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# The Gazette

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## People In The News



Dr. Frederick D. Haynes, III, pastor of Friendship West Baptist Church in Dallas, will be presenting the keynote address at the Renaissance Cultural Center in Fort Worth on June 9. The 13th Annual Dr. Marion J. Brooks Living Legend Awards and Scholarship Banquet will honor five local citizens for community service as well as 10 Tarrant county graduating seniors.

Dr. Haynes has been senior pastor of Friendship West Baptist Church since 1983. Under his leadership, the church has grown from approximately 500 members to over 8000 members. The church has two worship services, two corporate bible studies and weekly ministries for men, women, youth, children, seniors, singles and married couples.

Dr. Haynes graduated from Bishop College in 1982 with a Bachelor of Arts in Religion and English. He followed with a Master of Divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He also received his Doctorate in Ministry from Oxford University in Oxford, England in 2005.

His message has reached millions of people in several locations across the world including Africa, Australia, the Caribbean and across North America.

Michelle Stimpson, author of Boaz Brown and soon to be released Divas of Damascus Road, will present a creative writing workshop through the Black Writer's Guild of Irving on Saturday, June 10 from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. at the Magnolia Lounge in Fair Park.



She earned her master's degree from the University of Texas at Arlington. Stimpson is an educational consultant in Dallas, where she lives with her husband and two children.

Stimpson's debut novel, Boaz Brown, is the story of LaShonda Smith, a woman who falls in love with a man of a different race. It focuses on racism in the African American community.

Divas of Damascus Road, which will be available July 12, tells the story of Dianne as she returns home after 20 years. Dianne has had a broken spirit about her family since the death of her sister, Shannon, and she struggles with blaming herself for her troubled past and devastating present.

Stimpson's books are published by Walk Worth Press, a Christian publishing company that hopes to instill the power of God's love in their readers' lives.



Anise D. Wiley-Little, of Northbrook, Ill., was promoted to assistant vice president and chief diversity officer for Allstate Insurance Company. Although she will still head the company's diversity efforts, Wiley-Little will now have direct accountability for supplier diversity and the opportunity to better integrate and expand Allstate's established diversity strategies.

"We drive all our diversity programs based on what employees tell us is important," said Wiley-Little, according to the National Association of Female Executives.

Wiley-Little started at Allstate in 1984 and has over 20 years of experience in several human resources disciplines. Under her leadership as director of diversity and work and life, Allstate has been recognized for its diversity efforts by many publications including Diversity Best Practices, Essence, DiversityInc, Hispanic Business and Working Mother and Chicago magazine.

She is also on the boards of the YWCA of Lake County Illinois, Corporate Voices for Working Families and the Soaring Eagle Community Development Corporation. She received her bachelor's degree from Illinois State University and master's degree from the University of Illinois.

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## At The Corner Of Progress And Peril



**Black men describe shared existence, duelling realities of success, failure**

By Michael A. Fletcher - The Washington Post

What does it mean to be a black man? Imagine three African American boys, kindergartners who are largely alike in intelligence, talent and

character, whose potential seems limitless. According to a wealth of statistics and academic studies, in just over a decade one of the boys is likely to be

Progress And Peril Page 6

## Leadership Plano Class 23 Graduates

**Leadership Plano Class 23 graduated at a ceremony at the Chamber of Commerce Excellence in Business luncheon on May 23.**

Distinguished graduates were:

Missy Bender, community volunteer; Michael Bond, D.O., North Texas Medical Group; Laura Curran, community volunteer; Terri Gibson, Emerson Process Management; Tonya Horton, Plano Independent School District; Regina Hughes, Collin County Community College District; Suzy Jones, ArtCentre of Plano; Tammy Kennedy, City of Plano; Cynthia Kirsch, Prince of Peace Catholic School; Matt Leyrer, Granite Properties; Lisa Marquis, Easley and Marquis, PLLC; Gregory Myer, Cadbury Schweppes Americas Beverages; Anne Neeley, Custer Road United Methodist Church; Cynthia

O'Banner, City of Plano; Michelle Parks, Benchmark Dallas Mortgage; Harry Polly, Comerica Bank; Cecilia Prada, United Resources for Hispanics; Kristen Price, Plano International Preschool; Lisa Raskin, Junior League of Plano; Charles Reed, Schlotzsky's Deli; Scott Shanes, Strasburger & Price, LLP; Burton Smith, Plano Independent School District; Sara Shinneman, community volunteer; Janet Stovall, Baylor Regional Medical Center at Plano; Shelley Strickland,

Leadership Plano Page 5

## MERGE: The Black Expo Returns For Second Year!



The Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce, Dallasblack.com, 94.5 K-SOUL and Countrywide Home Loans have joined forces to present Stone Soul Weekend featuring MERGE 2006: The Black EXPO -

Business::Technology::Entertainment::Community. MERGE 2006 is a high-energy exposition of local and national businesses providing a host of products and services targeting the African-American business professional and consumer.

Exhibitor reviews of last year's EXPO included, "It may prove to be my best event ever, it was excellent!" (Kenneth Dean-ACKLEY Financial Group), "This was my inaugural expo and it was wonderful!" (L.C. - L-Events), "Well organ-

Merge: The Black Expo Page 5

## Frisco To Host Reebok Celebrity Heroes Baseball Game

The Fifth Annual Reebok Heroes Celebrity Baseball Game is set for Saturday, June 24, 2006 at the Dr Pepper Ballpark, 7300 Rough Riders Trail in Frisco, Texas.

The event, which has raised more than \$1 million for youth programs over the past five years, benefits the children's charities of the Mike Modano Foundation and Todd Wagner Foundation and the Little Heroes Baseball Field Foundation.

Two baseball teams, each made up of 10 celebrity players and 10 amateurs, will play "hard-charging, umpires umping, trash-talking, uniform-wearing, managers managing, base-stealing, home-run hitting, nine inning, authentic BASEBALL!" The game will feature 60 MPH machine-



Rosario Dawson

Celebrity Heroes Baseball Page 8

## Irving Selects New City Manager

By: Lakesha Joe

Tommy Gonzalez, the former Assistant City Manager for the City of Dallas, began his duties as the new City Manager for the City of Irving in May.

"The City of Irving is blessed with many unique attributes, incredible amenities and a wealth of infrastructure," said Gonzalez. "I am honored to have been selected as its new city manager, and look forward to making a difference in Irving."

In addition to Gonzalez's experience as Dallas' Assistant City Manager where he was responsible for such areas as risk management, human resources, payroll, and safety, he has had quite a bit of experience in city government. Gonzalez was also a City Manager for the City of Harlingen, Texas where he was responsible for twenty-five departments. Gonzalez also

held several city government positions with the City of Lubbock, Texas.

Gonzalez is an eighteen year veteran of the U.S. Army, achieving the rank of major. He also earned a master's degree in public administration from Texas Tech University in Lubbock Texas.

Duties for Gonzalez as Irving's City Manager include supervision of two thousand employees and a general fund budget of \$145 million.

As Irving's new City Manager, Gonzalez has already discovered a few key issues that need to be addressed in the city of Irving. Those issues include Texas Stadium redevelopment, neighborhood revitalization, Irving's changing demographics, and economic development initiatives.

On the issue of neighborhood revitalization, Gonzalez

Irving's New Chief Page 5

## Youth Sports Summit To Address Character, Values

Coaches, parents, professional athletes, sports education experts and high school and college athletes will gather in Plano on Wednesday, July 19th to address how to incorporate character and values into sports programs.

The Youth Sports Summit sponsored by The Open Doors Foundation, will be held at the Plano Convention Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The event is open to the public. There is a \$50 registration fee, which will cover lunch, six workshops and admission to an exhibition area that will have representatives from clothing stores, recreational equipment, energy products, fitness centers, sports organizations and nonprofits.

The summit is being offered through the foundation's The Academies of Excellence, a public charity that is financially supported by the organization. Open Doors was founded five years ago by Werner Scott, chief executive officer of Advantage Marketing Group, a sports marketing and business enterprise



Emmitt Smith

development firm, and Emmitt Smith, Dallas Cowboy legend. The mission is to provide underserved youth with educational opportunities, career and life-altering experiences.

"We want to shift the focus from pay and performance to how we can develop young people to be better citizens," said Ira J. Hadnot, interim executive director. "Sports provide many opportunities for personal growth that transcends the basketball court, football field, and baseball diamond and hockey arena. Unfortunately much of the original intent behind youth sports programs created at the

Youth Sports Summit Page 9

## Bush, President Of Congo Discuss Darfur

President Bush said Monday that it's important for United Nations forces to take over peace-keeping as soon as possible in the Darfur region of Sudan where nearly 200,000 people have died in a three-year conflict.

Bush met at the White House with Denis Sassou-Nguesso, president of the Republic of Congo and head of the 53-nation African



President Bush, right, meets with Denis Sassou-Nguesso, the president of the Republic of Congo and head of the 53-nation African Union at the White House

Bush Discusses Darfur Page 8



# Garland NAACP Youth Council Image Awards Honors 90 Local Students

By: Erin Evans

The Garland Youth Council of the NAACP honored 90 middle and high school students at their inaugural Image Awards banquet on Saturday, June 3, at Mount Hebron Christian Academy.

Honorees were selected from areas across North Dallas including Garland, Rowlett, Sachse, Rockwall, Richardson, Mesquite, Allen and other surrounding communities.

Among the honorees were David Dorsey, a recent gradu-

ate of North Garland High School and also Texas DECA president, Marcus Pyle of Garland, who started his own orchestra, and Stephanie Williams, recent graduate from Allen High School and new member of the Texas Ballet Theatre.

Brian Kyle Johnson, Vice President of Compass Bank and Garland Plan Commissioner of District 4, was the master of ceremonies for the banquet.

The keynote speaker for the event was Leviathan Winn,

founder and chairman of the Inspiring Positive Change Initiative, Inc.

The program also honored eight ACT-SO gold medalists. These winners will compete at the NAACP National Convention from July 15-20 in Washington, D.C.

Among the ACT-SO participants were Johnathan Coffield in music composition, Ashley Spencer in classical vocals, Larry Clemon, Jr. in classical instrumental, Chizara Amajor in drawing, LaKeisha Williams in con-

temporary vocals and Stephanie Williams in dance who all presented their talents at the banquet. Cameron Thompkins and Erik Carter will also compete in music composition and dramatics, respectively.

"It's extremely exciting to be president the first year we're having our Image Awards ceremony," said Naima Blakes, Garland youth council president. "Now I can only hope that next year's officers continue the hard work and make this event even bigger for next year."



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## Around The Town

### Ongoing

#### 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

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

214-421-0013, www.myspace.com/sankofakre

**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

**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.

**Free Tenant Legal Workshops** are at 6 p.m.

Tuesdays at Douglass Community Center, 1111 Ave. H in Plano. Call 972-941-7174.

**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.

**"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. Call 972-267-4452.

**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.

**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.

### June 8

**7th Annual First Lady Conference.** Features Lois Evans, wife of Dr. Tony Evans at Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship Church. 'A Safe Place' for pastors' wives to have a time for reflection, renewal, and relaxation. Fairmont Hotel, 1717 N. Akard St., Dallas, General sessions: Thurs. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Fri. 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 7:30-9:30 p.m., Sat. 8:30-9:45 a.m. For more information go to www.alrnews.kitchen.com/firstlady.

**JazzBreaks** on the Plaza at the Mesquite Arts Center Tuesdays in June at 7:30 p.m. Free. Features Julie Bonk, Norah Jones' former piano teacher. For more information call 972-216-6444.

### June 9

**3rd Annual CityArts Celebration Festival,** Dallas Arts District, 325 North St. Paul, Dallas, Thru Sunday

**Ham-Com 2006**-The largest Amateur Radio gathering in Texas. Commercial exhibitors and vendors will exhibit the latest equipment available for local, regional and world-wide communications. Thur Sat. Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway. Contact: Barry A. Goldblatt 972.596.4669 or email office@hamcom.org or visit www.hamcom.org.

### June 10

**Jackie Townsell African Dance and Drumming Clinic.** Want to learn a cultural dance? Come learn as Jackie Townsell teaches kids

African dance. For children ages 8 and up. Starts at 10:00 a.m. 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd, Irving, Texas, 75062. Register by calling 972-252-ARTS. \$20.

**TBAAL presents...**Dance with LaHunter in Flight. If you like modern dance, ballet and jazz or even a stint of hip-hop, then you're sure to enjoy IN FLIGHT. LaWonda Hunter, founder and artistic director. Bruton Theatre in Fair Park. 8:00 p.m. Tickets on sale thru Ticketmaster for \$10.

### June 13

**Job Fair** hosted by Employment News. Meet face to face with top companies from the Metroplex in one day, saving weeks of research and interviewing. Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway.

Free admission For more information call 972-280-0087 or visit www.dallasemploymentnews.com

**Big Band Dance Clinic** at Plano Senior Center. Tuesday is dancing night! Lessons on how to do the slow-tempo bolero takes place before the floor is opened up to big band dancing. Bolero class: \$8 starts at 5:45 p.m.. Dance: \$5 from \$7 - 9 p.m. For information call 972-941-7155.

### June 14

**Tax Alliance Conference** Tax seminar for EAs, CAPs and attorneys on how to represent clients before the IRS. Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway. Admission: \$300 for Conference only; \$85 for Bootcamp For more information contact Larry Jones at 214-696-2661 or visit www.taxalliance.org.

### June 15

**Plano Juneteenth Celebration,** Douglass Community Center, 1111 Avenue H,

Thursday-Sunday Join in Plano's 2006 Juneteenth Celebration for three days of family fun, sports, live music, games and plenty of food! Thurs. 7p, Mr./Miss Juneteenth Contest/ Pageant -12th graders, Friday 7-9p Family Fun Fest - games, trivia and prizes, 9-11p Blue Print - great live music with an "old-school" band, 11p-1a Dancing & Music - with a DJ, Sat. 2-3p Youth Challenge-relays and games, 3:30-5p, 3-on-3 Basketball Contest for ages 11 to 17 years, 7-9p, 6th Annual Old-School/New-School Basketball Game

Pageant contact person is Charlotte.Green@comcast.net and or call 214-227-8599. For more details, contact Alex Alexander at 972-941-7174.

**Adoptions Information Seminar** This seminar is for anyone interested in international adoption. We will be giving details about our programs in Vietnam, Guatemala, Russia and Kazakhstan. Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway. Admission is Free.

For more information and to RSVP call 214.342.8388 or email info@adoptmeinternational.org or visit www.adoptmeinternational.org

### June 16

**TBAAL presents...Comedy Night at the Muse.** Comedians Shang, Spencer, Kool Bubba Ice, T.P. Hearn, Jay Lamont and Emmanuel Lewis. Clarence Muse

Café Theatre: Dallas Convention Center on Friday and Saturday at 9:00 p.m. \$20.

### June 17

**Plano Police Department** Civil Service Entrance Exam is scheduled at 8 a.m. June 17 at Plano West Senior High School, 5601 W. Parker Road. Preregistration required by Thursday. Visit www.planopolice.org.

**Merge 2006:** The Black Expo. The largest exhibition of African American owned businesses in the state of Texas. Fair Park Automobile Bldg. Saturday from 10:00 am - 6 p.m. Sunday from 12:00 - 6:00 p.m.

### June 23

**TBAAL presents...**6th Annual Sankofa Muse Café Bash: Wine, Watermelon, The Word, Sistahs Night on the Mic. Clarence Muse Café Theatre: Dallas Convention Center on Friday and Saturday at 9:00 p.m. Open Mic hosted by national writer Camika Spencer. \$20.

**6th Annual Love Hangover Relationship Conference** hosted by Christian Chapel Temple of Faith CME Church. Are you ready to use faith to see beyond your circumstances and live above "see" level? Come out to the Hilton Suites, Dallas North, Friday at 7:30 p.m. Saturday from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Guest Speaker: Prophet Eric Copeland of San Antonio.

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**Paul Hailey**

## Does Building Fences Ever Really Work?

President Bush came "home" to Texas this week, visiting Laredo during the first wave of deployment of some 6000 National Guard Troops along the border with Mexico. Initially, I became troubled by the whole affair: our President, once again using an ugly national issue to cover his political backside (remember 9/11 and the war in Iraq?). Then I thought about his actions and considered the reality—everything the President does is political, and patrolling the border with the National Guard may be his most political balancing act to date.

The problem for Republicans is that the issue of immigration has divided the party more than any other issue in recent history. Immigration highlights the differences in the two faces of today's Republicans. On one extreme is the big-business wing of the party, with the social conservatives on the other extreme. They are engaged in what I call "the dance of the heartless": big business is interested in a constant supply of cheap labor, while the talk-show conservatives want to crack down on the lawlessness of the border. The President is caught in the middle trying to keep both sides in line, at least until after the mid-term elections in November.

That these groups are fighting is nothing new, what's new is that they are doing it publicly.

Bush can't afford to let their public fight continue. 70% of Americans disapprove of his performance on the job, and his list of mistakes continue to grow exponentially. Here's a recap in case you've forgotten: he's still spearheading a war he

declared over three years ago; totally mishandled a hurricane that devastated a major U.S. city; he had intimate knowledge of a domestic program that entailed illegally wiretapping hundreds of thousands of phone calls of ordinary citizens; and he has repeatedly engineered tax cuts for the wealthy in spite of the largest national debt in our history (\$9 trillion and counting).

So the President walks the tightrope on immigration. His two-prong policy is to build a wall and patrol the border at the same time he offers a guest worker program to the immigrants already in the country.

The part of the plan that has me reeling is the building of a wall. Is that it? The best the U.S. House and Senate can come up with in 2006 is to send 6,000 National Guard troops to build a wall on the Mexican border? "We'll just build a wall and that will keep all those immigrants from crossing the border". Yeah, right.

The reality is walls and fences don't work. The United States border with Mexico is nearly 2000 miles long and stretches across a variety of terrains, ranging from major urban areas to inhospitable deserts. The lunacy of building a fence is that it does

nothing for the 11 million illegal immigrants already here, and it does little to stop the estimated 500,000 that make the trek yearly.

What building a wall does accomplish is forcing those crossing the border to move to the more remote areas of the desert to avoid getting caught, which results in deaths. Since 1993, when the Clinton administration clamped down on the border, more than 3,500 people have died trying to get into the United States through the desert. You can expect that number to increase, you can also expect that you won't hear anyone talking about it.

The bottom line is the immigration issue is complicated. It won't be solved with simple actions, like building a fence. The barn door is already open, fences are not going to close it. What is necessary is a real comprehensive policy that develops Mexico economically so people that live there, want to stay there. We will never stop the flow of immigrants, legal or otherwise into this country. That is something our President, in all his political posturing, will never admit publicly.

Paul Hailey can be reached at editor@MonTheGazette.com



COUCH POTATOES

## AIDS Fades From White to Black

By: George E. Curry  
- NNPA Columnist

When a strange disease, later known as AIDS, was first detected at UCLA 25 years ago, it was difficult to get African-Americans interested in what was largely dismissed as "White gay disease." Today, however, AIDS is increasingly considered largely a "Black disease" that afflicts both gays and straights, males and females.

"Today, more than half of all people living with HIV/AIDS and newly-infected with HIV each year in the United States are Black," Phill Wilson, executive director of the Black AIDS Institute, said at a news conference here Monday. "Among women, Blacks account for two-thirds of all new infections. And recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention studies estimate nearly half of all Black gay and bisexual men in some of America's urban centers are already infected. These facts represent an unprecedented crisis for Black America."

Wilson and Pernessia Seele, founder of the Balm in Gilead and a major organizer of Black church efforts in the U.S. and Africa, have had a major impact on helping African-Americans realize that HIV and AIDS are ravaging Blacks in the U.S. and around the world, especially in Africa.

The heightened awareness was evident at the news conference called by Wilson. Among those present to lend support were actor Danny Glover, U.S. Representatives Charles Rangel and Donna M. Christenson, NAACP President Bruce Gordon, Reverends Gregory Smith of Mother AME Zion Church and Edwin Sanders of Metropolitan Interdenominational Church; National Urban League Senior Vice President for Programs Donald Bowen; Rachel Guglielmo of the Open Society Institute, and news media representatives from the National Newspaper Publishers

Association (NNPA), American Urban Radio Networks and Black Entertainment Television.

All have signed on to Phill Wilson's call to "win" the AIDS fight over the next five years. His organization issued a new report titled, "AIDS in Black Face: 25 Years of an Epidemic."

Wilson said the report, which chronicles Black America's AIDS epidemic, "make it clear that a quarter century into America's saga with AIDS, the epidemic is more Black than ever."

The 25 years of AIDS is not an anniversary one likes to celebrate. And it's important to not get caught up in the past, Wilson says.

"While this reports looks back at the first 25 years of the AIDS epidemic, it's not a report about our yesterdays," he said. "It is a proclamation about our tomorrows with recommendations for individuals, communities, and elected officials on how to end the AIDS epidemic in Black America."

One can no longer dismiss AIDS as a "White disease." Some of the most notable AIDS-related deaths of African-Americans include tennis great Arthur Ashe, journalist Max Robinson, Rev. James Cleveland, dance choreographer Alvin Ailey and rapper Eric "Easy E" Wright.

The "AIDS in Blackface" report observes: "The epidemic's frontline is quickly shifting from larger, northern cities to the more dispersed communities of the South. Today, seven of the 10 states with the highest per capita AIDS rates are in the South, and 41 percent of people living with HIV are in the Southeast. It is particularly a Black epidemic. Eight of the 10 Blackest state epidemics are in the South."

A chart in the report breaks it down on a state-by-state basis. For example, African-Americans are 26 percent of the population in Alabama, but 63 percent of the AIDS cases; Blacks are 15 percent of the population in Florida

yet account for 49 percent of the AIDS cases; in Georgia, Blacks represent 70 percent of all AIDS cases while constituting 29 percent of the population; Mississippi is 37 percent Black but African-Americans are 73 percent of the AIDS cases; the Tennessee Black population is 16 percent, with African-Americans accounting for just more than half — 52 percent — of those with AIDS; Blacks represent 11 percent of the Texas population and 35 percent of the AIDS cases there and Virginia, with a 19 percent Black population, has a 59 percent share.

Blacks also represent more than half of all AIDS cases in Delaware (68 percent), the District of Columbia (82 percent), Illinois (52 percent), Louisiana (66 percent), Maryland (80 percent), Michigan (58 percent), New Jersey (55 percent), North Carolina (69 percent), Pennsylvania (53 percent) and South Carolina (73 percent).

Recommendations include:

- Rejecting the idea that HIV and AIDS is inevitable;
- Demanding that proven weapons such as needle exchanges and arming youth with more than abstinence only information be expanded;
- Expanding access to treatment;
- Ending the stigma associated with HIV and AIDS.

The report stated, "In the final analysis, this epidemic isn't terribly complicated: When we allow politics, subjective notions of morality and profit-driven health economics to reign over public health, the most vulnerable in our society are left for HIV to prey upon."

George E. Curry is editor-in-chief of the NNPA News Service and BlackPress USA.com. To contact Curry or to book him for a speaking engagement, go to his Web site, www.georgecurry.com.

### Where Do You Want To Go Today?

#### Publisher's Office:

Phone: (972) 516-2992

Fax: (972) 509-9058

Email: publisher@monthegazette.com

#### Editorial Department:

Phone: (972) 516-2992

Fax: (972) 516-4197

Email: editor@monthegazette.com

#### Entertainment Department:

Phone: (972) 509-9049

Email: entertainment@monthegazette.com

#### Sales Department:

Phone: (972) 509-9049

Fax: (972) 509-9058

Email: opportunity@monthegazette.com

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## Mass Killers Come In All Colors

By: Earl Ofari Hutchinson

In the Hollywood potboiler "Copy Cat," forensic investigator Sigourney Weaver is on the hunt for a mass killer. In a talk to investigators she cracks, "All African-American and Asian males, please sit down." She meant that black and Asian men should not fear being dumped in a lineup of likely mass murder suspects. The line got a knowing chuckle. For decades, police, FBI officials, forensic specialists, profiling experts and psychologists have tagged a serial killer as a hate-filled, sexually repressed, white male loner.

The morbid media attention on mass killers such as Son of Sam, David Berkowitz, Ted Bundy, John Wayne Gacy and the Unabomber, reinforced the image of serial killers as loopy white males. But the slaughter of a Latino family in Indianapolis, allegedly by Desmond Turner (a young black male) and possibly other blacks; the shooting rampage by Beltway sniper John Muhammad; and the brutal family murders in Baton Rouge, Louisiana shatter the reverse racial profile of a mass killer. In the Indianapolis killings, police speculated that the motive was robbery — but then the killers simply decided to kill everyone.

Even before the latest spate of mass killings by blacks, there were horrifying and alarming signs that Muhammad and the young blacks that produced the gruesome body count in Baton Rouge and allegedly in Indianapolis were not total aberrations. A study and a survey on mass killers specifically looked at the race of the killers. The study found that the majority of mass killers were white. But it also noted that blacks now comprise about 15 percent of America's rogue gallery of mass murderers. That was a sharp jump from

years past. The survey listed the names of blacks convicted of mass murders, and the number of murders they committed.

In a perverse and bitter irony, the racial profiling of young white males as likely mass murderers, in the case of Muhammad's killing spree and Derrick Todd Lee — convicted of killing five women in Louisiana — police, FBI, and psychologists repeatedly took wrong turns in the hunt. This unwittingly gave the black killers more time to commit their deadly acts. This pattern has been repeated in other cases involving mass killings.

That doubly compounds the gruesome tragedy. The victims of black mass killers are in many instances other blacks or non-whites. They often live in the poorest inner city neighborhoods where the murder rates are far higher than in middle-class suburbs. More often than not, they are poor minority women. They are perceived as the weakest and most vulnerable, and those routinely subjected to male violence.

Many blacks charge that police turn a blind eye to the violence in poor communities, or at best are laggard in their investigations. Police officials hotly deny the charge. They say that if cases aren't cracked quickly it's because witnesses refuse to cooperate. The time lag in solving these cases enable the killers to go undetected much longer. This increases the peril to residents, and ultimately makes more victims. The young blacks that commit multiple murders, no matter how far beyond the pale of society's accepted code of behavior, still are savvy enough to target victims who pose no real physical or personal threat to them. In Indianapolis, their victims were a Latino family. Their neighbors described them as law abiding, and hard-working.

Muhammad's victims were mixed genders, and racially diverse. That further stoked public panic, and riveted national attention. Police and FBI officials initially assumed that the killer was white. But with evidence mounting — along with the testimony of eyewitnesses — that the killer was black, they quickly reversed course and focused on black men. If they hadn't, Muhammad would have continued to kill. In fact, at his Maryland trial for multiple killings in the state, his teen accomplice John Malvo testified that he planned to kill young children. That also fit the pattern in which mass killers prey on the weak and the vulnerable.

Police and FBI officials in Indianapolis learned from the mistakes made in investigations in other multiple murder cases. They quickly fingered one or more young blacks as the likely killers. They concentrated their personnel resources on bagging them. The speedy apprehension of the prime suspect in the Indianapolis slayings almost certainly saved lives and sent the message that the lives of the urban poor are just as valued as those of suburban whites.

The horrible personal demons of rage, hatred, repression, and violent fantasies that plague killers such as Muhammad and push them to commit monstrous acts are no different from the demons that chase white mass killers. The violence they wreak in communities whether rich or poor, and on victims of all races, can traumatize a city, as the Indianapolis killings did, or a nation, as did Muhammad's rampage. When that happens it tragically shows that mass killers can and do come in all colors.

**MON The Gazette**  
Founded 1991  
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### Is the sky clearest on the day it is most blue?

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

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

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



## School A Combative Place For Minority Students

**Black and Hispanic students see school as tougher, rougher place to learn**

Black and Hispanic students see school as a more rowdy, disrespectful and dangerous place than their white classmates do, a poll says.

The findings suggest that many minority kids are struggling in the equivalent of a hostile work environment, according to Public Agenda, a nonpartisan opinion research group that tracks education trends.

Minority children in public middle and high schools are more likely than white children to describe profanity, truancy, fighting, weapons and drug

abuse as "very serious" problems.

The black and Hispanic children — under pressure to close their test-score gaps with whites — also see more pervasive academic woes, such as lower standards, higher dropout rates and kids who advance even if they don't learn.

"There is so much discussion about the achievement gap, and we talk about teachers and curriculum and testing and money," said Jean Johnson, Public Agenda's executive vice president and an author of the report.

"We need to add something to that list — school climate. For these kids, it has become such a distracting atmosphere,"



Johnson said.

Thirty percent of black students said teachers spend more time trying to keep order in class

than teaching; 14 percent of white students said the same.

More than half of black students said kids who lack respect for teachers and use bad language are a very serious problem, compared with less than one-third of white students.

Hispanic students also reported worse social and academic conditions in school than white children, although the gaps were not as large as they were between blacks and whites.

On the plus side, the poll found positive results that cut across race and ethnicity.

Majorities of children said they are learning a lot in reading, writing and math classes. Most students said at least one teacher who has gotten them interested in a subject they usually hate.

The students agreed on matters of work ethic, too.

About eight in 10 said it is good for school districts to require higher standards, even if that means kids must go to summer school. Almost 60 percent of black students acknowledged they could try a little harder, compared to 53 percent of Hispanics and 46 percent of whites.

In perspective, most students said schools were meeting expectations on most measures.

Yet the minority children were more likely to see students struggling to get by in class, to see unfair enforcement of discipline rules, to say schools aren't getting enough money.

"Students of color are correct in their understanding that their schools get less in the way of resources, and offer less in the way of high standards," said Ross Wiener, policy director of The Education Trust, an advocacy group for poor and minority children. "It is a shame that a country dedicated to equal opportunity tolerates these inequities."

Among students in public schools, 59 percent are white, 19 percent are Hispanic and 17 percent are black, according to Education Department numbers from the 2003-04 school year.

## Teen Graffiti Magazine Awards Three Scholarships

Warren Seay, Jr. of DeSoto, TX; Margaret Smith of Fort Worth, TX; and Kristi Walton of Dallas, TX are the recipients of this year's Teen Graffiti Education Scholarships for



Kristi Walton

their outstanding commitment to education and community service. Warren, Margaret and Kristi will each receive a \$250.00 Book Scholarship.

Warren is a 2006 graduate of DeSoto High School, and he will be attending Howard University in the fall majoring in Political Science. Warren is the son of Cynthia and Warren Seay, Sr. of DeSoto, Texas. Margaret Smith is a 2006 graduate of All Saint's Episcopal High School, and she will be attending Dartmouth College in the fall majoring in Civil Engineering. Margaret is the daughter of Phyllis Smith of Fort Worth, Texas. And Kristi Walton is a 2006 graduate of Lincoln High School Humanities/Communications

Magnet, and she plans to attend Grambling State University in the fall majoring in Nursing. Kristi is the daughter of Richie Fields of Dallas, Texas.

Last year's scholarship recipients were Erin Graham a graduate of Lincoln High School Humanities/Communications Magnet, Brandon Jay a graduate of Cedar Hill High School, Leticia Kelly a graduate of Naaman Forest High School, and Clarissa Rumphs a graduate of North Garland High School. The 2004 recipients were Crystal Harper a graduate of Lake Highlands High School and Brian Irvin Chapman a graduate of Justin F. Kimball High School.

Teen Graffiti's Education Scholarship was founded on the principle that today's youth are tomorrow's leaders. We believe that in order for youth to become strong leaders they must be comfortable with who they are, be well-rounded, possess a strong desire to make a difference in their community and be a positive influence for others. We further believe that involvement in community service and strong academics should be both encouraged and rewarded. With this in mind, through our scholarship, we provide financial assistance to graduating seniors who challenge themselves to be their best and reward them for their efforts. These scholarships are made possible through funds raised from annual fundraisers: Mr. & Miss Teen Graffiti Competition and Scholarship

Benefit, Teen Graffiti's Keepin' It Real! Youth Empowerment Summit and private and individual contributions.

Teens Reaching Teens, Incorporated, is a 501 c3 organization whose mission is to provide quality community-based programs and services that motivate and empower teens to develop and enhance their educational, social, leadership and professional development skills.

Students interested in applying for Teen Graffiti's 2007 Education Scholarships can review eligibility requirements, download application forms, and explore Teen Graffiti's website at [www.teengraffiti.com](http://www.teengraffiti.com) or



Margaret Smith

by writing to Teens Reaching Teens, Inc.; c/o Teen Graffiti's Education Scholarship; P.O. Box 452721; Garland, Texas 75045-2721.

For additional information about Teens Reaching Teens, Inc. (<http://www.teensreachingteens.org>); Teen Graffiti

Magazine (<http://www.teengraffiti.com>) contact Sharon Jones-Scaife, Executive Director at 972-496-9457 or email [sharonjs@teensreachingteens.org](mailto:sharonjs@teensreachingteens.org).



Warren Seay

## TWU Schedules June Visits To Collin

Recruiters from Texas Woman's University (TWU) will offer information about transferring to TWU and accept admission applications during their visits to the Collin County Community College District (Collin) campuses in June.

TWU staff will visit the Spring Creek Campus Atrium from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and 5-7 p.m., Tuesday, June 13 and the Preston Ridge Campus Founders Atrium from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday, June 26.

Prospective transfer students will have the opportunity to learn more about TWU and will receive information on admissions, financial aid, housing, commuter information and more.

TWU's \$30 application fee will be waived for students who turn in complete admission packets to TWU staff at the event.

For more information, visit [www.twu.edu](http://www.twu.edu) and click on "June Community College Visits," e-mail [admissions@twu.edu](mailto:admissions@twu.edu) or call Collin at 972.985.3734 or TWU at 866.809.6130.

Collin County Community College District (Collin) serves more than 40,000 credit and continuing education students annually and offers more than 100 degree and certificate programs. The only public college in the county, Collin is a partner to business, government and industry, providing customized.

## Fall Registration Starting June 13 At Eastfield

Fall 2006 Registration at Eastfield College will begin June 13 for returning students; students who have never taken classes at Eastfield College (or at any other Dallas County Community College District college) can begin registering for classes on June 19.

Returning students may reg-

ister one of the following ways: On campus with an advisor or program specialist or online at [www.eConnect.dcccd.edu](http://www.eConnect.dcccd.edu). New students must register in person by seeing an advisor.

All currently enrolled students who plan to register for the first Summer Session 2006 are urged to do so during the

first week of registration! Fall classes begin August 28.

For more information contact the Admissions Office at 972-860-7100.

Eastfield College, one of the seven Dallas County Community Colleges, is located at 3737 Motley Drive in Mesquite, just north of I-30.

## Court To Decide Race In School Admissions

The U.S. Supreme Court said on Monday it would decide whether race can be used as a factor in deciding which students are admitted to specific public schools, the first time President George W. Bush's two appointees will rule on a racial issue.

Taking up a politically charged issue in an election year, the justices agreed to decide whether the need for diversity justified using race as a factor to determine which elementary and secondary public schools students can attend.

The high court was closely divided by a 5-4 vote in 2003, the last time it confronted similar issues in a pair of rulings that involved preferences for minorities in university admissions decisions.

The cases from Kentucky and Washington state, setting the stage for a potential landmark ruling that may affect millions of students nationwide, will test the views of the court's two newest members, Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito, conservatives appointed by Bush.

In the Washington state case, Seattle used race as a tie-break-

ing factor in public high school admissions.

In the Kentucky case, the school district for the Louisville area used racial guidelines to keep black student enrollment at most schools between 15 percent and 50 percent to maintain diversity.

In Seattle, about 40 percent of the 46,000 public school students are white and 60 percent are not. Students state their preferences among the 10 public high schools.

Since some schools are more popular and are oversubscribed, the process involved the use of a "tiebreaker" system to decide who gets in.

Admitted first are students who have a sibling at the school. Next are students who bring the school in line with the district's overall racial mix. The next tiebreaker goes to students who live the closest to the school.

A group of parents sued in 2000 and argued it was unfair for the school district to consider race. A U.S. appeals court disagreed and ruled 7-4 that the district has a compelling interest to secure the educational and social benefits of racial diversity.

Lawyers for the parents

appealed to the Supreme Court. They said the Court had never decided a case involving a school district's voluntary use of race-based pupil assignments for a purpose other than to remedy the effects of past segregation.

In the Kentucky case, the Jefferson County school district operates 87 elementary schools, 23 middle schools and 20 high schools. Of the approximately 100,000 students, about 66 percent are white and 34 percent are black.

The high court will hear arguments in the two cases during its upcoming term beginning in October, adding to a docket that already contains another hot-button social issue dealing with abortion.



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# Black Americans Twice As Likely As White Americans To Start A Business

Black Americans are twice as likely as white Americans to try to start a business, according to a study by Dr. Philipp Koellinger of the German Institute for Economic Research and Babson College and Entrepreneurship Professor Maria Minniti.

The full article, "Not For Lack Of Trying: American Entrepreneurship In Black And White," also found that

black Americans tend to exhibit more optimistic perceptions of their business environment than other racial groups. However, black entrepreneurs are more likely than white entrepreneurs to fail in the early stages of the entrepreneurial process.

The findings are based on a sample obtained from the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor survey conducted in the United States during the summer of 2002. GEM is led by

Babson College and London Business School.

According to U.S. Bureau of the Census 1993 figures, approximately 11.6% of white workers are self-employed but only 3.8% of black workers are self-employed. Minniti and Koellinger research suggests that such a lack of participation in business ownership among blacks is not due to a lack of entrepreneurial propensity. "Just the opposite," said Prof.

Minniti. "We find that black Americans tend to exhibit more optimistic perceptions of their business environment than other racial groups. Thus, our results suggest that the underrepresentation of black Americans among established entrepreneurs is not due to lack of trying but may instead be due to stronger barriers to entry and higher failure rates.

The German Institute for Economic Research is one of

the leading research institutes in Germany. It is an independent, non-profit academic institution which is involved in basic research and policy advice. DIW Berlin was originally founded in 1925 as Institute for Business Cycle Research and was later renamed the German Institute for Economic Research.

Babson College in Wellesley, Mass., is recognized internationally as a leader in entrepre-

neurial management education. Babson grants BS degrees through its innovative undergraduate program, and grants MBA and custom MS and MBA degrees through the F.W. Olin Graduate School of Business at Babson College. Babson Executive Education offers executive development programs to experienced managers worldwide. For information, visit <http://www.babson.edu>.

## MERGE: The Black Expo Page 1

ized... fantastic!" (Dennis LeDuff-L.O.C.K.S. by LeDuff) This second annual event will allow businesses to expose their products and services to thousands of consumers from throughout Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas. The EXPO will fea-

ture exciting exhibits, educational seminars, live performances, dynamic attractions, fun and entertainment for the entire community.

This year's EXPO will celebrate Juneteenth, the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. MERGE

2006 will bring the public together in observance of family togetherness, business and economic development, self-improvement, preparing for the future and overall unity in the community.

The MERGE Black Expo will be held Saturday-Sunday, June 17-18, 2006

(Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. / Sunday :: 12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)

The event takes place at the Fair Park-Automobile Building (1010 First Avenue, Dallas), admission is free.

Celebrating 80 years, and with nearly 1,500 members, the Dallas Black Chamber of

Commerce is the oldest and largest African-American chamber of commerce in the nation. The chamber serves as an advocate for the creation, growth and general welfare of African-American businesses in the Dallas community. The chamber actively promotes the expansion of public/private sector business

opportunities on behalf of its members through referrals, partnerships, seminars, technical assistance and marketing.

For more info, contact Karen Smith - (214)827-7977, [ksmith@abstractconceptsinc.com](mailto:ksmith@abstractconceptsinc.com) or Dvorah A. Evans, CMP - (214)421-5200, [dae@dbcc.org](mailto:dae@dbcc.org). Visit [www.merge2006.com](http://www.merge2006.com)

## Leadership Plano Page 1

CTX Mortgage Company; Andrea Stroh, The Stroh Law Firm; Janelle Twyford-Silvas, America's Attik; and Libby Whitcomb, Plano Public Library System.

The following graduates were elected to the Leadership Board: Suzy Jones, Greg Meyer, Michelle Parks, Charles Reed, Burton Smith and Shelley Strickland

The Leadership Plano program is currently seeking applicants for its 2006-07 class. Leadership Plano, affiliated with the Plano Chamber of Commerce, conducts a nine-month community awareness and skill development program that introduces participants to the inner workings of the community. The program includes day-long sessions that focus on govern-

ment, education, health services, business and economic development, social services, the arts and community development.

According to Executive Director Carole Greisdorf, "Leadership Plano is the premier leadership development program in our area. Our graduates can be found throughout the community serving on non-profit boards of directors, in elected office and as corporate leaders."

Individuals from all segments of the community are encouraged to apply. Selection is based solely on an applicant's merit from the information provided in the application. Applicants must live or work in Plano and demonstrate an awareness of

the challenges and issues facing the Plano community as well as evidence of previous volunteer involvement. Additionally, all class members are required to attend a two-day retreat on the third Saturday and Sunday in September.

Tuition is \$800 for Plano Chamber of Commerce members and \$900 for non-members. A limited number of scholarships are available for applicants representing non-profit agencies or individuals who require financial assistance.

Applications for the program can be obtained at the Plano Chamber of Commerce office, 1200 E. 15th St., Plano, 75074, or can be downloaded from the Leadership Plano Web site at

[www.leadershipplano.org](http://www.leadershipplano.org). Applications are due at the Chamber office by 5 pm on

June 15th. Tuitions costs and program curriculum are also available on the Web site. For

more information, contact the Plano Chamber of Commerce at 972-424-7547.

## Irving's New Chief Page 1

believes that it is very important that the city of Irving have a housing standard in place and enforce that standard.

"It's important that we specify the type of housing construction we want in our city," said Gonzalez. "We want our housing units to be constructed at a higher standard, which will help to revitalize our neighborhoods."

In an effort to continue economic develop in the City of Irving, Gonzalez said that the city is continuing to partner with the businesses that are currently in the city. A lot of Fortune 500 companies have chosen Irving as their home site.

"Since becoming Irving's City Manager, I have started scheduling meeting with the different Chief Executive Officers of Irving's companies and getting their thoughts on the city and how it can make things better for them," said Gonzalez.

Another issues that Gonzalez has to tackle as the new City Manager is the changing demographics of the city. Just like many other Texas cities, Irving's demographics are changing and the city is going to have to change to in order to keep up with those demographics.

"The Mayor and City Council is looking to make various changes in the city were we have gaps with the public," said Gonzalez. "We have gaps with the public on such things as standardized forms - they may also need to be in Spanish for our Spanish speaking citizens."

As new City Manager, Gonzalez is also dealing with the absence of a minority procurement policy.

"On the issue of a minority procurement policy, we are working with outside parties who have met with us on the subject," said Gonzalez. We are very supportive of small businesses and policies that provide opportunity for all small businesses in this community."

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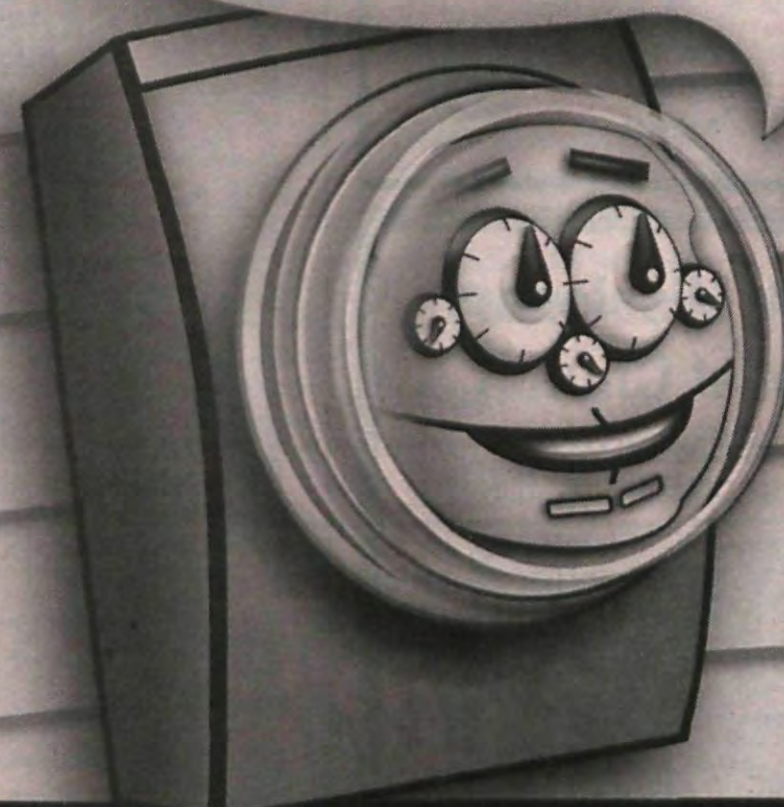
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# Customers Turning To Fuel-Efficient Ford Cars

By: Mike Thomas, FCN

As gas prices rise, customers are looking to smaller engines to save on fuel, a trend reflected in sales of the Ford Fusion and Mercury Milan. From January through mid-May, sales of four-cylinder models nearly doubled, now accounting for more than 20 percent of all Ford vehicles.

"Along with the Fusion and Milan, the increase also includes Focus and Escape," said George Pipas, manager, Sales Analysis. "Clearly, higher gas prices are increasing consumer demand to look at more fuel-efficient vehi-

cles and powertrains."

The growing popularity of four-cylinder engines extends beyond Ford to the industry as a whole. Autoweek Magazine reports that four-cylinder sales climbed from 30.1 percent of the market at the beginning of the year to 35.4 percent by the middle of May.

To get an idea of how the trend at Ford shifted from the Fusion's V-6 engine to the Inline4 cylinder (I4), Pipas points to the retail sales rate, which shows the percentage of engine types purchased.

"For February of this year, the Fusion's rate for the I4 was 41 percent, meaning that 59 percent of Fusion sales were for models with a V-6," Pipas said. "In March, the four-cylinder rate rose to 47 percent, and in April the rate jumped to 53 percent."

For the Milan a similar change occurred.

"Mercurys are a little different, since they always trend toward the V-6 engine," Pipas said. "Still, the February rate for the I4 was 31 percent and that grew to 42 percent in April."

The major variable during

those months was the rise in gas prices. "I expect to see the demand for the four-cylinder models remaining strong," Pipas said.

Sales of Ford Escape models also reflect the desires of new-car buyers who are looking for more fuel efficiency. While the Escape Hybrid accounted for 8 percent of all Escape sales in February, the Hybrid model made up 20 percent of Escape sales in April.

In a related note, Pipas says sales of Ford's Focus increased during the same time period, again reflecting the shift to fuel-

efficient vehicles. The Focus is primarily a four-cylinder model.

The third member of the successful mid-size trio, the Lincoln Zephyr, only comes in a V-6 model. However, that V-6 is 3.0-liter Duratec 30, which was refined for the new mid-size cars for an optimal balance between power and fuel efficiency.

Contributing to the V-6's fuel economy is the second-generation six-speed transmission used in the Zephyr, as well as the Fusion and Milan.

Six-speed automatic transmissions provide a wider ratio span between the highest and lowest gear ratios than their four-speed counterparts, making better use



of engine power to deliver torque on demand and providing a four percent to eight percent improvement in fuel efficiency.

The V-6 engine itself was improved the variable intake cam timing, which allows an engine to operate more efficiently.

Ford is planning hybrid versions of the Fusion and Milan in 2008.

Progress And Revil Page 1

locked up or headed to prison. The second boy — if he hasn't already dropped out — will seriously weigh leaving high school and be pointed toward an uncertain future. The third boy will be speeding toward success by most measures.

Being a black man in America can mean inhabiting a border area between possibility and peril, to feel connected to, defined by, even responsible for each of those boys — and for other black men. In dozens of interviews, black men described their shared existence, of sometimes wondering whether their accomplishments will be treated as anomalies, their individuality obscured by the narrow images that linger in the minds of others.

This unique bond, which National Urban League President Marc Morial calls "the kinship of the species," is driving many black men to focus renewed attention on the portrait of achievement and failure that hangs over the next generation. A recent spate of scholarly studies have brought urgency to the introspection, as the studies show the condition of poor, young black men has worsened in the past decade despite the generally strong eco-

nomic conditions of the 1990s.

Black men now number 18 million, and many are pondering their roles in a country that is undergoing significant social and demographic changes.

More than 50 years after the publication of Ralph Ellison's "Invisible Man," black men appear more visible than ever — a freshman senator from Illinois, Barack Obama, is the American Idol of national politics, and Will Smith is perhaps the most bankable star in Hollywood. Yet black men who put their kids through college by mopping floors, who sit at home reading Tennyson at night, who wear dreadlocks but design spacecraft, say it sometimes seems as if the world doesn't believe they exist.

The dueling realities of their history — steady progress and devastating setbacks — continue to burden many black men in ways that are sometimes difficult to explain.

The statistics that spell out the status of black men are often conflicting, sometimes perplexing.

The percentage of black men graduating from college has nearly quadrupled since the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and yet more black men earn their high school equivalency diplomas in prison each year

than graduate from college. Black families where men are in the home earn median incomes that approach those of white families. Yet more than half of the nation's 5.6 million black boys live in fatherless households, 40 percent of which are impoverished. The ranks of professional black men have exploded over four decades — there were 78,000 black male engineers in 2004, a 33 percent increase in 10 years. And yet 840,000 black men are incarcerated, and the chances of a black boy serving time has nearly tripled in three decades, Justice Department projections show.

A black man is more than six times as likely as a white man to be slain. The trend is most stark among black men 14 to 24 years old: They were implicated in a quarter of the nation's homicides and accounted for 15 percent of the homicide victims in 2002, although they were just 1.2 percent of the population, according

to the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Also, black men are nine times as likely as white men to die from AIDS, and life expectancy for black men is 69.2 years — more than six years shorter than that of white men.

Trying to reverse these trends through a broad public policy strategy is at the heart of the Dellums Commission, named after former congressman Ronald Dellums (D-Calif.). The commission will issue its report later this year. "This is beyond a crisis," says Gail Christopher, a vice president at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, who is overseeing the commission's study of the problems affecting young men of color. "It is a catastrophe."

What does it mean to be a black man?

Marc Morial was leaving the downtown Madison Hotel when he got into an impromptu conversation with a doorman. The

doorman, also black, wore a uniform and a whistle around his neck; Morial was dressed in an immaculate gray suit with a crisp white pocket scarf. When the chat concluded, the two locked arms and pulled each other close in a signature embrace that is common to black men across the country.

"Black men relate to each other in a special way," Morial says.

On the streets, strangers frequently give each other an uptick of the head when their eyes meet, a nod of black male acknowledgment. Black men have invented so many special handshakes that a recent McDonald's commercial turns on this fact. Their commonality is often defined by their style, their walk, their slang and even how they refer to each other ("Slim," "Shorty," "Dawg," "Mo," "Brother"). Wherever black men congregate, there is often a comfort level that crosses class and generational lines.

There is even a universally acknowledged black men's club, the barbershop, where no subject is off limits.

"It's the cohesion that comes from knowing whatever your situation in life is you're carrying a special burden," says Morial, a former mayor of New Orleans. "But also that you're strong enough to do it. Whatever they put on you, you can handle it. You can knock me down, but I'm getting up. You can't knock me down with no love tap."

Colin L. Powell recalls that he had only a 78 average at Morris High School in the Bronx and was considered a late bloomer at City College of New York, but the Army's robust affirmative-action program accelerated his rise through the ranks.

"It doesn't bother me if people say I made it with affirmative action," says Powell, who

Progress And Revil Page 8

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# Arts & Entertainment

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## Dallas: Hollywood's Juneteenth Destination For Film, Fun & Festivities

Filmmaking pioneers Spike Lee and Charles Burnett have agreed to debut their new short films at the 3rd Annual Juneteenth Film Festival (JFF) in Dallas, Texas, scheduled for June 15-18, 2006. Their works will be featured along with independent film screenings, a star-studded awards and tribute gala, and celebrity parties at various locations in Dallas.

Lee, celebrating the 20th anniversary of his trailblazing first feature film, *SHE'S GOTTA HAVE IT*, has entered a new short film, *"JESUS CHILDREN OF AMERICA,"* written by his sister, actress Joie Lee. His premiere film will soon be available on DVD for the first time ever.

Burnett, a MacArthur Foundation grant recipient and best known for his award-winning film, *TO SLEEP WITH ANGER*, will debut his new short film, *QUIET AS IT'S KEPT*, starring Nickelodeon teen idol Daniel Curtis Lee (*"Ned's Declassified"*) and his family.

Festival producer and co-founder Kennedy Barnes hopes to see and meet audiences, filmmakers, friends and people who enjoy the artistry and magic of movies featuring themes, culture and talents of African American people.

"We are very excited about this year's festival which I believe will be our best effort yet," Barnes said. "Moreover, this

year, we've managed to create a diverse, highly-entertaining, but very affordable product."

On Saturday evening (June 17th), the Juneteenth Film Festival Tribute & Awards Show will feature a Junie Award statue for Lifetime Achievement to actor Richard Roundtree, the popular



Filmmaking pioneer Spike Lee

action star of *SHAFT* ("shut yo' mouth"), for his tenure in television and film. This premiere Dallas Juneteenth Film Festival event will be hosted by film, television, and Broadway and television star Obba Babatundé (*"Half & Half"*) and Kiki Shepard (*"Showtime At The Apollo," "Bid Whist Party"*).

Also in connection with the Juneteenth celebration, the festival has collaborated with WFAA-TV (ABC affiliate) to create a Juneteenth television special for its popular *Metro* news magazine show. The *Metro*/Juneteenth Film

Festival special will feature highlights of "the Festival" with special guest appearances. Babatundé will guest host with *Metro* host Angeliqe Tege.

America's preacher, Bishop T.D. Jakes (*"Woman Thou Art Loosed"*) will be honored as the "Filmmaker of the Year" and Kimberly Elise will receive the "Brightest Star Award." Past honorees have been actor/director Bill Duke; Grammy Award-winning recording artist and actress Erykah Badu; thespian actor/activist Ruby Dee; and Oscar winner and Texas native son Jamie Foxx.

The Tribute and Awards show, the highlight and finale of "the festival", will feature the Dallas Black Dance Theater, and a dramatic performance by Akin Babatundé's *Ebony Emerald Classic Theatre*. Featured musical performances include jazz extraordinaire Martha Burks, and gospel music's Stellar Award winner Fred Hammond. Comedian AJ Jamal will also perform. Celebrities scheduled to attend are Tim and Daphne Reid, Russell Hornsby, Joie Lee, and others.

Additionally, Junie Productions will preview *Junie!*, a full-color glossy entertainment magazine featuring industry insider news, features, film reviews and more. The *Junie!* magazine preview will be distributed in limited quantities in North Texas communities.

Tickets to "the Festival" and JFF film screenings are on sale (via TicketMaster).

## Singer-Songwriter Billy Preston Dies

Singer Billy Preston, whose keyboard wizardry led to stints with the Beatles and the Rolling Stones before scoring such solo hits as "Outta Space" and "Nothing From Nothing," died Tuesday at the age of 59.

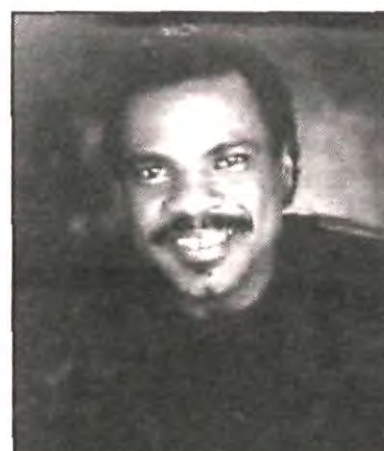
Preston had been in a coma since November, according to his longtime manager, Joyce Moore. He was rushed to a hospital in Scottsdale Saturday after his condition had deteriorated.

"He had a very, very beautiful last few hours and a really beautiful passing," Moore told the Associated Press by telephone from Germany. "He went home good."

Preston had been on dialysis treatments ever since his 2002 kidney transplant to address his chronic kidney failure, Moore said earlier this year.

The Houston, Texas native, a teen prodigy on the piano

and organ, worked with such artists as Sam Cooke, Eric Clapton, Sammy Davis Jr., Sly Stone, Aretha Franklin, Bob Dylan and the Jackson 5. But he was best known for his collaborations with The Beatles.



Nicknamed the fifth Beatle, Preston contributed his gospel-flavored talent to the Fab Four's "Get Back" and the Stones' "Can't You Hear Me Knocking?" He played on the Beatles' 1970 album "Let

It Be" and on the songs "I Want You (She's So Heavy)" and "Something," from 1969's "Abbey Road."

Signed to the Beatles' Apple label in 1969, his solo career took off the following decade with such hits as "Outta Space," which earned a Grammy in 1973, "Will It Go 'Round In Circles," "Nothing From Nothing" and "With You I'm Born Again," a duet with Syreeta Wright.

In the past year, Preston contributed to the recently-released album from the Red Hot Chili Peppers, "Stadium Arcadium." Although seriously ill, he heard a scratch tape of the song "Warlocks," given to him by the band for consideration, and reportedly jumped out of bed to record his part before going right back to bed. His final work was playing organ on the new "Neil Diamond" album, "12 Songs."

## Queen Latifah To Star In HBO Film About AIDS



Queen Latifah and Jamie Foxx are teaming up to produce a new hard-hitting HBO drama about the HIV crisis in the black community. Latifah, real name Dana Owens, will also star in the TV film, "Life Support," which is based on the life of writer-director Nelson George's sister. The star

will play a reformed crack addict-turned AIDS activist.

Queen Latifah's recent film credits include *Ice Age: The Meltdown* and *Last Holiday*. She was nominated for an Oscar in 2003 for her supporting role in *Chicago*.

Check out Queen Latifah on Starpulse.

## Beyonce To Drop New Album On 25th Birthday

For her birthday on Sept. 4, Beyonce will go against tradition and give away a present — her long-awaited sophomore solo album, appropriately titled, "B'Day."

The Music World Music/Sony Urban Music/Columbia Records set, featuring all new music co-produced, written and arranged by Beyonce, will be released worldwide on the 4th, and in the United States a day later on Tuesday, Sept. 5.

Beyonce finished work on her new studio album three

weeks after the wrap of her upcoming film, "Dreamgirls,"



due for release on Dec. 22. The former *Destiny's Child* stand-out also sings on the film's soundtrack.

"B'Day's" first single, "Deja Vu," features Beyonce reteaming with her boyfriend Jay-Z in hopes of matching the success of their previous collaboration, "Crazy in Love," the first single from her 2003 debut solo album, "Dangerously in Love."

Speaking of Jay-Z, In Touch weekly is reporting that Beyonce has put him on a diet to shed some extra pounds.

The singer, who reportedly

went on a water and cayenne pepper diet to slim down quickly for "Dreamgirls," has the rap mogul eating lean proteins and vegetables, and steering clear of candy, his favorite food. The effort has already resulted in a loss of about 15 pounds, the magazine reports.

A source tells In Touch: "Beyonce likes a little meat on his bones, but not too much ... [and Jay Z] was getting chunky."

Jay Z, 36, was reportedly thirty pounds lighter when he and Beyonce began dating in 2003.

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## Mavericks Savor Scaling NBA Heights

Not too, too long ago, the team that likely will be favored to win the 2006 NBA championship was voted one of the worst franchises in professional sports.

"Who voted that?" wondered Dirk Nowitzki, who was still a teenager posting up pals in Germany when the Dallas Mavericks epitomized futility in the 1990s. There were 10 straight seasons without a playoff berth. There was a season when the team won fewer games in six months (11 in 1992-93) than it has won in the last six weeks (12).

"When we first got [to Dallas], it was rough," Nowitzki said late Saturday night, after scoring 24 points to help the Mavericks to a 102-93 victory over the Suns, eliminating Phoenix in six games in the Western Conference finals.

"I mean, we were in that old arena [Reunion Arena.] It stunk. It was bad. So I think we fought through a lot of stuff," Nowitzki said.

Nowitzki has been the face of the Mavericks for the new millennium, which, happily for Dallas, coincided with the purchase of the team by Mark Cuban in January 2000. The Mavericks were 9-23 at the time and Cuban did some forgettable things out of the box to try to generate something. Remember Dennis Rodman? "Nobody knew us and you could go out anywhere," Nowitzki said.

The Mavericks will host Game 1 of the NBA Finals Thursday night against another first-timer, the Miami Heat. It marks the first time since 1971 that both



teams in the NBA Finals will be making their maiden appearance in the league's signature series. It also marks the first time since 1978 that both teams in the NBA Finals will be playing for the franchise's first title.

Additionally, the series will be an advertising boon for American Airlines, as the Mavericks play in the American Airlines Center while the Heat play in American Airlines Arena.

Miami and Dallas? Who'd have thought it?

"If you did, you won a lot of money," offered Dallas coach Avery Johnson. "Everybody [picked] two other teams and we just felt we had a chance, and that we weren't getting the respect. But I think people respect a little bit more what we're doing now."

The Mavericks truly merit a spot in the Finals, as they matched the best season in the history of the franchise (60-22) and had the second-best record

in the West, only to be accorded the fourth seed in the new (and soon-to-be-discarded) playoff seeding system. The Mavericks had to beat the team with the fourth-best record in the first round (Memphis), the team with the best record in the second round (San Antonio) and the team with the third best record (the Suns) in the conference final.

They earned this.

It's not only rewarding for Nowitzki, who has elevated his game in the postseason to the point where he is drawing comparisons to Larry Bird. (And they're not that far off.) Stackhouse is in the NBA Finals for the first time in 11 years. Erick Dampier, who was benched for the Suns series but will certainly see action against Shaq & Co., is in for the first time in 10 years. Among Dallas regulars, only Keith Van Horn has been to the NBA Finals, in 2002 with the Nets. (And Kenyon Martin will argue that Van Horn might as well have skipped that series the way he played.)

On Saturday, the Mavericks, like the Heat the night before, were careful not to let their celebration go too far. Yes, there were hats and T-shirts and the acceptance of the Western Conference championship trophy. But this isn't baseball, where teams pop champagne simply because they make the playoffs as a wild card, then con-

tinue to pop champagne after every series.

The cork gets popped once in the NBA, when the real championship is decided.

"We're excited, obviously," Johnson said. "Nobody is ripping their shirts off or going too crazy. But they should celebrate. We know we have a lot of work ahead of us, because we came into this season with the idea of winning a championship."

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# SBS Tower Sold And Going Condo

(Syndicated News) The rumors about what's going to happen to the SBS Tower have finally been put to rest. The 21-story building, Coconut Grove's premier office tower, was recently purchased by KRA Office Tower L.L.C. This transaction follows months of speculation that a deal was in the works.

KRA, comprised of Eddie Avila, Carlos Avila and Simon Abel Groll, reportedly paid over \$100 million to Irradio Holdings, Limited, a partnership operated by media giant Raul Alarcon Jr. KRA has already announced plans to convert the tower into condominium offices. All financing for the transaction were handled by Steve Russo of Wachovia Securities.

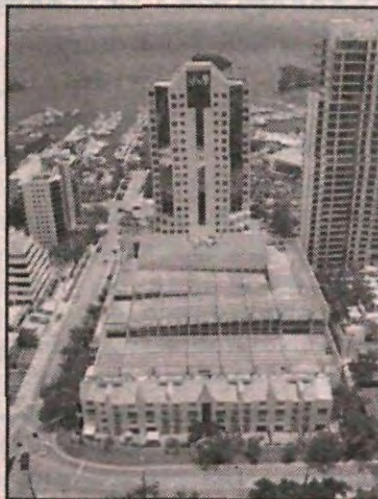
"This conversion represents

the largest commercial office repositioning in the Southeastern United States," says Carlos Avila. "Sales are moving briskly, as Alarcon Jr. has retained four full floors as part of the transaction and other tenants are stepping up to buy. SBS Tower is a landmark office building and the only one of its kind in the Grove and Bayshore area."

The exceptional views and strategic location of the building are two of the most compelling reasons people are expected to go after SBS as a condo.

"Although most people will focus on the size of the transaction," adds Avila, "what's really important now is what an excep-

tional value and opportunity the building presents to its future



owners."

Many in the area will remem-

ber that the tower was originally built in 1989. Developers designed the building complete with a helicopter pad, and sweeping views of the bay, downtown, Coral Gables and Coconut Grove.

SBS will remain home to a multitude of high profile tenants, including Oppenheimer, Terremark (the Tower's original developer), Bermello, Ajamil and Partners Architects, and Ocean Bank. It's likely that neighbors such as these will be a good selling point.

"The tenant base at SBS speaks volumes to the building's appeal," says Eddie Avila, director of KRA. "We strongly

believe that the SBS Tower will be sought after as a condo not only by end users, but also by investors seeking prime tenants with long term leases. The affordability of the pricing is going to be a motivating factor that will surprise many people."

The Avila's also own Key Realty Advisors (<http://keyrealtyadvisors.com>), a sales and marketing firm, and are veterans of many office and residential conversions. They first became interested in the SBS Tower as tenants, but ironically never

pursued the transaction. Their plan to purchase the tower all started at a party when a long time associate of the Avila's was joking around with a VP of CB Richard Ellis about Eddie Avila purchasing the building because he liked it there so much. That set the wheels in motion and now the deal is in history.

In addition to the office tower, KRA also purchased the 16 townhouses which are attached to the building's 1,092 space parking facility. The townhouses will also be available for immediate purchase.

## Progress And Revil Page 6

joined the Army ROTC in 1954, just six years after President Harry S. Truman ended segregation in the armed forces, and eventually became chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "All that matters is what you do afterwards. When I heard complaints, I'd say: 'It doesn't matter if it was affirmative action or not. I got it, you didn't.'"

Powell, who is now active in an array of mentoring programs, offers his own history to

young black men who worry about the limitations others may place on them. Your achievements, he tells them, need not be accompanied by apology.

"Of course you're offended," he says. But "you can choke with something in your craw. I've seen too many people grind themselves to death worrying about what other people say about them. Frankly, we don't have time for that."

And yet even among the highest achievers, doubts sometimes intrude.

Curtis Symonds, 50, was one of the youngest African Americans to run a cable TV business in the nation in the early 1980s. He eventually wound up at Black Entertainment Television, where he helped expand the reach of the cable network from 18 million to 70 million homes over 14 years.

He left BET a multimillionaire and became chief operating officer of the Women's National Basketball Association's Washington Mystics. He also

dreamed of opening Hoop Magic, a \$7 million, 65,000-square-foot gym in Chantilly.

Despite his wealth and business experience, the first five or six banks he talked to did not want to touch his idea — a reluctance that, rightly or wrongly, Symonds laid to the fact that he is a black man. "A lot of those bankers could not see my dream," he says. "All they could see is this black guy who wanted to borrow X millions of dollars."

Symonds got his financing and opened his gym.

## Bush Discusses Darfur Page 1

Union, to discuss Darfur, AIDS and other issues.

"We talked about our common commitment to help end the genocide in Darfur," Bush said in the Oval Office. "I appreciate the president's leadership in helping negotiate a peace agreement, and I appreciate his leadership in working with the United Nations so we can get the AU forces blue-helmed as quickly as possible."

The African Union has a 7,300-member peacekeeping force in Darfur and is mediating the conflict. The AU troops are getting support from NATO and the European Union and are due to hand this responsibility over to a United Nations force in September.

This is the second time that Sassou-Nguesso was at the White House. He met with former President George H.W. Bush in 1990.

The African leader said the two talked about terrorism, Iran's nuclear ambitions, African development issues, the situation in the Gulf of Guinea, the Congo Basin and the New Partnership for African Development, known as NEPAD.

The concept of NEPAD is that in return for African efforts to fight corruption and modernize their economies, the international community agrees to forgive

debts and expand trade opportunities and aid for projects developed by Africans for Africans. Critics of NEPAD say the ideas are not new and that passing out cash is not the answer.

"I was happy to see President Bush give his entire support to the development of Africa," Sassou-Nguesso said. "We discussed a lot of issues that we're all interested in: Peace, security, and not just in Africa, but beyond Africa, in the world."

## Celebrity Heroes Baseball Page 8

pitch hardball with much more action and excitement than any sissy celebrity softball game!

Baseball Hall of Famer Brooks Robinson and Cincinnati Reds legend Ken Griffey Sr. will coach the star-studded teams.

The celebrities playing in this year's game are Dallas Stars center Mike Modano; NHL star Brett Hull; brothers Geoff Stults (of Wedding Crashers) and George Stults (of Seventh Heaven); NFL great Jason Sehorn (of the New York Giants); movie mogul Todd Wagner, executive producer of the Oscar-nominated films Good Night, And Good Luck and Enron: The Smartest Guy in the Room; Dallas Mavs players Jerry Stackhouse, Jason Terry and Marquis Daniels and Mavs owner Mark Cuban; NBA superstars Elton Brand and Corey Maggette of the LA Clippers; actor Carlos Bernard (Toni on Fox's hit show 24); Heisman Trophy winner and Oakland Raider Tim Brown; Jason Lewis of TV's Sex and the City; actor Josh Hopkins of The Perfect Storm and TV's Pepper Dennis; James Lesure (of NBC's Las Vegas and The Ring Two); Gary Valentine (cousin Danny on the King of Queens); Eric Christian Olsen (of Fox's The Loop and Cellular); and Donnie Nelson, president of basketball operations for the Dallas Mavericks.

Rosario Dawson (Mimi in Rent) will be the batgirl!

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Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

### CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/ BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)

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Contract 0094-02-111 for in TARRANT County will be opened on July 06, 2006 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at [www.dot.state.tx.us](http://www.dot.state.tx.us) and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.

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## Church Happenings



Among the workshop topics are race and sports, coaching and ethics, parents as coaches, faith and sports and professional athletes who have gotten caught up in stardom and had to rebuild

Fifty athletes, high school and college students, will have an opportunity to attend the workshop at no charge. Scholarship applications have been mailed to coaches and school district athletic directors.

For more information about the summit, please call 214-265-6555 or e-mail: [Irah@opendoorsfoundation.org](mailto:Irah@opendoorsfoundation.org).

The registration deadline is June 15th.

Minority Opportunity News - The Gazette • June 08 - June 14, 2006 • Page 9



## Connecting Our Faiths: A New Interfaith Program Series

A new interfaith program series, Connecting Our Faiths, designed to focus more attention on historic connections and commonalities between faith will debut Thursday, June 15, 2006, 7 p.m., at Congregation Shearith Israel in Dallas, 9401 Douglas, Ave., Dallas, TX 75225, 214-361-6606. Moses in Judaism, Christianity and Islam is the first of a three-part series on the Abrahamic faiths that will examine how Moses, Jesus and Muhammad received revelation to address society then, and how effective their messages are to society today. The program is free and open to the

public. Speakers for the Connecting Our Faith Moses program are Rabbi William Gershon of Congregation Shearith Israel, Rev. George Mason of Wilshire Baptist Church and Imam Muhammad Shakoor of Masjid Warith D. Mohammed. Each will give the Jewish, Christian and Muslim perspectives, respectively, and take questions from the audience. How Jesus is Recognized in Three Faiths will be held July 20, 2006, at Wilshire Baptist Church and How Muhammad is Recognized in Three Faiths will be held, August 17, 2006, at a location to be announced.

"We worship one and the same God, understood differ-



NEED CAPTION

ently. Rather than claiming the truth of our views of God as privileged by our tradition, we

do well to witness to and listen to one another for greater clarity. Moses, Jesus and Muhammad are the three key figures in our various views of who God is and what God expects from us," said Rev. George Mason.

"We are witnessing people using our religion to do evil work," said Imam Muhammad Shakoor. "It is our duty to present the message of G'd, from scripture, in the way that Moses, Jesus, Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Them) were commanded to do by G'd Almighty. We can best serve humanity when their message is the focal point."

"In order to foster under-

standing and mutual respect amongst the three major faiths, it is important to learn from one another. Sharing our ideas, theology and religious perspectives will open minds and hearts, bringing all of us that much closer together in the family of humanity," Rabbi William Gershon said.

"The reason why religions can't come together is that they don't connect their faiths," says Marzuq Jaami, longtime interfaith relations and advocate and coordinator of the program series. "We're doing this series because in the Middle East for example, religious extremists promote being enemies. People

have questions and are looking for answers. What America has to do is show how the key leaders in religion are connected in the Torah, Bible and the Qu'ran."

The Connecting Our Faiths educational program series will be ongoing and take place in numerous houses of worship of all faiths in the Dallas area. In addition to exploring Moses, Jesus and Muhammad, other religious figures, their messages and issues will be addressed in future programs. Some programs will be designed to explore commonalities with other faiths as well.

## An International Gathering RREACH, Dallas Theological Seminary Gear Up For Second Annual Global Proclamation Academy

Young pastors from more than two dozen nations will gather in Dallas later this month for the second annual collaboration between RREACH and Dallas Theological Seminary (DTS) to provide training for "the best and the brightest" serving in developing nations around the world.

Top-tier names from across the evangelical world will be teaching recognized leaders in ministry from June 4-23 at the DTS campus. Among the master coaches on tap: DTS President Dr. Mark Bailey, RREACH founder and DTS Professor Dr. Ramesh Richard, Dr. Erwin Lutzer of Moody Church in Chicago, Dr. Bruce Fong, president of

Michigan Theological Seminary, and Dr. Stuart Briscoe, head of Telling the Truth Ministries.

"Since Christianity has now become a non-Western religion, young pastors from developing economies need reinforcement and relationships in order to stabilize the future health of the global church," Dr. Richard said. "The Global Proclamation Academy (GPA) builds an expanding network of influence and connected alumni working together to prevent churches from internally imploding wherever they are externally exploding."

Pastors attending the academy must be around 35 years of age or younger. Attendees this year come from Asia, Africa,

Latin America and Eastern Europe. In addition, organizers say GPA impacts the attendees



where they live.

"For years I was trying to do my best for God and that was great," said Afrim Karoshi, a

young Albanian minister who attended GPA last year. "I think now, after what I saw and

experienced, I have tried to be my best for God."

Some pastors pray and work to overcome incredible chal-

lenges in order to attend GPA. A Liberian minister tried to obtain his visa in March, but the United States Embassy is closed until July. Asked to try in another country, he contacted the embassy in Guinea and arranged an interview for May 31.

However, there are no commercial flights from Liberia to Guinea, so this young pastor negotiated a helicopter flight. He traveled with bags packed hoping to be granted a visa that day, as opposed to being turned down of waiting through the normal two-week process. He was denied. Had he been approved, he would have immediately boarded a plane bound for the United States.

Ramesh Richard Evangelism

and Church Health (RREACH) undergirds "a global proclamation ministry" to change the way one billion people think and hear about Jesus Christ. The ministry carries a strategic burden to strengthen pastoral leaders and evangelize opinion leaders of developing economies. For more information on the ministry, please visit [www.rreach.org](http://www.rreach.org) or call 972-733-3402.

The 80-year-old Dallas Seminary is one of the largest non-denominational seminaries in the world, with more than 11,000 alumni serving in 95 countries. Internationally known for its scholarship, DTS' curriculum covers all 66 books of the Bible.



Apostle S.C. Blackwell and Pastor John Blackwell

## Guards Of God Summitt In Irving

Fresh Manna Ministries, Inc. will host Guards of God Prophetic Summit from Thursday-Saturday, June 15-17 at the Hilton Garden Hotel in Irving.

Guest speakers include Dr. Louise J. Lyas, of Holy Deliverance Church in Arkansas, Dr. Sherman C.G. Allen of Shiloh Institutional Church of God in

Christ, Elder Jamie Tucker and Evangelist Mona Tucker of Kalamazoo, Mich. and Lady Tina Gamble, co-pastor of Cornerstone Church in Fort Worth.

The event is free, but attendance must be confirmed by calling the Hilton Garden Hotel at 972-313-2800.

Under the theme, "Not Shaken, But Stirred Up," there will be morning relationship sessions at 8 a.m. and evening sessions.

The Hilton Garden Hotel is located at 2001 Valley View Lane, Irving, TX 75061.

Fresh Manna Ministries Churches Inc. (FMM) was

formed to repair the breach in a generation untouched, but yearning for the true love of God. It also serves as a catalyst in planting new ministries.

For more info on Fresh Manna Ministries, contact Sonia C. Blackwell by calling 972-624-8669 or by e-mail at [fmmkingshart@aol.com](mailto:fmmkingshart@aol.com), or [radmanna@aol.com](mailto:radmanna@aol.com).



Dr. Sherman C. Gee Allen

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

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

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Monday School: 7pm  
Men's Fellowship: Friday 7:00pm

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Pastor Mancil Carroll, II (First Lady - Maxine Carroll)

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Morning Worship - 11:15 am  
Wednesday Night Bible Study - 7:30 pm

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Sunday Life Celebration Worship Service ..... 10:45 a.m.  
First Sunday: Ingredients for Life ..... 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesdays: Life In The Word Prayer and Bible Study ..... 7:00 p.m.

**Friendship Baptist Church**  
Dr. C. Paul McBride, Pastor

**Schedule of Services:**  
**Sunday**  
Early Morning Worship  
8:00 a.m.  
Sunday School Classes  
9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship  
11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship (1st Sunday) 6:00 p.m.

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

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

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