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# The Gazette

A Division of

**MON**  
Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

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

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“North Dallas” Weekly Paper of Choice

February 8-February 20, 2002



### On the Homefront:

In honor of Black History Month, TFM Productions presents the musical “Once on This Island”, through February 24, at the Trinity River Arts Center, Dallas. Featuring an all-African-American cast, directed by Soul Rep Theatres’ Guinea Bennett-Price, the musical centers on a young Caribbean girl’s love for a man that must conquer cultural, religious and racial divisions of two different worlds. Thursday through Saturday 8 p.m., Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Admission is \$20.00. Proceeds benefit metroplex literacy programs.

The Plano Community Forum will hold its 14th Annual Sweetheart’s Ball on Saturday February 16, 2002, partnering with Omega Psi Phi Fraternity (Alpha Iota Iota Chapter) at the Holiday Inn, 700 E. Central Expressway in Plano, Texas from 7:00 p.m. to 12 p.m. Originally planned as an event to fellowship, this function has evolved into one of the Forum’s fundraisers for its MLK Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships to graduating minority high school students of Plano Schools. For more information about the “Sweetheart’s Ball” please call Sammie McPherson / TJ Johnson at the Plano Community Forum at (972) 266-4108.

Feld Entertainment commemorates 21 years of on-ice Disney classics that have come to the metropolis, February 15 - March 31 with an exhibit featuring some of the lavish costumes, props, production models and renderings used since the inception of Disney On Ice in 1981. Located on the 3rd level of The Shops at West End Marketplace, Dallas. Call 214.351.9896 for more information.

The Minority Home Buyers Expo presented by Abstract Concepts Incorporated and Dallasblack.com. For those interested in purchasing a home, this free event is a must. Experts will be on hand from mortgage companies, bankers, brokers, builders, realtors, architects, appraisers, inspectors and more. Seminar topics include foreclosed properties, mortgages, financial planning and more. Le Meridien Hotel, 650 N. Pearl Street, Dallas, 10a.m. - 5 p.m. Call 214.827.7977 for further information.

The African American Museum’s 20Something is hosting a special guided tour Monday, February 18 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Featuring a special guided tour by Phillip Collins, Chief Curator of Exhibitions and Collections for the museum. RSVP for the event by February 15 at 214.565.9026 ext 306. Admission is free.

OMO Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha presents “Preparing Our Youth Today for Leadership Tomorrow”, February 23 at 12:00 noon, at the Wyndham Anatole Hotel. Keynote speaker: Best selling author of “Think and Grow Rich: A Black Choice”, Dr. Dennis Paul Kimbro. For more information contact Raquel Jarrett at 214.977-2236. Cost is \$50.00.

The Richardson Theatre Center presents Emlyn Williams’ “Night Must Fall” through February 16. Set in an English country house in 1935, the inhabitant’s strained emotions are pushed to the breaking point when a brutal murder occurs nearby. Shows performed Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. Tickets on Thursday are two for \$16.00, Friday and Saturday tickets cost \$12.00 to \$14.00. 715 Canyon Creek Square. For more information call 972.699-1130.

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## Freedom’s Road is Long and Hard

by Marquetta L. Goodwine

Many of us have read the recounted stories of a railroad whose tracks ran the length of the East coast before Amtrak and made local stops from the banks of Africa’s shores to the shores of the Carolinas and to Georgia’s hills then across the border into Canada. The tracks were built on faith and conviction. The fuel was d.i.e.s.e.l. – desire, ingenuity, endurance, self-worth, energy, and longing. The cars were made of people seeking freedom that they inherently felt and were pulled by such engines as Harriet Tubman with numerous African, indigenous American, Quaker, and Unitarian conductors and engineers keeping things on track. The caboose was a treasure chest of the memories of family and friends left behind and the hope of being reunited with them one day.

This train of which I speak was the Underground Railroad. Underground in the sense that it was so secretive no one knew its route or its next stop even if they were right next to it. No one was to see the passengers other than other passengers or conductors.

The passengers on this

trains were not able to recline their seats, pull a blanket up around their necks, turn on their walkmans, and watch the sites go by as they drifted off to sleep. Their riding companions were snakes, mosquitoes, and



other insects, all of which were in tune to the hoot of the owl and the chipperwillows cry. The passengers ran as the bloodhounds closed in on their ankles and feet. They ran and hid or were hidden in fireplaces, false bottoms of carriages and wagons, cubby holes and tunnels throughout basements and attics and in walls. Oft time they only found temporary peace in caves. They jumped into waters to throw off the hounds as the bullets rang out around them and the stronger ones kept the weaker down.

I jumped not into the water, but back in time when I boarded this train from New York

City. From my first mile out, my life changed and will never again be the same...

The Creator held my hand and walked with me along the lonely highways. At the point that I felt I could journey no more. He/She supported my spirit and pushed me on. I worked and sweated facing the trials and tribulations. I heard the ancestors say, “Go on child.” Anytime my back and knees began to bend their voices echoed over and over again. I asked the Lord to speak to my heart and I asked myself, “Why did this journey start?” I felt the answer come back to me that “this is the way it must be.” My eyes begin to get fatigued and my body is weary...

“walk together children...”

I feel a spirit near me. I lift handfuls of water from a basin to my eyes and look into water as it ripples...

“wade in the water...”

I hear the voice of an elder say agitation is the way.

“God’s gonna trouble the water.”

I drift into a dream where reality is my journey’s end and the Creator cradles me only to

See Freedom’s Road page 5

## Life on the Color Line: The True Story of a White Boy Who Discovered He Was Black

This autobiography presents the unusual story of a man who grew up believing he was

moving story of growing up on both sides of the nation’s racial thicket. Williams’ mother was



white and his father was able to “pass,” so their children, growing up in northern Virginia, thought they were Italian. The parents split up in the mid-1950s, and Buster Williams’ alcoholism drove him into bankruptcy, so the charming ne’er-do-well took his two older boys to

The title sounds like tabloid sensationalism, but Williams’ memoir is, in fact, a

his darker-skinned family in Muncie, Indiana (just miles

See Color Line page 8

## Commandments of Relationships

Keep your word...walk your talk. Tell the truth...always. Be open...and willing to be vulnerable. Share your heart...and listen to the others. Criticize constructively. Temper your temper. Surrender graciously. Understand...and be kind.

## “The Meaning Of Valentine’s Day”

by Felicia Coleman

Every February 14, on Valentine’s Day, boxes of candy, roses and other gifts are exchanged between sweethearts. One billion Valentine cards are sold each year according to Greeting Card Association. This makes Valentine’s Day the second largest card selling holiday of the year



with Christmas at first, topping 2.6 billion sells each year.

Many define Valentine’s Day as a day of romance with little understanding and knowledge of the history behind it. The origin of Valentine’s Day is a mystery. Some experts state that Valentine was a priest who served in Rome during the third century. Emperor Claudius II was involved in many bloody and unpopular campaigns. He believed that the Roman husbands did not want to join his military because they did not want to leave their wives. As a result, Emperor Claudius II outlawed marriage for young men because he believed that

singly men made better soldiers.

Valentine secretly married couples. Emperor Claudius II discovered that Valentine secretly continued performing marriages. Claudius ordered that Valentine be put to death by being beaten up and then beheaded.

It was believed that Valentine fell in love with

the daughter of a jailor. Before he was put to death, he wrote a farewell note to her and he signed, “From Your Valentine.” Valentine was put to death February 14, 269 A.D.

There are other legends and opinions about the history of Valentine’s Day, but the fact remains that February 14 is the day of love and Saint Valentine is the patron saint of love.

Although today is different from the day of Valentine, the tradition still exists strongly. The old fashioned love still has a special place in our hearts.

Happy Valentine’s Day!

## Relationships: “To thine own self be true”

By Belinda Alexander

The term has been examined by so many. There are as many acceptable descriptions of what the word means as there are discussions.

In actuality, the basis of what a relationship it stems from how we relate to each other. In order to adequately define and understand what a relationship is, we must first and foremost define and understand self. This can require a lifetime within itself!

A relationship is comprised of at least two persons. It is, however, not limited to this number. When taking a close look at the term, we must consider the (1) the personality of each individual involved, (2) the timing in which that relationship occurs, (3) the environment in which it takes place and (4) beliefs, values and desires of those involved.

As individuals, we are very complex in mind and emotions. It appears that many of us are not able to grasp what we are personally about until later in life. The timing of a relationship in our lives and stages of identifiable maturity of self, are not always in sync. Many of us go

through life, in and out of relationships and arrive emotionally exhausted, unable to recognize and experience to the fullest that which we sought in the very beginning.

It is very easy to get caught up in the daily tasks of living and to place on the ‘back burner’, that which means the most to us as humans. Our family, dreams and convictions all influence the type of friends and

reflecting on my first significant relationship, so many years ago, I can see how it influenced my future and how I now relate in the realm of significant others.

I lived a very protected and sheltered life, growing up in ‘small-town’ Texas, USA. As a very sensitive and reflective child, I was happy with the little things in life such as springtime, summer mornings and any possible escape into my own private

little world of dreams. I recognize even today that this is a very important part of my basic personality. It is very important for friends, family and any significant other to accept this about me. If somewhere along the way this is lost in the relationship, the viability also suffers and begins to fade from existence. Personality conflict arrives as result of not being in touch with each involved individual’s basic values and emotional traits. Most of these qualities are deeply rooted and present probably from birth. It is important that we identify this in our children and nurture it toward a healthy maturity.

It appears that the family core has lost much of the strengthening principles and values, which were once criteria

See Relationships page 5



partners we choose. Many of us enter relationships without even considering the overall consequences and importance of commitment to our personal agendas or that of others involved.

As we gain limited independence, from family, our first one-on-one relationships usually occur when we are in the teenage stages of life. When



## 4th Annual Meet The Signees

The 4th Annual "Meet The Signees", media event was held last week at the Sprague Field House to recognize and introduce all DISD senior student-athletes who will sign scholarships in or who signed a scholarship during the early signing

period. Many of the district's 21 high schools were represented at the event. The National Letter of Intent Signing Day is a significant for so many of our student-athletes and their families," said Troy Mathieu, Assistant Superintendent of Athletics.

"These students have worked so hard both academically and athletically in preparing for this day, that we wanted to make sure they were properly recognized for their accomplishments," Mathieu added.

The signing day event, which began in 1999 as a means of assisting the local media in their coverage of this big day, is also open to members of the general public.



(L to R) Troy Mathieu, DISD Athletic Director;  
Willis Johnson of 730 AM-KKDA, guest speaker;  
Goree (Coach) Johnson, Assistant Athletic Director

## Breast Cancer Awareness Tea: Celebrate Life Love and Fashion

Anthony Mark, designer, recently hosted his annual Breast Cancer Awareness Tea benefiting the Celebrating Life Foundation at the Atelier. Anthony Mark's assistant, Issac (who lost a mother and a sister to breast) said, "Both Anthony and I have been touched by breast cancer and we are very committed to the cause."

Attendees infringed the air with sonnets on a brisk Saturday

during a spot of lunch where a cup of tea supported the battle against cancer. Women throughout the metroplex gathered to peek at the spring fashions of pink and ginger collections of Anthony Mark. Mammograms were donated to the insufficient of funds as models corroborated with bright swabs of cotton and a musical entourage characteristic of any designer riddling market, all a part of Anthony

Mark's plans this upcoming season. A portion of the proceeds will continue the fight against cancer.

State Farm Insurance Companies sponsored the event. Channel 11's Renee Syler served as the Mistress of Ceremony for the fashion show.



Anthony Mark

Photos by:  
Maggie Ybarra



## "Exclusively Feminine"

The 2002 "Exclusively Feminine" benefit is chaired by retired JC Penney executive Gale Duff-Bloom, who assembled a dynamic group of community organizers and Collin County supporters to serve on the steering committee. "The committee worked very hard to develop an exciting event that everyone will enjoy," said Duff-Bloom. "Our goal is to not only make the benefit entertaining, but to also increase awareness and financial support for the Volunteer Center of Collin County."



Gale Duff-Bloom (right) with Bernice Washington (M.C. for event)



Bernice Washington, modeling

## Parkland Community Health Plan, Inc. Salutes African-American Champions and Pioneers... African Americans that made it "first"

### Did you know...

- First African American National Security Advisor  
*Condoleezza Rice*
- First African American hero of the Revolutionary War in 1775  
*Peter Salem*
- First woman and first African American to head the Peace Corps  
*Carolyn R. Payton*
- First African American Ambassador to the United Nations  
*Andrew Young*
- First Black woman to hold a commercial pilot's license  
*Bessie Coleman*
- First African American Mayor of Dallas, Texas  
*Ron Kirk*
- The first African American to hold a federal position  
*William Cooper Hill*
- First African American chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff  
*General Colin L. Powell*
- The first African American to host a network television series  
*Nat King Cole*
- The first African American heavyweight champion of the world  
*Jack Johnson*
- First person and first African American to successfully perform open-heart surgery in 1891  
*Daniel Hale Williams*
- First African American major black abolitionist to lecture regularly against slavery in the 19th Century  
*Charles Lenox Remond*
- First woman and first African American to become the United States Surgeon General  
*M. Joycelyn Elders*

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73179

Attn: Bill Owens or  
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[www.hobbylobby.com](http://www.hobbylobby.com)



# Mating in the New Millenium

It's that time of the year again — and the air is filled with the sweetness of Valentine's celebration and 'love'. The sweetness of choice chocolates, honey dipped words in greeting cards, fresh bouquets of roses and diamonds that last forever and a day...or hopefully several good days at the least.

It's a shame that the emotion of those moments don't always last. Yes, It's time for Cupid to make those rounds but just what is the real motive behind this Holiday? How does love figure into this frenzy and can anyone really expect to initiate, validate or consummate a relationship for life in such rituals?

Most of us desire a meaningful relationship with that special one we can count on always. Sometimes the desire is blinded by passion and emotions that we feel must be love. The idea of Love is so infatuating that most people are deep into a relationship before they know what hit them. The idea of being 'love struck' is appropriate for the affliction especially around the Valentines Holiday.

The 'love struck' syndrome is usually blamed on Cupid, the little cute pudgy, winged son of ancient Roman goddess — Venus. As the myth goes — Cupid's arrows pierce the heart of the unsuspecting and 'BAM' — they fall in love!

Sometimes the behavior of couples newly 'in love' does make them act like they've been hit by some strange phenomenon. The history of some famous lovers lends evidence to the 'struck' theory. As noted in history, fiction and today, the bliss-filled days of being in love can abruptly turn to confusion, jealousy and doubt. Love feels good when it is 'new' because each party contributes to the momentum of passion and playful emotions. That same playful passion has been known to turn bitter and deadly as hearts once inseparable suddenly become hopeless, hard and hurting.

## Historical couples 'struck' by Love:

Romeo and Juliet had a love that was literally 'to die for' — as they did in the famous story of Playwright Shakespeare. Family feuds can really kill a relationship.

Antony and Cleopatra had a love relationship that fueled

their dreams to conquer the world. Although powerful and gifted their impassioned reaction to false reports of the other's death drove each of them to suicide.

Sheherazade and King Shahryar of "Thousand and One Nights" had a love that just would not wait. When the King discovered his lover was unfaithful—there was 'hell to be paid.' Sheherazade was executed but the vengeance did not end there. Each day, King Shahryar married another woman—enjoyed a night of bliss and promptly beheaded each new bride the next morning. You think someone would have passed the word



to the next damsel in waiting.

If you find yourself under the influence of love's lust and fervor—wait...only time will tell—when timing is right.

Humans are very complex individuals in matters of mind and emotions. We are not always able to grasp the depth of Love's impact until we suddenly find ourselves in a painful collision of hearts, minds and reality. Often, relationships timing in our lives and maturity or discovery of self are out of sync. The instant gratification of a new sexual relationship can make it difficult to anticipate how much it may finally cost. Before deciding to become intimate, individuals should be mindful of possible STDs (sexually transmitted diseases) and personal tolls that may result. Some people go through life—in and out of relationships only to arrive 'emotionally drained'—with broken hearts, exhausted minds and a wounded spirit. If lucky, this might be the extent of damage from those relationships, however,

many return too quickly for another round at the love arena. Back to back challengers of love should remember to protect themselves from those occasional low blows and hard hits.

All is not lost on love and life. There are also great inspiring stories and examples of lasting love and enduring lovers. The successes of these relationships reflect timing. Maturity and sense of self shows in any healthy love relationship.

## Faithful & Lasting Loves:

Bill Cosby and Camille have a relationship that makes the onlooker's heart hopeful. They have endured many years of public scrutiny, personal scandals and family tragedy. The twinkles in their eyes seem to reflect the love and respect that they have for life.

Will Smith and Jada exude an air of shared energy, passion and daring success? They seem to have found the secret of success for nurturing a growing family and maintaining dual dynamic show biz careers.

For them—"It is a wonderful life!"

Another successful and inspiring relationship is that of Tom and Jan Kelly. They are not famous; however, their marriage is an example of respect for themselves, each other and the importance of timing. They deserve recognition and admiration for their accomplishment.

Their 26-year relationship has survived those challenges most couples must endure such as finances, illness, extended family issues and parenting. They have not been a perfect couple and have often been at psychological odds on how things should be handled. Because their love and respect for each other and determination to make it work, the marriage is more passionate and supportive than it ever was. They attest to the fact that timing matters. When times were tough and when life was trying—they held strong to their basic beliefs and waited...for harmony to find them!

Congratulations to the Kellys and other couples whose relationships are withstanding the test of timing. Perhaps in relationships — 'Good things do come to those who wait...'

Happy Valentines to All...



Ron Shaw

by Ron Shaw

I've been married now for 26 years and I must say I don't ever remember it being as difficult as people make it these days to find the right person to either date or consider for marriage. We all have played that childish game about what we demand the potential mate have (or be). He must have good hair or she must have long hair or he must be tall or she must be short and thin or I'll only date black men or white women etc, etc, etc. The more I talk with both women and men, the more I'm convinced that our carnal preferences are demonic. Of course now days you can have any physical feature you desire glued on, pressed on, surgically implanted, or removed, scraped off, cut off, injected, sucked out, tucked in, pooched out or here's a thought, how 'bout you just die and come back as somebody else. A friend of mine told me last week that this woman was about to die and asked God for 10 more years to live. God promised it to her so she figured as long as she was going to live for 10 more years, she might as well have some work done. So she had her lips done, her hips done, her chest done, she got extensions in her hair and the day she stepped out of the hospital a truck hit her and killed her. When she saw God she said, "I thought you promised me 10 more years." God replies, "I'm sorry I didn't know it was you". The truth of the matter is no matter what physical preferences you may desire, they are only temporary.

We as Christians are very familiar with the verse in 2 Corinthians that says we should not be unequally yoked. Obviously the biggest issue is what God is saying about ourselves to. However in my con-

# THE RIGHT MATE

## Amos 3:3

versations and consultations and observations, I believe that there is wisdom in having more than just the same God in common. Twenty five years ago I moved to North Texas. It was the first time I came face to face with couples who didn't attend the same church. I was amazed at how successful their relationships worked. I'm not suggesting that be a panacea for every relationship but I'm saying that among Christians, the demand that she or he leave their church and attend the other's is not necessarily right either. There are some Christians who are not good fits for other Christians so along with the obvious, let's talk about some not so obvious things. When addressing the issue of potential mates, the issue was idolatry. The people of God were not to mix with idolaters. The results would always be disastrous. The reason being that the value system was different. So when you have two people who have different value systems, conflict is always the consequence. Unfortunately among Christians there is still a variety of differences in values and doctrines that be potential trouble spots. A very simple yet profound scripture would be helpful to remember here. Our text: Amos 3:3. Can two walk together, unless they are agreed? Agreement is such a key to successful relationships. In our marriage preparation sessions and in our relationship seminars I always ask the question, "what have you two agreed on?" Most times the answer I get indicates why people today make relationships so difficult. They never discuss the important issues so they never come to a place where they know where the other stands.

Let me give you a few pointers. First, know what you believe and why. If you don't know what

you believe, it's difficult to hold true to a standard. Not only know what you believe, but why you believe it. Just because someone said it is not a sound enough reason to believe it. Your belief system will determine a great deal relative to who you end up with. Second, be wise enough to accept the fact that you don't know everything. There is still more truth for you to learn. So, if you know what you believe and why, you can stay open for God to reveal more truth to you. Third, don't be afraid to talk to people. I often wonder why women say they want a man but then will not talk to any. Don't act like every one who says hello has impure motives. They may just need a little help communicating. A woman came up to me and asked me if I was married. I didn't act as though she was a slut. I politely told her I was and asked why she wanted to know. When she told me she was looking for a good man and that I seemed like one, I thanked her for the compliment and we talked about a couple of my friends who were looking for a good woman. Fourth, just because she / he isn't for you, doesn't mean he / she isn't for your friend. Okay so you talked with him or her and discovered that you two don't have a hook up, that doesn't mean they can't meet a friend of yours. I see so often women treat men who've not made a connection with a girlfriend act as though he's a dog 'cause he wants to see if they might be the one. Finally, if you meet a Christian and they are not a good match for you, agree with them in prayer that they will find one and keep a Christ-like attitude and a Christ-centered focus.

## 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  
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# The Gazette

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

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

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

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



Yeah, he loves you.



## Highest-ranking African American in Texas

by Anthony Jones

Michael L. Williams, the first African American in Texas history to hold a non-judicial statewide post and the highest-ranking African American in Texas state government.

Williams was initially appointed to chair the Texas Railroad Commission by former Governor George W. Bush in December 1998, serving Carole Keeton Rylander's unexpired term has no Republican opponents in the March 12 Republican Primary but will face two Democratic opponents in the November elections.

Early voting for the Primary Elections begins Feb. 25 and ends March 8. Tuesday March 12 is Primary Election Day.

Williams was elected by his fellow commissioners in September 1999 to chair the commission and in November 2000, Texas voters elected him to complete the term expiring in the year 2002. "The Texas energy industry is changing," Williams told a group of about 500 West Texans during the Texas Oil Workers March. "As a Texas Railroad Commissioner and a native of the Oil Patch, I believe government needs to change its approach as well. You deserve a commission that is as Texan-friendly as possible, and that's exactly what we're aiming for."

Williams will face either Sherry Boyles or Attorney Paul C. Looney in the November elections dependent on the victor in that contest, according to Bryndan Wright, a spokesman in his Austin office.

Boyles, an Austin attorney and advocate on issues that impact women and children, has

organized initiatives and empowered others in fields ranging from non-profit work to the Texas legislative process. The daughter of a Baptist preacher and a church pianist, Boyles grew up on a modest East Texas farm near Quitman.



While earning her B.A. in 1993 and her law degree in 1996 from the University of Texas-Austin, Boyles began her career as a public advocate. Boyles' work led to her appointment by Rep. Elliott Naishtat (D-Austin) as his chief of staff during the 76th Legislative Session. Her advocacy efforts on behalf of domestic violence and HMO legislation earned her recognition from the Texas Council on Family Violence and the Patients' Assistance League.

No information was available for Looney at press time.

Wright explained "energy miseducation" has done great damage to Texas schoolchildren's knowledge and perception of Texas' bedrock industry. Williams visits with schoolchildren throughout Texas regarding the importance of the oil and

gas industry to Texas. He also delivers Operation Lifesaver rail safety courses in classrooms across Texas.

According to Wright, Williams is committed to preparing our state's oldest regulatory agency for the 21st Century. As a Texas Railroad Commissioner, his vision is to do away with archaic and burdensome regulations; make commission information easy to access by boosting technology, and inform all Texans about the importance of a strong and stable Texas and nationwide energy industry.

"His focus most recently has been on transportation and he believe rail lines should play a bigger part in our state," Wright said. "Williams has injected himself into the Dallas/Fort Worth Trinity Express."

As the RRC chair, Williams is in tune to the dire need for a strong domestic oil and gas industry. On that note, he continues to spread the word throughout Texas and in our nation's capital: energy independence translates into greater national security, jobs and paychecks for Texans.

According to Wright, as the RRC chairman, Williams wants to open the commission's efforts in natural gas and petroleum production up to all Texans to show how the RRC effect their daily lives.

"We don't oversee gas prices but the commission's involvement in production effects the state," Wright said. Williams believes that while government cannot control the price of oil, it should seek to provide tax relief and alleviate

See Highest Ranking page 5

## Few minorities major in science-related disciplines

Time draws near for minority students seeking financial assistance. The deadline of March 1, 2002 is fast approaching for submitting applications to the American Chemical Society's Scholars Program.

The ACS Scholars Program, which received the 2001 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring, supports academically accomplished African American, Hispanic and Native American students in their pursuit of undergraduate studies in chemistry, chemical engineering, biochemistry, environmental science, and related disciplines in two- and four-year college and university programs. Program recipients are eligible to receive between \$2500 and \$3000 per academic year.

The program's manager, Robert Hughes, said the Society "expects to award \$850,000 to current and new scholars over the next two semesters."

According to the Society's ChemCensus Report, relatively few minorities major in science-related disciplines at the college level. In 2000, for example, those of Hispanic heritage, or 12.5 percent of the U.S. population, represented 2.6 percent of the chemistry workforce; African Americans, at almost 12 percent of the population, comprised less than two percent of the chemical workforce; and Native Americans, representing one percent of the population, made up less than one percent of the chemical workforce.

Since the Society launched the Scholars Program with a \$5 million grant in 1995, over 1,100 students have won scholarships based on a mix of academic achievement and financial need. Since inception, students in the program have represented 390 colleges and universities in 48 states and territories according to Hughes.

"I was really excited," said

La'Techa Johnson, a former participant hired as a plant chemist by PPG Industries in Baton Rouge, La. "I didn't think I'd be hired right out of college." The company's interest in Johnson began when she was a chemistry major at Southern University A&M College in Baton Rouge.

PPG and other firms including AstraZeneca, Bayer, DuPont, GlaxoSmithKline and Xerox has all contributed \$100,000 or more to the program. Many companies offer mentoring and paid internships to selected program participants as an integral part of a student's academic and career development plan.

For more details on the ACS Scholars Program, including an online application form, please visit <http://www.acs.org/scholars> or telephone

1-800-227-5558, extension 6250. Contact: Beverly Hassell at [b\\_hassell@acs.org](mailto:b_hassell@acs.org).

### A 35 Year Retrospect in Art

February 15-March 15, 2002.

The Thomas & Hall Fine Art Gallery, located 407 N. Bishop, Suite 2, in the Bishop Arts district, is pleased to present *A 35 Year Retrospect in Art* by Mrs. Alberta Bell.

Organized by Anthony Hopkins, the exhibit will present works by 82 year old Dallas resident, Mrs. Alberta Bell. Mrs. Bell's work ranges from realism to abstract. She also teaches and shares her wonderful gift with others.

There will be an opening reception at 7:00 pm, February 15, 2002.

For more information contact Anthony Hopkins at 214-943-7999.

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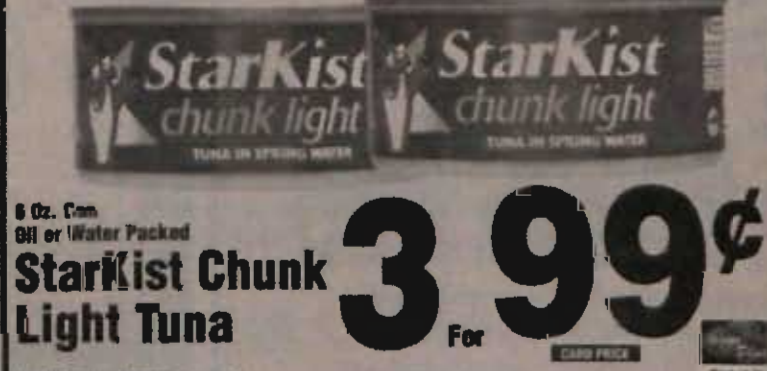
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## Freedom's Road

### Jump from Page 1

wake me again. Again I go forth on our story's ladder I climb until the bell of truth rings out—judgment time!

Yes, the ancestors called and I went. I went to places I never dreamed I would see. I rode a train that now runs on a track of memories. The conductors are the souls of those that are long since gone. Yet, the Underground Railroad still travels on.

Traveling the escape routes of my ancestors was the most moving experience I have ever had. There is a wonderment in having someone tell you the story of an African that decided that freedom meant more than anything...

"Before I be a slave, I'll be buried in my grave..."

...settled into a spot to hide for a night away from slave catchers on your trail. You look into a space that only seems to fit a small child and to touch the stone and feel the touch of someone you cannot see in return—a touch that runs through and fills you with an energy to last the rest of your days.

You listen to more of the story and move on to another person's doorway where a spirit greets you and takes you in then escorts you to a basement. As you stand in the remains of a tunnel you feel an embrace and then hear an echo of an ill and

tired baby ringing out. The wails wane as the mother soothes her with the first bath she's had in a week and something solid to eat.

You run in the darkness from one house to another where the doors are quickly opened for you. The person's face you know not. Yet, he welcomes you in without a second guess of what to do. As you look and wonder where the hiding place here will be, you realize that you are now a keeper of history. Oral stories are passed to you for preservation, so they will exist for future generations.

As you rest your body at the end of the night the faces—Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, Henry "Box" Brown, Ellen Kraft, William Still, Nat Turner, John Brown, Sojourner, the sister renamed Annie, the brother now called Jonas, and the babies being put to death by their mothers to keep them from being owned—pass before your eyes. You can feel their pains as they tell you that you must write in their omissions and thus, correct history's lies.

You travel on as days come and go and the boundaries of time cease to be. Then you see another land and begin to feel victory. You pass the border of Canada and see a land covered with farms. Yet, you cannot rest

until you are greeted by an unknown cousins' open arms. He says, "Shake the dirt from your feet and have a seat."

My journey has ended, but my work is not done for my people's minds are still those of the enslaved which causes me to pour forth tears on a grave. A grave of a person whose physical touch I never knew, but somehow I've felt and was moved through and through.

I think of my family and the friends I've left behind and how slavery severed so many ties. Although the road traveled has been hard, I go back in order to keep my charge. Drifting back from comfort and safety and into another journey—taking back a story of a railroad that traveled land, spirit, and sea.

I now look to the North Star teaching its worth to the babies even when I can hardly stand. My voice lifts and my spirit sings with the ancestors...

"...Walk together children. Don't you get weary, great camp meeting in the Promised Land..."

"The promised land, i.e. peace, exist within each of us when we center our lives on the truth. Our spirits cannot rest until then."

Marquetta L. Goodwine is a guest writer to *The Gazette*.

## Highest Ranking

### Jump from Page 4

production costs. Williams actively supported SB 290, which provides Texas oil and gas producers with up to \$45 million in severance tax relief. He has also voiced his support for permanent severance tax relief for the industry.

As chairman of the Railroad Commission, Williams goals this session focused on what will help us meet our priorities: increasing domestic production,

environmental and public safety concerns.

"This session, we fought for - and won - approval for significant public policy initiatives that encourage new production and keep a mindful eye on our responsibility to safeguard the public and our great state's natural resources," Williams said.

"One of the critical items in the commission's budget request was new technology to give our employees better tools to accomplish their jobs,"

Williams said. "We fought for this and we won. For example, by securing funding to migrate our oil and gas data from our legacy mainframe system to an open systems environment, the commission will be able to more quickly and efficiently access information and answer inquiries."

The current mainframe system used by RRC personnel severely limits their ability to use and access oil and gas databases

See Highest Ranking page 5

## Relationships

### Jump from Page 1

for lasting and secure relationships. My experience has been that if you find a close family unit with defined values, recognized traditions, respectful, honest, frank and interactive communication, you will likewise find it to be strong as a unit and mostly likely invaluable as individual friends and associates.

Sometimes we are so eager to connect with others that we overlook those most important traits of personality, which influence our decisions in life and the manner in which we go about daily routine. By nature if you are a sensitive being, it is well that most of your inner circle of associates will act and react similar to you in given situations. Sometimes opposites attract but as a relationship develops the differences in personality and point of view should become apparent. Many couples have successful lifelong unions in spite of personality conflicts. The key to these successes is to allow time to recognize and respect each other and use each other's strengths to complement weaknesses. With effort, dedication and honesty a relationship will grow and become more rewarding with time. This time is an important factor required in order that personalities mature and grow in familiar acceptance of each other. This is common among old friendships and seasoned marriages.

As a new human being, we enter this world with all the basics of physiological seed or blueprints to develop into whom we are destined to be. It is the compounded effect and influence, however, of our daily life and living which offers the most profound stamp on who we end up becoming. It is no wonder that we have such special challenges in relationships with other individuals!

A personally disturbing situation, which I have noticed, is that very young people are entering into dating and committed relationships much too

soon. It is fact that even adults entering into relationships soon discover the stress of commitment is magnified when you are unprepared. As young people take those steps into the unsure waters of dating, the probability of emotionally damaging experiences is magnified. Adolescence is a very critical time in life and the demands of dating can add to the uncertainties being experienced as they learn about life.

There once was a time when talking and holding hands were of major sustaining and intimate significance between those persons getting to know each other. Sometimes, this was the only acceptable 'closeness' entering dating and prior to marriage. In this day, many young people are experiencing sexual interaction even before puberty begins. This is a sad and dangerous turn for the world today and the hope of its healthy survival for tomorrow. Today the rate of pregnancy, sexually transmitted disease and suicide is alarmingly high with preteens and teens in America. This is personally disturbing to me as the parent of growing and curious 12-year old young man.

Our communities, and too many parent's are ill informed and in denial about the importance of taking part in our children's education and care in every aspect of life. Each year our children are rapidly growing mentally, physically and emotionally. It is up to us as parent's, family and community to be examples of the values we wish to see instilled in our children as they mature. If we want our children to be respectful and responsible, we must live that way. Many parents think that if their children don't see them when they are doing wrong, the children will not be influenced. This is a misconception shared by too many.

Our children see more than we think they do. It is that natural curiosity, which lead us to discover and seek out many things our own parents did not realize we had experienced in the early years. If we think back,

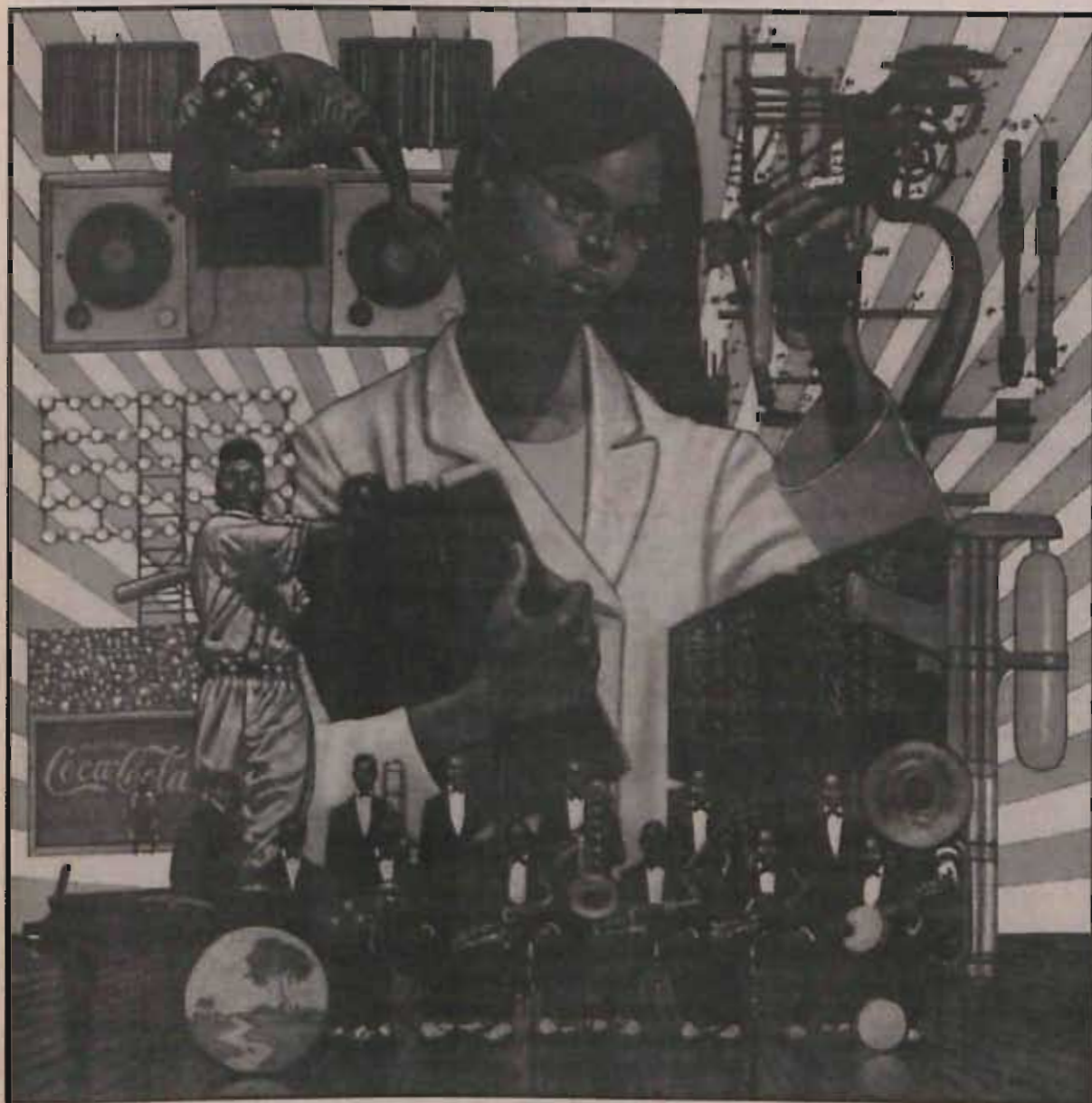
it becomes evident that children are very smart. It is a fact that, our children have more intellect than we did at the similar stages in life. Another fact is though the children of today are smart, hip and savvy emotionally and mentally, most are still very immature. Even for adults, it sometimes can take the majority of one's lifetime to learn what commitment in a relationship really means. That is why it is so important to take the time to learn about who we are personally and to help equip our children to discover their own individual personalities.

To fully know and benefit from, understand and enjoy a relationship with another, we as human beings must be able to know and understand self! This is a very important and complex task. As a mature adult, I still find myself recognizing and realizing special parts of that personal self I have grown to now and accept over the years. If you do not know what makes your life fulfilled, satisfied, happy or sad, you are not able to be the person you need to be in a committed relationship.

Many people enter into marriage with no real concept of the serious demands of such a commitment. After experiencing disappointment, disillusion, and arriving at the ultimate sense of defeat, they move on torn, ragged and bruised from one relationship to another. With each move the baggage gets heavier, compounded and more complex. It is at that point that many of us give up and give in. At such a time we either began to accept any or everything or we resort to the other extreme by totally shutting down and shutting out that compatible comfort which we sought.

When looking at the possibilities of each and all of the different options of the relationship, it can be overwhelming. With this in mind, I ask the question, "How does one enter into a relationship, and achieve fulfillment and successful?"

See Relationships page 8



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Jackie "Mama" Mobley (1894-1975)  
Comedian and actress

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you will always get what you always got



Marjorie Stewart Joyner (1896-1994)  
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with special events

Tuesday Nights:

February 19th

The African-American Aesthetic Through a Woman's Eyes: A Conversation with Vicki Meek, noted artist and Director of the South Dallas Cultural Center

February 26th

The TWM Movie Club Salutes Josephine Baker with a screening of her film "Princess Tam-Tam" (1935).



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## FINANCIAL FOCUS Series Goals and Objectives

Regardless of what security we select, it should meet our goals.

One of the basic tenets of investing is that it should not be done on impulse. Know what you want before you buy. Then, determine if your selection will do for you what you want - in short, if it will meet your needs.

If, for example, you want your investment to give you income, then you must expect your choice to provide suitable dividends (stocks or equity investments provide dividends) or interest (bonds or debt securities produce interest) to meet your needs. In addition, you must be reasonably convinced that this income will be paid to you regularly and on time.

Whether you receive this income will depend on the ability of that particular corporation to meet its obligations. It is also generally true that the higher the yield or return, the more risk you assume.

A U.S. government-guaranteed bond probably will not provide as much income as an unsecured note of a small corporation. On the other hand, the government bond will afford you more safety. So, if you're aiming for maximum income on our investment, chances are you're going to have to sacrifice a bit of safety. To put it another way, "There's no such thing as a free lunch."

If, on the other hand, income

is secondary to capital appreciation, then you probably should invest in securities you believe you may sell for more than you paid for them.

One thing you can be certain of, however, is that no stock or bond can simultaneously offer you minimum risk, attractive income and tremendous growth potential. If a security features one of these attributes, the others will be secondary or practically nonexistent. At certain times, however, it may be possible to obtain securities that potentially offer some modes combination of these features over a period of time.

## NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL CHILDREN CELEBRATE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF COCA-COLA BOTTLING COMPANY OF NORTH TEXAS WITH PARTY AND TOUR

Dallas, Texas (February 8, 2002) - The Coca-Cola Bottling Company of North Texas is celebrating a very special anniversary this year as a member of the Dallas community for 100 years. In honor of this milestone, fifth-grade students and educators from Martha Turner Reilly Elementary School, a Dallas Independent School District facility, recently joined in the community celebration by enjoying a birthday party and plant tour at the Buckner Coca-Cola Bottling Plant on Moberly Lane. Representatives from Coca-Cola treated the young students to an exciting and educational tour of the plant, followed by a 100th anniversary

party complete with birthday cake and party favors.

The students were also invited to experience the history of Coca-Cola by viewing original company memorabilia that is part of the Heritage Display visiting Dallas for one month from

the Coca-Cola Company's headquarters in Atlanta. During the educational session, the

fifth-graders learned how the local bottling company began utilizing the special Coca-Cola formula. The students also toured the plant, and saw how beverages were bottled and prepared for distribution. Understanding the evolution of this local business brought educa-

tion closer to home for all the children that had the opportunity to participate in the tour.

Jan Jones, Martha Turner Reilly Elementary School principal, said that "the plant tour was a high-interest, educational experience for our students. They were focused on learning about the history, manufacturing and marketing of a product they know and enjoy, and the information was shared in terminology they understood. Plus, they got to enjoy themselves! Learning should always be fun!"

The fifth-graders enjoyed a rare opportunity to learn about a Dallas landmark, and were

See Coca-Cola page 8

## Start a "Search Your Heart Program" in your community



Speakers at the American Heart Association's luncheon during the African American Legislative and Health Summit are (left-right) Willie Mae Elmore, Chair of the American Heart Association's African American Task Force, Cardiologist Joe Swafford, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine at the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Representative Helen Giddens of Dallas, Rev. Dr. B.W. McClintock of St. James Baptist Church of Austin and Rev. Bill Lawson of Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church in Houston. The speakers called for community wide support of Search Your Heart, faith-based heart disease prevention and screening program.

The American Heart Association is working hard to fill this gap through a national program called Search Your Heart - a heart-health and stroke-prevention initiative designed to reach African Americans in a church setting. Every Search Your Heart church is led by a designated program coordinator who facilitates all aspects of the program - planning and promoting events, recruiting church volunteers, contacting coordinating agencies, and working with a local American Heart Association representative to present the program to the church members.

Rev. Bill Lawson challenged more than 150 community leaders to help him fight the number one killer of African Americans: heart disease.

"What God calls us to do is to make life better for those around us," said Rev. Lawson as he urged these leaders to champion the American Heart Association's Search Your Heart Program. Search Your Heart is a faith-based heart disease prevention and screening program that is organized through African American churches and community groups.

"Virtually everyone, whether they are Christian, or Jew, or

Muslim or no religion, comes in contact with a church at some point," he said, adding that churches have an obligation to be stewards not just of souls, but of the lives of their members, too.

Lawson, who is pastor of Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church in Houston, was the keynote speaker at the American Heart Association's Daniel Hale Williams Luncheon hosted by the association's African American Outreach Task Force. The luncheon was part of the African American Legislative and Health Summit, February 7-9, at the State Capitol in Austin. Williams, for whom the luncheon was named, was an African American physician who performed the first open heart surgery, in 1893.

Representative Helen Giddings of Dallas, who acted as mistress of ceremonies, spoke about the human cost of heart disease, describing not only the loss of friends and family, but also the enormous amount of money spent treating heart disease.

"Think of the children we could educate or the homes we could provide if this money was available for those needs," said Giddings.

According to Willie Mae Elmore, statewide chair of the

Association's African American Task Force, the Search Your Heart program empowers individuals. "It is time for all African Americans to take charge of their cardiovascular health by taking action to reduce their risks. Heart disease is an equal opportunity killer," she says.

The American Heart Association spent about \$382 million during fiscal year 2000 - 2001 on research support, public and professional education, and community programs. Nationwide, the organization has grown to include more than 22.5 million volunteers and supporters who carry out its mission in communities across the country. The association is the largest nonprofit voluntary health organization fighting heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases, which annually kill about 950,000 Americans. For more information about heart disease and stroke, call 1-800-AHA-USA1 or visit [americanheart.org](http://americanheart.org).

For information on starting a Search Your Heart program in your church or community group, contact Nicole Butsey toll-free at 1-888-433-7109 or your local American Heart Association office.

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Special thanks to the African American Museum for the use of original art from its permanent collection.



## Buy the Stamps: Langston Hughes

The Annual Black Heritage Stamp Unveiling proved to be an afternoon of poetry and celebration honoring Langston Hughes with a collaboration of the Artist & Elaine Thornton Foundation For The Arts and the United States Postal Service. Mr. Hughes' picture graced the Postal Service stamp as tribute for being 2002's honoree on the Black Heritage Stamp Series, now in its twenty-fifth year of honoring distinguished Black Americans. The well attended unveiling program, held at Dallas City Hall had an estimated one thousand poetry enthusiasts in attendance to listen to the poetic, rhythmic and wordy expressions of Dr. Njoki McElroy, Ms. Ife Nzinga Madhi, Charles Hillman, Mr. John Paul Batiste and Ms. Nikki Giovanni as well as other program participants. Dr. McElroy spoke from experience describing Mr. Hughes' love of food, particularly New Orleans cui-

sine, while he was in town to conduct a poetic presentation and workshop. Mr. Hillman gave thanks to Langston Hughes, and Ife Madhi's thoughts of Mr. Hughes included the wonderment of "On Saturday Night Why Do Black People Fight", her original poem. Keynote poet and Executive Director of the Texas Commission On The Arts John Paul Batiste recalled the time when he saw and met Langston Hughes on a bus stop, and he elucidated more rhythmic remembrance and thoughts on this special occasion. In Dallas as special guest, Nikki Giovanni rounded out the program in the memory of Langston, expounding about the Pullman Porters, Rosa Parks and Emmitt Till. It was poetic magnificence that afternoon; the stamp was presented, and the program participants were awarded gifts from the Artist and Elaine Thornton Foundation For The Arts, Inc.

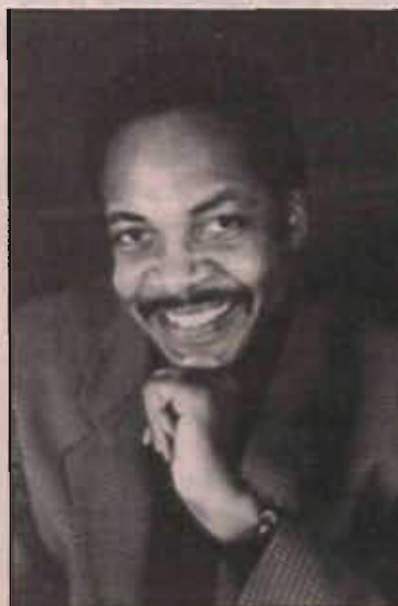
and the United States Postal Service, for taking time from their very busy schedules to speak, and soon after, the program adjourned to refreshments and jazz. One hundred and twenty million of the collectible stamps bearing the likeness of Langston Hughes are on the market for purchase. Once all the stamps are sold out, there will be no more, so as Carl T. January, Dallas District Manager, U.S. Postal Service, stated over and again "Buy the Stamps". Elaine Thornton Foundation For The Arts and the U.S. Postal Service, a near thirteen-year collaboration for the aforementioned two, present the Annual Black Heritage Stamp Unveiling each year. Some of the distinguished past honorees have included Roy Wilkins, Madame CJ Walker, Dr. Ernst Just and Bessie Coleman among others.



Lineup of participants for the 25th annual Black Heritage Stamp Unveiling. From left to right, Executive director for the Texas Commission on the Arts, Mr. John Paul Batiste, poet Ms. Ife Nzinga Madhi.

In the background is the picture of this year's stamp honoree Langston Hughes, Ms. Nikki Giovanni Special Guest of the Artist & Elaine Thornton Foundation For The Arts and the U.S. Postal Service, Charles Hillman, actor, director, and writer, poet Dr. Njoki McElroy, and Carl January, Dallas district manager of the U.S. Postal Service. Photo by Alberta Strain

## Ellis Cose Book Signing



Ellis Cose is a contributing editor (since 1993) for Newsweek magazine. Cose is a former chairman of the editorial board of The New York Daily News and began his journalism career as a weekly columnist for The Chicago Sun-Times. At the age of 19 he was the youngest editorial page columnist ever employed by a major Chicago daily. He is the author of several books including the best selling, *The Rage of a Privileged Class*, *A Man's World*, *A Nation of Strangers*, and *Color-Blind*. A Chicago native, Cose is a graduate of the University of Illinois (Chicago) and holds a master's

degree in Science, Technology, and Public Policy from George Washington University.

NABJ and DFW/ABC welcomes Ellis Cose. He articulated the Rage of middle-class and affluent African-Americans battling the demons of corporate America, and he's known

for his contributions and personal essays in *Newsweek*. Now you can meet Ellis Cose at an intimate book signing and reading at Black Images Book Bazaar from 6-8 p.m., Friday, February 22. Cose will be signing copies of his new release, *The Envy of the World*.

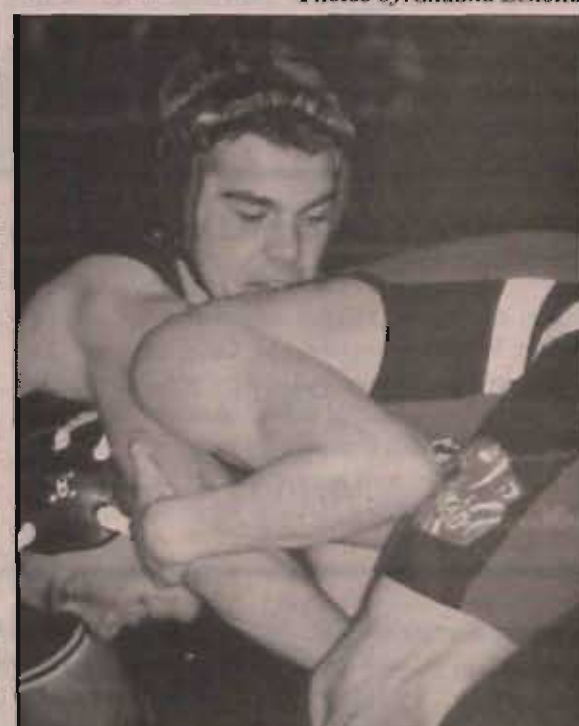
## UIL Region III Wrestling Tournament

On February 8 and 9 the UIL Region III wrestling tournament was held at Allen High Schools. Allen, Lake Highlands, McKinney, Plano, Richardson, and Rockwall were just a few of those competing this past weekend. Schools around the Houston

area were also present. Rockwall swept the tournament with 233.5 points; Lake Highlands came in second with 143.5 points. Rockwall's Clay Kehrer was named most outstanding wrestler for his three pins among his four wins. The top four winners qual-

ified for the state championships in Austin. The girls' wrestling teams also competed at the tournament, and Katy won with 132 points. The top two winners in the girls competition qualified for the state championships.

Photos by: Shauna Benoit



### DEPRESSED AGAIN?

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

- Depressed or sad mood
- Loss of interest in activities
- Difficulty sleeping or sleeping too much
- Feeling slowed down
- Feeling tired or having low energy
- Feeling guilty or worthless
- Changes in weight or appetite
- Difficulty concentrating

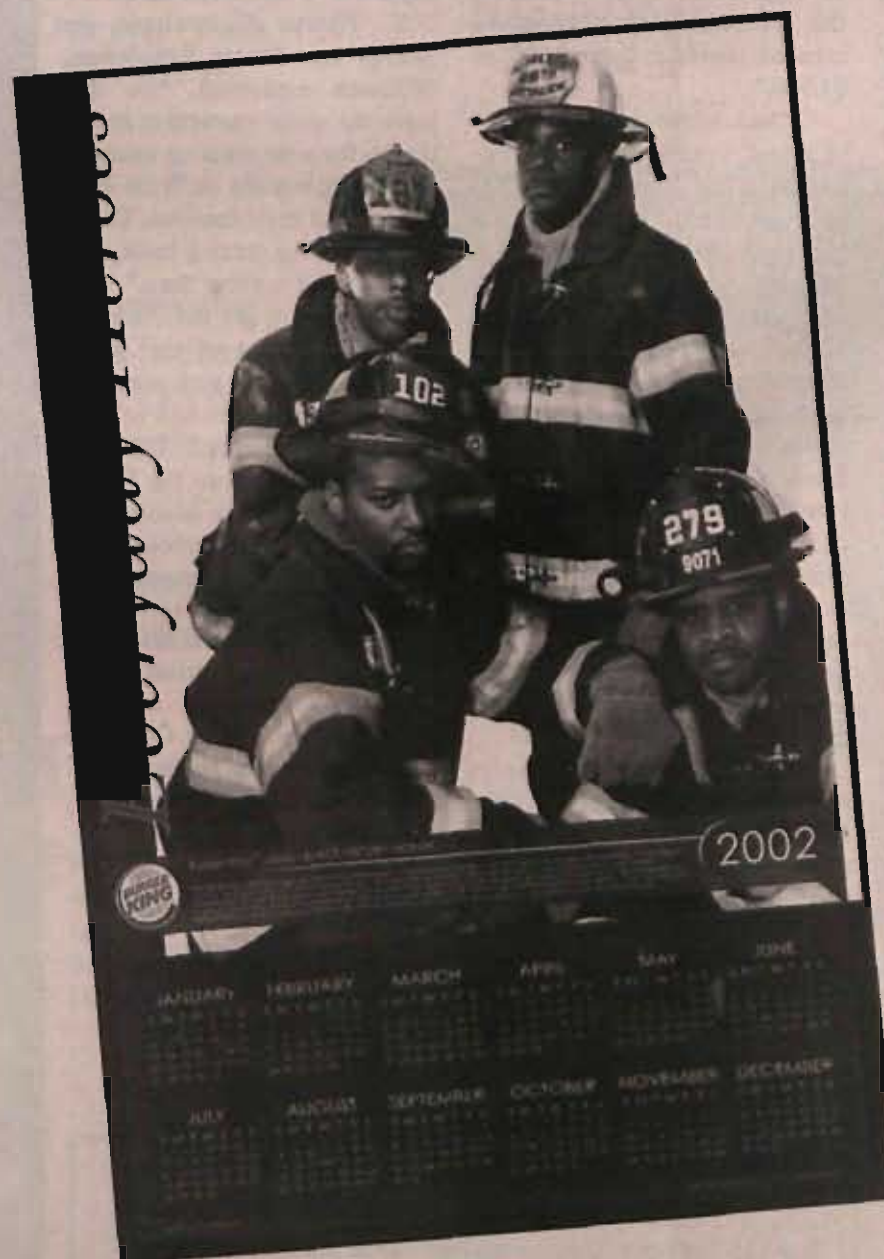
If you have experienced these symptoms more than once in your life, are drug free and not currently in psychiatric treatment, please call the Psychosocial Research and Depression Clinic at 214-648-5351.

## SOUTHWESTERN

### PROFESSIONAL AVIATION PLANNING SERVICES

URS Corporation, Ft. Worth, requests letters of interest and qualifications from certified HUB and/or DBE firms for the provision of sub-consulting services in the development of a master plan for Easterwood Airport, College Station. Services to be subcontracted: Land Use and Environmental Planning; Land Survey and Aerial Mapping; Airport Financial Planning; and Printing/Report Production. Letters of interest and qualifications should be sent to URS 4100 Amon Carter Blvd., Suite 108, Ft. Worth, TX 76155. Please call 817 545 0891 for further information.

History happens every day.



This Black History Month, Burger King Corporation is saluting the people who have made extraordinary differences. So with the purchase of any Value Meal at participating BURGER KING restaurants, you'll receive four calendars free\* featuring the photography of renowned photographer Marc Baptiste.

Each of these free calendars celebrates heroes from the community, like members of the Volcan Society, an organization of Black firefighters in New York City. Join Burger King Corporation in saluting the heroes of the African American community and honor the legacy of the diaspora.

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## Relationships Jump from Page 5

what is expected from a relationship and what we are willing and able to contribute to make it work for each party involved.

In relationships, we are born, we are raised, and work and even play in some manner that involves other people. Relationships are a sum and totality of the individuals, which comprise them. Each and everyone has a special secret personality or trait. Little idiosyncrasies and expectations are formed beginning even in those first few seconds of 'life'.

As people, it is our natural inclination to seek out and yearn for perfection in closeness, comradery and kinship with others. Though this is our nature, the lifestyles of today make it very difficult to achieve successful long-lasting commitment. The fast pace of life promotes the quick fix for so many necessities, than when we once had to depend on each other. We can live a virtual life via the computer and internet. If you chose to, you could live indefinitely with little or no one-on-one interaction with another human being. This age of independence can be rewarding and isolating. It is so as with 'fast-food': we overlook quality and sacrifice the rewards of good taste for convenience. With 'fast-foods' and short-time untimely relationships, the flavor and nourishment is lost when that time and special seasonings of dedication in preparation are omitted. When it comes to entering into friendship, marriage and family relationships, the genuine communication and intimacy can be fast-forwarded and passed without recognition.

When we have not allowed ourselves to learn what life means to us as individuals, we cannot grow to be spiritually, psychologically, and physically complete as human beings. When any part of this puzzle is missing or lacking in development, we suffer in our relationships at all levels.

We must understand as individuals,

Identity Crisis: "Who am I and who are you?" From birth we are constantly in search of that special person to re-attach and draw comfort from. In such a relationship, we seek to share the essence of our nature as human beings. For many others, including myself, the spiritual significance of this crisis of identity goes hand-in-hand. If you do not understand self and the importance of your significance in this world, it is impossible to relate in full commitment and benefit from relationships we find ourselves in. To be truly happy, we must know who we are before truly being able to attain and experience strong secure involvement with others.

Caring for self in not selfish, it is survival. Being caught up in caring for self can leave you senseless. In each true and honesty with self is of greatest importance. We must acknowledge, accept and embrace all the aspects of our persona as an individual. Only then can we acknowledge accept and embrace others. That is the reward and fulfillment that leads to healthy relationships. That special saying, "To thine own self be true," is the essence of successfully relating to others.

*I accept the Truth for my today,  
And I no longer study sorrow,  
Now God's Truth, through his Light,  
Carries me to Joy and Happiness,  
I no longer claim fear for tomorrow!*

Excerpt from "Telling the Truth...About the Truth"

"And ye shall know the truth, And the truth shall set you Free!" [John 8:32]

Free yourSELF to know happiness in relationships....

*Belinda Alexander is a guest Freelance Writer, Single Mom, Hope-Full and Faith-Filled Soul to The Gazette.*

## Color Line Jump from Page 1

across town from their maternal relatives, most of whom no longer acknowledged their existence). Buster Williams encouraged Greg to study and aspire to great things and taught younger brother Mike to hustle, but he was unable to care for the boys and allowed a pious widow to take them in. In grade school and junior and senior high, Greg had to prove himself to both races over and over

again: white girls were off-limits, of course, but the sight of him with African American girls of various shades also caused consternation. School records were marked to make sure teachers would realize he was "colored." Life on the Color Line follows Williams to college and to a brief, painful reunion with his natural mother. A powerful tale of a young man's struggle on the cusp of the nation's racial conflicts and confusions.

## Highest Ranking Jump from Page 5

to perform routine job functions. This project will take four years to complete and will include migration of the current mainframe computer system that consists of 18 major database systems with approximately 300 defined applications made up of 2.5 million lines of code, according to Williams.

The Sunset review process, which evaluates the framework, performance and budget of each state agency officially started at the RRC on Aug. 16, 1999 when the Self-Evaluation Report was submitted to the Sunset Commission.

Williams explained that for 21 months, the process continued with numerous meetings, field tours, submissions of information, public hearings, and visits with Sunset and legislative staff. From the very beginning, the Railroad Commission approached the process as an opportunity to demonstrate our service to taxpayers and our proficiency in the oil and gas regulatory arena.

"This was our opportunity to shine," Williams said. "And I'm happy to report that we were successful - the commission was extended an additional 12 years, given additional responsibilities, and provided with increased targeted funding."

In the problem area of abandoned oil and gas wells, it was recognized the commission has been fighting an uphill battle,

the RRC chairman explained. Legislative changes in 1991 had weakened the RRC's ability to require adequate financial assurance for oil and gas operators. "That has been corrected," Williams said. "Beginning Sept. 1, 2001, the price of alternatives to bonding has been increased. While the 'Good Guy' un-bonded option has been continued, the annual fee has been increased ten-fold from \$100 to \$1000."

"And, while the 'Percentage of Bond' option has been continued, the percentage has increased from 3 percent to 12.5 percent," he said. "In addition, a higher bonding requirement will be established for all bay and offshore wells. After a three-year transition period, both of the un-bonded options will be eliminated on Sept. 1, 2004. At that time, all oil and gas operators must be bonded."

Another abandoned well issue has been the practice of transferring shut-in or minimal producing wells to marginal operators, who may salvage the wells and then leave them for the state to plug and cleanup.

That has also been corrected, according to the RRC chair. During the transition period to universal bonding, no well can be transferred to a new operator unless the new operator has a blanket bond or the individual wells are bonded.

"Now is not the time to ask more of Texas families; rather, we should be looking for ways to

protect and promote their livelihoods and our state's most important natural resource," Williams said, explaining the U.N.-sponsored Oil for Food program with Iraq "hurts the thousands of Texas families who rely on the oil industry for paychecks and jobs."

During a visit to Washington, D.C. to testify before the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Power Regulating, Williams explained, "we will leave no stone unturned in the search for new ways to ease the regulatory burden on Texas producers and their families. That's going to mean cutting back, cutting out and cutting deep."

"I want to get the Railroad Commission out of the paper shuffling business and prepared for a paperless approach to 21st Century regulating," Williams said, speaking before the Permian Basin Petroleum Association.

Prior to being appointed to the Railroad Commission, Chairman Williams served as general counsel to a Texas-based high-tech corporation. He serves as an associate member and chairs the Public Outreach Committee on the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, represents the Railroad Commission of Texas on the Coastal Coordination Council-a consortium of Texas state agencies concerned with coastal environmental matters, and chairs the Alternative Fuels Council.

## Coca-Cola Jump from Page 6

excited to join in celebrating its 100th anniversary. Coca-Cola Bottling Company of North Texas Division Vice President and General Manager Rick Gillis supports sharing the plant tour with children and said, "Experiences like this make

education come to life for kids, and they can certainly apply what they are learning in the classroom to the work that we do in our plants every day. This gives children the opportunity to realize that what they are learning right now will be useful and meaningful to them throughout their lives."

The Coca-Cola Bottling Company of North Texas remains committed to keeping education close to home for the benefit of youth and the community, recognizing that our young people are the future of North Texas.



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at 1:00 p.m. on January 25, 2002



# Arts & Entertainment



## Crossroads

"Crossroads" is the story of three childhood friends, Lucy (Britney Spears), Kit (Zoe Saldana) and Mimi (Taryn Manning), who, after eight years apart, rediscover their friendship on a cross-country trip. With barely a plan, practically no money but plenty of dreams, the girls catch a lift with Mimi's handsome, mysterious fiend Ben (Anson Mount) in his '73 Buick convertible. Along the way they not only gather experiences that will change their lives forever, but they also discover how important it is to hold onto their hearts' desires.



## QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

ALL SHE WANTS IS HELL ON EARTH

Supernatural adventure. This adaptation of Anne Rice's best-selling novel follows the legendary vampire Lestat (Stuart Townsend), who has reinvented himself as a rock star in the contemporary international music scene. His music wakes Akasha (Aaliyah), the queen of all vampires, and inspires her desire to make Lestat her king. Akasha's malevolent power is so great that all the immortal vampires must stand against her if they want to survive. Meanwhile, a young London woman with a fascination for the dark side (Marguerite Moreau) falls in love with Lestat.



Bringing Entertainment Home

### BLOCKBUSTER® Hit List™

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

#### VHS

1. RAT RACE
2. CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN
3. ATLANTIS: THE LOST EMPIRE
4. AMERICAN PIE 2
5. THE GLASS HOUSE
6. THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS
7. KISS OF THE DRAGON
8. JEEPERS CREEPERS
9. WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN
10. ROCK STAR

#### DVD

1. RAT RACE
2. CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN
3. AMERICAN PIE 2
4. KISS OF THE DRAGON
5. ATLANTIS: THE LOST EMPIRE
6. ROCK STAR
7. THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS
8. JEEPERS CREEPERS
9. WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN
10. THE GLASS HOUSE

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

#### VHS

1. ATLANTIS: THE LOST EMPIRE
2. SHREK
3. EXIT WOUNDS
4. THE PRINCESS DIARIES
5. BLOW
6. DRAGON BALL Z: COOLER'S REVENGE
7. DRAGON BALL Z: MAJIN BUU - TACTICS
8. CATS & DOGS
9. AMERICAN PIE
10. RUGRAT'S MOVIE COLLECTION

#### DVD

1. THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS
2. AMERICAN PIE 2
3. ATLANTIS: THE LOST EMPIRE
4. RAT RACE
5. SHREK
6. KISS OF THE DRAGON
7. CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN
8. SCARY MOVIE 2
9. THE MATRIX
10. PEARL HARBOR

These are the rental New Releases hitting the streets on Tuesday, February 19, 2002. Titles also available for rent on DVD are indicated with \*

DON'T SAY A WORD\*  
DOUBLE BAND  
HARDBALL\*  
O (OTHELLO)\*  
NO ONE CAN HEAR YOU\*  
RUBY'S BUCKET OF BLOOD\*  
OREFID (subtitled)  
ADVENTURES OF FELIX  
THE MANGLER 2

THE PRIME GIG\*  
SEXUAL PREDATOR  
BALTO II: WOLF QUEST  
DEAD OR ALIVE  
RALPH THE MOUSE  
ADVERTISING RULES! (subtitled)  
HELL ASYLUM  
THE GIRL  
WARM TEXAS RAIN

## On Stage at NextStage

at Grand Prairie:

**The Peking Acrobats** Friday,  
February 15, 2002

**REO Speedwagon/Styx**  
Tuesday,  
February 26, 2002



**Dancin' with Gershwin**  
Saturday,  
March 23, 2002

**Joe Avessano's Special Teams for Special Olympics**  
Saturday,  
March 3, 2002



**Scooby-Doo in Stage Fright**  
March 7-10, 2002



**Ruben Blades featuring Editus Ensemble**  
March 19, 2002

**SMU in Ballet/SF Dancin' With Gershwin**  
March 23, 2002



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

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



**South Pacific - The Musical**  
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## The Mazda Protege5

The Mazda Protégé5 is a car on the cutting edge of motion. The Mazda Protege5's innovative combination of conspicuous good looks, sporty performance and versatile hatchback roominess is sure to get you going-and fast.

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sporty stance-makes for some serious driving action.

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# Around The Town

## On-going

Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary offers visitors an opportunity to see fossils, rocks and gems; native animals and ecological exhibits; a look at our North Texas heritage and more. Enjoy quiet walks through the wildlife acreage. Open every day except major holiday. Call 972.562.5566 for more information.

City of Plano VIP program offers a variety of volunteer opportunities. You can use your accounting skills, write articles for the VIP newsletter, review and summarize journal articles for the Police department, counsel victims if you have, or are working on, an advanced degree in counseling, and more. Call Robin Popik at 972.941.7114 for more details.

Continuing throughout the year, "Story Time for 4 and 5 year olds" will be held Mondays and Tuesdays at Barnes & Noble, 801 W. 15th Street, Plano, at 10 a.m. For more information call 972.422.3372.

European Close-up-Gallery VIII, 1900 Preston Road in Plano will host an exhibit "More of France and Italy" by Deborah Shannon, through February 28. Featuring new acrylic paintings on canvas and paper by the Dallas artist. The Gallery is open daily. Call 972.867.8222 for more information.

Celebrate Black History Month and National Women's History Month by visiting the exhibition of Dallas artist, Beth Ritter-Perry. Mrs. Ritter-Perry works in a variety of media including doll making, quilt making

and drawing. Through March 9, at the South Dallas Cultural Center. Tuesdays to Fridays 12 noon to 7 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is free. Call 214.939.ARTS for more information.

Jazz in the Atrium with the Marchel Ivery Quartet every Thursday at noon, through March 20, at the Dallas Museum of Art. Admission is free. Call 214.922.1200 for more information.

## February 12-17

Dallas Summer Musicals - Broadway Contemporary Series kicks off with Claudia Shear's comedy Dirty Blonde, at the Majestic Theatre, Dallas. Call 214.631.ARTS for ticket information.

## February 14-16

Love Songs: A Night of Music RCT will present "Love Songs: A Night Of Music", a Special Valentine Performance, at 8 p.m. at The Stone Cottage in Addison Theatre Center. Tickets are \$12-\$15 and can be purchased by phoning 972-690-5029. For more information, visit the website at [www.rcttheatre.com](http://www.rcttheatre.com).

## February 15

"An Evening of Elegance" sponsored by The Concord Singles, to celebrate the love of God. Featuring the group Amie. Semi-formal occasion, with hors d'oeuvres served. Rotunda-Chase Tower, 2200 Ross Avenue, Dallas. Tickets are \$15.00 presale at God's Place Christian Book Store, or

\$20.00 at the door. Call 214.777.5330 for more information.

Join the Thomas & Hall Fine Art Gallery in celebration of Black History Month and the works of Dallas resident Mrs. Alberta Bell. Alberta Bell - Then & Now, February 15 - March 22, Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Located at 407 N. Bishop, Suite 2, Dallas, 75208. For more information call 214.943.7999.

N.M. Productions Theatre Company invites you to help solve a mystery, "The Weakest Link...To Murder!" in the Bluebonnet Ballroom of the Desoto Town Center at 7:30 p.m. Reservations required. Tickets are \$25, which includes dinner and drink. Call 972.680.4466.

## February 16

The United Negro College Fund's Annual RED, HOT & SNAZZY BENEFIT GALA features a performance by R&B Recording Artist Teena Marie. An elegant evening of fine dining, dancing, silent and live auctions and more. Auction items include art, sports memorabilia, fine jewelry, Baccarat crystal, shopping sprees at Neiman Marcus and Gregory's, and more. Event location: Hyatt Regency Dallas at Reunion. Silent auction at 7 p.m., doors open at 8 p.m. Table: \$1,500, or tickets at \$150. Call 972.234.1007.

Mike Espy, agriculture secretary under former Pres. Bill Clinton will speak at the 4th annual Dallas Heritage Banquet, sponsored by the Jarvis Christian College Dallas Alumni

Chapter. A silent auction begins at 6 p.m. The banquet begins at 7:30 p.m., at the Fairmont Hotel, 1717 N. Akard Street. Ticket are \$100. Call 214.426.2700.

"Be Heart Smart" - a Symposium about heart disease at Medical Center of Plano. Seminars and screenings, plus the opportunity to tour the renovated HEARTLINK center. Seminars begin at 9 a.m. Call 972.519.1543 to register or visit the website at [www.medicalcenterofplano.com](http://www.medicalcenterofplano.com).

## February 16-23

REVOLT/REVOLUTION/EVOLUTON, a multi-media performance show created by Dallas musician/composer Uriah Elion, Jr. Presented in celebration of Black History Month, the production features poets, writers, musicians, vocalists, visual artists and more. Admission is \$5. Performance begins at 8 p.m., at the South Dallas Cultural Center. Call 214.939.ARTS for further information.

## 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.

## February 21-23

The Dallas Black Dance Theatre's Cultural Awareness Series explores the magic of the return of audience favorites and new works choreographed by national artists. Event

location: Majestic Theatre, Dallas. Performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 - \$50. Call 214.691.7200.

## February 21-24

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra welcomes conductor Jesus Lopez-Cobos for a weekend of concerts at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, Dallas. Guest organist James Diaz, winner of the 2000 Dallas International Organ Competition will join Lopez-Cobos and the orchestra. Ticket prices range from \$20 to \$100, available from the Dallas Symphony box office or by logging on to [www.DallasSymphony.com](http://www.DallasSymphony.com). Call 214.692.0203 for more information.

## February 23

Lighthouse Productions presents Tonya D. Stewart's Anointed Gospel Play "The Devil is a Liar!" at The Plaza Theater, 521 W. State Street, Garland. One performance only. Show begins at 8 p.m., tickets are \$17.50. Call 972.283.4429 or 214.376.3922 for further information.

Dallas Trekker's Event, Saturday February 23, at Duck Creek Park, Garland. 10K walking event open to the public at 2:30 p.m. Cost is \$4 and \$2. Contact Jim Ross at 972.681.0045, or [www.flash.net/tva/clubs/dallas](http://www.flash.net/tva/clubs/dallas).

Mary J. Blige performs her "No More Drama Tour" at the Bronco Bowl, 2600 Ft. Worth Avenue, Dallas, 75211. Time and ticket prices to be announced. Call 888.597.STAR for information.

African American Health fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Texas Wesleyan University Sid W. Richardson Gymnasium. Extensive health check and information will be available. For mammograms, breast exams and pap smears call 817.534.1299 to schedule an appointment. 1100 S. Collard Street (between Rosedale and Vickery), Fort Worth.

## February 25

Northern Metro Counseling Association will meet at 6:45 p.m. at Robb & Stucky's Design Furniture Studio. Dr. Doris Coy from North Texas University will share ideas on the topic of bullying. For details call Donna Krauss at 469.752.3754.

## February 26

The WM (Women's Museum) Movie Club presents "A Celebration of the Life and Works of Josephine Baker. Audience will be treated to a marathon of Baker's most popular films and participation in a discussion about the impact of her work in early Hollywood. 7 p.m. Admission is free. Call 214.915.0861 for information.

The SPCA of Texas will hold its "Neuter Scooter for a Nickel" campaign in McKinney and Dallas. For a nickel pet owners can have their male cats neutered. Facilities offer this on an appointment basis only. The Dallas office can accommodate an unlimited number of cats, and the McKinney office can schedule 50 surgeries. Call 972.562.7297, ext. 15 (McKinney) and 214.651.9611, ext. 133 (Dallas).

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Williams, Paul, D.D.S. 972-981-8653  
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Smith, Doug C., MD 972-981-8181  
Thompson, Christina H., MD 972-981-8181  
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### GASTROENTEROLOGY

Anderson, John M., MD 469-241-0580  
Digestive Health Assoc. of Texas 972-308-0393  
Do, Son T., MD 972-308-0393  
Edling, Jason E., MD 972-943-8440  
Texas Digestive Disease Consultants 972-943-8440  
Vanesko, Grace, MD 972-943-8440  
Weiner, Howard J., MD 214-363-0687

### GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY

Fine, Bruce A., MD 972-490-3970  
Munoz, Alan K., MD 972-490-3970

### HEMATOLOGY

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### INTERNAL MEDICINE

Bowman, Rodney R., MD 972-981-8215  
Chudis, Nina Y., MD 972-981-8215  
Finkas, Robert A., MD 972-981-8215  
Kapadia, Damian K., MD 972-981-8215  
McGee, Lisa E., MD 972-981-8215  
Murphy, Charles M., MD 972-981-8215  
Plano Internal Medicine Associates, P.A. 972-981-8215

### LABORATORIES/BLOOD DONOR CENTER

Clinical Pathology Laboratories 972-981-3105  
MD Pathology 972-981-3105

### NEUROLOGY

Hopson, Daniel J., M.D. 972-403-3100  
North Dallas Neurology 972-403-3100

### NEUROSURGERY

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Dallas Neurosurgical Associates 972-981-3390  
Desai, J. Michael, MD 972-981-3390  
Jackson, Richard H., MD 972-981-3390  
Loyola, Walter X., MD 972-312-6007  
Mignard, Luis A., MD 972-599-2559  
Stachurski, Joseph B., MD 972-498-4389  
Weiner, Richard L., M.D., F.A.C.S. 972-981-3390

### NUTRITION COUNSELING

Clinical Dietitian's Office 972-981-9444

### OBSTETRICS / GYNECOLOGY

Assisted Reproductive Technology Services (ARTS) 972-981-3324 or 972-981-3336  
Broderick-Thomas, Jennifer A., MD 972-981-8088  
Campbell, Jennifer, MD 972-981-7711  
Farmer, Jill B., MD 972-981-3348  
Fleming, Barry, MD 972-981-8175  
Gawner, Garrett H., MD 972-981-7711  
Gee, Phyllis J., MD 972-981-8088  
Graham, C. Keith, MD 972-981-8477  
Health Center for Women 972-981-8477  
Horzorg, Brian G., MD 972-981-8333  
Jackson, Tania A., White, MD 972-312-0399  
Jilka, Dearnah A., MD 972-981-4488  
Kaye, Richard C., MD 972-981-7777  
MacDonald, Steven R., MD 972-981-7777  
Mathews, J. Kyle, MD 972-981-7777  
McClintock, Jean M., MD 972-981-7777  
North Lake Ob/Gyn 972-981-7777  
OB/GYN Associates of North Dallas 972-981-7777  
Plano Ob/Gyn Associates 972-981-7777  
Powers, James W., MD 972-981-7777  
Prestonwood Ob/Gyn Associates 972-981-7777  
Riegel, Christopher J., MD 972-981-7777  
Roberts, John Paul, MD 972-981-7777  
Robins, Daniel E., MD 972-981-7777  
Rodriguez, Alfred J., MD 972-981-7777  
Runway, Bruce G., MD 972-981-7777  
Troychik, Courtney G., MD 972-981-7777  
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### OBSTETRICS / GYNECOLOGY

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Chambers, Michael J., MD 972-981-8215  
Gayer, Richard D., MD 972-981-8215  
Heier, Keith A., MD 972-981-8215

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### OPHTHALMOLOGY

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Maske, Kim K., MD 972-981-3430  
North Dallas Eye Associates 972-378-4112  
Snook, Russell W., MD 972-378-4112  
Stager, David R., Jr., MD 972-758-0625

### ORTHODONTIST

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Cable, James D., MD 972-608-5000  
Chambers, Michael J., MD 972-378-1438  
Gayer, Richard D., MD 972-608-5000  
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### OTOLARYNGOLOGY

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Goldsmith, Gary P., MD 469-241-0580  
McClay, John E., MD 469-241-0580  
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Owens, Fred D., MD 214-742-2194  
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