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The Gazette

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On the Homefront:

"Men Cry in the Dark", through February 24. Hosted by The Black Academy of Arts and Letters, the story deals with relationships, fatherhood and interracial dating from the perspective of four African-American men. Held at the Dallas Convention Center Theatre Complex's Naomi Burton Main Stage. For more information call 214.743.2449.

Planet Kids, a youth entertainment program has contracted with the Plano Parks and Recreation Department to provide youth activities at Carpenter Park and Oak Point recreation centers. For children in third through eighth grades. Saturday nights, 7 to 11:30 p.m. Plano police officers provide security. \$5.00 admission fee. Call The Carpenter Center, 6701 Coit Road, at 972.208.8087; The Oak Point Center, 6000 Jupiter Road at 972.941.7540.

February 28 - March 2

Quad Theatre presents "Side Man", by Warren Light, February 28 - March 2, and March 7 - 9. Side Man is about jazz musicians, from their heyday after the war, through the decline of the big bands, through the rise of rock and roll, to the dark years of the seventies and eighties. Named Best New Play at the 1999 Tony Awards, and nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. Times are 8 p.m., with a matinee on March 2 at 2:15 p.m., and a weekend matinee on March 6 at 10 a.m. Tickets are \$5 general admission, \$6 for students and Senior Citizens. Free admission with a donation of a large brand new (with the tags still on it) stuffed animal for Adam's Animals. Adult language and aggressive family situations. Call 972.881.5809.

The Frisco Community Theatre presents Hugh and Margaret Williams' comedy "The Grass is Greener" through March 3 at the South Center park, in the 7700 block of Maple, Frisco. An African-American millionaire stumbles into the private quarters of an aristocratic English couple that allow public tours through their stately mansion, leading to an entertaining series of events. Tickets range from \$5 to \$10. Call 972.377.3866.

StageFest seeks performers for March 3 to raise public visibility of the Dallas Performing Arts Center in the Dallas Arts District. StageFest is an outdoor festival, featuring exhibits, demonstrations and performances by many Dallas performing arts organizations. Planned as a free community wide event for all ages, it will take place along Flora Street from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. To participate contact Lisa Limoges at 214.954.9915.

In honor of Black History Month, TEM 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 Theatre's Julius 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 metrolplex literacy programs.

Quad Theatre at Collin County Community College is holding open call auditions Tuesday March 5 between 7 p.m. - 10 p.m., for "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest", by Dale Wasserman. Adapted from the novel by Ken Kesey. Seeking 10 male and 5 female actors. Prepare a one-minute monologue from any contemporary drama in the style of the play. Auditions held at Black Box Theatre, Spring Creek Campus, Jupiter Road, Plano. Contact Brad Baker at 972.881.5679, or e-mail: bbaker@cccd.edu.

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What about all those terms? Buying a PC

RAM, ROM, Byte, BIT, CPU — does all this lingo make you feel like you need a little CPR? Buying a personal computer — make that "PC" — can be confusing at best. Well, take heart. With our brief PC shopping primer, we can help you wade through the techno gobbledy-gook to find the right PC for your family. Just in time for school!

First, sit down with the family and ask the following questions. The answers will help you understand your needs and get you a few steps closer to that new PC:

What do you want to do with your computer? Play games? Explore the Internet? Run educational programs? All of the above? Knowing what you expect from your PC is key. For example, if your primary reason for buying a PC is to run word processing programs and send email, your requirements will be vastly different than if you intend to play MP3 music files and the latest 3D video games on your system. But here's a tip: Once you get online and start sending email, then photos over the Internet and printing T-shirts (EK's warning you, this stuff is addic-

ing!), your needs will quickly change. So don't sell yourself short. Assume your needs will grow and plan accordingly.

One neat trick is to read the boxes of the software you'll be running. There you'll find what the "system requirements" for each particular program are. For example, the requirements for the popular Star Wars Pod Racer game read "Windows 95 or 98;

known it wouldn't run on her kids' 486, non-3D system. (See what we mean about your needs changing quickly? Kids' games are the power-hungriest of the bunch.)

Consider all the options. Would you like a sound system with quality speakers? Video and realistic graphics? Do you want a printer? Color or black and white? How about a scanner or digital camera?

If you will be spending a lot of time on the computer, or plan to do desktop publishing and graphics-intensive applications (meaning scanning in photos, or creating newsletters with lots of icons and photos), you might opt for a larger 17" or 20" monitor. All these equipment

options (and more) will add excitement and "oomph" to your PC. Of course, the more bells and whistles you choose, the more money you should plan to spend.

How much do you want to spend? How much can you afford to spend? Hint: They're not necessarily the same answer. For instance, Mark might like to spend under \$1,000 for his

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(L to R) Julius Chambers, Carrie McPherson, Pam Mackey, Juna Moore, Evelyn McKnight and Arthur Young

Plano Community Forum and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity

by Susan Stewart

The 14th annual Sweetheart Dance for the Plano Community Forum was held this weekend.

The group decided to partner with another African-American community organization and the new concept for 2002 is "Partnering and Service."

For the 14th annual Sweetheart Dance, the Plano Community Forum partnered with the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Alpha Iota Iota Chapter to raise funds to support scholarships for deserving students within the community.

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.

"We've long recognized the importance of all the work that's been done in the community and the importance of working with organizations in service to the community, primarily African American organizations", said local attorney and attendee and PCF member, T.J. Johnson.

Johnson said they recognize that there are a number of African-American organizations focused on service to the community.

The sweetheart Dance is an opportunity to pool resources — time, money, energy and

See Omega Psi Phi page 6

Candidate forum hosted by TPA

By Dorothy Charles Banks

Special to:
Texas Publishers Assn. Wire Service

Austin — The Texas Publishers Association (TPA), a group of 21 African American publishers in Texas, held a forum Saturday, February 9th for candidates wanting to win seats on the Court of Criminal Appeals, U.S. Senate, U.S. Congress and governor. The forum was closed to the public.

Competitors screened by TPA were gubernatorial hopeful attorney John WorldPeace, 53; energy and banking businessman Tony Sanchez, 58; lawyer and former attorney general Dan Morales, 45 and investor Bill Lyon, 52; U.S. Senate — school teacher Victor Morales, 52; former Dallas mayor and lawyer, Ron Kirk, 47; Republican Lawrence Cranberg, Ph.D., 84; Texas Supreme Court Justice, Place 3 — Republican Wallace Jefferson, 38; Court of Criminal Appeals — lawyer Julius Whittier, 51; Supreme Court, Place 2 — Republican Dale Wainwright, 40; Civil District Court Judge; U.S. Congress — Republican Roy Streckfus, 44; businessman and Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 1 — Republican Carolyn Denero, attorney, 36.

Joycelyn Fadojutimi, TPA president said the candidates worked "very hard to win the TPA's endorsement, because we do back whoever we endorse. Our backing a candidate depends solely on the issues."

She said the publishers

endorse Democrats as well as Republicans if the candidates speak to their concerns and follow through on their campaign promises. She said TPA voted for George Bush for governor.

They voted for Bush "because we believed in what he was doing. Our criteria is issue oriented, not party oriented," said Fadojutimi.

TPA members feel that political appointments are important. The right appointment, says Fadojutimi, means "that our issues will be looked at." She said as governor, George Bush made several appointments that TPA agreed with.

Tony Sanchez, whose campaign focuses on education, said not only would he put minorities in key positions, he will address financial institutions that still refuse to make loans to minority business owners.

"I'm going to try and point out to the financial institutions in Texas that it's in everybody's best interest not to red line anyone or any place. I think by implication, they will understand what I'm saying. I think that the government ought to institute some new programs, which will help minority owned businesses get started," said Sanchez. He said discrimination is "alive and kicking in Texas."

Sanchez said he is not a professional politician but a businessman whose expertise puts him a notch above the every day politician. "We are going to face

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A twenty year old information technology company continues to thrive

by Lakeisha Joy

In this day and age, the world is full of computer savvy and technology oriented individuals as compared to an earlier time when we hardly knew what to do with a computer.

One such company that is helping to fill Dallas/Ft. Worth area businesses with computer savvy and technology-oriented individuals is Business Control Systems.

Business Control Systems of Addison (BCS), is an African-American owned, information technology solutions firm founded in 1981. The company was created to meet a growing need of providing computer-related professional services and business solutions to major corporations and government agencies.

The husband-wife team of Dianne Ferguson and Bernie Francis owns BCS. Mr. Francis is the Chief Executive Officer and founder of BCS. Ms. Ferguson is President and co-founder of BCS. Ferguson is considered a customer and employee relations czar. Much of BCS' success comes from her unrelenting focus on customer satisfaction and speedy quality performance in providing infor-

mation technology services. Mr. Francis has focused on developing a true solution-based partnership with both clients and consultants by taking time to

ing."

Of course, back in 1981, when BCS opened its doors, there was hardly any competition at all from other information technology companies. Now in the year 2002 competitor from other information technology companies is fierce.

"I believe that we have lasted so long in this business because we have staying power, said Ms. Ferguson. "As technology has changed, we have changed. A lot of companies that didn't change with technology went out of business."

BCS is an industry leader in providing fully benefited and managed professionals for information technology supplemental staffing and project solutions. BCS employs over 300 professionals across the country in a variety of technical environments, including e-business, programming, network migrations, and help desk services. BCS' history includes over 20 years of strategic partnerships with Fortune 1000 companies throughout the U.S. providing medium to long-term information technology projects.

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fully understand the needs and preferences of each client and learning their business.

"My husband and I were both working in corporate America, but neither of us fit the corporate America profile, said Dianne Ferguson. "An entrepreneur mind set and the fact that neither of us fit the corporate America mind set had a lot to do with us starting the company."

The NAACP Garland Branch hosted its 2nd Annual Winter Ball



Gwen Daniels with B.J. Williams
(President of Garland Chapter of NAACP)



Roma Lewis and Ronald Jones with wife



Jeff and Simella Prowell



Garland Mayor candidate, Michael Holden and his wife

Honorees

The NAACP Garland Branch hosted its 2nd Annual Winter Ball recently. The theme was "Celebrating the Woman of the Year". The honorees were as follows:
Reatha Robinson
Rev. Etta Whitman
Virginia Clark
Jennifer Morrison
Doretha Wilson
Myrtle Jones

La Vern Slaughter
Serita White
Felisa Brown
Judge Brenda Green
Wathenia Clark
Roma Lewis
Dorothy Williams
Carol Montgomery
Dr. Joyce Miller

Editor's Note:
Honoree, Virginia Clark's photo was not available

PHOTOS BY: SHAUNA BENOIT



Felisa Brown



Dr. Joyce Miller



Carol Montgomery



Roma Lewis



Doretha Wilson



Myrtle Jones



Serita White



Dorothy Williams



Wathenia Clark



Judge Brenda Green



Rev. Etta Whitman



Jennifer Morrison



La Vern Slaughter



Reatha Robinson

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Technology and Computers: Helping us in so many ways

The list below which exemplifies ways that computers can help us, could go on and on. You'll see some ways that computers help us. I'm sure that you can think of many on your own. Without the computer, as we experienced the scare of this happening with Y2K, we'd experience a terrible phenomenon. Many processes will cease and mankind will slow its systems. Computers and technology drives the world and creates billions upon billions of dollars of revenue for America alone.

Computers can help us think? Do computers have any relevance in the task of generating ideas and helping people think of new advertising slogans, write novels or business plans, or think of new uses for things, or find a new way of doing things?

In much the same way that a Word-processor does not directly help a writer create a better story, the computer is a tool enabling the writer to do some things better, such as moving text around, easy deletion and inserting text in the middle of sentences.

I like to use the metaphor of a carpenter's workshop.

Think back to when the typewriter was our main word processor.

When one mistake was made, the document was ruined. This sometimes meant retyping the entire document again. This also meant frustration and wasted time. Now the computer will check our spelling for us and instantly replace words and phrases for us. The computer enables us to process many more things in less time, with greater precision and while using much less energy.

The steps of the creative process where software can be used include generating ideas, recording ideas, manipulating ideas, and implementing ideas. Many thinking techniques, which are performed manually, maybe with pen and paper can potentially be encapsulated in a program. The main benefits are the compact storage and ease of access. There are so many software packages available to accompany our computer systems to help make life so much easier and efficient.

Computers are good at storing information and retrieving this information. They are also very good at manipulating information - sorting, selecting, and picking random items from lists.

Computers can help us eat better?

"You are what you eat." Most children and adults have heard this mantra from well-meaning relatives, friends, and physicians. And it's a fact: The kinds of foods we eat affect our overall health and our risk of developing a variety of chronic diseases. Unfortunately, many Americans choose to ignore the proven link between nutrition and health. Their diets are high in red meats and saturated fats, and lacking in fruits and vegetables.

Some physicians counsel their patients on altering eating habits, although a lack of training in behavior-change techniques and limited time for office visits conspire against it. Television, radio, and magazine reports encourage adults to eat better and exercise more. Even interactive computer programs offer patient's individualized nutritional information and "nonjudgmental feedback." Many researchers have examined the effectiveness of these messages and messengers at improving nutrition. In this recent study, investigators looked at the effectiveness of an interactive, computer-based system with a twist: A "talking computer" delivered information and feedback to adults over the telephone during a 6-month period.

The investigators recruited nearly 300 sedentary adults with poor diets from a multispecialty group practice. Half of the participants were assigned to the talking-computer intervention and half were assigned to a control group. Both groups used the Telephone-Linked Communications (TLC) system, employing computer-mediated, digitized human speech over the phone to ask questions, monitor behavior, and provide education and dietary counseling. Researchers made a home visit to participants to train them on the TLC and instruct them to call the system once a week during the study. The control group used the same TLC system, but the interactions focused on increasing physical activity rather than changing eating habits.

At the start of the study - and again at the 3- and 6-month marks - the researchers assessed patients' eating habits using a detailed questionnaire that took up to 30 minutes to complete and a shorter version that could be

completed in 5 minutes. Based on participants' responses, the investigators measured changes in consumption of fruits, vegetables, red and processed meats, whole fat dairy foods, and whole grain foods, and calculated a "global diet quality score" - with 0 being the worst and 100 the best.

Over the 6-month period, the adults in the dietary intervention group increased their fruit consumption by about 1 serving per day. They also ate slightly more vegetables and slightly less red and processed meats, and whole dairy foods. In addition, their global diet quality score was about 9 points better than the control group's score. On average, participants called the TLC system once a month during the study period. Adults who made more calls to the TLC system were more successful in increasing their fruit and dietary fiber consumption and decreasing their intake of saturated fat.

The investigators suggest that an interactive, computer-based telecommunications system may be a cost-effective medium for providing large numbers of people with health education and counseling. They recommend that health plans and providers consider its use as they make "difficult policy decisions ... concerning the allocation of finite resources for health care." By Dr. Gillman of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Computers can help your pet? Most likely, your veterinarian uses a computer to help track the vaccinations your pet receives and when they will be due again. But today, computers are playing a vital role in maintaining the health of your pet. Many modern veterinary practices use computers to manage your pet's complete medical history, to note findings during a physical examination and to document surgical and medical finding with digital images. Technology and the Internet allow your veterinarian to consult with other veterinarians and veterinary specialists (such as cardiologists, dermatologists and ophthalmologists) about Doggie's heart condition or Kitty's eye problem. Laminated photo ID cards can be made for your pet, and utilized in the event your pet is lost, or as a brag photo. As these computer technologies continue to develop,

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some problems in Texas that a professional politician cannot solve. They tried and failed. I think it's going to take a lot of business experience and leadership to come to grips with these deficits we are going to face."

The millionaire said he doesn't need the governor's job. "I've got plenty to do back home." He said he wants the office so that he can help communities and "every body across Texas. I can bring a lot of fairness; a lot of equality to Texas."

Bill Lyon said he wants to make sure that all children in are safe and educated. He said Texas has to get good teachers who are committed to "taking our children to the next level in Texas. We've got to get that commitment from teachers; we've got to pay them well enough if they are going into the profession."

He said in Texas there needs to be more life lessons in schools, lessons that will help students "get out and earn that living; help them get out and be a good citizen. Maybe we don't need as many administrators ... maybe we need some administration."

A big concern with TPA was the record number of minorities who have been swooped up into the penal systems in Texas. Asked what he will do to reduce those numbers, Lyon said education is the key. He cited the illiteracy rate among inmates. He said Texas lost 1.2 million public school students to dropout from 1985 to 1986, 1987, 1988. He said the \$30,000 a year it takes to house an inmate would help two or three children get an education.

Lyon said he would "absolutely" support an increased use of DNA testing to prove someone guilty or innocent. "I think that's the best thing that came along, because there is no doubt about DNA. It's not an unfair science. It's an exact science. We can use it to put the criminal behind bars or put them back on the street where they belong."

Introducing himself, John WorldPeace, the Houston lawyer said, "The main things that are important to me are equality and justice. I changed my name 14 years ago right after I got divorced. I felt by doing that ... if people said my name, heard my name or read my name, they would have to think about world peace for a moment."

WorldPeace said he wouldn't have run for governor had "George" nor gone to Washington. "The Democratic party has been in a crisis for about six or eight years if not longer." He said when Bush went to Wash-

ington as president, he took the best of the Republican party with him, leaving "a pretty much level playing field, which would give me an opportunity to have an equal shot. So that's why I got in the race."

WorldPeace said, "People of color and women are second class citizens in the United States and Texas. There are no Black or Hispanic governors, there are no

He said when Sanchez criticized the Hopwood decision, he espoused statements that were not true or accurate. He said the "proper characterization is that my opinion applied to the law. The public colleges and universities were my clients. I had an obligation to make sure they didn't get sued, and to make sure we did not lose money on these lawsuits."

Morales said he had the Hopwood decision been illegal or unconstitutional, there would have been at least one lawyer in Texas who would have gone to a state district court and challenged the legality of the opinion.

"The fact is that not a single lawyer or activist or law professor went to court to try to test it. The reason they didn't try is because they knew we were right. If I were chairman at the University of Texas law school ... the school would reflect the diversity of this state. And I would achieve that objective not on the basis of race or ethnicity. I would do it the way I achieved it at the attorney general's office by making sure that we cast a wide enough net, making sure that opportunity was wide enough available so that we selected the very best and the very brightest."

Victor Morales, a teacher, is no stranger to adversity and a good political fight. In 1966 he defeated two congressmen without a war chest or bery of secret cash cows ready to make huge donations to his campaign. He gave the seasoned politico Sen. Phil Gramm a run for his money. He traveled cross country in an old pick up, minus an entourage and speech writers, courting voters the old fashion way.

Morales considers himself an independent politician, and proudly boasts: "I took on Phil Gramm when everyone else was afraid of him."

Morales said if he is elected to the U.S. Senate, he will bring the facts "of racism to the forefront." He feels that as a representative of the people in Washington, he has to remain "truly independent. The reality is I'm not George Bush and you can't pay me off."

He said that one of his great strengths is that wherever he goes people listen to him. "And they can find somebody who will work as hard as me, but they won't outwork me," says Morales, who remembers working for less than minimum wage in earlier years.

Former mayor of Dallas, Ron Kirk resigned his office to run for the Senate. Asked about minority farmers losing their land, wiping out generations of farmers, Kirk said the biggest thing "we have to

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Energy and banking businessman Tony Sanchez

Black or Hispanic United States senators. That's 150 people. You can't say that America is not racist with those numbers. That's reality."

He said if he wins the governor's seat, his administration will reflect those who voted for him. He said if 20 percent of Blacks vote for him, 20 percent of "my appointments will be Black and half of them will be women; if the vote is 20 to 30 percent Hispanic, and half are women, then 15 percent of my appointments are going to be Hispanic women. That is an affirmative action pro-



Former Dallas mayor and lawyer, Ron Kirk

gram. That's what I can do as governor." However, WorldPeace admits that he is not "pro-affirmative action across the board."

Politically, the Hopwood decision remains a thorn in the side of Dan Morales. Regardless of how people feel about him, he invited TPA to review his record and compare it to the "objectives of adversity. I have never made a decision based exclusively on race or exclusively on ethnicity. I believe that it is critical that Texas look at the individual characteristics of a particular applicant for a job, or position in college."

OBITUARY

Francis Page, Sr.

Houston Newspapers Publisher, real estate developer, community leader and advocate Francis Page, Sr., one of the most renowned newspaper men in Texas and the USA and winner of numerous community and business awards for his humanitarian efforts, died Friday, February 15, 2002 of heart failure at St. Luke's Hospital in Houston, Texas. Page, whose publishing company regularly received national recognition and whose business ideals helped to shape the African-American community in which he lived and grew up, was 63 years old.

He was born in 1938 in Houston in the Acres Homes neighborhood and attended St. Nicholas Catholic School and graduated from Texas Southern University with a degree in business. Page, the son of the late Joseph Sidney Page, Sr. and Anna Bell Page, was twice married, Page leaves to cherish his memory his former wife and mother of his children, Patti Rollins, his beloved daughters Tina Maria Stepter and her husband James of King of Prussia, Pennsylvania and Lynn Carol Page of Houston, Texas and his beloved son Francis Page, Jr. of Houston, Texas. Grandchildren Britanni Stepter, Erika Stepter, Khayla Page, Radnel Powell and Gabrielle Page. Also his son Joseph Sidney Page, Jr. and Michael Vincent Page. Sisters Theresa Alexander, Mary Titus and Cynthia Randle. Also numerous nieces, nephews and cousins throughout the USA. Predeceased by his sister Catherine Page.

Francis Page Sr. was a true self-made man. He paid his youthful dues by performing numerous jobs as he worked his way through school and college.

Following several years as the leading sales rep for Tarrant Distributors, Page founded many successful businesses including The Red Rooster Club, The



1894 Bar, Page Bar Supply, MacGrogan Management, The Page Group, The Houston Newspapers and The Alameda Center.

He leaves many loving business associates, loyal employees, and friends, especially those with whom he shared his life's passion - golf. Francis will be greatly missed. He lived life to the fullest and touched and inspired all who knew him. He will be fondly remembered for his strength of character, his high spirited personality, his wonderful sense of humor, and his love of life and family which he maintained to the end. A viewing will be held at McCoy & Harrison at 4918 MLK Blvd. (713/659-7611) Friday, February 22nd, 1-5 P.M. Family will receive friends at Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church 7-9 P.M. A memorial celebration will be held at Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, 3826 Wheeler (713/748-5240), on Saturday, February 23rd, at 11:00 A.M. followed by interment at Paradise South Cemetery.

The Gazette

MON

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

While you ponder that thought we would like to announce that Minority Opportunity News, Inc. formerly a Dallas based renaissance community tabloid, founded in 1991, has relocated to Plano, Texas and changed our name to MON-The Gazette. In addition to moving our offices to Plano, our editorial coverage has also shifted to encompass Dallas'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 parody 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 formally Minority Opportunity News, was founded July, 1991, by Jim Bochum and Thurman R. Jones



New Housing Developers Feeling Heat Of Electricity Deregulation Costs

by Monica Thornton

For many new home-builders, electricity deregulation is just another brick in the wall of higher building costs. As statewide power industry deregulation progresses, developers fear that equipment costs could raise the price of new homes by as much as \$2000.00.

Since January 1, 2002, Texans have had the choice of electricity providers, and TXU can no longer be certain that they will be the energy provider. TXU will, however, still own and provide the electrical equipment to residential developers, and be the owner of the equipment. But they are not guaranteed that customer.

Under deregulation, Oncor Group, a division of TXU Corp., will maintain the transmission lines in North Texas, no matter who is providing the energy. It will charge power providers approximately 2 cents per kilowatt-hour on residential bills.

But when deregulation approached, Ken Mitchell, Land Acquisition Director with Ashton Woods Homes, in Dallas, said TXU started charging residential home developers to install their electrical equipment (wires, transformers and utility poles) on the developers land. To offset the cost, they then allocated an

allowance to the developers, per lot. However, the allowance has been dropped from \$3,200 to \$2,445 per lot, with additional costs being absorbed by the developer, which would eventually trickle down to the homebuyers.

Mr. Mitchell said that before deregulation, developers paid a minimal amount, if any, to TXU to have them put their electrical equipment on developers' land. Now that TXU is not guaranteed every resident as a customer, residential home developers fear that utility companies, such as TXU, are trying to recoup potential lost income, and have cut back their financial commitment toward installation, and are passing the cost onto them.

TXU countered this by saying they reduced the allowance as the cost to equip the average home has dropped, and this change is not related to deregulation.

"The biggest problem we face is that this is something we used to not pay money for," Mr. Mitchell said. "I'm giving them the right to come onto my property and provide a service, and then they're telling me I have to pay them for it."

This cost will trickle down to homebuyers, at approximate-

ly \$2000 per development. Mr. Mitchell said adding this amount into a mortgage will raise a monthly payment by \$13, which may be about the same or even more than the amount residents will save on their electric bill under deregulation.

Mr. Mitchell added that the additional costs the developers are being asked to absorb are being assessed on individual projects, and TXU cannot tell the developers up front how much they will charge them.

"You don't know now when you buy a piece of land how much it will be for total costs and installation," said Mr. Mitchell. "Deregulation for us has created even more uncertainty than ever. If the power providers are making money, we should be getting a rebate."

Mr. Mitchell said everybody assumes developers and builders make a lot of money, but he said in effect there are so many hidden costs, including statewide regulations requiring \$4,500 for Uniform Energy Codes, per development.

"The only bright star in the economy right now is the new housing business," Mr. Mitchell said, and that could turn around if costs continue to rise.

Type on: You can exercise at your desk

by Susan Stewart

Today's technological demands are calling many to stay at their desks for extended periods of time. I'll share some secrets to getting ahead and making good on that New Year's resolution. You can exercise at your desk. That's right, read on to see how you can exercise while working.

Neck: Start with your head ... head rolls are perfect for the neck and deltoid muscles the shoulder area. Just do a few ... first of all sit up tall in your chair, tummy pulled in and shoulders back, then take your head and drop your chin down to your chest ... keep it there for 12 seconds, then slowly roll your head to the right, then to the left. Continue this action for a series of 12 repetitions. By this time, you should feel that your neck has been stretched and relaxed.

Shoulders: Next, go to your shoulders, they tend to stiffen up from sitting and they really feel tense if you have a stressful job. So the remedy is to again, sit up tall, stomach in and take your shoulders and shrug them as though you are about to hit your earlobes with your shoulders. Hold for 12 seconds. Then, take one shoulder at a time and do shoulder rolls. Do a rotation of 12 on each side. This should ease all the tension in the shoulder area.

Waist: Although you are sitting, do not neglect your waist area. The oblique muscles (the muscles that make up the waistline area) need to be relaxed, too.

Sit up tall in your chair, tummy pulling in. Lift your arms up above your head and lean to the right for and hold for 12 seconds, then lean to the left and hold for 12 seconds.

You will feel a slight pull in the waistline area. This is a very

beneficial stretch. You can also perform this one while standing. If you do it while standing, your feet should be shoulder width apart.

Buttocks: If you sit a tremendous amount and your buttocks are beginning to sag, then you will need to do tightening exercises to strengthen your



gluteus maximus and gluteus medius muscles. One exercise sitting down is buttock squeezes. As you sit in your chair, squeeze your buttocks together, hold for 10 to 12 seconds, then release slowly for 10 seconds.

Do 12 repetitions. Your butt should feel nice, tight and firm after this move.

Another exercise you can do for the buttocks: Stand up and hold yourself steady by leaning against the wall. Then extend your leg in back of you, slowly to a count of three. Squeeze your gluts as you perform this move. Do this twelve times on each leg.

Thighs: Leg extensions are great for getting stiff legs in action again. Sit up tall in your chair and extend your legs out in front of you. This move should be performed as though you are kicking a beach ball. This move works the quadriceps muscles-the muscles in the front thighs.

Calves: Your calves also

need exercise ... strengthen them by doing tip-toes, or point-and-flex your feet, this will also strengthen your ankles.

Wrists: Lastly, those wrists, which could be in danger of contracting carpal tunnel, a painful wrist ailment, should be frequently taken away from the repetitive movement on the keyboard.

Strengthen your wrists by shaking your hands out every now-and-then and by rotating your hands, thereby impacting your wrists, and also open and close your hands big and wide to stretch your fingers.

Eyes: And those eyes ... be sure you look away from the computer screen every ten minutes or so, giving your eyes a chance to focus on something else. Opening and closing the eyes also helps.

A few other things you can do are:

- 1.) Take stretch breaks every couple of hours.
- 2.) Go for a walk during lunch hour.
- 3.) Set a fitness goal, such as a 5K walk or run, and use that for motivation.
- 4.) Enlist fitness partners-friends or colleagues to whom you will be accountable.
- 5.) Tell your co-worker, walking or running partner or gym class friends that your need their help in sticking to your workout plan. You can e-mail or call each other to give that needed push or reminder to go.
- 6.) Be active throughout the day-take the stairs instead of the elevator or escalator. Walk to your colleague's desks instead of sending them instant mail.

You & Your Money



Billie Meador

401(k) Plans

401(k) Plans

Description: A 401(k) plan is a profit-sharing plan designed to allow employees to defer salary for retirement savings. Matching programs usually provide a strong incentive for employee participation. Because contributions are pre-tax, a 401(k) can reduce the tax burden for both the employer and employee.

Suitability: This plan can be set up by any type of business, sole proprietor, partnership or corporation.

Contributions: A 401(k) can accept four types of contributions: employer profit-sharing contributions, employee pretax contributions up to \$10,500 (2001), matching contributions by the employer and after-tax employee contributions. The total of these four contributions per individual cannot exceed 25 percent of the individual's annual compensation or \$35,000, whichever is less. Total plan contributions cannot exceed 15 percent of all eligible employees' compensation.

Eligibility: To be eligible to participate, an employee must be 21 years old and have completed one year of service. A year of service is equivalent to 1,000 hours.

Vesting: Employees are immediately vested in salary deferrals and qualifying matching and non-elective contributions. All other employer contributions may be subject to the vesting schedule selected by the employer.

Deadlines: The plan must be established by the employer's business year-end. Salary deferrals must be deposited no later than the 15th business day of the month following the month of deferral. The employer has until the business tax filing deadline plus extensions to fund the employer contributions. Business owners may be required to file Form 5500 with the IRS within seven months after the plan year-end.

Additional Information: This type of plan can be complex and usually requires the services of an administrator for the 5500 filing, required testing, etc. These administration services can be costly.

403(b) Plans

Description: A 403(b) plan is available to employees of public schools, churches, and certain nonprofit organizations that qualify as 501(c)(3) (IRS code) organizations. It allows employees to make pretax salary deferrals of up to \$10,500 or 20% annually, whichever is less.

Objective: • To save for retirement • To retain and attract quality employees • To reduce taxable income

Suitability: This plan can be established by employees of businesses that qualify as 501(c)(3) organizations as defined in the IRS code. For-profit organizations are not eligible to establish 403(b) plans.

Product Features:

- Tax Advantages - Employees can defer up to \$10,500 of salary per year. To determine the exact amount of the contribution, a "basic exclusion allowance" must be completed.
- Administration - A 5500 filing is NOT required.
- Contributions - Employer contributions are not allowed; however, many employers establish a SEP or profit sharing plan in conjunction with the 403(b) plan to allow for employer contributions.

Note: Employer-sponsored 403(b) plans do allow employer contributions. An employer-sponsored 403(b) requires the filing of a 5500 annually, anti-discrimination testing and a specially designed plan. These requirements significantly increase the cost of the plan.

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

NAACP Garland Youth Council to present a tribute to African-American History

The NAACP Garland Youth Council presents a tribute to African-American History at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Theme: "Bringing The Gifts Of My Ancestors - And Still I Rise"

This program will be held During the regular meeting of the NAACP Adult Branch at the Women's activity building located at 713 Austin at Glenbrook Ave., Garland, Texas. The public is invited.

For more information, please call 972-381-5044

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.

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HISTORY IS MADE BY THOSE WHO DARE TO CARE

7-Eleven Proudly Celebrates Black History Month



oh thank heaven'

On The Move

Inspired to be an artist

by Susan Stewart
At the age of five Frank Sowell, Jr. entered an art contest and won. From that day on he was inspired to be an artist. Throughout school, he was very creative in the art field.

Frank studied art at Texas State Tech and received his Associates degree at the Art Institute of Dallas. He later worked as a commercial artist. Soon after, he began writing and illustrating children's books. He spent six years as a freelance

court artist for KDFW, Channel 4. From that point on, he focused his attention toward the fine arts.

He has exhibited art in several shows throughout the country: examples, United Negro College Fund and the National American Arts Conventions.

Frank advice to young people is, "Never let anyone tell you that you can't accomplish your dreams and goals. And what has worked for him is putting God first."

"I feel that the sky is the limit; but, it's

basically up to you."

He is inspired by local and national artists he has met, such as: Alix Beaujour, Athello Beck, and Johnice Parker, Charles Bibbs, Kenneth Goodwood and Albert Funnell.

Frank is also inspired by family, friends and his pastor, T.D. Jakes. He believes that all things are possible for those who try to pursue their dreams.



Wellness



Almost 200 Dallas pastors and community leaders met to support the fight against heart disease and stroke (recently seen on Oprah and in Ebony). Thomas gives powerful, emotional testimony.
The American Heart Association Dallas Division and the African American Task force recently hosted the 6th annual pastors and community leaders brunch at Baylor University Medical Center to celebrate the achievements of Search Your Heart, a church-based health and wellness program targeting the African American community. Standing from left to right: Myra Hollins, Search Your Heart co-chair; Dr. James Race, president-elect American Heart Association Dallas Division Board of Directors; Elder Ray Thomas; Dr. B. Wayne Kong, CEO association of Black cardiologists; and Robert Ashley, KHVN-AM news director.

The American Heart Association's Search Your Heart Program Strives To Educate The Community About Their Risks

Close to 70 churches participated in a recent Search Your Heart program, a Pastors Prayer Brunch where local ministers and community leaders discussed the success of Search Your Heart and determined ways to recruit at least 200 churches by the end of the year.

Despite recent declines in

coronary heart disease death rates, a disparity between African Americans and whites has increased, according to a recent study.

The findings show that coronary heart disease death rates declined by 33.3 percent in African American men between 1979 and 1998, compared to 46.1 percent in white

men. At the same time, coronary heart disease death rates decreased by 26.6 percent in African American women compared to 40.1 percent in white women.

The disparity between African Americans and whites is partly due to heredity and lifestyle habits. African

See Heart Assn. page 6

Ethnic Notes

African American Heritage Program

Richardson - "Black History Month" is a time that has been set aside to honor America citizens of African descent for their skill and intelligence, which in turn has been beneficial to all mankind.

As Saunders Redding said "Heritage, in essence, is how people have used their talent to create a history that gives them memories that they can respect and used to command the respect of others. The ultimate purpose of history and history teaching is to use a person's talent to develop awareness and a pride in themselves so they can create better instruments for living together with other people. This sense of identity is the stimulation of a person's honest and creative efforts. A person's relationship to their heritage is the same as the relationship of a child to its mother. History is clock that people use to tell their time of day. It is a compass that they use to find themselves on the map of human geography.

Program hosted and produced by Evelyn Simpson



Evelyn Simpson



CENTER
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Salutes
The Heritage of African Americans
In Celebrating
Black History Month

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13th Dickie Foster Texas Black Women's Conference

WHO: The African American Museum and the Friends of the Texas Black Women's History Archives.

WHAT: The 13th Dickie Foster Texas Black Women's Conference.

WHEN: Saturday, March 16, 2002, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Registration begins at 8 a.m.

WHERE: The Dallas Marriott Suites Motel - Market Center

WHY: To provide a forum for discussion on issues relevant to Texas Black women and to help them become more aware and to be able to make informed decisions; also to create an atmosphere for networking in which black women relish their past and prepare for the future.

For more information, call 214-565-9026, ext. 307.

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What about...

Jump from Page 1

daughter's next PC, but he could really afford more. Although wise money management is important (we're not advocating getting a second mortgage here), we always recommend buying as much PC as you can afford. This advice was the same last year and will be the same next year! Specifically, get as much power (the microprocessor), memory (RAM), and permanent storage (hard drive) as your family can realistically afford.

While we're on the subject, let's take a quick look at the budget PC: Today's under \$1,000 units do a pretty good job of handling word processing and most educational and entertainment programs. However, if multimedia, desktop publishing, application multi-tasking (having several programs opened and running at the same time), or state-of-the-art gaming capability is what you're really after, the performance of a budget system may be disappointing.

PCs based on a "budget" processor (such as Intel's Celeron) are, frankly, quite powerful. But they might not give you enough power nor suit your needs as far into the future as a PC with a faster processor (such as Intel's newest, the Pentium III).

With any system, make sure it's upgradeable. And don't forget the "extras" we mentioned earlier, such as sound and graphics cards. Another worth-it option is pre-installed bundled software. It spares you the hassle of installation and saves money in the long run. One more comment: If you're really pinching pennies (i.e. it's either dinner or a PC payment), forget our previous advice. Buying a used or bare-bones computer is better than no computer at all.

Finally, educate yourself. Before you head to the store, find out what all those letters and numbers mean. We highly



recommend, of course, the detail in The PC Dads Guide to Becoming a Computer-Smart Parent, but there are lots of resources to help you get up to speed on things like "random access memory" and "internal expansion slots." Do your homework.

So grab your wish list and your wallet, and shop with the confidence of knowing you're now more knowledgeable than all those people who still think hardware is only found at Home Depot. Happy shopping! Contributed by iVillage.

Information...

Jump from Page 1

Technical capabilities of BCS include: Client/Server design and development, IBM mainframe software development, Network analysis, Object-oriented development, Office automation and PC help desk, Relational database development, Database administration, Conversion/migration services, Application maintenance, Government agency-specific applications, Package implementation, Internet/Intranet/ Xtranet services, and Documentation & technical writing.

BCS has provided information technology

services for such companies as TXU, Texas Education Agency, DFW Airport, JCPenny, Mobil, Price Water House Coopers, Texas Instruments and many others throughout its 20-year history. Recently, Ms. Ferguson was nominated as president of the National Association of Computer Consulting Businesses (NACCB) at their annual conference in Los Angeles. She served as Vice President and President-Elect of the Association for the past year.

NACCB is the only trade association solely devoted to representing the interest of Information Technology service firms.

Technology...

Jump from Page 3

the care of our pets will continue to improve, and Doggie and Kitty will live longer, healthier lives. Computers help preserve heritage

How: By keeping records of

genealogy or lands and ruins and archeology.

Computers help patients and doctor's offices?

How: By providing them with all the resources available. Physician practices that still maintain a manual system for processing appointments, billing

and patient documentation spend a substantial amount of time processing paperwork, instead of attending to patients. Computers will allow offices to see more patients, while still completing the compliance necessary for patient documentation and billing.

Omega Psi Phi

Jump from Page 1

other resources for a common goal — scholarships.

The dance was an overwhelming success. More than 300 Plano community members, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity members and their guests

enjoyed a night of dinner, dancing, recognition of sweethearts, door prizes, raffles, fun and frivolity, resulting in scholarship funds for both organizations.

Johnson said she had several guests to stop her and say they enjoyed themselves and had a lot of fun and wanted to be sure they would be on guest

list for the Sweetheart dance for 2003.

The Plano Community Forum is a non-profit organization founded in 1981 dedicated to providing scholarships to graduating Minority students and promoting enrichment within the community.

Heart Assn.

Jump from Page 5

Americans have a high incidence of certain risk factors, such as high blood pressure, putting them at increased risk for heart disease and stroke.

The American Heart Association Dallas Division is working hard to fill this gap through Search Your Heart, a local heart-health prevention program for African American churches specifically designed to provide resources and support materials to educate congregations on high blood pressure, stroke, nutrition and physical activity at no cost.

Dr. Wayne Kong, chief executive officer of the Association of Black Cardiologists, delivered the keynote address entitled: "Children Should Know Their Grandparents: Controlling Cardiovascular Risks."

"We've made an impact this past year in the lives of African Americans because of the commitment of churches in our community who are concerned about the health of their congregation," said Myra Hollins chair of Search Your Heart.

"Our long-term goal is to reach every church in Dallas and show them how they can protect the physical and spiritual health of their members."

Through Search Your Heart, the American Heart Association's African American Task Force trains churches on how to conduct specific educational activities that target high risk factors for African Americans, such as blood pressure, diabetes and cholesterol screenings.

The program contains four activity kits entitled Bread of Life, Check For Life, Activities

For Life and Stomp Out Stroke and provides detailed information about:

- Sponsoring a high blood pressure screening program
- Starting a walking club
- Conducting heart-healthy cooking and nutrition classes
- Learning about stroke and how to conduct screenings

Future plans for the Search Your Heart program in 2002:

- Recruit and train 200 churches
- Administer CPR training
- Heighten awareness by educating the African American community on their specific risk factors and the warning signs of a heart attack and stroke
- Encourage churches to conduct on-going health events throughout the year (i.e. screenings)
- Identify local heart health and stroke resources for churches.

Candidate Forum

Jump from Page 3

do is, particularly as second generation and third generation college educated African Americans, is to understand and embrace the concept of becoming entrepreneurs and developers our selves, not repeat the past mistakes."

In tackling the dilemma of high risk minority kids who end up in the penal system, Kirk likened the problem to a leaky faucet.

"The best example I give people is plumbing in a house. If somebody had a house that had a leaky faucet and all they did was keep buying bigger buckets, at some point somebody would say let's get a plumber and fix the

leak. All of us agree that too many of our young people are trapped in the criminal justice system," said Kirk, a native Austinite.

Kirk said parents have to make their kids stay in school and focus on a massive effort on directing resources, making sure "our kids get the chance to be successful in high school. On a federal level that means I am going to fight for a different kind of federal response to education rather than the federal government trying to decide whether we ought to be testing in Texas."

Kirk said the best way to find the answer to a problem is to look at the source. He said a bigger problem in education is not having enough teachers in the classroom. "In the state of Texas we

have a shortage of 5,000 teachers right now."

TPA vice president, Hussien Ali, said these forums are important. As newspaper publishers they can take back to their readers the information they glean from political candidates. He said in many instances readers wait to "get our opinion because they know that we have the ability to do the research and investigate a candidate."

"That's why it's important that we have these forums and hold the candidates accountable. If they don't do what they say, then we have the power to punish them ... in essence. We have the opportunity with our pens, to influence opinions," said Ali.

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THE GERSHWIN'S PORGY and BESS



BY GEORGE GERSHWIN, DUBOISE AND DOROTHY HEYWARD AND IRA GERSHWIN

George Gershwin's masterpiece **PORGY AND BESS** redefined musical theater forever. The setting is Catfish Row, a tenement neighborhood in Charleston, South Carolina. As dusk falls, the tenants relax on the courtyard and a young mother sings a lullaby to her baby. The lullaby is "Summertime," and what follows is a glorious, melodic stream of unforgettable Gershwin songs, including "My Man's Gone Now," "I Got Plenty o' Nuttin'," "It Ain't Necessarily So," "I Loves You, Porgy" and "There's a Boat That's Leavin' Soon for New York." At the heart of the story is a love triangle involving the gentle beggar Porgy, the alluring beauty Bess, and her abusive lover Crown, the bully of the Row. This acclaimed production is co-presented in Fort Worth by Performing Arts Fort Worth and Fort Worth Opera.

PILOBOLUS

Monday, March 18, 8:00 pm



DIRECT FROM THE 2002 WINTER OLYMPICS IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

The modern-day Olympic founder Pierre de Coubertin once defined Olympism as "sport plus art." That definition also applies to the athletically innovative **PILOBOLUS DANCE THEATRE**, founded by gymnasts nearly 30 years ago. In celebration of sport + art, the Cultural Olympiad commissioned **PILOBOLUS** to create a new work for the 2002 Winter Games: a work "combining athletic prowess with wit and imagery." Immediately following the premiere at the Winter Games in Salt Lake City, the six members of **PILOBOLUS** will perform this new work, titled "The Brass Ring," as part of their appearance at Bass Performance Hall in Fort Worth. Reserve tickets NOW — You don't want to miss this exciting, entertaining event!

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Arts & Entertainment



The Salton Sea

After the murder of his beloved wife, a man (Val Kilmer) in search of redemption is set adrift in a world where nothing is as it seems. On his journey, he befriends slacker Jimmy "the Finn" (Peter Sarsgaard), become involved in rescuing his neighbor Colette (Deborah Kara Unger) from her own demons, and gets entangled in a web of deceit full of unexpected twists and turns.

The Time Machine



Scientist and inventor Alexander Hartdegen is determined to prove that time travel is possible. His determination is turned to desperation by a personal tragedy that now drives him to want to change the past. Testing his theories with a time machine of his own invention, Hartdegen is hurled 800,000 years into the future, where he discovers that mankind has divided into the hunter ... and the

hunted. It is based on the classic science fiction novel by H. G. Wells.



BLOCKBUSTER® Hit List™

These are the Top 10 Renting Video Titles at U.S. BLOCKBUSTER® stores for the week ending February 17, 2002.

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

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| 2. SHREK | 2. AMERICAN PIE 2 |
| 3. THE PRINCESS DIARIES | 3. ATLANTIS: THE LOST EMPIRE |
| 4. DRAGON BALL Z: MAJIN BUU - TACTICS | 4. SHREK |
| 5. EXIT WOUNDS | 5. HEARTS IN ATLANTIS |
| 6. AMERICAN PIE | 6. RAT RACE |
| 7. PETER PAN | 7. MOULIN ROUGE |
| 8. DRAGON BALL Z: MAJIN BUU - REVIVAL | 8. THE MATRIX |
| 9. CATS & DOGS | 9. PEARL HARBOR |
| 10. GLADIATOR | 10. KISS OF THE DRAGON |

These are the rental New Releases hitting the streets on Tuesday, February 26, 2002. Titles also available for rent on DVD are indicated with *

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| THE MUSKETEER* | HAIKU TUNNEL |
| JAY AND SILENT BOB STRIKE BACK* | SESSION 9 |
| CINDERELLA II: DREAM COME TRUE* | DELTA FORCE ONE: THE LOST PATROL |
| BONES* | THE TASTE OF OTHERS |
| SOUL SURVIVORS: THE KILLER CUT* | A GLIMPSE OF HELL |
| PENDULUM* | HIDDEN AGENDA |
| MEGIDDO: THE OMEGA CODE 2 | BANGKOK DANGEROUS (subtitled) |
| LUSH* | LUMINARIAS |

On Stage at NextStage

at Grand Prairie:

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

Travis Tritt
Down the Road I
Go Tour
March 15, 2002

Paul Anka
Live in Concert
March 21, 2002

SMUin Ballet/SF
Dancin' With Gershwin
March 23, 2002

Enrique Iglesias
Live in Concert
April 4, 2002

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

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972-647-5700

Mercedes M-Class SUV

History: Mercedes, generally thought of as being built in Stuttgart, Germany, actually has a small and unusual history in the United States. Under a special licensing agreement at the turn of the century, the Steinway Piano Company in Long Island, New York, built "American Mercedes" cars from 1905 until a devastating fire destroyed the factory in 1907. Decades later in the 1980s, Mercedes-Benz built trucks and Unimogs (similar to those seen in the newest Jurassic Park movie "The Lost World") in Hampton, Virginia.

Vehicle Type: 4-door, 5-passenger sport utility vehicle
Base Price: (Estimated) \$34,500
Test Vehicle Price: (Estimated) \$40,000
Engine: 215-horsepower SOHC V6
Transmission: 5-speed automatic transmission
Fuel Economy: (Projected) 17 mpg city/21 mpg highway



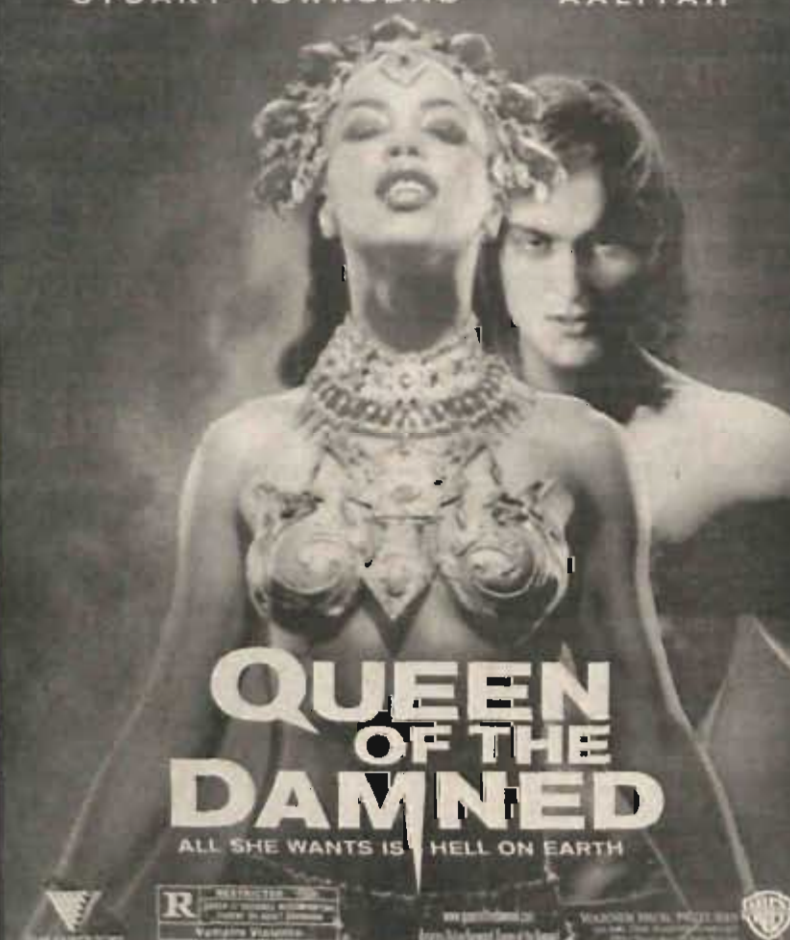
Safety Features: Mercedes, always a leader in safety technology, offers an impressive list of standard safety features. In addition to driver and front passenger airbags, the M-Class is also equipped with side airbags located in the front doors. All five seating positions offer seats whose cushions consist of polyurethane foam inlay. The seat pan design incorporates an anti-submerging wedge. In the event of a collision, this wedge helps to restrict the forward motion of the occupants. Four-wheel anti-lock brakes, individual head restraints for all five passengers, height-adjustable shoulder belts, keyless entry system with panic button, anti-theft system and a retractable cargo cover all add up to extra safety and security for the vehicle's occupants and stowed cargo.

Features: In true Mercedes fashion, the M-Class comes standard with loads of practical and luxury amenities. In addition to the safety features listed above, the M-Class is equipped with aluminum wheels, heated power side-view mirrors, rear window defroster, 6-way manual front seats, 4-way adjustable head restraints, power windows, cruise control and tilt steering column.

The standard audio system consists of an AM/FM/Weatherband stereo with an auto-reverse cassette player and four speakers. An upgraded Bose sound system with six speakers and subwoofer, as well as a 6-disc CD changer is available as an option.

Overall Impression: The M-Class would be a wonderful addition to anyone's garage. Whether your primary purpose was replacing a luxury sedan or adding a truck-type vehicle to your small fleet, the M-Class SUV fits the bill. Excellent ride and handling, quiet and comfortable, yet rugged if needed — we found this to be the perfect all-purpose luxury vehicle.

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STARTS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND!

CINEMARK MOVIES 12 - VISTA RIDGE 1100 S. GARDEN ST. #100 LANCASTER, CA 93532 TEL: 951-709-1234	CINEMARK MOVIES 12 - VISTA RIDGE 1100 S. GARDEN ST. #100 LANCASTER, CA 93532 TEL: 951-709-1234	CINEMARK MOVIES 12 - VISTA RIDGE 1100 S. GARDEN ST. #100 LANCASTER, CA 93532 TEL: 951-709-1234	CINEMARK MOVIES 12 - VISTA RIDGE 1100 S. GARDEN ST. #100 LANCASTER, CA 93532 TEL: 951-709-1234
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FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MOVIE
America Online Keyword: Queen of the Damned www.queenofthedamned.com MoviePhone.com

Around The Town

On-going

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.

The McKinney Civic Chorus is seeking vocalists ages 16 and older. No audition is required for participation. Rehearsals are 7-9 p.m., Mondays at Hillcrest Christian Church, 509 S. Graves St. Membership dues and performance attire are required.

For more information, call Bobbe Thompson at 972.562.2360.

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

Feld Entertainment commemorates 21 years of on-ice Disney classics that have come to the metroplex, February 15 - March 31 with a lavish exhibition of Disney On Ice props, costumes and more. Located on the 3rd level of The Shops at West End Marketplace, Dallas. Call 214.351.9806 for more information.

Billie G. Meador, the Edward Jones Investment Representative hosts a five-week workshop "Financial Workshop for Individual Investors." Workshop runs February 25 through March 25. Classes meet 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. at the Courtyard Center Campus. Enrollment fee is \$69. For more information contact Billie Meador at 972.208.5688.

The Emeritus Program at Mounrain View and Cedar Valley colleges will sponsor its Spring Symposium March 12 at Cedar

Valley College. Featuring keynote speakers, workshops, vendor booths, continental breakfast and lunch, and much information for older adults. If you are interested in participating as a vendor you will need to confirm your participation as quickly as possible. Contact Henry O. Adkins at 214.860.8816.

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

The African-American students advisory committee and the Unity Club of Woodrow Wilson High School present "Five Guys Named Moe", a musical, at 8 p.m., in honor of African American History Month. Tickets for Thursday February 22nd, are \$5 to \$20. Friday's show is a Dinner Theatre, with a Soul Food Dinner beginning at 6 p.m., and the show starting at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$7.50 to \$30.

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. Call 214.692.0203 for more information.

February 22

Meet Ellis Cose at an intimate book signing and reading at Black Images Book Bizarre, 6-8 p.m.

February 22-23

Black Academy of Arts and Letters - Mississippi State Senator John Horhn performs one-man show "The Eyes of Black Folks", at the Dallas Convention Center Theater Complex. Call 214.743.2449

February 23

The Chuck Burch Scholarship Fund

and Tour 18 Golf Club are teaming up to sponsor the 2nd Annual Chuck Burch Scholarship Tournament and Instructional Clinic, Saturday Feb 23 at Tour 18 in Flower Mound. All proceeds go to raise funds for scholarships to be awarded to D/FW area students. The scholarship money is designed to build leaders that will shape the future of Dallas, Ft. W and its surrounding area. The outing will be a 4-man scramble with each person playing the best ball of each. Starts at noon. Course open for practice and lessons at 7:30 a.m. Awards and prizes for all participants.

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.

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.

Chamber Music International presents "Cruising on a High Note" goal dinner and silent auction fund-raiser. Prestonwood Country Club, Dallas. Call 972.385.7267.

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 "Tbink and Grow Rich: A Black Choice", Dr. Dennis Paul Kimbro. For more information contact Raquel Jarrett at 214.977.2236. Cost is \$50.00.

Community Calendar Sponsored by Southwestern Bell Telephone

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February 23 - 24

Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price has included some of his personal art collection in the Black History Month art exhibit, "Out of Africa." On display from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. February 23, and from noon to 6 p.m. on February 24, in the Millennium 2000 Shop in the Southside on Lamar Building, 1409 S. Lamar. Call 214.485.3854.

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". Enjoy a marathon of Baker's most popular films and 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 holds its "Neuter Scooter for a Nickel" campaign in McKinney and Dallas. Have your male cat neutered for a nickel. Offered 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).

The National Association for African-Americans in Human Resources (NAAHR) will present keynote speaker Albert Black at its meeting, at Maggiano's Little Italy in Northpark Mall, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$25 members, \$30 non-members.

St John Missionary Baptist Church, Grand Prairie/Southlake will host their "Growing in the Spirit" Job Fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at their corporate location at 1701 W. Jefferson, Grand Prairie. This is open to the public and is sponsored by Grand Prairie I.S.D., Lone Star Park, Ameri Credit, Tarrant County MHMR, U.P.S., Enterprise Rental Car, Xerox, Desoto I.S.D., and The Fort Worth "T". Bring plenty of resumes and dress professionally. Contact Dexter Coleman at 214.677.2626.

February 26 - March 3

"I Won't Be The Other Woman" - an enlightening and entertaining look at the reality of life, love and the power of relationships. At The Majestic Theatre, every day but Monday, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 to \$34. Call 214.373.8000.

February 28

If you have a desire to teach and have at least a four-year degree from an accredited college or university, then the Dallas ISD Alternative Teacher Certification Program may be what you need to get started. An Information Fair will be held to give you more details about our program. At the LBJ Auditorium of the Nolan Estes Plaza Building, 3434 South R.L. Thornton Freeway, Ste 100. Call 214.932.5008. Refreshments will be served.

March 1

The Women's Museum presents "Black History meets Black Herstory...finally!" with an independent short film exhibition and party celebration for women in entertainment. Hosted by Channel 8's Debbie Denmon. Starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Women's Museum, Fair Park. Tickets are \$15 in advance, and \$20 at the door. Call 972.296.1390

March 1 - 3

"Alice in Wonderland" presented by the Repertory Company Theatre at UNT Dallas Theatre. Performance times are March 1 at 7:30 p.m. and March 2 and 3 at 2:00 p.m. March 3 performance includes a Mad Hatter's Tea Party with the cast immediately following the performance. Tickets are \$9 adults/\$7 children, and \$12 for the Special Sunday Performance. Call 972.690.5029.

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra, with Principal Pops Conductor Richard Kaufman, invites you to experience your favorite films as never seen or heard before in "Symphonic Night at the Movies: A Night at the Oscars" at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center. March 1 - 2 at 8 p.m., and March 3 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets from \$16 to \$90. Call 214.692.0203 for more information.

March 3

Dallas Tax Assistance Program offers free tax assistance from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at St. Cecilia's Church, 639 Mary Cliff Road, Dallas, 75241; and OLPH Church, 7625 Courtfield Avenue, Dallas, just south of Love Field. Bring W-2 or 1099 forms, proof of any other income and all family information.

Last weekend, I washed my car,
hung out with a few friends,
and helped murder a family in Colombia.
C'mon, it was a party.

Drug money helps support terror. Buy drugs and you could be supporting it too.
Get the facts at the anti-drug.com. Get help at the National Treatment Hotline, 800 662 HELP.