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annual Taste of  
Plano  
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Health officials  
recognize  
World TB Day  
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# The Gazette

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Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

SERVING PLANO, DALLAS, RICHARDSON, ALLEN, MCKINNEY AND FRISCO

Volume X, Number VII

"The Paper of Choice"

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Plane carrying 22 crashes in Texas

(AP) - A single-engine plane carrying 21 skydivers and a pilot flew into turbulence and crashed shortly after takeoff from an airfield east of Decatur on Saturday, injuring five people but killing no one. The pilot had planned to climb to 14,000 feet, the altitude from which the skydivers would jump.

### USDA addresses Foot-and-Mouth

(AP) - Should foot-and-mouth disease reach this country, the government's emergency response plan includes a halt to all movement of livestock in the state where the case is found. The entire state could later be quarantined. Foot-and-mouth is harmless to humans, but livestock producers and veterinarians dread it because the virus spreads so easily and quickly. The United States has not had a confirmed case since 1929, although about 100 tests a year are done on animals with possible symptoms of the disease.

### House approves marriage tax cut

(Reuters) - The U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved a \$400 billion tax cut for married couples as President Bush sought to build momentum for his \$1.6 trillion tax package, which he said would provide "long-lasting" relief. It would ease the so-called marriage penalty by raising the standard deduction for couples starting next year and expanding the 15 percent tax bracket for married couples who itemize their returns. The marriage tax bill is the second portion of Bush's plan taken up by the House.

### U.S. prisons, jails hold record 1.9 million inmates

(Reuters) - The record number of people in U.S. prisons and jails increased to nearly 1,932,000 inmates last June, and will surpass 2 million late this year. Experts have cited tougher laws that impose longer sentences, more drug offenders put behind bars and an increase in the number of parole violators returned to prison.

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## Electricity deregulation pilot program paves way for real thing

By Janel Burrell  
Gazette Assistant Editor

Texas Electric Choice, the public education campaign created to inform Texans of their right to choose their Retail Electric Provider (REP), recently ended enrollment for the deregulation Pilot Program.

Under the pilot program, which runs June 1 to December 31, customers will have the opportunity to shop for competitive prices and services offered by several REPs and switch their current service if desired. Only five percent of customers in the residential and commercial categories applying for enrollment in the initial program were selected to participate. Full retail competition will begin January 1, 2002.

Electricity restructuring came as a result of Senate Bill 7, Texas legislation in 1999, which opened the retail electric industry to competition. The law also ensured electric customers the same service as their current electric provider.

Under the new restructuring law base rates for residential and small commercial customers of investor-owned utilities in Texas were frozen on September 1, 1999, and will remain at that level through December 31, 2001. Although

rates were frozen, officials remind customers that the freeze did not apply to the cost of natural gas, which accounted for above average winter heating

decrease in base utility rates by 6 percent (effective Jan. 2002). Electric cooperatives and city-owned electric companies are exempted from customer choice unless their governing boards

plants must meet current environmental rules by 2003 or risk closure.

In a meeting with Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Director Jess Totten questions

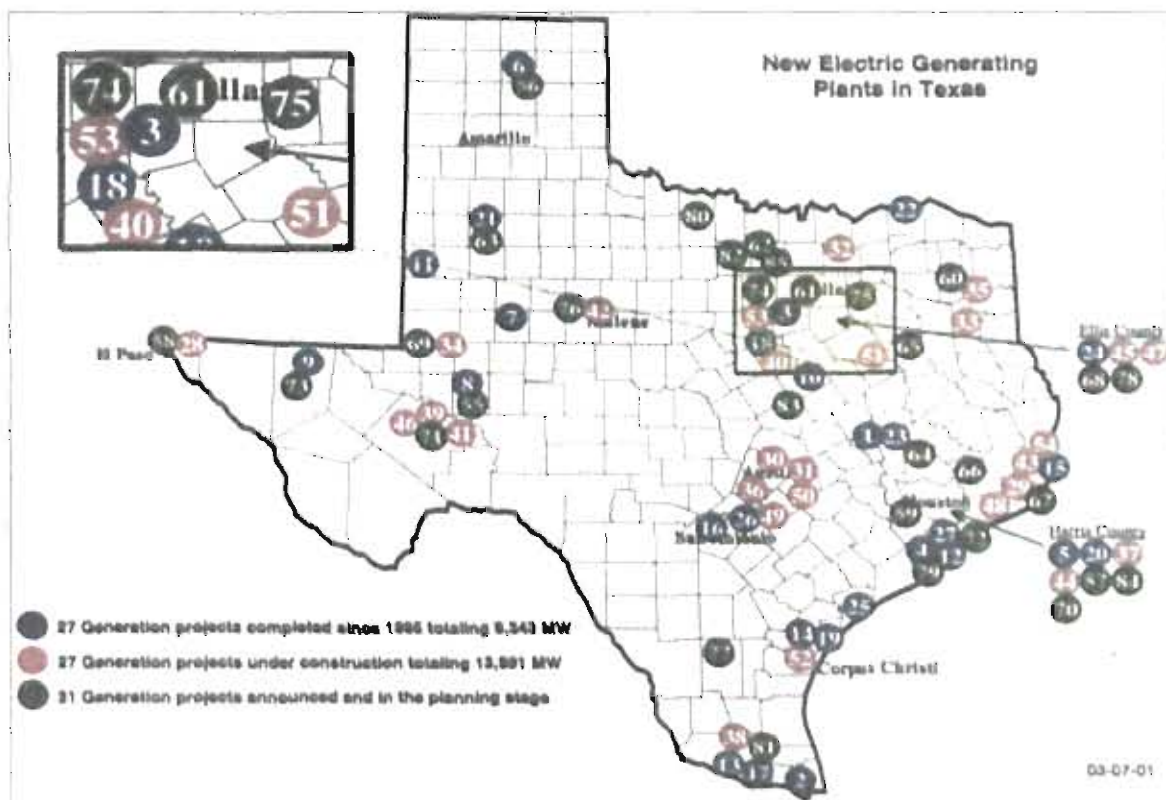
supplies. Totten says that the commission has found solutions to these problems and will use the Pilot Program to test them.

Customers desiring to switch REPs are not required to contact their existing provider. All changeover transactions are handled by the new REP, which should eliminate duplicate bills. Under the program power lines will continue to be regulated by the PUC which should ensure reliable service. A fund will also be created to help low-income customers pay their electricity bills and prohibit termination of service during extreme weather. A "do not call" list is also being established for customers who do not wish to be contacted by telemarketers regarding the program.

"Unlike California, we've got plenty of power in Texas," says Pat Wood, chairman of the PUC. "Even on the hottest day this summer, during peak demand, we'll have more electricity than we'll need."

But one Plano resident isn't so sure. "I'm very concerned about this new system. I'm worried that the same things that are happening in California will happen here."

Totten and other state See **ELECTRICITY** on page 7



Currently 22 power plants are on-line in various stages of completion throughout the state. Since 1995 Texas has built more than 40 new power plants. Three power plants have been announced and are in the planning stages in the Metroplex area (see inset).

decide to open their markets to competition, and all power customer service and power



Nikole Butler from Carter Blood Care Center prepares to take Kim Richardson's blood. Richardson's daughter is a student at Plano East Senior High. The blood drive was a success, yielding 676 units of blood.

Photo by Delicia Carter

## Citizens raise sleeves for honorable cause at Plano East

By Delicia Carter  
Gazette Senior Writer

Plano East Senior High School looked more like an all-day party rather than a blood drive recently. The scene included loud music, youth scattered throughout the gym, movies, food, prizes and balloons.

Carter Blood Care Center sponsored the blood drive and hoped to acquire 800 donations. By the end of the day, Carter Blood Care Center took home 676 units of blood.

Students, parents, teachers and volunteers all came out to the school to give blood or work in various other ways to help local hospitals fill their growing needs. Before do-gooders were able to pull up their sleeves though, they answered questions about their health. Those who gave blood had to be at least 17 years of age, 110 pounds and in general good health.

"All of the blood will stay

here in the Dallas area and will be given to local hospitals," stated Rhonda Cantrell from Carter Blood Care Center.

Blood drives are necessary for the people in this community to get the blood they need and are a great way to get the public involved in a commendable cause.

Carter Blood Care Center sponsors a blood drive at Plano East Senior High School once or twice every year to assist Dallas area hospitals. The blood drive was successful and those who receive the blood will be thankful for the helping hands and arms.

More than 400 people in the Dallas area need blood everyday. When people lose blood from surgery, injury or if their bodies cannot produce enough, blood from volunteer donors is the only alternative.

## Westside residents gather to discuss city concerns, solutions

By Delicia Carter  
Gazette Senior Writer

Plano residents received a thorough explanation from city council members and police and fire department representatives regarding the nine propositions on the 2001 bond referendum during a neighborhood roundtable at Schimelpfenig Library.

Audience questions ranged from budget expenditures to street improvement projects. Discussion also involved a projected recreation center (to be funded by Proposition 5) that will most likely be built on the west side of Plano.

City leaders also discussed Plano roads and the propositions for improvements. Two propositions totaling more than \$52 million will be put before Plano residents. With this amount of spending, residents were concerned about construction quality. City Engineer Alan Upchurch assured the audience that Plano city carry a one-year warranty.

Audience members were also concerned about traffic problems and speeding.

"Plano is growing. More people are moving here and that is great, but with that comes more traffic. We are looking at ways to decrease that, but no plans have been made yet," said Plano Mayor Jeran Akers.

Nine Plano residents were killed last year due to speeding or running red lights and stop signs.

"We are trying to get the same authority that toll booths have to take a picture of the license plate of a speeding car, so the City can issue a ticket.

When people know they will get a ticket or a fine, they will be less likely to run a red light," said Akers.

Assistant City Manager Rod Hogan then answered questions concerning litter problems and solutions.

"Unfortunately, we do not have the resources to do a lot about that (litter)," said Hogan. "Plano depends mostly on volunteers to clean up the trash in streets, parks and neighbor-

hoods."

To combat this problem, the city will host a citywide cleanup April 7 and plans to continue this event throughout the year.

\* For those wishing to help pickup trash in the citywide cleanup, call (972) 964-4150 for information.

\* Voting for the bond referendum will be held on May 5 and early voting will begin on April 18 and continue through May 1.

### 2001 Bond Referendum Propositions

The following is designed to provide a brief explanation of each proposition.

1. Total \$48,851,000 and is for Street Improvement Projects. This proposition includes funding for the construction, reconstruction, repaving, traffic signalization, street parking spaces and other street-related projects throughout the City of Plano.
2. Total \$3,250,000 and is for Fire Station Projects. This proposition includes the acquisition of land, construction and equipment costs associated with proposed new fire stations plus the expansion of Fire Station #4.
3. Total \$4,100,000 and is for Police Facilities Projects. This proposition includes funding for the expansion of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 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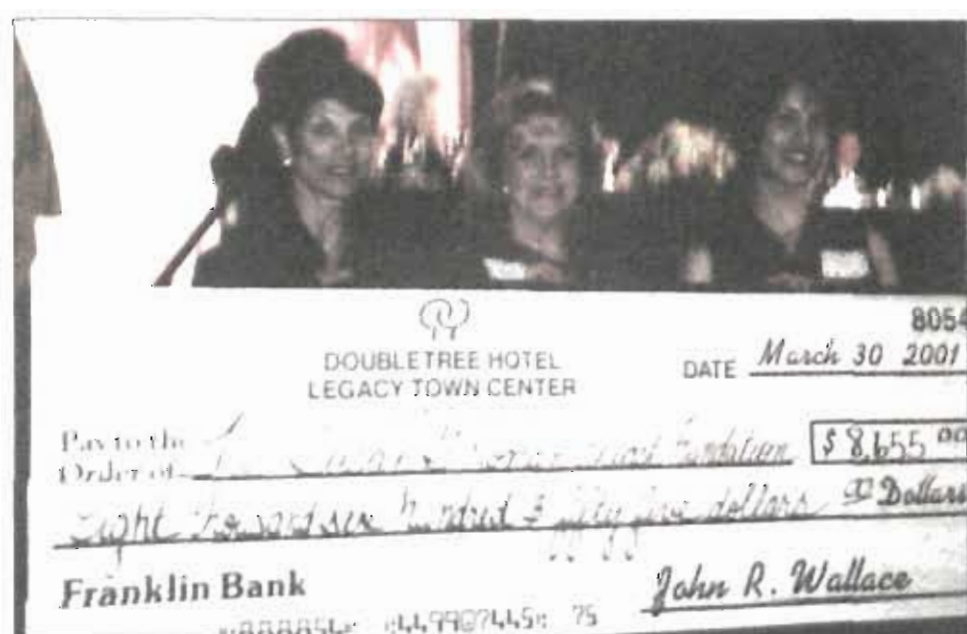


Plano Chamber Ambassador Team Leaders accept awards at the Chamber's Citizen of the Year Celebration, for their commitment to the chamber and recruiting of members.

Photos by Maggie Ybarra



1999 Citizen of the Year recipient Jim Biggerstaff presents an award to Tom Delany of the Plano Chamber.



Susan G. Komen Breast Foundation representatives display the check donated to their organization by the Doubletree Hotel. The check was presented for more than \$8,600.



Honorees at the Jarvis Christian College Heritage Banquet display their awards. Benefits of the banquet provide scholarship to area students wanting to attend the college.

Photo by Stan R. Davis



Moira Burks samples one of the many dishes during the 13th annual Taste of Plano at Southfork Ranch. More than 40 area restaurants participated in the culinary affair.

Photo by Maggie Ybarra



Plano Mayor Jeran Akers enthusiastically makes his bid during the Taste of Plano event. The event benefited Plano's Outstanding Students Scholarships Awards Program.



The Plano Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Robbie Robinson accepts the award as wife Lynore looks on. Robinson was honored for his many years of service as a community volunteer and developer.



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# Electricity deregulation will eventually lead to better service for consumers

Today's electric power industry is undergoing many fundamental changes due to the process of deregulation. The customer, who was in the past supplied on a cost of service basis and had very little choice, will now be supplied on a market basis with a wide array of options.

In order to better understand the intricacies of electric utility deregulation, let's first examine a few of the terms and concepts we will all be hearing a lot about.

## Generation, Transmission, and Distribution

Any system of electrification is divided into three segments called "generation, transmission, and distribution."

**Generation** is the process by which fuels (gas, coal, nuclear fuel, etc.) or renewable sources of energy (hydraulic energy or solar energy) are converted into electric energy.

**Transmission** is the process by which the generated electricity is moved in bulk from the generation plant to the wholesale purchaser.

**Distribution** is the process of delivering the power from the wholesale purchaser to the retail consumer.

### Two Electric Bills?

Only the actual electricity

will be purchased from the generation companies, and under the various proposals for restructuring, only the generation segment of the industry would be deregulated. (Power plants would still obey environmental and safety laws, but they would have fewer limitations on where and at what prices they might sell their electricity.)

Transmission and distribution utilities would still be regulated, and these companies would likely still have exclusive service territories.

Competition would therefore take place only among the various generation companies. They would sell their power directly to consumers, and send it over lines built, maintained, and repaired by the regulated transmission and distribution utilities.

### Cherry Picking

While nearly everyone agrees that a move to retail electric competition will soon take place, there remain serious questions about whether or not it will benefit residential and rural consumers. These questions center on the concept of the "cherry picking" of large commercial loads by predatory utilities.

Industrial accounts are very attractive to utilities, because large amounts of energy can be sold in one place. Due to econo-

my of scale, this makes it possible to generate electricity less expensively per kilowatt-hour, and it means the generation utility can charge a lower price and still make a profit.

Some industry leaders fear cherry picking would work this way: A generation utility would come into a distribution territory and approach all the large industrial accounts with low bids for electricity. The industrial consumers would, quite understandably, accept those offers and stop buying power from their home utility.

With the loss of all of its large industrial consumers, the cost per kilowatt-hour to the home utility increases, and so their rates go up. In rural areas, this could be particularly dramatic, because costs in serving areas of low population density are already much higher. The end result could be that large industrial consumers in urban areas get premium pricing, while residential and rural consumers see a significant increase in rate.

### Stranded Costs

Another big open question in the restructuring debate has to do with the recovery of "stranded costs," which are costs incurred by a utility preparing for anticipated power needs that might not come about under

competition.

For almost a century, the electric utility industry was shaped by the belief that electric consumers could be best served by regulated electricity monopolies. These independent monopolies, coordinated by regulation, were able to provide reliable, efficient service to all consumers who desired it, while making the most effective use of available resources.

One way this arrangement promoted efficiency was by cost reductions due to economy of scale. Utilities with a stable, predictable consumer base could plan purchases and building projects on a larger scale, which was cheaper per consumer. The existing industry structure also prevented needless and expensive duplication of facilities by companies vying to serve the same area.

In exchange for exclusive rights to serve certain territories, utilities accepted the obligation to serve anyone in those territories who was willing to abide by the government-regulated terms of service. This regulatory obligation meant that utilities had to plan for the present and future energy needs of their territory and build facilities or buy power contracts to meet those needs.

The costs from these purchases or constructions were

shared by the utilities' consumers, but only if the expenses were considered judicious and practical by regulators.

Utilities historically made business decisions based on reliable assumptions about the number of consumers they would be serving in the future. In the deregulated industry, there will be no assumptions about the size of a generation utility's consumer base.

The question of stranded costs then, has to do with who will pay the costs of regulation-induced purchases made to meet the power demands of consumers who may no longer use that power.

Most regulators and advocates of change agree that there must be recovery of stranded costs. The debate, however, will be over which purchases and investments qualify as stranded costs, and what percentage of those costs should be recoverable by the original utility.

### Summary Thoughts

It has been proven beyond doubt that deregulation is a very useful tool for the success of the electricity industry. It has provided various options for the customers and has given them a sense of satisfaction in selecting their supplier. It also has helped in providing the same commodity at a lower price than other-

wise. It also treats the customers at all levels - retail, commercial, wholesale, industrial, equally in with no class of services gaining advantage at the expense of another.

There have been a few places where deregulation has not met the required expectations and instead matters have worsened. For instance, in California. This mainly happened because the restructuring that was done ended up creating a hybrid market, where regulatory rules tried to operate in a deregulated market. Unfortunately, consumers ended up paying more for this subsidy-masking pseudo competition than they would have paid under traditional regulation. California demonstrates that regulatory obstacles are counterproductive and anti-consumer. In all circumstances, competition will work best when high prices or operating margins are allowed to encourage new entry to close the gap between supply and demand. Deregulation when left to operate by itself (though it may raise a few alarms initially) will eventually lead to a better future for the consumers as well as the suppliers and the electricity industry as a whole.

## Unwarranted Attacks on Teens Most states have made it easy to try kids as adults

By George E. Curry

There is a wilding spree going on in almost every state. This time, it's not the teenagers who are raging out of control. It's the adults who have gone on a rampage, enacting regressive laws and ballot petitions that will send thousands of youth to prison rather than to college and on the road to a better life.

Between 1992 and 1997, 47 states made it easier to try kids as adults, according to the Justice Policy Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank. In Wisconsin and Vermont, children as young as 10 can be tried as adults when suspected of murder and, if found guilty, given adult-like sentences.

Almost two-thirds of California voters last year voted

in favor of Proposition 21, the nation's toughest crackdown on youthful offenders. The ballot measure mandates that youth 14 and older be tried as adults for murder and sexual assaults. Additionally, some minor offenses, such as vandalism, are now classified as felonies when damages exceed \$400.

Proposition 21 also gives prosecutors the power to charge juveniles as adults for certain crimes. However, a California appeals court recently ruled that transferring such power from judges to prosecutors is unconstitutional. That decision is being appealed.

A California case certain to be appealed after it goes to trial involves Andy Williams, 15. He is being held by California author-

ities after opening fire at Santana High School, killing two and wounding 13 others. Williams is expected to be tried as an adult and possibly be sentenced to life in prison.

In Florida, another teenager is already serving a life sentence with no chance for parole. Lionel Tate, 14, was sentenced as an adult after he was found guilty of first-degree murder in connection with the death of a playmate. His lawyers argued that the youth, who was 12-years-old at the time, was imitating professional wrestlers he had seen on television. The jury did not buy that argument and, consequently, Tate is the youngest person in the country sentenced to life in prison.

Although the cases in Florida and California have received widespread media attention, they do not typify teenage behavior. In fact, juve-

nile crime has declined to its lowest point in a generation, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. Murders by teenagers have been on the decline for six years,



Santana High School shooting suspect Andy Williams, 15, and his lawyers fought the courts to try Williams as a juvenile in the March 5 shooting at Santana High School. California law currently mandates murder suspects over age 14 be tried as adults.

Photo by John McCutchen, Pool

down 68 percent from its peak in 1993. School shootings, the object of mass hysteria, have also fallen. Last year, there were 16 school-associated deaths, a decline of 71 percent since 1992. In a student population of 52 million, 16 deaths from firearms amounts to a less than 1 in 3 million chance of being killed on school grounds. In other words, students have a better chance of being struck by lightning, not to mention an automobile, than being shot to death at school.

Critics of the juvenile justice system say that it wrong to treat teens as though they have the same maturity and reasoning skills as adults. It is a problem that cannot be ignored. Between 2010 and 2020, the population of 10- to 19-year-

olds is expected to reach 44 million, the highest youth population in U.S. history and a direct outgrowth of the children of baby boomers growing older.

More than likely, African-American teens will continue to bear the brunt of a punitive juvenile justice system. Today, although Blacks represent only 15 percent of the 10-years-old to 17-years-old population, they are 30 percent of youth arrested, 40 percent of teens held in custody and 50 percent of all cases transferred to adult criminal courts.

Overall, 2.6 million arrests of youth under the age of 18 were made in 1998, according to the Justice Department.

Although the U.S. holds itself out to the international community as a model of democracy, when it comes to the treatment of children trapped in the criminal justice system, it is a rogue nation. The United States is one of only two countries (Somalia is the other) that has not ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The international treaty, already signed by 192 countries, establishes adulthood at 18 and declares no child younger than that age should receive the death penalty or serve a life sentence with no chance of parole.

According to Amnesty

International, 26 children under the age of 18 have been executed around the world since 1990. More than half - 14 - were in the United States. As of June 1998, another 70 persons were on death row for crimes they committed as teenagers.

Even though juvenile crime is down, public opinion polls show that most adults believe it is on the rise. And that's not the only misperception they have of teenagers.

Testifying before Congress earlier this year, Vincent Schiraldi, president of the Justice Policy Institute, observed: "Overall, despite the fact that this year's graduating class will take drugs less, will binge drink less, will be less violent, will commit fewer crimes, and will have fewer pregnancies during their teenage years than was the case for my graduating high school class in 1977, this generation of adults will think worse of them. It is no more fair to stereotype America's 52 million students as schoolhouse assassins than it is to taint all adults with the sins of Timothy McVeigh."

George E. Curry is former editor-in-chief of *Emergent Black America's Newsmagazine*. He can be reached through his Web site, [www.georgecurry.com](http://www.georgecurry.com).

## The Gazette

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Account Executive: Hilda King

Sales Department: (972) 509-9049 Fax: (972) 509-9058

Email: [mon-mrkt@swbell.net](mailto:mon-mrkt@swbell.net)

Assistant to the Publisher: Cornelia McCowan

Assistant Editor: Janel Burrell

Editorial Department: (972) 516-4191 Fax: (972) 516-4197

Email: [mon-edit@swbell.net](mailto:mon-edit@swbell.net)

### Staff Writers:

Brandy Jones  
Delicia Carter

### Contributing Writers:

Glenda Goodson  
Lakeisha Joe  
Rufus Coleman  
LaTrina George  
Angela Jones  
Charles West  
Monica Thornton

### Graphic Designer:

Christine Jester

### Columnists:

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Stephanie Ward  
Ed Bamberger  
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### Staff Photographers:

Stan R. Davis  
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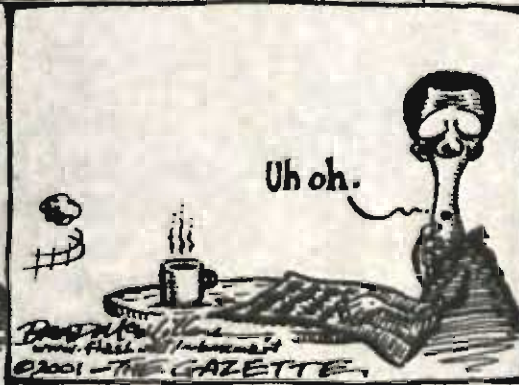
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a letter to  
the editor:

Send all correspondence to:

MON-The Gazette  
Letters to the Editor  
6100 Avenue K, #105  
Plano, TX 75074  
Fax: 972-516-4197





# Work of Texas Senate is right on track

By Lt. Governor Bill Ratliff

When I was elected to serve as Lieutenant Governor by the Texas Senate in December, my goal was to bring order, efficiency and leadership to my role as presiding officer without the personal statewide agenda Texans normally expect from their officials in Austin. After all, my new dual role as Lieutenant Governor and Senator is unique—without the historical precedent that often guides government in uncharted waters.

Midway through the biennial legislative session, I am pleased to report that the work of the Senate in 2001 is on schedule. Although many capitol insiders feared the decennial chore of redistricting would mean a legislative logjam, we have been able to get down to the business of serving Texans even more quickly than last session.

Budget issues have taken center stage with enormous legislative and public support for a state health insurance plan for Texas teachers, efforts to expand medical care to more uninsured children, pay raises for our prison guards who have been overlooked often in our criminal justice system, and pay raises for our state social workers who are on the front lines protecting abused and neglected children, our elderly, and other Texans who cannot care for themselves—all crucial areas that are seriously threatened by shortages and high employee turnover rates.

Road construction and other transportation needs are other areas that have captured the attention of senators who are well aware of the need to improve the Texas highway system and relieve the traffic congestion that is choking so many parts of our state. Proposals for more toll roads and other fund-

ing methods are percolating in the Capitol along with plans to improve the safety of commercial trucks that have surged through Texas since the North American Free Trade Agreement went into effect in 1994.

Criminal justice reform is another issue that is getting the statewide attention it deserves. A bill giving prisoners the right to request DNA testing on biological evidence passed the Senate in February by a unanimous vote. Other important legislation under consideration would guarantee indigent defendants the right to the competent counsel equal justice demands, and another bill senators are working on would give Texas juries the option of sentencing criminals to life in prison without the possibility of parole as an alternative to the death penalty.

The Senate also has been working diligently on election and campaign reform and recently passed a bill that would reform Texas election law to ban the use of punch card ballots and replace those antiquated systems with new technology that would be phased in equally throughout Texas counties. Among other changes designed to improve fairness and accountability in our election system, the bill also requires political candidates to report more detailed information to the Texas Ethics Commission and lowers the minimum

amount on campaign contributions and expenses that must be reported to the state.

Once the current session ends on Memorial Day, preparations for the next one will begin. And during the interim I firmly believe the Legislature needs to readdress one of the toughest issues the Legislature has ever had to tackle—public school finance.

The recapture plan Texas is using today was passed in 1993 to get our public schools out of court while avoiding a state income tax. This stop-gap strategy, which was designed to bring more equity to the state's system of

school finance, was never meant to be anything more than a quick remedy to address a critical problem, and current data shows it is approaching the end of its useful life. Texas House Speaker Pete Laney agrees with me, and we plan to appoint a joint commission to study new ways the state can fund public schools in the future that will be fair and equitable and remain legal under the Texas Constitution—using the valuable time before the next legislative session to give this important issue the careful time and attention it deserves.

As Lieutenant Governor, I am proud of the members of the Texas Senate. They continue the time-honored tradition of working hard on the issues our state is facing while keeping the best interests of all Texans close to heart. There is truly no greater honor than to be chosen to serve as Lieutenant Governor by the men and women Texans have elected to represent them at their State Capitol.



Newsly elected Lt. Governor Bill Ratliff of Mt. Pleasant gavlens in the 77th Senate on his first day as presiding officer.



Ron Shaw

# Say Your Way!

Luke 15:17

I was recently in Baton Rouge, LA doing a three-day confession session (as I call them) at a friend's church. We were at lunch one day at a very nice club atop one of the buildings in the downtown area. As we were finishing our main course, the waiter proceeded to bring out the desert tray. He named several of the dishes. My friend wanted the chocolate desert. However, the waiter said it was named "Suicide Chocolate Cake". My friend refused due to the name. Not wanting to lose a sale, the waiter changed the name to the "Special Deluxe Chocolate Cake".

Jesus said in Matthew 12 that we will stand before God and be judged for every idle word we have spoken. An idle word is a word that God can't use. When the heavenly recorders are turned on, the one thing we will not be able to say is "I didn't say that". Every word is being recorded. The biblical principle by which the whole kingdom of God operates is speaking words that bring what's unseen into the realm of the seen. God demonstrates that in Genesis 1 when He said, "Let there be..." and whatever He said, there was. Then He authorized man to be the governing ruler over His creation by the same principle.

Proverbs 18 says death and life are in the power of the

tongue. It's amazing how we look for some deep dark mystery that will uncover or unlock our success and it's been right there between our lips all the time. The old saying, "Sticks and stones may break my bones but names will never hurt me" is untrue. We can speak words to people that will injure them for the rest of their lives. How many children have been ruined because of what someone said about them? School systems have created criminals by calling students "incorrigible" or "slow". Then we call others "talented and gifted" and they strive to live up to those labels. You can literally talk yourself into or out of God's best. Consider our text.

Here is a young man who requested from his father his inheritance. After leaving home, he squanders it. Then in an act of desperation he hires himself out to feed pigs. Desperation can be a good thing. It was only when he became desperate enough that the Bible says he came to himself. Then he SAYS. He rehearses his father's response. He rehearses his own present status. Then he says what he would do, and he does it. Interestingly, when he says this, His father is already waiting for him and has already prepared for his return.

If you're down, you can talk yourself up. If you're sick, the Bible says you can talk yourself well. If you're poor, you can talk yourself rich. Before we can see

our way clear, we have to say our way clear.

Let me help you develop a simply plan of conducting your own confession session that will lift you from your present state to another level of God's best. First, say what's in your Father's house. If you don't know, find out. In His house are many mansions, in his house is a table prepared. The young man's father's servants were better cared for him.

Second, he said what he would do. He would get up and go to his father. In order for Godly faith to work, there must be a declaration. State what you are going to do. Most times that's the same way we get into trouble. Use the same principle to help you rise.

Next he determined what he would say upon arriving at his father's house. Because of the importance of our words, we must order them specifically. Find scriptures that specifically spell out your plan and promise. Develop your own prayer of confession before Him. Then rehearse them.

Finally, once you've declared what you will do and what you will say, you must do and say that. You can rise the same way this young man rose. From the depths of his foolishness, he came to himself and ordered his words so that they propelled him into the arms of a waiting father who had already provided for him. The same is true with you. Don't wait to see your way, say your way!

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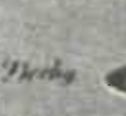
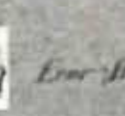
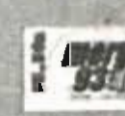
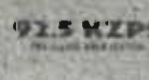
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## Northern Exposure

### Hillwood purchases land in Frisco for residential development

FRISCO, Texas - Hillwood has purchased 26 acres in Frisco, Texas to develop The Chase at Stonebriar, a master-planned residential community that will feature 77 luxury town homes and 56 upscale patio homes. The company will break ground on its latest residential development in June 2001. The first lots will be delivered in the first quarter of 2002.

Located on the east side of Legacy Drive between State Highway 121 and Stonebriar Drive, The Chase at Stonebriar will offer homes priced from \$225,000 to \$400,000. Standard Pacific Homes will build the town homes, while Morrison Homes will build the patio homes.

This is the one of three new residential communities and more than 1,300 lots that Hillwood has announced plans for in the past two months. In January Hillwood purchased 200 acres for Chisholm Ridge, a 750-home community in north Fort Worth, Texas. In February Hillwood announced plans for Mustang Creek, a 112-acre, 440-home community in Forney, Texas.

Hillwood's current North Texas residential projects also include The Shores on Lake Ray Hubbard in Rockwall, Heritage in north Fort Worth, Stone Brooke Crossing in McKinney, Hulen Heights in southwest Fort Worth, Virginia Hills in McKinney, and Meadow Oaks in Corinth.

"Hillwood is excited to be back in one of the strongest areas for residential growth in the Metroplex," said Fred Baida, president of Hillwood Residential. "We experienced great success in Frisco several years ago, when we owned

Stonebriar, and are looking forward to working within this growing city again."

During the 1990s Hillwood developed more than 400 single-family lots at Stonebriar. The company also is a partner with ClubCorp in Stonebriar Country Club.

One of the top residential developers in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, Hillwood has been building residential communities with innovative features and top recreation amenities for the past 10 years. The company has delivered more than 10,000 single-family lots in 20 cities throughout the Metroplex over the past decade.

Hillwood, a Perot company, is one step ahead of a changing world, using technology and innovation to create better places to live, work, learn and play. Hillwood offers development and advisory services, as well as capital investment, to a wide range of real estate projects around the world.

Hillwood's projects include the dynamic 75-acre Victory project anchored by American Airlines Center in downtown Dallas; the 15,000-acre AllianceTexas development that includes the commerce centers of Alliance, the corporate campuses of Circle T Ranch and the wired community of Heritage; prestigious golf courses in Houston, Los Angeles, Frisco, Texas and Westlake, Texas; residential communities in Maui and on the Kohala Coast of Hawaii; shopping centers in Tucson, Arizona and Maui; and mixed-use developments in Poway, California and Alpharetta, Georgia. Hillwood also has provided advisory services for projects in Finland, Jordan, Argentina, Oman, the Philippines, the United Arab Emirates and Ireland.



John Dudley

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may choose an investment that offers safety of principal, such as money-market funds, government securities and certificates of deposit. Or, if higher yields are your goal, you may select investments with slightly higher risk to principal, such as corporate bonds, bond mutual funds, government unit investment trusts, or preferred stocks. If you're looking for appreciation in long-term value and inflation protection, and can accept the risks of market fluctuation, common stocks, equity mutual funds, or convertible securities may be your investments of choice.

The ultimate value of your IRA at retirement depends on developing an effective IRA investment strategy tailored to your individual needs, as well

as your discipline in making regular, annual contributions. To devise this strategy, meet with a First Union Securities Financial Advisor. With their professional assistance and First Union Securities' Self-Directed IRA, you can develop a tailor-made investment plan to help you meet your retirement goals.

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## You & Your Money

### Tailor Your Retirement Plan with a Self-Directed IRA

## Changing Financial Concerns

By Jesse B. Brown

At different points in your life, you will be concerned with different financial matters. While it is true that different individuals can face these phases earlier or later than other individuals, the cycle of issues proceeds in a fairly predictable pattern over your lifetime.

#### Your 20s and 30s

- \* Establish solid financial habits, since the money habits you develop now will set the financial tone for the rest of your life. Set up a record-keeping system, monitor your cash flow, and develop a workable budget.

- \* Start a regular savings program, aiming to save at least 10% of your gross income. Build a contingency fund.

- \* Invest for the long term.
- \* Most individuals are anxious at this age to purchase their first home. First, make sure you can afford the mortgage payments without straining your budget.

- \* Start saving now for your

children's college education.

- \* Prepare a will or trust. Make sure you name guardians for your minor children.

#### Your 40s and 50s

- \* Your children are probably now in college and may need your help to finance their college education.

- \* At the same time, your parents may also need your help with financial matters.

- \* Make sure you start seriously saving for your retirement at this age. Evaluate your invest-

ments.

- \* Review your estate plan.

#### Your 60s and Beyond

- \* Before retiring, review your finances carefully to ensure a financially secure retirement.

- \* Review your estate plan. Consider the use of a living will, a health care proxy, a durable power of attorney, and a living trust.

- \* Reevaluate your gift-giving plans for your family and charities.

Jesse B. Brown is president

of Krystal Investment Management, a financial advisory firm in Chicago. For a free copy of his monthly electronic newsletter write to him at: Three First National Plaza, PMB Suite 14042, 70 West Madison, Chicago, Ill. 60602. He is the best selling author of the book "Investing in the Dream: Wealth Building Strategies for African-Americans Seeking Financial Freedom" and also "Pay Yourself First: A Guide to Financial Success." E-mail: krystal@enteract.com; www.investinthedream.com.

## Internet News



Ed Bamberger

This month's column deals with Web sites for entertainment, news, online stores and other topics of interest to minorities. I'm also listing some of my favorite sites that you will find useful when searching for information.

www.NetNoir.com, known as the Black Network, is a San Francisco-based African-American Web site. It contains a wealth of information, including Blackshopping.com, an online shopping site that features a diverse selection of African-American products for sale, including Afrocentric products for all occasions, books, music and other merchandise.

www.Optionsforfitness.com, a site features a 12-week, personalized exercise and diet program directed at women. It includes a comprehensive exercise schedule, nutritional guidelines and one-on-one support via e-mail, message boards and telephone.

www.Switchboard.com is what I use to find people, addresses and phone numbers of people and businesses throughout the nation. This

site is really terrific. I not only found three friends with whom I lost contact many years ago, but I use it nearly exclusively instead of logging out phone books.

www.m-w.com/netdict.htm is an online dictionary. With it, you can look up words, find their definition, how they're pronounced and even play

word games. If you'd like to increase your vocabulary, sign up for "Word of the Day" and every day you'll be e-mailed words and their definitions.

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

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Tax-advantaged savings with an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) can affect the quality of your retirement. So can choosing the right IRA. A Self-Directed IRA with First Union Securities is the smart way to save for retirement. First Union Securities Self-Directed IRA can be invested in virtually any product, letting you tailor your retirement plan to meet your individual needs. And depending on your financial circumstances, you can choose to invest in either a Traditional IRA or a Roth IRA. To find out which Self-Directed IRA is right for you, call John Dudley, a Financial Advisor with First Union Securities at (214) 740-3253 today or visit us in downtown Dallas, TX.

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## Health officials designate World TB Day, look for solutions

Once thought to be eradicated, tuberculosis (TB) is now the world's second leading infectious disease, claiming an estimated two million lives a year. To increase public awareness of TB and health officials from federal, state and county agencies joined forces for a recent press conference designating World TB Day.

Although it is once more on the decline, one person dies of TB every ten seconds. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that World TB Day is not a celebration, but rather an occasion for countries worldwide to recognize the collaborative efforts of all countries involved in fighting TB, and for all countries to spread the word that TB can be cured, and with diligent efforts and resources, eventually eliminated.

In Berlin, on March 24, 1892, Dr. Robert Koch announced the discovery of the TB bacillus. His discovery was the most important step taken towards the control and elimination of the deadly disease. During the 20th century great advances were made in medicines helping control TB. Dr. Joseph P. Iser, of the U.S. Public Health Service, said this was due to treating the disease with antibiotics, which was possible through public funding and worldwide cooperation. However, cases of TB began to rise after 1985, which Dr. Iser attributed to complacency.

TB is an infectious disease spread by tiny germs that can float in the air. The germs usually attack the lungs, although they can attack almost any part of the body, including the kidneys, brain or spine. TB germs

are spread airborne with an infected cough, laugh, sneeze, or even talk. A person usually must be in contact with the disease for a long period of time to become infected.

TB germs can live in a person without making them sick. The body's immune system traps the germs and protects against sickness, this is called TB infection. However, when the immune system is compromised, the TB germs can break away and spread, causing the disease. Experts believe that about 10 million Americans are infected with TB germs, but only about 10% of these people will develop TB disease. A person with TB disease may have any of the most common symptoms: a continual cough, fatigue, weight loss, loss of appetite, fever, coughing up blood and night sweats. It is important to understand that these symptoms can also occur with other types of lung disease, and a person with TB disease may feel perfectly healthy.

People with existing medical conditions, foreigners from countries with high TB rates, people with HIV and residents and workers at long-term care facilities are at an increased risk of contracting the disease.

The American Lung Association recommends that everyone be tested (the standard test is a skin test) for TB at least once. For further information on testing, call the Dallas County Health Department at 214-819-2000, or the American Lung Association at 1-800-LUNG-USA.

bill would allow unlicensed trainees to provide oral health services after receiving minimal or no clinical education, only on-the-job training taught by a dentist or dental hygienist.

"On-the-job training is just not adequate to prepare individuals to provide safe patient care. Providing a complete teeth cleaning is a complicated skill that involves using a razor-sharp instrument. An unskilled and

See DENTAL on page 7

By Brandy Jones  
Gazette Editorial Assistant

(LONGVIEW, Texas) - After almost two decades of success, TPA will gather in Longview, Texas to commemorate its 14th annual convention April 26-28. "This meeting is an opportunity for us (publishers) to get together and further develop our individual newspapers with the latest editorial updates, graphic production, and new strategies on marketing respective members' publications. It also is an opportunity to enhance our skills as publishers and the end result is better service to the community," says Thurman Jones, long-time member and former president.

This year's convention theme is "Black Press and the New Millennium". A host of guests, including Texas College President Dr. Billy C. Hawkins, UT Health Center Researcher Dr. Carolyn Harvey, and Brookshire's Co-operative Manager Donald Hampton, will address the group on edu-

cation, healthcare and advertising.

TPA President Joycelyne Fadojutimi anticipates that publishers will learn public relations skills, stress relief tactics and advertising strategies. She also expects this convention to be "the missing link of harmony to bind the TPA chain that has somehow been broken."

In addition to workshops and strategies, TPA members will be entertained by gospel singer Carolyn Traylor, along with other artists and performers.

The TPA, which was formed in the 1980s, has long history of leadership in Texas. Individually, the visionaries

knew they lacked the power and influence that a collective organization could bring, realizing that unity ushers strength.

Many of the publishers were already members of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA); nevertheless, that organization did not meet the regional needs of the publicists. Consequently, after preliminary meetings and planning sessions, the publishers held a press conference in January 1986 announcing their organization.

Less than a month after TPA's inception, Garry Mauro, then Texas Commissioner of the General Land Office wrote,

"I have always been impressed by the influence of Texas' black newspapers on an individual basis. As a unified group, that influence can only increase. Your group will clearly be playing a major role in Texas electoral politics in years to come."

Goals of the association include promotion of print media, providing news and information that readers can use and trust and developing member newspapers with technical support and increased advertisement lineage. TPA takes pride in its emphasis to provide services to its readership while providing services to its members through editorial support and good news reporting and design. "Ultimately, this is the best role in which we can serve as enablers of progress and information in our community," says Fadojutimi.

For more information regarding the 2001 Texas Publishers Association Convention, please contact President Joycelyne Fadojutimi at (903) 236-0406.



(l-r) Roger Shipley with Texas Women's University and Yolanda Cotton and Patricia Green with the American Lung Association of Texas attended World TB Day to increase awareness of the deadly disease. TB claims 2 million lives each year.

Photo by Stan R. Davis

## Publishers association refines their craft at upcoming convention



Gospel Singer Carolyn Traylor, of the Malaco Records label, will provide entertainment for TPA members during its April convention.

Reach our 38,675 readers by placing your ad in  
The Gazette a division of Minority Opportunity News  
Call (972) 606-7351.

## Advertising agency makes it mark in the ethnic market

The King Group began operations as a full-service advertising agency in 1987. The primary focus of the company was to assist corporations in reaching the ethnic market. With a strong corporate background as a marketing executive, Johnnie positioned the company as a "boutique agency" concentrating on no more than 8-10 major clients. He envisioned The King Group as an indispensable extension of the marketing departments of his clients, offering a comprehensive array of services to market to ethnic consumers.

The services provided by The King Group include advertising (radio, television, print), sales promotions, research, community relations, events, diversity training, and diversity-based crisis resolution. During the formative years, Johnnie and Delva spent countless hours developing comprehensive marketing plans, strategic analysis, research and diversity training. They are responsible for developing diversity training programs for two major Dallas based restaurant chains - Brinker International and T.G.I. Friday's - from the Executive Boards to the server in the restaurants. Delva has continued to provide consultation and training with the restaurant industry over the years.

With a twenty-year background in the field of psychology, Dr. King is highly recognized

as a marketing researcher and moderator. She has conducted focus groups in many industries

the staff is "we don't get excited about an idea, no matter how innovative, unless it ultimately

and local services to these clients. Moreover,

The King Group has enjoyed long-term relationships with its clients and has an average tenure of nine years with corporate clients. Johnnie also has an MBA in marketing.

In 1999, The King Group was awarded the Texas Lottery Commission minority advertising account. This was the first prime contract to be awarded to a minority owned agency by a State Lottery. With this account, The King Group is responsible for marketing to all ethnic groups including African-Americans, Hispanics and Asians. For five years, the company was known for its high-profile event - The Black History Chronicle, sponsored by Bank of America, the program won the coveted 1998 Building Bridges award from The American Advertising Foundation. The King Group has been the recipient of numerous awards both locally and nationally for outstanding work and citizenship.

The King Group has made the Black Enterprise list of top African-American agencies each year since the magazine initiated the recognition. Projected billings for 2001 are in excess of \$14 million.



(l to r) President elect of Dallas Advertising League Tony Scott and President of Swell Advertising Elena Rohweder present Delva and Johnnie King of The King Group, Inc. with the advertisers award.

Photo courtesy The King Group

including beauty, banking, food, health, youth, seniors, etc., under the subsidiary company - Ethnic Focus Research. Research is the backbone of The King Group with the psychographic behavioral analysis of ethnic consumers developed by Dr. King - a methodology that has been used since the inception of the company - as a guide to understanding the historical and socio-economical behaviors.

As a former Procter and Gamble executive and the marketing director of a three and a half billion dollar operation of The Southland Corporation, Johnnie has been recognized as one of the top marketing professionals in the country. The company's philosophy has never changed; Johnnie's mandate to

makes money for our clients". He believes that our purpose is to strategically reach the ethnic market in a way that produces profitable results for the client.

Because of Johnnie's retail background, The King Group has a strong retail client-base including Blockbuster Entertainment, Sally Beauty Supply, 7-Eleven, Bank One and Kroger Food Stores. Other marquee clients include Southwest Airlines and The Texas Lottery. Entertainment clients include Six Flags Over Texas and Lone Star Park. The company provides national, regional, state

## Dental association says legislation will jeopardize patients' safety

AUSTIN, Texas, - (PRNewswire) - Dental hygienists strongly oppose House Bill 2298 and are asking consumers to tell their legislators to vote "no" on the bill, which is pending after a public health hearing in the House Public Health Committee. The

bill would allow unlicensed trainees to provide oral health services after receiving minimal or no clinical education, only on-the-job training taught by a dentist or dental hygienist.

"On-the-job training is just not adequate to prepare individuals to provide safe patient care. Providing a complete teeth cleaning is a complicated skill that involves using a razor-sharp instrument. An unskilled and

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





PUC director Jess Totten believes Texas Electric Choice is a good idea for Texas. He says the same problems experienced in California will not occur in Texas. The full program begins January 1, 2002.

Photo by Lott's Photography

officials ensure that those

issues will not occur. Texas has built more than 40 new power plants since 1995. Totten says Texas employs natural gas as well as renewable resource power plants to provide electricity for its residents. TXU Customer Relations Manager for Plano Steve Huckaby says there are currently 22 power plants on-line in various stages of completion throughout the state.

Those not interested in switching will remain a customer of their current electric utility. But if customers have not decided to choose a new REP by January 1, 2002, the REP affiliated with their current electric utility will provide their electric service. During

the Pilot Program customers will be allowed to return to their current utility, however, once the full program has begun, they will be forced to return to the

affiliated REP or the Provider of Last Resort.

For a complete listing of available REPs visit [www.powertochoose.org](http://www.powertochoose.org) or [www.puc.gov](http://www.puc.gov).

#### DENTAL from Page 6

inexperienced oral health care worker runs a greater risk of jeopardizing a patient's health," says Dianna Prachyl, BSDH, MS, governmental affairs chair, of the Texas Dental Hygienists' Association.

The preventive care provided by dental hygienists includes performing a thorough teeth cleaning above and below the gumline, identifying signs and symptoms of potentially serious oral and general diseases, and referring patients, when indicated, for appropriate treatment and/or counseling. Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General identifies this care as crucial in combating periodontal (gum) disease, which affects three out of four adults.

A new analysis of recent research has revealed that gum disease may represent a far more serious threat to the health of millions of Americans than previously realized. These studies found that periodontal infection may contribute to the development of heart disease, the nation's number one cause of death, increase the risk of premature, underweight births, and pose a serious threat to people whose health is already compromised due to diabetes and respiratory diseases.

This link between gum disease and general health makes it more critical than ever that oral health care services be provided by qualified, formally educated dental hygienists, according to Prachyl.

"Because we now know how important oral health is to total health, we should be look-

ing at maintaining and enhancing educational preparation — not weakening it. In other states, steps have been taken to expand dental hygiene functions and to remove restrictive state practice laws that prevent dental hygienists from providing safe preventive care to those populations who don't currently have access," says Prachyl. "Changing practice laws, not diluting education standards, would help expand quality oral health care to all Texans."

Supporters of the bill contend that the legislation was proposed because of a "severe" shortage of dental hygienists in many areas of the state, the state's dwindling population of dental hygienists during the past decade and because the establishment of a new method of training hygienists would increase the supply and expand the availability of oral hygiene services in the state.

"Dental hygienists have been fighting for years to keep organized dentistry from reducing dental hygiene education standards and from making on-the-job training a reality. Dentists, on the other hand, have disguised the on-the-job proposals by declaring a 'manpower crisis' or a call for alternative educational programs. In Texas, they are calling it 'equivalency' training to expand the availability of oral hygiene services in the state," says Prachyl.

"The Texas Dental Hygienists' Association membership is committed to providing consumers with access to quality oral health care, and we urge concerned Texans to contact their legislators' office and ask them to vote 'no' on HB 2298."

## Texas legislature continues to improve

By Lakeesha Joe  
Gazette Corresponding Writer

Employment lawyers from across the State of Texas gathered in Austin to consider pending legislation. The group, known as the Texas Employment Lawyer's Association (TELA), voted to endorse several pieces of legislation, including House Bill 76, authored by Representative Domingo Garcia (Dallas). HB 76 provides Texas workers with family and medical leave and parallels the federal Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) that was signed into law by former President Bill Clinton February 1993.

However, FMLA does not go far enough to protect the rights of employees who require time off from work due to their own illness, or to attend to the medical needs of a family member. FMLA also does not address the need for parents to have time off work to attend to the academic needs of a young student within the family. HB 76 fills in these gaps providing for reinstatement, lost earnings, court costs and attorneys' fees, as well as posting a sign notifying employees of the rights provided by the Bill in the workplace.

Senator Royce West presented Bill 576 to the Senate Education Committee to establish the University of North Texas at Dallas. The bill is the first step toward establishing the first four-year, state supported university located in the Dallas.

"I'm excited about the opportunities that a state supported, four year university will bring to the residents of Dallas and surrounding communities in north central Texas. We have been working on this effort since the spring of 1997," said West.

The effort to establish the University of North Texas at

Dallas has been supported through the initial state appropriation of \$4.2 million, municipal and private support of approximately \$2.6 million, and a resolution that allows up to \$3 million to be spent for the purchase of land or infrastructure for the permanent campus.

"The desire to locate the campus in Dallas is paramount and in line with recent findings and recommendations by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Special Commission on 21st Century Colleges and Universities to close the gap in Texas higher education by adding 500,000 more students by 2015," said Senator West.

In other legislative events, the Senate passed a bill that would prohibit children younger than 18 from riding in the back of a truck or on a flatbed trailer. Current state law prohibits children 12 years and younger from riding in the bed of a truck or on a trailer at speeds greater than 35 miles per hour.

Senator David Cain (Dallas), announced legislation that would encourage the teaching of character education in public schools. HB 130 would authorize schools to include secular character education in their curriculum. Character education includes teaching character traits such as courtesy, respect and citizenship. Some Texas school districts are already including character education. In the 1999-2000 school year, more than 1.5 million students were removed from the classroom because of discipline problems.

"Unfortunately, many young people today lack moral guidance and positive role models," said Cain. "Character education in school recognizes the importance of our kids learning core values."

#### Chico Quarry Positions

Martin Marietta Materials, the second largest producer of aggregate/construction materials in the U.S. is looking for qualified individuals to fill the positions listed below for our North Texas District based in Chico, TX. The positions available are as follows:

**Night Positions:** SCALE HOUSE OPER/HAUL TRUCK DRIVER/LOADER OPERATOR  
**Day Positions:** DOZER OPERATOR

The ideal candidates will possess a minimum of 6 months to two years in the aggregate industry or have related experience in the position applying for. The candidates will have knowledge of equipment, the ability to read operating instructions, effective oral/written communication skills as well as knowledge of safety. Positive attitudes and customer oriented is a plus. Computer experience desirable for the scale house position but not mandatory. Each candidate must be able to work efficiently and make decisions on their own. Participation as a department team member and contributions to solving problems, which add to the value of the company, are a must.

We offer a total compensation package to include competitive salary, retirement, paid vacation, 401(k), health/dental/vision/life, plus more. Applications can be filled out at our Chico Crusher. Please Call 817/430-3241 for directions

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# What's Your Secret?

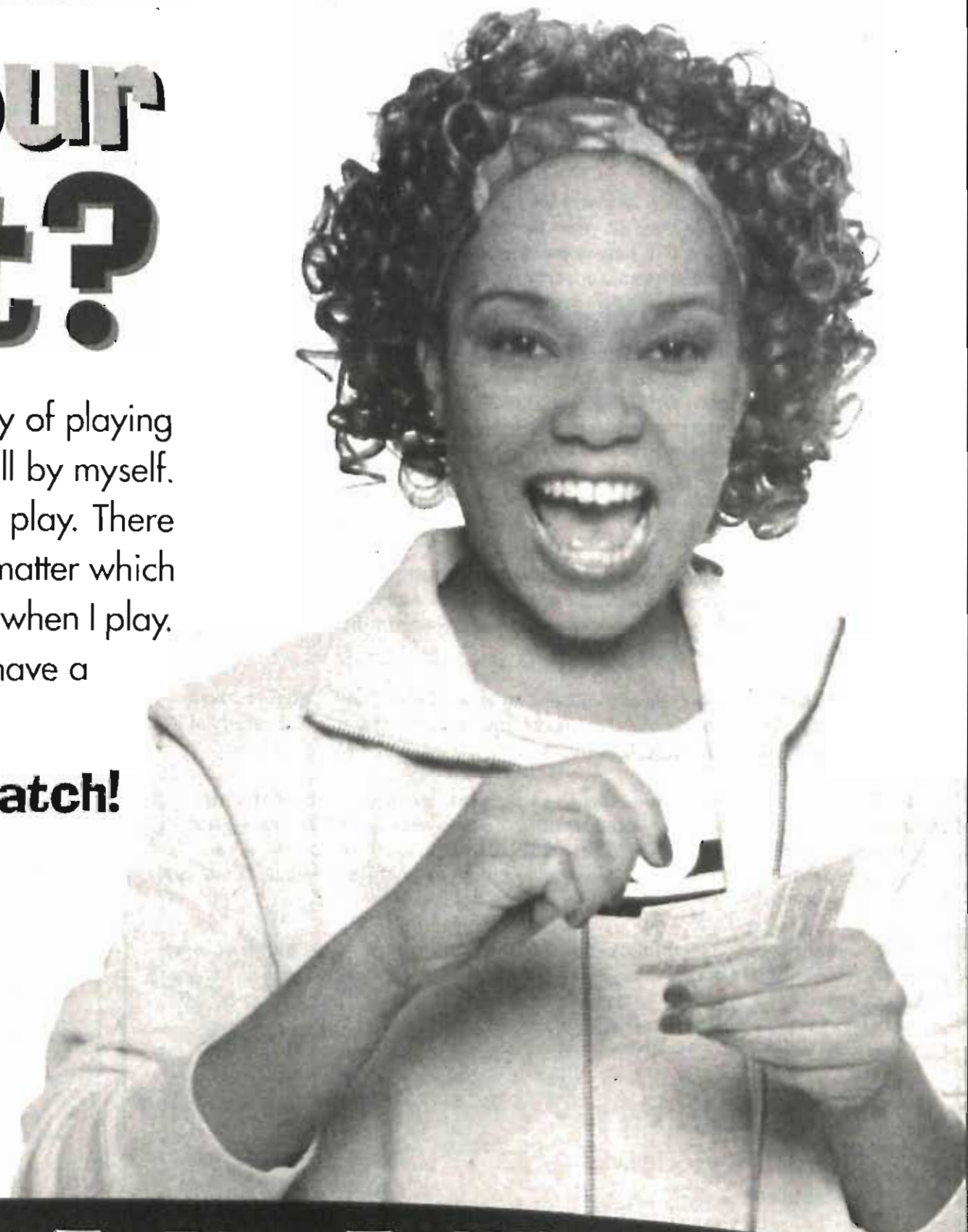
Everybody is always telling me their secret way of playing a scratch game. For me the secret is to play all by myself. I like to choose a different game each time I play. There are so many games to choose from, too. No matter which game I choose, I make sure that I am all alone when I play. That's my secret, but I have to admit, when I have a winner, I let everybody in on my secret.

**Never let them see you scratch!**



Must be 18 years or older to purchase a ticket.  
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**You've Got To Play To Win.  
That's The REAL Secret.**





## Computer whiz kid helps companies realize full Web potential

Reprinted with permission of Inside Collin County Business

Tom Grushka, President of Grushka, Inc., lived the first decade of his life in the beautiful Palm Beaches in south Florida before moving to Plano at the age of thirteen. At four-years-old he received his first personal computer. While other children were learning their ABC's, Grushka was busy learning the simple operating language used to launch programs and games. Grushka was introduced to the IBM PC Junior in the second grade, and sponsor involvement instead of ment. completing the assigned tutorials and quizzes, he discovered how to break into the programs and view the code used to write them. By the time he was eight, Grushka had already written several pro-

grams and had begun to analyze the code of commercial software.

At 17, Grushka founded TMG Productions, a Web-site development and housing company in 1997. From 1998-99,



Tom Grushka, "The Intranet Guy" and Soccer America player Kendra Matthews. Grushka updated the team's Web-site increasing player

Grushka worked on independent contracts with LM Ericsson AB, a Swedish telecommunications company and Microsoft Corporation, the leading provider of PC server software in the world. "Empowering the Intranet to get corporate America to realize its full potential in the marketplace is my goal," says Grushka, "I want to help corporations harness their full capacity to better serve their employees and customers."

While working as a lead developer on corporate Intranet projects for these clients,

Grushka knew that the potential of the corporate Intranet extended far beyond its current plateau. His projects included a large corporate training roadmap for Microsoft and a nationwide Human Resources Intranet for Ericsson, for which he received an outstanding achievement award.

Younger than Bill Gates when he founded Microsoft, 19-year-old Grushka incorporated his business and began the journey up the ladder of success. Today, he works with large corporations as well as startups that are looking for cost effective and practical business services. He believes his firm, Grushka Inc., is the first and only IT consulting firm in Texas dedicated to the development of customized web-based Intranet solutions.

Grushka isn't just all work and no play. In his spare time he enjoys writing music. In fact he enjoys music so much that he enrolled at Collin County Community College to major in the study of music and pipe organ performance.



Shawn Atkinson

## Tennis' First Family Under Fire...Again

made her exit earlier. But does anything justify such a response?

Certainly an athlete's greatest betrayal of sports would be to take a dive. The whole concept is tied to humanity's struggles and victories. This however is not the first time these types of rumors have floated. Serena was accused of following dad's orders of allowing Venus a pass when they met in last year's Wimbledon semi-final match.

My question is, when Serena didn't beat Venus during the early years, was she just letting Venus win? In March of 1999, did Venus win the Lipton Championships because her sister took a dive, when they met in the finals? In October of '99 Serena beat Venus for the first time, winning the Grand Slam Cup final in Munich. Did Richard Williams tell Venus to let her sister win that one? Yes a tabloid magazine reported a "friend" of Richard claims he was told by Mr. Williams that he told Serena to let Venus win in England. First of all, we know the title "friend" can mean many things. Just ask Bill Clinton. Second, I am always weary of a story of what someone supposedly said when no sources are revealed.

The point is, I don't know the answers to the previously posed questions, and anyone who would say they do is simply speculating. Why would anyone with the fiber that tennis fans are supposed to be made of prej-

udice themselves with inaccurate information? Maybe the answer is found in the question. That prejudice may be the pill that makes it hard to swallow two physically superior tennis players from a different type of neighborhoods and different skin color that have chosen to let the tennis establishment keep their fiber.

Sports Illustrated for Women named Venus Sportswoman of the Year last year. This came as a result of blitzing the field to string together over 30 consecutive wins, while collecting Wimbledon, US Open and Olympic Championships. Yet after all of the accomplishments, she still seeks a No. 1 ranking. The WTA ranks her No. 3 and the WTR for Professional Women has Venus ranked No. 5. To give contrast, Anna Kournikova who has never won a singles title is ranked merely 5 slots below Williams. In fact, the closest she has come to winning a title was in 1998 in the Ericsson Open. She reached the final but was ousted by Venus Williams. We know Richard didn't order that one. Being out front for Anna means having her photo on the cover of GQ magazine. Maybe Venus should stop worrying about playing tennis and concentrate on modeling. Maybe that is how you improve your rankings in the tennis world and silence baseless speculative accusations. Now that's something to boo about. All together now 1-2-3...



Venus Williams  
Photo by Tennis Magazine

## April designated as National Poetry Month

By Delicia Carter  
Gazette Senior Writer

In addition to April being a wonderful weather month, it is also a wonderful literary month. In fact, it has been designated as National Poetry Month.

Paul Celan wrote, "A poem... can be a message in a bottle, sent out in the-not always greatly hopeful-belief that somewhere and sometime it could wash up on land, on heartland perhaps. Poems in this sense are under way; they are making toward something."

If this is true, then poetry

must be renowned. Reading poems gives readers the opportunity to look into another's mind and heart and open the door to the unknown or the all-too-familiar. When a person writes poetry they write their own song and story. The process of writing and reading poetry can be both rewarding and educational. Many do not understand the great wealth hidden in a poem or in a poetry book, but maybe April will help cure that.

There are 30 days in the month of April. Thirty days to buy a book of poetry from a new

author. Thirty days to reread a favorite poem. Thirty days to teach your children the value of poetry. Thirty days to record your individual ode or sonnet. Thirty days to pay tribute to poetry of any kind-classic, modern, romantic, medieval and postmodern. Thirty days to take Walt Whitman's invitation to, "stop this day and night with me and you shall possess the origin of all poems." Thirty days to secure a place on your shore for that message in a bottle.

Celebrate National Poetry Month in style-with a book.

## Internet access growing faster, easier for Texans



Dave Lopez

It took 38 years for radio to reach 50 million American homes; 12 years for television. The Web took only four — and with it have come unprecedented entertainment, educational and economic opportunities.

Today, with the help of a new generation of communications technologies, what used to be the "World Wide Wait" is quickly becoming a new, wide-open window to the world. High-speed Internet access is the wave of the future, and companies are hurrying to upgrade and extend their networks worldwide.

But as we speed into this Information Age, we must make sure Texas rural communities don't get left behind.

Until now, low population density and expansive geographic distances have made it difficult to provide some types of services to some areas. And if technology is to meet the needs of an economically diverse state like ours, then a "one-size-fits-all" approach simply may not work.

The good news is we don't have to depend upon a single option. Initial research conducted by a special committee of the Texas House suggests that a broad variety of technological capabilities is available out in the marketplace — today.

In addition to existing telephone lines — which can readily accommodate most e-transactions — a new breed of satellite and wireless systems are eliminating the geographic constraints of land-based networks. These advanced communications technologies are delivering swift, affordable alternatives to traditional telephone and cable Internet connections.

Texans deserve high-speed Internet access through the technology that best meets their individual needs. Luckily, with so many options available, it's clear that technology is becoming one of rural America's best allies. Southwestern Bell is proud to be working with Texas policymakers to ensure technology is converted into new services accessible by all Texans.

Dave Lopez  
President  
Southwestern Bell

Southwestern Bell



Take control  
and take  
action — visit  
[www.connect.texas.org](http://www.connect.texas.org).

## Bright Minds, Bright Futures Scholarship Contest



- The African-American Agenda for the 21st Century: What We Need to Achieve
- What African-Americans Can Do To Improve Education in Texas?
- What Lies Ahead for African-Americans in the 21st Century?

Six graduating high school seniors will win a Bright Minds, Bright Futures Scholarship worth \$2,500 towards their college education. Submit your original essay of 800-1200 words on one of the three topics listed above.

Contest dates March 1 – May 1, 2001  
All entries must be postmarked by May 1, 2001

Open to 2001 graduating high school seniors from accredited high schools in Texas.

For an entry form call toll free  
**1-888-887-0485**  
Call Today!



## Chambers of Commerce



City of Allen

Monday, April 2

6:00 p.m. - TRIAD Meeting  
The meeting will be held at Anderson Elementary School in the Multi-Purpose Room.

Thursday, April 5

7:30 a.m. - VIP Coffee  
The VIP Coffee session will be held at Java & Cha, 1314 W. McDermott #14D.

5:00 p.m. - Business After Hours  
Come out and socialize with chamber members at American Nation Bank. The event lasts until 6:30 p.m.

Friday, April 6

7:30 a.m. - Leadership Allen Steering Committee  
The committee will hold its meeting at the Chamber office.

Saturday, April 7

9:00 a.m. - AISD Job Fair  
Allen ISD will hold a job fair for teachers. For more information call the Chamber office.

Monday, April 16

10:30 a.m. - Foundation for Allen School Spelling Bee  
Come out and watch youngsters compete in a war of words at Allen High School.

Wednesday, April 18

11:30 a.m. - Candidate Forum  
The forum will be held at St. Jude Catholic Church and will feature candidates for the upcoming May 5 election.

### FRISCO Chamber of Commerce

City of Frisco

Saturday, April 7

8:00 a.m. - Frisco Easter Egg Hunt  
Bring the kids out for fun at Warren Park. If bad weather, the rain date is Apr. 10.

Thursday, April 12

1:30 p.m. - Ambassador Team Leader & Officer Meeting  
Meeting will be held at the Chamber Office, 6843 Main St., in the Chamber Board Room.

Tuesday, April 17

1:30 p.m. - Ambassador Meeting  
Meeting will be held at the Chamber Office, 6843 Main St., in the Chamber Board Room.

Saturday, April 28

9:00 a.m. - City Wide

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Show Frisco Pride! Volunteers are need and welcome. For more information call Pippa Couvillion at 972-335-5519.



City of McKinney

Tuesday, April 3

11:45 a.m. - Ambassador Meeting  
The meeting will be held at the chamber office.

Wednesday, April 4

11:30:00 a.m. - Ribbon Cutting  
Join us for a ribbon cutting for Chase Manhattan Mortgage, 4990 Eldorado Parkway.

Thursday, April 5

4:00 pm - Women's Golf League  
The event will take place at the Oak Hollow Golf Course, 3005 N. McDonald (Hwy 5). A 30-minute lesson plus 9-hole scramble. Fee per session \$15.00. To register call the chamber.

Friday, April 6

Community Awards Celebration  
The celebration will be held at the Eldorado Country Club. For more information call The McKinney Chamber, 972-542-0163. Fee: \$35.00

8:00 p.m. - McKinney Symphony Orchestra Dueling Pianos

The concert will be held in the Heard Craig Auditorium. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information call 972-562-9276.

6:30 p.m. - Live and Silent Auction

The McKinney Christian Academy will host the 6th annual Live and Silent Auction held at the Bill Bates Ranch. Ticket price includes an All You Can Eat BBQ Dinner. Proceeds provide scholarships for the Academy, help support CASA and help with various mission projects. Please call 972-548-4855 or 972-548-9243 for information.

Saturday, April 7

McKinney Symphony Orchestra - Dueling Pianos  
The concert will be held in the Heard Craig Auditorium. Admission is free and open to the public. In the morning, ten of Texas' most gifted young pianists will compete in the annual Young Artist Piano Competition. In the afternoon the same pianists will participate in a masterclass. For more information, call 972-562-9276.

Tuesday, April 10

7:30a.m. - Good Morning McKinney  
The event will be held at the Eldorado Country Club. Panel discussion with George Miller, CEO of North Central Medical Center; Dr. Homer Reeves, Collin County Health Director; John Quincy, Medicaid Specialist. Learn from a panel of area health professionals about the role of the Medicaid program is unique in Texas, and what role our county health department plays in providing health services. Fee: \$10.00 Registration Cutoff Date: 04/06/2001

11:30 a.m. - Ribbon Cutting  
Join us for a ribbon cutting for Monroe Roofing, Inc. in the Chamber lobby.

12:00 p.m. - Community Partners

First Quarterly Meeting, American Red Cross Building. Volunteer McKinney Center is pleased to announce the formation of Community Partners. Community Partners will facilitate communication between organizations that need volunteers and those organizations that supply volunteers. Program speakers include representatives from McKinney Arts and Jazz - Downtown on the Square, McKinney Make A Difference Day, Mission McKinney, Rebuilding Neighborhoods, and Samaritan Inn. Spend your lunchtime on a worthwhile community cause and bring a brown bag lunch. Dessert will be provided. For additional information, contact Volunteer McKinney Center at 972-542-0679.

Thursday, April 12

8:00 a.m. - Citizenship McKinney

Regional Collaborative Session. For more information contact the Chamber.

11:30 a.m. - Ribbon Cutting  
Join us for a ribbon cutting for Allen Presbyterian Medical Center, 1105 Central Expressway, Allen.

Friday, April 13

Third Monday Trade Days  
Located on Hwy 380 two miles west of Hwy 75. Largest Flea market in North Texas! 800 open air and covered vendor spaces. For more information: www.tmtdd.com or 972-542-5466.

Saturday, April 14

4th Annual Easter Bonnet Parade  
Corner of Church & Louisiana - Downtown McKinney. Stroll around downtown wearing your "Easter Bonnet" - pre-registration not necessary. Prizes awarded! For information call 972-562-6880.



City of Plano

Monday, April 2

7:00 p.m. - Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting  
The commission will meet at 1520 Avenue K. Everyone is invited to attend.

Tuesday, April 3

7:00 p.m. - PISD Board Meeting  
The meeting will be held at PISD Administration Building, 2700 W. 15th Street.

Wednesday, April 4

7:30 a.m. - Government Relations  
The meeting will be held at the chamber office. The committee meets the first Wednesday of the month. Everyone is invited.

Friday, April 6

7:30 a.m. - Business Interchange  
Everyone is invited to the interchange at the Chamber building. No RSVP is required.

Monday, April 9

12:00 p.m. - Promote Plano  
The meeting will be held at the chamber office. The committee meets the second Monday of the month. Everyone is invited.

7:00 p.m. - City Council Meeting

The meeting will be held in council chambers at 1520 Avenue K.

Tuesday, April 10

8:00 a.m. - Public Safety Committee  
The meeting will be held at the chamber office. The committee meets the second Tuesday of the month. Everyone is invited.

Wednesday, April 11

8:00 a.m. - Small Business Assistance  
This committee serves as the "voice" of the small business members by designing and implementing programs for their benefit. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at the chamber office.

4:00 p.m. - Education/Workforce Development

The committee coordinates business assistance to community and county educational institutions to support their programs and meet the job needs of the future. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at the chamber office.

Thursday, April 12

11:45 a.m. - Ambassador's Club Meeting  
Meetings are held the second Friday of the month at the

chamber building. To register call 972-424-7547.

Friday, April 13

7:30 a.m. - Business Interchange  
Everyone is invited to the interchange at the Chamber building. No RSVP is required.



City of Richardson

Wednesday, April 4

7:30a.m. - EarlyNet  
EarlyNet is held at Castle at Canyon Creek (2700 Custer Parkway). No Reservations Required! Super networking table exchange!

Friday, April 6

11:15 a.m. - RCC First Friday Management in Technology Luncheon Series  
Sponsored By Fujitsu Network Services - A Division of Fujitsu Network Communications, Inc. Speaker: Mike Quigley, President & CEO, Alcatel USA, Inc.

Event will be held at the Omni Richardson Hotel (701 East Campbell Road).

RSVP to rsvp@telecomcorridor.com by 12N, Wednesday, April 4

Wednesday, April 11

7:30 a.m. - EarlyNet  
EarlyNet is held at Castle at Canyon Creek (2700 Custer Parkway). No Reservations Required! Super networking table exchange! Speaker: Pieter Van Meeteren, President, Performance Dynamics

Thursday, April 12

5:00 p.m. - PM Connections  
Sponsored by Dad & Lads. The event will be held at 2160 North Coit.

## END OF GAME NOTICE

# Thanks A Million, Texas.



Texas Million, one of the Texas Lottery's on-line games, will soon be ending, making way for our newest on-line game, Texas Two Step.

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The last day to redeem Texas Million tickets is November 7, 2001.

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# Skilled explorer, navigator aids in discovery of North Pole

By Brandy Jones  
Gazette Editorial Assistant

Matthew Henson was only twelve when he walked from his home in Washington, D.C. to Baltimore to get a job as a cabin boy on the three-masted merchant ship *Katie Hines*. Ship captain Childs kept the lad on because he was an orphan.

Henson was born August 8, 1866 in Maryland. His parents were freeborn black sharecroppers. When Henson was four, his family moved to Washington, D.C. where more jobs were available. When his parents died, he and his siblings moved in with a nearby uncle. Henson was fascinated by stories about life at sea.

Under Captain Child's guidance Henson became an able-bodied seaman. Childs also instructed him in math, history, geography and the Bible as they traveled to China, Japan, North Africa and the Black Sea. When Captain Childs died Henson gave up the sea and eventually found a job as a clerk at a furrier back in Washington, D.C.

Robert Peary, an officer in the U.S. Navy Corps of Civil Engineers, had already made one exploration trip to Greenland. Peary had brought back some Arctic furs to sell to the furrier and while there met Henson. Peary sensed Henson's similar interest in adventure and offered him a job as his personal assistant during a Nicaraguan trip. Eager to resume traveling, Henson accepted and spent two years in Central

America with him. During this time Peary found Henson's skills as a mechanic, navigator and carpenter extremely valuable.

Peary was interested in becoming the first man to reach the North Pole. In 1891 he had been granted a leave from the Navy to do more exploration in Greenland and Henson joined him

along with four others. Peary and his men left with the goal of crossing Greenland from west to east in an attempt to find the northern-most point of the island. Peary would then use this information to help plan his trip to the Pole. During the expedition Henson quickly learned the Eskimo language, Arctic survival skills and local culture. What Henson learned from the Eskimos and shared with Peary would be key to them later conquering the pole.

In 1895 Henson, Peary and Hugh J. Lee chartered the entire ice cap of Greenland and discovered Greenland's northern terminus. This trip nearly ended in tragedy as the three came close to starving.

After several frustrating attempts, they returned to the Pole in 1906 with a new ship named the *Roosevelt* after the newly elected president, who was a supporter of the drive to the Pole. The vessel was specifically designed for cutting through ice. The hull was shaped so that if the ship were caught in a frozen sea, the pressure wouldn't crush the vessel, but push it upward. With this ship carrying them the first part of the way, the expedition was able to get closer to the Pole than any other human - within 174 miles. Melted ice blocked

the final distance forcing them to abandon the expedition.

On July 6, 1908, the USS *Roosevelt* departed from New York for what would be the final attempt on the Pole, success or



not. Henson was forty and Peary fifty, and age was taking its toll.

Peary had carefully hand picked his team. It included Henson, Dr. John W. Goodsell, Donald B. MacMillan, Ross G. Marvin, George Borup and Robert Bartlett, who was the ship's captain. The plan was to sail to Cape Sheridan on the northern-most part of Ellesmere Island, Canada, then make the assault on the Pole using a relay strategy.

On September 5, the

can't make it there without him." His loyalty and dependability had been proven over twenty years of exploration. However, Henson knew he would only go to the Pole if conditions were right.

As supplies ran out teams started to turn back. The first were those led by MacMillan and Goodsell, then Borup, then Marvin. The final team to retreat was Captain Bartlett's.

Henson and Peary pushed on and were only 174 miles from the Pole. They drove forward at an almost reckless pace. Five days after they had separated from Bartlett, they arrived at the top of the world.

It took until July for the *Roosevelt* to free itself from the ice and start working its way south. On August 17th the ship rested at Etah, Greenland. Here the party heard some disturbing news. Dr. Fredrick Cook, who accompanied Henson and Peary on an earlier Greenland trip, was claiming that he reached the Pole a full year before Peary's party.

A simple honor system had governed Arctic exploration, and Cook took advantage of it. Two Eskimos that supposedly had gone with Cook admitted they had never gone more than twenty miles out on the icepack. A sea captain also came forward and testified that he'd been paid by Cook to produce sextant readings that would be consistent with being taken at the North Pole. Cook's lies became his downfall and disgrace.

Unfortunately Cook's hoax stole much of the enthusiasm that the public might have had for the expedition's success. Eventually Peary was properly honored, but Henson received little recognition.

It wasn't until 1937, at age seventy, that Henson got some of the attention he deserved. That year he was made an honorary member of the famed Explorers Club in New York. His most-prized award was a gold medal from the Chicago Geographic Society. Henson died on March 9, 1955, and was buried in a small plot at the Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx. In 1987, Dr. S. Allen

Counter, a Henson biographer, led a movement to have the remains of both Henson and his wife, Lucy Ross Henson, moved to lay adjacent to Robert Peary and his wife in Arlington National Cemetery, a more fitting location for an American hero. President Ronald Reagan granted permission on the seventy-ninth anniversary of the

discovery of the North Pole.

In October 1996, the United States Navy commissioned the U.S.N.S. *Henson*, an oceanographic explorer ship, in his honor. The National Geographic Society posthumously awarded the Hubbard Medal to Henson in November 2000. The medal was at the newly named Matthew A

Henson Earth Conservation Center in Washington, D.C., and accompanied a scholarship given in his name by NGS. Other honors include an U.S. Postal stamp and a major motion picture with Denzel Washington to portray Matthew Henson and to be directed by "Amistad" producer Debbie Allen.

## Movie Review

### Morgan Freeman returns for another suspense thriller

In "Along Came a Spider," a psychological suspense thriller adapted from James Patterson's first highly acclaimed novel in

the Alex Cross series, Morgan Freeman reprises his role as the Washington, D.C. police detective and psychologist who is through playing mind games with criminals - that is until a methodical predator, Gary Soneji (Michael Wincott) commits a daring kidnapping and lures Cross into the case.

Soneji's not out for ransom, he wants something much bigger - a place in the history books. His every move is planned with the precision of a spider spinning his web, and Cross and Secret Service agent Jezz Flannigan (Monica Potter) are in a race against time to stop him.

A Paramount Pictures presentation of a David Brown/Phase I Production in association with Revelations Entertainment, "Along Came a Spider" is directed by Lee Tamahori and produced by David Brown and Joe Wizan. The film is executive produced by Morgan Freeman and Marty Hornstein. Paramount Pictures is part of the entertainment operations of Viacom Inc., which is one of the world's largest entertainment and media companies, and a leader in the production, promotion, and distribution of entertainment, news, sports and music. The film is MPAA rated R for violence and

language.

Freeman first appeared as Dr. Cross in Paramount Pictures' "Kiss The Girls," co-

crime of the century. The detective (Freeman) and Secret Service agent (Potter) create a formidable team following a path of few leads, hidden agendas, and an exhausting ransom drop, while also seeking their own redemption from past failures.

While Freeman traditionally avoids repeating roles, he was drawn back to the detective because of the character's rarely seen qualities.

"Cross is a well-trained, well-educated writer as well as a policeman," says star. "But, his particular strength is he's a mind hunter. It's fun to play because it's more cerebral than active."

starring Ashley Judd.

Based on Patterson's second book of the series, the film was released in 1997.

In this installment, the death of his partner causes Detective Cross to retreat to the peace of retirement. Renowned as an accomplished police detective, psychologist and best-selling author, Cross reluctantly gets involved in a federal case when the kidnapper leaves a piece of evidence in his mailbox.

Familiar with Cross' literary success, the kidnapper, Gary Soneji, is theorized to have an ulterior motive: to be documented by Cross after committing the

Author James Patterson, couldn't be more pleased with the series' on-screen results, especially the actor portraying his complex detective. "When watching Morgan, he above everybody else, the same way you'd watch a basketball game when Michael Jordan used to play," says Patterson.

For producer David Brown, this is the fourth collaboration with the venerable star, after teaming in "Kiss the Girls," "Deep Impact," "Driving Miss Daisy," in his Oscar-nominated role as Hoke.

"Along Came a Spider" opens in theaters Friday, April 6.



(l. to r.) Morgan Freeman as Alex Cross and Monica Potter as Jezz Flannigan in "Along Came a Spider," a Paramount Pictures production.

Photo by Joseph Lederer



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AMC DARTMOUTH 34	AMC WYOMING 34	LOEWS	LOEWS
AMC DARTMOUTH 34	AMC WYOMING 34	LOEWS	LOEWS
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AMC DARTMOUTH 34	AMC WYOMING 34	LOEWS	LOEWS
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AMC DARTMOUTH 34	AMC WYOMING 34	LOEWS	LOEWS

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# Arts & Entertainment

## EVENTS

### On-going

Frisco Dance Force is looking for dance teachers for the summer and fall 2001 summer. Teachers should have a professional background or degree in the field, and or have been teaching extensively. Please email your resume to Debra Swaim at [jdswaim@swbell.net](mailto:jdswaim@swbell.net) or call the studio 972-712-6829. Resumes may also be faxed to 972-712-2600.

### April 1-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.

N.M. Productions Theatre Company will present "Anne of Avonlea," the sequel to "Anne of Green Gables" at The Corner Theatre in the DeSoto Town Center. For tickets and information call 972-680-4466 or metro 817-784-6671.

### April 1-April 15

Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Ft. Worth, will present "A Lovesong for Miss Lydia," by Don Evans. For tickets or information call 817-338-4411.

### April 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.

Dallas Children's Theater will present "The Great Gilly Hopkins," from the children's book by Katherine Paterson. The play will run at The Crescent Theater, 2215 Cedar Springs, Dallas. The show is for children 12 years of age and older. For more information or tickets call 214-978-0110.

### April 1-May 6

The Modern Art Museum of Fort 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](http://www.mamfw.org).

### April 1-May 13

The Richardson Children's Theatre will hold the Lone Star

League Workshop for ages 8-15. For information or registration call 972-690-5029.

### April 1-June 1

Works by artist Mary McCleary will be on display at the Dallas Visual Art Center, 2801 Swiss Ave., Dallas. McCleary will hold an Artist Talk Apr. 19 at 7:00 p.m.

### April 5

TBAAL will host The First Ladies Luncheon honoring the wives of D/FW area religious leaders for their community involvement at 12:00 p.m. in Rooms A412-A413 of the Dallas Convention Center Complex. For more information call 214-743-2440.

### April 7

The Writer's Garret as part of its Writes of Spring series will present Hot Poetry & Cool Jazz: 2 Degrees of Separation with Yusuf Komunyakaa and Dennis Gonzalez at The Mesquite Arts Center, 1527 North Galloway, at 8:00 p.m. For more information call Carole Bardoff or Thea Temple at 214-828-1715 or visit [www.writersgarret.org](http://www.writersgarret.org).

### April 10-29

The African American Museum, 3536 Grand Ave., Fair Park, will host the Young American Talent Regional High School Art Competition. The competition is sponsored by the Visual Arts Guild of Booker T. Washington High School for Performing and Visual Arts. For more information call 214-565-9026.

### April 11-May 6

The Dallas Theater Center will present "Wat" by Margaret Edson at the Kalita Humphreys Theater. Opening night is Apr. 17. For more information or tickets call 214-522-8499 or visit [www.dallastheatercenter.org](http://www.dallastheatercenter.org).

### April 13-June 2

Pegasus Theatre will present "H'mlet 2001: A Space Travesty (of a Landmark about Denmark)," by Kurt Kleinmann & Mario Cabrera. For information or tickets call 214-821-6005.

### April 14

TBAAL will host flutists Bobbi Humphrey and Hubert Laws in a "Flute for Two" jazz concert in the Naomi Bruton Theatre at 8:00 p.m. For information and tickets call 214-743-2440.

### April 21

The Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd., will hold its Arts Spring Fling in the Center's Sculpture Garden. The event will feature hands-on art activities for children of all ages. For more information call 972-252-7558.

The Third Eye will present the 16th Annual Spring Rising Lecture Series at TBAAL, 650 S. Griffin Street, Dallas, at 6:00 p.m. "Remembering Marcus Garvey" is the theme for the lecture series. For information and tickets call 214-428-1040.

### April 21-22

Dance Council will present the Dance for the Planet Festival at the Annette Strauss Artist Square, Dallas Arts District, from noon to 7:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. For more information call 214-219-2290, or visit [www.thedancecouncil.org](http://www.thedancecouncil.org).

### April 20-May 13

Dallas Children's Theater will present Mark Twain's "Tom Sawyer," adapted for the stage by James De Vita. Performances will be held at El Centro College Theater, Main & Market Streets, Downtown Dallas. For tickets and information call 214-978-0110.

### April 21-May 5

Lyric Stage will close its eighth season with "Listen to My Heart: The Songs of David Friedman," in the Irving Arts Center's Dupree Theater, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd., Irving at 8:00 p.m. For more information and tickets call 972-252-2728.

### April 22

The Dallas Theater Center will continue its Deloitte & Touche In Perspective Series with a seminar by Tom Mayo, Professor at SMU's Dedman School of Law. The seminar will be held at the Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. For more information call 214-252-3916.

### April 25-29

The UTA Theatre Arts Department, 700 W. Second St., Arlington, will present "The Glass Menagerie," by Tennessee Williams, directed by Dennis Maher. Performances will begin at 8:00 p.m. For tickets and information call 817-272-2650.

## Night Vibes

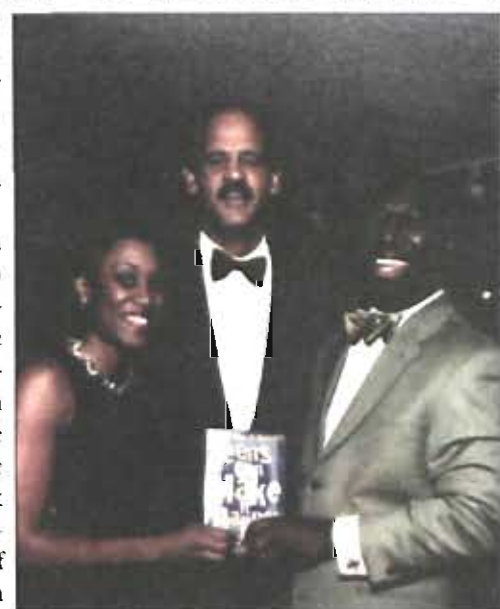
By Ché Hill

The 100 Black Men of America Dallas chapter recently held their Bessie Coleman

The announcers for the evening were Gwen Tolbart, and Rene' Syler of Channel 11 who intro-

duced youth performers Candance Guyton, and Janon Williams. Thomas W. Dortch the National President for The 100 explained and defined the mission of the event.

Stedman Graham's talk centered around the need to know your value, and to have a high self-esteem. "You're not responsible for what you are but you are responsible for your possibilities," said Graham. Graham is the CEO of Stedman Graham and Partners, and reiterated the words of 'The 100's' national president by stressing the importance of strong men. He reinvests his time in the African-American community with the belief that seeing successful people encourages young people. He also shared the 9 steps outlined in his book for reaching success.



(center) Author Stedman Graham poses with Railroad Commissioner Michael Williams and his wife during the 100 Black Men Scholarship Awards. Photo by Lott's Photography

The event proved to be informative, entertaining, and most of all beneficial for all the youth involved.

## What's Happening in the Hood

Are you looking for something to do on Wednesday nights? Do you need a venue where you can showcase your comedic talents? Well no w you

can check out the Wednesday Night Live Comedy Show. It's happening every Wednesday night featuring the hottest up and coming comics around at

the Caribbean Grill, 3068 Forest Lane, Dallas. Showtime is 8:00 p.m. You must be 21 to enter and the dress is casual.

## ON THE RISE

### O.I.L.

The poetry trio O.I.L. showcased their spoken word art recently at the McKinney Avenue Contemporary Theater. The group O.I.L. (Ordained In Lyrics) is made up of Emotion Brown, GNO, and Judah the black rose. They delivered a scintillating performance as they 'spit' prose and straight-line verse in such away that the whole auditorium was filled with energy and excitement. The group was born out of a small coffeehouse in the uptown area of Dallas in October 1996. Conceived to be a mainstream

educational and cultural experience, O.I.L. remains focused and poised on those grassroots foundations. The Dallas Poets Community features them as a part of their Poetry of Witness reading series.

### KLM Showcase

KLM recently held a showcase at the Caribbean Grille to generate funds for their Preventative Mentoring Services program. Eric Fuller hosted the event, which featured various Rappers from the DFW area. They competed against each other and also in front of

Rap Star Quint Black best known for his hit single "hake Them Haters Off"

Black has been a staunch supporter of KLM since its inception. These days Black has been busy working on his new album entitled "When Quint Black Walked the Earth" scheduled to be released in May.

When asked what he would say to those aspiring to be rappers, Black said, "I advise them to go to the library and learn the type of business they want to do, and know what the job is."

## Eyeing the Arts

### Female artists sponsor fundraiser exhibit

A group of 10 female artists have put together an exhibit honoring woman's history month. The exhibit, called "The Soul of a Woman," is a collection of works by these women of diverse backgrounds and styles who have taken on the challenge of expressing their soul through images on canvas.

The 30 images in the collection are as diverse as the women themselves, including landscapes, figurative, impressionism and cubism paintings in various sizes and colors.

The artwork will be exhibited at Stephanie's Collection in Deep Ellum. Proceeds from the exhibit will be given to organizations that promote the welfare of women.

Tatjana Kriskov, one of the artists in the exhibit, said working on art for the exhibited was a pleasant challenge. The Bosnia native said the colors in her art-

work are much like she feels inside. "My art is settled then there is this big burst of bold strong color," she said. "There are bits of classical realism and then there is a touch of surrealism. I am a lot of different things."

New to America, the mother of two is no stranger to struggle. A successful artist in her country, she had to flee the war-torn nation that she loved. Her new life in America has not been a road paved with gold. But, through her artwork she is able to express her passion.

Dallasite Wendy Johnson, a quickly emerging abstract artist, expresses the color of her soul, in wildly vivid colors and puffy textures. She uses handmade tools and handmade materials to create exotic abstracts.

Karen Antos began her art career making quilts. Then she parlayed her eye for colors into

jazzy landscapes mostly of the city of Dallas.

Brazilian Sandra Zebi, currently lives in Los Angeles, and says her work is much like her country. Her work is whimsical and bursting with bright colors and one-dimensional images of women. She will exhibit artwork on canvas and ceramic.

Cubist artist Evita Tezeno expresses her soul in paper collage with jewel pastel tones of expressive women. Her unique technique gives a two-dimensional appearance. "My strongest work comes from moments of pain or contemplation. I work from my soul," says Tezeno.

The artists are hoping to sell enough work to make a significant impact on the lives of women, expose the talent of women artists and encourage other women to release the talent of their souls.



(l. to r.) Singer Montel Jordan and actor/comedian Carl Payne share a laugh during their visit to the Gold Bar in Dallas. Photo by Lott's Photography



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## Around The Town

### On-going

The Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber of Commerce is accepting applications for its Excellence in Education Scholarship for high school seniors. Applications are available from school counselors. Applications must be postmarked by April 13.

A Parenting Class will be offered at Highland Oaks Counseling Center, Room 200, 10805 Kingsley Rd., Dallas, each Monday, April 2-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.

Miracle on Wheels is making available power wheelchairs to non-ambulatory senior citizens usually at no out-of-pocket expense if they qualify. For more information call 1-800-749-8778 or visit [www.durablemedical.com](http://www.durablemedical.com).

The Volunteer Center of Dallas County is accepting nominations for the 21st annual Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Awards. All nominees will be recognized and winners announced at an awards celebration held April 23 at the Hyatt Regency Dallas. For information or a nomination form call Phyllis Carr at 214-826-6767 ext. 238 or visit [www.nonprofits.org/Awards](http://www.nonprofits.org/Awards).

Host Families are needed for International Exchange Students for the 2001/2002 school year. Students will arrive in August 2001 and stay for one semester or until the end of the school year. For more information call Yvette Coffman at 800-941-3738.

The International Library of Photography is sponsoring an Amateur Photography Contest. The contest is free and open to the public. For more information call Pamela Roberts at 410-363-4800 or visit [www.picture.com](http://www.picture.com). Entries must be postmarked by May 31, 2001.

### April 3

Urban Job Expo will hold a Diversity Job Fair for general and professional employment at The Bronco Bowl Entertainment Center, 2601 Fort Worth Ave., Dallas, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information call 972-570-8016.

The City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs will hold a public meeting regarding Cultural Policy at the African American Museum, Fair Park, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more information or to RSVP call Patricia de la Cruz at 214-670-4870.

### April 4

Child Advocates of Tarrant County, Inc. is holding a New Volunteer Orientation at their offices, 1020 Macon Street, Ft. Worth, at 12:00 p.m. For more information and to RSVP call 817-877-KIDS.

### April 5

Dallas Public Schools' M/WBE and Purchasing Departments will hold the Annual Vendor Expo Workshop at Nolan Estes Plaza, LBJ Auditorium, 3434 South R.L. Thornton Freeway, Dallas, from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. For more information call 972-925-4140.

### April 6

Phi Delta Kappa, Inc., Epsilon Gamma Chapter will hold its 35th Southwestern Regional Conference at the Doubletree Hotel and Conference Center in Plano. Dr. Myrtle Lightower serves as chapter Basileus.

The Dallas Mavericks and Talkradio 570 KLIF will host a fan appreciation playoff pep rally at Pugsley's Library, 2443 Walnut Hill Lane, Dallas, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. For more information call 214-853-0248.

Mothers Against Teen Violence will hold its First Friday Forum at The Center for Community Cooperation, 2900 Live Oak, Dallas at 12:00 p.m. This month's theme is "Rehabilitation: Fact or Fiction?" For more information call 214-565-0422.

Grace Christian Fellowship, 7200 Military Parkway, Dallas, will hold its Women's Conference 2001, Apr. 6-8. For more information or registration call 214-824-4773 or 214-275-0038.

### April 7

The City of Plano will hold its Keep Plano Beautiful for the Great American Cleanup activities

throughout the city. A volunteer picnic will be held at Bob Woodruff Park following the morning activities. For more information call 972-964-4130.

The 14th National Youth Crime Prevention Conference will be held at the Adam's Mark Hotel, Dallas, Apr. 7-10. General session opens at 6:00 p.m. Over 2,000 young people nationwide will attend. For more information call Susie Bell at 972-932-5323 or visit [www.dallasisd.org](http://www.dallasisd.org).

The Dallas Opera Guild will host Dallas Mosaic celebrating the diversity of the Dallas area's musical talent at the Malachite Showroom, Hotel Inter-Continental Dallas, 15201 Dallas Parkway, from 6:30 p.m. to midnight. For more information or tickets call 214-443-1040.

The Dallas Junior Chamber of Commerce will hold a special Easter egg hunt at 10:00 a.m. for all blind and visually impaired children and their families at Reverchon Park, Maple Ave and Turtle Creek Blvd., Dallas. For more information call Leanna Cruz at 972-866-9562.

### April 12

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. will host its 27th Gulf Coast Regional Conference Apr. 12-14 at the La Meridian Hotel, Dallas. For more information call Sherman Roberts at 214-421-5363.

### April 18

The City of Allen is holding a candidate forum at Saint Jude Catholic Church, 1515 N. Greenville, Allen, at 11:30 a.m. for the upcoming May 5 election. For more information call 972-727-1177.

Diversity Speakers will hold a Human Resources Diversity Conference at CityPlace Conference Center, Dallas. There will be several workshops presented by multi-ethnic experts. For more information call 972-864-5516 or visit [www.diversityspeakers.com](http://www.diversityspeakers.com).

### April 19

Senior Citizens of Greater Dallas will offer a Women's Financial Management Seminar at the Center for Community Cooperation, 2900 Live Oak, Dallas, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Women age 45 and older are invited to attend an afternoon lunch with financial columnist Scott Burns. For information or reservations call 214-823-5700.

### April 20

The Asian-American Advisory Committee of the Dallas Public School will host the Scholarship Award Program at Dallas City Hall. For more information call Julia Lam at 214-860-2339 or Sherri Cleaver at 972-925-3923.

### April 21

The Plano Community Forum will hold its Annual Retreat. The retreat will focus on issues of the organization and membership. For more information call Althea Gibson of the Forum at 972-260-4208.

Dallas County Community College District will hold an Adjunct Faculty Recruitment Fair from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at Cedar Valley College, 3030 N. Dallas Ave., Lancaster. Credit course teachers must have at least a Master's degree with 18 graduate hours in the desired teaching field and a year of teaching experience. For more information call Paul Forte at 214-860-2158 or Benny Barrett at 972-860-8258.

The Dallas Public Library is celebrating 100 years of service with a Centennial Fest at J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young Street, Dallas. The Fest will last Apr. 21-22 with all day activities. The event is open to the public. For more information call 214-670-1400 or visit [www.dallaslibrary.org](http://www.dallaslibrary.org).

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Dallas Alumnae Chapter will hold the 6th Annual Teen Town Hall Meeting at Dallas City Hall Council Chambers, 1500 Marilla Street, Dallas, 9:00 a.m. to noon. For more information or to RSVP call 214-

428-7400.

### April 23

The Volunteer Center of Dallas County will hold the 21st annual Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Awards at the Hyatt Regency Dallas at 11:30 a.m. Ten volunteers in various categories will receive awards. For information or tickets call Betty Houser at 214-818-9844.

### April 24

The Cedar Valley College Book Review will continue its series with Dr. Jerry Cotton, Dean of External Relations reviewing "Jesus: A Revolutionary Biography," by John Dominic Crossan. The review is held in Room B-119 at 12:30 p.m. and is free and open to the public. For more information call 972-860-8147.

### April 25

Major Money Entertainment will hold its Impact Super Summit XV Weekend in Dallas at the Black Academy of Arts and Letters. The weekend will also include the 2nd annual Appreciation Gala from 3:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m., Apr. 26. For more information call Terry McGill at 972-675-5242.

### April 26

The Women's Center of Dallas is hosting the 24th Annual Women Helping Women Awards at The Women's Museum, An Institute for the Future, 3800 Parry Ave, Dallas, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. For more information call Cynthia Brown at 972-296-6630.

### April 28

The Kennedy Center Imagination Celebration at Dallas will hold its 16th annual festival at Old City Park, The Historical Village of Dallas, 1717 Gano, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information call PACE at 214-823-7601.

Steps to Excellence...Positive Sisters is sponsoring their 3rd annual Teen Parent Conference at the Center for Community Cooperation, 2900 Live Oak Street from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The conference will include college information teen talent and a special recognition of graduating teen mothers from area high schools. For more information or tickets call 214-347-7443.

### May 5

Petco and DFW Community Newspapers will present Paws in the Park, a family event for pets at Bob Woodruff Park, Plano from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. proceeds will benefit Southeastern Guide Dogs and ARF Kids. For more information or registration call Heather Stormont at 972-543-2275 or visit [www.dfwcn.com/pawsinthepark](http://www.dfwcn.com/pawsinthepark)

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