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# The Gazette

A Division of  
**MON**  
Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

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

Volume X, Number XXI

"North Dallas" Weekly Paper of Choice

December 20-January 3, 2001



**On the Homefront:**

Methodist Hospitals of Dallas (MHD) will be offering flu shots to the public at the Tom Thumb Food store located at 900 W. McDermott in Allen from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. December 22nd. The fee for the shot is \$15 and Medicare Part B will be accepted. Shots will not be given to persons who are pregnant, allergic to eggs, or running a fever. Children must first see their pediatrician before receiving a shot and those aged 12-17 years must be accompanied by a legal guardian. For more information on flu shots, call 214-947-0000.

The International Library of Photography is pleased to announce that over \$60,000.00 in prizes will be awarded this year in the International Open Amateur Photography Contest. Photographers from the Plano area, particularly beginners, are welcome to try to win their share of over 1,300 prizes. To enter, send one photograph in the following categories: people, travel, pets, children, sports, nature, action, humor, portraiture, or other. The photo must be a color or black-and-white print (unmounted), 8"x10" or smaller. All entries must include the photographer's name and address on the back, as well as the category and the title of the photo. Photos should be sent to: The International Library of Photography, Suite 101-2612, 3600 Crondall Lane, Owings Mills, MD 21117. Entries must be postmarked by December 31, 2001. You may also submit your photo directly online at [www.picture.com](http://www.picture.com).

January 8th the Women's Museum will present "New Year, New Beginnings: A conversation with Lynda Wooding" at 7 p.m. She will give a special talk and share her tips on using the New Year for new beginnings in our professional and personal lives. For more information, call 214-915-0890.

The Plano Metropolitan Ballet (PMB) will bring to life "Alice in Wonderland" on the stage at the Plano East High School on January 11th and 12th. Tickets for "Alice in Wonderland" are \$1.00 and can be purchased from Gotta Dance at 121 Spring Creek Pkwy in Plano or by calling 972-517-5799. Performance times are Fridays January 11th at 7 p.m., and Saturday, January 12th at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Group rates are available.



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## Plano residents reminded of how blessed they are

By ANTHONY JONES

"We get in our cars and drive freely," Mayor Jeran Akers told residents in his State of the City address. "While we may have to stop at an occasional red light, we certainly do not have to go through military check points."

Plano Mayor Jeran Akers delivered his Annual State of the City address recently, telling residents too often we take things for granted and we sometimes forget how blessed we are, until tragedy occurs like the one that shook our nation last September.

The mayor presented his vision of Plano's stability in the midst of the nation's economic downturn to the city council Monday and then to city business and civic leaders at a Plano Chamber of Commerce luncheon Tuesday.

"We care about those we

serve," Akers said. "We share with our fellow citizens, as evidenced by our support of affordable housing through Habitat for Humanity and the Plano Housing Corporation. We share with those less fortunate through the Samaritan Inn, Hope's Door, City House and many others."

"We dare to try new innovative ways to run your city government," the mayor said, explaining the city has initiated online payment of water utility bills and the city is in the process of implementing a system called 'Firefly.'

Firefly records the amount of water used and transmits the data to a computer via radio signal while an operator simply drives a truck down a street to electronically access and record the information. Akers also said the city is improving methods for payment

of fines and citations to the municipal court.

"We are blessed to have another record year of new prop-



erty added to our tax rolls," Akers told chamber members.

"With these additions and through skillful management of city resources, we were able to reduce the tax rate for the second year in a row. We still have one of the lowest tax rates in the metroplex."

Akers also mentioned the city's 3,400 acres of open space and park land augmented with recreational programs that serves "not only our youngest children but our most senior citizens as well."

According to the mayor, Plano is a place where business is viewed as a partner, rather than an adversary. He also noted Plano is the home of many of the nation's top Fortune 500 companies, including EDS, Frito-Lay, JC Penney, Alcatel, and Dr Pepper.

"(Plano is a city) Where government leaders understand that businesses provide jobs, tax revenue and stability to our families," Akers told business leaders. "As some (of) our fellow citizens lost their jobs and the unemployment rate rose, we created (in

conjunction with the chamber and the Collin County Community College District) a job fair to help them find work. As sales taxes dropped below expected levels, we began an education program, 'Shop Plano First' to help citizens understand the importance of this source of revenue."

"With the bond approval this past May we will be able to expand our park land even more, ultimately to over 4,100 acres," he said.

"We know that it takes more than good leaders to make our city great," Akers said. "Plano is great because of the hundreds of volunteers that help shoulder the tasks of improving our city. We have a proud heritage of family volunteerism."

"We get in our cars and drive freely," Akers said. "While we may have to stop at an occasional red light, we certainly do not have to go through military check points."

Calling the Plano Police Department innovative and proactive, the mayor explained their work provides a city where

See Plano Park page 6



Businessman Fred Moses (right) congratulates Mon-The Gazette's Publisher, Thurman R. Jones

By Brandy Jones

On December 6, 2001, the Plano Forum hosted an "Open Forum" for MON-The Gazette and for friends and leaders of the Plano community at the Collin County Association Realtors Office. The festive occasion served as a platform to introduce MON-The Gazette as a newcomer to the Plano busi-

## Open House

ness world and to incite an intimate discussion with all in attendance of what will be expected from the new media business in town.

"I was very happy to see the Plano Forum host such a successful event and I am looking forward to serving and working for and with the community and

its leaders," says Thurman Jones, co-founder and publisher of MON-The Gazette.

MON-The Gazette is a subsidiary of Minority Opportunity News, the newspaper of choice for the greater Dallas area since 1991. In October 2000, the decision was made to further expand the areas of distribution

and diversity by relocating to Plano. The name change is a direct reflection of MON-The Gazette's new attitude, new format, new location, and now weekly status. MON-The Gazette is the only publication that primarily serves readers in North Dallas, Richardson, Plano, Garland, McKinney, Allen, and Mesquite circulating to 32,000 readers.

## No donation; instead protest

NEW YORK (AP) — The Salvation Army's red kettles, an abiding symbol of holiday good will, are at the center of a battle over gay rights this Christmas season.

Complaining of bias by the Christian charity, some gay-rights supporters are dropping protest notes in the kettles instead of cash. In response, conservative groups are urging extra donations as a show of solidarity.

The protest campaign started in Flint, Mich., but has since spread to many states after the Salvation Army's national leadership last month rescinded a decision by its 13-state Western branch to offer health benefits to domestic partners of gay and lesbian employees.

"It seemed so mean," said Mary Scholl, mother of a gay man, who started the campaign along with her colleagues in the Flint branch of Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

Since then, Scholl said, she has received scores of messages from across the country, some supportive, others hostile. "I've had

100 e-mails from people telling me I'm going to hell," she said.

The Washington headquarters of Scholl's organization, known as PFLAG, has taken up the cause. Its Internet site shows supporters



how to make copies of the protest notes, which vaguely resemble \$5 bills.

"I would have donated \$5," the note says. "But the Salvation Army's decision to discriminate

against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered employees prevents my donation now and in the future."

PFLAG's program and policy director, Cynthia Newcomer, said supporters are being asked to donate to charities that provide domestic-partner benefits.

At the Salvation Army's national headquarters in Alexandria, Va., officials say the protest appears to have

caused little financial damage. They make no apologies for a policy that limits family health benefits to married couples and their dependent children.

"We're a Christian organization — we don't provide those benefits for heterosexual couples that aren't married," said Lt. Col. Tom Jones, the Salvation Army's community relations and development secretary.

The charity does not ask its 45,000 employees, nor those who seek its services, about their sexual orientation, Jones said.

"The only question we ask is, 'Do you need our help?'" he said. Some conservative activists, angered by the protest campaign,

See No Donation page 6

## Boys & Girls Youth of the Year

To showcase outstanding boys and girls, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Collin County recently held an awards assemblage in their honor at Southfork Ranch in Parker County. Boys and girls were praised for earning top honors in academics, citizenship, and service to the Club and community throughout the year, but one stood out among the rest. Floyd Diel Sanders was awarded the title "Youth of the Year" for 2001.

Special guests in attendance were MLS Dallas Burn superstars Chad Deering and Bobby Rhine.



Mary experienced long lines at local post offices on Tuesday. Officials announced that this was the last day to ship for holiday packages to arrive by Christmas.



# Mesquite Wins Its First State Title In Football

Mesquite 14, SA Taft 13

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Mesquite scored 14 points, all in the second half, to come from behind and defeat San Antonio Taft 14-13 on Saturday and win the Texas Class 5A Division I State Championship.

The Skeeters, from District 10-5A, were led by quarterback Mark Hodges, who rebounded from two fumbles in the first half. He was 3-of-8 for 112 yards with one touchdown.

"We told them to keep playing, not to get their heads down," Skeeters coach Steve Haplin said. "There's no question it could have been a lot worse. We didn't have a first down. It was a miracle we were down by 13 at the half."

Rain forced both teams to adopt a conservative game plan.

The Raiders defense held the Skeeters (15-0) to a total of minus-15 yards offense and no first downs in the first half.

Mesquite's offense got going in middle of the third quarter when Lemond Fofang ran up the middle for a 10-yard touchdown.

On the Skeeters' next possession, Hodges found Brandon Douglas in between two defenders for a 55-yard touchdown pass, ending a 74-yard drive in six plays.

The Skeeters overcame seven fumbles, four recovered by Taft (12-3).

Taft's running back Robert Merrill, who had rushed for 2,744 yards and 37 touchdowns coming into the game, had 139 yards on 33 carries and converted two turnovers into Taft touchdowns.

The Raiders' Warren Foxwell first recovered a Skeeters fumble on the their 21 yard line. Six plays later, Merrill rolled in from the 1 on a fourth-and-goal to open up the scoring at the 4:53 mark.

Two plays later the Skeeters fumbled again, and the ball was recovered by Robert Jimenez. Merrill again capped that scoring drive with a 22-yard run. The extra point kick failed.

"I wanted to go for it. It's the state championship. We had nothing to lose. Unfortunately, we came up short," Merrill said.

Taft, representing District 27-5A, went to the state finals just a year after finishing 3-7.

"The scoreboard didn't turn out the way we wanted, but I'm not going to let that diminish what these kids have accomplished this year," Taft coach Lee Bridges said.



Local business owners support the Skeeters in their victorious reign

# Will Smith is Ali Christmas Day

With wit and athletic genius, with defiant rage and inner grace, Muhammad Ali forever changed the American landscape. Fighting all comers, Ali took on the law, conventions, the status quo and the war—as well as the fists in front of him. Ali both ignited and mirrored the conflicts of his time and ours to become one of the most admired fighters in the world.

Forget what you think you know. Behind Ali's seismic accom-



plishments, superstar Will Smith and Academy Award(n)-nominated director/writer Michael Mann will take you into the heart and life of the boxer, the legend, and more importantly, the man.

At first, Will Smith wanted nothing to do with the film "Ali."

"I didn't want to be the dude that messed up the Muhammad Ali story,"

Smith said in an interview with Time magazine, on news-

stands Monday.

But Ali, 59, said he was pleased with Smith's performance in the biography film opening Christmas Day.

"He's the only guy in the world who can look like me and act like me," Ali said.

Smith said one hurdle relating to a man whose life had been so defined by racial injustice.

"I'm a child of rap music," Smith said. "We've got Bentleys. We can't even relate to not being able to sit at somebody's lunch counter. I'll buy the counter and throw you out."

Smith added 14 kilograms (30 pounds) of muscle to transform his body into a nearly per-

fect replica of Ali's, learned to box and studied Ali's Islamic faith to prepare for the role.

"For an African American, Muhammad Ali is the biggest role you could have," Smith said. "Malcolm X, Muhammad Ali and Nelson Mandela — with any of those roles comes a responsibility."



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 Game #231 (\$1) <b>Triple 3</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 4.87	 Game #232 (\$1) <b>Fast Cash</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 4.32	 Game #233 (\$1) <b>Cupid Cash</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 4.76	 Game #235 (\$1) <b>Masquerade Matchup</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 4.73	 Game #236 (\$1) <b>9's in a Line</b> Overall Odds are 1 in 4.68

**These games will close on January 30, 2002.**  
**You have until July 29, 2002 to redeem any winning tickets for these games.**

You can claim prizes of up to \$599 at any Texas Lottery retailer. Prizes of \$300 or more are redeemable at any one of the 22 Texas Lottery Claim Centers or by mail. Questions? Call the Texas Lottery Customer Service Line at 1-800-37-LOTTO (1-800-375-6886).

\*The odds listed here are the overall odds of winning any prize in a game, including break-even prizes.  
NOTICE: A Scratch Off game may continue to be sold even when all the top prizes have been claimed. For current information on prizes remaining in a Scratch Off game, call 1-800-37-LOTTO.



# 2001 In Retrospect

This is MON-The Gazette's last issue for this year. Our next issue will be January 3, 2002. And like most of our readers, we'll be glad to close the curtain on 2001. We've had a good year at the paper but the country has been tried dearly. We are very pleased to be in our new location, reaching out to the forgotten souls in far North Dallas, Mesquite, Garland, Richardson and Plano. Giving you "news you can use."

First of all, January, with the confusion of the election when George W. Bush was sworn in. Not saying that he cannot get the job done, but it was the procedure of acquiring the prestigious position. The Supreme Court negated our votes and "crowned" George W. The decision left us feeling bamboozled and hoodwinked, like Plymouth Rock landed on us. If nothing more, the entire situation with the Florida ballots revealed in clear detail that the more things change, the more they stay the same. Plus, we've got to admit that brother Al Gore put himself in the position to lose the election. He should have ran on Clinton's record instead of away from Clinton altogether.

And in the "everybody makes mistakes category," the winner is—Jesse Jackson. We would never declare that the

announcement of a new child is a mistake, but rather a blessing. But come on now, Jesse is too old to have babies out of wedlock at this stage of his career as minister, husband and leader. Not a good example Jesse, unless you want to give him credit for admitting it publicly and not denying his responsibility. Yeah, that makes it all better.

The economy took a nose dive this year. Unemployment, talk of recession, it hasn't looked this bad since Reagan was in the White House. You know when the economy goes sour, minorities are usually the first to suffer. President Clinton supported many issues that positively affected minorities. More houses were purchased than ever before, more money was made than ever before and more individuals were employed than many can remember. The good thought to hold on to is now that we have tasted the good and prosperous life, maybe we can figure out how to keep the momentum and include more of us.

Speaking of momentum—Baby girl, better known as Allyah was just getting started and then so tragically taken. What more can be said?

And out of the "blue," literally, hell on Earth at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and

a remote field in Pennsylvania. No one can imagine the untold grief caused by several extremists on September 11th. Words can't describe of how terrible this deed perpetrated on innocent people on that fateful day. It is unknown how long we will suffer the consequences of these actions. The events of "9-11" (as the event is now commonly called) has galvanized our nation and invoked an intense spirit of patriotism here and around the world. It should be impossible for Osama Bin Laden to live in peace. In the words of that great ballad by the Supremes, Bin Laden should have now realized "Ain't no mountain high enough, ain't no river wide enough, ain't no valley low enough to keep America from you."

Our lives have changed forever. Nevermore can we take our safety for granted. Our attackers were so bold that they almost leveled the Pentagon: Our brain of the U.S. military and the nerve center of peacekeeping around the world. This also greatly impacted our economy and state of mind. We are a strong nation and will survive.

The staff at MON-The Gazette wishes you and yours a very Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa and a positive and prosperous New Year.



# Inspiration

## Increasing Texas Philanthropy

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — When George Foster and his wife lost their jobs last month, they were worried about paying the mortgage on the house they bought this summer.

To save money, they drove less and bought things only for their 4-year-old daughter. But the couple, who had a combined

income of nearly \$60,000, have seen their money dwindle as they search for work.

"I'm finding myself competing with high school graduates for \$7-an-hour jobs," said Foster, 36, who attended college and has specialized computer skills. "I never dreamed it would

be this hard finding a job."

So Foster, like thousands of other Texans this year, went to a charitable organization for the first time to pick up winter clothes and some food for his family.

"I was very reluctant," Foster said. "I sat out in front of the place for a little while and then drove away, but then I came back and went in. The people were really nice, so it was a little bit easier."

Charities across the state say they are helping more first-time clients this year — and more people overall — in the wake of job cuts in travel, retail and other industries.

Some, like Foster and his wife, had donated money or clothes to such agencies in previous years and never expected to be seeking help one day.

"People have been very polite and grateful, but they get emotional, too. It's not fun to ask for food," said Melanie Gibson, executive director of Arlington Charities, which provides food, clothing and school supplies to 45,000 people annually.

Texas lost 27,800 jobs in October, the largest monthly job loss in more than a decade, according to the Texas Workforce Commission.

About 5,500 of those positions were in the air transporta-

tion industry, a ripple effect of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

After the tragedy that resulted in fewer people traveling and costly security improvements, American Airlines' parent company, Fort Worth-based AMR Corp., announced it would cut 20,000 jobs. Houston-based Continental Airlines said it would cut 12,000 jobs.

But not all of the financial woes stem from the terrorist attacks.

In the Dallas area, which has been plagued by layoffs in the telecom corridor, Allen Community Outreach has seen a 52 percent increase in families — including those previously with high incomes — seeking food assistance this year.

In the Houston area in June, Tropical Storm Allison left 22 dead and nearly \$5 billion in damage to 48,000 homes and hundreds of businesses. Officials say it will take two to five years for many families, already in

low-income areas, to get back on their feet.

The United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast in Houston has heard from more first-time callers to its 24-hour help line, as people report losing their jobs in engineering, retail, travel and other sectors.

"People are basically saying they need help in filling out unemployment forms, 'Who do I go to for help in paying my house note?' and 'How do I talk to my kids?'" said Mario Gomez, an agency spokesman.

On South Padre Island, the tourism economy suffered after the Queen Isabella Causeway collapsed Sept. 15 when a string of barges hit a bridge support. Eight people died when their vehicles drove into the sudden gap.

With the bridge out, access to the island was limited to ferry boats — and tourists stayed away. Hotels, restaurants and retail stores cut back hours and let

hundreds of workers go. The bridge reopened Nov. 21, but the winter months typically bring fewer tourists.

The Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley, which serves about 250,000 people in six counties annually, gives away about 1 million pounds of food each month.

But the food bank gave away 2 million pounds of food in October alone and almost that much in November — and it still wasn't enough. Officials are seeing more people, and about 25 percent of their clients this fall have never sought help before.

"A couple of food pantries are running out of food, which is a shock to us because they're used to a heavy load," said Terri

Dreske, executive director of the McAllen-based agency. "We still need donations. A lot of people don't realize the needs that are all around us."

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## North Texas Job Corps Center Luncheon

Exemplary students who've completed training.  
 L to R: Yera Nimely, Everett McGrawen, Ronald Lobo

L to R: Kwonita Lewis, Latressa Kinney

Recently, the Community Relations Council of North Texas Job Corps Center held a luncheon at The Eldorado Country Club. The purpose of the luncheon was to provide information to the community about Job Corps and what they do in the community, which is provide a safe residential program that allows personal and professional growth for the students entering into the workforce. Job Corp does whatever it takes to make its students successful during and after their completion of the program.



# Analysts predict longer recession

WASHINGTON/PRNews wire/—In remarks delivered to the National Association of Business Economists (NABE), American Economists Group

Chief Economist Michael K. Evans outlined the reasons the federal government's fiscal stimulus package will have little impact on boosting economic growth and forecasted the length and depth of the current recession.

"By now we all know there is no free lunch. Economies cannot return to perfect health simply by ordering the central bank to print more money, or deciding to have the government spend more or tax less," said Evans.

In today's remarks and in a new American Economics Group report, Evans described how the federal government's fiscal stimulus program will be offset by tax increases and cutbacks at the state and local level. Further counteracting the effects of increased federal spending, a perceived return to "deficits are forever" could worsen business confidence and lead to a decline in the stock market that would retard the recovery in capital spending necessary for self-sustaining growth.

Evans expects real GDP to decline at an annual rate of about 2% in each of the next three quarters. He forecasts it

will rise at an annual rate of 2% to 2 1/2% in the second half of next year, followed by a gain of 3 1/2% in 2003.

Evans also outlined the percent change in annual rates in personal income levels for the main regions of the country, forecasting to 2005. He predicts small positive or negative changes over the next year for all regions. When the economy does begin to recover, it will probably be perceived as a "jobless recovery," as Evans expects the unemployment rate to increase to 7% by the end of next year, declining only slightly to 6 1/2% during 2003.

## Wellness

# Cold weather linked to health problems

Cold weather—with frost, chilling winds, ice storms or snow—can create severe problems that many people in the state are not used to dealing with especially following months of comfortably warm temperatures, according to the Texas Department of Health (TDH).

Hypothermia, the severe or prolonged loss of body heat, begins when a person's body temperature falls below 95 degrees F. Because the temperature drop may be gradual and an early symptom of hypothermia is mental confusion, the victim may not know there is a problem. And health officials warn that vulnerable people can die from cold weather.

In 2000, hypothermia was a contributing factor in 53 Texas deaths.

People most susceptible to hypothermia include those 60 and older, infants and small children, people who are sick, those taking certain prescription drugs or drinking alcohol, the homeless, auto or boating accident victims and those unable to find temporary shelter in cold weather.

Often an older person's metabolism is slower than that of a young person, or the older person

may already be in poor health and taking medications that can alter awareness of dangerously low temperatures. People 60 and older may not perceive or respond to cold as readily as younger people because the body's natural alarm signal—the reflex of shivering that increases blood flow—lessens with age. Some hypothermia victims die because they are simply unaware of gradual temperature changes.

And some people, especially the elderly on fixed incomes, may set their thermostats dangerously low for fear of high heating bills.

To reduce potential dangers:

- Watch for symptoms of hypothermia including confusion and drowsiness, slurred speech, a drop in blood pressure, shallow breathing and a pinkish tint to the skin. Anyone with these symptoms related to cold temperatures is in immediate danger.
- Check on elderly or ill people, especially if they live alone or in isolated areas.
- Wear loose-fitting clothing in layers, gloves and a face cover to block the wind if you must be outside. Stay dry.
- Be extremely cautious in the

wind. A strong wind, even in only moderately cool weather, can cause a wind chill far below freezing.

- Take extra precautions with those most vulnerable.

Winter storms also may cause power outages, and food safety becomes a problem along with heating. If you lose power for more than four hours, take the following precautions with refrigerated food products:

- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.
- Discard any potentially hazardous foods such as meats, eggs, dairy products and leftovers that may have exceeded 45 degrees F. When in doubt, throw it out.
- Any frozen food that has thawed but not exceeded 45 degrees F should be prepared as soon as possible. Do not refreeze.

TDH officials warn that no one at any age should underestimate weather changes and should dress appropriately. Wind chill refers to the cooling effect wind has on the skin. Not only can wind chill cause rapid heat loss from the body, but it also can cause frostbite-actual freezing of tissues.

DALLAS (AP) — A Dallas County judge who was investigated by the FBI following misconduct allegations has resigned rather than face disciplinary action by the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, the commission said Saturday.

The commission said David R. Gibson, who presides over County Court at Law No. 1, violated the Texas Constitution and the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct on numerous counts, including in his dealings with a lawyer representing Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban.

Gibson denies the allegations, saying in the commission's news release that he agreed to step down Jan. 1 because defending himself against the charges would be stressful for family and friends and "detract from the dignity of his court."

The 11-member commission investigates allegations of misconduct or disability made against any of the state's judges. The commission issues reprimands, warnings and admonitions to judges but does not have the power to suspend them, issue fines or send them to jail.

Under the agreement, Gibson and lawyers representing the commission are not allowed to discuss the case outside the facts laid out in the commission's release.

Gibson's lawyers didn't return calls placed by The Associated Press seeking comment Saturday. Rusty Hardin, a Houston attorney representing the commission, declined comment.

The commission alleges

Gibson was improperly influenced by his friendship with Cuban's lawyer Steve Stodghill, who allegedly offered up Cuban's house as a site for a fund-raiser.

Stodghill could not be reached Saturday night, and Cuban did not immediately respond Saturday to a call to the Mavericks' office or to an e-mail.

The commission said Gibson's relationship with Stodghill, who represented Cuban and his former company in a case before Gibson's court, resulted in conduct and decisions that were "inconsistent with the law and the proper administration of justice."

Dallas-based educational Internet company Chalkboardtalk.com in 1999 sued Broadcast.com, then owned by Cuban.

The suit said Chalkboardtalk.com provided private consumer information to Broadcast.com, which Cuban subsequently sold to Yahoo. Yahoo, the suit alleges, then sold the data to others, including Microsoft Corp., but was never authorized to do so.

The commission said Gibson's desire to further his career "influenced his conduct and judgment." Stodghill offered to help Gibson raise money for re-election, as well as use of Cuban's house, the commission said.

According to the commission, in May 2000 Gibson and his family law attorney at the time, Jeffrey Robnett, attended a strategy meeting at the home of

Stodghill. Afterward, they discussed the Yahoo case and Gibson's political career, according to the commission. At that point, the commission said, Stodghill "offered his continued financial support, as well as the home of his client, Mark Cuban, for a fundraising location."

After the meeting, Robnett contacted a lawyer, who arranged a meeting with the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's Office, the commission alleges.

Robnett could not be reached Saturday night. Calls placed to the Dallas FBI and U.S. attorney's offices weren't immediately returned Saturday.

Robnett agreed to wear a recording device for a federal investigation, the commission said, and recorded several conversations with Gibson.

According to the commission, those discussions included the possibility of having a fundraiser at Cuban's house and Gibson's personal relationship with a Dallas mediator.

The Austin-based commission said Gibson appointed the mediator to a case in his court. When the parties requested the mediator be replaced, he denied the request, ordering them to use the mediator he was having a relationship with. Gibson did not disclose his relationship with the mediator, the commission said.

The judge also violated the law by refusing to accept a subpoena, the commission said.

# Essence's January 2002 Issue Launches A New "Ask Iyanla" Column And An Important Series On "Girls In Crisis"

Just off the press. Get your copy of Essence today. The January issue of ESSENCE features some exciting and important additions for the New Year. Editor-in-Chief Diane Weathers reports the launch of ESSENCE'S The War on Girls series, a year-long focus on the opportunities as well as the crises facing adolescent and teenage Black girls in our country. She also announces the premiere of the "Ask Iyanla" column, a monthly inspirational and advice column by author, motivational speaker and talk-show host Iyanla Vanzant.

ESSENCE presents 15 ways to clear clutter, reduce stress, be



good to your body and balance your life. Writer Ziba Kashaf talked to dozens of experts,

including physicians, holistic-health practitioner, psychologists, nutritionists, yoga instructors, etc., to develop a feel-better plan for the new year. Holistic-health practitioner Queen Afua of Brooklyn says, "Start by making just one little change, because the mind, body and spirit are all interconnected. When you start detoxifying the body, you begin to purify your mind and vice versa." (page 96)

LADIES IN RED-ESSENCE spotlights five women ranging in age from 48 to 84 who are blessed with time. See Essence page 7

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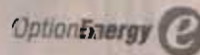
## DEPRESSED AGAIN?

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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## Discrimination lawsuit against Cracker Barrel

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Twenty-one people filed a \$100 million federal lawsuit against Cracker Barrel restaurants Thursday, accusing the Tennessee-based chain of widespread racism by segregating black customers in the smoking section and denying them service.

It was the largest civil rights lawsuit against a restaurant chain since Denny's settled a \$46 million discrimination lawsuit in 1994.

Two Arkansans are among the plaintiffs. Roner Mitchell, a car salesman, and his fiancée, Kadrian Thompson, a cosmetologist, both from Little Rock, said they were unfairly discriminated against at restaurants in Memphis, Bryant, Ark., and Cape Girardeau, Mo.

The suit, filed Thursday in federal court in Rome, Ga., accuses Cracker Barrel Old Country Store Inc.,

based in Lebanon, Tenn., of systematic discrimination and documents acts of alleged racism in 175 cities in 30 states.

The restaurant chain, which for years has been known for its country store motif and homestyle cooking, owns and operates 450 restaurants in 37 states.

Cracker Barrel's chief executive, Donald M. Turner, denied the allegations. He said the company will fight them all the way to court "if it comes to that."

"We take very seriously our commitment to treat all customers fairly," Turner said. "We believe in good service — and good service is colorblind."

The plaintiffs are represented by one of the nation's largest civil rights law firms, Gordon, Silberman, Wiggins & Childs in Birmingham, Ala.

"The descriptions of the treatment endured by African-American customers in these



restaurants is appalling," attorney David Sanford said.

"It can't be the case that Cracker Barrel doesn't know about it," he said. "We have enough evidence right now to suggest that Cracker Barrel, to the very highest level, is responsible."

The same firm represents plaintiffs in another discrimination lawsuit filed against the company in July 1999. That lawsuit, which is pending, alleges blacks were not treated fairly in hiring, promotions and pay.

Mitchell, 48, said he and his fiancée were subjected to unreasonable waits at Cracker Barrel restaurants and weren't treated as well as white customers.

"They always try to isolate you," he told the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. "They put you in the smoking section."

At Cape Girardeau, he said, a white waiter asked if the couple wanted corn bread, which Mitchell said he took as a racially tinged comment considering it was 9 a.m.

The only blacks in the restau-

rant, they waited more than an hour for drinks or food to arrive while whites were served promptly, according to the lawsuit. They left without ever getting served, the suit said.

Much of the lawsuit filed Thursday focuses on the statements of black customers, recounting how they were forced to wait while white customers were promptly seated.

Chandra Harmon, a resident of Smyrna, Ga., said she went to a Cracker Barrel restaurant in Chattanooga, Tenn., at 9:48 p.m. in July and was told by a server that the restaurant was about to close.

At 10 p.m., Harmon watched as four white men seated and served.

"We had hungry children and he still refused to serve us," Harmon said of the manager.

The lawsuit also drew upon the statements of Judith Robertson, an executive coordinator at Cracker Barrel's headquarters from January 1998 until August 1999. Robertson, who is white, was responsible for responding to complaints made by customers on the company's hot line.

In a statement, Robertson said the company received 300 calls a month claiming discrimination against minority customers, many more than received by other customers.

She said those calls were often discussed, and then dismissed casually, by Cracker Barrel managers.

## Kwanzaa: Roots, Branches, Celebration

### The Continental African Roots

Kwanzaa is an African-American and Pan-African holiday, which celebrates family, community and culture. Celebrated from the 26th of December thru the 1st of January, its origins are in the first harvest celebrations of Africa from which it takes its name. The name Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase "matunda ya kwanza" which means "first fruits" in Swahili, a Pan-African language which is the most widely spoken African language.

The first-fruits celebrations are recorded in African history as far back as ancient Egypt and Nubia and appear in ancient and modern times in other classical African civilizations such as Ashantiland and Yorubaland. These celebrations are also found in ancient and modern times among societies as large as empires (the Zulu or kingdoms (Swaziland) or smaller societies and groups like the Matabele, Thonga and Lovedu, all of southeastern Africa.

Kwanzaa builds on the five fundamental activities of Continental African "first fruit" celebrations: ingathering; reverence; commemoration; recommitment; and celebration.

Kwanzaa, then, is:

- A time of ingathering of the people to reaffirm the bonds between them;
- A time of special reverence for the creator and creation in thanks and respect for the blessings, bountifulness and beauty of creation;
- A time for commemoration of the past in pursuit of its lessons and in honor of its models of human excellence, our ancestors;

- A time of recommitment to our highest cultural ideals in our ongoing effort to always bring forth the best of African cultural thought and practice; and
- A time for celebration of the Good, the good of life and of existence itself, the good of family, community and culture, the good of the awesome and the ordinary, in a word the good of the divine, natural and social.

The African-American Branch Rooted in this ancient history and culture, Kwanzaa develops as a flourishing branch of the African-American life and struggle as a recreated and expanded ancient tradition. Thus, it bears special characteristics only an African-American holiday but also a Pan-African one, for it draws from the cultures of various African peoples, and is celebrated by millions of Africans throughout the world African community. Moreover, these various African peoples celebrate Kwanzaa because it speaks not only to African-Americans in a special way, but also to Africans as a whole, in its stress on history, values, family, community and culture.

Kwanzaa was established in 1966 in the midst of the Black Freedom Movement and thus reflects its concern for cultural groundedness in thought and practice, and the unity and self-determination associated with this. It was conceived and established to serve several functions.

### Reaffirming and Restoring Culture

First, Kwanzaa was created to reaffirm and restore our rootedness in African culture. It is, therefore, an expression of recovery and reconstruction of African culture, which was being

conducted in the general context of the Black Liberation Movement of the '60's and in the specific context of The Organization Us, the founding organization of Kwanzaa and the authoritative keeper of its tradition.


Secondly, Kwanzaa was created to serve as a regular communal celebration to reaffirm and reinforce the bonds between us as a people. It was designed to be an ingathering to strengthen community and reaffirm common identity, purpose and direction as a people and a world community.

Thirdly, Kwanzaa was created to introduce and reinforce the Nguzo Saba (the Seven Principles.) These seven communitarian African values are: Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (Self-Determination), Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity), and Imani (Faith). This stress on the Nguzo Saba was at the same time an emphasis on the importance of African communitarian values in general, which stress family, community and culture and speak to the best of what it means to be African and human in the fullest sense. And Kwanzaa was conceived as a fundamental and important way to introduce and reinforce these values and cultivate appreciation for them.

Kwanzaa was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, professor and chair of the Department of Black Studies at California State University, Long Beach, author and scholar-activist who stresses the indispensable need to preserve, continually revitalize and promote African American culture.

See Plano Park page 6

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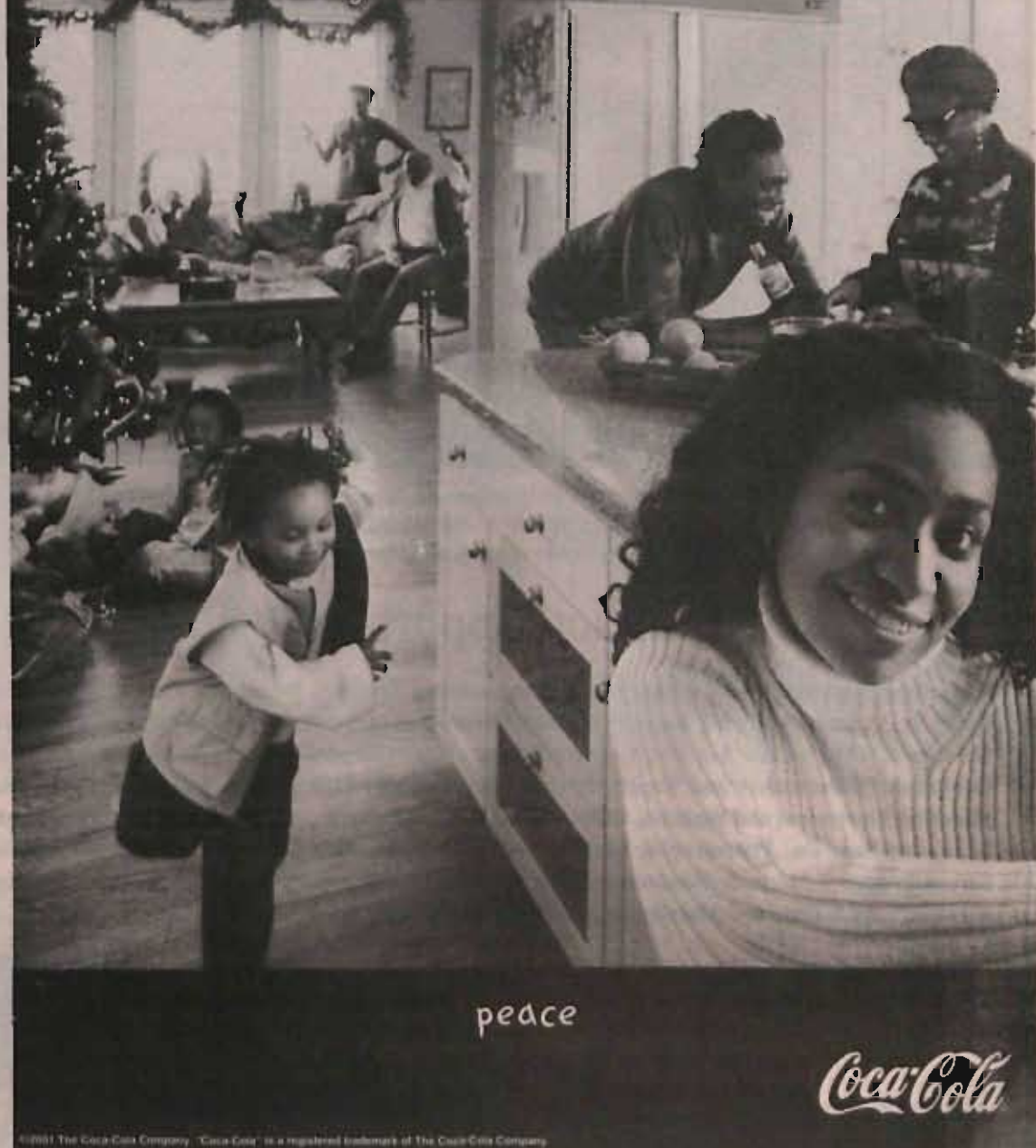
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- The men mad into the game
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- And a lot of thankfulness for another year together

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peace

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# Racial Preference at Texas A&M

HOUSTON (AP) — Texas A&M System regents have tentatively approved what they call a "pilot program" to automatically admit the top 20 percent of students from 250 underperforming state high schools to the school.

The so-called "low performing" high schools typically have a greater percentage of minority students than other institutions, A&M officials have said. The university, under the plan, would automatically admit the top 10 percent of students from the state's other high schools.

But some have criticized the plan as an attempt to circumvent the 1996 Hopwood court decision that bans Texas universities from using racial preferences in college admissions or scholarships.

Texas Attorney General John

Cornyn has been asked by regents who conditionally approved the plan last week to rule on its constitutionality. If the plan is approved, it would be evaluated after a few years, officials said.

Wednesday, Cornyn's office would say only that it has been contacted by the regents. Representatives of Young Conservatives of Texas said they asked Cornyn to "reject this illegal, unfair and academically indefensible preferential treatment scheme." "Solely for the purpose of favoring black and Hispanic students over whites and Asians, this policy would give preference to students from mostly minority high schools," the group told the Houston Chronicle in a statement Wednesday. Wendy Gramm, an A&M regent who is the wife of U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm, R-

Texas, said from her Washington, D.C., office Wednesday that part of the proposal's goal is "to make sure our flagship institutions are more representative of our population."

Joe Estrada, A&M admissions director, said 3 percent of this year's 44,000 students are black and 10 percent are Hispanic. A&M, which is 80 percent white, is perceived by many minorities as inhospitable to them because of its traditions and mostly white population.

The nine regents first discussed the plan in October, Gramm said. She said then that it might violate the Hopwood decision and make the system vulnerable to lawsuits.

But she said the plan unanimously approved Friday addressed her concerns because it does not target minorities.

## Kwanzaa Jump from Page 5

Finally, it is important to note Kwanzaa is a cultural holiday, not a religious one, thus available to and practiced by Africans of all religious faiths who come together based on the rich, ancient and varied common ground of their Africanness.

### Celebrating Kwanzaa Preparation

There is a traditionally established way of celebrating Kwanzaa. We should therefore observe these guidelines to make our Kwanzaa the most beautiful and engaging one and to keep the tradition. Without definite guidelines and core values and practices there is no holiday.

First, you should come to the celebration with a profound respect for its values, symbols and practices and do nothing to violate its integrity, beauty and expansive meaning.

Secondly, you should not mix the Kwanzaa holiday or its symbols, values and practice with any other culture. This would violate the principles of Kujichagulia (Self-Determination) and thus violate the integrity of the holiday.

Thirdly, choose the best and most beautiful items to celebrate Kwanzaa. This means taking time to plan and select the most beautiful objects of art, colorful

African cloth, fresh fruits and vegetables, etc. so that every object used represents African culture and your commitment to the holiday in the best of ways.

### Procedures

First, a central place in the home for the Kwanzaa Set, the symbols of Kwanzaa is chosen. A table is then spread with a beautiful piece of African cloth. Then, the mkeka (mat) is placed down and all of the other symbols are placed on it or immediately next to it to symbolize our rootedness in our tradition. Next the Kinara (candle holder) is placed on the mat and the Mishumaa Saba (seven candles) are placed in the kinara (candle holder).

The colors of Kwanzaa are black, red and green; black for the people, red for their struggle, and green for the future and hope that comes from their struggle. Therefore there is one black candle, three red and three green candles. These are the mishumaa saba (the seven candles) and they represent the seven principles. The black candle represents the first principle Umoja (unity) and is placed in the center of the kinara. The red candles represent the principles of Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujamaa (cooperative economics) and Kuumba (creativity) and are placed to the left of the black candle. The green candles

represent the principles of Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Nia (purpose) and Imani (faith) and are placed to the right of the black candle. The black candle is lit first on the first day of the celebration. And the remaining candles are lit afterwards from left to right on the following days. This procedure is to indicate that the people come first, then the struggle and then the hope that comes from the struggle.

And then the mazao (crops), and ears of corn are also placed on the mkeka. At least two ears of corn are placed down on the mat regardless of whether there are children in the immediate family or not for the children of the community belong to all of us and every adult in African tradition is considered an immediate or social parent. Next the kikombe cha umoja (the Unity cup) is then placed on the mkeka (mat). It is used to pour tambiko (libation) to the ancestors in remembrance and honor of those who paved the path down which we walk and who taught us the good, the Tamshi and the beautiful in life. Then African art objects and books on the life and culture of African people are also placed on or next to the mat to symbolize our commitment to heritage and learning.

## Plano Jump from Page 1

children can walk to school without fear, "where it is safe to go shopping at all hours of the day or night."

"This year both the Fire Department and the Police Department updated our Emergency Preparedness Plan to take under consideration events like those that took place in New

York (City)," Akers said. "We are also looking into establishing a civil defense type system."

"We are blessed to have a hometown that has an open, friendly government, one that encourages citizen participation and is rewarded with hundreds of volunteers," he added. "If the importance of the volunteer service could be measured in dollars and cents, at the prevailing wage rate, volunteers have

contributed over \$850,000, and thereby reduced our tax burden."

Concluding his speech with comments on the Plano Independent School District, Akers said it was perhaps the greatest blessing of all.

"Your city government remains committed to help PISD insure that our children remain among the best-educated in the United State," Akers said.

## Business is Down?

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## No Donation Jump from Page 1

have offered to match every protest note placed in a bottle with a real \$5 bill.

The protest notes "are the very currency of intolerance," said Gary Glenn, president of the American Family Association of Michigan. "They're attacking a Christian organization in the holiest season of the Christian faith."

Glenn said gay-rights activists in some states — rather than using the PFLAG protest notes — are using more realistic-looking fake bills that might violate counterfeit laws.

A national conservative group, Concerned Women for America, is urging its supporters to place a donation in a Salvation Army kettle along with a note praising the charity for "honoring God's word." become the target of

protests, and in turn have become rallying points for conservatives who oppose gay-rights activism.

Newcomer said PFLAG and Salvation Army officials have been meeting to see if their dispute can be resolved.

"Public opinion on gay and lesbian issues has shifted," she said. "The Boy Scouts and the Salvation Army are going to have to catch up with the rest of the country."

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# Arts & Entertainment

## Bill Clinton



*Clinton eyeing own TV show*

Some wags called our last President's scandal-rocked term in office "The Bill Clinton Show." Now get ready for the REAL Clinton Show - on TV!

The week before Thanksgiving, Clinton was spotted at the most elegant restaurant in his current digs, Chappaqua, N.Y., talking with Disney chief Michael Eisner about doing his own TV talk show, possibly as early as next year.

"Clinton was joined by Hillary, Eisner by his wife, and the group first had drinks in the tap room of Crabtree's Kettle House Restaurant & Inn," said an eyewitness. "They then moved into a quiet back room for a gourmet dinner."

Another source disclosed: "Bill's been chomping at the bit to get back into the arena. He's very disappointed that President Bush hasn't offered him some kind of role as an envoy.

**FAST FACT!**

Clinton has been paid upwards of \$100,000 for speaking engagements since leaving the White House. "But since that's apparently not going to happen, he's making his own plans for a big-time role in the public eye. "TV fits the bill perfectly. Bill was made for TV!" Said a Clinton friend: "Bill

has his own spin on what's going on in Afghanistan and elsewhere. People would watch to see what he would say next. "Larry King and Bill O'Reilly should watch out!"

## Quincy Jones



NEWYORK (AP)

It seems as if Quincy Jones has worked with everyone in the recording business - Michael Jackson, Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald and Ray Charles represent a tiny fraction of his collaborators.

Still, Jones laments the one great he never got a chance to work with: Marvin Gaye.

"Marvin and I talked about doing an album a long time ago," Jones told The Associated Press in a recent interview. "He always thought he had plenty of time, I always thought he had plenty of time. The last thing I thought was that he would go before me."

Gaye's father shot him to death in 1984. Jones said one reason they didn't work together sooner was because Gaye feared the pressures of recording might strain their friendship. But the two were always very close, he said.

"He knew I adored him, and vice versa. That's the magic that you don't have to talk about."

## Missy Elliott

NEWYORK (AP) - Tight clothes can be a working hazard - just ask Missy "Misdemeanor" Elliott.

The rapper-producer needed help jumping on and off the stage at Thursday's Jingle Ball concert at Madison Square Garden, which also featured Jay-Z, Enrique Iglesias, Pink, O-Town, Alicia Keys and others.

"My pants are too tight," a laughing Elliott told fans during a medley of her hits, including "Get Ur Freak On." "I needed help to walk on!"

Elliott also revealed that she had recently been hospitalized, and asked the audience to pray for her. She did not reveal the reason, but a representative for the show later said she had been suffering from high blood pressure.

Mariah Carey, wearing a revealing red dress that barely covered her thighs, was the evening's special hostess, though she only made a few brief appearances. Carey did not perform, except for one line from her holiday hit, "All I Want for Christmas Is You."

Iglesias got the evening's loudest screams when he plucked a fan from the audience and serenaded her with his hit "Hero." When he found out she was only 14, he yelped and joked, "OK, we're going to have to do the clean version!"

By the time he finished singing, the giddy fan grabbed him tight for a big bear hug.

The concert was sponsored by New York radio station Z-100. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House and the Clear Channel Relief Fund, set up after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.



## Jim Carrey



Although born in Canada, Jim Carrey says he owes his success as an actor to the United States and wants to become an American citizen. "To me, this country defined me," Carrey said in an interview with the Associated Press. "This country allowed my dreams to come true."

In the interview, Carrey also states that while growing up in Toronto, Canada, he particularly admired the U.S. because of the quality of entertainment produced.

"I always felt growing up that America was a big brother, protecting us in the schoolyard. And also, all the things I loved to watch and was influenced by were Americans." Still early in the application process, Carrey says he will apply for dual citizenship

— Canadian as well as U.S. — in order to be true to his roots.

"Canada is my home. It was a tremendous place to grow up. But I love this country . . . It's the best place to be."

## Gran Turismo CL



In the tradition of the Gran Turismo, the CL both stirs the heart and eases the mind of the present-day driving enthusiast, with an exceptional blend of high performance and benchmark Acura luxury. Beneath the CL's sleek exterior lies an advanced powertrain and a sturdy yet agile chassis - delivering quick response, precise handling and impressive power. At the same time, the CL offers luxurious appointments and a long list of features designed for pure comfort. This synergy of performance and refinement renders the CL an achievement in design and engineering.

### Essence Jump from Page 4

less beauty and a youthful attitude that belies their years. These five phenomenal women lead lives as dynamic as the color they're wearing in this fabulous fashion spread, and they share their secrets to looking and feeling great at any age. (page 74)

**INCREASE** The PEACE-Senior Home editor Jorge Arango talks with Towya T. Trent, a Philadelphia expert in feng shui, the ancient Chinese practice of arranging objects and furniture to be in accord with nature. Together they offer seven easy ways to turn your home into a calming retreat.

Says Arango, "Of course, true serenity comes from within. But by decorating your home with certain comfort principles in mind, you can make it a peaceful refuge from the rigors of the workday world." (page 106)

**START FRESH NOW.** ESSENCE follows three of its "brave" staff members on their quest for better nutritional, physical and mental health. The magazine asked each woman to take a health-assessment quiz developed by a nutritionist, fitness expert or a stress-management specialist. Using their answers, each expert designed a three-month plan to help the ESSENCE volunteers get on track. Look for the results in an upcoming summer issue! (page 56).

## Whitney Houston

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) - The Florida Orchestra is suing Arista Records for royalties from the re-release of Whitney Houston's rendition of the national anthem performed during Super Bowl XXV. "It is a pity that we have to go to court on something so honorable and uplifting as the national anthem," said Leonard Stone, orchestra executive director. The orchestra learned of the alleged contract breach after the anthem was reissued following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and quickly became a hot-selling single, Stone said.

The song had first been re-released in 2000 on Houston's greatest hits album. The lawsuit, filed Friday in Hillsborough Circuit Court, asks a judge to enforce terms of a 1991 agreement requiring Arista to pay orchestra royalties on all sales worldwide of Houston's rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

The orchestra accompanied Houston during her 1991 Super Bowl performance in Tampa. Greatest hits sales have topped 10 million copies, according to the lawsuit.

No one was available for comment at the record company's New York office.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages.

Since Sept. 11, the royalties could mean hundreds of thousands of dollars for the nonprofit orchestra, which cut its budget by \$600,000 this year to \$7.6 million and forced musicians to take a pay cut, Stone said.



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Ongoing

The International Library of Photography is pleased to announce that over \$60,000.00 in prizes will be awarded this year in the International Open Amateur Photography Contest. Photographers from the Plano area, particularly beginners, are welcome to try to win their share of over 1,300 prizes. To enter, send one photograph in the following categories: people, travel, pets, children, sports, nature, action, humor, portraiture, or other. The photo must be a color or black-and-white print (unmounted), 8"x10" or smaller. All entries must include the photographer's name and address on the back, as well as the category and the title of the photo. Photos should be sent to: The International Library of Photography, Suite 101-2612, 3600 Crondall Lane, Owings Mills, MD 21117. Entries must be postmarked by December 31, 2001. You may also submit your photo directly online at [www.picture.com](http://www.picture.com).

The Video Association of Dallas began accepting entries for the 15th Annual Dallas Video Festival on November 15, 2001. The Dallas Video Festival will be celebrating its 15th Anniversary at the 2002 Festival held May 15-19 at the Dallas Theater Center. Entries may be narrative, documentary, animation, experimental, computer graphics, works by children, children's programming, music videos, performance, etc. Rental fees will be paid to participants. The Dallas Video Festival is instituting two new competitive cash awards: an Audience Award and a Best of the Texas Show Award. To obtain an entry form or to ask about membership or sponsorship opportunities, call 214-428-8700, or fax to 214-428-8702, or e-mail [info@videofest.org](mailto:info@videofest.org). You may also register online at [www.videofest.org](http://www.videofest.org). Deadline for submissions is Tuesday, January 8, 2002.

The Women's Museum: An Institute for the Future announces its winter blockbuster

exhibit Alma Thomas: Phantasmagoria, Major Paintings. The works of the legendary abstract artist, will be on display until March 2002. The catalog, Alma Thomas: Phantasmagoria, major Paintings of the 1970's will be available in the museum store. For more information, call 214-915-0861 or visit [www.thewomensmuseum.org](http://www.thewomensmuseum.org).

The Women's Museum will provide free computer training in the Ronya Kozmetsky Institute For the Future, the museum's 20-workstation computer lab. The classes will provide free job-training skills for adult women who are unemployed and for those already employed but wishing to move up to more professional levels. Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings and Sunday afternoons and students can attend one or any number of classes. For more information, contact Wendlyn Alter, Institute Director at 214-915-0868 or [techdirector@thewomensmuseum.org](mailto:techdirector@thewomensmuseum.org).

December 20-December 24

A Christmas Carol runs through December 24, 2001 at the Arts District Theater, 2401 Flora Street at Fairmount. Single tickets are on sale now, and range from \$14 to \$42 in price. For tickets, call the Dallas Theater Center Box Office at 214-522-8499 or purchase on-line at [www.dallastheatercenter.org](http://www.dallastheatercenter.org) or [www.tickets.com](http://www.tickets.com).

December 20-December 22

A beloved holiday tradition that amazes and delights audience members of all ages. Kathy Burkes Theatre of Puppetry Arts critically acclaimed The Nutcracker returns by popular demand to the Dallas Children's Theater stage. Performances will be held at The Crescent Theater, 2215 Cedar Springs across from The Hotel Crescent Court. For reservations or more information, call DCT Box Office at 214-978-0110.

December 20-29

Beginning December 10th, the Potter's House Christian Bookstore Outlet began selling a multitude of select books, music and other various products featuring the inspiring wisdom and sounds of America's Best Preacher-as dubbed by Time magazine- Bishop T.D. Jakes, founder and senior pastor of the Potter's House. The Potter's House Christian Bookstore Outlet will be located at 2524 Ledbetter near the Westcliff Plaza. It will be open until 8 p.m. For more information, call Shawn Paul Wood at 214-337-0099, extension 713.

December 20-22

N.M. Productions Theatre Company's next show is truly unique! Live From DeSoto-A "TV" Christmas Special" is a hilarious parody of all those TV Christmas specials that we've come to know and love. The play will feature an all-youth cast and will give the audience a healthy dose of comedy, songs, dances and a few surprises. The play will be held at the Corner Theater in DeSoto Town center. Performance days and times are as follows: Thursday, Friday, Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m., and December 22 at 3 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$5-\$10. To make a reservation, please call 972-680-4466.

December 22-23

A Sort of Xmas Story, a children's holiday play, is playing December 22 and 23 at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. on Sunday. The play will be held at Jason Auditorium on the campus of Paul Quinn College, 33837 Simpson Stuart Rd. in Dallas. Admission to the play is \$15 and children 12 years old and under get in free. For more information, call 972-953-0270 or 214-904-9334.

December 20

Senior Citizens of Greater Dallas is pleased to announce Senior Link, Dallas' first support group dedicated to older adults looking for a job. The group

meets twice a month, 10-11:30 a.m. at Senior Citizens of Greater Dallas, 1215 Skiles Street, Dallas. The next meeting is December 20 and will feature a speaker addressing the topic "What Employers See When Speaking With a Mature Worker." RSVP is required for this free support group. Please contact Renae Redwine or Judy Burk at 214-823-5700.

A hip-hop version of The Nutcracker, performed by students in the after-school program at Adelle Turner Elementary, is the highlight of the Holiday Around the World program at the school from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. The students have been coached by Young Audiences of Greater Dallas. Each grade level has studied holiday customs from the around the world and the event culminates the study unit. Turner Elementary is located at 5505 S. Polk Street in Dallas.

December 22

Methodist Hospitals of Dallas (MHD) will be offering flu shots to the public at the Tom Thumb Food store located at 900 W. McDermott in Allen from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The fee for the shot is \$15 and Medicare Part B will be accepted. Shots will not be given to persons who are pregnant, allergic to eggs, or running a fever. Children must first see their pediatrician before receiving a shot and those aged 12-17 years must be accompanied by a legal guardian. For more information on flu shots, call 214-947-0900.

December 23

Methodist Hospitals of Dallas (MHD) will be offering flu shots to the public at the Tom Thumb Food store located at 8060 Spring Valley Rd. in Dallas from 1 p.m.-6 p.m. The fee for the shot is \$15 and Medicare Part B will be accepted. Shots will not be given to persons who are pregnant, allergic to eggs, or running a fever. Children must first see their pediatrician before receiving a shot and those aged 12-17 years must be accompa-

nied by a legal guardian. For more information on flu shots, call 214-947-0000.

December 24

Come listen to Dallas jazz artists Roger Boykin and Barry Pearson on Christmas Eve at 7 p.m., as they present "The Soothing, Soulful Sounds of Christmas." The program is sponsored by Camp Wisdom United Methodist Church, 1300 W. Camp Wisdom Rd., in Dallas. The program will also feature the Voices of Wisdom and others. For more information, call (972) 224-4556.

January 3

Senior Citizens of Greater Dallas is pleased to announce Senior Link, Dallas' first support group dedicated to older adults looking for a job. The group meets twice a month, 10-11:30 a.m. at Senior Citizens of Greater Dallas, 1215 Skiles Street, Dallas. The next meeting is January 3 and will feature a speaker addressing the topic "The Upside and Downside of Changing Careers." RSVP is required for this free support group. Please contact Renae Redwine or Judy Burk at 214-823-5700.

January 4-5

The Big Band Alumni Orchestra, conducted by big band veteran Fred Radke, performs a tribute to Glenn Miller and Harry James January 4-5, 2002. Guest vocalists Gina Funes and Beryl Davis, both accomplished big band performers, will accompany the orchestra in their tribute to the music of the 1930's and 40's. The Audi Pops Series concerts are held at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center located at 2301 Flora Street, suite 300 in Dallas. Ticket prices for these performances range from \$19.00 to \$90.00. Tickets may be purchased from the Dallas Symphony box office or by logging on to [www.dallas-symphony.com](http://www.dallas-symphony.com). For more information, call 214-692-0203.

January 8

The Women's Museum presents "New Year, New Beginnings: A conversation with Lynda Wooding" at 7 p.m. She will give a special talk and share her tips on using the New Year for new beginnings in our professional and personal lives. For more information, call 214-915-0890.

January 9

Dallas Symphony Orchestra Resident Organist Mary Preston will be featured in a live webchat on [www.DSOKids.com](http://www.DSOKids.com) that will celebrate the addition of two new features to be educational website. The new features include a streaming video organ demonstration and a still photo organ tour. The chat with Preston is scheduled for January 9, 2002, from 1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. The streaming video and still photos will be available at 8 a.m. on the day of the chat. For more information, call 214-871-4061 or visit [www.DallasSymphony.com](http://www.DallasSymphony.com).

January 11

The Women's Council of Dallas County, Church Women United in Dallas, and the League of Women's Voters will present a community education program, "Hostile Hallways: peer Abuse Among the Young" from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at King of Glory Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 6411 LBJ Freeway in Dallas. For more information, contact Fran McElvaney at 972-233-6146.

January 11-12

The Plano Metropolitan Ballet (PMB) will bring to life "Alice In Wonderland" on the stage at the Plano East High School on January 11th and 12th. Tickets for "Alice In Wonderland" are \$9.00 and can be purchased from Gotta Dance at 121 Spring Creek Pkwy in Plano or by calling 972-517-5799. Performance times are Friday, January 11th at 7 p.m., and Saturday, January 12th at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Group rates are available.

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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. District: DALLAS Contract 2374-02-103 for WIDEN EXISTING RAMP in DALLAS County will be opened on January 08, 2002 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 District 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](http://www.dot.state.tx.us) and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 5482

State Office

Construction Division  
200 E. Riverside Dr.  
Austin, Texas 78704  
Phone: 512-416-2540

District Office(s)

DALLAS DISTRICT  
DISTRICT ENGINEER  
4777 E. Hwy 80  
Mesquite, Tx 75150  
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.

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)

District: Fort Worth Contract 1603-03-026 for TRAFFIC SIGNALS in TARRANT County will be opened on February 06, 2002 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 District 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](http://www.dot.state.tx.us) and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 5517

State Office

Construction Division  
200 E. Riverside Dr.  
Austin Texas 78704  
Phone: 512-416-2540

District Office(s)

Fort Worth District  
District Engineer  
2501 Southwest 19820  
Ft Worth, Texas 76133  
Phone: 817-370-4500

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.

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