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A Division of



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The Gazette

"North Dallas' Weekly Paper of Choice"

SERVING PLANO, DALLAS, RICHARDSON, GARLAND, ALLEN, MCKINNEY AND MESQUITE

DISD DESEGREGATION PRIMER (Part 1 of a Three Part Series)

By James Breedlove

Last November the Dallas Independent School District (DISD) Board of Trustees voted 8-1 to petition the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas for a hearing date in which plaintiffs in the 32 year federally supervised desegregation case would

be required to show cause why the case should not be dismissed.

This decision initiates a legal process that could result in DISD administrators regaining the freedom to allocate resources and draw school boundaries as they see fit rather than seek the approval of a federal judge. Surveys conducted by the Dallas Post-Tribune have shown that the overwhelming majority of minorities believe that DISD will cease making equitable distribution of educational resources once federal oversight of the schools ends.

Federal involvement in Dallas schools stretches back to the Supreme Court's 1954 Brown vs Board of Education decision, which overturned the "separate but equal" doctrine upholding segregated schools. But for years, amid formidable opposition from whites, the Brown decision had little impact in Dallas. The wall at DISD, which

was officially sanctioned and remotely controlled, had for decades halted most desegregation progress. It finally began to give way in 1970. That year, a lawsuit filed by Sam Tasby, a black father upset that his daughter couldn't attend a nearby white school, resulted in

Dallas Independent School District



See DISD Desegregation page 4



On the Homefront:

Plano Public Library System presents a unique photo-panel exhibit "The Road to the Promised Land: Martin Luther King, Jr. & the Civil Rights Movement - Perspectives in the 1990's," at Davis Library, 7501 Independence Parkway. The exhibit includes photos and drawings illustrating the protest movement of the 1950's and 1960's. Exhibit continues on display through January 27.

Garland Civic Theatre presents "To Kill A Mockingbird" at the Performing Arts Center, January 23-26, 30-31. Call 972.205.2790 for tickets.

Plano ISD Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, January 23, at Plano Centre, Spring Creek and Jupiter Roads from 7p.m.-8:30p.m. The program will feature a Pledge of Nations program, Art Contest winners, and youth speakers and entertainers. Admission is free. Contact PISD at 972.519.8147 for more information.

Plano's Annual 'Very Special Arts Festival', January 26, at Plano Centre, Spring Creek and Jupiter Roads, 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. This is a gift to the children from over two-dozen community organizations who staff an array of "make it and take it" craft booths. All children, including those with special needs, are invited to attend this colorful, creative event! Admission is free, including refreshments. For more information call 972.216.6224.

Buckner International Adoption Services will hold a free international adoption informational meeting at 7 p.m. January 28 at Fellowship Bible Church North, 850 Lexington Drive, Plano (near the Parker Road exit on Central Expy.) Call 214.381.1552 for further information.

The YWCA of Metropolitan Dallas Richardson Branch begins an eight week exercise program for people with arthritis on February 3. Co-sponsored by the North Texas Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation. For more information call 972.231.7201.

Plano Community Forum Announces New Officers for 2003



Left to right: Fred Moses, Barbara Simpkins, Pat Humphress, Evelyn McKnight, Mazzie Moses
Back Row: Arthur Young, Earl Simpkins, Julius Chambers
Not Pictured: John Hightower, Myrtle Hightower, George McDonald, Brenda McDonald

Recently the Plano Community Forum announced its new officers for 2003. The organization has been around for over 20 years helping to build the community by culturally enriching and developing educational opportunities for minority students. Their goal this year is to increase membership not only in the Plano community but the Dallas metropolitan area as well.

Each year the locally based

multi-cultural and multi-ethnic organization holds fund-raisers, which benefit their scholarship fund. Fund-raising events include their annual Awards Banquet, Golf Outing, and Sweetheart Ball.

Meetings are held at the Douglass Community Center in Plano, every second Saturday of each month at 7:30 a.m.

The following are the new officers: Barbara Simpkins, President; Brenda McDonald,

Vice President of Programs; Pat Humphress, Vice President of Activities; Earl Simpkins, Vice President of Membership; Evelyn McKnight, Vice President of Public Relations; Myrtle Hightower, Vice President Civic Affairs; Julius Chambers, Recording/Corresponding Secretary; Mazzie Moses, Financial Secretary; Arthur Young, Treasurer; John Hightower, Parliamentarian; George McDonald, Chaplain.

Blackonomics

You Asked For It

By James Clingman

You have heard the saying, "Be careful of what you ask for, you just might get it;" and it's really true. When the Trent Lott debacle was upon us I was shouting, "Let him stay; don't ask for his resignation." Obviously those who wanted him to step down won that battle, but I wonder what will happen now that he is no longer the leader of the U.S. Senate. There were those who asked the Senate to censure Lott instead of defrocking him, namely, the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), and I commend them for that. Time will tell if their suggestion was the best, and I think we will find out very quickly. In my opinion, it would have been better for Lott to remain in his position because during his numerous apologies he also made some very interesting statements. He said some things for which he could have been held accountable to Black folks, thus opening the door for possible concessions on our behalf. But nooooo, we wanted him out because he said what he'd been feeling and thinking for years, and this time we not only heard him (I assume we also heard him in 1982 when he said the same thing), we paid attention to it.

If we had not gone along with his Republican cohorts, Armstrong Williams leading the charge, we would be able to say to old Trent, "Hey, didn't you say you support affirmative action? Aren't you the guy who said you didn't really appreciate the contributions of MLK, but now after a recent epiphany you are a changed man?" We could have asked Trent Lott several questions in reference to his apologetic statements, but now African-Americans can hold him accountable for nothing.

It was really funny how things played out. The CBC asked for Lott to be censured, John Lewis accepted his apology saying, "Let's move on," Armstrong Williams decried Lott's remarks as unacceptable in the party with the "big tent," and finally, after he was granted permission by his boss, Colin Powell spoke out against Lott's remarks as well. The whole thing smacked of ridiculous theater, if you ask me. The Republicans saw this Lott thing as a way to engender Black folks and to take greater advantage of the Democrats' laxity when it comes to their primary "minority" voting block. George "Dubya" has an agenda he is desperately trying to ram through, and scapegoat Trent Lott proved to be an unwilling assistant. Bush could not afford to be derailed and Lott was not such a big deal that he could not be sacrificed. To top it all off, Black folks, at least those who just had to have Lott outta there, played a major role and actually helped Bush in the process. I bet it was congrats and attaboys all around the big tent when

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Honoring a Legacy

By Lakeisha Joe

The president of the Garland branch of the NAACP, B.J. Williams, addressed a crowd of over 100 at the Garland Plaza Theatre, reminding them why we celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Williams' visit along with many others to the Garland Plaza Theatre was apart of the 14th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade and March.

The Garland branch of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) held its 14th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade and March, on Saturday, January 18th in downtown

Garland.

Gwen Daniels, NAACP member and parade coordinator said that the theme chosen for this year's parade was "Celebrating Our Youth In Action". In the past, parade themes have been "Marching by Faith into the New Millennium" and "Honoring the Rainbow".

"We chose this theme because our youth (NAACP youth members and youth in the community) have made great strides and it is time to give them their proper due," said Daniels.

As the parade watchers stood viewing the parade on a chilly Saturday morning, they saw parade participants such as

the American Cancer Society, Garland Independent School District, Hattitude Hat Company, Garland Fire Department, Bellaire Heights Neighborhood Association, Texas Southern University Alumni Association, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, East Garland Church of God In Christ, Kaiser Baptist Church, Second Chapel Baptist Church, Pentecost Church of God In Christ, Sweet Home Baptist Church, and many others.

"I've been to the parade before and it's been pretty neat," said Garland resident Kelly Freeman. "The parade gave a

See Garland MLK page 4

Mesquite MLK, Jr. Celebration



Homecoming Queen Shuntavia Reynolds of John Horn High School and Homecoming Queen Jessica Robertson of Potect High School

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Plano's Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade



Around The Town

On-going

Nature Stories at Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary, every Saturday at 11:00 a.m., and 2:00 p.m. Stories are hosted by the Heard Nature Store staff, and incorporate music, nature crafts and nature walks. Free with general admission. For topics and more details call 972.562.5566.

Come and see the Belgian draft horses, the mascot hitch team for Owens Country Sausage and the farming museum in Richardson. Petting zoo featuring pygmy goats, lambs, turkeys and pot-bellied pigs. 401 E. Lookout Drive, off Plano Road, Richardson. Open daily, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 972.235.0192.

Barnyard Buddies, at Fairview Farms, 3316 N. Central Expwy, at Parker Road, next to Hoffbrau. Country activities with a Western theme for kids. Visit the petting zoo, take a hayride or pony ride. Picnic tables on site. Available for birthday parties. Call 972.633.9779. Open 7 days a week.

The Arts Gallery at Collin County Community College, Spring Creek Campus, displays works by students and professionals. Visitors are welcome, as are new and exciting artists. For more information call: 972.881.5145. Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.;

Saturday: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Sunday: closed.

The Dallas Arboretum, open year round, 7 days a week, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. More than seven themed gardens to see, with sculptures, ponds and more. Admission: Adults \$7, Children 3-12 yrs. of age \$4, Children 2 and under and members are free. Parking \$4. Main phone number is 214-327-8263. Event hotline is 214-327-4901.

Collin County History Museum in the Old Post Office, 105 N. Chestnut and Virginia Streets, downtown McKinney. Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Admission: \$2.00 adults, \$1.00 children 6-12, \$5.00 family. School Tours for 3rd Grade. Special group tour rates. For more information, or to arrange group tours call 972.542.9457 or www.collincountyhistory.org.

January 23

"An Evening at the Eisemann" for Garland High School's School of Performing Arts, in the Hill Performance Hall, 7:30 p.m. For advanced ticket sales & information call: Patty Shubert 972.494.8492 ext. 5357. Tickets: Adults \$10/ Students \$5 at the door on day of performance.

January 24

Mesquite Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet, at the Mesquite

Convention Center, 1700 Rodeo Drive, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. After five dress, cash bar. Tickets \$45 per person before January 17, \$50 after. Tables of eight available for sponsorship. RSVP at 972.285.0211, or info@mwsquitchamber.com by 5 p.m. January 17.

Heard Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary in McKinney offers guide training sessions January 24 and 31, and Feb 7, 14, 21 and 28, 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon. Participation in all training sessions is preferred, advanced registration is required. Call Kelly Rypkema at the Heard Museum: 972.562.5566, ext. 234.

January 27

Garland Chamber of Commerce holds its monthly luncheon from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., at the Holiday Inn Select, 11350 LBJ Frwy, Dallas. Beverly Carmichael-Southwest Airlines is the speaker. Call 972.272.7551, or email to information@garlandchamber.com.

McKinney Storytelling Guild presents "Love Stories," at 7:00 p.m. in the historic Foote Chapel of Chestnut Square Historical Park located on the SW corner of McDonald St. (Hwy 5) and Anthony Street. No admission fee, donations accepted. For more information call Adah Leah Wolf at 972-548-7186 or email elaf@attbi.com.

January 29

Genealogy Resources on the Internet will be offered 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the Mesquite Public Library, 300 W. Grubb Drive. Participants need some experience handling a computer mouse and the Internet. Registration required for all classes: call 972.216.6224.

January 30

Friends of the Plano Public Library will host Andy Wasowski, writer and photographer to sign books and speak about his latest book "The Landscaping Revolution: Gardening With Mother Nature, Not Against Her." Reception at the ArtCentre of Plano 6 to 7 p.m. Tickets for the reception are \$10, available at any Plano library and at the door. A free lecture follows at 7:30 p.m. Plano City Council Chambers. For more information call 972.769.4200.

January 31

Nicholson Memorial Library System and Baylor Medical Center at Garland co-sponsor free seminar on "Lung Cancer" at the South Garland Branch Library, 4845 Broadway Boulevard from noon to 1:00 p.m. Call 800.422.9567 for more information.

Re-ignite memories of a Radio USO Tour with the Garland Symphony Orchestra at the Performing Arts Center. Call 972.926.0611 for more information.

January 31-Feb 2

Country at Heart Craft Show, at Plano Centre, Spring Creek and Jupiter Roads. Friday 11am-6pm; Saturday 10am-6pm; Sunday 11am-4:30pm. A wonderful selection of handcrafted treasures... Traditional, Country, Victoria & Southwestern decor for your home, Clothing for You, Toys, Dolls, Florals, Candles, Furniture and more. Free hand crafted quilt drawing. Admission: \$5 adults, \$4 seniors, free under 12 years. For more information call 800.783.4526.

January 31 - Feb 1

Little Off The Square Theatre & McKinney Square Meal present an original dinner theatre comedy play 'Kiss of Death', written and directed by Jesse Nichols. Show: 8 p.m. Admission: \$12.00, dinner is extra. 213 E. Louisiana St. downtown. For reservations or more information: 972.548.6900.

January 31 - Feb 15

Mesquite Community Theatre presents "Eat Your Heart Out" in the Black Box Theatre. Call 972.216.8126 for tickets, reservations and information.

February 1

Tutor Training Workshop from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Mesquite Public Library,

300 West Grubb Drive. This is for adults who have never tutored and have a desire to assist others with improving their reading and writing skills. Registration required: call 972.216.6745.

The Richardson Symphony, featuring guest artist Elizabeth Pitcairn, Violin. Held in the Hill Performance Hall. For more information call The Richardson Symphony 972.234.4195. Ticket Prices: \$17-\$42 / Loge \$63. Call the Eisemann Ticket Office for tickets: 972.744.4560. Visit the RSO Web Site: <http://www.richardsonsymphony.org/>

McKinney Parks & Recreation joins Texas Parks & Wildlife for the Towne Lake Trout Derby for kids and adults of all ages, 9 a.m. to noon. Registration at 8:00 a.m. at Towne Lake Park East Pavilion. 9:00 a.m. to noon. Free for kids 16 years and younger. \$3 for 17 years and older. Individuals 17 years and older must possess a valid Texas fishing license and trout stamp to participate. For more information: 972-542-0045 or 972-562-0845 or visit www.mckinneytexas.org/parks/specialevents.htm.

February 3-4

Mesquite Community Theatre will hold auditions for "The Glass Menagerie" at 7 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre. Call 972.216.8126 for information.

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Sales:

972-606-7351

Email: opportunity@monthegazette.com

Editorial:

972-516-2992

Email: editor@monthegazette.com

Administration:

972-516-2992

Email: publisher@monthegazette.com

THE TRUTH CLINIC

Bush Whacks Affirmative Action

James W. Breedlove
On January 15, 2003, President Bush in a carefully crafted announcement said his administration will file a brief backing opponents of affirmative action in a landmark supreme court case that could force US universities to stop using race as a factor in admissions. The Bush brief will argue that the University of Michigan's admissions policies are unconstitutional because certain students are awarded extra points based on their race and numerical targets are established for incoming minority students.

The Michigan case—actually two cases filed by white applicants who were denied admission—challenges the university's policy of awarding those points to black, Hispanic and Native American candidates in its admission coring system. Jennifer Gratz and Patrick Hamacher say they were denied admission as undergraduates in 1995 because of the race-scoring policy, while Barbara Grutter argues that the law school did the same to her in 1997.

Bush said, "I strongly support diversity of all kinds, including racial diversity in higher education. But the method used by the University of Michigan to achieve this important goal is fundamentally flawed. At their core, the Michigan policies amount to a quota system that unfairly rewards or penalizes prospective students based solely on their race."

In a sign of the 2004 political implications of his words, the president repeatedly used the term "quotas," to describe Michigan's admissions policy, a word designed to emotionalize and keep alive the nation's latent racism.

University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman stated in response to Bush's

announcement, "It is unfortunate that the President misunderstands how our admission process works. It is a complex process that takes many factors into account and considers the entire background of each student applicant, just as the President urged. We do not have, and have never had, quotas or numerical targets in either the undergraduate or Law School admissions programs. Academic qualifications are the overwhelming consideration for admission to both programs."

Bush's anti-affirmative action position should not be surprising. The history of his political career is laced with decisions or actions that are insensitive to the minority populace and especially African Americans. His Bob Jones University speech, support of the Texas Hopwood decision, tax cuts that favor the rich, and racially charged supreme court nominations are just a few examples.

What is surprising is that African Americans react as if they really expected something different. Did the orchestrated sacrifice of Trent Lott by the Bush whitehouse delude African Americans into believing that the head of the conservative right had changed stripes? The old folks used to say, "Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me."

The President may be trying a hold finesse as he opens the political high stakes Whist game to appease his core conservative constituency and simultaneously court minorities. His announcement plays well to conservative ears. "It's very heartening," said Curt Levey, director of legal affairs for the group that has represented the white students in the Michigan case. "The administration comes as close to saying you can't use race as one can without explicitly saying it."

The actual brief, according to an administration spokesperson, will not explicitly address whether diversity on campuses is such a "compelling government interest" that it justifies any admissions policies that rely on racial preferences. Nor will it address the 1978 University of California v. Bakke case.

In Bakke the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of considering race and ethnicity as factors in admissions. Bakke is the controlling law for these two challenges to the University of Michigan's admissions programs. In May 2002 the Sixth Circuit court of appeals applied the Bakke precedent in upholding the Law School's Admissions program. Similarly in December 2000 the district court upheld the current undergraduate admissions policy.

Constitutional lawyer Bruce Fein, a former Reagan official, said the fact that Bush does not explicitly call for overturning the Bakke decision is "a semantic game" and good P.R. because Bush's position would have the same effect.

A look at Texas in the post Hopwood era indicates the negative impact Bush's decision could have on diversity in higher education. Minority enrollment at the University of Texas Austin campus is still lower than it was prior to the federal court barring the consideration of race in admissions.

Previously, each freshman class included about 500 blacks, or 4 percent of new students. In 1997, the year after the ruling, only 296 new students, or 2.3 percent, were black.

The die is cast again. The Supreme Court should hear the case this spring.

Comments or opinions may be sent to the writer at: jaydubub@swbell.net

Relief available for seniors who cannot afford their prescription medications

By Wendy Ashley
DALLAS (BP)—Many senior adults today face the tragic reality of choosing between buying food or purchasing the prescription drugs they need to stay healthy, according to officials with the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

While Medicare helps disabled and senior citizens afford hospital stays, outpatient procedures, doctor visits and other medical care, it generally offers no coverage for outpatient prescription drugs, officials said.

But help is available for seniors through a variety of avenues. The problem is that most people, including many doctors, are unaware of the programs offering assistance.

One of the goals of the Annuity Board is to promote and offer medical plans for Southern Baptist ministers, including many retirees, and to be an advocate for the senior adult population who is often the most negatively affected by the rising cost of health care.

"While the Annuity Board offers two Medicare supplement plans that include prescription drug benefits, we realize that the costs of any medical plan can be prohibitive to many seniors on fixed incomes," said Doug Day, executive officer of Benefit Services. "We are very concerned about those senior adults who can't afford the prescription drugs they need."

"As an advocate for those seniors, we are spreading the word that help is out there for those who need it," Day said.

While Congress continues to debate adding a drug benefit to Medicare, the cost of prescription drugs continues to rise at an alarming rate. Many older adults simply cannot afford health insurance to supplement their Medicare benefits and thus have no coverage for prescription drugs.

With monthly prescription drug costs for some senior adults totaling in the hundreds or even thousands of dollars, many seniors can't afford to fill all of the medicines prescribed by their doctors or may take less medication than

prescribed to try to make their medications stretch farther. In a poll conducted by AARP,



57 percent of seniors without prescription drug coverage reported stretching medications, 52 percent said they sometimes skip filling prescriptions and 50 percent reported spending less on food so that they could purchase their medications.

Drug companies like Merck, Pfizer and Eli Lilly have implemented patient assistance programs to make their drugs affordable for seniors and disabled persons on Medicare. These programs are designed to help those who can't afford their medicines obtain them free of charge or at a significant discount.

To qualify for most programs, seniors or disabled persons must be enrolled in Medicare, have no prescription drug coverage and meet annual income restrictions, typically \$18,000 for singles or \$24,000 for a couple. [Some programs allow a higher annual income.]

Through its patient assistance program, Merck has provided people with access to needed medicines for nearly 50 years. In 2001, the program provided over 2.5 million prescriptions free of charge to over 350,000 patients. Pfizer and Eli Lilly make any of their drugs available to eligible persons for only \$15 and \$12 respectively for a one month prescription.

Since most of the programs are sponsored by pharmaceutical

companies, a patient must first identify the manufacturer of his or her medication, then contact the company for an application. If a person takes multiple drugs manufactured by different companies, it may be necessary to enroll in more than one program.

There are some helpful websites that can assist a senior adult trying to locate patient assistance programs for their specific prescription drugs and then get an application for the program. Medicare's consumer information Web site, www.medicare.gov, offers information on these programs and a comparison of several. The National Council on Aging also offers a Web site, www.benefitscheckup.org, that helps seniors identify programs that may pay for some of the costs of their prescription drugs and may also help pay for healthcare, utilities and other essential service items.

At www.phrma.org, seniors can look up a specific drug by name or select a pharmaceutical company to find a list of the drugs available through the company's program. For a \$5 processing fee per drug application, The Medicine Program will assist a person in enrolling in the appropriate programs. For information and an application, call 1-573-996-7300 or visit their Web site at www.themedicineprogram.com.

In addition to the programs sponsored by individual pharmaceutical companies, disabled or senior veterans may be eligible for a discount prescription drug program through the Veterans Administration. Call 1-877-222-8387 for information.

Enrollment in most patient assistance programs is free but the process for getting enrolled can be confusing. Seniors may need to enlist the help of a friend or family member, or even an online service to get enrolled in the appropriate programs. While patient assistance programs are not the final solution to providing adequate coverage for prescriptions, they do offer some financial relief to seniors.

Our Greatest Wealth

Author Unknown

We are born with two eyes in front because we must not always look behind, but see what lies ahead beyond ourselves.

We are born to have two ears-one left, one right so we can hear both sides, collect both the compliments and criticisms, to see which are right.

We are born with a brain concealed in a skull then no matter how poor we are, we are still rich, for no one can steal what our brain contains, packing in

more jewels and rings than you can think.

We are born with two eyes, two ears, but one mouth for the mouth is a sharp weapon, it can hurt, flirt, and kill.

Remember our motto: talk less, listen and see more.

We are born with only one heart, deep in our ribs it reminds us to appreciate and give love from deep within.

Mesquite NAACP

The Executive Committee meets each 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM. Committee members will be notified of location, or call the branch for info.

The General Membership meeting is held each 3rd Thursday of the month at Children's Habitat Learning Center, 612 Matador Ln., Mesquite, at 7:30 PM.

Center, 713 Austin @Glenbrook For more information, call 972-381-0544.

January 28, 6:30p.m., Branch Executive Committee meeting, Garland Women's Acitivity Center, 713 Austin @Glenbrook ; 7:30p.m., Branch General Membership meeting (Installation of officers and NAACP-GISD Education Forum)

February 14, 2003, 8 p.m. to Midnight- The NAACP, Garland Branch will host its 3rd annual Winter Ball-"Celebrating the Year of the Man". The event will be held in downtown Garland, The Alexander Mansion, 333 West Ave. D.

The event includes a night of entertainment by Thom Brownlee Jazz Ensemble, buffet dinner, valet parking, and presentation of Honorees.

\$35 per person-Attire-Black Tie For more information call 972-381-5044, press #5

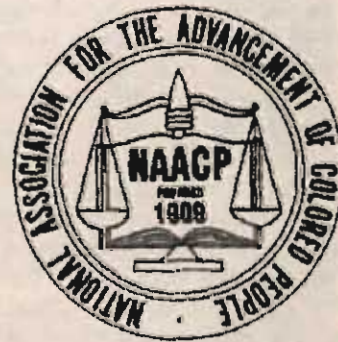
Dallas NAACP

January 25- Executive Committee Meeting of the Texas State Conference of NAACP Branches The meeting will be held at Comfort Inn, 3400 South Street, Nacogdoches, Texas 75964. The Hotel telephone number is: 936-569-8100 Rooms are available at a rate of \$55 per night.

For more information, call (214) 941-1207.

Garland NAACP

January 28, 7 p.m.- Learn about the opportunities for Advanced Placement and the Rising Star Program. Information on the recommended high school diploma and Texas Scholars program included. Garland Women's Acitivity



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Chairman Emeritus: Jim Bochum
Publisher: Thurman R. Jones
Office Manager: Cynthia Elliot
Production: Sandy Alden
Vice President National Sales and Marketing: Michael T. Caesar
Religious/Marketing Editor: Shirley D. Tarpley
Account Executive: Janice Deans
Sales Department: Phone: (972) 606-7331 Fax: (972) 509-9058 Email: opportunity@monthegazette.com
Assignment Editor: Thurman R. Jones
Staff Writers: Felicia Coleman, Tobavia (Tobi) Hicks, Brandy Jones, Jacqueline Perry Williams
Contributing Writers: Monica Thornton, Lakeisha Joi, Betinda Alexander, Shauna Bonon
Photography: Shavon Bonon, Deborah Kallings, Maggie YBarra, Frank Lee
Editorial Department: (972) 516-3992 Fax: (972) 516-1197 Email: editor@monthegazette.com
Advisory Board: John Dudley, Willie Wattle, John Hightower, Myrtle Hightower, Fred Moses, Annie Dickson, Cecil Sparks, Ben Thomas
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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 patody 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 formally Minority Opportunity News, was founded July, 1991 by Jim Bochum and Thurman R. Jones

DISD Desegregation (Part 1)
from Page 1

broad judicial intervention in the Dallas schools. And from that time to the present, Dallas school desegregation has been, under the jurisdiction of the U.S. District court.

It is hard to believe that having gone through four federal judges, seven school superintendents, numerous hearings, forums, meetings, and debates the desegregation issue still has many unanswered questions and answers are still difficult to find. The desegregation process has taken many twists and turns over the years. Many in the community do not have the benefit of this background and are thus unable to put the parameters of the desegregation case in proper perspective.

Kathleen Gilliam, a former Dallas school trustee and member of the Black Coalition to Maximize Education, was recently quoted in the Dallas Morning News, "I just feel so flabbergasted when people try to deal with this and they're so uninformed." Ms. Gilliam said a lot of folks she talks to about the case don't understand it.

The Dallas Post Tribune is presenting this three part series in an attempt to provide the community with relevant information on the history, status, and position of the plaintiffs and defendants at this critical moment in time. It is hoped that this information will encourage the plaintiffs, defendants and the community to come together in a cooperative manner to ensure that all children receive a quality education. Too much time, energy, needless animosity, and resources have been expended for it to be otherwise.

History
According to the district court's Memorandum Order and Opinion signed by Judge "Barefoot" Saunders on July 26, 1994 the Dallas Independent School District has been involved in school desegregation litigation since 1955. Prior to the Supreme Courts 1954 decision in Brown vs. Board of Education schools were segregated by law in Texas. The history of desegregating DISD has ranged from outright defiance to clever footdragging.

In June 1955, Rev. B. R. Riley, president of the local NAACP, filed a petition signed by 53 people requesting that the Dallas school board take immediate step leading to the early elimination of segregation.

The policy statement of Dr. Edwin L. Rippy, president of the Dallas Board of Education, in July 1955 indicates how the desegregation battle lines were being drawn. After delineating the 12 areas of study that had to be completed, Dr. Rippy said, "This Board of Education is insistent that before it directs any major change in the status of its schools, that its study and understanding of the problems involved shall be complete, and that its plans shall be worked out to the minutest detail so that such change will be effected with all possible efficiency." With the full back room support of the Citizens Council and the media support of the Dallas Morning News, orders were given to Dr. W. T. White, the school superintendent, to keep the schools segregated.

A grossly inadequate grade-a-year desegregation plan was ordered by the court in 1960 with the first Black children admitted to the first grade at previously all White schools in 1961. The pace of integration was painstakingly slow and in 1965, the Fifth Circuit Court ordered the DISD to accelerate the desegregation process.

Five years later, in 1970 most of the DISD schools were still one-race which by court definition was 90 percent White or 90 percent minority. The Tasby case was filed in 1970 to challenge the segregated school system that was evidenced by the large number of segregated schools. It was noted in the suit that teacher assignment was also based on the race of the students.

In 1971 the ridiculous "TV plan" was embraced by trustees and school administrators and approved by federal Judge

Taylor. Illustrating the "keep it separate" attitude of the power brokers, the TV plan assumed that black and white children wouldn't have to attend school together to interface with each other. Instead, they could sit in their separate and unequal schools and interact through a cable television hookup. This plan was quashed by a three-judge panel of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. It would be one of many reminders of the decades of overt recalcitrance that minorities recall as they are being asked to "Trust" the system to deliver equity when it comes to public-school policy.

In 1976 the court ordered the DISD to implement another comprehensive desegregation plan. The plan featured magnet schools, a majority to minority transfer program, and a busing program for students in grades 4-8.

Progress was glacially slow and in 1981 the court once again directed the parties to file additional desegregation plans for evaluation. Based on the proposals the court ordered additional remedies on top of the remedies imposed in 1976.

In 1984, the court directed DISD to open three learning centers in South Dallas for grades 4-6. As a result, minority children who were being bused outside their neighborhoods were able to return to neighborhood schools. In 1986, the court directed that three additional learning centers be opened in West Dallas. Since then more learning centers have been opened.

In 1993 DISD filed a request asking Judge Sanders to declare it desegregated. He ruled in 1994 that the district was "unitary," meaning DISD had "eliminated the vestiges of prior discrimination to the extent practicable." But he would not release the district from the order until completion of a successful three-year monitoring period that required DISD to adhere to a set of guidelines that included continued financing of magnet programs and continued efforts to close the achievement gap. In 1998, Judge Sanders said the district had not fully complied with the 1994 order.

Amid the turmoil caused by racial quarrels and short-lived superintendents, the end is only now coming into view. African-American officials fight the idea of lifting court strictures, citing a lack of parity with white children in and out of Dallas. Meanwhile, DISD's small quotient of whites has become disproportionately invested in magnet schools, many of which have earned coveted "exemplary" and "recognized" ratings from the state.

Condition of DISD
The DISD is 12th largest school districts in the nation. The district encompasses 351 square miles and 11 municipalities. There are 156 elementary schools, 25 middle schools, and 37 high schools. The schools are divided into eight areas, each overseen by an area superintendent.

In the 92-93 school year there were 139,819 students. The estimate for the 2002-2003 school year is 166,000. The racial composition of the district since Brown has changed over the years from predominantly White to predominantly Black and Hispanic. The current percentages are Hispanic (56.8), Black (34.3), White (7.2) and Asian (1.3).

For purposes of the desegregation litigation the court defined a desegregated school as one that has achieved a 75-25 percent White to minority or minority to White ratio. At the time of the 1994 "Unitary" decision only one school, Seagoville Elementary, has a greater than 75 percent White population.

In 1992, Dallas voters passed a \$275 million bond package to equalize facilities for students across the districts. The centerpiece of the bond program was the construction of Townview Magnet School. This centrally located "magnet" was to house six of the District's existing magnet programs in a state of the art facility. The court made it clear that the construction of Townview was a

prerequisite to the District attaining Unitary status.

Also included in the bond program was the construction of two new schools to relieve overcrowding at Fannin, Bonham, and Ray elementary schools. These schools were located in neighborhoods heavily populated by minority students, many of whom were being bused.

The DISD budget last year was \$1.2 billion. There are still serious funding variances among the schools which Superintendent Moses says is troubling. He cites decades of incremental, disjointed steps by the district to comply with the court orders, plus unfinished efforts at reform made by his many predecessors, that have left a fractured system of magnets, vanguards (elementary magnet schools), academies (middle-school magnets), Edison schools, year-round schools and learning centers. "The board," he says, "is going to have to step back and consider: Is this in the interests of all children? Does this provide for equal education across the district and equal access across the district?"

But living under federal desegregation orders can be costly, too. The Dallas Independent School District spends hundreds of thousands of dollars a year on legal fees and a four-person office and consultants working toward compliance with its federal desegregation order.

Betty Ressel, manager of the Texas School Performance Review office in the comptroller's office, said Dallas should be spending that compliance money on children. "How is that benefiting children?" she asked. "The issue here is the children. If you treat all of the children fairly and equally, then you don't need a court order."

The comptroller's office believes it makes financial sense to settle these cases, Ressel said.

"We 100 percent believe these districts need to treat these children equally and appropriately and there should never be any question in anyone's mind that all children are receiving the same high quality education across the board," Ressel said.

But demographics have changed significantly over 30 years and some desegregation orders may no longer be benefiting minority children. It's a pattern common in urban school districts — too few white children left to make the pursuit of racial balance relevant. The focus must be on the quality of the education.

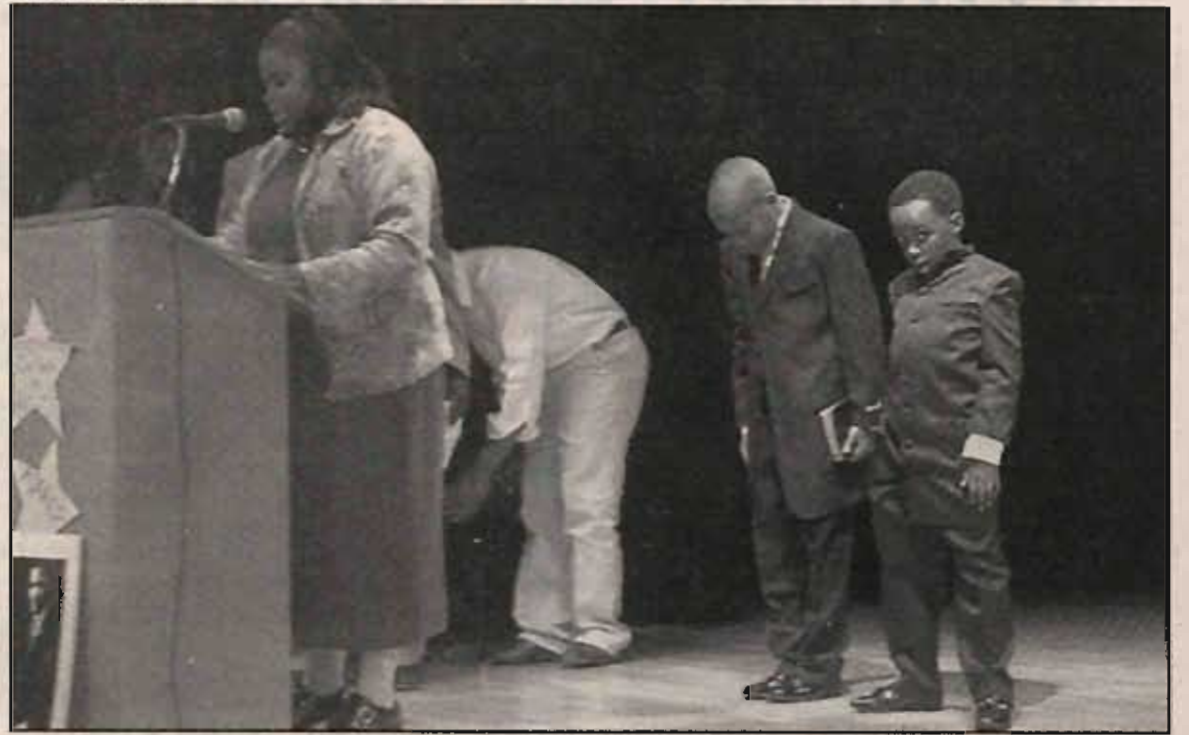
Author Glenn Linden places the task ahead of the Dallas community in context in his book, Desegregating Schools In Dallas. The challenge of providing a quality education for all Dallas children regardless of race in the years ahead was and is a formidable one...The struggles of the past 40 years provide lessons on the difficulty of achieving the promise of the Brown decision. However, each generation will have to renew its commitment and strive to end racism or any other obstacle to genuine educational opportunities. The question still remains—are there enough men and women of good will who are willing to lay aside their prejudices and work for a greater good?

Next week, Part 2 of this series presents DISD Superintendent Dr. Mike Moses' insight on why he believes it is time to end court supervision of the Dallas schools. The assistance of Ms. Brenda Fields, Education Committee Chairperson, Dallas NAACP is gratefully acknowledged in the preparation of this Desegregation Primer.

Comments or opinions may be sent to the writer at: jay-dubub@swbell.net.

DISD
Desegregation
Primer

- ✓ Part I January 23
- Part II January 30
- Part III February 6

Garland MLK Celebration
from Page 1

Devotion by Tyler Doggett, Tamiya Calhoun, and Darious Clemons

lot of visibility to black organizations in the Garland area, but I would like to see the city give the parade a bit more publicity."

Peggy Millender whose son Kurt Bettenhausen was in the parade with the Lakeview Centennial High School marching band said that it was her first time attending the Garland MLK day parade.

One of the biggest supporters of the Garland MLK parade has been the Garland church community.

"The churches have really gone all out for the youth in this years parade," said Daniels.

After the parade ended, a commemorative program was held at the Garland Plaza Theatre. The program began with the National Anthem sung by Miss Teen Garland Shannon Essenpreis. Also during the program the MLK Citywide Youth Choir sang several gospel songs

along with the Ida Handley Elementary School Choir who sang songs of peace.

Garland NAACP president B.J. Williams encouraged people to vote by passing out voter registration cards to those who were not registered. Williams also encouraged audience members at the Plaza theatre to place membership into the NAACP.

During the parade, onlookers were able to listen to the sounds of a marching band and view the many floats that had been entered into the parade. Those who worked hard on their floats were rewarded during the float contest at the commemorative program.

The winners of the float contest were Second Chapel Baptist church that received a third place trophy and Sims Chapel Baptist church that received a second place trophy. The Bellaire Heights Neigh-

borhood Association received the first place trophy for their decorative float for the second time.

The most moving part of the commemorative program was Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech orated by Elder Albert Baker of the East Garland Church of God in Christ. The speech made you feel as if you were there when Dr. King originally delivered the speech.

During the parade and the commemorative program, participants were asked to support the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation that will help build a monument of Dr. King in Washington D.C. Dr. Kings memorial will be the first and only memorial on Washington D.C.'s National Mall to honor an African American.



Sims Chapel Anointed Ones (Youth)



St. Luke A.M.E. Youth Praise Dancers



Occasion by N.E.C.P.-Garland Youth Council Vice-President Rubeen Griffin

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The Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade Celebrated in Mesquite



NAACP 2nd Vice President Denise Upchurch and NAACP Mesquite Branch President Rodney Harmon

By: Felicia Coleman

On Saturday, January 18th, the Mesquite NAACP had their 2003 annual MLK Parade. This year's Grand Marshal was Dallas Desperados player Patrise Alexander, dancers Jennifer Donica and Lori Gutierrez, and mascot Kid Coyote. Other participants included Mesquite Mayor Mike Anderson, NAACP Mesquite Branch President Rodney Harmon, Curry Temple, Family Cathedral of Praise, Mesquite Fire and Police Department, 97.9 The Beat, 95.5 KSoul, Poteet ROTC, Mesquite NAACP Youth, ACTSO, John Horn High School Homecoming Queen Shuntavia Reynolds and Poteet High School Homecoming Queen Jessica Robertson.

At 10:00 a.m., the winners of the "I Have Seen The Promise Land" essay and poster contest were announced. Students grade 4-6, made posters and wrote essays about the teacher who is helping them reach the education-

dren." Many urged people not to take the holiday for granted but to get involved by volunteering to local organizations and activities. Winston Solomon and his wife Anesha were participants of the parade. Mr. Solomon stated, "The parade is a time to reflect on the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It's important to participate and to keep the dream a reality. It's important to keep the legacy he left behind and yet focus on dreams." Jones stated that organizing the parade was not an easy job. "Very early we had to secure a Grand Marshal", she said. "I wanted the Desperados because they are a part of the Dallas Cowboys and they went to the playoffs. I sent letter to the Desperados office in August 2002. Once I secured the Grand Marshal, I advertised and told people what was going on. King Holiday is hard to plan because of the Christmas holidays they forget and when we start too late people are rushed. So I found

Dancer Jennifer Donica said "I like seeing the smiles on people faces." After the parade, a Multicultural event took place at the Family Cathedral of Praise. "The Multicultural Event was nice", Jones stated. "Everyone enjoyed and had so much fun. The event included catered food by Catman Soul Food, Spaghetti Warehouse, Wingstop, CiCi's Pizza and Church's Chicken. There was also music and cultural favors. Upchurch said, "This was the first time that we had the Multicultural Event. It came together well. CiCi's Pizza on Davis and Pioneer in Mesquite has always supported us. Anytime we need something, they open their door."

"I hope for another MLK parade next year", Upchurch stated. "For it to be a success, more people need to come out and support the NAACP. A handful cannot do it all."

In 1970, a petition carrying more than 6 million signatures

You Asked For It from Page 1

Lott stepped down.

I don't know what the new majority leader will do for Black folks, if anything, but already Black folks are stepping to the front of the line to endorse him, praise him, laud him, and hold Bill Frist up as though he were the Messiah himself. I guess we'll have to wait to see. But with Lott, we knew what we had, and we finally had something on him. What do they say about the bird in the hand?

I hope you can see this is all charades and more of the same when it comes to politics. Bush sacrificed Lott, but he re-nominates Charles Pickering for federal Judge (A payback to Lott?). So much for the "big tent." Bush says he's concerned about the poor and downtrodden, but he puts forth an economic program that will give the richest among us a windfall, while the

poorest get little or nothing. Our president also has issued a brief that speaks against the use of affirmative action in admissions at the University of Michigan, a case now before the U.S. Supreme Court. Lott said he supports affirmative action; I wonder what "Uncle Clarence and the Supremes" will say.

Bush is determined to go to war in Iraq and sacrifice more young lives, and he needs the support of the American people. Trent Lott was an obstacle to that support, and he had to go. As for the role of Black folks in this whole thing, Jerry Falwell said it best in a recent interview about Lott. I paraphrase: We are about to go to go to war, and now is a time when we have to let everyone know, especially Blacks, that they are important to this country. I guess so, Jerry, especially when we will be the primary victims of the war. It's a shame we can't be as highly regarded any other time.

Yes, we should be careful, very careful about what we ask for, because we may get something worse than what we already had. Just remember, politically speaking, Bill Frist owes Black folks nothing. He made no commitments, no promises, and no deals, except those deals he may have already made with a few Black people. But that's cool; it's just politics, right?

James E. Clingman, an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati's African-American Studies department, is former editor of the Cincinnati Herald Newspaper and founder of the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce. He hosts the radio program, "Blackonomics," and is the author of the book, "Economic Empowerment or Economic Enslavement - We have a Choice." He can be reached at (513) 489-4132, or by e-mail at jclingman@blackonomics.com.

Thurgood Marshall Scholarships to Aid Dallas, Denton Students

(Special to the NNPA)—In celebration of a new stamp honoring Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, Dallas area business leaders are donating funds for college scholarships.

The stamp will be released during the 28th anniversary of the Black Heritage Stamp Series on Feb. 2 at The Black Academy of Arts and Letters, 650 S. Griffin St.

The stamp ceremony, sponsored by the U.S. Postal Service and Alliance Data Systems, will feature keynote speaker Andrew Young, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, and special guest, Marshall's son, Virginia Secretary of Public Safety John Marshall.

"My father's life work as a leader in leader in desegregation helped make education in America equal and available to all," said Marshall. "I am especially pleased and honored to attend Dallas' special ceremony where scholarships will be awarded in his name."

Three \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded through essay contests to students in the Dallas area. Competitors will answer the question: "What impact did Thurgood Marshall have on the educational system in our country?" One schol-

arship, sponsored by Alliance Data Systems, is open to 12th grade high



school students. The second scholarship, from an anonymous donor, is open to 12th grade students in Dallas and Denton public schools. The third one will be awarded by APLUS, an African-American postal employee organization, to a 12th grade student who is a child of a Dallas Performance Cluster postal employee.

"It's appropriate that Thurgood Marshall was selected to be honored in this series. He was a giant in civil rights history and had a tremendous impact on education in America, and it's even more appropriate that scholarships in his name will be awarded at a ceremony honoring his life's accomplishments," said Carl T. January, Jr., Dallas District manager for the Postal Service. "We are especially honored to have both Andrew Young and John Marshall join us for this special recognition."

As a co-sponsor, Alliance Data Systems is committed to community initiatives that support education, health and welfare and civic enrichment.

"We're excited to offer a scholarship to a participating Dallas ISD high school senior in conjunction with the Thurgood Marshall stamp celebration," said Dwayne Tucker, executive vice president and chief administrative officer. "Through our Neighbor of Choice Program, Alliance Data Systems is committed to helping students achieve their full potential. Alliance understands the importance of education and the mark these children will one day make on our community."



Dallas Desperados Dancer Jennifer Donica, Dallas Desperados player Patrise Alexander and Dallas Desperados Dancer Lori Gutierrez.

al or professional promise land. The winner of the poster contest was 6th-grader Amanda Benavidez. The winner of the essay contest was Lora McLaughlin, who is also in the 6th grade. The winners were presented with a \$25 gift certificate to Town East Mall and the chance to ride in the parade.

Following the award ceremony, the route of the parade began at Florence Black Elementary, 381 Newson through Main Street in Mesquite. Phyllis Jones, parade coordinator stated, "Overall, I think the parade was great, however, I would like to see floats and more people lined in the streets. We need to make downtown Mesquite more known." Jones said that she would have liked more schools and bands to participate. NAACP 2nd Vice President Denise Upchurch stated, "The parade could've been better, but with what we were working with, it was good. Phyllis works very hard but we need volunteers. We need more community involvement, especially from schools and black businesses."

Jones said that the reason that the parade was held on Saturday instead of Monday was because parents work on MLK holiday. "Children are out of school for the holiday but some parents have to work on the holiday. We had it on Saturday so that parents can join the parade with their child-

myself doing repeats, telling people not to forget "I came because I wanted to support the community and help celebrate the holiday and be a part of history. Dallas Desperados Dancer Lori Gutierrez said." Patrise Alexander, Dallas Desperados player, said "Since I was young, I've always wanted to participate in a parade. I'm just glad to be involved in the community on this special day." Dallas Desperados

(said to be the largest petition drive in history) was submitted to the Congress. The southern Christian Leadership Conference, which coordinated the petition campaign, kept continuous pressure on Congress for the holiday. After lobbying by politicians and national leaders, the MLK holiday became official when President Ronald Reagan signed legislation in November 1983.

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for XLS and XLT. The Limited comes with a new reverse sensing system. The Escape earned five stars for the driver in a head-on accident, the front passenger gets four stars, and in side-impact crash tests, the Escape receives five stars for front and rear seat occupants. It has a three star rollover rating.

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sons such as counting, appreciation of other languages and cultures, and most importantly, the power of imagination. Tickets to this delightful production are on sale now at all Ticketmaster Outlets including Foley's, Fiesta and Wherehouse Music locations. Charge-by-phone at 972.647.5700 or log onto nextstage.com.

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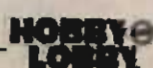
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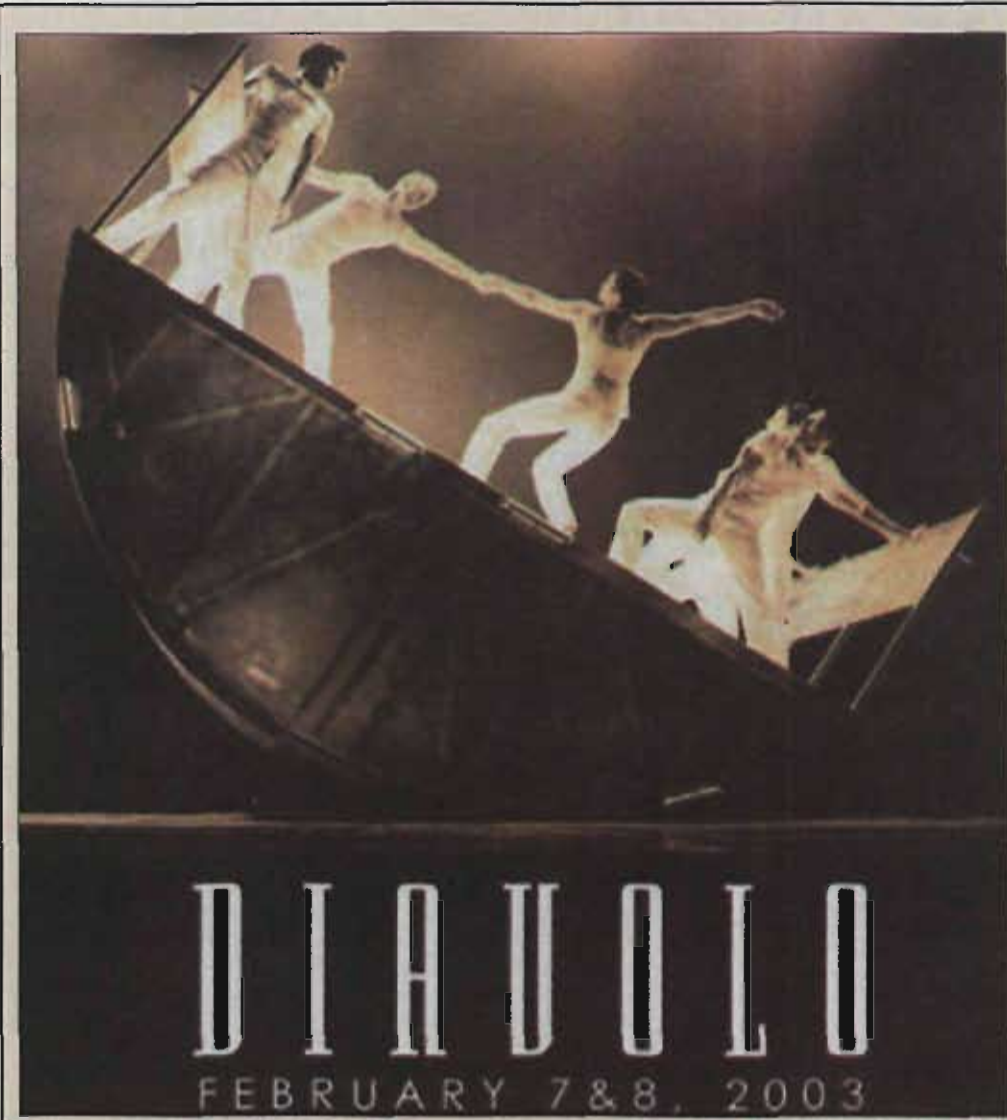
The Housing Authority of the City of Dallas, Texas ("DHA") is accepting Proposals from responsible and responsive businesses for a two (2) year contract with the possibility of two (2) one-year extensions for Fire Alarm, Sprinkler Systems and Emergency Pull Switch services.

Written Proposals will be accepted until 2:00 p.m. C.S.T. Monday, February 3, 2003 at 2075 West Commerce, Bldg. #200, Dallas, Texas 75208. A non-mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on Wednesday, January 29, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. C.S.T. at DHA's Central Maintenance Conference Room, 2075 West Commerce, Bldg. #200, Dallas, Texas 75208.

Proposals package may be obtained from DHA's Maintenance Department at 2075 West Commerce, Bldg. #200, Dallas, Texas 75208 or by calling 214/672-0210.

DHA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS IF SUCH ACTION IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND TO WAIVE ANY AND ALL INFORMALITIES AND MINOR IRREGULARITIES

Arts & Entertainment



DIABOLO Fri. & Sat., Feb. 7 & 8, 2003 at 8 pm

McFarlin Aud. "Not your mother's dance company!" is how one critic describes Diavolo. A Los Angeles-based ensemble of dancers, gymnasts and actors, Diavolo performs on and around surrealistic structures to tell stories that use motion as metaphor for the wonder and absurdity of everyday life. After its highly successful TITAS debut in 2000, Diavolo returns to turn dance conventions upside down once again.

"Fiendishly ingenious... Diavolo's pieces defy gravity and categorization."

-The Dallas Morning News

DIABOLO
FEBRUARY 7 & 8, 2003



Darkness Falls

Kyle (Chaney Kley) returns to his hometown to help save his childhood sweetheart's (Emma Caulfield) little brother who is suffering from the same kind of horrible hallucinations he endured as a kid. The boy may be haunted by the ghost of Matilda Dixon, the original, kindly Tooth Fairy, who was wrongly hanged by an angry mob in the town of Darkness Falls 150 years ago, and has come back seeking vengeance.

Starring Chaney Kley, Emma Caulfield, Lee Cormie, Grant Piro, Kestie Morassi, Alannah Oliver

Starts January 24, 2002



Chicago

This long-awaited movie adaptation of Bob Fosse's 1975 Broadway musical is about two dreamers, Velma Kelley (Catherine Zeta-Jones) and Roxie Hart (Renée Zellweger). Velma is the Windy City's top nightclub star until the night she guns down her cheating husband, after which she becomes an even bigger celebrity, thanks to smooth attorney Billy Flynn (Richard Gere). Roxie also desperately wants fame, so the solution is simple: shoot her abusive lover dead. After Roxie replaces her, an outraged Velma plots Roxie's demise as she obsessively pursues her goal of being back on top.

Starring Catherine Zeta-Jones, Renée Zellweger, Richard Gere, John C. Reilly, Mya, Queen Latifah

Now Playing

Valentines Love Concert



Regina Belle

"Providing Excellence in Entertainment Since 1970"

Regina Belle With Regina Belle, you just gotta believe. Just believe in the power of the music. Few singers possess the strength, the emotion and the technical skill of this Grammy-award-winning singer.

Regina Belle has emerged as a prolific, consistently engaging vocalist on the urban contemporary scene and possesses one of the purest and most

exquisite voices on the R&B scene. Born in New Jersey, Belle's early experience was in gospel, though she was also attracted to R&B during her childhood. She studied trombone, tuba and steel drums, and at 12 won a school contest singing the Emotions' "Don't Ask My Neighbors."

Belle sang in a New Jersey vocal group and studied opera and jazz in college. New York disc jockey Vaughn Harper introduced her to The Manhattans, and she began working as their opening act. Belle recorded a duet with them, "Where Did We Go Wrong," that was produced by Bobby Womack in 1986.

She earned a solo Columbia contract in 1987, and the single "Please Be Mine" earned both praise and a number two R&B hit. A follow-up single, "So Many Tears," also

made the R&B Top 20, and the hit "Without You," pairing her with Peabo Bryson, was the only memorable thing about the film Leonard Pt. 6. Her second LP, "Stay With Me," secured her success, and she has gone on to earn more acclaim.

Now, Regina expands her artistic talents and creative control even further with her MCA album "Believe In Me." Not only did she co-write several of the album's eleven tracks, but she also elevated her own celebrated vocal magic to a level even she hadn't known she could reach. "This album is more personal than any other," she says, "because it has more of myself poured into it."

As her many hits over the years attest, Regina Belle has long been making a major contribution to music. Now, she hopes her new album will convey her core beliefs. "Through

this album, people will see that I love God, that I love family and that I absolutely love music." Indeed, as "Believe In Me" readily shows, Regina Belle still holds nothing back. You just gotta believe it!

Regina Belle Joins Jeffrey Osborne Friday, February 14 for the Valentines Love Concert "A Night to Remember" at the Bronco Bowl Theatre.



Valentines Love Concert
"A Night To Remember"

Jeffrey Osborne with Regina Belle

Friday, February 14
Bronco Bowl Theatre

Show starts at 7:30pm • Doors open at 6:30pm

Tickets available through Startickets or at all Albertsons.

Visit www.startickets.com
or call 1-888-597-7827 to order by phone

KODO DRUMMERS

Weds. - Sat., Feb. 19 - 22, 2003 at 8 pm McFarlin Auditorium

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Every Sunday AfroScene Live

NThe know.com/ Millennium Jaguar Upscale Network Event

Mothers Against Teen Violence Breakfast

Black College Alumni Night College Fair and Forum

Black Sports Photography Exhibit and reception

Texas Ski Rangers Summit 2003 Whistler, BC, Canada

5th Annual West Cost Salsa Congress

National Nthe know.com Bahamas Cruise

Memorial Day Weekend

The 2nd Annual Lockwood Miami Summer Extravaganza

The 25th Anniversary Birthday Bash Cruise

American Airlines Center
January 2003

Target Stars on Ice
Jan. 26, 2003
7:30 pm

214-665-4797* TDD 800-755-6244
TDD 214-665-4702 Group Sales
Ticketmaster 214-665-4269
972-647-5700

On Stage at Next Stage

Coldplay - January 31

Scorpions & Whitesnake February 7

BWB Tour February 13

Santana - February 15, 16

Sesame Street Live February 20

Kirk Franklin March 8

BASS Performance Hall

January-February 2003 Events

Back and Vivaldi: The Sound of Genius Miguel Harth-Bedoya, Conductor Saturday January 25, 2003 - 8:00 pm

Stand By Your Man: The Tammy Wynette Story Tuesday January 28, 2003 - 8:00 pm
Wednesday January 29, 2003 - 8:00 pm
Thursday January 30, 2003 - 8:00 pm
Friday January 31, 2003 - 8:00 pm

Whodunnit Saturday February 1, 2003 - 2:00 pm & 8:00 pm
Sunday February 2, 2003 - 2:00 pm

Chamber Music Concert Sunday February 2, 2003 - 8:00 pm
To be held in the Van Cliburn Recital Hall

Girls Choir of Harlem Monday February 3, 2003 - 2:30 pm

Phillippe Blanesini, Piano Tuesday February 4, 2003 - 8:00 pm

George Winston Thursday February 6, 2003 - 8:00 pm

Berlioz Bicentennial Celebration John Nelson, Conductor Friday February 7, 2003 - 8:00 pm
Saturday February 8, 2003 - 8:00 pm
Sunday February 9, 2003 - 2:00 pm

Metroplex Children's Choir Saturday February 8, 2003 - 3:00 pm

Youth Orchestras of Fort Worth Sunday February 9, 2003 - 7:30 pm

Three of Hearts Friday February 14, 2003 - 8:00 pm
Saturday February 15, 2003 - 8:00 pm
Sunday February 16, 2003 - 2:00 pm

Lord of the Dance Tuesday February 18, 2003 - 8:00 pm
Wednesday February 19, 2003 - 8:00 pm
Thursday February 20, 2003 - 8:00 pm
Friday February 21, 2003 - 8:00 pm
Saturday February 22, 2003 - 2:00 & 8:00 pm
Sunday February 23, 2003 - 2:00 & 7:30 pm

Aeros Monday February 24, 2003 - 8:00 pm
Tuesday February 25, 2003 - 8:00 pm

Crish Tenors Thursday February 27, 2003 - 8:00 pm

Gil Shaban, Violin Soloist Miguel Harth-Bedoya, conductor Friday February 28, 2003 - 8:00 pm

Make It a BLOCKBUSTER Night

BLOCKBUSTER'S®

Hit List

These are the Top 10 Renting Video Titles at U.S. BLOCKBUSTER'S stores for the week ending Jan. 19, 2003.

VHS	DVD
1. SIGNS	1. SIGNS
2. ABOUT A BOY	2. ABOUT A BOY
3. BLUE CRUSH	3. XXX
4. UNDERCOVER BROTHER	4. BARBERSHOP
5. XXX	5. BLUE CRUSH
6. UNFAITHFUL	6. MINORITY REPORT
7. MINORITY REPORT	7. THE GOOD GIRL
8. BLOOD WORK	8. UNFAITHFUL
9. EYE SEE YOU	9. BLOOD WORK
10. TRAPPED	10. EYE SEE YOU

These are the Top 10 Selling Video Titles at U.S. BLOCKBUSTER'S stores for the week ending Jan. 19, 2003.

VHS	DVD
1. SIGNS	1. SIGNS
2. FEAR DOT COM	2. BARBERSHOP
3. LEO & STITCH	3. BLUE CRUSH
4. DRAGON BALL Z - KID BUI: THE PRICE OF VICTORY	4. UNDERCOVER BROTHER
5. HEY ARNOLD! THE MOVIE	5. XXX
6. DRAGON BALL Z - KID BUI: VEGETA'S PLEA	6. FEAR DOT COM
7. MONSTERS, INC.	7. LEO & STITCH
8. SPIDER-MAN	8. ABOUT A BOY
9. STUART LITTLE 2	9. MINORITY REPORT
10. LORD OF THE RINGS: FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING	10. ICE AGE

These are the rental New Releases hitting the stores on Tuesday, January 28, 2003. Titles available for rent on DVD are indicated with *

THE MASTER OF DISGUISE*
THE BANGER SISTERS*
SEEING SARAH*
NEVER AGAIN*
THE FOREIGNER*
SUBTERFANE*
CAGED BIRD - RED SAVE DIARIES 2*
THE SLEEPING GAL*
BLOOD CRIME*



Sister Tarpley

All Nations United Methodist Church Prepares for Financial Workshop for Members and Community

With increasing job layoffs, such as the recently announced massive layoff for K-Mart Stores, Inc., the market and economic instability has affected many in the community. The Men's Ministry of All Nations United Methodist Church in Plano has decided to sponsor a financial workshop. Mr. Charles Reed, Chair of the Men's Ministry, had several meetings to discuss organizing several financial seminars to help families and individuals in the church and community.

According to Reed, as stewards of the church, they constantly ask themselves what can the Men's Ministry do to serve its members and the community. "There is a diverse (by design) membership in the church with the average family in their mid 30's, with an increase in retirees and younger families in our church. In this area, there are lost jobs, families to feed, medical insurance concerns and bills to be paid", said Reed.

Reed said, "We are aware that there are many families and individuals moving into this area from other places and with the 'Baby Boomers' there is a shift of assets—the need for financial planning is even greater at this time."

Following the psychology of Mr. John Wesley, Father of the Methodist movement and the lead of Mr. Owen Jones,

workshop, Bryant said that because of his occupation and profession, he believes his calling is to help people spiritually, and to advise them on how to become financially stable. As families and individuals are educated in their finances and the various choices they have, they increase their "wealth" as well as their "income". There is a need to raise the level of financial awareness and to improve personal finances.

Mr. David Downs, Vice President of AXA Advisors, a national corporation with 802 billions in assets and 1.1 billion in cash earnings, will conduct the first workshop.

To make certain that their diverse membership at All Nations UMC and the diverse community needs are addressed, Mr. Robert Steen, of AXA Advisors, who speaks fluent Spanish, will be a presenter as well; he will be in attendance to answer questions in Spanish.

Dr. Bert Affleck of the Hispanic Ministries at All Nations UMC has extensive cross-culture experience and is a former pastor of an African American church. "Hispanics are the largest and fastest growing race of people in this country; we do not want anyone to feel left out of the workshops. At All Nations UMC, we see that there is a need for these workshops to help our members and the community",



L to R: Mr. Charles Reed, Chair, Men's Ministry; Dr. Bert Affleck, Hispanic Ministries and Mr. Henry Bryant, Jr., Co-Chair, Church Ministries

former Chair of All Nations' Men Ministry, who continues to be a leader in the church, we should strive, "To earn all you can, save all you can and give all you can."

To make certain that no one is left out of the process, it was decided, as good stewards of the church and community, the workshops and financial packets will be free to all attendees so that everyone can take advantage of the seminars.

Mr. Henry Bryant, Co-Chair of Church Ministries, and an AXA Financial Advisor, will also be a presenter at the

Affleck said.

The workshops will be held on Thursdays, January 30; February 27; March 27; and April 24, 2003 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm at the church, 3415 East 14th, Plano, TX 75074. Dr. Clara M. Reed is the Senior Pastor. Please call 972-424-8500 to obtain a workshop packet and/or register at the first workshop on January 30, 2003.

Let MON-The Gazette help your church accomplish the Prayer of James, "Enlarge our territory to expand opportunities that may impact in such a way that we touch more lives for God's glory. Let us do more for Him."

Harris to be Ordained into Ministry at Outreach Church of God in Christ



Judith Harris, member of New Outreach Church of God in Christ, will deliver her first official "message" on February 2, 2003 at 4:00 p.m. Elder Eddie L. Seals will ordain Harris into Ministry. She humbly accepts her calling and all its responsibilities. Harris will continue her work in the Prison Ministry. Harris is currently training in evangelism, and also plans to attend a Theological Seminary. She received certification in the Hands on Ministry as Volunteer Chaplain. In conjunction with studying religion, Harris is studying Spanish as a second language at Richland College.

Harris said that she desires to have a strong voice while witnessing unto the Lord. "My passion is winning souls to Christ", said Harris.

New Outreach C.O.G.I.C. is located at 506 Wilcox, McKinney, TX.

NAACP-Garland Branch Held Annual Praise Dance Extravaganza in Honor of Martin Luther King

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, NAACP-Garland Branch held their annual Community-Wide Youth Drill Team and Praise Dance Extravaganza on Sunday. The event's theme was "Celebrating Youth in Action". Guests were welcomed by Janice Bride of the NAACP-Garland Youth Council. Praise Dance performances included St. Luke Adult AME Praise Dancers, St. Luke AME Youth Praise Dancers, Sims Chapel Anointed Ones-youth and young adult, Caleb Brown of Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church, and Mt. Hebron Genesis of Praise, and the Ambassadors for Christ of Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church. Step performances were presented by the St. Luke AME Steppers, The Omega Sparks, and New Heights Family Church Steppers.

Other guests and speakers included LaMarcus Jackson of Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church, Airka Kelly of Kaiser Street Baptist Church, Minister West Moses of Kaiser Street Baptist Church, NAACP-Garland Youth Council VP Rueben Griffin, NAACP-Garland Adult Branch President B.J. Williams, and other guests from area churches.

Videotapes are available for \$10, courtesy of Bro Sleepy Productions. Contact the NAACP-Garland Branch for additional information.

Church Happenings

ALL NATIONS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
January 30, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

The Fundamentals of Achieving Financial Independence-The first in a series of four financial workshops to be held through April, sponsored by the Men's Ministry.

Workshops will be conducted by professional financial advisors and attorneys.

Free and open to the public. To RSVP and obtain a free seminar packet, please call 972-424-8500.

All Nations United Methodist Church
Dr. Clara Reed, Pastor
34185 E. 14th St.
Plano, TX 75074

MT. HEBRON BAPTIST CHURCH

Through February 26, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Mt. Hebron will continue with weekly tutoring, but will be preparing students specifically in grade 3 for the TAKS test each Wednesday. The test is March 4. This is free and open to the public. Tutoring is conducted in all subject areas; however, tutors are specialized in Chemistry, Algebra, Algebra I, English, Writing, and Reading.

January 25, 7:45 a.m.

The Men's Ministry Council will host their monthly Men's Fellowship Breakfast.

Guest speaker-Pastor Leonard O. Leach of Mesquite, TX.

This event is free and open to all men in the community.

February 7, 7:00-10:00 p.m.

The Men's Ministry, along with the Parenting Ministry, will sponsor a Father/Daughter Sweetheart Ball at the Alexander Mansion, 333 West Ave. D.

Fathers, uncles, grandfathers, brothers, or male mentors are welcome!

Cost: \$20 per person
For more information concerning any of these events, call 972-276-5218.

Mt. Hebron Baptist Church
Leonard Leach, Pastor
901 Dairy Rd.
Garland, TX 75040

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH

Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 7:15 p.m.-8:15 p.m.

The Singles Ministry of Shiloh Baptist Church is sponsoring a single's fellowship, providing positive life enrichment opportunities, support, and interaction with other singles within the context of the Christian Faith.

Light refreshments served.

For more information, contact Minister Daniel Shaw at 972-291-0449 or email lakeith75104@yahoo.com.

Shiloh Baptist Church
Isiah Joshua, Jr., Pastor
1310 Ave. I
Plano, TX 75074

ST. MARK BAPTIST CHURCH

January 26, 11:00 a.m.

Special Worship Service
Join us, as we become "Disciples of Jesus Christ"

February 9, 3:30 p.m.

Annual Black History Program and Harriet Tubman Award Presentations

For more information, call 972-542-6178

St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church

Charles S. Wattley, Pastor
1308 Wilcox Street
McKinney, TX 75069

Come Share
The St. John Experience

St. John Baptist Church

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

One Church - Two Locations

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

Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church

1308 Wilcox Street, McKinney TX
Pastor Charles S. Wattley

Sunday
Education Ministries... 9:30 a.m.
Worship Celebration... 11:00 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
saintmarkmissionary@aol.com

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
920 E. 14th Street Plano, TX
Pastor Isiah Joshua, Jr.

FANNING THE FLAMES OF OUR FAITH

Sunday Worship Services 8AM & 11AM

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

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

Mt. Olive Church of Plano
A Church Called to Unite the Body of Christ
740 Ave. F #303
Plano, TX 75074

A Non-denominational Church for all Nations

Pastor Sam Fenceroy Minister Gloria Fenceroy

Standard Announcements

Sunday School9:30 AM
Worship Service10:45 AM
Men & Women Ministry 1st & 3rd Mondays 7:30-8:30 PM
Leadership Meeting2nd Mondays 7:30-8:30 PM
Marriage Enrichment & Singles Ministry4th Mondays 7:30-8:30 PM
Deliverance from IssuesTuesdays 7:30-8:30 PM
Mid-Week ServiceWednesdays 7:15-8:30 PM
Youth Bible StudyWednesdays 7:15-8:30 PM

Radio Broadcast Station 1040AM-KGGR
M-F 10:25-10:30 AM

For More Information: (972) 633-5511 or E-Mail
slfenceroy@aol.com