



Plano's Juneteenth Celebration

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A Division of

MON
Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

Volume XI, Number XXV

June 20-June 26, 2002

The Gazette

"North Dallas" Weekly Paper of Choice

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On the Homefront:

The City of Fort Worth invites you to their annual Juneteenth celebration on Friday, June 14, 2002, from 12:00 noon-1:00 p.m. The celebration will be held in the City Hall Council Chamber, 1000 Throckmorton Street. The JAADE Dance, Theatre will provide entertainment and Carl Smart, the Code Compliance Department, and the City of Fort Worth will sing, accompanied by the Motown Rockers. For more information call Carolyn Roberts at (817) 871-5701 or Gwen Barnes at (817) 871-6807.

On Thursday, June 20, 2002, the City of Plano will be hosting, "The Junction," from 8:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m. It will be the fifth series of performances of Americana Music, which includes folk, blues, jazz, and country, by a variety of artists. The concert will be held at the Plano Station, located just east of the DART in Downtown Plano Station. Parking will be available in the Eastside Village Garage, at Haggard Park and J Plaza parking lot. Admission is \$10 per person at the door, and there will be no advance sales. For more information contact Jim Wear at (972) 941-5202.

The Dallas Urban League weekly support meeting for grandparents raising grandchildren will be held on Friday, June 21, 2002, at 10:00 a.m., 4315 St. Lancaster Road, Dallas, Texas. The support meetings are free and open to the public. Some of the topics that will be discussed are referrals to agencies, which provide financial and legal assistance, parenting skills, social activities for children, placement opportunities, counseling services, job opportunities, counseling services, job training, behavioral issues and health awareness. For more information call Treva McDaniel at (214) 915-4600.

On Sunday, June 23, 2002, bring the entire family out for the Plano Family Fun Fair Expo. The event will be held at Plano Centre, Spring Creek and Jupiter Roads, from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. The expo will show case the best in family activities, services, products, and entertainment that caters to families. Admission is \$5 for adults and children under 12 years of age get in free.

If you are interested in setting up a booth, note that they are 10x10, include pipe and forest green colored drupe, one topped and skirted table, two chairs, a wastebasket, and I.D. sign. The cost per booth is \$150. For more information contact BlueSky Production at (972) 964-3437 or go to <http://www.blue-skyproductions.com>.

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MON-The Gazette Receives National Award at the NNPA Convention



Mr. Larry Waters (left) of Miller Brewing Company presents award to Mr. Ted Pruitt, Publisher of Ft. Worth's Luvada News who accepts on behalf of MON-The Gazette.

Jacksonville, FL - Recently, Miller Brewing Company, sponsor of the National Newspaper Publishers Association's (NNPA) Messenger Awards, presented four African American publications with top journalism awards. African American publications were recognized with Messenger Awards for excellence in news, commentary and editorial writing. More than 400 gathered for the ceremony at the Omni Jackson Hotel in Jacksonville, FL, marking the

tenth anniversary of the sponsorship.

The Messenger Awards is named after the African American "Messenger Magazine" founded by civil rights leader A. Philip Randolph in 1917. The Messenger Awards program was established by Miller in 1992 and is given annually to the publisher and writer of the best overall news article in each category of Civil Rights and Education. Along

See Award page 8

A. Philip Randolph Chronology

-April 15, 1889: A. Philip Randolph born in Crescent City, Florida.
-1914: Randolph meets Lucille Green in the spring and marries her in November.
-1917: Randolph and Chandler Owen found the Messenger, a racial Harlem magazine.
-August 25, 1925: Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (BSCP) launched in the Elk Lodge in New York. Randolph is a founding officer.
-August 25, 1937: BSCP wins contract with Pullman Company. Randolph emerges as the first major black labor leader in the country.
-1936: BSCP receives its international charter from the AF of L.
-1947: Randolph clashes with President Truman over desegregating armed forces; testifies before Senate Armed Services Committee.
-July 26, 1948: President Truman issues executive order barring discrimination in the military.
-1955: Randolph elected vice president of the merged AFL-CIO.
-1955-56: Montgomery Bus Boycott. E.D. Nixon organizes with the help of Rustin and Randolph. Nixon and Rustin pull in Martin Luther King Jr.
-1960-Randolph and black trade unionists form Negro American Labor Council. Randolph elected president.
-April 12, 1963: Lucille Randolph dies.
-August 28, 1963: March on Washington created by Randolph and organized by Bayard Rustin. Over 250,000 people participate.
-1964: Civil Rights Act of 1964 passed.
-May 16, 1979: A. Philip Randolph dies and is buried in New York.

The 6th Annual Gordon Parks Young Photographers' Competition Is The Happening!

The genius of Gordon Parks still shines in the hearts of many. Art is his life's domain that has catapulted him to fame nationally and internationally. He'll be celebrating his 90th birthday this Fall, and New York has a parade planned fit for a king, to serenade the best of the best of artists. The acclaimed photographer, film maker, musician, writer and poet, continues to inspire millions to view the world of art with such profound sensitivity and to sense the pleasure of it all. In each of his endeavors he wraps his efforts into a colorful, poetic and moving masterpiece of art. Gordon Parks opened his one-of-a-kind exhibit "Half-Past Autumn" two years ago at the Corcoran Museum in Washington D.C., and broke all attendance records with thousands of patrons and admirers filing into the museum within one week alone to view the Renaissance Man's collection of extraordinary. Dallas shall soon be host to this wonderful display of

"Half-Past Autumn". His exhibit includes his photos, movies, the sonatas he wrote honoring his children, his most original poetry and his autobiographies. His films, also on exhibit, are The Learning Tree, Shaft, and Shaft's Big Score, among others. He also wrote the music scores for these films. His many talents include producing, writing and directing for film. He is also the author of several books. In 1996 Gordon Parks came to Dallas



Gordon Parks
(Photo by Toni Parks)

to serve as Guest Lecturer for the Culmination Program of the Young Photographers' Workshop, giving a dynamic presentation that impressed the students and photo enthusiasts alike, with the intertwining of photography, music poetry and prose describing his art.

The 6th Annual Gordon Parks Young Photographers' Competition was launched as a way to give amateur photogra-

See Parks page 5

City of Plano Receives National Community Development Award

The City of Plano will be honored with the 2002 John Sasso National Community Development Award, in recognition of its Community Development Week activities. The award will be presented at the annual meeting of the National Community Development Association in Providence, RI, on Friday, June 14.

Plano is one of only six communities nationally to receive the honor for 2002. During National Community Development Week the City of Plano Neighborhood Services Division coordinated several local events to celebrate how Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are used in Plano.

A public reception was held featuring City staff and local non-profits to share information on CDBG funded activities with Plano citizens. Organizations who participated were Samaritan Inn, LifePath Systems, Plano Housing Authority, Collin County Center of Collin County, Organization for Latin Americans, Organization for Local Action, Plano Housing Corporation, Boys and Girls Clubs, Plano Area Habitat for Humanity, Plano International Preschool, City of Plano Housing Rehabilitation Program, and City of Plano First-Time Homebuyers Program. This was the third year for many of these organizations to participate in the reception. More than 150 people attended, including local dignitaries and media.

A seminar entitled, Homeownership: Realizing the American Dream was presented to help citizens learn about programs available to help purchase a family home. Ten lenders were invited to market their special loan programs to the public.

More than 1,000 local realtors were invited to learn what programs were available to help their future clients. Lenders participating were Community Credit Union, Plano Housing Authority, Plano Housing Corporation, Inwood Bank, Bank of America, Compass Bank, Guaranty Bank, Washington Mutual, Bank One, Wells Fargo, Collin County Bond Program, Plano Area Habitat for Humanity, and City of Plano First-Time Homebuyers Program. The Plano Housing Authority used this opportunity to share news that they can now accept Section 8

application session for citizen's interested in home repairs. The session resulted in more than 20 new rehabilitation applications.

These events were coordinated with other City Departments such as the Plano Television Network, which produced a 20-minute video showcasing the CDBG program in Plano aired on Plano's local public access channel. Activities were promoted in area newspapers through advertising and to local organizations and churches through direct mail. More than 1,500 letters were distributed to neighborhood groups and homeowners about the city Housing Rehabilitation program.

The award is named for John Sasso, the father and founder of the National Community Development Association (NCDA). NCDA is a national nonprofit organization comprised of more than 550 local governments across the country that administer federally-supported community and economic development,

housing and human service programs, including programs of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) programs. Since 1968, NCDA has been at the forefront in securing effective and responsive housing and community development programs for local governments. The mission of the organization is to assist local governments to achieve high-quality, locally responsive programs for making communities better places to live and work, particularly for low- and moderate income people.

"Where there is suffering, there is duty. Americans in need are not strangers, they are citizens, not problems, but priorities. And all of us are diminished when any are hopeless."

President George W. Bush
Inaugural Address, January 20, 2001

vouchers toward home purchase.

The highlight of the weeklong celebration was Affordable Housing/Housing Rehabilitation Day with a groundbreaking for the Plano Housing Corporation's Parker Road Development. The land for this project was purchased with CDBG funds. The homes being built will range in price from \$90-100K, and are being built by Carl Franklin Homes. The homes will feature energy-efficient roof panels and geothermal heating and cooling systems. Eight Plano families will benefit from this project.

Later that day Citizen's had the opportunity to meet local Housing Rehabilitation staff through an

Juneteenth 2002



Reverend Isaiah Joshua of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

By Monica Thornton

In a style befitting memorializing the memory of Juneteenth, the Douglass Community Council, Inc., and Plano's Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church hosted a parade, church service, picnic and afternoon festivities for the Plano Community on Saturday June 15, 2002.

Juneteenth celebrations commemorate June 19, 1865, the day slaves in Texas found out they were free - two and a half years after the Proclamation of Emancipation was signed. Freedom for slaves was hard for many to accept, and little was freely given to the freed slaves. But on Saturday, generations later, their ancestors freely gave to the community as people on floats, in cars, on bicycles and on foot, paraded through downtown Plano and the surrounding neighborhood, playing

music and throwing candy to those lining the parade route.

The parade, escorted by the Plano Police Department, wound its way to Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, in keeping with celebration organizers' vision of bringing the African-American community back to the Church, for a "God Blessed America."

James Hutchins, Associate Pastor of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, said the church was happy to be able to host the church service.

"The congregation is very supportive," Minister Hutchins said, "and this is another opportunity to build on our support to the community."

He said the church got involved through the efforts of church

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Plano's Juneteenth Celebration



Edmonds family



Lafayette McKinzie (left), with Herman Johnson of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church



Officer Forsythe (left) and Officer Ravin



Junior Miss Juneteenth vehicle



NAACP's membership registration vehicle



Willie and Hazel Holmes



Members of Greater New Birth Church



Marany Molera
Candidate for Congress



Eva Starks
Mistress of Ceremonies



Ben Thomas



Endia Kendrick
1st Baby of 1985

The Juneteenth Shootout



By Tobi Hicks
On Saturday, June 15, 2002, at the Douglas Community Center, neighborhood children and their families were invited to come and be a part of the Annual Douglas Community Center Juneteenth Celebration. The festivities lasted from 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 p.m. There were activities for all ages, including the "Juneteenth Shootout," for children ages 7-13 years. Community children were divided up and put on one of two basketball teams, the "Hoop Squad" and the "Bomb Squad." The "Hoop Squad" won and it was a great game for all involved.

JUNETEENTH -- Plano Celebrates Freedom, Family and Community

By Belinda G. Alexander
A Funtime atmosphere resonated as Plano's African American Community came together on June 15 for Juneteenth festivities. The daylong celebration began with a parade and commemorative ceremony at Shiloh Baptist Church. The finale took place at Plano's Douglass Community Center.

Family, friends and community took time to recognize and reflect on June 19, 1865, as the day slaves in Texas and much of the South finally got the news of freedom. The official Emancipation Proclamation was issued on January 1, 1863! Even though the news had arrived over two years late, this day remains a strong tradition celebrated by many Blacks and descendants of those freed slaves.

The crowd ranged in age from infant to senior citizens. Music, laughter and the inviting aroma of Texas barbecue welcomed everyone as they arrived. An uncommonly mild day was the perfect background for this Juneteenth gathering. The spacious pavilion at Douglass Center provided ample seating and shade for folks who wanted to enjoy a special time together. This was the ultimate community cook-out and family picnic afternoon. Warm smiles, greetings and conversation enhanced the occasion as visitors and neighbors enjoyed the festive time.

As is tradition for Juneteenth -- citizens were reminded of the special spiritual and moral significance of freedom from all bondage and suppression. Community groups were present to encourage involvement. Leaders from the Plano and McKinney area provided important information on the NAACP membership, Voter Registration and other inter-

ests to citizens. A diverse schedule of events highlighted the afternoon. Attendees like the Woodard family participated in the parade and pageant to benefit treatment of blood diseases such as Leukemia and Lymphoma. A happy little 'toddler' beauty queen smiled and posed for 'celebrity shots' as she claimed the winner's trophy.

Afternoon celebrations, also included entertainment and activities inside Douglass Community Center. A group of energetic young ladies proudly displayed 'winner T-shirts' as they celebrated a victorious 'tug-o-war' over the young men. They agreed that "Girls Rule -- now bring on the dance contest!"

By audience comments--the apparent consensus for best of show in style went to Mr. and Mrs. Holmes. This sharp senior couple was appropriately decked out in outfits to perfectly reflect the African-American heritage 'theme of the day!' Mrs. Holmes' top as fashioned along the lines of the American Flag, Glory!--coordinated and complimented Mr. Holmes' royal ensemble of African design. They said, "We are happy to be a part of the celebration -- the participation has grown since last year. We hope more people will come next year!"

Family, friends and neighbors enjoyed a day of fun, inspiration and celebration on the long awaited freedom of Texas slaves. Plano's African American community and Shiloh Baptist Church helped to make it a time of special remembrance. Supporting your community helps to strengthen families, build neighborhoods and preserve freedom.

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WINANS PHASE 2

THE TRUTH CLINIC

Blacks Pay More For Home Loans

By James W. Breedlove

Another year. Another study report. Another set of the same conclusions. African Americans are being saddled with higher priced loans for the privilege of owning a home.

A new report issued by the consumer advocate Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), titled "Separate and Unequal," makes it clear that blacks are much more likely than whites to receive a subprime loan when refinancing or purchasing.

The report stated that 49.9% of all conventional refinancing loans received by African-American homeowners were from subprime lenders compared to 18.0% of the refinancing loans received by white homeowners. Blacks were 2.8 times more likely to receive a subprime loan as whites. Similar disparity was reported for home purchase lending. African-American homeowners were 4 times more likely than white homeowners to receive a subprime loan.

Subprime loans carry significantly higher rates and fees, and in many cases involve punitive features that are known as predatory lending. While not all subprime loans are predatory, all predatory loans are subprime. These predatory measures add many thousands of dollars in costs to the loan, often with no additional value to the borrower, just huge profits to the lender.

Even when comparing black homeowners with white homeowners of the same income, the racial disparity persists. 36.5% of the conventional refinancing loans to upper-income African-American homeowners were from subprime lenders while only 12.4% of the loans to upper-income white homeowners

were from subprime lenders. In fact, the study showed upper-income African-American homeowners were more likely than even low-income white homeowners to receive a subprime loan when refinancing.

While the higher interest rates charged by subprime lenders are portrayed as necessary to compensate lenders for taking a greater credit risk, too many black borrowers are unnecessarily paying higher interest rates. Black borrowers with perfect credit are regularly charged interest rates 3-6 points higher than the prevailing market rates. With some subprime lenders, there simply is no lower rate for blacks, no matter how good the credit rating.

Other abusive practices that fall under the mantle of predatory lending include: lenders making loans based solely on a homeowner's equity, even when it is obvious that the homeowner cannot afford the payments; the use of prepayment penalties to lock in borrowers for 3-5 years; making loans for more than the borrower's home is worth with the specific intent of "trapping" the borrower for an extended payment period; home improvement scams at inflated costs deliberately targeted to the black community; pressuring borrower's to take high priced credit insurance with single premium up front payments; and encouraging negative amortization loans which never accrue equity.

These practices prove once again that even with laws like the Federal Equal Credit Opportunity Act and the Truth in Lending Act blacks cannot and should not depend on the "system" to look out for their best interests.

What can be done to alleviate this problem?

Certainly, the advocacy efforts to correct these predatory practices should continue. Lawsuits should be vigorously pressed when applicable. Millions of dollars are being siphoned out of the black community each year through the predatory lending practices. Just one more method by which scarce financial resources are legally stolen from Blacks.

But black advocacy organizations, religious institutions, fraternities, sororities, and community groups need to develop a concerted and aggressive strategy for selectively depositing black funds into white financial institutions. Each Monday millions of dollars from the collection plates of black churches are rushed to financial repositories which may be predators or owners of predatory subsidiaries. The ACORN lists should be studied carefully and the predator lenders dealt with in no uncertain terms by removing their names from the roll of approved depositories.

Simultaneously, blacks need to be better educated about the mortgage lending system. The lack of knowledge about how to shop for loans, how to compare loans, and what questions to ask leave many blacks vulnerable and easy prey to the predators.

These direct actions will get the message out to the lending community that predatory practices will no longer be tolerated. The billions saved from not paying predatory interest rates and punitive fees represents a huge potential and much needed financial infusion to assist the black community with initiating some long deferred economic development.

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

The MOST BEAUTIFUL FLOWER



The park bench was deserted as I sat down read
Beneath the long, straggly branches of an old willow tree.
Disillusioned by life with good reason to frown, for the world was intent
on dragging me down

And if that weren't enough to ruin my day a young boy out of breath approached me,
all tired from play. He stood right before me with his head tilted down and said with
great excitement. "Look what I found!"

In his hand was a flower and what a pitiful sight, with it's petals all worn-not enough rain
or too little light. Wanting him to take his dead flower and go off to play,
I faked a small smile and then shifted away.

Bit instead of retreating he sat next to my side and placed the flower to his nose and declared
with overacted surprise, "It sure smells pretty and it's beautiful, too.
That's why I picked it; here, it's for you.

The weed before me was dying or dead. Not vibrant of colors, orange, yellow or red.
But I knew I must take it, or he might never leave. So I reached for the flower and replied,
"Just what I need."

Bit instead of him placing the flower in my hand. He held it in midair without reason
or plan. It was then that I noticed for the very first time that weed-toting
boy could not see: he was blind.

I heard my voice quiver, tears shone like the sun. As I thanked him for picking
the very best one. "You're welcome," he smiled, and then ran off to play. Unaware
of the impact he'd had on my day.

I sat there and wondered how he managed to see a self-pitying woman beneath
an old willow tree. How did he know of my self-indulged plight? Perhaps from his heart,
he was blessed with true sight.

Through the eyes of a blind child, at last I could see the problem was not with the world, the
problem was me. And for all of those times I myself had been blind. I vowed to see the
beauty in life, and appreciate every second that's mine.

And then I held that wilted flower up to my nose and breathed in the fragrance of a
beautiful rose and smiled as I watched that young boy, another weed in his hand
about to change the life of an unsuspecting old man.

Edward Jones Offers Program for Those Retiring Soon:

Billie G. Meador, the Edward Jones investment representative in Plano, will host a free program on Tuesday, July 16 at 5:30 & 7:30 p.m. for individuals planning to retire within the next few years.

Guests will learn ways to help create a steady retirement income check as well as how to keep medical bills from eating away their savings. Edward Jones experts will also explore the implications of working part-time in retirement. "We

all want our retirement to be a rewarding experience," said Billie. "This program will provide tips for those getting ready to begin their retirement."

This live, interactive broadcast is presented at Edward Jones branch offices nationwide via the firm's private satellite network.

The largest firm in the nation in terms of branch offices, Edward Jones currently has more than 7,900 offices in

the U. S. and, through its affiliates, in Canada and the United Kingdom. Plans call for expansion to 10,000 offices by 2003. The Edward Jones Interactive Web site is located at www.edwardjones.com.

For more information on the July 16 program or to reserve your seat, contact Billie Meador at 972-208-5688. If you are unable to attend at the above time, additional viewing opportunities are available.

Writer June Jordan, 65, Dies of Breast Cancer

By: Felicia Coleman

Poet, activist and writer June Jordan died Friday, June 14, of complications from breast cancer. Ms. Jordan passed away at her home in Berkeley, California. She had battled with breast cancer for several years.

Ms. Jordan was born in Harlem, New York in 1936. She began writing poetry early in life. While a student at Barnard College she became involved in civil rights movements. She went on to become one of the most versatile and prolific writers, with her work ranging from feminism to race.

She taught at Yale University, Sarah Lawrence College, and the State University of New York, Stony Brook. In 1989, she began teaching African American studies at the University of California, Berkeley. At University of California, Berkeley she founded "Poetry of People."

"Poetry of People" is a group who

encourages poetry and writing by young people.

Ms. Jordan received the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Award, the Women Who Dared Award of Black Women's Health Project, Rockefeller Foundation grant, the National Association of Black Journalists Award, the PEN Center USA West Foundation to Write Award, and fellowships from the National Endowment for Arts, Massachusetts Council on the Arts and the New York Foundation of the Arts. She also received a Rockefeller Grant for Creative Writing and a special congressional recognition for her work in the progressive and civil rights movements and for her writing. She was a regular columnist for The Progressive and served on the board of directors for the Center for Constitutional Rights.

Ms. Jordan published 28 books. Her works included children's books, political essays, and several

volumes of poetry. Her books of poetry include: *Kissing God Goodbye: Poems* (1991-1997), *Harvko/Love Poems* (1994), *Naming Our Destiny: New and Selected Poems* (1989), *Living Room* (1985), *Passion* (1980), and *Things That I Do In The Dark* (1977). She is also author of *Poetry for the People: A Blueprint for the Revolution* (1995), which is a guide to teaching, writing and publishing poetry. Her political essays include *Affirmative Acts Political Essays* (1998) and *Technical Difficulties* (1994). Ms. Jordan composed the libretto, *I Was Looking at the Ceiling and Then I Saw the Sky* (1995), an opera with music by John Adams and directed by Peter Sellars.

In 1999, her memoir, *Soldier: A Poet's Childhood*, was released. In September 2002, her final book of essays, *Some Of Us Did Not Die*, is scheduled to be published.

The 2002 Hip Hop Talent Showcase/Symposium "Revolution of Giants"

By: Tobin Hicks

The 2002 Hip Hop Talent Showcase/Symposium is a two-part event that will be held on Saturday, June 22, 2002, at the Creative Arts Building in Fair Park, and Saturday, July 6, 2002, at the Black Academy of Arts and Letters. This is an opportunity for local artists (Giants) to revolutionize the music industry as they raise the level of consciousness in the Hip Hop community. The symposium will explore the impact of Hip Hop music on the world, as well as demonstrate to inner city youth their leadership responsibilities to future generations.

At the 2002 Hip Hop Talent Showcase/Symposium, local music artists will have the opportunity to compete for the grand prize of the production and the promotion of a Music Demo (Studio time, 5000 Professional Slicks, 30-Day Street Team Promotion and CD

Graphics Artwork.)

The 2002 Hip Hop Talent Showcase will kick off on Saturday, June 22, 2002, beginning at 10:00 a.m., with a preliminary music competition. Solo artists and group performers will have a chance to showcase their original work. A \$100 registration fee is required to compete in the preliminary talent contest. The competition will be judged by local and special VIP's in the music industry. This is a family fun event so we encourage every one to come out and cheer their favorite performer(s) on to success.

On Saturday, July 6, 2002, the 2002 Hip Hop Symposium, "Revolution of Giants" will begin at 5:00 p.m. The day will consist of a panel discussion with representatives in the music industry, a final competition for talent entries, performance by special guest recording artist(s), and a private

after-party for the Symposium participants.

The Local Organizing Committee of the Million Man March along with Muhammad Mosque No. 48 will be hosting the event.

Tickets for the preliminary competition, on Saturday, June 22, 2002, will be sold for \$5.00. Tickets for the main event, on Saturday, July 6, 2002, cost \$15.00. Tickets will be available at Muhammad Mosque No.48, 2429 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Dallas, Texas 75215.

The 2002 Hip Hop Talent Showcase/Symposium, "Revolution of Giants," promises to be filled with serious discussion, increased guidance, a showcase of talents, and fun for the entire family.

For more information call Jeffery Muhammad at (214) 421-4848.

MON The Gazette

Founded 1991 "North Dallas" Weekly Paper of Choice
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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' 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-

Think of MON-The Gazette as your paper of opportunity!

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



Juneteenth U.S.A. Holiday Thanks to Al Edwards

By: Tobi Hicks

State Representative Al Edwards, elected in 1979 and presently serving, is a man who holds very high regard for his fellow man. He has won the admiration and respect of many because of his broad outlook on human growth, expansion, and awareness. Edwards is considered the Father of the Juneteenth Holiday, making Texas its national birthplace.

Al Edwards was born in Houston, Texas. He was the sixth child of eighteen children born to Rev. E. L. Edwards Sr., and Josephine Radford Edwards. By the time Edwards reached his young adulthood, he was sure that God had blessed him with a very special gift - the gift of LEADERSHIP.

Long before he considered being an elected official, he found himself facing the firing squad on behalf of many forms of injustice, including the civil rights movement with Dr. King and Rev. Jesse Jackson. As far as Edwards was concerned, community volunteer work and any other volunteer service he administered was simply a part of his busy lifestyle.

In the summer of 1979, Edwards' first year as a legislator, he was faced with a very special problem that had been presented and denied by others before him...MAKING JUNETEENTH AN OFFICIAL STATE HOLIDAY.

The minute he presented the legislation, House Bill 1016, to the House of Representatives, Edwards realized that he was up

against a giant brick wall. Everywhere he turned, he was being told no to his proposal. But he would not give up his dream. Edwards wrote the bill using 5 versions, hoping to capture the approval of the House.

After months of struggle, the



hand of God on Representative Al Edwards won out. On June 1, 1980, 115 years after Texas slaves were freed, Juneteenth was declared an official State holiday in Texas!

Juneteenth U.S.A., a non-profit tax-exempt organization, was founded in 1979 by a group of Texans in Austin, led by State Representative Al Edwards. The group envisioned that Texas, through awareness of this important part of American history, could and would take on positive interchange for the ultimate growth of Texas as a state that embraces all.

It is now more apparent than ever that cultural comprehension is a noted source for well-blended communities. Al Edwards' Juneteenth U.S.A. has taken a principal role in educating Texans on the history of slavery, what led to the discussions of freedom, and teaching the responsibility of freedom. Freedom and Opportunity are parallel, and must be taken advantage of.

In recent years, Al Edwards' Juneteenth U.S.A. has focused on exposing youth to Juneteenth history because the lack of self knowledge leads to the depreciation of ancestral accomplishments which counteracts self respect and respect for others. Furthermore, where one does not comprehend the Past, the ability to premeditate the future becomes overwhelming.

Juneteenth U.S.A. continues to provide arts, history, education, and services that fit the needs of the community. It has assisted and supported the development of Juneteenth organizations throughout Texas, the nation, and abroad.

JUSA hosts numerous annual events for the community including gospel festivals, family day celebrations, youth explosions, Juneteenth coordinator seminars/workshops, and tennis tournaments.

For more information on Al Edwards' Juneteenth U.S.A., go to info@texasjuneteenth.com or call (713) 741-8800.

If you have a background in PR or fundraising, Representative Edwards needs you. Please call (713) 741-8800.

Hutchison joins UNT and Paul Quinn College in Dallas June 17, Introduces Science and Math (SAM) Teacher Academy

DALLAS (UNT), Texas U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison visited the University of North Texas System Center at Dallas, 8915 S. Hampton Road, June 17, and assisted UNT and Paul Quinn College in launching a partnership to establish a Science and Math (SAM) Teacher Academy.

The joint venture is currently funded through Hutchison's leadership in the federal appropriations process. The academy is designed to provide advanced training and instruction for fifth and sixth-grade teachers in southern Dallas County schools who want to improve their skills for helping students in at-risk, low socioeconomic schools to learn and understand science and mathematics.

In classes and coursework offered at the UNT System Center - beginning in July - Paul Quinn faculty will join with faculty from the UNT College of Education to serve as mentors for SAM Teacher Academy students. The partnership program also will provide scholarships for undergraduate students at Paul Quinn who express an interest in becoming science or math teachers.

Hutchison's support for the concept of the academy resulted in \$200,000 for the project from the Fiscal Year 2002 education appropriations bill.

State Senator Royce West, the top leader in the creation of the UNT System Center, will welcome and introduce Senator Hutchison.

Among a host of civic leaders and community dignitaries on hand to thank Hutchison for her support for the academy will be UNT System Chancellor Alfred F. Hurley, UNT President Norval F. Pohl, Paul Quinn College President Dwight J. Fennell and UNT System Center Executive Director John Ellis Price.

The goals and expected outcomes of the SAM Teacher Academy include effecting improvements in student attitudes toward science and math and, most importantly, in student achievements in science and math at the participating teachers' schools.

Other objectives are to

determine the most effective teaching techniques to help schoolteachers improve science and math instruction and to attract more ethnic minority students into teaching science and math.

Methods to achieve the academy's goals and objectives include encouraging family involvement and integrating the use of technology into science and math instruction.

Principal project coordinator Diane Allen, UNT Associate Professor of Teacher Education and Associate Dean of the College of Education, says, "The SAM Teacher Academy will expand teachers' knowledge of inquiry based instruction, provide opportunities for implementing new strategies and provide strategies to infuse technology into teaching and learning."

The academy also will create a continuing support system and establish a research agenda to study the impact of improved teaching on student learning and attitudes about science."

According to Allen, the academy will consist of two components - one focusing on training and the other on research.

"The academy is recruiting teachers from schools whose principals have agreed to teacher participation in both components. In its effort to encourage collaboration and support outside of scheduled class activities during the school year, the program calls for recruiting teams of at least two teachers from each participating school."

Academy students will enroll in a one-hour, graduate-level course in the 2002 summer session, a 3-hour course in fall 2002, a 3-hour course in spring 2003 and a final one-hour course in the 2003 summer session. All course work will be offered at the UNT System Center. The first phase of the course work will begin July 15, 2002. In their classroom work, participating teachers will explore state mandated expectations in science and math in light of recommendations of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the National Science Teacher's Association.

Allen said the research com-

ponent, involving both UNT doctoral students and SAM Teacher Academy participants, will be conducted in two areas. In the first - through action research projects assigned in their courses - the participants will explore the effectiveness and impact of the teacher training on teacher knowledge and skills as well as student attitudes toward science and math. The second research area will explore participants' specific topics of interest.

Dr. Jean Keller, Dean of the UNT College of Education, said, "The purpose behind the SAM Teacher Academy is to provide direct training in science and math for teachers, to help students and those who want to become teachers. The end result is students in high school who are better trained to enter careers in math and science. There's a shortage of math and science teachers and of people who create a workforce in those fields, especially in the state of Texas. This new program responds to that need."

"We welcome this wonderful opportunity to build a partnership with Paul Quinn College that can build tomorrow's technology workforce for Texas," she said. "We're not only building future workers, but the teachers to maintain and educate them."

Dr. Weldon J. Walton, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Paul Quinn said, "This unique program will provide great opportunities for high school students to become aware of the opportunities available in the various career fields related to Mathematics, Science, Engineering and Technology. "Paul Quinn College's partnership with the University of North Texas and non-profit educational organizations in southern Dallas will target economically disadvantaged students in the area," he explained.

Allen points out that one more important goal will be the development grant proposals to secure future funding for the SAM Teacher Academy. UNT is seeking funds from private businesses to add approximately 40 additional teachers to the program at a cost of \$1,200 for each participant.

On The Move

The Success of Wendy Williams Phynes



"A Quiet Storm" or "A Steele Butterfly" is how Wendy Williams Phynes is often referred. She is a Senior Analyst for Arch Wireless, a leading provider of two-way wireless data solutions. Prior to Arch, Phynes was with American Airlines as a Passenger Service and International Security Agent. 12 years later, however, Phynes finds this to be ironic. "Back then, this department was thought to be unnecessary at DFW Airport due to the unlikeliness of a threat to our passengers and security," she said.

Raised in Laurens, South Carolina by her grandparents she was taught to "Do unto others as you would have the do unto you". In her early teens she moved to Washington, D.C. where she later met and married her husband Arthur S. Phynes. Wendy is the proud mother of two handsome sons, David Scott of Los Angeles, California, and Christopher Turner of Plano, Texas. She has traveled extensively and has lived in many places; living twice in Paris, France, and in London, England. However, she remains a southern girl at heart!

Community Service

She presently serves as the 7th President of The Links, Incorporated, Plano North Metroplex Chapter, an international women's organization with more than 11,000 members in 278 chapters throughout the United States, The Bahamas, Frankfurt, Germany, and most recently South Africa.

The Plano North Metroplex Chapter was organized in 1989, and presently has a membership of 46 professional women. The Chapter recently hosted the 3rd annual "A Day at the Races III - Le Chapeau Affaire" at Lone Star Park. Many members are preparing for The Links, Incorporated 33rd National Assembly, to be held in Chicago, Illinois in July. Ms. Phynes said shortly after the National Assembly, they will attend the annual chapter Retreat. "In September, we begin to implement our programs, and we are very excited this year because we have two umbrella programs planned," she added. "In October 'Carnival Of Knowledge' and in December our chapter's signature program 'The 8th Annual Christmas Caravan across Plano'."

Please visit the Chapter's website: www.planolinks.org.

A Board Member of CLUB GENERATION SUCCESS TM, a youth mentoring organization, she

recently served as chairman of the Club's "An Evening of Success, Achievements and Awards - Presentation 2002", a Debutante and Beau Ball.

As a Board Member of the Art Centre of Plano she encourages Plano residents to become members and to support the Arts. She is also a member of Hamilton Park United Methodist Church, The African American Museum, UNICEF, The Women's Foundation and D'Argent Investment Group, serving as secretary.

She believes that in order to be well-rounded, you must stay in touch with the many facets of life. "The world is getting smaller every day in terms of diversity, differences, and internationalism. While education is

the key, we must become technologically advanced, globally aware, bilingual, and keep spirituality at the forefront of daily lives," she said. "Most importantly, be willing to share and pass on our knowledge to our young people."

Hobbies: Reading, travel, ceramics and sports.

Person she most admires:

Her grandmother Ruth, who raised 9 children and still took the time to raise 5 grandchildren. She cooked, cleaned, and had a wonderful flower garden. "Grandmother always looked great, she loved beautiful things and always wore wonderful hats. I think I quote her on a daily basis," said Ms. Phynes.

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Award from Page 1

with the awards, the two top winning newspapers receive \$1,000 each from a non-profit organization of their choice. Each top writer receives a \$1,500 cash prize.

Top honors for best civil rights and education news story went to the Capital Outlook of Tallahassee, FL. It was the first time in the history of the Messenger awards where one newspaper takes first place in both primary categories. MON-

The Gazette out of Plano, Texas and Youngstown, Ohio's The Buckeye Review picked up recognition awards for editorial and commentary writing.

Belinda G. Alexander, a writer for MON-The Gazette, received an award for outstanding journalism in the area of educational editorial and commentary. Thurman Jones, publisher of MON-The Gazette, said "I'm humbled to receive such a reward given the level of competition from fine publications around the nation." For the second time in the last four

years, Mon-The Gazette received an award for excellence in news story. In 1999, Mon-The Gazette was awarded with top honors for best civil rights news story.

"The Miller Brewing Company is proud to support excellence and celebrate achievement in African American communities," said Tina Walls, VP of Corporate Affairs. "We feel a strong commitment in our partnership with the NNPA and the important goals they support."

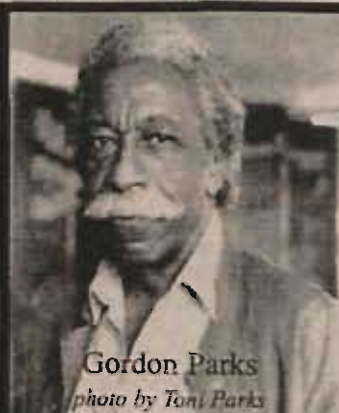
Parks from Page 1

phers ages 10 through 18 a chance to have their photos featured in display and to win prizes. The effort is intended to inspire youngsters to consider photography as a serious endeavor or both as an artistic channeling and as a career.

The Gordon Parks Young Photographers' Competition is presented by the Artist & Elaine Thornton Foundation For The Arts, Inc., a non-profit organization established to promote, educate, and embrace the arts of all disciplines, with its mission aimed toward the inner city, using art as a vehicle helping to bring positive social change. All you have to do is to pick up the entry forms placed at the following Mynard Food Store locations: Preston-Forest, Green Oaks & I-20, Martin Luther King Blvd., in Dallas, Camp Wisdom & Polk, at the Pleasant Grove Store on Bruton & Masters Road, and in Fort Worth at the Sack 'N' Save Store on I-35 at Berry. Complete it and mail back with your very own picture and entry fee. The entry forms can also be found at Roberts Ready To Wear on Martin Luther King Blvd. in South Dallas, and by logging on to www.artiststuff.com and navigating to the programs section to download the entry form. That's it! All photos will be judged and announcements of winners will be at the Bath House Cultural Center located at

White Rock Lake, 571 E. Lawther, on Saturday August 3rd. There will be first, second and third place prizes, of \$300.00, \$200.00 and \$100.00, respectively. Winners' photos will be on display, so plan to come out enjoy

snacks and listen for the results of the judging, beginning at noon on August 3rd. Sponsored by Ritz Cameras, Nikkon, The City Of Dallas Office Of Cultural Affairs, Mynard Food Stores, and MON-The Gazette.



Gordon Parks
photo by Toni Parks

Artist & Elaine Thornton
Foundation For The Arts, Inc.
Proudly presents the Sixth
Annual

Gordon Parks

Young Photographers' Competition

5. Amateurs only please.
Entry forms and complete contest rules may be picked up at participating Mynard Food Stores, Robert's Ready To Wear- 1706 MLK Blvd., South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 South Fitzhugh, or by calling: (972) 224-0513.

Prizes

1st place - \$300.00
2nd place - \$200.00
3rd place - \$100.00

Announcement of winners will be at the Bath House Cultural Center, located at 571 E. Lawther at White Rock Lake on August 3, 2002 at noon.

Also pick up entry forms & more information at artiststuff.com

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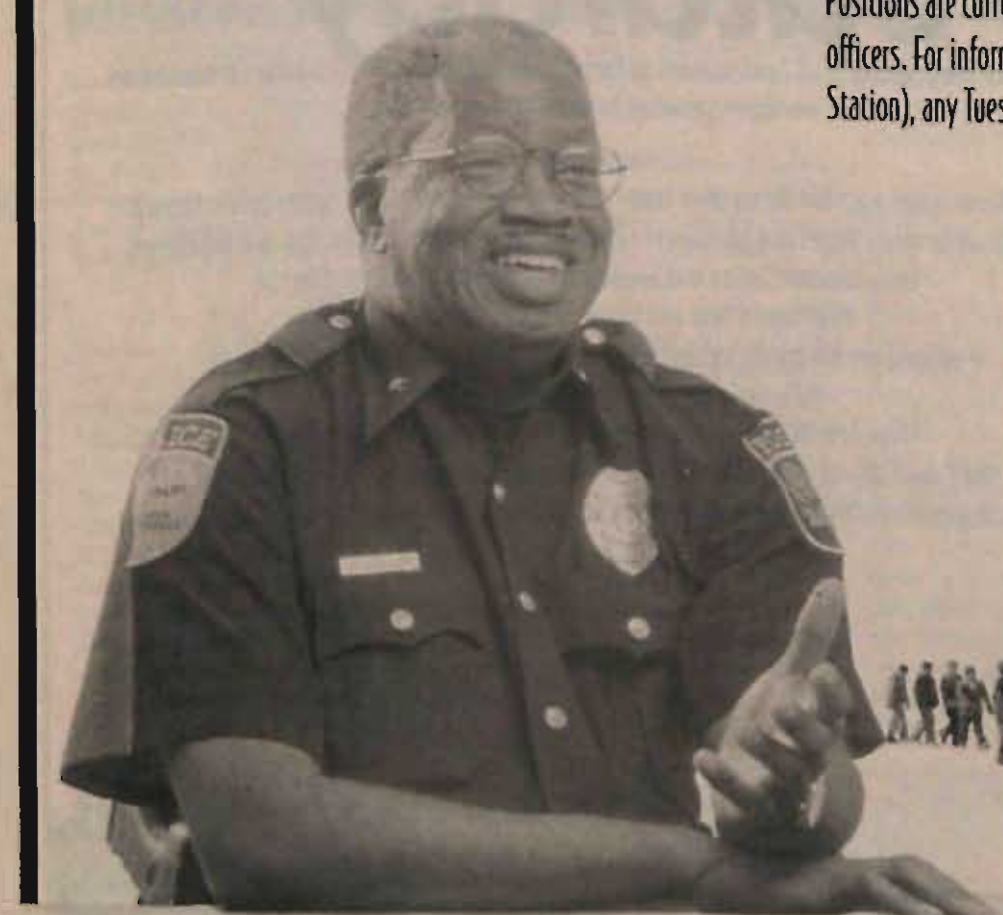
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How to develop a career blueprint

"When you fail to plan, you plan to fail"

Here's how to develop a career blueprint that will help you achieve your professional goals.

By: Cassandra Hayes

For some weary career warriors, Nancy Friedberg is a miracle worker. When the career coach met one of her clients—a librarian—he was stuck in a career rut. However, a year and eight counseling sessions later, Friedberg helped him make the switch from library science to technology consulting.

How did an English literature major end up as an SAP software consultant at one of the big four accounting firms? By working with a career coach and coming face-to-face with his personality, interests, and long-term goals. Friedberg helped him determine that consulting was his ideal career, and in today's computer-driven society, technology would be his conduit. But how?

Realizing that he was a quick study with excellent communication skills, a problem solver, and a strong relationship builder, she helped him develop a career plan that included first marketing those talents at a small firm. She also did a lot of work repositioning him through his verbal presentation and résumé to make him come across as a technology consultant rather than a librarian. Impressed, companies were willing to train him in the technology.

Today, poised to enter the next stage of his career-life plan, Friedberg's client recently joined a New Jersey pharmaceutical company. The move allows him to keep regular hours so that he can be home with his wife and new baby, as well as pursue an M.B.A. Over the past five years, Friedberg's client has not only paved a rewarding and successful career path, but his salary also quadrupled in the six digits.

"It is so important to plan your career and not drift wherever the wind blows," says Friedberg, who is a New York-based career coach with the Five O'Clock Club, a national career-counseling organization, and has a private practice in the city. "You must do some careful long-term strategic assessment, think about what you might need at each stage of your life, commit to a plan, and accept the fact that there will be some trade-off along the way. Too often, people try to fit themselves into a job and end up patterning their lives around it. What they should do instead is find a job that fits them and fits into their lives."

It's no secret that many individuals resign themselves to lackluster careers, having never fully explored all their options. For example, peer or family influences force some into college when entrepreneurship or a technical or trade school education may have been better. Others choose college majors or fall into jobs based on the income potential and then later find themselves miserable.

In fact, a 1998 survey revealed that almost half of the 400 college-educated workers between the ages of 30 and 55 polled said they would choose a different major if they could do it over. The George Mason University and Potomac Knowledge Way survey further contends that the majority of college graduates have switched careers at least once, and about one in five expect to switch in the future. Chalk it up to indecision, societal changes, or kismet, but more than likely it's because many didn't have a plan.

Let's face it. It's cheaper to do your homework up front than stay in the wrong job too long or change college majors halfway through school. Having a documented and well thought out plan early on helps you discover your career-related interests and abilities. It also helps you:

- Identify occupations that match your interests, competencies, and personality.
- Pinpoint corresponding fields of study for further education.
- Understand how you adjust to circumstances, people, and demands in your work environment, and whether these adjustments result in stress or satisfaction.
- Identify your communication and leadership style.
- Determine transferable skills and accomplishments.
- Find out who you are.

In charting your career path, you may find yourself needing professional assistance, a strategic plan, a viable network—or all three. Here, we'll show you how to use these elements to put together a plan that will help you get to the next step or transition in your career.

PUT ME IN, COACH

Whether it's a first career or a career change, many people have sought out the services of a career counselor or coach. Referrals can be found at colleges and universities, through career-planning organizations such as the Five O'Clock Club, or through word of mouth.

"Find someone locally, with good credentials, who understands your area's job market and is experienced in helping people develop career plans," says Susan Urquhart-Brown, career counselor and principal

at Career Steps Consulting in Oakland, California. "You can also locate career counselors and coaches who can help you implement your plan. The greatest benefit of having a counselor or coach is the other perspective they can provide." She notes, "You might be able to tune up your car, but a mechanic can probably do it faster and better."

Keep in mind that there aren't any universal requirements for career coaching. Depending on the state, some counselors must undergo rigorous state licensing requirements and have advanced degrees in counseling or social work. On the other hand, some coaches draw on years of work experience and simply hang out a shingle. Fees run the gamut, and can be as high as \$200 an hour, depending on the experience of the counselor or coach.

The optimal career-planning process involves the use of various types of career tests, also known as assessments or inventories, such as the widely used Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (<http://skcpdic.com/myersb.html>) and the Campbell Interest and Skill Survey. These tests help you better understand your career interests, motivation, work style, personality, values, skills, and aptitudes. These and similar quantifying tests are also available online for nominal fees.

FOLLOW YOUR HEART

With or without the help of a career counselor, it's important to realistically assess how your interests and talents will transfer into the workplace. As a child, Javetta Boldes Robinson knew she wanted to have an impact on education and that she loved numbers. When she put the two together, they added up to a career in school finance. After getting a B.S. in accounting from California State University at Sacramento in 1987, Robinson set her sights on becoming a school district CFO.

Robinson admits that the position she sought is not the most glamorous of accounting careers, especially when there are positions with big public accounting firms to take into consideration. Many tried to steer Robinson toward the corporate sector, but to no avail. "I had many job offers in those areas, but I didn't even consider them," recalls the 36-year-old Long Beach, California, resident. The career is also not one that many colleges focus on; therefore Robinson's plan included garnering much of her experience on the job. That meant getting her foot into the education unit of the California State Controllers Office.

But as life would have it, sometimes you have to be uncomfortable before you can be comfortable, and Robinson was turned down for two auditing positions. Undaunted, she took a detour in her career plan and accepted a job with the Department of Health. To her surprise, opportunity came sooner than she expected. On her first day at work, she was offered a position in her coveted controller's office, and she quit the Health Department on the spot. Although the auditor's position in the Women, Infants and Children's (WIC) unit of the controller's office wasn't her dream job, it got her that much closer to the education unit.

For a year and a half, she begged the education unit manager to hire her, but no positions were available. In the meantime Robinson broadened her auditing experience—a requirement for a higher-level position—and earned her CPA. In 1995, when the WIC unit's funding was in jeopardy, her entreaties paid off and she was transferred to the education unit. However, Robinson's plan was just getting started.

"I set a goal to be promoted every two to three years. If that didn't happen, then I asked why or began looking for opportunities elsewhere," Robinson learned everything she could as she chalked up the 1,000 hours of auditing experience required for her to advance in her career. "I would even do other people's work. I wanted to get all the experience I could get," says the president of the western region of the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA).

Robinson befriended and tracked the accomplishments of many district CFOs. In 1997, after reading a newspaper article quoting the woman touted to be the best associate superintendent of business in the state (to whom a CFO generally reports), Robinson recruited her as her mentor. Soon after, a position opened in her mentor's district and Robinson was chosen.

At last, with five promotions in 12 years and unparalleled auditing, personnel management, and fiscal skills tucked beneath her belt, Robinson was promoted last year to chief financial officer of the Compton Unified School District. Reporting directly to the state administrator, she controls a budget of \$327 million, with 100 employees and 23 schools under her financial management.

"Specializing helped my career tremendously. I knew there was a market and need for my skills, and

moving around from company to company would not have gotten me to this point," says Robinson. "Being true to my plan has been instrumental in helping to further my career beyond those of my peers at public accounting firms."

GOAL SETTING FOR SUCCESS

Just as a map takes you where you're traveling on a highway, so your goals are a map for the road you're traveling in life. We've all set goals at one time or another that we failed to dedicate enough focus to in order to achieve them. That wasn't the case for Lance Moore.

"Throughout my career, I wanted to build a skill base that was marketable. My goal was to be able to go from company to company, build on those skills, and eventually own my own entity," says Moore, 39, for whom restaurant development and franchising has always been a long-term interest.

Moore's career path took off during college when he served a brief stint as a marketing representative at 3M in his hometown, Cleveland. After graduating from Stanford University in 1983, the economics and English major joined IBM, where he not only honed his sales skills but also acquired retail experience working in the computer giant's product centers.

In 1990, a General Foods Brand Manager's Fellowship helped him earn an M.B.A. from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management—a school he chose specifically over Wharton because of its strong marketing curriculum.

After graduation, Moore jumped on the brand management track and joined his b-school benefactor, General Foods (now Kraft Foods Inc.). Five years later, Moore became a marketing manager for Omaha-based ConAgra Frozen Foods, a \$27 billion food service supplier, where he was responsible for the popular Healthy Choice entrées. "The position allowed me to broaden my career path, go from sales to business analysis, and grow a business," says Moore. "I always focused on an upward growth curve and evaluated myself every quarter or annually to make sure that I was using all of my resources."

Throughout, Moore charted a career course that would give him the experience he needed to one day own his own business. "I worked in sales because it was like owning a business within a business. While at IBM, working with their product centers gave me retail experience. In my marketing roles at Kraft Foods, I had the opportunities to not only learn the food business but to also build brands and create new business," he says.

Today, Moore is a group vice president at Atlanta-based Blimpie International, the nation's No. 2 submarine sandwich chain and the only publicly traded one. With some 450 franchisees under his charge and a territory that covers 13 Western states, including Alaska, Hawaii, and Guam, Moore has entered the restaurant franchising business, realizing his original career goal.

KNOW ALL THERE IS TO KNOW

While Robinson prepared for a career within her organization, the same strategies apply when you're making a move outside of your current career or company. Regardless of where you are in your career, it's important to do informational interviews with people in the field or the company you want to enter. Also, expand your research to libraries and the Internet. "If you ask the average person to name the number of career opportunities available, most can only list about three dozen. However, there are about 20,000 job titles listed in the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook," says Mark Patton, president of MGC Publications in Milwaukee and author of *Ultimate Careers and Businesses* (MGC Publications; \$12.95; 800-531-9874) a guide that provides information on nearly 500 associations, foundations, organizations, and periodicals. "You must expose yourself to other opportunities. Then you can plan your work and work your plan."

Clichéd as it might sound, networking is still an important key to getting the job you want. No college senior knows that better than Lydia Cutrer. Keen on making her mark as an investment banker, the 21-year-old Temple University senior majoring in accounting has made career inroads that many seasoned professionals would envy. "For me, it's been about building relationships," says Cutrer. "I thought that accounting would be a great foundation for entering the business world, and joined the student chapter of NABA to learn more about the career and get involved."

Not content with just one affiliation, the New Orleans native is also a member of the National Black M.B.A. Association and has done internships at AT&T and Chase. As one of the youngest members of the Next Generation Network, one of the many career programs offered

See Blueprint page 8

National HIV Testing Day Thursday, June 27, 2002

By: Tobie Hicks

In the United States, HIV-related death has the greatest impact on young and middle-aged adults, particularly racial and ethnic minorities.

The CDC estimates that:

- Between 800,000 and 900,000 people in the United States are currently living with HIV.
- An estimated 40,000 people per year in America become infected with HIV, a number that has remained relatively stable for much of the past decade.
- As many as 300,000 Americans may be infected with HIV, but don't know it.
- It is estimated that at least half of all new HIV infections in the United States are among people under 25, and the majority of young people are infected sexually.
- It is estimated that 70% of all new HIV infections are among men, with MSM accounting for the majority - 60% - of those infections; heterosexual exposure accounting for another 15%, and intravenous drug use for 25%.
- Men who have sex with men (MSM) represent the largest proportion (42%) of new infections with a particularly high rate of infection among youth, African Americans and Hispanics. This group is followed by men and women infected through heterosexual sex (33%) and intravenous drug use (25%).
- Among women, who account for approximately 30% of new infections, 75% are infected sexually with the remaining 25% resulting from intravenous drug use, as is the case with men.
- HIV disproportionately affects African-Americans and Hispanics. More than half (54%) of new HIV infections occur among African Americans, though they only represent 13% of the U.S. population. Hispanics, who make up about 12.5% of the U.S. population, are also disproportionately affected with 19% of new HIV infections.

AIDS Cases and Deaths through June 2000

- **AIDS Cases**
An estimated 753,907 AIDS cases have been reported in the United States, including 620,189 cases reported among men and 124,911 among women. A total of 8,804 AIDS cases have been reported among children (ages 12 and under).
- **By race/ethnicity**, 324,822 AIDS cases have been reported among whites, 282,720 among Blacks, and 137,575 among Hispanics.

AIDS Deaths

- Since the beginning of the epidemic, 438,795 deaths were reported through June 2000, including 374,422 among men and 64,373 among women.
- Of these, 203,695 whites, 154,695 Blacks, and 75,966 Hispanics have died from HIV-related causes.

People Living with AIDS in the U.S.

Better treatments also have led to an increasing number of people living with AIDS in this country. This growing population represents an increasing need for continued HIV prevention services for HIV-infected individuals and for treatment and care services. Between 1993 and 1999, the number of persons living with AIDS increased from 174,475 to 320,282.

If you would like to be tested for HIV, there are a number of tests available, as well as testing locations.

HIV Antibody Testing Services

The HIV Antibody Testing Services is an organization that provides Antibody Testing services. These services may be anonymous and/or confidential. The available tests may be blood tests, urine tests, or oral fluid tests. Contact the organization for more information. Anonymous HIV Antibody Testing Services are that for which no name is given. Only the person getting tested can reveal his/her results to anyone. Anonymous testing is available in

many states and territories, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. State laws are subject to change. Call the CDC National AIDS Hotline (1-800-342-AIDS) for current information.

Confidential HIV Antibody Testing Services

Confidential HIV Antibody Testing Services is an organization that provides confidential antibody testing services and records the person's name with the test results. Records are kept secret from everyone except medical personnel or, in some states, the state health department. Individuals should ask who will know the results and how the record will be stored. If the HIV antibody test is confidential, a release form can be signed to have the test results sent to the individual's physician. At some centers, however, such as doctor offices or clinics, test results may become part of the person's medical record and may be seen by health care workers, insurers, or employers. His/her insurance company may know the individual's status if he/she makes a claim for health insurance benefits or applies for life insurance or disability insurance. If any health care provider proposes to test someone for HIV antibodies, the reasons and the potential benefits should be discussed before deciding whether or not to take the test.

Home Testing Kit Distribution Organizations

For a fee, Home Testing Kit Distribution Organizations provide home blood collection systems that allow individuals to draw a small amount of blood and mail the sample to a private company for testing. Results are provided by phone. Consumers are advised to use only kits approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and to follow the kit's instructions carefully for accurate results.

For more information or assistance on locating a testing site, call (800) 458-5231.

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One Super Saturday

June 29, 2002

Celebrate the opening of all 7 rail stations at Forest Lane Station and Arapaho Center Station on Super Saturday, June 29, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Come enjoy:

- Free one-week pass (while supplies last) • Live entertainment • DART safety presentations
- Exhibitor booths • Prizes and giveaways • Promotions and discounts for Uptown businesses
- Enjoy the free Sights and Sounds of Galatyn Park presented by the Wildflower! Arts and Music Festival starting at noon.

Featured are live bands, exhibitor booths and a 4th of July fireworks show at 9:15 p.m. on the plaza of Galatyn Park Station.

- Free Arts District events sponsored by the Dallas Museum of Art, the Crow Collection of Asian Art and the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, including guided tours, all-ages art activities, free DMA admission and much more.

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DART

Honoring Our History Through Service and Citizenship

By Ron Kirk

Historic. That's what my candidacy for the U.S. Senate has been called. But most people who call my campaign historic tend to ignore the true history that led to a political and legal environment that encourages people of all backgrounds to be involved in the American government and in our country's political system.

As I work to bring people together, to work across lines of division - whether they be political party, race, financial means or many others - my family and I are mindful of the historic sacrifices and efforts of others that empower me to be in a position to have worked for many years in public service.

The annual 19th of June celebration is always a poignant reminder of these historic sacrifices. During this celebration, we are all mindful of the Civil Rights Movement; the Voting Rights Act; the Civil Rights Act; elimination of the poll tax; uncensored speech; better living; better education; better jobs; equal pay; social justice; Rosa Parks; the Montgomery Bus Boycott; Martin Luther King Jr.; Coretta Scott King; Medgar Evers; James Baldwin; Gwendolyn Brooks; the Tuskegee Army; Maya Angelou; the Unknown Soldiers; the Little Rock Nine; Thurgood Marshall; and Brown versus the Board of Education.

Of course, these are just a few historic events, laws and people about which we will remind ourselves and teach our children as years pass. Still, it is important to acknowledge the people and events that may not have earned a lot of headlines or attention through the years - the sacrifices and efforts of our family members, our community

leaders, our religious leaders and our own personal sacrifices.

I am who I am today because of the blood, sweat and tears of many people - certainly of my ancestors - who opened the door for me. Their efforts enabled me to be in a position to earn my undergraduate degree from Austin College, to earn my



law degree from the University of Texas Law School, to serve as a legislative aide to U.S. Senator Lloyd Bentsen, to serve as Texas' 98th Secretary of State, and to serve as mayor of Dallas for six years.

Now, with the honor of being the Democratic nominee for the U.S. Senate, I continue to be honored and amazed with the opportunity in America for myself, my generation and for our future generations. Certainly, I am not alone. Many African Americans have climbed to unprecedented educational, social, corporate and financial levels of success.

Much of this success can be attributed to the empowering laws, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, a much needed law required to enforce the 15th Amendment (signed in 1870) - "the right of citizens of the

United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by a State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."

Now, more than ever, African Americans are positioned to make a major difference in our cities, in our states and in our nation. Still, many seem to have forgotten how and why our ancestors struggled and even died to afford us the right to vote. This painful part of our history is one that African Americans should fight to keep alive. However, it is imperative for all to understand that never at any point in time should we become complacent and act as though our struggle is over.

One of Dr. King's dreams was for people to, "not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." An important aspect of empowering ourselves and our communities through our strong character is to make sure we honor our heritage through service to our communities and through our strong citizenship. With this in mind, exercising one's Constitutional right to vote is fundamental toward accomplishing Dr. King's dream.

Ron Kirk is the nominee to serve as U.S. Senator for the State of Texas. A pro-business moderate, Kirk is the Texas Democratic Party nominee for this public service position. A long-term public servant, Ron Kirk served two terms as mayor of Dallas, Texas. He also served as Texas' 98th Secretary of State and a legislative aide for U.S. Senator Lloyd Bentsen. Check out www.ronkirkfortexas.com for regularly updated information from the Ron Kirk for U.S. Senate Campaign.

Dallas Cowboys Play A Big Role In PBFN

By Felicia Coleman

PBFN, Professional Business and Financial Network, held a three day conference with lessons on how to build a business, manage finances and increase the depth of business networks. Several current Dallas Cowboys, Quincy Carter, Rocket Ismail and Orantes Grant, along with former Cowboys Roger Staubach, Russell Maryland and Ryan McNeil attended the seminar. The main focus of the event was life after playing professional football. Seminars were held on the subjects of marketing, public relations, networking and business plan development.

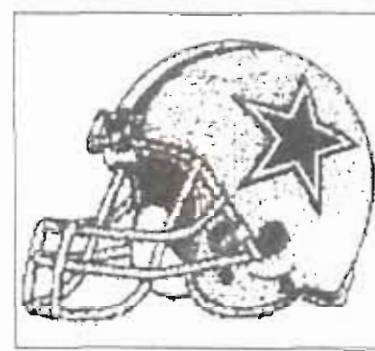
Franco Harris, NFL Hall of Famer and entrepreneur, gave the keynote address. Harris shared his experiences and gave advice. Harris encouraged everyone to control their destiny and he advised athletes to treat each session as though it was the last when approaching a financial or business decision.

Former Dallas Cowboys quarterback Roger Staubach gave the closing keynote. While playing football, Staubach went into the real estate business. He said that the same skills that made him a good quarterback also made him a good business man. The skills that he addressed was persistence, hard work, confidence and competitiveness. He advised the athletes to invest wisely.

With financial issues affecting players after the game, seminars on investments and business decisions are gaining notoriety. More athletes are attending the conferences.

Ryan McNeil, former Dallas Cowboys player and PBFN

founder, formed PBFN to assist athletes in life after the game because it is an area in which players tend to overlook. McNeil is currently with the San Diego Chargers. He has played profes-



sional football for nine years. He believes that athletes should have plans and focus on success for life after football.

Professional Business and Financial Network provides athletes and members with an opportunity to make a business

identity separate from their athletic identity. PBFN's main objective is to help people ascend to the challenge of business success during and after athletics.

Yolanda Brooks is a psychologist who works for the Dallas Cowboys in family assistance. In an interview with the Associated Press, she said "PBFN is not the first attempt to build a network of athletes. Bringing together current and former players is a different approach. I think it's wonderful. The things they're hearing are the same things I'm telling them. The difference is, they're hearing it from some of their own."

PBFN Conference is scheduled in 2003 for May 13-17. For more information on the conference visit the website at www.pbfnet.org or call 1-877-PBFN-ORG.

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Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber of Commerce Excellence in Education Banquet 2002 Honors US Secretary of Labor, Elaine Chao, and Recognizes Outstanding Students, Educators, and Asian Language Schools of DFW

Dallas, TX - Forty Asian American scholars will be recognized along with four educators and one Asian language school during the 2002 Excellence in Education Banquet, sponsored by the Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber of Commerce (GDAACC), scheduled for Thursday, June 27, 2002 at the Westin Galleria hotel from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. GDAACC has invited United States Secretary of Labor, Elaine Chao to deliver the keynote address at this event.

Secretary Chao will also present the first Annual Public Service Scholarship to one of the deserving students.

The Public Service Scholarship will be presented with the prestigious Jerry Junkins Memorial Scholarship, named after the former Chairman & CEO of Texas Instruments, who was a long standing advocate of academic excellence and a strong supporter of GDAACC. This scholarship will be awarded to one student who best represents the Asian American community as a well-rounded, talented student achieving academic excellence.

Tickets are available at \$75.00 each, or \$750.00 for a corporate table. For more information about tickets and sponsorship please call the Chamber at 972-241-8250 or visit www.gdaacc.com

State Farm Insurance is the underwriter for the scholarships and Washington Mutual is the underwriter of the banquet.

Other sponsors include: Gold Sponsor: Total Enterprise Silver Sponsor: Prime Art and Jewel Bronze Sponsors: Banker International, Chiang, Jind and Yehby, Commerce Bank, DART and Occidental Chemical Corporation

Formed in 1986, the Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber of Commerce was established to serve Asian American businesses and individuals. The Chamber seeks to create leaders, promote community awareness and business opportunities for members and represent the Greater Dallas Asian American communities in the business world.



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Juneteenth from Page 1

Deacon Ben Thomas.

"Ben Thomas is extremely active in the community, and he strongly encouraged the Pastor and leadership to become involved in this," said Minister Hutchins.

He added that the key word in the Juneteenth celebrations is 'perspective'.

"This service helps put things in perspective," he said, "if you are able to look back and see where you have come from, you are better able to see and appreciate where you are now."

Minister Hutchins said generations to come will not have the opportunity to see where the African-American community is today, and to understand the struggles they have had to overcome to be where they are now.

"Our theme Bringing it Back to The Church is important for our community," said Minister Hutchins, "and as we move on it is vital for the church to embrace Juneteenth, to pass on the meaning and the memory, for future generations to gain an understanding of Juneteenth."

Deacon Ben Thomas said his decision to approach the church to become involved in the Juneteenth celebrations this year sprung from his concern about the overall condition of the African-American community.

"I've been concerned about the overall condition of our people and how we've been affected by political correctness, and how it has aggravated our society," said Mr. Thomas.

He said he perceived a change in the spiritual attitude of the community, and sought a way to overcome this. Mr. Thomas said if you go back and read the historical papers that set the stage for America, all of them spoke of appreciation of God, and our dependence on God for the success of the nation.

"But now we're involved in political correctness and we're getting away from God," he said, "and when you get God out of your business you are open to Satan working in your life."

Mr. Thomas added that as he thought about this he thought that at the very least, the African-American community could bring it all back to the church, so he approached the other Deacons at the church and the stage was set for the Juneteenth service at Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church. Mr. Thomas is also President Emeritus of Plano's Douglass Community Council, Inc., so the celebrations were brought together by a joint effort of the church and council.

"Politics have failed us tremendously, so it's time to get back to God," said Mr. Thomas.

Echoing this sentiment was Mistress of Ceremonies, Eva Nell Starks, who said "it is God who has kept us all the days of our lives."

She also said she is thankful for the endurance that God gave their forefathers, for without that help from God, there would be no celebration of Juneteenth.

Pastor of the church, Isaiah Joshua, gave the message for the day - "Hidden Blessings in The Storms of Life", from the New Testament book of Matthew 14:22-33.

The message was apt for people of all ages and generations, for those who were trapped in slavery and sub-



L to R: Cecil Starks, Reverend Isaiah Joshua and Reverend James Hutchins

sequent segregation, and for those generations yet to come.

Pastor Joshua noted that the disciples in this passage had been sent by Christ in their boat to go to the other side of the sea while he went alone to pray. But the disciples became trapped in a fierce storm at sea, and Jesus did not come to them until the fourth watch, sometime between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m., which is the darkest hour before dawn.

Pastor Joshua said these men were in the will of God at that time, having been commanded by Christ to get in the boat.

"You can be in the will of God yet still have storms in your life," said Pastor Joshua, adding "may I remind you that just as God is in control of your blessings, he is also in control of your storms."

He said the disciples were afraid of the storm, yet the very thing that the disciples were afraid of was the vehicle that Christ used to reveal himself to them, and He will do the same for every one of us.

"You may be walking in darkness, facing some of the darkest days, but God is ever with you," said Pastor Joshua, "and when things look the bleakest, that is when Jesus will be there."

Pastor Joshua continued that our storms in life are God's way of testing us, and have the potential to reveal the Savior to us in a way we haven't seen Him before. He said when Jesus came to the disciples in the storm walking on the water the disciples did not recognize him. But He still came to them speaking words of peace, power and hope (Matt 14:27 - But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."), and when Jesus comes to us in our storms He comes with the same message of hope.

Pastor Joshua noted that Christ did not take them out of the storm and then tell them not to fear, but he told them this in the midst of the storm, and this is how we should face all our storms with Christ. Even Peter, who walked on water until fear overcame him, did have the courage to get out of the boat into the midst of the raging sea and walk to Christ. Peter was the only disciple who could say he walked on water, and yet even when he started doubting and began to sink, Christ immediately reached and caught him, pulling him out of his storm.

And when God has brought us through, Pastor Joshua said we should share with people what God has done for us. Looking back to see the miracles God has performed, to see where we came from, can give us the faith to

know we can go on.

Speaking from Hebrews 12:11, (No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.), Pastor Joshua said "the

storms of life are never pleasant, but they produce benefit in our lives, to help us be better people," to grow us into the people God wants us to be.

As Pastor Joshua closed his message he said we are a blessed America, but we don't realize how good God is. He said our children have more than we ever thought of having, but they still want more, and the more God does for us the less we seem to want to do for Him. Pastor Joshua said we need to return to our knees in America, and ask God to take control of our homes.

"We live in a God Blessed America, and we ought to act like we live in a God Blessed America."

Ending, Pastor Joshua said God has blessed America, but God is giving us wake up calls to return to Him, and we all have our part to play in doing this.

The service ended with thanks to God, and blessings on the food that was being prepared for the afternoon festivities at the Douglass Community Center.

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Purple International, Inc. is a member of the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce and will be holding interviews at the chamber location for these positions. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 214-349-9473.

Cecil Ray Starks, President/CEO



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Blueprint

from Page 6

by the Executive Leadership Council in Washington, D.C., Cutrer has positioned herself to get the pick of plum jobs. Already, she has an offer from JP Morgan Chase and Co. to enter its two-year investment-banking program as an analyst after graduation this spring. Still in the early stages of her implementing her career plan, Cutrer plans to pursue her M.B.A. in two to three years and perhaps enter the fields of venture capitalism, urban revitalization, or management consulting. Conscious that she must continue to build and maintain her network, Cutrer regularly updates mentors and supporters on her progress via notes and e-mail, keeping herself in their minds should they become privy to a potential career or job opportunity.

WATCH FOR ROADBLOCKS AND HURDLES

Youthful bravado has a way of helping career dreams flourish, but somewhere along the way the implementation process gets stalled. It could be marriage, relocation, the birth of a child, getting too comfortable in a current job, a change in education plans, or a simple change of mind. "There is nothing wrong with doing the job you really want on the weekends or part-time," says Deborah Brown, president of D&F Consulting in Atlanta, who works with many attorneys who find themselves in career quagmires. "You can hold down the job that pays the bills and pursue your entrepreneurial or artistic goals during your off time until you determine how to do it full-time."

Career planning is an ongoing effort and never really ends. "Your goals should not just be in the present, but should also look ahead," says Urquhart-Brown. "Ask yourself, Where do I want to be in the next two to three years? It's very important that you don't stop your career planning once you get a job, even if it seems to be the ideal job today."



Freedom is exactly what Juneteenth symbolizes to many African Americans. For it was on this day June 19, 1865 that the last slaves were freed. True, the Emancipation Proclamation had already been issued, but it took a civil war, the passing of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, and a couple of additional years before slavery was formally outlawed in the U.S. It is this triumph of the human spirit that Wells Fargo salutes. We are proud to promote and support successes within the African American community as part of our commitment to helping people get to the next stage.

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Around The Town

June 1-June 29

Black Music Month: Salute to the Black Composer. Price is \$5-\$15 at South Dallas Cultural Center. For more information call 817-939-2787.

June 3-July 19

SMART (Summer of Math, Arts and Recreation Technology) Camp for students ages 3-5 and 6-12 years of age. The camp will be divided into three sessions and will include Lego Discovery labs, educational and fun filled field trips. The cost is \$100/session with each additional child at \$75/session. For more information contact Froswa Booker-Drew, Community Center Director at 214-421-5221 ext. 122 or Annie Sudds, Athletic Director at ext. 117. Proceeds will help fund student scholars.

June 3-July 19

Summer Camp at the African American Museum. Kids ages 8-12 can participate in a fun learning environment and improve their reading skill while learn about the history of fashion and the contributions that African American designers made to the fashion industry. Price is \$200 for museum members per session, \$250 for non museum members per session. Location: African American Museum at Fair Park. For more information call 214-565-9026.

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June 19-June 22

Wine, Watermelon, The Word. Feast on wine and watermelon as gifted, young, black artists perform hip hop and rap music to poetry celebrating the literary contributions of the Harlem Renaissance of the 60s. For more information call 214-631-2787.

June 20-June 23

Women of Influence Personal Development and Empowerment Conference. Evening Sessions are free. For ticketing information call 817-557-5811.

June 21

Soul of Stax. A musical tribute to the sweet soul sound that Stax Records made famous. Featuring music by Rufus Thomas, Isaac Hayes, the Staple Sisters

and the comedy of Richard Pryor. The event will take place at the South Dallas Cultural Center at 8:00 p.m. For more information call 214-939-2787.

June 21

Jammin at the Center. After hour jazz at the South Dallas Cultural Center from midnight-3 a.m. The event is free. For more information call 214-939-2787.

June 21-June 23

D.L. Hughley, from the Kings of Comedy and The Hughleys, will be at Addison Improv. The show time is 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$27. For more information call 974-404-0323.

June 22

Get Over Your Love Hangover Gospel Celebration. Tommy West, the Wandering Mimes, Robert Brown and Kenistry, Sheila Norman and many others will come and celebrate in song of healing power of the love of God. The event will be at Dawn of a New Day Church from 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m. For more information call 214-868-5072.

June 22

Juneteenth and Jazz-celebrating freedom through artistic expression. A free festival featuring the first visual artists in the city. The event will be at Annette Strauss Artist Square. Time: 10 a.m.-10 p.m. For more information call 214-922-0000.

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June 22-23

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June 23

Praise Dance Jubilee. Worship the Lord in Praise! The Freedom Missionary Baptist Church welcomes you to join in their "Jubilee of Praise" at Freedom Missionary Baptist Church, 3715 S. Westmoreland, Dallas, Texas at 5:30 p.m. There will be guests from around Dallas/Ft. Worth area metroplex. For more information call 972-274-3350.

June 23

Boater Safety Education course will be conducted by Texas Parks and Wildlife at the Carpenter Park Recreation Center at 6701 Coit Road in Plano. Class hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the cost is \$13 per person. The course qualifies for a boat insurance discount from most insurance companies. Bring social security number. To register call 972-398-0001 or visit the website at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/edu/boated/dalbed.htm.

June 23

Upsilon Lambda Omega Of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. presents Family Fun Day. Come bring family and

friends and enjoy music, food, drinks, games and more for the whole family to enjoy. Location: Joe Pool Lake, Lynn Park. Time: 3:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Price: \$10.00. Tickets will be sold at Joka's African American Bookstore at 972-283-0558 or you may contact Darcey at 972-316-8620.

June 28

A Marriage Encounter Weekend for couples living in Plano and surrounding areas. The event is sponsored by Dallas-Fort Worth Lutheran Marriage Encounter Couples. All husbands and wives, regardless of religious backgrounds, are welcome to register. An advanced registration fee of \$45 is required. For more information call 972-780-0920 or visit the website at www.LMEdfw.org

June 29

Omega Psi Phi- Quesino Night 2002. Que-sino 2002 Adams Mark Hotel 400 Olive Street Dallas (Downtown), Texas 75201 from 8:00 p.m.-2:00 a.m.. Presented by The Omicron Gamma Gamma Chapter and The Bridge Builder Foundation of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. Proceeds will benefit the Ronald McNair Scholarship Fund. For more information call 940-498-9412.

June 30-July 1

Finley and Friends 2002 Golf Outing will take place at Stonebriar Country Club. It will benefit the Make A Wish Foundation of North Texas. For more information call 972-450-WISH.

July 6

Usher Evolution 8710 featuring Faith Evans, Nas and Mr. Cheeks. The event will be at Smirnoff Music Centre at 7:00 p.m. Ticket prices are \$27.00-\$55.50. For more information call 214-373-8000.

July 4-July 9

2002 International Global Games. The Global Games is an international basketball tournament that annually brings the world's top amateur basketball players to Dallas, Texas. This year's event will feature men's junior national teams (ages 22 and under) from Mexico, Yugoslavia, Croatia, Puerto Rico, Germany, Ukraine, and a team from the continent of Africa. The tournament will be played July 4-7 at Southern Methodist University's Moody Coliseum and July 9 at Reunion Arena. For more information call 214-346-7308.

July 24- July 28

Wanda Sykes, a regular from HBO's "The Chris Rock Show" will be at Addison Improv. Show time is 8:30 p.m. Price: \$12.00. For more information call 972-404-0323.

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