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# The Gazette

A Division of

**MON**

Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

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

Volume X, Number IX

"The Paper of Choice"

May 1-15, 2001

## NEWS BRIEFS

**Historian wins Pulitzer for  
DuBois biography**  
(Special to the NNPA) - David Levering Lewis has added a second Pulitzer Prize to his list of honors for his biography on W.E.B. DuBois, the second volume of the pioneering civil rights leader. Lewis, an alumnus of Fisk University, wrote the first full biography of Martin Luther King as well as the book "When Harlem Was in Vogue," about the Harlem Renaissance.

**Ebenezer Church under  
restoration by park service**  
(Special to the NNPA) - Ebenezer Baptist Church, the Atlanta church pastored by the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his father during the Civil Rights Movement, has begun to be restored by the National Park Service. The national landmark will be closed until December. The first phase of the site, scheduled to be completed in December, will cost about \$1.6 million to complete. The church will be restored to its appearance when King preached there.

**Carbon monoxide  
may help lungs**  
(AP) - Inhaled carbon monoxide has been found to benefit mice with damaged lungs. The result could suggest new treatments for people following heart attack and stroke. At lower doses it may have therapeutic value. When mice with severe lung damage resulting from a cutoff of blood flow were given inhaled carbon monoxide, some 70 percent survived, compared to just 10 percent of mice that didn't get the CO.

**Opera diva Rita Hunter  
dies at 67**  
(AP) - Opera soprano Rita Nellie Hunter, celebrated for fine Wagnerian performances for almost 40 years, died at her home in Sydney, Australia at age 67. Despite her remarkable voice, Hunter did not reach international stardom. Her physical size, at a time when the opera was seeking slimmer performers, and the fact that she sang roles primarily in English, kept her from achieving global fame. Hunter is survived by her daughter.

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## McKinney residents to decide council term limits, pay increase

Located in the heart of Collin County, McKinney is a city rooted in heritage and hometown values and equally diverse in its community make-up. Named after Collin McKinney, a land surveyor and Texas lawmaker who helped draft and sign the Declaration of Independence, McKinney was incorporated in 1847 and now boasts a population of more than 50,000 residents.

Every year, McKinney residents are asked to elect the city officials who will represent them on matters ranging from establishing city policies to approving and rejecting zoning changes. Recently, its city council, made up of the mayor, Don Dozier and six council members, unani-

mously voted to call a city charter amendment election for May 5th.

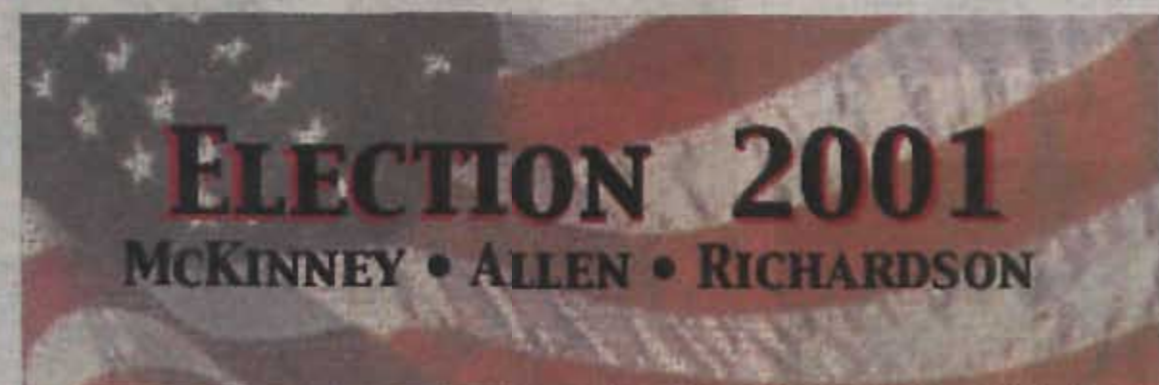
Among the recommendations the council will consider enacting is increasing the council term from two to three years. City council

elections operate on a "rotating" basis in which the mayor, two district council seats elected by residents of that district only and two "at large" seats elected by residents of the entire city, are voted into office each

year. For instance, in the 2001 election, residents from district 1 and 3 will vote on a council member, where next year, residents from districts 2 and 4 will be voting. Likewise, this year, two at-large members will

be elected, and next year, two different at-large members will be considered. If the recommendation to change the city council terms is passed, four district seats will be elected one year, and four different district seats will be elected the next year.

Another proposition on the ballot is the recommendation to limit city council terms to two per position. Finally, the proposition to raise council compensation to \$50, with a \$2,500 annual cap, will be a high profile issue to watch. If this proposition is passed, the mayor will receive an additional \$100 monthly stipend. Currently, council members receive \$10 per



## Allen candidates face city growth challenges

By Glenda Williams Goodson  
Gazette Corresponding Writer

The City of Allen has experienced remarkable growth in the last 20 years. Ten years ago there were approximately 11,000 citizens compared to the present 51,000 as of the last

count. The city operates under a council-manager form of government. The mayor and six council members are elected for two-year terms (there is a proposition to begin three-year terms in 2002). The mayor and council places 2, 4 and 6 are elected in even-numbered years and places 1, 3 and 5 are elected in odd-numbered years. Council candidates must be qualified voters of the City of Allen, a resident of the city for at least one year immediately preceding the election, and hold no other elected office or position of advantage.

Those running in the May 5 election claim to have solutions to growth management, diverse citizenry, the growing school population and infrastructure issues. On the ballot there are five people running for city council, five for school board along with 10 propositions to the 1979 city charter.

MON-The Gazette mailed surveys to the following candidates running in the election. The respondents said they have

plans to meet diversity challenges, and will continue to ensure that the chamber of commerce, city council and school board work closely for the city's success.

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**CITY OF ALLEN CHARTER PROPOSITIONS**

**PROPOSITION 1**  
Shall Article 11, Section 2.15 of the Allen City Charter be amended to comply with state law to provide that the election of newly elected council members to the City Council be held at the first regular meeting following each election.

**PROPOSITION 2**  
Shall Article 11, Section 2.15 of the Allen City Charter be amended to provide that the City Council conduct at least one meeting each month on a day and at a time established by resolution of the City Council.

**PROPOSITION 3**  
Shall Article 11, Section 2.04 of the Allen City Charter be amended to allow the City Manager to designate an employee of the City to act for the City Manager during periods of temporary absence.

**PROPOSITION 4**  
Shall Article 11, Section 3.04 of the Allen City Charter be amended to allow the City Council to appoint a person to perform the

See MCKINNEY Page 6

**CITY OF MCKINNEY PROPOSITIONS**

**PROPOSITION 1**  
Shall the City Charter be amended throughout to correct non-substantive errors such as misspellings, punctuation, grammar and sentence structure and revise references to repealed or obsolete provisions of state law and conform notice and publication requirements to state law?

**PROPOSITION 2**  
Shall the City Charter be amended throughout to delete provisions, practices and policies which are no longer employed by the city of McKinney?

**PROPOSITION 3**  
Shall Section 9 of the City Charter be amended to provide that the City Council shall have three (3) year terms and term limits beginning with the 2002 election?

**PROPOSITION 4**  
Shall Section 16 of the City Charter be amended to provide that members of the City Council shall receive FIFTY and NO/100 DOLLARS (\$50.00) per meeting, and the mayor shall receive an additional ONE HUNDRED and NO/100 DOLLARS (\$100.00) per month stipend?

**PROPOSITION 5**  
Shall Section 18(A) of the City Charter be amended to provide for yearly election of the Mayor Pro Tem by the Council?

**PROPOSITION 6**  
Shall Section 23 of the City Charter be amended to provide that official agendas of non-action meetings shall serve as minutes of the meeting?

**PROPOSITION 7**  
Shall Section 31 of the City Charter be amended to clarify that the City Council may not give orders to subordinates of the City Manager by any means, including e-mail, and revising the number of votes required for removal of a councilmember who violates this section from 5 votes to 4 votes?

**PROPOSITION 8**  
Shall Chapter XII of the City Charter, Public Health Department, be deleted in its entirety as the City no longer manages a public health department?

**PROPOSITION 9**  
Shall Section 62, Capital Reserve Fund, be deleted in its entirety as the City no longer maintains this fund?

**PROPOSITION 10**  
Shall Section 99 of the City Charter, alphabetical list of taxpayers, be deleted in its entirety as the City is no longer required to prepare such a list?

**PROPOSITION 11**  
Shall the first sentence of Article IV, Section 4.02 of the Allen City Charter be amended to change the date by which the City Manager shall submit the City budget to the City Council from August 1 to August 10 of each year to be consistent with state law.

**PROPOSITION 12**  
Shall Article IV, Section 4.05 of the Allen City Charter be amended to require the City Council to approve the City budget by the 2nd City Council meeting in the month of September of each year prior to the beginning of the next fiscal year, as allowed by state law.

**PROPOSITION 13**  
Shall Article 11, Section 2.01 and Article VII, Section 7.04 of the Allen City Charter be amended to increase the terms of office for Mayor and Council members from two (2) to three (3) years, beginning with the regular municipal election for May 2002.

**PROPOSITION 14**  
Shall Article VII, Section 7.08 of the Allen City Charter be amended to comply with state law to provide that the canvass of all municipal elections be in accordance with the Texas Election Code.

**PROPOSITION 15**  
Shall Article 10, Section 10.04 of the Allen City Charter be amended to be consistent with state law to provide that no person related within the second degree by affinity or within the third degree by consanguinity to the Mayor or any member of the City Council be appointed to any compensated position of the City.

## OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE, They just serve one last term

By Delicia Carter  
Gazette Senior Writer

Willie Watley is more than McKinney's Mayor Pro Tem, he is also a McKinney resident, a leader of his Baptist church, a father, a grandfather, a great-grandfather and a husband. He is a retired Texas first responder and a veteran of World War II. He also co-founded the McKinney chapter of the NAACP and was awarded McKinney Citizen of the Year in 1997.

Watley was born in Anna, Texas on Jan. 20, 1926 and has lived in McKinney for almost 65 years. He married Martha Crockett when he was just 16 years old. Soon after his marriage, he was sent to war in Europe. During WW II he was sent to England, France and Germany and received five battle stars.

His first child, James, was born in 1948, followed by Charles in 1955.

In addition to LL Watley has also worked at the McKinney Veterans Hospital, and the Job Corp.

He has long stood for improving living, working, family and housing conditions for all

McKinney residents. His dedication to the city and its citizens lead to politics, where he has served on the City Council for 22 years.

Watley has a few ideas about how he can help make McKinney better. Restoring older buildings, paving streets, repairing old water lines and providing affordable homes for residents are a few of the plans Watley supports.

"McKinney has started to put affordable homes in the city, but in random places. I think an affordable housing community is something McKinney should do. Whenever there is a lot available, the city may decide to build a low-cost home there. I like the idea of having a whole community of low-cost homes," Watley said.

Watley also wants to see more association between districts and help create a feeling of equality between all residents.

"I hope to see McKinney bring up all sections (of the city) on the same level. There's a gap. Many people don't feel part of the community. I would like to help close that gap and see us all work together for a common goal. I would also like to see the city be more diversified. We need more minorities working in government positions,

in the Fire and Police Department," said Watley.

Watley says closing the invisible lines between communities and people is a difficult task. It is hard to break down barriers people have deliberately constructed. Every community would benefit if they had a larger sense of camaraderie, and Watley believes he can help bring that feeling to McKinney.

"I think within the next five years, we'll have that gap almost completely closed and we can start doing things right. My goal is to see all people and sides of McKinney treated equally. There should be no poor side, rich side, old side, and new side. We are all McKinney citizens," Watley said.

If re-elected, Watley will have spent 24 years as a council member.

"I like serving people. I like people and I enjoy making them feel comfortable. If I help keep the people of McKinney happy, then I'll be happy. This will be my last year running for a council seat. I like working for a better city, but I've been doing it a long time and after this term, I will be done." Watley hopes on May 5 voters will give him one last chance to serve the community.

## Longtime McKinney Councilman and Mayor Pro Tem Willie Watley seeks re-election

When I announced my candidacy for district 1, I did it to serve not only district 1, but also McKinney as a whole.

I want to express my thanks to the citizens of our great city for allowing me to serve you over the years. I wish to express my gratitude to district 1 for electing me to represent them where there was definitely a need.

Many promises have been made over the years, and promises are still being made, but I stand on what I said before - we have to believe and do what is in the best interest of McKinney. We must do that to determine we want to be in the next century.

What we have seen and what we have come through in district 1 coincide with the beliefs. I believe that ideology of the city is not left overnight. The ideology of the day is common sense everyday problem solving. What people are looking for is leadership that's willing to reach out. Leaders who are willing to acknowledge that they don't know everything, but can pull people together, to find common views, and answers, solutions to problems, and be willing to think outside the box.

The longtime District 1 representative and 25-year TI retiree said his platform will focus on neighborhood revitalization targeting affordable housing, drainage improvements and increased employment opportunities. "The infrastructure initiatives were put in place and most of them have been and are being accomplished. We must have residents who live along the streets that are to be improved along with drainage to give the city the right of way, if they don't. I will delay the beginning and the completion of the streets and the drainage program.

I need the help of every homeowner to give their right of way so their problems with streets and drainage can be solved.

Why am I running for re-election? Because I'm well qualified and I have the knowledge and understanding of the problems in the older section of McKinney. I can anticipate problems that could happen as McKinney continues to grow and move forward - we need to make sure the older sections are not forgotten.

Willie Watley  
Candidate for City Council, District 1





## Community Spotlight



Supreme Basileus Billy Mason, of Dayton Ohio, presides over the Southwest Region Conference of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc., a professional organization of teachers. The 35th conference was held at the Plano Doubletree Hotel.

Photos by Stan R. Davis



(l. to r.) Toni Schweizer, Dr. Jim Osterweise, George Petagrew, Nina Parekh and Ashley Parekh also attended the After Hours mixer. This month's mixer was sponsored by and held at Presbyterian Hospital of Plano.



(l. to r.) Ken Hubek and Don Goyal with Passport & VISA Express share a table at the Plano Chamber's Business After Hours mixer. These mixers offer members a chance to meet and network with other members in an informal atmosphere.

Photos by Stan R. Davis



John Austin walks to the stage to accept the Humanitarian award during the 2001 Volunteer of the Year Awards Luncheon given by the Volunteer Center of Collin County.

Photo by Delicia Carter



Ms. Myrtle Hightower addresses the audience during Phi Delta Kappa's regional conference. Hightower serves as Basileus of the Epsilon Gamma chapter of north Texas. There are 134 chapters and more than 4,000 members of the national organization.



(l. to r.) Natasha, Simone and Ashley enjoy the fun and festivities during the Thomas Recreation Center unveiling.

Photo by Maggie Ybarra

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## More than First Amendment should be considered in execution case

The last public execution in the United States occurred on August 14, 1936. Rainey Bethea was hanged in Owensboro, Ky., before a crowd of 20,000. The outrage that followed resulted in the complete abolition of public executions in the United States. The pending execution of Timothy McVeigh has provided new fuel to the debate over the value, or lack thereof, of the televising of event.

Even professional journalists, who typically align squarely as advocates of First Amendment rights, are divided as to the appropriateness of a public broadcast of the McVeigh execution. While any of the network types say they're against the death penalty, they're divided about whether McVeigh's execution should be shown on the small screen. Similarly, they're divided about whether they themselves would watch such a thing. "I'm all for it," says "60 Minutes" ace Mike Wallace. "I would watch it. I would broadcast it. I find it difficult to understand why this should NOT be televised." In fact, Wallace adds, he recently pitched the possibility of "60 Minutes" broadcasting another execution to his boss, Don Hewitt. Wallace says the pitch resulted from "a dialogue" he had with someone from an unnamed state about the revolutionary idea.

The revolution will not be televised, says Mr. Hewitt. "That hungry for ratings, I'm not," says

Hewitt. "I wouldn't watch it. I wouldn't put it on the air. It's in terrible taste. We're not in the business of bad taste. The minute Mike brought it up, I said, 'Over my dead body.'" Cokie Roberts, co-host of ABC's "This Week," agrees with Hewitt. "Society is barbarous enough, thank you very much," says Roberts. "I can't imagine we would do anything that medieval. Some of it would encourage voyeurism. Let's watch the guy fry. Besides, I'm a good Catholic girl, and I don't believe in the death penalty in the first place."

CNN legal analyst Greta Van Susteren, also a Catholic, has fought against the death penalty as a lawyer but is re-examining her stance because of the McVeigh case. When it comes to televising his execution, however, she is unequivocal. "We shouldn't impose punishment behind closed doors," says Van Susteren. "We need to be confronted by the sentence we impose. It's a barbaric procedure. We shouldn't hide it and pretend it doesn't exist."

If the United States only had one TV network and Van Susteren owned it, she "would feel obligated" to air McVeigh's execution. "The American people should see it, instead of just reading about it. It may change their views on the death penalty. It might go out of existence." On the other hand, if too many executions made the nightly listings, viewers "would

get sick of them," Van Susteren says. "It would get to the point where people would say on Thursdays at 9, 'Do you want to watch 'Seinfeld' or another execution?'"

A recent Internet poll that asked: "Should executions be televised?" provided further evidence as to how divided the general public is over this matter. Of the respondents, 49 percent said "Yes" and 51 percent said "No". The only clear message from this poll is that people do have an opinion.

There's little doubt that the discussion about this matter will go well beyond the current McVeigh matter - especially when we have a President who has a well-earned reputation of support for the death penalty. Whatever, the political stance, there are many other issues that the question to televise raises. For example, what is to be gained by the broadcast? What criteria will be used to decide when and where other executions will be televised? How will we insure that only adults view the event? Will a televised broadcast provide the martyr status that many want to withhold from the criminal?

Not to be forgotten is the response to that first public execution in America. Obviously, there were many who fought and prevailed to limit future similar events. Maybe their considerations at that time should be ours now.



Ron Shaw

## What Does a Giver Really Look Like?

John 13:29

Giving is the one thing in life I look forward to. It is the motivation for everything I do. I find opportunities to give. I didn't used to be this way. So what happened? I discovered this way of life produces more rewards than I could ever earn. As strange as it may seem, the more I give, the more I live, and the more I have to give. It's a simple principle that's as old Earth itself.

I was spending some time with one of our college students a few months ago when the subject came up. As we walked around the campus, we came to a place where several students had gathered. I eventually began discussing giving with the students. For most people giving is only measured by money, but giving has more to do with lifestyle than anything else.

When we choose to become Christians, it's about the way we live. That is to say that the things in our lives are certainly affected by the lifestyle we choose.

The same is true for the giver. Our possessions will certainly be affected if we choose the lifestyle of giving. When people observe how we care for our possessions, they

should be able to tell what type of people we are. They should look at how we live and determine what we believe. The same is true of a giver. One of the college students asked me what a giver really looks like.

In our text Jesus is faced with the ultimate act of disloyalty: betrayal. Jesus tells Judas, the betrayer, to hurry and complete the act. Because Jesus had such a reputation for giving, the rest of the staff thought he had instructed Judas to go make a contribution to the poor, as Judas was the treasurer. Their assumption was based on the pattern that Jesus had established. His lifestyle was that of a giver, so much so, that they refused to believe that Judas would betray him.

Our lives must be about more than just accumulating. Actually, they must not be about accumulating but rather distributing. The Bible says it's more blessed to give than to receive, but if you don't receive, you will not have to give. We've had it backwards for years. We've given in order to receive when we should have received in order to give. Giving is the way of life for all who would

truly and know God. For He loved so that He gave. Jesus gave his service. Even in dying on the cross he gave his mother to John and John to his mother.

What does a giver really look like? First, they meet the needs of others instead of themselves. They suffer discomfort in order to serve others' needs. Second, they never complain about their giving. Not once did Jesus say, "Why don't you people ever have anything to give?" In fact, at the meeting where the crowds were fed, he said even though the bank account was low, they would give to meet the needs of the people. Third, givers find a way to give. They don't allow the lack of resources to prevent them. Finally, giving permeates their lives. They don't just give money, but also their time, their talents and other resources. Givers are driven by a purpose in whatever they do, which involves improving someone else's life.

Living to give is the only way to truly be a follower of Christ. When you find a person like this, learn from them. Allow them to show you how life can be.

## Why many blacks backed the Confederate Flag

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson

The instant Mississippi voters overwhelmingly rejected a measure to wipe the Confederate emblem from their state flag, NAACP officials threatened to call a boycott of the state's tourism industry in May.

The minute they made their boycott threat I thought of the remark a good friend made to me a few years back during my visit to Atlanta.

She was a well-educated, politically involved professional. While driving down one of the city's thoroughfares, I noted Georgia's state flag fluttering on street polls. The Confederate emblem was embedded in the flag. I asked

whether Blacks were enraged by it. She laughed and casually said, "That's their thing, let them have it, we've got bigger problems than a flag to deal with."

During my stay in Atlanta, I asked several other Blacks whether they found the flag offensive. The answers were the same. To them, the Confederate flag was an empty symbol of a dead past. They felt that were bigger problems for Blacks to be concerned about.

Their sentiment seemed wildly at odds with the official stance of the NAACP and other civil rights leaders. They have turned the flag fight into a virtual holy crusade.

They, and much of the press, swore that the

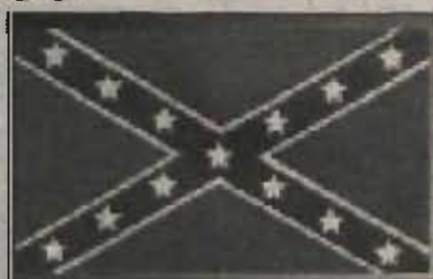
Mississippi flag vote was a referendum on slavery and White supremacy. It was far from that. In March, an Associated Press poll found that nearly half of the state's Blacks supported the flag or were undecided about changing it.

The final vote confirmed that. In six majority Black counties, Blacks voted by the barest of margins to dump the old flag. But in three Mississippi Delta counties, with a heavy Black majority, the vote was to retain the flag.

There are three compelling reasons why many Blacks back the Confederate flag or are indifferent to it.

Antique Symbol. The Confederate flag was a non-issue for decades for most Southern Blacks until the 1950s, when Southern segregationists defiantly hoisted it on statehouses as a symbol of resistance to the civil rights movement. Martin Luther King, Jr., NAACP officials, and other civil rights groups aimed their protests and legal campaigns at segregation, political disfranchisement,

and murderous racial violence, not the Confederate flag. The 1964 and 1968 Civil Rights Acts, the 1965 Voting Rights Act broke the back of legal segregation, and enfranchised Blacks. The wave of federal and state racial hate



crime laws in the 1970s gave state and federal authorities the legal weapons to crack down on racial hate terrorists. In Mississippi prosecutors began exorcising the state's murderous past by convicting and slapping a life sentence on White supremacist, Byron De La Beckwith in 1994 for the 1963 murder of civil rights leader, Medgar Evers. Alabama authorities are trying to reconcile its deadly past by bringing to trial Thomas Blanton, Jr. for the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in 1956 that killed four Black girls. In other Southern states, prosecutors have gotten or are seeking convictions in 19 cases for the murder of Blacks or civil rights workers in the 1960s.

Economic Pain. The

NAACP claimed that its much publicized boycott of South Carolina last year to force state officials to remove the Confederate flag from the state capitol building drained \$100 million from the state's tourist industry. But the boycott was a double-edged sword for some Blacks. Several presidents of historically Black colleges, Black politicians, food and service company owners and entertainment promoters privately complained that the boycott badly pinched their purse, and cost jobs for Blacks. In Mississippi, a similar boycott could be even worse for Blacks. The tourism industry bankrolls a major part of the state's budget. It reduces the yearly tax bill by about \$250 for all Mississippi residents. The gaming industry nets about \$3.1 billion and provides 10 percent of the state's budget. A hit against it would also increase taxes, and force job lay-offs. The state legislature and business groups have cut deals with car plants, hi-tech companies, and manufacturing companies to relocate, or build new plants, in the state. These industries would create thousands of jobs and benefits for Blacks. A boycott could jeopardize those

deals.

Sideshow Issue. In 1999 Mississippi Blacks ranked at rock bottom in income in America and at or near the top in school dropout, infant mortality, and victim of violence rates in the nation. In the past decade, dozens of Mississippi Black farmers have had their farms foreclosed on by bankers and government agencies. The state's historically Black colleges waged a twenty-six year titanic legal battle to force the state to equalize spending. Even if Mississippi state officials defied the popular vote and dumped the flag in a museum, it would be a pyrrhic victory. It would not save one Black farm, improve failing public schools, increase funds for Black colleges, create more jobs, or reduce poverty.

The thousands of Mississippi Blacks that backed the old Confederate flag understood that.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson, author of "The Disappearance of Black Leadership," is president of the National Alliance for Positive Action. Website: [www.natlalliance.org](http://www.natlalliance.org).

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Email: [mon-mri@abell.net](mailto:mon-mri@abell.net)

Assistant to the Publisher: Cornelia McCowan

Assistant Editor: Janel Burrell

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

Email: [mon-ed@abell.net](mailto:mon-ed@abell.net)

#### Staff Writers:

Branly Jones

Delica Carter

#### Contributing Writers:

Glenda Goodson

Lakeisha Joe

Rufus Coleman

LaTrina George

Angela Jones

Charita West

Monica Thornton

#### Graphic Designer:

Christina Jester

#### Columnists:

John Crutley

Ché Hill

Ron Shaw

Stephani Ward

Ed. Bannister

Shawn Alkison

Rister Davis

#### Staff Photographers:

Stan R. Davis

Maggie Nbarra

#### Interns:

Calvin Hester

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a letter to  
the editor:

Send all correspondence to:

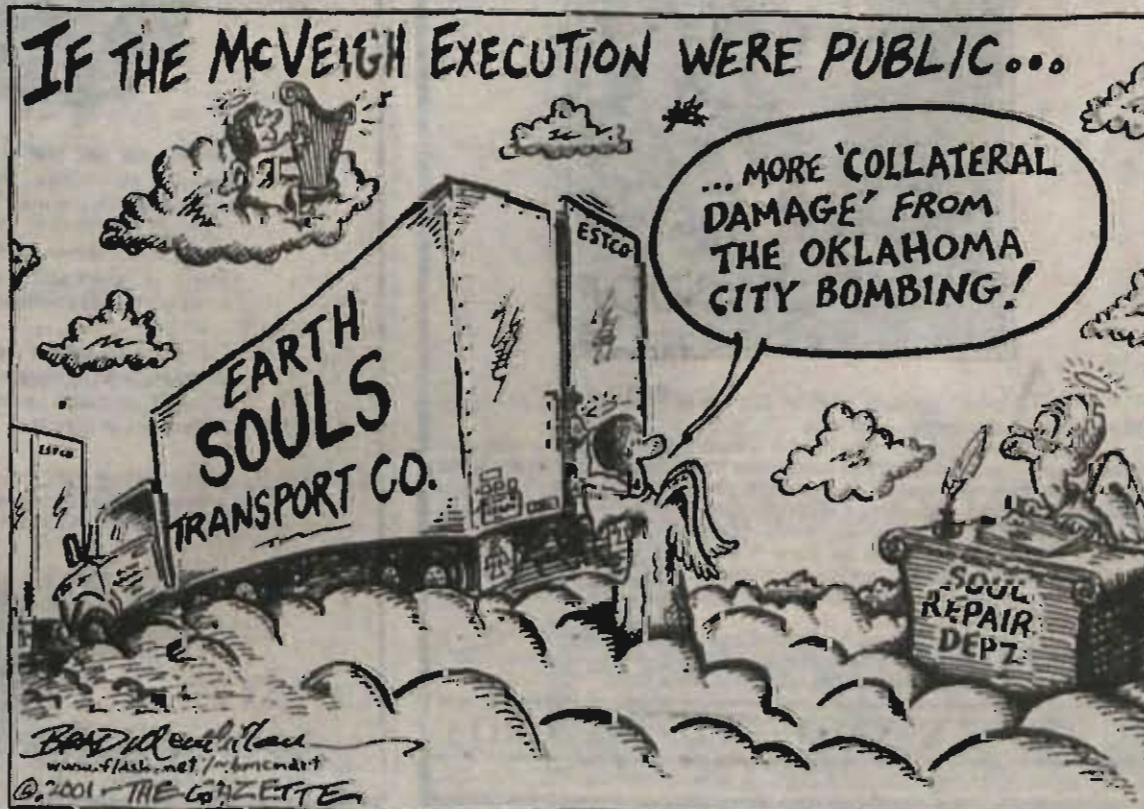
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Letters to the Editor

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Plano, TX 75074

Fax: 972-516-4197



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**Senator Florence Shapiro**

## A legislative update from the Capitol

### Committee debates transportation bill (SB 4)

The House Transportation Committee heard testimony last week from people from all parts of Texas calling for something to be done about deteriorating roads and traffic congestion. Those testifying expressed their support for Senate Bill 4, which creates the Texas Mobility Fund, to help get traffic moving by allowing the state to issue bonds for transportation construction. The Texas Mobility Fund uses new transportation dollars to speed up construction projects in all parts of the state.

Currently the state builds roads on a pay-as-you-go basis, waiting until the cash is in the bank before building, which can postpone projects for years that are ready for construction if funds are not available. Using the Texas Mobility Fund to issue bonds for transportation projects, allows for more roads to be built quicker.

Senate Bill 4 now awaits a vote before the House Transportation Committee.

### Redistricting process underway - first Senate maps released

Under the Texas Constitution, every ten years the Legislature must reapportion district boundaries for the Texas

House, Texas Senate, State Board of Education and Congress. In regard to Senate districts, the new boundaries must be drawn within 5% of the "ideal district population" of 672,639. Below is a list of several north Texas districts and the number of people over or under the ideal population in their current district:

- District 2 (David Cain) +31,753
- District 8 (Florence Shapiro) +161,416
- District 9 (Jane Nelson) +183,119
- District 10 (Chris Harris) +63,052
- District 12 (Mike Moncrief) - 72,978
- District 16 (John Carona) +26,391
- District 23 (Royce West) - 82,153

It is obvious by these numbers that the majority of districts in the Metroplex will have to be altered to conform to the ideal district population of 672,639. The Chairman of the Senate Redistricting Committee, Senator Jeff Wentworth, released his draft version of the new Senate district boundaries.

If you would like to comment on the proposed Senate districts, please call the Senate Redistricting Committee at 512-463-0067.

### Committee approves uniform election dates (SB79)

Last week, the House Elections Committee approved Senate Bill 79 that eliminates several of the exceptions to the four uniform election dates.

Final passage of this bill will increase voter turnout and eliminate voter fatigue since more elections will be held at the standard times. Current law allows for numerous exceptions whereby school districts, cities, counties, and water and hospital districts can hold certain elections on a date other than the standard uniform dates. During the 1998-1999 voting cycle, there were 328 elections in Texas held on non-uniform dates.

Under this legislation, the only exceptions would be for infrequent emergency elections such as a run-off, tied vote, vacancy and other situations that require immediate action. At the request of school districts to aid their planning needs, the legislation allows a district to hold one bond or maintenance tax election every two years on a non-uniform date. This bill was previously approved by the Senate and now awaits consideration by the full House.

For further information on these and other bills, you can visit the website of the Texas Senate: <http://www.senate.state.tx.us/> You can visit Senator Shapiro's website: <http://www.senate.state.tx.us/75sen/care/members/dist8/dist8.htm>

## Dancing Above the Stratosphere: An interview with Dr. Mae Jemison

By Ester Davis

"What did you want to be when you grew up?" Dr. Jemison replied quickly, "I knew in kindergarten that I wanted to be a scientist. I also wanted to be a dancer, an architect and a fashion designer."

Talking to Dr. Mae Jemison was the easiest, most entertaining moment one could ever experience. She has a very authoritative manner, a ready smile and several answers to the same question. Quite frankly, she likes to talk and can masterfully go from one subject to another and connect them all in seemingly one big breath. She directs with her hands as she talks and expounds. Listening to her, I thought she could also be an actress, a racecar driver or a commander-in-chief.

Who is Dr. Mae Jemison? Well, if you simply say that she is the first woman of color to go into space, believe me that is not enough. Our interview was in the midst of a busy morning of media interviews. We scheduled several schools to be in the audience at the Dallas Community Television studio. The studio was packed with young minds from Generation Extreme Ministry and Concord Baptist Church Eagle Advantage Charter School. When asked, "Who most inspired you in your life," Dr. Jemison answered knowingly,

friends. Each one of their characters and values taught me something about life. My mother taught me the meaning of lifelong learning and intellectual challenges. Linus Pauling, who won the Nobel Prize in 1952 in Biochemistry, and again in 1961, is a scientist who helped me know the importance of exploration and discovery."

Wanting to be a scientist, Dr. Jemison definitely wanted to go into space and the only way to get there reliably was to become an astronaut. Her 1992 mission on the S T S - 4 7 Spacelab J Flight lasted eight days. The crew traveled more than three million miles around the earth on the space shuttle Endeavour. Her proper title was a mission specialist.

Before each space flight, scientists at NASA and different universities design experiments to determine if and how the results in space will differ from that on land. As a science mission specialist on the STS-47 flight, Dr. Jemison was responsible for conduction experiments, doing the space walks and launching satellites. Incidentally, this mission was a US/Japan joint mission. And how long does it take to completely circle the earth?

Only 90 minutes.

Dr. Jemison's personal life experiences are captured in her new autobiography "Find Where the Wind Goes" now in bookstores all over the country. Jemison entered Stanford University at 16 years old, where she studied to be a chemical engineer. Soon after finishing her degree, Dr. Jemison went to Cornell University Medical College in New York to become a physician. She served for 2 1/2 years as a Peace Corps medical doctor in Sierra Leone and Liberia. In 1987, she was one of 15 people chosen from 2,000 to become an astronaut. And the rest is history. She is now a professor at Dartmouth College and started the Jemison Institute for Advancing Technology in Developing Countries. Additionally, she created an international science camp for students from around the world who work together to answer science questions like how many people can the earth hold.

I was amused when one of the young people asked what



Dr. Mae Jemison addresses audiences at Black Images bookstore during her Dallas visit. Jemison is an astronaut who is best known for traveling with the space shuttle "Endeavour" in the 1992 mission.

Photos by Stan R. Davis



(l. to r.) Ester Davis, Fred Conwright Jr. and Dr. Jemison pose for pictures during the taping of Davis' program featuring the astronaut.



(l. to r.) Davis, Dr. Jemison, Howard Roberson with Eagle Advantage Charter School and Deborah Lane with Healthy Start also attended the live interview.

"my mother and father, siblings, teachers, uncles and aunts, next-door neighbors and

did she do in her spare time. Candid and bull's-eye direct with the answer, "I like to do all sorts of things. I love to read many types of books, science fiction and adventures are my favorite. I love to dance, exercise, lift weights and play volleyball. I also enjoy cooking, watching movies, music, gardening and traveling!" Dr. Jemison also speaks fluent Russian, Japanese and Swahili.

Something assures me that we have not seen the last of her. She is destined for bigger and grander adventures.

Ester Davis is the designer/publisher of E-Style: The Global Planner. She can be reached at [ecatalog@hotmail.com](mailto:ecatalog@hotmail.com).

## Legislature considers teacher health coverage

By Lakeesha Joe  
Gazette Corresponding Writer

May 28th will mark the end of the 77th Texas Legislative sessions. Since January, Senators from across the state have been working tirelessly to create new laws and change current laws that will help improve our state.

In recent session events, Amarillo Senator Teel Bivins announced legislation that would provide a state funded health insurance program for Texas public school employees.

In accordance with the new health insurance program, school districts, regional education service centers and open enrollment charter schools would be able to participate in the optional plan. Active teachers, employees and retirees would be eligible for coverage.

The new health insurance program, or Senate Bill 10, would include at least five tiers of coverage. Teachers and employees would have the option to waive coverage altogether.

According to Bivins, the state of Texas would contribute approximately \$1 billion a year to the new health plan. If the state's portion is not enough to fund at least the basic coverage level, the school districts will have to make up the difference.

ference.

"If the basic coverage, for example, cost \$125 and we're only able under this plan to distribute \$100 the school district would not be able to access that \$100 unless they come up with \$25 per month so they can cover these teachers with at least basic coverage," said Bivins.

In other Senate news, Lake Jackson Senator J.E. Brown won Senate passage of Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 3, or the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan. This plan would create a system of incentive programs intended to improve air quality by focusing on reducing diesel emissions; creating incentives for leasing or buying low-emissions and alternative fuel vehicles; energy efficient appliances and buildings; and a technology research and development program.

In the city of Dallas and its surrounding areas, which are in danger of exceeding federal emissions guidelines and triggering federally mandated emission reduction action, the cost increase to control emissions would be greater than in other areas of the state.

The Senate passed a bill that would increase the level of compensation for persons wrongfully convicted and imprisoned. Under CSSB 536 an individual could receive \$25,000 for each year spent in prison. The bill would also provide

vide compensation for lost wages, counseling and medical and court expenses.

Currently state law places a \$50,000 cap on compensation, which was established by the Legislature in 1956.

"Sometimes it's not enough just to say 'I'm sorry,'" said Senator Rodney Ellis. "When such a life-altering mistake has been made, the state clearly has a moral obligation to give wrongfully imprisoned Texans the opportunity to rebuild their lives."

The revised bill would allow compensation if an individual receives a full pardon or the conviction is vacated, dismissed or reversed based on innocence.

The Senate passed CSSB 704, authored by Dallas Senator Royce West. The bill would allow a school district to discipline an educationally disadvantaged student for a dress code violation only if the district provides a way for the student to get compliant clothing, without charge.

A bill targeting human cloning was passed. CSSB 102, a bill sponsored by Flower Mound Senator Jane Nelson, is intended to prohibit human cloning by making it a first-degree felony with a fine of up to \$10 million.

"We believe that this is the toughest anti-cloning law in the nation," said Nelson.

## RE-ELECT

**Willie J. Wattley**

District #1



As we approach election day, we are faced with a challenge and a choice. The challenge is to vote.

Let's vote for the candidate who is making progress in the older section of our city. This candidate is for continuous improvements. These are some of the visual accomplishments: new streets, new storm drainage, new water and sewer lines, old settlers park renovated and new old settlers recreation center, upgraded Fitzhugh Park with more improvements due.

There is still much to be done in the older section of the city, we must build affordable housing and we must continue to replace old water and sewer lines, continue to build new streets, sidewalks, and work to decrease the drainage problems.

Let's vote May 5th at the Collin County Courthouse, support your District 1 Councilman so that McKinney will be what we want in the year 2001, and beyond. Let's Re-Elect Councilman Willie Wattley.

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## Spelling bee spells grants for Allen schools

By Brandy Jones  
Editorial Assistant

While Allen students were home recuperating from the preceding day's Easter activities, Allen adults were busy participating in a spelling bee sponsored by the Foundation For Allen Schools.

Eleven teams competed in the event each consisting of three rotating spellers. Words were taken from Scripps Howard Paideia 2001 booklet, which was provided to each team member 30 days in advance. A panel of three judges, author and actor Burton Gilliam, Allen Chamber of Commerce President Sharon Mayer, and Allen Philharmonic President Jack Willis presided over the event.

After more than seven rounds of intense spelling, the "Killer Bees" of Allen ISD were declared the winners. Red Pepper Productions sponsored

the "Killer Bees" that included team members Maroba Zoeller,



Cutline: Carol Clark holds the word processor she received for winning the audience portion of the "Bee for Education" spelling bee. The spelling bee was sponsored by the Foundation for Allen Schools.

Photo by Brandy Jones

Larry Harmon and Debra Vernon. Audience participation was also apart of the Bee for Education

event. Norton Elementary took spirit honors, receiving a spirit stick for their enthusiasm. Allen resident, Carol Clark, was the victor of the audience spell and recipient of a new word processor.

All of the money raised from the Spelling Bee goes to the teacher grant program. For the past two years, the Foundation For Allen Schools has awarded 22 grants to classroom teachers, including reading and math programs, stock market simulations and virtual field trips.

The Foundation is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support innovative, creative programs that benefit the students and staff of AISD. The Foundation's goals are to encourage students to work to their highest potential, reward outstanding teachers and involve the community in assuring quality education for the future leaders.



John  
Dudley

## Tax-Saving Tactics

Taxes. No one likes to pay them, but there isn't anything you can do about them.

Or is there? Fortunately, there are several tax-saving strategies that you can employ right now to cut your tax bill.

Consider municipal bonds. Municipal bonds used to be the sole domain of the wealthy, but not anymore. Many middle-income investors find themselves paying enough tax each year to make municipal bonds a worthwhile investment.

Are municipal bonds right for you? To find out, identify the percentage you'd need from a taxable bond to equal the after-tax yield you can earn from a comparable municipal (one with the same maturity date and credit rating). To do this, divide the tax-free yield by 1 minus your tax bracket.

For example, assume you're looking at a municipal with a 5.30% yield and you pay 31% of your income to the federal government. You would divide 69 (1-.31) into 5.30% to obtain your answer (7.68%). You'd have to earn 7.68% from a taxable investment to equal the 5.30% tax-free yield from a municipal. If you can't find a taxable bond you like that can generate a yield of 7.68% or better, a muni may be right for you.

Contribute the maximum to your retirement plan.

Contributions to a retirement plan are generally tax-deductible, which means you will receive a portion of the money you contribute after filing your tax returns. For example, assume that you're in the 31% tax bracket and you make tax-deductible contributions of \$2,000 annually to your employer-sponsored retirement plan.

You will receive 31% of that \$2,000 back from the government on your tax return, or \$620. In effect, you're contributing \$1,380 toward your retirement plan, and the U.S. government is kicking in the remaining \$620.

Retirement plans also have another valuable feature. Earnings grow tax-deferred as long as they remain in the plan. When earnings are free from immediate taxation, they grow much faster than if taxed every year.

For example, a \$2,000 annual investment in a tax-deferred account would grow to more than \$360,000 in 30 years (assuming a 10% annual return)—but the same amount invested at the same rate in an account taxed at 31% would grow to less than \$200,000.

Discover the world of annuities. If you're seeking tax-deferred income, fixed and variable annuities can be prudent choices. An annuity is a contract between you and an insurance company that pro-

vides periodic payments for a specific period of time. Issuers of fixed annuities guarantee principal and interest. Variable annuities offer the flexibility of a family of funds, including stock, bond and money-market accounts. Unlike retirement plans, there's virtually no limit to the amount you can contribute in an annuity, and you're not required to start withdrawing money at age 70 1/2.

Get the professional help you need. These are just a few of the many tax-saving tactics that may help you reduce your taxes significantly. To obtain more information about these strategies as well as others that might be right for you, confer with your financial consultant and your tax professional before employing any tax-saving tactic. They can provide the professional guidance that you will need.

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

## Plano residents commemorate "Ben Thomas Day" with gymnasium unveiling

By Brandy Jones  
Gazette Editorial Assistant

April 21 not only signified the unveiling of the Thomas Gymnasium, it also was declared "Ben Thomas Day," designated to honor

Plano's longtime resident and community activist, Ben Thomas.

The day began with the grand opening of the gymnasium located in the Douglass

name, where Thomas grew up. Nearly fifty supporters occupied the 9,000



Thomas was successful on his second attempt at making a basket signifying the opening of the 9,000 square-foot gymnasium.

square-foot gymnasium where they listened to Thomas' moving acceptance

Mayor Jeran Akers presents Ben Thomas with the dedication plaque speech. City officials including City Manager Thomas Muehlenbeck,

Photos courtesy Joe Hill

Parks and Recreation Planning Board Chairman Guy

Community center, in the neighborhood with the same

## Internet News

### Starting your business with help from the web



Ed  
Bamberger

This month's column deals with minority Web sites for business development, education and an exceptional new site from Fortune magazine.

[www.mmbda.gov/faq.html](http://www.mmbda.gov/faq.html) is from the Minority Business Development Agency, or MBDA. Founded in 1969 as part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, it's the only federal agency created specifically to foster the creation, growth and expansion of minority-owned businesses in America. The agency's "Phoenix Database" is used in conjunction with the "Opportunity Database" to match listed minority companies with contracts and other business opportunities via e-mail. Among the five regional centers, the one in Dallas is located at 1100 Commerce St., Room 7B-23, phone 214-767-8001.

<http://content.sciencewise.com/molis> belongs to the Minority On-Line Information

Service, or MOLIS. On this site you can search for minority scholarships and learn about which academic institutions promote research and diversity on their campuses. You can also read faculty profiles and search by four ethnicities (black, Hispanic, tribal and other minorities) in a variety of formats.

<http://forum.swarthmore.edu/social/math.minorities.html> contains the Math Forum's Internet Mathematics Library that provides selected sites and other resources related to mathematics for African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans and other minorities.

[www.fortune.com/fortune/diversity](http://www.fortune.com/fortune/diversity), just released by Fortune magazine, is the top 50 companies that hire minorities. Each of these companies takes exceptional care to recruit and retain a diverse work force, sometimes at the cost of constructing a new, more inclusive culture.

I would appreciate receiving your feedback. If there are particular topics you'd like covered, please e-mail your suggestions to: [MON-News@aol.com](mailto:MON-News@aol.com).

By Jesse B. Brown

## Don't Procrastinate - Plan Your Estate Now

Did you know that estate taxes could take between 37 and 55 percent of your estate's value? Too many African-American families wait too long to plan their estate. To make matters worse, estate taxes are due nine months after death, so many times heirs have to sell family assets quickly just to pay the tax bill. This is terrible to think about, especially since it happens at a time when family members are grieving over the loss of a loved one. Fortunately, it doesn't have to be like that. Proper estate planning is the key to reducing taxes and ensuring your wealth is distributed according to your wishes.

Estate planning is easy to put off. However, it is necessary to take the time now to plan for

how you would like your assets to be distributed. When I provide estate-planning strategies for a client, I start by having the client think through issues such as:

How does your current estate plan dispose of your assets?

Have you made provisions for minor or special needs children?

Would a living trust be useful in your situation to avoid probate?

Will your assets be distributed in the most tax-advantaged way possible?

Should you begin gifting to heirs now?

Asking these questions help you plan what you want to happen with your estate. There are many complex issues with estate planning that require knowledgeable advice, so please don't hesitate to call your financial planner.

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." Email: [krystal@enteract.com](mailto:krystal@enteract.com); website at: [www.investinthedream.com](http://www.investinthedream.com).

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## MCKINNEY from page 1

meeting with a \$600 annual cap.

Running for Mayor this year are incumbent Dozier, a retired engineer first elected in 1997 and re-elected in 1999 and current council member Steve Bell.

In the race for city council at-large are Brad Wysong, Thad Helsley, Randall Rice and Alonzo James Tutson. Along with Helsley, who was elected in 1998, Wysong is an incumbent and has served the past four years as a council member at-large. He has also served as chairman of the planning and zoning commission and chairman of the board of adjustments, traffic and housing commissions. Like a majority of the candidates in this year's race, Wysong is making neighborhood revitalization a top priority in his re-election campaign. Wysong says he chose to run again because he wants to encourage and influence the construction of affordable housing.

"City council has begun an infrastructure rebuilding program for aging streets, water and sewer lines. It must be continued after the current bond money is depleted. A lot remains to be rebuilt," Wysong says.

Making a "comeback" to the at-large arena is CPA, Randall Rice. Rice was elected to the at-large seat in 1998. With 28 years of professional experience, community service, Rice says, "I want to bring to the City Council a servant heart that will listen to the citizens of McKinney and a vision for the way things ought to be - responsible leadership and finding the right solution."

Rice adds, "City government affects people more than any governmental entity. The council should be a reflection of its citizens. I will work to improve responsiveness to our citizens, maintain their best interest and serve them."

The task that seems to be at the top of everyone's list is rebuilding and revitalizing McKinney's district 1 and 3 areas. Shalonda Willis is one of McKinney's newest residents. In the year that she's lived in West McKinney, she's never ventured past the city's renowned Highway 5.

"I recently left my home in west McKinney near Eldorado and Lake Forest and crossed over Highway 5 and wondered if I was in the same city," Willis says. "The area looked extremely neglected and the roads were terrible. I had to maneuver around the pot holes to get through."

She adds, "The difference between east and west McKinney is like Highland Park and South Dallas."

Running for the District 1 seats this year are acting mayor pro-tem, Willie Wattley, and newcomers Don Day and Gilda Garcia Garza.

With 22 years representing District 1 and more than 10 years as mayor pro-

tem under his belt, Wattley says he is running again because district 1 is in desperate need of infrastructure improvement.

"When you think about it, the part of the city that makes up district 1 east of Highway 75 has been there for 100 years. We need to make sure that the infrastructure and drainage especially gets repaired and there is affordable housing."

Wattley adds, "My goal is to make East McKinney the gateway for the city and make people want to live here."

On the other side of the debate, Don Day, who has 35 years of business and project management experience, says his top priority is to save taxpayer dollars that are being wasted on poorly managed construction projects. However, he has also made rebuilding water and sewer systems and streets along with developing affordable housing, among his campaign promises.

"Citizens deserve to have a person experienced in managing businesses with large problems and someone qualified to provide leadership in this demanding position," Day says. "They also need someone they can rely on to make good decisions on their behalf. I am honest, experienced, hardworking and qualified to make the type of decisions needed..."

Running for District 3, which consists of the area west of Highway 75, are incumbent candidate Julie Vargo, Christy Armon Lane and Gabe Nesbitt. Vargo, who has held the district 3 seat for the past two years, is building a platform with her assurance to maintain neighborhood integrity and continuity. In addition, she wants to attract a commercial base that pays more than the minimum wage, and wants to preserve the "historical charm" of McKinney. "...McKinney is only 30-percent built, which means we have 70 percent of the city left to plan. We are at a critical juncture as the council is currently split between smart growth, of which I am a proponent, and no-holds barred development," says Vargo, citing her reason to run for re-election.

Vargo adds, "McKinney can be the star of North Texas - or another sprawling suburb. I want to be part of the team that ensures our future."

## ALLEN from page 1

### CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

**Place No. 1 - Debbie Stout**  
Debbie Stout says Allen has an ideal environment for economic growth. She wants to continue working with the school board, chamber of commerce and the city and is a public official attuned to the city's needs. "I have lived in Allen 20 years and will not forget the residents," she says.

The unopposed candidate says her top priority is to manage and direct growth. She doesn't have a set agenda, but says she will apply skills learned through her community involvement in organizations such as the Community Development Cooperation (where she was a charter member) and the Kiwanis to ensure that Allen continues its impressive growth.

**Place No. 3 - Susan Bernard**

"Today Allen is faced with new challenges and new growth. I believe officials should serve our city in the best interest of it and county as a whole. We need to be aware of our actions today so future generations will benefit tomorrow."

Her top priorities are growth management, cultural diversity and revitalization of the central business district. "While I want to help our city keep its small-town charm, I think it's necessary to manage growth effectively. For example, in the central business district, anyone who builds there has to go through zoning." She'd also like to see pedestrian walkways to increase foot traffic in the city, which will attract both citizens and visitors into the downtown area. "I am a strong believer in cultural diversity. While we enjoy going into Dallas for cultural events, Allen can attract individuals of various ethnic backgrounds

to expand our cultural segment."

Bernard says Allen has a high city moral because of the team spirit that its city leaders and citizens share. She plans to use her expertise from serving as president of Leadership Allen to establishing mentoring programs for youth in corporate, community programs, and whatever is needed to make Allen a great place to live. "I'll listen and I care. I also commit to being the best I can be."

**Place No. 3 - Bill Petty**

Petty has lived in Allen for more than 30 years and has served as a chief architect of its planned growth and he recalls when Allen was a community of 1,900 people. For 21 years he served as its director of community development and was involved in every phase of the city's growth. "I was responsible for planning, code enforcement, capital improvements and most of this was originated from scratch."

He says that his love for Allen compelled him to run for office. He also feels that Allen needs someone on the city council who knows long-term planning and goals. His priorities are to continue to seek the quality of life planned for more than 25 years and focus on improving areas such as the parks, infrastructure, police department and fire department; long-range planning to remain on target of what's been accomplished; bring a common sense approach to issues coming before the city; and work with citizens by allowing them to express their ideas.

**Place No. 5 - Kenneth Fulk**  
Unavailable for comment.

### ALLEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT - SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

John Garcia and Virginia Browne - Unavailable for

### Comment

**Place 4 - Susie McCloud**

Susie McCloud thinks Allen has a great corporate community that she thinks that Allen can be further developed to improve its schools. "As a 12-year resident I have always been involved in the community. Whether participating as a AISD volunteer or using my skills, knowledge and experience, I've served Allen." Since moving to Allen in 1988, she has been involved in many public and civic organizations, including the Northern Lights project, the CDG and PTA boards, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and many others.

As mother of two high school students, she says, "I am a school board candidate because I am grateful for 12 years experience in AISD. My knowledge of business, the community along with leadership skills will positively affect our district as it plans for growth. Specifically, I will focus my energies on long-range planning, staff recruitment and retention, business/community partnerships, extracurricular activities and the individual treatment of every

child. I promise to be visible and accessible within the community and to make children my top priority."

**Place 4 - Jerry Waldon**

Jerry Waldon is a father of three and very committed to their education. A Dallas native and Texas A&M graduate, as a Place 4 candidate his top priorities are teacher retention, educational standards and fair taxes. "I will make the tough decisions to balance educational standards, teacher retention and the district's budget to meet the public's expectations."

He thinks open communications with Allen citizens is a priority and promises to give parents a better voice on the board. "Some parents in this community feel the board is not accessible to them, or that their voices are not heard. I plan to be accessible to all parents, students and teachers," he explains. Stating that he is a hard-working, dedicated person, Waldon says he will do everything to keep its citizens satisfied with the schools and promises to maintain educational excellence, lower taxes, retain teachers and restore discipline in the classrooms.



**VOTE FOR**  
**Pete Shockey**  
**PLANO CITY COUNCIL**  
**PLACE 7**

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# Richardson City Council candidates express concerns, issues

By Trina S. George  
Gazette Corresponding Writer

On May 5th, Richardson citizens will cast their votes to decide who will represent them on city council. Council members' responsibilities include hiring the city manager, appointing the city attorney and, most importantly, selecting the mayor and mayor pro tem.

Richardson City Council members are elected for two-year terms on a non-partisan basis. The council is made up of seven members - one resident from each of the city's quadrants and three others at large. All seven members, however, will be elected by the entire city. There are 15 candidates running in this election and one candidate is unopposed.

Candidates seeking the office of Place 1 include Larry V. Howell, George S. McKearin and Bob Townsend.

Howell spends his days volunteering in civic activities. He feels his extensive civic background makes him well qualified for the position. He has been president of a homeowners' association, board member for the citizens police academy and crime watch coordinator. Howell's platform emphasizes neighborhood revitalization and encouraging business development near the new DART stations now under construction. "Through proper development, I see numerous business opportunities," says Howell. "I'd like to see pedestrian malls and upscale multi-family residential housing grow and to promote activity near the DART stations those areas don't die after dark."

McKearin, an attorney who practices family law, has been involved in community-related activities for years. "I have the time to devote to Richardson's citizens. This is an exciting time because of the tremendous development surrounding the Telecom corridor, Breckenridge revitalization and DART," says McKearin. His platform focuses on revitalization and development surrounding the new DART stations.

"With so much emphasis on Breckenridge, there are other areas requiring attention as well, and the city needs to examine them," he says. "DART brings incredible potential for development along the rail lines as well as a challenge for Richardson. Additional tax revenues will be generated and the council has to decide how best to encourage and develop it."

He contends that Richardson's diversity creates excellent opportunities and challenges and considers his training in family to will help him deal effectively with controversy and help him build consensus among the seven council members.

Townsend, a newcomer to the political arena, is retired from Texas Instruments and says the skills he garnered in his 38-year career provides him skills in finance, technical matters and management which will be assets to the city council.

His platform focuses on neighborhood revitalization and integrity as well as development of the areas near the DART stations. "Neighborhood revitalization needs to be expanded and progress expedited," says Townsend. "Insofar as neighborhood integrity, I'd like to see stricter enforcement on property maintenance codes. With DART light rails coming to Richardson, there is an excellent opportunity for growth and redevelopment if done correctly. The areas around the stations need to reflect the image of Richardson as well as what the citizens want."

Place 2 candidates include Diana Clawson, John M. Frick and Tom Rohm.

A psychotherapist and mediator for Mazella Behavioral Health, Clawson feels it's time for a change. "We need someone with a different viewpoint," she explains. "The people on the council now have been there for some time and may tend to think along the same lines. It's time for a new approach."

Clawson's top priorities

include protecting residential neighborhoods, enforcing commercial property codes and supporting capital improvements. "The city has to be responsive residents' needs," says Clawson. "There needs to be a buffer between single-family homes and giant retail establishments. Transportation needs must be addressed as without proper planning, the city will become overwhelmed with traffic."

Frick, a civil trial and appellate attorney, doesn't feel the current city council made wise decisions about Richardson's future. "The council has literally ignored the retail and restaurant businesses and banked Richardson's future on the volatile high-tech industry," says Frick. "When revitalization plans came up, the council voted against it. Anchor businesses like Wal-Mart and Target were rejected and while the Telecom corridor is important, it's such a volatile sector of the economy to hang our future on," he says.

He stresses the importance of DART coming into Richardson. "The present council has planned some retail and high-density residential units along the rail lines. I am against these types of residential units because the rail stations are located in RISD and in school boundary zones," he says. "These areas are landlocked, so there is no land for new schools. The schools in those areas cannot possibly absorb the increase in students without affecting the quality of education."

Frick says he is concerned that the city is behind in infrastructure repairs. "Sewer and street repairs, I've heard, are three to seven years behind," he says. "Our economy has been very strong and with increased tax revenue, these repairs should have been completed."

A council member since 1991, Rohm states that the council needs to address DART and transit-oriented development

around the DART stations. "We have to study these areas and address how they will affect traffic and the quality of life for the citizens," says Rohm. "Richardson is the second largest city for employment in the Metroplex. The more employees you have, the traffic will increase and we need to strike a balance between the two."

Sheryl Miller and John Murphy are vying for the Place 3 position.

Gary A. Slagel, Place 4 candidate is unopposed.

Raj Chari and Jim Shepherd are the two candidates are seeking office in Place 5.

Chari, an IT consultant, may be the first candidate from the Asian-American community to run for council. "According to the latest census figures, minorities comprise 33 percent of Richardson's population," says Chari. He adds that many minority businesses, especially those in the Telecom corridor, are relocating to Richardson. Since he has worked in that entity, he is familiar with the business issues and concerns.

If elected, he would like to emphasize on helping the many minority business owners in Richardson. "There are language barriers, social and cultural issues that need to be addressed, along with their unfamiliarity with the type of government," he says. "I can help them with that transition."

His platform focuses on three areas: selecting a mayor, redistricting as well as online council meetings and procedures. "I believe that we need to have an election for mayor," says Chari. "As it stands now, the council selects the mayor. The mayor, in essence, is at the beck and call of the council. As far as redistricting, the lines need to be redrawn. My district is really too large to be effective." He adds that council meetings should be online to increase public awareness and participation.

Shepherd, an attorney, is seeking re-election. "I am running for

office again because I have a broad array of issues that I began work on such as transit-oriented development, the budget and assessing undeveloped land," says Shepherd. "I'd like to finish the job I've been working on for the past six years."

"Development of the transit situation should be in line with what Richardson citizens want," says Shepherd, "specifically around the DART light rail stations." He says the budget issues are vital to the city's success. "There has been an explosion in the tax base and income level of Richardson, but expenses have increased, too. We need to budget for this."

He also wants to have an open government. "We want to be fair to all folks, not just those who appear before us in hearings," he says.

Place 6 candidates include Bill Denton and Carol Wilson.

Denton is seeking his first term on the council. An advertising executive and 21-year resident, he lists his top priorities as quality of life, development and revitalization. "I want to strengthen and develop the land that's left for families who want to make [Richardson] their home." "I want to look at new and existing businesses. Richardson is 28.2 square miles and there has to be a balance with them," he adds.

He says that the neighborhoods are Richardson's most important asset. "We are in the fourth year of a six-year bond program. If we don't control the streets, alleys and sidewalks, our city could lose its attraction," says Denton. "I want to see areas that have not had much attention become revitalized and flourish."

Seeking a fourth term in office is Carol Wilson, a research scientist. She is most interested in revitalization, preservation and transit development. "There are older areas in the city, both retail and residential, that need to be addressed," she says. She also states that the preservation of the green space is important. "I want to foster the acquisition of park land for our city," she says that transit development should be developed based on sound land use and transportation policies.

David Hadavi and Bob Nasser are seeking office in Place 7.

Hadavi, a senior at UT Dallas, says he decided to run for election because he has dedicated his life to public service. "I am involved in student government and in studying how the city government is set up, I discovered that some issues directly affecting youth were not met."

He is concerned with the mayoral election process, youth apathy and drug use, and creating an open and modern government. "The mayor is chosen by the city council. We need a mayor who will act in the interest of the city when controversial issues arise and not be swayed by the people to whom political debts may be owed."

Hadavi's agenda includes emphasis on creating successful role models for youths. "I am very concerned with youth apathy and drug use." In discussing his desire for an open and modern government, he stresses that "council sessions start at 5:30 p.m. and meetings start at 7:30 p.m. Meetings should be broadcast over the Internet so all citizens can offer input and have access."

Nasser is seeking re-election to the city council. His emphasis is working with senior citizens. "I am a senior citizen so I am naturally interested in the seniors' perspectives. Our citizens are five years older than other Texas cities," he says. "There is a need for condo/zero-lot line housing options for both seniors and upwardly mobile individuals as well."

He also adds that the arrival of light rail will bring with it development opportunities. "New businesses such as restaurants, offices and service providers will grow and we will need to meet the housing needs of a growing population."

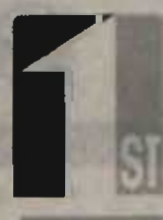
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Kimball High School

Third Place

**Christopher Johnson**  
Madison High School

The African-American Media Alliance — a voluntary statewide association of general interest newspapers — and Texas' leading telecommunications provider, Southwestern Bell, are awarding college scholarships to these exceptional students and others like them around the state for their outstanding essays on bridging the "Digital Divide."

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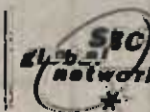
*Dave Lopez*

Dave Lopez  
President  
Southwestern Bell - Texas

*Thurman Jones*

Thurman Jones  
President  
African-American Media Alliance

Southwestern Bell





## Hispanic Chamber president leads by example

By Brandy Jones  
Editorial Assistant

"United we will never be overcome, with a common voice we will find the common goals, and with a common language we back each other up," says Humberto Rodriguez, founder and president of the Collin County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Rodriguez founded Collin County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in 1998 to develop a business network that would provide the Hispanic community with cohesion and strength. He realized the enormous potential of the Hispanic business community in Collin County and envisioned the need to create an organization to represent its interests in the public and private sectors.

Rodriguez has been in office since the chamber's inception and has seen the rapid growth of the organization first hand. The group started out with four members in 1999 and now holds 39 memberships. Although his term ends in 2002, Rodriguez plans to recruit more members, find a permanent meeting location for the Chamber and create more leadership opportunities for members. As chamber president, Rodriguez shows members how to start businesses, provides immigration information and keeps the members politically informed. "The Chamber is like an information broker. We are here to help in any way we can," says Rodriguez.

Rodriguez has been self-

employed since 1986 as a salesman and landlord. He believes he knows what it takes to make it in the business world. The knowledge he has acquired from his own business ventures qualifies him to help others. He also studies great leaders like George Washington and Abraham Lincoln and his favorite Cuban author, Jose Marti, whose contributions inspire his leadership. Rodriguez also receives inspiration from his supportive wife, Carol Rodriguez.

In his spare time, Rodriguez enjoys spending time with his dogs and working in his garden.

For more information on becoming a member of the Collin County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, call 972-838-4567 or fax your request 972-838-4572.



Shawn  
Atkinson

A lot of dialog is circulating regarding the validity of the Dallas Cowboys' first pick. As always, when you live in a fishbowl, many situations can be Catch-22, such is the case with the Cowboys. The feeding frenzy intensifies around the draft. The recent nibbles and bites of criticism have been baited by the unsuccessful draft habits the Cowboys have registered for the past few years. Because the last three drafts have only produced one starter on each side of the ball, the sharks are circling. A quality draft day showing has not been produced in the post Jimmy Johnson era. The front office - particularly Jerry Jones - has been under fire, justifiably. Jones is still a GM wannabe; he will be for a while. And the Quincy Carter pick is not about to initiate that process.

But hold off on the anticipated carnage. This pick won't help the Cowboys' reputation for draft day blundering. But neither should it enhance it, at least not immediately. Only time will give accurate measurement of the wisdom of this pick, but that is the case with most draft picks. Actually, on closer

## Quincy Carter - As good as they come

examination there is not much that is out of the ordinary as draft logic goes.

Dallas needs a quarterback for the future. They also need a defensive line. A running back and cornerbacks are on the shopping list also.



Quincy Carter  
Photo by Rick Stewart/Allsport

So what do they do? No matter what choice they make glaring needs still go unattended. Which position requires the longest developmental time? Which position generates fewer numbers and shows no promising prospects? Quarterback, and that is what they needed to draft. The sheer numbers of

players at the other positions give you more to choose from. When prospects with tremendous upside are available at a position that offers one per team, you take him.

Carter is not a spectacular pick at the moment. He may bomb. But can anybody say Ryan Leaf. The issue is, a club can never be sure of what it is getting until the final whistle of the first real-time pro experience sounds. Also, he was as good as was available. With Vick like abilities, Carter was projected to go early in the first round during his sophomore year. Injuries during his junior year slowed his game and caused his stock to fall. He is said to be more of an accomplished passer than Vick. That, combined with his elusiveness, intelligence and poise, made him a hit with the gridiron locals. Carter was a logical pick, with enormous potential. This time next year we will know if he is as good as they came for 2001, or as good as the Cowboys need him to be. For a team that has so many needs and a town that doesn't have much patience or loyalty, he'll have to be really good.

## Nursing shortage puts pressure on hospitals

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) - Nursing schools are producing fewer graduates and many current nurses are nearing retirement age just as the aging population demands more health-care services.

The result is a shortage that is putting pressure on Texas hospitals to find enough nurses to go around, and causing other changes in hospital routine.

At the Medical Center of Plano, about one in six nursing positions in critical care and surgery is vacant. Hospital officials recently went halfway around the world on a recruiting trip, signing up 56 nurses from large hospitals in Singapore and the Philippines.

Hospitals say the nurse shortage is adding to their financial pressure because they must hire expensive temporary nurses to fill gaps.

Some nurses and consumer advocates fear that quality of care is suffering.

"The shortage is really troubling," said Lynn Lowther, an All Saints oncology nurse who has been doing her job for 22 years. "I don't think I've seen it as tight as it is today."

Experts say there are several factors behind the nursing shortage, including the booming economy of the 1990s, which offered job alternatives to nursing.

Mary Bailie, director of medical surgical and critical care nursing at Plano Medical Center, said the image of nursing must improve to attract young people to the profession.

"Every hospital is going through the exact same thing we are ... different faces, same problems," she said.

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## Chambers of Commerce



**Thursday, May 3**

5:30 p.m. - Ribbon Cutting.  
Join us for a ribbon cutting for Northwestern Mutual.

**Saturday, May 12 - Sunday, May 13**

9:30 a.m. - McKinney Arts & Jazz Festival.  
New Orleans style fun-filled weekend.

Join us in McKinney's Historical Downtown district for this event. Quaint storefronts house fabulous boutiques, art galleries, antique shops and collectibles. Find that "unique" piece of art form over 100 artists or that special antique from "Antique Alley". Enjoy street performers, Belgium face painters, contemporary jazz, blues, swing, and original music by nationally recognized singer/songwriters. "Taste It on the Square" by sampling cuisine prepared by the chefs from ten of our restaurants located on the square. "Hands On" Art Pavilion is available for the children. This is a weekend you won't want to miss!

**Tuesday, May 15**

11:30 a.m. - Citizenship McKinney Grad/Luncheon.  
Collin County Community College - Central Park Campus.

Citizenship McKinney offers an educational experience designed to develop an awareness of the City of McKinney and its relationship with the Metroplex and to provide personal leadership training. At the conclusion of the program, participants will be better prepared to seek leadership roles in business and within the community. Participants in Citizenship McKinney are chosen through an application and selection process. The purpose of the process is to assure a mix of people from diverse backgrounds and experiences that represent a cross section of the city. Join us as the Class of 2000 graduates from this exceptional program.



**Friday, May 4**

11:15 a.m. - IBC 1st Friday Management in Technology Luncheon Series

Sponsored By Fujitsu Network Services-A Division of Fujitsu Network Communications, Inc. "Selling Smarter: Using Technology to Enhance the Sales Process"

Speaker: Tim Goken, VP of eCommerce UPS

Radisson Hotel (formerly Clarion - 1981 North Central Expressway)

**Wednesday, May 9**

7:30 a.m. - EarlyNet

EarlyNet is held at Castle at Canyon Creek (2700 Custer Parkway). No Reservations Required! Super networking table exchange! Topic: "Watch Out for the 10-Second Sight Bite." Speaker: Pauline Shirley, Executive Solutions

**Thursday, May 10**

5:00 p.m. - PM Connections

Sponsored by Woodbridge Golf Club, 1700 Country Club Drive - Off Hwy 78, North of 190.

**Wednesday, May 16**

11:45 a.m. - EarlyNet

EarlyNet is held at Castle at Canyon Creek (2700 Custer Parkway). No Reservations Required! Super networking table exchange!



**City of Allen**

**Friday, May 4**

7:30 a.m. - Leadership: Allen Steering Committee. The meeting will be held at the Chamber Office.

**Saturday, May 5**

8:00 a.m. - Allen Community Outreach Spring Fest. The event will be held at Presbyterian Hospital of Allen.

**Monday, May 7**

8:30 a.m. - Registration Begins for Adult Volleyball League. Registration

begins at the Allen Parks & Recreation Center or Joe Farmer Recreation Center for the adult volleyball league. Registration deadline is June 6.

**Monday, May 14**

8:30 a.m. - Registration Begins for Adult Softball League. Registration begins at the Allen Parks & Recreation Center or Joe Farmer Recreation Center for the adult softball league. Registration deadline is June 15.



**Friday, May 4**

7:30 a.m. - Business Interchange. Event will be held at the Chamber building.

**Monday, May 7**

7:00 p.m. - Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting. Meeting will be held in the Municipal Building, 1520 Avenue K.

**Tuesday, May 8**

8:00 a.m. - Public Safety Committee. Meeting will be held at the Chamber Office.

**Wednesday, May 9**

8:00 a.m. - Small Business Assistance. The meeting is held at

the Chamber Office and serves as the "voice" for the small business community. Everyone is invited to attend, no RSVP is required.

4:00 p.m. - Education/Workforce Development. The meeting will be held at the Chamber Office.

**Thursday, May 10**

11:45 a.m. - Ambassadors Club Meeting. Event will be held at the Chamber building. To register call 972-424-7547.

**Friday, May 11**

7:30 a.m. - Business Interchange. Event will be held at the Chamber building.

**FRISCO**  
Chamber of Commerce

**Friday, May 4**

6:00 p.m. - Relay for Life - Collin County 2001. Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society's nationwide signature event. More than just a fundraising event, the Relay's theme is to honor cancer survivors and remind the community that the fight against cancer can be won. For more information contact Rusty Roach, Relay for Life Event Director at 972-529-2442 or the Chamber 972-335-9522. The event will be held at Frisco High School.

**Saturday, May 5**

7:00 a.m. - City and School Elections. Get out and vote at 7159 Hickory Street. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m. - YMCA Open House - Family Fun Fest. Join us for fun at Hall Office Park, Gaylord & Tollway.

**Monday, May 7**

11:30 a.m. - Realtors/Developers Day Luncheon. Info on residential housing developments, roadway projects, recreational facilities, commercial, retail, and industrial development updates. The CCCC District will explain the newest programs offered at the Preston Ridge Campus. Program starts at 11:30 a.m. with light lunch and ends promptly at 1:30 p.m. Sponsors: FSD, FEDC, City of Frisco, Frisco Chamber of Commerce, CCCC District. The event will be held at Staley Middle School, 6927 Coon Lane.

**Tuesday, May 8**

9:30 a.m. - Ribbon Cutting. Join us for a ribbon cutting for Volt Services

Group, 2501 Dallas Pkwy., Ste. 100, Frisco. For more information contact Steve Trim at 972-731-8193.

10:00 a.m. - Southern Living Cooking School. Presented by the Heard Museum Volunteering Guild benefiting Heard Museum Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary. Two classes will be held at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$10.00 and all proceeds benefit the Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary in McKinney, TX. Sponsors: The Dallas Morning News, Brookshire's, Radio Station 92.1 KNEZ. For more info call 469-542-0002 or Chamber 972-335-9522 or www.heardmuseum.org or www.southernliving.com. The classes will be held at the Plano Center.

12:30 p.m. - Chamber Board of Directors Meeting. The meeting will be held in the Chamber Event Room 6843 Main Street.

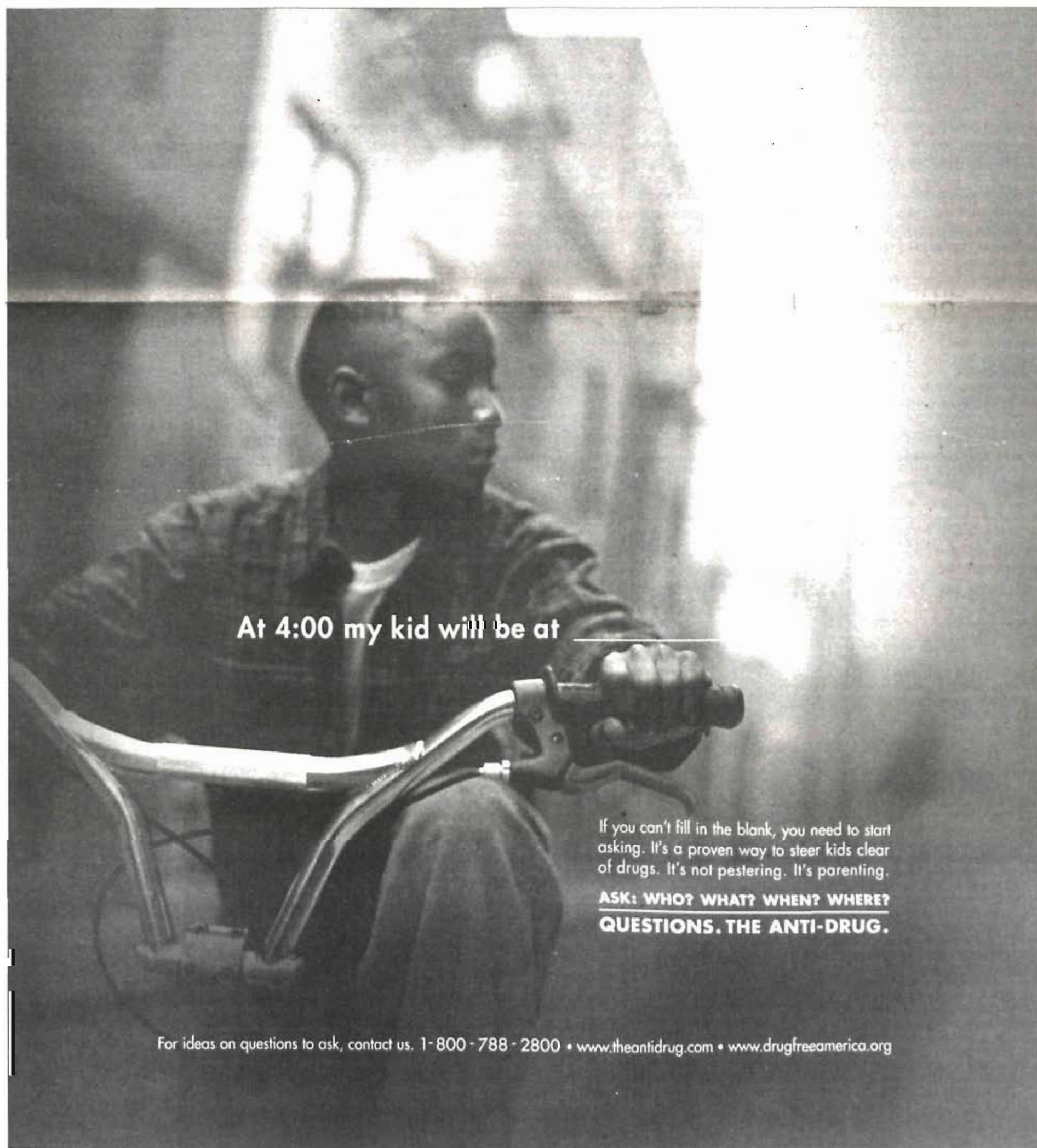
**Thursday, May 10**

8:00 a.m. - Get on Track at 8 Networking Session. Session will be held in the Frisco Chamber Office, 6843 Main.

9:15 a.m. - Ribbon Cutting. Join us for a ribbon cutting for Dr. DeFrank Frisco Foot Clinic at the Chamber Office, 6843 Main. For more information call 972-712-0200.

1:00 p.m. - Newcomers Stuffing. Join us at the Chamber Office to welcome new chamber members.

1:30 p.m. - Ambassador Team Leader & Officer Meeting. The meeting will be held in the Chamber Board Room.



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214-522-8600



## Lopez plays tough cop in new drama

While pursuing a suspect one night, Chicago Police officer Sharon Pogue (JENNIFER LOPEZ) nearly becomes the victim of a fatal ambush...until a mysterious stranger, Catch (JIM CAVIEZEL) intervenes, disarms the assassin and saves Sharon's life.

A stroke of luck? A twist of fate? A concerned citizen who just happened to pass by at the right time and wasn't afraid to get involved? Maybe. But Sharon and Catch have met once before.

As the two fall in love, they discover the truth about each other and are forced to deal with the secrets from their past.

"Angel Eyes" is a story about a seemingly unlikely couple that crosses paths under life-threatening circumstances as though they are destined not only to meet but also to save each other's lives. Not once, but twice.

Officer Sharon Pogue is an excellent cop. "She's tough and she doesn't compromise," explains director Luis Mandoki. "She will do whatever it takes to do the right thing, regardless of personal cost to herself." Assigned to a high-crime district in the South Side of Chicago, her job puts her into danger on a daily basis - arresting drug dealers, confronting armed criminals, breaking up fights. The intense anger that often shows through her professional exterior in the face of such volatile situations leads her partner and friend Robby (Terrence Howard) to suspect she was well-acquainted with violence long before she ever put on a uniform. But it's not something she chooses to talk about.

Sharon's dedication to her job does little to compensate for the fact that she has no personal life. She has been estranged from her family for many years. Disconnected from them and from life in general, Sharon fills her days

with work and her nights with her private regrets.

"She once took a position and is now continuing to pay the price



Jennifer Lopez pins suspect Daniel Petronijevic in the drama, "Angel Eyes"

for it," explains screenwriter Gerald DiPego. "Exposed to violence early in her life, she is now covering her hurt with anger. Nevertheless, she longs for the family that has shut her out."

Somewhere in the same neighborhood a man who goes by the name of Catch is living his own half-life. A strange, haunted soul who sleeps in an empty apartment, he spends his days dispensing little gifts of goodwill to anyone in need. If it starts to rain and he notices a car window open, Catch will roll it up; if a stranger passes by, Catch will offer a smile. Twice a week he delivers groceries to a disabled woman named Elanora Davis (Shirley Knight). He and Elanora exchange the same tight banter every time he stops by but she has learned not to ask him the kinds of questions he doesn't want to answer.

To most people who encounter him, Catch is an odd but harmless figure. To some, he appears dangerous, suspicious...they wonder what he is up to. But Catch is indifferent to the reactions he elicits. He moves through the landscape in a kind of existential daze, performing his services automatically as though this is the only thing he was meant to do. Yet he seems to derive no real pleasure from it.

"He's actually stumbled onto

something," says DiPego. "On the one hand, certainly he's in denial trying to escape his pain, but his traumatic experience also triggered in him an appreciation for the preciousness of life and how important it is that we love each other, even strangers on the street. Out of that awakening come these little acts of kindness."

Like Sharon, Catch has no personal life.

"He's just applying a Band-Aid," says Mandoki of Catch's behavior. "He's keeping a lid on his demons as Sharon does with hers. It's only when they fall in love and then risk losing that love that they are forced to examine who they really are, present and past."

"They've just come together and formed a relationship but it's still tentative," says James Caviezel, who portrays Catch. "They're still not willing to give up to each other the stuff they're scared to reveal." The story is about "the conflict between isolation and connection," says DiPego. "We become isolated because we're afraid of opening up to each other, especially these days. On the other hand, there's a longing inside of us to connect. I think our salvation lies in keeping connected."

When Sharon learns that her parents, Josephine (Sonia Braga) and Carl (Victor Argo) are planning a big party to celebrate the renewal of their wedding vows and she has not been invited, she reaches a crisis. At the same time, Sharon's investigations into her new lover's background bring up issues for him that he would do anything to avoid - even if it means never seeing her again.

After years of dealing with their pain in the only way they knew how, Sharon and Catch must make some difficult decisions and risk losing each other if they are going to move forward and reclaim their lives.

"Angel Eyes" opens May 18 and is rated R for language, violence and a scene of sexuality.

## The Glorious Batalla de Puebla: VIVA! Cinco de Mayo

By Brandy Jones  
Gazette Editorial Assistant

This month we celebrate Cinco de Mayo. Many get caught up in the commercialism of the holiday without ever celebrating its true essence. In honor of the victory and all those who fought and died in May well over a century ago, this segment of Ethnic Notes is dedicated to celebrating the jubilee by educating readers about the events of May 5.

Cinco de Mayo's history has its roots in the French Occupation of Mexico, which took shape in the aftermath of the Mexican-American War (1846-1848). With this war, Mexico entered a period of national crisis. Years of not only fighting the Americans but also a Civil War, had left Mexico devastated with heavy debts to Spain, England and France who were demanding payment. On July 17,

1861, President Benito Juarez issued a moratorium in which all foreign debt payments would be suspended for a brief period of two years, with the promise that after this period, payments would resume. The country refused this proposal, and decided to invade Mexico and get payments by whatever means necessary. The Spanish and English eventually withdrew, however the French refused to leave. Their intention was to create an empire in Mexico by installing Archduke Maximilian of Austria as ruler.

In light of the imminent war, President Juarez declared a promising proclamation to the Mexican people. "The government of the republic will fulfill its duty to defend its independence and to repel foreign aggression. (It will also) accept the struggle to which it has been provoked, counting on the unanimous spirit of the Mexican and on the fact that sooner or later the cause of rights and justice will triumph."

In 1862, the French army began its advance. Napoleon's army had not been defeated in fifty years, and it invaded Mexico with the finest modern equipment and with a newly reconstituted Foreign Legion. Although American President Abraham Lincoln was sympathetic to Mexico's cause, the United States was unable to provide any assistance at that time.

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Under the command of Texas-born General Ignacio Zaragoza and the cavalry under the command of Colonel Porfirio Diaz, (who later became Mexico's president), the Mexicans waited. Well-armed French dragoons led the enemy columns but encountered some strong resistance at the Mexican forts of Loreto and Guadalupe. The Mexican Army was able to stop and defeat a well-outfitted French army of 6,500 soldiers.



When the battle was over, many French were killed or wounded and Diaz's horsemen were chasing their cavalry. The Mexicans had won a great victory that kept Napoleon III from supplying the confederate rebels for another year. The victory was a glorious moment for the Mexican patriots and is the cause for the historical date's celebration.

Unfortunately, the victory was short lived. Upon hearing the bad news, Napoleon found an excuse to send more troops overseas to help Maximilian, against the wishes of the French populace. More than 30,000 troops and a full year later, the French were eventually able to overcome the Mexican army, take over Mexico City and install Maximilian as ruler.

Although the Mexican army was eventually defeated, the "Batalla de Puebla", known as Cinco de Mayo in the United States, came to represent a symbol of Mexican unity and patriotism.

The fifth of May is not Mexican Independence Day, although it is celebrated as if it were. Ironically, Mexico declared its independence from Spain well over a century ago on September 15, 1810. For the most part, the holiday of Cinco de Mayo is celebrated most vigorously in the state of Puebla, currently known as Puebla de Zaragoza named in honor of Mexican Commander General Ignacio Zaragoza. Nevertheless, celebrating Cinco de Mayo has become increasingly popular along the Mexican border and in parts of the United States that have a high population of people with a Mexican heritage. Viva Cinco de Mayo!



Cinco de Mayo celebrates the victory of the Mexican army over the French at the Battle of Puebla. The French army with more than 6,500 soldiers had not been defeated in 50 years.

### LONE STAR PARK at Grand Prairie



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I'd better stick to racing."

COME SEE THE HORSES OF LONE STAR PARK DO WHAT THEY DO BEST...RACE.

Kentucky Derby Day this Saturday - Watch and Wager Here.

Join us this Saturday for the most exciting two minutes in sports, the 127th Kentucky Derby simulcast live from Churchill Downs at 5:04 p.m. (approx.). The first of 11 live races begins at 1:35 p.m. at Lone Star Park. Plus, join us for Cinco de Mayo Day and enjoy Jose Cuervo margaritas and the Cuban sounds of the Havana Boys.

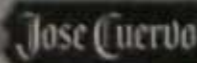
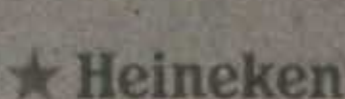
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# Arts & Entertainment

## EVENTS



## Night Vibes

By Ché Hill



### 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 [jdsuaim@swbell.net](mailto:jdsuaim@swbell.net) or call the studio 972-712-6829. Résumé's may also be faxed to 972-712-2600.

### May 1-5

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.

### May 1-6

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).

The Dallas Theater Center will present "Wit" 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).

### May 1-13

The Richardson Children's Theatre will hold the Lone Star League Workshop for ages 8-15. For information or registration call 972-690-5029.

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.

### May 1-18

Cathedral Dallas, Inc. is holding a textile exhibition at the Cathedral Gallery, 2215 Ross Avenue. The exhibition will highlight the work of students at Booker T. Washington Arts Magnet

High School. The exhibit is free and open to the public. For more information call 214-871-1677.

### May 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.

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.

### May 3

Arts & Letters Live concludes its tenth season of "Distinguished Writers" with Alice McDermott, author of "Charming Billy" at the Dallas Museum of Art's Horchow Auditorium, 1717 N. Harwood St., Dallas at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 214-922-1220.

### May 3-6

The Texas Instruments Classical Concert Series will continue at the Meyerson Symphony Center with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra playing Mahler's Tenth Symphony. For tickets or information call 214-692-0203 or visit [www.dallasymphony.com](http://www.dallasymphony.com).

Soul Rep Theatre, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas, will present the satirical play, "Purle Victorious," by Ossie Davis. The play will also be performed May 9-13. For tickets or information call 214-521-5070 or visit [www.soulrep.org](http://www.soulrep.org).

The Plano Repertory Theater will present "Six Characters in Search of An Author," by Luigi Pirandello. All performances are held at the ArtCentre Theatre, 1028 15th Place n Historic Downtown Plano. For information or tickets call 972-422-7460.

### May 5

The Artist & Elaine Thornton Foundation For the Arts will hold auditions for the theatre play, "Shakin' The Mess Outta Misery," by Shay Youngblood. The play requires an all female cast of singers of gospel and African drummers. Interested actors will be required to do cold stick readings for 2-3 minutes. Call 972-285-0705 to schedule an appointment.

Arts & Letters Live will present Writer-to-Writer with Vicki Caroline Cheatwood from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the O'Hara Exhibit Hall on the 7th floor of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young, Dallas. The free writing workshop is open to young adults ages 13-18. Call 214-670-1634 for registration or information.

The Manila Children's Choir will be featured in a Gala Concert at 6:00 p.m. at the Elliott Fellowship Hall of the Highland Park Presbyterian Church. They will participate at the worship service of the Faith United Methodist Church at Sherrye Drive in Plano on May 6. For tickets to the gala or more information call Lura at 214-349-1789 or Bill at 214-357-3993.

GMDT Family Church, 316 S. 9th St., off Ave. D, Garland, will hold a musical and TV taping featuring teen gospel hip-hop vocalist "Destani" Caldwell at 7:00 p.m. The musical is open to the public. For information and directions call 972-272-6640.

### May 7-8

Auditions will be held for N.M. Productions Theatre Company's production of "Snow White and

the Seven Dwarfs," at The Corner Theatre, Pleasant Run & Hampton, DeSoto, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. To schedule an appointment or for more information call 972-680-4466 or metro 817-784-6671. Technical positions are also available.

### May 10-12

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra will perform "Fidelio," Beethoven's only opera at the Meyerson Symphony Center, in 8:00 p.m. performances. For information or tickets call 214-692-0203 or visit [www.dallasymphony.com](http://www.dallasymphony.com)

### May 11-13

RCT Theatre will present "Lone Star League" at UTD Theatre, Floyd & Campbell, with 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. performances. The play is suitable for all ages. For more information or tickets call 972-690-5029.

### May 11-June 23

Pegasus Theatre will present the musical "Cowboys," by Clint Jeffries and Paul L. Johnson. This play is for mature audiences. For tickets and show times call 214-821-6005.

### May 12-13

The Downtown McKinney Association will hold The McKinney Art & Jazz on the Square event featuring fine arts and crafts and music with a New Orleans flavor. Information about festival events can be obtained by calling the McKinney Convention & Visitors Bureau at metro 214-544-1407 or the DMA website at <http://www.downtownmckinney.org>.

### May 18-20

Diana Krall will replace Bernadette Peters in concert during the JCPenny SuperPops Series in the Meyerson Symphony Center. For tickets or information call 214-692-0203 or visit [www.dallasymphony.com](http://www.dallasymphony.com).

### May 19-August 25

TBAAL will host an exhibition of eleven African-American women quiltmakers in the James E. Kemp Gallery, 650 S. Griffin Street, Dallas. For more information call 214-743-2440.

### May 21

"Texas Bound," the Dallas literary series will return to Fort Worth at 7:30 p.m. at the William Edrington Scott Theater, 3505 W. Lancaster, with Texas actor G.W. Bailey. For information or tickets call 214-922-1220 or 888-684-3362, ext. 1220.

### May 25

N.M. Productions Theatre Company will present "Vinnie and Sissy's Wedding," a murder mystery by Cyndi Williams. The one night only performance will be a special fundraising event including dinner. For information or to make reservations call 972-680-4466 or 817-784-6671.

### May 26

Dance Council will present "Tap 2001: National Tap Dance Celebration," at Cathedral Dallas, Ross and Pearl in the Arts District, with tap workshops, a free festival of tap and a concert performance and Tap Jam. For more information call 214-219-2290 or visit [www.thedancecouncil.org](http://www.thedancecouncil.org) or [www.tapdallas.org](http://www.tapdallas.org).

### June 21-24

The Dallas Morning News will present "Oklahoma!" the musical by Rodgers and Hammerstein's at the UTD Theatre performed by Repertory Company Theatre. The play is suitable for the entire family. For tickets and showtimes call 972-690-5029.

WIT had it all. An intriguing set, strong delivery from the leading actress, and a Pulitzer Prize-winning play. The playwright Margaret Edson created a masterpiece with WIT that evokes deep thoughts about life and death, that is, of course, if the delivery is adeptly portrayed by the leading actress, as was the case with the Dallas Theatre Center's production.

Brenda Thomas actually became Professor Vivian Bearing, the scholarly educator whose life centered on ideas instead of personal relationships. Her mannerisms and body portrayed a proud person who lived to work but became lost when cancer began denying her the strength to do the only things she knew.

During the play, Bearing is a one-woman show, even when interacting with other characters. From conception to near demise, Vivian has been tough, and she is selected by her physician Dr. Kelekian to endure a stronger than normal dose of chemotherapy because her ovarian cancer is in the fourth stage. And this is her only chance.

The paradoxical aspect becomes increasingly apparent as we see the stern Vivian become the frail woman who desperately longed to be cared for and cared about. In the midst of it all, her satirical humor is ever-present.

K. Elizabeth Stevens, does a better than average job of directing this production. The supporting roles of Nicole Halmos as nurse Suzie Monahan; and Perry Layton Ojeda as Dr. Jason Posner are also well performed. Halmos makes the nurse an empathetic listener that reaches out to Vivian in spite of her initial coldness, and provides a real look into just how emotionally taxing the job of nurses can be. Ojeda comes through as a callous doctor, still wet

behind the ears, that feels that developing a bedside manner is a complete waste. His role is infused with timely humor. WIT proved to be captivating from



Brenda Thomas stars in WIT at the Dallas Theater Center

Photo by Linda Blase  
Photography & Design

beginning to end.

After an invigorating performance, The Gazette caught up with Brenda Thomas to get her comments on one of the best performances of her career.

**MON-The Gazette:** How difficult was the role of Vivian Bearing?

**Ms. Thomas:** Playing Vivian Bearing has to do with a willingness to go into pretty fearful territory for everybody. There are very few people who are not fearful of dying, or fearful of contemplating it and cancer. The play is not about cancer; it's about living and how to live. The difficulty comes in confronting immortality, to make it real in my own mind, and at the same time it's a great fortune to be able to play this role. I read a lot of John Dun books and I was able to really reflect on a friend whom I lost to ovarian cancer, cancer survivors and how I look at life. From a technical, physical or emotional standpoint it is

demanding, but rehearsal is this place where we can really build ourselves up. Every night I have to launch this performance and it's all between the audience and me. It's up to me to stay real.

**MON-The Gazette:** How much energy do you take from the audience?

**Ms. Thomas:** I think that in this particular play, I have to leave the audience where it is. They must know how much I need them. They are the guides. I accomplish my mission as a performer and the audience, I hope, is able to grasp Margaret Edson's meaning. It's really about an exchange between Vivian Bearing and the audience.

**MON-The Gazette:** Throughout the play you are on stage alone. Is WIT a one-woman show?

**Ms. Thomas:** I see WIT as a concerto. I have to play my part and the other actors have to play there's. It doesn't happen without a strong ensemble.

**MON-The Gazette:** At the end of the show, Dr. Bearing disrobes signifying her transition to heaven "au natural." Was this difficult for you to do?

**Ms. Thomas:** It wasn't, and I'll tell you why. A friend of mine saw the play and she objected to the last moment. The purging, that's what it's all about. It's about giving up everything and just standing there and revealing your true self, and that's the moment of liberation and I feel that the play works towards that moment. We're all working towards that time where we can reveal ourselves for who we truly are, and it takes tremendous courage. I figure if I say "yes" to the front end of the play then I have to say "yes" to every moment of the play, every last one. I didn't think about it.

## What's Happening in the Hood

F. U. T. U. R. E. Productions will be holding auditions for Climbing Changes, a play by Los Angeles playwright D.A. Gibson. Auditions are open

to all interested persons, and are by appointment only. For times please contact producer Dee Dee Gibson-Moreland at 972-354-2521, ext. 1678. Auditions will

consist of a cold reading from the script. Actors are expected to submit a resume with headshot. Audition dates are April 23 - May 31.

## Eyeing the Arts

By Stephanie Ward

One of the good things about Dallas in the spring is the annual USA Film Festival. This is a move buff's fantasy. One of my favorite parts of the festival is being able to ask the actors and directors questions after viewing the films. It's like getting an inside view of Hollywood. I love knowing things that other people don't know.

Nancy Fallen, creative director of the Festival says this year's festival organizers made a special effort to have a creative and diverse range of films reflecting the makeup of the Dallas metropolitan area.

There were 50 films in the festival that were shown at the

Cinemark 17 theaters at Webb Chapel at LBJ Freeway. In addition to the screenings, there were tributes to Harry Shearer, who has worked as a writer and performer on shows such as *Saturday Night Live* and *The Simpsons*; Richard Sylbert, for his design work on *Dick Tracy* and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf?*; and director Wim Wenders for his work on *Wings of Desire* and *The Buena Vista Club*.

This year's films included a

historical film about Ralph Bunche, an African-American statesman, a film about Germany in the last days before the war and fun films like the one about the six-week wait for the premier of *Star Wars*.

The festival also included a screening of the winners of the National Short Film & Video Competition. Fallen says they get hundreds of entries each year for this competition because most filmmakers get their start with short films.



## Around The Town

### On-going

Applications are being accepted for City of Frisco advisory boards and commissions. Interested citizens can pickup applications from the City Secretary's Office at City Hall, 6891 Main Street. Applications may also be obtained from the City of Frisco website at [www.ci.frisco.tx.us](http://www.ci.frisco.tx.us). All interested residents must complete an application, submit a resume, read the code of ethics, sign an acknowledgment form and complete an affidavit of residence to be considered for a board appointment.

The deadline to file is 5:00 p.m., Friday, May 11.

Cathedral Dallas, Inc. is sponsoring the "Educational Lecture Series on Mexican Culture and History," conducted by Anthropologist Mario Navarrete. The courses will be held on Tuesdays and Saturdays April 17 through May 22 at 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m., respectively. For more information or registration call 214-871-1677.

Clean South Dallas/Fair Park is now accepting applications for its youth Earth Camp 2001 to be held June 5-26. The camp is for 4th grade students in the South Dallas area. Call 214-421-1662 for information or an application. Application deadline is due May 18.

Oshman's Sporting Goods, Inc. is accepting applications for its Grants for Girls program for girls' sports organizations. For information or an application call 800-877-6005, ext.

8576 or visit [www.grantsforgirls.com](http://www.grantsforgirls.com). Application deadline is June 1.

A Parenting Class will be offered at Highland Oaks Counseling Center, Room 200, 10805 Kingsley Rd., Dallas, each Monday, April 15-May 7, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. For information or registration call Barbara Palmer at 214-342-6095.

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.

### May 4

Community Board Institute will host its 25th annual conference at the Jewish Community Centre, 7900 Northaven Road, Dallas. The conference begins at 8:45 a.m. For more information call Cynthia Stacy at 214-826-6767 ext. 243.

### May 5

The City of Plano Youth Advisory Commission will hold YACFEST at the City of Plano Amphitheater, East Spring Creek Parkway between Jupiter and Parker Roads, from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. Country music star Tracy Lawrence will perform. For information or tickets call Becky Ehney at 972-941-7137.

Metro Church of Christ and Sisters on the Move, Inc. are hosting a Victorian Tea for area mothers at the church, 4650 S. Hampton Road, 2nd floor, Suite 222, Dallas, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. For more information or for tickets call 214-330-1343 or 972-709-1180.

EXCAP is holding a Child Care Provider Conference at S. MacArthur Church of Christ, 1401 S. Mac Arthur Blvd., Irving, 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For registration call 214-370-9810.

The Greenville Avenue Church of Christ, 1013 S. Greenville Ave., Richardson, will host its 16th Annual Adolescent and Ladies Symposium from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for females ages 9 and older. The free symposium includes breakfast, lunch and prizes. For registration and information call 972-644-2335.

The African American Museum will hold its 17th Annual Gala and Auction at the Fairmont Hotel, Downtown Dallas at 6:00 p.m. Earth, Wind and Fire will be the featured entertainment. For more information or tickets call Laurna Perry at 214-565-9026, ext. 302.

### May 7

The Forth Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce and the Women's Business Issues Committee will be holding Power Monday at The Crime Prevention Resource Center, 605 E. Berry Street, Suite 104, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. For information, directions or reservations call 817-531-8510.

EXCAP is holding an orientation to ties Parent Aide Program from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at their offices, 2820 Swiss Ave., Dallas. For more information call 214-370-9810.

### May 8

Temple Emanu-El, 8500 Hillcrest Road, Dallas, will host civil rights leader Julian Bond at the Nasher Forum at 7:30 p.m. A limited number of tickets will be

available. For information or tickets call 214-706-0000, ext. 340.

### May 9

The North Texas Global Telecommunication Society will present the Asia-Pacific Telecommunications Conference 2001 at Cityplace Conference Center, Dallas, May 9-10. For more information call 972-579-9111 or visit [www.ntgt.org/aslapacific2001](http://www.ntgt.org/aslapacific2001).

### May 11

The American Cancer Society will host their Annual Mother's Day Luncheon at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, Dallas Convention Center, 1011 S. Akard, Dallas, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Free mammograms will begin at 8:30 a.m. For more information or reservations call Mabel Meshach White at 214-421-1680.

### May 12

Senior Citizens of Greater Dallas will offer its monthly Women's Financial Clinic at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, Room 315, Epworth Hall,

9200 Inwood Road, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The seminar is for women aged 35 and older. For information call Kim Watson at 214-823-5700.

### May 14

The Salvation Army of Plano will hold their 3rd Annual Volunteer Banquet at Prairie Creek Baptist Church, 3201 W. 15th Street, Plano at 6:30 p.m. For information, sponsorship or tickets call 972-423-8254.

### May 17

DFW Community Newspapers will host a Home Buyer's Expo at the Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Pkwy., Plano, from noon until 8:00 p.m. The expo will feature realtors, homebuilders, mortgage and title companies, home furnishing experts and more.

The Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter of the National Sales Network is holding an inaugural reception titled, "An Empowerment Strategy to Encourage Sales Excellence," at the Women's Museum in Fair Park from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. For more information call George Petagrev

972-691-2302 or Deborah Brannon at 972-219-1278.

### May 19

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. North Dallas Suburban Alumnae Chapter will hold a golf tournament at Plantation Golf Course in Frisco. Proceeds will benefit the chapter's Jabberwock Scholarship program. Track spikes worn by gold medalist and world record holder Michael Johnson will also be auctioned at the event. For more information or to register call Misha Sturns at 972-571-1698.

The Dallas Urban League, 4315 S. Lancaster, Dallas, will hold the Career Expo 2001 featuring career and employment workshops from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For reservations or information call 214-915-4686.

Highland Oaks Counseling Center will sponsor a seminar from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Highland Oaks Church of Christ Educational Auditorium, 10805 Kingsley Rd., Dallas. To register, or for more information call 214-342-6095.

The Dallas Chapter of the Southern University Alumni Federation will be hosting its 18th Annual Bayou Bash at the Regular Fellows Club, 7225 Houston School Road, Dallas, from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Proceeds benefit the scholarship fund. For tickets or information call 972-480-JAGS.

### May 21

The Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce will hold a seminar on "The Paperless Business Plan," starting your own business, etc., at the Tarrant County College/South (In the Living Room) from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. For more information or reservations call 817-531-8510.

### May 22

Senior Citizens of Greater Dallas will offer a free Job Search Seminar to Dallas area residents aged 55+. The seminar will be held at the Center for Community Cooperation, 2900 Live Oak Street, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For more information or to register call Judy Burk at 214-823-5700.

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