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People In The News



Cheryl Smith's commitment to historically Black colleges and universities is no secret so it was not a surprise when the veteran journalist was nominated for Alumnus of the Year. Alumni from various (HBCU) across the nation gathered at the Holiday Inn in Dallas for the 7th Annual Black College Alumni Night, featuring dinner, memories and the crowning of Dallas Metroplex Council of Black Alumni Association's (DMCBAA) honoree.

Ultimately, KKDA-AM Talk Show host, Paul Quinn College Professor and Executive Editor of the Dallas Weekly, Cheryl Smith, walked away with the prestigious award.

"This award means so much to me," said Cheryl Smith during her acceptance speech. "I am and continue to be committed to providing support of Historically Black Colleges and Universities. It is important that when our children decide what college to go to, that they look to HBCUs as viable institutions of learning."

The DMCBAA was founded in 1987, by alumni of HBCUs who felt that collectively they could do more to further and champion the cause of HBCUs. The council is the brainchild of Ms. Smith.

Actor James Earl Jones will speak at the Ohara Exhibit Hall of the Dallas J. Erik Jonsson Library on March, 16th at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Jones is appearing as part of the Dallas Public Library's AuthorSpeak Series.



James Earl Jones is a well-known author who has starred in many films over 40 years, including Field of Dreams and Claudine. He is also known as the voice of Darth Vader and also played Mufasa in The Lion King.

Mr. Jones moved to Michigan around the age of 5, when he developed a severe stutter. He remained functionally mute for 8 years until he reached high school. A teacher urged him to write poetry and recite it in front of the class, which ultimately led to his success as an actor.

Mr. Jones says about his involvement with literacy, "My role as a spokesperson gives me an opportunity to be a literacy advocate and travel across America reading to children to talk to them about the importance of books in their lives. It's by far the most enjoyable thing that I do."

For information call 214-670-1400.



Author and former Dallas resident Cheryl Robinson, will autograph and read from her latest novel, It's Like That at Black Images Book Bazaar on Saturday, May 18th at noon.

"Writing has always been in the back of my mind as something I wanted to do, and I knew I would do one day. I knew it made me feel like a whole person with a purpose for living, but I was so busy chasing a dollar that I couldn't settle my mind long enough to pursue my own passion."

The Detroit native began her literary career by self-publishing two novels, Memories of Yesterday (2002), and When I Get Free (2003).

In the fall of 2003 with the assistance of Earl Cox of Earl Cox & Associates, Cheryl came one step closer to her dream of writing full-time after signing with a Los Angeles based literary agent who quickly inked a two-book deal for her with The Penguin Group/New American Library for If It Ain't One Thing (February 28, 2005) and the recently completed sequel It's Like That.

Black Images Book Bazaar is located at 230 Wynnewood Village, Dallas. Call 214-943-0142 for more info.

Harry Belafonte And Farrakhan Speak At Economic Convention For African-Americans

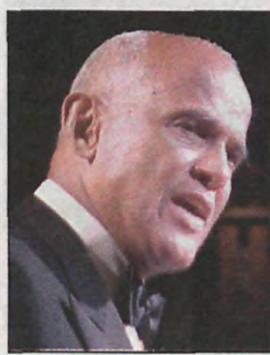
Entertainer Harry Belafonte renewed his criticism of President George W. Bush and black Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan urged education reform during the second day of the 2006 National Black Peoples Unity Convention.

The four-day gathering is aimed at developing a long-term economic empowerment plan for blacks.

Farrakhan, the head of the Nation of Islam group, said the U.S. educational system has failed to teach blacks basic skills and how to succeed after graduation and requires massive restructuring.

"Black people all over America and all over the world, there is something wrong with the way we have been trained in a white supremacist, racist environment," Farrakhan told about 700 people gathered in the gymnasium of Gary West Side High School on Friday, the Post-Tribune newspaper reported.

"You have not been trained to succeed," he said.



"We must never sell that lie to the next generation of black children, that the system works for all. It does not."

Belafonte was heavily critical of Economic Convention Page 6

NAACP Urges Justice Department To Block New Orleans Elections



The NAACP urged the Justice Department on Monday to block the upcoming mayoral election, claiming more must be done to reach

displaced city residents, most of whom are black.

The elections "cannot be conducted in a way that would guarantee, or provide some level of assurance, that substantial percentages of African-Americans, substantial percentages of New Orleanians, in fact would be able to vote," said Bruce S. Gordon, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Gordon's allegations were New Orleans Elections Page 5

2006 Habitat For Humanity Women Build In Plano's Douglass Community-Dr. Myrtle Hightower Announced As Honorary Chairperson

The third annual Women Build has been announced for 2006 by Patti Fisk, Chairperson for the 2006 Women Build for Habitat for Humanity of South Collin County (Habitat-SCC). The house is to be constructed at 1102 F Avenue in the Douglass Community area in Plano, Texas. This will be the 21st house started by Habitat-SCC since 1997.

The Habitat-SCC 2006 Women Build is part of a national effort by Habitat for Humanity International.

Dr. Myrtle Hightower has been named as Honorary Chair for the 2006 Women Build for Habitat-SCC.

Dr. Myrtle Nash Hightower is no stranger to awards and honors, although recognition has



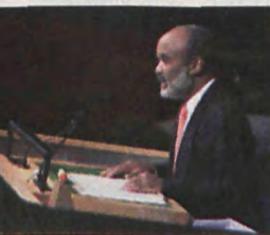
Honorary Chairperson Page 4

Haitian President-Elect To Tour Americas For Economic Help

Haitian president-elect Rene Preval is to begin a multinational tour on Friday, visiting Argentina, Chile and Brazil, and later the United States, to drum up economic support, reports from Port-au-Prince said on Thursday.

Seeking the support needed to rebuild his country's infrastructure, boost economic growth and create jobs in Haiti, the winner of the Feb. 7 elections will first fly to Brazil to meet President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

He will then attend the inauguration ceremony of new Chilean President Michelle Bachelet before visiting President Nestor Kirchner in Argentina. Finally, Preval will head to the United States to meet President George



W. Bush. Preval, a 63-year-old agricultural economist, hopes for assistance and knowledge from Brazil to help Haiti rebuild its

Tour of Americas Page 5

Irving: Equal Access Or The Good Ole Boy Network?

By: Ruth Ferguson

Irving, Texas engenders an image of one of the more successful North Texas cities in recent decades. In addition to the National Football League Dallas Cowboys, Fortune 500 companies such as Exxon Mobil, The Associates and Microsoft have their national and regional headquarters in Irving. Success such as this is reflected in the tax base of the city, reportedly over \$14 billion. However, recent questions have surfaced regarding the fairness of the business practices of the city. Eyebrows were raised when it came to light that Irving has no written policies regarding the awarding of contracts to minority or women owned businesses (MWOB). The fact the city

has never had such a policy, causes community leaders to suggest the Good Ole Boy system is alive and very well in Irving.

Irving is the only North Texas city with a population of over 250,000 without a formal policy in place. While city leaders suggest there is no need for such a program, others strenuously disagree. Irving is one of only 19 cities in the United States to receive a bond credit rating of AAA, which qualifies the municipality for loans from financial institutions around the world. Community activist and founder of the Irving branch of the NAACP ten years ago, Mr. Anthony Bond, points out that one criteria utilized by

Irving: Equal Access? Page 8

Answer To AIDS Mystery Found Behind Bars



A woman tests herself for HIV at a clinic.

By: Richard Morin

It is one of the most puzzling mysteries of the AIDS epidemic: Why did blacks, in little more than a dozen years, become nine times as likely as whites to contract a disease once associated almost exclusively with gay white men?

Two researchers say they found the answer in an unlikely place: prison.

Rucker C. Johnson and Steven Raphael of the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley analyzed census data and a federal database containing detailed information on about 850,000 men and women who contracted AIDS between 1982 and 1996.

They discovered that the surge in black AIDS patients - particularly women - since the early 1980s closely tracked the

increase in the proportion of black men in America's prisons, which by the 1990s had become vast reservoirs of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

The percentage of prisoners who were black increased from 40 percent in 1982 to well over half in 1996, according to government data. At the same time, get-tough sentencing policies more than doubled the prison population, producing even more infected black men who passed the disease on to black women after they were released.

Blacks And AIDS Mid-1980s

Roughly similar rates to those of whites for men and women.

TODAY

- Black men are seven times as likely as white men to develop AIDS.
- Black women are 19 times as likely as white women.

AIDS Mystery Found Page 6

~ Plano FEMA ~

FEMA will be in Plano again March 17 and 18 to meet with Evacuees who have not had the opportunity to go to the Dallas FEMA Office.

The meetings will take place at the City of Plano, Joint Use Facility, 7501 N. Independence Pkwy, Plano. Meeting times will be from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This process will assist with:

- Recertification---verify occupancy is proven
- Verify proof of occupancy---verify supporting documents are submitted
- Appeals
- Assist with filing of documents

ments

- Clarification of letters received
- Status check
- Update current mailing address and phone numbers

It is very important, as the Plano program ends, that evacuees transition into the FEMA programs. The Plano leases will end soon and not be extended.

For assistance with issues other than housing, please feel free to contact the Assistance Center of Collin County at 972-422-1850. This office has many sources for referrals and assistance with other evacuee needs.

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The Dallas Chapter of the Continental Societies, Inc. holds Nawlins' Mardi Gras Jam Fundraiser



(L to R) Norma Pankey, Charles Pankey and Florence Cox enjoy evening festivities.



(L to R) Queen Lynn Briggs - KOAI-FM Smooth Jazz 107.5 and King Jimmy E. Porch - Publisher for Eclipse Magazine



Hortense C. Ransom Introduce the King and Queen



King Jimmy E. Porch and Queen Lynn Briggs lead the audience with the first dance.



(L to R) Queen Lynn Briggs; King Jimmy E. Porch; and Gloria H. Lett - President.



(L to R) Fortune Teller Jewel reads Beverly Gray her future.



Constance Carter (Far Right) enjoys the card games offered during the festivities.



Continental Society Member Marsha Gadsden Nawlins style second line into the Nawlins Mardi Gras celebration as members are introduced.



(L to R Committee Members) Antoinette Mitchell Morgan - Casino Committee; Louise W. Davis - Silent Auction; Rita C. White-Entertainment; Gloria H. Lett - President; Hortense C. Ransom - Venue Committee; Audrey Bolling - Public Relations; Marsha W. Gadsden - General Chair; and Linda Singleton - Registration Committee.

Photos By: PJ Johnson
The annual Nawlins' Mardi Gras Jam Fundraiser was held on Saturday, March 11th. Honorary King and Queen for the event were Jimmy Porch, Publisher, Eclipse Magazine, and Lynn Briggs, KOAI-FM Smooth Jazz Personality. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Dallas Chapter of the Continental Societies, Inc., children and youth projects. This year's recipients are the children and youth at the Myrtle Davis/Mattie Nash Recreation Center, The Vogel Alcove Day Care for Homeless children and Stults elementary School.



Felicia Hopins enjoy the Nawlins style dinner



(L to R) Linda Singleton - Dallas Continental Societies Committee Member; Rhonda Arnold - Vice President Houston Chapter Continental Societies; Constance White - Regional Director Mid-Western Region; Karen Aubry - Houston Chapter Continental Societies; Doncella Milton - National Public Relations.

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Special Announcement

Words of Gratitude
By the Grace of God, another year of Blessings have come our way.

Yes, Reginald and Brooksie Craddock. I Brooksie, express in love for Reginald and our family to all the Christians, Family and Friends who shared your given time and talents in another exciting and fulfilling BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT.

• Donations of all food items

and financial gifts, we received \$2500.00 and our insurance deductible is \$1200.00. Words can not express the gratitude for your support. Reginald was unable to share in this celebration due to being hospitalized on Thursday morning before daybreak having seizures. We thank each and everyone for your very own Special Sharing. Be Blessed, Reginald and Brooksie Craddock

Around The Town

Ongoing

The 10th Annual Black Women's Film Festival featuring Looking for Mr. Right or Mr. Right Now: Black Women & Relationships, Black Forest Theater, 1920 MLK Blvd., 7:30 p.m. and on the 18th, Emerald City Bar & Grill, 2532 MLK Blvd. Call 214-426-1683 or 214-939-2787 for information. March 17, 18, 24

A Slave Ship Speaks: The Wreck of the Henrietta Marie, temporary exhibit at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum. Call 512-936-8746 for information. February 11-April 15

Teen Reaching Teens, Inc. and Teen Graffiti Magazine presents free computer training. Courses offered Wednesday and Friday, 4:30-5:30 p.m. and Saturday 12:30-3:30 p.m. Call 972-496-9457. Begins February-April.

Drums Not Guns will hold drumming sessions from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. the second and fourth Saturdays of the month thru mid-May at Old Settlers Park Recreation Center, 1201 E. Louisiana St. Call 214-641-0782 for information.

Alpha Beta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi a social service cultural sorority meets the second Monday of each month in members

home in Frisco, McKinney, and the Plano area. Call 972-473-9089.

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

Dallas Theater Center presents Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winner, "I Am My Own Wife." a true story of six decades, two wars and one man in a dress, Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Call 214-522-8499 for information. March 1-26

Allen Symphony Chorus is recruiting singers for its April 29 performance. Rehearsals are from 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m., Thursdays, Choir Room Ereckson Middle School, 450 Tatum Dr. For information call 972-359-0656.

A free legal clinic is offered for residents who meet low income guidelines, 6:00 p.m., second Thursday of each month, First United Methodist Church, 601 S. Greenville Ave. Applicants must be Collin County residents and income eligible. Call 1-800-906-3045.

The Frisco Housing Authority is offering tenant-based rental assistance to 22 eligible families and individuals for rental housing in Frisco. Call 972-377-3031 for information.

Korean War Veterans Association-Sam Johnson Chapter 270 meets the second Saturday of each month at the Richardson Senior Citizens

Center, 820 Arapaho Rd. in Richardson. Call 972-279-7000 for information.

A photo exhibit by Sarah Scott and Carol Stum of Creative Focus by Two Gutsy broads will run through March 7 at George's Frame and Art Gallery, 7130 Campbell Rd, Ste. 210 in Dallas. The gallery is open from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Call 972-234-1486 for information.

Disney on Ice Presents Pixar's "The Incredibles" in a magic kingdom adventure, Dallas Reunion Arena. For information call 214-373-8000. March 22-26

The Women's Museum shows "Apron Chronicles: A Patchwork of American Recollections." Features storytelling, photography and vintage fashion. Call 214-915-0871 for information. Exhibit runs thru May 14

A Ballroom Dance with a live band at the McKinney Senior Recreation Center and Indoor Pool, 1400 S. College St., Thursdays, 6:00 p.m. Call 972-547-7491 for information.

March 16

The Dallas Business Development Breakfast, City Place, 2711 N. Haskell, Alcove Room, 3rd Fl., 7:00 a.m. Call 214-860-5900 for information.

Freedom's Journal, the first black owned newspaper founded in 1827. It was established the same year slavery was abolished in New York State. The first editors of the paper were Samuel E.

Cornish and John B. Russwurm.

Actor James Earl Jones will speak at the Ohara Exhibit Hall, Central Library (J. Erickson), 1515 Young St., 7:00 p.m. For information call 214-670-1400.

R. Kelly in concert, Nokia Live, 1001 Next Stage Drive, 7:00 p.m. Call 214-373-8000 for information.

March 17

Lockheed Martin and Chase Bank present Entrepreneur Expo, Fort Worth Convention Center. To register or for information call 682-554-2766 or www.EntrepreneurExpo.org.

NACA presents New Home Buyer's Workshop, Veterans of War Community Center, 1906 E. Miller Rd., and 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. For information call 1-888-302-6222.

Diaries of a Barefoot Diva: And Other Tales From The Ghetto. This is a new musical by Sheron Goodspeed-Keyton and Joe Rogers, Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., 8:00 p.m. Call 817-338-4411.

Allen Abrone Ministries, Inc presents 2nd Annual Fundraising Banquet, Holiday Inn, 1515 N. Beckley Ave., (Desoto), 7:30 p.m. Call 972-283-6731 for information

Prairie View Membership Round-Up, Visions, 4107 W. Camp Wisdom Rd., 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Call 972-572-3500 for information

Entrepreneur Expo, Fort Worth Convention Center. Call 817-871-6021 for information.

March 18

Film Fest with Irma P. Hall 12 Noon-4:30 p.m., Clarence Muse Café in the Dallas Convention Center, 650 South Griffin St. Call 214-743-2440 for information.

Celebration of Black Books, Black Authors and Black Book Clubs, presented by Jokae's African American Books, 3917 W. Camp Wisdom Rd., 11:00-7:00 p.m. Call 972-283-0558 for information.

"An Evening Among Stars": Crimson and Cream Affair, sponsored by the Metropolitan Dallas Alumnae of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Dallas Infomart, 1950 Stemmons Freeway.

R&B sensation, KEM in concert, Nokia Live, 1001 Next Stage Drive, 7:00 p.m. Call 214-373-8000 for information.

First Annual Family Fellowship Breakfast and Conference, sponsored by the New Life Fellowship Church, Greater Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 4751 Hopkins. For more information call 972-671-1096

If It Ain't One Thing/It's Like That, by Cheryl Robinson, signs her latest book at Black Images Book Bazaar, 230 Wynnewood Village. For more information call 214-934-0142.

Home Buyer's Workshop, Veterans of War Community Center, 1906 E. Miller Rd., (Garland), 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. Call toll free 1-888-302-

NACA (6222)

March 20

Cupcake Brown presents her memoir entitled "A Piece of Cake", at Black Images Book Bazaar, 230 Wynnewood Village, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Call 214-943-0142 for information.

April Ongoing

Forum 2006, 23rd Annual Conference, "Building Coalitions and Connecting Cultures, Fort Worth Convention Center. Presented by the National Forum for Black Public Administrators, North Texas Chapter, www.northtexasnf-bpa.org. April 8-12

April 8

Alpha Legacy Celebration, Dallas World Trade Center, 2050 Stemmons Freeway, 6:00-10:00 p.m. Funds will benefit the Sankofa Foundation whose mission is to support youth through mentoring and sponsoring youth outreach initiatives through the community. Renowned jazz artist Gerald Albright will perform. For information call 214-395-5202.

April 19

18th Annual She Knows Where She Is Going Awards Girls Inc. to honor performer Erica Badu and philanthropist Aleta Stampley. The luncheon will take place at the Wyndam Anatole Hotel, 12 Noon.

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No Requiem For A Black Conservative

By: Earl Ofari Hutchinson
In a tear-jerk moment toward the end of Claude Allen's abortive Senate confirmation hearing for a spot on the federal appeals court in 2003, Sen. Orin Hatch tossed him a puffball question. Hatch asked what Allen's grandfather, who was the first in his family born out slavery, would say to him about his pending judgeship. Allen, visibly moved by the question, said that he would tell him to give back to those who he received from.

Allen's answer told much about the GOP's two-decades long court and tout of black conservatives. And that hasn't changed, even when some of them embarrass the party with their shoot-from-the-lip gaffes or fall from grace in a swirl of corruption and scandal. Allen has fit the bill on both counts. In 1982, he embarrassed the GOP with his slurs against "queers," and two decades later during his confirmation hearing he didn't back away from those comments, claiming he had simply meant "odd or unusual" people. Now Allen, President Bush's former

domestic policy advisor, has been arrested on charges of stealing from department stores.

Last year, black Republican pitchman Armstrong Williams was reviled for grabbing nearly a quarter of a million dollars from the White House to pump Bush's education policies, all the while masquerading as a neutral media commentator. In each case, the disgraced black Republican administration appointees and boosters did not tumble as far from grace as might be expected. Their names quickly disappear from the scandal sheets. They are simply too valuable to be summarily tossed to the wolves.

But none of their efforts touting GOP policies have helped much. Bush still got only a marginal bump up overall in the black vote in 2004, and with his Katrina bumble his poll ratings are stuck even deeper in the tank with blacks. Still, Republicans have done everything possible to ease the way up the political ladder for their bevy of black conservatives. Allen's career is a textbook example of that. He was barely out of the University of North Carolina

when he became the spokesman for Sen. Jesse Helms' re-election campaign in 1982. He moved from there to work for Republicans on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He then bagged a prize clerkship on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. Next, he was appointed counsel for Virginia's Attorney General, and then he became Virginia's deputy attorney general and later secretary of health and human services. When his nomination for appeals court judge didn't pan out, Bush made him his top domestic policy advisor.

In years past, scandal-plagued black Republican boosters and appointees pretty much skated away with little more than a spate of bad publicity and a hand slap. Allen may not be as lucky. He may eventually be prosecuted. But as long as Republicans find men like him useful in their drive to make the party appear to be an authentic voice in black America, they'll do whatever they can to keep them as far out of legal harm's way as possible.

Email Comments to
Editor@MonTheGazette.com



Paul Hailey

A friend of mine used to talk about "killing a mosquito with an ax", usually in reference to trying to make a bid in game of bid whist. It is a term that is applicable to any situation of extreme overkill. And, after some heated debate last week among the Dallas City Council, it is a term that applies to the city's new policy on towing the cars of uninsured motorists involved in accidents.

According to the Texas Department of Public Safety, one in five Texas drivers don't have the minimum liability insurance on their car as required by law. The soup du jour among area city governments is to pass law requiring requiring police departments to tow the cars of uninsured motorists. Such laws are now on the books in Arlington, DeSoto, Haltom City, Garland, Irving, Mesquite, Plano and Rockwall county. San Antonio, and now Dallas have joined Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago and Philadelphia who have passed this type of ordinance. The Houston City Council is expected to consider a similar policy soon.

On the surface, towing the cars of uninsured motorists involved in accidents is great idea. As I've listened to this debate over the past few months, virtually everyone has a story about being hit by someone who had no car insurance. I moved to the Dallas area in 1989 and have been hit twice by uninsured motorists. I was faced with the unpleasant decision of fixing the car on my own or submitting a claim to my insurance company and watching my rates go up. For accidents that were not my fault. Not a good deal.

But like most things in life, the arguments you hear on the surface are not all there is to an issue. I've heard the stories,

Towing Uninsured Motorists: Killing A Mosquito With An Ax?

which almost invariably end with some version of: "not only did they not have any insurance, but they didn't have a driver's license and spoke no english". The implication is that the offender was Hispanic and possibly an illegal. Last year, the Dallas Police wrote 94,000 citations to drivers for not having liability insurance. 32% of those drivers were Hispanic. Numbers aren't available on how many of those drivers were illegal, but it brings up a larger question:

Are implementing emotionally driven policies against uninsured motorists because of frustration with our state and federal governments in passing meaningful immigration legislation?

The problem with the towing ordinances is they are often full of loopholes which limit their effectiveness.

J. Robert Hunter, who specializes in insurance for the Consumer Federation of America, questioned whether such policies were effective in pushing people to obtain insurance. He has studied programs such as the one in Dallas and said they don't work—primarily because poor people who don't have insurance usually don't have a lot of assets at stake.

When the question is, "Do I feed my child or do I buy liability insurance? People just won't do it," he said.

If you are driving a car you bought for \$700, are you going to spend \$600 per year to insure it? Probably not. And if you are involved in an accident, get towed and charged a \$95 tow charge, a \$25 towing fee and \$15 dollars a day for storage—are you going to go buy insurance and pay all those charges to get your wrecked \$700 car back? Not hardly. What will happen is these folks will abandon the car at the impound and go buy another car for \$700.

One of the other potential downsides is a dramatic increase in the number of hit and run

accidents as the uninsured simply leave the scene in order to keep their vehicle. Or alternatively, the uninsured can, under Texas law, simply go buy a one month liability policy, present it to retrieve their vehicle and be back on the streets driving uninsured again in four weeks.

And I'm not even going to get into the logistics of adding an estimated 30 cars per day to an already overloaded Dallas City Impound; or the idea of police officers dealing with towing cars in a city with one of the highest crime rates in the country.

Nearly half the council members in Dallas expressed concern over the logistics and effectiveness of the policy.

"Sure, everybody should have insurance," said councilman James Fantroy. "But I don't want us putting something together that is creating revenue off poor people."

Council member Pauline Medrano said she fears problems from the discretionary power of the officer. "I'm afraid of someone in Oak Cliff being stopped and having their car impounded, and someone in another part of the city being let off the hook."

"I have heartburn about how this is going to operate," said Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Elba Garcia. "I hope we look at the big picture."

I've been poor and one thing I know for certain is that poor people find a way. That's why there are six year olds with utility bills in their names. If people can't afford insurance they will find a way around it. That doesn't mean we need to enact knee-jerk laws without thinking them all the way through.

The problem with killing a mosquito with an ax is that it usually leaves a big mess.

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

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

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

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



Bridges For The Disabled: Marriott Foundation And DISD

By: Toni Calvin

The disabled in society face challenges from acceptance to education to employment.

The Marriott Foundation and the Dallas ISD are teaming together in a new program to help eliminate some of those challenges.

The Marriott Foundation for People with Disabilities established Bridges... from school to work 16 years ago to address the high level of unemployment experienced by people with disabilities. Studies indicate that adults with disabilities are much more likely to be employed if they enter the workforce at an early age.

Over half of the 250,000 young people that finish special education annually remain unemployed or significantly underemployed a year later. Most are willing and able to work, but have not been given the opportunity.

Bridges from School to Work, was instituted by the Marriott family in 1989 as a result of the birth of a disabled

child. The program was created to include disabled as well as special needs students who will be graduating from high school. The program parameters expanded to incorporate at risk students as well.

The Foundation provides job placement for the targeted students to businesses within the communities they serve. Currently, the program is active in Philadelphia, Washington D.C., Atlanta, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles and most recently, Dallas. They work with over 1500 employers within the 7 metropolitan areas it serves. Over 89% of the participants receive offers for ongoing employment. Bridges partnered with the Dallas ISD in November of 2005.

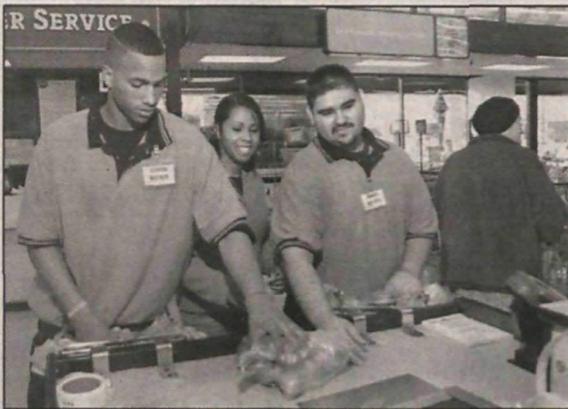
Since its inception in 1989, the program has placed 8,500 high school seniors into active employment. Dallas ISD is acting as a pilot for the program in Texas. The initial funding for this program in Dallas was granted by Pitney Bowes.

"We have anticipated bringing

Bridges to Texas for some time, and greatly appreciate the support of the Pitney Bowes Literacy and Education Fund in helping make this a reality," said Richard Marriott, chairman of Host Marriott Corporation and the Marriott Foundation for People with Disabilities. Mr.

local Workforce Investment Act staff, and U.S. Representative Pete Sessions. "We look forward to working with a wide range of community partners to the mutual benefit of Dallas employers and youth."

"DISD has been focusing on transition efforts for the past



Marriott also noted that strong interest in the program had been expressed by DISD, the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, the

five years to help our students with disabilities prepare for living and working in the community once they leave school," said Superintendent Michael

Hinojosa. "The 'Bridges...from school to work' program offers a great opportunity for the district's youth to continue learning as they acquire skills that will help them become productive citizens in their adult life."

Emi Williams, program coordinator for Dallas, states that the goal is to expand the program to include other ISD's around the Metroplex. According to Ms. Williams, participants will remain in the Bridges database for a minimum of 2 years to track their progress. Since November, ten participants have been placed and thirty are in process from DISD. Participants for the program are referred by the Vocational Adjustment Coordinator from DISD.

"I believe that the opportunities that are created by the program are rewarding for both the students as well as the employers," Ms. Williams said.

The employers that are currently involved in the Dallas area are; McDonald's, Olive Garden, Albertsons, Kroger and

the Dallas Renaissance Hotel. Ms Williams is very passionate about the program and the students it serves.

"For most employers, there are usually only minor accommodations required to place participants of the program, such as writing down tasks instead of verbally assigning them," she added.

In addition, Ms. Williams believes that Marriott Foundation... Bridges from School to Work will prove to be a valuable asset to the Dallas communities as it has for the other cities it currently serves.

For more information on the program, please contact Emi Williams at 214-658-9820 x16, email at emi.williams@marriott.com or visit www.marriottfoundation.org.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The McKinney Housing Authority will accept applications for the Section 8 waiting list for persons with the following qualifications:

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Honorary Chairperson Page 1

never been her motivation. When she received Leadership Plano's Distinguished Leadership Award, the presenter noted, "Myrtle has lived a life of service and truly has a servant's heart."

Dr. Hightower brought her dedication to community involvement to Plano in 1989. She spent many years as a counselor at Williams High School and developed a mentoring program. She helped found and develop the local Martin Luther King Jr. celebration and proudly holds the first Meritorious Citizen award ever presented to an African American by the Plano Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Hightower continues to inspire as a writing instructor for Collin County Community College District. The CCCCD

Foundation recently honored her with a scholarship created in her name.

This year, instead of a one week "blitz" build, the 2006 Women Build will use a speed build schedule.

• Pre-Blitz April 8 and April 22 - for crew chiefs and experienced volunteers only

• Phase 1: April 27 - April 30 - for all volunteers

• Phase 2: May 4 - May 7 - for all volunteers

• Post Blitz: May 12 - for crew chiefs and experienced volunteers only

Volunteers

The house built during this 2006 Women Build will be constructed almost exclusively by women volunteers. The organizing committee is composed primarily of women.

In announcing the 2006 Women Build, Patti Fisk, 2006 Women Build Chairperson, stated:

"This is a very exciting project. Those women who have participated in previous builds have found the Women Build project a very empowering effort. Women with little or no construction skills are trained in a wide variety of construction skills including hammering and sawing, installing sid-

ing, roofing, painting and other skills. Women organizations have found Women Builds to be an excellent team building tool.

No experience is necessary. Each work day starts at 8:00am. Volunteers need to be at the job site by 8:00am to participate in the introduction, briefing, devotional, training and assignments.

Dedication of the Women Build will be on Mother's Day (Sunday,

May 14th) at 3:00 at the building site. The public is invited to the event.

Women and women organizations interested in volunteering for Phase One and Phase Two should contact Patsy Edney at 214-914-3620 or patsy_edney@yahoo.com.

For additional information on the 2006 Habitat Women Build visit www.Habitat-scc.org/womenbuild.

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Inside
COLLIN COUNTY
BUSINESS

House Of Blues Deal Set For Downtown

Representatives from developer Hillwood Capital said Friday they have finalized a deal with the House of Blues to open a live-music venue on the edge of downtown.

The location? The historic White Swan building, at the crossroads of the West End and the Victory development.

"We have made a deal, and we're working through some of the final details," said Jonas Woods, president of Hillwood Capital. "We want them open ASAP."

House of Blues representatives declined to reveal specifics of the deal, which they described as "not quite finalized." They first considered opening in Dallas in 2000, but those plans didn't materialize.

Said Jack Gannon, senior vice president of marketing: "We're very excited about the Dallas market. The addition of a club

is very attractive to us."

House of Blues already promotes concerts at Smirnoff Music Centre.

Mr. Woods confirmed that House of Blues will be leasing the building on North Lamar Street and hopes to open its doors by late this year or early next year. The White Swan building is owned by Hillwood Development in partnership with Tomlinson-Leis Corp.

The deal came Friday afternoon after a closed-door meeting at City Hall, where House of Blues officials quizzed city planners and put the finishing touches on their plan. Dallas director of development Theresa O'Donnell said the city has agreed to make some infrastructure changes, such as moving some curbs on North Lamar Street for easy tour-bus entry, to accommodate House of Blues' needs.

"We are incredibly excited about being one of only two locations in Texas to bring this type of stellar, national-caliber entertainment venue," Ms. O'Donnell said. "We think it's a tremendous catalyst to re-energize the West End." House of Blues plans to open in Houston in 2007.

City officials aren't the only ones welcoming the House of Blues to Dallas. Mike Schoder, owner of the Granada Theater on Greenville Avenue, takes an optimistic, capitalist view on a House of Blues in Dallas: Any competition is good.

"It's like fast-food restaurants, really: Put five or six of them together in one place, and all of them usually do good," he said. "Dallas doesn't have a lot of promoters, comparatively speaking, especially compared to places like Houston and Austin, so figuring out how to get people interested in the idea of going to

see music will be key. And House of Blues is good at that.

"House of Blues has the financial backing to take chances with artists, such as ones that demand a sellout, that demand that you promote the show to make it sell out. It has the tools to wrap around that to make that happen through a lot of advertising, a lot of promotional techniques."

David Card, owner of Poor David's Pub on Lamar Street just south of downtown, was a bit more skeptical for the same reasons. Another big live-music player could threaten his and other locally owned venues.

"A venue of that stature and reputation will certainly ... put Dallas a little more on the map for relevant acts," he said. "It will help downtown. Will it help everyone downtown? Probably not. Will it put another nail in the coffin for Deep Ellum? Very possibly."

Twenty D-FW Residents Make Forbe's Annual Billionaire List

Twenty Dallas-Fort Worth residents made the latest Forbe's list of the world's richest people, including Fort Worth homebuilder Don Horton, who's on the list for the first time.

Horton debuted at No. 606 with an estimated net worth of \$1.3 billion.

Alice Walton, whose family founded Wal-Mart Stores Inc., ranked 20th on the list, the highest of North Texas residents with an estimated net

worth of \$15.7 billion. Walton, who lives on a ranch in Mineral Wells, was one of several Waltons on this year's list.

Robert Rowling, whose main source of money is oil and gas and other investments, ranked 52nd with a \$4.8 billion net worth. Ross Perot, whose main source of money is from investments, ranked 75th with a net worth of \$4.3 billion.

The Bases of Fort Worth, regulars on the list, were also there, ranging in rank from No. 200

(Robert Bass/\$3.4 billion) to No. 746 (Perry Bass/\$1 billion).

Mark Cuban, owner of the Dallas Mavericks, who became instantly wealthy after selling Broadcast.com several years ago, ranked 428 with \$1.8 billion.

Others from Dallas-Fort Worth on the list included philanthropist Harold Simmons, oilman Ray Hunt, investor Richard Rainwater, banker Gerald Ford, oilman T. Boone Pickens, Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones,

Excel Communications' Kenny Troutt, Fort Worth socialite Anne Windfohr Marion, and businessmen Todd Wagner and Samuel Wyly.

Texas had 33 on the list, with Michael Dell of Dell Computer leading the pack at No. 12 with \$17.1 billion in net worth. Microsoft Corp. founder Bill Gates is the world's richest man -- for the 12th year, according to Forbe's.

For more info go to www.forbes.com

UTD Releases Business School Rankings

Only one Texas business school ranks in the top 10 on the 2006 list of the top 100 business schools released Friday by the University of Texas at Dallas School of Management.

The "UTD Top 100 Business School Research Rankings" are based on the research productivity of the business schools' faculties. UTD has tracked the publications of business school faculty worldwide since 1999 in 24 leading academic journals, all of which are peer-reviewed, according to a news release. It then ranks the business schools based on the number of articles published in those journals by their faculty members over the

last five years.

"The rankings provide a tool for business school faculties and administrators to benchmark their research productivity against that of their peers," said UTD School of Management Dean Dr. Hasan Pirkul.

Rankings of the top five schools on the list are unchanged from 2005. They are, in order, the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania; Harvard Business School at Harvard University; the Leonard N. Stern School of Business at New York University; Columbia Graduate School of Business at Columbia University; and the Sloan School of Management at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Rounding out the top 10 schools are the Graduate School of Business at the University of Chicago, No. 6; The Red McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas at Austin, No. 7; UCLA Anderson School of Management at the University of California at Los Angeles, No. 8; Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, No. 9; and the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, No. 10.

Other Texas business schools on the list are the School of Management at the University of Texas at Dallas, No. 33; Mays Business School at Texas A&M University at College Station,

No. 43; Edwin L. Cox School of Business at Southern Methodist University, No. 57; Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Management at Rice University, No. 61; C.T. Bauer College of Business at the University of Houston, No. 70; and Neeley School of Business at Texas Christian University tied for No. 99 with the College of Business Administration at Oklahoma State University.

For the complete list of the rankings of the top 100 North American business schools and the top 100 business schools worldwide, go to citm.utdallas.edu/utdrankings.

For more info go to www.utdallas.edu

Chamber Develops Campaign For Texas Stadium Redevelopment

The Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce has formed a special committee to garner support for two Texas Stadium propositions on the ballot of the May 13 special election in the city of Irving.

If the propositions are approved the city council will

be able to impose a \$3 per vehicle parking fee at the stadium, charge state approved user fees of up to 10 percent per ticket and charge up to a maximum of \$5,000 per game for each football team member, including visiting teams.

The money would be used to

support redevelopment of the Texas Stadium in Irving that will be vacated when the Dallas Cowboys new stadium in Arlington is built.

Redevelopment options for the 400-acre area are being looked at by the City of Irving and adjoining property owners,

including the University of Dallas and Southwest Premier Properties.

Future development options include a convention center, civic center, a hotel, apartments, shops and waterfront retail development, recreational facilities and park space.

New Orleans Elections Page 1

strongly denounced by Louisiana's top election official.

"This will be the most accessible race in the history of America," said Secretary of State Al Ater.

A federal judge has turned back challenges to the election and pressed state officials to make sure it is held by the end of April. But before the election can take place as scheduled April 22, the Justice Department must give its blessing.

Gordon said the department is expected to rule this week. Eric Holland, a Justice Department spokesman,

would not comment.

Primary races for mayor and many other city positions were originally scheduled for Feb. 4, but were pushed back because so many polling stations were destroyed and election workers and voters scattered by Hurricane Katrina.

In the city itself, there will be super-polling places on election day that combine flooded-out precincts. Around Louisiana, polling places will be set up for displaced voters to cast early absentee ballots. Also, state workers will be deputized to help local offices. Around the country, full-page newspaper ads and television spots are being used to inform voters how

to vote by mail.

The NAACP says satellite polling stations should be set up in cities outside Louisiana, especially in Houston and Atlanta where there are large numbers of displaced New Orleanians. Ater said it would not be possible now to add that to the plan.

"We're just in a new territory, a new area where this has never

been done before," said Linda Walker, head of New Orleans branch of the League of Women Voters. The plan "is probably adequate for what we have right now, but is it completely fair? I can't say at this point."

The fairness of the election probably can't be determined until after the primary when it's clear who voted and who didn't, Walker said.

ATTORNEY

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- Divorce
- Adoption Law
- Wills Probate



Tour of Americas Page 1

sugar and coffee industries, two sectors in which the largest South American country has had major successes. Haiti's agriculture has been ravaged by bad farming practices, exhausted earth and a lack of investment.

He will make a trip to the U.S. on March 27 and March 28, meeting with the President Bush, as well as officials from the Organization of American States, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund

and the United Nations.

The tour is the second foreign trip Preval has made since winning the elections. At the end of last week he visited the Dominican Republic, the state which shares the island of Hispanola with Haiti.

Preval is due to take office on March 29, but there are signs that he might postpone his inauguration till the completion of the second round of legislative elections. Haiti's constitution prescribes that the inauguration must take place before a full parliament.

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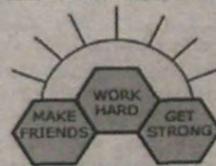
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Landmark Occasion Heralds Emergence Of The First Public University In Dallas

University of North Texas Chancellor Lee F. Jackson hosted a "topping out" ceremony to celebrate the completion of the framing stage in the construction of the first building on the campus of the future University of North Texas at Dallas on March 9 (Thursday).

Dallas Mayor Laura Miller, State Senator Royce West of Dallas and a distinguished gathering of city, regional and state officials; UNT regents; and North Texas business leaders joined Jackson in commemorating the event on the 264-acre UNT at Dallas campus site.

The UNT System and Hunt Construction Group Inc. sponsored the event.

Chancellor Jackson, Mayor Miller, Senator West and Mark La Voy (executive vice president of Hunt Construction Group) made brief remarks about this landmark step toward the estab-

lishment of the first public university in the city of Dallas. Then, all ceremony participants signed the last beam before the construction crew hoisted it into place on the three-story structure.

"This building is already visible for miles around, and it will be a landmark symbol of what Dallas and UNT are building together in southern Dallas County," Jackson said.

Construction of the \$25 million facility began in October 2005. The 75,000-square-foot academic and administrative building will be completed in December of this year and will open for UNT Dallas

Campus classes in January 2007. A team led by Hunt Construction Group Inc. — including firms



Signing the final girder to be placed on the first, permanent University of North Texas at Dallas building are UNT Chancellor Lee Jackson, Hunt Construction Group Executive Vice President Mark La Voy, Dallas Mayor Laura Miller and State Senator Royce West of Dallas

classified as Historically Underutilized Businesses — is managing the project.

The new building, with its panoramic views of the downtown Dallas skyline, will provide

classrooms, meeting rooms and office space and serve as a gathering place for students until the next phases of campus development are completed.

A \$500,000 grant from the Hoblitzelle Foundation of Dallas, awarded last November, will help the UNT System equip the new building with an infrastructure of state-of-the-art technology.

High tech equipment planned for the new building (and eventually for the entire campus) includes electronic signs at the door of every classroom, video conference rooms, a wireless data network and other networking and communications and audiovisual infrastructure.

Until the new university officially opens, the UNT System is offering an increasing number of classes and programs at the UNT Dallas Campus (also known as the UNT System Center at Dallas).

RHS Mock Trial Team Finishes Second In Texas

The Richardson High School Legal Eagles competed in the 27th Annual Texas High School Mock Trial Tournament on March 2-4 in Dallas. The Legal Eagles, after capturing the Region 10 championship, faced four rounds of preliminary competition against Hooks, Edinburg North, Woodrow Wilson and Boerne High Schools. The team advanced to the Final Four and defeated Skyline High School in the semifinals.

The state championship was held before Federal District Court Judge Jerry Buchmeyer in the Earle Cabell Federal Courthouse against Carrollton Creekview. Creekview prevailed as the jury split 8-5.

Mock trial competitions require students to act attorneys for the plaintiff or defense in fictitious cases argued in

actual courtrooms, adhering to legal protocols. Pitted against students from other teams representing the other side, a jury listens to the evidence and votes on a winner.

The civil case, Kerry Grandt vs. Special Operations Security Inc, involved a claim of negligence security that resulted in the poisoning of a water reservoir with a biological agent - Blumetheria. The students were given basic fact statements from six witnesses, excerpts of pleadings and modified federal rules of evidence. The students then must prepare both the plaintiff and defense sides of the case - playing the roles of attorneys (3 per side) and witnesses (3 per side).

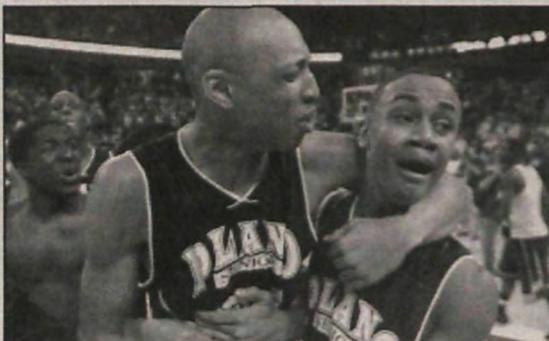
Teams are judged by local attorneys and judges.

"The Mock Trial program at Richardson High School contin-

ues to be outstanding," said RISD Superintendent Jim Nelson. We are proud of their

achievements and we thank them for representing RHS and RISD in exceptional fashion."

Plano Sr. High Boy's Basketball Team Wins State 5A Championship



Plano player (#24) Joseph Fulce (cq), left, and (#21) John Roberson (cq) celebrate their dramatic 60-58 win over Humble Kingwood in overtime during the UIL Boys 5-A Championship at the Erwin Center in Austin on Saturday, March 11, 2006.

Dallas TeleCollege Offers Education Without Walls

You want that degree, but where will you ever find the time? How about the Dallas TeleCollege? As part of the Dallas County Community Colleges, Dallas TeleCollege allows you the opportunity to "take college courses without ever stepping foot on campus."

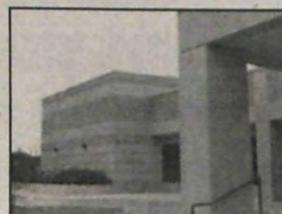
Robert J. Rosenbalm, Manager of Marketing and Advertising at Dallas TeleCollege states, "Our courses are also offered on every ship and submarine in the U.S. Navy."

Dallas TeleCollege has been offering this unique way of taking college courses since 1972. Their mission is, "To make distance learning options convenient and accessible to students by offering flexible, accessible, affordable and quality driven education."

To start your courses, all that is required is a computer and access to the internet. Once

you connect with the Current Students channel on their Web site you can:

- Attend classes
- Browse the library
- Drop a course
- Contact an adviser
- Order course materials
- Learn about transfer partners
- Apply for scholarships



Does this sound too easy? According to Dallas TeleCollege they have been able "to leverage over three decades of distance learning experience to help put your goals within reach." By utilizing a flexible delivery for-

mat and using cutting edge technology they can deliver the classroom to you, twenty-four seven, no matter where you are in the world.

Dallas TeleCollege also helps eliminate those barriers that might prevent you from reaching your goals, such as work, family, disability or other impediments, which you would possibly have to deal with in a traditional college setting.

Dallas TeleCollege is also a good community partner. Students displaced by Hurricane Katrina can take courses through the Dallas TeleCollege or any other of the DCCC. Financial assistance is also available through the Student Emergency Fund.

The R. Jan LeCroy Center for Education which houses Dallas TeleCollege's facilities are avail-

able to qualified groups needing meeting space, which includes access to video projection and satellite downlink technology.

Now that the excuses have been eliminated for starting college, all you have to do is, as they say at Dallas TeleCollege is, "Grab your mouse and take a look around. This is your campus!" Welcome.

AIDS Mystery Found Page 1

So powerful is the relationship between race, prison and AIDS that it almost completely explains why half of all new AIDS patients in 2002 were African Americans even though only 12 percent of the population is black; in 1982, African Americans made up less than a quarter of new AIDS cases. The link remained strong even after researchers controlled for factors associated with AIDS, including the use of crack cocaine, Raphael

said. Part of the reason for the rapid spread of AIDS among African Americans is that so many black men spend time behind bars, Johnson said. About one out of 12 black men are in jail or prison, compared with one in 100 white men; at current rates, a third of all black males born today will do time. What explains the black-white prison gap? Raphael said the question is beyond the scope of the study, but other researchers point to poverty, a lack of

opportunities, racism in the criminal justice system and the lure of the "thug life."

Whatever the cause, the AIDS gap is not going away. Other studies suggest that half of all prisoners engage in homosexual sex. But safe-sex programs, key to controlling AIDS in the gay community, are unwelcome inside prison walls.

In fact, "it's illegal to distribute condoms in prisons in all but one state" because lawmakers fear it would encourage gay sex, Johnson said.

Economic Convention Page 1

the White House's handling of hurricane Katrina and its aftermath.

"How can we have Katrina and tens of thousands of people staring into the abyss of this tragedy ... and not have the nation of black folk in righteous indignation walking on this nation, say-

ing 'pay attention,' he said. "What do we need to know? ... What do we need to have done to us before we wake up?"

He also repeated criticisms of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and other black members of the Bush administration, who he said had not publicly questioned White House decisions in the war

in Iraq or policies that have hurt the poor.

"It means nothing to me if they are black if they are dishonorable," Belafonte said. "It means nothing to me if they are black and intelligent and sit and hide in places in government where they can shape no policy."

The convention ended Sunday.

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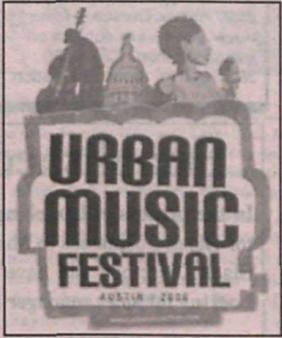
Email Entertainment News And Events to Entertainment@MonTheGazette.com

City Of Austin Supports The Urban Music Festival In Response To Quality Of Life Concerns For The African-American Community

Reinforcing its commitment to the Quality of Life issues for African Americans in the Capital City of Texas, the City of Austin has signed on as a major sponsor for the inaugural Urban Music Festival (UMF) - a new initiative scheduled to take place during the annual Texas Relays Weekend, April 5-8, 2006. UMF will be an all-day, outdoor, family oriented event featuring live music and social activities that will be held in the heart of Austin, along the banks of Town Lake at Auditorium Shores. R&B legend Chaka Khan will headline the festival, which features a complete line up of R&B, funk and hip hop performers.

During the same weekend, the University of Texas will host the 79th Annual Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays at Mike A. Myers Stadium on the UT Campus. The four-day track & field meet attracts 3,800 high school, college and open division competitors from all over the United States.

Annually, more than 40,000 visitors from the state of Texas and the southwestern region of the U.S. flock to Austin during Relays weekend to enjoy both athletic competition and cultural connections. Beginning this



year, UMF will serve as the anchor entertainment event, during Relays weekend, and provide a unique opportunity to highlight Austin as a viable multicultural and social destination for travelers, showcase its viability as a city for relocation, and strengthen the existing ties with the local African-American

community. "In addition to being a great family event, UMF will send a strong signal to the rest of the country that African-Americans exist and thrive culturally in Austin," stated Greg Marshall, President of the Capital City African-American Chamber of Commerce. "This will be a viable asset in luring additional African-American conventions and tourism to Austin. Additionally, local African-American vendors stand to gain new exposure and revenue during the event," continued Marshall.

The addition of UMF solidifies the entire weekend as a marquee event for the city of Austin and continues to promote the overall appeal of the weekend for visiting athletes and their families.

For more information on UMF, the sponsoring organizations and benefiting non-profit partners, visit the website at www.urbanmusicfest.com or contact the UMF offices at: (512) 314-5433.

Miles Davis' Family Cheers Rock Hall Induction

The immediate family of jazz icon Miles Davis is "extremely honored" that he was recognized by the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame during the organization's 21st annual induction ceremony, which took place on March 13th at New York's Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

The late trumpeter's nephew, Vince Wilburn, Jr., along with immediate Davis offspring Cheryl and Erin Davis, said in a statement: "We acknowledge the uniqueness of a jazz musician being admitted into rock & roll's elite club. It is especially noteworthy and meaningful to the family that this honor is being bestowed on Miles as we celebrate his 80th birthday this year."

Davis, who is widely acclaimed to be one of the 20th Century's most creative artists, is credited with changing the sound of popular music several times during his six-decade career. His musical experimentation, which began in the late '60s, created a highly innovative fusion of jazz with rock & roll, soul, funk and hip hop.

His 80th birthday will be celebrated this year on May 26, while the 15th Anniversary of his passing will be recognized on September 21.

As the sole jazz inductee of the 2006 Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, he will be honored alongside Black Sabbath, Blondie, Lynyrd Skynyrd and the Sex Pistols.

Davis fans may view several of his personal items now on loan with the Cleveland Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. For more information, please visit www.milesdavis.com.



'South Park' Religious Satire Too Much For Isaac Hayes

Isaac Hayes has quit "South Park," where he voices Chef, saying he can no longer stomach its take on religion.

Hayes, who has played the ladies' man/school cook in the animated Comedy Central satire since 1997, said in a statement Monday that he feels a line has been crossed.

"There is a place in this world for satire, but there is a time when satire ends and intolerance and bigotry towards religious beliefs of others begins," the 63-year-old soul singer and outspoken

Scientologist said. "South Park" co-creator Matt Stone responded sharply in an interview with The Associated Press on Monday, saying, "This is 100 percent having to do with his faith of Scientology. . . . He has no problem -- and he's cashed plenty of checks -- with our show making fun of Christians."

In November, "South Park" targeted the Church of Scientology and its celebrity followers, including actors Tom Cruise and John Travolta,

in a top-rated episode called "Trapped in the Closet." In the episode, Stan, one of the show's four mischievous fourth-graders, is hailed as a reluctant savior by Scientology leaders, while a cartoon Cruise locks himself in a closet and won't come out.

Stone told the AP he and co-creator Trey Parker "never heard a peep out of Isaac in any way until we did Scientology. He wants a different standard for religions other than his own, and to me, that is where intolerance and bigotry begin."

Kanye West Brings Vision, Himself To Big Screen

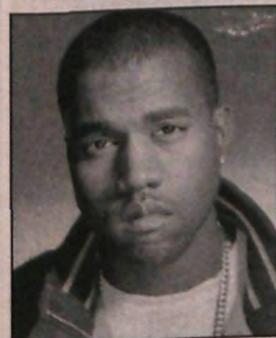
West has signed on to appear in and executive produce a film that is inspired by his own music.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, the

still-untitled movie will be pieced together as a "multiperspective portrait of the United States as seen through the eyes of West and several filmmakers." Six writers and 10-12 directors will create short stories that will be

linked by a central story, with new and previously released music from West appearing throughout the scenes.

The movie will be executive produced by George C. Wolfe, who directed HBO's Emmy-winning "Lackawanna Blues."



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Sophie Okonedo, Mos Def Line Up Black Panther Pic: 'Stringbean And Marcus.'

Mos Def and Sophie Okonedo are in final talks to topline the independent drama "Stringbean and Marcus," a story written and directed by first-time feature helmer Tanya Hamilton.

Mos Def and Okonedo will play two former Black Panther members dealing with a broken love affair in 1978. The story unfolds through the eyes of an adolescent girl.

"It's not so much about the idea of race," Hamilton told the

Hollywood Reporter. "I just wanted to show this world of ordinary people living under extraordinary circumstances, trying to outrun this past they all have."

Shooting is scheduled to begin in July in Philadelphia. Mos Def and Okonedo, have not officially signed on the dotted line, but "they've committed to the project," says one of the producers, Sean Costello.

Contracts are not likely to be finalized until June, he added.



Mary Mary And Kraft Foods Launch Third Annual Kraft Gospel Talent Search Finalists Vie For \$25,000 And A Sony Urban Gospel Music Audition

The Third Annual Kraft Gospel Talent Search has become one of the leading talent search venues, showcasing tomorrow's greatest voices. This year, Grammy Award winning artists Mary Mary and Kraft

grand prize of \$25,000 and an audition with Sony Urban Music. With the finals at the Sydney J. Marcus Auditorium of the Georgia World Conference Center, and a closing concert at the Georgia Dome, the final-

ists will receive the opportunity to realize their dreams of singing in front of countless adoring fans during MegaFest 2006.

"We are truly excited about being a part of the Third Annual Kraft Gospel Talent Search. We did it a couple of years ago and had a great time," said Sony recording artists, Mary Mary. "Gospel Music is truly unique in its ability to touch the hearts and souls of those who hear it, as well as those who sing it. We think it's awesome to see people get an opportunity to pursue their dreams, just as we did when we were first starting out. So, we're ready for the ride, this should be fun."

Angela Blair enthralled the judges last year with her powerful voice. The Rowlett, Texas, native's performance won her the \$25,000 prize and a guest performance on the Essence Music Festival main stage alongside Kanye West, Destiny's Child, Lionel Richie, and Aretha Franklin. This year, Kraft will renew its commitment to the Essence Music Festival, taking place in Houston's Reliant Park, with a multitude of activities throughout the event.

Entries are currently being accepted on kraftfoods.com/gospel. Log on to download the official entry form, approved songs, and contest rules.



reunite to search the nation for the next Gospel sensation.

Visitors to www.kraftfoods.com/gospel have the opportunity to vote and help choose the ten aspiring artists performing at MegaFest 2006. The finalists are competing for a

Talent Search. We did it a couple of years ago and had a great time," said Sony recording artists, Mary Mary. "Gospel Music is truly unique in its ability to touch the hearts and souls of those who hear it, as well as those who sing it. We think it's

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Patent Offense: Wayans's Hip-Hop Line

Officials Reject Actor's Bid To Trademark Racial Slur

By: Darryl Fears

It appears that Homey D. Clown still has a few tricks up his sleeve. You remember Homey -- the nutty street clown on the comedy show "In Living Color" who kept kiddies at birthday parties in line by whomping them over the head with a heavy sock and saying, "Homey don't play that."

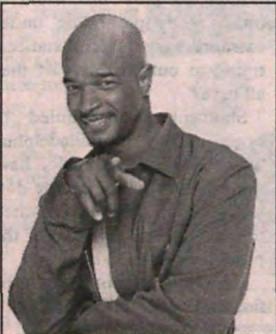
The character disappeared when the show's run ended in 1994, but the guy who portrayed him, Damon Wayans, is still around. He recently starred in the now-canceled ABC sitcom "My Wife and Kids" and is trying to launch a hip-hop clothing line -- with a trademark that rapper Jay-Z famously rhymed with "Jigga."

But the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office don't play that. Its blunt rejection of Wayans -- twice so far -- amounts to its own sock over the head. Officials won't comment on their decision, but trademark attorney Paul Fleischut of St. Louis says the dismissal is a no-brainer.

"There is an act by Congress

that says you cannot register a word that is scandalous or that disparages a particular group," says Fleischut. Wayans's New York lawyers are pressing his case, but, says Fleischut, "It doesn't look good."

And it turns out that Wayans's



idea isn't all that original. The files at the patent and trademark office are littered with the remains of "dead" applications seeking exclusive rights to one or another version of the N-word.

In 1995, Marc Anthony Fitzgerald and Fred Harris of Houston sought to trademark the words "Naturally Intelligent God Gifted Africans" and turn it into a peculiar acronym. Four

years later, Scaphold Productions in Cincinnati sought to trademark "Riniga -- any individual true to his actions and or statements."

The next year, Damon James of Houston put "Field" in front of the word and tried to trademark it. In 2001, Wayne Jeffery Davis of New Orleans tried to trademark a 78-word rant that ended with the N-word, so that he could stick it on a T-shirt.

When 2003 rolled around, Keon Rhodan of Charleston, S.C., gave it a try, seeking exactly what Wayans asked for, except that Rhodan added the word clothing on the end.

Wayans, whose application was submitted early last year, could argue that the word he hopes to trademark, "Nigga," is different, says Todd Boyd, a professor of critical studies at the University of Southern California and author of the book "The New H.N.I.C.: The Death of Civil Rights and the Reign of Hip Hop."

"I don't think it's the same thing," Boyd says. "Hip-hop has redefined the word. It can mean a number of things. It can be a term of admiration. It can be a term of recognition."

Earlier this month, for example, a mostly white jury in Boulder, Colo., cleared a man of ethnic intimidation for using the

Patent Offense Page 9

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Irving: Equal Access? Page 1

several of the major companies when selecting Irving, was the city's diverse population and work force. Yet, while city leaders may use this as a selling point in promoting the city to the business community, it is suggested that Irving does not appear to make diversity a priority with their own procurement policies.

Chief Financial Officer of Irving, Mr. David Leininger, points out, "We do not have a procurement policy that picks out any category of vendor. You could also ask about Irving based vendors." Instead, Mr. Leininger stresses that the city made a determination to focus on ease of access and communication to the broadest base of vendors in the marketplace and to not have set asides steering contracts to a particular vendor category.

Mr. Leininger feels it is important the procurement management team of the city reflect the population they serve and highlights that his staff includes bi-lingual Hispanic and African American personnel. Mr. Leininger also indicated that the suggestion set asides should be in place for MWOB can be insulting to these parties, as he says many feel "I just want the opportunity to compete and I am confident that I would be successful."

Until recently the city did not track demographic statistics on those bidding on contracts, but in December instituted changes to record this information. However, Mr. Leininger points out it will take between two - three years to capture bench marking statistics. According to Mr. Bond, other cities with a population over 50,000 participate in the North Central Texas Regional Certification Agency which track MWOB. When asked about Irving's lack of participation in the program, Mr. Leininger stated that without the bench marking statistics to compare Irving's current status there is means of determining the need for the city's participation. He stated he is anxious to see how Irving has done in this area in comparison to participating cities.

According to Mr. Leininger, Irving does not rely only on the newspapers and Irving's website, but utilize other appropriate websites and direct mailings to inform potential vendors of contract opportunities. In addition, they host an annual meeting with MWOB owners regarding potential contracting opportunities and suggested this program may be expanded to bi-annually. In

comparison, Plano reportedly offers an open house for MWOB's monthly resulting in awarding about \$20 million contracts to MWOBs in fiscal 2004-05.

Mr. Bond, and Mr. Fletcher Yates, current Vice-President of the Irving NAACP, along with key Hispanic leaders are holding a series of meetings on racial reconciliation in Irving. The first meeting held in October and attended by over 250 people, resulted in a recommendation to the city leaders: form a cultural advisory community board. Recently elected Irving Mayor Herb Gears and the city council have agreed and the advisory board is currently in development. The meetings regarding a dialogue on racial reconciliation will continue independently with at least three more slated.

Mayor Herb Gears, who did not return phone calls for comment, has received favorable reviews from community leaders due to his responsiveness thus far to concerns. However, the leadership caution talk is cheap and promise to remain watchful to ensure that the mayor and city follow through

and promised results are forthcoming. "The minority community put him in office and we will hold him accountable to make sure we open up the contracting opportunities," according to Mr. Bond.

While Mr. Leininger emphasizes Irving awards contracts to vendors based on factors such as lowest bids is an effort to wisely spend the taxpayers money, Mr. Yates, retired Manager/Supervisor of Passenger Services for American Airlines for 31 years, points out that vendors routinely submit change order requests for additional funds. Therefore, although the awarded contract was initially a lower bid, the amount spent can ultimately be the same or higher dollar figure submitted by competitor bidders.

The concerns regarding the contracts are not the only issues on Irving's radar. As a result of recent incidents related to problems in the school district, incidents of police brutality and alleged racial profiling - the US Department of Justice is working with community leaders such as Mr. Bond, the NAACP and others to investigate concerns regarding civil rights abuses.

Church Directory

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

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

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Email: slamechurch@aol.com

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9:45 a.m. Praise & Worship
10:15 a.m. Worship Experience

Tuesday 7:15 p.m. Bible Study

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

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Wednesday Night Prayer & Bible Study 7PM
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Church News



Sister Tarpley

We continue to address the importance of Black women in America; and about the myriad (innumerable) ways they have changed the world. This year's theme: "Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams," honors the spirit of possibility and hope set in motion by generations of Black women in their creation of communities and their encouragement of dreams. Black women have always played a vital role in shaping American history; I will continue to honor them in my column this month.

Bessie Coleman, the first Black American woman aviator, had a postage stamp issued in her honor in 1995. Sarah E. Goode, the first Black female patent holder. She was issued a patent in 1885 for a Folding Cabinet Bed. Miriam E. Benjamin, the second Black woman in history to receive a patent; it was for a Gong and Signal Chair for motels in 1888. Patricia Bath was the first Black female doctor to receive a patent for a medical invention; a machine for ablating and removing cataract lenses.

Ruane Jeter invented a digital Toaster in 1987. Henrietta Mahim Bradberry invented a bed rack which was an attachment to the bed that permitted air to pass through and refresh worn clothes in 1943; and in 1945, the device operated pneumatically and was adapted to discharge torpedoes under

National Women's History Month

the water surface (the Torpedo Discharger.) Virgie M. Ammons invented a Fireplace Damper actuating tool in 1975. The instrument opens and closes a fireplace damper and is also intended to operate as a securing means to prevent fluttering of the damper due to wind.

Marie V. Brittan Brown invented the Video Home Security System that utilized television surveillance in 1969 (the same year that Minister Sheila Tarpley Lott, my only daughter



Picture of The Week
(L to R) First Lady Tasha Stafford, Fellowship BC of Allen; Sis. Sandra Hill; and Lady Tina Johnson, New Life Fellowship Church @ 6th Annual Church Anniversary @ the Wyndham Garden Hotel-Park Central on LBJ Freeway

was born.) Bessie Blount, a physical therapist who worked with soldiers injured in WW II invented a device allowing amputees to feed themselves in 1951. Mary J. Reynolds invented a Hoisting/Loading Mechanism in April 1920. Natalie R. Love invented a T-Top Roof Cover in 1992. Marjorie Joyner invented a Permanent Wave Machine which could wave the hair of both white and Black people in 1928.

Alice H. Parker in 1919 invented a new and improved gas heating furnace. The invention provided a mechanism for regulating heat to be carried to various rooms in a building. Valerie Thomas in 1980 invented an Illusion Transmitter that

extends the idea of television, with its images located flatly behind a screen to having three dimensional projections appear as though they were right in your living room.

Mary McLeod Bethune founded the National Council of Negro Women; now known as Bethune-Cookman College. A postage stamp for her was issued in 1985. Mahalia Jackson, "Queen of Gospel Music." She received national recognition by appearing at Carnegie Hall. She sang at the "March on Washington" in 1963 and at the funeral for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Roberta Martin was the operator of her own "Gospel Music Publishing House." Sister Rosetta Tharpe was a Gospel Singer that was known for her signature guitar style; she also introduced gospel music into nightclubs as well as concert halls. Jackson, Martin and Tharpe all had postage stamps issued in their honor in 1998; the same year my first grandchild Tyanna Donnise Lott was born.

Ethel L. Payne was the first Black woman to receive accreditation as a White House correspondent. Wilma Rudolph, "The World's Fastest Woman," as a child suffered from polio and wore leg braces for years, she won three gold medals in sprint events at the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome, Italy.

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hop, but that doesn't mean it's been stripped of all its controversy.

"I've had this conversation with my students a lot," he says. "But I tell them that . . . not everyone is going to be as open-minded as myself."

NiaOnline, an African

American-focused Web site, recently conducted an unscientific poll about Wayans's efforts. In the poll, 84 percent of respondents say there's "no way" that Wayans should be allowed to own rights to the word. Ten percent say, "Why not," and the remainder say, "I don't know."

Church Happenings

BALM OF GILEAD CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER

March 18, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
The public is invited to our First Annual Women's Conference being held at the Plano Centre in the Windhaven Room, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, TX 75074. Our theme is "Matters of the Heart." This conference promises to be a wonderful time of spiritual refreshing from fellowshiping with the Holy Spirit and other believers.

This is a FREE conference and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Registration is required because there is limited reserved seating. For more information and to register, please call Mary Babin @ 1-214-585-0327

Balm of Gilead Christian Life Center
Jean-Claude Babin, Founder
2328 Heads and Tails Lane
McKinney, TX 75071
1-214-585-0327

CHRIST AND COMMON SENSE

Tomorrow, March 17, 7:00 pm
You are cordially invited to "A Personal Seminar" for males and females, ages 12 and older; at Mt. Olive Church of Plano, 740 Avenue F, Suite 303 in Plano, with Pastors Sam & Gloria Fenceroy. The theme is, "Operation Transformation" found in John 10:10. This is, "God's solution to balance . . . in every area of your life!" Rev. Marilyn Giles is our speaker for this spirit-filled and informative seminar.

For more information and fees, please call Marva Hickman @ 214-664-9888

Christ and Common Sense
Rev. Marilyn J. Giles, Founder
P.O. Box 150723
Dallas, TX 75315
214-664-9888

COALITION OF CHURCHES IN PRISON MINISTRY

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

Coalition of Churches in Prison Ministry
Rev. Isaac Johnson, Coordinator
P.O. Box 225863
Dallas, TX 75222-5863
972-235-6432 or
214-632-6519

EBENEZER WORSHIP CENTER (EWC)

March, 2006
We are inviting all church's

Fellowship Choirs and Musicians to participate in EWC's Praise and Worship Month of Celebration. Fellowship Musical Workshops starts on March 20, 2006 and will culminate with a Musical on March 26, 2006.

March 21-24, 7:00 pm

On Monday there will be a rehearsal for EWC Praise Team and Praise Dancers. On Tuesday there will be a rehearsal for all musicians. On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, there will be a Choir workshop; and on Friday there will be a workshop for Youth and Teens.

March 26, 6:00 pm

You are invited to join us for the culmination of our March Praise and Worship with a "Praise Celebration."

For more information on being a part of these workshops, please contact the church @ 972-980-0977 or NaTasha Smith @ 214-566-4733. You don't want to miss this spirit-filled workshop celebration, so come and join us!

Ebenezer Worship Center

Rev. Cecil T. Smith, II
Senior Pastor
14000 Preston Road
Dallas, TX 75254
972-980-0977

GREATER ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

This Saturday,
March 18, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

You are invited to join us and hear "God's Dynamic Plan for You, Your Spouse & Family" at New Life Fellowship Church's First Annual Family First Fellowship Breakfast and Conference to be held at our church, Greater Zion. For more information and conference fees please call 972-671-1096

March 22 - 24, 7:30 pm Nightly

Don't miss, "The Latter Rain Revival," Deuteronomy 11:14. There will be anointed guest lecturers each night and will feature Apostle Cornell Hamilton of, "From Bondage to Freedom Interdenominational Church in Shreveport, LA. This spirit-filled event is taking place our church, Greater Zion. For more information; please call New Life Fellowship Church @ 972-671-1096.

Greater Zion MBC
Rev. Mark A. Johnson, Sr.

Senior Pastor
4751 Hopkins Avenue
Dallas, TX 75209
214-358-2992

MOUNT OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO

Tomorrow, March 17, 7:00 pm
Please join us for "A Personal Seminar" for males and females, ages 12 and older. The theme is, "Operation Transformation" found in John 10:10. This is, "God's solution to balance . . . in every area of your life!" The speaker will be the dynamic Rev. Marilyn Giles from Christ and Common Sense Butterfly Club.

For more information and fees please call Marva Hickman @ 214-664-9888

Mt. Olive Church of Plano

Rev. Sam Fenceroy,
Senior Pastor
740 Avenue F, Suite 303
Plano, TX 75074
972-633-5511

NEW JERUSALEM AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

March 25, 9:00 am
All women are cordially invited to join us for "Women's Day 2006" at our Women's Prayer Breakfast and Worship Service. Our theme is, "Women of Power—Don't Worry. Pray!" (Philippians 4:6 & 7) @ the Holiday Inn Select—Love Field, 3300 W. Mockingbird Lane, Dallas, TX 75235, doors will open @ 8:30 am. Our energetic speakers will be Minister Paula Rogers, Evangelist Pearllette Franklin, and Rev. Lavonia Hall. For donations, fees, and more information, please call the church 214-366-3301.

March 26, 11:00 am
Please join us for this Holy Spirit Women's Day Worship Service; our featured speaker will be the dynamic Rev. Challis Bradford, Forest Avenue Baptist Church, Dallas, TX

New Jerusalem AME Church
Rev. Sylvester D. Patton, III
Senior Pastor
6615 Tyree Street
Dallas, TX 75209
214-366-3001

Church Happenings Page 10

Patent Offense Page 8

N-word during a fight in which he broke a black man's jaw, but some younger jurors didn't think the word was offensive because it's so conversational in hip-hop culture.

Yet, Boyd adds, the word may be conversational in hip-

Church Directory

Temple of Faith Christian Chapel C.M.E. Church
"Where Jesus is the Main Attraction"
Sunday Worship Experience - 8:00 am & 10:45 am
Wednesday Bible Study - 12:00 Noon & 7:00 pm
14120 Noel Road • Dallas, TX 75254
972-239-1120 (Office) • 972-239-5925 (Fax)
templeoffaith_cme@sbcglobal.net (Email)
Dr. Jerome E. McNeil, Jr., Pastor
Healthy Beginnings Child Development Center - 972-404-1412

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN
Pastor W.L. Stafford Sr., M.Div
"A Ministry that is on the Move for Christ"
Sunday School 9:30 am
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
Children's Church 11:00 am
Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study 7:00 pm
2nd & 4th Monday "Youth for Christ" 7:00 pm
Come experience the Worship Atmosphere at Fellowship, you will never be the same.
200 Belmont Drive • Allen, Texas • 75013
Phone 972-359-9956 • www.fbcfallen.org
*If you need a ride to worship with us, please call the church.

NORTH DALLAS COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
"A Spiritual Oasis for a Thirsty World" Isaiah 55:1
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:
8:00 AM • 9:30 AM • 11:30 AM
972-437-3493
Dr. Leslie W Smith, Senior Pastor
1010-1020 South Sherman Street • Richardson, TX 75081
www.ndcbf.org

New Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Dallas
Sunday Service
Morning Worship
7:30 am & 10:30 am
9:00 am Sunday School
Wednesday Service
Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm
Brotherhood 7:00 pm
Missions 7:00 pm
Singles Group 7:00 pm
Bible Study 7:45 pm
Dr. Robert E. Price, Senior Pastor
A Praying Church Family
"Watchmen on the Walls"
214-341-6459 (Phone) • 214-342-8403 (Fax)
9550 Shepard Road
Dallas, TX 75243
www.nmzb.org (Website) • newmzbc@aol.com (Email)

MOCOP Mt. Olive Church of Plano
740 Avenue F Plano, TX 75074 972 633 5511
WWW.MOCOP.ORG
Serving the Plano Community for 13 Years
Sunday Worship
8 am & 11 am
Wednesday Night
7:15 pm
Pastors Sam & Gloria Fenceroy
Call Pastor Sam on: "Vision & Truth Live"
Radio Broadcast: KWRD 100.7 FM Sundays 9pm-10pm
HEAR PASTOR SAM DAILY ON: "TRUTH MADE SIMPLE"
KGGK 1040AM MONDAY - FRIDAY 5:25PM - 5:30PM

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
Sunday 9:45AM Sunday School
Monday 7PM Youth, Brotherhood, Mission & Young Adult Ministries
Tuesday 7PM Bible Study & Men's Choir
Wednesday 7PM Mid-Week Service
Thursday 7PM Mass Choir
For more information call (972) 423-6695
www.shilohbaptistchurch.org

THE LOVE CHURCH
Living Obediently Victoriously Expectantly
A. Louis Patterson, III • Pastor
Service Times:
Church Unusual
Sundays @ 9:30AM
TNLI ~ Tuesday Night Live
Tuesdays @ 7:30PM
Worship Location:
Ivy Education Center
903 W. Parker Road
Plano, Texas 75023
(NE Corner of W. Parker Rd and Alma Rd)
Mailing Address:
1409 S. Lamar Street • Ste. 257
Dallas, Texas 75215
(214) 761-1175 off.
www.thelovechurch.com
"Loving The World With The Word!"

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.

"The Latter Rain Revival"

"That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thy oil." Deuteronomy 11:14

The New Life Fellowship Church will host their 4th Annual Revival, March 22-24 at the Greater Zion Baptist Church, 4751 Hopkins St. in Dallas.

Bishop M. E. Johnson Jr. pastor at New Life stated, "People mistakenly think revivals are for saving souls, but actually, it is for saints. It is a way to bring us back to life so that we can worship and serve God."

Apostle Cornell Hamilton minister of From Bondage to Freedom Outreach Ministries in Shreveport, Louisiana is the featured revivalist for the three day event. Other participating

evangelists are Pastor Mark A. Johnson, Sr., of Greater Zion Baptist Church, in Dallas; Pastor Mattie Thompson of New Life



Bishop M. E. Johnson Jr., Pastor at New Life Fellowship Church

Outreach Church, Longview, Texas; and Bishop M. H. Walker of Royal Priesthood Deliverance temple, Dallas.

Bishop Johnson stated that he considers Apostle Hamilton his

spiritual father. "At one time I was trying to find myself. Apostle Hamilton came out to hear me preach. After the service we were at dinner and began to talk. He began to prophesize and telling me things about myself that I had been thinking about. We have been close ever since."

Johnson also believes that Apostle Hamilton is a powerful story to tell. Therefore, he would like to extend the invitation for everyone to come out and hear the Word. "Please ask God to let you live long enough to hear this dynamic man of God exemplify the true meaning of Faith, Hope, Love, Longsuffering, Patience and Goodness as God has given it through Him to Apostle Hamilton.

This dynamic revival starts at 7:30 p.m. each evening. For more information call 972-671-1096.

Church Happenings

Church Happenings Page 9

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Join Us at Our New Worship Location:

"New Service Times"
Sunday Life Bible School - Sundays @ 9:00 am

Sunday Life Worship Service - Sundays @ 10:00 am

Life In The Word Prayer & Bible Study - Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm

For more information, please call 972-671-1096

Entire Month of March, 2006

Moving Towards The Vision

This Saturday,

March 18, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Please join us, and hear "God's Dynamic Plan for You, Your Spouse & Family" at our First Annual Family First Fellowship Breakfast and Conference. It is being held at Greater Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 4751 Hopkins Avenue, Dallas, TX 75209.

For more information and conference fees please call the church @ 972-671-1096

March 22 - 24, 7:30 pm, Each Night

Don't miss, "The Latter Rain Revival,"

Deuteronomy 11:14. We will have anointed

guest lecturers each night and will feature

Apostle Cornell Hamilton of, "From Bondage to Freedom Interdenominational

Church of Shreveport, LA. This spirit-filled

event is taking place @ Greater Zion

Missionary Baptist Church, 4751 Hopkins

Avenue, Dallas, TX 75209. For more information,

please call New Life Fellowship

Church @ 972-671-1096.

New Life Fellowship Church

Bishop Miller E. Johnson, Jr.

Senior Pastor

New Worship Location:

Wyndham Garden Hotel-Park Central

8051 LBJ Freeway

Dallas, TX 75251

972-671-1096

Mailing Address:

P. O. Box 940466

Plano, TX 75094-0466

972-671-1096

NORTH DALLAS

COMMUNITY BIBLE

FELLOWSHIP IN RICHARDSON

On-Going Mentor Program

Operation Oasis sponsors a program that

assists youth that are at-risk, and ex-offenders

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are to change lives of the formerly incarcerated

person, to increase safety, and to spiritually

fortify our communities.

For more details about this wonderful

project, please contact Juanita Lee,

Administrative Assistant at 972-437-3801 or

call Toll Free at 1-800-37Oasis (376-2747)

North Dallas Community Bible

Fellowship in Richardson

Dr. Leslie W. Smith, Senior Pastor

1010-1020 South Sherman Street

Richardson, TX 75081

972-437-3493

ST. JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH

April 2, 3:30 pm

Please join us as St. Luke's Baptist

Church, 6702 Victoria Avenue, Dallas, TX

75209 and Pastor Lloyd B. Hall as they

sponsor a "Mad Hatters Tea & Hat Fashion

Show Fundraiser" for our Restoration

Project. Put on your Sunday finest wear and

strut your stuff down the runway. Help us to lift up the name of the LORD in praise and fashion as our brothers and sisters help us.

For more information to participate, to register, and to make donations, please call 972-242-9194.

St. John Baptist Church

Rev. R. Michael, Pastor

1508 S. Broadway Street

Carrollton, TX 75006

972-242-9194

ST. LUKE'S BAPTIST CHURCH

April 2, 3:30 pm

You are cordially invited to a "Mad

Hatters Tea & Hat Fashion Show

Fundraiser" for St. John Baptist Church of

Carrollton Restoration Project. Put on your

Sunday finest wear and strut your stuff down

the runway. Help us to lift up the name of

the LORD in praise and fashion and to rally

round our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

For more information to participate, to

register, and to make donations, please call

972-242-9194.

St. Luke's Baptist Church

Rev. Lloyd B. Hall, Pastor

6702 Victoria Avenue

Dallas, TX 75209

214-352-6409

THE INSPIRING BODY OF

CHRIST CHURCH (IBOC)

Sign Up Now

FREE Computer Training classes by

Christian Business Services. For more information

and registration, please call Rev. C.

Greer @ 214-796-1294 or Email:

ccgreer@sbcglobal.net

Mondays, 7:00 pm

Monday School with Holy Spirit Bible

Teachings

The Inspiring Body of

Christ Church (IBOC)

Dr. Rickie G. Rush, Pastor

7710 South Westmoreland

Dallas, TX 75237

972-572-IBOC (4262)

THE LOVE CHURCH

Each Tuesday in March 2006

You are cordially invited to our

'March Madness: Final Four Revivals

2006' being held @ the Ivy Education

Center, 903 W. Parker Road, Plano, TX

75023. Guest speakers include: Pastor

Corey Brooks, New Beginnings

Church, Chicago, IL; Pastor Jasper

Williams, III, The Church, Duluth, GA;

Pastor Jamal-Harrison Bryant,

Empowerment Temple, Baltimore, MD;

and Pastor A. Louis Patterson, Jr.,

Mount Corinth Missionary Baptist

Church, Houston, TX.

The Love Church

Rev. A. Louis Patterson, III

Pastor/Founder

Mailing Address:

1409 S. Lamar Street, Suite 257

Dallas, TX 75215

214-761-1175

Worship Address:

Ivy Education Center

903 W. Parker Road

Plano, TX 75023

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Reynolds Wood Ministries is now

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Classes, Mentoring Program, and

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ships are available.)

For more information and registra-

tion, please call 214-544-1886.

Trinity Prayer Chapel

Rev. Reynolds Wood,

Senior Pastor

P. O. Box 650

Dallas, TX 75251

Service Location is:

406 N. Tennessee

McKinney, TX 75069

214-544-1886

New Orleans Black Parish Faces Uncertain Future

After Hurricane Katrina, Roman Catholic Church considers consolidation

Mass as one of the nation's oldest black Roman Catholic parishes was filled with jazzy renditions of gospel songs and prayers that church officials would reverse their decision to merge it with another parish, a move prompted by the financial strain of Hurricane Katrina.

"A parish is family. A parish is generations. A parish is your history," said Sandra Gordon, who began attending St. Augustine Church as a child, after Hurricane Betsy wiped out her family's previous parish in 1965.

St. Augustine, founded in 1841 by slaves and free people of color, is among the parishes the archdiocese plans to consolidate as it seeks to deal with \$84 million in uninsured losses.

The archdiocese is careful to point out that St. Augustine's will only close as a parish but will still be open for Mass on Sundays and some other functions like funerals and weddings.

Heavy cross to carry

Its building suffered only wind damage from Katrina and will remain open. "Show up on Sunday, and you won't miss a beat," said the Rev. William Maestri, a spokesman for the archdiocese.



But members of the parish, though, say it's not enough. They officially appealed the decision to the Archdiocese of New Orleans on Thursday and expect a response Monday.

St. Augustine sits in a low- to middle-income racially diverse neighborhood near the French Quarter; the music, this Sunday Marsalis, is jazz. About half of the 350 pre-Katrina families that belonged to the parish have returned, and many have suffered heavy damage to their homes,

including Gordon.

"This is a very, very heavy cross for us to carry right now," said Gordon, likening the parish's struggle to the Friday before Jesus' resurrection. "The church will be resurrected. We will have the victory."

Hundreds of structures in the archdiocese, including schools, churches and administrative buildings, were damaged when the storm blew in Aug. 29 and four-fifths of the city was covered in water.

Many at the church note how important the church is historically.

It was founded by slaves and free blacks with the blessing of the archdiocese and birthed the second order of black nuns in the United States in 1842. It was largely a parish of Italian immigrants in the early 1900s but morphed back into a predominantly black church in the 1960s as white residents left the Treme neighborhood.

Its long history in New Orleans means many of the city's black residents have some tie to St. Augustine, which was standing room only on Sunday.

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

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

PEOPLE OF FAITH WITH A MIND TO WORK

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

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

Website: www.ibocjoy.org

Ben Washington Baptist Church, Inc.
3901 Frisco Avenue
Irving, TX 75061
Church 972-790-8421 Fax 972-986-6590

Email: church@bwbcirving.org
Web: bwbcirving.org

"THE CHURCH WITH AN OPEN BIBLE"

Sunday Worship Services
8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
6:00 p.m. Baptist Training Union

Wednesday
12:00 p.m. Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Prayer Hour
7:30 p.m. Bible Study

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

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

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

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

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"We are Living Stones in God's Temple"

SUNDAY
10:00 am: Sunday School
11:00 am: MORNING WORSHIP

MONDAY
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm: Men of Power and Women of Power

TUESDAY
7:00 pm- 8:00 pm: Bible Study & Worship Service

14000 Preston Road • Dallas, TX 75254 • 972-980-0977 (Church Phone)

THE MOVE OF GILEAD
Overseer Craig L. Cobb (First Lady - Meikel Cobb)
Pastor Mancil Carroll II (First Lady - Maxine Carroll)

Sunday School - 9:30 am
Morning Worship - 11:15 am
Wednesday Night Bible - 7:30 pm

1016 Pioneer Road • Mesquite, Tx 75149
972-288-9632 • 972-289-1206 - fax
www.TheMoveOfGilead.org

There Are No Limitations To Our Expectations In God

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

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

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

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

Friendship Baptist Church
Dr. C. Paul McBride, Pastor

Schedule of Services:
Sunday
Early Morning Worship
8:00 a.m.
Sunday School Classes
9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship
11:00 a.m.

Evening Worship (1st Sunday) 6:00 p.m.

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

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

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

"The Church with a Vision"