



Dallas' Other
Basketball Team
Page 4



Children's
Medical Center's
new CICU
Page 6



The Fascination
with Sculpture
Page 9

The Gazette

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NEWS BRIEFS

Drug tunnel found under Arizona-Mexico border
Federal agents discovered a 25-foot dirt tunnel that was apparently being used to smuggle drugs across the Mexican border, and seized 840 pounds of cocaine from the Arizona end of a crude, hand-dug tunnel. The tunnel ran along a dry streambed called the Nogales Wash, which is the sixth of its kind found in the area.

Thurman Thomas retires from football
Running back Thurman Thomas, 34, the Buffalo Bills' all-time leading rusher, announced his retirement at an hour-long ceremony inside the team's practice facility. Thomas finished his career ninth on the all-time rushing list and just 46 yards behind Franco Harris. He is the only player to lead the NFL in yards from scrimmage over four consecutive seasons - from 1989 to '92.

Governors Approve Plan to Expand Medicaid
The nation's governors have approved a plan that would allow states to obtain federal matching funds to provide health insurance to the uninsured who are outside of current Medicaid populations. The proposal would greatly expand states' flexibility to spend their own and federal funds to cover the uninsured. Under the plan, existing categories of individuals the federal government requires states to cover under Medicaid would not see their benefits changed.

Black Press Week 2001 to kick off Mar. 14
The National Newspaper Publishers Association will launch Black Press Week 2001 in Washington, DC at St. Gregory Luxury Hotel and Suites. The NNPA is a federation of over 200 Black newspapers across the nation whose audience spans over 15 million readers per week. Founded in 1940, the organization hosts three national events each year, including Black Press Week, typically held in Washington.

INSIDE

- Nat. News Briefs1
- Capitol Watch.1
- Editorial3
- Inspiration3
- You & Your Money4
- Internet News4
- Sports4
- Northern Exposure5
- Strategy5
- Wellness6
- On the Move.6
- Chamber/Business7
- History & Ent.8
- Arts & Ent.9
- Around the Town . . .10

A LESSON IN VALUES

Plano's Hightower Foundation upholds commitment to education, service, community

By Glenda Williams Goodson
Gazette Corresponding Writer



MON-The Gazette publisher Thurman Jones (center) is joined at the reception by (left to right) Areka Spencer, Nell McClung, Randy Luster, Ben Clark and Maggie Ybarra.

Commitment to education, service and youth served as the basis for the recent John Freeman Hightower Foundation Scholarship and Awards Dinner. The program honored living legend, Professor John Freeman Hightower, who spent most of his career in the Plano independent School District. The Foundation and Scholarship was named for Hightower who sought to create a better community. His guiding philosophy and responsible citizenship can be summarized in his mantra "Everyone is obligated to make

the society we live in better. When I leave, something will be better than when I came." Plano Mayor and Foundation

board member Jeran Akers served as master of ceremonies at the celebration held at the Gleneagles Country Club. Also present was Salena Fenceroy, a freshman at the University of North Texas at Denton, who received the 2000 John Freeman Hightower Fellow Award. Mark Ramsey of Legacy Bank, corporate Council of Fellows Charter Member, presented the Legacy of Commitment Award to Sandra

Wysong, Principal of Plano's John Freeman Hightower Elementary School.

Dr. Oral Moses, featured bass-baritone soloist and professor of Voice and Music Literature at Kennesaw State College of Georgia, presented a musical tribute, "A Moment in Black History," highlighting the work of African-American composers and arrangers. Dr. Moses performs regularly throughout the United States and Europe singing recitals, concerts, orations and a variety of art song repertoires with special emphasis on vocal works of African-American composers. His accompanist for the evening was Dr. Rosalyn Floyd, Associate Professor of Piano at Augusta State University of Georgia.

Council of Fellows recipients are eligible to receive \$5,000 each year. Membership in the Council of Fellows is open to individuals, organizations, and corporations who wish to share the challenge of fostering education and development of youth.

Interested individuals may support the efforts of the foundation and its mission through donations and

pledges. The Foundation is community based and was established in August 1998 with 50 charter members, a Council of Fellows. A board of directors The Council of Fellows Endowment Fund seeks to influence youth, primarily

in the Plano Independent School District, toward academic achievement, community, and leadership. Scholarships are presented to graduating high school seniors and secondary and elementary school students. For information contact Myrtle Hightower at 972-995-9976.



Scholarship recipient Salena Fenceroy joins Plano Mayor Jeran Akers during the awards dinner. Fenceroy is a freshman at the University of North Texas at Denton.

Photos courtesy Joe Hill

Lawmakers file bill to reserve percentage of medical school seats for poor students

By Lisa Falkenberg
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN (AP) - Seeking to replenish the state's supply of doctors in poor areas, two senators have filed a bill that requires Texas' eight medical schools to reserve 10 percent of first-year slots for poor students.

The bill by Sens. Teel Bivins and Royce West would establish the Joint Admission Medical Program, providing financial and academic support to 128 new students pursuing medical education each year.

"My hope is that by doing three things - identifying qualified students from all across the state who want to be doctors, giving them financial and academic assistance and guaranteeing them a place in our med schools - we can increase the number of physicians serving in medically under-served regions," said Bivins, R-Amarillo.

Bivins hopes the students will return to their home communities to practice.

But opponents of the bill say it's just affirmative action in sheep's clothing.

"Basically, it's just a shill for racial preferences," said Marc Levin, vice chair of the Young Conservatives of Texas. "What it will do is micromanage admissions standards and dilute academic standards."

Levin said students "may well go to the easiest four-year college they can find," to ensure their admission into

medical school.

At least two freshmen from each of the 31 four-year state universities would be accepted into the program, agreeing to complete premedical curricula and participate in medical school summer internships. They would be provided academic mentoring, a \$4,000 scholarship for each undergraduate year and a \$2,000 stipend for educational and living expenses for summer internships.

Students who complete course work and score high enough on the MCAT would be guaranteed automatic admission to medical school, where they would continue to receive mentoring and \$8,000 each year.

If the bill passes, the first class could apply in the fall of 2002.

West, D-Dallas, said the bill is needed to "stop the brain drain in Texas," caused by bright students being lured away by better academic opportunities in other states.

Under the bill, program participants who choose to practice medicine in another state would be asked to pay back all scholarship money.

"We strongly believe this will be a model, not only for Texas but for the rest of the nation," said West, adding that only 1,223 of Texas' 6114 medical and dental students were minorities in 1999. "We will

make that dream you have of becoming a physician a reality if you just work and work hard."

The bill expands a law passed in 1997 guaranteeing students in the top 10 percent of high school classes admission into public universities, a move to increase minority enrollment after the abolition of affirmative action in 1996. The law sparked record admissions at both the University of Texas and Texas A&M University.

"This is probably the toughest nut to crack," Bivins said of medical school's rigorous curriculum. The next step will expand the program to law and other graduate schools, Bivins said.

The program's price tag would be less than \$3 million for this biennium.

Once it's fully implemented in eight years, the cost would be \$20 million every two years, Bivins said.

The idea for the bill came from the Baylor College of Medicine, which has a similar program with the University of Texas Pan American in which high school graduates are jointly admitted to the Premedical Honors College.

Since 1994, students who have successfully completed the college program have been granted automatic admission to Baylor.

Lawmakers hear pitch to allow marijuana for medical purposes

By Jim Vertuno
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN (AP) - George McMahon brings a joint with him wherever he goes.

Sometimes he carries his stash of marijuana in a small plastic bottle. When he's traveling far, he carries a silver can packed with finely-rolled pot cigarettes.

McMahon had his stash with him at the state Capitol on Tuesday, as he and about a dozen others urged a House committee to approve a bill that would allow possession of marijuana in Texas if it is used for medical purposes.

"I don't think it cures anybody," said McMahon, who smokes up to 10 joints a day to alleviate muscle pain and spasms. "What it does is make everyone's symptoms a little better."

The bill before the House Jurisprudence Committee would allow someone arrested for marijuana possession in Texas to raise the defense that a doctor recommended they use it to alleviate medical problems.

The measure sponsored by Republican Terry Keel of Austin would not allow doctors to write a prescription for marijuana, which would violate federal law.

And it would be up to the defendant to prove that a medical doctor had recommended using an otherwise illegal substance. That could mean getting the doctor to testify in court that he or she had recommended smoking pot.

A jury would decide if the

defendant had a legitimate reason to use the drug.

The committee heard testimony from doctors who said marijuana could be used to ease pain and suffering from cancer, multiple sclerosis, AIDS and other diseases. Several witnesses told lawmakers they smoke to relieve their symptoms.

"For many, marijuana is the most effective medicine available," said Houston physician Dick Evans, who supported the bill.

Jennifer Smith, 31, of San Antonio was getting ready to celebrate her second anniversary and a new teaching job eight years ago when she was diagnosed with AIDS. She suffers from drug-induced anorexia and smoking marijuana helps her maintain an appetite and her weight, she said.

Smith said she tried a pill form of marijuana that was prescribed by her doctor but that it didn't work because she couldn't swallow.

Keel's bill does not provide protection for anyone caught selling marijuana. Nor does it say how patients would go about getting their own, although Keel suggested they could grow their own or join support groups with other patients.

The committee did not vote on the bill, leaving it pending until a future meeting.

The medical marijuana bill is HB 513.

Community Spotlight



Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson was named the chair of the 37-member Congressional Black Caucus. Johnson recently held a media roundtable in her Dallas offices detailing the organization's legislative plans.

Photo by Lott's Photography



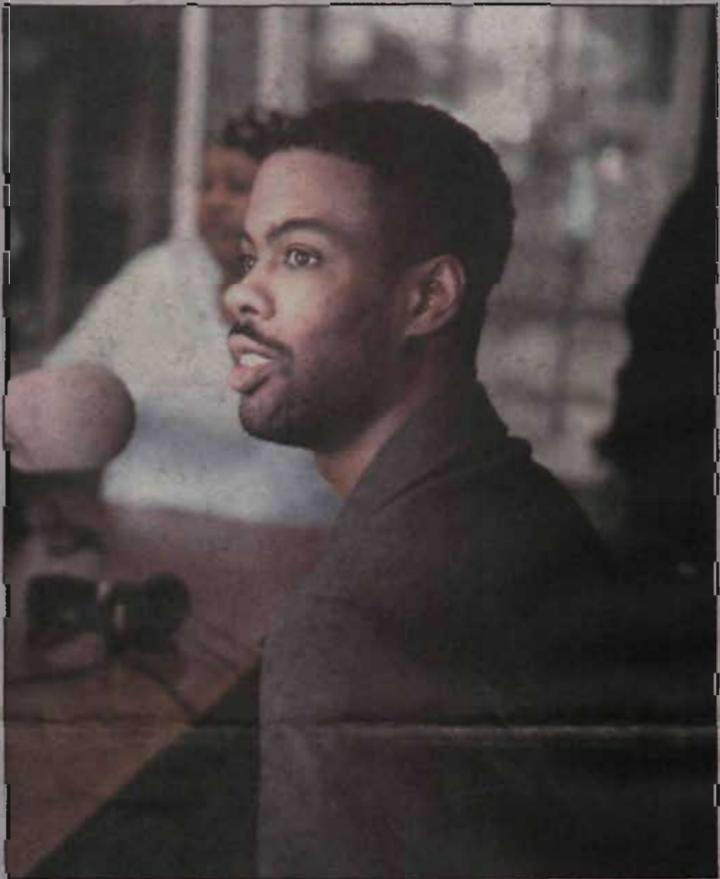
Outgoing board members of the Dallas Urban League bid farewell during the organization's Annual Meeting and Luncheon.

Photo by Lott's Photography



Plano business owner Isaiah Blackely (center), flanked by Joe Black and Fritz Pikes, receives his Quest for Success award presented by the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce. Nine entrepreneurs received awards.

Photo Stari R. Davis



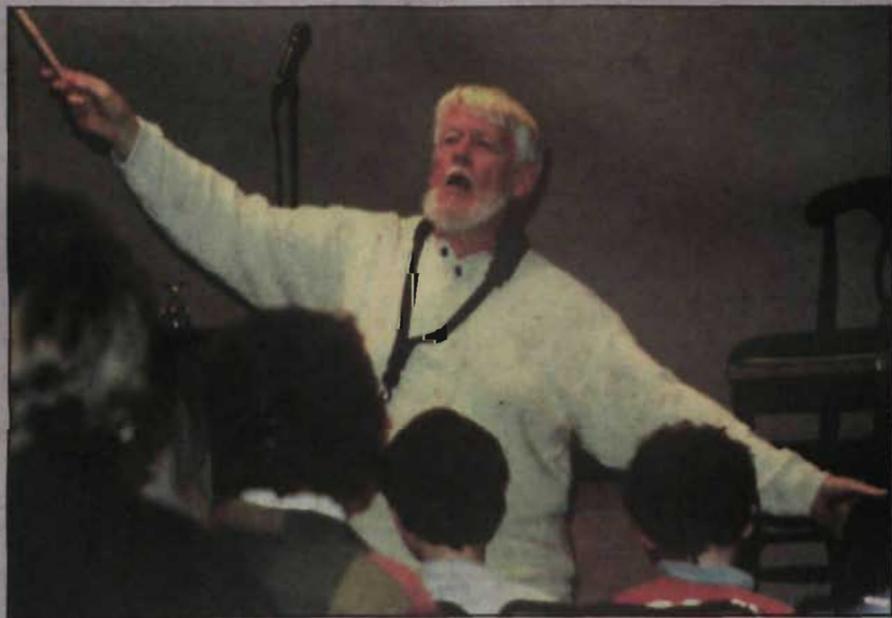
Comedian Chris Rock tells it like it is while interviewing at K104-FM during his brief stop in Dallas. Rock also visited with Mayor Ron Kirk while promoting his new film "Down to Earth."

Photo by Lott's Photography



Plano residents plant trees for the city's Arbor Day Celebration. The event was held at the Davis Public Library.

Photo by Maggie Ybarra



Jazz musician and saxophonist Marvin "Doc" Holiday entertains audience members during the Race Unity Concert held at the Plano Centre. The concert focused on the Bahá'í faith and the development of jazz music.

Photo by Maggie Ybarra



Myrtle Hightower (left) stops for a photo during the Plano Community Forum's Sweetheart Ball.

Photo by Maggie Ybarra



Scholarship recipients at the Urban League Luncheon display their awards received for winning the McDonald's Black History Makers of Tomorrow Essay Contest. Ten area high school students received scholarships.

Photo by Lott's photography



Ron Shaw

Key issues!

Matt. 16:19

I recently had the opportunity to spend some time with a personal friend in the mountains of Colorado. As we often do, we discussed several issues, including marriage. He told me about a conversation he had with a couple regarding some very serious problems they were having in their relationship. He said the couple never focused on the key issue."

Many times we spend so much time with surface issues. To every situation we face there is a key that unlocks or locks it. That's what keys are for. They lock or unlock, release or secure. Keys are authority. The one who has the keys is the one who has the power.

Why do we spend so much time squabbling over small matters? Because we haven't learned to place the most significance on what's most important. Each of us has keys to our lives: areas where our eyes light up or where our countenance drops. We work on keeping them from others. As a result, we never experience the joy that comes when the doors of those areas are opened and we're free ourselves in our relationships.

For example, a young woman worked diligently at her job and was extremely efficient, but was repeatedly passed over for promotions. She thought it was a racial sexual issue, and filed complaints, but could not support her charges. She discovered that her boss had hidden insecurities. He didn't want her to leave his office because he feared it would expose his incompetence.

The key to unlocking her situation was found in dealing with his insecurity. When we talked, I asked her to set an appointment with him and go over the things he knew about her job. To her surprise, he knew little about it but knew she was competent and was the reason for his office's success. After spending time going over her job with him, she discovered (with the help of the Holy Spirit) what the key issue was. She began in a subtle way to educate him. In short, she addressed the real issue and used the key to unlock her situation.

Jesus realized the importance of dealing with key issues. He said in the kingdom of God

every situation or circumstance we face has a key that unlocks or secures it. He gave us those keys and whatever we unlocked or locked there was little heaven would do about it.

The church must lock and unlock areas of life in our society if they are ever going to be eliminated or perpetuated. Racism could have been locked up a long time ago, but we didn't discover and use the key.

Your marriage could have been repaired long ago but you didn't discover and use the key. Jesus said sensitivity is the key to eliminating divorce. All of your relationships are the same way. There are keys that unlock them. The same is true concerning your financial affairs. Your prosperity could have been a reality long before but you didn't use the key that unlocks it.

In school when teachers would give tests, they made an answer key. Sometimes we would try to find the key because we knew it had all the answers. The same is true in life. The key to whatever you're facing has all the answers.

Let me offer a few suggestions. First, never assume that the key is lying in the open. Most people never really disclose what their real problem is. The Bible talks about treasures that have to be discovered and that takes effort. Second, you must use the keys. The doors will not open just because you have the keys. They open only when the keys are used. You can have the keys to your house in your pocket and still have to sleep outside in the cold and rain. It's only when you take the keys out of your pocket and place them in the door and turn the key will you enter the house. Last, in relationships, once you find the keys to a person's life, never use them without permission. Relationships are fragile and must be handled with prayer (care).

If God wanted to keep us in the dark about life in the kingdom, He never would have given us the keys. The fact that He gave them to us, tells us He wants us to have them. Successful living is available but we must use the keys we've been given to enter in.

Debate continues on Robin Hood funding plan

There has been much debate regarding school funding in Texas. This debate reaches its most vigorous point when the matter of the "Robin Hood" plan is discussed. This approach - which reallocates funds from "rich" school districts to "poor" districts - is based on intent to optimize the resources available to educate every child in Texas. Despite this seemingly worthwhile goal, a number of the "rich" districts, like the Plano Independent School District, are embroiled in both legal and ethical debates regarding the practicality of this plan and the long-term impacts that it will carry for each of the more prosperous districts.

One can't help but notice the philosophical irony of living in the buckle of the Bible Belt, yet also hearing arguments that express less than appropriate Judeo-Christian concern for the well being of our fellow man. In researching this topic, we came across an interesting commentary involving Alabama that carries some interesting perspectives for the Texas debate. The article

was written by Wayne Flynt, Ph.D., distinguished university professor at Auburn University and the court-appointed facilitator in the school equity-funding lawsuit in that state. Here's the text of his article entitled, Seasonal Thoughts on Education & Taxes":

"You are your brother's keeper" is one of the oldest ethical admonitions of our society. Rooted in the ancient Judeo-Christian tradition that affirms the individual dignity and worth of all persons, it is an ethic venerated by Alabamians as demonstrated by thousands of acts of private compassion and charity. Indeed, the poor and dispossessed could hardly live in a better place during the Christmas season than in "Sweet Home Alabama."

But when it comes to translating this private ethic into attitudes on public policy we have problems. The current debate over education and tax reform is a classic example of the problem. Increasingly, opposition to reform seems to focus on a single proposition: "What's mine is mine

and I intend to keep it."

Instead of seeing ourselves as spiritual beings who are diminished by the inadequacy and suffering of others, we see ourselves as material beings struggling to keep our taxes the lowest in the nation, even if that means we will also have one of the worst educated work forces and tens of thousands of people without hope for the future.

We brought nothing material into this world and we will carry nothing out of it. We will be judged, I believe, not according to the wealth, neither degrees nor power we accumulate on this earth, but according to the legacy of love and justice we bestow.

In light of this belief, consider a few facts. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the income after taxes of the poorest one-fifth of American households fell about five percent between 1980 and 1990. The middle one-fifth gained less than three percent. The top one-fifth gained an average of 11 percent. The same report found that poor Alabama families in which the head of

the family works pay a larger share of their income in taxes than in all but four other states.

Virtually everyone who has studied Alabama tax policy agrees that it is regressive, taxing most heavily those with the least power and the fewest resources. Although the person who cleans my office and earns barely enough to live pays the same sales tax I do for bread and milk, the herbicide that I purchase to spray my roses carries no sales tax - because it is an "agricultural product."

Exemptions from Alabama's sales taxes have nothing to do with love, enlightenment or justice. They are created according to power and selfishness. Decent, moral Alabamians tolerate such injustices not because they are bad people. They tolerate them because they choose not to know, not to study, not to read, not to understand.

While the locale is different, the issues are still the same and the debate continues. What are your thoughts? We'll continue to share opinions on this important topic.

Faith-Based Help proposal a good Bush idea

By Emory Curtis
NNPA News

I know it is hard for Democrats to concede that Republicans can come up with good ideas for social issues programs. Bush has done just that with his "faith-based initiative" in which the government contracts with faith-based organizations to deliver specified services in their immediate area.

It makes sense in more than one way. For one, it gets a wider range of organizations involved in delivering needed social services. Secondly, with that organizational involvement, a larger section of the public will become intimate with the problem at the local level. That will make many of members feel a close equity interest in solving the problems.

I was a professional and community activist during the 60s when many of the federal community development and social programs were initiated and put into place. I saw how an organization's participation in delivering needed social services increased the awareness of its members to the dimensions of the problem.

Bush's faith-based initiative can make that happen.

Of course, all is not peaches and cream with the government contracting with faith-based organizations. There is a

possibility of a down side from both the public's point of view and from the organization's point of view.

On the public (government) side there is the strong possibility that the faith-based contractor will directly or indirectly use government funds to further promote its faith-based ideology as part of the problem solution. They may feed the hungry but along with food for the body, they will feed the soul with a bit of their own faith.



On the other side of the ledger, the fact that the faith-based organization is contracting with the government to deliver services may move the organization into modifying its own programs to enhance its possibility of continuing its government contracts.

For instance, one of the real services the faith-based organizations provides in communities is an independent

voice in speaking out on public issues confronting the community. There is a possibility that that independent voice will muffle itself to guard against losing the government contract.

As for faith-based organizations taking advantage of government contracts to promulgate their beliefs, contract language and diligent follow-ups can reduce that problem to a minimum. As for the muffling of independent organizational voices in the community, it is not a contract problem but a leadership problem. Leadership that muffles its voices to protect contracts or some other side issue can be really damaging to communities and us.

The price can be paid in our communities for our independent faith-based organizations having leadership that muffles the organization's voice to protect some contract.

President Bush's faith-based initiative will also have another salutary effect - it will get more people to volunteer their services. That will naturally happen if faith-based organizations are contracted to deliver specified services.

One of the few casualties of the War on Poverty in our communities was the death of volunteerism. Why volunteer

to do a job that your neighbor down the street or in the next apartment was being paid to do?

Contracting with faith-based organizations is an idea that is worth trying for the potential increase individual and community involvement in solving problems that seems to be a natural outcome of such a program.

Emory Curtis can be reached at ecurtis@hotmail.com.

REMEMBER!!



Celebrate Women's History and Youth Art Month during March

The Gazette

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John Dudley

The Tax Advantages of an IRA

Sites for job seekers

Countless studies have demonstrated that tax-advantaged savings can make a big difference in providing a comfortable retirement. An individual retirement account (IRA) is a useful way to exercise your advantage and save for retirement.

Individuals have until April 15, 2000, to invest up to \$2,000 in an IRA for the 1999 tax year. Contributions to an IRA earn income tax-deferred while they remain within the account. In many cases, the contribution itself is fully or partially tax-deductible. IRA contributions are fully deductible for those individuals or couples who are not active participants in employer-sponsored retirement plans. For those who are active participants in such plans, the portion of their IRA contributions that may be tax-deductible depends on their adjusted gross income and tax filing status.

Specifically, a working spouse can invest up to \$2,000 in their IRA and may also be eligible to contribute \$2,000 in an IRA for a non-working spouse. In 1998, the rules for determining whether your contribution is or is not deductible changed. The income limits for determining deductibility will increase from \$50,000 to \$60,000 for joint filers and from \$35,000 to \$40,000 for single filers. Also, for couples where only one spouse is covered by a plan at work and where total adjusted gross income is less than \$160,000, the uncovered spouse would be eligible for a full or partial IRA deduction, even if the covered spouse is not eligible for a deductible IRA.

If you or your spouse have earned income from your own business, a SEP-IRA is another option to consider. A SEP-IRA allows you to shelter up to 15% of

your net income, with some limits. SEPs may be established and funded until the business-tax filing deadline (including extensions).

Either way, an IRA certainly makes sense because your investment grows and compounds tax-deferred, even if you cannot deduct your contribution. In fact, the biggest advantage of an IRA is the power of long-term, tax-deferred compounding. This growing wealth can help to ensure financial independence during your retirement years.

If you are making your 1999 IRA contribution in 2000, you may also want to take care of the 2000 contribution. The earlier in the year you make your contribution, the sooner your money can begin accumulating without tax erosion. The cost of even a slight delay in IRA funding can have a substantial impact on your lifestyle at retirement.

In 1998, a new type of IRA became available. If your income is below \$110,000 (\$160,000 for joint filers), you could choose to contribute all or a portion of your annual IRA contribution to a Roth IRA. Contributions to a Roth IRA are not tax deductible, however, and qualified distributions can be tax-free upon distribution. Take a look at the benefits of the traditional IRA and the Roth IRA to determine how you should save for your retirement.

The following two examples underscore the wealth-building power of IRAs. Both assume IRA contributions begin at age 25 and grow at a steady 8% rate of return. If, instead of contributing \$2,000 to an IRA on April 15 for the previous tax year, an investor had contributed it on January 1 of the tax year, he or she

will have accumulated an additional \$52,406 more for their retirement at age 65.

In the long-term, if individuals begin contributing \$2,000 per year at age 25, the annual contributions will grow to nearly \$559,600, assuming 8% interest, by age 65. The combination of compounding interest and deferring tax on that interest helps provide a nice retirement nest egg over time.

But even if you didn't begin investing at age 25, experts agree that it is never too late to start saving for retirement. Given the dramatic benefits of early investing, can you afford to delay your contribution? Call John Dudley, Financial Advisor at First Union Securities in Downtown Dallas, TX, at 214-740-3253, for complete details about how to start saving for retirement today.

When considering IRAs, SEPs, and other tax-advantaged accounts, you should always consult with your investment and tax professionals.

Provided by courtesy of John Dudley, a Financial Advisor with the investment firm First Union Securities in Dallas, TX. For more information, please call John Dudley at 214-740-3253. First Union Securities, Inc., Member New York Stock Exchange and SIPC, and a separate non-bank affiliate of First Union Corporation. (c) 1999 First Union Securities.

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First Union Securities does not provide legal or tax advice. Be sure to consult with your own tax and legal advisors before taking any action that would have tax consequences.

Since America is presently going through some difficult financial times, job layoffs have become commonplace. Therefore, I want to dedicate this month's column to assist job seekers. Here are three excellent sites worth investigating.

www.imdiversity.com - sponsored by iMinorities Inc., this site has five "villages" where African-Americans, Asians, Women, Native Americans and Hispanic Americans can search for jobs offered by diversity-sensitive employers. Topics include:

- Free resume builder - customized tools to help with career management
- Post your resume - to develop your skills so prospective employers can find you
- Employer profiles - to learn about the diversity-sensitive employers
- Features - pertinent success stories, job hunting tips and current topics of interest to minorities
- Monthly newsletter - by subscription only, this free online publication lists "hot"

topics of interest to job seekers www.nacme.org - sponsored by the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering, an organization that provides leadership and support to increase representation of minorities in engineering, technology,

mathematics and science-based careers. NACME partners with such factions as corporations, foundations and educational and governmental institutions to help prepare minorities for entering these fields of endeavor.

www.hirediversity.com - lists channels for a broader scope of minorities and all of the groups covered by imdiversity.com, but also disabled workers, mature workers, gays, lesbians and veterans. This well-designed site shows an up-to-the-minute counter listing the present number of jobs available, lists career fairs, which employers are hiring and lets job seekers post resumes on the site.

I would appreciate receiving your feedback. If there are particular topics you'd like covered, please send me your suggestions via e-mail: MON Net News@aol.com.



Ed Bamberger

Verizon Wireless launches minority site on mobile web

BEDMINSTER, N.J., (PRNewswire) -- Verizon Wireless Mobile Web customers from coast to coast can now access a leading information provider that focuses on content by and for the African-American community. Content from Afronet.com includes news, entertainment and business information.

Afronet.com offers Mobile Web customers daily news updates, business news from around the world, access to personal advertisements, entertainment news, and restaurant and nightlife listings for major cities.

Gary Schulman, President of the new Wireless Data & Internet Division of Verizon Wireless, said, "We are very pleased to provide Afronet.com's rich array of con-

tent to Mobile Web users. As we continue to roll-out new content providers for our customers, we will continue to meet the diverse needs and desires of Mobile Web users."

Willie Atterberry, founder and CEO of Afronet.com, said, "Afronet.com is the most content-rich portal in the African-American market, and we are proud to be the first in our market to be featured on the Verizon Wireless Mobile Web. By partnering with an industry leader and service provider like Verizon Wireless, we are able to provide a significant convenience feature to our customers. This is a win for everyone, especially our customers. We are always happy with that kind of result."

Sports

Minor league owner lives basketball dream on and off court



Shawn Atkinson

Senrick Wilkerson loves basketball. His passion for the game has been likened to that of Mavericks owner Mark Cuban. Cuban's unique approach of team management has been criticized for its hands-on style, which many say is unbecoming of a professional basketball team owner. Dennis Rodman said that Cuban really wants to be a player. If what Mr. Body Graffiti says is true, let the apprenticeship begin.

There is an owner of a professional basketball team that cannot only teach Cuban a thing or two about said aspirations; this owner is actually fulfilling Cuban's dream.

Enter Senrick Wilkerson, the owner of Dallas' "other" pro basketball team. Wilkerson, a 30 year-old Dallas native has recently become the owner of The Dallas City Express, a minor league team in a league that operates exclusively in Texas. Wilkerson not only owns the Dallas City Express, he also plays guard on the team. This makes Cuban's relationship with his team seem as distant as the Empire State Building



Senrick Wilkerson proudly displays his player agreement with the San Angelo team. Wilkerson owns Dallas' "other" pro basketball team, The Dallas City Express.

and the Eiffel Tower.

Wilkerson first began his career in the league's founding location, as a player on the San Angelo team of the Texas Professional Basketball League. An opportunity to expand his involvement to ownership fell in his lap, as a previous owner pulled his teams out of the league. The chance to come home and in addition to challenge of the dual role of owner and player made for an exciting undertaking. He even left his daughter and fiancé in San Angelo to come to Dallas. (They are to

join him here later.) The Dallas City Express is one of the newest teams the year-old minor league that has set its sights on being a legitimate farm league for the three Texas NBA teams. Though no discussion with the ownership of the NBA teams has taken place, these players are motivated by the mere chance that someday someone will notice them and get a shot at the "big time".

Without even one Division I college player on the roster, no one drafted or having been close to an NBA roster, the next level for them would be a spot on one of the more recognized minor league teams, like the Continental Basketball Association (CBA). John Starks, the former New York Knick, and now starting guard for the Utah Jazz, represents one of the most prominent CBA to NBA fairy tales. Starks was not drafted coming out of college, playing at Oklahoma State, his sixth collegiate stop. He played in the CBA until noticed by the Mavericks' coach and GM Don Nelson, then with Golden State. Starks bounced back to the CBA and eventually landed

on the Knicks' roster, surviving the final cut when put on the injured list. The rest is the stuff Wilkerson's and the dreams of the other players on this team and in this league are made of.

Wilkerson admits that less than one percent of the players has the chance to play on the NBA level. What attracts the players is the opportunity to play in a professional environ-

See WILKERSON on page 7

TexCare Partnership and Families:

Partners for Healthy Children and Healthy Communities

Healthy children are happy and successful children. Regular examinations by a doctor are essential to keeping children healthy and up-to-date with their immunizations. A checkup also gives doctors an opportunity to talk with parents about developmental and safety issues and gives parents an opportunity to ask questions about their child's overall health.



Diana M. Burns, MD, FAAP

Many parents without children's health insurance often have to make a choice between taking their child to the emergency room for something minor and facing long waits, or getting over-the-counter medication in the hopes that their child will get better. Parents often have to miss work to stay home with the child. Even so, sometimes relatively minor symptoms develop into serious health problems. This cycle of trial and error, and waiting can cause unneeded suffering on behalf of the child, not to mention the parents.

Many families feel the assurance of having a caring and experienced family doctor for their children whenever they need one is beyond their financial reach. Thankfully, that's no longer true. Through the TexCare Partnership, most families will find insurance that will fit their budget.

The TexCare Partnership is a Texas initiative to make parents aware of children's health insurance options that are matched to the family's income. Based on the family's size and income, the TexCare Partnership will match families with one of three programs: the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Medicaid, or the Texas Healthy Kids Corporation (THKC).

CHIP rates range from as little as \$15 a year with small co-payments to \$18 a month with slightly higher co-payments. Families with children who qualify for Medicaid will pay nothing. The Texas Healthy Kids Corporation helps families throughout Texas who do not qualify for either Medicaid or CHIP find commercial health insurance options in their area.

The health plans available through the TexCare Partnership offer a full range of coverage, including regular checkups, immunizations, prescription drugs, eyeglasses, lab tests, X-rays, hospital visits, dental care and mental health care - from a broad choice of doctors. Texas families, regardless of income, can now be assured of children's health insurance options that are within their financial means and the peace of mind that comes with that.

Families can call 1-800-647-6558 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (C.S.T.) on Saturday. Operators can answer questions about the programs and eligibility and can even start the application process over the phone. Or, if it's more convenient, families can simply get an application mailed to their home. Operators can also refer families to local Community-Based Organizations who can provide application assistance.

More information about the program and an application can also be found on the Internet at www.texcarepartnership.com.



Presented as a public service by this newspaper and the TexCare Partnership: connecting Texas families with children's health insurance for \$68 a month or less. 1-800-647-6558 • www.texcarepartnership.com

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New Plano Community Forum president gears up for exciting year

By Trina S. George
Gazette Corresponding Writer

The Plano Community Forum is kicking off the new millennium with incoming president, Patricia N. Humphress, at its helm. Humphress is poised to continue in the Forum's tradition of focusing on education, cultural diversity and community involvement.

The Plano Community Forum is a non-profit organization made up of individuals that share one vision - providing scholarship opportunities for graduating African-American students in Plano and promoting cultural enrichment within the community. President Humphress says her goal is to continue the efforts of the Forum that began 20 years ago, as well as charter new ground. "I want to heighten the awareness of the community about the Forum," says Humphress. "We want the community to know who we are and we want to foster and build relationships with other organizations and businesses in Plano. Increased awareness about the Forum will provide smooth formation of new programs we want to create such as the Youth Auxiliary. Once parents are involved, the children can be introduced to the organization and we can groom these kids to be future leaders."

The Forum is an integral part in the education of African-American youth in Plano. For the past 18 years, 96 scholarships totaling more



New Plano Community Forum President Patricia Humphress enjoys a dance at the Forum's Sweetheart Ball. Humphress takes over the position from Earl Simpkins.

Photo by Maggie Ybarra

than \$80 thousand, has been awarded to African-American students graduating from Plano high schools. The Forum was also instrumental in creating PISD's multi-ethnic committee. An educator in the school system since 1975, Humphress feels confident that her experience in the educational arena will catapult the Forum to meet its desired goals. "I have held various leadership positions in the school system. I'm a hard worker and my drive and interest in the education of our children has earned me the confidence of my peers." Humphress also plans to

"We want to impress upon the community that it takes more than a president to accomplish what the Plano Community Forum has accomplished and achieve the goals we have set forth."

— PATRICIA HUMPHRESS

create programs to address the youth drop out rate and assist in increasing Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) test scores.

"We want to impress upon the community that it takes more than a president to accomplish what the Plano Community Forum has accomplished and achieve the

goals we have set forth," says Humphress. "It takes a dedicated team working together." The Forum welcomes volunteers, organization sponsorship, and contributions for its three annual fundraisers. Anyone interested should contact the Plano Community Forum at (972) 260-4208.

Napster makes public business model for new service

SAN FRANCISCO, (PRNewswire) -- Napster today made public the business model that it has been presenting to major labels for the last six months in an effort to settle their dispute and end the industry's effort to shut Napster down in court.

The proposal would provide guaranteed revenue of \$1 billion to the major labels, songwriters and independent labels and artists over the next five years. Major labels would receive \$150 million per year for a non-exclusive license, divided according to files transferred. \$50 million per year will be set aside for independent labels and artists to be paid out based on the volume of files transferred.

"As we have been saying in private meetings with the major recording companies and the RIAA for the last six months, Napster has a viable business model with solid revenue streams and we are building the technology to make it happen," said Hank Barry, CEO of Napster, Inc. "We made public our business model and technology today in hopes that the recording industry will meet us at the table to come to a resolution that benefits artists and consumers alike."

"Bertelsmann chose to build a partnership with Napster in October, 2000 because of the tremendous value it creates for promoting artists and building community," said Andreas Schmidt, president and CEO of Bertelsmann eCommerce Group. "The revenue potential of Napster for the entire recording industry is unprecedented

and it's time to start thinking towards the future and figure out a way to leverage this potential instead of trying to quell it. In the interest of the consumer and artists it's time for the industry to lay down their arms."

Napster's CEO Hank Barry described the membership model that will enable the company to make the proposed payments. Definitive pricing has not been set, but the model will have two tiers. The model includes a "Basic Membership" plan that would cost in the range of \$2.95 to \$4.95 per month with an as yet undetermined limit on file transfers. The "Premium Membership" will cost between \$5.95 and \$9.95 and will offer unlimited file transfers.

The company also unveiled key aspects of its rights accounting architecture and security technology.

The new Napster, slated to launch this summer, will be designed as a promotional service with fidelity limitations of 128 kbps and lower. Users will be asked to pay an additional fee in order to burn CDs and to transfer their music to portable devices. The service will be easy to use, and offer secure, complete and accurate file transfers, a new player with a personal jukebox and enhanced search and community features. "I have so many cool things in development and I want to be able to bring them to the Napster community," said Shawn Fanning. "I am also grateful for the outpouring of support from the Napster community, keep it coming!"

Elementary students continue Black History Month tradition

Fredrick Douglas Elementary School recently held its Twelfth Annual Oratorical Contest. The theme for this year's event was "Creating and Defining The African-American Community: Family, Church, Politics and Culture." Students in grades kindergarten through third grades participated in the contest. Five judges scored participants on their presentations to determine grade level winners. Victoria Autry, kindergarten;

Barnet Aguirre, first grade; RaDasha Raimcy, second grade; and Cedric Colquitt, third grade all came away with the top awards.

Judges included WFAA employee Berna Dean Steptoe; Vivian Gibbs,



Kindergarten and 1st grade participants of the Fredrick Douglas Elementary School Oratorical Contest.

Chairperson of school site based decision-making counsel; Marsha Evans, Dallas Chamber of Commerce Administrator; Robert Edison, DISD Director of Social Studies; and Donald Hill, City Councilman and newspaper publisher Thurman

Jones. The program also included various other student performances, including a step routine by the Douglass Dolphin Steppers and songs by the Sensational Singing Dolphins. Students also expressed their pride in their school by saying their school pledge, school song, creed and singing the Negro National Anthem.

The school is named for abolitionist Frederick Douglass. Ellen Perry is the school's principal.



2nd and 3rd grade contest participants. This marked the 12th year of the contest.

Photo courtesy Woody Austin

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Wellness

Actor delivers message of hope to breast cancer survivors

By Monica Thornton
Gazette Columnist

Richard Roundtree, best known for his 1971 role as John Shaft, told fellow breast cancer survivors at the recent Susan G. Komen Survivor Celebration Brunch that when you have breast cancer "all the should haves and could haves don't add up without the most precious gift of all - health."

The Komen foundation is the nation's most progressive grassroots organization fighting breast cancer nationally and internationally. The 2001 Komen Affiliate Conference, titled, "Komen 2001 Expedition Cure - Journey Toward the Future," brought together representatives from more than 100 U.S. and three international Komen affiliates. Founding chair Nancy Brinker, Roundtree and Latin pop singer Soraya joined the conference to commemorate the Komen Foundation's accomplishments during the past year.

Roundtree was diagnosed with breast cancer in October 1993, and underwent chemotherapy and a modified radical mastectomy. He has been in remission for more than a year, and was invited to speak at the Dallas conference. "I am honored to unite my efforts with the Komen Foundation and their dedicated group of volunteers to raise awareness about the disease and battle breast cancer," said Roundtree.

Roundtree said he was on location when he felt a lump on his left breast during a shower. When he returned home he went to the doctor, and he emphasized that it was the moment he returned home, as early detection is vital to breast cancer.

Although breast cancer is the most common cancer among women, it is rare among men, with only 1,300 men being diagnosed yearly. Roundtree said it was hard enough to hear that he had cancer, but he could not believe it was breast cancer.

"My first thought, I was wondering if my doctor was questioning my manhood. It would have been much easier to have dealt with prostate cancer, but breast cancer," Roundtree says most men have a cavalier attitude about their health, but cancer is not gender specific.

Grammy award winning singer/songwriter Soraya of Columbia was also in attendance. Soraya, 31, was preparing for a tour in June when she found a lump and was diagnosed with locally advanced Stage III breast cancer. She is no stranger to breast cancer, having lost her mother to the disease in 1992, her maternal grandmother and her grandaunt.

She made a three-minute video about her cancer and planned to stay home and recover privately. After the video was released, she received more than 6,000 e-mails of from people whose lives had been touched by breast cancer.

Now, Soraya is reaching out to



Actor Richard Roundtree was diagnosed with breast cancer in October 1993.

BREAST CANCER BASICS

■ In Texas, Anglo females are diagnosed with breast cancer at higher rates than other race/ethnicity groups (25 percent greater than African-Americans and 60 percent greater than Hispanic females).

■ African-American females with breast cancer die at higher rates - nearly twice that of Hispanics and about a third higher than Anglos.

■ During the 1990s, approximately 1.8 million women and 12,000 men were diagnosed with invasive breast cancer.

■ This year, and estimated 182,800 women and 1,400 men will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer.

■ Approximately 40,800 women and 400 men will die of breast cancer this year.

■ Breast cancer is the leading cancer type among American women and is second only to lung cancer in cancer deaths.

■ When breast cancer is confined to the breast, the five-year survival rate is over 95 percent.

■ All women are at risk and there is no cure.

with local medical experts and community leaders to conduct comprehensive community needs assessments, which are then profiled and used to establish local grant application and review processes.

Since its inception in 1982 to fiscal year end 1999, The Foundation and its Affiliate Network have raised \$300 million, and have awarded more than 500 international grants totaling more than \$60 million for breast cancer research projects.

"My first thought, I was wondering if my doctor was questioning my manhood. It would have been much easier to have dealt with prostate cancer, but breast cancer."

— Richard Roundtree



The Hatch's, with son John, a Children's Medical Center patient, cut the ribbon of the new CICU unit at Children's Medical Center. The new unit will provide 11 additional ICU beds.

Photos by Stan R. Davis

Children's Medical Center sets trend for pediatric care in North Texas

By Brandy Jones
Gazette Editorial Assistant

Congenital heart disease (CHD) is the most common birth defect, affecting about one out of every 100 to 125 births. On February 14, Children's Medical Center of Dallas opened the first pediatric cardiac intensive care unit (CICU) on Congenital Heart Defect/Disease Awareness Day. The unit is the first in North Texas and is part of a national trend to provide specialty care in ICUs by specially trained medical teams. Children's is looking for ways to reduce medical complications and save more lives.

"This new unit is specially designed to take care of children with all forms of heart disease," says Dr. Brett Giroir, chief medical director. "Those needing surgery, those that have already undergone surgery and those not needing it, but have severe heart disease." The opening of the new wing will provide 11 additional ICU beds, which are desperately needed. "We're so thrilled that Children's opened this [facility] up because the ICU is always filled to capacity and half the children there are cardiac kids. It just makes sense that they would open a new facility," says Shelleye Thomas, mother of Christopher, the 28-month old patient. Dr. Daniel Stromberg, one of the first cardiac physicians at Children's, believes Dallas and the regional community will benefit greatly from it. "In addition to providing children with cardiac-intensive care, as a teaching facility, Children's is training professionals in intensive care and creating great opportunities for research," says Dr. Stromberg, assistant professor of pediatrics at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

The CICU features 11 rooms, which are larger than current rooms allowing space for an entire operating team and for equipment cardiac patients usually require. Other noteworthy differences include movable medical equipment arms suspended from the ceiling instead of the traditional head-wall connections. These pendant arms allow all the pumps, plugs, monitors and gas connections to be moved anywhere around a patient's bed, or allow the 360-degree movement of the bed itself. Each

"This new unit is specially designed to take care of children with all forms of heart disease"



— DR. BRETT GIROIR
CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR

room also is equipped with light clusters and radiant warmers mounted pendent arms, permitting physicians to perform minor surgery in the room, while keeping the patient warm.

When asked what she enjoyed most about the new facility, Thomas replied, "I'm so excited that we can stay overnight. It's so stressful when your child comes out of surgery and you have to go home or try to sleep in the ICU waiting room. [This luxury] is priceless." There's always room for constant visitation.

The new ICU rooms also have large windows accessing an abundance of natural light, which may play a role in improving the recovery time for patients requiring intensive care. "You heal better when you have night and day cycles and when you can view nature," said Dr. Giroir. This particular portion of the architectural design is based on recent data that show nature views and sunlight help patients improve more rapidly. Future endeavors for the CICU include a rooftop garden and window planters.

"I think that Children's is growing and expanding and doing so much in the cardiac area. I think that we are really fortunate to be in the city of Dallas because of that. Previously a lot of times parents would think, oh we need to go to a larger city like New York, Boston, Philadelphia, but their showing us that's no longer true," says Thomas.

The next specialty ICU scheduled to open later this year will be an eight-bed pediatric trauma intensive care unit

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:

- Depressed or sad mood
- Loss of interest in activities
- Difficulty sleeping or sleeping too much
- Feeling slowed down
- Feeling tired or having low energy
- Feeling guilty or worthless
- Changes in weight or appetite
- 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.

SOUTHWESTERN

On the Move

Singer reprises familiar role in Dallas Opera debut

By Brandy Jones
Gazette Editorial Assistant

Verdi's *Rigoletto* has been chosen by the African American Advisory Committee (AAAC) as the feature opera of the 2000-01 season. Internationally acclaimed baritone Gordon Hawkins, is making his Dallas Opera debut repeating the title role of Rigoletto, a court jester. The Los Angeles Times lauded Hawkins for his performances in the role as having "a sure dramatic instinct [for] the part." He was also hailed by the Washington Post as "one of the most promising young singers of the decade."

Throughout the United States and Europe, Hawkins has performed with leading companies including appear-



Gordon Hawkins

ances as Marcello in *La Bohème*, Donald in *Billy Budd* and Roucher in *Andrea Chenier* at the Metropolitan Opera, as well as many leading

roles with the Washington Opera, New York City Opera and Opera Company of Philadelphia. The list continues with recurrences in Europe at Royal Opera Covent Garden (England), Deutsche Oper am Rhein, Teatro Massimo in Palermo (Italy), and Teatro Maestranza in Seville (Spain).

Hawkins returns to The Dallas Opera next season as Paolo in *Simon Boccanegra*.

Gordon Hawkins grew up in Maryland singing in the church and in high school. After graduating, he went to the University of Maryland on a baseball scholarship. Ironically, opera didn't surface until his junior year. Instructors James McDonald

and George Shirley were model music mentors. "James was great at approaching music. George was great about how to be a man in the business. Nobody stands as tall as he. They're both great men," says Hawkins. He was recognized by the Metropolitan Opera at age 23 after winning a vocal competition, which catapulted him into scholarships and auditions.

Hawkins says much effort is required for the business. "It's not a time thing as much as it is a dedication thing. After years, it becomes a way of life," he says. "If you are not careful, it can be a consuming thing. It becomes how you

See HAWKINS on page 7

Chambers of Commerce

FRISCO Chamber of Commerce

Tuesday, March 6
12:30 p.m. - Chamber Board of Directors Meeting
Meeting will be held at the Chamber Office, 6843 Main St.
The business is located at 8204 Stonebrook Pkwy.

Wednesday, March 7
12:00 p.m. - Membership Orientation Lunch
The lunch will be held at the Chamber. Come and find out about Chamber programs and services.

Thursday, March 8
8:00 a.m. - Get on Track at 8 Networking Session
Come network with area businesses at the Chamber office, 6843 Main St.

9:15 a.m. - Ribbon Cutting
Join us for a ribbon cutting for Nu Image Custom Painting at the Chamber Office. For more information call Steve & Kathy Cargile at 972-731-7780.

Thursday, March 15
8:00 a.m. - Get on Track at 8 Networking Session
Come network with area businesses at the Chamber office, 6843 Main St.

PLANO Chamber of Commerce

Thursday, March 1
11:30 a.m. - Ribbon Cutting
Join us for a ribbon cutting for Plato's Closet, 832 West Spring Creek, Ste. 370.

Friday, March 2
7:30 a.m. - Business Interchange
Everyone is invited to the interchange at the Doubletree Hotel, 7120 North Dallas Parkway. No RSVP is required.

9:00 a.m. - Ribbon Cutting
Join us for a ribbon cutting following the Business Interchange for the Doubletree Hotel, 7120 North Dallas Parkway.

Monday, March 5
7:00 p.m. - Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting
The commission will meet at

1520 Avenue K. Everyone is invited to attend.

Tuesday, March 6
7:00 p.m. - PISD Board Meeting
The board will meet at the school administration building, 2700 W. 15th Street. The meeting is open to the public.

Wednesday, March 7
7:30 a.m. - Government Relations
This committee reviews and recommends resolutions and legislative materials to the Board of Directors local candidate forum and has different speakers at their monthly meetings at the Chamber building.

Thursday, March 8
11:45 a.m. - Ambassador's Club Meeting
The group promotes the chamber by sponsoring new member investments and call on existing members to enhance the effectiveness of the chamber in its leadership of the business community. To register call 972-424-7547. The meeting will be held at the Chamber building.

Thursday, March 8
11:45 a.m. - Ambassador's Club Meeting

The group promotes the chamber by sponsoring new member investments and call on existing members to enhance the effectiveness of the chamber in its leadership of the business community. To register call 972-424-7547. The meeting will be held at the Chamber building.

Friday, March 9
7:30 a.m. - Business Interchange

Everyone is invited to the interchange at the Chamber building. No RSVP is required.

9:00 a.m. - Ribbon Cutting
Join us at a ribbon cutting for The Intranet Guy at the Chamber building.

Monday, March 12
12:00 p.m. - Promote Plano
Bring a brown bag lunch and join us as we work in tandem with the conventions and visitors bureau to actively promote Plano as a tourist attraction.

7:00 p.m. - City Council Meeting
The meeting will be held in council chambers at 1520 Avenue K.

Tuesday, March 13
8:00 a.m. - Public Safety Committee

Join us to help plan and stage the Annual Safety Fair and address business safety issues. The meeting will be held at the Chamber building.

4:30 p.m. - New Member Reception
Join us at the Harvey Hotel before the Power Networking event

to obtain information on how the chamber can benefit your business. To register call 972-424-7547.

9:30 p.m. - Power Networking
Held three times a year, this event provides members an opportunity to network in a round table format. Event will be held at the Harvey Hotel.



Monday, March 5
11:30 a.m. - Ribbon Cutting
Join us for a ribbon cutting for McKinney at My Door in the Chamber Lobby, 1801 W. Louisiana.

Tuesday, March 6
11:45 a.m. - Ambassador Meeting

Meeting will be held at Bob Jones Ford - 950 S. Central Exp. (conference room upstairs).

Wednesday, March 7
11:30 a.m. - Ribbon Cutting
Join us for a ribbon cutting for Fox & Jacobs, 3309 Willow Creek

Trail, Central North to Wilmett, West on Wilmett, South on Jones Pitts, Left on Community Drive, Right on Willow Creek Trail. Models will be on the right.

Thursday, March 8
8:00 a.m. - Community Conference

The conference will be held at Collin County Community College - Central Park Campus. Seating is limited, so be sure to reserve your seat early.

Saturday, March 10
5:00 p.m. - Third Annual Ms. Collin County Senior Pageant

The Pageant will be held at the historic Kathryn Heard Craig Auditorium. For sponsorship opportunities, registration, volunteering and other questions, please contact Cheryl Dillon at 972-768-9508 or email: seniorpageant@yahoo.com or visit the website at www.seniorpageant.com.

Monday, March 12 - Friday, March 16
MISD Spring Break

Richardson ISD wins new support for bond program

RICHARDSON, TX--The Richardson Independent School District's proposed bond program won the support of the Richardson City Council this week as the district prepares for a major bond referendum Saturday.

In a resolution endorsing the \$351.67 million bond program, city council members describe projects identified in the package as "necessary to address the education needs of current and future generations of RISD students."

The resolution adds that the city council "joins with the Richardson Chamber of Commerce in committing its resources to assist the RISD in the future implementation of its 2001 bond program."

The Richardson Chamber of Commerce, Dallas Northeast

Chamber of Commerce, Realtors Supporting Richardson Schools, RISD Bi-Racial Committee, RISD PTA Council and several other organizations also announced their support for the bond referendum in recent weeks.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday as voters determine the fate of the bond package initiated to help RISD continue providing high quality education far into the future.

Passage of Proposition #1 on the ballot would enable RISD to issue \$351.67 million in bonds for facilities renewal, land and new schools, and instruction and technology equipment and material. The total includes about \$124.9 million for revitalizing RISD's

oldest schools and about \$120 million to buy land and build new schools in the district's Lake Highlands area. Also under Proposition #1, RISD would issue about \$106.77 million in bonds to meet technology and instructional needs throughout the district.

Passage of Proposition #2 would enable RISD to refinance \$18.8 million in existing debt to shelter it from recapture. Under recapture, RISD and the state's other so-called "property wealthy" school districts send million of dollars of local funds to Austin every year, leaving these districts with less money to meet their own education

needs.

With voter approval of the RISD bond package, owners of a home valued at \$100,000 could expect a maximum property tax increase of less than \$8 a month for this bond debt, according to financial projections.

RISD held a bond referendum in 1996, when voters approved issuing \$174.6 million in bonds to build new schools and classroom additions, fund capital improvements at schools and other district buildings, upgrade technology in the district, and improve instructional and athletic facilities. All projects from that referendum have been completed or are in the works.

WILKERSON from page 5

ment, while keeping their full-time jobs. Not that keeping them is an option. These players don't have luxury hotel stays or even travel on chartered jets. Their travel and lodging facilities consist of the van they drive to the games and the ones they return home in the same night after the game. Pay is a mere \$40-\$50 a game, taking a draw against the gate.

To come and watch these players play means you are guaranteed entertainment. Wilkerson says the nominal admission fees are worth it because these players play for the love of the game, not for a contract.

The headaches of ownership include trying to find sponsors for the team and raising money to promote the ven-

ture. The team is slated to play the radio personalities at K104 FM in efforts to garner visibility. However, the apparent conflict of being a player and owner that has to make personnel decisions isn't one of the headaches. This owner says he lets the coach have the GM responsibilities, much like the Mavericks. Wilkerson has no reservations about saying that "it's about having the best players on the floor", and has even seen some of his close friends get cut.

The home games for the Dallas City Express are played at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church. This would be an opportunity for those who don't get enough basketball from the major venues to get another fix for their basketball addictions.

HAWKINS from page 6

behave and how you think of yourself. I don't think of myself as a singer; I think of myself as a person who sings."

As a mature artist, Hawkins is not interested in making pretty tunes; instead, he speaks to audience's souls.

Rigoletto is a story about a man who takes the law into his own hands and ultimately loses everything. "[Rigoletto] was born a

hunchback. Because of that, he manages to become a court jester where his job is to make people laugh. So every time you see him in the court, he's making fun of people. But there are times in the opera where you get to

see him without his makeup, without the pretense of being a clown. He's a real person and I love very much who this person becomes. This opera takes time to go deeper than the physical perceptions in which we see others."

CRIMINAL LAW

- FELONIES
- MISDEMEANORS
- DRUGS
- DWI

FAMILY LAW

- JUVENILE
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Women's suffrage movement produced hard-fought victory

By Brandy Jones
Gazette Editorial Assistant

This is the first segment in a two-part series. Look for the next segment in our March 15th edition.

The women's suffrage movement, which began in the northeastern United States, developed in the context of antebellum reform. Many women, including Sarah and Angelina Grimke, Abby Kelly, Lucretia Mott and Lucy Stone began speaking out for women's rights when efforts to participate equally with men were rebuffed. These early feminists demanded a wide range of changes in women's social, moral, legal, educational, and economic status: the right to vote was not their initial focus.

After the Civil War, women's rights leaders saw enfranchisement as one of its most important goals. The leaders were disappointed when the 14th and 15th Amendments did not provide universal suffrage for all Americans, but extended the franchise only to black men. Consequently, the women's rights movement in 1869 was largely divided over the issue of supporting ratification of the 15th Amendment.

Two suffrage organizations had different positions and ideas on how to best promote the cause. The National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA), headed by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony opposed the 15th Amendment, but called for a 16th Amendment that would enfranchise women through

federal action. The New York-based NWSA, adopted a more radical approach in promoting

values.

In 1872, Susan B. Anthony attempted to vote, hoping to be



Women participate in a suffrage parade. This was one of the strategies of NAWSA.

feminist reforms.

Lucy Stone led the American Woman Suffrage Association (AWSA) with the aid of her husband Henry Blackwell, along with such prominent names as Mary Livermore, Julia Ward Howe, Henry Ward Beecher, Antoinette Brown Blackwell and Thomas Wentworth Higginson. It endorsed the 15th Amendment while working for women's suffrage as well. While supporting a federal amendment for female enfranchisement, this organization concentrated on grassroots support for women's suffrage by forming state-level organizations and working through the Woman's Journal. The AWSA tried to make women's suffrage and other feminist reforms seem less radical and consistent with widely shared American

arrested and get the opportunity to test this strategy in the courts. She was arrested and indicted for voting. Found guilty and fined, she insisted she would never pay a penny for it. Virginia Minor, a suffrage leader in St. Louis, succeeded in getting the issue before the United States Supreme Court. In 1875 the Court ruled unanimously that citizenship did not automatically include the right to vote and that female enfranchisement should be decided by the states.

Even as the NWSA and the AWSA competed for support and attempted several strategies for winning enfranchisement, women's suffrage was making headway in the West. While most politicians from the East were against women's suffrage, politicians and voters in several Western states enfran-

See SUFFRAGE on page 9

Playwright strikes gold with local play

By Angela D. Jones
Gazette Corresponding Writer

They say you know you're watching a good movie or TV show when you suddenly find yourself talking to the screen. Well, after seeing the theatrical presentation of "When A Woman's Fed Up," I'm now convinced that the same rule applies to plays.

There are basically four different plots in the play, which was written, directed and produced by David Payton, who is also responsible for the play "A Good Man Is Hard To Find." One involves Ms. Sadie (played by Samantha McSwain) and her son Clyde (Victor Reid). Tragically, Clyde finds himself in the wrong place at the wrong time. A confessed drug dealer, he becomes wrongly accused of slaying a pregnant police officer and is sentenced to die by electric chair. While Clyde and his Christian mother

have a turbulent relationship that was somewhat difficult to watch at times, it was refreshing to see their ties strengthen toward the end of the play when Clyde finally gives in, and gives his life to Christ.

The most interesting and volatile story line is the one involving James Stewart (portrayed by singer Glenn Jones), who is caught up in a love triangle with Paula (Lorie Randolph) with whom he fathered a child with out of wedlock, and his

wife Shir (Jada Alexander). Alexander brilliantly plays the betrayed wife, and gives life to the role. Needless to say, the cheating husband (James) ends up getting "busted" and ends up on bended knee begging his wife for forgiveness. And while Shir does take him back in the end, everyone in the audience is left with the urge to give James a

swift kick in the pants and Shir a hug and high five. Finally, a story line which would easily be forgettable if not for its interesting characters, revolves around bride-to-be Bridgette (Felicia Robinson), who is the victim of verbal and physical abuse by her miniature fiancée Cyrus (Michael Jenkins). In the end she ends up getting swept off of her feet by Andy (Eric Goodwin), the man she's secretly loved since high school. Ironically, Cyrus

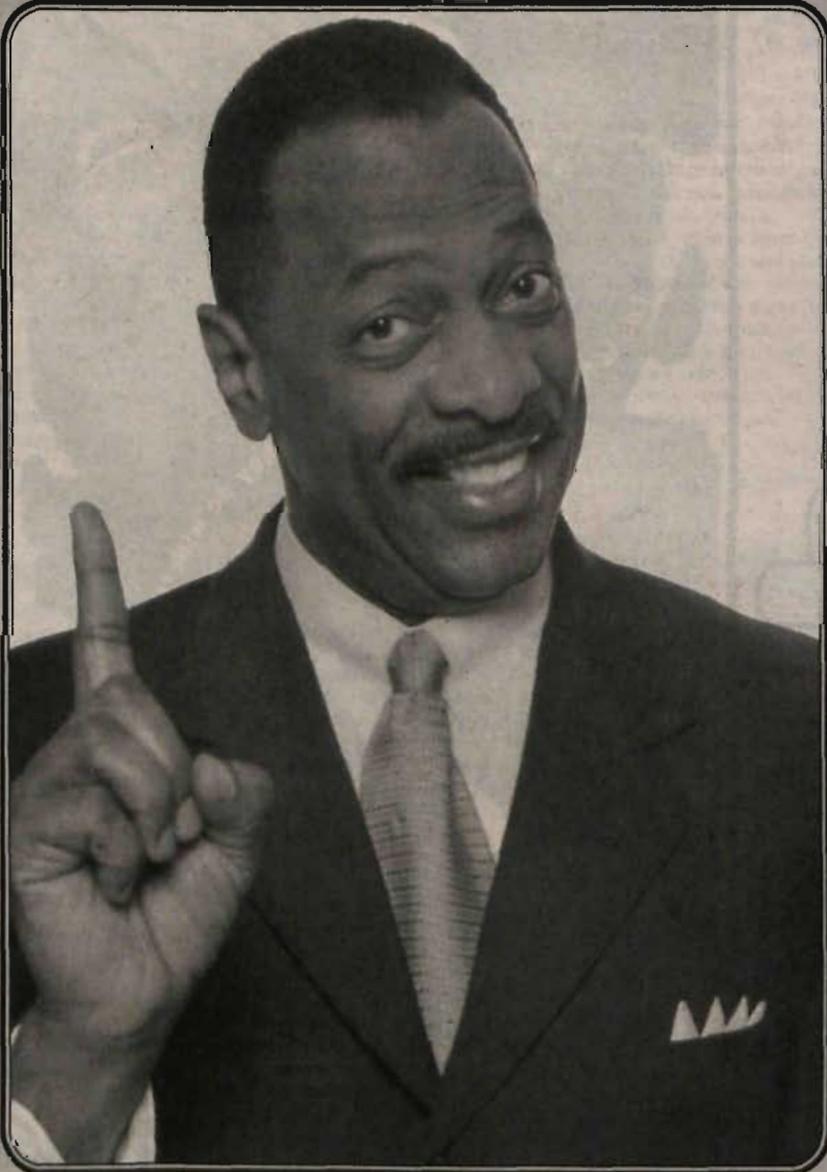
ends up dumping Bridgette and falling for "Twan" (Boyce Crandal), the flagrant homosexual. But while Andy and Bridgette are as "cute as a pie"; Andy's persistent stutter seems a little over-acted and becomes nerve-racking long before the intermission.

In terms of its supporting cast, "When A Woman's Fed Up," has the best I've seen. Legendary singer Lenny Williams smoothly portrays Attorney Stone and pleases the ladies when he sings his classic tune, "Because I Love You." Hometown comedian Shuckey Duckey is his usual funny self as the barber on Viagra, Woodrow, and left me impressed.

From the title alone, I got the impression that "When A Woman's Fed Up" would be just another low-budget, poorly acted, jive-talking play with lots of male bashing and a barrage of meaningless messages. Lucky for me and even luckier for Dallas (because the play will make a repeat Dallas performance), that's not so. "When A Woman's Fed Up" is extremely spiritual and has a variety of hidden, loaded messages involving domestic violence, extramarital affairs, single parenting, absentee fathers, capital punishment and a lacking justice system. It is evident that Payton put a lot of thought into this production. His cast succeeds in creating an intimacy between their individual characters. Payton even thought enough to localize the production by adding references to Dallas throughout the play.



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Arts & Entertainment

EVENTS

On-going

In recognition of Black History Month, KDTN 2 will air 14 documentaries dealing with African-American themes throughout the month of February. Check local listings for schedules.

Fort Worth Theatre, Inc. Hispanic Series will be accepting plays to be considered for the upcoming 3rd annual Hispanic Playwright's Festival. Plays will be considered for completed works, works in progress or scenes and monologues. Plays will be accepted until Mar. 15. For more information call Lynda Rodriguez at 817-921-5300.

Black Cinematheque Dallas will celebrate International Women's Month with screenings of 17 films throughout March at the South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh St., Dallas. Tickets are available by calling 214-939-2787, Black Images Book Bazaar 214-943-0142 and Alternative Video 214-823-6030.

March 1-3

The A.H. Belo Foundation Visual Arts Series will present an exhibit of the works of Wendell-Earl Gorden in "People, Places and Things," at the South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh, Dallas. For more information call 214-939-ARTS.

Lyric Stage presents the musical "Roadside," by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt. Performances will be held at the Irving Arts Center, Dupree Theater, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd., Irving. For tickets call 972-252-2728.

Cedar Valley College presents "Swingin' With the Big Band 2," March 1-3 and March 8-10 at 7:30 p.m., in the Performance Hall of the university. For information or tickets call 972-860-8120.

March 1-11

Pegasus Theatre, 3916 Main St., will present the play "The Frequency of Death," by Kurt Kleinmann with two special New Year's Eve performances Dec. 31. For more information call 214-821-6005.

Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Ft. Worth, present "Fat Freddy's" by Joe Rogers and Dianne Tucker. For tickets or information call 817-338-4411.

Dallas Children's Theater presents "My Lord What a Morning," by Kim Hines, celebrating the life of Marian Anderson. Performances will be held at the Crescent Theater, 2215 Cedar Springs, Dallas. For tickets or information call 214-978-0110.

March 1-25

The Dallas Theater Center presents "Twelfth Night," by William Shakespeare at the Arts District Theater, 2401 Flora St., Dallas. For information or tickets call 214-522-8499 or visit www.dallastheater-center.org.

March 1-April 29

A photographic exhibit of the Million Man March - Five Years Later will be on display at the Black Academy of Arts and Letters. The exhibit is donated by the James E. Kemp Gallery. Guest curators for the exhibit are Phillip Collins and Emanuel Gillespie.

March 1-May 6

The Modern Art Museum of

Forth Worth presents the exhibit "Ultrabaroque: Aspects of Post-Latin American Art" at the Modern's Cultural District location. For more information call 817-738-9215 or visit www.mamfw.org.

March 2

The Djely Kunda West African Dance Company will perform and hold classes at the Naomi Bruton Theatre, Black Academy of Arts and Letters, 650 S. Griffin St., Dallas, at 8:00 p.m. For more information call 214-743-2440.

March 2-17

Artwork created by teens on probation will be exhibited at the Bathhouse Cultural Center. The pieces will be exhibited Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. For more information call Jessica Racine-White at 214-520-9988.

March 3-4

Pegasus Theatre will hold auditions for its upcoming production, "Cowboys," a musical by Clint Jeffries. Auditions will be from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. To schedule an audition appointment call 214-821-6005. All positions are paid.

March 5

Arts & Letters Live will open its 10th season of the "Texas Bound" series at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. at the Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 N. Harwood. Guest readings will feature Mia Dillon, Keir Dullea and Isaiah Sheffer. For more information call 214-922-1220.

March 7

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra, led by guest conductor Kate Tamarkin, will present an informative concert for local pre-K-2nd grade students about the instrument families of the orchestra in its Musical Family Concerts at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Reservations are required. For more information call Jenna Odom at 214-871-4006.

Casa Mañana presents the 2001 American Airlines Community Concert, "Sandy Duncan Celebrates Broadway," at 8:00 p.m. at the Bass Performance Hall. All proceeds benefit the Casa Mañana Capital Campaign. For tickets call 814-467-ARTS or 214-631-ARTS. This production is suitable for all audiences.

March 7-24

Fort Worth Theatre, Inc., Orchestra Hall, 4401 Trail Lake Dr., will present "Isn't It Romantic," by Wendy Wasserstein, in 8:00 p.m. performances. For tickets and information call 817-921-5300.

March 9-10

Broadway icon Linda Hopkins and Hollywood entertainer Barbara McNair will be in performance at the Clarence Muse Café Theatre, Black Academy of Arts and Letters, 650 S. Griffin St., Dallas, beginning with dinner at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 214-743-2440.

March 9-25

The Science Place's TI Founders IMAX Theater will present "Super Speedway" daily at 2:00 p.m. The show explores the making of an Indy car. For more information or tickets call 214-428-5555 or visit www.scienceplace.org.

March 10

The UTA Music Department will present visiting artist-in-residence Fabio Bidini in a piano recital in Irons Recital Hall, Fine Arts Building, 700 W. Second St., Arlington, at 7:30 p.m. For more information call John Solomons at 817-272-2576 or 817-272-3471.

March 11

The Dallas Theater Center will continue its Deloitte & Touche "In Perspective Series," following the matinee of "Twelfth Night" at the Arts District Theater, 2401 Flora St., Dallas, with Peter Saccio, professor of Shakespearean Studies at Dartmouth College as the featured speaker. For more information call 214-522-8499.

March 14-18

The 14th Annual Dallas Video Festival will be held at the Kalita Humphreys Theater, McKinney Avenue Contemporary, Meyerson Symphony Center's Horchow Auditorium and the Dallas Museum of Art's Horchow Auditorium. Tickets are available at the door or by calling 1-800-494-TIXS. For more information call 214-428-8700 or visit www.videofest.org.

March 15

Arts & Letters Live will continue with a Distinguished Writer program with Sherman Alexie, author of "The Toughest Indian in the World," at the Dallas Museum of Art at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 214-922-1219.

March 15-April 8

Plano Repertory Theatre will open its 25th season with "Much Ado About Nothing," by William Shakespeare and directed by Mark Fleischer. For more information and tickets call 972-422-7460.

March 16-17

The Dallas Divas! Will return for their 5th anniversary concert at the Irving Arts Center's Carpenter Performance Hall, at 8:00 p.m. Dallas Divas! features ten leading ladies of musical theater in a tribute to Lerner and Loewe. For more information call 972-252-2728.

March 16-30

Griot Productions with TBAAL will present the drama/comedy "Black Folks Don't Need No Shrinks!" at Clarence Muse Café Theatre, Black Academy of Arts and Letters, 650 S. Griffin St., Dallas, 8:00 p.m. nightly and 3:00 p.m. matinee. For more information and tickets call 214-743-2440.

March 17

The International Museum of Cultures, 7500 W. Camp Wisdom Rd., Dallas, will hold the exhibition of "The People of the Tiger: The Yi of China." Members of the Dallas Chinese Philharmonic Association will perform at 2:00 p.m. For more information call 972-708-7537.

March 20

Lou Rawls will appear in concert at the Bass Performance Hall at 8:00 p.m. The performance will benefit the Renaissance Cultural Center. For more information call 817-922-9999. For tickets call 817-335-9000.

Night Vibes

By Ché Hill

Soul Rep Theater's presentation of "In the Blood" is a modern day version of Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*. Penned by Suzan-Lori Parks, who has been dubbed by some as America's premiere playwright under 50, the adaptation delivers a poetic drama in a no frills type fashion. "In the Blood" debuted to rave reviews last year at New York's The Public Theater. The play proved to be poetic prose at it's finest and was delivered with dramatic energy.

There is something about the destitute that most people find intriguing, and whatever that is Ms. Parks has her finger on the pulse of it. Standout performances are turned in by Renee Miche'al, who plays the lead role of Hester, captures the audience with her problems, and does an excellent job of evoking pity. Keenan Zeno portrays the vile Reverend D with captivating energy.

As a whole, the play was well acted by the ensuing cast of Keith Price (Chili/Jabber), Dee Smith (Bully/Welfare Lady), Michael Turner (The Doctor/Trouble) and Marina Caloy (The Amiga Gringa/Beauty) and well directed by Guinea Bennett-Price.

"I feel great about it. It's some of the best writing we've ever had the pleasure of announcing for the stage. It's an honor to have some of Suzan



Renee Miche'al stars as Hester in "In the Blood," by Suzan-Lori Parks.

Lori-Parks work here in Dallas," says Bennett-Price. "I'm so glad the audiences have embraced this work. It's not an easy piece to watch. But I think because the characters are so exceptional and people know that we go there and we don't mind, that is a little on the edge."

We asked a few of the actors about their feelings on the production. Zeno says that Parks has put a real twist on *The Scarlet Letter* making it more modern. "It's deep. The play is so lyrical, I mean the script is about 100 pages and it's the most difficult piece I've ever done."

"This production was abstract poetry at its best. It

made you think. You had to listen to what they were talking about. You couldn't just watch this for entertainment. It was an underlining meaning in this," says Turner.

When asked about his role as Chili and Jabber, Keith Price says, "I thought about how I would feel. What would it be like if I left my own [child]. That's where I got the emotions from and the feelings. That's where I took the hate from that Chili has for Hester. I would have to hate my spouse and my child to leave them. As far as Jabber we have a friend in the family with an autistic child and I studied him. I wanted the audience to sympathize with him, perhaps even pity him."

What's Happening in the Hood

Spoken Images will soon host an Open Mic Night at the Gold Club VIP. Come out and see some of the best poets in Ft. Worth perform live! There are free refreshments, fun and exciting

uncensored poetry and Spoken Word. The location is 809 N. Collins Arlington. This is for mature audiences only. For more information call (817) 226-7000 or (817) 355-4818.

Eyeing the Arts

Art sculpture is becoming increasingly popular locally and nationally. Many people who have purchased enough one-dimensional art are now looking for something striking and different.

Galleries and artists are seeing increasing interests in three-dimensional art. People are looking for something they can touch and interact with in their homes. Renewed interest in contemporary sculpture is now developing. Now many furniture stores and lower end art galleries are beginning to stock up on three-dimensional art. Depth perception, in some people's estimation, sets sculptured art apart from two-dimensional works. Physical depth imparts more soul and spirit than can a work on paper or canvas.

People are often confused about sculptures. Some confuse them with figurines and dolls. This is not the case. Figurines are usually made of peccan resin and are made into the shape of small people and usually are a part of a line, such as, "All God's Children" and "Sarah's Attic". Generally, dolls are just dolls. But Sculpture is physical artwork. It represents not only an image but the fabric of the earth was well. Most of sculptors' materials have direct origins in natural substance, like clay, glass and wood.

Real sculpture is usually what you see at the museum or gracing the lobby in office buildings. Because of its dimension, sculpture is much better able to communicate emotions, charac-



Sculptures, like the ones above, have become the artwork of choice.

ter and personality of the artists, because it provides a complete art experience.

Sculpture comes in a variety of different mediums such as stone, metal, bronze, clay and a combination of glass with metal or wood with cloth. The subject matter ranges from abstract to concrete, from elegant to homey. Combining sculpture media allows an artist to achieve limitless permutations of shapes and form.

One of the most popular forms of sculpture recently seen in the United States has been the Shona Stone from South Africa. Shona Stones are chiseled from green stone, verdite, and some of South African's other natural resources. These stones are heavy but depending on the artist, the work is either abstract or roughly figurative. Much of South Africa's tumultuous history has been expressed

in creative sculptures.

Purchasing and enjoying sculpture is different from purchasing paper art. Because sculpture is costly to produce, it is also more expensive to purchase than paper-borne art. Sculpture offers you a different variety in terms of art than paper or canvas. Painters create different types of paintings by using colors, but sculpture embrace so many more types of mediums that create endless possibilities.

Experts say that with new artists, materials and technologies emerging and more galleries addressing the genre, everyone can enjoy sculpture, which was once intended for the elite.

The Dallas Museum of Art is currently presenting the works of Henry Moore, which span 70 years, and includes World War II pieces from his stint as an official war artist.

SUFFRAGE from page 8

chised women and battled Congress for the right. In 1869, Wyoming led the nation in adopting women's suffrage, while still a territory. In 1890, when it appeared that Congress would not approve its application for statehood as long as the state allowed women's suffrage, the legislature declared, "we will remain out of the Union a hundred years rather than come in without the women." Even the Mormon stronghold of Utah enacted women's suffrage while a territory in 1870 and Utah joined the union with women's suffrage in 1896. Colorado (1893) and Idaho (1896) were the other "pioneering" suffrage states. The next round of state victories did not come until 1910, and these were also in the West (Washington, 1910; California, 1911; Oregon, 1912; Kansas, 1912; and Arizona, 1912).

One of the most important turning points in history of the women's suffrage movement came in 1890 as both organizations became one. At

the instigation of younger suffragists, the movement's aging pioneers put aside their differences to merge their rival organizations into the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA). Elizabeth Cady Stanton was elected president; Lucy Stone, head of the executive committee; and Susan B. Anthony, vice president. Ironically, Anthony took command of the new organization. While continuing to demand a federal amendment, NAWSA leaders concluded that they must first build support within the states, winning enough state suffrage amendments that Congress would approve a federal amendment and three-fourths of the states would be sure to ratify.

Though Stanton continued to address a wide range of feminist issues, many of them quite radical, most NAWSA leaders declared its focus on winning the vote. In keeping with the new approach and influenced by the conservatism of new recruits, the suffragists avoided associating with radical causes.

Around The Town

On-going

A Parenting Class will be offered at Highland Oaks Counseling Center, Room 200, 10805 Kingsley Rd., Dallas, each Monday, March 19-May 7, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. For information or registration call Barbara Palmer at 214-342-6095.

Clean South Dallas is accepting entries for its Poster and Essay Contest for students in the South Dallas area school, grades 2-12. Winners will receive savings bonds. For complete contest guidelines call 214-421-1662.

Young Audiences of Greater Dallas will host a series of fundraising events in their "Everything Under the Sun" series during March. Activities include a Roman Holiday celebration, Independence Day celebration and much more. For more information call Karen Courtman at 214-520-0023.

March 2

DISD is again sponsoring DEAR (Drop Everything and Read). DISD is asking citizens to put aside their duties and read for 10 minutes at 10:00 a.m. For more details call Loretta Simon at 972-925-3899.

March 3

Medical Center of Plano, 3901 W. 15th Street, Plano, presents Volunteer Kaleidoscope, an informational meeting for anyone interested in being part of their volunteer program. The meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. To register call Vicki Young at 972-519-1272.

The 3rd annual Ms. Collin County Senior Pageant will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Heard Auditorium in McKinney. The event will benefit Meals on Wheels. For tickets or information call 972-335-5515.

The Pepsi Bottling Group and Dallas Urban League are sponsoring a job fair from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Dallas Urban League Facility, 4315 S. Lancaster Road, Dallas.

State Representative Yvonne Davis will hold three informal Town Hall Meetings for citizens of District 111 in Cedar Hill, Duncanville and Dallas; at 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., respectively. For more information call 214-941-3895.

Dallas Public Schools will hold a Parent Information Fair from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Hernandez and Bowie Elementary and Long Middle School. For more information call 972-925-3899 or visit www.dallasisd.org.

The Dallas Symphony Run 2001 will be held at the Meyerson Symphony Center for its 23rd year. Proceeds from the run benefit the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. To register or for information, visit www.dallasymphonyrun.org.

GMDT Family Church, 316 S. Ninth St., Garland, will hold its Spring Gospel Concert at 7:00 p.m. Special guest will be Minister Joy K. Willis. For more information call 972-272-6640.

March 4

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Theta Gamma Chapter of Stephen F. Austin State University will hold a 30-year Chapter Reunion Meeting from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at 4722 Mendosa Ln., Dallas. For more information call Tangla Autry at 214-381-4081 or Marva Walton at 972-274-5027.

March 5

The Frisco Senior Adult Center, 7775 Camellia Lane, Frisco, will offer free assistance with income tax preparation from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Trained AARP personnel will be available. Appointments are required. For more information call 972-335-5515.

March 6

Quality Nurses Plus Home Health will hold Blood Sugar and Blood Pressure checks at the Frisco Senior Adult Center. The Frisco Police Dept. will also give a crime alert at 10:30 a.m. For more information call 972-335-5515.

The Women's Museum, Fair Park, begins Women's History Month with Vivian Castleberry, journalist and former women's editor for the Dallas Times Herald, at 6:00 p.m. For more information call 214-915-0860.

March 7

The DFW airports Small & Emerging Business Department will host a Minority/Women Business Support Entity Breakfast Forum from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. at the Airport Maintenance Building Conference Room C. For information or registration call Reginald Cleveland at 972-574-8150.

March 8

St. Phillip's School will hold its 2001 Destiny Awards Luncheon at the Wyndham Anatole Hotel, Khmer Pavilion, 2201 Stemmons Frwy., Dallas, at 11:30 a.m. Dr. Cornel West will be the keynote speaker. For tickets or information call 214-421-5221.

March 9

Pleasant Mount Gilead Baptist Church, 5312 Houghton Street, Ft. Worth, will hold its 36th Pastor Appreciation Service for Rev. R.L. Sanders beginning with a banquet at 6:30 p.m. at the Ft. Worth Botanic Garden Center, 3200 Botanic Garden Blvd. The celebration will end with worship services held Mar. 18. For information or tickets call 817-737-5795.

March 10

Texas Bridal will hold a Bridal Show at the Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Pkwy., Plano, from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. For more information call 972-608-9749 or visit www.texasbridal.com.

EXCAP will hold a training session for volunteers for their Children of Divorce classes at their headquarters at 2820 Swiss Avenue, Dallas from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For more information call 214-370-9810.

Convoy of Hope will hold an event featuring free groceries, health clinic, haircuts, job fair and games at Fair Park. The event is free and open to the public. No pre-registration is required. For more information call 214-341-0700 or visit www.hopefordallas.org.

The Plano Community Forum will hold its March General Meeting at the Douglass Community Center at 7:30 a.m. For more information call 972-260-4208.

March 11

The Dallas Chapter, The Links, Inc. will sponsor the 43rd Ebony Fashion Fair at the Music Hall at Fair Park at 5:00 p.m. For tickets or information call 214-467-4255.

March 13

The Women's Museum, Fair Park, Dallas, will present lecturer and author Liz Carpenter at 7:00 p.m. followed by a book signing of her latest book. This event is free and open to the public. For more information call 214-915-0860.

March 14

State Representatives Yvonne Davis is inviting Texas citizens to participate in the Texas Legislative Black Caucus annual Legislative Conference to be held March 14-16 at the State Capitol in Austin, Tex. For more information call Claude Spivey at 214-941-3895.

The Southern Dallas Development Corporation will hold their annual gala at the Infomart, Stemmons Freeway, Dallas. Keynote speaker will be Victoria Lowe, President and CEO of Alert Staffing. For more information or tickets call Karen Cross at 214-428-7332, ext. 20.

March 15

Southern University Alumni-Dallas Chapter is holding its annual bus trip and college visit to Southern University's three campuses in Louisiana March

15-17. Seats are available by calling 972-480-JAGS for more information.

God's Miracle Deliverance Temple, 316 S. Ninth Street, Garland, is holding its annual Family Church Annual Fest March 15-17 at 7:30 p.m. nightly. For more information call 972-272-6640.

Southern Dallas Development Corporation will hold its annual gala at the Infomart, Stemmons Frwy., Dallas. Keynote speaker will be Victoria Lowe, president and CEO of Alert Staffing. For information or tickets call Karen Cross at 214-428-7332, ext. 20.

March 17

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.-N. Dallas Suburban Alumnae Chapter is sponsoring a Community Garage Sale at Hamilton Park United Methodist Church, 11881 Schroeder Road, Dallas from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Rental slots are available by calling Joyce at 972-231-8538 or Erika at 214-343-4660.

The Video Association of Dallas will present The Ernie Kovacs Award to "King of the Hill" co-creator and executive producer Mike Judge at the 14th annual Dallas Video Festival March 14-17 at the Kalita

Humphreys Theater of the Dallas Theater Center. For information or tickets call 214-428-8700.

March 21

The Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber of Commerce will hold its 2001 Installation Luncheon at the Fairmont Hotel, Regency Ballroom, 1717 N. Akard Street, Dallas, at 12:00 p.m. Keynote speaker will be TI President and CEO Thomas Engibus. For tickets or information call 972-241-8250.

March 22

Lewisville Public Library, 1197 W. Main Street, is holding a gardening seminar featuring master gardener Joe Ann Stahl in the library's community Meeting Room at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information call Erik Wilkinson at 972-219-3779.

March 24

LaFuente is sponsoring a Job Fair Expo in the Tower Building at Fair Park, Dallas from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For more information call Lourdes Caballero at 214-977-7052 or visit www.lafuenteatexas.com.

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