soldier, Retired
Carrollton, TX *5007



In Loving Memory Of Our Mother
Mrs. Annie Heads Rainwater

To Our Troops: Just as Mother Rainwater was "A Torchbearer For Justice and Freedom!" we applaud you for your bravery and helping to keep America safe and free. Thank You!

Rev. Willie & Juanita Rainwater
from Carrollton, TX *5006

As a Vietnam Veteran, I salute each man and woman standing on the battlefield. I pray that God will keep you in His arms of protection.

Rev. James E. & Mrs. Clarence Jenkins, Sr.
Assistant Pastor/Church Business Administrator
Friendship Baptist Church of The Colony



Pastor Louis & First Lady Audrey Laureus
Little Rock Baptist Church in Fortney, TX
www.fortney.com (Internet Broadcast)
(Mon - Fri 9-12 Noon)

To Our Troopers:

Stay steadfast in God's Word, that He will give you peace and comfort, if your mind stays on Him. Thank You for your sacrifices!



To Our Military Personnel

We greatly appreciate the service that you are providing for our country. We love you and may "GOD BLESS YOU"

Pastor Rickie G. Rush
The Inspiring Body of Christ Church



To Our Brave Soldiers: God bless you and your families. My personal and church families are thankful for your courage to keep America safe and strong. We pray for you daily that God will keep you in His care.

He blessed and hold on to God's unchanging hands!

Rev. Linda S. Carey, Senior Pastor And
Rev. Norris D. Carey,
Layman Chapel CME Church
1901 Morris Street • Dallas, TX *75212
214-637-5058 (Church Office)



Hill Chapel CME Church

Rev. Clarence J. Ford, Jr. Pastor
1111 Avenue I • Plano, TX *75074
972-423-4090

To Our Military Heroes: You can rely on God's Word to give you comfort when you call on Him. He alone died for you. You are valuable to Him; and to us. Thank you for your sacrifices.



Dear U. S. Soldiers:

I thank you! I thank my mother (Ms. Brenda McDaniel), and most of all I thank God! Because of you, I am attending college in a FREE country. I appreciate you!

Brenda McDaniel-Stidman
Freshman Student •
Texas A&M University (TAMU)
in College Station



To Our Men & Women in Uniform: You are a great blessing to all Americans. Thank you for your sacrifices. Thank you for choosing to serve. We salute you and we pray for you and your families.

Dr. Jerome L. McNeil Jr. Senior Pastor
Christian Chapel CME Church Temple of Faith
14129 West Road • Dallas, TX *75244
Kemplo@faith.cmea.org (Email)



Pastor Philip & First Lady Elizabeth White,
Love Chapel Church of God in Christ
2001 Morris Street • Dallas, TX *75212
214-638-1857 -- God Cares For You!

To Our Soldiers:

I am praying mightily for you; asking God to bring you safely home. Thank you for your sacrifices!



To Our Soldiers:

May the good Lord bless and keep you; put His loving arms around you, and give you peace at this time in your life.

Henry Bryant, Jr., Financial Consultant
ANA Advisors, LLC in Plano, TX
972-501-1108
www.henrybryant.com



To Our Soldiers:

You are the greatest because you chose to serve. We salute and pray for you daily. "But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant." (Matthew 23:11)

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To Our Soldiers:

I am praying mightily for you; asking God to bring you safely home. Thank you for your sacrifices!

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To Our Military Men & Women:

We are not underestimating the sacrifice that you and your families are making for our country. It is because of you, we are proud to be an American in a free country.

Ray & Cheryl Luckey
Dallas, TX *75216



To Our Troops:

Mrs. Stafford and I thank God for you and your sacrifices for our country. Put your trust in God; He will not fail you!

Pastor WL & Mrs. Tasha Stafford
Friendship Baptist Church of Allen, TX
Retired Captain, U.S. Army
pastorstafford@fbcfallen.org



To Our Military Men & Women:

We enjoy our freedoms because of the sacrifices that you and your families are making. Thank you for all that you do. We are proud of you!

Earl and Barbara Simpkins,
Plano, Texas

Texans-Can! Car For Kids Program Conducting 24-Hour Telephone Marathon

Texans Can! announced today the beginning of a 24-hour telephone marathon through which individuals can donate their vehicles to help kids get a second chance at an education, and receive a 2005 tax write off. Phone banks will be operated 24 hours a day through midnight December 31. Donated cars, trucks, boats and RVs will be sold at local auctions to help generate much-needed funds to support Texans Can! The telephone marathon number is 866-835-5437.

"With the busy holiday season underway, we wanted to make it easy for folks to donate their vehicles to help at-risk youth with a second chance for an education," said Grant East, founder and president emeritus of Texans Can!. "We have found that many caring citizens will donate their vehicles at year's end if the process is convenient. During this time last year, more than 5,000 vehicles were donated."

In addition to calling in, vehicle donations can be made online at www.TexasCars.org. Either way, Texans Can! will pick up the vehicle at no cost. However, the donation must be made by midnight December 31 in order for the donor to receive a 2005 tax write off.

For donors who drive in their donations, they will receive a free genuine leather jacket valued at over \$100 as a show of appreciation for supporting Texans Can!. Again, the number to call is 866-835-5437. Celebrating 20 years of serving academically at-risk youth, Texans Can! is a unique network of 10 public schools of choice throughout Texas. Using our three core values: discipline in private, reward in public; rules without relationships breed rebellion and behavior is based on need, more than 7,000 students a year are getting a second chance at life. 78% of our graduates plan on going on to post-secondary education. Visit our website for more information at WWW.TEXANSCAN.ORG where you can donate a car, boat or plane! Our Mission Statement is to provide a second chance for at-risk youth and their families to achieve economic independence and hope for a better life through relationship-based education and training.



ForKids.org. Either way, Texans Can! will pick up the vehicle at no cost. However, the donation

For donors who drive in their donations, they will receive a free genuine leather jacket val-

CCCCD Hosts Biennial County Economic Summit

Mark the calendar because the 2006 Collin County Economic Summit is coming.

"Orchestrating Our Future" will feature a number of presentations and breakout sessions led by the area's foremost economic experts from 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 1, at Collin County Community College's Spring Creek Campus Conference Center, 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway in Plano.

The luncheon keynote speaker for this year's event is Angelou Angelou, the founder and CEO of Angelou Economics in Austin. Joseph C. Juarez, regional administrator of the Employment and Training Administration in Dallas, will serve as the afternoon keynote.

Angelou has more than 20 years experience in economic development and site selection. He is regarded as the chief archi-

tect of Austin as a high-tech hub for companies.

As the regional administrator, Juarez is responsible for providing leadership, guidance and overseeing all Employment and Training programs and initiatives, including the Unemployment Insurance, State Employment Service and Workforce Investment Act programs throughout the region, which includes the States of Arkansas, Colorado, Louisiana, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Wyoming and Utah.

This year's breakout sessions evidence the broad view that North Texas is taking in an ever-expanding global economy.

Breakout sessions will include:

- Harmonious Regionalism/Future of North Texas
- Composing the Workforce of the Future

- Future Compositions for Aging Communities
- Re-orchestrating the Healthcare Workforce for 2012
- Transportation/Logistics Update

- Global Perspectives
- Small Business: Fine Tuning for Future Growth

The 2006 Economic Summit is co-hosted by Collin County, Inside Collin County Business, Collin County Community College District and the Allen, Frisco, McKinney, Plano, Richardson and Rockwall chambers of commerce and economic development corporations.

Early bird registration is \$40 through Friday, Jan. 20. After Jan. 20, the cost is \$60. For more information or to register, call 972.612.2425.

For additional information, visit the Economic Summit website.

Letstalkhair.Com Announces Campaign For The Best Tressed College Students

Let's Talk Hair, LLC isn't looking for what's inside the heads of students but rather what's on it. The online hair care community for women of color will launch a national campaign across college campuses to find out which student body makes the dean's list when it comes to having the healthiest heads of hair.

The campaign will put colleges head to head - literally. Students from an accredited college or university can enter the contest simply by snapping a picture of themselves or posing with other students showing off their gorgeous manes. All qualifying photos will be displayed on the web site (www.LetsTalkHair.com). Members of the

online community will then vote on the school with the hottest heads and put the rumors to rest when it comes to college reputations. The winner(s) will be judged on shine, body, and overall care of the hair from root to ends. The Best Tressed Campus will be announced on March 15, 2006.

The contest is an effort by the online hair care community to educate young women on how to care for their hair without resorting to unhealthy habits such as excessive heat, synthetic hair, or harmful chemicals.

Contestants should send photos to friends@letstalkhair.com or P.O. Box 650236, Sterling, VA 20165. Full eligibility will be based on completion of a photo release and following rules and

guidelines. A copy of the waiver can be obtained by emailing friends@letstalkhair.com. Entries must be received by February 14, 2006 to qualify. Visit www.LetsTalkHair.com for more information, rules and guidelines.



Tiffani Whitehead founder of Let'sTalkHair.com

Mesquite NAACP Scholarships

The Mesquite NAACP has a full tuition scholarship valued at \$6700.00 donated by Billie Culver, Owner/Direct of Metroplex Beauty School to give to the winner of an Essay Contest. The winner must remain a full time student and complete the 1500 hours for cosmetology. They must attend school regularly and be there on Saturdays. The winner is still

responsible for payment of their kit valued at \$378.88.

Essay Rules:

1. Two page double spaced Essay
2. Must be 18 to 25 years old
3. Male or Female
4. High School Diploma or GED

5. Winner of Scholarship must become member of Mesquite Branch NAACP

6. Essay must be mailed emailed on or before December 31 in order to Start Class January 3, 2006

Essay Theme:
"How Cosmetology has benefited African Americans through the years and why it is your Career choice."

Essay can be emailed to denise_upchurch@yahoo.com or mailed to Mesquite NAACP P.O. Box 851043, 75185.



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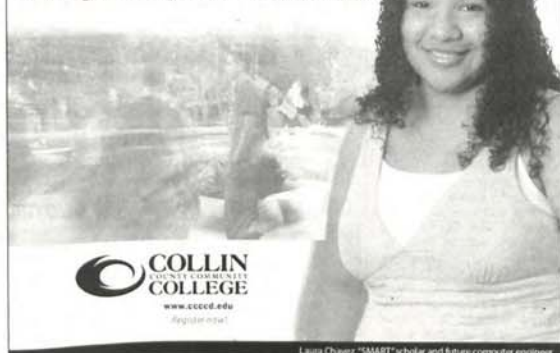
Free DART passes to students registering for at least 6 credit hours a semester. Continuing education students with at least 96 contact hours in a single quarter also eligible.

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Laura Chavez, "SMART" scholar and future computer engineer

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Dozens Indicted In Alleged Katrina Scam

Fifty-nine people have been indicted in a scam to pocket Red Cross hurricane relief funds and more indictments are expected, according to Justice Department officials.

Authorities said 22 people working for a Red Cross contractor at a call center in Bakersfield, California, filed false claims, and by involving family members and friends, brought the number of people under indictment to 49.

"I'm really surprised people in this day and time would try to take advantage of the system that's intended to help those in need," said Jackie Smith, whose brother-in-law was named in the indictment on charges of wire fraud.

Officials said they planned to widen the investigation.

"Our investigation is going to be expanded to include other parts of California and other states, and there are thousands of claims made in other states," FBI Special Agent Javier Colon

said. McGregor Scott, U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of California, said about \$200,000 in lost funds had been traced to the 49 people indicted, and that the total is expected to reach between \$300,000 and \$400,000.

"We anticipate in the coming weeks and months that we will indict a large number of people, perhaps even doubling the present number," Scott said.

Scott said most of the indictments involve charges of wire fraud, and the possible penalties for convictions will depend on the degree to which the person was involved in the scam, the amount of money the suspect netted and their prior criminal record.

"We are going to ensure that the courts order restitution in the full amounts that were stolen from good-hearted American citizens who were simply donating to the Red Cross to help their fellow citizens in a time of

need," Scott said.

The Bakersfield claim center processed calls from up to 16,000 people a day who were scattered across the country after Hurricane Katrina devastated parts of the Gulf Coast in August.

Red Cross workers said that because of the volume of calls, people were asked to provide only their name, address and birth date.

Call center agents would then have to confirm and approve those details before issuing a claim number, so the evacuees could receive payment at local Western Union outlets — \$360 for individuals and more than \$1,500 for families.

Officials accuse the contract workers under indictment of tapping into the system by creat-

ing fake accounts.

Suspicious Red Cross employees called the FBI to investigate after an audit found a disproportionate number of disbursements for evacuees going to the Bakersfield region, thousands of miles away from the area ravaged by Katrina.

One Western Union store manager said an employee grew suspicious when the same per-



Red Cross workers assisting Hurricane Katrina victims

son came in three times to collect money.

"She was the one who found out," he said. "She contacted the authorities."

Assistant U.S. attorney Jonathan Conklin told CNN that scams are a fact of life, even in such dire circumstances as the wake of Katrina.

"Unfortunately, the fraud schemes are ever-present, and in this case, while we hoped no one would be willing to take advantage of the situation, people have," Conklin said.

Colon said he was surprised by the number of confessions authorities obtained.

"In many cases they've openly admitted that they have never been to the state of Louisiana and they were never entitled to the money," Colon said.

The Red Cross had safeguards in place after Katrina, but "they were not fully adequate," spokesman Steve Cooper said.

He told CNN that the group was aware after Katrina that "there was some small possibility of fraud" in the system for distributing funds.

"We put the appropriate safe-

guards in place as best we could," Cooper said. "But we made the decision to take the risk in order to help as many people as possible."

Cooper said that about 4,000 cases of assistance out of 1.4 million were being investigated, involving about \$400,000 of the \$1.4 billion the Red Cross distributed.

Both figures represented a "small percentage" of the totals, he said.

The Red Cross said it is devising new systems with the help of the FBI and Secret Service so that such fraud will be easier to detect in the future.

"Should we ever find ourselves with a disaster of the scope and complexity of a Hurricane Katrina," Cooper said, "the American public can continue its high level of confidence that the American Red Cross will protect the funds that we receive and will properly distribute those."

Poorer Black Women Going Without Pap Smears

Underserved Neighborhoods May Have Fewer Health Resources, Experts Say.



By: Steven Reinberg
Black women who live in poor neighborhoods are less likely to be screened for cervical cancer than women living

in more affluent areas, researchers find.

"The reason for the lower rate of screening isn't clear, and the researchers note that other factors linked to lower screening rates, such as older age or lower education, didn't seem to play a role."

"Even among women who were professionals or who were educated, they, too, had decreased screening if they lived in neighborhoods with high poverty," said study author Getanjal Dabral Datta, a postgraduate fellow at the Harvard School of Public Health.

The report appears in the Feb. 1 issue of *Cancer*.

In their study, Datta and her colleagues focused on the con-

nection between socioeconomic factors and how they affected cervical cancer screening, most notably the Pap smear. They collected data on more than 40,000 black women from across the United States. These women all participated in the Black Women's Health Study of Boston University and Howard University.

Women living in communities where at least 20 percent of families lived below the poverty level were significantly less likely to be get regular Pap tests, compared with women living in areas where only 5 percent of the population lived below the poverty line.

The reason for the trend remains unclear. "We can specu-

late that deprived neighborhoods are just that, deprived," Datta said. "It might be that women do not have access to transportation, or perhaps they can't get day care. But all of that is just speculation at this point," she said.

She believes the same phenomenon might be true for other types of screening, such as mammography and cardiovascular testing.

To ensure that women in these communities get Pap tests, there has to be a concentrated effort to reach them, Datta said. "There needs to be a focus on high poverty neighborhoods," she said. "We need to think of people's socioeconomic context when it comes to health behav-

iors."

One expert thinks that access to medical care may be the reason for these findings, and the reason that more black women die from cervical cancer than white women.

"African-American women have twice the mortality rate from cervical cancer as white women," noted Elizabeth Ward, the director of cancer surveillance at the American Cancer Society. "Researchers need to investigate how those differences are related to socioeconomic status."

Another expert said this screening "gap" is costing lives unnecessarily.

"While this finding is not surprising, it is noteworthy just the

same," said Dr. David L. Katz, an associate professor of public health and director of the Prevention Research Center at Yale University School of Medicine.

"No one should die of cervical cancer, because a simple screening test reliably finds the condition in its earliest stages when cure is almost universally achievable," Katz said. "Yet, several thousand deaths from this cancer occur each year in the U.S."

Identifying disparities and the toll they exact is the easy part, Katz noted. "Eliminating such disparities is the hard part," he said. "But it's a job that must be done, for lives are very clearly on the line."

New Year's Resolution Page 1
Provides this advice in New Year's resolution suggestion #17: stop being racist. Along with buying better light bulbs, doing more push-ups, and swearing off ATM fees, the magazine says you should resolve not to "race to racial judgments" and instead "assess your own potential biases before confrontation happens."

This strikes me as a well-intentioned but strange and inappropriate framing for a dis-

cussion of racism. Unfortunately, starting with the assumption that everyone holds racist or biased views is probably accurate.

A Harvard study mentioned in the article allows people to measure their own unconscious biases regarding race and skin tone, among other things. The study is part of Project Implicit, which allows anyone, anywhere to take Implicit Association Tests that measure "conscious and unconscious preferences for over 90 different topics ranging

from pets to political issues, ethnic groups to sports teams, and entertainers to styles of music." (visit www.implicit.harvard.edu to take a 10-minute demonstration test.)

I took the Implicit Association Test for skin tone, which presented me with a series of words alongside a rainbow of computer-generated faces. Through a series of four exercises, the test supposedly measures the test-taker's negative or positive associations relating to dark-skinned versus light-skinned people.

Like most test-takers, I was judged to have a slight implicit preference for the light-skinned people. However, in the race test, which does the same thing with decidedly Euro-white and African-American faces, I was judged to have an implicit preference for Black people. I'm not sure what to make of this self-discovery, though I do think the online test is a useful tool for much-needed introspection and discussion.

Some of 2005's racially-tense events have renewed closeted

discussions about race and inspired us to be more open to this sensitive but important topic. The hurricane made many Americans (but unfortunately not its politicians) rethink the relationship between poverty and race; the Crash opened doors for friends and family members to talk about reasons and consequences of racism. The trick is to make sure that in all this talking, we are breaking down — rather than building up — racist attitudes and beliefs.

Thankfully, there is a positive

note to begin 2006: On a generational level, there is some evidence that shows Americans slowly but surely retiring their racist attitudes. A study released by the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding in November showed that 18- to 34-year-olds were more "sympathetic or sensitized to issues surrounding race and ethnic demographic changes."

Maria Luisa Tucker is a staff writer at AlterNet and associate editor of the Columbia Journal of American Studies.

New Orleans Shooting Page 1
with a cloth and continued walking toward an officer and threatening him, authorities said.

"Evidently, the pepper spray had no effect," Adams said.

The 38-year-old man's name was not immediately released.

A businessman had called police after a confrontation with the victim in the Lower Garden District west of downtown. The shooting happened on St. Charles Avenue, the thoroughfare famous for its historic green streetcars and Mardi Gras parades.

A well-known local defense

attorney, Robert Jenkins, said he saw the events leading up to the shooting as he left a restaurant.

"It was a slow-moving procession," Jenkins said Tuesday. "He was backing up and the police kept telling him to drop the knife, but he refused. They hit him with a host of pepper spray and he still doesn't go down. He just wipes his face like it's nothing."

Jenkins did not see the shooting because the people moved out of his line of sight, but said the man was "out of control and aggressive," and said police showed great restraint in this case.

Phin Percy videotaped a portion of the confrontation before

the shooting from his father's second-story apartment. "The cops kept telling him 'Lay down! Lay down!' This went on for about three minutes," he said.

While he was running down stairs, Percy said, he heard numerous shots. By the time he ran out the door, many more officers had arrived and the body was lying against a car.

When he reviewed his videotape, Percy said, he saw a small knife in the man's hand. The tape, broadcast nationally, appears to show about a dozen officers taking part in the confrontation.

Trey Brokaw, a patron at a nearby bar, said he saw the vic-

tim with a knife in his hand shortly before the shooting. "I didn't see anyone near him," Brokaw said. "It didn't seem like anyone was going to get hurt to me."

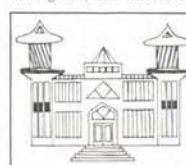
But Brokaw said he did not see what happened in the final moments before the shots rang out.

It was the first shooting of any kind involving a New Orleans officer since the city was officially reopened following Hurricane Katrina's devastation four months ago, Adams said.

Since the storm, the police department has struggled to rebuild its ranks and address questions about officers' con-

duct. Hundreds of officers left the city without permission in the days after the storm. There were also allegations of theft and looting by officers, still under investigation, and the video-

taped beating of a retired teacher by police in the French Quarter that led to the firing of two officers. The police chief resigned a month after the storm.



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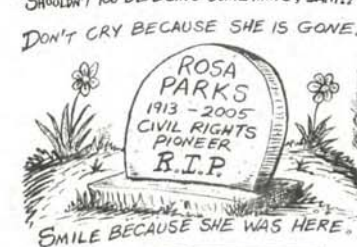
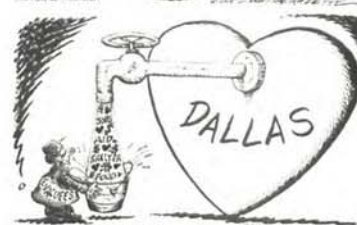
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Fewer African-Americans Enlisting In The Military

By Drew Brown
Fewer African-Americans are joining the Army, a trend likely to make it harder to keep the all-volunteer military at full strength.

The percentage of African-Americans among all those who signed up for active-duty Army service fell from 24 percent in 2000 to 14 percent in 2005, according to Army statistics. That's the lowest percentage since 1973, when the draft ended and the all-volunteer military began, say David R. Segal and Mady Wechsler Segal, sociologists with the University of Maryland's Center for Research on Military Organization.

In the past, African-Americans have enlisted at higher rates than their overall percentage of the U.S. population, which was 12.9 percent in the 2000 census.

In 1974, blacks made up 27 percent of new Army recruits and 21 percent of new Marine recruits, 16 percent of Air Force enlistees and 10 percent of Navy enlistees, according to the study.

S. Douglas Smith, a spokesman for Army Recruiting Command at Fort Knox, Ky.,

pointed out that recruiting is down, not just for African-Americans, but for all groups. This year, the Army missed its recruiting goal by more than 6,600 new enlistees, the first time it has missed an annual



recruiting target since 1999.

Smith said the improving economy is mostly to blame for the recruiting slump, but the war also has been a factor, he said, "and the public perception that this is a risky time to be a soldier."

Smith said the Army has been focusing recruiting efforts more on Hispanics and Asian-Americans and other minorities

in recent years. In fiscal year 2001, Hispanics made up 10.5 percent of active-duty Army recruits. In fiscal year 2005, they comprised 13.2 percent of active-duty recruits, according to Army statistics, slightly higher than their overall percentage in the U.S. population of 12.5 percent. The percentage of Asian recruits rose from 2.6 percent in fiscal year 2001 to 4.1 percent in fiscal year 2005, about on par with their percentage of the U.S. population.

"We want the Army to be reflective of the nation," Smith said.

The Army appealed to blacks for decades because they saw it as one of the most integrated institutions in America, said Charles Moskos, a sociologist at Northwestern University who specializes in military affairs.

Eventually, blacks made up one-third of all enlisted women and one-fifth of men, including many senior noncommissioned officers.

"It's been the only institution in America where whites have been routinely bossed around by blacks because many of your

(non-commissioned officers) are black," Moskos said.

According to the Segal study, black enlistments peaked at 28 percent in 1979 and later hovered at around 20 percent until they began to drop in 2000.

Experts looking for reasons for the decline cite these factors:

-Better economic and educational opportunities.

-The high rate of incarceration among young black males. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, about 8.4 percent of all black males in the United States between 25 and 29 were in a state or federal prison last year, compared with 2.5 percent of Hispanics and 1.2 percent of whites in the same age group.

-An erroneous belief, dating back to the Vietnam War, that blacks and other minorities suffer a disproportionate share of combat casualties.

Statistics don't bear out those perceptions. According to independent researchers with Iraq Coalition Casualty Count, a Web site that tracks casualty

Fewer In Military Page 13

Iraqis March Page 1

Sheik Mahmoud al-Sumaidai of the Association of Muslim Scholars, a major Sunni clerical group, told followers during Friday prayers at Baghdad's Umm al-Qura mosque that they were "living a conspiracy built on lies and forgery."

"You have to be ready during these hard times and combat forgeries and lies for the sake of Islam," he said.

The U.S. military said two soldiers were killed when their vehicle struck a roadside bomb in Baghdad Friday. No other details were released. At least 2,163 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

Sudanese Foreign Ministry spokesman Jamal Mohammed Ibrahim said that among the six Sudanese nationals kidnapped Friday were four employees at the country's diplomatic mission in Baghdad, including a diplomat identified as Abdel Moneam Mohammad Tom.

One employee managed to call the Sudanese mission briefly on his cell phone immediately after the kidnapping and talk to the charge d'affaires, Ibrahim said in a telephone call to The Associated Press in Cairo. But so far there had been no contact with the kidnappers, he said.

"We don't know who they are or what their demands are," he said.

Last month, a top adviser to Sudan's president joined the Arab League's secretary general

in arranging an Iraqi reconciliation conference in Cairo. Sudan has been planning to push for a larger reconciliation conference in Baghdad.

Gunmen have kidnapped more than 240 foreigners and killed at least 39 since the Iraqi insurgency began after U.S.-led forces overthrew Saddam Hussein.

The kidnapping of Arab diplomats has been particularly embarrassing to the Iraqi government, which has been pressing Arab states to return ambassadors to Baghdad.

Arab governments have been reluctant to raise their diplomatic missions to full strength because of the insecurity.

In July, two Algerian diplomats and an Egyptian diplomat were abducted and killed in Baghdad. The Al-Qaida in Iraq group claimed responsibility.

Sunni Arab and secular Shiite factions had demanded Thursday that an international body review election fraud complaints, and threatened to boycott the new legislature. The United Nations rejected the idea.

Their demand came two days after preliminary returns indicated that the current governing group, the religious Shiite United Iraqi Alliance, was getting bigger-than-expected majorities in Baghdad, which has large numbers of Shiites and Sunnis.

On Friday, more than 2,000 people demonstrated in Mosul, where some accused Iran of having a hand in election fraud.

About 1,000 people demonstrated in Tikrit, Saddam's hometown.

The former leader claimed at his trial this week that he had been beaten by his American captors.

Defense lawyer Khalil al-Dulaimi said Friday that he had seen marks on his client's body. Speaking in Amman, Jordan, Dulaimi said that he had filed a complaint Thursday with the court hearing Saddam's case.

The chief prosecutor, Jaafar al-Mousawi, told The Associated Press on Friday that he hadn't seen a complaint but planned to visit Saddam and his seven co-defendants to review their health and "listen to their demands and supply them with everything they need."

Meanwhile, gunmen Friday attacked an Iraqi army checkpoint in the city of Adhaim, in religiously and ethnically mixed Diyala province, killing eight soldiers and wounding seventeen, an Iraqi army officer said on condition he not be identified for fear of reprisal.

"There were too many to count," said Akid, a 20-year-old soldier from Diwanayah being treated for gunshot wounds to both thighs.

Akid, who would only give his first name for fear of reprisal, said his battalion of about 600 men had already suffered over 250 desertions after a Dec. 3 ambush in Adhaim killed 19 Iraqi soldiers.

"They gave up," he said. In Balad Ruz, 45 miles northeast of Baghdad, a suicide

bomber detonated his explosives belt outside a Shiite mosque, killing four people and wounding eight. Diyala police said. Among the dead was a policeman guarding the mosque.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Friday that President Bush had authorized new cuts in U.S. combat troops in Iraq, below the 138,000 level that prevailed for most of this year. Rumsfeld did not reveal the exact size of the troop cut, but Pentagon officials have said as many as 7,000 combat troops could be leaving.

Criticism of last week's elections are seen by some as jockeying for position by both Sunnis and former Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, a secular Shiite, before negotiations on forming a new coalition government begin. No group is expected to win a majority of the legislature's 275 seats.

The formerly dominant Sunni minority fears being marginalized by the Shiite majority, which was oppressed during Saddam's reign.

The barrel of a Kalashnikov automatic rifle rest on the ledge of a roof in Baghdad, Iraq, Friday Dec. 23, 2005, as several hundred thousand people rallied after noon prayers, with many carrying banners denouncing last week's elections. Large demonstrations broke out across the country Friday to protest what many say were unfair parliamentary elections. (AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed).

Irving Guardsmen Page 1

Irving. After a year providing security in Iraq, his entire Guard unit returned to a grateful crowd of well-wishers.

The army's walls were decked out with banners proclaiming "Welcome Home. We love and missed you." Some of the children waved flags as community members mingled with the soldiers to express their gratitude.

An Irving man who prefers to remain anonymous helped plan the welcoming festivities. He arranged for Irving Mayor Herbert Gears to present a proclamation to the troops in honor of their one-year tour. He also arranged for Irving's VFW

Post 2494 to provide lunch. Veterans of Foreign Wars members also brought gifts for the soldiers' children.

After the barbecue feast, Sgt. Bill Gilles rounded up the uniformed men and women for a few tributes. As the soldiers stood in formation, one of them unfurled the red Charlie Company flag they had taken overseas.

The flag made it home safely, as did the entire Irving-based unit of about 45 men and women. Other soldiers joined the company in Fort Hood to make it a full-strength battalion of about 95.

The company worked security

checkpoints and performed various security missions while in Iraq.

"They were either nice to us or shooting at us," Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Paulin of Irving said about the people they encountered.

The battalion is part of the 56th Brigade Combat Team, which is part of the Texas National Guard's 36th Infantry Division. Based in Fort Worth, brigade members come from throughout Texas.

Of the estimated 3,000 soldiers in the brigade, 29 who were not U.S. citizens when they left to serve took the oath of citizenship at their official homecoming on

Dec. 10 at Baylor University.

Marcellous Williams of Irving, a father of three, re-enlisted for six more years. "Ever since I saw [a movie about] Desert Storm, I knew that is what I wanted to do," he said.

All soldiers can now become members of the VFW. District commander Randall Johnston extended the invitation during his welcoming remarks. The Vietnam veteran saluted them and said, "Unlike after that other war in Vietnam, we welcome you home."

The troops will not have to report to the National Guard again until April.

Kwanzaa Page 1

ples of the holiday.

"My sons celebrated since they were children," Clinkscales says. "We wanted them to remember the principles."

Her two adult sons gather together around the holiday's seven basic symbols, which represent values and concepts reflective of African culture.

Seven candles in red, black and green are symbolic of the seven principles of Kwanzaa and take center stage.

Kwanzaa is celebrated nightly during the observance. Each evening, the family gathers to light one of the seven candles, each corresponding to the principle of the day. The practice continues until all of the candles have been lit.

While the candle is lit, all family members explain what the principle of the day means to them and how they attempt to practice it in daily life and how they plan to continue in the coming year.

"It is a value system," Clinkscales says. "You're reflecting on the principles and how you can use them."

Other activities include working together on projects; studying African culture; sharing literature, poems, dance and drama; and making Kwanzaa gifts.

"All of the gifts must be handmade," Clinkscales says. "They can be something like a poem or a story or a handmade pillow." Gifts are exchanged between

parents and children and can be given each evening, to reinforce the principle of the day; all at once at the Karamu, the feast that is the culmination of the holiday; or on the last day of the holiday.

While Kwanzaa was created by blacks for blacks, its goal of relating to the past to understand the present and face the future is universal in scope. The name is derived from the Swahili word "matunda ya kwanza," Swahili for "first fruits."

Most Senate Democrats and a few libertarian-leaning Republicans united against a House-Senate compromise that would have renewed several expiring provisions, permanently while extending some other for another four years.

Democrats were pleased with a short-term extension, whether for six months or just a few weeks.

"The amount of time is less important than the good-faith effort that will be needed in improving the Patriot Act to strike the right balance in respecting Americans liberty and privacy, while protecting their security," said Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., the ranking Democrat on the Judiciary Committee.

"We're happy to agree to a shorter-term extension of the Patriot Act," said Rebecca Kirsner, an aide to Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. "The important thing is to strike the right balance between liberty and security."

House passage marked the latest step in a stalemate that first pitted Republicans against Democrats in the Senate, then turned into an intramural GOP dispute.

Without action by Congress, several provisions enacted in the days following the 2001 terror attacks would have expired. Bush has repeatedly urged Congress not to let that happen.

The Senate voted Wednesday night to extend the provisions by six months, a turnaround for GOP leaders who had long insisted they would accept nothing less than a permanent renewal of the law. The House approved the measure earlier this month, but a Democratic filibuster blocked passage in the Senate, with critics arguing the bill would shortchange the civil liberties of innocent Americans.

"No one should make the mistake of thinking that a shorter extension will make it possible to jam the unacceptable conference report through the Congress," said Sen. Russell Feingold, D-Wis., who led the Senate filibuster. "That bill is dead and cannot be revived."

Bush carefully sidestepped the dispute that developed overnight between Republicans in the House and Senate.

"It appears to me that Congress understands we've got to keep the Patriot Act in place, that we're still under threat," Bush said before boarding a helicopter for a trip to the presidential retreat at Camp David, Md.

Most of the Patriot Act — which expanded the government's surveillance and prosecutive powers against suspected terrorists, their associates and financiers — was

made permanent when Congress overwhelmingly passed it after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington.

Making permanent the rest of the Patriot Act powers, like the roving wiretaps that allow investigators to listen in on any telephone and tap any computer they think a target might use, has been a priority of the administration and Republican lawmakers.

Some civil liberties safeguards had been inserted into legislation for renewing that law, but Senate Democrats and a small group of GOP senators blocked it anyway, arguing that more safeguards were needed.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., said he had no choice but to accept a six-month extension in the face of a successful filibuster and the Patriot Act's Dec. 31 expiration date. "I'm not going to let the Patriot Act die," Frist said.

Bush indicated that he would sign the extension. "The work of Congress on the Patriot Act is not finished," Bush said. "The act will expire next summer, but the terrorist threat to America will not expire on that schedule. I look forward to continuing to work with Congress to reauthorize the Patriot Act."

Some Senate Republicans shared Sensenbrenner's dislike for the six-month extension.

"We'll be right back where we are right now," said a clearly frustrated Sen. Orrin, R-Utah.

When You Catch A Buzz, Catch A Ride

The holiday season between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve is one of the busiest on the nation's roadways and also one of the most dangerous because of a high incidence of alcohol-related crashes.

That's why everyone should be reminded to always designate a sober driver before each holiday party or event involving alcohol. If you catch a buzz, catch a ride.

This is supposed to be a time

for family, friends and festive celebrations, but it is unfortunately also a time when we see a jump in the number of alcohol-related motor vehicle fatalities.

Nationally, more than 17,000 people died in alcohol-related crashes during 2003. Every 30 minutes — that's nearly 50 times a day — someone in America dies in an alcohol-related crash. Hundreds of thousands more are injured each year.

According to the National

Highway Traffic Safety Administration, about three in every 10 Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some point in their lives.

Designating a sober driver before a party is just one of several simple steps to help avoid a tragic crash or an arrest for impaired driving.

Here are a few reminders for a safe holiday season:

- Don't even think about getting behind the wheel of your vehicle if you've been drinking.
- If you are impaired, call a

taxi, use mass transit or get a sober friend or family member to come and get you.

- Or just stay where you are and sleep until you are sober.
- And remember, friends don't let friends drive drunk. Take the keys. Never let friends leave your sight if you think they are about to drive while impaired.

- If you are hosting a party, remind your guests to plan ahead, always offer alcohol-free beverages and make sure all of your guests leave with a sober driver.

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The North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA) will receive sealed bids at 5900 W. Plano Pkwy, Suite 100, Plano, TX 75093, (214) 461-2061, until **Thursday, January 26, 2006 at 2:00pm** for the following projects:

Project 02002-DNT-A-CN-EN: Reconstruction and widening of approximately 0.882 miles of the Dallas North Tollway (DNT) from Knight Maple Avenue to Lemmon Avenue including the replacement of the Cedar Springs Bridge in Dallas, Texas. Project includes +/- 58,300 SY of concrete pavement reconstruction, +/- 6,000 LF storm sewer installation, +/- 23,400 SF of retaining walls, widening of the existing bridges over Wycliff Ave. and Knight Maple Ave., illumination, signalization, signage, and pavement markings. Project also includes the reconstruction of Main Lane Plaza #1 (two canopy) and one new Operations Building, including site grading, drainage, paving, structures, mechanical, and electrical. The Engineer's estimate of probable construction cost is +/- \$25,300,000. **Bid packet will be available January 3, 2006 at a cost of \$150.00.** Contact Karen at 214-461-2061 for more information. A **Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting** will be held at 5900 W. Plano Parkway, Suite 200, Plano, TX 75093, (214) 461-2061, on **Thursday, January 12, 2006 at 2:00 P.M.**

Project 02038-DNT-01-CN-EN: Reconstruction of approximately 0.433 miles of the Dallas North Tollway (DNT) from south of Oak Lawn Avenue to Maple Knight Avenue including the replacement of the DNT Bridge over Oak Lawn Avenue in Dallas, Texas. Project also includes the reconstruction of approximately 0.447 miles of Oak Lawn Ave. from I.H. 35E Frontage Road to Maple Ave. Project includes +/- 49,900 SY of concrete pavement reconstruction, +/- 6,300 LF storm sewer installation, +/- 44,200 SF of retaining walls, illumination, signalization, signage, and pavement markings. The Engineer's estimate of probable construction cost is +/- \$15,108,000. **Bid packet will be available on January 3, 2006 at a cost of \$100.00.** Contact Karen at 214-461-2061 for more information. A **Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting** will be held at 5900 W. Plano Parkway, Suite 200, Plano, TX 75093, (214) 461-2061, on **Thursday, January 12, 2006 at 4:00 P.M.**

The bid packet includes the Proposal book and Plans. Acceptable methods of payment include cashier's check, money order, company check, or personal check. **Cash will not be accepted.** Paper based bids and documents supporting electronic bids shall be submitted in sealed envelopes marked clearly with the project number, company's name, and bid opening date. **No oral, telephoned, or faxed bids will be considered.** Late bids will not be considered and will be returned unopened. All rights reserved.

The bid packets may be examined at the NTTA's main office, 5900 West Plano Parkway, Suite 100, Plano TX 75093, prior to purchase. Bid documents may also be examined and downloaded online, at no charge, under the **Business/View Opportunities** section of the NTTA's home page (<http://www.ntta.org>). If not previously registered with the NTTA, the bidder must register online prior to accessing the bid documents.

Electronic bids may be submitted through the NTTA's electronic bidding software. The NTTA is offering optional training on its electronic bidding process on January 12, 2005 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the NTTA's main office, 5900 West Plano Parkway, Suite 100, Plano TX 75093. Contact Forrest at 214-461-2008 to register for this training.

Recent Journalism Graduate?

Trying to Get Your Foot in The Door?

Community Newspaper seeking Part Time Writer to cover Community Events. Must be familiar with AP style. Bilingual English/Spanish a Plus. Please call 972-606-3890 and leave a message.

Domestic Spying Prompts Talk Of Impeachment

By Hazel Trice Edney
President Bush's authorization of a secret domestic spying program - and his fierce defense of his action - is leading to talk of possible impeachment.

"In my opinion, the President has violated the law, and the House and Senate must pursue their inquiries into this illegal program.... George W. Bush is the president. He is not a king. He is not above the law," states U.S. Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.) in a release last week. "I look forward to further inquiry in the House and Senate on these matters. The American people deserve the truth. We must gather the facts and determine once and for all whether the law was violated. There is no question that the U.S. Congress has impeached presidents for lesser offenses."

Bush adamantly defended the program, first disclosed two weeks ago by the New York Times. He said at a White House news conference, "I've authorized this program more than 30 times since the September 11th attacks and I intend to do so for as long as the nation faces the continuing threat of an enemy that wants to kill our American citizens."

According to the Washington Post, two sources familiar with his decision says that U.S. Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., ranking member of the House

Judiciary Committee, has introduced legislation to form a Select Committee with subpoena power to investigate alleged misconduct of the Bush administration related.



Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich.

House Res. 637 to censure Vice President Dick Cheney for Iraqi war-related activities, which he says are also impeachable offenses.

Censure is when Congress or a governing body publicly reprimands, condemns or expresses strong disapproval of the actions of a leader. Allegations in such cases could lead to impeachment, which means the actual bringing up of formal charges.

Conyers' bills was in response to the release of a 273-page Investigative Status Report by the House Judiciary Committee Democratic Staff, a compilation of the alleged Bush administration war misconduct.

"They're all abuses of authority. There is how they connect up.

This is the first report that documents all of the alleged abuses of this administration," said Conyers in an interview with the NNPA News Service. "The thing is out of the box now. People have had as much as they can stand...He has taken for himself more authority than any other president in the 20th century. I think censure will highlight the incredible number of mistakes, manipulations of intelligence, the encouraging of torture of prisoners, the surprising amount of retaliation that this administration has indulged in against its critics and how they determined to go to war before they had Congressional authorization. For that reason we have formed a select committee to investigate all of these matters."

"The President must stop using the threat of terrorism and the tactics of fear to invade the privacy of American citizens," states Lewis. "President Bush and Vice President Cheney have said that the White House informed the leadership of Congress and ranking members of the intelligence committee about this questionable program. However, it seems clear that there was no respect for the objections of those elected representatives who raised concerns about this domestic spying program. I look forward to further inquiry in the House and Senate on these matters. The American people deserve the truth."

McDonald's Salutes 2005 Scholar Athletes

Fifty-one North Texas high school students will be honored on Thursday, January 5, 2006, during the 17th annual McDonald's Scholar Athlete Banquet. The elite group of student-athletes were chosen on the basis of exceptional grades, citizenship and athletic ability. The annual banquet will be held at the Las Colinas Country Club at 7:30 p.m.

Twenty-six boys and 25 girls make up the group representing their North Texas high schools. As a reward, each student's high school receives a \$250 donation

from McDonald's and each student is featured during a Sunday night edition of Dale Hansen's sports show on WFAA 8.

"We want to celebrate the academic and athletic achievements of these local youth, while providing additional financial resources to each kid's school," said Tom Hardeman, McDonald's owner/operator. "We are proud to have honored all-around good kids like these for the past 17 years and look forward to continuing highlighting these kids for years to come."



Channel 8 Sportscaster Dale Hansen

Church Happenings

Church Happenings Page 13

SPRIT & TRUTH MINISTRIES

We are saving a seat for you at each exciting event. For further information contact us @ 972-279-1559.

Spirit & Truth Ministries
Elder Quentin D. Draper, Pastor
2220 Gus Thomasson Road
Bldg A, Suite A
Mesquite, TX 75150
972-279-1559

ST. ANDREW CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

December 28 - 30, 7:30 pm

The public is invited to help us usher in the New Year at our End-of-the-Year Revival. We will kick-off a FREE four-day celebration, (The Gathering) our theme is "Prepare for the Outpouring," Joel 2:25-29. Our guest speakers will be Sheryl K. Randolph, Living Word Ministries COGIC, Chattanooga, TN; Pastor Reginald Jordan, Inspiring Temple of Praise, Fort Worth, TX; Pastor Corby Bush, Sr., Greater Harvest COGIC, Dallas, TX; and our Interim Pastor Michael McWilliams, Daryl Collins, Praise and Worship Leader, Agape Temple COGIC, Lubbock, TX

will perform for our End-of-the-Year Revival.

St. Andrew COGIC
Elder Michael McWilliams,
Interim Pastor
608 Lakely Street
Denton, TX 76205
940-566-0834 or 940-243-3797
(metro)

THE INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH (IBOC)

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

Monday, 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 (4362)

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 in:
406 N. Tennessee
McKinney, TX 75069
214-544-1886

WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH, LEWISVILLE

January 7 - 8, 2006

Please join us for our official Open House and Dedication Ceremony in our new worship center. For more information about the above events, please call 972-221-5668

Westside Baptist Church
Rev. Kenneth Blake, Pastor
802 Bellair Blvd.
Lewisville, TX 75067
972-221-5668

Send your church announcements to religion@monthgazette.com or fax to 972-516-4257 or Church Happenings. Deadlines are Fridays before publication date. (MON-The Gazette is published each Thursday.)

Faithway Fellowship Baptist Church
Of Hamilton Park
8219 Burch Dr. Dallas, TX 75243
Church Office: (972) 782-0230
Pastor's Office: (972) 782-0240

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

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: 972-789-3888

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

Website: www.iboglobal.org

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

SERVICE TIMES
Sunday School: 9:00 am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:45 am
Tuesday Night Bible Study: 7:00 pm

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

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

St. Luke A.M.E. Church (aka - SLAME)
"Where we slam down the devil and serve up Jesus"
521 W. Avenue E.
Garland, TX 75040 972-487-9703

Email: slamechurch@aol.com

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

Thursday
7:00 pm. Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday
6:00 pm. Prayer Service
7:00 pm. Church School

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

2701 Briarwood Drive Y Plano, TX 75074
972-422-4248

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

Sunday
Education Ministries... 9:30 a.m.
Worship Celebration... 11:00 a.m.
- 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
8015 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)

Services:
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"