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**MON**  
Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

# The Gazette

Volume XV, Number XVII

May 04 - May 10, 2006

Fifty Cents

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## People In The News



The Dallas Housing Authority is pleased to announce that Ann Lott, president and CEO of the Dallas Housing Authority, has joined The Council of Large Public Housing Authorities (CLPHA) Board of Directors.

Ms. Lott has more than 20 years of management and planning experience at DHA, which includes approximately 5,300 public housing units, 500 private market units and 17,000 housing choice voucher families.

Ms. Lott was recently recognized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for her leadership and quick action in assisting Hurricane Katrina survivors; DHA has assisted 6,800 affected families to date.

"Ann has demonstrated how innovative leadership can increase housing opportunities and spark community-wide improvements," said CLPHA Executive Director Sunia Zaterman. "We are delighted that she will be joining the CLPHA Board of Directors."

During Ms. Lott's tenure, DHA has been a catalyst in revitalizing aging communities, building public/private partnerships and creating homeownership opportunities for low-income families. For example, DHA partnered with KB Home, Habitat for Humanity and American CityVista to create Greenleaf Village, a development of 300 privately owned single-family homes in West Dallas on 68-acres of land previously owned by the housing authority.

Texas Railroad Commissioner Michael Williams recently delivered the closing keynote address to the Amachi Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) 5th Anniversary Conference at the Loews Hotel in Philadelphia. Commissioner Williams serves as the Honorary State Chairman of Big Brothers Big Sisters-Texas.

Williams was on hand to promote the Mentoring Children of Prisoners program that has been formed out of partnership between Amachi and BBBS.

Amachi is a unique partnership of secular and faith-based organizations working together to provide mentoring to children of incarcerated parents. "Amachi" is a Nigerian Ibo word that means "Who knows but what God has brought us through this child." From its humble beginnings in Philadelphia with just 42 congregational partnerships, there are now 108 Amachi-modeled programs nationwide.

Texas established the first statewide partnership between BBBS and Amachi several months ago. Williams issued a "Call to Action," noting: "Children of incarcerated parents are up to 70% more likely to end up in jail themselves. If we can help that child by giving him or her some one to look up to, that percentage decreases substantially."

Delores Elder-Jones, Richland College Program Administrator of African-American Community Outreach, was appointed to the board of directors for the Garland Housing Finance Corp. Ms. Elder-Jones is the first African-American and the second woman to be appointed to this board.

The Garland Housing Finance Corp. is part of Texas Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies. Goals and activities of the Garland Housing Finance Corp. include: low interest mortgage products for first-time homebuyers, down payment & closing cost assistance, financing for quality multifamily homes for working families, Homebuyer fairs, Credit Counseling, Homebuyer Education, and Financial Literacy Classes.

Partnering with other providers to build community facilities for area children, assisting other agencies in times of disaster, and Home Rehabilitation programs.

Many other activities to assist in the provision of safe, decent, and affordable housing in communities within Garland.

The Garland Housing Finance Corp. board sells bonds and uses the proceeds to build and renovate housing. As a member of the board, Ms. Elder-Jones will help create housing programs to assist in eliminating substandard housing and build affordable housing for the citizens of Garland.

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## No Fast Answer To "Day Without An Immigrant" Impact



By: Cynthia Leonor Garza

The "Day Without An Immigrant" protest in Texas on Monday could easily have been a total bust, some immigrants say.

"I think the turnouts show people are more angry than they are scared," said Ginny Goldman, an organizer with Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now.

But trying to quickly gauge the full impact of the protests in Dallas, and around the country is difficult, experts say.

Many workers asked for the day off from

work so they could take part in the boycott and so fewer managers were surprised by sudden worker shortages.

There are different kinds of boycotts, said David Meyer, of the University of California at Irvine and an expert on social movements. He said that Monday's demonstrations fit the model of famous forebears like the Montgomery bus boycott during the civil rights movement or the strikes that immobilized India during that country's struggle for independence.

Those boycotts were aimed at producing deep economic pain, Meyer said, while the immigrant rights advocates were instead trying to influence

No Fast Answer Page 5

## As Gasoline Prices Soar, Americans Resist Major Changes

By: Jeffrey Ball

With gasoline prices in the U.S. approaching an average \$3 a gallon, Americans are moaning about the rising cost, but so far they are resisting big changes in their gas-guzzling ways.

A 25% jump in prices at the pump since December has set off a firestorm in Washington. Politicians are threatening auto makers with tougher federal fuel-economy standards and oil companies with higher taxes on record profits, while warning against price gouging. Auto and oil executives are predicting that a long-term shift toward greater fuel efficiency is under way. But none of these influences is likely to have much effect on gasoline



Gas Prices Soar Page 8

## Former NAACP President Holds Reception To Kick Off Garland City Council Election Bid



By: Toni Calvin

Amid no small amount controversy, Garland's city elections are scheduled to be held on June 17th, 2006. Among the candidates running for city councilman is B.J. Williams. In an effort to increase funding for his campaign and share his campaign agenda, Mr. Williams recently held a reception at the Cosmopolitan Bistro on Main St. in

Garland, TX. The reception included live music and a buffet of finger foods.

Williams is originally from Bossier City, La. and relocated to Garland in 1971 after completing undergraduate studies in East Texas. He has maintained a career as a Human Resources Manager with the Social Security Administration while serving in various capacities for the

Reception For Election Bid Page 4

## Black Farmers Rally Outside Ag. Dept.

AP

A group of black farmers rallied Wednesday outside the Agriculture Department to press their claim that thousands of people were left out of the settlement of a discrimination lawsuit.

Seven years ago, the department agreed to pay farmers who could show they were discriminated against. The settlement provided for payments of \$50,000 in most cases but allowed for unlimited payments in extreme cases.

As of January, the government had paid around \$900 million to settle 14,300 claims. An additional 8,100 claims were denied; many are under review by a court-appointed monitor.



"We want full restitution ... so black farmers can move on with their lives," John Boyd, president of the National Black Farmers Association, told a crowd of about 100 people.

Black Farmers Rally Page 9

## Parenting The Second Time Around: Increasing Number Of Black Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

By: Paul Hailey

Sharon Grigsby never expected to be raising a 10 year old in her 60's. After raising five children of her own, she envisioned herself spending her later years traveling and participating in church activities. In short, she wanted to live the life of a retiree.

But once she discovered that her then 4-year-old grandson Brian was about to be placed in foster care, she put her own plans on the back burner and decided to do what the child's parents couldn't: raise the child in a loving, caring home.

"I believe in family, and I believe that family should be with family," Sharon said. "I couldn't allow my grandchild to be raised by the system. I decided to raise him no matter what it was going to take."

She's not alone in that commitment. No one knows the exact numbers, but the U.S. Census Bureau reported in 1995 that 3.9 million children



were living with their grandparents. By 2000, the Census Bureau reported that 4.5 million children under the age of 18 were being raised in a grandparent headed household. The grandparent headed household is the fastest growing type of household in the U.S., with nearly 3 million grandparents raising their grandchildren.

There are a myriad of reasons for this trend. Parents For A Second Time Page 5

## Striving For Unity In Garland



Participants in Garland's Community Multicultural Commission "We The People" Conference

By: Lakesha Joe  
"United, Yes We Can!" was the theme for the City of Garland's second We the People Conference. The conference, organized by Garland's Community Multicultural Commission (CMC), was held on Saturday, April 29th at the Garland Independent School District's special events center.

The goal of the conference was to help Garland address the needs, concerns, and interests of its very diverse population. Some of those ethnic groups included in Garland's population are African American, African, American Indian, Asian, Caucasian, Hispanic, Eastern Indian, and Pakistan. According to census figures,

approximately twenty percent of Garland's residents are foreign with thirty-six different languages spoken on a daily basis.

"I don't know of any other city that pulls together a conference like this one unless something bad has happened," said Annie Dickson, Chair of the Community Multicultural Commission. We chose to do this just because we wanted to bring awareness to the richness of our community. We're being proactive."

The agenda for the conference included break out sessions discussing such topics as economic development, health and human services, public

Striving For Unity Page 8

## Iran Threatens Israel If U.S. Attacks

A top Revolutionary Guards commander said Tuesday that Israel would be Iran's first retaliatory target if attacked by the United States.

Gen. Mohammad Ebrahim Dehghani also said Israel was not prepared to go war against Iran. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has repeatedly spoken out against Israel and threatened to wipe it "off the map."

"We have announced that whenever America does make



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, waves to photographers as he arrives to his office in Tehran, Iran

Iran Threatens Israel Page 3



## Plano North Metroplex Chapter Of The Links, Inc. Hold "A Day At The Races VII"



Plano residents William & Anna Byrd at the Links, Inc. "Day at the Races".



"Frisolous" hat contestant Doncella Milton, sporting her pink lampshade hat.



Program chair TJ Johnson with husband Don Johnson.



Links members Rosalyn Reece, Beverly Lyle, Carolyn Roberson, and Lajuanda Lacy.



TJ Johnson (Program Chair), Susie Bell (General Chair), Shirley Ware (Pres., Plano North Metroplex Chapter), and Pete Louis.



Program Chairs (Top) Jasmine Carty (Madhatter), Paula Parker (Silent Auction), Helen Watkins (Invitations/Tickets), Pete Louis (General Chair), TJ Johnson (Event Co-Chair) & (Bottom) Deborah Parnell (Hostess), Kathryn King (Madhatter), and Hortense Ransom (Souvenir Book).



Madhatter's Parade Winners of the "Frisolous" award.



"Day at the Races" attendees enjoying the scenery and the races at Lone Star Park.

## NAACP Mexquite ACTSO "Sounds Of Flavor" Fundraiser



Mesquite ACTSO 2006 Gold Medal Winner Tyrien Obanbrijoko orates "For Black Men Only".



Master of Ceremonies Tony B.



Student singer presents an original piece in song.



Angela Blair, Dallas native and featured vocalist, wows the crowd in song.



Mesquite ACTSO 2006 Gold Medal Winner Essie Johnson performs CeCe Winan's "Alabaster Box".



Singing group Meant2Be provides entertainment.

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## Around The Town

### Ongoing

**Sankofa Unplugged!** Come experience the nation's best Open Mic Experience. Musicians, Poets, Actors, be ready to "Bring the heat" to the Sankofa stage. Sankofa Arts Cafe & Bar 1906-1908 Martin L. King, Jr. Blvd. Dallas. Every Saturday 9:00 p.m. 214-421-0013, www.myspace.com/sankofakre

**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](http://www.assistance-league-gcc.org).

**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 Erickson 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.

**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

**Experience Works** provides job assistance and training for Collin County residents that are over 55. Experience Works representatives will be available at the Texas Workforce Center in Plano (820 Jupiter Road, Suite 100, Plano, Texas) between 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., on May 17th and May 1st. They will also be available at the Texas Workforce Center in McKinney (1713 W. Louisiana St., McKinney, Texas) between 1 p.m. and 2:30 on May 10th and May 24th.

### May 4

**Sheryl Underwood in Concert** at the Addison Improv May 4-7 on 4980 Beltline Rd, #250 Addison. Call 972-404-8501.

**Collin County Christian Prayer Breakfast**, an Annual breakfast of prayer, song, and a message of Christ's influence in our lives. Keynote speaker will be Dr. Kenneth Cooper, "Father of Aerobics" and Founder of the Cooper Clinic. Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway, Buffet opens at 6:30 a.m., program from 7:07 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. For more information call 214-757-7259.

### May 5

**4th Annual Jazz on the Q-Note**, The Eta Lambda Lambda chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. presents its 4th Annual Jazz on the Q-Note Arlington Museum of Art, 201 W Main Street, Arlington, 6:30 p.m.

**1st Friday African Village Night**, Come listen, dance, and enjoy live African Drumming! Fun for the whole family, Sandaga Market 1325 Levee Street, Dallas. KUMAASI African Ensemble 8 pm - midnight FREE

**Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group**. You are not alone! Join the conversation with other families like yours. Be sure

to visit the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Resource Collection in the library. Audelia Road Branch library at 10045 Audelia Road in North Dallas. For more information call 214-670-1350.

**The Plano ISD Education Foundation Board of Directors** is having a reception to honor 2005-06 major donors at Gleneagles Country Club, 5401 West Park Blvd, Plano.

**U2 singer Bono will speak** in Dallas about global AIDS and poverty in Africa 7:30 p.m. at Fair Park Music Hall. About 3,400 tickets will be sold.. Tickets start at \$50. For more information call 214-965-8400.

**Cinco de Mayo Closing Weekend Fiesta**. Celebrate Cinco de Mayo weekend at the Dallas Museum of Art and see the Maya exhibition before it closes. Enjoy concerts, tours, films, family programs, games, and extended hours all weekend, including half-price exhibition admission on Saturday and Sunday before 11:00 a.m. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 N. Harwood, Dallas. For more information call 214-922-1200.

### May 6

**Greenville Avenue Church of Christ's 21st Annual Adolescent and Ladies Symposium**, 8:30 am-1:30 pm, 1013 South Greenville Ave, Richardson. Features two Plenary sessions, 15 dynamic workshops, and "God's Own" singing group from Tulsa, OK. Speakers include Renee Wroten and LaKeesha Joe. Visit [www.gacoc.org](http://www.gacoc.org) or call 972-644-2335.

**"Confessions"**, a stage play, continues at the Black Academy of Arts and Letters, May 2nd thru May 6th. Akard and Canton, call 214-373-8000.

**National Business Success Strategies Workshop**, Business and personal development experts present strategies to maximize success. Dianne Williams, MSW, MS and Fay Fleming, MA will present the workshop. Participants will learn five

intentional steps that lead to personal excellence, and the seven unwritten rules of business. Christian Chapel Temple of Faith CME Church, 14120 Noel Road, Dallas. Registration: 8:30 a.m. Program: 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., \$29.00 in advance, \$35 at the door. Register on-line at [www.bpc-llc.com](http://www.bpc-llc.com).

**Gospel play "The Book of Life"**, 3:00 and 7:30 pm, Potters House Event Center, 6727 W. Kiest Blvd., Dallas. Call 214-331-0954 for ticket info.

**Texas Outdoor Expo**. Camping, fishing, hunting, and a strong focus on adventure sports will be present. Spectators will learn more about biking, kayaking, SCUBA, rock climbing, sailing, wakeboarding, and inline skating. Located at Meadowmere Park (South side of Lake Grapevine near Highway 114 and Kimball Road.) in Grapevine. For more information call 972-741-9169.

**Cinco de Mayo in Denton**. Denton's 19th annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration commemorating the historic battle of Puebla with a parade and festivities at Denton Civic Center Park, 321 E. McKinney in Denton 10 am to 6 pm. For more information call 940-349-8733.

**Cinco de Mayo in Irving**. Lee Park Recreation Center, 3000 Pamela Dr in Irving. 9 am to 2 pm. For more information call 972-742-5982.

**Asian American Heritage Festival**. Fun activities for whole family with food, Asian music, dances, calligraphy, face/hand painting, cultural exhibitions and more at Haggard Park in Plano from 12 to 6pm. For more information log on to <http://www.asianamericanheritage.org>.

**Mt. Hebron Missionary Baptist Church 5th Annual Golf Fellowship**, Firewheel Golf Course - "The Bridges Course" 1:00 p.m. Call 214-616-9129, 972-800-6709, 214-770-5561.

**The Texas Ski Rangers meeting**. The Texas Ski Rangers is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting,

financing, and encourage opportunities for African-Americans in winter sports. Meetings are at 11:00 on the first Saturday of each month at the Fretz Park Rec center in North Dallas.

### May 7

**97.9 "The Beat" and Radio Pepsi** present the 2nd Annual Custom Car Show & Concert at the Dallas Market Center, Noon. Call 972-331-5417 for more info.

### May 9

**High Tech Job Fair**, 11am to 4pm, Admission is free. Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway. Call 513-251-1400 or visit [www.targetedjob-fairs.com](http://www.targetedjob-fairs.com) for more info.

### May 10

**Fine Arts Extravaganza** at the Black Academy. Black Academy, 650 S. Griffin St. at 6 p.m. For more information call 214-743-2440

### May 11

**Older Americans Month Program**. Learn about nutrition, online health resources, city services from the Office of Senior Affairs and other great resources. Refreshments and giveaways! Audelia Road Branch Library- 10045 Audelia Road at 1 p.m. For more information call 214-670-1350.

**Chase Presents Jazz Under the Stars**. Summer nights sizzle with cool jazz under the stars! Bring a picnic and a blanket and enjoy some of the finest artists on the jazz scene. Every Thursday, May 11-June 15th. Ross Avenue Plaza at the DMA, 8pm FREE.

[hmorgan@DallasMuseumofArt.org](mailto:hmorgan@DallasMuseumofArt.org) 214-922-1200

### May 12

**Taste Addison**. A weekend of food, music and fun featuring more than 50 of Addison's best restaurants and national talent, Addison Circle Park in Addison, \$5 before 5 pm, \$8 after 800-233-4766

### May 13

**Black Writers' Guild of Irving**. Writers' Critique Session 217 S. Main St in Irving Black Writers' Guild of

Irving 10:30 am. For more information call 214-995-4509

### May 19

**Dallas Black Dance Theater: Spring Celebration Series**, The Majestic Theatre, 1925 Elm Street, Dallas, 214-631-2787, May 19 and 20, 7:30 p.m.

### May 20

**KEM: Into You Tour**, Nokia Theater, 1001 Performance Place Grand Prairie, (214) 373-8000 or (972) 647-5700

**Take steps to cure cystic fibrosis** by participating in GREAT STRIDES "Walk n' Roll" in Uptown Dallas. Join hundreds of walkers at the Hard Rock Cafe at 9 am to start your 3 mile quest for the cure. For more information call 214-871-2222 or visit [www.cff.org](http://www.cff.org).

**The Wheel of Fortune** will conduct contestant audition events at the Ft. Worth Convention Center on Saturday, May 20 from 3 - 8:30 p.m. and at Fair Park in Dallas at the Automobile Building on Sunday, May 21 from 3 - 8:30 p.m. Fans will have the opportunity to play a simulated version of the broadcast game onstage, win unique prizes and have a chance to qualify for an audition for Wheel of Fortune in Dallas/Fort Worth. For more information regarding contestant auditions and free tickets to tapings in Dallas/Fort Worth, tune into CBS11 or log on to [www.cbs11tv.com](http://www.cbs11tv.com).

### May 24

**Film: Dallas at the Crossroads** Dr. Glenn Linden, author and Southern Methodist University professor, discusses desegregation of Dallas schools in the 1960s

The Sixth Floor Museum, 411 Elm, 7th Floor, 7 pm FREE Contact programs@jfk.org or 214-747-6660.

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# Proud To Be An Active Partner In The Community





**Paul Hailey**

## Why Don't Black People Care About What's Happening In Darfur?

lated.

• The conflict has now evolved into Muslim against Muslim, with Arab Janjaweed militia members attacking their Muslim brothers in Darfur. 65 percent of the Sudanese practice Islam which is the official state religion.

• The U.N. has estimated that at least 200,000 people have died in Darfur from fighting, hunger and disease. In Sudan and across the border in Chad are approximately 2 million people that have been rendered homeless by the conflict.

• Sudan is China's fourth-largest supplier of imported oil, and China is looking to protect its interests. With its veto power in the U.N. Security Council, China has said it will stand by Sudan and oppose any efforts by the U.S. to impose sanctions on Sudan. The U.S. wants Sudan to replace the African Union peacekeepers with a larger U.N. presence. China's role makes the entire situation even more unstable.

That's it. Not exactly rocket science. Just a lot of people with black faces dying everyday in a country in Africa from civil war, disease and hunger. So why do we collectively turn a blind eye to what's happening?

Simply put, because it doesn't affect us. Black people are just like all other Americans in that regard. The atrocities in Darfur don't intersect with our everyday lives. It's something that's happening in a country very far away and unless we watch CNN, (not Headline News), read more than the first paragraph of a newspaper article, or read an entire article in Time magazine, we're not going to hear too much about it.

In order to know more, we have to actively seek out the information. And given our worries about gas prices, mortgage payments, corporate layoffs, taxes and our kid's education—we feel like we don't have anymore room on the plate. We have a

hard enough time keeping up with what's going on in Iraq, and there are U.S. troops there. In an era where we are constantly bombarded by bad news, people are not inclined to hear anymore bad news than they have to. We don't like looking at pictures of starving babies.

We also don't know what to do once we are aware of what's going on. How can I have a positive affect on what's happening. What can I do? It's all up to the government, politicians and the U.N. and its all driven by money and oil interests anyway, right? Wrong.

That kind of defeatist thinking is how people rationalize their own inaction. It's how millions of people chose not to vote in two Presidential elections that gave us George Bush. For those who think the U.S. has no business in the affairs of other countries I have two words for you: Nazi Germany. When you are part of the richest, most powerful nation on the planet, you have a responsibility to the rest of the world. Whether you want to or not.

Nothing happens until something happens, and nothing on this planet changes until people get involved. The ordinary, hard-working, plain old citizens are the people that help to change things—we all are citizens of planet Earth. We are the government. It takes effort to become involved, to become aware, to become active.

So I challenge you to do something. Turn off the tv for 20 minutes and log on to [www.darfurgenocide.org](http://www.darfurgenocide.org) where you can sign a petition, donate \$5, or send a message to President Bush. You'll feel better about the world and your place in it. I did.

Then if anybody ever asks you why black people don't care about what's going on in Darfur, you can tell them "I do."

Paul Hailey can be reached at [editor@MonTheGazette.com](mailto:editor@MonTheGazette.com)

## Another 'Day of Absence'

By: George E. Curry - NNPA

It's no secret that oppressed groups in the United States and abroad — including women, the physically challenged, gays and lesbians and Latinos, among others — have borrowed the tactics of the modern Civil Rights Movement to advance their cause. And most groups are quick to acknowledge that debt to Black America.

But Monday's "Day of Absence" by Latinos took it to a new level. "Day of Absence" was the title of a 1965 play by Douglas Turner Ward, founder and artistic director of the Negro Ensemble Company. The play, set in a small community in the South, explores what would have happened if all of the town's Black disappeared for a day.

So when I heard Hispanics discussing "a day of absence," I realized that they had not only studied the Civil Rights Movement, they had paid attention to every detail. Evidently, they know about a play that many African-Americans are unfamiliar with. I ain't mad at 'em, as we like to say, but I am impressed that they had really did their homework.

Initially, Monday was to be a day that Hispanics boycotted work, stayed out of school and refused to go shopping in order show the importance of Hispanics to the American economy. However, that was modified because of dissension over whether undocumented workers would risk losing their jobs and keeping students out of school would send the wrong message.

The League of United Latin Americans (LULAC), one of the key organizers, helped revamp effort.

"We are asking individuals to keep from spending a penny that day," LULAC National President Hector M. Flores said

in a statement. "We are also asking students to stay in school on that day and not make any purchases. We do not want children out of school or people missing work without permission from their employers. We ask that people be disciplined and responsible and to show our respect yet make a clear statement."

Monday was also International Workers Day, a holiday that began in the 1880s. Flores said it is celebrated in every country except the U.S., Canada and South Africa.

In making the case for a sensitive immigration policy, Latino leaders point to a UCLA study by Raul Hinojosa that shows the combined value of undocumented immigrants labor, stimulus to the economy and taxes exceeds \$890 billion a year. According to the study, those immigrants use only \$43 billion in public services annually, most of it in education and emergency care.

"Undocumented immigrants contribute about \$850 billion more per year than they cost — a huge net gain for the United States," said Brent Wilkes, national executive director of LULAC. "It's about time that we provide a legal avenue for them to come here in recognition of their tremendous contributions to our country."

While Monday's modified "Day of Absence" was met with mixed results, there is no doubt that Latino street demonstrations in more than 75 cities on April 10 showed that old civil rights tactics can still be effective. I emphasize the word can. Sadly, on the same day at least 500,000 were marching in Los Angeles, less than 10,000 — possibly less than 5,000 — African-Americans were marching in New Orleans to protect the voting rights of displaced residents. Even with Jesse Jackson, Al

Sharpton and the heads of the NAACP and the National Urban League present, the turnout was a disappointment. If we can't do any better than that, it's time for Act II.

I don't have all of the answers and don't know what should constitute Act II. That should be a community decision. But I do know what it should not be; it should not be an over reliance on press conferences and street demonstrations. We shouldn't rule demonstrations out, but we should use them more sparingly. It's time to develop some different approaches. Let's face it: There is an eagerness on the part of many to focus on the growing Hispanic population and ignore the long-standing needs that Blacks are entitled to. It is our job, however, to stand up and be counted. This is not about being the flavor of the month, but, as Dr. Martin Luther King put it, collecting on the bounced check, marked insufficient funds, that our nation has given its Black citizens.

As we attempt to collect on this overdue check, I guess Act II means not waiting on another Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Whitney Young, Roy Wilkins, Huey P. Newton or Stokely Carmichael. Act II can begin by doing what we can do as individuals and groups to uplift the people who need it most. Sometimes that might be through organized civil rights groups and at other times it may mean an individual act. Whatever we do, we can't afford to be absent from the struggle.

George E. Curry is editor-in-chief of the NNPA News Service and [BlackPressUSA.com](http://BlackPressUSA.com). To contact Curry or to book him for a speaking engagement, go to his Web site, [www.georgecurry.com](http://www.georgecurry.com).

## A Difficult School Year For Katrina's Survivors

By: Marian Wright Edelman

A three-by-four-inch picture postcard and a small trophy are all that remain of Montrelle's large collection of dance and academic awards. Hurricane Katrina's floodwaters broke or twisted or scattered everything else.

"In a way I want to go home, but it's not really much to go back to right now," says Montrelle, a pleasant, well-spoken 14-year-old who had just started classes at her dream school when the hurricane struck. An excellent student, Montrelle had won an academic scholarship to St. Mary's, an all-girls Catholic school in New Orleans. "Ever since I was a little girl, I had wanted to go to St. Mary's," she recalled. "I was so happy when I got there. I had just made the dance team. The week the storm came, we were going to start practice."

But two days before Katrina turned on New Orleans, Montrelle, her mother, Cheryl, and little sister, Maliyah, loaded the family car and drove west. Cheryl's sister worked at a New Orleans hotel and her boss found a hotel room for the young family in Houston. Not long afterward, FEMA placed the family in a tidy, modern apartment in southwest Houston, one of the city's highest crime areas.

"It's all right living here," Montrelle said.

"What I worry about is the school system and the courses. They can't tell me whether my credits will transfer when I go back... No one can answer that

for me." Montrelle misses performing as a New Orleans Hornets' basketball "Stinger," an elite troupe that entertains fans at halftime. And she misses her friends. "Usually, in New Orleans, your friends live five to 10 minutes away from you. Now, they're all in different states."

While Montrelle and her mother fret over the academic implications of moving from New Orleans to Houston and — they hope — back again, Cheryl expresses confidence that Montrelle, always a go-getter, will prevail. In another Houston apartment, Carolyn, another mother from New Orleans, is more concerned about her son, Christopher.

In their home, they count on it like clockwork. Thursday is fight day. Four days into the school week and, at Kashmere High School in Houston, the local and New Orleans kids collide. The weekly bouts have led to suspension or expulsion for several of the two dozen students who fled The Big Easy and landed at Kashmere. Christopher, 16, worries that he could be next.

"I want to get out of Kashmere," he says, solemnly. "They always fighting at Kashmere."

Each side blames the other for the tension and violence. Christopher says the Houston kids "don't like the way we talk" and taunt the New Orleans evacuee students about their clothes, many of them hand-me-downs since most families fled the disaster with nothing. So far, Christopher says, he has man-

aged to avoid coming to blows, but admits it's getting harder, not easier, and adds pointedly, "I ain't scared."

Carolyn, Christopher's mother, says she is prepared to make a permanent home in Houston, mainly because there's nothing to return to in New Orleans. She is confident she will find work and that life for the family will improve. But she hopes things settle down quickly for Christopher. He used to be a decent student and never had trouble in school, she said. Now, he's beginning to falter. "Every week — every Thursday — I have to go up to the school. Why? Houston kids want to fight the New Orleans kids," Carolyn said.

Then a broad smile erupts. "Today was a blessed day," she says, "because, guess what? It's Thursday and we didn't have to go to school."

Christopher and Montrelle are just two of thousands of students affected by Hurricane Katrina who are struggling to fit into new schools and keep up with their studies at the same time that they try to adjust to everything else in their lives that has been uprooted. We need to ensure every child in Katrina-affected states a quality public education and after-school and summer educational supports to help them make up for lost time and overcome previous and continuing educational disparities.

Marian Wright Edelman is President and Founder of the Children's Defense Fund.

### Iran Threatens Israel Page 1

any mischief, the first place we target will be Israel," the semiofficial Iranian Student News Agency quoted Dehghani as saying.

"We will definitely resist ... U.S. B-52 (bombers)."

President Bush has said a military option remained on the table if Iran did not agree to international demands for it to stop

enriching uranium. However, he also has said Washington wanted to solve the dispute over Iran's nuclear program through diplomacy.

Dehghani, who served as a spokesman during large-scale Revolutionary Guards war games last month, said the exercises were held ahead of schedule to send a message to the United States and

its allies over Tehran's nuclear activities.

"We were due to organize the maneuvers in May but due to timing conditions and issues related to (our) nuclear energy and upon the recommendation of Mr. (Ali) Larijani (Iran's top nuclear negotiator), it was held 40 days sooner than planned," he said.

## Where Do You Want To Go Today?

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

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

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

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





# Local High School Students Win City-Wide Making The Business: Youth IT Challenge And Advance To National Competition

Students from high schools throughout Dallas County were chosen as winners of the Dallas Making the Business: Youth I.T. Challenge hosted by the Urban League of Greater Dallas and North Central Texas, and sponsored by the National Urban League and Microsoft. Their team, International Connection, will represent Dallas at the national competition to be held during the 2006 National Urban League Conference in Atlanta, GA.

"I was encouraged by my teachers and parents to participate in the program, and I jumped at the opportunity to learn about using technology to develop a business," said

Chase Davis, CEO of the winning team. "We look forward to representing Dallas at the national Youth I.T. Challenge competition."

The Making the Business: Youth IT Challenge is a ten-week program sponsored by Microsoft and the National Urban League designed to engage minority youth from the ages 14 - 18 in the development of an original IT-based business. Participating students receive hands-on training in the development of a web-based business, and a business plan, from IT professionals and business owners. Students also learn about existing opportunities in the technology field.

"Our entire Urban League



Judges for the Making the Business: Youth IT Challenge Dallas Competition and International Connection, the winning team.  
Back row - left to right: Katherine Sholes, Educator Lewisville ISD; Edrick Laney, Southwest Mobile Advertising; Tom Upton, Microsoft Area Sales Manager; Martin Burrell, Urban League Chairman of Board; Fred Speno, SCORE.  
Front row - left to right: LaShonda Cooks, Townview Business Magnet; Alysha Sample, Townview Law Magnet; Avery Gamblin, Mesquite High School; Chase Davis, Clark High School; Desmond Hunt, Ranchview High School.

community is very proud of International Connection's accomplishments, and wish them the very best," said Dr. Beverly Mitchell-Brooks, President & CEO at the Urban League of Greater Dallas. "We appreciate that Microsoft is enabling our youth to realize their potential through technology awareness and entrepreneurial skills."

The winning team will advance to compete against champions from eight other cities for \$15,000 in prize.

"By providing urban high

school students with exposure to the real-life experience of developing a Web-based business, Microsoft hopes to inspire young minority students to become the IT executives of tomorrow," stated Jose Piñero, Microsoft Diversity Marketing and Communications Director. "We are committed to the advancement of minorities in the IT field, and will continue to work with the National Urban League and Urban League affiliates to create solutions that enable life-long learners."

**Reception For Election Bid Page 1**

city of Garland. Williams proudly states that he is not a politician, nor does he intend to become one, despite his campaign for District 4 city councilman.

"I will not compromise integrity nor accountability to win this election," Williams confirms.

Williams' history with the city of Garland has been in several volunteer capacities, including chairman of the Planning Committee in 1999 as well as a member of the Housing and Standards Committee in 1997. Williams has also served as president for the Garland chapter of the NAACP for 10 years and as president for a committee with the Salvation Army. In addition, Williams has also served on the interview board for Garland's police and fire departments.

Williams states that his commitment and record of

service is unmatched by any of his opposing candidates.

"None of my appointments have been for financial or personal gain." According to Williams, he is also being endorsed by the two preceding District 4 city councilmembers. If elected, he will be the third African American to serve on the Garland City Council.

When asked about the issues he intends to address as councilman, Williams states that one of the primary issues is with public safety. In an effort to devise a reputable plan, Williams has been in direct contact with the city's police and fire departments. Williams also states that there are some concerns with educating Garland residents about code compliance before violations occur.

"Residents are not aware of a code violation until a citation is written," Williams says. He would also like to attract

quality economic developments to the city and ultimately ease the burdens of the city's homeowners. Williams commented that the reception venue, Cosmopolitan Bistro, is a good example of the businesses the city should seek to attract. Along with this objective, he also seeks to protect homesteads from eminent domains and avoid the attraction of large enterprise at the expense of private homeowners forced to sell and relocate. Williams shared his goals during his welcome address at the reception and

further stated, "I received the confirmation I needed to enter this race and I can only be in it to win it."

In response to the concerns of Garland residents, Williams says that he seeks to bridge the gap between the council and to be able to disagree amicably. Williams also states that Garland residents need to value diversity instead of complaining about it.

At the conclusion of his welcome reception, Williams stated, "I'm not running against anyone, I'm simply running for Garland."

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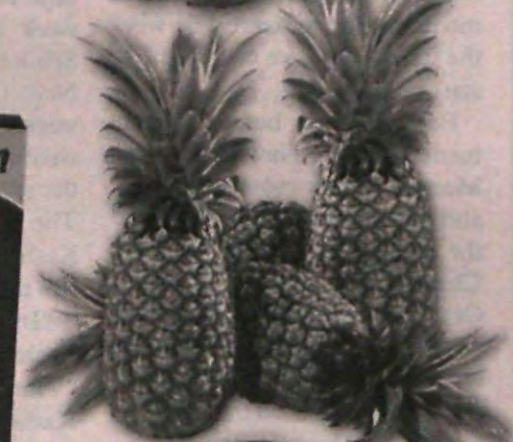
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## Crustacean's Finds Home In Deep Ellum After Katrina



Hurricane Katrina left untold thousands of New Orleans residents without a place to live or work including Chef Ronald "R.J." Honoré whose restaurant Crustacean's was destroyed by

the flood. Thanks to the generosity of the Deep Ellum Association, he has been able to relocate his authentic Cajun restaurant to Dallas! "My wife has been saying to move up here with my daughter for years," says the chef, whose cousin is Crescent City relief commander Lt. Gen. Russel Honoré. "My daughter heard about the [Deep Ellum] offer on the TV news." An offer, he gladly accepted.

His son-in-law, Brian Wright, is happy to have him. "The city of Dallas and the Deep Ellum area need the flavor of New Orleans," says Mr. Wright, a 35-year-old real estate entrepreneur. "There are few places here, if any honestly, that you can go and get real good New Orleans Cajun."

The business partners have been able to remedy that problem. The restaurant features an incredible selection of Cajun fare from jambalaya to any kind of po'boy you can imagine to my

personal favorite...the corn and clam chowder. It's no surprise Crustacean's is doing so well when you consider the forty plus decades of experience in the restaurant business boasted by Mr. Honoré.

In addition to Crustacean's, the Honoré family owned Pampy's Creole Restaurant, which was destroyed, and Crystal Catering, which did party and convention catering a service he has continued since re-establishing himself in Dallas. Crustacean's is located at 2711 Elm Street.

## Congress Reaches Deal On Voting Rights Law

In a rare show of unity, Republicans and Democrats in both houses of Congress on Tuesday announced an agreement on renewing the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which one lawmaker called "the crown jewel" of the civil rights era.

Much of the act, which codifies the constitutional guarantee that no person can be denied the right to vote on the grounds of race or color, is permanent. But parts had to be renewed in 1982 and again this year or else they would expire in 2007.

One part of the bill that will be renewed is a requirement that any state or county with a history of discrimination must get Justice Department or court approval before changing

their election laws or procedures.

The bill will be called the "Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006," named for three heroines of the civil rights era.

John Conyers of Michigan, the ranking Democrat on the committee, said the Voting Rights Act was the "crown jewel" of the civil rights legislation passed in the 1960s.

Some critics of the act have argued it is no longer necessary because it addresses forms of discrimination that are now part of history. But Sensenbrenner and other lawmakers said that is not the case.

## Inside Collin County Holds Comerica Collin 60 Reception



Mr. Hasan Pirkul, Dean and Caruth Chair, UTD; Mr. Jack Bick, President of Inside Collin Business; Mr. Chuck Gummer, President of Comerica Bank; Mr. Spencer Dworkis, Senior Vice President of Marketing of Comerica Bank.

Inside Collin County celebrates the annual Comerica Collin 60 reception, April 27th, 2006 at UTD's School of Management.

The Collin 60 Awards Luncheon being held May 15 at the Marriott. For more info visit [www.comericacollin60.com](http://www.comericacollin60.com).

### Parents For A Second Time Page 1

sons why grandparents have stepped up in increasing numbers to raise their grandchildren. The reasons include everything from incarceration, child abandonment, AIDS, drug and alcohol abuse, mental illness, teen pregnancy, child abuse, immaturity and death.

This phenomenon is nothing new in the black community, where grandparents (mainly grandmothers), have held family networks together for centuries. As a historical and cultural response to the fragmentation of black families in the times of slavery, black grandmothers have often assumed the multiple roles of mother, father and grandparent.

The statistics support this premise. A 2003 latest census survey found that 56% of Native American grandparents

and 52% of African American grandparents living with grandchildren identified themselves as the main caregivers. The rates were 43% for whites, 35% for Hispanics, and 20% for Asians.

Raising a child is a difficult experience for anyone, and the experience presents a unique set of problems for grandparents. For all of the benefits of raising a grandchild in trouble, (a purpose for living, love and companionship, satisfaction in blessing the life of a child), the undertaking is not without its own painful sacrifices for the grandparent.

Ms. Grigsby reflected on her own sacrifices. "Raising a grandchild can be an inconvenience, it took me four years to get legal custody," she said. "You are never thinking about yourself, you don't have your own time—the needs of the child are number one."

Challenges cited by grandparents raising children include lack of financial assistance, money, loss of personal freedom, lack of support from family members, health issues, confusion over their role with their grandchildren, and not fitting in with other parents.

Sharon has dealt with all of those challenges. "I think people have confusion about roles because of what they allow their grandchildren to call them. If the child calls their grandmother 'mama', how can they not be confused? I've earned the title of 'grandma' and that's how I want my grandson to see me."

"The money is secondary. I just want Brian to be in a stable environment. I want him to have some consistency in his life. You know, times have changed. The village really did use to raise children in the black community. That's all changed; society has made it tougher to raise kids. We just all have to do what we can."

All great sacrifices are motivated by love. The type of love shared by Sharon Grigsby and grandparents like her is saving a generation of children from abandonment and institutionalization. We should all celebrate the efforts of grandparents doing more than their share.

### No Fast Answer Page 1

a political debate.

Most metroplex area businesses remained open on Monday, even if with a scaled-back work force. Many individuals who attended the rallies said they worked in construction, for manufacturing businesses or in the service industry.

Although many workers did not defy their bosses, many lost a day's pay. Some individuals said they will make it up later, while others said the sacrifice is an investment for the future.

But if Monday's rallies were mostly planned and polite, minimizing inconveniences to the general populace, they may be creating an unintended consequence — riling up anti-immigration activists even more.

Louise Whiteford, head of the Texans for Immigration Reform, said her group's supporters, who oppose amnesty, are growing less and less sympathetic to the protesters.

The public may be reaching a saturation point with the protests, tiring of the cause, she said.

"I think it's gotten attention, but a lot of negative attention," she said. "People are very angry. Most citizens aren't used to protesting, they are not going to go out there and do the same thing, and they don't like it."

Whether positive or negative, said Meyer, the University of California at Irvine expert, Monday's boycott was mostly

"about making the important role of immigrants in our economy visible."

Measured in that respect, the boycott was a success, he said, adding that the symbolism of the day "contributed to a debate and demonstrated strength. Sometimes sanctions are meant to coerce, sometimes they are meant to convince. This is the latter."

Some Latino activists said they expect the protests to lead to greater political power for Hispanics.

"Today is a very historic day for our communities," said Adriana Cadena, director of civic education for the National Association of Latino Elected/Appointed Officials. "We need to take that energy from marches that happened today and in the past and take that next step, which is at the polls."

In Washington, D.C., a group of Hispanic immigrants calling themselves "You Don't Speak for Me" condemned the nationwide demonstrations, as well as the country's illegal immigrants.

"Mass amnesty for millions of illegal aliens is surrender," said Al Rodriguez, a retired Army colonel and the group's organizer. "We and millions of others like us did it legally. This group represents the other side of the story."

The group is associated with FAIR, the Federation for American Immigration Reform, a group that advocates tight restrictions on legal and illegal immigration.



## The neighborhood is buzzing about Play in May!



### Play in May is four great events you can get to on DART:

#### Cottonwood Art Festival

Saturday, May 6 & Sunday, May 7 at Cottonwood Park (one block east of Coit Rd. on Belt Line Rd.)  
A fine art gallery in the park with live music and fun for the whole family.  
[www.cottonwoodartfestival.com](http://www.cottonwoodartfestival.com)  
Red Line to Arapaho Center Station, then bus route 400 North Irving

#### Taste Addison

Friday, May 12 - Sunday, May 14 at Addison Circle Park  
A weekend of great food from Addison restaurants and live entertainment!  
[www.addisontexas.net](http://www.addisontexas.net)  
Bus routes 31, 36, 183 or 341 to Addison Transit Center  
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#### Wildflower! Arts & Music Festival

Friday, May 19 - Sunday, May 21 at Galatyn Park (located at Galatyn Parkway and U.S. 75 in Richardson)  
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[www.wildflowerfestival.com](http://www.wildflowerfestival.com)  
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## Commanding General Honore' Visits Dallas For Whitney Young Awards

LTG Russell Honore', Commanding General First US Army and Commanding General for Joint Task Force - Katrina relief, visited Dallas this week. He was the keynote speaker for the annual Whitney M. Young Awards for Urban Boy Scouting.

Jim Nelson - RISD Superintendent and Luke Davis - (Eagle Scout)-RISD Board President also attended the luncheon and were recognized. Jim, Luke and David had an opportunity to visit with General Honore', and made him aware of the students RISD received from Katrina.



Yolanda Moore- SU Alumni Dallas Chapter President; Linda H. Tyson - SU Alumna; State Farm Marketing SU Alumnus, LTG R. Honore', guest speaker SU Alumnus- David Tyson-Eagle Scout, Whitney M. Young Committee and RISD Board Trustee.

## Students 'Share The Dream' At DFW International Airport's Scholarship Awards Ceremony

A total of twenty-four students got a chance to "Share the Dream" at DFW International Airport, receiving awards from the Airport's Share the Dream scholarship awards program for their outstanding efforts to overcome life obstacles. Inaugurated in 2004 to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of DFW, the scholarship is now in its third year supporting and encouraging students around North Texas to maintain their integrity and use their determination to succeed in school and life.

A total of 41 essays were submitted to DFW for review and while all were deemed winners, 24 students received the \$200 scholarship. Every student will receive a "Share the Dream" awards medallion, backpack, "Share the Dream" cap, "Share the Dream" picture frame, personalized pen, and a Dream book of inspirations. Since the program's inception in 2004, the Airport has awarded scholarships to 66 high school students who are striving to be the best they can be.

DFW Public Affairs Department designed the "Share the Dream" program to

be unique and to recognize students who have struggled in school and life and made great improvements toward their dreams. Educators nominate students in grades 9 through 12. Each student wrote a brief essay about his or her life and why it is important to stay in school and persevere. A committee of Airport employees selected the recipients.

Judges based their decisions on the students' integrity and determination to be the best, students struggling in school but still making improvements, outstanding effort to stay in school.

## White House Internships Available

The White House Internship Program offers an excellent opportunity to serve our President and explore public service. We are seeking exceptional candidates to apply for this highly competitive program. In addition to normal office duties, interns attend weekly lectures, tours, and complete an intern service project. Interns may serve a term in the Fall, Spring or Summer. All candidates must be at least 18 years of age, hold United States citizenship, and be enrolled in a college or university.

We hope you will explore our White House Intern Website for additional information at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/wh-intern.html>. To apply, read and complete the White House Intern Application. A strong application includes the following:

- sound academic credentials
- history of community involvement and leadership
- solid verbal/written communication skills
- demonstrated interest in public service

Completed application materials must be submitted to

Karen Race, Deputy Director and Intern Coordinator in the office of White House Personnel, at [intern\\_application@whitehouse.gov](mailto:intern_application@whitehouse.gov) prior to the following deadlines:

Applications due June 16, 2006 for FALL 2006 term - (September 5 to December 15, 2006)

Applications due October 13, 2006 for SPRING 2007 term - (January 9 to May 11, 2007)

If you have questions you may contact Karen Race by phone, (202) 456-5979 or by e-mail, [intern\\_application@whitehouse.gov](mailto:intern_application@whitehouse.gov).

## Three Dallas Students Selected As Finalists For Coca-Cola Scholarships

High school senior Joseph Croll, college sophomore Crystal Phillips and college junior Michael Turner will go to college next Fall with the help of the Coca-Cola Enterprises Johnston Legacy Scholarship. Croll will receive a \$20,000 scholarship, while Phillips and Turner will each receive \$5,000 scholarships. The students were selected as scholarship finalists by an independent panel of 10

judges from educational institutions throughout North America based on their academic excellence, community service, leadership and work experience.

In honor of Coca-Cola Enterprises employees' hard work and dedication to the customers and consumers they serve, the Company created the Coca-Cola Enterprises Johnston Legacy Scholarships for employees' children. One-hundred deserving

students who are children of employees across the nation were selected to receive this distinguished honor. Four-year scholarships worth up to \$20,000 were awarded to 10 graduating high school seniors, and one-time scholarships worth \$5,000 were awarded to 90 graduating high school seniors and undergraduate college students. Regionally, there were 14 recipients of the Johnston Legacy Scholarship.

## UNT's Online Masters Of Business Administration Program Recognized Nationally As A "Top 25 Best Buy"

The University of North Texas College Of Business is being praised for its online Masters of Business Administration degree program. The group "Get Educated.com" has recognized UNT's program as a "Top 25 Best Buy" among 130 programs surveyed nationwide.

Dr. Kathleen Cooper, dean of UNT's College of Business, says, "The ranking of the UNT College of Business Administration's online MBA is positive recognition for our program. We are constantly improving our offerings to our students in order to best meet their needs. I feel we are successful at this and it's rewarding to receive acknowledgment of our efforts."

In 1989, GetEducated.com, LLC designed and directed Americas first online counseling

center for adult learners seeking accredited online college degrees. Today, they operate the only clearinghouse in the USA dedicated exclusively to showcasing accredited online degrees. They have been featured in the New York Times, Forbes, Fortune, US News & World Report, CNN and CBS News, among others.

Cooper says, "The 'Best Buy' designation indicates our MBA program has been found to offer a high-quality distance degree to a national audience at tuition rates well below the national average. With this ranking we are entitled to use the Seal of Approval logo on our website and in our outreach materials beginning February 2006 through February 2008." UNT is one of four Texas universities to receive the "Best Buy" designation.

The College of Business Administration at UNT has been offering distance-delivered courses since 1985. Dr. Derrick D'Souza, Associate Dean for Graduate Programs at UNT, says, "We began web-based course delivery in 1998. Our web-based delivery capabilities have expanded over the years, thanks to the creation of the Center for Distributed learning (CDL) on the UNT campus to coordinate and foster distance education activities." UNT currently offers more web-based courses than any other university in the region, with more than 6,000 students enrolled in online classes.

Cooper and D'Souza can be reached through the College of Business, (940) 565-4585.

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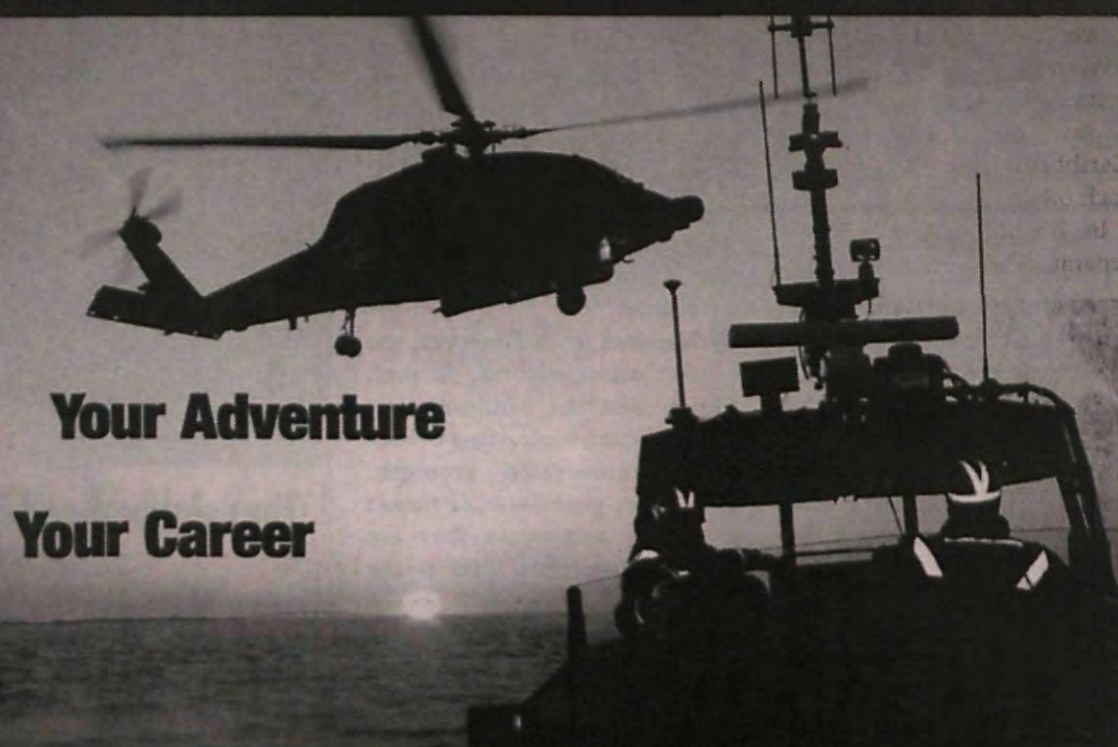
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## Angela Bassett Explains Approach To 'Akeelah' Role

It's safe to assume that audiences will initially be put off by the character Tanya Anderson, the mother of 11-year-old spelling whiz kid Akeelah in the new film "Akeelah and the Bee".

She's stubborn, unsympathetic and frustratingly-insensitive when it comes to nurturing her daughter's journey toward competing in the Scripps National Spelling Bee, but the actress who plays her has a different take on Tanya's attitude.

"Reading the script and working on Tanya, I just remembered my mom and how she parented me with all the challenges and the balancing act," says

Angela Bassett, herself a new mom of twins. "Becoming a mom, I joke and I say 'Oooh, I just joined the circus, I'm the new juggler. That's what it feels like, there are so many balls you're trying to keep up in the air. And how do you get balance?"

Bassett, 47, posed the same questions of her character, a single mom who has three other children to raise in addition to Akeelah, each with challenges of their own.

"The way I saw it, she's rough on Akeelah, but there's absolute love in there," explains Bassett, citing an incident with her own mother as an example. There is a scene in

the film in which Tanya yells at her daughter for sneaking off to the Valley to study without informing her of her whereabouts.

"She's been really busy and reeling and trying to play catch up with one son, keeping him straight, while Akeelah has always been good and self-checked," Bassett explains. "I mean, the Spelling Bee, she's good at it, great. But she's lying,



forging her father's signature, she's taking advantage of situations trying to get a new outfit and those sort of things, which ultimately are issues of integrity and character. That's how I saw it, and those sort of things attracted me to the role."

For the third time in her career, Bassett stars in a movie with Laurence Fishburne, who plays a mentor to young Akeelah. After playing husband and wife in both "Boyz n the

Hood" and "What's Love Got to Do With It," the New York-born actress says she and Fishburne share a shorthand on set that has developed through the years.

Meanwhile, Bassett and husband Courtney B. Vance have a lot on their hands at home with new son Slater Josiah and daughter Bronwyn Golden. The twins, carried by a surrogate mother, just turned three months on April 27. Bassett is also has three new films set to roll - "Steppin'" opposite R&B singer Ne-Yo, the family film "Meet the Robinsons" and the Danny Glover-directed biopic "Toussaint," about the life of Toussaint Louverture.

In the meantime, Bassett will bask in the good reviews of "Akeelah and the Bee," and the way it's positive message - which happens to have been written and directed by a white filmmaker - has been embraced by the black community as a source of pride.

"I sat there and I was really proud looking at it and I even hugged [director] Doug [Atchison] at the end and said I'm just proud of you and thank you for remaining true to your vision of what you wanted this story to be," she says. "Thank you that the story of this little girl came out of you, who looks nothing like her, but you're so in touch with your humanity that you can relate to it."

## HBO Wary Of Dutton's Miniseries Project

Charles Dutton is pondering whether to find a new home for the 10-hour miniseries he's been developing for HBO - about what happens when millions of African-Americans in a black separatist movement are given half a state and allowed to secede from the United States.

"HBO seems a little afraid of it," says the esteemed actor-director, who admits, "It's very provocative." Dutton says he conceived the idea some 10 years ago, inspired by the way he saw people of color in the Caribbean and Africa treat each other.

In his miniseries saga, the separatists are "given a really

sweet deal, a multibillion-dollar reparations package ñ on one condition. They have to take in all the black malcontents in this country, those living below the poverty line, those in prison. The theme of the miniseries is, if given so-called independence with no white man to blame, depend on, etc., will people of color do anything differently from white people? The answer is a resounding no."

No wonder HBO is wary. Dutton says execs have urged him to make his opus into a novel before proceeding with a miniseries. He says he's getting interest from other entities and will soon decide which way to

go. He points out, "With this, I'm holding up a mirror to society, and every aspect of the story actually has a historical precedent."



## Raw, Un-Cut, Uncensored

DISD Graduate Sticks To His Roots As He Acquires 6-Million New Listeners

"DJ Throwback" has recently been selected to join the likes of rapper/actor Ludacris, southern rap icon Paul Wall, and producer Jermaine Dupri on Down Radio - a popular cutting-edge XM Satellite station featuring uncensored, un-filtered hip-hop.

Throwback is now host of his own live mix show during the broadcast of Down Radio's XM RAW 66.

The veteran jockey began a musical career in the early 1990's when he was only eleven years old. Then known as Jr. Jamm, he began spinning vinyl for school parties, proms and events.

In 1996, he was honored as "Street Jock of the Year" by the National Black Programmers

Coalition.

Throwback accredits his formal training to Dallas' Lincoln High School Humanities and



Communications Magnet. At the time, the facility possessed the most advanced communications program in the district, allowing students to participate in its own television and radio

programming. The Lincoln graduate salutes Dr. Louie White, a communications instructor at the Magnet Center.

"While I was at Lincoln, Dr. White was a teacher by day, a playwright in the evenings, and a radio jock by night," Throwback stated. "He still continues to be my inspiration as I apply his teachings and model his drive to this day in my journey as a DJ," he added.

The new venture as "DJ Throwback" has landed him a recurring show that airs Mondays at 5p.m., Wednesdays at 7a.m., and Saturdays at 11a.m., CST.

To learn more about RAW 66 on XM Satellite's Down Radio, visit [www.down-magazine.com](http://www.down-magazine.com) or call 1-866-280-4RAW.

## Essence Music Fest Adds Artist

Essence Festivals LLC has padded the lineup of lounge acts for its Coca-Cola Presents the 2006 Essence Music Festival, to be held July 1, 2, and 3 in Houston, Texas.

Brand New Heavies, Doug E. Fresh and Slick Rick, Goapele, Kindred, Loose Ends and Musiq, as well as local New Orleans and Houston artists Captain Charles, C.O.C.O Brown & The Phat Cat Players, DJ Raj Smoove, Rebirth Brass Band, Myra Washington and Michael Ward, will perform in the Coca-Cola and Budweiser/Bud Light Lounges in Reliant Stadium. In addition, comedian Jonathan Slocumb has been added as the main stage host.

Tickets are on sale at <http://www.ticketmaster.com>, (800) 488-5252. For more information log on to <http://www.essence.com>.

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safety, transportation, and education. During the conference, attendees, which included Garland's community leaders, elected officials, educators, business owners, Chamber of Commerce representatives, and clergy, were given a report card which detailed information of things that have happened since the first We the People Conference, enjoyed a skit put on by some of Garland's youth, and were presented with some of Garland's challenges for the

future.

Tina Moore, Owner and Chief Consultant of I Am Pleased Development Center and Keynote Speaker of the Conference had very good things to say about Garland's efforts to bring such a diverse city together. "The city of Garland will get an A because of the work that they are doing with multiculturalism," said Moore. The City of Garland is laying the foundation for their children and their children's children."

Garland's Chief of Police,

Mitch Bates, one of the attendees and speakers at the conference, informed everyone that the crime rate in Garland had decreased since the first We the People Conference.

"In order for us to make an impact on crime we need to be able to interact with the community," said Bates. We have to learn about each other and develop relations in order to impact crime. Our interaction with the community is better since the conference in 2002."

In September 2002, Garland's

City Council hosted the first We the People Conference. During that conference, the participants recommended that a multicultural commission be developed to address the issues created by the city's changing demographics. In 2003, the newly formed Community Multicultural Commission began working.

The Community Multicultural Commission says that its mission is to maximize the potential inclusion and quality of life of all citizens in the City of Garland by identifying issues

and making recommendations to the City Council concerning the City's changing demographic composition and diverse needs.

The We the People Conferences along with the CMC's participation and support of other organizational activities such as the Asian American Festival, the NAACP Martin Luther King Parade and Festival, and other ethnic group activities has helped the CMC fulfill its mission.

Those who are apart of the

CMC feels that the City of Garland has benefited greatly from the creation of the commission and holding the We the People conferences.

"It's the conviction of the commission to get people of such diverse backgrounds to find ways to work together," said Clay Womack, Chair person of the We the People 2 Conference. "One of the main benefits, in my mind, of this conference and the CMC is to bring people together and bring mutual understanding."

prices or oil consumption in the near term.

The early results: High prices do have some effect, but prices would have to be higher than they are today -- and would have to stay high for a long time -- to meaningfully curb gasoline consumption by the nation's massive fleet of cars and trucks, which accounts for

In Plano, Texas, Alfred Goh, a 42-year-old commercial-real-estate broker, yesterday paid \$63.86, or \$3.06 a gallon, to fill up his sport-utility vehicle, a white 2004 Lexus GX 470. The vehicle averages 16 miles per gallon, according to federal figures, and Mr. Goh, who drives extensively for work, reckons he fills it up two or three times a week.

Mr. Goh says he has no plans to change his driving habits or his vehicle. "I won't limit driving because of gas prices, because it's a necessity," he says. As for his vehicle, "I think this is a safe car," he says, and "it's safety first." His only concession to rising gasoline prices is that he now uses midgrade gasoline instead of premium, a move that saves him about 10 cents a gallon.

The limits of mass transit add to the difficulty of cutting fuel consumption. Though nationwide figures aren't yet available, many systems around the country are reporting significant increases in passengers, says William Millar, president of the American Public Transportation Association. The problem: Public transit isn't available in much of the U.S. and doesn't match the commutes of many Americans in places where it exists.

Sales of traditional sport-utility vehicles -- the ones built on the guts of pickup trucks, which tend to consume the most gasoline -- are falling fast. The decline began in 2003, when gasoline was cheap, but it has accelerated markedly since prices began rising in early 2005. Sales of truck-based SUVs, which fell 4% in 2003 and 3% in 2004, tumbled 13% in 2005 and 7% in the first quarter of this year.

The traditional-SUV market is "collapsing," says George Pipas, Ford Motor Co.'s U.S. sales-analysis manager.

Yet plenty of Americans still are buying fuel-thirsty rides. Despite the weakness of the

SUV segment overall, U.S. sales of the recently redesigned Chevrolet Tahoe SUV soared 37% in the first quarter. And luxury cars not known for their

fuel economy also remain hot sellers. In the first quarter in the U.S., BMW sales rose 11%, Mercedes sales increased 17%, and Porsche sales surged 26%.

The oil industry also is betting that a change is under way. Exxon Mobil Corp. says it believes that, by 2030, hybrid gasoline-and-electric cars and

light trucks will account for nearly 30% of new-vehicle sales in the U.S. and Canada. That surge is part of a broader shift toward fuel efficiency that

Exxon thinks will cause fuel consumption by North American cars and light trucks to peak around 2020 -- and then start to fall.

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## Church News



### Sister Tarpley

Today is National Day of Prayer. The tradition predates the founding of America when the Continental Congress issued a proclamation setting aside a day of prayer in 1775. In 1952 Congress established an annual day of prayer. And in 1988 National Day of Prayer was designated as the first Thursday in May.

The 2006 National Prayer by Dr. Henry Blackaby: Oh Heavenly Father, You have made Yourself known to us as a nation by Your mighty works throughout our history. From the beginning, You have been with us through many wars and conflicts; Your right arm has saved us. We have been amazingly and graciously blessed.

Today, we confess our sin of not responding to Your right to rule in our lives and our nation. Too often we have despised and rejected Your will while imposing our own, and we are now facing the consequences of our disobedience. Draw us back to Yourself that we may return to Your ways once again. Without You we can do nothing. You have promised that if we honor You, You will once again honor this great nation. Amen.

**Scriptures for May 2006**  
From the monthly calendar of Full Gospel Holy Temple, Apostle Lobias Murray, Founder/Pastor: God always speaks loud enough to make a willing soul hear. (Deut. 5:27) The

## National Prayer Day

best exercise for your heart is to reach down and pull other people up! (Psalm 119:165) He who cannot forgive breaks the bridge over which he himself must pass! (Matt. 6:13-14) You should never let adversity get you down, except on your knees! (Daniel 6:10) It's easy finding reasons why other folk should be patient. (Matt 7:3) There is nothing so wonderful in the world next to the love of God as a good



**Picture of The Week**  
Sister Tarpley & Clarice Tinsley, News Anchor, KDFW FOX4 @ the Annual "She Knows Where She's Going Awards Luncheon for Girls Inc.

mother. (Proverb 31:10; John 19:25.)

A meal without God is like food without flavour! (Eccl. 6:7; Proverb 3:7) Let Christ conquer things within you and you will conquer things without! (1 John 4:4; Roman 8:37) Forgiveness cannot be explained - It must be experienced. (Ephesians 4:32; Luke 23:34; Colossians 3:13) By silent prayer we not only worship God, we witness to men. (Psalms 95:6) No enemy can come so near that God is not nearer! (Hebrews 13:5.)

**Mother's Day**, Keep your eyes on God and your fears will vanish! (Isaiah 12:2) Kindness and friendship have helped to convert more sinners than arguments, eloquence,

or learning! (Luke 19:10; Hebrews 7:25) He that contemplates on his bed hath a day without a night. (Psalms 36:4) While the Lord prepares a place for us, may He prepare us for that place! (John 14:1-3) It's better to be alone than to be in bad company. (Proverbs 1:10) When at night you cannot sleep, talk to the Shepherd! (John 10:14; Psalm 127:2.)

Obedient service and blessings go hand-in-hand. (John 21:3-6) When you look at yourself, you're depressed, when you look at others you're impressed, but when you look at Jesus, you're blessed. (Hebrew 12:1-2) Secret sin on earth is open scandal in Heaven. (Ephesians 5:12) A man who uses good judgment is like a pin; his head keeps him from going too far. (Proverbs 3:6) He who provides for his life is wise only for a moment, but is a fool forever. (Mark 8:36-37; Luke 12:18-20.)

"Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world!" (Jeremiah 32:27; 33:3) Although the tongue weighs very little, few people are able to hold it. (Proverbs 8:21; 34:13) If God sends a man into a lion's den of trouble, He always goes there with him. (Psalm 91:15) The folly of one man is the fortune of another. (Proverbs 10:1, 14:18.)

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

missed the filing deadline. Black farmers' groups have been lobbying to let those claims proceed.

A bill in Congress would allow the claims and stall government loan foreclosures until they are decided.

"In effect, the federal government has broken its promise,"

said Rep. Artur Davis, D-Ala., the bill's sponsor. "The promise was to provide a fair and clean process for black farmers who were victims of discrimination."

Davis' bill also calls for a more aggressive outreach campaign.

A department spokesman, Ed Loyd, said officials have not reviewed the bill but that the issue goes beyond the sole authority of the department.

## Church Happenings

### AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY DALLAS

This Weekend,  
May 6 from 5 pm - 7 pm

We invite you, your family and friends to "Jalsa Seerat-un-Nabi (saw), a conference on the life of Prophet Hadhrat Muhammad (saw)", and an Exhibition about Islam (an introduction to the basis of Islam and its followers.) Refreshments will be provided.

For more information, please contact Mosque @ 972-727-1522; Akram Chaudhry @ 972-929-4444; Mansoor Malik @ 972-680-0686; or Abdul Latif @ 972-390-7877

Ahmadiyya Muslim Association  
Abdul Latif, Event Coordinator  
1850 Hedgcoxe Road  
Allen, TX 75013  
972-727-1522

### ALL NATIONS UMC, PLANO

May 6 from 12 pm - 4 pm

Cinco de Mayo Celebration with family fun, food and music. There will be church-related and helpful community information, a bounce-house for kids and other activities. Boy Scouts will make a presentation. Project Transformation registration is underway; an affordable Summer Day Camp that provides lower-income families with a quality program that helps kids with reading. Snacks and lunch are provided. The fee is just \$5.00 for the entire session from June 5th to July 26th.

For more information call 972-424-8500

All Nations UMC, Plano  
Dr. Clara M. Reed, Senior Pastor  
3415 East 14th Street  
Plano, TX 75074  
972-424-8500

### CHRISTIAN CHAPEL CME TEMPLE OF FAITH

May 6, 8:30 am

Please join us for a "Success Strategies Program" where participants will learn five intentional steps that lead to personal excellence and the seven unwritten rules of business. Our presenters will be Dianne Williams, MSW, MS; and Fay Fleming, MA.

For registration fees and more information please call Fay Fleming @ 817-428-2480.

Christian Chapel CME  
Temple of Faith  
Dr. Jerome E. McNeil, Jr.  
Senior Pastor  
14120 Noel Road  
Dallas, TX 75254  
972-239-1120

### FAITH & POWER MINISTRIES

May 1 - 5 @ 7:30 pm

Life Changers Fellowship Conference 2006, theme: "A Change is Coming" with speaker Tim Lynch  
May 6, 2006

The conclusion of Life Changers Fellowship Conference 2006 with a banquet at Paul Quinn College in the Isabel and Comer Cottrell Grand Lounge, 3837 Simpson Stuart Road in Dallas.

For more information and direction to the church or Paul Quinn College, call 214-664-9201.

Faith & Power Ministries,  
Apostle James Turknott, Pastor  
2120 North St. Augustine Road, #126  
Dallas, TX 75227  
972-329-1358

### FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS MINISTRIES (FOBCC)

May 5 - 6, 2006

FOBCC and Waxahachie Bible Church (WBC) presents, "Waxahachie Youth Crusade" @ 621 N. Grand Avenue, Waxahachie, TX, Rev. Bruce Zimmerman, Pastor, the theme: "Passing The Mantle to The Next Generation." Friday at 7 pm and Saturday, 1 pm to 4 pm. After prayer in the parking lot of WBC there will be games, entertainment, and a pie eating contest. Saturday night @ 7 pm, Bishop Crawford will be the speaker.

Singers and musicians will perform each night. Vendors are welcome.

May 7 @ 3:30 pm

Bishop Crawford will host "50 Men in Black & Red" @ Holiness COGIC, 2026 Calypso St. in Dallas with Pastor Danny Choice, 214-747-0193. Speakers will be Allen Abrone, Allen Abrone Ministries, Dallas and Minister Harry Neal, Outreach Deliverance Ministry, New Port, AR

For more information call Minister Dana Blair @ 214-575-8224

### Fellowship of Believers Ministries

Bishop Gregory Crawford  
Founder and Senior Pastor  
3911 S. Lancaster Road  
Dallas, TX 75216  
214-372-3624

### GREENVILLE AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 6 @ 8 am - 1:30 pm

We are hosting our 21st Annual 2006 Adolescent and Ladies Symposium for all preteens and ladies, ages 9 and up; to help participants increase their skills in dealing effectively with the issues of today's society from a Biblical perspective

For more information, please call 972-644-2335, or FayLisa Jones @ 214-649-0358 (day) or 469-366-8563 (evenings).

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Pastor Myron T. Wilson

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templeoffaith\_cme@sbcglobal.net (Email)

Healthy Beginnings Child Development Center - 972-404-1412

### FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN



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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



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## Debbie Turner, Former Ms. America Speaks At Paul Quinn College

By: Earnestine G. Tyler

With the resurgence of a quest for spiritualism in this country today, Debbie Turner, former Ms. America, and motivational speaker has come out as a dynamic spokes person for God announcing her call to the Christian Ministry.

She is a candidate for Ordained Minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Greater Allen AME Cathedral, Jamaica, NY, where she is a member.

In Dallas Sunday, she delivered the keynote address to a group of young women at Paul Quinn College's Richard Allen Chapel. Quoting Biblical scripture, she advised youth to:

• "Start where you are. Be faithful over the little that God gives you and he will make you the ruler over most."

• "Infuse yourselves with the spirit of the Lord and be not weary in well doing. Shout, clap and sing and at the end of the day, walk back into life. It will save you."

• "Be careful what you say. It can make the difference

between life and death or success and failure. There is power in the tongue. Speak the language of the land that you are in." Using this analogy, she admonished college women not to speak in Ebonics.

• "Be careful who you fly with," said the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. "In the wild, birds of a feather flock together. Are you going to associate with people just because they make you feel comfortable or surround yourselves with people who challenge you. The choices of who you give access to will determine who you become."

• "Don't depart from your identity. Hold fast to the Christian principles that you have been taught. And remember that girlfriends and boyfriends don't have a right to damage your feelings."

• "Stand up and greet with confidence, using correct posture and good eye contact, when interviewing or meeting people. It will positively impact how they respond to you."

• "If you aspire to achieve

wealth, you can't have \$10,00 in earnings and \$40,000 in credit card debt. You should have instead a \$20,000 stock portfolio."

Turner was in town at the invitation of the Young Women's Initiative (YWI), of the 10th Episcopal District of the AME



Church headquartered in Dallas, according to Romella Jones, YWI Conference Member at Large. A member of St. Paul AME Church in Dallas, Jones said, "the 10th district targeted the young ladies at Paul Quinn two years ago. This year is the first time we have been able to

bring in a speaker of the magnitude of Debbie Turner." Paul Quinn College is affiliated with the AME church. Women at Paul Quinn were selected in an effort to bring community programs to the campus. "We want the students to know that we are here for them and we care about their needs," said Jones. Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram is Presiding Prelate of the 10th district. Rev. Dr. E. L. Wright, II, who serves on the Board of Paul Quinn College is the Presiding Elder.

The YWI is an initiative to encourage active participation of young women between the ages of 18 and 40 in the Women's Missionary Society. It just happens as of this year most of these women fall into the age category of Generation X, (those born between 1965 and 1977), who were considered to be at risk. The initiative is designed to empower, equip and enrich ordinary young women with an attitude and ability to do an extraordinary work in missions. It develops supportive and nurturing networks, which include:

spiritual, service and social programs; while striving to invoke excitement in making a difference in our communities and in the world.

A highly spiritual individual, Turner's first passion is motivational speaking. Her ministry style follows along those lines. She chooses to use the spiritual gifts that God has given her to impact on the lives of others to take positive action, particularly young people.

Since being crowned Ms. America in 1990, Turner has spoken to more than half a million students at hundreds of schools, youth organizations and college campuses. She has addressed audiences in the corporate, academic and political arenas.

Her topics include personal excellence, determination, goal setting and the importance of a solid education. Turner's beliefs reflect her own life lessons. It took seven years and eleven tries in two states before she was crowned Miss America.

Since 2001, Debbie Turner has been enjoying her role in

broadcast journalism as a contributor to the CBS "The Early Show." Her "Life Matters" (formerly known as, "Yikes, I'm a Grown Up!") segment offers perspectives on the pleasures and perils of being an adult. As a doctor of veterinary medicine, it's only natural that Turner was also asked to do regular pet segments appropriately titled, "Pet Planet." These informative segments about pets and pet care air on both "The Early Show," and the "Saturday Early Show."

Turner joined CBS after a 6-year stint as host of "Show Me St. Louis," a daily, half-hour show featuring interesting people and places in St. Louis, MO. She also hosted a PBS series about pets and veterinary medicine, "The Gentle Doctor."

An avid Marathon runner, Turner uses the challenge as her own motivation. She told youth, that prayer, education and on the job training is just that—training. "It does not prepare you for life's real race."

## New Orleans Jazz Fest: Celebration Among The Ruins

Under threatening skies, thousands of tourists and locals streamed past rows of vacant flood-damaged homes outside the Fair Grounds racetrack, toward the first New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival since Hurricane Katrina.

"That is what people need to see," said Jazz Fest spokesperson Matthew Goldman. "That is what we can't hide in this whole scenario. We are not whole; we are trying to get back."

Eight months after the worst natural disaster in US history, men in shorts and women in sun dresses strolled around 10 stages of live music, scaled-back food booths and other attractions on the festival grounds.

The first day of the two-weekend festival opened Friday. Festival organizers say they will not release attendance figures until the six-day event closes May 7.

As at Mardi Gras two months ago, many in the opening-day crowd at Jazz Fest expressed a determination to reclaim the festival's celebratory spirit.

Some spectators were even costumed as if it were Mardi Gras.

"We couldn't wait to come here," said Jason Wight, a broad-shouldered firefighter from Rancho Cucamonga, California dressed in a red wig and black tutu. His wife, Mary Beth Wight, a school teacher clad in similar attire, nodded in agreement.

"We were apprehensive at first," Wight continued. "But once we heard Jazz Fest was happening we booked our flight, immediately. New Orleans is the best city in the entire world!"

Some of the urgent, grassroots

activism that has emerged since the Katrina turned up at Jazz Fest. Scores of spectators wore hats, T-



Members of the Pinettes Brass Band march on the first day of the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival 28 April 2006

shirts and pins bearing the French fleur de lis, a city symbol of renewal. Elsewhere, one young woman wore a black T-shirt that read: "Screw Fallujah, Save New Orleans."

Not everyone was so parochial. At the Fais Do Do stage, local blues musician J. Monque D.

ended a soulful performance with an urgent appeal: "Let us never forget our brothers and sisters in

Darfur, where every day young children and women are being kidnapped and raped by the thousands. Write your congressman or representative. Tell them about the blues in Darfur!"

Ronnie Virgets, a semi-retired columnist, stood in the back of the crowd. Virgets, who swam through his flooded home to safety during Katrina, portrayed Jazz Fest as a benchmark in the city's spiritual recovery.

"New Orleans has always been noted for its culture of celebration and mourning," Virgets said. "We've had eight months of mourning since Katrina. This Jazz Fest will be a way of awakening the

celebration part of our culture."

A short walk away, a tent offered shade from the sun and coffee-table books about New Orleans,

its music and Katrina. Those related to the storm were the best sellers, said Tad O'Brien, organizer of the tent.



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**Wednesday**

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7:00 p.m. Prayer Hour

7:30 p.m. Bible Study

### 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.

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