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The Gazette

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MON
Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

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

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On the Homefront:

The City of Plano presents an exhibit featuring the art of six students who put a face on the catastrophe of September 11. This exhibit will be on display at Collin County Community College as well as various locations in Plano through September 11, 2002. For a schedule of locations, call 972-941-5201.

Black History Month will be celebrated at The Doubletree Hotel in Plano February 2nd at 7 p.m. The theme for the evening is "It Takes a Whole Village" and Dr. Joy M. Carter will be the guest speaker for the evening.

Plano Repertory Theatre (PRT) will host a Moving Party February 2nd at 8 p.m. in order to say good-bye to its current home at the ArtCentre Theatre and help raise funds for its big move to the Courtyard Theater. Tickets are \$50, which includes the cost of food and drinks. Seats are limited and tickets can be purchased by calling 972-422-7460.

Lighthouse Productions in conjunction with local sponsors are proud to present the gospel play "The Devil is a Liar!" February 2nd-3rd. The play will take place at The Plano Arts Center Theater, 1028 15th at Ave. K. Admission is \$17. For more information, call 972-283-4429 or 214-376-3922.

The City of Plano will host its 1st Annual Daddy/Daughter Dance on February 9th at Plano Centre's Collinwood Hall from 7-9:30 p.m. Space is limited and the registration fee is \$10 per person. For more information, call 972-941-7250 or 972-941-PARK.

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I mean, you don't look Chinese

The following first appeared in "Journal of the Asian American Renaissance," (V.1, N.1, 1995)

I've never felt particularly "oppressed." Or outraged. Or angry or upset or downtrodden or victimized. Well, maybe not "never." But I've never carried a grudge about it. I've never had an ax to grind. I've never felt I had a statement to make about the RACISM in our SOCIETY or the OPPRESSION by the DOMINANT CULTURE. Capital letters give me a headache, I guess. And I guess my friends would be surprised if I did make a fuss.

"But, what have you got to complain about?" they say to me. "You're not a minority." And when I point out to them that, in fact, I am a minority: "Oh, well, yeah, your mom's Chinese, but you're not. I mean, you don't look Chinese."

Yeah, I don't look Chinese. I've heard that before.

I remember this one time when I lived in Rhode Island. I was taking the bus home from the beach when this old woman got on board. The bus was half empty, but she chose to sit down right next to me.

"You're Jewish, aren't you?" she said, just like that, right after she sat down. I stared at her for a second and then admitted that, yes, I was Jewish. I have no idea how she knew. Maybe it

was the nose. I had this tiny little bean-shaped nose until I was about twelve, and then a huge mass exploded out of my face. The family nose. The Jewish stigma.

"You can always tell," the old woman said, and patted my knee. "It's so nice to have some-



one to talk to, I hardly ever see anyone. My children, they never call, they never visit. It's so hard when you're old. You'll see."

Then she stopped and squinted at me. "But you're not all Jewish, are you?" she said. I shook my head and explained that my mother was Chinese. "Oh," she said, and paused. "Well, don't worry. It doesn't show."

She was right, it doesn't show. And I guess that I'm lucky it doesn't show. But I wasn't born lucky. I was born looking Chinese and I grew up looking

Chinese. When I was six, I had straight black hair, this tiny little bean nose, almond-shaped eyes and yellow skin. I was very slight, not stocky-tending-to-fat like other kids. I seemed to speak differently, too, although I'm not sure whether that's actually a Chinese trait or not.

Did it have something to do with the size and shape of my Asiatic larynx and nasal passages? I don't know, but to my ear I had a strange pitch to my voice, a sort of high, lilting, whistling quality that made me cringe to hear it on tape. I'm probably crazy to think there's anything Chinese about this part of myself.

Whether or not my voice was really different, my appearance certainly was, and none of the other kids in school ever let me forget it. When I was five, my folks had moved to a little farm in the Born Again Bible Belt of Minnesota. That's Hicksville, the Boonies, Red Neck City. Everyone was white. Germanic or Scandinavian, maybe a little English, but white. And Christian. My family wasn't any of those things. My parents were hippies, atheists, graduate students. And not white. Well, OK, so my father was white, but my mother definitely wasn't. The neighbors didn't know exactly what she was. Chinese? Indian? It didn't matter. She was brown.

See I Mean page 6



Gloria "Hat Lady" Marsh

By Susan Stewart

Gloria "Hat Lady" Marsh, owner and creator of "Hattitude," a mobile, by appointment-only, exclusive women's hat emporium proclaims, "We are queens and hats are our crown. Every queen needs a crown. This is my mission and reason for 'Hattitude.'"

"A woman who wears a hat properly has attitude. Just the way she wears the hat shows attitude," said Gloria as she pierced from underneath a black small-brimmed casual designer hat. Her crown set evenly on her head and covered her forehead slightly.

"I've always worn hats," she explains. "Growing up with my mother and grandmother you were not dressed if you were not wearing a hat."

From that early childhood experience, Marsh developed a great passion for hats, thus hat collecting and hat designing became a hobby and when her son moved out Gloria turned his room into "My Hat Room."

The vision for "Hattitude" came from Gloria's daughter, Monique who encouraged her to go into business.

"I dare you," she'd tell me, "so I took the dare," Gloria said proudly, and created a home business. "Hattitude" has given me a great sense of accomplishment and personal satisfaction."

Marsh says her friends and family are very encouraging. "They keep pushing me out there. In fact, I am talking with the MON Gazette, because my friend Gwen Daniels gave the paper my number and asked that they call," said the hat collector, turned entrepreneur.

Until recently, however, Marsh has been somewhat reluctant about marketing her business, because her husband travels on business and she frequently accompanies him, occasionally having to relocate.

"But now, I am ready to expand," she asserts, while joyfully showing several photos of

See Hat Lady page 2

William and Janet Langhart Cohen: Scale the Cultural Walls



William Cohen and his wife, Janet Langhart Cohen, are the definition of Washington power couple.

A former U.S. Senator for the state of Maine (1979-1997) and prior to that, serving three terms in the House of Representatives from Maine's Second Congressional District (1973-1979), William Cohen was selected by President Clinton and sworn in as U.S. Secretary of Defense in January of 1997.

Janet Langhart Cohen, a seasoned television journalist, has worked as a newscaster in Boston as well as having been a correspondent for Entertainment Tonight and Black Entertainment Television. Her duties now include serving as First Lady of the U.S. Armed

Forces, as well as running her own business, Langhart Communications, which teaches "corporate captains how to become more media savvy," according to a Washington Post article.

The two met in 1974, and over the next two decades they maintained a distant, professional friendship. When Cohen divorced his wife in 1987 and Langhart lost her second husband to suicide in 1990, their friendship began to flourish. After the sudden death of his father in 1995, Cohen began to re-evaluate his life and his relationships, according to the Washington Post. He proposed to Janet shortly thereafter and the two were wed three weeks later on Valentine's Day, 1996.

The Cohens have spoken openly about their interracial relationship and they feel that while they do send a positive message to onlookers about race relations, "this is something that transcends race, that two people can love each other," says Sec. Cohen. The Washington Post reports, "To them, their union is testament that it's possible to scale the cultural walls that divide many Americans."

Allen's new natatorium exceeds expectations, comes with a \$9.3 million price tag

By ANTHONY JONES

Last week the City of Allen held the grand opening of its new Don Rodenbaugh Natatorium that features rock climbing, swimming pools and workout center all enclosed under one roof.

According to Don Horton, director of the Allen Parks and Recreation Department, the 47,000-square-foot facility includes a workout center complete with Nautilus strength equipment, pre-cardio equipment, and there is also a free weight room.

"The facility is a shining example symbolizing the expectations of our citizens," Horton said. "It sets the standard for quality and demonstrates the support Allen residents have in developing facilities to meet the needs of a young, energetic community. This facility is already seen in the industry as an example of the direction recreation providers are taking to accommodate a dynamic community."

Visitors at the facility are expected to be mainly Allen residents but Horton also predicts the amenities will draw residents from surrounding communities. Memberships are available for those that intend to use the facility on a regular basis, and there is a day-use fee for pool

users that intend to frequent the pool on a more general basis, according to Horton.

"The facility also expects to be home to a USS swim team," Horton added. USS is a competitive year around swimming program. "There will also be an assortment of classes for fitness, water type courses and aerobics."

"The fitness and cardio room is for 14-16-years-of-age when accompanied by an adult, and 17-years-of-age and older," Horton told The Gazette. "The free weight room is for 18-years-of-age and older."

Funding for the natatorium originated from city bonds (\$3.5 million), CDC bonds (\$1.5 million), and AISD (\$4.3 million) - a total cost of \$9.3 million, according to Horton.

The new facility also features a competition size swimming pool as well as a leisure pool - "the competitive pool is 25 yards by 25 meters," Horton said.

"The pools is designed for competition which means the water is deep (6 feet in the shallow end) and the gutter system is designed to minimize wave action," according to the park department director. "The pool has two one-meter diving boards and is home to the Allen Eagles swim team."

Three swim lanes in the pool are always open for public swimming. For folks who would rather lounge, the leisure pool is a fun interactive swimming area. It has 7,200 square feet of water surface and includes an interactive play structure, a large slide, a lazy river, a vortex, and open water play areas, Horton explained.

"The pool depth ranges from zero feet (zero depth entry) to 3 feet 8 inches," Horton said.

That's not all, the new Don Rodenbaugh Natatorium has a third body of water, a spa. The spa is for adults 18-years-of-age and older, and is located in the center of the leisure pool and can accommodate 23 people at any one time, according to park department director.

The rock-climbing wall is 24 feet high by 18 feet wide and currently, the wall is only open while supervised. However, it will eventually be open to those members that have successfully passed a belay competency test.

At the natatorium's fitness center visitors can participate in aerobics and there is a dance room, a conference room, a cardio-theater and Fitlinx. Fitlinx is a computerized system that tracks a client's workout. The computer is attached to each

See Allen page 6

McKinney6 airs the first program in Transportation Series



McKinney6 will begin airing the first program of its transportation series for residents. This series is designed to educate McKinney residents on key areas of transportation including costs and placements of traffic signals, traffic flow, and technology.

The first program titled "Traffic Signals: Controlling the Flow" highlights traffic signals around McKinney, the role of these signals, and maintenance.

It will air on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7 and 10 p.m. through Feb. 28.

Video Producer Ana Adams is excited about this program series. "Every McKinney resident is affected by traffic in one way or another," she said.

"It is important that our residents are aware of the facts surrounding transportation in McKinney."

McKinney6 is a division of the City of McKinney's Public Information office and is available on AT&T Channel 6. McKinney6 features programming twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Hat Lady Jump from Page 1

her vast inventory. "I'm working on a proposal for Grambling State University to design hats in black and gold." Marsh's plan is to bring aboard three new designers, concentrating on the teenage market with hats that will fit within their budgets and designed to be worn with jeans. She said people are really beginning to book appointments. There will also be a Christmas line this year!

"I have more than 100 hats in an array of colors and styles. But, I'm always looking forward to the next cre-

ation. "Hattitude provides crowns for Queens, and I make sure they have the 'Attitude' to wear them.

"Hattitude's" grand opening is February 4, 2002. For more information or to request an appointment, call: 972-712-1962 or 972-824-9659. E-mail: Hat lady2002@aol.com



PLANO CELEBRATES THE LEGACY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Beginning with a parade on Saturday, January 19, 2002, Plano citizens, neighbors from surrounding towns and invited guests began a series of celebratory events to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Earl Simpkins, 2002 Committee General Chair of the weekend's activities, said this year's theme of "People United-The Power of The Dream," was coordinated in the spirit of brotherly love, fellowship and community service to honor Dr. King. The weekend's activities provided a range of opportunities for reflection, celebration and unity to honor the 73rd anniversary of the birth of the slain civil rights leader. All events were free and open to the public. In addition to the parade, activities included the City Hall program and lunch at the Douglass Center on Saturday. Sunday's agenda was a music-based evening program. On Monday, the observed national holiday, the annual power leadership breakfast took place.

Saturday's nippy weather at 10:00am didn't deter parade participants or spectators from enjoying the parade, which commenced at Williams High School and ended up at Plano City Hall. Led by political dignitaries and civic leaders, many stood along this year's expanded parade route to cheer and wave on the city officials, community groups and the band—and what a band! The Huntington High School Band from Shreveport, Louisiana arrived with an engaging exuberant show of high-stepping, up-beat, traffic-stopping music. The blue-and-white clad marching band turned sideliners into participants as everyone clapped, tapped their feet and snapped pictures while actively enjoying their talents. The energetic band played Ginuwine's "Differences" among other current favorites. Ms. Bonnie Dickerson, Chairperson of the parade committee was overwhelmed with positive response to the opening event for this year's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration.

The City Hall program

got underway at 11:00am in the Council Chambers. Ms. Juna Jones-Moore was Mistress of Ceremonies and Mayor Jeran Akers offered welcoming remarks. Dr. Michael Lindsey, a local youth leader, gave a compelling presentation expressing the importance of completing the work begun by Dr. King and noting everyone's need to animate and nurture Dr. King's dream. Mrs. Carrie McPherson, committee chairperson, ensured the City Hall's program truly reflected the intercultural cooperation and sharing reflective of Dr. King's dream. Participants ranged from solo violinist Jessica Lenhardt to youthful ushers.

The Custer Road United Methodist Church (CRUMC) hosted the 7:00pm Sunday program. Anchors Clarice Tinsley and Steve Eagar of KDFW FOX 4, were the Mistress and Master of Ceremonies. T.J. Johnson, Chair for this event noted that the 2002 All Community Choir met the day of the event at 4:30pm for the only rehearsal prior to the evening's program. CRUMC's Jazz, I.N.C. (In the Name of Christ) gave an extraordinary rendition of "Blessed be the Name of the Lord." Dr. Cary A. Israel, President of Collin County Community College took us down memory lane to kindergarten with a presentation entitled "The Power of the Alphabet." His alphabet included: 'D' for democracy; 'R' for rainbow; 'E' for education; 'A' for appreciation and 'M' for music—a language that crosses all cultural barriers.

Rev. Christopher Crook, Music Director of St. Andrew United Methodist Church led the Choir in a regaling rendition of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic." Rev. Tim Morrison of CRUMC directed the Negro National Anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing." The evening's finale was impressive and moving. As Mrs. Michelle Moses-Meeks sang "We Shall Overcome"—a song made popular during the 1960's civil rights struggle, members of the Douglass Branch Boys & Girls

Clubs Douglass Dancers provided dance movement. Choreographer for the youthful Douglass Dancers (Erin Black, Breanna Drake, Markeyshia Jackson, Joelle Johnson, Destinee McGinnis, Debbie Miranda and Porsha Smith) is Ms. Jennifer Laws. This music-filled program, through content and participation reflected the harmony and diversity espoused by Dr. King's philosophy and life.

Monday's Power Leadership Breakfast at Collin County Community College offered attendees an opportunity to hear from city and educational leaders on issues impacting our City. The Honorable Florence Shapiro, State Senator, after referencing the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, said, "...today, more than ever, Dr. Martin Luther King's message resonates in each of us—a message of love, not hate..." Ms. Mary Alice Garza served as moderator of the program, providing each speaker with the questions selected for response prior to their taking the podium.

Mayor Jeran Akers addressed what was being done in Plano to attract new business as well as tax issues. He indicated retention of existing business was equally important as attracting new business. The mayor says the City views businesses as partners not adversaries. Further, he meets with mayors of neighboring cities quarterly to ensure positive economic development to our region. He indicated that in working with the Plano Economic Development Board their efforts have been quite aggressive. He cited that the City took out a business recruitment ad in a San Jose, CA newspaper during the California 'electrical brownouts.' The ad reflected the sentiment

that if their electrical needs weren't being met—come to Plano, Texas. The mayor indicated that tax revenues were about equally split—sales tax, property tax and miscellaneous—building permits and other city fees.

City Manager, Tom Muehlenback addressed whether the national slowed economy has impacted Plano. He indicated the City has put on hold about \$4Million of projects and, has frozen some job vacancies to ensure that essential city services would not be compromised. The next inquiry was "What security measures are in place to protect the City's water supply and utilities?" Muehlenback answered that the Plano police and fire departments are actively working to increase the City's preparedness levels in the protection of the City's infrastructure in the event of weapons of mass destruction. Although not on this year's list of questions, Muehlenback reported the City spent over \$33Million with small, minority and women-owned business last year—nearly 24% of the City's General Fund budget.

Stephen Nagy, Assistant Police Chief of the City of Plano spoke in the absence of Chief Greg Rushin who had a previous training obligation. He addressed the new legislation against racial profiling as well as the number of police vehicles in our City (119 including motorcycles). He also referenced the valuable input from the ad hoc meet-

ings of the Minority Advisory Board which met in April 2001 regarding the academic requirements for the City's police officers. The Board also met in June 2001 with input towards the selection of the City's new police chief. Dr. Douglas Otto, Superintendent of the Plano Independent School System since 1995 addressed the transition of curriculum assessment from the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) to TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills). Lastly, Dr. Cary A. Israel, of Collin County Community College briefed us on the teacher certification program offered at CCCC. This program, the first of its kind in the United States is addressing the national shortage of teachers. Dr. Israel also told us how a biotech curriculum was preparing students for the bio-economy—three students have achieved this certification with 50 more enrolled in the program. It was clear from the audience response that the CCCC's pride in providing accessibility and added value in strategic academic arenas is

Plano's pride, too. Don McKnight, chair for this event, reminded us that the day was not only one for celebration and remembrance, education and tribute but also a call for community service.

Plano's formal celebration of Dr. King's birthday will wrap up with the Plano Independent School District's Commemorative Program on Thursday, January 24, at 7:00pm at the Plano Centre. The messages have been delivered. The unity and spirit have been confirmed in working together. Let's continue the energy that has been generated! Let's not only remember and celebrate, but also act! Several speakers throughout the weekend referenced the terrorist acts of September 11. There's a greater understanding in each of us as we realize what it means to be an American and what it takes to preserve freedom and justice. Let each of us, singly and collectively commit to serve humanity, promote Dr. King's teachings of nonviolent social change and carry forth his legacy.



Corrections from our previous issue:
Mon- The Gazette Advisory Board Member
John Hightower (L) joins Assistant Police Chief Steve Nagy



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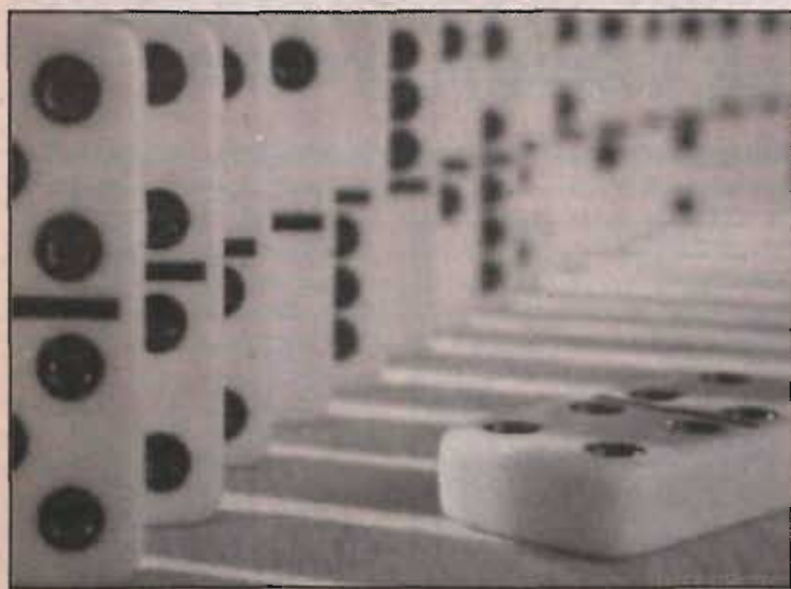


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Excerpt from Once Upon a Number



In an oddly basic way, a minority's viewpoint(s), and even an individual's, may be affected by probability and statistics.

A thought experiment illustrates the point. A supercharged area of American life, race relations, certainly is in need of thought experiments, simplistic though they may be.

So let us experiment and assume that contrary to fact, blacks and whites hold positions of equal importance and influence. Assume further that about 10 percent of each group is racist, and that the country is both residentially and profes-

sionally integrated. Given these unrealistic assumptions it is not hard to demonstrate that since blacks comprise approximately 13 percent of the population and whites the remaining 87 percent (for these purposes whites are nonblacks), blacks still would suffer disproportionately from racism.

Racism by the Numbers

The chance that a white will run into a black racist in any given encounter with another person is 1.3 percent (10 percent of 13 percent), whereas the likelihood that a black on any given encounter will do so is 8.7 percent (10 percent of 87 percent.) This

disparity becomes more pronounced as the number of a person's contacts grow.

If a white person encounters 5 people, his or her chances of meeting at least 1 racist are 6.3 percent, while the average number of racists he will encounter is .07. By contrast, if a black person encounters 5 people, his or her chances of meeting at least 1 racist are 36.6 percent, while the average number of racists he or she will encounter is .44.

If a white person encounters 25 people, his or her chances of meeting at least 1 racist rise to 27.9 percent, while the average number of racists he or she will encounter rises to .33. If a black person encounters 25 people, his or her chances of meeting at least 1 racist rise to 89.7 percent, while the average number of racists he or she will encounter rises to 2.18.

The conclusion is that minority status by itself can make equal opportunity difficult to achieve or maintain. In fact, if the already idealized conditions held, but now only 2 percent of whites and 10 percent of blacks were racist, blacks would still encounter more racism than whites.

Newest voice of the giant mechanical cowboy

The "doghouse" isn't for everybody, but officials with the State Fair of Texas are hoping the new guy they've hired to broadcast the booming voice of Big Tex will be a better fit than their last choice.

Bill Bragg, 55, is the seventh and newest voice of the giant mechanical cowboy that welcomes visitors to the fair. For 24 days in a row, he'll sit in a small booth affectionately named the doghouse and utter the traditional drawing "Howwwdy ... folks!"

His predecessor, Sonny Ray Stolz, resigned in November, just seven months after winning a highly publicized competition for the position. He complained about working in a cramped, dirty booth, being subjected to unprofessional conduct by a supervisor and being paid only \$3,750.

Fair officials denied the claims and began searching for a replacement, this time without the hoopla. Bragg, a freelance broadcast engineer from Richardson, had lost the much-hyped contest last April to Stolz. But the next time turned

out to be the charm.

"As of today, I am the voice of Big Tex. Case closed," Bragg said.

State Fair spokeswoman Nancy Wiley said fair officials picked Bragg because "we worked with him before, and we just felt he could do a real good job."

Wiley is hoping the more tranquil selection process will lead to a more peaceful outcome, and a longer tenure for the next Big Tex.

"This is the way we always used to do it," she said. "Running it as a public contest didn't have a real happy ending."

Jim Lowe, who died in 2000, was the voice of Big Tex for most of the last five decades. Lowe's last year as the voice of Big Tex was 1998. Dan Alexander took the job for two years but stepped down after he and his family moved to Arizona.

Bragg has had on-the-job training of a sort. For the last two years, his voice greeted callers to the State Fair information line.

"I did it partly in the Big Tex voice and partly in my own

voice," Bragg told The Dallas Morning News for Saturday's editions. "If I did it all in that slow Big Tex voice, the State Fair would be over before you got off the phone."

Bragg worked as a broadcast technician for television station KDFW for 27 years. In 1983, he founded the Yesterday USA radio network, which specializes in broadcasting old radio shows.

He has played bit parts in movies, including a bank teller in Bonnie and Clyde and "a loud-mouth guy in a movie theater" in television's Dark Shadows, he said.

Being the voice of Big Texas is "the hardest job at the fair," he said.

But he's got a strategy: "I just shut my eyes and open my mouth, and it just comes out," Bragg said. "It seems to fool everybody."

And, he plans to keep the gig a bit longer than his predecessor.

"Virtually everything I do will be different," said Bragg, who declined to be more specific.



Ron Shaw

THE DIVERSITY QUESTION

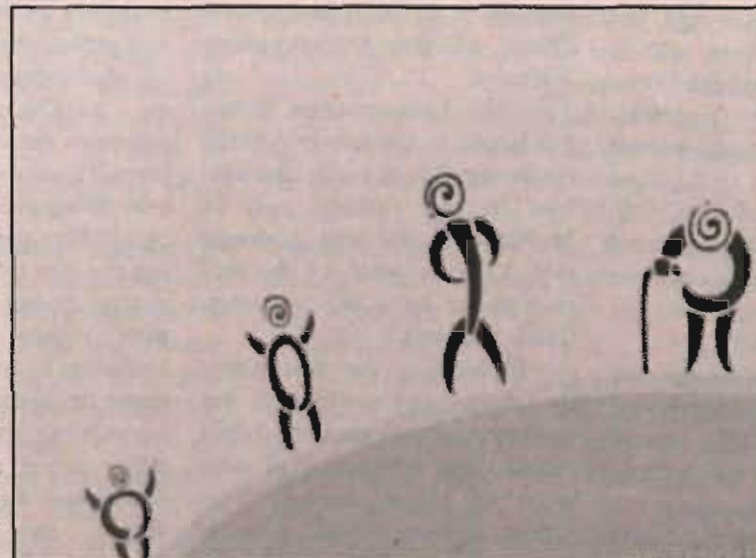
Eph. 2:14

One month ago, I sat in my office talking with one of the cutest Asian young ladies I've ever seen. She's been a member of the church for some time now. As we talked about her life and some of the drama she's experienced, she asked me the interracial relationship question. We talked about the differences in backgrounds and cultures and likes and preferences. Finally, she asked what does God think about the subject. Well I must tell you that for me, it doesn't matter what religious folks say, or what parents, grandparents, or even some churches and preachers say. As a Christian, I have committed my life to Christ and his thoughts on any subject. I don't always hit the mark but I'm always aiming for it and have settled the fact that HIS word is the standard by which I judge myself on all issues of life. Most times, what He has to say about issues in society is always cross wise to what the world thinks. The same is true about this issue. I haven't learned all there is about the Word of God but I have learned that whatever it says about an issue has to be the way it is no matter what it looks like on the surface. HIS word always gets to the foundation or the root cause of our problems and issues. The world is run on the basis of fear. Therefore, with every issue we face, this force of fear is present. Whenever fear is dealt with, then we can see clearly what God wants us to do. Fear is a part of the very make up of the natural man (the man without God). It is only through the transformation of the man

on the inside that we can effectively and satisfactorily deal with the root of fear. Diversity has never been an issue with God. That is to say HE has never had a problem with it. Diversity is only a problem when it's outside

that matters with HIM is a new creature. That is, accepting what Jesus did on our behalf. So although we are still naturally different in our make up, at our core (as Christians) HE looks at us as the same. Therefore, whether you want to date and or marry a black Christian or white Christian or red or yellow or brown Christian, the key and operative word here is Christian. When my son or daughter tells me they want me to meet their girlfriend or boyfriend, I don't ask what color of skin they have, I ask what spirit are they of. When addressing the Ephesian Church, it was obvious that these were people of a different culture than Jews. The Corinthian Church had a different culture than the Asian (Ephesian) Church. Nevertheless, the same word was to be used as a standard of behavior and code of conduct. Jesus blessed both Romans, and Jews, Syrophonicians and Samaritans. On the day of Pentecost, there was a diverse group gathered at the temple. Nevertheless, they all heard the same message.

In order for there to be unconditional acceptance, there must be a genuine move of God within a person. That is to say the Spirit of God must be allowed to work by the Word of God within us to change our attitudes and thus our actions. It takes a commitment to change our thinking by HIS word if we are ever to live together with our differences. Nevertheless, as Christians, this is part of our blessed hope. Christ In Us, the HOPE of Glory!



of HIM and HIS principles for living. The only mixed relationships that are at issue relative to HIM are those between believers and unbelievers: darkness and light; righteousness and unrighteousness. The reason being there is no way to mix them. When you try and mix light with darkness, light always wins out. So it is a spiritual impossibility. You can't mix faith with fear. It's not that the two don't mix, it's that the two won't mix. Again it's an impossibility.

When we look at our text, we find that God is the ultimate mixer. Through Christ, HE took Jew and Gentile and made one new man out of the two. That's the ultimate when it comes to mixing and bringing together diversity. At the core of our very being (that is what and who we really are) there has been a transformation. Our natural lineage takes a back seat to our new spiritual roots. As far as HE is concerned, there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female but we are all one in Christ. The only thing

that matters with HIM is a new creature. That is, accepting what Jesus did on our behalf. So although we are still naturally different in our make up, at our core (as Christians) HE looks at us as the same. Therefore, whether you want to date and or marry a black Christian or white Christian or red or yellow or brown Christian, the key and operative word here is Christian. When my son or daughter tells me they want me to meet their girlfriend or boyfriend, I don't ask what color of skin they have, I ask what spirit are they of. When addressing the Ephesian Church, it was obvious that these were people of a different culture than Jews. The Corinthian Church had a different culture than the Asian (Ephesian) Church. Nevertheless, the same word was to be used as a standard of behavior and code of conduct. Jesus blessed both Romans, and Jews, Syrophonicians and Samaritans. On the day of Pentecost, there was a diverse group gathered at the temple. Nevertheless, they all heard the same message.

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POLITICAL ACTION GROUPS BEING FORMED ALL OVER TEXAS

By Teresa Trash, Publishers of Kuumba Heritage News

The NAACP branches throughout the State of Texas and the rest of the country have decided to encourage Political Action Groups or Committees to be formed to have interested citizens run for upcoming elections. These citizens will run as independents and have the support of their local political action committee.

It does not matter what race, creed or color you are. If you are qualified, and the best person for the position, then you will have the support of the PAC (Political Action Committee).

Concerned citizens throughout the state will be forming their local and county committees to send a message to the voters "PLEASE DO

NOT VOTE STRAIGHT PARTY TICKET."

Voting straight party ticket only allows the candidate that is not working for your community or town to "ride" back into office on the coat tails of the candidate in that same party that you really are wanting to place into the particular office he or she previously held. For instance, the Democratic Party has some candidates who could never see what is needed in the minority community or the community as a whole. They will not place minorities (African Americans) in their offices and when they do - they make sure its only one (token). For those of you who don't understand what the word "token" means, Webster Dictionary defines tokenism as

the policy or practice of making only token acts, as in integration. So, as you see, I did not invent the word. So, if you are the only minority in your public office - ask yourself why. Then ask yourself if it is possible for another minority to be placed in that same office. Then ask that politician that heads your office and stay watchful of the next position that opens up in your office. I can almost guarantee you that you are the only minority (Black) that they are going to put up with. Meaning, you are only there because the STATE says you have to be there. I, myself, was the first Black woman to be a secretary in Hunt County for the Child Protective Services. I knew that

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Voters to scrutinize McKinney's proposed \$60 million bond on Feb. 2 ballot

By Anthony Jones

McKINNEY — If voters approve McKinney's proposed \$60 million bond initiative in the Feb. 2 election, the federal government will split the costs 65-35 for the repair of the city's 18 dams.

Voters will find six propositions on their ballots and the majority, \$43.9 million, will be used to fund McKinney's Street and Infrastructure Improvements program that was started in 1999. According to McKinney City Manager Regie Neff, bond funds "would go toward building new arterial (roads) or widening arterial (roads) in areas where needed."

Erosion and drainage are another factor in the proposed bond, especially older streets where drainage was not built in — the run off might cause problems for the creeks so the nearly \$6 million from the proposed bond would be used to improve the creeks, according to the city manager.

Proposition 1 — is \$8.3 million for drainage and erosion control.

"Of this," says Neff, "the council plans to spend about \$2.8 million over the four year period for local matches to federal grants for NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) lake dam upgrades."

"McKinney has 18 of these dams in its city limits and (at) future development areas," the city manager said. "They are all about 50-years-old, and as development occurs near the lakes, they should be upgraded so that an extraordinarily heavy deluge of rain over a prolonged period doesn't cause some kind of failure that could damage roads and utilities."

The grant program is just getting underway, and the City of McKinney applied for its first grant last week. "We expect the

grant to be in the neighborhood of about \$700,000 to \$800,000 if we are awarded one," Neff said.

Proposition 2 — is \$43.9 million for Street and Infrastructure Improvements.

Neff explained about \$22.5 million of this is proposed amount is to fund the second Phase of the Infrastructure Initiative.

"The Infrastructure Initiative began in 1999 to undertake major rebuilds of roads and utilities in the eastern part of McKinney," the city manager said. "The projects for the second phase have not yet been finally selected."

Projects in the first phase that have been completed, are underway, or are about to begin include the rebuilding of portions of Moore Street, West Street, Lamar Street, Church Street, Roosevelt Street, Lively Hill, Willie Street, Canal Street, Center Street, Hight Street, Lavon Street, Westmoreland Street, Maples Street, Healy Street, Lincoln Street, Garcia Street, Baker Street, Coleman Street, Sherman Street, and Colesher Street.

"There is probably not another city of similar size which has undertaken an infrastructure rehabilitation program of this magnitude," Neff said.

According to the city manager, the remainder of the \$43.9 million (or about 21.4 million) would go toward building new arterial roads or widening arterial roads in areas where needed.

Proposed projects currently include: building Airport Road from Industrial to US 380; building Hardin Road from US 380 to Wilmeth; building Wilmeth from Hardin to the end of the existing pavement; widening Wilmeth from US 75 to Community (the last 3 projects are all adjacent to the new

high school and middle school); extending College Street south to Eldorado; and, widening Custer and Hardin. Also included are funds for traffic signals in numerous locations.

Proposition 3 — is \$4.99 million for purchasing, renovating or constructing city office buildings as needed for growth and replacement.

According to city officials, as McKinney's population increases the city brings on new hires. Those new city staffers are now filling every nook and cranny of office space in every building the city owns, including old storage rooms and former hospital rooms in the Wysong Building. In answer to the workspace deficiency the city started remodeling the old library for office space shortly after the new library opened to help alleviate the overcrowding. However, because of the age of some facilities and the continued growth of the city, larger facilities are still needed.

Proposition 4 — is \$9.81 million for parks.

Neff explained projects currently proposed include: redevelopment of Old Settlers Park and expansion of its recreation center; additional work at Finch Park; four new parks adjacent to new schools being constructed; a softball complex at the new community park; and, a new bridge and shoreline stabilization at Towne Lake.

Proposition 5 — is \$1.23 million for airport projects. Planned projects are security improvements and land purchase.

Proposition 6 — is \$11.69 million for Municipal Public Safety Buildings. This is proposed to fund 3 new fire stations, including a replacement for the old Central Fire Station downtown.



Billie Meador

In recent months, we've seen report after report of companies making major layoffs. It may not happen to you, but if it does, what financial moves should you make?

Before you take any steps, just remember one thing. You don't need to panic. While getting laid off is certainly not pleasant, it's also not the end of the world. In fact, many people who go through this experience land on their feet, with jobs as good as or even better than they had before.

Nonetheless, you'll still want to ensure you make the right decisions during any time you are laid off. Here are a few ideas to consider:

***Be prepared.** The best time to deal with any financial pressures resulting from a layoff is well before the layoff occurs. That's why you should maintain an emergency fund to cover at least six months' to a year's worth of living expenses. You may want to keep these funds in a money market account that offers liquidity and competitive returns. Then, if you do get laid off, you won't have to rush into

FINANCIAL FOCUS What To Do if the "Pink Slip" Arrives

selling off your long-term investments.

***Protect your 401(k).** If you're laid off, your 401(k) will present you with a tempting target. After all, it's just sitting there - and it may contain a lot of money. But raiding your 401(k) could be one of the worst mistakes you make. If you do cash it out, you'll have to pay income taxes on the proceeds, and if you're under 59 1/2, you also may have to pay a 10 percent premature distribution penalty. And, just as bad, you'll be depriving yourself of a major source of retirement income. If you're really cash-strapped, you may be able to take out a loan on your 401(k), but you should take this step only as a last resort. You'll be better off either keeping your 401(k) in your former employer's plan, moving it to your existing IRA, or transferring it to a "rollover" IRA, from which you can eventually move it to your new employer's 401(k).

***Consider adjusting your asset mix.** If you've maintained a diversified portfolio of investments, you'll be in good shape

to make some needed adjustments in case of a layoff. For example, if you have a lot of growth-oriented investments, such as stocks, you may want to think about selling some and then investing the proceeds into income-producing vehicles, such as bonds. That way, you won't have to deplete all your assets - and once you're employed again, you can readjust your portfolio to match your investment personality, time horizon and long-term goals.

***Borrow wisely.** If you have to borrow, be smart about it. A loan from a family member or close friend may affect your pride, but it's less expensive than one offered by a high-interest-rate credit card.

By planning ahead and using your resources wisely, you can almost certainly get through a layoff with your financial future intact. So take the necessary steps - and keep move forward.

Billie Meador is an Investment Representative for Edward Jones. She can be reached at 972-208-5688 or toll free 888-758-0950.

Multiracial Celebrities



Actress **Halle Berry** was born on August 14, 1968 to a white mother and a black father who divorced when she was four. Halle's father didn't play a prominent role in her life growing up. She has had a successful film career, beginning with her 1991 debut in *Strictly Business*. Halle was married to and divorced baseball player, David Justice and is currently engaged to marry jazz musician, Eric Benet.

Rocker Lenny Kravitz was born on May 26, 1964 to a Jewish father, producer Sy Kravitz and a Bahamian mother actress, Roxie Roker. He married and then later divorced biracial actress Lisa Bonet. Together they have one daughter, Zoe.

Nia Peeples was born on December 10, 1961 to Bob and Liz Peeples in Hollywood, CA. Peeples comes from a diverse ethnic background. Her mother is French, German, Filipino and Spanish, while her father claims, Irish, English and Italian heritage. Nia and her sisters drew on her mother's Polynesian dance background and at an early age, began dancing professionally, with her father as their manager. Nia began acting bit parts and commercials before landing a spot on daytime's *General Hospital*. She made a name for herself in the hit TV series *Fame*. Nia is married to stuntman, Lauro Chartrand. The couple have a daughter, Sienna Noel born November 1998 and Nia has a son, Christopher, to a previous marriage.



Benjamin Bratt was born on December 16, 1963, in San Francisco. He comes from a very diverse family background. His mother, Eldy, is Quechua Indian from Lima, Peru and his father is an American with German and English descent. At age 5, he took part in a demonstration with his mother and other Native American

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Political

Jump from Page 3

the State of Texas was clamping on the lack of minorities represented in State offices. I applied for the position as Office Manager and had all of the qualifications and went in as their first Black in Hunt County. I had no problem with the word "token" because I was a good master of the English language and knew that being the first and only, did not mean that I was under-qualified. Quite the opposite. To become a token, you must be above average to be even considered for

the position. After all, you have to remember that you are not being allowed into the position because 'they' really want you. They are being MADE to accept you. They would rather say that no minorities qualify for the position. Henceforth, you are put to the test quite extensively, in order to qualify. So, always be proud to be a good token. By good, I mean that you should never allow yourself to remain a token. Try to open the door for another brother or sister.

So, the Political Action

Committees are wanting to clamp down on the non-representation of minorities by certain politicians and find out just what promises or campaign pledges these candidates are willing to make and follow through on in 2002. For more information on how to get your citizens political action committee started, contact your local NAACP or call telephone number to call is 903-455-8378 or fax us your information or questions to 903-455-1229.

Bush acquiring the 25 electoral votes that allowed him to win the presidential election.

Justice Quince is presently on the executive counsel of the Appellate Section of the Florida Bar and is the Supreme Court liaison to the Worker's Compensation Committee, The Judicial Ethics Committee and the Supreme Courts Commission on Fairness.

Justice Quince has received numerous honors and awards from the National Bar Association and National Bar Association Women Lawyers Division, various high schools, colleges and universities, and the Lakeland NAACP to name a few. Her civic and community activities include membership in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Jan and Jill of America, Inc., The Urban League, The NAACP and TOBA; the Tampa Organization for Black Affairs.

Call (214) 924-0390 for ticket information.

ANNUAL FOUNDERS DAY LUNCHEON

Dallas, TX, February 16th - The Alpha Xi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., will host its Annual Founder's Day Luncheon, Saturday, February 16th from 12pm-2pm in the Lone Star Ballroom at the Adams Mark Hotel. Florida Supreme Court Justice Peggy A. Quince will be the keynote speaker.

In 1993, Justice Quince became the first African-American female to be appointed to one of the district courts of appeal. She was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court December 8, 1998, by the late Governor Lawton Chiles and Governor-elect Jeb Bush. Most notably, she is one of seven Florida Supreme Court Justices involved in the 4-3 decision that reversed Florida Circuit Court Judge Saul's decision, which eventually resulted in George

The Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church, 1308 Wilcox, McKinney, TX Annual Black History Program will be held on Sunday, February 10th at 3:30 pm featuring New Art Six, a classically trained performing arts ensemble dedicated to the musical interpretation of its African-American heritage and devoted to the preservation of African-American music, poetry and literature. The program is free and open to the public. Visit the website at www.saintmarkbc.com or call the church office 972-542-6178 for additional information.

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Senators Royce West and Rodney Ellis to host Fifth African American Legislative Summit

Texas Senators Royce West (D-Dallas) and Rodney Ellis (D-Houston) will kick-off the Fifth African American Legislative Summit, Thursday, February 7, 2002 at 8:30 a.m. in the State Capitol Extension Auditorium, located in Room E1.004. The theme for the Summit is "Momentum to Move through the 21st Century." The purpose of the three-day conference is to bring together African Americans from across Texas to examine issues impacting our community at a grassroots level. "Our goal for this Summit is to develop viable recommendations on a variety of key issues," said Senator Ellis.

The fifth bi-annual Summit will include panels on a series of issues, from closing the "digital divide," combating gangs, and college funding, to examining race relations, and African American family issues, among others.

"What this Summit will do is to set the agenda for African Americans as we move into the next Legislative Session," said Senator West. "It also gives persons throughout the state the

opportunity to interact with African American leaders from all walks of life, from local elected officials on school boards, to their Congressional representatives."

The 2000 African American Legislative Summit attracted



more than 500 attendees to events centered around the Capitol. The 2002 Summit will include Dallas Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, U.S. Senatorial candidate and former Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk, as well as former state legislator, the Honorable Dr. Zan Holmes pastor of the St.

Luke "Community" United Methodist Church in Dallas.

The 2002 African American Legislative Summit will also host a contract fair that will provide business owners the opportunity to speak directly with state agencies.

"One of the issues that we face is the lack of African American participation in contracting opportunities with this state," said Senator West. "This contracting fair will give vendors not only the opportunity to meet with, but also bid and secure contracts on the spot with various state agencies."

There is still time to register for the Summit. The deadline for special lodging rates is January 22. For lodging information, call 1-800-228-9290. Please contact Annette Holmes at 512-341-0431 for details, or to request a registration form, or Kelvin Bass at 214-467-1

Press availabilities for attending elected officials and hosts will be announced prior to the Summit.

Contact: Kelvin Bass, 214-467-0123

Strategy

'White,' Mixed' or 'Other?'

10 Books and Articles Your Librarian Didn't Tell You About!

• **"ANGLOS AND MEXICANS IN THE MAKING OF TEXAS, 1836-1886"** by David Montejano — University of Texas Press, Austin.

Montejano describes the great inconsistencies in defining Mexicans as either "white" or a separate "race." Mexican-Americans faced segregation similar to a Jim Crow system. The recent PBS series *Chicano!* also illustrates this fact. The existence of a racially mixed ethnic group with numerous racial phenotypes and class distinctions confounds the efforts of white elites to establish clear racial boundaries. Mexicans are a mixture of Indian (predominately), Spanish and black (from the slaves brought to colonial Mexico by the Spanish). Though they usually fail to mention the third element in their ancestry, many Mexicans have clearly Negroid facial feature and hair texture.

• **"STRANGERS FROM A DIFFERENT SHORE: A HISTORY OF ASIAN AMERICANS"** BY RONALD TAKAKI — Little, Brown and Company.

Takaki states that "In 1909 federal authorities classified Armenians as 'Asiatic' and denied naturalized citizenship to Armenian immigrants." Armenians had to go to court to have themselves declared "white." South Asians also were also denied "white" status due to their dark skin colors (despite the efforts of Anthropologists who claimed that skin color in "Caucasians" range from very pale to very dark brown or almost black).

• **CREOLES OF COLOR OF**

THE GULF SOUTH. Edited by James H. Dormon. (University of Tennessee Press, 1996). How multiracial Creoles have maintained their ethnic identity despite oppression.

• **THE SWEETER THE JUICE: A FAMILY MEMOIR IN BLACK AND WHITE.** By Shirley Taylor Haizlip. (Simon and Schuster, 1994).

Haizlip starts out as a devoted believer in the "one drop" myth who wonders why she and her mother are the only "white" members of her "black" family. She decides to trace her mother's missing relatives, imagining them to be "blacks" who are "passing" as white. She's forced to change her mind as she encounters white relatives who remain "white" despite the revelation of their partial black ancestry. Haizlip herself moves more toward a multiracial as opposed to a purely "black" identity.

• **THE MISSISSIPPI CHINESE: BETWEEN WHITE AND BLACK** by James W. Loewen. (Waveland Press, 1988).

Loewen describes how the Chinese moved from "colored" to "white" in Mississippi by agreeing to the demands of the white elite that they cut all ties with part-black Chinese and those married to "colored" wives. You'll never see the Chinese denounced for "passing" in black or liberal publications.

• **AMBIGUOUS LIVES: FREE WOMEN OF COLOR IN RURAL GEORGIA, 1789-1879.** By Adele Logan Alexander. (University of Arkansas Press, 1991).

While the author slavishly

subscribes to hypodescent, she

provides good historical detail on how the privileged social and educational opportunities of Southern multiracials were due to their often close ties with whites fathers and other relatives (as opposed to the myth of the callous white racist slave-master "breeding" more slaves). These privileges created the myth that mulattoes and mixed-whites were the "flower of the colored race." These "mulatto elites" filled the "Negro" colleges and universities and reinforced the idea that intelligence comes from "white blood." When you recognize this history, you can see why the NAACP makes the controversial claim that losing non-blacks to a "multiracial" category will somehow destroy all the progress that "blacks" have made. Many of them probably still have the tacit belief that intelligence comes from "white blood."

• **WOMEN OF COLOR, DAUGHTER OF PRIVILEGE: AMANDA AMERICA DICKSON, 1949-1893.** By Kent Anderson Leslie. (University of Georgia Press, 1995).

This book should be read with *AMBIGUOUS LIVES*. The biography of an "elite mulatto lady" who inherited her white father's plantation and became the richest "colored" woman in the U.S.

• **LONG LANCE; THE TRUE STORY OF AN IMPOSTER.** By Donald B. Smith. (University of Nebraska Press, 1982).

This story is fascinating history as long as you ignore the racist ("black" passing for Indian) remarks of the author. Long Lance (born Sylvester Long) was born in North

See White, Mixed page 8

Tiger Woods



Oprah Winfrey called Eldrick "Tiger" Woods "America's son," but Tiger refers to himself as "Cablinasian," a word he derived from his Caucasian, black, Indian and Asian heritage. But no matter what you call this golf phenomenon, there's no doubt that he's taken the links by storm, with a list of PGA wins a mile long.

Woods, now 26 years of age, has had an unprecedented career since becoming a professional golfer in the late summer of 1996. He has won 40 tournaments, 29 of those on the PGA TOUR, including the 1997 and 2001 Masters Tournaments, 1999 and 2000 PGA Championships, 2000 U.S. Open Championship, and 2000 British Open Championship. With his second Masters victory in 2001, Tiger became the first ever to hold all four professional major championships at the same time. He is the career victory leader among active players on the PGA TOUR, and is the career money list leader.

Woods' six professional major championships and three U.S. Amateur titles bring his total to nine major championships through age 25, three more than Jack Nicklaus at that age. Nicklaus had four professional major victories and two U.S. Amateur titles.

Woods compiled one of the most impressive amateur records in golf history, winning six USGA national championships, plus the NCAA title, before turning professional on August 27, 1996. He concluded his amateur career by winning an unprecedented third consecutive U.S. Amateur title, finishing with record 18 consecutive match-play victories.

He is the son of Earl Woods, a retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army, and his wife, Kultida, a native of Thailand. He was nicknamed Tiger after a Vietnamese soldier and friend of his father, Vuong Dang Phong, to whom his father had also given that nickname.

Born on December 30, 1975, Woods grew up in

Cypress, California, 35 miles southeast of Los Angeles. He was not out of the crib before he took an interest in golf, at age 6 months, watching as his father hit golf balls into a net and imitating his swing. He appeared on the Mike Douglas Show at age 2, putting with Bob Hope. He shot 48 for nine holes at age 3 and was featured in *Golf Digest* at age 5. He won the Optimist International Junior tournament six times at ages 8, 9, 12, 13, 14 and 15.

Tiger played in his first professional tournament in 1992, at age 16, the Nissan Los Angeles Open and in three more PGA TOUR events in 1993. He made the 36-hole cut and tied for 34th place in the 1994 Johnnie Walker Asian Classic in Thailand, and had three additional PGA TOUR appearances. He entered Stanford University in 1994 and in two years he won 10 collegiate events, concluding with the NCAA title. His other amateur victories included the 1994 Western Amateur. He represented the United States in the 1994 World Amateur Team Championships in France and the 1995 Walker Cup Match in Wales.

Among the honors received as an amateur, Woods was *Golf Digest* Player of the Year in 1991 and 1992, *Golf World* Player of the Year in 1992 and 1993, *Golfweek* National Amateur of the Year in 1992, *Golf World* Man of the Year in 1994, and he was chosen for the Fred Haskins and Jack Nicklaus College Player of the Year awards in 1996.

The week after winning his third U.S. Amateur title, Woods played his first tournament as a professional in the Greater Milwaukee Open. It was one of only seven events left in 1996 for him to finish among the top 125 money winners and earn a player's card for the PGA TOUR.

The result was an achievement of which Tiger remains very proud. He won two tournaments and placed among the top 30 money winners qualify-

ing for the Tour Championship. He finished 25th with \$790,594 and won \$940,420 for the year worldwide in 11 tournaments. He was the first rookie since 1990 to win twice and the first player since 1982 to have five consecutive top-five finishes.

He achieved No. 1 on the Official World Golf Ranking for the most rapid progression ever to that position. On June 15, 1997, in his 42nd week as a professional, Woods became the youngest-ever No. 1 golfer at age 21 years, 24 weeks. The previous youngest was Bernhard Langer, age 29 years, 31 weeks in 1986.

Sports Illustrated selected Woods as the 1996 and 2000 Sportsman of the Year. He was the first to win that award more than once. L'Equipe (France) selected him as 2000 World Champion of Champions. The Associated Press chose Woods as the Male Athlete of the Year for 1997, 1999 and 2000. He and Michael Jordan are the only athletes to win that award three times. He was selected as Reuters 2000 Sportsman of the Year.

With all these accomplishments under his belt, Woods really wants the world to know the following:

"The purpose of this statement is to explain my heritage for the benefit of members of the media... It is the final and only comment I will make regarding the issue.

My parents have taught me to always be proud of my ethnic background. Please rest assured that is, and always will be, the case — past, present, and future. The media has portrayed me as African-American, sometimes, Asian. In fact, I am both.

Yes, I am the product of two great cultures — one African-American and the other Asian.

On my father's side, I am African-American. On my mother's side, I am Thai. Truthfully, I feel very fortunate, and EQUALLY PROUD, to be both African-American and Asian!

The critical and fundamental point is that ethnic background and/or composition should NOT make a difference. It does NOT make a difference to me. The bottom line is that I am an American ... and proud of it!"



Multicultural

Jump from Page 4

activists in the takeover of Alcatraz Island. Bratt recently left the successful NBC drama *Law & Order* to pursue a career in film. He was recently seen in *The Next Best Thing* with Rupert Everett and Madonna. He is romantically involved with actress Julia Roberts.

Singer Amanda Marshall was born on August 29, 1972 in Toronto to an interracial family. Marshall landed her first record deal at the age of 19 while touring with Jeff Healey. Amanda has written a song about growing up the product of an interracial union entitled, *Shades of Grey*.

The NAACP - Garland Branch Hosts the 2nd Annual

Winter Ball

"Celebrating the Year of the Woman"

February 15, 2002

at

The Alexander Mansion

333 West Avenue D

Downtown Garland

8:00 p.m. to Midnight

\$35.00 per person

The Evening Includes: Valet Parking, Buffet dinner, Presentation of Honorees, Live Entertainment

Attire: Black Tie

For More Information:

Call the NAACP (972) 381-5044, #5

Bill of Rights for Racially Mixed People

I HAVE THE RIGHT...

Not to justify my existence in this world.
Not to keep the races separate within me.
Not to be responsible for people's discomfort with my physical ambiguity.
Not to justify my ethnic legitimacy.

I HAVE THE RIGHT...

To identify myself differently than strangers expect me to identify.
To identify myself differently from how my parents identify me.

To identify myself differently from my brothers and sisters.
To identify myself differently in different situations.

I HAVE THE RIGHT...

To create a vocabulary to communicate about being multiracial.
To change my identity over my lifetime — and more than once.
To have loyalties and identification with more than one group of people.
To freely choose whom I befriend and love.

By Maria P. P. Root, PhD, is author of *"The Multiracial Experience: Racial Borders as the New Frontier"* which you can purchase through *InterracialVoice* and *Amazon.com*.

I mean

Jump from Page 1

And so were her kids.

"Chin Chan, China man, get his meals from a garbage can." I heard that nearly every week from the other kids, as they danced around me during recess, making slanty eyes with their fingers. Actually, this came from the more enlightened bigots. The ones who had taken the time to study the issue and determine which racial category I belonged to and which slur was appropriate. Most didn't bother with such distinctions.

"You see this?" a student asked me one day, pointing to a small, green country on the globe. I peered at it. It was Nigeria. "See that? That says 'nigger.' That's where you're from, 'cause you're a nigger." Not only bigoted, but illiterate as well.

But the Chinese thing was only a phase, I grew out of it. One of those unpleasant things you need to get out of your system, like gawkiness, or acne, or a breaking voice. You know, growing pains. Sometime around the age of twelve, my nose exploded, my eyes grew round, my hair lightened and took on a bit of a wave. Voila, instant white.

Well, not quite white. Maybe Mediterranean—anathema at one point in history as well, but pretty much accepted, nowadays, in polite society.

It seemed natural that I should turn white. My parents had never encouraged me to be Chinese. Well, I should say that my mom never did. That was her job, right? To teach me to be Chinese? My father was more than willing to spread his Jewishness around. He wasn't religious himself, but he loved the idea of being Jewish. The history, the culture, the jokes. "Oy, the goyim," he'd say. "They got no chutzpah."

But my mom was silent about her heritage. It was the family secret. Although she'd been raised in New York in Chinatown speaking Chinese,

she never uttered a word of it in the house. She said she couldn't remember any. And she let us kids bust up her family heirlooms, like the dowry swords made from old coins that came from her grandparents' wedding. My sister and I smacked them together in sword fights, the coins tinkling down around us like a metallic rainshower with each thrust and parry.

The only hint of her past came from food. We ate a lot of Chinese food. Stirfry for dinner. Soy sauce-braised carp, or grouse, or pheasant, whenever we caught any. And chopsticks. But she cooked and served it up without comment, whereas my father went through this big Jewish routine whenever he opened a box of matzo. "Bar-ruch a-ta Adonai eh-lo-hei-nu," he'd intone, ripping off the cellophane.

After I started looking white, I never thought much about being Chinese. It was out of sight, so I pretty much pushed it out of mind. This lasted until I started applying to colleges. I had to fill out all these forms and check boxes specifying which race I was. All of the schools took pride in touting the "diversity" of their students, so I immediately identified myself as Chinese American. I thought it was an advantage—a unique feature that made me stand out from an anonymous sea of applicants. I checked those boxes for "Asian/Pacific Islander" proudly. It was my most Chinese moment.

But when I got into school, being Chinese didn't seem like a good idea after all. On the one hand, believe it or not, there was guilt. Guilt for not looking Chinese. This came up right away. During orientation week my freshman year, the minority students' center held a big get-together for its "community." I felt like I should go, having checked all those boxes on my admissions forms. I felt sort of like I'd used the organization. Already the guilt was setting in.

As soon as I walked into the students' center, I knew I'd gone

to the wrong place. Just about everyone there looked really ethnic—African American, Asian, Native American, Latino. And there I was, this white-looking guy. A few other students looked kind of white, too, but at least their name tags made up for it: last names like "Chan" or "Lee" or "Wong." What's my last name? Jewish. Great.

I stood around feeling really out of place until this other student began talking to me. He was African American. "So what are you?" he asked me, right away. I was relieved to tell him my mom was Chinese, like I was explaining myself. "Oh, OK, yeah, you can sort of see it," he said, after eyeing me carefully. "But would you look at some of the guys here? I don't know what they're supposed to be." I left a little later and never went back.

It was just as well that I wasn't welcome at the minority center, because I found out that the other students on my freshman hall frowned on minorities. It wasn't a matter of racism. They weren't racist. Everyone on my hall welcomed diversity. Everyone went to rallies on the Green to protest the university's investment in South Africa. It was a question of style, of fitting in, of dressing like everyone else, being laid back, sociable, and cool. Foreign students, the ones straight from China and Korea, weren't bad because they were Chinese or Korean. African American students had every right to eat by themselves in the dining hall and have their own frats. But those students just weren't that cool. They didn't fit in with what was normal. You never saw that kind of behavior in the "Breakfast Club"—a film all the students on my hall tried to emulate. Well, OK, maybe you saw it in "Sixteen Candles"—from that weird, geeky, Chinese guy.

Don't misunderstand. I didn't pretend that I was white. I still admitted that I was half

Chinese to everyone. But I avoided doing anything that would make me stand out and get labeled "Asian American." There were a few close calls all the same. I remember the worst incident.

The summer before my junior year I was working in Pennsylvania. Every now and then I had a long weekend and went up to Providence to hang out with a house full of friends. Quite often, I'd get there to find that all my friends had ditched me to take off for New York or Boston or Maine. So it would be me alone in the house with this Taiwanese student who was subletting a room. He didn't fit in too well. He had a bad hair cut and wore sneakers with black socks all the time. He spoke with an accent and studied engineering and economics. I talked to him a little, and we went to some movies. One time his mother came up from New York, and I took the two of them to the beach in my beat-up VW bug. She cooked us dinner later. She seemed really happy that her son had such a good American friend.

One thing that really drove me crazy was that this Chinese guy was sleeping in a lawn chair because he hadn't realized that his sublet would be unfurnished. I knew that an old roommate had left her bed in the last apartment I'd lived in, and I still had a key. It turns out that she had arranged to sell the damn thing to the next people moving in, but I didn't care. I hated her guts. So I went over there, got the bed, tied it down to my Volkswagen, and drove it back to the Chinese guy. He was really grateful.

I didn't see him much after I gave him the bed. I went back down to Pennsylvania and didn't return to the start of school. I ran into him halfway through the first semester in the dining hall. He was still wearing those awful clothes and was with a big group of foreign students. He came up to me in the middle of

the dining room, grinning like an idiot. He was still thanking me for the damn bed. He turned to the foreign students. "This is my friend," he said, really loudly. I smiled nervously, conscious of everyone watching and listening. "He's Chinese, too," he exclaimed. The foreign students all gave me an odd look—I couldn't read it. Surprise? Confusion? I thought it was admiration. I went crimson from head to foot. I didn't see him after that, although he gave me his phone number in Providence, and New York.

Whenever I think about the incident, I still blush. I'm embarrassed by the way I acted, embarrassed for even thinking they admired me because they couldn't tell I was Chinese. I guess, even though I don't look Chinese, I can't escape it. It keeps coming back in the way I worry and in the way I treat other people. You know, sometimes the problem isn't what others do to you, it's what you do to yourself.

On the whole, though, I feel pretty lucky that I don't have to look Chinese and deal with all that other crap as well. I know what the alternative would be. I only need to look at my uncle. That's my mother's brother. He lives in the Northeast, has a professional job, and drives a Porsche. He's always rushing around, going to the club, the office, the gym. He got married my last year in college and I went out for the wedding. I didn't know his wife, I'd only met her once: vague impression of blonde hair and blue eyes, the type my uncle always goes for.

As soon as my uncle see me, it starts. "God, you're lucky," he says. "I wish I looked like you." My uncle, he's always going on about being Chinese, like it's the worst thing in the world. I guess he's really just like me. He only wants to feel sure of himself and to fit in. But in addition to the normal human burden of insecurity is added the extra weight of being Chinese. This does not

help his self image. It's not that society is "oppressing" him or that he's being turned down for jobs or that he's being snubbed at parties or anything really important. It's just that he's not white, so he's not quite "normal."

Whenever he goes to a bar, he's never that "guy standing over there," or the "guy in the expensive suit," or the "guy with the black hair," or the "good-looking guy," to any of the women. He's always "that Asian guy." As in: "Yeah, look over there at that Asian guy looking at you." It drives him crazy.

My uncle's telling me all this while we're whipping down the highway in his Porsche. We're going to get something to eat. We're heading for this Yuppie bar and restaurant he goes to a lot when suddenly he hits the brakes.

"Shit," he says. "We can't go there, I'm not dressed. Whenever I go there I try to look really nice. Good suit, tie. I can't go looking like this." So he screeches down the next exit and heads the Porsche the other way.

"Maybe we'll go to Wong's, this Chinese place," he says to me. "Yeah, that'd be good. It's open late, service is fast, it doesn't matter how I'm dressed. Yeah, maybe Wong's'd be good."

But then he hits the brakes again. No, no, no. Not Wong's. Not tonight. He's getting married tomorrow (my God, why is he getting married?), he can't deal with Wong's tonight. Can't deal, I guess, with the Chinese ambiance. Can't deal with the fact that he blends in there, that it looks like he belongs. Can't deal with it because he doesn't want to belong. That's Chinese, it's not white, it's just not normal.

So we're off at the next exit and heading back in the direction we were first going. Yeah, we'll go to the other place. It'll be OK. We'll sit at the bar. You don't have to dress up at the bar.

"You're lucky," he says to me. "Really lucky."

A Partnership That Could Help Your Business Become Bigger And Better



The Texas Lottery Commission Invites You To Attend A Mentor-Protégé Program Orientation

The objective of the Mentor-Protégé Program is to foster long-term relationships between primary vendors (mentors) and HUBs (protégés), and to increase the ability of HUB protégés to contract with the state. The Program is designed to provide professional assistance and support to HUB vendors, in order to facilitate their development and growth. A summary of the new program requirements will be highlighted during this meeting. If you are a current HUB vendor or potential HUB vendor, you are encouraged to attend.

To register your company's representatives, please visit the TLC Website:
www.txlottery.org/minoritydev/minoritydev.cfm

Location: Texas Lottery Commission Auditorium
611 East 6th Street, Austin, Texas
Date: Tuesday, February 5, 2002
Time: 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Should you have any questions, please contact:
Minority Development Services Division
Tel. 512-344-5292 or 512-344-5293
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Texas Health Resources is an equal opportunity employer which values and celebrates diversity at all levels of our organization. We take pride in building a diverse workforce by our constant efforts in seeking minority employees.

Arts & Entertainment



John Q

This cautionary story centers on a man whose nine-year-old son is in desperate need of a life-saving transplant. When he discovers that his medical insurance won't cover the costs of the surgery and alternative government aid is unavailable, John Q. Archibald takes a hospital emergency room hostage in a last-ditch attempt to save his child. Starring Denzel Washington, Robert Duvall, James Woods, Anne Heche, Kimberly Elise, Ray Liotta, and Eddie Griffin. Directed by Nick Cassavetes.

John Q. takes a hard look at the common man and how far he would push the envelope to save his child. He'll sacrifice his job, his house, his money, and ultimately, he's willing to put his life on the line.

On Stage at NextStage at Grand Prairie:

An Evening with
Luis Miguel
Saturday,
February 9, 2002

B.B. King
Sunday,
February 10, 2002

The Peking Acrobats
Friday,
February 15, 2002

REO
Speedwagon/Styx
Tuesday,
February 26, 2002

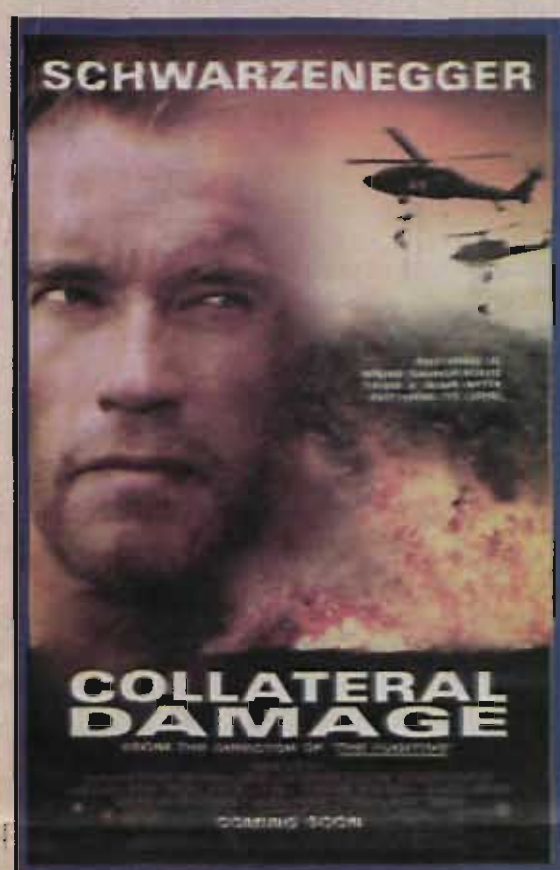
Dancin' with
Gershwin
Saturday,
March 23, 2002

Jeff Foxworthy/
Blue Collar Comedy
Saturday,
April 20, 2002

Buddy:
The Buddy Holly
Story April 2-7, 2002

South Pacific
April 25-28, 2002

Ticketmaster
972-647-5700



Collateral Damage

In one fleeting moment, Gordy Brewer (ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER) loses everything he ever cared about.

Running late to meet his wife and son at a downtown high-rise complex one morning, the L.A. firefighter and devoted family man arrives in time to witness a bomb explode in a nearby vehicle, showering the area with debris and shattered glass.

The explosion is credited to El Lobo, The Wolf, an infamous rebel leader in Colombia's decades-long civil war. Its targets were members of the Colombian consulate and American intelligence agents; its casualties included one civilian woman and one small boy -- Gordy's family, innocent people who lost their lives for being in the wrong place at the wrong time.



BLOCKBUSTER® Hit List™

These are the Top 10 Renting Video Titles at U.S. BLOCKBUSTER® stores for the week ending January 27, 2002.

- | | |
|--|--|
| VHS | DVD |
| 1. AMERICAN PIE 2 | 1. AMERICAN PIE 2 |
| 2. KISS OF THE DRAGON | 2. KISS OF THE DRAGON |
| 3. THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS | 3. THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS |
| 4. THE GLASS HOUSE | 4. ROCK STAR |
| 5. JEEPERS CREEPERS | 5. JEEPERS CREEPERS |
| 6. MOULIN ROUGE | 6. THE GLASS HOUSE |
| 7. ROCK STAR | 7. WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN? |
| 8. THE SCORE | 8. MOULIN ROUGE |
| 9. WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN? | 9. THE SCORE |
| 10. LEGALLY BLONDE | 10. EVOLUTION |

These are the Top 10 Selling Video Titles at U.S. BLOCKBUSTER® stores for the week ending January 27, 2002.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| VHS | DVD |
| 1. SHREK | 1. KISS OF THE DRAGON |
| 2. THE PRINCESS DIARIES | 2. AMERICAN PIE 2 |
| 3. BLOW | 3. THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS |
| 4. DRAGON BALL Z: COOLER'S R | 4. SHREK |
| 5. MVP 2: MOST VERTICAL PRIMATE | 5. ROCK STAR |
| 6. AMERICAN PIE | 6. PEARL HARBOR |
| 7. SCOOBY-DOO AND THE CYBERCHASE | 7. MOULIN ROUGE |
| 8. CATS & DOGS | 8. RUSH HOUR 2 |
| 9. THE MUMMY | 9. THE PRINCESS DIARIES |
| 10. GLADIATOR | 10. SCARY MOVIE 2 |

These are the rental New Releases hitting the streets on Tuesday, February 5, 2002. Titles also available for rent on DVD are indicated with *

CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN*
GHOST WORLD*
RED SHOE DIARIES: SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE*
LIFE WITHOUT DICK*
MAZE
GRATEFUL DAWG*
THE SMOKERS
JACK AND THE BEANSTALK: THE REAL STORY
EXTREMEDAYS

2003 Ford Expedition



Introducing the totally new 2003 Expedition.

Take a look at what's on board: second- and third-row seating that folds flat to the floor, an all-new independent rear suspension, and enhanced safety features available late Spring 2002.

INTERIOR VERSATILITY

An enhanced seating design featuring an exclusive power-fold flat third row seat makes Expedition's interior more usable than ever. **DRIVING CONTROL**

A fully independent rear suspension delivers superb handling and a smooth on-road ride.

SAFETY LEADERSHIP

We've designed the totally new 2003 Expedition to offer enhanced occupant protection.

EXTERIOR DESIGN

2003 Expedition boasts some striking enhancements to its exterior design, ensuring definite 21st century appeal while still maintaining that classic Expedition leadership stance.

Around The Town

Ongoing

The Women's Museum will provide free computer training in the Ronya Kozmetsky Institute for the Future, the museum's 20-workstation computer lab. The classes will provide free job-training skills for adult women who are unemployed and for those already employed but wishing to move up to more professional levels. Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings and Sunday afternoons and students can attend one or any number of classes. For more information, contact Wendlyn Alter, Institute Director at 214-915-0868 or techdirector@thewomensmuseum.org.

The International Library of Poetry has announced that \$58,000 in prizes will be awarded this year in the International Open Poetry Contest for beginner poets. To enter, send one original poem, any subject and any style to: The International Library of Poetry, Owing Mills, MD 21117. The poem should be 20 lines or less, and the poet's name and address should appear on top of the page. Entries must be postmarked or sent via the Internet by February 28, 2002. Enter online at

www.poetry.com.

The City of Plano presents an exhibit featuring the art of six students who put a face on the catastrophe of September 11. This exhibit will be on display at Collin County Community College as well as various locations in Plano through September 11, 2002. For a schedule of locations, call 972-941-5201.

Planet Kidz, a youth entertainment program, happens on Saturday nights from 7-11:30 p.m. at Carpenter Park and Oak Point Recreation Centers. For more information, call 972-208-8087 or 972-941-7540.

The abstract exhibit, Alma Thomas: Phantasmagoria, is on display at The Women's Museum until March. For more information, call 214-915-0861 or visit www.thewomensmuseum.org.

Dallas artist, Beth Ritter-Perry will exhibit her latest works through March 9th at South Dallas Cultural Center. Admission is free. For more information, call 214-939-2787.

February 1-2

The Dallas Symphony Or-

chestra welcomes legendary performer Lou Rawls for two evenings of jazz, pop, soul, blues and gospel at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center. Tickets may be purchased from the Dallas Symphony box office or by logging on to www.dallasymphony.com. For more information, call 214-692-0203.

February 2

Black History Month will be celebrated at The Doubletree Hotel in Plano February 2nd at 7 p.m. The theme for the evening is "It Takes a Whole Village" and Dr. Joy M. Carter will be the guest speaker for the evening.

Plano Repertory Theatre (PRT) will host a Moving Party February 2nd at 8 p.m. in order to say good-bye to its current home at the ArtCentre Theatre and help raise funds for its big move to the Courtyard Theater. Tickets are \$50, which includes the cost of food and drinks. Seats are limited and tickets can be purchased by calling 972-422-7460.

February 2-3

Lighthouse Productions in conjunction with local sponsors are proud to present the gospel

play "The Devil is a Liar!" February 2nd-3rd. The play will take place at The Plano Arts Center Theater, 1028 15th at Ave. K. Admission is \$17. For more information, call 972-283-4429 or 214-376-3922.

February 5-10

UT Arlington Texas Hall welcomes Veggie Tales Live. Ticket prices range from \$15-\$25. Tickets can be purchased by calling 214-373-8000 or by logging on to www.ticketmaster.com.

February 7, 10

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra will perform a tribute to the great music of Richard Rodgers at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center at 8 p.m. For more information, call 214-871-4000 or log on to www.Dallas-Symphony.com.

February 9

Exclusively Feminine presents Mardi Gras Style, a Spring Fashion Preview, from 11:30-1:30 p.m. February 9th at the Doubletree Hotel in Plano. Lunch will be served with a New Orleans twist

and live jazz music and live and silent auctions will be available. Proceeds benefit the Volunteer Center of Collin County. For more information, call 972-422-1050.

The City of Plano will host its 1st Annual Daddy/Daughter Dance on February 9th at Plano Centre's Collinwood Hall from 7-9:30 p.m. Space is limited and the registration fee is \$10 per person. For more information, call 972-941-7250 or 972-941-PARK.

February 12

The Dallas Network of Career Women will host their monthly luncheon at City Club on the 69th floor of the Bank of America building at 11:30 a.m. The speaker of the hour will be Maggie Berman with The Healing Zone speaking on the topic of The Missing Piece: A New Look at Relationships. Reservations must be made by February 8th and can be done by calling 214-855-1509. For more information, log on to www.dallascareerwomen.org.

February 15

"Lowndes County Freedom Party: The Rise of the Black Panthers", a screening that revisits

the political party that helped blacks stand up to murder and intimidation with leader Stokely Carmichael of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), will be shown February 15th at 8 p.m. Following the screening will be a discussion about the film led by Willie Ricks, a member of SNCC. For more information, call 214-426-1683.

N.M. Productions Theatre Company invites you to a mystery, "The Weakest Link...To Murder!" in the Bluebonnet Ballroom of the DeSoto Town Center at 7:30 p.m. Reservations are required. Tickets are \$25, which includes dinner, drink, and the show. To purchase tickets and make reservations, call 972-680-4466.

February 15-16

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra welcomes vocalist Neil Sedaka to the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center at 8 p.m. Sedaka will perform without the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. Tickets can be purchased by logging on to www.dallasymphony.com. For more information, call 214-692-0203.

Community Calendar Sponsored by Southwestern Bell Telephone

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February 15, 16, 22, 23

To celebrate African-American History Month, Black Cinematheque Dallas will present "Power to the People: The Black Liberation Film Festival" featuring films that explore contemporary Black liberation movements in America and Africa. Admission is \$5.00 at the door. For more information, call 214-426-1683.

February 16 and 23

Revolt/Revolution/Evolution (RR & E) is an original multimedia performance work by Uriah Elion, Jr. that explores music as a form of revolt. The performances will be held at 8 p.m. at the South Dallas Cultural Center and tickets are \$5 at the door. For more information, call 214-939-2787.

February 20

The Women's Division will meet February 20th for lunch at Gleneagles Country Club at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are required. For reservations and more information, call the Plano Chamber of Commerce.

White, Mixed...

Jump from Page 5

Carolina of Indian, white and black ancestry. If his ancestry had been Indian and white only, Smith would praise him to the skies for seeking out his Indian heritage. Smith, however, insists throughout the book that Long was only good enough for his small amount of black ancestry. Long Lance launched a career as a journalist and gained fame as a provocative writer and eloquent speaker for the cause of the North American Indian.

• **AFRICANS AND NATIVE AMERICANS; THE LANGUAGE OF RACE AND THE EVOLUTION OF RED-BLACK PEOPLES.** By Jack D. Forbes. (University of Illinois Press, 1993).

Forbes, a prominent scholar of Native American studies, explores the evolution of racial terminology and the changing meanings of racial terms such as "black," "mulatto," and "mestizo." Forbes emphasizes the constant racial mixing that has occurred throughout the centuries between Native Americans, Africans and Europeans.

Allen

Jump from Page 1

piece of equipment and tracks the weight lifted and range of motion, according to Horton.

"If a user is not performing the exercise properly, Fitlinx will notify the user immediately via an onscreen message," he added. "Fitness trainers are on staff and will periodically communicate with the members about their training program and will assist the members in setting up a program tailored to their needs."

Power Pages Breakfast Networking Forum

What Is Networking?

"Networking is business people getting together sharing ideas and building relationships"

YOU'RE INVITED

WHEN: February 4, 2002

TIME: 8:30 am - 9:45 am

WHERE: Super 8 Motel

McKinney, Texas - 75 N. Take Louisiana and Virginia exit - Stay on service Rd. Motel on the right.

SPONSORS: Marvia Shelton, Coldwell Banker

Hattie Kelly, Power Pages News

Please RSVP

Hattie Kelly - 214-544-2088

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