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A Division of MON Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

The Gazette

"North Dallas' Weekly Paper of Choice"

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

Volume XIII, Number II

January 22 - January 28, 2004

On the Homefront:

Crafts! Arts! Drama! Music! Where can you find such a smorgasbord of FREE hands-on fun activities for all children, 3 – 12? There's just one place - the City of Plano's 20th Very Special Arts Festival! Sunday, January 25, 2 p.m. – 5 p.m., at Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway. Pre-registration is not required.

Free law clinic, third Tuesday of each month at St. Philip's School and Community Center, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Hosted by a group of attorneys called The Triangle Neighborhood Project. The first clinic (January 20) will address landlord-tenant issues. For information on volunteering or to receive services call 214.421.5221, ext 122.

Garland Civic Theatre continues its 'Six Sides of Simon' season with a production of Proposals, January 23, 24, 25, and February 1. At the Granville Arts Center, Fifth and Austin Street, Garland. Call the box office at 972.205.2790, or visit www.garlandcivictheatre.org, for times and information.

The Senior Source, Senior Citizens of Greater Dallas offers a free Job Fair and Job Search seminar to Dallas area residents aged 55+, Friday January 23, at the Dallas Urban League, 4315 South Lancaster Road, Room 168, Dallas. 10 a.m. – 12 noon, registration begins 9:30,. RSVP required, call 214.823.5700, or SESD@theseniorsource.org, or www.theseniorsource.org.

The City of Plano is hosting an exhibit organized by Niki-Aryana Art House, featuring Iranian artists residing in Texas and an American guest artist. This exhibit includes eight pieces of art ranging from oil, watercolors, photography, mixed media and copper embossing. At the Plano Municipal Center (1520 Ave K) through January 30. Displayed at Plano Centre (2000 E. Spring Creek Pkwy) during February and at the Courtyard Theater (1509 Avenue H) from February 2 through March 15. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Plano Celebrates the Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Plano celebrated the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. with a host of events that began on Saturday, January 17. The annual event kicked off with a parade in East Plano followed by a program and health fair at City Hall and a free luncheon at the Douglass Community Center. On Sunday evening a program featuring the MLK All-Community Choir was held at Custer Road United Methodist Church, and Monday a leadership breakfast, which included a panel discussion, was held at the Collin County Community College followed by a teen leadership forum. Making the celebration a success were the 2004 MLK Celebration Committee, a volunteer organization made up of residents of Plano and surrounding areas. Sub-committees are formed for each of the individual events.

Saturday's parade featured local bands, performances, and local officials and celebrities. Following the parade, a program was held at the Plano Municipal Center. The program started with the sounds of Recording Artist Doc Gibbs. Singing the National Anthem was Chase Brown, Miss Teen Texas. Guest speaker was Dr. A. Marcus Nelson, educator and motivational speaker. On Sunday, guests enjoyed music played by Custer Road United Methodist Church's Jazz, Inc. Mistress of ceremony was Fox 4 News Anchor Clarice Tinsley, whose celebrating 25 years with the network. Also performing was Genesis and the Second Coming Mime Ministries, and special presentations by T.J. Johnson, Chair, Sunday Evening Program Committee, and Myrtle Hightower, Co-Chair. A media presentation, "The Beloved Community" by Vernon Hadnot, Collin County Community College, featured clips of local leaders and King's "I Have a Dream Speech." The program ended with guests of all races joining hands singing "We Shall Overcome".

(Left to Right) Frank Turner, Tom Muchenlenbeck, Bruce Glasscock, Fred Moses

The celebration will end on Thursday with Plano ISD's annual MLK Multicultural Observance held at The Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway. The program, "A Celebration of Freedom, will include a parade of nations with students representing over 200 countries.

For more information or if you would like to be a part of next year's event, contact Committee Chairman Earl Simpkins at 972-422-0012 or email at earl@tes.com.

See Photos On Page 2

OutKast Rebounds to No. 1 on U.S. Pop Charts

By Todd Martens

LOS ANGELES (Billboard) - After a week away, OutKast's two-CD set "Speakerboxxx/The Love Below" returned to the top of the Billboard 200 album chart Wednesday.

The Atlanta-based hip-hop duo's set rose two places to No. 1 despite a 4% dip in U.S. sales to 97,000 copies for the week ended Jan. 18, according to Nielsen SoundScan. After 17 weeks, the Grammy-nominated Arista release has sold 3.4 million copies, and has logged six, non-consecutive weeks at No. 1.

Overall sales declined in the post-holiday season, and only one album debuted inside the top 20. With sales of 48,000 copies, "WWE Originals" (Sony Music/Famous Players) bowed at No. 12. The latest professional wrestling audio companion features songs from the show's stars, including "Stone Cold" Steve Austin, Booker T and the Dudley Boyz, among others.

"The Very Best of Sheryl Crow)"

Big Boi (L) and Andre 3000 are shown at the Billboard Music Awards Dec. 10, 2003. (Steve Marcus/Reuters)

(A&M) jumped four places to a new high of No. 2 even though sales of the set dipped 10% to 73,000. "The Diary of Alicia Keys" (J Records) fell one place to No. 3 on a 32% decline to 69,000 copies, while Toby Keith's "Shock'n Y'all" rose one place to No. 4 as sales fell 20% to 66,000 copies.

Rounding out the top five was last week's chart-topper, Josh Groban's "Closer" (Reprise). The set suffered a 40% sales drop to 65,700 copies a week after it surged 10 places to No. 1. To date, the album has sold about 2.1 million copies.

The 14th volume in the compilation series "NOW That's What I Call Music!" (Universal/EMI/Zomba/Sony) rose one place to No. 6, followed by No Doubt's "The Singles 1992-2003" (Interscope), which fell thee places to No. 7. Holding steady on the chart were second-season "American Idol" winner Ruben Studdard at No. 8 with "Soulful" (J), Evanescence at No. 9 with "Fallen" (Wind-Up) and Jay-Z at No. 10 with "The Black Album" (Roc-A-Fella/Def Jam).

Blackonomics

Is the "Black Economy" an Oxymoron?

By James Clingman

Although the dictionary calls it archaic, the "management of a household" is one of the definitions listed for the word "economy." Another definition is "a saving or attempt to reduce expenditure." Yet another is "a system of interacting elements, especially when seen as being harmonious." And still another definition for economy has to do with "the production and consumption of goods and services of a community regarded as a whole." As I look at those *descriptions* of an economy, only the last one partially applies to Black Americans collectively, and that's the "consumption" part.

The U.S. Census 2002 statistics for businesses will be available next month. Every five years a survey is done to determine how many businesses there are in this country, who owns them, how many persons they employ, and what their annual revenues are. The figures for 1997, while lauded for the increase in the number of Black-owned businesses, revealed decreasing revenues for Black businesses, relatively few employees, and a vast majority of them in the service industry.

The 1997 census revealed total receipts for Black-owned businesses to be a little more than $71 billion which, when juxtaposed against an aggregate disposable income during that period of approximately $400 billion, illuminated a dearth of business ownership and a glut of consumer spending. Other statistics disclosed low savings among African-Americans and a grossly disparate median income and net worth when compared to other ethnic groups.

As we enter 2004, we already know our disposable income is more than $700 billion rach year and forecasted by the Selig Center at the University of Georgia to exceed $900 billion in 2008. The 2002 U.S. Census data will likely reveal a bump in business receipts, but the total will probably still be less than $100 billion. Median income, net worth, and savings disparities will likely stay the same and the mythical Black economy will trudge along like a brand new, 12-cylinder, state-of-the-art, top-of-the-line automobile running on only six of those cylinders. We will definitely look good, but we sure won't be doing good (pardon my grammar).

That's essentially how we are as individuals. We look real good, but when it comes to how we are doing, that's another story. Maybe one of the reasons for that can be found in some of our consumption statistics. The Selig Center reports that Blacks spend more on telephone services, children's apparel, electricity and natural gas, and guess what, footwear.

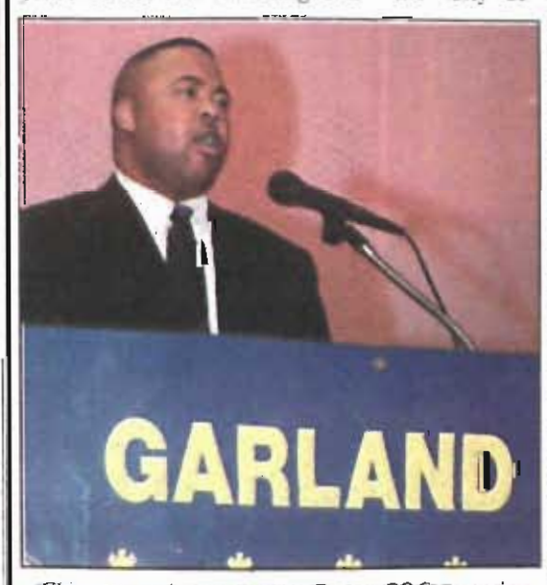
I could do a separate commentary on those expenditures, especially the shoes, but it's fairly obvious what impact they have on our households and our disposable income. We have multiple cell phones, we buy the latest fashions for our children, we keep our homes and apartments very warm, and we have the latest gym shoes, three or four pairs of them.

In his book, Black Bourgeoisie, sociologist E. Franklin Frazier stated, "[Black] business enterprises

Blackonomics Page 6

Garland Celebrates in 'KING' Fashion

Garland NAACP kicked off the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday with a parade and commemorative and rededication program. This year's theme was "Saluting Our Troops, Police, and Firefighters in KING Fashion". Grand Marshals for the event were Specialist Phillip Easterling, Lt. Charles Rene, and Firefighter Frank Simons. The program began with the well-known Negro spiritual, "We Shall Overcome", performed by the MLK Community-Wide Youth Choir. Guests were welcomed by Gwen Daniels, MLK Events Coordinator. There was a special presentation to the City of Garland's Police and Fire Departments, and a special salute to the grand marshals by Ambassadors for Christ Drill Team of Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church. Community leaders and officials attending the event include Miss Teen Garland, Lindsey Rueter; Garland N.A.A.C.P President B.J. Williams, Linda Griffin Garland ISD board member; Garland Mayor Bob Day, and many more. During the program, Float Contest Judges announced the winners. First place went to Mount Hebron Baptist Church.



Elder Albert Baker, Perfect Praise COGIC, recites "Echoes of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."

See Photos Page 2

The Voice Behind the Paper

By Lakeesha Joe

Hot off the press with its first issue in January of 1992, **MON-The Gazette** (formerly known as Minority Opportunity News) has strived to stay in touch with the community by addressing issues, such as discrimination, racism, equal opportunity and business development that affect its readers the most.

In addition to **MON-The Gazette's** professional staff and writers who keep them close to the issues, **MON-The Gazette** has also implemented an advisory board, made up of those people in the community who know the community best.

According to Thurman Jones, **MON-The Gazette's** publisher, the advisory board has been very instrumental in helping the paper establish itself in the communities that it serves.

"The advisory board brings a level of expertise in terms of guidance for the paper," said Jones. "The advisory board also helps us to craft our position in the community."

MON-The Gazette's Advisory Board is made up of six areas of service: **Program Creation and Planning** - suggesting needed approach to address needs and opportunities in the communities, **Program Policy Development** – helps develop appropriate policies and guidelines, **Public Relations Planning and Implementation** – influencing community through leaders and advocates towards supporting initiatives, **Business Growth Referral** – the growth of the paper is closely related to the ability to be responsive to community needs, **Goals** – insurance that the paper maintains a strategic focus consistent with the tenets of freedom of expressions and community education, and **Quality Assurance** - consistent delivery of an excellent product.

The Voice Behind the Paper Page 3

Black Press Of America Joins Hip Hop Summit To Boost Voter Registration

Washington, DC - As election primaries get underway, a unique convergence of the newest cultural phenomena and one of the oldest forms of communication in the African American community join forces to increase black voters. The first in a series of National Hip-Hop Summit Network (HSAN) Tours convenes in Houston, Texas on January 31, creating a partnership between the Black Press of America, the National Newspaper Association (NNPA) and the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network (HSAN) to register 20 million new voters over the next five years.

HSAN President and CEO, Dr. Benjamin Chavis Muhammad said, "Over the next five year, we will work to capture the minds and hearts of young people to get them involved in impacting change in their life through the ballot box. We welcome the support of NNPA newspapers reaching over 15 million readers weekly. Their role can play an extremely important part in our efforts to reach and involve our youth in

Black Press Joins Page 6

Garland NAACP Presents Its 15th Annual Community-Wide Praise Dance Extravaganza

Zion Baptist Marches of Praise- Junior Team

Youth Council President Rueben Griffin (right) presents Gwen Daniels with a certificate of appreciation award

First Baptist Church of Hamilton Park Marching Christians for Christ performs

Mount Hebron Genesis of Praise

Sims Chapel Anointed Ones Praise Dancers

Reuben Griffin presents a certificate of appreciation award to Dr. Joyce Miller

As part of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday celebration, Garland NAACP ended its weekend celebration with their Annual Community-Wide Youth Drill Team and Praise Dance Extravaganza. The event was held Sunday, January 18 in downtown Garland at the Patty Granville Art Center. Reuben Griffin, Garland NAACP Youth Council President, welcomed guests with opening remarks. Performing at the annual event include Drill Team- Zion Baptist Church Marches of Praise-Junior Team; Sims Chapel Anointed Ones Praise Dancers; Voices of Praise Divine Saints; Kaiser Street Baptist Church Step Team; New Works Community Church Praise Dancers, and First Baptist Church of Hamilton Park Marching Christians for Christ, and many more.

Garland Celebrates in 'KING' Fashion

Parade Grand Marshals
(Left to Right) Frank Simon, Garland Fire Department; Lt. Charles Rene, Garland Police Department; Phillip Easterling, Army Specialist

Miss Teen Garland, Lindsey Rueter signs autographs

Garland NAACP
B.J. Williams, President; Linda Griffin, Ricky McNeal, Political Action Chair

MLK Community-Wide Youth Choir

Ida Handley Elementary Choir, directed by Elizabeth Hinkley

MLK Celebration Committee Kicks off with a Parade in East Plano

Parade Grand Marshal Pat Evans, Plano Mayor

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Chi Zeta Omega Chapter

Miss Teen Texas Chase Brown

Dr. A. Marcus Nelson, guest speaker during the program held at Plano Municipal Center

SOC Marching Band

Miss Teen Texas singing during the program held after the parade

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, Plano, TX

• Who Are the Women of God?
• Why is MON-The Gazette Honoring Them On Mother's Day Weekend 2004?
• What Can You Do To Be A Part Of The Momentous Occasion?

Go To www.monthegazette.com
(Click on Women Of God)
or Contact Sister Tarpley At
972-606-3878 voice mail

Around The Town

On-going

Collin County emergency preparedness hotline: 972.548.4114. You can also visit www.co.collin.tx.us.

Interactive Dallas C[illegible]'s Museum at Valley View Center - a hospital fantasyland, a miniature grocery store, a farm, a fire Impres[illegible] complete with rain forest, arts and crafts. Mon-Fri 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Saturdays 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Sundays noon - 6 p.m. Children 2-10 years $4/Adults $3. Call 972.386.6555.

Interurban Railway Station Museum, 901 E. 15th Street, Plano, Historic Downtown. From 1908 to 1948, this was a station on the Texas Electric Railroads' Interurban Line. Monday – Friday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. For special tours call 972.941.2117.

Job seekers can attend weekly meetings held by TeamNetworking Collin County. The nonprofit, business-to-business group oversees several chapters, with the Collin County group meeting from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Tuesday at Blue Mesa Grill, 8200 North Dallas Parkway in Plano. No reservations are required, and more information is available online at www.teamnetworking.com.

General Information

The American Red Cross has announced that all blood levels are low. O Negative and O Positive blood types are at a 4-hour level, other blood types are at less than one day supply – well below the two day optimal supply needed to serve the community. The American Red Cross is urging people to schedule an appointment to give blood. Call 1-800-GIVE LIFE, or visit www.givelife.org.

American Chemical Society sciences scholarships for minorities: application deadline - Feb.15. For details about applying for a scholarship, visit www.chemistry.org/scholars or call 1-800-227-5558, extension 6250.

The Plano Fire Department is accepting applications for the Spring session of the Citizens Fire Academy, scheduled to begin in March. Participants must be at least 18 years of age and live or work in the City of Plano. Class meets one night a week from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Fire Administration. Register on-line at www.planofire.org Contact Peggy Harrell at 972.941.7421.

January 23 - 31

"Murder at the Howard Johnson's" a murder mystery, is presented by the Mesquite Community Theatre. Call 972-216-8126 for tickets, reservations and information- $10 adults, $8, students, seniors and STAGE members and $6 for children. All tickets on Thursday evenings and Sunday matinees are $8.

January 24

Positive Leadership Advances Youth Self Development will begin its kick-off Beginning of the Year event at the 2004 Youth Physical Fitness and Nutrition Demonstration where children ages 9-16 will focus on increasing overall athletic potential in a fun and positive reinforcement environment. Begins 10 a.m. at the Moorland YMCA located at 907 E. Ledbetter Drive in Dallas. FREE. Special appearances by Doug Davis, former pitcher for the Texas Rangers, currently with Milwaukee Brewers. For more information about summer camp sessions or P.L.A.Y.S.

Contact: Bridgette Grosvenor at 972-291-8026, Bridgette@playsnet.org

January 31

Come to the Mesquite North Branch Library, 2600 Oates Drive for our new storytime and craftime program, presented by students from North Mesquite High School. The program starts at 10:30 a.m. and is for children 3-8 years old and their families. Call 972-681-0465 for more information.

Through February 3

Works of art by Brazilian artist Denise Lion will be on exhibit at the Courtyard Theater, 1509 Avenue H, downtown Plano. Free.

Through February 28

The Dallas Center for Contemporary Art presents 'Piece Work: fiber & multiples', a survey of artists working in fiber, including embroidery, stitchery, weaving and fabric. Public opening January 16, 8 – 9 p.m. 2801 Swiss Ave, Dallas. Call 214.821.2522, or visit www.thecontemporary.net.

February 6

Plano Public Library System hosts its sixth annual Teen Mystery Night at Schimelpfenig Library, 5024 Custer Road in Plano, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. The play, "America's Idle," (based on the TV show American Idol) was written by PPLS Youth Services staff and will be performed by staff and volunteers. Teen Mystery Night participants are grouped into teams and work together to solve the mystery. You MUST pre-register, (register early, this event is well attended). Registration begins January 20. Call 972.769.4200.

February 7

The Alpha Merit Group of the Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. holds it annual Black and Gold Scholarship Gala at the Hotel Dallas Mockingbird (formerly the Radisson Hotel), 1893 W. Mockingbird Lane, Dallas, 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $60.00. Call 214.565.1907, or visit: www.houseofalpha.com.

Garland Parks and Recreation Department's annual "My Little Sweetheart Dance" - Dad, uncles, and grandfathers celebrate Valentine's Day with your Little Sweetheart, at The Atrium at the Granville Arts Center in downtown Garland. Ages 4 - 7 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and ages 8 – 12, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Live DJ and refreshments. Each Little Sweetheart receives a professional 5x7 photograph and a carnation. $10.00 per person. Register at any Garland Recreation Center by February 4, 2004. Call Holford Recreation Center at 972.205.2772.

February 11

Enjoy tea and desserts at the Heard Craig House built in 1900. Open for tours: Tues & Thur, 2:00 pm; Sat, 1:00, 2:00 & 3:00 pm and by appointment. $5.00, adults; $3.00, children & seniors; members free. For more information, call 972.569.6909, 972.542.5340, or email heardcraig@texoma.net. 205 W Hunt St, McKinney, TX 75069

Support Groups

Healing Matters Grief Support Group meets the fourth Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at Medical Center of Plano classrooms. This is a pregnancy loss support group for anyone who has lost a baby to miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth, newborn death, or SIDS. There is also a share group for those pregnant again following a loss. For information call 972-519-1588.

DivorceCare meets at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at Fellowship Bible Church North, 850 Lexington, Plano. Call Bob Hornstein at 972-783-8800.

Collin County Community College District's Counseling Services offers individual and group counseling, crisis assessment, intervention and referral. For more information call Counseling Services at 972.881.5779 at the Spring Creek Campus; 972.548.6615 at the Central Park Campus; or 972.377.1671 at the Preston Ridge Campus.

Volunteer opportunities

Women needed to mentor teen mothers at Hope Cottage Pregnancy and Adoption Center, 22 years and older. Spend time with a teen mother and her baby, providing emotional support, positive role modeling and a listening ear. To make a difference in the life of a teen mother and her baby, call Tara Pitt at 214.526.8721, ext 226, or visit www.hopecottage.org.

The Plano Animal Shelter need volunteers over 16 years old to wash and walk the animals, help with clerical services and customer service. Foster homes are also needed while permanent homes are found for animals. Call 972.578.7510.

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At 972-606-3878 voice mail

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THE TRUTH CLINIC

High Priced Teen Sex – Ten Years In A Georgia Prison

Marcus Dixon is a Black teenager. About a year ago it appeared that Dixon had beaten the odds and had a promising future ahead of him. He had been courted by most of the top schools in the country not just because of his athletic prowess but also because of his academic achievement. He was carrying a 3.96 grade point average and had scored over 1200 on the SAT. Vanderbilt University offered him a full scholarship.

But now all of Dixon's golden future has disappeared in a cloud of Georgia smoke. He sits with killers and crooks in the Burrus Correctional Training Center in Forsyth, Georgia serving a mandatory 10-year sentence for aggravated child molestation. After he was charged, Dixon was expelled from Pepperell High, one course short of graduating, and Vanderbilt rescinded its scholarship offer.

Ordinarily the rule is, "If you do the crime then do the time." But this case is no ordinary- crime committed-- arrest the criminal – conduct a trial – sentence the criminal - justice prevailed -- episode. If ever there was cause to question the merits of a "one size fits all" criminal code, that eliminates any judicial flexibility for considering individual circumstances, the Dixon case is it.

Dixon was charged with four crimes that involve force (rape, aggravated assault, false imprisonment, and sexual battery) and in May 2003 a jury acquitted him of all four. According to one of the jurors, it took only a few minutes to reach verdicts because it was so clear that the sex had been consensual.

Dixon has never denied that he had sex with the fifteen-year-old white girl, which means he was clearly guilty of statutory rape. The Georgia statutory rape law specifically provides that where there has been consensual sexual intercourse and the girl is 14 or 15, and the defendant is no more than three years older the crime is a misdemeanor. Georgia law calls for a maximum sentence of one year in such a case.

However, Dixon was also charged with two other crimes that don't require proof of force: statutory rape and aggravated child molestation. The jury convicted him of both of those crimes after lengthy deliberation over two days.

"Aggravated child molestation," as defined by the Georgia statute, is an act of "child molestation" that "physically injures" the victim. At Dixon's trial, the only "physical injury" to the girl that was proven was the injury that naturally resulted from her being a virgin. The mandatory sentence of 10 years without parole was based on state law that took effect in 1995. No teenager, prior to Dixon, had ever been prosecuted under this law.

Even some of the jurors that convicted Dixon have had second thoughts. Five said had they been made aware of the possible sentence before their verdict they would have acted differently. (Jurors by law cannot be told of potential penalties before deliberations).

In addition to the legal anomalies, Dixon's case has a unique social facet. A White family raised him. His biological mother was a drug addicted habitual criminal and his father had nothing to do with him. Ken and Peri Jones became Marcus' legal guardians when he was 10 years old. The Jones family treated Marcus as one of their own and obviously instilled in him the value of hard work. His academic and athletic achievements verify this.

But the white culture as disseminated to Marcus by the Jones' did not prepare him to fully understand the practical danger of his illicit liaison. He probably had no clue that he was violating one of the oldest taboos in American history -- crossing the sexual color line. By having sexual relations with one of the assumed paragons of Southern virtue, Marcus inadvertently set the stage for his downfall.

Dixon currently has two possible avenues to get out of prison. The Georgia Supreme Court is set to hear his appeal on January 21, when his pro bono attorney will argue the child molestation conviction should be overturned.

Second, the Georgia Assembly could amend the existing child molestation law. The amendment must clearly state –if it is to apply to Dixon – that it applies to all cases in which there has been no final appeal ruling at the time the amendment became law. Then the Governor would have to sign the new law before the Georgia Supreme Court issues its ruling, just in case their ruling would be against Dixon.

Lady Justice may be blindfolded but she should not be blindsided.

Jam[illegible] W. Breedlove

Comments or opinions may be sent to the writer at: www.truthclinic.com

You & Your Government

Plano's Business Outreach Program Boosts Small Businesses

The City of Plano Purchasing Department has finalized its 2002-2003 Business Outreach Program Annual Report. The report summarizes the City's efforts to utilize small, minority and women-owned firms. In fiscal year 2002-2003 Plano purchased $32,152,172 of products and services through Small, Minority and Women Owned Firms which accounted for 25.51% of the City's purchasing power.

The Purchasing Department's efforts to encourage other city departments to consider using under utilized businesses have earned the City two awards. In September the Plano Chamber of Commerce Minority Enterprise Development Week Committee presented the Chairman's Award to the City of Plano for continuing support of programs honoring Minority Business Enterprises. In December MCOMPANY presented Plano with the 2003 Best of the Decade "Sharing Success" award in supplier diversity. This annual award recognizes distinguished Metroplex Public Sector and non-profit agencies that have established preeminent leadership in the supplier diversity arena. Each award winner is to have demonstrated a long history of commitment to mentoring and support for organizations that promote and foster positive workforce and supplier diversity opportunities. The cities of Garland and Dallas were honored as well by MCompany.

Plano Fire Department

The Plano Fire Department is currently accepting applications for the Spring Session of the Citizens Fire Academy which is scheduled to begin in March. Participants must be at least 18 years of age and live or work in the City of Plano. Class meets one night a week from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Fire Administration. Register on-line at www.planofire.org. For more information contact Peggy Harrell at 972-941-7421.

City of Garland

Plea for Aquatics Center

At a Garland Independent School District Board of Trustees meeting on January 15, Garland resident Gay Worth spoke to the Board about the importance and the need for an Aquatics Center in Garland. She said Garland does not have a facility where school swim teams can practice, adding that they have to go outside the city to facilities in Richardson, Mesquite or Dallas, to practice or participate in meets.

Worth asked the Board to consider becoming a partner with the City of Garland, to build and maintain an Aquatics Center in Garland, saying it goes beyond the need of the swim teams to the entire community. She said it would provide the opportunity for learn-to-swim programs for all students, accommodate school swim teams, competitive diving, aquatic exercise programs, rehabilitation and health recovery programs, physically challenged programs, and provide American Red Cross Life Guard instruction. Worth also gave examples of several surrounding cities where the school districts and the city have been successful in sharing the cost of building an aquatics center that serves all ages. Including the City of Allen and AllenISD, who partnered to build the Allen Aquatics Center.

School Board President Robert Harris said that under their rules and guidelines, they are prohibited from passing a resolution and taking it to the city. He said that the city needed to bring forward a proposal with a cost of building such a facility and they would take action.

GISD Special Events Center Underway

Construction will soon begin on the new Garland Independent School District (GISD) Special Events Center. The Center, located near I-190 between North Garland and Brand directly adjacent to the Naaman Forest High School, is a state-of-the-art assembly and conferencing center serving the needs of the school district and the community. The 190,000-square-foot multi-use building allows the school district to host high school convocations, graduations, sports events, concerts, and teacher in-service activities as well as national and regional tournaments. The facility will also be open to the community for local activities such as seasonal events, corporate training, trade shows, and other municipal functions.

The new facility has 7,000 fixed seats for convocations, basketball and volleyball games, gymnastics, and fine arts performances, with parking for 1,750 cars adjacent to the facility. In addition to the permanent armchair seating, the floor plan allows for folding chairs to be placed on the event floor.

The center's conference facility includes an 8,000-square-foot ballroom, divisible into eight smaller meeting rooms, a 125-seat tiered lecture hall, and additional meeting rooms. A state-of-the-art rehabilitation facility is also included. Middle school athletes will use the facility, which includes therapy tables, rehabilitation equipment, and hydrotherapy tanks. The shared support facilities include dressing rooms, storage maintenance areas, catering and kitchen facilities, and a management office. The locker rooms are situated to allow bus drop and access to the event floor.

Frisco

FM 423 between Main and the FM 720 at FM 423 intersection in Little Elm (commonly referred to as the "Y") will be closed from 9am to 2pm on Thursday, January 29. The closures are necessary for the installation of bridge beams as part of the TxDOT FM 423 construction project. Traffic in the area will be detoured to Dallas Parkway via Main Street and Eldorado Parkway (FM 2934).

City of Allen

The City of Allen has contracted with Rene Bates Auctioneers to provide online auction services for used surplus items. The City will host an online auction from January 20, until close on February 18, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. Individuals interested in buying can view items at renebates.com or inspect in person on Monday, February 9 and February 16, from 2pm-4pm ONLY. For Information contact: Herb Miller at 972-727-0185 or hmiller@cityofallen.org.

Bidders must register with Rene Bates Auctioneers at renebates.com, where they must agree to a list of 15 terms of use that includes everything from the age requirements of bidders and payment methods. Bidders are then issued a bidding number.

Items currently listed for bid include: Automobiles, Heavy and Light Trucks, Pickups, IBM Printer and Miscellaneous Equipment. Bidders may view items at the following locations: The Municipal Annex Yard at One Butler Circle, Allen, Texas, City Hall Basement and Parking lot at 305 Century Parkway, Allen, Texas and at Stacy Road Pump Station, Stacy Road, Allen, Texas. All materials, equipment and/or vehicles sold must be removed within seven days after the auction is completed.

For more information, please call the City of Allen Purchasing Division at 972-727-0185.

The Voice Behind the Paper Page 1

The following community members [illegible] MON – the Gazette's Advisory Board and help MON come up [illegible] to tackle the issues in the community:

Coty Anderson – Ms. Anderson is a high school counselor in the Plano Independent School District.

John Hightower – Mr. Hightower is a retired Plano Independent School District Administrator.

Myrtle Hightower, Ph. D - Dr. Hightower is a retired counselor with the Plano Independent School District.

for Motel 6 projects in Canada.

Ben Thomas – Mr. Thomas is a retired manager from Rockwell International.

B.J. Williams – Mr. Williams is employed as a Human Resources Manager with the Social Security Administration.

Willie Wattley - Mr. Wattley is retired from Texas Instruments were he was the first black engineer.

Denise Upchurch - Mrs. Upchurch is a licensed Loan Officer for Carteret Mortgage Company.

Barbara J. Simpkins – Mrs. Simpkins is the owner of BJS Associates, Incorporated, which is a company that provides bookkeeping and administrative service to small businesses.

Mrs. Annie Dickson, who was contacted by Mr. Jones over two years ago to become a member of the advisory board, says that she enjoys being on the board.

"Mr. Jones asked me to serve on MON-The Gazette's Advisory Board because he knew that I was in touch with the community and a lot of the issues in the community," said Mrs. Dickson.

According to Mrs. Dickson, a major issue that the advisory board has had to address is how to get information distributed to the minorities spread about in all the different communities.

"The Gazette has been successful in reaching the community groups that need to be reached," said Mrs. Dickson.

B.J. Williams who has been a member of Mon's Advisory Board for the past three years says that it is a public service being on the board.

"It's an honor to serve and contribute to the growth and expansion of the paper," said Williams.

Since its inception, MON has operated with a heavy focus on its mission statement. MON-The Gazette's mission is to promote economic development in the areas of housing, career and business opportunity from an African American perspective, by reaching out to women and other minority cultures and building coalitions by providing information and discussion to help its readers address economic and community opportunities.

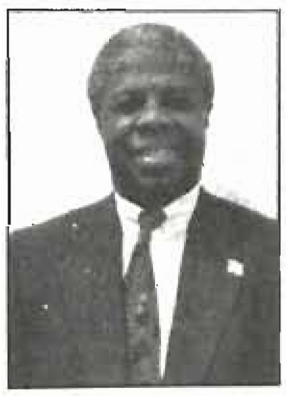
"Our mission statement is at the forefront of everything we do and if we stay focused on our mission statement it's easier to stay focused on what we do," said Mr. Jones.

Coty Rodriguez Anderson

John Hightower

Myrtle Hightower

Annie Dickson


Fred Moses

Cecil Starks

Ben Thomas

B.J. Williams

Willie Wattley

Denise Upchurch

Barbara Simpkins

Annie Dickson – Mrs. Dickson worked for Mass, Incorporated for twenty-three years and is now a community volunteer.

Fred Moses – Mr. Moses is founder and President of Telecom Electric Supply Company.

Cecil Starks – Mr. Starks is the owner of PURPLE International, which is the coordinator for all construction materials

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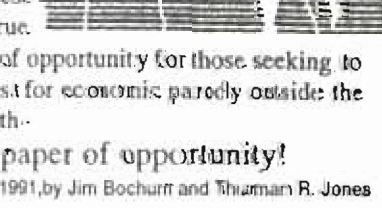
MON-The Gazette assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material and reserves the right to edit and make appropriate revisions.

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

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

Visit Our Website At www.MONTheGazette.com

• Who Are the Women of God? • Why is MON-The Gazette Honoring Them On Mother's Day Weekend 2004?
• What Can You Do To Be A Part Of The Momentous Occasion?
Go To www.monthegazette.com (Click on Women Of God)
or Contact Sister Tarpley At 972-606-3878 voice mail

Jackson Accuser Said to Be in Poor Health

By TIM MOLLOY
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- A former attorney for the mother of Michael Jackson's cancer-stricken accuser said the boy is in very poor health and his family is in seclusion, paying little attention to the high-profile legal fight.

Attorney William Dickerman also said Tuesday that based on what he knows of the evidence, he believes the Santa Barbara County district attorney's office has a strong case.

"Is a D.A. really going to put into gear the machinery of an entire district attorney's office on a case involving such a renowned person without having a stronger basis than he said-she said?" the Los Angeles-based attorney said in a telephone interview Tuesday.

He said there was "plenty of persuasive oral evidence," including findings of molestation by "a very conservative psychologist who is inclined not to find molestation." Asked if there was physical evidence, he replied, "It certainly wouldn't surprise me."

Dickerman offered several details Tuesday about how the allegations against the pop superstar eventually reached prosecutors. However, he declined to answer other questions about the case, saying he was unsure whether he was covered by a gag order ordered Friday by Santa Barbara County Superior Court Judge Rodney Melville.

He said the family was brought to him last year by Jamie Masada, a comedy club owner who introduced Jackson and the boy late in 2002.

Dickerman said the family was concerned about Jackson-related matters that did not involve molestation, but he declined to describe them. The molestation allegations arose later, he said.

Dickerman said he then contacted attorney Larry Feldman, who represented the boy who accused Jackson of molestation in 1993, and that Feldman later took over the case. The boy who made the allegations in 1993 reportedly received a multimillion dollar settlement from Jackson and refused to cooperate with prosecutors.

"Since he'd essentially written the book on civil action with Michael Jackson he would be the one to give more thorough counsel on Michael Jackson," Dickerman said.

Dickerman said both he and Feldman stopped representing the family last fall, when it became apparent Jackson would be criminally charged.

He said the family does not plan to seek money from Jackson, and described himself as a "family friend," not a legal representative.

Feldman did not return a call for comment Tuesday. But a source close to the family had confirmed that Feldman did meet with the boy and his mother, and had the boy see a psychologist.

The psychologist, who had handled celebrity cases before, went to authorities under a legal requirement to report any claims of child molestation.

Jackson was charged last month with seven counts of lewd or lascivious acts with a child under 14 and two counts of giving the child an "intoxicating agent," reportedly wine, between Feb. 7 and March 10, 2003. He has pleaded innocent.

Dickerman added to details about the boy's health from Masada, who said on Thanksgiving that the boy is seriously ill. Dickerman said the boy lost a kidney, his spleen and an adrenal gland in surgery to remove a large tumor.

He declined to say how the boy, his siblings and his mother spend their days. He said he is in touch with the family frequently, and has seen the boy within the last few weeks.

"They're in hiding," he said. "They're very private people."

Also Tuesday, Jackson attorney Mark Geragos and Santa Barbara District Attorney Tom Sneddon submitted proposed additions to the judge's order barring them from speaking about the case. The judge asked for written arguments when he issued the gag order Friday, in response to Geragos' request that he be allowed to respond to false information about his client.

Geragos' proposal asked that attorneys be allowed to respond to statements that would subject a client to "undue prejudice" or "adverse publicity."

Sneddon asked for more restrictive rules, saying attorneys should only be allowed to issue written responses, and only when the basis of a question is false. He also asked that the attorneys on each side confer with each other before releasing responses.

Black Filmmakers Featured at Sundance

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP Movie Writer

PARK CITY, Utah (AP) -- Black filmmakers are gaining influence in big-money Hollywood. It only follows that they would make inroads in low-budget independent cinema, too.

Past years at the Sundance Film Festival typically had a handful of movies by and about blacks, but the current indie-film showcase has a dozen or more.

The schedule was so strong Sundance organizers held a panel discussion - "The New 'New Black Film'" - featuring black filmmakers Mario Van Peebles, Kasi Lemmons and Ernest Dickerson.

Big-name talent such as Denzel Washington, Halle Berry, Will Smith, Wesley Snipes and Martin Lawrence have helped break down color barriers in Hollywood. Yet many black stars and directors tend to get stuck in action and comedy tales, while weightier black stories remain a tough sell.

"It's opening up," said Spike Lee, who recently signed on as executive producer of Sundance entry "CSA: The Confederate States of America," a faux documentary examining the racist nation that might have resulted had the South won the Civil War. "We can get jobs, but what kind of jobs? We're relegated to the ghetto of these broad, broad, broad comedies.

"I think what you're seeing at Sundance is something that's realistic for any independent filmmaker. If you want to tell stories Hollywood won't tell, you have to do it yourself, whether you're a woman or African-American or a Latino filmmaker. I think that's why you're seeing more of them now."

Four of the 16 films competing in Sundance's documentary category have blacks as their central figures or touch heavily on black subjects:

- "A Place of Our Own," examining the resort enclave of Oak Bluffs on Martha's Vineyard, where educated, well-to-do blacks found a haven from racism decades ago.

- "The Fight," a look back at black boxer Joe Louis' triumph over white challenger Max Schmeling to retain the heavyweight title in their 1938 rematch.

- "Deadline," which chronicles the commutation of death sentences for 167 inmates - most of them black - by Illinois Gov. George Ryan as a last act before leaving office.

- "Chisholm '72: Unbought & Unbossed," a portrait of the black congresswoman's bold and brassy campaign for the White House in 1972.

Shola Lynch, director of "Chisholm," said most films about blacks perpetuate stereotypes, while a rich range of stories remain untold.

"Not all black folks grew up in the projects," said Lynch. "Hollywood picks up on one little piece of it and calls it the black experience. I don't walk around just as a black person, or just as a woman, or just as a former athlete or a filmmaker. We are multidimensional, and the films we can make need to reflect that."

American Airlines Center
Nov 2003
1-23 Stars vs. Blues
1-24 Smucker's Stars On Ice
1-25 Mavs vs. Kings
1-26 Stars vs, Red Wings
1-28 Stars vs. Senators
1-29 Bette Midler

Metroplex Live
Sting - 1-31 - NextStage
Travis - 2-05 - NextStage
Sevendust - 2-14 - NextStage
Simple Plan - 2-16 - NextStage
Sesame Street - 2-19 - NextStage
Jackopierce - 2-27 - NextStage
Mercy Me - 2-27 - NextStage
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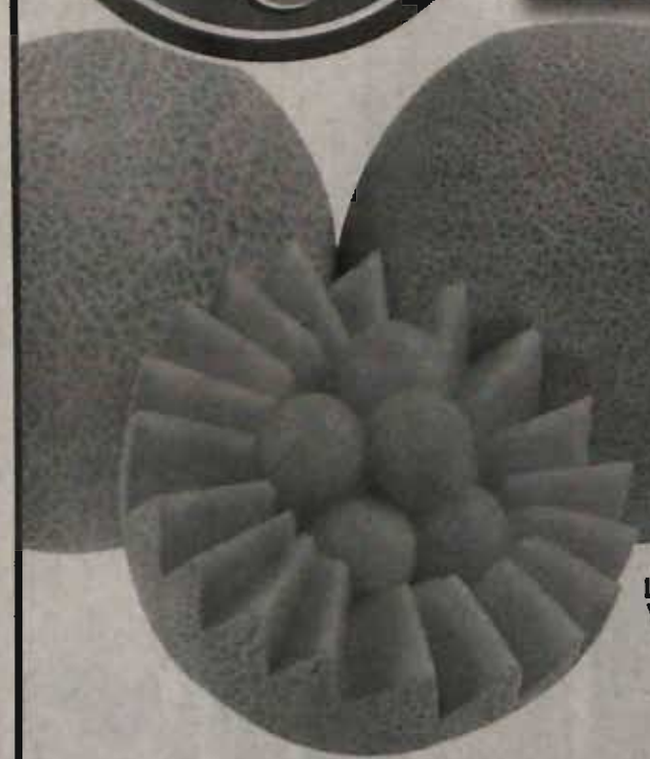
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Arts & Entertainment

Contemporary Blues Artist Keb' Mo' to Perform at The Ridglea Theater- March 6, 8:00 pm

Keb' Mo's new album Keep It Simple will be in stores February 10, 2004. Keb' takes a producer credit on this collection, the most personal album of his remarkable ten-year career.

Recorded in Los Angeles and Nashville, Tennessee, Keb' continues his deep-rooted blues tradition with the title-track, "France," and "Reily B. King," an homage to B.B. King featuring guitarists Robert Cray and Robben Ford.

Keb's trademark sense of humor crops up on "Prosperity Blues" as he turns the blues idiom inside out proclaiming he's got the blues because he's too happy to sing the blues. Standing in sharp contrast is the poignant "One Friend," a tender song about the power of friendship.

Keb' recalls that the decision to produce Keep It Simple himself was not hard to make. "I knew exactly what I wanted this

album to sound like before I started," explains the two-time Grammy-award winner. "I was looking over a list of producers for this album with my manager, and I said, 'in the time it would take me to explain the sound in my head to a producer, I could just do it myself.' The instant those words came out of my mouth, I knew what I needed to do."

One of the individual artist recordings that was part of this project was the release of "Martin Scorcese presents The Blues: Keb' Mo'" - a compilation of hand picked blues songs by Keb' Mo' from his catalogue.

• Keb' Mo' was the host of the PRI radio series "The Blues." The thirteen episodes covered the blues from its roots to today.

• Keb' Mo' appeared in the Martin Scorcese film "Feel Like Going Home" as part of the PBS series on The Blues• Keb' Mo' was featured as a solo performer and as a member of the house band in an upcoming concert film documenting the Year of The Blues concert celebration at Radio City Music Hall. Taped February 6, 2003.

Awards include GRAMMY AWARD Contemporary Blues Album "Just Like You" 1997

GRAMMY AWARD Contemporary Blues Album "Slow Down" 1999, and

WC HANDY AWARDS multiple awards 1995 – 2003.

Visit nextstage.com for more information about the March 6th tour date.

NTheKnow.com Presents the Multicultural After Five Network at Club Blue

On Wednesday, January 28, NTheKnow.com, the popular Dallas-based website formed to provide the social and business arena with unique, diversified and creative advertising, invites you to attend the Multicultural Industry Professional Network hosted at BLUE, the newest most upscale and plush facility in the metroplex. Unwind after a hard week of work in an elegant setting and network with business professionals,

while enjoying three rooms full of opportunities and excitement. Guests will have the opportunity to win door prizes, a S-Type Jaguar for the weekend, tickets to a Mavericks Basketball Game, as well as walking away with leads that can turn into money!

If you would like to be a vendor the cost is $50.00 and $75.00 for corporate.

Please register today at http://ntheknow.com/vendorrsvp1.asp. To pay online visit https://www.paypal.com/affil/pal=teresa@ntheknow.com.

Blue is located at 1933 Elm Street Dallas Texas 75201(Corner of Pacific and Harwood next to the Majestic Theater) For directions or information call, 214-880-0888 or visit www.bluevip.com.

The Passion of the Christ

The Passion of the Christ takes place over the last 12 hours of Christ's life, on the day of his Crucifixion, and is in Latin and Aramaic.

Starts February 25, 2004

Against the Ropes

Against the Ropes, inspired by a true story, follows a successful female boxing manager, Jackie Kallen (Meg Ryan), as she trains a new fighter, Luther Shaw (Omar Epps), that she believes can be a champion.

Starts Date February 20, 2004 in select cities

DEPRESSED AGAIN?

The Department of Psychiatry at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center of Dallas is conducting research sponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health on cognitive therapy for depression. **Treatment is free.** The symptoms of depression include:

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- Difficulty concentrating

If you have experienced these symptoms more than once in your life, are drug free and not currently in psychiatric treatment, please call the Psychosocial Research and Depression Clinic at 214-648-5351.

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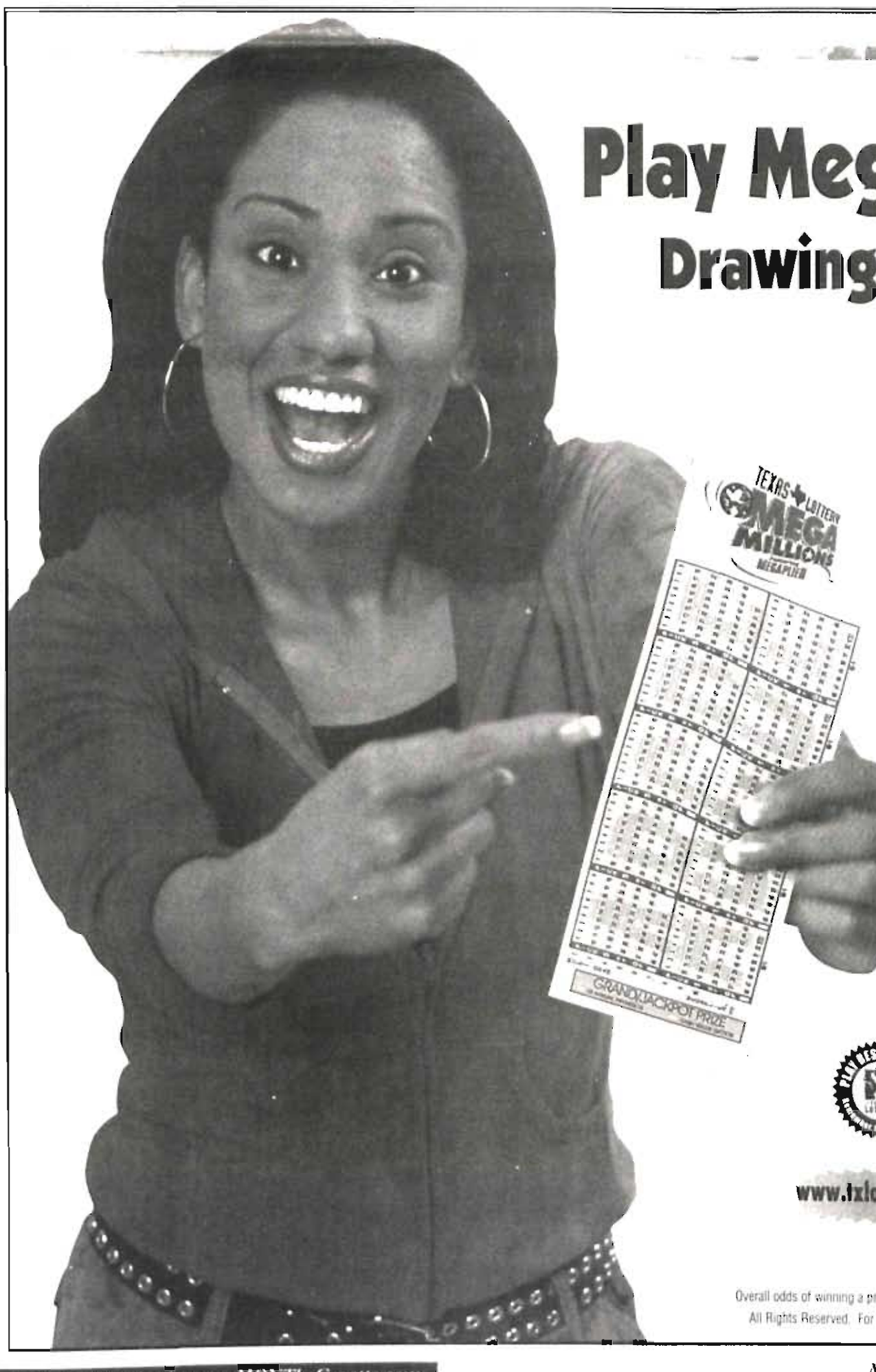

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Black Press Joins Page 1

the political process."

HSAN Chairman, Russell Simmons said, " HSAN is dedicated to harnessing the cultural relevance of Hip-Hop music to serve as a catalyst for education advocacy and other societal concerns fundamental to the well-being of at-risk youth throughout the United States."

The theme of the Houston Summit is "Taking Back Responsibility: Youth Economic & Political Empowerment" and this year's goal is to register 1 million new voters. The key focus will be encouraging youth to register to vote and take part in the political process.

NNPA Chairperson, Sonceria (Sonny) Messiah-Jiles

In 2004, Hip-Hop Summits are also scheduled on Los Angles - February 14, Chicago - March 22, Detroit - May 22, New York - June 17, and Boston - July 26.

"The NNPA endorses and supports this effort to increase voter registration and participation," said NNPA Chairperson, Sonceria (Sonny) Messiah Jiles. Ms. Messiah-Jiles, publisher of The Houston Defender, said the Summit's objectives "fit perfectly with those of the NNPA."

Ms. Messiah-Jiles said that attaining and retaining the right to vote is part of the 176-year legacy of the Black Press. "The Black Press was in the trenches as people fought, marched and died so that African Americans could vote. We fought a hard fight for this right and must encourage our young people to exercise their right and responsibility to vote."

Registering young people to vote is only half of the goal. HSAN will launch several initiatives to mobilize young people to go to the polls and vote through Hip-Hop Team Vote. Black voters have played a strategic role in a number of elections across the country. In 2000, the percentage of registered Black voters who went to the polls in Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio and Pennsylvania exceeded fifty percent. Both organizations are non-partisan.

"In the pages of our newspapers, we make a concerted effort to let our readers understand the power of their vote and the impact of their vote on the quality of their lives," said Ms. Messiah-Jiles. "In addition to increasing the number of registered voter, NNPA will continue its long tradition of informing, educating and empowering our readers on the many issues that affect their lives."

HSAN President and CEO, Dr. Benjamin Chavis Muhammad

Houston Hip-Hop Summit participants include HSAN Chairmen Russell Simmons, Sean "P. Diddy" Combs, Master P., Beyonce, Busta Rhymes, and Erykah Badu.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), also known as the Black Press of America, is a 62-year-old trade organization of more than 200 African American newspapers in the United States.

Websites:

Hip-Hop Summit Action Network

www.hiphopsummitactionnetwork.org

NNPA

www.blackpressusa.com

Blackonomics Page 1

come within the definition of small businesses; in fact, they fall within the lowest category of small businesses. When the first study was made of Negro business in 1898, it was found that the average capital investment for the 1,906 businesses giving information amounted to only $4,600,000. When the latest study of Negro business was made in 1944, it was revealed that the average volume of business of the 3,866 Negro businesses in twelve cities was only $3,260,000."

In 1997, the Census data indicated Black-owned firms' average receipts were $86,500, compared to $891,000 for all firms. Was Frazier correct in his assessment of what he deemed the mythical nature of Black business? Was he correct when he suggested the Black middle class was also a myth? He made a lot of folks angry when he wrote, "Negro business ... has no significance in the American economy [and] has become a social myth embodying the aspirations of this [Black Bourgeoisie] class." As we look at today's statistics we must reconsider Franklin's position, because the numbers reflect the same conditions he discussed in 1957.

Frazier was decrying our definition of "middle class" as one that embodies high incomes and material possessions, e.g., the mink coats, diamonds, and Cadillacs to which he referred, instead of business ownership and economic growth. While we consider the trappings of the good life as "wealth," sold to us by everyone else of course, we are mired in a dysfunctional -- and maybe even mythical -- Black economy.

Much of our economic pain in the 21st Century is the direct result of our failure to develop a real Black economy, our failure to take care of our "household," our failure to save more of our money, our failure to work harmoniously, and our failure to produce goods and services commensurate with our percentage of population and income. Additionally, we have failed to work together for the uplift of the masses, sharing our resources with one another and helping one another as we make our way individually.

The so-called "middle-class" Blacks have distanced themselves, not necessarily physically but mentally, and as Frazier wrote, they have been obsessed "with the struggle for status." And many of the less fortunate among our people spend too much time being jealous and envious of our brothers and sisters who have achieved at higher levels. The result is an oxymoronic Black economy.

James E. Clingman, an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati's African-American Studies department, is former editor of the Cincinnati Herald Newspaper and founder of the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce. He hosts the radio program, "Blackonomics," and is the author of the book, "Economic Empowerment or Economic Enslavement-We have a Choice." He can be reached at (513) 489-4132, or by e-mail at jclingman@blackonomics.com.

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Not Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

The Gazette

MON-The Gazette is looking for community writers and reporters. Pay on a contract basis or by the hour. Email your resume to editor@monthegazette.com or fax to 972-516-4197. Leave a message at 972-881-1646.

CITY OF PLANO, TEXAS

POLICE HOTLINE
(972) 941-7299

FIRE HOTLINE
(972) 941-7402

24 HOUR CAREER INFORMATION HOTLINE
(972) 941-7116

Home Page: www.plano.gov

FAX (972) 941-7239

AA / EOE /ADA

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Needed For:
Garland/Mesquite
Plano/ Richardson/ N. Dallas
Farmersville/Wylie
McKinney/ Allen/ Frisco/
Lewisville/ Denton/ Dallas Areas
Salary Negotiable

Call (972) 606-3261
Please leave a message!

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

KSKY-AM is looking for full time Account Executives with outside sales experience. Candidate should have an understanding of the programming and the mission of KSKY. Previous radio sales experience is not necessary. Knowledge of southern gospel music is a plus!

Please fax a letter along with a resume to Lori Sosh, Sales Department at 214 561 9662
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

KSKY-AM is a subsidiary of Salem Communications, an equal opportunity employer

F-T ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

KWRD-FM is looking for candidates who have been successful in outside sales. A commitment to the programming and the mission of KWRD is critical. Previous radio sales experience is not necessary.

If you're interested in this position with KWRD-FM.

Please fax an introduction letter along with a resume to [illegible] 214 561 9662

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

KWRD-FM is a subsidiary of Salem Communications, an equal opportunity employer

HOBBY LOBBY

Store Management Opportunities

Hobby Lobby is a leader in the Arts & Crafts industry with 316 stores located in 27 states and still growing!

Candidates must have previous retail store management experience in:

Supermarket chain, craft chain
Mass merchant, Drug chain
Building supply chain

Benefits include:
- *All Stores Closed on Sunday!*
- *Competitive Salaries*
- *Paid Vacations*
- *401K Plan*
- *Medical/Dental*
- *Life Insurance*
- *Merchandise Discount*
- *[illegible] Plan*

Qualified candidates who are self motivated and top performers must apply online.

www.hobbylobby.com

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for highway improvement contracts will be received by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: Dallas
Contract 0918-45-672 for REPAIR & REHAB OF HOUSTON ST VIADUCT in DALLAS County will be opened on February 11, 2004 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. 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 and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.
NPO: 12063

State Office
Constr. Maint. Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540

Dist/Div Office(s)
Dallas District
District Engineer
4777 E. Hwy 80
Mesquite, Texas 75150-6643
Phone: 214-320-6100

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

TISEO PAVING COMPANY

419 E. Hwy. 80, Mesquite, TX 75150
Tel: (972) 289-0723 Fax: (972) 216-5637
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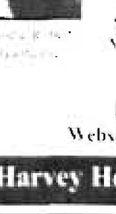
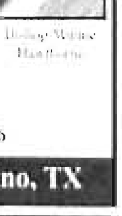
Performing Concrete Street Paving in the Metroplex Area
We Accept Subcontracting Bids For All Public Works Project in the Dallas Area
We Are Accepting Applications for Concrete Mixer Drivers and Heavy Equipment Mechanics

Equal Opportunity Employer

Church Directory



DayStar Deliverance Ministries



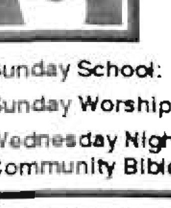
Our Services:

Sunday
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Midday Service: 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday
Prayer Service: 7:00 p.m.
Service: 7:30 p.m.

Sponsored by:
The Touch Ministry • Women in Transition (WIT)
Website: www.thetouchministry.com • Phone: 972-769-8826

Harvey Hotel • 1600 N. Central Expressway • Plano, TX

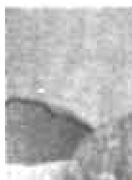


Hill Chapel

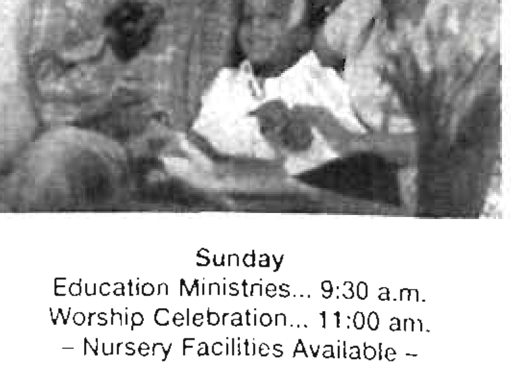
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
1113 I Ave. Plano, TX. 75074 (972) 423-4090
Rev. James E. Larry, Pastor

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

Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church



1308 Wilcox Street, McKinney Tx
Pastor Charles S. Wattley



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

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

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

Church Directory Page 7

This Page Sponsored by: **Elite News Religious Hall of Fame Museum**
5551 South Hampton Road in Dallas • Open: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. • Monday through Friday • Phone 214-167-1002 • Email Abr648@aol.com

'Churches Praying for Churches' Kicks off to Promote Prayer

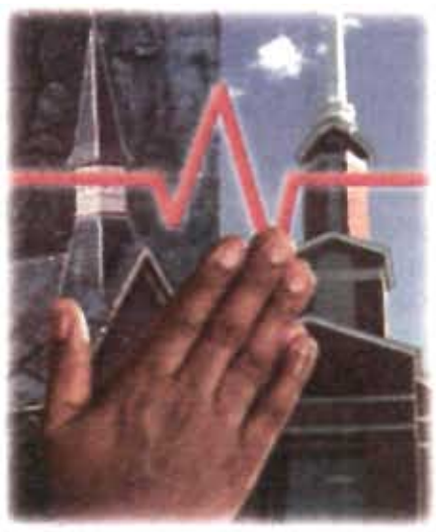
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--In an effort to promote supportive prayer among the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention, a new initiative called "Churches Praying for Churches" enables both individual believers and church prayer groups to pray not only for their own churches but for every Southern Baptist church during 2004.

Launched Jan. 1 by the SBC Executive Committee, the North American Mission Board and the Empowering Kingdom Growth Task Force, Churches Praying for Churches is seeking to link a network of churches in prayer to pray for God's empowerment and engage them in His churches across the convention for Kingdom growth.

To be a part of the prayer effort, Southern Baptist individuals or church prayer groups may register online at www.sbc.net or by calling 1-888-PRAYER2. Registrants should provide their name, e-mail address and church identification number, which may be found by searching for their home church in the ChurchSearch database at www.sbc.net. Each registrant will be assigned a personal volunteer identification number.

Registrants can commit to pray for one to five Southern Baptist churches each week for 12 weeks, including lifting up specific requests presented by the sister churches.

"What could be better than to pray for our sister churches and their ministries, that God might bless them in a mighty way?" Morris H. Chapman, president of the Executive Committee, said in a sound clip at www.oneinamillionprayer.com.



Chapman was among the chief organizers of the prayer effort, drawing from his experience as pastor of First Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, Texas, during the 1980s. The church was giving 14 percent of its budget through Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program, but church members began to pray about what more they could do in association with the convention.

"God led us to begin praying for each and every church, SBC entity, institution and state convention," Chapman said. "I'll have to tell you, it was one of the most exciting and fruitful and blessed experiences of all of my pastoral life. I can't begin to tell you how God spoke to our people as they prayed and the reports of blessings around the nation. Now we have that opportunity in the convention."

Churches Praying for Churches also allows individual churches to submit specific prayer requests, such as church growth, evangelism and mission opportunities or general prayer requests for the pastor, staff and members. Requests may be made at the same location as registration at www.sbc.net.

Many churchgoers are familiar with the passage from 2 Chronicles 7:14, which states, "If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

"I know that's the prayer of every Southern Baptist for our nation and for our convention," Chapman said. "Would you join us in this prayer effort? It could result in the greatest blessing which God would ever pour out upon this convention. May we pray for spiritual awakening, may we pray for revival, may we abandon self for the cause of Christ and just say, 'Lord, I can't, but You can help us reach this nation for the sake of Christ and His Kingdom.'"

Church Happenings Page 7

February 6, 2004 8:00 pm to 9:00 pm (10 Weeks)
MOCOP School of Biblical Studies will offer a Seminary Class the topic is "Practical Theology" 101 &102, cost $40 (includes textbook). Enrollment is now open.
For more information call, 972-633-5511

February 27-29, 2004
MOCOP'S MEN'S RETREAT, "Connecting God & Men"
For more information call Elder Lloyd Spence @ 972-633-5511

Mt. Olive Church of Plano
Rev. Sam Fenceroy, Pastor
740 Avenue F
Plano, TX 75075
972-633-5511

NEW LIGHT CHURCH
February 7, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Singles, Divorced, and Widowed Seminar – "The Myth of Singleness"
Host: Pastor Shaun Rabb
Registration and Continental Breakfast- 9:00 am
For more information, call 972-329-5483.

New Light Church
Rev. Shaun Rabb, Pastor
909 E. Gross Road, Suite 320
Mesquite, TX 75149
972-329-5483

NORTH DALLAS BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
Thursdays, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Support Group--Healing Past Wounds
Held in Youth Library, Room D204
For more information, contact Tera McFarland at 972-437-3493, Ext. 111
Saturdays, 10:00 am- 11:30 am
A refresher course in Spanish- Bldg 1010, Room D218
For more information, contact Anita Jarrell at 214-364-0330.

North Dallas Community Bible Fellowship
Rev. Leslie W. Smith, Pastor
302 Centennial Blvd.
Richardson TX 75081-5057
972-437-3493

SHIRLEY CLARK INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES
January 30 & 31, 2004
First Annual JABEZ Prayer Network Congressional Prayer Conference, Keynote Speakers Dr. Sheba Kulothungan, Jesus Calls Ministries in Arlington, Texas and Minister Sandra Martin, The Simeon Paper in Dallas, Texas.
For more information, call JABEZ Prayer Network @ 972-424-2074

Shirley Clark International Ministries
Rev. Shirley Clark, Executive Director
P. O. Box 860794
Plano, TX 75086-0794
972-424-2074

ST. LUKE "COMMUNITY" UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
February 2-7, 7:00 pm
Zan W. Holmes, Jr. African Heritage Lecture Series, "The Struggle Continues"
The series is FREE and open to the public with activities for the entire family
For more information, call the church office at 214-821-2970.

St. Luke United Methodist Church
Rev. Tyrone Gordon, Senior Pastor
5710 East R.L. Thornton Freeway (I-30 East)
Dallas, TX 75223
214-821-2970

WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH
February 1, 2004, 1:30 pm
Groundbreaking Ceremony with special guests Mayor Gene Carey, Councilmembers Greg Tierney, Tim Blair, Rudy Durham, Police Chief Steve McFadden and Fire Chief Richard Lasky of Lewisville. Active church members and former Dallas Cowboy greats Tony Tolbert and Charles Haley will be in attendance. There will be live performances by the WBC Adult Choir, Youth Praise Dancers and Youth Steppers, and much more.
For more information call Louis Rosenthal at 972-539-5996 or 972-221-5668.

Westside Baptist
Church of Lewisville
Rev. Kenneth W. Blake,
Senior Pastor
802 Bellaire Blvd.
Lewisville, TX 75067
972-221-5668

Send your church announcements to editor@monthegazette.com or fax to 972-516-4197 c/o Church Happenings. Deadlines are Fridays before publication date. (MON-The Gazette is published each Thursday.)

BETHANY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. A.K. Haynes, Sr. Senior Pastor
SUNDAY ACTIVITIES
8:30 am - Sunday School • 10:00 am - Worship Services
MONDAY
6:30 pm - Missions • 7:00 pm - Brotherhood
WEDNESDAY
6:00 pm - Teacher's Meeting
7:00 pm - Prayer & Midweek Lesson
SATURDAY
10:00 am thru 1:00 pm
Youth Activities
6710 Webster Avenue • Dallas, TX 75209
214-352-3552 (Phone) • 214-352-6793 (Fax)
abethany@sbcglobal.net (Email)

All Nations United Methodist Church

Dr. Clara M. Reed
Senior Pastor

Dr. Bert Affleck
Hispanic Ministries

"Christian by Faith, Diverse by Design"

Sunday	8:45am	Lectionary Bible Study
Sunday	8:45am	Sunday School
Sunday	8:45am	Estudio Bíblico En Español
Sunday	10:00am	Worship Service
Tuesday	7:00pm	Prayer Meeting

3415 E. 14th St.
Plano, TX. • 75074
972-424-8500
www.allnationsumc.org

(Free Nursery Provided For Ages 4 and Under)
Other ministries include: "English As A Second Language" and "Spanish As A Second Language" Classes.

Sims Chapel Baptist Church

Reverend A. Louis Patterson, III, Senior Pastor

The Fellowship of Love
(Sharing Love, Saving Souls and Changing Lives)
Sunday Services
Early Morning Worship: 8:00 am
Sunday School: 10:30 am
Mid-Morning Worship: 11:30 am
Bible Study
Wednesday Night Live @ 7:30 pm
317 Parker Drive • Garland, TX 75040
Phone: 972-276-0014 • Fax: 972-276-2444
Website: www.SimsChapel.org

GREATER DAVIS CHAPEL COGIC

Elder T.L. & Sister Mattie Chalk, Sr.

"The Vision Shall Come To Pass"
Worship Address: 821 East Miller Road, Garland, TX 75040
Mailing Address: 1941 Burke Street, Garland, TX 75040
SERVICE TIMES

Sun Prayer	9:00 am	Mon Prayer/Bible Band	7:30 pm
Sun School	9:30 am	Mon Brotherhood	7:30 pm
Worship	11:00 am	Wed Pastoral	7:30 pm
W.P.W.W.	6:00 pm	Every 4th Fri C.W.C	7:30 pm
Evangelist Hour	8:00 pm	Every 3rd Sat Nursing Home Ministry	2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

972-864-1047 (Phone) • 972-864-2237 (Fax) • www.davischapel.org (website)

Hamilton Park United Methodist Church

Rev. Derrick Wright
Senior Pastor

Sunday School
8:30 am
Morning Praise
9:45 am
Sunday Worship
10:00 am
Wednesday Service
6:30 pm

(Childcare Available Each Sunday)

A Christian Community of Faith Called by God to Make Disciples for Jesus Christ.

11881 Schroeder Road
Dallas, TX 75243-3656
Phone: 972-235-4633 • Fax: 972-235-5713
Email: hparkum@aol.com
Website: www.hparkumc.org

Little Flock Baptist Church

Pastor Louis E. Laurent
Internet Broadcast: www.krgm.com
(Mon - Fri @ 12 Noon)
A Place Where a "Taste of the Word" is Guaranteed

Sunday School	9:30 am
Sunday Morning Worship	10:45 am
Tuesday Night Brotherhood	7:00 pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting/Bible Study	7:00 pm

704 E. Aimee Street • P.O. Box 903 • Forney, Texas 75126
Phone: 214-325-7021
Fax: 214-371-8922 or 214-372-2135
Email: theswordcuts@yahoo.com

New Life Fellowship of Hamilton Park

8219 Bunche Drive • Dallas, TX 75243
972-671-1096
Reverend Miller E. Johnson Jr., Senior Pastor
A Place of New Beginnings. . . II Corinthians 5:17

Sunday Morning Bible School	9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship Service	10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship (Agape Hour) First Sunday	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting and Evening Bible Study	7:15 p.m.

Temple of Faith
Christian Chapel C.M.E. Church

Dr. Jerome E. McNeil, Jr., Pastor

"Where Jesus is the Main Attraction"

Sunday Worship Experience
8:00 am & 10:45 am
Wednesday Bible Study
12:00 Noon & 7:00 pm

14120 Noel Road
Dallas, TX 75254

972-239-1120 (Office) • 972-239-5925 (Fax)
templeoffaith_cme@sbcglobal.net (Email)
Healthy Beginnings Child Development Center
972-404-1412

• Who Are the Women of God? • Why is MON-The Gazette Honoring Them On Mother's Day Weekend 2004? • What Can You Do To Be A Part Of The Momentous Occasion? Go To www.monthegazette.com (Click on Women Of God) or Contact Sister Tarpley At 972-606-3878 voice mail