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The Gazette

A Division of

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Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

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Volume XI, Number XVII

"North Dallas' Weekly Paper of Choice"

April 25-May 1, 2002



On the Homefront:

eSAFETY ALERT

Child Alert Fire Rescue Window Decals Alert Firefighters To Save Children Inside

Here's a way to help protect your child should a fire break out in your home. A company specializing in home safety products has created warning decals to be placed on windows and doors to alert firefighters to save children inside. The bright, orange decal reads: "CHILD ALERT. In Case of Fire SAVE - Children INSIDE."

eSafety Alert offers fire warning decals for pets, senior citizens and people with disabilities and the company gives a portion of its profits to organizations that assist firefighters, rescue workers and search and rescue dogs that were involved in the recovery activities in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks. eSafetyAlert offers a new one-of-a-kind alarm system that alerts parents if a child is near a pool an falls into the water. For more information call 1-800-892-9551.

The Maurice Barnett Geriatric wellness Center and students from Baylor School of Dental Hygiene will offer free oral screenings for people age 55 and older from 1-3pm Monday in the Lane Star D ballroom at the Plano Senior Center, 401 W. 16th St. in Plano. No appointment is necessary. For more information call 972-941-7315.

The McKinney Civic Chorus is seeking vocalist 16 and older. No audition is required. Rehearsals are 7 to 9pm Mondays at Hillcrest Christian Church, 509 S. Graves St. Membership dues and performance attire is required. For more information call Bobbe Thompson at 972-562-2360.

Beginning Saturday the Texas Governor's Commission for Women will help local agencies implement a program whereby victims of domestic violence will be equipped with free cellular phones to call for emergency help.

S. James Anaya, lead lawyer for the Awas Tingi land rights case in Nicaragua will give the keynote address at the upcoming conference, "From Human Rights to Cultural Empowerment: The Awas Tingi Ruling and the Struggle for Indigenous and Black Land rights in the Americas". The conference and workshops will take place April 18-20 at The University of Texas at Austin School of Law.

Contemplating Divorce? Divorce is a difficult process. You probably have many questions about the kids and property issues. Attend a free seminar that will answer these plus other questions. For more information on dates and fee call Dispute Alternative at 817-729-3516.

The Dallas Arboretum is once again joining forces with Learning by Earning (LBE) to host the Second Annual EBL "Reading in the Garden" on Monday, April 29. Sixty students from the DISD and PISD have been chosen to participate in this literary event. Learning by Earning of Dallas is co-sponsored by the Ricky Rutledge Memorial Fund of Communities Foundation of Texas and the New Car Association of Metropolitan Dallas and currently serves six independent school districts and reaches 6,500 students a year. Its mission is to encourage children to read through incentives, computerized software and mentoring.

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The STORY OF The AFRICAN AMERICAN PRESS

By Marilyn Freeman

American newspapers and magazines published by African Americans focused on black political, social and cultural issues.

The Black Press has represented the spectrum of African American opinion for nearly 150 years. The black press has enabled African Americans to: 1) define their own identity; 2) create a sense of unity by establishing a communication network among literate blacks and sympathetic whites; 3) present events from a black perspective; 4) highlight black achievement ignored by the mainstream press; and 5) work for black equality.

The first black newspaper in the United States was Freedom's Journal, founded March 16, 1827 in New York City by John B. Russwurm and Samuel E. Cornish, who used it as a forum to discuss slavery and its related issues, and to enable blacks in various states to exchange ideas, such as whether blacks should strive for full citizenship, or whether blacks should opt for separation and repatriation in Africa. Cornish, an integrationist, and Russwurm, a separatist, disagreed on that issue, and six months after the paper's founding, Cornish left. Russwurm continued to publish Freedom's Journal until March

28, 1829, when he moved to Liberia, living there until his death in 1851.

Cornish began editing Phillip A. Bell's Weekly Advocate in 1837. Later called the Colored American, it published until 1842, and is noted for its high editorial quality and militant call for blacks unity and full citizenship for black Americans. It was also likely published in New York and Philadelphia, which would make it the first African American newspaper to operate in more than one city with different editions.

More African Americans began to publish in the mid-nineteenth century. See African Amer. Press page 6

2002 Gallery of Greats

Power in the Press: Black Publishers Righting History Select an Honoree below to learn more about these remarkable people.



Robert B. Abbot
Founder of the Chicago Defender



Ida B. Wells-Barnett
Fearless leader of America's anti-lynching crusade



Charlotte Soeurs Bass
Fighter of racism and publisher of the California Eagle



Cheryl Brown and Hardy Brown
Giving voice to voices that have been silenced



Samuel E. Cornish
Co-publisher of Freedom's Journal, the first Black-owned and operated newspaper in the U.S.



Frederick Douglass
Principal leader of the abolitionist movement and publisher of the North Star



Carl J. Murphy
Built the Afro-American into the most powerful Black-owned publication in the mid-Atlantic



John B. Russwurm
Founder of Freedom's Journal, the first Black-owned and operated newspaper in the U.S.



Cornelius Adolphus Scott
Guided the country's oldest and first successful Black daily newspaper through the terror of segregation and racism



William Alexander Scott II
Founder of the first successful African-American daily in the nation



John H. H. Sengstacke
Defender of integration of the armed services and desegregation



Robert L. Vann
Newspaper publisher, lawyer and political statesman



Plummer Bernard Young Sr.
A crusader for his people

Mayoral Election - PLANO

By Belinda G. Alexander



JERAN AKERS

Salesman

On Party Affiliation - [non-partisan office]

Address - 3013 Padre Court / Plano, Texas 75075

Phone - Daytime 972-423-3345/972-422-9668

Office sought: Mayor

Headquarters Address: 1015 East 15th Street, Plano, TX 75074

Campaign Phone: 972-423-3345

Campaign Fax: 972-422-9668

Campaign Chair: May Delle Grubbs

Press Liaison: Joe Counter

KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS/EXPERIENCE as Incumbent, Jeran Akers would like to serve again as Mayor of Plano. From 1993 to 1999 Akers served on Council and was elected by fellow Council members as Deputy, and as Mayor Pro Tem.

EDUCATION- University of Alabama/Masters in Public Administration from University of Northern Colorado.

IF SUCCESSFUL

Three top priorities for Akers in this elective office are: 1) Retaining Fiscal discipline, 2) continuing to improve traffic, 3) completing the Regional Arts Hall Plan.

TO IMPROVE, Akers would like to Continue representing the citizens of Plano in a professional and dignified manner; Continue the fiscal discipline outlined over the past two years; Continue as an active and involved Mayor.

This candidate is seeking re-election as opportunity to make a difference.

Candidate stands on record of lowered taxes, reduction in violent crime and improved traffic flow and has enjoyed serving as mayor.

PROBLEMS / PROGRESS of this public office include the fact that Plano is 4th largest city in Metroplex, 9th largest in Texas, 79th in the United States making this an ultimate volunteer job that Akers loves.

CITIZENS DESERVE a Mayor that listens, is available, active and involved. Akers lists experience in presiding over almost 100 meetings, attending over 1,000 events, answered over 2,000 emails and telephone calls and met with hundreds of citizens.

CHARACTER, WORK ETHIC, EXPERTISE will match citizens needs and expectations with skills as a hard working, dedicated, professional, and business owner like most citizens.

CAMPAIGN PROMISES / PLEDGES include maintaining present disciplined fiscal policy; Continue to improve the traffic flow; Continue working to reduce the crime rate; Plan the Regional Arts Hall.



PAT EVANS

Attorney

On Party Affiliation - [non-partisan office]

Address - 3333 Ranchero / Plano, Texas 75093

Phone - 972-403-0144

Office sought: Mayor of Plano

Headquarters Address: SAME AS ABOVE

Campaign Phone: 972-403-0144

Campaign Fax: 972-403-1959

Campaign Chair: Jean Callison - 972-248-

3671

KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS/EXPERIENCE as a citizen of Plano since 1972. Pat Evans served 3 1/2 years on City Council, 6 years on Planning & Zoning, worked with the Community Relations Commission, the Women's Shelter, School & Police agencies and Social Services. Previously ran and won for City Council Place 2 in 1998 & 2000.

IF SUCCESSFUL

Three top priorities for Evans in this elective office are: 1) A unified City with pride, 2) Top services at lowest tax rate in Plano as a whole (eliminate divisions), 3) Revitalization of older neighborhoods and retail.

TO IMPROVE, Evans would like to open up communication and response to all citizens. Expand the neighborhood town meetings geographical areas to include more communities of interest. Need to ascertain concerns and needs of Blacks, Asian, Mid-Eastern, Jewish, etc.

PROBLEMS / PROGRESS of this public office include a polarization of Plano citizens in last 2 years. Evans listed the East vs. West neighborhoods, Citizens for and against Arts, and Racial problems, slow economics and fewer financial resources for the city as issues.

CITIZENS DESERVE a Mayor who is honest and fair dealing. The Mayor and Council should be working with the citizens and not against the best interest of Plano. Best services for least cost to taxpayers.

For CHARACTER, WORK ETHIC, EXPERTISE Evans' lists a leadership style based on the highest principles of honesty and integrity. As a Mediator who will facilitate cooperation to reach 'win / win' solutions.

CAMPAIGN PROMISES / PLEDGES by working to build a quality, well-rounded city for our families to live, work, learn and play. Will safeguard and celebrate the unique characteristics of all our communities within the city and work to foster pride in Plano as a whole.

Answering the Call to Serve the People



By Monica Thornton

Helping run the 9th largest city in Texas is not just a job for Ronald E. Jones, Assistant City Manager for Garland, Texas, but rather 'a calling'.

Far from his days as an art major in High School, Mr. Jones, 57, now runs a city department representing about 400 employees, with an operating budget of \$31 million, and a capital projects budget between \$10 to \$15 million.

From his brightly lit office, surrounded by pictures of his family, his own spiritual graphic artwork and candles, Mr. Jones, 57, controls the Code Compliance, Housing and Neighborhood Services, Municipal Court, Health, Parks and Recreation, Performing Arts Center and the Library Services.

So how does an African-American man go from being an art major to helping develop a Texas town? How does a young man transition from building an insurance empire to building a legacy in city government, a road that would lead

to an award for outstanding community service, and in 1997 an award for Outstanding Community Leader.

For Mr. Jones it began in 1974 when a friend asked him for help with a Neighborhood Service Center in Garland. Recognizing Mr. Jones' natural proclivity to interact with people at all levels, his friend took him on board to go into neighborhoods to identify problem areas and to help reorganize and rebuild them.

But what started out for him as an 18 month project, turned into his career of 28 years.

"I was building my legacy in the Insurance Business at that time, and I only intended staying with the project for 18 months," said Mr. Jones, "but I fell in love with City Government, it was like a calling."

The Director of the Neighborhood Service Center put Mr. Jones in charge of Public Relations, which for someone with Mr. Jones' ability to make every one he speaks with feel

See Answering page 6

Mayoral Election - GARLAND

By Belinda G. Alexander



MICHAEL L. HOLDEN

Polygraph Examiner

Party Affiliation: Republican [non-partisan position]

Address - 2901 Newburyport Ave. Garland, Texas 75044

Phone: 972-530-2906

Office sought: Mayor

Headquarters Address: SAME AS ABOVE

Campaign Phone: 972-530-2906

Campaign Fax: 972-530-0749

Campaign Chair: N/A

Press Liaison: N/A

KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS/EXPERIENCE: City Council - District 7, 1990-1994; District 1, 2000 to Present; Mayor Pro-Tem 1992-1993.

EDUCATION: Garland Public Schools, Received B.S. in Engineering Technology - Texas A&M, 1986.

IF SUCCESSFUL - Three top priorities in this elective office are: 1) Public Safety - Fire & Police Staffing, 2) Economic Re-Development, 3) Infrastructure Improvement.

TO IMPROVE, Candidate promises to be responsive to the citizens of Garland. (see Promises / Pledges)

PROBLEMS / PROGRESS of this public office, "The Mayor must work with each Council member to help them be successful. I believe that if each of the Council members are successful, then the Mayor will be successful."

CITIZENS DESERVE a Mayor who will respond to the needs and questions of the citizen—Someone who cares about where the city will be in 20 years.

CHARACTER, WORK ETHIC, EXPERTISE: Extremely energetic and have the will and fortitude to make decisions that will affect the City of Garland for the future.

CAMPAIGN PROMISES / PLEDGES: promises to be responsive to the citizens of Garland. Pledge to 1) Be available one night a week for individual meetings with citizens. 2) Attend Neighborhood and Homeowner's Association meetings. 3) Return all telephone calls and emails promptly. 4) Work with police and fire fighters to improve public safety. 5) Build a team approach to Council activities and issues. 6) Implement strategic long-term planning by the Council. 7) Encourage Council members to place any issue they deem important on the agenda.



BOB DAY

Optometrist

Party Affiliation: [non-partisan position]

Address - 521 Cashmere, Garland, Texas 75041

Phone: Daytime 972-278-2121

Evenings/Weekends 972-271-0461

Office sought: Mayor of Garland

Headquarters Address: 3034 Broadway, Garland, Texas 75041

See Garland election page 4

Dance for the Planet

Local dancers gathered at The Annette Strauss Artist Square on Saturday and Sunday to perform in Dance for the Planet Festival. More than 120 dance troupes performed on two stages over the two-day festival. All types of dances were performed from Ballet to Modern to Folklorico. Collin County Community College Dance

Repertory was just one of the troupes there. They performed their modern piece Eclipse, which was inspired by the cycle of motion that occurs in the universe. Spectators could also participate, by attending local workshops where they could learn certain dance move. The Dance Council held Dance for the Planet to help raise the awareness of dance as an art form.

Photo by Shauna Benoit



Collin County Community College Dance Repertory performing Eclipse

Plano West Sweeps District Meet

Photos by Shauna Benoit



Veli Pethova



Manuel Gonzalez

On Friday and Saturday the district 9-5A tennis tournament was held at Collin County Community College. Plano West was able to come home with the boy's and girl's district team titles. Andy Mack helped win the boy's team win the championship with his win in the boy's singles. West has the opportunity to win the girl's doubles title on Monday when two of West's team will play for the championship. West has the opportunity to get second place in the boy's double in a play-back match. Plano East walked away with the girl's championship.

A Centenarian-Plus-One Celebration

Gladys Harrington, Plano's foremost lady who is turning 101 years old next month, will be honored by the Collin County Historical Society with a birthday party at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 19, in the John Anthony Auditorium of Collin County Community College, 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway in Plano.



"Gladys Harrington 101" is the theme of the day. Partygoers will learn the basics about the centenarian-plus-one in a crash course, an informative "This is Your Life" program. David McCall III will be master of ceremonies.

As a volunteer, Mrs. Harrington started the public library system in Plano and the first library there was named in her honor - the Gladys Harrington Library.

She underwrites the Young Artists Competition of the Plano Symphony Orchestra, belongs to the Collin County Republican Party and has been a precinct chairman for several decades.

Before a slight stroke in 1990, she walked her entire precinct for each election. Except for that stroke, she says, she would be more active, she said.

Regularly she attends meetings of the Thompson Book Club, Chapter FV of PEO and is on the committee to select names for new Plano schools.

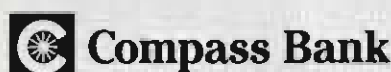
In lieu of gifts, friends may make contributions to the Gladys Harrington Fund of the historical society, which administers the Central Museum in McKinney.

For more information contact Molly Horner at 972-618-7835 or Mary Margaret Davis at 214-357-3221.

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THE TRUTH CLINIC The Quest For A Color-Blind Society

By James W. Breedlove

During a recent debate on racism one of the panelists in responding to the notion of a colorblind society stated, "In a civilization where color consciousness seems to dominate, something has gone awry. Color in and of itself does not determine whether one is good or bad, tall or short, thin or pudgy, intelligent or dense, or whether one leg is shorter than the other."

"You might say I am being ludicrous. But, it is just as ludicrous to exempt or exclude a whole race from their God given rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Where did the term second-class citizen originate? What does this mean? Either one is a full-fledged citizen or not. Could it be that a select few because of their own inadequacies, insecurities, selfishness, or greed need to try and deride an entire race to elevate their own false sense of superiority?"

The panelist went on to state, "An archaic civilization rooted in stymieing any individual causes the entire cultural foundation to tilt, losing its ability to rest on a solid moral, ethical or legal base. The entire civilization misses out on the diverse strengthening attributes that could be of benefit to all. People are people regardless of race, creed, gender or color." "What has color got to do with it?", she asked and without waiting for a response answered, "Nothing."

The panelist's comments describe a nirvana that should be but are not the current reality.

Just this week Abercrombie & Fitch was forced to pull a new line of T-shirts with caricatures depicting two slant-eyed Asians

in conical hats using slogans including "Wong Brothers Laundry Service: Two Wongs Can Make It White." Asian-American groups had protested and complained that these were blatant examples of degrading stereotyping.

It is fashionable and profitable to have closet racists write and speak distortions and misconceptions that reinforce the fears and anxieties of many White Americans that want to close their eyes to the reality that racism and white supremacy are still alive and running rampant. White society has an out of sight out of mind attitude about race/color and prefers to avoid substantive discussion about solving the problem.

Ward Connerly, the African American businessman who led the campaign to prohibit race as a consideration for admission to the University of California in 1995, and then championed the anti-affirmative action Prop 209, is back with a new idea to sell the California voters. It's called the Racial Privacy Initiative.

Notwithstanding the title, this initiative does nothing to protect people's privacy, but would turn the civil rights clock back to a time when laws against discrimination did not even exist.

If the initiative passes, critical medical information could not be accessed to design effective health care campaigns for needy communities. The state Attorney General would be prohibited from reporting on hate crimes, undermining the government's ability to track hate groups. Educators and administrators would be unable to determine whether the educational needs of particular racial or eth-

nic groups were being met. Last, but not least, the Attorney General would be effectively prevented from enforcing anti-discrimination laws in the areas of employment, housing, and education.

America has never been a colorblind society. The United States Constitution has never been colorblind. Even the term colorblind was not formally used until 1896 when Chief Justice John Harlan stated that the "Constitution is colorblind" in his dissenting opinion in Plessy v. Ferguson. But he was wrong.

The Constitution's framers established a system in which Whites could hold monopolies of wealth and political power over the subordinate Black group that was classified as personal property. Citizenship and the benefits of Whiteness were constitutionally denied to Blacks. The White majority was allowed to ignore the law of the land and undermine Black rights awarded by amendments 12-15. The constitution has been used as it was originally conceived; as a socioeconomic covenant to keep power, wealth and privilege in the hands of the majority society.

Color should not make a difference but it does and appears that it will continue to well into the future. It is rooted in American culture. Meritocracy may be the new code word but as a youngster there was a saying that we used to characterize the prevailing racial attitude. "If you're white, you're all right; If you're Brown, stick around; if you're Black, get to the back."

That sums up the real world we live in.

Comments or opinions may be sent to the writer at: jaydubub@swbell.net

Second Year of Decline in Number of African-Americans at U.S. Newspapers Worries Black Journalists

NABJ National Association of Black Journalists

The National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) renews its call on the newspaper industry to reverse the continuing decline in the number of blacks in U.S. newspapers, following news that for the second year in a row, fewer African Americans are working in America's newsrooms.

"We are deeply concerned by this pattern," said Constance Pressley, NABJ president and assistant program director at WSB Radio in Atlanta. "For blacks, things are still headed in the wrong direction."

The annual study by the American Society of Newspaper Editors showed there were fewer blacks working at U.S. papers today than in 2001, more than doubling the decline from the year before. The overall representation of minority journalism professionals at newspapers across the country was virtually flat from 2001-2002 - a net gain of only four (4) more minority journalists (a .43 percent increase).

Nearly nine out of 10 of American newsroom professionals - reporters, photographers, designers, copy editors, supervisors - are white, compared to a nation as a whole which is about 70 percent white, according to the 2000 U.S. census.

While NABJ applauds the efforts of those editors who, in the face of buyouts, layoffs and

belt tightening, worked hard to retain talented journalists of color while the industry weathered one of the worst recessions in nearly a decade, the organization remains troubled by the steady decline in the ranks of



black journalists working today. Nearly half - 45 percent - of newspapers in America still have no minority newsroom professionals on staff, according to the ASNE survey.

"It's time for those editors, especially at small and medium-sized papers, to step up and take personal responsibility to better reflect their communities," said Bryan Monroe, deputy managing editor at the San Jose Mercury News and NABJ vice-president/print. "We'll help them

find young, talented, black journalists. But the time for excuses has passed."

As the industry continues to constrict, editors may see an opportunity to accelerate the hiring of blacks and other journalists of color, as they continue to need to replace some of the older staffers who have retired or took a buyout with younger journalists of color.

"We continue to support the outreach, training and aggressive activities that ASNE has launched over the past few years, and look forward to a continued partnership," added Pressley.

The National Association of Black Journalists is the largest journalism organization of color in the world, representing nearly 3,000 black journalists in print, broadcast, online, education and public relations, including some of the top talent at major U.S. newspapers. From career fairs at the annual convention to the Media Institute to an online job bank, NABJ continues to offer the industry the full range of recruitment, retention, and professional development training tools to help editors hiring, keep and develop their best black talent. Visit their website at www.nabj.org for more information.

Black Facts

Week of April 25-May 1

April 25

The Fair Employment Practices Committee was established in 1941.

April 26

Pvt. Milton L. Olive, III was awarded the Medal of Honor, posthumously, from the Vietnam War in 1966.

April 27

South Africa's first all-races democratic

elections were held in 1994.

Independence was granted to Sierra Leone in 1961.

April 28

The state of New York admitted George B. Vashon to the Bar in 1847.

April 29

Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington, Jazz pianist and composer, passed away in 1974 at age 75.

April 30

In 1865, the Freedman's Bureau was established to provide assistance to the newly emancipated blacks after the Civil War.

May 1

Gwendolyn Brooks was the first African-American to win the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1950.

Congress chartered Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1867.

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

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

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

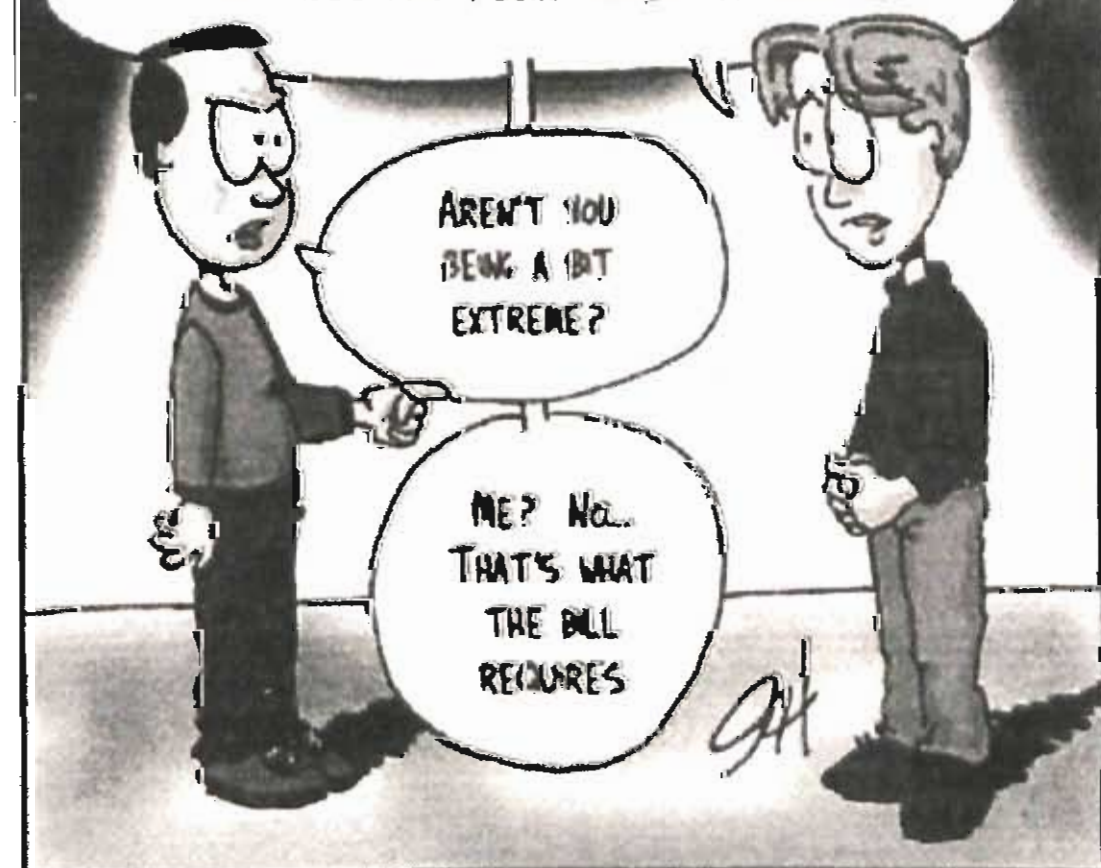
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MON-The Gazette formerly Minority Opportunity News, was founded July, 1991, by Jim Bochum and Thurman R. Jones

POLITICALLY CORRECT

By Tim Huber

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On The Move

Pulitzer Winner Parks Talks about Being a First

by Angeli R. Rasbury
NEW YORK (NNPA)—Last week Suzan-Lori Parks became the first Black woman to be received a Pulitzer Prize for her play, "Topdog/Underdog," a beautifully written study of love, abandonment and ambition.

"I feel like it's my birthday and everyone keeps giving me presents," Parks exclaimed after hearing the news about the Pulitzer. "As the first African-American woman to win the Pulitzer Prize, I have to say I wish I was the 101st."

The recognition came as part of an extraordinary season for Black women in the dramatic arts. Just two weeks before, Halle Berry accepted the Oscar for her role in "Monster's Ball," becoming the first Black woman to receive an Academy Award for best actress.

"Topdog/Underdog" tells the story of two brothers. One is named Lincoln and he has a job at an arcade impersonating Abraham Lincoln sitting at Ford Theater. The arcade's patrons pay to shoot Lincoln with blanks. His roommate and brother, Booth, is a master shoplifter who desires to become as adept as Booth once was at the common street scam, three-card monte.

Now playing on Broadway and starring the rapper Mos Def and Jeffrey Wright, "Topdog" is the only play by a Black woman, aside from one-woman shows, to make it to Broadway since Ntozake Shange's "for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf," which opened in 1976. Moreover, the play is an extremely rare example of a woman writing a drama featuring only male characters.

Park's first play, "The Sinners' Place," was produced while she was in college and "was probably done in a basement room," Parks laughs. She was later urged to pursue writing plays by James Baldwin, one of America's best-known and provocative writers. In 1985, Parks was taking a creative writing class with Baldwin, a major figure in the re-emergence of black writers in the 1950s, and she read her work aloud with such animation that Baldwin persuaded her to persist

in creating dramas.

The next production of a Parks play was in 1987: "Betting on the Dust Commander" was staged at a makeshift bar in a Brooklyn garage. "It didn't have any chairs," she explains. "So I went out and bought five folding chairs and those were the chairs."



And I put on my play in the bar and I thought I was really happening. I was having a great time. That was, I enjoy doing plays like that. Off, off, off-Broadway, we call it."

She quickly left stages in bars behind, though. In 1989, at age 26, Parks was named the year's most promising playwright by "The New York Times." She won Obie awards in 1990 and 1996 for "Imperceptible Mutabilities in the Third Kingdom" and "Venus," which will be produced in South Africa later this year. She received a genius grant from the MacArthur Foundation last year and she is the recipient of a Whiting Foundation Writers Award and two National Endowment for the Arts playwriting fellowships. She also has been awarded grants by the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York Foundation for the Arts.

Parks also recently adapted "Golden Boy," a musical by William Gibson, to be performed as a concert. Gibson is White, as is Clifford Odets, the author of the book.

"That rarely happens, that an African-American woman takes material that has been authored

originally by Whites and gets her chance to put her mark on it," says Margo Jefferson, cultural critic and staff writer for "The New York Times." "I like Parks' range-within her work, but also in terms of how her work is being positioned, viewed and received," Jefferson says.

That "Topdog" reached Broadway, where the big audiences are is an achievement in itself. Jefferson says this is not unusual for Black playwrights, who often must make their mark elsewhere and reach Broadway after they've proven themselves. "Even August Wilson—all of his plays go around the country first," she says of the prolific, award-winning Black playwright. "If we depended on Broadway, we wouldn't have a tradition of Black playwrights."

Statistics show how dismal the situation is for women playwrights, as well. Of approximately 2,000 off-Broadway and regional theater productions scheduled for the 2001-02 season, 16 percent are written by women and 17 percent have women directors. This is down from 21 percent of writers and 23 percent of directors last year. Women's representation on Broadway is lower still. In 1999, 8 percent of plays and 1 percent of musicals on Broadway were written by women.

"I didn't aspire to get to Broadway—I aspired to be a playwright, not because I saw a lot of Black women writing plays," Parks says, "but because I love plays and I think of myself, while I am a Black woman, I am also a writer."

"I think there are spots where theater is more open and accepting to all different kinds of people," Parks notes. "And there are spots in this world where theater only wants to do plays by White men who have been dead for one hundred years."

Parks adds that external barriers are just one part of her battle to do her work as a Black playwright, a female playwright, a playwright and a human being.

Angeli R. Rasbury is a freelance writer living in Brooklyn and is co-editor of "Sacred Fire: The QBR 100 Essential Black Books" and co-publisher of "Anansi: Fiction of the African Diaspora."

Lighthouse Productions in conjunction with local sponsors are proud to present the 2002 sneak preview and Mother's Day presentation of Samantha C. Taylor's hit gospel play "Lord, I Don't Fell No Pain!" Each presentation will take place May 10-11 at 8 p.m. and May 12 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. The play will be held at The Dallas Theater Center/Kalita Humphrey Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd., in Dallas.

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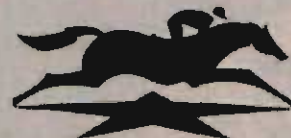
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John Dudley

How to Navigate in a Volatile Market

From time to time, if you're like most retirees, you probably ask yourself whether you'll continue to have enough money to live on. Even if your current income from pensions, Social Security benefits, and investments seems to provide a comfortable cushion, you know that it may not be enough down the road—thanks to a lengthy life expectancy and rising cost of living.

Even minor inflation can become a major problem. Say your current annual retirement income is \$40,000. If inflation continues at only three percent, in 15 years you'll need more than \$62,000 a year just to stay even with where you are today.

Your investment portfolio should be designed to help you keep up with the rising consumer costs. But in your early retirement years, you should still be investing well, siphoning off a bit from current income to continue to put away for the future. Make the right choices about this "extra" investment and you'll enjoy continued prosperity.

Fearing the calamity of outliving their money, some retirees take unnecessary risks in an effort to play catch-up with rising costs. For example, they may be lured into buying high-yielding junk bonds or some other hot investment that they don't really understand and that is ill suited to their needs.

More commonly, people become more averse to risk as they get older. They stick to super-safe Treasury securities, CDs and bonds. Or they may put the lion's share of their portfolio into seemingly rock-solid utility stocks.

But just as junk bonds are too risky, the super-safe approach is too conservative. The sense of security it provides is a false one. A portfolio made up exclusively of government bonds may allow you to sleep soundly, until you realize that it probably won't enable you to meet future expenses.

Consider the following example. Between 1970 and 1990, long-term government bonds had an average return of 8.71 percent. By contrast, the common stocks that make up the Standard and Poor's 500 Index enjoyed an average annual return of 11.15 percent. Assuming that all income was reinvested, that means that \$10,000 in Treasury bonds would have grown to about \$53,000, whereas a stock portfolio with the same 1970 value would have grown to almost \$83,000.

So even for retirees, common stocks may be the best way to invest those amounts from which you don't need current income. And there's a way to make the process an easy one that can turn the inevitable ups and downs of the stock market to your advantage. It's a simple strategy called dollar-cost averaging—a method to reduce the risk of the market's volatility while increasing long-term returns. It offers a disciplined approach to investing that requires no crystal ball and is easy to understand.

Dollar-cost averaging is just making regular purchases of securities in equal dollar amounts over an extended time. Whether you invest in a single stock, a group of stocks, or a mutual fund, you put in the same fixed dollar amount every month or quarter, regardless of current prices. The benefit of sticking with such a plan can be significant.

Say you decide to invest \$100 every quarter in a certain stock. For the sake of simplicity, let's suppose the stock sells for \$5 a share when you make your first purchase February 1, and rises to \$10 by the time you invest again on May 1. Now let's see what has happened so far:

Your first investment buys you 20 shares, while the second \$100 buys you only 10, for a total of 30 shares. The average price per share over that time is \$7.50 (\$5 plus \$10 divided by 2). But your

average cost is only \$6.67 (\$200 divided by 30 shares).

Suppose the price dips again, so that it is at \$6.25 when it's time for your third installment. This time your \$100 buys you 16 shares. The price then rises to \$8 by November 1, so you buy 12.5 shares with your fourth \$100. At this point you have invested \$400 and bought a total of 58.5 shares. The average price over the period has been \$7.31, but your average price per share has been only \$6.84, and your holdings are worth \$68 more than you paid for them (not counting dividend income or transaction costs).

Dollar-cost averaging doesn't guarantee a profit, nor does it protect you from a loss in a declining market. And it needs to be done consistently over a period of years to be effective. But it does free you from trying to time the market—something even the experts fail to do consistently. It helps you buy more shares when prices are low, fewer when prices are high. This lowers your average investment cost, leaving more room for profits in the long run.

Historically, common stocks have provided a far better long-term return than other kinds of investments. Make a regular, predictable investment in well-chosen stocks or mutual funds a part of your retirement budget, and you should be rewarded with a higher standard of living later on.

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 is a division of 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.

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Du Bois and the Challenge of the Black Press



by David Levering Lewis, Ph.D.

The Crisis, July 1997

In the startup issue of November 1910, the editor announced the purpose of the fledgling NAACP's journal of opinion with a characteristic blend of vision, urgency, and precision. Calling his creation The Crisis, after a popular poem of the day by James Russell Lowell, W.E.B. Du Bois marked the moment of debut as "a critical time in the history of the advancement of men." The magazine was to be first and foremost a newspaper, he said. Secondly, it would serve as a review of opinion and literature. Thirdly, it would publish short articles. "Finally," the editorial page would stand "for the rights of men, irrespective of color or race," he declared, "for the highest ideals of American democracy, and for reasonable but earnest and persistent attempts to gain these rights and realize these ideals." The tone, during his twenty-four years at the helm, was stern, militant, and the agenda was one of human rights advanced through education, politics, and economic justice.

The Crisis was heir to a tradition of advocacy journalism that descended from Freedom's Journal, the first newspaper published by Africans in North America, through the Liberator of William Lloyd Garrison and the North Star of Frederick Douglass, to the New York Globe of T. Thomas Fortune, the brilliant, beleaguered idol of Du Bois' youth. Du Bois had sharpened his editorial pen to a fine

edge against the whetstones of The Moon and Horizon, short-lived magazine efforts in the years immediately preceding The Crisis. Subtitled A Record of the Darker Races, The Crisis appeared at the ideal "psychological moment," the editor wrote later. "Its success was phenomenal." And phenomenal it was, with circulation rising from several thousand monthly to 50,000 by 1917, peaking finally at slightly more than 100,000 in 1919, a bonanza figure that placed the magazine well ahead of the new New Republic and The Nation. The range of subjects was almost always impressive, and, often enough, dazzling: Columbia anthropologist Franz Boas on racial typology; African influences in the ancient world; the rise of Japan; organized labor; Pan Africa; Intermarriage; "Men of the Month." In the early issues, the rights of women were at the forefront, complementing editorials and articles on voting rights, equal education, housing and jobs, and the "lynching industry," along with the myriad large and petty indignities daily faced by people of color.

Chronic indignation was the signature of The Crisis. J. Max Barber's Voice of the Negro in Atlanta had been courageous until the white South forced the editor to flee. William Monroe Trotter's Guardian continued to be as reckless as it was principled. Du Bois was all these. No slight was too minor, no precedent too hoary, no rationale for government policy or social code based on skin color too entrenched to escape Du Boisian irony, rage, or, as the case warranted, logical refutation that was unusually clear and unequivocal. It was a unique advantage (but also, in later years, increasingly problematic) that the official organ of the NAACP was in reality the ray of

its editor's worldview, a journal of Du Bois' opinion. Lecturing his fellow board members as sternly as his readers, he declared, "The function of this association [NAACP] is to tell the nation the crying evil of race prejudice." It was a hard duty, he added, "but a necessary one—a divine one."

When board members, others in the black leadership community, or genteel readers and influential white allies were made squeamish or downright alarmed by acid criticisms of the level of education of black preachers or of the nepotism and parochialism prevailing in black colleges, Du Bois reminded them of the therapeutic value of controversy. "Agitation is necessary evil to tell of the ills of the suffering," a famous editorial proclaimed, analogizing the function to a toothache. "Pain is necessary," he liked to say. But when Du Bois attacked the black press as an institution, consternation was widespread. Deploring its lowbrow content and plain bad grammar (the Washington Bee and Richmond Planet were major malefactors, he said), the editor challenged African-American newspapers to report on more serious social matters than weddings and murders.

The ensuing firestorm, in which the Planet called on readers to ignore the "professional bookworm" and the Bookerite New York Age gloated that Du Bois had seriously damaged his credibility, rattled the NAACP so badly that the membership voted a placatory resolution praising the Negro press at its annual convention in summer 1914. Then, as today, the press (whatever its ethnic anchor) seems to have been practiced in self-exoneration and generous to a fault about its own faults as it oscillated between blaming the messenger and obfuscating the

See Du Bois page 6

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Du Bois from Page 3

message. In the main, Du Bois may have been more right than not—not only about the black press, but also the clergy and the colleges. He believed passionately in the high obligation of advocacy journalism to challenge, educate, expose, and prescribe. Taking himself to be the senior spokesperson of this race (a widely conceded conceit), The Crisis editor repeatedly pushed controversy to the limit almost as much from a sense of professional obligation as conviction. When he transgressed the limit with “Segregation” and “Separation and Self-Respect” and other explosive editorials espousing the development of African-American political and economic institutions along lines separate and apart from the American mainstream, the integrationist association that he had co-founded finally bridled. His editorial for January 1934 insisted that the “race-conscious black man cooperating together in his own institutions and movements...will eventually emancipate the colored race.” Understandably alarmed when southern congressmen approvingly entered Du Bois’ editorials into the Congressional Record in order to justify a racial wage differential under the New Deal’s National Recovery Act, the board of directors demanded either silence or departure.

Whatever the merits of these Du Boisian think pieces as realistic responses to Depression-era hardships, they had a remarkable impact throughout much of Black America upon the quality of civil rights discourse. His res-

ignation from the NAACP engendered a swirl of articles and correspondence lasting the summer of 1934 about formulas that could move the race out of political crisis and economic misery that, when read today, are still impressive for their variety, fervor, breadth, and flashes of originality.

When Du Bois returned to the NAACP ten years later, he



lost little time in making it clear that, at age 75, he remained as impervious as ever to political, civil, and economic half-measures, and still as serenely committed to the therapeutic value of controversy. As he himself privately anticipated, however, while the NAACP was pleased to have one of the nation’s most respected public intellectuals rejoin the fold, board members were to find themselves increasingly displeased by Du Bois’ radical political and economic views. When he was again forced to leave the Association in 1948 because of his enthusiastic public support of Henry Wallace and the Progressive Party, Du Bois was also dropped as columnist

from the Chicago Defender. Too hot for Cold War civil rights, he moved firmly into the orbit of the Far Left and onto the margins of the black postwar generation’s concerns.

Du Bois’ eloquent linking of racism, misdistribution of money, and distortion of knowledge were to be found almost exclusively in the red press after 1950. It was there, ten years before his death that he served up a judgment about the national media in the Monthly Review that will probably have the prophetic staying power of the classic pronouncement about the problem of the twentieth century. “The organized effort of American industry to usurp government surpasses anything in modern history,” he warned. “From the use of psychology to spread the truth has come the use of organized gathering of news to guide public opinion and then deliberately to mislead it by scientific advertising and propaganda. This has led in our day to suppression of truth, omission of facts, misinterpretation of news, and deliberate falsehood on a wide scale. Mass capitalistic control of books and periodicals, news gathering and distribution, radio, cinema, and television has made the throttling of democracy possible and the distortion of education and failure of justice widespread.” Whether or not Du Bois would salute this newest incarnation of the journal of opinion he created eighty-seven years ago would depend, I think, on how well The Crisis pays attention to the economic causes of the “crying evil of race” and how willing it is to give some of its readers a massive Du Boisian toothache.

Answering from Page 1

important, was the perfect platform not only to build his career from, but also to build and develop the City of Garland. From a long line of Baptist preachers, Mr. Jones’ calling was not to change lives through preaching, but by reaching people at street level.

When the Director left his position, Mr. Jones stepped in as Interim Director, and was subsequently appointed Director. From here he was promoted to Grant Specialist, where he handled all Federal grants.

Every move and promotion Mr. Jones has accepted has been well thought out, he said. He not only works for personal success, but for the success of the City of Garland, and for those with whom he comes in contact, and he therefore plans his moves strategically.

It was this business sense and his interpersonal skills that served him well as Director of Customer Service Department for the city from 1986 to 1992. He helped change the image of Garland Power and Light, which at that time had the highest electricity rates.

“We had to go in and change Garland Power and Light from being product oriented to being customer oriented,” said Mr. Jones, “and we achieved our goal, even being recognized as having the best utility customer service department in the nation.”

He said that it was known for a long time that electricity de-regulation would come, and in line with his customer oriented approach to work, he believes that the electricity company with the best customer service department will be the most successful.

When Jim Muzzy, Garland City Manager, came on board in 1992, he created managing director positions, carefully screening certain directors and asking them to take the position of managing director. Mr. Jones was selected for one of the positions, and in July 1992 he became Managing Director of Customer Service, Municipal Court, Tax, Purchasing and Warehouse Services.

Mr. Jones said he went from managing one department to managing multiple departments, which helped prepare him for his post as Assistant City Manager, to which he was promoted in January 1999.

And now, from an office where the phone rarely stops ringing, where council meetings and board meetings occur regularly, Mr. Jones runs his department with seeming ease, thriving on the fast pace of city government.

“I get fired up, I’m a crisis guy, I can compartmentalize easily, and go from one project to another real fast,” said Mr. Jones, “in this business you have to be multi-task oriented.”

And like the City of Garland, the budget continues to grow, and Mr. Jones has to keep tight control over the handling of the budget for each department under his umbrella. Just in the Housing and Neighborhood Services there are 3 divisions, with their individual budgets, the Garland Housing Agency being responsible for Section 8 housing, with an estimated \$8 million budget. There is also the HOME program, where the federal government makes certain funds available for first time buyers.

For the multi-faceted Mr. Jones, each aspect of his job gets him fired up. His respect for each person allows him to be as comfortable meeting a local citizen as he is sitting in a council meeting. And this serves him well as he works closely with the city council.

He also has great respect for the form of government in the City of Garland, with the council being elected by the citizens, which in turn elects the City Manager. He believes this gives the city great stability in management.

“At this level of government you

work closely with the city council,” Mr. Jones said, “when the council has a project they let the City Manager know, and we then have to prepare policy reports with scenarios, options and recommendations, and then we have to get out front and implement what the council decides.”

Working for a city he is proud of, Mr. Jones said his vision for the future is to “facilitate the coordination and cooperation of neighborhood and home owners associations in working with the City of Garland to accomplish goals that the associations have, and that the city staff has”.



“I will continue being vigilant and diligent in implementing the city council’s policies and goals,” said Mr. Jones, “and I believe we are blessed to have an excellent city council, mayor and manager to accomplish these ends.”

But what makes Mr. Jones’ life complete is his attitude of putting God first, and family second. With his wife, Peggy Rochelle, he has two sons, Ronald E. Jones, II, who is now Assistant City Attorney for the City of Garland, and Daryl Jones, the most decorated to win football and track for the University of Miami at Florida.

City of Garland Purchasing Department Receives Two Awards

The City of Garland Purchasing Department was recently recognized with the “2001-2002 HUB Corporate Entry of the Year” award and the 2001 “Achievement of Excellence in Procurement” award.

Each year, the National Association of Purchasing Management-Dallas, presents Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) Awards to affiliate members and member companies for supporting and promoting HUB participation in competitive procurement opportunities. At the February 14 NAPM-Dallas “Minority Month” meeting, Dan Ofoegbu, President, presented the “2001-2002 HUB Corporate Entry of the Year” award to City of Garland Purchasing Director Carol Cooper, C.P.M.

Accomplishments that were award-worthy included: implementing a Procurement Inclusion Program to promote competitive opportunities for HUB vendors; hosting and participating in vendor fairs; speaking to various minority Chambers and associations about how to do business with Garland; and actively participating in the North Central Texas Regional Certification Agency.

“We are very appreciative of this honor and feel that it recognizes our commitment to support historically underutilized businesses,” said Ms. Cooper.

As an additional honor, the Purchasing Department was also recognized with the National 2001 “Achievement of Excellence in Procurement” award during the National Purchasing Institute 33rd Annual Conference last October. This award is achieved by organizations that demonstrate excellence in procurement by obtaining a high score on a rating of standardized criteria. The criteria are designed to measure innovation, professionalism, productivity and leadership attributes. Garland is one of only sixty-three organizations that achieved this national award. Moreover, the City of Garland is one of only 16 to receive the award at least four times and in 2001 scored in the top four.

African-Amer. Press from Page 1

teenth century. Most publications were in New York City, but several others existed such as Cleveland’s Alienated American, Pittsburgh’s Mystery, published by Martin R. Delaney, the first African American graduate of Harvard, and Albany’s Elevator, published by Stephan Myers.

African American newspapers were understandably a northern phenomenon before the Civil War. However, the Daily Creole began publishing in New Orleans in 1856, although whites into an anti-abolitionist position pressured its editors. The Daily Creole was followed by the New Orleans Tribune, which appeared in July of 1864, and is considered the first African American daily.

Most newspapers of this era were similar in that they depended on their publisher’s personal resources or contributions from white sympathizers to supplement their small subscription income. Approximately 40 newspapers were published before the Civil war, the most important of which was Fredrick Douglass’ North Star, whose goal characterized black publishing: “The object of the North Star will be to attack slavery in all its forms and aspects; advocate universal emancipation; exact the standard of public morality; promote the moral and intellectual improvement of the colored people; and to hasten the day of freedom to our three million enslaved fellow countrymen.”

Black publishing proliferated after the Civil War. An estimated 575 black publications began by 1890. Most quickly failed, but many survived most notably the Philadelphia Tribune. Founded in 1884, it continued to be published into the 1900s, making it the oldest continuously published black newspaper in the U.S.

The explosion of black newspapers after the Civil War resulted from increasing literacy and greater mobility among African Americans combined with a further need for advocacy, in the battle against segregation, disfranchisement, and lynching. Migrants to the North experienced poor conditions and discrimination that was stifling, if not as debilitating as in the South. Thus the black press was still a protest organ for African Americans. However, as the century ended, protest had to be disguised because of the nation’s conservative political shift.

Booker T. Washington, considered the spokesman for Black America during this era, wielded great power among the black press by controlling advertisements, loans, and political subsidies. The journalist most closely associated with Washington was T. Thomas Fortune, considered the dean of black journalism. He learned the

newspaper trade beginning as a typesetter, and was one of the only African Americans to write for White dailies, the New York Sun and the Evening Sun.

Fortune was firmly committed to racial equality. However, his experience, the New York Age, experienced the same monetary problems as other black newspapers. He relied on Washington’s financial support and was therefore obligated to write editorials that Washington favored. Some journalists resisted the conservative trend and the mutual editorial tones that are demanded from black newspapers. Ida B. Wells-Barnett repeatedly risked her life in the South to report about atrocities suffered by blacks. William Monroe Trotter, who founded the Boston Guardian with George Forbes in 1901, formed the first organized resistance to Washington’s idea and later with W.E.B. Du Bois, organized the foundation of the Niagara Movement, forerunner to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Black newspapers did not attain commercial success until Robert S. Abbot founded the Chicago Defender in 1905. Capitalizing on the sensationalist techniques developed by William Randolph Hearst, Abbot designed the Defender as a paper for the masses. Abbot initially avoided politics, but the paper came into its own when he concentrated on muckraking stories about the black community. By 1920, the Defender had a circulation of 283,571.

Another successful paper of the modern era was the Pittsburgh Courier, which was founded in 1910 by Robert L. Vann. More editorially staid than the Defender, the Courier nevertheless, advocated for blacks, demanding that large industrial firms hire African Americans and European immigrants in the 1920s. One reason the Courier succeeded was its superior writers, such as George Schuyler, a columnist known for his satirical style, and Joel A. Rogers whose “Your History” column told of black achievements that were largely ignored or denied by white society. By 1937, the Courier’s weekly circulation exceeded 250,000.

Another modern black national paper was the Afro-American. John H. Murphy, a former slave, created it in Baltimore by merging his Sunday-school publication with two others and expanding coverage to include items of general interest. Murphy died in 1922, and his son, Carl, built the Afro-American into a national publication. Featuring solid reporting and a modern editorial point of view, the Afro-American, nevertheless, defended Paul Robeson and W.E.B. Du Bois when they were accused of being

communists during the McCarthy era. In addition to the national papers, several successful local papers developed during this era, including the Amsterdam News, the Norfolk Journal-Guide and the Atlanta Daily World established in 1932, which is the oldest surviving black daily in the nation and only one of the three black dailies to survive into the 1990s.

From 1900 to the Civil Rights Movement of the late 1950s, black papers thrived in almost every city because the mainstream press still either ignored African Americans or portrayed them stereotypically, often as the perpetrators of crimes. “Black news,” if included, appeared in segregated “Afro-American” sections. Even celebrities or sports stars that received mainstream coverage were used to reinforce stereotypes about African Americans.

Coverage of black issues didn’t change until the late 1960s after riots in black ghettos forced mainstream editors to reevaluate the role of blacks in journalism, during which white editors discovered black mistrust for white journalists. They quickly realized that they needed black reporters to get accurate stories regarding black communities. In the early 1970s, mainstream newspapers and TV began to heavily recruit African American Journalists. By the mid-1970s over one hundred African American journalists working in mainstream publications. By 1990, 4000 African Americans worked for newspapers. While black newspapers declined, magazines thrived.

Still, in the 1990s, many African Americans experienced racism at work, received less attractive assignments than their white counterparts, and received fewer promotions. Compounding these problems was the conservative political and social movement in the U.S. that began in the early 1980’s and which challenged such affirmative action programs that were designed to encourage African Americans participation in mainstream professions. African Americans still find themselves largely misrepresented and portrayed negatively by the mainstream media. Thus, many of the conditions that prompted African Americans to begin newspapers and magazines in the nineteenth century still exist.

However, the decline of black newspapers means that a countervailing voice is almost nonexistent. Many African American journalists find themselves walking a fine line between the journalistic ideals of objectivity and advocacy. Faced with isolation in newsrooms, fragmentation, and concerns for their overall effectiveness, black journalists in 1975 founded the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) to provide guidance and support. By 1992, NABJ had 2000 members in print and broadcast journalism and is still a striving association.

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**Jack E. Brown
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College Station, TX.**
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be submitted before
12:00 noon, Tuesday,
May 14, 2002.

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available for review
at Houston, Dallas
and Austin
area planrooms.

Bid documents are
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(713) 871-7382
Please call 3D/
for deposit details

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Addison, Texas 75001
Phone (972) 991-5500
Fax (972) 991-9249

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS

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

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE CONTRACT(S)

District: Fort Worth Contract 0902-00-087 for SMALL SIGNS REPLACEMENT in TARRANT County, etc will be opened on June 04, 2002 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor’s list, at the applicable State and/or District Offices listed below. Bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT’s website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 6323

State Office

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

District Office(s)

Fort Worth District
District Engineer
2501 Southwest LP820
Ft Worth, Texas 76133
Phone: 817-370-6500

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

Arts & Entertainment



Spiderman

The plot will closely follow the 1960s Stan Lee comic. Nerdy high-school student Peter Parker (Tobey Maguire) is an orphan living with his Aunt May (Rosemary Harris) and Uncle Ben (Cliff Robertson) when his life is changed after he's bitten by a genetically altered spider, giving him amazing abilities. After his uncle is involved in a terrible accident, Peter realizes his powers and becomes a superhero, later facing off with the Green Goblin (Willem Dafoe).



Life or Something Like It

Lanie Kerrigan (Angelina Jolie), a feature reporter at a Seattle TV station, leads the ultimate superficial life, even though she thinks she has it all - a superstar boyfriend (Christian Kane), a gorgeous apartment and a shot at a big network assignment. Her perfect world starts unraveling after a homeless street seer (Tony Shalhoub) tells Lanie that she leads a meaningless existence and will die the following week. When the savant's other predictions come true, Lanie begins to re-examine her life and priorities - which include rekindling a relationship with a cameraman (Edward Burns) with whom she has long been at odds.



BLOCKBUSTER® Hit List™

These are the Top 10 Renting Video Titles at U.S. BLOCKBUSTER® stores for the week ending April 21, 2002.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| VHS | DVD |
| 1. DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE | 1. DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE |
| 2. SPY GAME | 2. SPY GAME |
| 3. BLACK KNIGHT | 3. BLACK KNIGHT |
| 4. SERENDIPITY | 4. BANDITS |
| 5. TRAINING DAY | 5. SERENDIPITY |
| 6. BANDITS | 6. TRAINING DAY |
| 7. THIRTEEN GHOSTS | 7. THIRTEEN GHOSTS |
| 8. K-PAX | 8. K-PAX |
| 9. RIDING IN CARS WITH BOYS | 9. RIDING IN CARS WITH BOYS |
| 10. DON'T SAY A WORD | 10. ZOOLANDER |

These are the Top 10 Selling Video Titles at U.S. BLOCKBUSTER® stores for the week ending April 21, 2002.

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| 2. SHREK | 2. DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE |
| 3. THE MUMMY | 3. SPY GAME |
| 4. CINDERELLA II | 4. TRAINING DAY |
| 5. RUGRAT'S MOVIE COLLECTION | 5. SERENDIPITY |
| 6. EXIT WOUNDS | 6. BANDITS |
| 7. AMERICAN PIE | 7. THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS |
| 8. SCOOBY-DOO: GREATEST MYSTERIES | 8. BLUE STREAK |
| 9. GLADIATOR | 9. SHREK |
| 10. CATS & DOGS | 10. THE ONE |

These are the rental New Releases hitting the streets on Tuesday, April 30, 2002. Titles also available for rent on DVD are indicated with *

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| ALI* | NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE* |
| CRUEL AND UNUSUAL | BIG EDEN |
| THE MODEL SOLUTION | SPIDERMAN: THE ULTIMATE VILLAIN SHOWDOWN |
| THE DOPE GAME | LOVE SONG |
| BARNEY'S SUMMERTIME FUN | JUSTICE LEAGUE |
| DEAD & ROTTING | |

Smirnoff Music Centre

April-July 2002

Jimmy Buffett
April 25

The Winans Family Reunion
May 3

House of Blues Music Festival
May 4

blink-182/Green Day
May 9

Kenney Chesney
May 18

Poison
June 2

Deep Purple/Scorpions
June 9

Pat Green
June 22

Van's Warped Tour
June 28

Barry Manilow
July 5

Brooks & Dunn
July 13

Down From the Mountain
July 20

Ticketmaster
972-647-5700

WINANS TICKETS

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The Winans Family

IN CONCERT
Friday, May 3

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MUSIC
CENTRE

The Winans

Bebe Winans

Mom & Pop Winans

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Angie and Debbie Winans

Winans Phase 2

Requests must be made by fax or email and MUST be submitted by 5pm, Wednesday, May 1, 2002. Ticket must be picked up by Tuesday, May 2, 2002 by 5pm

Complimentary tickets good while supply lasts.
Fax: 972-509-9098 Email: trj@swbell.net

Courtesy of:

MON-The Gazette is located at 6100 Ave. K @ Spring Creek Pkwy in Plano. Call: 972-59-9049



2002 Lincoln Blackwood 4x2

A unique bed area with distinctive styling features a power tonneau cover and dual swing-out rear trunk composite doors with integrated storage compartments. Inside is a stainless steel-lined trunk with integrated storage bins, flush-mounted tie-down hooks, a 12-volt power point and cool-to-the-touch LED lighting to help illuminate all that Lincoln Blackwood luxury.

Blackwood stands tall on eighteen-inch diameter, machined-aluminum wheels and low-profile performance tires, producing a compelling combination of contemporary style and responsive handling. Additionally, a full-size wheel and spare tire is stored underneath the vehicle.

Bass Performanc Hall April/May, 2002 Events

FREDERICA VON STADE AND
HAKAN HAGEGARD, soloists
MIGUEL HARTH-BEDOYA, conductor
Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra
Friday, April 26, 2002 - 7:00 pm
Tickets: 817-665-6000

RANDY TRAVIS
EDUARDO BROWNE, conductor
Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra
Saturday, April 27, 2002 - 8:00 pm
Tickets: 817-665-6000

Concert featuring JOHN OWINGS and
STEPHEN GIRKO
presented by Chamber Music
Society of Fort Worth
Sunday, April 28, 2002 - 2:30 pm
Tickets: 817-212-4280

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC
DEPARTMENT CONCERT
presented by Midlothian Independent School
District
Sunday, April 28, 2002 - 4:00 pm
Tickets: 817-212-4280

ALFRED BRENDL, piano
presented by Cibur Concerts
Tuesday, April 30, 2002 - 8:00 pm
Tickets: 817-212-4280

ALICIA DE LARROCHA, piano soloist
MIGUEL HARTH-BEDOYA, conductor
Friday May 3, 2002 - 8:00 pm
Saturday May 4, 2002 - 8:00 pm
Sunday May 5, 2002 - 2:00 pm
Tickets: 817-665-6000

LES MISERABLES
Tuesday May 7, 2002 - 7:30 pm
Wednesday May 8, 2002 - 7:30 pm
Thursday May 9, 2002 - 7:30 pm

(LES MISERABLES)

Friday May 10, 2002 - 8:00 pm
Saturday May 11, 2002 - 2:00/8:00 pm
Sunday May 12, 2002 - Noon/5:00:00 pm
Buy Individual Tickets

AN EVENING WITH KIRK WHALUM
Thursday, May 16, 2002 - 7:30/10:30 pm
Friday, May 17, 2002 - 7:30/10:30 pm
Buy Individual Tickets

ROMEO AND JULIET
Friday, May 17, 2002 - 8:00 pm
Saturday, May 18, 2002 - 8:00 pm
Sunday, May 19, 2002 - 2:00 pm
Buy Individual Tickets

FEGHALI AND FRIENDS
Tuesday, May 21, 2002 - 8:00 pm
Tickets: 817-335-9000

DIANA KRALL
Wednesday, May 22, 2002 - 8:00 pm
Buy Individual Tickets

CHRISTIAN LINBERG, trombone soloist
MIGUEL HARTH-BEDOYA, conductor
Friday, May 24, 2002 - 8:00 pm
Saturday, May 25, 2002 - 8:00 pm
Sunday, May 26, 2002 - 2:00 pm
Tickets: 817-665-6000

DAN FOGELBERG IN CONCERT
Tuesday, May 28, 2002 - 8:00 pm
Tickets: 817-665-6000

ART GARFUNKEL
Thursday May 30, 2002 - 8:00 pm
Friday May 31, 2002 - 8:00 pm
Saturday June 1, 2002 - 8:00 pm
Sunday June 2, 2002 - 2:00 pm
Tickets: 817-665-6000

On Stage at NextStage at Grand Prairie:

April/May/June
2002

South Pacific -
The Musical
April 24-27

Pink
Party Tour
May 15

Alanis Morissette
with Ryan Adams
May 16

Olga Tanon
May 18

Bonnie Raitt
Silver Lining Tour
May 29

Doobie Brothers
June 6

Lyle Lovett
June 13

Trisha Yearwood
June 21

Jewel
July 19

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All Nations United Methodist Church is hosting Rev. Aszaal Firdous in a lecture followed by a question and answer session. The community is invited to hear the discussion on a topic that will seek to bring some understanding on the current events of the Middle East from a person who grew up there and who is a Christian. Rev. Firdous' topic is "Survey of the Doctrines of Islam and Their Impact on Our World Context."

Rev. Firdous is the associate pastor at Bethany UMC in Houston. He was born and raised in Pakistan with ancestors from Afghanistan. He grew up in a country that was 96% radical Muslim but was baptized in the Presbyterian Church. He joined the United Methodist Church while in college. Rev. Firdous will speak from his personal experience and share intimate knowledge that will bring about some understanding.

The event will be held on Wednesday, May 8, at 7 p.m. at All Nations United Methodist Church, 3415 E. 14th Street, where the pastor is Dr. Clara M. Reed. For more information, call 972-424-8500.

Politically Speaking ...

It's unwise to be under exposed
Coming next week, May 2

The 2nd and final edition of MON-The Gazette's Local Election 2002
Preview Edition: call 972-509-9049 to reserve your space

DEPRESSED AGAIN?

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

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

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Around The Town

ON GOING

Plano City Council Meeting- 2nd & 4th Monday; 7:00pm; Municipal Building 1520 Avenue K.

Richardson City Council Meeting-2nd & 4th Monday; 7:30pm City Hall Civic Center complex, 411 W. Arapaho Road.

Frisco City Council Meeting- 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 6:30pm Municipal Complex, 8950 McKinney Road.

Allen City Council Meeting- 1st & 3rd Thursday; 7:00pm with work sessions beginning at 6pm; City Council Chambers, City Hall One Allen Civic Plaza.

McKinney City Council Meeting-1st & 3rd Tuesday; 6:30pm; City Council Chamber, City Hall, 222 N. Tennessee.

Plano Community Forum-2nd Thursday of each month at the Douglass Community Center at 7:00pm.

Dallas Network of Career Women, monthly luncheon- 2nd Tuesday of each month at 11:30am. Call for location at 214-855-1509. Members \$20 Non-Members \$22.00.

APRIL 27

In a festival mood? There's the Towne Lake art Festival in McKinney, which is set for 9am to 5pm at Towne Lake, 1401 Wilson Creek Parkway. While there, look for oil and watercolor artists, jewelry designers, metal sculptors, portraitist and woodworkers.

A debut of sorts is getting ready to hit the University of Texas at Dallas stage with the band Sugar bomb headlining a concert and the band Girl serving at the opening act. The concert is UTD's first. Doors open at 7pm and the free concert officially get underway at 8pm in the activity center, 2601 N. Floyd Road in Richardson.

Auditions are planned for Plano Children's Theatre two summer productions of "Annie, Jr." and "The Ogre and the Princess." Casting ages are 11 and older. Casting is based on talent and previous experience and will take place from 6 to 9 pm at 1301 Custer Road, Suite 832 in Plano. There is no tuition cost. For information call 972-422-2575.

Shawn Pittman, The Silver tones, and Christian Dozler will present a night of blues at 8:30pm at Bootleggers, 1144 N. Plano Road in

Richardson. The doors open at 8pm. Admission is \$10.00 at the door.

4th Annual Teen Parent Conference-"Making the Connection"-sponsored by Steps To Excellence-Positive Sisters in collaboration with Dallas Interest Group, National Black Child Development Institute, Inc. at Center for Community Cooperation-2900 Live Oak Street, Dallas, Texas - 9:00am-2:00pm.

Alpha Theta Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma presents its 9th Calvin Littlejohn Men of distinction Luncheon in the TCU Student Union Hall in Fort Worth. Donation \$25.00 for ticket information call 817-274-2116

APRIL 27

Please join the members of Upsilon Lambda Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority for the 2002 Health Explosion at the Desoto Civic Center. For more information call 972-866-5360.

APRIL 29

Beka Books at the Plano Centre from 10am-12pm-2pm-4pm. A home school curriculum and textbook sale. Admission is free. For more information contact Mickey Pierce at 877-

223-5226.

APRIL 30

Life After Lay Off-A Job Search Boot Camp-from 7pm to 10pm held at the Plano Centre, Spring Creek and Jupiter Road. Bradley Richardson of Career Journal.com the official website of the Wall Street Journal and author of the best selling Job Smarts career series and career expert Ginger Shelhimer of Get a Job University and author of the upcoming 60 Second job search will offer a no non-sense approach to kick starting your job search after a career setback. Admission is \$59 in advance and \$79 at the door. For more information contact Ginger Shelhimer at 214-227-1306 or 877-566-5628.

MAY 1

Wednesday at 1:30 pm, The Collin County Committee on aging will host a celebration honoring the 25th anniversary of its home delivered meal program. The celebration will take place at the CCA office at 600 North Tennessee Street in McKinney. Board members, elected officials and others will be in attendance.

Beginning May 1, 2002. If your vehicle is registered in Harris, Collin, Denton, Dallas or Tarrant counties, it

must pass an enhanced emissions inspection test in conjunction with your annual vehicle safety inspection. For more information, please pick up a brochure or visit an inspection station in your neighborhood.

MAY 3

CBI (Community Board Institute), will host its twenty-sixth annual conference on Friday, May 3, at the Aaron Family Jewish Community Center, 7900 Northhaven Road. The conference will include more than twenty sessions designed for nonprofit board members. Multiple one-hour sessions will begin at 8:30am. Participant will choose to attend three morning sessions. Registration is \$30 before April 19 and \$50 thereafter with box lunches. For more information contact Mary Beth Harrington 214-826-6767 x243.

MAY 3-12

The "Miracle Worker," the true story of Annie Sullivan's quest to educate Helen Keller, is coming to Lakeside Community Theatre. Performances are in the old city library building next to the police station, 5151 N. Colony Blvd. in the Colony. Tickets are \$10 for adults and

\$8 for children and senior citizens. For more information call 972-941-7811.

MAY 7-14

Do You Help an Older Spouse, Parent, or Relative? Do You Need Information, Assistance and Support? Come to this Free Education & Support Event, "Family Caregiver: Getting the Support You Deserve" sponsored by Area Agency on Aging of North Central Texas & Collin County Committee on Aging. McKinney Memorial Public

Library 101 E. Hunt Street, Downtown McKinney. Call to register so that adequate materials can be available 972-547-7323 from 12:30 - 5:00pm.

AMERICAN AIRLINES EVENTS

MAY 2

NHL Playoffs Conference Semi Finals Begin

MAY 4

Desperados vs LA Avengers 7:30 pm

NBA Playoffs Conference Semi Finals Begin

Community Calendar Sponsored by Southwestern Bell Telephone

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