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People In The News



Shilah Phillips, the reigning Miss Frisco, has set her sights on winning the title of Miss Texas. Winning would make her the first black woman to win the title in the history of the pageant.

Shilah supports herself by working two jobs and attends school full-time at Collin County Community College. Shilah has a passion for singing and was influenced by gospel music as a child. Upon high school graduation, she studied jazz music at the Howard University in Washington, D.C. and while there received educational honors in addition to the most Outstanding Vocalist Award.

Shilah enjoys educating young minds through music for After School Programs, and is employed by Absolute Entertainment where she performs professionally around the Dallas Fort Worth area showcasing her talents. She knows first hand when a young student participates in educational arts programs it is an effective strategy to motivate them in the educational process, and to participate more fully, not only in school, but community activities as well. Because of her good fortune, her musical gifts and her arts education, Shilah is compelled to give back to the next generation.

Michael Sorrell was recently appointed to the DFW International Airport Board of Directors.



Mr. Sorrell is president and chief executive of Victor Credo, LLC, a Dallas-area public affairs and sports management consulting firm. Mr. Sorrell has a background as an attorney and public policy strategist, and from 1997-98 he worked in the White House as the Special Assistant to the Executive Director of the President's Initiative on Race.

"Michael Sorrell is a bright, young man who is an emerging leader in Dallas," said Dallas Mayor Laura Miller. "He comes to the DFW Airport Board with a lot of energy, excitement and intensity - all of which should serve us well in Dallas and Fort Worth."

Sorrell's term on the Board expires January, 2008. Located halfway between the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas, DFW International Airport is the world's third busiest, offering nearly 1,900 flights per day and serving 59 million passengers a year. For the latest news, real-time flight information, parking availability or further details regarding the many services provided at DFW International Airport, log on to www.dfwairport.com.



Lavinia Masters is a motivational speaker, minister, entrepreneur, author of the upcoming book published by FountainPenn called Breathe Again: How Rape brought a girl from misery to a woman of ministry, but more importantly Mrs. Masters is a survivor.

At the age of 13 Mrs. Masters was a victim of sexual assault and her life went through a lot of psychological, emotional, and physical changes. Her assailant at the time was not apprehended and the case went cold. Over 20 years later, on March 26 2006, with the help of the Dallas Police Department, Mrs. Masters case was solved. Mrs. Masters has turned tragedy into triumph by helping other victims of Sexual abuse and by opening up her own daycare for children called Masters Lil Miracles.

Mrs. Masters has gained strength and courage to help others through faith to endure. She has been empowered to speak up for those that have fallen prey to sexual assault, abuse or molestation. Mrs. Masters has shared her experience publicly via news conferences and on "Insights" with Shaun Rabb, CNN Live with Fredricka Whitfield and on April 27th on CNN Now with Paula Zahn.

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Leadership Garland Class 25 Improves Facilities, Security At New Beginning Center



(L-R) Candice Wells, SST Truck Company; Marilyn Leiker, Northeast National Bank, and Kisha Allen, Garland Chamber of Commerce.

It was a nonprofit organization's dream come true - to be chosen by this year's Leadership Garland Class 25 as benefactor of hundreds of volunteer hours that resulted in a facility's recent face lift, enhanced security and hoards of in-kind donations for the New Beginning Center (NBC) of Garland.

It wasn't just any face lift. Class member Patrick McCully, a Garland police officer, first

conducted a Commercial Security Survey to assess the facilities' security weaknesses and make recommendations for reducing potential crime risks. Accordingly, class members obtained motion sensor lights and walkie-talkies donated by Vincent Enterprises, eight cans of pepper spray donated by Garland Police Department and two-way radios donated by Blair Communications for the center. Since the survey recommended reducing outside foliage, class members rolled up their sleeves to trim trees, remove hedges and sweep up leaves. Class member ChiChi Folorunso of the City of Garland arranged for the use of a roll-off dumpster to collect and haul away debris.

The center's clients also bene-

Leadership Garland Page 8

Omaha Schools To Be Split By Race

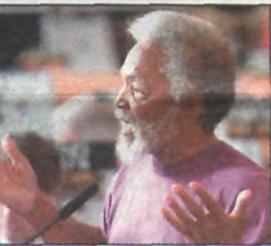
The Nebraska Legislature recently voted to divide the Omaha school system into three districts -- one mostly black, one predominantly white and one largely Hispanic -- in a move decried as state-enforced segregation.

Supporters, including the bill's sponsor and the legislature's only black senator, said the plan would give minorities control over their own school board and ensure that their children are not "shortchanged" in favor of white youngsters.

Gov. Dave Heineman, a Republican, signed the measure into law.

Sen. Pat Bourne of Omaha decried the bill, which passed 31-16.

"We will go down in history as one of the



Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers

first states in 20 years to set race relations back," the Democrat said.

"History will not, and should not, judge us kindly,"

Race Split Schools Page 4

Richland College Accepts 2005 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award



Dr. Stephen K. Mittelstet, Richland College president

A delegation of 50 faculty, staff, administrators and students from Richland as well as chamber of commerce leaders traveled to Washington to participate in the ceremony sponsored by the White House and the U.S.

Dept. of Commerce. Dr. Stephen K. Mittelstet, Richland College president, accepted the award from Vice President Dick Cheney at the ceremony.

"This presidential recognition honors Richland College's serious commitment to and passion for student learning success and our vital mission of teaching, learning and building sustainable local and world community," Dr. Mittelstet said. "We are grateful to arrive at this important milestone in our ongoing quality journey, as

Malcom Baldrige Award Page 4

Laura Bush Designates Plano A Preserve America Community

First Lady Laura Bush has designated Plano as a Preserve America community, a White House initiative to encourage and support community efforts for the preservation and enjoyment of America's priceless cultural and natural heritage.

"Preserve America communities demonstrate that they are committed to preserving America's heritage while ensuring a future filled with opportunities for learning and enjoyment," Mrs. Bush said. "This community designation program, combined with the Preserve America Presidential Awards and Federal support, provides strong incentives for continued



preservation of our cultural and natural heritage resources. I commend Plano and its leaders

Plano A Preserve Page 6

Blacks Slam Immigration Bias

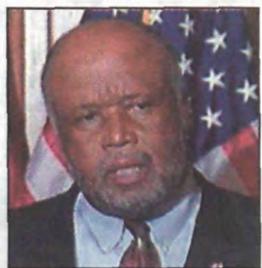
By: Brian DeBose

Black leaders say Mexicans and other Hispanic nationals are getting preferential immigration treatment, as the U.S. systematically turns away people from countries with largely African-descended populations, such as Jamaica and the Dominican Republic.

"We've told Haiti that their development strategy cannot be to send people to the United States, and if you put them on a boat we will send them back. But for Mexico it is OK," said William E. Spriggs, chairman of Howard University's School of Economics and a senior fellow with the Economic Policy Institute.

The leaders, especially conservatives, say the country can't have an honest immigration reform debate without discussing how much people are being paid and why only certain nationalities are allowed to come into the country illegally and work off the books.

"There can't be 10 million Mexicans in America worth \$5 a hour and there aren't 10 mil-



Rep. Bennie Thompson, D

lion Mexicans in Mexico worth \$5 a hour, that just can't be," Mr. Spriggs said. "We are letting Mexico get away with this, and until we have a full discussion on wage levels in Mexico we will never solve this problem."

The Rev. Jesse Lee Peterson, a Los Angeles-based conservative talk show host and founder of the nonprofit Brotherhood Organization of a New Destiny, said the debate about immigration reform is all about politics.

"Unfortunately for blacks, politicians like [Sen. Edward M.] Kennedy are more inter-

Blacks Slam Page 5

Moussaoui Asks To Withdraw Guilty Plea



Convicted Sept. 11 conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui says he lied on the witness stand about being involved in the terrorist plot and wants to withdraw his guilty plea and go to trial. The judge turned him down.

Moussaoui said he was "extremely surprised" that he was sentenced to life in prison instead of execution and now believes he can get a fair trial from an American jury.

In a motion filed Friday but released Monday, Moussaoui said he testified on March 27 that he was supposed to hijack a fifth plane on Sept. 11, 2001, and fly it into the White House "even

though I knew that was a complete fabrication."

A federal court jury spared the 37-year-old Frenchman the death penalty last Wednesday. On Thursday, U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema gave him six life sentences, to run as two consecutive life terms, in the federal supermax prison at Florence, Colo.

As she handed down the sentence, Brinkema told Moussaoui that he could appeal the life term but that she doubted he would win. "I believe it would be an act of futility," she said.

The judge also pointed out that, although he could appeal the sentence, he had lost his right to appeal his conviction when he pled guilty in April 2005. "You waived that right," she said.

On Monday, Brinkema said his request to set aside his guilty plea and go back to trial on the facts of the case was "too late" under federal rules and must be rejected.

Withdraw Of Guilty Plea Page 8

Mother's Day: One Woman's Perspective

By: LL Burke

It's that time of year where we stroll the greeting card aisles in search for the perfect Mother's Day card. We laugh at the most silly, ahh at the most cuddly and get misty at the most sentimental. After I sign and seal that perfect card with love, I tuck it away with the other unopened Mother's Day cards. Why? My mother died when I was thirteen years old.

For years I hated Mother's Day because of the pomp for a

person I no longer had. With tears in my eyes, I watched daughters and mothers, both young and young at heart; talk, walk, laugh and love. Did they know how truly blessed they were?

My mother's passing affected me in ways I really couldn't understand. Not until my thirties did I realize I had free will. I could either continue to blame all my life's pitfalls on her passing or I could embrace

Mother's Day Page 9

Omega Scholarship Luncheon

Photos By: Ronald Coleman
The Alpha Iota Iota chapter of Omega Psi Phi fraternity held its annual scholarship luncheon on May 6, at Tino's Restaurant.

The fraternity recognized area high school seniors for academic achievement, seven scholarships were awarded.



Scholarship Recipients-(Back) Jason Ola, Winston Marshall, Andrew Kuforiji, (Front): Kristin Scott, Chasey Omere, Natalie Jenkins, Asonye Ordu



Basileus Norris Bishop presents scholarship to Natalie Jenkins of Plano Christian Academy.



Brother Michael Ross of the Scholarship Committee delivers a welcome address to the students.



Scholarship Co-chair Edwin Jones, Andrew Kuforiji of Plano Senior High and Bro. Bishop.



Scholarship students taking in lunch at Tino's Mexican Restaurant



Brothers of the Alpha Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. at their annual Scholarship Luncheon

Dallas Urban League- "Live For The Future Not For The Moment Abstinence Retreat"

By: LaKisha Hughes
On April 28-29, the Dallas Urban League hosted a conference and lock-in on Abstinence at Exline Recreation Center.

The event was coordinated by Lanese Lias, Health Educator at the Dallas Urban League and focused on reinforcing the role of abstinence for young women. The

52 participants ranged from grades 7-12.

On Friday, Exline Recreation Director, Jacquelyn Peel welcomed all of the attendees then

dinner was served. Following dinner, the Keynote Speaker, Earline Martine gave a speech on 37 ways to say no. Later the students were served snacks, made name tags, participated in crafts, danced and hung out.

The Keynote speaker on the second day was the Executive Director of the Dallas Black Dance Theater, Zenetta Drew. Afterwards, the girls were divided into groups and rotated to hear presentations from Pat

Daniels(Dallas Urban League), Lora Clack(Dallas Urban League Housing Counselor), Doncella Milton and Rita White(Continental Societies Inc.). Each session was opened with an icebreaker exercise facilitated

by Tina Williams of the Dallas Parks and Recreation center to get to know one another and learn each others names. The organizers hoped the retreat could provide another choice besides pre-marital sex.



Students hard at work to create the perfect name tag.



The girls at dinner.



Mrs. Peel extended her hospitality by giving picture frames to all the attendees.



Students danced to the music being played by the DJ.



Mrs. Peel giving the welcome.

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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. Call 214-421-0013 for more information or log onto 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.assistanceleague-gcc.org.
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 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
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.
Komen/McDonald's Mother's Day Weekend Benefit. Join in the fight against breast cancer! You can support the "Komen Mother's Day Weekend Benefit" at North Texas area McDonald's restaurants on May 12th - 14th. For more information call (214) 252-1747.
Chilling & Relaxing w/The Isley Brothers. Def Soul would like to invite you to come out and 'Chill & Relax' to the hits from R&B/Soul Legends "The Isley Brothers" New Album "Baby Makin' Music" at our weekly happy hour event, First Round On Us Friday! This Friday May 12th @ the ALL NEW Club 5th Avenue (inside of Abbottsford Court) in Addison, Texas.
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.

Stories Of The Prophets Lecture Series, presented by the Muslim American Society of Dallas/Fort Worth, continues Saturdays at the Islamic Association of Collin County, 6401 Independence Parkway, Plano. Call 972-491-5800 or visit www.mycdfw.org.
"The Artz Show II" The entertainment for the Artz Show will feature a variety of performances from Students of Booker T. Washington and Youth Council. The events will be held at Eastfield College, 3737 Motley Dr in Mesquite. For more information call 469-374-1425.
Multicultural Roundtable. Beginning at 8:00 am at the Plano Municipice Center, training room A, 1520 Avenue K, Plano.
May 14
Mother's Day Concert. This free Mother's Day tradition is a relaxing evening on the grounds of A.W.Perry Homestead Museum and Pearl Perry Gravelly Park in Carrollton located on 1509 N. Perry Road, with the Texas Chamber Orchestra performing on the front porch of the 1909 home. Bring a picnic basket, blankets or lawn chairs. For more information call 972-466-6380.
Collin Intervention To Youth (City House) offers couples' group counseling at CITY Family Center, 1947 Ave. K, Building A, Suite 100 in Plano. The six-week program addresses how disagreements and other factors affect children. The group is free and meets Saturdays for about two hours. Call 972-424-4626.
A Gift within a Gift - Mother's Day Brunch and Fashion Show. Benefiting CITY House. Bring the family to Plano Centre on Mother's Day at 11:30 a.m. for a delicious brunch and a retrospective fashion show of fashions through the ages, presented by Stein Mart. Admission \$49.99 Adults; \$11.99 for Children (ages 5-12); No charge for children under 5. 50% of ticket price will benefit CITY House. For more information call 972-424-4626.
May 15
Career Care is a faith-based ministry that teaches networking and job-search skills at 7 p.m. Mondays at St. Andrew United Methodist Church, 5801 W. Plano Parkway, Plano. Call 214-291-8011.
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.
Dash Like A Dinosaur At the 13th Annual Dino Dash. The 13th annual Dino Dash and Discovery Fest includes certified 10 and 5K races, Radio Disney's "Move It!" 1K fun run/walk with mascots, 30 one-day science, math and technology exhibits, Mother's Day Crafts a kid's dinosaur costume contest and more. Held at The Science Place, 1318 S. 2nd Avenue in Fair Park. For more information go to www.dinodash.com.
Bruce Bruce. At the Improv in Addison, 4980 Belt Line Road, May 19-20. For more information call 972-444-8501.
Movie Under the Stars: A New Cinema Experience. Remember the fun you had at the "drive-in movie"? Well it's back, but without the drive-in part. So grab a blanket or low-back chair and come watch a classic family movie under the stars at the Amphitheater at Oak Point Park, 2801 East Spring Creek Pkwy, Plano. For more information call 972-941-7250.
Wildflower! is an award-winning, multi-day eclectic arts and music festival that draws over 50,000 attendees! Held annually in May, the festival celebrates its 14th anniversary in 2006. Our location is US 75 and Galatyn Parkway in Richardson-the newly designed urban center that's home to the Renaissance Richardson Hotel and the Eisemann Center for Performing Arts. For more information call 972-744-1581.
Rhythm and Rhyme: A Night Celebrating Cultural Arts. Christian Chapel CME Church hosts Rhythm and Rhyme located at 14119 Montfort, Dallas. A unique night celebrating poetry, spoken word, music and the cultural arts. Rhythm and Rhyme will showcase local poets, spoken word artists and musicians. Invited artists include Blackwax, Will Richey, Deep Thought, J Quinn, AJ, Mike Guinn, Stormi D and Wize Thoughtz. For more information call 972-533-3543.
May 20
KEM: Into You Tour, Nokia Theater, 1001 Performance Place, Grand Prairie, (214) 373-8000 or (972) 647-5700.
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.
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.
Soli Drum & Dance Festival. Coming of Age West African drum & dance music festival 1201 E Louisiana St in McKinney. Drums not Guns noon - 7 pm FREE. For more information call 214-641-0782.
"Walk Together, Children". Texas Voices presents a musical celebration of African-American spirituals and their connection to the Underground Railroad of the first half of the 19th century. The concert will feature several vocal solos, some of which will be unaccompanied. Located at Mesquite Arts Center 527 N. Galloway, Mesquite. For more information call Call 972-801-2532.
The African-American Museum's Annual Gala and Auction. Fun, food, dancing to the sounds of Cameo and more...Located at The Hilton-Anatole Hotel, Stemmons Freeway, Dallas. For more information call 214-565-9026.
Dance Camp. They will be teaching Jazz, Hip-Hop and Modern for girls ages 8-13. Clinic Fee is \$20.00 per youth. Students must register for camp by May 18, 2006. Located at Eastfield College, 3737 Motley Dr in Mesquite. For more information call 469-374-1425.
For Women, For Life! Dynamic and inspiring presentations on health and wellness by physicians and clinicians on staff at Baylor. Keynote speaker - Nancy Barry, consultant and former VP The Dallas Morning News and WFAA-TV and the 2000 Dallas Mother of the Year. Held at Plano Center, 2000 E. Spring Creek

Parkway. For more information call 1.800.4BAYLOR or visit BaylorHealth.com.
May 23
Excellence In Business Luncheon. Excellence in Business Luncheon at the Plano Centre; featuring Leadership Plano Class 23 Graduation and Keynote Speaker: Jerry Hoag, Executive Director of the Leadership Center at UT-D. Advance reservations required. For more information call 972-424-7547.
The Collin County Chapter Of The American Business Women's Association meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at Eldorado Country Club, 2604 Country Club Drive in McKinney.
Plano Chamber of Commerce Excellence in Business Luncheon. Chamber luncheon features Leadership Plano Graduation Ceremony and Keynote Address by Jerry Hoag, Executive Director of The Leadership Center at UT-D. Held at the Plano Center, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway, Plano. For more information call 972-424-7547 or visit www.planochamber.org.
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
programs@jfk.org 214-747-6660.
"EVOLVE," a social networking opportunity for women, meets from 7:30 to 9 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the northwest corner of Park Boulevard and Coit Road, Suite 202 in Plano. Call 972-267-4452.
Senior Wellness and Information Fair. The Plano Senior Center and the Geriatric Wellness Center of Collin County invite older adults to participate in the Senior Wellness and Information Fair on Wednesday, May 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Fair will be held at the Plano Senior Center, 401 West 16th St. For more information 972-941-7155.

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Paul Hailey

Omaha Schools: Brown Vs. Board Of Education Revisited?

Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman, a Republican, recently signed a measure passed by the Nebraska state legislature that divides the Omaha Public School System into three districts. The controversy, (and there is plenty of controversy surrounding the legislation), comes in the fact the three new districts are segregated—one predominately black, one white and one Hispanic.

Not too many things I read leave me totally dumbfounded, but this story certainly did. I couldn't grasp if I was more surprised that in 2006 such a plan could be legislated into law in these United States; or that the driving force behind the legislation is a black man.

Ernie Chambers has been described in print as the "angriest black man in Nebraska." As the state's lone African-American state senator, Chambers has championed social causes ranging from capital punishment to apartheid in South Africa. So how can he in good conscience, defend a law that 52 years later, looks to be the very antithesis of the educational integration reform created by the Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education case in 1954?

The real answer lies beneath the surface rhetoric.

"First of all, there's nothing racial about it. It's what you call neutral on its face," Chambers said. "While I spoke about its being beneficial for black people, this would be beneficial for everybody and everybody's district. The purpose is for local control and quality education."

He is right that the heart of the issue is local control. That and how much power an urban school district is allowed to wield in trying to improve the education of its students.

The sparks started flying last June when the Omaha Public School system, (which educates most of the minority students in the state) announced that it was going to absorb some schools that were administered by independent school districts but were within the Omaha city limits. Nothing wrong with that, right?

The dilemma is the schools to be absorbed were predominately white schools in the suburbs. The Omaha school district marketed the move to business leaders by calling it the "One City, One School District" plan. Part of the plan was to create magnet schools to help integrate the system by attracting minority students from the inner city. The white, suburban parents; terrified of the idea of black and brown faces in their neighborhood schools along with the potential for the district to reinstate busing, called in their political capital. The issue went to the state legislature and the law was passed to prevent the district expansion.

My mantra in this space is that most issues in America are a factor of race, and if not of race, then at least of class. This one is no exception. The Omaha district has 46,700 students; 44 percent of them white, 32 percent black, 21 percent Hispanic and 3 percent Asian or Native American. By contrast the Millard Public School District, one of the districts targeted for takeover, has around 20,000 students, with only 9 percent of those minorities.

Chambers defends the law by pointing out its "positive" aspects. Specifically, how all school districts would share financial resources and students would be free to attend any school. He points out that the learning community would be charged with integrating schools in the wider Omaha community—districts that fail to participate would be dissolved. He wants everyone to know the bill also increases state aid for dis-

tricts with low-income students and students learning English. It also would help small districts with declining enrollments.

Unfortunately, those "positive" aspects are similar to getting gassed while lounging in a luxury suite. The trappings are great, but the end result is still the same.

The district realignment passed by the Nebraska legislature has the same effect as gerrymandering political districts, which is basically one group getting what it wants by redrawing the boundaries. In Texas, we know exactly how this practice works. Led by Tom DeLay, Texas Republicans went out of their way to alter voting districts, areas, which in turn led to majority Republican areas, which voted in more Republicans. If the practice is unacceptable in politics, how on earth can it be good in education?

Chambers misses all the likely problems with this legislation. Due to property tax assessments, the new minority districts will probably still receive less funding than the white district. Additionally, the Bush Administration has tied school funding to standardized test performance, and inner city schools typically perform the worst. If I'm a teacher, and my pay is tied to student performance, which district do you think I want to teach in?

The problem is clear but the solution is not. Racially separate meant unequal in 1954, and it means unequal in 2006. The law most likely won't pass the inevitable constitutional challenges it faces. However, what Omaha and districts like it all over the country needs is more equal distribution of resources to give students a relatively equal playing field. That works a lot better than stratified education.

Paul Hailey can be reached at editor@MonTheGazette.com

The State Of Black America

By: Marian Wright Edelman

The National Urban League recently released The State of Black America 2006: The Opportunity Compact, its annual report on the status of Black Americans. The report features the "Equality Index," a statistical measurement of disparities or "equality gaps" between Blacks and Whites across five key areas. The Equality Index gives a unique picture of how Black America is doing, and it shows how far we still have to go.

This year's Equality Index measured the gaps between Blacks and Whites in economics, health, education, social justice, and civic engagement. Whites were given a value of 1 in each category, and Blacks were measured against their performance; a score higher than 1 meant Blacks were doing better than Whites, and a score less than 1 meant Blacks were doing worse. Overall, the Equality Index showed Blacks are at 0.73 of the status of Whites. On most report cards, that's a C. The National Urban League report makes another comparison: "Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution counted an enslaved African American for tax and state representation purposes as 3/5 of person, or 60 percent (0.60) index value". So from slavery to 2006, we haven't made it all that far.

Where exactly do we still fall short? The biggest gap is in economic equality.

The report found the median

net worth of the average Black family is 10 times less than the average White family — \$6,166 versus \$67,000, mainly because of the differences in both income levels and home ownership rates. Median income levels for Blacks were significantly lower than those for Whites, and unemployment rates were twice as high. Meanwhile, homes remain a key source of net worth and wealth, but just under half of Blacks own their homes, compared to 70 percent of Whites.

The persistent Black-White health gap is another key concern, especially since the National Urban League has identified some discouraging trends, including increases in the proportions of Black children and adults without health insurance. As the study points out, "Take a group that suffers disproportionately from health care issues, and couple that with a higher percentage of that group not having the means to combat illness or receive preventative treatment—the outcome is a vicious cycle that holds the promise of perpetuating itself for years to come."

The National Urban League also points out that this year's report is especially ironic in the wakes of last year's natural disasters: "Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the tragically slow government response exposed, in the starkest and most depressing terms imaginable, the race and class gaps that our previous reports and Equality Indexes

had highlighted. Sadly, these numbers were illustrated in sharp relief last summer when America was forced to see the gaping chasm between White and Black America, the haves and the have-nots. Hurricane Katrina was a wakeup call for the nation to lift many from the depths of poverty. Unfortunately, the initial flurry of concern and attention to poverty and injustice has given way to the status quo of neglect, domestic budget cuts, insensitivity and shortsighted policy priorities."

So what can we do about the persistent inequality? The Opportunity Compact is the public policy foundation of the National Urban League's agenda for closing the gaps. This year's report focused on four policy areas: homeownership, jobs, economic development, and children's needs. There are specific solutions, including fighting racial discrimination in housing and mortgage lending; increasing economic literacy and information about access to credit; strengthening anti-discrimination laws; and eliminating further tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans and redirecting that money to a Child Poverty Elimination Fund. Answers are out there. We don't have to settle for being three-fifths or three-fourths of full Americans forever.

Marian Wright Edelman is president and founder of the Children's Defense Fund.

Guest Workers?

Or Guests That Don't Go Home?

By: Joseph C. Phillips

In 1952, the United States passed the immigration and nationality act. The act created various categories for non-immigrants entry into the country. One of these was the H-2 program for temporary workers.

In the 1950's, the U.S. Virgin Islands used the H-2 program to allow unskilled workers from various neighboring islands to work in the agricultural and tourist industries. The best laid plans being what they are, by the 1960's these temporary workers were being employed for any and every job on the Islands. By the end of the decade, these guest workers accounted for almost half of the entire work force. Many native workers were unwilling to work for the low wages paid to the guest workers. As a result, unemployment increased dramatically. Resources for schools and housing were strained. As the number of "temporary" workers kept increasing, the native born population even began to fear they might lose political control of their homeland. Soon, efforts were afoot to stop the children of guest workers from attending public schools but federal courts intervened. The program was abandoned in 1975 with most of the guest workers allowed to become permanent resident aliens because by this time they had put down roots on their new island.

Sounds eerily familiar. Central to the administra-

tion's planned immigration reform is a similar temporary worker program that in the words of President Bush "rejects amnesty, allows foreign workers to fill jobs no American is willing to do, and reduces smuggling and crime at the border."

Let's pause just a moment so that we may all disabuse ourselves — once and for all! — of the notion that there are jobs Americans are unwilling to do. A quick Internet search of dog waste removal will reveal literally hundreds of Americans that get up each morning and clean up after their neighbors' pets. If Americans will earn their livings cleaning up doggy-doo for an honest wage they will certainly pick fruit, cook food, build houses and mop floors.

And while we are busting myths...

Guest worker programs have in the past been used as a solution to offset labor shortages.

Such was the rationale of the Bracero program. In order to compensate for the loss of manpower in the agricultural industry during the Second World War and the Korean conflict, the United States and Mexico agreed to allow agricultural workers from Mexico's poorest states into the country to work during harvest time. The program ended in 1964.

And similarly to the H-2 program in the Virgin Islands native workers suffered. According to the Center for Immigration Studies, "In its thorough report

on the Bracero program in 1952, President Truman's Commission on Migratory Labor found that "wages by States [for agricultural workers] were inversely related to the supply of alien labor." Citizen farm workers in the Southwest simply could not compete with braceros."

Unlike the early 40's when men were being shipped off to war by the hundreds of thousands, it is simply untrue that there is a shortage of low skilled labor in the United States. There are more than 30 million low-wage workers in the workforce. More specifically, Black teenage unemployment in the United States (men ages 16-19) is approximately 35%.

The New York Times recently reported on the "deepening plight" of black men. We must ask ourselves what these men with few skills and little education will do to support themselves if we institutionalize a program whereby low skilled jobs go to guest workers from another country.

Like temporary worker programs before it, the president's plan to provide American businesses with a constant influx of low priced labor is sure to keep both prices and wages low. What remains unclear is exactly how such a program builds solidarity with the American worker.

Joseph C. Phillips is an actor/writer based in Los Angeles.

Letter To The Editor

Everyone recognizes that, under Pat Evans' capable and distinguished leadership, Plano is aging gracefully into a mature, vibrant and thriving community. Pat Evans continues to make good on her commitment to keep the best of the Plano tradition while seeking opportunities that secure our future.

Pat Evans' has distinguished herself in service to Plano from years serving on various city and county related boards and commissions, to service on the city council to her special brand of

leadership as our mayor.

She is also a strong community servant. For example, she sings in the Dr.

Martin Luther King, Jr. All Community Choir. She sings and dances in Live From Plano to help raise funds for nonprofits. She dances at the international festival to celebrate cultural diversity.

She advocates for children and victims, and she visits nursing homes and hospitals. She has received various awards and accolades recognizing her unique abilities as a follower

and a team player as well as a dynamic leader focused on getting the job done whether in civic or community service.

Pat is an accomplished and proven leader and change agent. Among other things, she is results oriented. She is a consensus builder, a good listener, a creative thinker and a problem-solver. She will continue her committed work toward keeping Plano strong and energized into the future. Plano needs Pat Evans as Mayor for one more term.

Dr. T.J. Johnson, Plano

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

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

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

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

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



West Comments On School Finance Bills

As six bills relating to school finance and property tax reform move towards the floor of the Texas Senate, Senator West (D-Dallas) issued the following statement:

"Ever since the Supreme Court ruled our current system of public school finance unconstitutional, I have worked closely with my colleagues in the Legislature to craft a new system of public school finance that reduces property taxes while still ensuring a quality education for Texas schoolchildren.

"While the six bills currently under consideration by the Senate each have individual merit, they must be analyzed as a complete bill package. Unfortunately, the cumulative effect of that package damages our schools and threatens the financial flexibility of our state in the future.

"H.B. 3 proposes a new tax structure that, by dedicating revenue solely for property tax relief and school finance, ties the legislature's hands when it comes to funding other areas of the state budget. Should there ever be a

crisis in funding for health and human services, or a shortfall for child protective services, should state parks needs funds to stay



open, or should we ever need to add a new prison or new university, then our hands will be tied, and the only available funding source for these important areas will be the state sales tax.

"Our sales tax already represents 57.8% of all the revenue we spend. As the most regressive tax on the books - and one of the highest sales taxes in the country - I believe we should hold the line at that percentage so we don't hurt

the pocketbooks of working families and poorer Texans. Should we ever again - God forbid - experience an economic downturn as we did after September 11, or after the collapse of oil prices in the 1980's, then we'll only be able to balance the books by underfunding universities, knocking kids off the CHIP rolls, closing parks, and eliminating vital services.

"H.B. 1, while reducing property tax, does not significantly address issues of equity or a teacher pay raise that the majority of Texans have consistently told us should be part of any education reform.

"I cannot, in good conscience, support legislation that balances the future needs of this state solely on the backs of working families and our middle class while benefiting big business and the top income tier. I cannot vote for bills that put short term gain against the long-term prospects of our state's prosperity. And I cannot vote for a package of bills that locks the box and throws away the key that gives the state the flexibility to deal with any future budgetary shortfall."

Colleges Ready For Commencement

Seven campuses, seven graduation ceremonies, thousands of smiling faces*that's the picture area parents and family members will see throughout the Dallas County Community College District in May. Each college in the system - Brookhaven, Cedar Valley, Eastfield, El Centro, Mountain View, North Lake and Richland - will hold separate graduation ceremonies at several locations throughout the area. Mountain View College already launched the festivities with commencement on Wed., May 3, when they welcomed State Rep. Roberto Alonzo as the featured speaker.

A schedule of graduation exercises is listed below:

* Brookhaven College - Thurs., May 11, 7 p.m.; Loos

Field House, Farmers Branch; Ray Attner, 2006 Minnie Stevens Piper professor, is the featured speaker.

* Cedar Valley College - Thurs., May 11, 7 p.m.; outdoors (south of gym), Lancaster; Dr. Kevin Fegan, provost and CEO for Northwood University (Texas campus), is the featured speaker.

* Eastfield College - Thurs., May 11, 7:30 p.m.; Mesquite Convention Center and Exhibit Hall, Mesquite; Charles Matthews, chancellor of the Texas State University System, is the featured speaker.

* El Centro College - Sun., May 7, 3 p.m.; Moody Coliseum, Southern Methodist University; Reginald Gates, president and CEO of the

Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce, is the featured speaker.

* North Lake College - Thurs., May 11, 7 p.m.; North Lake College outdoor venue, Irving; President's Scholar Sherry Boyd is the featured speaker.

* Richland College - Fri. and Sat., May 5 and 6, 7:30 p.m. (last names L-Z on Friday and last names A-K on Saturday); outdoors by the lake with fireworks both evenings at or after twilight; Michael Bell, Richland's 2005-2006 Excellence in Teaching Award winner, is the featured commencement speaker, and DCCCD Trustee Martha Sanchez Metzger will talk to the audience as well.

U. T. Dallas Adds Emerging Media To Art & Technology Program

Area to focus on Internet Based Communications and Content Development

In a continuing effort to remain ahead of the curve in trends at the intersection of creativity and technology, The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) is adding a major new area of focus to its noted Arts & Technology (ATEC) program. The Emerging Media & Communications (EMAC) area will add a new series of courses to the ATEC degree plan that focus on new forms of Internet based writing and content development.

In an era of continuous, ubiquitous, mobile communicating, a new generation of media developers is needed. The Emerging Media & Communications area of concentration recognizes the need

for writers versed in the shifting technologies in the new media environment of the 21st century.

Areas of production and research will include social networks, blogging, podcasting, vodcasting, virtual worlds, and games. And beyond introducing students to the cutting edge of emerging media technologies and practices, the program also aims to provide a strong foundation built on collaborative skills, theoretical breadth, historical context, and ethical sensitivity.

In addition to leveraging existing ATEC expertise in web development, computer imaging, and design, the new area also builds on robust rhetoric, communications, and creative writing resources.

EMAC is launching this Fall

Semester with a full sequence of undergraduate and graduate courses. Lower division courses emphasize writing and inquiry and introduce the landscape and evolving context of emerging media. Upper division and graduate courses focus on developing strength of voice and original content productions. Students will have numerous opportunities to publish and broadcast their own original works on a series of new UTD internet sites, events, and through partnerships with local media.

Registration for Fall Semester classes began April 12. For more information on the EMAC concentration in ATEC at UTD visit <http://emac.utdallas.edu/> or contact Terry at dean.terry@utdallas.edu.

SMU's Diversity Efforts Earn National Award

SMU has become the first Texas university to receive an Exemplary Voluntary Efforts (EVE) Award from the U.S. Department of Labor for its equal opportunity programs. The university was honored along with two other recipients at an awards ceremony Wednesday, April 26, in Washington, D.C.

The Labor Department's EVE Award honors federal contractors that have demonstrated exemplary and innovative efforts to increase the employment opportunities of minorities, women, individuals with disabilities and veterans. The award recognizes SMU's development and implementation of multifaceted equal employment opportunity programs.

"The Eve Award reflects SMU's dedication to a diverse workforce and student body," said SMU President R. Gerald Turner. "We are proud to be the first university in the state to win this honor, and we look forward to our continuing progress."

In the more than 20 years since the Labor Department has given the EVE Award, only a few universities have received it.

A variety of other innovative equal opportunity programs contributed to SMU winning this award, including:

* The President's Commission on the Status of Women

* The President's Commission on the Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities

* The President's Commission on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities

* Diversity training for faculty, staff and students

* Equal compensation efforts

* Numerous lecture series featuring diverse speakers and honoring achievement

* Outreach programs for public schools and inner-city children.

Kids Day In May!

Dr. Tiffany Hardman of Spring Valley Chiropractic and Fretz Park Recreation (co-sponsor) is pleased to announce and host the 1st Annual Kids Day in May. The event will be held on Saturday, May 20th, 2006 at Fretz Park in North Dallas from 11am - 2pm. The focus is to bring awareness to Child Health and Safety Issues.

We decided to host the event in May (instead of September) in order to give kids vital information to take into their summer vacation. The summer holds higher risks due to family travel, summer school, summer

sports, and kids being left home alone.

This life changing event will provide pertinent and informative literature, health and dental screenings, along with lots and lots of fun.

Joining the fun for Kids Day in May are:

Dallas Police Department

* Demonstrating Child Safety Tips

* McGruff the Crime Dog & Bikebot

Dallas Fire Department

* Demonstrating Fire Safety Tips

* Sparky the Fire Dog

* Fire Truck

* Identification Kits for all kids

* Kit includes digital picture & thumb print, current height/weight, DOB, etc.

Clowns making Animal Balloons

* FREE Face Painting

* Bounce House

* Food and Refreshments

* Gift Bags for all Kids

Children of every age are welcome to attend this FREE event. For more information on the 1st Annual Kids Day in May, please contact Dr. Tiffany Hardman @ 972.980.7131 or email doctor@drhardman.com.

Nissan And UNCF Announce Scholarship Program To Award \$100,000 To Deserving Students

Nissan North America, Inc. (NNA) and the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) are currently seeking applicants for the Nissan-UNCF "Shift_" knowledge Scholarship Program.

The Nissan-UNCF "Shift_" knowledge scholarship program was created in 2004 to recognize the academic achievement and leadership qualities of students, and to honor the rich legacy of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

The program will award a total of \$100,000 in scholarships to 10 Los Angeles-based high school seniors

planning to attend a Historically Black College or University (HBCU) in Fall 2006. Ten scholarships of \$10,000 will be awarded.

"We are thrilled to continue our partnership with UNCF and open the doors of opportunity for deserving students," said Terri Hines, senior manager of public affairs for NNA. "This scholarship embodies Nissan's commitment to enriching people's lives through education."

"The joint partnership between Nissan and UNCF supports our mutual goal of empowering our communities through investments

in youth and higher education," said Renita Tyson, area development director, UNCF.

Students should see their guidance counselor for more details about the program or apply online at www.uncf.org. In addition to completing the application form, students must submit a one-page essay, an official high school transcript, recommendation letter from a teacher and community leader, and an acceptance letter from an HBCU for enrollment in Fall 2006. The application deadline is June 6, 2006.

Malcom Baldrige Award Page 1

today we celebrate together the quality success of which the businesses, educational institutions, and health care organizations in our nations are so capable."

At Richland College on April 19, the faculty and staff celebrated with a collegewide luncheon and viewing of the Baldrige award ceremony via live satellite downlink.

Richland College, one of seven institutions in the Dallas County Community College District, is one of six national recipients of the 2005 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. Other recipients are

Park Place Lexus in Plano; Sunny Fresh Foods Inc. of Monticello, Minn.; DynMcDermott Petroleum Operations of New Orleans, La.; Jenks Public Schools of Jenks, Okla.; and Bronson Methodist Hospital of Kalamazoo, Mich.

The six recipients for the 2005 award were selected from among 64 applicants. All six recipients were evaluated rigorously by an independent board of examiners in seven areas: leadership; strategic planning; customer and market focus; measurement, analysis and knowledge management; human resource focus; and process management. The evaluation process included approximately 1,000 hours of review and an on-site visit by teams of examiners to clarify questions and verify information submitted on the applications.

The Baldrige examiners prepare a feedback report for each applicant. Some of Richland's strengths are:

* Richland's leadership system, which allows for broad representation and input from faculty, staff, students, community members and other key stakeholders

* Processes in place that support a culture that engages participation among students, faculty, staff and community members over their district.

Coming from Mr. Chambers, the argument was especially persuasive to the rest of the Legislature, which voted three times this week in favor of the bill before it won final passage on the last day of the session.

Richland's monthly departmental performance reviews

* Richland's commitment to serve an ethnically diverse student population

* Richland's ability to be agile by supporting and developing a strong cadre of adjunct faculty members

* Effective use of resources in response to a reduction in state funding

"Richland College has used the Malcolm Baldrige criteria for performance excellence during the past nine years as a framework that guided us through continuous performance improvement," Dr. Mittelstet

said. "We will continue to maintain those standards of excellence both now and in the future."

Richland College has cultivated a history of pursuing organizational excellence. The college previously received the 2005 Texas Award for Performance Excellence from the governor's office and the Quality Texas Foundation; was named a Best Practices Vanguard College by the League for Innovation in the Community College in 2000; was one of seven mentoring colleges for the American Association of Community Colleges' national Service Learning Project from 1998 to

2003; served as one of eight pilot institutions for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' new accreditation standards; and received the American Library Association's 2001 Library of the Future Award and the 2004 Excellence in Academic Libraries Award.

For more information about Richland College, visit www.richlandcollege.edu. To view Richland's application for the 2005 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, go to www.richlandcollege.edu and click on the Baldrige logo in the upper right-hand corner of the homepage (PDF file).

Race Split Schools Page 1

said Democratic Sen. Gwen Howard of Omaha.

Attorney General Jon Bruning sent a letter to one of the measure's opponents saying that the bill could be in violation of the Constitution's equal-protection clause and that lawsuits almost certainly will be filed.

Its backers say that its passage will force policy-makers to negotiate seriously about the future of schools in the Omaha area.

The breakup would not occur until July 2008, leaving time for lawmakers to come up with another idea.

"There is no intent to create segregation," said Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers, the Legislature's only black senator and a longtime critic of the school system. He argued that the district is already segregated, because it no longer buses students and instead requires them to attend their neighborhood school.

Mr. Chambers said the schools attended largely by minorities lack the resources and quality teachers provided others in the district. He said the black students he represents in northern Omaha would receive a better education if they had more control

session. Omaha Public Schools Superintendent John Mackiel said the law is unconstitutional and will not stand.

"There simply has never been an anti-city school victory anywhere in this nation," Mr.

Mackiel said. "This law will be no exception."

The 45,000-student Omaha school system is 46 percent white, 31 percent black, 20 percent Hispanic, and 3 percent Asian or American Indian.

Boundaries for the newly

created districts would be drawn using current high-school attendance areas. That would result in four possible scenarios, but in every scenario, two districts would end up with a majority of students who are racial minorities.



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Urban Financial Services Coalition Honors Six Of Dallas' Living Legends During Its 32nd Annual Conference

The Urban Financial Services Coalition (UFSC) has announced that its 32nd Annual National Conference will be held May 29 - June 4, 2006 at Hotel Intercontinental in Addison, TX. Additional information for the annual conference can be obtained by visiting the UFSC website at www.ufscnet.org.

At a luncheon to be held on May 31, 2006 during the week long activities, six of Dallas' Living Legends will be honored. The honorees include: Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price; Dr. Beverly Mitchell-Brooks, Urban League of Greater North Texas; Dr. Harry Robinson, Jr., President & CEO, African American Museum; Kathlyn Gilliam, Educator; Diane Ragsdale, Board President, South Dallas Fair Park Inner-city Development Corporation; and Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, Representative, Texas. Ticket information for the luncheon can be obtained by calling 877-692-6005.

UFSC Conference Co-chair and Dallas Chapter President, Lynette Fletcher spoke passionately about the significance of the honorees and the Annual Conference. "Our conference is designed to give the thousands

of members an opportunity to convene and discuss the ongoing changes in the financial services industry that affect our careers and financial institutions. UFSC addresses the professional development needs of our members



Lynette Fletcher, Dallas Chapter President

through a series of motivational sessions and workshops that enhance both their personal and professional skills. Attending the conference benefits both the members and their employer because it provides current skills and knowledge meaningful to their jobs. Over the years, UFSC has assisted many of its members in becoming senior executives using the skills they learned from attending the conference," said Fletcher. "The honorees selected for our living legends lunch reflect the best in Dallas and the best in

all of us. Their lives inspire us to greatness," continued Fletcher.

The Urban Financial Services Coalition (UFSC) is a nonprofit organization of minority professionals in the financial services industry and related fields. Affiliation with the UFSC offers a unique opportunity to influence the shape of the banking and financial services industry.

UFSC promotes personal and professional growth of members, as well as collectively articulating concerns, and marshaling resources to improve the economic development of under served communities.

UFSC supports programs that offer practical benefits for minority financial services professionals, banks and financial institutions. The underlying goals and objectives include fostering the interest and expanding the numbers of minorities in the financial services industry; increasing community service activities in low-income communities; enhancing scholarship programs for minority youth in pursuit of financial services careers; and cultivating a premiere job bank of experienced minority professionals in the industry.

For all additional regarding activities at the annual conference please contact, UFSC at (202) 289-8335 or visit www.ufscnet.org

African American Teen Unemployment More Than Six Times The National Rate

Mandated Minimum Wage Hikes Will Exacerbate Problem, Says Employment Policies Institute

While 138,000 new jobs were created in April and overall unemployment remains steady at 4.7%, the unemployment rate among African American teens remains shockingly high at 29.5%, according to the Labor Department's April jobs report.

While overall teenage unemployment continues to hover around 12%, African American teen unemployment remains more than six times the national rate. This translates into approximately 262,000 African American teenagers actively seeking employment who are finding it difficult to secure a job.

Though the overall economy shows signs of improving, this bleak employment outlook for young African Americans threatens

to become much worse as states across the nation consider mandated minimum wage hikes.

Decades of economic research conclude that mandated wage hikes eliminate entry-level jobs, putting particular pressure on minorities and the low-skilled. A Cornell University study found that black young adults typically bear almost four times the employment loss of their non-black counterparts after a minimum wage increase. Specifically, they found that a 10% increase in the minimum wage will result in an 8.5% decrease in employment for black young adults and teenagers.

"The truth of the matter is that minimum wage hikes make it more difficult for young adults to get their foot in the door and start acquiring the skills they need to get ahead in life," said Michael Flynn, Director of Legislative Affairs for the Employment

Policies Institute. "Policymakers must focus on the conditions of the nation's least skilled employees — those who will actually be affected by an increase. The most recent data from the Labor Department shows that these individuals are simply not enjoying the gains of the recent positive employment news."

Gatewayjobs.com, a website focusing on the crisis in entry-level employment, provides regularly updated statistics detailing the employment market for entry-level employees and vital information about a host of government assistance programs designed to promote employment and economic success.

The Employment Policies Institute is a nonprofit research organization dedicated to studying public policy issues surrounding entry-level employment.

Wal-Mart Announces Investment In Minority Business

Wal-Mart today named the first business it's chosen to fund through a 25 (m) million-dollar private equity fund.

The Arkansas-based company in 2005 launched the fund as a way to reach out to minorities.

Wal-Mart says it will back food processor Simeus Foods of Mansfield, Texas, with five (M) million dollars.

The black-owned company will get a boost of up to 25 (m) million dollars when the cash is

combined with other investments.

Simeus makes frozen food products for the restaurant

industry. The company has more than 400 workers and operates processing plants in North Carolina and Texas.

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Business Assistance Center And Brooklyn Host The 2006 Networking Luncheon

Business Assistance Center, Inc., a nonprofit community development entity (BAC) is pleased to announce the Small Business Network's Capital and Procurement (CAP) Networking Luncheon on Friday, MAY 12, 2006, 12 noon at Brooklyn's Jazz Cafe located at 1701 South Lamar Street Dallas TX adjacent to the South Side Development.

Van Howard, BAC President/CEO states, "The CAP Luncheon will have two powerhouse companies in place, Washington Mutual's Vice President Jeremy Luke and DISD's M/WBE Purchasing

Specialist, Tommy Lyle and Kamran Nawrab. We expect deals to be made on the spot."

"Historically and for too long people of color have not had access to capitol or either been afraid to borrow money," says Terry Allen, Business and Development Director, "The CAP Networking luncheons will provide information on how to gain access to financial support and also obtain avenues for procuring contracts".

Allen says, "This time we will be able to showcase two CEOs and their companies. Daisy Anderson and her daughter, Rolinda Lofton, owners of Highland Park

Bakery, a 12 year old specialty breads company and Linder "Hawthorne, CEO of Bread of Heaven, a 22 year old state recognized catering company will launch a tasting of their new products at the luncheon."

Some of Dallas leading entities have hosted and presented at the Luncheon including Wells-Fargo, Coamerica Bank, Regions Bank, Chase/JPMorgan/Bank One, DISD, Wells Fargo, UPS, Washington Mutual, FMS Financial, Wachovia Bank, DCCCD, Prosperity Bank, FedExKinkos, Guaranty Bank, Ester Davis TV and Jill Darden with Urban TV.

The Business Assistance Center is the current recipient of the Office of Community Service's Community Economic Development Grant (under DHHS) of a \$700,000 grant for Special Populations Micro-Enterprise Training for a entrepreneurial/employment training dealing with people transitioning from prison (first time offenders), public housing residents, veterans and young adults. A \$700,000 grant for the current start-up and incubation program, Micro-Enterprise Training and Incubation (METI) was received in 2005. For more information log onto www.bac5.org

Blacks Slam Page 1

ested in the next election -- and blacks are a small slice of the voting pie, while Hispanic numbers are exploding," he said. "Blacks must finally claim their birthright as Americans, and say 'no' to the further devastation of their work force and communities by illegal aliens and their political accomplices."

While many mainstream black leaders fall in line with Democrats, generally supporting guest-worker programs or amnesty for illegal aliens, blacks are split on how to reform immigration so that jobs, border security and the rights of migrant laborers are all protected.

Mr. Spriggs said blacks are not willing to turn Hispanic migrants away based on arguments that appear to be either xenophobic or racist.

"Most blacks don't think migrant workers hurt their chances to get work, with the exception of a few industries -- most notably construction -- and they want to show solidarity with the immigrants," said Rep. Bennie Thompson, Mississippi Democrat.

But, he said, people are put off by the rhetoric used to support a guest-worker program for illegal aliens already in the U.S.

"The most insulting thing you hear is that [immigrants] are doing jobs that we won't do ... as if the idea is that if we won't do a back-breaking job for \$5.15 an hour without protections -- health care, workers' compensation -- [it] means we

are shiftless and lazy. That is simply an insult," Mr. Thompson said.

However, a recent poll by the Pew Research Center showed that blacks were more likely than whites -- 33 percent compared to 25 percent -- to say they think immigrants take jobs from Americans.

In 1986, during the last amnesty, black unemployment was about 15 percent while Hispanic unemployment hovered near 11 percent. Twenty years later, the unemployment rate is 9.3 percent for blacks and 6 percent for Hispanics.

The United States currently

offers special protected status to people fleeing their home countries for reasons such as natural disasters, a group which currently includes Nicaragua and Honduras. In addition, illegal aliens from Cuba are usually released as they apply for refugee status, while those from Haiti and other nations are incarcerated.

Blacks also worry about the political consequences of amnesty, which could leave them with waning voting power if the approximately 12 million illegal aliens are made citizens. Black leaders who support a guest-worker program with an easier

path to citizenship, such as Sen. Barack Obama, Illinois Democrat, speak of solidarity with unions -- which have long supported the Democratic Party and contribute millions to its candidates.

"We should want employees out of the shadows, because if they're legal they're subject to wage laws, taxes and Social Security," Mr. Obama said.

"There is a reason why the [Service Employees International Union] is focusing support for this bill, because right now illegals cannot be organized, and that will be for the [good] of African-American workers."

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Alphonso Jackson says deal was scuttled after contractor admits not liking Bush

By: Christine Perez
Dallas Business Journal
Once the color barrier has been broken, minority contractors seeking government work may need to overcome the Bush barrier.

That's the message U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson seemed to send during an April 28 talk in Dallas.

Jackson, a former president and CEO of the Dallas Housing Authority, was among the featured speakers at a forum sponsored by the Real Estate Executive Council, a national minority real estate consortium.

After discussing the huge strides the agency has made in doing business with minority-owned companies, Jackson closed with a cautionary tale, relaying a conversation he had with a prospective advertising contractor.

"He had made every effort to get a contract with HUD for 10 years," Jackson said of the prospective contractor. "He made a heck of a proposal and was on the (General Services Administration) list, so we selected him. He came to see

me and thank me for selecting him. Then he said something ... he said, 'I have a problem with your president.'

"I said, 'What do you mean?' He said, 'I don't like President Bush.' I thought to myself, 'Brother, you have a disconnect — the president is elected, I was selected. You wouldn't be getting the contract unless I was sitting here. If you have a problem with the president, don't tell the secretary.'

"He didn't get the contract," Jackson continued. "Why should I reward someone who doesn't like the president, so they can use funds to try to campaign against the president? Logic says they don't get the contract. That's the way I believe."

Cal Jillson, a political science professor at Southern Methodist University, said canceling a government contract due to political views "is not a door you want to open."

"Whether or not it's legal, it certainly draws your judgment and the judgment of your office into question," Jillson said. "It's just not the tone you want to set."

Told of Jackson's comments, Mary Scott Nabers, a government-contracting consultant in Austin, had a briefer initial reaction. "Oh, my goodness gracious," she said.

HUD Secretary's Blunt Warning

Jillson called the exchange between Jackson and the prospective contractor "idiocy" on both sides.

Dustee Tucker, a spokeswoman for Jackson's office, said the value of the advertising contract, which was to be placed with a minority publication, could not be provided.



"Because it was not awarded per what the Secretary said, we don't have any record of it," she said. "It was probably all verbal at that point."

"Jackson is right; what possessed the contractor to criticize the president in a business setting? But what possessed Jackson to say he's not going to complete the business transaction?" Jillson said. "You'd

just like to take both of these guys and shake them by their collars. There's no reason to have high expectations of the contractor, but you do hope senior public officials are grounded, thoughtful people, and Jackson didn't give good evidence of that."

Rod Bailey with The Staubach Co., who put the REEC event together, said Jackson was simply telling it like it is.

"It's politics at its finest," he said. "If you talk to other government officials, they would have similar stories. The same thing holds true in business. If you don't like Roger Staubach, you're not going to work at The Staubach Co. Leaders are the roots of their organizations. If you want to be a part of them and profit from them, you have to be on the same mission."

Most of the time, politics don't come into play with government contracts, said Nabers, who heads

Strategic Partnership Inc., an Austin-based consulting group that advises companies on doing business with public agencies.

"Politics should never be involved in the procurement process," she said. "That's not to say that sometimes they don't, but, especially at the federal and state level, the procedures are so scrutinized. Politicians run from things like that — it's too dangerous."

Nabers said government contracts are awarded based on merit — which vendor can provide the best value at the best price. Contractors who think decisions weren't based on merit can file a protest and ask for evaluations to see why they didn't win.

"Whether it's HUD or another agency, the opportunities are there," Jackson said. "The most amazing thing I've ever seen is the amount of contracts we hand out

every day. Just one contract can make you wealthy."

Under Jackson's leadership, HUD has gone from close to the bottom to first among the larger agencies doing business with minority-owned companies.

In 2005, 16% of HUD contracts, or about \$167 million worth of work, went to black-owned businesses. Hispanic-owned businesses received 7%, or \$71 million. That combined 23% is up from 6% in 2000, the year before Jackson was named deputy secretary of the agency.

Despite getting just 8% and 11% of the African-American vote nationally in his two presidential wins, Jackson said President Bush is committed to creating prosperity for minority business owners.

"President Bush and I will work with you to move you toward more prosperity," he said. "He wants this agency and other agencies to reflect this country."

Plano A Preserve Page 1

for their commitment to preserving an important part of our Nation's historic past for visitors, neighbors, and most importantly, for children."

Communities designated through the program receive national recognition for their efforts. Other benefits include the use of the Preserve America logo on signs and promotional materials and listing in a Web-based directory to showcase preservation efforts and high-light heritage tourism destinations.

"You are pioneers in this initiative, which shows just how proud the people of Plano are of their city, state and their place in

our Nation's history," said Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton. "Each community's unique and diverse stories are part of the larger chapter of American heritage, culture and values. It is by visiting and experiencing these special places that we have an opportunity to touch the past, and can best understand how it touches us."

Initiative goals include a greater shared knowledge about the Nation's past, strengthened regional identities and local pride, increased local participation in preserving the country's cultural and natural heritage assets and support for the economic vitality of our communities.

"The City of Plano will protect

and celebrate our heritage, use our historic assets for economic development and encourage people to experience and appreciate local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs," said Plano Mayor Pat Evans.

As part of the designation, Plano is now eligible to apply for grants under the Preserve America Grants Program administered by the Department of the Interior. These matching fund grants of \$20,000 to \$150,000 go on a competitive basis to heritage tourism initiatives, promotion and marketing programs and interpretive/educational initiatives involving historic resources.

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Arts & Entertainment

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Ving Rhames On A 'Mission'

There's a new movie that arrived in theaters Friday - you may have heard of it. It's called "Mission: Impossible III?"

Its star Tom Cruise has been in a few different countries promoting it? Its premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival this week was the focus of a half-hour TV special on NBC, and even MTV and BET devoted programming to the opening.

Perhaps smothered by all of the attention surrounding Wednesday's four premiere events in New York's Times Square, Tribeca, Harlem and Midtown Manhattan - not to mention the rage surrounding TomKat and their new baby - is the film's story. Is it actually worth all of the garish promotion?

"The beauty of this one for me, in coming back, is the script," notes Ving Rhames, who returns to the franchise for the third time as computer expert Luther Strickell. In "Mission: Impossible III," Strickell is called to duty by his old friend, super spy Ethan Hunt (Tom Cruise) to help handle a wicked arms

dealer played by Oscar winner Philip Seymour Hoffman.

Rhames says this film is superior to the first two "Mission: Impossible" outings because "it's more similar to the television series, you have the



'Mission: Impossible' team, and the importance of each team member." He adds: "I also think because you have Tom and you have a love interest with his character - the scenes where he's in danger, his family is in danger - if something happens to him, what happens to them? So I think adding those elements with all of the high octane action puts this a level or two above 'Mission' I and II."

Writer-director J.J. Abrams, the mastermind behind TV's "Alias" and "Lost," sits in the director's chair this time around, while Cruise also served as the film's executive producer. Both filmmakers have an acting background and could have approached the set expecting actors to bow down and obey their vision of the film. But that wasn't the case, says Rhames.

"What I love about Tom as an executive producer, and even with J.J., to me we work as actors in what I call a structured freedom," Rhames explains during interviews for the film. "We have freedom to do things and move within certain parameters, and I think part of that is because J.J. as an actor, and Tom as an executive producer/actor understands that sometimes actors do things action/reaction. Having that kind of freedom, I think, just adds a fluidity to the piece."

Whether or not the film can live up to its hype remains to be seen. But one thing's for certain, notes Rhames: "It was a chance to have some fun and make a good deal of money."

Reaching Out To Imperiled Black Youths

Through his book 'Letters to a Young Brother,' actor Hill Harper hopes to give African American boys the tools for success.

By Lisa Richardson
For every young black man without a father, older brother or uncle to help him learn how a boy becomes a man, actor Hill Harper has this to say:

"You now have a new older brother, a friend, a homie and confidant who cares for you, who is watching you and who is watching out for you. And guess what? I love you! That's right. I am not afraid to admit this truth out loud."

Such affirmations may seem unremarkable at a time when whole sections of bookstores are dedicated to those slim volumes with perky titles that tell people they are beautiful and smart and spiritually powerful.

But with his new book, "Letters to a Young Brother, MANifest Your Destiny," Harper, who plays a coroner on the hit television show "CSI: New York," embraces a demographic more accustomed to reading about how it is bound for prison or will likely die young.

The book came out at a particularly depressing moment for his intended audience.

In March, a New York Times article with the headline "Plight Deepens for Black Men, Studies Warn" whipped through black cyberspace, leaving a community punched in the emotional solar plexus and gasping for air - not because it carried some

bad news, but because that's all there was.

The article cited academic studies that faulted terrible schools, absent parents, racism, a decline in blue-collar jobs and a subculture that "glorifies swagger over work."

For some, Harper's message is a solo soaring above the choir.

Harper graduated magna cum



laude from Brown University and cum laude from Harvard Law School, and also earned a master's degree in public administration from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He was born and raised in Iowa, and both of his parents are doctors, as were both of his grandfathers and several uncles.

He said he began writing "Letters" after he visited a public high school in New York and spoke to the students about self-esteem and academic excellence.

Several boys at the school came up to him afterward.

To them, the path he laid out might as well have been the yellow

brick road. How could they go to college, they asked him, when nobody in their family ever had? What if they didn't have much money or weren't good at standardized tests? They also asked him to make sense of their home lives, he said, asking why their mothers brought the men they were dating into their apartments?

"I went right back to my hotel and started writing the book," Harper said.

He wrote his book as a series of advice-laden letters addressed to a young man. Choose friends with exquisite care, he advises. Select friends you wish were family. Only go into debt to get an education or to buy real estate. Sexual conquests do not a man make.

Although the ideas for the book came easily, getting it published was another matter, he said.

Young black men, publishers told him, do not read books.

Gotham Books, a subsidiary of Penguin Group (USA) Inc., followed the advice when it published "Letters," launching a publicity campaign partly in the style of a record release - fliers, posters and nightclub events - and part standard book launch, with signings in bookstores. Harper also has spoken at churches and made contacts through the networking of Sterling and his college friends, whom he has dubbed the "Maverick Marketing Team."

"Letters," which went on sale April 20, will appear Sunday at No. 13 on the New York Times list of bestselling hardcover advice books. As of Tuesday afternoon, it was ranked No. 130 in Amazon.com book sales.

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Halle Berry Heats Up With Del Toro: Upcoming Film "Things We Lost In The Fire."

Halle Berry will star opposite Benicio Del Toro in a new drama about love, loss and moving through grief.

"Things We Lost in the Fire" stars Berry as a sudden widow who takes in her late husband's troubled best friend (Del Toro) to live with her family. As the friend gets back on his feet emotionally, he helps Berry's grief-stricken

family deal with their loss.

Danish filmmaker Susanne Bier will direct the picture for DreamWorks and Paramount will distribute. Production is set to begin next month.

In the meantime, Berry's next release will be "X-Men: The Last Stand," due May 26, and the thriller "Perfect Stranger" opposite Bruce Willis.



MTV Movie Awards- Network Announces Presenters And Performers For June 3rd Event.

T.I., Jamie Foxx and Ludacris are among the first round of presenters announced Monday for the 2006 MTV Movie Awards, to be held 9 p.m. June 3 at the Sony Pictures Studios in Culver City, CA, and broadcast Thursday, June 8 at 9 p.m. ET/PT on MTV.

Also presenting awards will be Kate Beckinsale, Owen Wilson, Justin Timberlake, Matt Dillon, Will Ferrell, Kate Hudson, Rebecca Romijn, Kate Bosworth, Famke Janssen, John C. Reilly and Brandon Routh. Actress Jessica Alba will host the ceremony.

Christina Aguilera has been booked to perform at the event and debut music from her new

album, "Back To Basics." Her last MTV Movie Award appearance



was in 2001 when she was joined on stage by Lil' Kim, Pink, and Mya for a memorable perform-

ance of "Lady Marmalade" from "Moulin Rouge." Punk rock group AFI are also on the performance bill next month.

The 2005 film "Hustle & Flow" is up for three awards: Best Performance for star Terrence Howard, Breakthrough Performance for Taraji P. Henson, and Best Kiss for Howard and Henson.

Fans can vote for the entire nominated cast of the 2006 MTV Movie Awards by visiting <http://movieawards.mtv.com> before May 19th, or by texting "MOVIEAWARDS" to 91757 to receive a ballot. Voting is also available by dialing toll free to 1-877-MTV-VOTE.

'Idol' Champ Fantasia Playing Herself In TV Movie

"American Idol" winner Fantasia Barrino will play herself in a Lifetime movie that will show how the teenage single mother overcame poverty, sexual abuse and illiteracy to win the hit talent show.

The movie, tentatively titled "Life Is Not a Fairy Tale: The Fantasia Barrino Story," will premiere in August on the women's cable channel. Debbie Allen will direct from an adaptation of Barrino's autobiography, "Life Is

Not a Fairy Tale."

Viola Davis and Kadeem Hardison will portray her parents, Diane and JoJo Barrino, while Loretta Devine has been cast as her grandmother Addie Collins. Newcomer Jamia Simone Nash will play the young Fantasia.

Tony winner Davis' credits include the feature films "Traffic" and "Get Rich or Die Tryin'." Devine recently appeared in "Crash." Hardison,



best known for playing Dwayne Wayne on "A Different World," also appeared in "Biker Boyz."

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THE BLACK ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS

Car Review

The 2007 Nissan Altima Hybrid

The 2007 Nissan Altima Hybrid Blends Great Performance, Style and Fuel Economy.

The Altima Hybrid continues Nissan's best-selling car's performance tradition in a new variation - a hybrid powertrain mates the 2.5-liter 4-cylinder engine and Xtronic™ CVT (Continuously Variable Transmission) with an electric motor and generator that

increases fuel economy while maintaining low tailpipe emissions.

While Nissan strives to offer the most advanced fuel-saving technology available, the company also believes that drivers should not have to sacrifice any of the style or performance attributes that remain at the top of the reasons for buying a new Nissan.

For that reason, the Altima Hybrid is marked with the same

expressive styling as its non-hybrid brethren - inside and out. The engine and suspension in the Altima Hybrid deliver the same spirited performance as its more conventional siblings.

The new Altima HEV will be assembled at the Nissan North America Manufacturing Smyrna, Tennessee plant. The vehicle has been certified to meet California



emissions requirements and will be sold beginning in early 2007.

For more information on the Nissan Altima and other Nissan products, please visit www.nissannews.com.

Withdraw Of Guilty Plea Page 1

Explaining his latest reversal, Moussaoui said in an affidavit:

"I had thought I would be sentenced to death based on the emotions and anger toward me for the deaths on Sept. 11. But after reviewing the jury verdict and reading how the jurors set aside their emotions and disgust for me and focused on the law and the evidence ... I now see that it is possible that I can receive a fair trial even with Americans as jurors."

Moussaoui's court-appointed lawyers told the court that they filed the motion even though a federal rule "prohibits a defendant from withdrawing a guilty plea after imposition of sentence." They did so anyway, they said, because of their "problematic relationship with Moussaoui" and the fact that new lawyers have yet to be appointed to replace them.

In an attached three-page affidavit, Moussaoui cited his new opinion of American jurors and

wrote that he now believes he has a fair chance "to prove that I did not have any knowledge of and was not a member of the plot to hijack planes and crash them into buildings on Sept. 11, 2001."

"I wish to withdraw my guilty plea and ask the court for a new trial to prove my innocence of the Sept. 11 plot," Moussaoui wrote. "I have never met (lead 9/11 hijacker) Mohammed Atta and, while I may have seen a few of the other hijackers ... (in Afghanistan), I never knew them or anything about their operation."

Explaining his twists and turns, Moussaoui said, "Solitary confinement made me hostile toward everyone, and I began taking extreme positions to fight the system."

Leadership Garland Page 1

fitted as class member Gary Gregory, a Garland police officer, presented self-defense training for NBC staff. Three class members from Richland College held an on-campus cell phone drive and collected more than 80 cell phones for emergency use by the center's clients.

Leadership Garland is a program offered by the Garland Chamber of Commerce to any interested citizen who lives or works in Garland or is a member of the Garland Chamber. The purpose of Leadership Garland is to provide corporate leadership training; to motivate and encourage civic leaders; and to develop personal leadership characteristics and skills within individuals. Participants are introduced to state, county and city officials, school board trustees and administrators, community leaders, and community boards and commissions. Leadership skill topics are taught with active participation along with numerous field trips. Each graduate is encouraged to actively contribute to Garland's growth and future. For more information on Leadership Garland, contact the Garland Chamber of Commerce at 972-272-7551.

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Rev. Clarence J. Ford, Jr., Pastor

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Project 02001-DNT-00-CN-EN. Provide and deliver new mainline and ramp plaza tollbooths for the Dallas North Tollway, Lewisville Lake Toll Bridge and spare tollbooths for future NTTA projects. The engineer's estimate of probable construction cost is approximately \$3,400,000.

The bid packet is available at no cost to the prospective bidder. Contact Karen at 214-461-2061 for more information.

The bid packet includes the Proposal book and downloaded online, at no charge, under the **BusinessView Opportunities** section of the NTTA's home page (<http://www.ntta.org>). If not previously registered with the NTTA, the bidder must register online prior to accessing the bid documents. Electronic bids may be submitted through the NTTA's electronic bidding software.

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Harcourt, Inc., a major international publisher, has immediate openings for temporary warehouse persons at its Lewisville, TX Distribution Center.

Responsibilities: Responsible for the physical & parts of the clerical receipt, storage, picking & shipping of product, done in an accurate (quality), safe & timely manner. Must be willing to work in various departments; cross-train; assist where needed.

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Closing Date: 05/24/06



Sister Tarpley

Now that Mother's Day 2006 is this Sunday, I bring to you a "Job Description" that I received from my daughter, Minister Sheila Tarpley Lott, after she had children of her own! This is to honor all mothers, grandmothers, great grandmothers, god-mothers, step-mothers, and any lady that is a caretaker of a child or children

A Special Mother's Day to Minister Sheila: and my sisters: Eloyd Avery, Billie Daye, Evangelist Ida Eggins and Sis. Rose Fielding. To my mother's sisters and Sister-in-Law Aunts Jessie Baker Green, Willie Mae Baker Thomas, Jeri Baker Carter, Toby Baker Childs, and Eva Joyce Baker. My sister-in-laws, Dorothy Henderson and Laverne Solomon. To all my family, cousins, church members and friends, including Denise Avery, Nana Avery Brown, Vina Williamson, LaKieth Robeson, Vanessa Raymond, Deloris Jean Demus, Eleana Demus, Sherry Gambrell, Flo Francis Davis, Phemia Tinner, Esther Dugay, Angela Dugay, Theresa Simpson, Barbara Lewis, Doris Bonner, Ora Lee Roberts, Vivian Evans, Eloise Joiner, Annie Pearl Williams, Joyce Evans, Renee Tinner Allen, Regina Tinner Green, etc.

Job Title: Mom, Mommie, Mama, Mother, etc.

Job Description: Long-term team players needed for challenging permanent work in an often chaotic environment. Candidates must possess excellent communication and organizational skills and be willing to work variable hours, which will include evenings and weekends, and frequent 24 hour shifts on call.

Job Description

Some overnight travel required, including trips to primitive camping sites on rainy weekends and endless sports tournaments in far away cities. Travel expenses not reimbursed. Extensive courier duties also required.

Responsibilities: For the rest of your life. Applicants must be willing to be hated, at least temporarily, until someone needs \$5 or they become adults. Be willing to bite tongue repeatedly. Also must possess the



Picture of The Week
Sister Tarpley and Dr. Njoki McElroy, SMU Professor, and Author of "Black Journey, A Black American Revue"

physical stamina of a pack mule and be able to go from zero to 60 mph in three seconds flat in case, this time, the screams from the front or backyard are not someone just crying wolf. You must be willing to face stimulating technical challenges, such as a small gadget repair, mysteriously sluggish toilets and stuck zippers. Be able to screen phone calls, maintain calendars and coordinate production of multiple homework projects.

You must have the ability to plan and organize social gatherings for clients of all ages and mental out-

looks. Be willing to be indispensable one minute, and an embarrassment the next. Be able to handle assembly and product safety testing of a half million cheap plastic toys and battery operated devices. Be able to hope for the best but be prepared for the worst. Assume final and complete accountability for the quality of the end product. Responsibilities also include floor maintenance and janitorial work throughout the facility.

Possibility for Advancement and Promotion: Virtually none. Your job is to remain in the same position for years, without complaining, constantly retraining and updating your skills, so that those in your charge can ultimately surpass you. **Previous Experience:** Unfortunately, none required. On-the-job training offered on a continually exhausting basis.

Wages and Compensation: You pay them! Offering frequent raises and bonuses. A balloon payment is due when they turn 18 because of the assumption that college will help them become financially independent. When you die, you give them whatever is left. The oddest thing about this reverse-salary scheme is that you actually enjoy it and wish you could only do more.

Benefits: While no health or dental insurance, no pension, no tuition reimbursement, no paid holidays and no stock options are offered; this job supplies limitless opportunities for personal growth and free hugs for life if you play your cards right!

Happy Mother's Day To All!

Email: religion@monthegazette.com
Office: 972-516-4191
Voice Mail: 972-606-3878
Fax: 972-516-4197

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."

CHRISTIAN CHAPEL CME TEMPLE OF FAITH

May 19, 7:30 pm
Please join us for a FREE "Rhythm and Rhyme: A night Celebrating Cultural Arts" in the Imani Chapel @ 14119 Montfort Drive (East of the Temple of Faith, the Main Sanctuary)

Rhythm and Rhyme will showcase local poets, spoken word artists and musicians. Invited artists include Blackwax, Will Richey, Deep Thought, J Quinn, AJ, Mike Guinn, Stormi D and WizeThoughtz. Artists and art from the Fourth Annual Joseph C. Howard Youth Agape Art Exhibit will also be featured. This event is hosted by the True Image Singles Ministry at Christian Chapel Temple of Faith CME Church.

The public is invited to sign up for the open mike portion of the event. For more information, please contact Shewanda Riley @ 972-533-3543

Christian Chapel CME Temple of Faith

Dr. Jerome E. McNeil, Jr.
Senior Pastor
14120 Noel Road
Dallas, TX 75254
972-239-1120

CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH EIGHTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

May 26 @ 7 pm
We are hosting our 9th Benefit Banquet to support Texas College @ The Fairmont Hotel, 1717 N. Akard Street in Dallas. Everyone is invited to join us for this wonderful and worthwhile event. You will not be disappointed!

For more information and directions to the Fairmont Hotel, please call Dr. Jerry Christian, Coordinator @ 214-372-90173.

Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
Eighth Episcopal District
Bishop Marshall Gilmore,
Presiding Bishop

1616 E. Illinois Avenue
Dallas, TX 75216
214-372-9073

FRESH MANNA MINISTRIES, INC.

June 14 - 17, 2006

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Please join us @ the Hilton Garden Hotel, 2001 Valley View Lane, Irving, TX 75061 (near DFW Airport & George Bush Tollway Exits) for our "Guards of God Prophetic Summit 2006. Theme: "Not Shaken But Stirred Up To Restore" with Dr. Louise Lysas, Apostle/Oversee of Abundant Life Ministries Int'l Holy Deliverance Church in Arkansas; Dr. Sherman Allen, Prophet/CEO of Shiloh Institutional COGIC SRMG & CIMAS in Texas; and Elder Jamie & Evangelist Mona Tucker, Youth / Peculiar Gen-411 from Kalamazoo, Michigan

Fresh Manna Ministries, Inc.
Apostle Sonia C. Blackwell,
Founder/Senior Pastor
4721 Chowning Circle
The Colony, TX 75056
972-624-8669

NEW MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH, DALLAS

June 3, 11 am - 3 pm

New Mt. Zion will host, and the North Dallas, Denton & Collin Counties (NDDC) Prairie View University Alumni Chapter will sponsor a Fish Fry @ the church as a fundraiser for scholarships for students desiring to attend PVU. We will have Catfish plates @ \$7 each, and a combination plate (catfish & shrimp) @ \$10 each. All plates are served with potato salad, coleslaw and hush puppies; and with your choice of spicy Cajun or regular flavored fish

For more information, contact Bill Heath @ 972-669-0261 or Walter Gerard @ 214-375-9700. See you at the Fish Fry!

New Mt. Zion Baptist Church,
Dallas
Dr. Robert E. Price, Senior Pastor
9550 Shepard Road
Dallas, TX 75243
214-341-6459

WOMEN PRAYING FOR CHRIST MINISTRIES, INC.

May 19 @ 7 pm
Do you have a testimony that you have wanted to share with others? Meet us for a "Night of Testimonies" @ The Berea Church, 1220 Cedardale, Lancaster, TX 75134.

May 20 @ 7 pm
We will conclude a "Night of Testimonies" @ The Greater Prayer Tower COGIC, 1313 E. Marion, Fort Worth, TX 76104. Come, hear, and share your testimony! For additional information or directions, please call 214-450-7634.

Women Praying For Christ Ministries, Inc.
Angela S. King,
Founder/President
P. O. Box 863766
Plano, TX 75086-3766
214-450-7634

WOMEN'S 2006 SPIRITUAL CONFERENCE

May 13, 8 am
All women are invited to a spirit-filled "100 Women Conference" @ The Lodge Motel, 925 Bois D Arc Street in Commerce (formerly the University Inn.) A continental breakfast and registration will be from 8 to 9 am with the conference starting after breakfast.

For more information or directions to The Lodge Motel, please call Minister Martin @ 903-886-3844

Women's Spiritual Conference
Minister Emma Martin, Founder
P. O. Box 442
Commerce, TX 75429-0442
903-886-3844

Join The Christian Chamber Of Commerce Association "Lets Do Something Great Tour"

The Christian Chamber of Commerce in Irving is encouraging you to join this generation of Christians who are determine to do something great for the glory of God.

Members of CCCA will be touring the country and parts of the world helping Christians achieve great things.

We believe that when Christian come together, the way Christ prayed we would (Matt.17:21) we will release a

corporate level of God's love, grace, peace and power that will transform communities, states and nations over night!

Our goal is to raise \$1 million dollars over the next twelve months to invest in God ordained educational systems, businesses and communities throughout the world.

Investment in the Christian Chamber supporters:

- Apprentice and internship programs for youth throughout Dallas and other parts of the country.
- Youth Leadership and Entrepreneurial Training programs.
- A world class entrepreneurial and business training program designed by SMU 5th ranked entrepreneurial school in the country.
- SMU designed a curriculum

specifically for the Christian Chamber of Commerce members. With your help thousands of people throughout the metropolx and countries like Kenya, Africa will have the knowledge to run world class businesses.

• Christian Investment Fund to invest in community businesses.

The Christian Chamber of Commerce Association hired one of the country's top lawyers to develop a revolutionary social investment fund to aid our member businesses.

Your contributions will help us finish paying our legal and filing fees to begin investing in community businesses throughout the country and world.

For more info, email prdirector@ccc1.us, or call 972-556-0522/972-759-7140.

Mother's Day Page 1

and learn to live with her death. The scripture, Psalms 121: I lift up my eyes to the hills-where does my help come from? - found and comforted me, during her final days, and found me again when I made the decision to better my life. I strive to be a woman my

mother and I can be both proud of. The road isn't as long or as bumpy as it once was. Mother's Day no longer fills me with grief or envy. The day now has memories of my mother introducing me to onion rings at the local A & W. She also made sure I understood a girl's blossom into young womanhood is cause for

celebration, plus I could be anything I wanted to be. And at every night's end I still hear her say, "Mama love." Our time together was short, yet so pure and very rich.

On this Mother's Day I will celebrate the life we still share. My mother's spirit dances with mine every moment of every day. Because of this I know I am truly blessed.

Church Directory

Temple of Faith Christian Chapel C.M.E. Church
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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)
Healthy Beginnings Child Development Center - 972-404-1412

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

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Pastor Myron T. Wilson
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www.enterthekingdom.org

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7:00 A.M. • 9:00 A.M. • 10:00 A.M. and 11:15 A.M.

By: Kimberly Roberts
The theme was "Empowering Women for the Challenges of Today and Tomorrow," as the South Dallas Business and Professional Women's Club celebrated its 43rd Annual V. Alyce Foster Trailblazer Awards Luncheon on Saturday April 28.

The luncheon, which was held at the Hilton Anatole in Dallas was given to recognize those who have excelled in their various endeavors, and also provided an opportunity for the organization to award area high school seniors with scholarships.

Associate producer and reporter for Channel 8's METRO, Angelique Tege, served as the mistress of ceremonies for the event.

"There are so many organizations out there that are doing something positive. This is just one of those organizations that kind of stays underneath the radar but they make such an incredible impact in the community and we don't give them enough recognition," said Tege.

Awards were given for outstanding achievement in various areas including community service, volunteer work and

Blazing Trails And Passing The Torch

breaking down racial barriers in professional and educational arenas.



Gwen Daniels Recipient of the Margaret Gilbert Volunteer Service Award

This year's Sojourner Truth Award recipient Ezell Anthony has put in more than 5000 hours of volunteer work at Baylor Medical Center.

Anthony expressed her joy at seeing the crowd of over 300 people attending the luncheon.

"I am just thankful to be here and to see all of you people here because you have all done something to help somebody and when you help somebody you help yourself," Anthony said.

Other award recipients included: Michael Bell who was the first African American to be elected to head the General Baptist Convention of Texas, Alton L. Frailey who was the first African American Superintendent, Desoto Independent School District and Dr. Laverne Holyfield who was the first African American Director of Faculty Development, Baylor College of Dentistry and the first African American Woman to graduate from the Baylor College of Dentistry.

"This is such an honor for me. I have served and been a member of this club for nearly 20 years. I know the caliber of people that we honor and so for me to be selected a Trailblazer, I can't find the words because it's such an honor."

"I thank God that I've been able to blaze trails. From being the first black woman to graduate from the Baylor College of Dentistry to return there and once again make some inroads for our people, I thank God," said Holyfield, South Central District Vice Governor.

Also being honored were Dr. Lisa A. King who is the first and only African American female Board Certified Endocrinologist in Texas, Francis Ray who is a School Nurse Practitioner and an award winning Author and Theodore Roosevelt Lee who is the owner and co-owner of the Dallas Post Tribune and was the first black Administrator at the University of North Texas.

Garland's own Gwendolyn Hubbard Daniels, who is a multi-talented grassroots leader with a passion for community service was honored with the Margaret Gilbert Volunteer Service Award. Mrs. Hubbard Daniels will also be recognized nationally when she travels to Los Angeles, CA to receive the prestigious National Volunteer Service Award in July.

Ombudsman award recipient Joe L. Atkins, was one of two pioneers who broke down racial barriers at the University of North Texas. Atkins filed a lawsuit against the university that paved the way for African American undergraduate and graduate students to enroll at the university. Debra Peek-Haynes serves as

First Lady of Friendship West Baptist Church and was recognized for her outstanding achievements in business. Mrs. Peek-Haynes was a key player in several major business developments in Dallas including being awarded the contract to manage the headquarters building for the Dallas Area Rapid Transit Authority.

Sandra Reese Jolla was the organization's recipient of the Professional Woman Award. In addition to serving as First Lady of Saint John Missionary Baptist Church n Greenville, Texas, Mrs. Jolla has also served for more than 28 years with the IBM corporation. Mrs. Jolla's efforts support over 5100 IBM business partners.

Several Dallas area high school students were presented with scholarships provided by organization members as well as other contributors in the community.

Current President, Kay Frances Hunter said that this part of the

luncheon was one of the most exciting.

"Every year we sponsor what we call the Trailblazer luncheon. However in the past years we have also given scholarships to young people. The young people are our future and we try to do whatever we can to help them go on and further their education," President Hunter said.

This year's scholarship recipients included, Patricia Acosta Elizabeth Bailey, Jessica Bonner, Andrew Quinn Brooks, Montessa Bussey, Vavah Fiase, Rafael Marsail, Fields, Jaslyn Greene, Stephen Gregory Harrison, Taja Hendricks, Erica Hollingsworth, Chavon Charee' Noel, Hasaan Rahseed Spenser M. Redd, Sharmaine Tate and Kandace Waddy.



Dr. Lisa A. King and President Hunter

Black Enterprise Exclusive: The Business Of Faith

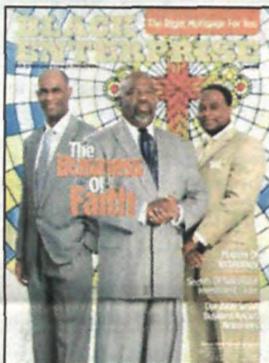
For a growing number of modern-day clergy, preaching from the pulpit is only half of the job. A rising number of profitably managed black megachurches are turning pastors into high-profile CEOs of multimillion-dollar enterprises. In the May issue's special report, "The Business of Faith," BLACK ENTERPRISE (BE) conducts exclusive interviews with cover subjects Pastor Kirbyjon Caldwell and Bishops T.D. Jakes and Eddie L. Long-religious leaders who have embraced business in a big way-often facing criticism-to further their church mission, spiritual message, and entrepreneurial aspirations.

The combination of church and business is booming as ministries grant pastors oversight of both for-profit and

nonprofit ventures. A prime example is Bishop T.D. Jakes. As head of the Dallas-based The Potter's House-one of the nation's most prominent non-denominational churches with roughly 30,000 congregants-Jakes, 48, is adept at juggling projects. He successfully serves as the chief spiritual leader of his vast number of parishioners while simultaneously pursuing his entrepreneurial dreams. His \$15 million for-profit media empire, T.D. Jakes Enterprises L.L.C., includes books, plays, a record label, and motion pictures, including *Woman, Thou Art Loosed!*

"The pastor oversees two kingdoms divided by a carefully constructed firewall," says BE News Editor Nicole Marie Richardson, who co-wrote the feature and spent months researching black megachurch-

es. "The ministry has a compensation board that determines Bishop Jakes' salary and approves all budgets, including last year's \$15 million MegaFest. This solid financial



infrastructure has enabled the church to fund nearly 100 charitable ministries ranging from grief management to debt con-

solidation." To secure the flow of revenue for his far-reaching endeavors, Jakes employs what he calls the three Ps: partners, corporations that help fund programs and initiatives; products, items sold to the public for proceeds that go to the church; and people, congregants who make significant contributions.

To avoid conflicts, Bishop Jakes employs two staffs and uses different accounting systems and financial institutions for The Potter's House and T.D. Jakes Enterprises. He also has two sets of accountants perform separate compliance audits. By embracing entrepreneurship and sound business practices for both his church and his companies, Bishop Jakes says he's answering God's call. "(Our) compliance audits are so thorough that if I bought you a Coca-Cola on my church card,

it would show up in the audit," says Jakes. "We are pastoring to the equivalent of a small city. If

you're going to be here for longevity's sake, you have to do things right."

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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.

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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

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7710 S. Westmoreland Rd.
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972-671-1096 (Church)

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

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