

The Truth Clinic

Al Sharpton
To The Rescue

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Your
Ancestors

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A Division of

MON
Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

Volume XII, Number IV

January 30 - February 5, 2003

The Gazette

"North Dallas' Weekly Paper of Choice"

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



On the Homefront:

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

Mesquite Community Theatre presents "Eat Your Heart Out" in the Black Box Theatre, January 31 through February 15. Call 972.216.8126 for tickets, reservations and information.

Dallas Repertoire Ballet presents "Move, Dance...Be Born", an evening of contemporary and jazz dance, at Richardson's Eiseman Center Theater, February 7 and 8, at 8p.m. Featuring Guest Artists: Liz Imperio's Instincts Live Media Dance Co. and Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing & Visual Arts. Ticket Prices: \$15 & \$20 at the Eiseman Center Ticket Office: 972.744.4650. Visit: www.dallasrepballet.org.

Daddy's Little Sweetheart Dance at Plano Centre, Spring Creek & Jupiter Roads, February 8, 7pm to 9:30pm. An Enchanted Evening is planned with music and dancing for fathers and their daughters, 4 to 12 years. Space is limited. Contact: Plano Parks and Recreation 972.941.7250 or visit: www.planoparks.org.

24th Annual Heard Museum Nature Photography Contest and Exhibition Reception February 8. The Photo Contest will be on exhibit in Laughlin Hall. Free with general paid admission. For more information call 972.562.5566, or visit www.heardmuseum.org.

DFW Community Newspapers Career Fair at Plano Centre, Spring Creek & Jupiter Roads, February 10, 10am to 3pm. Bring your resume. Many area companies represented. On the spot interviews. Free admission. For more information contact Marsha Kline 972.543.2284.

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DISD DESEGREGATION PRIMER (Part 2 of a Three Part Series)

Dallas School Superintendent Mike Moses Speaks Out

Last week, Part 1 of this DISD Desegregation Series presented a summary of the four decades background and significant milestones associated with school desegregation in Dallas along with an overview of the Dallas Independent School

District (DISD). The DISD Board of Trustees had voted 8-1 in November 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 week, in Part 2 of the three part series, The Dallas Post Tribune reports on an interview with Superintendent Mike Moses and DISD Chief of

Staff, Dr. Carol Francois, which addressed the question, "Why Should DISD be removed from court supervision?"

In response, Dr. Moses indicated that he would set the stage for the interview by referring to the concluding opinion

of Judge Barefoot Saunders in the July 26, 1994 court order, Memorandum Opinion And Order Regarding Unitary Status.

The order stated, "The Court is of the opinion that, except as otherwise stated, the Court's opinion See DISD Desegregation page 7



Plano Independent School District Salutes Martin Luther King, Jr. and The District's Diversity

By: Monica Thornton

It was an evening saluting the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and diversity in the Plano Independent School District (PISD). And with children from all levels of education and student representation from 93 nations enrolled in the school district, PISD took the community one step further toward Dr. King's dream that "the sons of former slaves, and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood."

The Plano Center was packed to capacity for the school district's celebration, Thursday January 27, as students led the program in music, song and verse.

Dr. Doug Otto, PISD Superintendent, said, "this is a salute to the diversity in Plano Independent School District. This PISD community and the community at large, grows stronger as we celebrate the

many strands of diversity in our PISD community."

He continued that seven years ago, with Dr. Myrtle Hightower's leadership, PISD decided to make their Dr. King celebration a student-led program.

Davis Elementary School presented its 'Hands in Harmony' Choir, followed by Beaty Early Childhood School presented in music video. And the Plano



Mistresses of Ceremony Aileen Bumphus, Principal of Hedgecoxe Elementary and Louise W. Davis, Principal of Memorial Elementary

Children's Chorale set the tone with "Free at Last."

Mrs. Louise W. Davis and Ms. Aileen Bumphus, Principals at Memorial and Hedgecoxe Elementary Schools respectively, were the emcees for the evening. As the evening continued with song, music and essay, Mrs. Davis said, "we are always proud to showcase the artistic and musical attributes of our PISD students."

Seven students from area

middle and high schools came together to present "Liberty Acoustic" and the William's High School Drama students presented "Words of Freedom," with each of the eight students representing someone who has added to the cause of liberty and justice for all. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Abraham Lincoln, Rosa Parks, John F. Kennedy, and of course, Martin Luther King, Jr. were represented, along with Eleanor Roosevelt,

See MLK on page 4

Does Coach Marvin Lewis Have Healing Power in Cincinnati?

By: James Clingman

The power of public relations is amazing. In case you have not heard, Mike Brown, general manager of the Cincinnati Bengals, recently hired Marvin Lewis to coach his miserable football team. Even before Lewis gets to call his first practices session, the local paper says, "Civil Rights Leaders Applaud Decision—Not Just a Hiring but Some Healing." Say what? The last time I checked, football coaches were hired to win games, and with a 2-14 record, the Bengals can surely use a lot of that. The last thing Marvin Lewis needs is more weight on his back in the form of healing the huge racial divide that exists in Cincinnati. It is unfair to him, and it is naive (maybe, maybe not) on the parts of so-called civil rights leaders to think Lewis will be about the business of healing this city. Despite the past hope of "healing" by the likes of a Black college football game known as the Procter and Gamble Riverfront Classic, nationally known minister, Billy Graham, gospel singer Kirk Franklin, a Black (or should I say minority?) city manager, and a host of other Black (or should I say minority?) city administrators, despite all of those "healers" Cincinnati has

remained entrenched in the muck and mire of racial discord and at loggerheads when it comes to settling the racially-oriented economic issues that keep the city from moving forward. But the public relations machine has cranked up and is at it once again, desperately trying to soothe our senses and lull us into the sweet slumber of apathy. It's been done before, many times, and it's being done now. That's why I call this city "Cincinnatiapathy." Another aspect of the hiring of Marvin Lewis is the "First Negro Syndrome." If you recall Albert Cleage's writings in the 1970s regarding this phenomenon, you should be insulted that we are still counting to one in 2003. The Bengals could have hired a Black coach 20 years ago if they wanted. Black men have been qualified to coach professional football for years (someone told me there was professional Black football coach in 1920), but it's just now that they are being given their shot. Johnnie Cochran's efforts notwithstanding. But here in the town that has the worst football team in history, a Black man is hired, and all of a sudden he has the "racial healing" mantle placed upon his shoulders. Ex-footballer turned television announcer, Chris Collinsworth, commented, "How ironic would it be if Mike Brown and his family

See You Asked For It page 15

Local Businessman Says 'It Is Important to Improve the Opportunities for Minority Businesses'

By Belinda G. Alexander

Sayres Dudley is President of Dudley & Associates, an Executive Search firm based in Dallas, specializing in commercial property. After entering the recruiting business in 1978, he became a top producer with the Dial Agency Group, Dallas' second largest employment agency. He founded Dudley & Associates in 1983 providing retained search services for mid to executive level positions in the commercial real estate and construction industries. Dudley became a certified POWER Hiring trainer in 1998. His firm provides this method in service



Sayres Dudley

to clients. Dudley said, "POWER Hiring is a program that really trains people to do good interviews. It is a terrific concept. As a Dallas area trainer, I help clients find the right fit for their business."

Mr. Dudley and his wife Kathy are members of Dallas' St. Luke UMC which is a predominately African American membership. When asked about minority business relationships, Dudley said, "I believe it is very important to improve the opportunities for minority businesses. Although, I am not an ethnic minority, my wife and I

See Businessman page 4

Plano's All Community Choir Honors the Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.

By: Monica Thornton

For the fourth year running, Plano's "All Community Choir" brought together music directors, musicians and singers from different ethnic backgrounds to celebrate the life of Martin Luther King, Jr., to honor Plano and area music directors, and to make the city "A Community United".

And as people gathered in the sanctuary to listen, nearly filling it to capacity, it was evident that neither race nor age could divide the people, as African-American families sat next to Caucasian and Hispanic families.

With Custer Road

United Methodist Church hosting the event, and Clarice Tinsley and Steve Eager, Anchors for Fox 4 News, as Mistress and Master of Ceremony respectively, the stage was set for an evening of divine reverence and inspiration. From the first note the choir sang to the final word of the evening, a veil of humility and awe swept over the sanctuary. The music directors poured their musical energy into the soloists, the choir and musicians, each keeping harmony with one another, their music transcending anything earthly.

See Choir page 2

Plano's All Community Choirs



Rev. James Larry, Hill's Chapel CME



(L to R) T.J. Johnson, John Hightower, and Myrtle Hightower



Clarice Tinsley and Steve Eagar, Fox 4 News

Choir from page 1

It made it hard to believe that the choir had come together just one week before to begin rehearsal, that the soloists had only been picked at the rehearsal, and for some this was the first time singing together.

Plano Mayor Pat Evans attended the rehearsal, but said she regretted that for the first time she would be out of town for the big night.

"This is the first year I'll miss it, and it's killing me," said Mayor Evans, adding that MLK Committee member and philanthropist, T.J. Johnson, recruited her for the choir.

Mayor Evans added that the choir always sounds a little raggedy at practice, "but we always manage to pull it together, because the talent in this group is awesome."

And the talent on Sunday January 19, 2003 was awesome.

"It's an awesome program, I stand in awe," said MLK Committee General Chair, Earl Simpkins. "Sometimes listening to music tugs at your heart. This program is wonderful for Plano and the partnership we have in the City of Plano."

Steve Eagar, MC for the second year with Clarice Tinsley, noted that the size of the choir and the congregation had grown during the past four years at this program.

"I live in Plano, and I'm glad to be here," he said. "The first year I remember a small group in the middle of the sanctuary, but now it's growing out. As you look out, take pride in what we're accomplishing tonight."

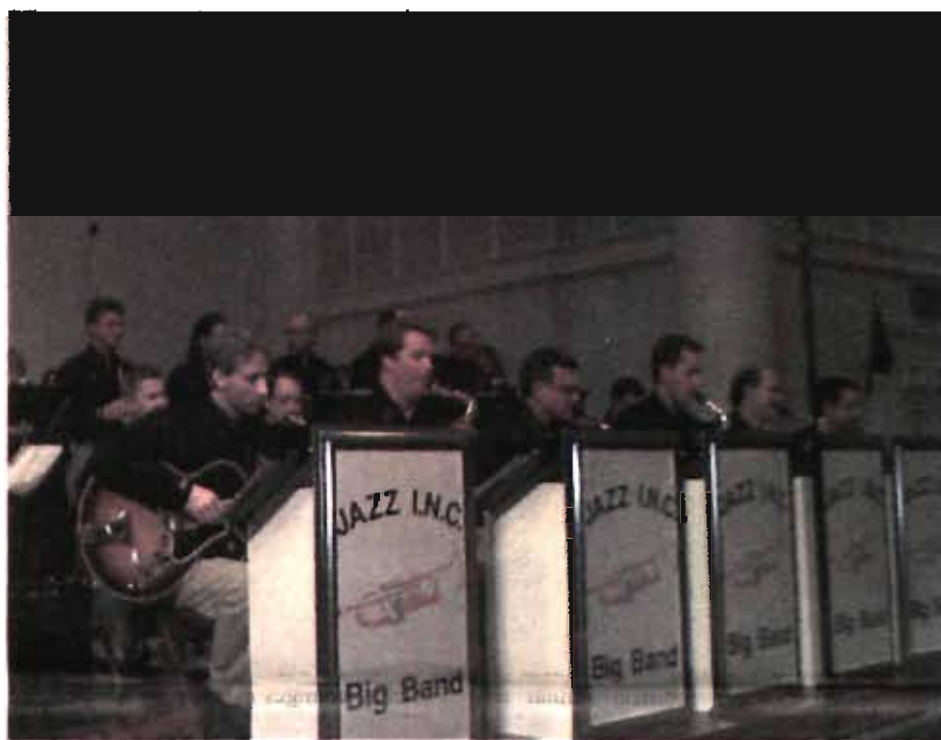
Clarice Tinsley was a part of the growing choir, as she joined them for the second year.

"We hope you find the power tonight in being part of the fellowship and being part of something bigger than yourself," Tinsley said. "If this moved you in any way and you'd like to join us singing next year, talk to someone on the committee before you leave."

Before the evening was over, T.J. Johnson encouraged everyone to think about Martin Luther King, Jr., what he lived for, worked for, and died for.

"Think about how you can incorporate that in your life. Think about how you can give life and breath to what this man stood for," said Johnson.

As the lights in the sanctuary dimmed, Johnson read an essay on the life of Dr. King, and said, "Dr. King accepted his challenge, and in the midst of the turmoil, he knew that by the amazing grace of God, he would get the job done." And with this, soloist Doc Gibbs finished off the evening's music with 'Amazing Grace'.



Jazz I.N.C.



Steve Stovall, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem

Around The Town

On-going

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.

Feb. 1 through April 30

Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary presents 'Here's Looking at You!' A new 2,000 square-foot award-winning interactive traveling exhibit at the Heard Museum sees nature through different eyes, to explore what is known about human and animal vision and to understand the ongoing quest to discover what animals actually see. Open Monday - Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to

5:00 p.m. Admission to exhibits and grounds: \$8 for adults, \$5 children 3-12 and senior citizens. Admission to grounds only: \$5 adults, \$3 children 3-12 and seniors citizens. For more information call: 972.562.5566, or visit www.heard-museum.org.

January 31

Word Processing Basics classes for computer users with some experience handling a mouse, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at the Mesquite Public Library, 300 W. Grubb Drive. Registration required for all classes. Call: 972.216.6224.

February 1

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. Free for kids 16 and under, \$3 for 17 years and older. For more information call 972.542.0045, or 972.562.0845, or visit www.mckinneytexas.org/parks/specialevents

February 3 and 4

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

February 4

Dallas Brain Injury Association Support Group meets at 6:30 p.m. at Health South, 2800 W. 15th Street. Call Linda or James Burrus at 972.519.0008.

The YWCA of Metropolitan Dallas Richardson Branch begins an eight-week exercise program for people with arthritis on February 4. Co-sponsored by the North Texas Chapter to the Arthritis Foundation. For more information call 972.231.7201.

February 6

Blood Pressure Screening meets at 10 a.m. at the Plano Senior Center, 401 W. 10th St. Call 972.941.7335.

February 8

Mesquite City Animal Shelter will sponsor a remote pet adoption at Petco, 1500 Town East Blvd., 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. For information call 972.216.6283.

Mesquite Symphony Orchestra in concert at 8p.m. with "Five Star Movies." Call 972.216.8127 for tickets.

February 9

20th Annual Dallas Morning News World of Cruises and Sun Destinations Showcase, at Plano Centre, Spring Creek & Jupiter Roads, 12noon to 5pm. Admission: \$5 per person, \$4 for Seniors. 12

and under free. For more information call 800.831.3976 or visit www.emmshows.com.

Garland Square Pickers present an evening concert at 7:00 pm in the Plaza Theatre, 521 West State Street. Call 972.276.3197.

The Classic Family Theatre Series, at Richardson's Eisemann Center, presents 'The Snow Queen,' in Hill Performance Hall, at 2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15/10/\$5.00, and are available through the Eisemann Center Box Office at 972.744.1650.

February 11

Join in the fun at preschool story-time for 3-5 year olds, 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Fridays at the Mesquite Public Library, 300 W. Grubb Drive, and the North Branch Library, 2600 Oates Drive.

February 12

Garland High School 'School of Performing Arts' special show at 7:00 pm, in the Performing Arts Center, 300 North Fifth Street. Call 972.494.8240.

February 13

Estate Planning Seminar at Plano Center, Spring Creek and Jupiter Roads, 10:00am to 7:00pm. Discover how easy it is to use a Living Trust or Properly Drafted Will to save

on Estate Taxes and Control your Assets. Presented by Dallas Estate Planning Attorney, Richard P. Johnson, Board Certified in Estate Planning and Probate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Call Marcie for reservations at: 972.497.1010.

Valentine's Tea and Conversation at the Heard-Craig. A retelling of the history and traditions of St. Valentine's Day. Enjoy delicious desserts and other treats with afternoon tea, conversation with friends and a short program. Reservations required. \$15 per person, \$10 for members of the Heard-Craig League. Held in the historic Heard-Craig House, 205 W. Hunt St., at 2:00 p.m. For reservations call: 972.569.6909.

February 14

Valentine's Day Mother-Daughter Teas. Spend the afternoon in the historic Dulaney House at Chestnut Square beginning at 4:00 p.m. A delicious tea will be served, featuring cakes, scones and savories. Reservations are required. Cost: \$7.50 per person. For more information or reservations: 972.562.8790, or visit www.chestnutsquare.org.

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THE TRUTH CLINIC

Al Sharpton To The Rescue

Al Sharpton, who has gained increasing national attention the last few years has declared his intention to run for president in 2004, the first African American to seek the Democratic nomination since Jesse L. Jackson in 1984 and 1988, and former Virginia governor L. Douglas Wilder, who ran briefly in 1992.

Reverend Sharpton, who has never held elective office, has thrown the equivalent of a political bombshell into the Democratic field of candidates. None of the other Democratic candidates has a proven national appeal in the black community; therefore, Sharpton's presence is bound to make the competition for black votes more intense.

After filing papers with the Federal Election Commission, Sharpton stated that no other candidate for president "can speak to the disaffected — young people, minorities, women, gays and lesbians — with more credibility and a track record of advocacy than I have."

Previously, after being released from jail for trespassing on federal property, Sharpton had projected that his potential presidential campaign would focus on reforming the country's systems of criminal justice, elections, education, and halting the Democratic Party's current momentum toward the political center, a move he sees as detrimental to the interests of poor and working people.

The political gurus and pundits have already begun to speculate on the impact of Sharpton's role in the 2004 presidential race.

"The popular voice that Sharpton represents is a very distinguished tradition in African

American politics," observed a noted political analyst. "You have to put him in that light. The NAACP, The National Urban League and the SCLC are bureaucratic organizations. There's the social welfare, reform and legalistic path approach to social justice and then there is the street level. Sharpton comes out of the street level."

"The biggest effect of a Sharpton Presidential Run would be to solidify him as a major power broker in the Democratic Party," said Robert Smith, author of *We Have No Leaders*, an in depth look at black politics. "Sharpton's real aim is to give him some leverage in the party along with Jackson, or even to displace Jackson as the number-one black power broker in the Democratic Party."

Sharpton, 48, brings one of the most controversial biographies of all the Democratic candidates to the 2004 contest, having made his initial reputation in the 1987 Tawana Brawley case. The 15-year-old Brawley claimed she had been kidnapped and raped by a group of white men and Sharpton leaped to her defense, accusing several men of the crime. Later inquiries found her claims not to be true. In 1998, Sharpton was convicted of defaming the prosecutor in the Brawley case and ordered to pay \$65,000 in damages.

Since that time, the politically and publicity-savvy Sharpton has become a major player and social force in New York, protesting budget cuts, crusading against crack houses, and speaking out against police brutality and misconduct. Along the way he won a reputation for bold activism on behalf of African Americans.

But Sharpton also has his share of detractors. He has been branded a polarizing figure, a racist demagogue in a time of high racial tensions in New York. This along with his sometimes-inflammatory language has won him many enemies.

Democratic Party leaders differ on Sharpton's potential, with some saying that in a crowded field, he could win a southern primary by gaining a substantial portion of the black vote. Asked recently whether Sharpton could have a real impact on the race, Jesse Jackson said, "There are people who know him who don't know any of the other Democratic candidates."

Former senator Paul Simon, a Democratic candidate for president in 1988 said, "There's an awkwardness here, but that can be healthy. Sharpton's presence can spur Democrats to push a social agenda that some of the candidates would otherwise avoid."

Beyond these political differences, Sharpton faces other challenges in a potential presidential run. He would have to raise an enormous sum of money, elevate his visibility outside of New York and shed much of the negative baggage his public persona still carries.

Still, while his chances to win the Democratic Party nomination are very slim, few doubt that a Sharpton candidacy will bring much needed life and spirit to the debate on critical black issues.

For his part, Sharpton says he has as much chance as anyone else to win the Democratic nomination. And for now he is in the race.

James W. Breedlove
Comments or opinions may be sent to the writer at



Speaker of the House
Tom
Craddick

By CLAY ROBISON
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Chronicle Austin Bureau

78th TEXAS LEGISLATURE

AUSTIN -- Speaker Tom Craddick on Tuesday promised "shocking" changes in how the Texas House does business and vowed to overhaul state spending to bridge a huge budgetary shortfall without raising taxes.

Soaring health care costs will come under special scrutiny by a new committee, he said.

In his most extensive public remarks since taking over as the first Republican House speaker in modern times, Craddick said he will replace most of the holdover members of the budget-writing House Appropriations Committee and will give leadership positions to first-term lawmakers.

He wouldn't say whether he will take the unusual step of naming freshman members — most of whom are Republicans — to committee chairs. But he did promise to "spread the leadership across the House and include everybody."

Twenty-seven of the House's 36 new members are Republicans, most of whom campaigned against higher taxes and many of whom support conservative priorities such as private-school vouchers and more restrictions on abortion.

Craddick didn't discuss the controversial social issues. Bringing up another high-profile issue, though, he said a majority of the House was eager to repeal the "Robin Hood" school finance law but admitted he didn't yet know how to replace it. He said he would press Gov. Rick Perry for a special session on school finance if lawmakers fail to act before this session ends June 2.

HOUSE RULES

Speaker Tom Craddick said change is on its way to the Texas House of Representatives, including:

- Creating a new committee to scrutinize health care costs.
- Replacing most members of the House Appropriations Committee.

Craddick promises 'shocking' changes

• Giving leadership positions to some first-term lawmakers.

Craddick said he will appoint 40 or 41 committees, a slight increase from the 38 appointed by his predecessor, Democrat Pete Laney, during the 2001 session. He said the panels will be significantly restructured to reflect the new GOP majority's commitment to reorder priorities in the face of a revenue shortfall of at least \$9.9 billion.

"You're going to see some shocking things this week when we do appoint the committees," Craddick, R-Midland, told the



Texas Association of Business. He said he hoped to announce the committee lineup Thursday.

"I'm going to pick an almost completely new Appropriations Committee," he added, indicating he will take advantage of a House rules change removing seniority as a factor in the makeup of the budget-writing panel.

Under the new rule, Craddick will get to remove veteran Democratic budget-writers who otherwise may have had a crack at continued membership on the committee.

State Rep. Talmadge Heflin, R-Houston, is expected to be Craddick's choice to chair the panel.

Craddick said he will appoint a new Government Organization Committee, similar to a Senate panel already named by Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, that also will play a key role in the budget-writing process.

That panel, he said, "will basically look at every state program and agency in this state. We're going to look at every duplication of service and all their costs."

"We're going to find those duplications of services, and we're going to eliminate them," he added.

The speaker said the new committee wouldn't duplicate the state's long-established sunset review process but would do more.

"Sunset does not look at the spending of the agencies. They look at the programs of the agencies and whether they ought to exist. We're going to look at whether the dollars they are spending are what they ought to spend," he said.

Craddick announced that he also will appoint a committee to "look at all the health care costs of every agency and every program in this state" — everything from teachers' health insurance to children's health insurance — to help control spending now and 10 years from now.

He said he was convinced the Legislature will close the revenue gap without higher state taxes.

Craddick, however, admitted that state leaders still don't know how to replace the controversial Robin Hood school finance law, which forces wealthier school districts to share tax revenue with poorer schools.

"I'm not saying they can tell you how to fund it. But I'm telling you they're going to do away with it," he said.

"We've got some ideas. Give us a week to 10 days, and we'll get a couple of bills."

In comments to TAB members and reporters, Craddick also

• Supported legislation to give university boards of regents authority to increase tuition.

• Predicted lawmakers will move quickly to tackle high homeowners insurance premiums.

• Said he may appoint a House committee to study changes in ethics law.

"We haven't done anything in 10 years in ethics. I've got a whole list (of possible changes)," he said.

IT'S A DATE!

The Plano Community Forum, in partnership with Omega Psi Phi Fraternity -Alpha Iota Iota Chapter, and The Plano North Metroplex Chapter of Link, Inc. invite you to its 15th Annual Sweetheart Dance!

Saturday, February 15 2003
Harvey Hotel- Plano, Texas

6:30 p.m.- Cocktails and Silent Auction
7:30 p.m.- Dinner
8:30 p.m.-12:00 p.m.- Dancing

Donation: \$40 per person
Net Proceeds: Scholarship Fund

TICKET MUST BE PRESENTED AT DOOR
For additional information, call 972-260-4208

Black Tie Optional

Inspiration

Plano's Douglass Community Center's Youth Program Plans for 2003 College Tour

The Douglass Community Center's Expanding Horizons Youth Program has planned a college tour for the spring of 2003. The teens from the program will tour several colleges in the state of Louisiana, including Grambling State University, Southern University, Louisiana Tech University, LSU, Dillard

University, and Xavier University. The cost for this trip will be \$300.00 per child, which includes all travel, entertainment, and lodging. The dates for the college tour are March 12-15, 2003. This year the theme of the trip is "Opportunity, Time and Decisions". We are hopeful that your child can and will participate in all scheduled

activities and make all the required deadlines. If there are any questions or additional information needed on any dates or the College Tour, please contact Terrance Wright, College Tour 2003 Coordinator, at 972-941-7174.

Here are some very important dates in reference to the upcoming College Tour:

Date	Event
Friday, January 31 st	\$100 Deposit for College Tour 2003 Due
*** Deposits are NON-REFUNDABLE. NOTE: A late fee will be charged after the January 31 st Deadline. ***	
Thursday, January 30 th	College Tour 2003 Workshop @ DCC, 5:30 PM
Thursday, February 6 th	College Tour 2003 Workshop @ DCC, 5:30 PM
Tuesday, February 11 th	College Tour 2003 Workshop @ DCC, 5:30 PM
Tuesday, February 18 th	College Tour 2003 Workshop @ DCC, 5:30 PM
Friday, February 28 th	Final Deposit for College Tour 2003 Due
Friday, February 28 th	Assignments for College Tour 2003 Due
Thursday, March 6 th	Parent Meeting @ DCC 6:30 PM
Wednesday, March 12 th	Depart on College Tour: New Orleans, LA.

Correction

MON-The Gazette strives in giving our readers the most accurate and up-to-date information; however, in the January 23rd Edition, there was an error within the article Plano Community Forum Announces New Officers for 2003. The Plano Community Forum meets every second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Douglass Community Center in Plano, TX. John Hightower is Chaplain, and George McDonald is Parliamentarian. For more information about the Plano Community Forum, please call 972-260-4208.

We apologize for the error.

Founded 1991

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MON-The Gazette assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material and reserves the right to edit and make appropriate revisions.

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



Plano Children's Chorale member, Chisom Akagha, (back center) of Memorial Elementary with his family and friends. Back: l-r Sidney Akagha, Chisom Akagha, Mrs. Louise W. Davis, Principal of Memorial Elementary. Front: l-r Kemjika Akagha, Chiezezi Akagha, Chizao Akagha, Lara Thornton

Barbara Jordan and Margaret Chase Smith.

Elementary student winners of the "Letters to Dr. King" competition took the stage and read their winning entries, letters they had written to Dr. King, thanking him for his work, and seemingly embracing him as their friend.

As the winning entries for the 'Liberty and Justice for All' were presented in a video production, Shepton High School Choral provided the musical backdrop.

Margaret Mathas, of the Shepton High School Chorale, said she sang at the PISD Martin Luther King, Jr. celebrations when she was in the Plano Children's Chorale a couple of years ago. Mathas and Laura Wilson, also with the Chorale, said they have been

singing at Shepton High School for two years, and were proud to be part of this year's celebrations.

In the art contest there were four levels of entry, for elementary, middle, high school and senior high school. There were four winners in each category, with each first place winner presented with a \$50 savings bond from Legacy Bank by Plano Mayor, Pat Evans.

"I am constantly amazed and awed at the artistic talent in PISD," said Mayor Evans.

Culminating the evening, PISD students representing more than 60 nations marched with their national flags in 'The Parade of Nations,' and led the audience to the reception area to celebrate Dr. King's birthday with cake and punch.



Members of the Shepton High School Chorale
Back: l-r Sara Clothier, Student Teacher, Hunter Herdlicka, Kane Coburn, Carolyn Winkler, Director Front: l-r Laura Wilson, Brandon McInnis, Margaret Mathas

"This evening represents courage, purity and justice," said Ms. Bumphus. "It reminds us of those who have gone on before."

The Reception Committee agreed that the evening was a huge success. Mrs. Deborah J. Jones, Principal of Harrington Elementary School, said the committee worked well together to make the evening a success. Thomas Elementary School Assistant Principal, Priscilla Chow, said, "it was a great time to celebrate our diversity."

Plano West Senior High School Principal, Phil Saviano, co-chair of the reception committee, said everything went well.

"It was great, we served about 800 pieces of cake, and about 400 cup cakes," Saviano said. "It was a huge success."

have strong bonds in the community. In 1982 Kathy Dudley founded 'Voice of Hope Ministries' to help inner city families through youth programs and family services. We understand the importance of supporting people and community." Mr. Dudley was a recipient of the 'Community Service Award' from St. Luke.

Dudley said, "There are not many African Americans or other minorities involved in the business of commercial real estate. I make an extra effort to promote commercial real estate as a key business opportunity for minority communities. I try to seek out ethnic minority candidates for many of the jobs I work on."

POWER Hiring - The idea

Sayres Dudley and Lou Adler became acquainted early in his career as a recruiter. Adler created POWER Hiring Inc. and is president of the company. He developed POWER Hiring after over twenty years of working experience with the hiring process. Adler, a veteran recruiter used his intuitive process teaching hiring managers the ability to attract, review, assess and recruit prime candidates through the integration of on-line tools and off-line behavior modifications. As successful business people, they could see the possibility of clients benefiting from the POWER Hiring method for most hiring needs.

"POWER Hiring is a method to find and hire the best talent for the job," explains Lou Adler. "After over twenty-five years in the hiring business, I recognized two important parts to the process: 1) Finding People and 2) Interviewing people. Other companies focus on one or the other however; POWER Hiring specializes in doing both. Potential Employers and Employees look at a job differently. We address issues from both points of view to the benefit each. In spite of the terrible economy, we offer a service that allows business to compete and hire the best talent. Sayres Dudley has proved himself as a valuable POWER Hiring Partner and business person."

POWER Hiring is structured to compliment the traditional hiring process. This method begins with a basic definition of the position you need to fill by grouping and selecting candidates, interviewing them and closing the deal with the candidate you've chosen.

The POWER Hiring Train-the-Trainer program is ideal for Hiring Managers, HR Executives, and Recruiters. It is geared towards individuals in organizations who want to be able to lead the Half-Day POWER Hiring workshop within their own organizations.

POWER Partners are independent business people who have become certified trainers in POWER Hiring. Sayres Dudley is an official POWER Partner.

A Proven Service:

Dudley & Associates offers POWER Hiring to deliver top candidates by overhauling every aspect of the hiring process. POWER Hiring consultants do everything from revamping recruitment advertising and career websites to recruit, manager hiring and training the interviewers. Companies have used POWER Hiring to:

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More accurately assess candidate competency
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Successful companies have experienced success with the expertise of Sayres Dudley and his company. His training programs have included such companies as Chuck E. Cheese Restaurants, C.F. Jordan Construction, JPI apartment developers of Irving, Granite Properties of Plano and Houston along with many others.

Dudley & Associates has clients across the country and overseas. Dudley offers POWER Hiring training to combinations of smaller groups through 'open workshops.' He is currently in the process of opening an office in California.

For info: call 214-560-2222 or visit <http://www.dudleyandassociates.com>
Email: belinda@dwrites@hotmail.com

Contest Winners

Letters to Dr. King

2nd grade
Richard Lee - Dooley Elementary
Michael Gomon - Andrews Elementary
Abby Brooks - Daffron Elementary

4th grade
Mounita Rob - Hickey Elementary
Andrew Franklin Cely - Mathews Elementary
Spencer Read - Mitchell Elementary

Art Contest

N. Tuan - Stinson Elementary
Tina Zang - Hendrick Middle School
Noreen Khan - Williams High School
Winston Ragle - Plano Senior High

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Minority Business Roundtable Begins Research of Country's Minority Business Growth

The Business Roundtable Supports the MBRT as it Surveys The Experiences of America's Minority Entrepreneurs

WASHINGTON, PRNewswire/— The Minority Business Roundtable (MBRT), a national membership organization for chief executive officers (CEOs) of African-American, Hispanic-American, Asian-American, Native-American and other minority-owned top-tier businesses, today announced it will undertake a research project to collect, analyze and evaluate data on minority business growth in the United States.

The MBRT — whose members represent a variety of trades and industries — will use the research project's data to advise government agencies on policies that affect minority businesses. To date, no large-scale mechanism exists to track the growth of these businesses.

"The MBRT is a strong voice, dedicated to advancing the interests of minority companies in today's business environment," said Roger A. Campos, president and chief executive officer, MBRT. "We look forward to talking directly to minority-business entrepreneurs across the country,

for a clear picture of their impact on the U.S. economy."

The Business Roundtable (BRT), an association of chief executive officers of the country's leading corporations, and a strategic partner of the MBRT, is lending support to the MBRT through both collaboration and a monetary contribution to the research effort. This effort builds on BRT's support of BusinessLINC, a nationwide project to build partnerships between corporations and small minority- and women-owned businesses.

"The Business Roundtable is pleased to support the Minority Business Roundtable's efforts to gain a better understanding of minority-owned businesses and the economic parameters surrounding them," said John J. Castellani, president, The Business Roundtable. "This information is vital as business works together to foster a vigorous U.S. economy."

Utilizing data from the Small Business Administration, the U.S. Department of Commerce, Dunn and Bradstreet and other organizations, the MBRT will create a database of minority businesses. MBRT staff will contact minority CEOs for growth information and historical perspective of their companies, including years in business, number of employees and revenues. The MBRT

will compile growth statistics by region, industry and ethnic background. The companies also will be polled for their opinions on barriers to growth and access to capital.

Research from the Minority Business Development Agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce suggests that minority businesses have little access to capital and few chances of bidding for and winning significant contracts from large firms. Despite these challenges, minority businesses are growing six times faster than non-minority firms, according to the Bureau of Census. In 1997, more than three million minority-owned businesses were identified; 84,000 of these businesses posted annual revenues in excess of \$1 million and employed more than 50 percent of their 4.5-million workforce. The minority population is the fastest-growing segment of the nation's population, with a buying potential projected at \$1.5 trillion.

MBRT activities for 2002 included participation in The Business Roundtable's annual meeting in June, and participation in the U.S. Department of Commerce MEDWeek in September. Upcoming activities include: MBRT-sponsored Access to Capital workshops and participation in a Venture Capital Summit in April 2003, sponsored by the Minority Business Development Agency

You Asked For It from Page 1

help heal this city?"

Give me a break, Chris, and please hold the platitudes for rip-off artist Mike Brown. And Cincinnati's own retired judge, Nathaniel Jones, in his inimitable way, offered his usual calm-down-the-Black-folks and say-what-the-white-folks-want rhetoric, lauded team president Mike Brown as having followed in his father's footsteps with the hiring of Lewis. According to the article in the "Cincinnati Enquirer," Jones recalled how the late Paul Brown broke the color barrier in high school football by allowing Black players on his Massillon teams. Jones went on to say, "The timing is wonderful, and I have to applaud Mike Brown for stepping up to the plate." Unlike Jones, rather than applaud brown, I applaud Marvin Lewis for taking the worse coaching job in the NFL. I understand Mike Brown resisted the hiring, and were it not for Brown's daughter, Lewis would still be in Washington.

I wonder if Nate Jones also applauds Mike Brown for ripping off this city's taxpayers for a \$500 million

stadium and a long-term lease that is now being contested with a lawsuit by the Hamilton County Commissioners. Stepping up to the plate is easy; getting a hit is something else again. Mike Brown has been whiffing for a decade or more. And if timing is everything, as Jones says, what does the hiring of Lewis suggest beyond his ability to win football games? We could assume, quite reasonably, that the timing of this hiring could be a mere public relations stunt and an effort to divert our attention away from the real problems in Cincinnati, using Lewis, of course, as the scapegoat. After all, he certainly cannot do any worse and has nowhere to go but up when it comes to winning football games. However, if he fails to heal the city, what are they going to do? Fire him?

You know, it's about time we stop playing games (pardon the pun) with one another and stop letting others play games on us. God bless Marvin Lewis and his family as he makes his move to Cincinnati, Ohio. I am proud of his accomplishments. Thanks to those who are continuing to push for more Black people in the top echelons of sports teams. But, please, let's stop accepting this "first Black" condescension and the empty rhetoric that follows an event that should be second nature in 2003.

This hiring is all about the money for Mike Brown; you can count on that. If more Blacks folks go to the stadium, that's also a good thing for him. (I thought fans went to see the players, not the coach.) Unfortunately, most of our children cannot afford the price of a ticket. While it's fine to celebrate the Lewis hiring, we must always look beyond the PR hype, stay on the course for justice in all areas of our society, and not confine our concentration on economic justice to the sports arenas. As to the racial "Healing" power of a Black football coach in Cincinnati, I kinda doubt it.

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

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Senator Shapiro Attended Power Leadership Breakfast, Hosted by CCCCD

State Senator Florence Shapiro joined Plano community leaders recently at a Power Leadership Breakfast, hosted by Collin County Community College District. The breakfast was part of Plano's Martin Luther King, Jr. celebrations, and was followed by a panel discussion.

Members of the panel were Mayor Pro Tem, Phil Dyer, City Manager, Tom Muehlenbeck, Chief of Police, Greg Rabin, PSD Superintendent, Dr. Douglas Otto, and Collin County

Community College District (CCCD) President Cary A. Ismel, who met with Senator Shapiro at the Spring Creek Campus of CCCCD, in Plano.

"The breakfast was very successful," said Evelyn McKnight, co-chair of the program. "We had about 450 attendees, and everyone enjoyed the program."

Mistresses of Ceremony for the occasion were Frances Griffin-Brown, Executive Director of Club Generation Success, and Reverend

Charles Terry, of Greater New Birth Baptist Church in Plano, gave the invocation. While guests and panel members enjoyed breakfast, music was performed by Brandon Martin and Kyle Oliver.

Linda Stewart-Ball, Staff Writer for the Dallas Morning News, moderated the discussion panel, introducing the participants and fielding questions.

"The college was very helpful, the staff and the administration," said Ms. McKnight.

END OF GAME NOTICE!

These Games will close on March 2, 2003. You have until August 29, 2003 to redeem any winning tickets for these games.



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*Overall Odds are 1 in 4.17



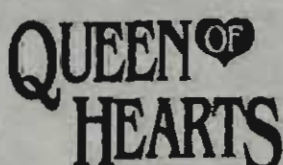
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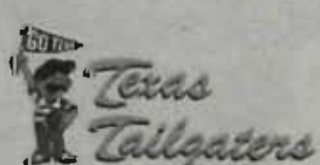
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Luther King, Jr. Celebrations

It was cold and windy, but that didn't stop more than 500 people from watching Plano's Martin Luther King, Jr. parade on Saturday January 18, 2003.

Bonnie Trash, co-chair of the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebrations, said there were more than 35 organizations represented in the parade, making it the best yet for Plano.

The MLK Committee prepared a special celebration this year, showing their commitment to bringing the City of Plano together as a united community. The theme, "A Community United: Making The Dream A Reality," was reflected in turn out of Plano residents, and the sponsors and supporters of the weekend's celebrations. There was no color on Saturday, just a sea of united people, from babies to senior citizens, coming together to perpetuate Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream.

And in recognition of the committee's love and appreciation for the many people who work to make Plano a united community, they recognized council members, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Steve Stovall, senior city staff, the PISD

Mayor Pro Tem also recognized Plano resident and philanthropist, Ms. T. J. Johnson, who was bestowed with the honor of being named 'Citizen of the Month' by Mayor Pat Evans.

When Clarice Tinsley took the podium, she was the personification of her speech, a speech of love, power and determination, titled "The Strength to Love in Uncertain Times."

"Dr. King, passionately believed in equal rights for all people, of all skin color", Tinsley said.

Tinsley reminded the audience of something Dr. King said on his last night of life. "Longevity has its place, but I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will."

And in closing, Tinsley said, "I hope we can extend his legacy beyond the weekend. His legacy of love, and his conviction."

The Plano Community Forum, in partnership with Omega Psi Phi Fraternity - Alpha Iota Iota Chapter, and The Plano North Metroplex Chapter of Link, Inc. invite you to its 15th Annual

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Rapper Nelly Receives Five Grammy Nods; In The Running for Record of the Year and Album of the Year

NEW YORK /PRNewswire/ — Multi-platinum rap superstar Nelly has received five Grammy nominations, including Album of the Year and Best Rap Album for "Nellyville," Record of the Year and Best Rap/Sung Collaboration for "Dilemma," and Best Male Rap Solo Performance for "Hot In Herre."

Nelly's Grammy nods cap off a long list of accolades, awards and nominations for his 2002 5X platinum CD, "Nellyville," including last month's big wins at the Billboard Music Awards where he walked away with the highly-coveted 2002 Artist of the Year Award as well as Male Artist of the Year, Hot 100 Singles Male Artist of the Year, R&B/Hip-Hop Male Artist of the Year, Rap Artist of the Year and Rap Track of the Year for the

single "Hot In Herre." Nelly has also been nominated for four American Music Awards and one People's Choice Award.

Last summer, "Hot In Herre," the first single from "Nellyville," paved the way for the album's mammoth success, riding the top of the Billboard charts for weeks only to be displaced by the album's second release, "Dilemma," which paired Nelly with Destiny's Child's Kelly Rowland. The album's third single, "Air Force Ones," debuted as the number one most added song at both crossover and urban radio and number three most added at rhythmic radio and continues to garner massive airplay at stations across the board.

The 45th Annual Grammy Awards will air on February 23 live from Madison Square Garden.

Tichina Arnold Bio

Queens, NY born actor/writer/singer Tichina Arnold vividly recalls her first taste of show business performing characters and singing at the age of four in front of her family's church congregation. Since then, Tichina has taken her vocal and comedic skills to much higher levels by starring in numerous feature films, television shows and staged productions. Some of her indie film credits include: Dancing in September, Scenes from a Mall, and The Little Shop of Horrors. Where as, Arnold is most recognized for her role of "Pam Jones" on FOX's The Martin Show, she has also brought her impeccable acting talents to many other great shows such as; Ryan's Hope, All My Children, The Cosby Show, Law & Order and The Norm Show. Most recently, Tichina brings yet another one of her charming characters to life in 20th Century Fox's upcoming blockbuster BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE where she stars opposite Martin Lawrence. As the irreverent and mouthy "Retha", Tichina is presented with the task of trying to deliver her own baby while keeping the wacky Martin Lawrence in line; the result as usual is sheer hysteria. From the tender age of 11 Tichina starred in a variety of productions that include the play "The Me Nobody Knows" at Brooklyn's Billie Holiday Theatre. She then went on to star in a number of other great theatrical productions that include; "Hair", "Romance and Hard Times" and "Haggadah" at The Joseph Papp Theatre. During her childhood she began an extreme program of vocal training which emanated from the church as a young girl singing in the choir. Tichina also began listening and singing to the records of blues greats such as Aretha Franklin, Shirley Bassey and of course her favorite Billie Holiday. Her tastes also touched upon artists from other areas such as Jazz, Classical and Pop. With her great acting ability and passion for music Tichina quickly earned parts in a number of these productions in addition to films. It was also her natural born gift that lead to her television debut in 1987 as the scheming "Zena" on the daytime drama "Ryan's Hope". In the midst of her busy schedule, Tichina makes an effort to lend her time to several charitable organizations and events that include the "Kids Choice Awards", "The Imag Awards" and frequently singing the National Anthem at various celebrity sporting events. Tichina also remains active in her community by speaking out on issues that involve the NAACP in the entertainment industry. She has also been honored by The NAACP in receiving an IMAGE

See Tichina page 9

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Car Review

Feel the Vibe

Pontiac introduces an all-new sport wagon, the Vibe, for 2003. Geared toward young buyers, the Vibe combines the best attributes of an SUV, a station wagon and a small van, and sports an athletic design, featuring an integrated roof rack giving the car a sleek shape. Cat-eye headlamps, recessed fog lamps, rear cornering lamps, wide-stance and taller body add to the vehicle's style.



All Vibe models feature stylish and functional interiors. The sporty seat fabrics are made of a flatly knitted, high-class, high-tech material available in slate and graphite. Chrome-ringed gauges with amber/orange lighting, and metallic dash trim give pizzazz to the front. The rear seat folds 60/40, and when completely flat provides 57.2 cubic feet of cargo space. The front passenger seat folds flat, and an innovative cargo system includes two parallel tracks running the length of the rear compartment. Other features include a remote six-disc CD changer, an AC outlet for electronic devices and a DVD navigation system.

For safety features,

the Vibe offers dual front air bags and optional seat-mounted side air bags. ABS are standard on AWD and GT models, optional on the base model. The Vibe features a large safety cage and crumple zones, with the frame and body panels constructed of high-strength steel designed to absorb energy in a crash and resist passenger-compartment intrusion.

Vibe has a performance mode, Vibe GT, with a 1.8-liter 180-hp four-cylinder engine, and a standard six-speed manual transmission, or optional four-speed automatic. Using variable valve timing

and lift, the GT engine goes from 0-60 mph in the low eight-second range. The 1.8-liter, DOHC all-aluminum four-cylinder makes 180 hp at 7600 rpm and 130 lb-ft of torque at 6800 rpm. Vibe's base model comes with a 1.8-liter, 130 hp, four-cylinder in manual or four-speed automatic.

This vehicle offers an elevated driving position that gives a great view of the road, the handling is sharp, and the ride is comfortable. The Vibe blends performance, practicality and affordability to give a fun, sport wagon package.

Career Opportunities

Fax or Email copy for quote: • Fax 972-509-9058 •
opportunity@monthegazette.com

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NORTH TEXAS TOLLWAY AUTHORITY
PUBLIC ADVERTISEMENT

Sealed bids for construction of the President George Bush Turnpike from North of Valley View Lane to South of Belt Line Road covered by contract DNT-334 will be received at the offices of the North Texas Tollway Authority (the "NTTA"), 5900 W. Plano Pkwy. Suite 100, Plano, TX 75092, (214) 461-2000, until 1:30 p.m., February 27, 2003, and then will be publicly opened and read.

Specifications may be seen for examination and for information at the office of the NTTA, 5900 W. Plano Parkway, Suite 100, Plano, Texas 75093. Proposals may be obtained from the NTTA, address listed above, upon payment of One Hundred Fifty (\$150.00) Dollars, which sum will not be refunded. The usual rights are reserved

Arts & Entertainment



Tichina Arnold

Award for her work as Best Supporting Actress on the FOX hit series "Martin". Tichina continues to expand in both film and television additionally she is currently writing a screenplay and working on her debut album.

Tichina from page 8

IF THESE HIPS COULD TALK

Every woman has a secret. It's that one thing deep inside that evokes feelings of intense pleasure, immense pain and even shame. For many women, this secret is the key that has paved the road to their greatest victories. However, for countless others, this personal experience is far more than just a secret, it's a place inside from which they long to be free.

Starring Tichina Arnold, produced by the award winning Angela Barrow-Dunlap and co-produced by industry veteran Marvie Wright, If These Hips Could Talk takes a look at reality through the eyes of four women who know the joy and pain of being a woman. Claudia, an executive producer, Faye, a producer, Simone, a director and Alexis, a field reporter, run a television network show called, "H.I.P.S." (Healing & Inspiring Programming for Sisters). The birth of the show is not merely an accomplishment for these women; it is their answer to the thousands of other women who ask the question, "How can I be free?" It is a vision that has been born out of tragedy and ultimately their collective triumphs.

If These Hips Could Talk depicts the characters' struggle to cover prevalent issues and the concerns of women through the means of television programming, with an edict to provide viewers with "real" solutions. The HIP's staffer have been assigned heart-wrenching stories which force them to look at their own problems head on and make some uncompromising decisions, decisions that become more difficult than they would have ever imagined.

If These Hips Could Talk is a roller-coaster ride of emotion as it takes the audience on a journey through the lives of women who appear to have it all together. In reality, their struggles mirror those of many women all over the world. When they ultimately decide to "tell all," the stage is set for some uncut and uncensored female bonding. From sexual

promiscuity to abusive relationships — obsessive dieting to marital infidelity, If These Hips Could Talk explores real issues and hope to provide to it's audience thought provoking answers.

A precedent setting production, If These Hips Could Talk combines a cast of today's finest actors, with witty comedy, soul stirring music, lavishly designed sets, state of the art technology and lighting effects with multi-media presentations. It is much more than a musical stage play, it is a breakthrough experience designed to ignite the pride, strength, and purpose inside of every woman.

About the Producer: As the president and founder of Faith Entertainment, based in Detroit, Michigan, Angela Barrow-Dunlap is the force behind numerous critically acclaimed productions. She is the mastermind behind hit sensations including; "Real Men Pray", "I Won't Be The Other Woman" and "Why Good Girls Like Bad Boys" — known as the longest running, highest revenue-producing-gospel musical play ever in New York City. Angela is also executive consultant for Neil Simon's Broadway play "Barefoot In The Park" produced by Kim Fields. She co-produced the Universoul Circus featured on HBO which is currently touring nationally.

Whatever the key to achieving unrelenting theatrical success may be, she's found it. To industry insiders, she's most commonly known as "the Doctor" — the play doctor to be exact. Having conceptualized and perfected the secrets

of live theater, she is an infinite creative source of knowledge, an insider with a finger on the pulse of the African-American community.

Her new production, "If These Hips Could Talk" is a bold venture in urban theater. Currently on a nation-wide tour and wowing audiences everywhere, the critics are singing the praises of the latest offering from "the Doctor," Angela Barrow-Dunlap.

As the president and founder of Faith Entertainment, based in Detroit, Michigan, Barrow-Dunlap is the force behind numerous critically acclaimed productions. She is the mastermind behind hit sensations including; "Real Men Pray", "I Won't Be The Other



Lisa Raye

Woman" and "Why Good Girls Like Bad Boys" — known as the longest running, highest revenue-producing gospel musical play ever in New York City. Angela is also executive consultant for Neil Simon's Broadway play "Barefoot In The Park" produced by Kim Fields. She's co-produced the Universoul Circus featured on HBO which is currently touring nationally.

A go-getter by nature, at

only 33 years old, Barrow-Dunlap has something to say and thousands across the nation are listening, "I believe our audiences relate, because they see aspects of their own lives on stage. In connecting with our audiences, we create works which will not only entertain, but enlighten and encourage as well."

Future plans for Barrow-Dunlap and Faith Entertainment include feature film production, as well as building a school for the arts. Her heart's desire is to impart knowledge, life and business preparedness for the less fortunate and to instill the practical skills needed for entrepreneurial success in each of her protégés.

With a strong desire to give back to the community, Angela's non-profit outreach program called "Little Miracles," is currently being developed. The goal is to discover and enrich the talent of others and to cultivate the next generation of theatrical gifts. The extended vision of Faith Entertainment is to lay a foundation by establishing a national platform which will promote unification and cultivation within the theatrical community.

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The Recruit

Colin Farrell stars as a young CIA operative in training with another young agent, played by Bridget Moynahan. Their mentor (Al Pacino) advises them that nothing is as it seems, and he's right: When Farrell's agent is told that Moynahan's character is a mole, he has to decide whether she's double-crossing him or whether it's his boss who is playing mind games.

Starts January 31, 2003



Biker Boyz

Described as a modern-day western on motorcycles, the story showcases the world of black motorcycle clubs. Laurence Fishburne plays Manuel Galloway, the real-life California motorcycle club president and racer known as the King of Cali. He's the leader of the pack, so to speak, and the pack is a group of 9-to-5ers by day and a wild bunch of leather-clad racing rebels at night.

Starts January 31, 2003



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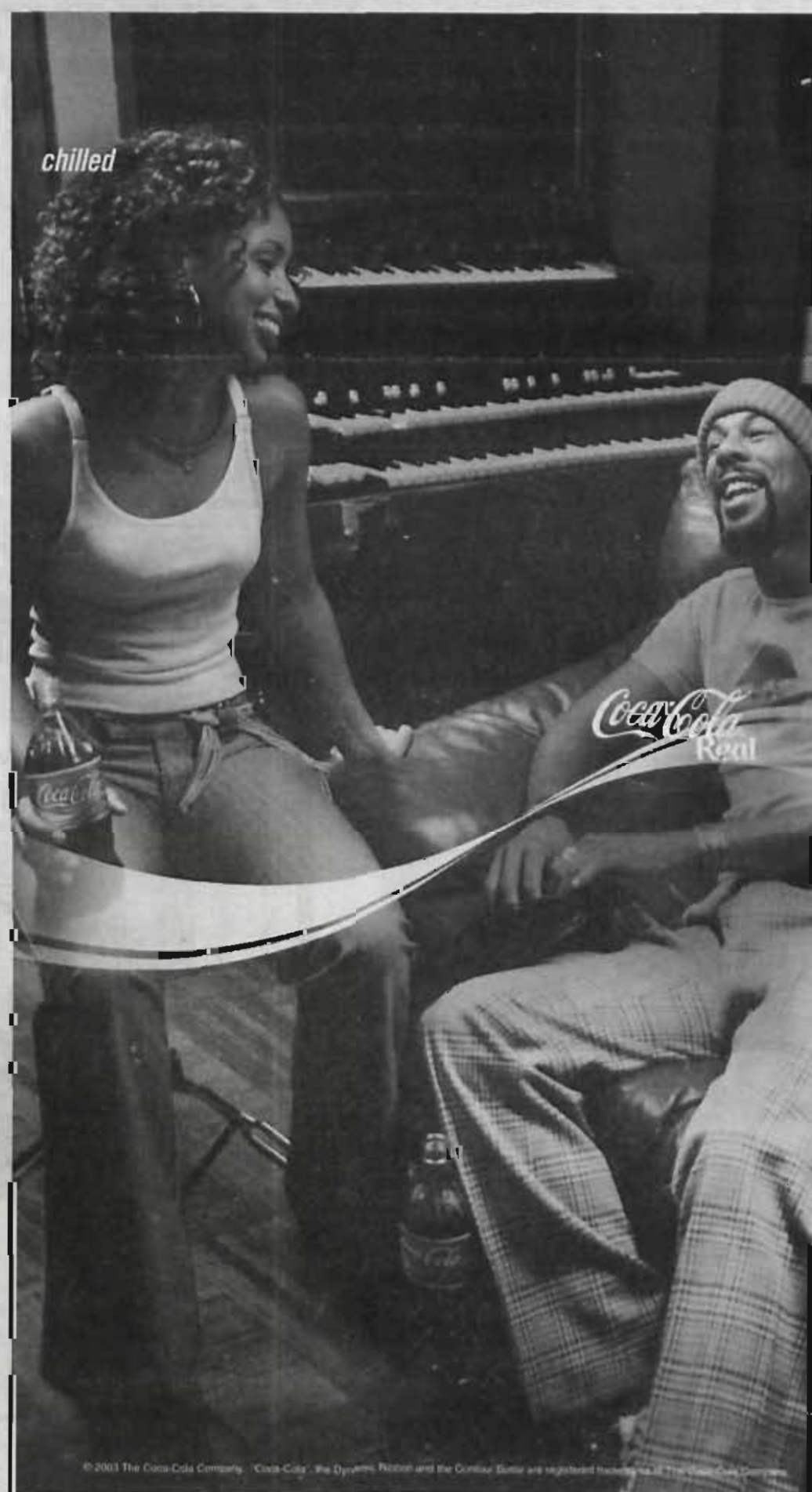
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Sister Tarpley

Discovering Your African-American Ancestors

February 2003, we will celebrate Black History Month. It is sometimes said, "It's the shortest month of the year, why bother to celebrate it." The truth is- a Black man, Mr. Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950) started the celebration. It originated as Negro History Week. I personally believe that it's a great idea.

Black History Month is a time to reflect on our ancestors and contributions that the Black race made not only to the United States of America, but also to the world. To me, it doesn't matter who, what, when, why, and/or where, just as long we celebrate Black History, especially since most of it is not widely taught in our public and private schools during the school year. As a teacher, my desire is that facts are taught anytime, anyplace and anywhere. I mention our ancestors, because as the saying goes, you can't know where you are going until you know where you have been. What a greater time to start gathering facts and stories about your family than during Black History Month. This past week, Mr. Thurman Jones, Publisher of MON-The Gazette, handed me a book to review. I have found, after looking through the book and reading some chapters that *Discovering Your African-American Ancestors: How to Find and Record Your Unique Heritage* by Franklin Carter Smith & Emily Anne Croom (Houston) is a book that many genealogist need to add to his/her home library. After the birth of my son, Jarrell Edwin, I called upon the wisdom and knowledge of my entire family on both sides upon the completion of his baby book. And on the home going of my mother, Mrs. Cedelia Baker Demus in 1984, the search and recording of my family history became urgent and very important to me. Since no one else in my family was compiling our family history, I realized that there is no greater gift that I can leave to my heirs and other family members than to research and publish our family history.

After writing ROOTS, Mr. Alex Haley caused people of every race, creed and color to begin searching all kinds of records to put their family history on paper. I am reminded of a saying that I picked up some place... The author is

unknown to me but if you have a name, please email, fax or mail it to me so that I can give credit. There is something unique about being at a family gathering, you can see a link to the past by watching the young children, perhaps

a walk, a smile, a stand, a laugh, or just the way someone hold his or

her head. You may see an aunt, uncle, cousin, or another relative in

some of the children, especially if that relative has passed away.

You will really begin to see that the family never really dies. It is like looking into the future and seeing the past at the same time.

Precious moments like this would be missed if you miss a family gathering without just cause.

If you don't think this is true, I challenge you to ask other family members if they haven't found this to be true. A few weeks ago, my sister, Ida Mae, saw the likeness of her daughter and granddaughter in an old family picture of some cousins. She just had to have a copy of the picture. Also, two cousins, Jackie & Sharon, found that people were commenting on the similarity of their facial features, and was sure that they were sisters, even though, at that time, they had never met at a family gathering.

I have conducted several workshops on how to research ancestors; give me a call, if I can help you get started documenting your family history.

Please remember, I want to hear from you. I want to share your stories and events with our readers. Call, fax, email, mail or leave a voice mail.

Thought for this week: If the roots are deep and strong, the tree need not worry about the wind. (Summation of Jeremiah 17:7 & 8, emailed by Frank Ortiz)

You are Special!

Sister Tarpley

Email: starpley@wt.net

Page: 214-833-1639

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Let MON-The Gazette help your church accomplish the Prayer of Tabor, "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."

Church Happenings

ALL NATIONS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Through April 2003

The Fundamentals of Achieving Financial Independence- A series of four financial workshops to be held through April, sponsored by the Men's Ministry. Financial Management Workshops are being conducted the last Thursday of each month. If you missed the last one, don't miss this one. Contact the church so that you can receive a free workshop packet at the next meeting.

Workshops will be conducted by professional financial advisors and attorneys.

Free and open to the public English as a Second Language Classes are being held at this time. Call the church office for more information. The classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, through April.

February 11

Divorce Recovery Workshop will begin Tuesday, February 11th at 7:00 p.m. The workshop is designed for anyone who is divorced or is going through a divorce. The group will focus on the various stages of divorce and teach divorce coping skills. It will meet 6 weeks for 1 & 1/2 hours per week. The workshop has a nominal fee for administration and material and is 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.

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

February 1, 10:30 a.m.

Marriage Enrichment Seminar- This event is open to the public.

For more information, call Roderick or Vickie Winston at 972-562-2107.

February 1, Noon

Singles Ministry Meeting- This event is open to the public.

Topic- Commitment; Teacher- Koby Barnes

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

Criminal Justice Symposium to be Held

The public is invited to attend a Criminal Justice Symposium, Saturday, February 1, 8 a.m. to Noon at the St. Luke "Community" UMC, 5710 East RL Thornton Freeway (I-30). Dallas Police Chief Terrell Bolton; Federal Corrections Chaplain Rich Stoglin; Judge Larry Baraka; School Board Member Ron Price; Friendship West Assistant Pastor, Rev. Jean Jones, and Out But Not Free Director Rev. Roger Woods will provide an overview of the criminal justice system with particular interest to prevention, intervention, treatment and restorative justice.

Come out and learn how we can turn around the negative impact on our community. This symposium is a joint effort of Warren UMC,

St. Luke "Community" UMC, and Friendship West Baptist Church.

Free and open to the public. All people concerned with justice are urged to attend.

For more information, please call Rev. Perry Crenshaw at 214-942-8800

Friendship Baptist Church



4396 Main Street
The Colony,
Texas 75056
(972) 625-8186
Dr. C. Paul
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"The Church with a Vision" Schedule of Services:

Sunday
Early Morning Worship 8:00 a.m.
Sunday School Classes 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
B.T.U. (1st Sunday) 5:00 p.m.
Evening Worship (1st Sunday) 6:00 p.m.

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

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Pastor Charles S. Wattley



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Worship Celebration... 11:00 a.m.
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Wednesday
Family Ministries... 7:00 p.m.

Friendly Fellowship with A Family Focus
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smkmissionary@aol.com

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
920 E. 14th Street Plano, TX



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
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Standard Announcements

Sunday School 9:30 AM
Worship Service 10:45 AM
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Leadership Meeting 2nd Mondays 7:30-8:30 PM
Marriage Enrichment & Singles Ministry 4th Mondays 7:30-8:30 PM
Deliverance from Issues Tuesdays 7:30-8:30 PM
Mid-Week Service Wednesdays 7:15-8:30 PM
Youth Bible Study Wednesdays 7:15-8:30 PM

Radio Broadcast Station 1040AM-KGGR
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