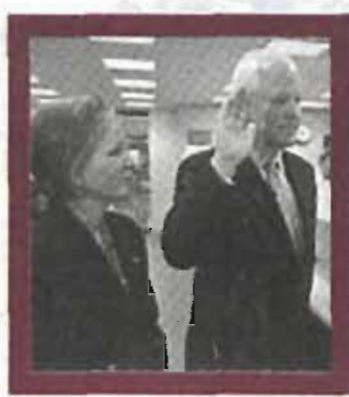




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Drum Line

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Capital Watch:

U.S. Senator John Cornyn

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Appearing
January 14, 2003

Jennifer Holliday

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MON
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Volume XI, Number XXXIX

December 5 - December 11, 2002

The Gazette

"North Dallas" Weekly Paper of Choice

SERVING PLANO, DALLAS, RICHARDSON, GARLAND, ALLEN, MCKINNEY AND MESQUITE



On the Homefront:

Dickens in Historic Downtown Plano and Christmas Tree Lighting on Friday December 6 in Historic Downtown Plano. Browse the shops and join in the family activities. Call the Plano Parks & Recreation Department at 972-941-7250 for more information.

Plano's 30th Annual Christmas Parade and Pancake Breakfast, December 7 in downtown Plano. Parade starts at 9:00 a.m., breakfast begins earlier. Media coverage by NBC Channel 5. For more information call 972-424-1714.

Following the Christmas parade on December 7, The Interurban Museum on 15th Street, Plano, salutes the Centennial of the North Texas Interurban System and DART's arrival in Plano, with a commemorative Postal Cancellation Stamp available throughout the day.

On December 7, DART Rail celebrates the opening of two Plano Stations, with trains scheduled to start running on December 9. Festivities to celebrate the Downtown Plano and Parker Road Stations will be held in downtown Plano after the Christmas Parade.

Rudolph Run, December 7, at 8 a.m., beginning at Allen Senior Center, 102 S. Allen Dr. 5K Rudolph Run \$20 for all ages; 1 mile Elf Run \$10 for children 10 & under; 1 mile Frosty Run \$10 for senior adults. Entry forms available at City Hall, Don Rodenbaugh Natatorium and Joe Farmer Recreation Center. Children can visit with Santa after the run. Prizes and special giveaways for participants. Call 972-727-0140 for more information.

December 6 and 7, McKinney's Fifth Annual Czechs (Nativity) Exhibit. Last year's exhibit featured almost 700 nativity scenes from over 55 countries. Plus a musical performance each evening at 7:00 p.m. at the Church of Latter-day Saints at 2801 Eldorado Pkwy. Exhibit hours: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Free. For more information call 972-838-2700.

Santa's Village 2002, at Richardson Civic Center, on the City Hall Lawn, December 7-8, 12-15, and 19-22, from 6 p.m.-9 p.m. 18 dwellings make up Santa's Village, each sponsored by a business or group in Richardson. Fun activities and fun for all who believe in Santa! Free, but small fee for slight and pony rides. Visit www.cornet.net for more information and Richardson's Holiday web site.

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Words of Wisdom - What is Love?

By Rudy Fleurius

What is love? What is required to make you feel loved? What do you have to do to make others feel that you love them? The answer is within you! Love is an emotion, a deep and tender feeling of fondness—it is also an attitude full of good will and devotion, relaying concern rather than desire. Love is one of the most important aspects of the inner self and your relationship with God. God is love and the foundation to your wealth, health, success, strength, happiness and wholeness. Love is the most important and the most valuable ingredient used in building godly character from the inside out—simply because love is patient, kind, concerned, merciful, generous and honest.

We all need love: to motivate us and free us from our fears about giving and receiving love. Love and concern bring people together; the lack of it separates individuals because they treat others as if they are property instead of real people. So how is it that we say that we



love someone but treat him or her badly? How can you give love when you don't practice loving? We often treat other people and our pets better than we treat our spouse, children and relatives. What type of love is this? We are supposed to love them and not use them—would it be fair for me to call this conditional love? This issue goes much deeper than what meets the eye because an individual can love only as much as they have been taught or are willing to learn. We are taught by

some people to put others before God and ourselves, but they are sadly mistaken. For the love of God causes you to love Him first, then ourselves, and finally, after we complete steps 1 and 2, we will be able to move to step 3, which is loving our neighbor. In so many words, you will love your neighbor only to the extent you love yourself. So if you do not love yourself, then it is impossible to truly love anyone else without it being conditional.

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Excerpts from Relationship 911: The Hidden Vessel Within
MON-The Gazette Chronology
Editions
11/28 Life About Relationships
12/05 What is Love?
12/12 Faith is Powerful
12/18 Why doesn't God Answer Prayers?
For more information, visit [relationship911.info](http://www.relationship911.info)

Serious About Clean, That's Why It's The Middle Name

By: Felicia Coleman

Office Clean America, Inc., offices in North Dallas, while providing janitorial services throughout the Dallas/Ft. Worth metroplex. The company offers a myriad of janitorial and related services that include general office cleaning, carpet cleaning, hard-surface floor care, window cleaning, construction final-cleaning, and power washing.

Office Clean America supports a diverse client base that include state and federal governmental agencies, private schools, banks, auto dealerships and general office buildings. OCAI sees its accounts always as a challenge due to the uniqueness of the customer's operations and the individuality of the customers.

Each having corporate backgrounds, Elric Freeman and Mike Atkins established Office Clean America in March of 1996.

Prior to starting the business with Mr. Atkins, Mr. Freeman, a Vietnam veteran, worked 18 years in the telephone industry. Mr. Freeman currently serves on the board of the West Dallas Neighborhood Development Corporation and



Elric Freeman

the Garland Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Atkins, having enjoyed experience in a number of industries, including over six years in the computer hardware and peripheral industry, is currently an Ambassador (welcomes incoming new businesses) for the Colony Chamber of Commerce.

Office Clean America, Inc., is very participative in many of the business communities in which it operates, as demonstrated by its membership in the Dallas, Garland and Colony Chambers of Commerce. In recognition of its outstanding business practices and good corporate citizenship, OCAI has received recognition awards



Mike Atkins

from the Garland Branch of the NAACP and the Minority Business Development Agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

In a continuing effort to retain satisfied customers and attract new ones, Office Clean America periodically distributes customer satisfaction surveys to its customers to receive their perceptions of service and also OCAI staff makes site visits to assess quality of service. Due to these practices, in addition to other efforts, the company enjoys very high industry retention and customer satisfaction rates.

"We are very involved with our customers. We stress a qual-

See Clean page 5

COORS BREWING COMPANY REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO BLACK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SIGNS NEW FOUR-YEAR NATIONAL PACT

GOLDEN, Colo. — Coors Brewing Company (CBC) recently announced the signing of a new national economic covenant with the National Black Economic Development Coalition (NBEDC), a body of top national African American organizations. The signing renews a commitment that Coors has maintained with the Coalition since 1984 to provide economic opportunities for African Americans in seven key areas: employment, marketing and advertising, purchasing, financial and other professional services, distributorships, government, and corporate giving.

The new agreement will be in force through 2006. At the signing, which was attended by several Coors officials, Coors president and CEO W. Leo Kiely said, "We share with the Coalition the belief that increased participation and involvement of African Americans in our enterprise will benefit both the Black community and Coors. This new and reciprocal relationship between Coors Brewing Company and the NBEDC will help us achieve a wide range of important economic, philanthropic and educational goals that are the spirit of the covenants we've formed

with the African American community for nearly two decades."

The NBEDC has agreed to assist Coors' efforts by providing advice and counsel as needed. Members of the Coalition include the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Rainbow-PUSH Coalition, National Newspaper Publishers Association, California Package Store and Tavern Owners Association, and representatives from Denver's Black community. Each organization was repre-

See Coors page 3

Blackonomics Another Year, Another \$600 Billion

By James Clingman

By the time you read this, you will have already made your purchasing decision for so-called "Black Friday." You know, the day Black folks spend so much money that they named the day after us. By the time you read this, I hope you will have already spent some of your portion of our collective \$600 billion with Black-owned businesses. Or, by the time you read this, you will have done exactly what the marketers and profiteers told you to do, and you will have spent most of your money with businesses other than your own and on products that your people did not make. Another year, another \$600 billion, and counting; what did you do with your share? You have heard it before. You probably hear it every year. The day after Thanksgiving is the biggest shopping day of the year—the beginning of the "holiday" season when more money is spent than any other time of the year. I hear our people complaining about how much we spend and I hear some of them planning "no-buy" campaigns for this time of the year. Well, how about planning and implementing a "buy" campaign this year? In addition to supporting Black businesses and vendors in your area, how about purchasing at least one

product from the MATAH Network? (Go to www.matah.com and listen to the words of our fallen brother and MATAH cofounder, Ken Bridges, killed by a sniper in Virginia.) How about a real "Buy Black" campaign this year, starting right now? You know, it's not about showing "them" our economic impact during the holidays (they already know what it is); it's about showing ourselves. It's not about doing negative things against someone else as much as it is about doing positive things for us, especially when it comes to spending our dollars. So, what do you say? Will you make that commitment? Will you follow through on it? Surely there is something among the hundreds of items on the MATAH Network, all made by Black folks and some of which you use everyday around your home, that would make excellent gifts for your friends and family. So why not make a purchase from your brothers and sisters? Why not contribute to your own economic freedom? Let's make a statement that will positively affect our people and lessen our priority on making economic statements that negatively affect "them." I know it's a small step, but isn't it

See Blackonomics page 5

Supreme Court to Review Affirmative Action

By Stephen Dewey
GOPUSA News
December 3, 2002

The Supreme Court announced on Monday that it will hear two constitutional challenges to affirmative action. The two cases both concern the University of Michigan's admissions policies; one challenges the affirmative action policy at its law school, the other challenges a similar policy in its undergraduate admissions.

Spokespeople and lawyers on both sides of the case said that the decision would be historic. The Supreme Court endorsed affirmative action in the Bakke v. Board of Regents case that outlawed racial quotas in school admissions but allowed race to be taken into account in the decision-making process. The 1978 ruling is the only time the Supreme Court has actually dealt with affirmative action and it has never offered clear guidelines on the practice.

Proponents of affirmative action argue that it is an important means of rectifying past discrimination. Opponents, however, contend that affirmative action is an unconstitutional form of "reverse discrimination." The

actual grounds of contention, however, will be whether states have a "compelling interest" to promote diversity through affirmative action policies and whether the policy violates the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment.

The case only concerns state-funded universities, but the language the Supreme Court uses could result in its having a wider impact. Terrence Bell of the Center for Individual Rights, who represents those challenging the policies, and Theodore Shaw of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund Inc., which supports affirmative action, both agreed that whatever decision the Court hands down will be historic. Both sides have asked the court to clarify the issue in a strong ruling.

The case involving the law school was brought to the Supreme Court by Barbara Grutter, a white woman who is 43 years old. She claims that although she had higher grades and test scores than similar minority applicants, she was not admitted. Her lawyer said that the case will show "whether our nation's

See Court page 10

Around The Town

On-going

Nature Stories at Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary, every Saturday at 11:00 a.m., and 2:00 p.m. Stories are hosted by the Heard Nature Store staff, and incorporate music, nature crafts and nature walks. Free with general admission. For topics and more details call 972.562.5566.

Come and see the Belgian draft horses, the mascot hitch team for Owens Country Sausage and the farming museum in Richardson. Petting zoo featuring pygmy goats, lambs, turkeys and pot-bellied pigs. 401 E. Lookout Drive, off Plano Road, Richardson. Open daily, 9 am to 4 pm. Call 972-235-0192.

Barnyard Buddies, at Fairview Farms, 3316 N. Central Expwy, at Parker Road, next to Hoffbrau. Country activities with a Western theme for kids. Visit the petting zoo, take a hayride or pony ride. Picnic tables on site. Available for birthday parties. Call 972-633-9779. Open 7 days a week.

Through December 20

McKinney Dinner Theatre at McKinney Square Meal present, "All Scrooged Up," Friday and Saturday evenings through December 20. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Show begins at 8:00 p.m.

213 E. Louisiana St., downtown. Admission: \$12 adults and \$10 senior citizens and children under 12 years. For more information: 972-548-6900 or visit www.mckinneysquaremeal.com.

Through December 31

The International Library of Poetry is inviting poets from the Plano area to submit their entries to try and win their share of over 250 prizes. Deadline for the contest is December 31, and is free. To enter, send ONE original poem, any subject and any style to: The International Library of Poetry, Suite 19915, 1 Poetry Plaza, Owings Mills, MD 21117. The poem should be 20 lines or less, and the poet's name and address should appear on the top of the page. Entries must be postmarked or sent via the Internet by December 31, 2002. You may also enter online at www.poetry.com.

Through January 5, 2003

Secrets of Aging at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History. Featuring four major themes: Body, Mind, Society and Longevity. \$7 adults, \$6 seniors, \$5 children 3-12. For more information and operating hours, call 817-255-9300, or visit www.fortworthmuseum.org.

Through January 6, 2003

Masters of the Night: The True Story of Bats, at the Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary. A 2,500 sq.ft exhibit, to dispel popular misconceptions about bats. One Nature

Place, McKinney. Call 972.562.5566, or visit www.heardmuseum.org.

Through January 6

Santa vs. The Snowman, the first-ever IMAX animated holiday feature film, at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, 1501 Montgomery Street, Fort Worth. A heart warming story of a lonely snowman swept away by the wonders of Santa's Village, then becomes jealous and wages war on Santa, but after a high spirited and wacky feud friendship reigns. For show times and information call 817-255-9300, or go to www.fortworthmuseum.org.

Through January 12

The new Roger Moore Photography Exhibit at the Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary in McKinney unveils the richness and beauty of nature through photographic art. Including scenes from Big Bend National Park. Free with regular admission to the Heard Museum.

December 5 - 7

Come see Westlake Park, Mesquite, transformed into a winter wonderland, at the 15th Annual Christmas in the Park, from 6:00-9:00pm each night. Santa's workshop and much more. For more information call the Parks and Recreation Department at 972-216-6260.

December 6

City of Allen Tree Lighting with Santa 7 p.m. at City Hall, 305 Century Parkway. Santa will be

available to take pictures with children of all ages. Enjoy the sounds of a local choir and warm up with season goodies. Hosted in conjunction with Home for the Holidays sponsored by the Allen Chamber of Commerce.

December 6 - 8

Back to Grandma's Attic at Plano Centre, Spring Creek & Jupiter Roads, December 6 through December 8. Friday 11a.m.-6p.m.; Saturday 10a.m.-6p.m.; Sunday 11a.m.-4:30p.m. Crafters Village & Interior Marketplace, including antiques & collectibles. Free hand crafted quilt drawing. \$5 adults, \$4 seniors, free under 12 years. For more information call 800-783-4526.

December 7

Allen Christmas Bazaar and Craft Fair, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Joe Farmer Recreation Center, 1201 E. Bethany Drive. Shop for unique gifts and home decor. The XTreme Teens will host a bake sale. Children can have pictures taken with Santa from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m., parents can take the picture or Parks and Recreation staff will take the picture for \$2. For more information call 972-727-0152.

12th Annual Merry Main Street, downtown Frisco, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Celebrate the holidays and mark the end of Frisco's Centennial year with the Christmas Tree Lighting and festival. Student choirs and local talent will perform. Festival also features face

painting, a mini train ride, live reindeer and Santa. Children can shop for grownups in the Kid's Holidaystore; nothing priced over \$5 bucks.

Holiday movie at the Mesquite Public Library, 300 West Grubb Drive, 12 noon. Come and enjoy hot chocolate!

December 9 - 12

Mesquite Community Theatre auditions "Eat Your Heart Out", each evening at 7 p.m. Call 972-216-8126 for more information.

December 10

Seasonal preschool story time for ages 3-5 year olds at the Mesquite Public Library, 300 West Grubb Drive at 10:30 a.m. Be there for Christmas stories, a short movie and some goodies.

The Plano Chamber of Commerce and SMU-in-Legacy host "Power Networking", Tuesday December 10, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Be prepared to give a one-minute "commercial" about your business at many tables. RSVP by December 9 at: www.planocc.org, or call 927-424-7547, ext 230.

December 11

Victorian Christmas Tea and Conversation at the Heard-Craig. A charming program on the origins of some of our most treasured Christmas traditions. Delicious desserts and other treats with afternoon tea. Reservations required. \$15 per person. \$10 for members of the Heard-Craig League. 2:00 p.m. This popular event is held in the

historic Heard-Craig House. For information or reservations call 972.569.6909.

December 12

Christmas on the Square celebration in historic downtown Garland, 5:30 -9:30 pm. Santa, caroling, sleigh rides, fabulous food, Christmas Bazaar, snow and more.

December 12 - 13

Lunch with Santa in Garland, December 12, 11:00 am-1:00 pm at Audubon Recreation Center, and December 13 at Holford Recreation Center. Photos with Santa, arts and crafts, games, lunch. Register by December 11 at any Garland recreation center.

December 14

Swim with Santa, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Don Rodenbaugh Natatorium, 110 E. Rivercrest. \$5 for members/\$7 general public. Advanced registration recommended. Chick-Fil-A will serve breakfast snacks to all swimmers and Santa. Swimming and picture opportunities with Santa the entire time. Parents accompanying children get in free. For more information call 972.747.4150.

December 17

Holiday craft time at the Mesquite Public Library, 300 West Grubb Drive at 4:30 p.m. Come and make Christmas tree decorations to take home. For all ages.

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DART's Bush Turnpike, Downtown Plano and Parker Road rail stations are opening on December 9, 2002!

Celebrate with us and get a **FREE DART weekly pass*** on Super Saturday, December 7 at Downtown Plano Station.

SUPER SATURDAY 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

• **FREE barbecue from Red, Hot & Blue***

• **FREE Deja Blue and Red Fusion from Dr Pepper Bottling Co.***

• **Live entertainment**

• **Downtown Plano Trolley-Bus tour**

• **Prizes and giveaways by DART, Bally Total Fitness**

and **Equity Residential***

• **Radio Disney and DART safety presentations**

• **FREE admission to Dallas Museum of Art during**

Super Saturday hours with a valid DART pass

*While supplies last



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DART

PROMOTIONAL PARTNERS



My Holiday Recipe

- Grandma's slamin' cornbread dressing
- Some old-school Christmas LP's
- Kayla and Sharise messing with their toys
- Tavis home from college
- A serious feast with holiday flavor
- The men mad into the game
- Some belt-loosening and hickin' back
- And a lot of thankfulness for another year together

Add Coke. Mix it all together. Chill. And serve.

peace

Coca-Cola

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THE TRUTH CLINIC Take Time To Be Thankful

If one were to consider the ominous and foreboding news headlines being constantly drummed into our collective consciences it would explain the despair and despondency being experienced by so many. Day in and day out the threat of terrorists, snipers, uncertainty, irrational hatred and war hangs over our heads.

But as we approach and prepare for the year end holiday season I encourage all to pause and find the time to be Thankful. We often get bogged down in the struggle to just survive life's multiple storms. The pain and suffering we experience coupled with the perception of worst things to come make it hard to look up and be thankful.

I cannot speak for others, but I have plenty to be thankful for in spite of the misery bombarding my senses. Perhaps by sharing my sense of gratitude, a small ray of hope may be kindled in a soul now filled with hopelessness. Dealing with the daily challenges of mortgages, schedules, bills, and personal conflicts can put a heavy burden on our shoulders and it's easy to think all would be better if we only had someone to share the load.

Over the last few months I had started to feel despondent. It seemed that most of my time was spent attending funerals of friends and loved ones. But then in the middle of this death barrage a new life came into our family. A beautiful, healthy great-grand daughter was born just before Thanksgiving.

Previously, we had to wait days

or weeks to see photos of a new born. But through the miracle of the internet live video was beamed to the anxious grand parents just moments after the birth. We sat in amazement, with gratitude filling our hearts, while watching her little arms and legs flailing to orchestrate the start of a new generation. My despondency disappeared for I realized that just as spring follows winter, new life follows death. I give thanks for the new generation and become even more thankful for the loving family that makes it all possible.

I am thankful that in my seventh decade of life there are still mountains to climb and stars to reach for. That I still have the mindset and the desire to look upon each day as an opportunity to accept a fresh challenge and learn something new, is nothing short of amazing.

I am grateful that mother instilled in her children a firm understanding that no matter how bad things get, it could always be worse. Do not be consumed with self centered negativity but open your eyes and see those with even harsher, more immediate difficulties to face. Then the old adage will come to mind, "There but for the grace of God go I."

I give thanks for the difficult times which I have overcome, and in the process gained an additional measure of confidence and an expanded base of experiences. I am grateful for my mistakes for they have taught valuable lessons that schools and books could never teach. I now understand that the physical and mental limitations of old age are not cause for concern because they create new opportunities for new

achievement.

Trials have their purpose. They make us struggle — often bringing us to our knees. They form the prisons of personal doubt in which we find ourselves locked. It is then that faith in our God helps us rise up and become renewed.

Faith and thanksgiving are partners. If you have faith in God, you will be thankful because you know His loving grace surrounds you, even though you may be mired in one of life's hell holes. That will give you a deep sense of joy and peace which are the true barometers of your faith.

I'm thankful to have an avocation that is pure joy to perform. And to have publishers willing to provide an unfettered outlet for my viewpoints. I have been blessed with the opportunity to speak out without fear of economic reprisal or unwarranted sanctions.

I give thanks for that which I have today. The future can not be experienced in the present. So never let future concerns ruin the beauty now at hand.

The Bible stresses that the greatest praise should go to God. Give thanks to HIM for each beautiful sunrise, each breathtaking rainbow, each spectacular sunset. Recognize that all blessings and good fortune are not of our own making. Do yourself a big favor — Find something to be thankful for. And find the time to give thanks.

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

Inspiration It's Alright

Dry your eyes and cry no more
Your dreams await on nearing shores
A hand extends from someone near
To cast away doubts and fears
It's time to start a life anew
With changes for the both of you
Cling not to the things you've had
Reminders of a time so sad
So rise above the mire and silt

And free yourself of fear and guilt
Question not the things unknown
Just please accept the love you're shown
Trust in things you can not see
And maybe you'll believe in me
So now before you here I stand
Just make a wish and take my hand
— Unknown

Cornyn Gets Head Start in Senate Abbott Promises Even Hand as Texas Attorney General



By JULIE MASON
Copyright 2002 Houston Chronicle Washington Bureau
Holding hands with his wife in a nondescript Capitol Hill office, Texas Republican John Cornyn took the oath of office Monday as the newest member of the U.S. Senate.

"It's pretty unbelievable; I'm still pinching myself," said Cornyn, the former state attorney general. Cornyn, a Houston native elected last month to replace retiring Republican Sen. Phil Gramm, was sworn in to finish out the final weeks of Gramm's term. Cornyn last month defeated Democrat Ron Kirk, the former mayor of Dallas, in a bitter and expensive statewide battle that drew significant attention and financial help from the White House.

Gramm, who served 25 years in Congress, stepped down early to allow Gov. Rick Perry to appoint Cornyn to office early, giving the state's freshman senator a head start in Washington. Cornyn will be sworn in again during a more formal ceremony on Jan. 7, with other incoming members of the 108th Congress. Gramm, who officially resigned last week, started Monday in his new position of vice chairman of financial services for UBS Warburg.

Back on Capitol Hill, Cornyn arrived at the Senate Disburser's Office with his wife, Sandy, and a small retinue of staff for the informal swearing-in to Gramm's unexpired term. Senate financial clerk Tim Wineman administered the brief oath and proclaimed Cornyn a "full-fledged senator."

In a dark blue suit with an American flag lapel pin, Sandy Cornyn said she was moved watching her husband sworn in to the Senate. "I got tears in my eyes," she said, smiling. "It's overwhelming."

Cornyn, also wearing a dark suit and in a low-key but cheery mood, said he is slowly adjusting to the new job and new city. "It doesn't feel all that different yet," Cornyn said.

Orientation for incoming senators starts on Tuesday, and Cornyn said he already has met with Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, a Republican and the state's senior

senator. Cornyn said he is looking forward to getting the economy moving, strengthening marriage and families, and passing a national energy policy that includes more domestic oil production.

"Once I get a staff together and figure out where I'll be located, then we can get started," Cornyn said.



Joining the new senate office staff are Pete Olson, former deputy chief of staff to Gramm who will be chief of staff for Cornyn; campaign spokesman John Drogin, who will serve as deputy press secretary; and Jennifer Lustina, former campaign manager who will serve as state director for Cornyn's Texas office.

Asked if the expensive housing market in Washington was giving him sticker shock after the somewhat more affordable prices in Texas, Cornyn laughed and said, "No kidding."

"We were looking (at buying) in the district, and Sandy got back to me with a message that the news was not good," Cornyn said. Sandy Cornyn, a home health agency worker who is moving to Washington with her husband, said she plans to find a job here eventually.

First, she said, she wants to learn how to drive in Washington's notoriously hostile traffic. Her husband, echoing the thought, said it's one thing that reminds him of home. "Texas is not the only place with traffic problems," Cornyn said.

By Bob Richter
Express-News Austin Bureau
AUSTIN — Greg Abbott took the oath of office Monday as Texas attorney general, sharing advice from predecessor John Cornyn about what it takes to be successful. "He told me I will need the wis-

dom of an owl, the vision of an eagle, the memory of an elephant, the work ethic of a beaver, the even temperament of a camel and the stomach of a goat," Abbott said, citing a post-Election Day visit by Cornyn.

Abbott said Cornyn also offered these words of wisdom: "He told me if I push my own agenda, people will think I'm self-centered; if I don't, people will not think I'm a leader. 'If I pay too much attention to the budget, I'm stingy; if I don't, then I'm irresponsible,' he continued. 'And if I change my mind, I'm wishy-washy; if I don't, well, I'm stubborn'."

Cornyn was sworn in earlier Monday in Washington as America's newest U.S. senator, succeeding three-term Sen. Phil Gramm, who chose not to seek reelection.

Gov. Rick Perry then immediately appointed Abbott to succeed Cornyn, who defeated former Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk in the Nov. 5 general election. Abbott's wife, Cecelia, is a native San Antonian, as is Cornyn.

After the swearing in, Abbott was asked if he was relieved that the state of Texas had settled its lawsuit against Farmers Insurance over the weekend, so it would not have to be on his shift.

The swearing in was held in the lobby of the William P. Clements Building before an admiring audience of several hundred employees of the attorney general's office.

Abbott said his agenda would be laid out in time, but vowed his "top priority" would be to protect the "most vulnerable" in society: children, senior citizens and crime victims.

He promised openness in government, adherence to the law and an "active and aggressive" consumer protection division.

Noting the election gave him a 700,000-plus vote mandate over his Democratic opponent, former Austin mayor Kirk Watson, Abbott said what voters expect in return is "for us to serve them."

"What they care about and what they want is our help. They want their questions answered and their problems solved," he said.

brichter@express-news.net

Coors from page 1

sented at the signing ceremony, which took place during a biannual business meeting between Coors and the Coalition in Kansas City, Mo.

Signing on behalf of the NBEDC were Coalition co-chairs Rev. Willie Barrow, co-chair of the Board of Directors for Rainbow/PUSH, and George Mallory, principle of Mallory & Associates, a law firm based in Los Angeles. Rev. Barrow called Coors' efforts commendable. "We want to thank Coors Brewing Company for extending its commitment of continued economic empowerment to the African American community," Rev. Barrow said. "If ever there was a time when corporations, communities and consumers need to unite and connect, it's now. Our economy is calling upon us and opportunities must prevail." "The signing of the new covenant is a milestone and illustrates a renewed commitment on behalf of Coors Brewing Company and the

African American community to continue a mutually beneficial partnership," said Coalition co-chair George Mallory. "The recognition of diversity and inclusion of African Americans at every level within Coors Brewing Company, as well as procurement, utilization of outside professional and other African American-owned institutions, represent corporate responsibility at its highest level." Coors is committed to sustaining a diverse business enterprise. The company's diversity policies and practices have been widely and consistently recognized as among the most progressive in corporate America by watchdog groups and other independent observers such as Fortune magazine, NAACP, Business Ethics magazine, the Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility, the National Council of La Raza, Wider Opportunities for Women and The National Association of Women Business Owners.

Since 1997, Coors has spent approximately \$20.5 mil-

lion with Black-owned businesses in advertising, chemicals, construction, information technology, office furniture and supplies, packaging, and promotional marketing products, and has contributed more than \$20 million in corporate donations to the Black community. Adolph Coors Company is ranked among the 500 largest publicly traded corporations in the United States. Its principal subsidiary, Coors Brewing Company, is the third-largest brewer in the U.S. With its headquarters and primary brewery in Golden, Colo., the company also owns the second-largest brewer in the United Kingdom, Coors Brewers Limited, and has brewing and packaging facilities in Elkton, Va., and Memphis, Tenn. Coors owns major facilities in Colorado to manufacture aluminum cans and ends, as well as bottles, and is a partner in ventures that operate these plants. Coors Brewing Company and its subsidiaries employ 8,650 people worldwide. For more information, visit the company's web site at www.coors.com.

MON The Gazette

Founded 1991

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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

Examining the Vision and Mission for the Twenty-first Century Historically Black Colleges and Universities of The United Methodist Church

by James M. Shopshire Sr.
Heritage, and its recall, is a key factor in maintaining hope. Black colleges that began to come into existence at the end of the Civil War were absolutely necessary to educate and prepare Black people for life in a closed, racist American society. Although physical slavery was legally curtailed, the nation was not prepared to recognize the equality of all humanity in civil

society. Nor was America prepared to pay the heavy cost of redressing the crimes against Black humanity committed over several centuries of the peculiar institution. The heritage of Black colleges is one of beginning virtually with nothing and continuing to work in the service of freedom, justice, and equality to the present time. The history of the struggle is a magnificent story of a people reaching for excellence

despite all the impediments in the pathways.

Opportunity is the doorway, the opening, to new avenues of involvement. Black colleges have been foundational institutions in opening doors for African Americans to move into previously restricted areas of American society. Until quite recently, they have been the primary, if not the only, chance available to Black people to pre-

Area News

DART Light Rail Opens in Garland

The opening of two Dallas Area Rapid Transit light-rail stations in Garland pushed the downtown area closer to becoming an urban center, and Garland Mayor Bob Day said he wants zoning that will help the city capitalize on an economic opportunity.

He said there is need in Garland consider rezoning to implement key elements of transit-oriented development projects, including mixed-use, high-density and pedestrian-friendly design.

The first area of interest is the property owned by the city and the county across Fifth Street from the Performing Arts Center. Day said this area is prime for mixed-use development, with the potential for enabling the council to develop a model zoning package covering development for residential, retail, restaurant, parking structures, amongst other issues.

He said previous proposals and plans to change zoning in downtown and bordering areas failed largely because attention was given to the area as whole, instead of looking at the project in small steps. This time, Day

said, he wants to look at small areas first, and then branch out.

Although Real Estate agent, Don Raines, said he supports the plan for the station area developed by consultants and approved by the City Council in 1999, Jay Jones, who owns the property north of downtown is so convinced. Raines said that this is the time for Garland to reinvent itself, but Jones doesn't think re-zoning is the answer. He said that all the city need do is purchase the land and clear it for new development.

But the downtown area isn't the only economic development being looked at in Garland. Construction on the Firewheel Town Center at Bush Turnpike and State Highway 78 is projected to begin no later than mid-year, and ground-breaking to build Firewheel Plaza, a 140,000-square-foot retail center, on Highway 78 south of Bush Turnpike should be within the first quarter of 2003.

Greg Sims, Economic Development Vice President with Garland Chamber of Commerce, said that economic development is expected to be good in 2003, despite an average year for the city this year.

City of Mesquite Reviews Its Emergency Response Procedures

The City of Mesquite recently conducted an emergency preparedness exercise to test personnel, procedures and resources for responding to a large-scale emergency. Eastfield College hosted the event and served as the disaster scene. Mesquite Community Hospital and Medical Center of Mesquite also participated to test their procedures for trauma care.

A car bomb exploding in the college's maintenance facility, combined with additional threats to other city locations was the scenario for the emergency exercise. The Fire Department's response was the central focus for the event, pushing them to deal with an incident with more than 40 people with serious injuries. The exercise also forced police officers and firefighters to contend with the possibility of chemical contamination and a potential secondary device in the mid-

dle of the scene, while also dealing with bystanders and media attention.

In addition to the exercise at Eastfield College, city departments were presented with possible threats against other municipal facilities, and an emergency lockdown of the City of Mesquite's service center was initiated with extra security measures put into place at water facilities. The Emergency Operations Center was also activated in an effort to exercise the communications between the incident scene, internal departments and external agencies.

Representative from The City of Mesquite, and representatives from other cities and organizations took part in evaluating the various portions of the exercise. These evaluations will aide in determining where improvements need to be made, and could result in several areas of the emergency operations plan for the city being revised.

Allen Parks and Recreation Department Receives State Honors

The Texas Recreation and Parks Society recently presented two regional awards to Allen Parks and Recreation Department representatives at the annual TRAPS Region 2 and 3 Conference in Fort Worth, making this the second year running that the City of Allen Parks and Recreation Department has been recognized with TRAPS honors. Last year the Department was given the Gold Medal Award for Excellence in the State of Texas in Region IV.

One of the awards, Advocate of the Year, was presented to Allen resident, Jim Waldbauer, for his long-time efforts in supporting Allen's parks and recreation facilities and programs. According to Allen Parks and Recreation Department, during his time with the Department's Board, Waldbauer has helped implement projects that not only increased parkland acreage by 200 percent, but also created 13 neighborhood parks, Joe Farmer Recreation Center, Bethany Lakes Community Park and Allen Station Community Park.

Under his leadership, the Parks and Recreation Board implemented a mandatory park dedication ordinance, which has generated approximately \$3.25M in park development fees. The recreation division's revenue fund was also created while Waldbauer served as board chairman. This fund generates approximately \$1.5M annually to assist with the support of recreational programs.

Waldbauer also co-founding the Allen Parks Foundation, a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to securing funding and land for community parks and facilities. The Foundation was instrumental in the overseeing of the creation of kidMania, a community-built playground, which will become part of the new Celebration Park development.

The other award accepted by recreation division staff was the Lone Star Programming Award for the Wild Water Rodeo. This Award recognizes unique programs that serve the community and promote awareness of parks and recreation

facilities. Allen Parks and Recreation Department organized and hosted the event in July at the Don Rodenbaugh Natatorium.

The event was the first of its kind offered in the metroplex, featuring teams of professional athletes, regional media personalities, and local community leaders participating in fun water competitions. Professional athletes that participated included Hall of Famer, Tony Dorsett, and former Dallas Cowboys Drew Pearson, Robert Newhouse, Billy Jo Dupree, Larry Brown, Doug Donley and current Cowboy Kenyon Rambo. Dallas Sidekick's Mike Powers and Billy Phillips also participated. Participation by media teams and media coverage also brought increased awareness to the natatorium. The proceeds from the event were donated to favorite charities named by the winning teams.

Water Tower Accident in Frisco Kills Worker, Injures Another

An accident at the construction site of a water tower in Frisco last week resulted in the death of one worker and the hospitalization of another. Both workers were taken to Parkland Hospital in Dallas, but 19-year-old Brandon Norton of Victorville, California, died from his injuries. 28-year-old Billy Flippin of Wichita Falls, Texas, remained in critical condition at the hospital.

Frisco firefighters arrived at the scene of the accident at approximately 10:00 a.m. and discovered three men inside the top section of the water tower, which stands approximately 150-feet high. Two of those men were seriously injured; the third man escaped injuries. The construction site is located near the intersection of County Roads 22 and 71, the future extensions of Coit and Eldorado Parkway, just north of F.M. 720. According to firefighters, private construction crews were using an on-site crane to move construction equipment, when the

equipment collapsed. Firefighters say the heavy equipment, weighing several tons, fell on two of the workers, causing them to fall approximately 30 feet.

Firefighters trained in high angle rescue entered the water tower from the bottom, and climbed the access ladder to reach the top section of the tower, referred to as the 'bottom of the bowl'. They then began efforts to rescue the workers, using high angle rescue equipment and an on-site crane to lift the injured workers through an access hole in the top of the water tower and lower them to the ground. Careflight then transported the men to Parkland Hospital.

Both men worked for the engineering and construction company C B & I Constructors, based in Pittsburgh, PA. The company specializes in construction of elevated water tanks, and is contracted by the City of Frisco to build the water tower.

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Blackonomics from page 1

worth it? We have to start somewhere. Why not start by giving and buying Black? This is a "no-excuses" immediate way to show not only the world, but also our people, just how strong we can be if we simply support one another to a greater degree than we do now. This is an excellent way to show that we are not selfish with one another, not envious of one another, not afraid of our brother or our sister having a dollar more than we have. This is an opportunity for us to demonstrate the principles of Kwanzaa and not just celebrate them. This is a time when Black people can take charge, take control of what's in our pockets and purses and make a grand economic statement with a portion of our \$600 billion—for and among ourselves. How? By buying more from our own people and circulating our dollars a whole lot more, thus positioning ourselves to face the New Year with a new resolve, to use more

of our money for our benefit. Let's not look back at next year and only be able to say, "Oh well, another year, another \$600 billion." Can you imagine the positive economic impact we would have if we simply redirected another 10% of that \$600 billion toward our own businesses? That's \$60 billion, brothers and sisters! Surely we can afford it and surely we could use it in our coffers for a little while longer than a week-end. Think of the jobs we could create for our people. Think of the new businesses we could establish. And, think of the folks who currently get our money, without having to reciprocate in any meaningful way, think of what they would say—and do—to get us to come back and spend more with them. I don't know about you, but those thoughts make me feel wonderful.

Please consider what I am saying and take action, positive actions this year and beyond, to

change the way you do business, change your spending habits, and change our economic position in this country. Plan to make regular purchases from MATAH and just as we are so committed to keeping alive the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., let's go one step further with this dreaming issue. Let's live Brother Ken Bridges' dream of "running for our economic freedom." I guess I'm at the point of begging now, so I'll shut-up. Peace, love, and blessings.

James E. Clingman, an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati's African-American Studies department, is former editor of the Cincinnati Herald Newspaper and founder of the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce. He hosts the radio program, "Blackonomics," and is the author of the book, "Economic Empowerment or Economic Enslavement—We have a Choice." He can be reached at (513) 489-4132, or by e-mail at jclingman@blackonomics.com.

Court from page 1

principles of equal protection and non-discrimination mean the same thing for all races." Grutter says she has "a lot of experience I could have brought to that class," and still hopes to go to the law school.

The case regarding undergraduate admissions was brought by two students, Jennifer Gratz and Patrick Hamacher, who claim they were denied admission for being white. They appealed directly to the Supreme Court, bypassing the U.S. appeals court. Grant argues that the University of Michigan's Undergraduate Admissions Office actually uses two separate admissions processes to obtain a desired racial mix of students. When her case was first filed, the university used a 150-point scale to rate applicants, giving ethnic minorities an automatic 20 points because of their race. The addition was equivalent to a full grade on a 4.0 scale.

It is not clear which way the court will rule, although it has tended in recent years to limit affirmative action policies in the federal government. The decision is expected by late June.

University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman said in an official statement that the nation is "at the threshold of a decision that will have a profound impact on our nation's higher education system and on our race relations broadly. Now is not the time to turn back the clock. A ruling overturning Bakke could result in the immediate resegregation of our nation's top universities, both public and private."

Civil rights groups have said they will rally outside the Supreme Court while the argu-

ments are being made. Some of the groups have said that a decision against affirmative action will result in the de-facto nullifi-

cation of Brown vs. Board of Education, the 1954 decision outlawing racial segregation in schools.

Reasons to Ride DART Word Scramble

Win a Free Local Monthly Pass

Mail in your entry for a chance to win!

DART Rail Expands to Plano

On December 9, DART completes its North Central rail line with the opening of the new Bush Turnpike, Downtown Plano and Parker Road stations. Come celebrate with us during our sneak preview on Super Saturday, December 7, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Downtown Plano Station. Fill out a customer survey upon your arrival and receive a free DART one-week pass while supplies last!

Fall Service Change Adds and Improves Bus Routes

Beginning December 9, new and improved bus routes serve five new rail stations in Garland, Richardson and Plano, plus destinations like Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, the Shops at Willow Bend and Central Market. For more information, pick up service change brochures and customer timetables at DART Stores or onboard buses and trains, or visit us at DART.org.

Revisit the "Gilded Age" at the Dallas Museum of Art

The Dallas Museum of Art features works from the turn of the 20th century in "The Gilded Age: Treasures from the Smithsonian American Art Museum" through January 12. Ride DART Rail to St. Paul Station; admission to the exhibit is \$4-\$6.

Ride New Collin Creek Mall Trolley-Bus to Holiday Shopping!

Starting December 9, Trolley-Bus Route 760 provides a convenient link between DART's new Downtown Plano Station and the shops and restaurants at Collin Creek Mall.

DART to the Trains at NorthPark

From November 23 to January 1, holiday shoppers enjoy a miniature train ride across the United States with the Trains at NorthPark, including stops at major tourist attractions. Ride DART Rail to Park Lane Station, then hop on the free NorthPark Trolley Shuttle to NorthPark Center.

SBC Cotton Bowl Classic January 1

Ride DART's Cotton Bowl Flyer from 5 free Park & Ride locations to the SBC Cotton Bowl Classic, where the top-rated colleges from the Big 12 Conference and the Southeastern Conference go head-to-head in a New Year's Day showdown! Call 214-979-1111 or visit DART.org for Park & Ride locations and more information.

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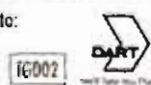
Watch America's best skaters compete for national titles in championship, junior and novice divisions January 12-19 at American Airlines Center and Reunion Arena. American Airlines Center is accessible via the Trinity Railway Express (TRE) and a special event shuttle; ride DART Rail or the TRE to Reunion Arena at Union Station.

214.979.1111 DART.org

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Clean from page 1

ity job and rely upon our customers to spread the word about our quality of service. Getting the job done right the first time is a strong mandate for us because if we don't, there can be negative consequences. I don't mean to infer that we never have problems, but when we do, we pride ourselves in making ourselves available to expeditiously correct them.

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Orchestra - Christmas
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12/21/2002 8:00 PM

Based in New York City, the Trans-Siberian Orchestra united a 60-piece orchestra plus chorus with the talents of Paul O'Neill, a veteran hard rock producer. The group released its debut album, Christmas Eve and Other Stories, just in time for the 1996 holiday season. The Christmas Attic followed in 1998, and two years later the group issued its first non-seasonal recording, Beethoven's Last Night. Celebrate the season with Trans-Siberian Orchestra when they perform at NextStage at Grand Prairie on December 21.

Ticket Information: To purchase tickets, contact Ticketmaster online at Ticketmaster.com or by phone at 214.373.8000, metro 972.647.5700. Tickets are also available at all Ticketmaster outlets including, Foley's, Fiesta, Warehouse Music, & Tower Records. In addition, tickets are available at the NextStage Box Office.

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

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- **Downtown Plano Station**
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- **Parker Road Station**
(east of U.S. 75 between Park Boulevard and Parker Road) — 1,385 parking spaces

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(*eliminated, ** replaced)

Look online at DART.org for details on connecting bus routes or pick up your Service Change Brochure and customer timetables dated December 9 at DART transit centers, on trains or buses or at either of our DART Stores in downtown Dallas.



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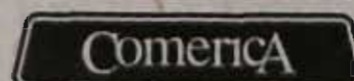
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Arts & Entertainment

Rodney Carrington - Country Star

Rodney Carrington, a five-foot, seven-inch banty rooster of a good ol' boy from Longview, Texas, does indeed speak with a drawl and wear a cowboy hat. And he is funny as hell.

But let's set the record straight up front: He's no Ray Stevens, he's no Jerry Clower and he's definitely no Jeff Foxworthy. Nope, Carrington is altogether a bird of a different feather.

"Nobody influenced me and I don't think there's anybody like me," he asserts with typical self-assurance. Above all else, Rodney Carrington, whose second major label album has been released on Platinum Nashville, hates comparisons - which is just as well. His side-splitting, frightfully graphic, yet immensely playful brand of extreme comedy pretty much goes beyond comparison.

He's visceral, he's gritty, he's irreverent, he's bawdy, he's outrageous, he's thoroughly unadulterated and unreconstructed. He makes no apologies, takes no prisoners and revels in his political incorrectness. In the outlandish yarns and off-color anecdotes he spins there are few favored oxen that don't get gored, and even fewer sacred cows that don't get sliced into rib steaks.

"I realized early on that I'm not gonna please everybody, and I don't intend to," he says with good-natured defiance. "I enjoy what I'm doing, and fortunately there's a lot of people out there who love it, too."

Carrington's already got a quite a following, evidenced by his many sold out shows and record sales. His CD "Live, C'mon Sing you Bastards," on Platinum Nashville marks the second major label release for Rodney. This follows up the highly successful CD "Hangin' With Rodney," released on Mercury Nashville.

For the past few years his performance at many of the U.S.'s top comedy venues (bolstered by his exposure on nationally syndicated radio programs such as "The Bob & Tom Show," "John Boy & Billy," "Steve & DC" and others) have been selling out. He has also appeared on NBC's "Friday Night Video" and the Arts & Entertainment Channel's "Friday Night At The Improv." He was featured at the prestigious Montreal Comedy Festival in 1996 - one of 20 new faces invited to appear that year from around the U.S. and Canada.

Carrington routinely holds forth with explosive candor about such

potentially touchy subjects as marital infidelity, topless bars, prostate exams, being hung over at a religious revival, or his misadventures in Wal-Mart. Whatever his target may be, the power and hilarity of his tongue-in-cheek commentaries derive from his talent for tapping into what so many of us really think, talk and joke about in our most unguarded moments - when we're alone or with trusted friends or when we let down our hair, shoot from the hip and heedlessly throw all pretenses of correctness and propriety to the wind.

"I talk about real issues. I just talk about what people - particularly me - think about, whether they want to admit it or not."



"And most people seem to relate to it," he adds. "Maybe the women tend to think, 'Oh, that's just Rodney.' And the guys say, 'I'd kinda like to drink a beer with him.' Sometimes I'll see people out there trying their damndest not to laugh, but sooner or later most of 'em crack. I tell folks, 'Even if you think you don't like me, you still like me.'"

Ask Rodney Carrington how an unassuming and somewhat quiet and shy kid from East Texas came to cut such a bold swath in such an unlikely occupation, his likely reply will be, "To tell you the truth, I don't know what got me into this whole damned mess."

Initially, Carrington aspired to be an actor. He stumbled across his nascent comic talent while appearing in a junior college production of the play "Noises Off."

"It was then that I realized how great the feeling of laughter from an audience was," he recalls. "I started ad-libbing my lines during the play. The director was kind of irritated with me, but at the same time he was laughing."

Without a clue as to what lay ahead, he auditioned for a comedy

night at an inconsequential Longview club called Sparky's Bar & Grill one night in the late 1980's. "I was scared shitless," he guffaws. "I was an idiot. I was awful! I was only 20 and I had to lie about my age to get in, and I must have had seven or eight Jack and Cokes before I hit the stage. But even though it was all kind of a blur, and what I was doing then bears no resemblance to what I'm doing now, I left that night knowing that's where I belonged."

The next six or eight years were a rigorous, often brutal apprenticeship as he learned his craft by trial and error and clawed his way up through the ranks of would-be comic stars.

"I'd drive for hours for a 75-buck gig," he recalls. "Drive 12 hours, hop out, tell a few jokes and drive 12 hours more. I'd sleep in my camper truck at rest stops and eat Beanie Weenies out of a can. But looking back, I don't remember those as bad times. It was just something I had to do."

As Carrington kept grinding away, the money got better ("I've really been on a roll these past few years," he says proudly), and so did he. His material began to take on a more vivid, aggressive, comic-confessional, no-holds-barred edge.

"I never sit down and write anything," he explains. "It's spontaneous. I start by taking an idea up on stage and kicking it around and end up going in whichever direction with it. I have a tendency under pressure to become more creative."

When I'm on stage it's almost like being a boxer," he adds eagerly. "Boom-boom-boom-boom! You hit 'em and jab 'em and stick 'em and kinda toy with 'em a little bit! When it's happening, man, when you get the crowd rockin', there's nothing like it! It's an unbelievable feeling!"

Again and again, Rodney Carrington, in his own weird, shoot-from-the-hip, hilariously demented way, manages, for better or worse, to bring us face to face with public posturing and pretense. It damned sure ain't always pretty, but it's damn sure real, and it's a whole lotta fun.

"What I do best is make people laugh," he insists. "There's no b.s. or hidden messages around what I do, and like I said, I've got no apologies for it. My main message is: Lighten up! Don't be so serious about stuff! Enjoy yourself, for God's sake! Life is entirely too short!"

Jennifer Holliday

Performing at the Meyerson Symphony Center January 14, 2003

Texan Jennifer Holliday gained national recognition when she had the lead in the Broadway musical Your Arm's Too Short to Box with God. Her performance led to her star-making performance in Dreamgirls, an adaptation of The Supremes' saga. The show featured her show-stealing take on "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going," which became a hit single in 1982. That led her to a career in pop music, although she never recaptured her initial success. She returned to the stage in 1985, appearing in Sing, Mahalia, Sing; she continued to release pop music albums while starring on Broadway. In either setting, she's a hardy, throaty, soul belter who chews on every lyric, infusing them with emotional statements.

First coming to national prominence in the Broadway hit Dreamgirls, and most recently in her recurring role in TV's Ally McBeal, Jennifer Holliday is a Tony and

JENNIFER HOLLIDAY
JANUARY 14, 2003



Grammy award-winning, show-stopping singer who leaves audiences breathless. A "singer's singer," she has the innate ability to get inside a lyric and give new meanings to the songs she performs. Whether punctuating a presi-

dential ecumenical service at the White House with a rousing down-home gospel hymn or shaking the rafters of a concert hall with enormous voice, this powerful vocalist promises to give an unforgettable performance.

Keller Springs Baptist Church Singles Ministry 'Holiday Extravaganza'

The Singles Ministry of Keller Springs Baptist Church will be celebrating the Christmas Season with a 'Holiday Extravaganza' banquet on Saturday, Dec. 14th @ 7pm at the Renaissance Dallas North Hotel, 1-635 & Midway in Dallas. Rudy V, of KRNB 105.7 'Quiet Storm' will be the special guest speaker. Musical guests to include the 'Golden Bells of Joy' bell choir of First United Methodist Church of Hamilton Park. Semi-formal/Elegant attire. \$35 per person/\$65 per couple. Registration deadline: Dec. 10th. The theme is 'Singles: Standing on his Promise' taken from Proverbs 3:5-6. Keller Springs Baptist Church is located at 3227 Keller Springs Road in Carrollton, Tx. Rev. Larry J. Sanders is the pastor. Contact: Lisa Bryant-972.998.6282 lbryant@kellerspringsbc.org

Equilibrium

Said to combine elements of Fahrenheit 451, 1984, and The Matrix, the story is about a futuristic society of humans whose mandatory use of the drug Prozum has created a race of drones. The drug, which blocks emotion, has eliminated wars, but it has also produced an underground movement led by those who want to express the pleasures found in art, music, love, and the like. Those caught expressing their emotions are killed. John Preston (Christian Bale) is a government agent who administers the drug, but when he misses his own daily dose, he questions the status quo and plots a revolution.

Starts December 6th



Drumline

Devon Miles (Nick Cannon) is a young hip-hop drummer from Harlem, N.Y., who receives a scholarship to attend an Atlanta university known for its marching. When he earns a starting spot on the drum line, the senior whose spot he took begins snooping around. He discovers that the freshman may be a fraud and reports him to the school's respected band director (Orlando Jones), who is then faced with benching one of his most talented musicians right before the big regional competition.

Starts December 6, 2002



BASS

Performance Hall
December 2002 Events

THE NETWORKER

Friday, December 6, 2002 8:00 pm
Saturday, December 7, 2002 2:00 & 8:00 pm
Sunday, December 8, 2002 8:00 pm
Tuesday, December 10, 2002 7:00 pm

CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT

Sunday, December 8, 2002 8:00 pm

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Sunday, December 8, 2002 7:30 pm
Tuesday, December 10, 2002 7:30 pm

MICHAEL MARTIN MCKPHEE'S

"GIMME CHRISTMAS"
Monday, December 16, 2002 7:00 & 9:30 pm

A SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS

Tuesday, December 17, 2002 8:00 pm

RYNE NEWTON HOLIDAY TOUR

Wednesday, December 18, 2002 8:00 pm
Tickets: 817-665-6000

Dallas Museum of Natural History

Oct.-Dec. 2002 Events

MYTHS AND TRUTHS ABOUT PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Now through December 8

TEXAS DINOSAURS II: A WALK THROUGH TIME

Through December 31

100th Anniversary of the Teddy Bear

Nov. 12-Dec. 22

Each child who brings in a new, unwrapped teddy bear will receive FREE admission! All hours will be donated to Park South YMCA. Contact: 214-421-1110

Fair Park Music Hall

Oct.-Dec. 2002

Fort Worth Dallas Ballet's 2002-03 Season • Dec. 23-27

On Stage at Next Stage

at Grand Prairie

Radio City Christmas Spectacular

Nov. 14-Dec. 8

Jaci Velasquez

Dec. 14

Trans-Siberian Orchestra

Dec. 21

Rodney Carrington

Dec. 23

American Airlines Center
November 2002
December 2002

TDD 800-755-6244
Group Sales:
214-665-4269

214-665-4797
TDD 214-665-4702
Ticketmaster
972-647-5700

Guns N' Roses
Dec. 19, 2002, 7:30 p.m.

WWE
Jan. 14, 2003, 6:30pm

Target Stars on Ice
Jan. 26, 2003, 7:30 pm

2003 State Farm US
Figure Skating
Championships
Jan 12-19, 2003, 7:00 pm

"One of the Grandest Holiday Traditions in the U.S...Bring the Family!"



Now thru December 8th!

Next Stage

Charge by Phone: 214-631-ARTS or 972-647-5700

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Also at any Ticketmaster outlet or www.ticketmaster.com. For groups of 20 or more call: 214-426-0000

Tickets range from \$17.00 to \$17.00. VIP tickets available.



Make it a BLOCKBUSTER Night.

BLOCKBUSTER'S® Hit List

These are the Top 10 Renting Video Titles at U.S. BLOCKBUSTER® stores for the week ending Dec. 1, 2002.

VHS

1. MEN IN BLACK II
2. ICE AGE
3. THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
4. DIVINE SECRETS / YA-YA SISTERHOOD
5. MR. DEEDS
6. SPIDER-MAN
7. INSOMNIA
8. SPIRIT: STALLION OF THE CIMARRON
9. STAR WARS EPISODE II:
10. ENOUGH

DVD

1. MEN IN BLACK II
2. ICE AGE
3. REIGN OF FIRE
4. BAD COMPANY
5. UNDISPUTED
6. THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
7. MR. DEEDS
8. STAR WARS EPISODE II:
9. DIVINE SECRETS / YA-YA SISTERHOOD
10. INSOMNIA

These are the Top 10 Selling Video Titles at U.S. BLOCKBUSTER® stores for the week ending Dec. 1, 2002.

VHS

1. ICE AGE
2. MEN IN BLACK II
3. SPIRIT: STALLION OF THE CIMARRON
4. STAR WARS EPISODE II:
5. SPIDER-MAN
6. MONSTERS, INC.
7. OLSEN TWINS: WHEN IN ROME
8. SCOOBY-DOO: THE MOVIE
9. HARRY POTTER / SORCERER'S STONE
10. DRAGON BALL Z: KID BUU - SAIYAN

DVD

1. ICE AGE
2. MEN IN BLACK II
3. STAR WARS EPISODE II:
4. REIGN OF FIRE
5. SPIDER-MAN
6. SPIRIT: STALLION OF THE CIMARRON
7. MONSTERS, INC.
8. CHRISTMAS VACATION
9. THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
10. BAD COMPANY



Church Directory

Fax Ad Copy to 972-509-9058 for "Quote"



Church Happenings

ALL NATIONS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Saturday, December 7, 5:00 pm
Christmas Social! Food, fun & fellowship

Sunday, December 15, 6:30 pm
Christmas Program-
"Christmas is Jesus"

Tuesday, December 10
Youth activities! Come out to join in on all of the fun! These activities are free and open to the public.

Sunday, December 15
Tuesday, December 17

Children's video series starring Saint Bernard led by Rev. Marianna Acton, the Children and Youth Minister.

Sign up for a four-week Advent study, entitled, "Won't You Let Him In"

Class will be offered on Thursdays 11 a.m.-12 Noon or 7 p.m.-8 p.m.

All Nations United Methodist Church
Dr. Clara Reed, Pastor
3415 E. 14th St.
Plano, TX 75074

ETERNITY COMMUNITY CHURCH

December 9-13, 7:00 p.m.

Church Revival!

Guest Speaker- Evangelist Jacqueline Page

For more information concerning the revival, call 972-542-

9556
Eternity Community Church
Kenneth Diggs, Pastor
309 N. Chestnut St.
McKinney, TX 75069

GRACE OUTREACH CENTER

Saturday, December 14, 6:30 p.m., Sunday December 15, 10:30 a.m.

20th Anniversary Celebration! Featured Speaker- Dr. John C. Maxwell, New York Times Best Seller Author

For more information, call 972-985-1112 or visit www.grace-outreachcenter.org
Grace Outreach Center
Gerald Brooks, Pastor
3301 Preston Road
Plano, TX 75093

KELLER SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH

Saturday, December 14, 7:00 p.m.

Keller Springs Singles Ministry will be celebrating the Christmas Season with a Holiday Extravaganza at the Renaissance Hotel Dallas North Hotel (635&Midway). Theme- "Standing on His Promise"

Special Guest Speaker- Rudy V., KRNB 105.7 Quiet Storm
Musical Guest- Golden Bells of Joy, bell choir of First United

Methodist Church of Hamilton Park

Tickets- \$35 per person/\$65 per couple

Registration Deadline- Dec 10

For more information, contact Lisa Bryant at 972-998-6282 or e-mail lbryant@kellersprings-bc.org

Keller Springs Baptist Church
Larry J. Sanders, Pastor
3227 Keller Springs Rd.
Carrollton, TX 75006

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

Saturday, December 7, 6:00 pm

Holiday Musical
Guest choir, Vessels, will perform Guest Soloist, (TBA)

For more information, call 972-436-2011

Macedonia Baptist Church
T.J. Denson, Pastor
702 S. Mill St.
Lewisville, TX

MT. CALVARY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Saturday, December 7, Noon - 3:00 p.m.

The Outreach Ministry presents "Reaching Out to Help Others to Look Up"

There will be free food and gifts. Volunteers are needed.

For more information, contact

Pasty Jones at 972-784-7197 or 469-682-6324.

Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church
Paul Mack, Pastor
508 S. Hamilton St.
Farmersville, TX 75442

MT. HEBRON BAPTIST CHURCH

Friday, December 6, Saturday, December 7, 5:30 p.m.

Lock-In for kids in kindergarten through 6th grade. Friday- Kids will attend an outing to see the Nutcracker at the Dallas Convention Center and will return around 10:30 p.m. for a praise and worship service with arts, crafts, stories, and food.

Saturday, December 14
KWANZAA Concert-Dallas Convention Center (for grades 6-12)

Sunday, December 15, 7:00p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Second Annual Winter Ball, sponsored by Mt. Hebron's Young Adult Ministry
Renaissance Hotel North, 4099 Valley View Lane, Dallas, TX
Music by Freddie Jones
Cost- \$30

For more information, call 972-276-5218.

Mt. Hebron Baptist Church
Leonard Leach, Pastor
901 Dairy Rd.

Garland, TX 75040

NORTH DALLAS COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Friday, December 6, 7:30 p.m.- 11:00 p.m.

Christmas Extravaganza! Join us for a "Night Under the Stars" JP Morgan Chase Rotunda, Downtown Dallas

For more information, call 972-437-3493

North Dallas Community Bible Fellowship
Leslie W. Smith, Senior Pastor
302 Centennial Blvd.
Richardson TX 75081-5057

SHILOH C.O.G.I.C.

Sunday, December 22, 2:00 pm

Join us for a mouth-watering Christmas dinner while fellowshiping and remembering the birth of Christ!

Please call 972-562-4135, for more information.
Shiloh C.O.G.I.C.
Elder Paul Jackson
600 Lindsey St.
McKinney, TX 75069

ST. MARK BAPTIST CHURCH

December 8, 10:45 a.m. (2nd Sunday of Advent-LOVE) 6:30 p.m. - Christmas Musical

December 15, 10:45 a.m. (3rd Sunday of Advent- PEACE) 6:30 p.m.- Christmas Program

Advent-A season of preparation for Christmas, which includes 4 Sundays.

For more information, contact 972-240-6674

St. Mark Baptist Church
Rev. R.A. Griffin, Pastor
601 Rowlett Rd.
Garland, TX 75043

ST. MARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Saturday, December 14, 7:00 p.m. -Annual Christmas Banquet

Sunday, December 15, 11:00 a.m. - Youth Ministry's Annual Christmas Program

For more information, call 972-542-6178 or visit www.saint-markbc.com

St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church
Charles S. Wattley, Senior Pastor
1308 Wilcox
McKinney, TX 75069

Send Announcements to:

Please send your church announcements via email or fax to: (Please send in care of Church Directory)

Fax: 972-516-4197, E-mail editor@monthegazette.com

College from page 3

pare formally for professions and occupations from which Africans in America were summarily excluded.

Black people, and a few White people of good faith and good will, were door openers and brokers of opportunity for the historically Black colleges. They were good stewards of the meager resources that brought the historically Black United Methodist colleges into existence. Most of them, well into their second century of service, will need the continuing institutional support of The United Methodist Church to continue the work of opening doors and extending opportunities.

Preparation for participation in a diverse society, based on the faith that Black people can contribute yet more to the common good, has been another contribution of the Black colleges. Black people have been in the midst of most everything good that is American. Black people have not been received and welcomed to participate in the best that these United States of America have to offer. The colleges have been foundations for preparation in church, politics, economy, and society, in anticipation of more from and

for African peoples in America. Education of Black people for survival and development in a harsh social climate has been the hallmark of Black colleges. They have been developers and refiners of leaders in all walks of life. An important additional benefit of liberal arts undergraduate education in the historically Black colleges of The United Methodist Church is the preparation afforded to pursue advanced degrees and credentials in higher education through other institutions. Education is a core Methodist value that has remained strong from primal Methodism to the present time.

Black colleges have honorably extended that aspect of the Methodist heritage toward the ends of enhancing humanity; establishing the equality of all peoples; and encouraging faithful responses to what God is doing in the world. Black people called United Methodists should draw strength from the witness and work of historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) toward integrity and vital continuity in the new millennium.

James M. Shopshire Sr. is professor of the Sociology of Religion at Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C.

Come Share The St. John Experience

St. John Baptist Church

1701 W. Jefferson St., Grand Prairie, Texas 75051
2805 Market Loop, Suite 300, Southlake, Texas 76092
Denny D. Davis, Servant

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Helping people fulfill their God-given potential*

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Fountain of Life International Church is a multi-cultural family of Christians dedicated to building an intimate relationship with God and cultivating lasting relationships with each other. Out of such quality relationships, we are committed to encouraging every member to discover their unique God-given potential, and through the co-operative support of the whole body and training from Godly leadership, equip and release God's people into whatever realm of service God has for them.

Meeting Times

Each Sunday	
Prayer Meeting	9:30 am
Worship Service	10:30 am
2nd / 4th Sundays	
Evening Worship	6:30 pm
2nd / 4th Wednesdays	
Couples Fellowship	7:00 pm
Each Thursday	
Intercessors	10:30 am

903. Box 940005 Phone (214) 512-0807
Plano, TX 75094 Fax (972) 429-9137
riveroflife@mindspring.com
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Pastor Charles S. Wattley

Sunday
Education Ministries...9:30 a.m.
Worship Celebration...11:00 a.m.
~Nursery Facilities Available~

Wednesday
Family Ministries...7:00 p.m.

Friendly Fellowship with A Family Focus

For More Information Call
972.542.6178
www.saintmarkbc.com
stmarkmissionary@aol.com

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
920 E. 14th Street Plano, TX
Pastor Isiah Joshua, Jr.

FANNING THE FLAMES OF OUR FAITH

Sunday Worship Services 8AM & 11AM

Monday	7PM Youth, Brotherhood, Mission & Young Adult Ministries
Tuesday	7PM Bible Study & Men's Choir
Wednesday	7PM Mid-Week Service
Thursday	7PM Mass Choir

For more information call (972) 423-6695
www.shilohbaptistchurch.org

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A Church Called to Unite the Body of Christ
740 Ave. F #303
Plano, TX 75074

A Non-denominational Church for all Nations

Pastor Sam Fenceroy Minister Gloria Fenceroy

Standard Announcements

Sunday School	9:30 AM
Worship Service	10:45 AM
Men & Women Ministry	1st & 3rd Mondays 7:30-8:30 PM
Leadership Meeting	2nd Mondays 7:30-8:30 PM
Marriage Enrichment & Singles Ministry	4th Mondays 7:30-8:30 PM
Deliverance from Issues	Tuesdays 7:30-8:30 PM
Mid-Week Service	Wednesdays 7:15-8:30 PM
Youth Bible Study	Wednesdays 7:15-8:30 PM

Radio Broadcast Station 1040AM-KGGR
M-F 10:25-10:30 AM

For More Information: (972) 633-5511 or E-Mail
sfenceroy@aol.com