

The Gazette

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NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Texas lags behind other states

Reports show Texas universities lagging behind almost every other state in college-participation rates, despite record enrollments. Texas ranks 45th out of the 50 states in the percentage of 19-year-olds attending a postsecondary institution, with 31 percent. North Dakota, with 59 percent, leads all states.

Former Dallas Morning News managing editor dies

Terry Walsh, a retired managing editor of The Dallas Morning News died of cancer at his Dallas home. He was 78. Walsh joined the paper in 1946, and stayed there until he retired in 1981.

Sales to Cuba possible by spring

As early as next spring U.S. companies could begin sales of food and medicine to Cuba. This would mark an end to the four-decade embargo on the nation if President Clinton signs the legislation. Havana says it will not by medicine or food because of prior financing and travel restrictions that were placed on the country.

Oldest living creature found in New Mexico

Scientists revived a 250-million-year-old bacteria believed to be the oldest living creature ever discovered. The bacterium was found in a state of suspended animation in an ancient salt crystal in an underground cavern near Carlsbad, New Mexico. The bacterium is thought to have lived millions of years before the dinosaurs.

Funds awarded to minority communities affected by HIV/AIDS

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment awarded almost \$20 million dollars to support 43 grants for substance abuse treatment and HIV/AIDS services in African-American, Hispanic/Latino and other racial or ethnic minority communities. Awardees are government jurisdictions and community based organizations with proven service records.

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Veterans share rich histories of the state fair

By Janel Burrell

This year almost 4 million people will pass through the State Fair of Texas gates and be greeted with the words that they have come to expect since the 1950s, "Howdy,

as familiar to fairgoers as Big Tex, and he's been there almost as long. Thomas began working at the State Fair of Texas 44 years ago, dating back to 1956. He remembers when African-Americans were allowed to visit the fair only one day during its time in Fair Park.

"We (African-Americans) were only allowed to come to the fair and enjoy on Negro Achievement Day," said Thomas. "On the other days you couldn't come unless you had on a badge saying you were working."

Thomas began his fair career as a kitchen helper in a concession booth. While his mother cooked, he was responsible for bussing tables and cleaning floors. His fascination with the fair grew and he soon left the concession booth and became a general employee, working in all areas of the fair.

His present station is the gate of the Washington Street entrance. For eight hours a day Thomas meets and greets fairgoers and sends them on their way with a friendly good-bye. For Thomas, whose main job is a custodial supervisor with the City of



Fair employee Thelma Dotson divides her time between the state fair and Scottish Rite Hospital.

Dallas, the fair is a type of family reunion-a chance to catch up on old times with friends and spread some sunshine in the process.

Thelma Dotson shares the Washington Street gate with Thomas and says she likes working at the fair because she simply "likes people." Dotson's 27-year tenure with the State Fair of Texas stems from a long time love of the yearly cele-

bration. "I was introduced to working at the fair by a girlfriend of mine, and I've been here since then."

Like Thomas, Dotson divides her time between her regular job, as a Scottish Rite Hospital inventory control coordinator, and the state fair.

"You have to be ready for the fair," says Dotson. "The fair's not for everyone. It's gotta' be in your blood."

The fair's gates are not the only things being managed by veterans. Concessions at the State Fair of Texas have been operated for years by long-time vendors, including Huey Nash, whose Little Bob's Bar-B-Que con-

cession was the first African-American-owned concession allowed at the fair.

Gloria White, owner of GiGi's Food, Inc., sees the fair as opportunity for women-owned businesses. Here menu special, fried green tomatoes, is a hit and folks from mile around come to enjoy her specialty.

"Everyone loves them. They're the equivalent of corny dogs in popularity," said White. Her staff of 15 manages the concession booth at the fair and their main location in southern Dallas.

Of the concession veterans, Golden Chicken is the "youngest". The stand has been a fair staple for 4 years and plans to continue in the tradition of other long-running concessions.

"We'll be here for as long as we can," says general manager J.C. West. "The fair is a great place to be."

See FAIR FUN page 8

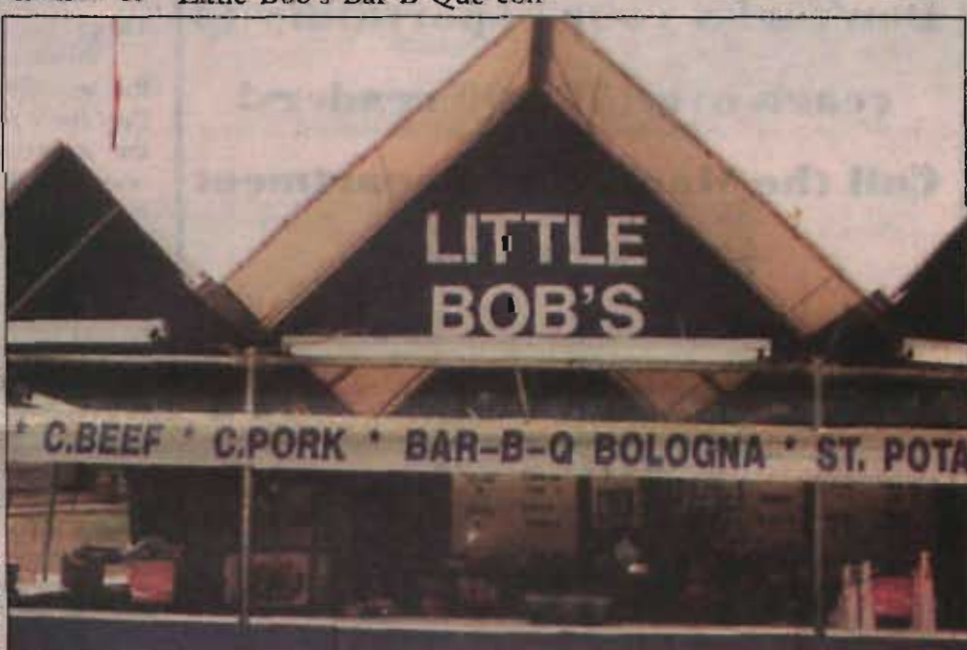


Gatekeeper B.J. Thomas has greeted fairgoers at the Washington Street gate for 31 years.

Photos by Lott's Photography

folks!"

But before they look up and wave to Big Tex, they say hello to B.J. Thomas who stands at the gate with a warm smile. Thomas is just



Little Bob's BBQ is the oldest African-American concession at the State Fair of Texas.

Lift every voice and vote: Voters encouraged to make their marks at the polls

(NNPA) - "Joe's gotta go." It was a simple slogan that appeared on posters and yard signs all over Selma, Ala. After 37 years, black folks in Selma had had enough of Mayor Joe Smitherman, the man who, on national television, once called Martin Luther King, Jr. "Martin Luther Coon." Like 21st century freedom fighters, they organized, they demonstrated and they mobilized. And with just 1336 votes, the city booted Smitherman out of office, and elected its first black mayor, businessman James Perkins, Jr.

Talk about the power of a vote.

A record number of African-Americans turned out on September 12 to ensure that their voices were finally heard. Volunteers from national organizations like the NAACP and the Southern Christian Leadership Coalition were on hand to help local grassroots organizers keep incidences of voter fraud and harassment to a minimum, something that is sadly still a Selma tradition. When Smitherman finally conceded that he'd lost, he said, "It is almost like I was running against the whole world."

"Lift Every Voice and Vote" was prepared by the National Newspaper Publishers Association in partnership with the NAACP, the African-American Public Relations Alliance, the Congress of Black Churches, and the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation to educate readers on the issues that will decide the outcome of this critical presidential election, as well as many local elections, so you can make informed choices on November 3.

It includes analyses of where Vice President Al Gore and Governor George W. Bush stand on issues that impact African-American lives and comments from the candidates themselves. You can also use this supple-

ment to help you examine how others up for election, such as state and local representatives and members of Congress, will represent your views on various issues.

Your vote is a chance to have a say in your future. If you don't use it, you put your life in the hands of other people who may or may not share your concerns.

A legacy of leadership can start with your vote.

When the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed, making it possible for people of color to exercise their right to cast ballots for the candidates of their choice, the nation saw a significant increase in black faces at the polls. At the time, there were approximately only 300 black elected officials. Today, we have close to 9000, including 39 in the U.S. House of Representatives. And, like Vice President Al Gore and Governor George W. Bush, who have followed their fathers into the family business-politics-African-Americans are also forming legacies of leadership. Consider Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr. of Illinois, and Rep. Harold Ford, Jr., who won his retiring father's seat from Tennessee, Michigan state senator William Clay, Jr., hopes to fill his father's chair in the U.S. House of Representatives in the fall. There is also Michigan state senator Kwame Kilpatrick, son of U.S. Rep. Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick and Florida state senator Kendrick Meek, whose mother is U.S. Rep. Carrie Meek.

In the last eight years, the country has experienced an economic boom; unemployment is at a record low, more and more people are able to provide better homes and educations for their children, and business is booming. When African-Americans ask themselves if they are better

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American Airlines Center "Topped Out"



A completed picture of the center stands in front of the work in progress.

A major milestone was logged when construction workers "topped out" American Airlines Center in Dallas. The final steel truss was hoisted to the build-

ing's highest point of 201 feet. In the longstanding tradition of "topping out" a building, workers attached a spruce tree to the top of the truss for good luck. The "topping out" served as a celebration for keeping on

schedule and as a catalyst to boost morale for the completion of the project. Many of the 700 on-site workers signed the truss before it was hoisted to complete the signature arches of

eral contractor for the project, hosted the ceremony. Workers are currently installing escalators, the foundation for the lower seating bowl and the glass and framework for



Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk receives his hat that before entering the center.

ing's highest point of 201 feet. In the longstanding tradition of "topping out" a building, workers attached a spruce tree to the top of the truss for good luck. The "topping out" served as a celebration for keeping on

American Airlines Center. Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk was on hand to provide a play-by-play commentary as the truss was put in place.

Austin Commercial, the construction manager and gen-



Construction worker Joseph Millard signs the truss before it is hoisted into position.

Photos by Stan E. Davis

the windows. The next step in completing the roof is adding the metal roof decking to weatherproof the 840,000 square foot structure. In addition, crews will remove the shoring towers that have supported the roof while the trusses were set in place.

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Survey reveals what the world says about sex U.S. ranks #1

ATLANTA (PRNewswire) - According to results released from the 5th annual Durex Global Sex Survey, Americans are the world's sexual leaders experiencing sex for the first time at the youngest average age, 16.4, and most often, 132 times per year. The survey, commissioned by the world's leading condom brand, is the most extensive of its kind reaching several age groups in 27 countries representing every region around the globe.

"We have expanded the sample size this year to include data from all the world's main geographical areas to give a truly global picture of sexual attitudes and behavior among various age groups. This research is used and distributed to promote good sexual health and habits among all ages around the world," said Ted Conley, vice president of marketing for Durex Consumer Products.

Who's Teaching Whom?

Globally, a quarter of all respondents learned about sex from friends and peers which is more than twice as many receiving sex education from their mother (12%) and significantly more than those learning at school (15%). The U.S. is the exception to this rule with 22 percent of its population ages 16-20 looking to their mother for intimate information.

Too Much of a Good Thing?

While only four percent of the world's population report they have sex on a daily basis, the majority (64%) settle for once a week. Interestingly, it is not the youngest age group having the most sex at 89 times per year, but the 25-34 year olds who are leading the charge having sex 113 times a year, sig-

nificantly ahead of the 45 plus group who make love an average of 67 times per year.

Perhaps one of the most unexpected facts the survey uncovered is that couples living together are more sexually active (146 sessions a year) than married couples living together (98 times) and unattached singles having sex an average of only 49 times per year.

How Young is Too Young?

Consistent with past findings, the age of first sex is still quite young.

Those surveyed ages 16-20 report having lost their virginity at 16 as opposed to the 25-34 group at age 18 and the 45 plus group at age 18.9. Not on the decline, however, is promiscuity with the world average number of sexual partners at 8.2, France and the U.S. surpassing that number with 16.7 and 11.7 sexual partners respectively.

An Ounce of Prevention

Globally, it is the youngest group surveyed that is far more likely to listen and adopt the safer sex message as 92 percent of this 16-20 age group throughout the world is actively practicing safe sex methods. In this case, it is the younger who are wiser as the survey revealed that respondents over 45 ranked last in awareness and use of contraception for prevention pregnancy and spread of disease - a possible indication that this younger generation is more exposed to reliable sexual education.

The overall concern of contracting HIV/AIDS has affected all age groups with more than half the world's population (58%) changing their sexual lifestyle to include preventative behavior. In fact, 74 percent of the U.S. population has

changed their sexual behavior due to these health concerns, with most doing so by choosing to have only one sexual partner, followed by being more careful about the type of partner they choose. As the most widely available means of contraception, it is not surprising that the condom is the world's preferred method with more than 41 percent of all survey respondents choosing it ahead of any other form of protection (52% in the U.S. respondents). Condoms are also the most popular choice among the 16-20 group used by more than 61 percent of respondents in this 16-20 age group.

"Many young people all over the world are listening to the safer sex message and taking precautions to protect themselves from sexually transmitted diseases and unplanned pregnancy," stated renowned American sexuality and relationship educator and author, Sari Locker. "However, there is still a high proportion of the global population taking unnecessary risks. Condoms are the most effective method in helping protect people of all ages from sexually transmitted diseases, and condoms greatly reduce the risk of pregnancy; although, many people are still not using them." Locker added, "Comprehensive sex education, open conversations about sex, and increased condom use can help people become safer and more responsible, which in turn will help make sex more of an enjoyable, intimate experience."

Methodology

The 2000 Durex Global Sex Survey was commissioned by SSL International. Approximately 18,000 people ages 16 to 55 in 27 countries participated in this survey.

Research was conducted by independent fieldwork agencies in each country, with results compiled by an independent research group in London. Respondents were asked to complete an anonymous questionnaire focusing on sex education, first sexual experience, sexual intercourse, contraception, sexually transmitted diseases and lifestyle.

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An Investor's Most Difficult Decision

"You got to know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em, know when to walk away, and know when to run."

When Kenny Rogers sang these lyrics a few years back, he was singing about an old card player's advice to a younger one. The same advice may be applicable to stock market investing: You have to know when to get out.

Selling an investment is often regarded as the most difficult decision an investor faces. Purchasing an investment in the first place is much easier. After all, if you fail to buy a certain stock prior to a major surge in price, all you've lost is an opportunity to make money. But if you hold a stock and make the wrong decision concerning when to sell, you can lose real dollars. Here are some suggestions:

- Think about selling before you buy. Before you make an investment, you should consider both your motive and your time frame. For example, you want your \$5,000 investment to double in five years. As the years pass, you can monitor your investment and make your decision to sell based on your original goal. If you reach your goal before five years, you can sell and feel good knowing you achieved your objective. But if five years pass and you're not even close to your goal, you may

have to consider selling or re-adjust your schedule.

- Figure out how much you can afford to lose. Let's face it, the value of some investments may immediately go downhill. Some will recover and prosper, but others will not. To avoid the latter situation, you should determine, ahead of time, how far you're willing to go before you're ready to sell, take your loss and get out. Depending on your personal situation, you may be able to absorb a loss of 10 percent, 20 percent or more, but the key is to establish a stopping point for yourself and then stick to it.

- Measure your investment against other similar investments. Even if your investment is not living up to your expectations, don't abandon ship without surveying the investment waters. If you can find a better return somewhere else, perhaps you should seek that alternative. But if all similar investments are performing at about the same level, maybe you should hold on.

- Don't get too greedy. When the value of an investment is going up and up, well beyond your initial goal, it's hard to let go. You're tempted to squeeze every last drop from it. But is that possible? Is it practical? Remember, selling too early is still preferable to selling too late. If you insist on riding it

out, though, at least give yourself a limit on how far down you will let it drop before you sell.

Having a selling strategy is an important aspect of investing. Your individual strategy should be based on your particular needs and tolerance for risk.

That's why we offer our investment management services on a personal basis. We don't set up general guidelines for everyone and then follow them blindly. Rather, we sit down with each individual investor and map out a strategy that we both agree is reasonable and appropriate. Then, we constantly evaluate that strategy in light of the overall market and adjust it accordingly. If that sounds like the investment advice you've been seeking, why not give us a call. We're one investment you can count on no matter what else happens.

Provided by courtesy of John Dudley, a Financial Advisor with the investment firm First Union Securities in Dallas, TX. For more information, please call John Dudley at 214-740-3253. First Union Securities, Inc., Member New York Stock Exchange and SIPC and a separate, non-bank affiliate of First Union Corporation. 1999 First Union Securities, Inc.

Financial Focus: Stay the Course to Weather Today's Market

Last year, a relatively narrow band of stocks and stock sectors accounted for the overall performance of the market. People who invested in these stocks were quite pleased with the year-end results of their investments. Those who did not, were not.

On the bond front, the Federal Reserve's decision to raise interest rates three times last year took its toll on bond prices. As rates rose, bond prices fell.

For investors with available money, higher rates were good news as they looked in attractive rates on their long-term bonds. Those investors who already owned bonds, however, were less impressed as they watched their bond drop in value as rates rose.

Here are six timeless tips for investing in both the stock and bond market. Following these rules will help you survive any market environment.

1. Stay the Course

Once you've determined your long-term financial destination and have plotted a course to get there, it's vital to stay on track.

Hold your bonds until they mature. Declining bond prices can only hurt you if you sell your bonds early. If, instead, you hold them until they mature, the amount you originally invested will be returned. In addition, consider laddering the maturities of your bonds. Try investing in short-, intermediate- and long-term bonds; you'll be ready

for any interest-rate change. If rates rise, you'll soon have money available to take advantage of those higher rates. If rates fall, you'll have higher rates already locked in.

It's also important to retain the stocks you've chosen to help reach your long-term goals. Sell a stock only if your financial goals have changed, the stock no longer fits your long-term needs or the quality of the stock has changed.

2. Stay Invested

Don't get out of the market because the value of your stocks or bonds has changed. More people are hurt by not being in the market than by being in the market during a downturn.

3. Stay with Quality

When stock prices are down, it's an opportunity to buy quality companies at bargain prices. Look for stocks issued by companies with histories of solid growth. These stocks can survive market downturns and continue to grow in value. Quality stocks may not be the most glamorous exciting stocks, but their reliability makes their attractiveness timeless.

4. Stay Diversified

Reduce risk by spreading your investment dollars among a variety of fixed-income and growth investments. Stocks and bonds typically have an inverse relationship when it comes to performance. When stocks rise, bonds typically fall and vice versa. By owning both, you'll be well positioned no matter how

the market performs.

5. Stay Focused

When it comes to investing, long-term performance is what counts. Don't dwell on what happened last year. Instead, look ahead. If you are still on course to reach your long-term financial destination, a short-term detour is of little consequence.

6. Stay calm

Successful investors don't panic when their investments decline or when other investors sell to cut losses or take profits. Investment decisions should never be based on emotions. Rather, they should be based on long-term needs and goals.

To succeed at investing, you should be willing to make long-term commitments and stick with them. That's easy to do when the market is performing strongly and posting new records. It's a bit more difficult when the market or the value of your individual investments drop. By following these six timeless investment rules, you can stay on course during even the most turbulent market and reach your long-term financial goals as planned.

Provided by of Trem Hughes, Investment Representative with the investment firm Edward Jones in Dallas. For more information, please call Trem Hughes at 927-306-4960.

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Recruiting company provides top interview questions, tips

(PRNewswire) -- Recruiting season is upon us at college campuses nationwide. While job seekers can use the power of the Internet to thoroughly research prospective employers, their performance in an interview will make or break the chances for a job offer. By rehearsing interview questions, they can become better prepared to demonstrate how they can benefit an employer. **JOBTRAK.COM**, rated by *Forbes Magazine* as the best site for students and graduates looking for their first job or internship, has compiled a list of the top 15 interview questions from the country's leading employers, to help job seekers prepare for job interviews:

1. Tell me about yourself.
2. What do you know about our company?
3. Why do you want to work for us?
4. What unique qualities or abilities would you bring to this job?
5. What are your major strengths and weaknesses?
6. How long do you plan to stay at our company? Where do you see yourself in five years?
7. Tell me about a time that you failed at something, and what you did afterwards.
8. Describe a time when you worked on a team project. What was your relative position on the team? Were you satisfied with your contribution? How could it have

been better?

9. Why did you choose your school and course of study?

10. Think back to a situation in which there was a conflict you had to resolve. Tell me how you resolved that conflict.

11. Tell me about a project that you had either at work or school.

Describe in detail how you managed it and what was the outcome.

12. What do you do in your spare time?

13. What salary are you expecting?

14. What other types of jobs or companies are you considering?

15. Have you any questions for us?

The goal is to persuade the employer that the interviewee has the skills, background, and ability to do the job and can comfortably fit into his/her organization. The interview outcome can be strongly influenced by realizing an interview is not an objective process in which the employer offers the job to the best candidate based on merit alone. Instead, it is a highly subjective encounter in which the interviewer offers the job to the qualified person whom he/she likes best. Personality, confidence, enthusiasm, a positive outlook and excellent interpersonal and communication skills count heavily.

American Airlines Center "Topped Out"



Top Right: Mayor Kirk prepares to deliver the "play-by-play" commentary.

Top Left: A view of the American Airlines Center from the inside.

Lower Left and Right: Views of ongoing construction at the American Airlines Center.



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MON-The Gazette still the Paper of Choice

Change is a constant factor in our everyday lives. Throughout our 10-year history, at **MON-The Gazette**, we have realized the inevitability of change and viewed it as an opportunity to do new things, in new ways. In this regard, we are truly excited about the opportunities awaiting us as we serve the North Texas community.

We are committed to producing a publication with vital information but, shares opportunities that can materially improve our readers and their families' quality of life. We will cover such areas as education, business and commerce, sports (especially the involving youth), religion, health

and politics. We hope that our insight will be a reflection of our core readership.

To this end, we have created a community advisory board composed of involved and knowledgeable residents. In addition to our professional staff, this board will be our eyes and ears in the community to ensure that our coverage is both timely and relevant.

Ultimately, we want **MON-The Gazette** to be your newspaper of choice. We need your input to help us develop the paper to best reflect our readership. We commit our sincere interest to listen to your suggestions, and taking controversial positions, as appropriate, to move the community forward. We invite you to write and share your thoughts and opinions. We look forward to receiving your feedback on the quality and relevance of **MON-The Gazette**. Remember, it's your paper.



Public Kinship: Founded On Faith, Family And Freedom But Fractured

By Dr. Bobby W. Austin

(NNPA) -- Public kinship, founded on faith, family and freedom, is fractured and in danger of crumbling apart. The most important question facing each of us in the United States today is how do we bring wholeness to this fractured society. We know the answer is that we must heal our people, our families, our communities and our culture. But, how do we do that in the face of the blind and indiscriminate incarceration of men who are marginal, Black and uneducated.

Two great Americans help us answer this question. W.E.B. DuBois foreshadowed that the 20th century

would be concerned primarily with race and ethnicity. He was completely correct, from Colonialism to the Holocaust to the Civil Rights Movement.

Martin Luther King, as the moral leader of the later half of the century, answered when DuBois asked how people made marginal by European discoveries could come to grips with their dual natures within one body. King said we must move toward community and have the strength to love even when it is not convenient.

From these two great Americans I have shaped my vision of what it takes to bring wholeness to a fractured community. There are three questions that you

must ask yourself in order to arrive at your vision of wholeness. Who am I? Who are they? Who are we? The hardest question really is "Who am I."

For instance, I am an African American with both European and Native American ancestry, and I claim them all. I have found this to be the only way for me to deal with the duality of my multi-racial, multi-cultural political self. It is not a dodge. It is my reality as an American, and it makes me a quintessential American. Mixed.

Who are they? They are many types of people from all over the globe. They are my fellow American citizens and friends. We each believe in democracy, so we are publicly related. Our kinship grows out of our years of struggle, and with new immi-

See Kinship page 9

There's No Better Time Than Now to Be a Black Republican

By Carlton T. Pearson

For as long as I can remember, both sides of my family have been registered voters with the Democratic Party and unquestionably and often without thinking-voted the Democratic ticket.

But when Ronald Reagan was running for president in 1980-primarily because of his emphasis on moral and ethical integrity, and his conspicuous embrace of conservative concerns regarding faith in God and the church, I changed parties and voted Republican. I have done so ever since.

For the first several years after changing party affiliations, I was a "closet Republican," primarily because Republicans and their party platform have been considered the enemy of African-Americans and other minorities. The Democratic leadership knows that, for the most part, they have our vote, so they don't necessarily have to listen to us, and in many cases they don't. In my opinion, the "one-party system" for African-Americans has been our curse.

When I saw Vice President Al Gore pandering to the NAACP crowd, even emulating the stereotypical oratory of African-American preachers, my stomach turned. He and his liberal Democratic cronies assumed that if they played the music right, we'd dance to their tune. I was insulted by his presumption and disappointed by our gullibility. I wonder if Lee Alcorn, who resigned as president of the Dallas chapter of the NAACP after making anti-Semitic remarks about Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman, would

have been denounced as he was if Lieberman had been a Republican.

Yet while the majority of African-American leaders have career commitments to the Democrats, there is a small but growing number of black urban professionals ("buppies") who are reconsidering the long- and short-term benefits of our carte blanche commitment to the party's liberal agenda. Within the African-American community, there are some definite conservative instincts and inclinations. To those people, I would say: It's all right to be Black and Republican.

African-Americans are making more money, seizing more opportunities and accessing more power and influence than ever before. We've never before realized the powerful advantages of a capitalistic society. But after decades of strong, forceful and consistent civil rights activism and the continuing influence of the powerful and prophetic dreams of Martin Luther King, Jr. African-Americans-particularly the baby boom generation-are beginning to experience different options and political dispositions.

Some high-profile African-American commentators have denounced the Republican Party's attempt to include minorities in their convention, accusing them of "tokenistic" motives and of "air-brushing," their underlying disdain for interests that serve the African-American needs and concerns. I agree with American needs and concerns. I agree with Republican National Committee Chairman Jim Nicholson, however, when he

says that it was time for the party to start showing minorities that the GOP is becoming a "different party for a different time." Sure, there were more minorities on the Republican National Convention stage, than among the delegates on the floor, but you have to start somewhere. How could there be more minorities on the floor until there are minorities on the stage with whom they can identify? It is far more effective to address African-American concerns from within the party than from outside it. Gen. Colin Powell had much greater impact and influence on issues such as affirmative action and broadening the appeal to minority concerns during the Republican convention in Philadelphia than he would have had during the Democratic convention in Los Angeles.

As African-Americans, let's leverage our political options by removing the unspoken taboos associated with party affiliation. I think George W. Bush could be a powerful catalyst for change. This could be a great new start for the two-party system, especially as it relates to people of color. There is no better time to be a black Republican than now.

Bishop Carlton T. Pearson is the founder and pastor of Higher Dimensions, a multiracial church in Tulsa, Okla. He is the author of "Is There a Man in the House?" (Treasure House, 1999). For more information contact Vincent Young at (202) 986-0693.

Democratic Party should value Black vote

In 1998 the Joint Center for Political Studies, the pre-eminent Black think tank in Washington, DC, conducted a study of patterns and trends among African-American voters and developed several interesting findings. Among other points, their study reached the following conclusions:

From a national perspective in 1998:

- There was no decline in the Black share of the vote. Black share of the 1998 vote - 10% (same as 1994)

- Overall general population voter turnout declined: 1994 - 38.8%; 1998 - 36.1%

- Major reason for the national decline - 5 most populous states' turnout rates declined - California, Texas, New York, Florida, Pennsylvania

- Overall Black Voter Turnout Declined slightly over 1994 - the study linked the decline to the 5 most populous states-all with significant African-American populations

- Black voter turnout proved strategically effective in states where targeted efforts were undertaken to increase Black voter turnout.

The impact of this study sheds a particular light on the voter participation for African-

Americans in Texas. As the study suggests, it was our lower turnout in the last two national elections that reduced the percentage of national participation. This information carries a great message for the view the African-American vote receives by both of the major parties - namely, that one party can take us for granted, and the other is betting on us not voting.

This conclusion is more than just an assumption on our part. Take, for example, the experience of the African-American newspaper publishers with the Texas Democratic Party. As is the case across the country, there is a general assumption that, given historic trends and assumed preferences, that the African-American community will, support the Democratic Party ticket. Previous elections have largely shown this to be a correct assumption. Unfortunately, in light of lower voter turnout, the need is even greater now than ever before for the Democrats to do all they possibly can increase the Black vote. Across the board, the Texas African-American press is being stymied in its attempts to foster a closer working relationship with the Democratic Party - telephone

calls are not returned by party officials, limited political ad placements are provided in the African-American media, and to add insult to injury, a number of the African-American publications in Texas are still owed large sums from the failed gubernatorial campaign of Democrat Gary Mauro of several years ago. While this will not probably be the last bad debt that these businesses experience, the larger question involves the implicit statement of disrespect the Democrats show towards the African-American voters of Texas. The Democrats would be wise to note that Governor George Bush received 27 percent of the Black vote in his last election. (By the way, Governor Bush did buy ads in the Black press and paid his bills when they were due.)

The good news of the study is that, in those states where there was a strategic and concentrated effort to get Blacks to the polls, our vote made a clear and positive difference. This could be the case again in 2000. The apparently "unknown" factor is which party wants our support. We are still waiting to see.

Inspiration



Ron Shaw

What are You Prepared For? 2 Timothy 2:21

Several days ago I sat talking with a young man about his marriage plans. I asked a question that seemed to puzzle him. As I thought about the question, it didn't seem unreasonable or difficult to answer. Yet he seemed unsure how to answer it. The question was simple. Are you prepared to be this woman's husband? His reply was, "what do you mean?" So I asked him several other questions to help him get a better understanding.

It reminded me of several years ago when I bought my son his first car. Before I had informed him that I had already purchased the car, I sat him down and began to talk to him about the responsibilities of owning a car. I talked to him on several occasions about his driving habits and insurance. I cautioned him about the kind of people he should not let ride in his car. The reason I did that was not because I didn't want him to have one. It was because I had already purchased the car for him and I needed to prepare him so that what I intended to be a blessing to him would not end up being a curse. Without proper preparation, he could have destroyed not only himself, but others as well.

The reason God deals with us so strictly is not because He doesn't want us to have or enjoy anything, but rather that what He has already purchased for us would be the blessing he intends for it to be. Prosperity must be prepared for. Marriage must be prepared for. Physical health must be prepared for. One little elderly woman once told me, "if I had known I was going to live this long, I would have prepared better."

Our text says that, "If a man cleanses himself from some things, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and pre-

pared to do any good work."

I remember in school our teacher would sometimes walk into the classroom and announce a pop quiz. Sometimes I was prepared to take it and other times I wasn't. I decided that I was never going to be prepared to fail ever again. I'm not prepared to fail at anything. When it comes to relationships, I'm not prepared to fail. When it comes to my money, I'm not prepared to fail. When it comes to living out God's purpose for my life, I'm not prepared to fail.

We are in the midst of a presidential campaign. It's amazing how much time is spent in preparing a man to be the president. There's a certain way he's expected to conduct himself. There's a certain way his family is expected to act. There are orientation sessions and preparatory sessions that they are taken through so they will be prepared to be the president. What would happen if every man who is planning to be a husband were taken through a rigorous preparation process so that he would be fit to be the husband of a queen? Or what would happen if a woman who is planning to be a wife were taken through extensive training sessions to prepare her to be the wife of a king?

I have friends who just built a million dollar home. After it was completed, the contractor spent several sessions with them showing them how to care for the beautiful home. He took them through the operation of all the appliances and amenities. He showed them how the pool worked with the cascading Jacuzzi. He showed them how the security system and the special lighting worked.

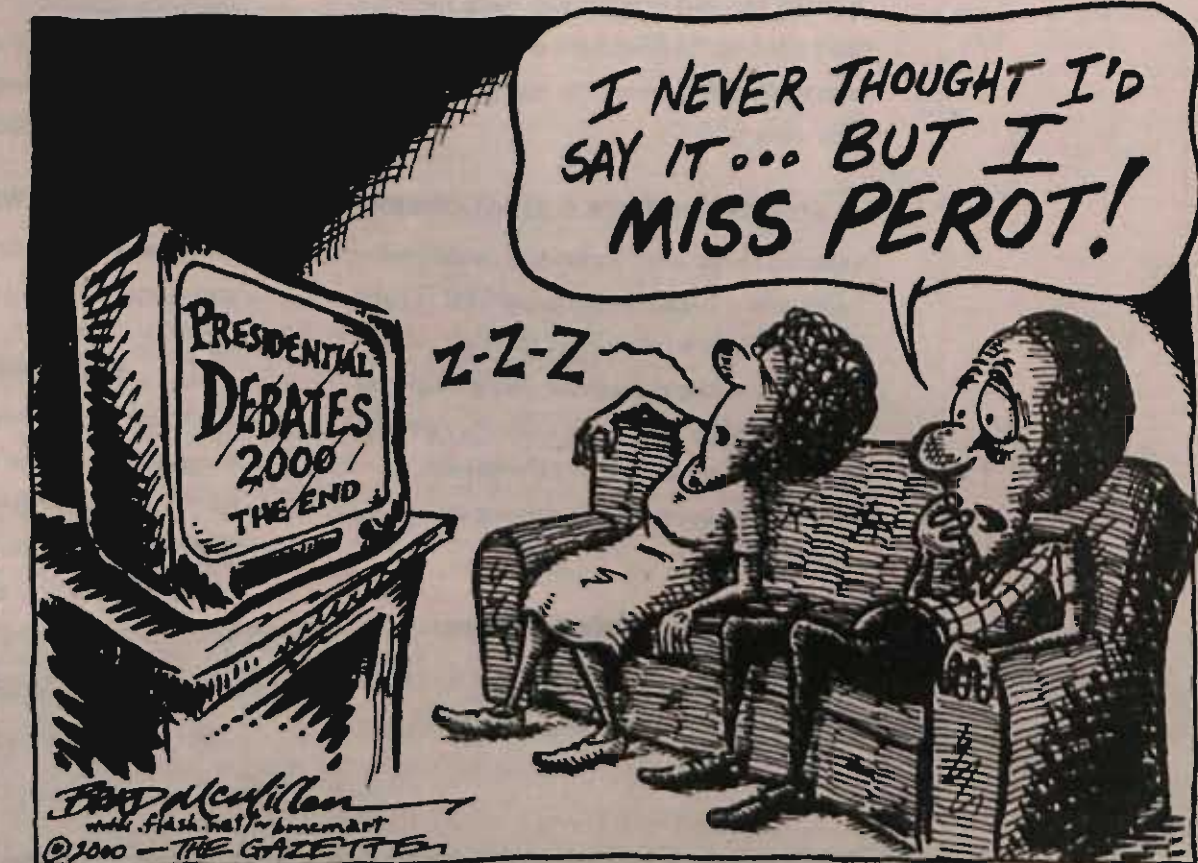
He took the maid through the same process. It was all because the contractor wanted them to get the full enjoyment

from their investment.

What are you prepared for? Let me give you a few suggestions to help you. First, decide where God wants you to go in life. It's hard to prepare for a trip when you don't know where you're going. Second, find out what it's going to require for you to get there. What skills will you need? What equipment will you need? What training will be needed? Third, find out what will be required to maintain your position. When I bought my first luxury automobile, I knew what was needed to get maintain it. I found out, there's more to owning a luxury vehicle than just driving it. It gave me great pleasure to operate that car. But if it was going to keep me happy, I had to do some things.

Are you prepared to be of use to God for every good work He desires to use you to accomplish? What are you doing to get ready for the position He wants you to stand in?

There are three areas of your life I want to encourage you to spend time preparing for so that what He intends to bless you, won't be a curse. Preparation in the area of your actions. Our text says we must cut away some things. Train yourself to do the right things. Preparation in the area of your attitude. Train yourself to think properly. Spend time mentally preparing yourself for where He's taking you. Your attitude must constantly be under construction if we are going to be like Him. And finally, preparation in the area of your assets. Not only must you do the right things, and think the right way, but also you must have the right equipment. Even the most skilled carpenter can't build a house with just know-how. He must have tools. What are you prepared for?



To submit a letter to the editor:

Send all correspondence to MON-The Gazette
Letters to the Editor
6100 Avenue K, Suite 105
Piano, TX 75074

Wellness Briefs

Patients wanted for UT Southwestern clinical trials

Patients are needed to participate in medical studies for three UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas trials. Smokers between ages 45 and 70 are needed for a Lung Screening Program. Asian-Indian descendants or non-Hispanic Caucasians may apply for and Insulin Resistance study. And, male and female between 18 and 70 with a history of depression are needed for a Depression study. For more information call 214-648-1989, 214-648-8367 and 214-648-5351, respectively.

Caffeine may reduce Parkinson's risk

New evidence supports the idea that people who consume one to three cups of coffee or other caffeinated beverages daily have a decreased risk of developing Parkinson's disease. The Harvard School of Public Health says it is too early to make any decisions based on these findings. They also found evidence that people who consumed more than three cups of caffeinated beverages daily had the same risk of Parkinson's disease as those who consumed little or no caffeine.

Music can encourage Alzheimer's patients to eat

Recent study findings suggest that music can motivate Alzheimer's patients to eat more. Elderly people with dementia often forget to eat, leaving them with inadequate energy and nutrients to stave off disease. Results of tests done in nursing homes revealed that adults consumed 20% more calories when background music was played. Also socialization increased and staff seemed to relate better to residents.

Americans, particularly smokers, lack vitamin C

An American Dietetic Association meeting revealed that many Americans are deficient in the vitamin shown to fight off colds and lower the risk of disease. Studies show that smokers and middle-aged men are at greatest risk of vitamin C deficiency, making them vulnerable to infections and fatigue. When vitamin C is used to destroy free radicals in cigarette smoke, it is less effective at combating free radicals that may increase the risk of other diseases. And, smokers tend to make less-healthy dietary choices, which may explain their lower blood levels of vitamin C.

Sounds may prime sense of sight

Researchers at the University of California at San Diego report that people were more accurate at detecting a flash of light when a sound was produced at the same location immediately before the light was flashed. Researchers also noted that the relationship between sight and sound could affect the way we look at people with attention disorders, who were traditionally lumped together as having attention problems. With the new findings the problem may stem from hearing or sight deficits.

Watch out for deadly diseases while out hunting and hiking

Fall is on its way and with it, hunting season. Thousands of Texas hunters will take to the woods and fields to hunt deer, doves and other animals, and they won't be alone. Millions of critters that can carry diseases will be out there too, according to the Texas Department of Health (TDH).

Hunters, campers and hikers have a greater risk of exposure to diseases transmitted by ticks, fleas and mosquitoes, many of which begin with flu-like symptoms such as fever, chills, headache and body aches. However, symptoms can worsen quickly and affect various systems of the body. For instance, in Lyme disease, which is the most frequently diagnosed tick-borne problem in the U.S., there may be skin lesions or rashes and, if left untreated, severe damage to the joints, heart and nervous system. Both Rocky Mountain spotted fever and human ehrlichiosis, also spread by infected ticks, can

create a measles-like rash and can be fatal if not treated quickly. Exposure to the bacteria that causes tularemia, yet another tick-borne disease, can also occur by handling carcasses of wild rabbits.

Plague, common in wild rodent populations of West Texas, is transmitted to people by fleas or by direct contact with infected animals such as prairie dogs, squirrels, cats, rats and mice. This dreaded disease can include the presence of painful, swollen lymph nodes. Unless adequate medical treatment is sought quickly, death may result.

Encephalitis is an infection of the central nervous system that may be caused by one of several mosquito-borne viruses. Those who have more severe forms of the disease may have intense headaches, high fever, nausea, muscle tenderness, partial or nearly complete unconsciousness and even coma.

The best way to avoid getting these diseases is to protect

yourself from insect bites - Use insect repellent containing DEET or permethrin (follow package directions).

- Stay on trails and avoid areas of overgrown brush and tall grasses

- Wear protective clothing such as a hat, long-sleeved shirt and long pants tucked into boots or socks

- Wear light-colored clothes to easily spot ticks.

- If you're in an area with ticks, check your body carefully for them every few hours. Ticks are small, easy to miss and will attach to any part of the body from head to toe, so look carefully.

Infected rodents such as rats and mice spread Hantavirus infection to people. A rodent may have the virus in its droppings, urine and saliva; from here, the virus can spread in the air on dust particles. "You can become infected by inhaling dust that contains the virus," said Bradley Hicks, a wildlife biologist with TDH's Zoonosis

Control Division. "Cleaning cabins, sheds or barns without a mask and having outdoor hobbies such as camping, hiking or hunting can increase your chances of coming in contact with hantavirus." As with all the diseases mentioned previously, early symptoms are much like those of flu. The disease may lead to extreme difficulty with breathing, possibly followed by death. Patients may receive relief through supportive treatment, but antibiotics will not cure a hantavirus infection.

Deer hunters need to be aware that deer can share the bacterium that causes anthrax in people. Likewise, feral hogs can carry brucellosis. Care should be taken when handling wild animal carcasses, including wearing latex gloves when field dressing those animals.

Rabies is another deadly disease shared by animals and humans. Rabies is a viral infection of the nervous system that may affect almost any warm-blooded animal. "It is impossi-

ble to tell by looking at an animal whether it is infected with rabies, so avoid contact with any wild animals. Especially do not try to assist injured animals or touch dead ones," warns Guy Moore, a TDH wildlife biologist. "If you need assistance, contact a game warden, a park employee, or an animal control or law enforcement officer."

This disease is present in many wild animal populations in Texas, especially skunks, bats, raccoons, coyotes and foxes. Humans usually are infected through a bite by a rabid animal, which is why you should consult with a physician if any animal bites you.

So, exercise some precautions when out hiking, camping or hunting, and chances are you will be safe when enjoying the outdoors.

For more information visit the TDH Zoonosis Web site at: www.tdh.state.tx.us/zoonosis.

Pathways to Better Health
Managing Stress — A Juggling Act

Women today hold so many roles that the number of balls in the air at any one time can be overwhelming. We are raising children, caring for elderly parents, holding down demanding jobs, keeping homes in order, pursuing degrees or second jobs, and volunteering at schools and places of worship. We are so many things to so many people, and too often stress takes its toll on our lives—physically, mentally, and emotionally.

The dangers of unmanaged stress are significant. Studies show that 43 percent of adults suffer adverse health effects from stress, and 75 percent of all physician visits are related to stress-related complaints. Stress can bring on symptoms that mimic a heart attack, depression, or anxiety. It can also lead to serious illnesses and health problems, including high blood pressure and ulcers.

On the flip side, stress can have a positive impact on our lives. It can fuel our energy and make us more productive. It can motivate us to overcome obstacles, face our fears, and achieve our goals. "Excessive stress can have a negative effect on women's lives," says Tanya Ozor, National Director of the Spirit of Women, a nonprofit group of hospital systems dedicated to empowering women. "But by tapping into effective coping skills, like exercise, and drawing support from healthy relationships, women can learn to handle stress and even use the energy generated by stress to their life's advantage."

How stress impacts our lives—whether it is positively or negatively—is a consequence of how we manage it. Here are some tips to keep stress under control, and make sure its effects don't weigh us down.

Trust the abilities of your children: Caring for children is more than a full-time job. As kids grow, hand over some of

your chores. By doing so, you will ease your load and teach them responsibility at the same time. Maybe they can make their own lunches. Certainly older children can help around the house and pick out their own school outfits. Encourage cooperation and self-reliance. Everybody wins!

Decrease your anxiety at work: An estimated 1 million workers are absent on an average workday because of stress. Overseeing boring or lonely work, having little control over your schedule and tasks, and enduring excessive demands all put a strain on workers and create dangerous stress. Talk to your supervisor about possible solutions—or think about finding a new job where the stress level is not so high. If you do speak to your boss, come prepared with innovative solutions.

If you are caring for an elderly parent, ask for a hand! And if the assistance of other family members, friends, and neighbors isn't enough, see if outside help is available. Even for those of limited income, your Area Agency on Aging may be able to provide home health aide services, transportation, home-delivered meals, chore and home repair, and legal assistance. Give them a call.

Get out! Spend that nervous energy in positive ways—exercise with friends, join a class, take a day to yourself. Figure out what "stress buster" is best for you, and then go to it. When you put yourself first, some of the stress will fade, and everyone will benefit from a revived you!

Pick Your Path to Health is a national public health campaign sponsored by the Office on Women's Health within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For other tips on improving your health, or for more information on the Pick Your Path to Health campaign, call 1-800-994-WOMAN or visit the Web site at www.4uswoman.gov.

DEPRESSED AGAIN?

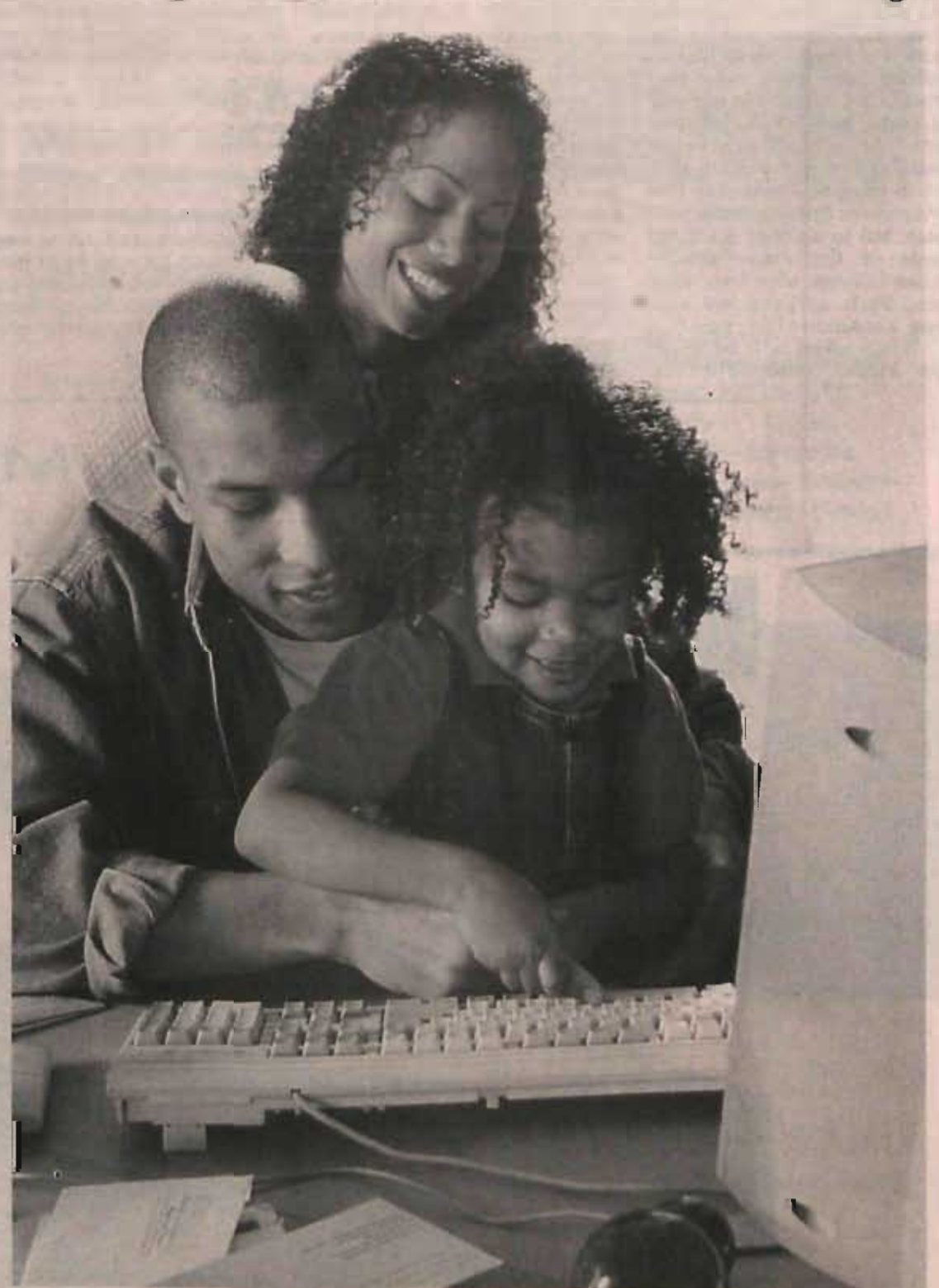
The Department of Psychiatry at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas is conducting research sponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health on cognitive therapy for depression. Treatment is free. The symptoms of depression include:

- 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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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2000

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Every day, banks and businesses report unclaimed cash and valuables to the state—uncashed checks or refunds, forgotten bank accounts, jewelry and other abandoned contents of safe deposit boxes.

Each year, in an effort to return unclaimed assets to the rightful owners, we insert a list of recently reported properties in 6 weekly and 33 daily newspapers across the state.

One time just year, we have returned more than \$49 million in unclaimed property—but more than \$786 million remains unclaimed. On Sunday, October 22, newspapers will insert the latest edition of the Unclaimed Property List of lost owners. Pick up a newspaper carrying the Unclaimed Property List and look for your name, business name, and the names of your relatives.

If you find your name on the Unclaimed Property List, give us a call, drop us a line, or visit our Web site, and we will reimburse you with your abandoned property.

Call us toll-free at 1-800-654-3463 or our direct line at 512-463-3120.

Or write to: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, Unclaimed Property Research and Correspondence Section, Post Office Box 12019, Austin, Texas 78711-2019.

Or visit our Web site at <http://www.window.state.tx.us/up/>.

Carole Keeton Rylander
Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

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The Republican Hopeful

(NNPA) - Last fall, Governor George W. Bush was often derided by both the people and the press for having the gall to think he could be president. "Not the sharpest knife in the drawer," some said. "Is he smart enough?" the headlines asked. And all that before the much-maligned visit to Bob Jones University, his mockery of a woman awaiting execution in Texas or the pop quiz on world leaders he so publicly failed. But because of his prolific fund-raising ability and personable demeanor, Republicans adopted a wait-and-see attitude.

Fast forward to summer 2000. Bush handily wiped out the competition for his party's nomination and co-opted the Democrats' playbook by putting a Republican spin on traditionally liberal issues at the August convention in Philadelphia. Education? Health Care? Housing? This was not your daddy's GOP—or papa Bush's either.

By the time Democrats descended on Los Angeles for their convention, Bush was several points ahead of Vice President Al Gore in a number of polls, and more popular among important constituencies like women and independent voters.

Who would have thunk it? Suddenly seeking "the center."

Bush may be much smarter than initially believed. He may not know who the head of Burundi is, but he has learned that the center is where elections are won. In today's political environment, Republicans and Democratic office seekers must not only appeal to those who share their ideological views, but also to members from the far right or left to the center of the party. It's a strategy President Bill Clinton employed during his re-election campaign in 1995, now popularly referred to as triangulation. Bush prefers to call it compassionate conservatism, but what does that mean exactly?

Dr. Ron Walters, a political scientist at the University of Maryland, believes compassionate conservatism is an oxymoron. "There's no way you can be truly compassionate to people and not give them the resources they need," he says.

Kevin Fobbs, first vice chairman of Michigan's Republican state committee and also an African American, disagrees. "For me and for the party it is being able to look at policies and programs that actually work and do not end up being just Band-Aid solutions," he says. "Conservative meaning not just putting dollars to programs to ensure that government bureaucracies continue, but to actually meet the needs of the entire family. Unlike Clinton who feels your pain, Bush as president will bring a solution to the pain."

When asked how he imagines black communities in

Texas would describe their relationship with him, Bush exhibits a measure of pride. "As governor of Texas, I've worked hard to represent all Texans by setting a positive and inclusive tone. My education record exemplifies this effort. I have proudly appointed hundreds of African Americans to major state boards and commissions," he replies. "During my campaign for president, I have embarked upon an unprecedented effort to attract new faces and new voices to the Republican Party. I believe my inclusive, compassionate conservative message is resonating with hard-



working, family oriented and entrepreneurial African Americans across the country."

Darryl King, a Texas entrepreneur who also serves on the state's Coastal Water Authority, has nothing but praise for Bush. Although he disagrees with the governor on affirmative action and abortion, "I believe he is truly unbiased," says King. "When you meet him, it is very, very difficult not to like him because he's an affable guy. He's not afraid to give you the brother handshake or a hug." King, who owns a restaurant and food service business, says the general consensus is "he's been good for Texas and will probably be a good president."

The battleground on education

Throughout much of the campaign, Bush has made his record on education in Texas a major theme. "I believe that educating our children is the most important thing we will ever do and we must get it right," he says. "We will never be the nation we should be until every child in America is educated and no child is left behind." Bush's plan to improve the nation's public school systems involves requiring states to issue school-by-school report cards; doubling the number of charter schools to ensure greater choice; and increasing to \$5,000 the tax-free amount parents can save each year to cover educational expenses. Bush is also in favor of voucher programs that would allow parents to use taxpayer dollars to educate their children in private schools.

According to Bush, education reform must include a rigorous accountability system that includes high academic standards in core subject areas, testing for all students, and a system of rewards and consequences for schools based on improved student performance. "A commitment to improving student performance requires a commitment to measuring student performance and Texas is leading the way," claims Bush. "Over the past seven years, the passing rates for African American and Hispanic students on the statewide academic skills exam have increased 116 and 85 per-

cent, respectively."

That kind of talk just gets on Sarah Gibbs's nerves. She was a math teacher from 1952 until her retirement eight years ago, and is still very active in Houston's public school system. "Things are horrible," she reports. "And you can easily tell the minority schools from [white] schools." In addition to crumbling buildings, Gibbs is distressed by the lack of resources found in white schools, such as adequate supplies of books and technology, qualified teachers, and specialized math and science instructors.

Will affirmative action be accepted?

Bush also has a conservative, compassionate theory on affirmative action, called affirmative access. "I understand that equal access doesn't guarantee equal results, but it does guarantee that every person will get a fair opportunity based on their potential and their merit," he says. "Every individual deserves the chance to succeed or fail depending on his or her abilities."

Sounds good, but will it play within his party? This is a point on which advocate Darryl King must disagree. "I believe he believes in affirmative access and that's a pretty interesting policy," he says. "But I don't know if it will be effective. At least you're able to discuss it with him and I think you can find a middle ground, as opposed to [people like] the far right Sen. Phil Graham (R-Tex.) who have no idea what affirmative action means to African Americans and could care less."

According to Bush, under his leadership Texas's hate crime laws have been strengthened. "I do not tolerate prejudice or bigotry against any group. The best way to protect the innocent is swift and sure punishment for all criminals," he says. He also believes federal and state governments must be vigilant in combating racial profiling. If he means this, Walters believes he should have no problems getting any federal legislation passed. It's one of those "kinder, gentler" issues that don't involve providing any resources. But, he cautions, "it's one thing to pass a law against the principle," and without strict guidelines, racial profiling will continue.

"I'm a proud member of the Party of Lincoln and I will aggressively take my message to every American of every race in every neighborhood," says Bush. "I'm fighting for every single vote because I believe that my hopeful, optimistic message is right for every single voter. It is critical for the Republican Party to broaden its base, and this will be a priority for my campaign."

As Bush and Gore begin gearing up for a series of presidential debates, questions may once again arise about Bush's preparedness to run the country.

The Democratic Contender

(NNPA) - Democrats all over the country are breathing a sigh of relief. Since telling the world "I am my own man," it seems Vice President Al Gore is now "the man"—a true contender in the race to the White House—at last.

What took him so long?

For several months preceding the successful Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles, the name "Al Gore" was synonymous with many things (boring, wooden, wonky, to name a few); but "presidential" was rarely on the list. And, although there was never a question that he is a more seasoned politician than his rival Gov. George W. Bush, why, his party wondered, was he performing so abysmally on the campaign trail?

Part of the problem was his struggle to distinguish himself from President Bill Clinton. Despite a constant stream of alleged scandals and sexual peccadilloes, there is always an undeniable magic in the air whenever "Slick Willy" is around. But more important, the Clinton administration can claim major victories such as unprecedented economic highs and unemployment lows. Al Gore played a major role in all that, but none of the magic rubbed off on him. Instead, he was spent a lot of time denying a taint of impropriety.

In the week before the Los Angeles convention, when Gore trailed in the polls by 10 or more points, he named Connecticut Senator Joe

Lieberman as his running mate. The announcement, considered bold by some, brought Gore more to the center and provided cover against the morality issue.

He must now distinguish himself from Gov. Bush. "There is a fight now. The polls are more even," says Howard University political scientist Alvin Thornton. "And Gore appears to be flexible, agile—and kissable."

Winning over working people and families

One way in which he has worked to distinguish himself is his concern for working people and families. The vice president knows that education is one of their major concerns and, like his opponent, has made the issue a large part of his message. So, where does he stand?

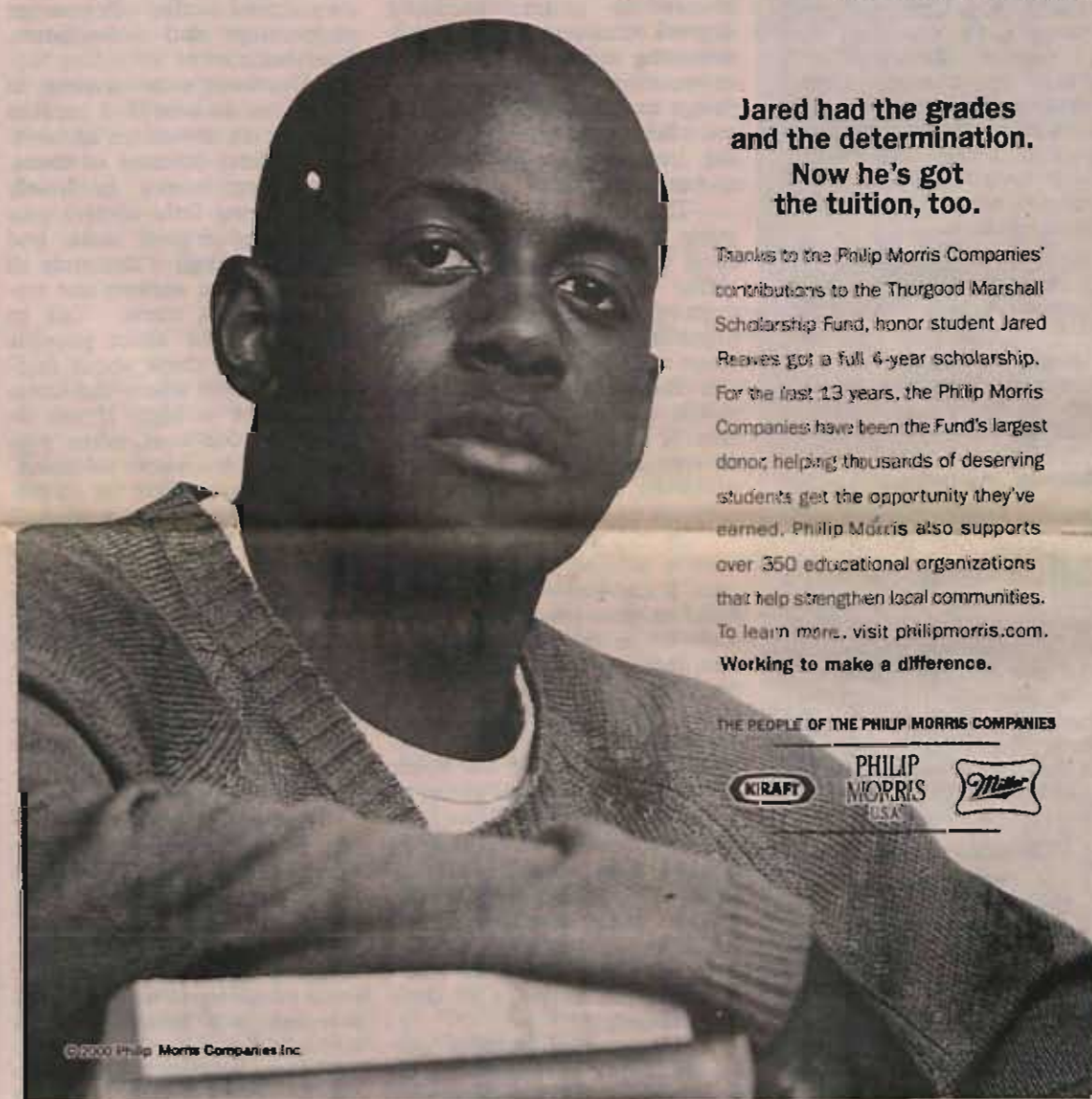
"Gore wants to invest wholesale in the infrastructure all the way down to the local level, helping school systems rebuild their buildings, reduce class size, hire and retain teachers," Thornton says. "The Republican approach, as it always has been, is to provide, at best, block grants to states and the states will decide how to use those moneys." The Democratic Party, he adds, believes there should be a "national floor under which no child or school district should be allowed to fall, and the federal government ought to play

a role in that."

How the national surplus should be spent is another area in which Gore and Bush fundamentally differ. Gore has often called many of his opponent's economic ideas risky, particularly his individual investment account program for Social Security. "Bush proposes to divert 16 percent of the trust fund moneys into the stock market. I think that is a mistake," charges Gore. "Instead, I want to protect Social Security and then give a very generous new tax incentive to encourage savings on top of social security so individuals who have found it difficult to save in the past will get a monetary benefit from doing so and the lower and low middle income groups will get the largest incentives. Those are the groups we know need to make the most gains." He is also against any tax cuts for the rich.

William Spriggs, policy and research director of the Washington Urban League also has problems with Bush's plans. "How do you finance that?" he asks. "You say there's a \$2.3 trillion Social Security surplus and most be locked away for only Social Security. So now when you take the money out for these individual accounts, then you don't have a \$2.3 trillion surplus. He'd have to figure some way of getting it back in and needs smoke and mirrors to explain how he makes up for the money that people are taking out of the sys-

See CONTENDER page 8



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OVERVIEW from page 1

off than they were eight years ago, the answer is a resounding "Yes!" We are a long way from the days when we were afraid to enter a voting booth, but at the same time, our voting and political activism has leveled off. Has a little prosperity dulled our appetite for more?

We've come a long way, baby, but still have a long, long way to go.

New horizons in a new millennium

The United States is poised to elect a new president in the first century of an untouched millennium. It will also vote for 435 members in the U.S. House of Representatives, one-third of the U.S. Senate and hundreds of state and local officials. Black members of Congress are poised to head some of the House's most powerful committees, like Ways and Means, which controls much of the nation's spending, and Judiciary, which deals with law enforcement issues. In addition, 19 black members may also soon head major subcommittees.

All of these legislators, black, white, Republican, and Democratic, are the people who will decide issues that impact every American, such as Social Security, health care, gun control. The next president will name three or four new U.S. Supreme Court justices. The people who fill those robes may make decisions on issues near and dear to African-American hearts: affirmative action, racial profiling, police brutality, driving while black.

"Voting is the way we make a lot of things happen in this country," says Eddie Williams, president of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a black think tank in Washington, DC. "It is the one way individuals can participate in the governance of our society. It is the way we elect people to represent us and, in effect, tell those people what we want. When we don't vote, we allow those who do to have more

influence."

Alvin Williams, executive director of Black America's Political Action Committee (BAMPAC), a conservative organization also located in Washington, seconds that emotion. "Taking the vote for granted could be very, very impactful. If you stand on the sidelines and don't participate by vote or voice, candidates may only listen to those who got them elected. If you're not part of that, you may feel ignored or outside of the process," he says. "We have a participatory process from citizen to elected official and vice versa. Some people vote and leave it at that and say that's where I get off, but it is also our responsibility to trace their behavior to ensure they are representing our needs."

The Joint Center's Williams also believes the process has just begun once you vote. "You can't go home and say, 'Okay, now I expect only good things.'" You've got to make your views known to the public and the people we elect. That means writing and calling and otherwise

making your views known," he advises. "And when officials don't respond, it doesn't matter what color they are or what gender they are—when they are not responsive to our needs, we have a right and a responsibility to change officials, to get rid of them."

In addition to using their voice and their vote, African-Americans must also put their money where their mouths are, counsels Dr. Ron Walters, a political scientist at the University of Maryland. "In the months leading up to November, many candidates have faced charges from their opponents of being bought by special interest groups such as the National Rifle Association and organized labor unions. People and groups that make political contributions 'are in a position to bargain.' Even if you can give only \$25 or \$50, don't forget that every bit counts. It

not only sends the signal that the two parties cannot take your vote for granted or write it off, but provides valuable support to the candidates you wish to see in office. "We have to support our candidates with our deeds and by giving them money to run. You can't let the special interests be the only ones that give them money," adds Eddie Williams.

Even in prosperity, critical issues remain

This year's race for the White House is particularly important for a number of reasons. Continuing economic prosperity, education, Social Security and law enforcement are a few of the hot-button issues that are especially critical to the future security of our community. As the nation's baby boomers prepare for retirement, the Social Security system is in danger of running out of funds. "It is our biggest government program, even larger than the defense program," warns Alvin Williams. "How we handle that will be absolutely crucial for the overall financial health to our government."

The state of the country's public school system is also crucial to that health. With an increasingly global economy, everyone must be prepared to compete with people from all over the world. "Unfortunately, whatever national trend is adversely impacting Americans is always worse for African-Americans. Many schools in inner cities are not performing up to par. And as we are compared and contrasted to other nations, we're not performing."

That is why it is so important to not only care about these issues, but also to choose and support the candidate who has a greatest ability to improve and secure these systems. "We want to make sure that someone is in office who will continue the economic prosperity and ensure that that prosperity moves down to those in the rank and file, those who are eking out a living everyday," says the Joint Center's Williams. "Despite the booming economy, it has not reached all of our people and we need to see that there is a better job done to do that."

If you believe your one voice or vote does not count, think again. For the first time in many

years, the two presidential candidates are on more equal footing. There are several key battleground states where black voter turnout can make a significant difference. They can also use the opportunity to make more local changes in their own communi-

ties. "There is too much at stake," continues Williams. "You've got to listen to what candidates are talking about and look past their behavior. Listen to the things they're promising to do in order to have a sense of where they are likely to take this

country and respond to the issues that we care about. Lift every voice and vote. Be counted, and more important, be heard.



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We Know What Works

Good schools are created by investment and involvement, not vouchers.

Right now, a fierce campaign is being waged to convince Americans that the quick fix of vouchers is the only way to give some children a solid education. Voucher supporters argue that low-income families should be able to send their children to private schools just like the more affluent.

The idea sounds good to some people: give taxpayer dollars to children so they can attend a private or parochial school of their choice. Many supporters of this idea are working overtime to sell this scheme to African-Americans and other minorities.

Don't believe the hype. Although supporters claim that vouchers offer "school choice," the only real choice is for the private school admissions committees. Private schools choose which kids attend—and they have limited enrollments and long waiting lists. Unlike public schools, they're not required to accept children regardless of background, ability, or special needs.

Vouchers offer a small number of students the possibility of a private school education—that's it. They're lottery tickets, not investments in our schools or neighborhoods. In fact, voucher plans currently on the ballots in California and Michigan would subsidize families who can already afford private school. In California, vouchers would give \$3.3 billion to 650,000 children already enrolled in private schools before public school students even receive a dime.

Voucher supporters claim their programs will "rescue" poor and minority communities by "opening up the market" for "competition." But for decades, businesses have avoided investing in inner city areas like Bed-Stuy, Watts, or Cabrini Green. These are neighborhoods that don't have a decent supermarket, pharmacy, or bank. They don't have doctors' offices. They're neighborhoods where you've got to take a bus or a taxi just to get groceries. So how likely is it that developers will come to these areas, stay for the long haul, and invest money in thousands of private schools serving underprivileged children? And how likely is it that these new private schools will be top-notch—when private schools are accountable to no one?

Real education reform lies not in giving a few low-income kids money for private school, but in making sure that all children have a good public school right in their own neighborhood. This is real school choice. And it's not an impossible dream. We already know what works.

Every single person reading this article knows what a good school looks like. You know that it doesn't matter whether a school is public or private. The best schools all have the same qualities:

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- High standards and a challenging curriculum.
- Parental involvement.
- Quality infrastructure and ample resources.

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"Great schools—every child deserves one!"

These are the things that we know work in education—the hallmarks of a top-notch school.

So the task before us is not to figure out what works, but to make sure that all schools have these things in place. If suburban public schools are as good as suburban private schools, why can't inner city public schools be equally good, too?

We've got to communicate this whenever someone says that public schools are failing or that vouchers are the answer. We've got to remind folks that the ultimate question is not, "How can we give a few underprivileged children access to private school?" but "How can we give all children a good public school?"

We've got to make sure that the neediest kids get the help they need to succeed—that they're pushed, not punished—that they're endorsed, not insulted—that they're enabled, not abandoned.

This is our dream. This is our mission. All children should be able to attend a good public school right in their own neighborhood, where they receive individual attention from a caring teacher, where they have a place to sit and the textbooks they need, where parents are involved, and the buildings are clean and safe.

This is our goal. It's not impossible! It's the way things should be and can be. Together we can make it happen. If not us, who—if not now, when?

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CONTENDER from page 6

tem." Given the size of Bush's tax cut, there will be no money to put back into the system. "He has to cut benefits or he's not going to have a tax cut. There's not enough money on the table."

Over the next two years, Gore would plan a \$1 increase in the minimum wage, which he says would benefit 1.3 million African Americans. He also plans to expand the amount of earned income credit that goes to families with three or more children. "I believe that wages should reflect the needs of each individual household, including the number of members and wage earners in each household. The Earned Income Credit gives a tax break to low-income workers based on family size and wage earners, and is a great way to target tax relief for families who need it." His number one priority, he says, is to make certain the nation keeps its prosperity going and the economy growing "to create good jobs, not just for the few but for all of our people."

Reaching out to African Americans

Gore also differs with Bush on issues that target African Americans such as affirmative action. "I strongly support affirmative action and think it is still needed," he says. Despite the conviction with which he declares his support, many people were left wondering after he chose Lieberman as his running mate. Some members of the Congressional Black Caucus and other African Americans questioned his views on affirmative action. Hogwash, says CBC chairman, South Carolina's Rep. Jim Clyburn. "The best way to tell what a person will do is to look at what he or she has done," he charges, citing Lieberman's work as a young college student on voting and other issues during the civil rights era.

At the NAACP's national convention this past summer, Gore took a stand on racial profiling and has also spoken out against hate crimes. "Talk doesn't cost much," he said. "The true test is joining our battle to ban racial profiling, speaking

out and acting. As president, I will end racial profiling in the United States of America. I'll work to bring all of our people together." According to his campaign, Gore has also been a strong supporter of hate crimes legislation. As a senator, he co-sponsored legislation that would document and identify when and where hate crimes occurred, and as vice president, he fought for the 1994 Crime Bill which included the hate crimes sentencing enhancement Act, increasing sentences by about one-third.

"This is, even with the Republicans, one of those kinder, gentler things you can do without giving away a lot of resources," says University of Maryland political scientist Ron Walters. With regard to racial profiling, he adds, "Gore will be able to get a law passed, but the question is what. It's one thing to pass a law against the principle, but unless you have something like, each year states have to do a do a statistical count of people who have been stopped and the racial factor, [racial profiling] will continue."

Walters believes that Gore's approach to these and other issues that concern black Americans would be very similar to the Clinton administration's. "It will be pretty much the same. I don't think we can mess with affirmative action anymore other than to end it," he says. "The Clinton administration weakened it because of the courts, so he adjusted it so it would still be legal."

The conventional wisdom among political pundits is that a Gore administration would provide the nation with pretty much "more of the same," minus the scandals, it is hoped. I think Gore will try to follow a lot of the Clinton mode in terms of style of governance. He will be consultative but will want to make the final decision and will be much like Bill Clinton in terms of knowledge of detail," says Walters. In the end, it's a battle for the middle. "I think Gore will win that battle," predicts Thornton.

The 2000 Presidential Debates – Snapshots, not the full picture

As one would suspect, media coverage of the upcoming presidential election is dominating the airwaves and the news. Clearly, the selection of the future leader of our country warrants much thoughtful consideration. It is in the midst of this discussion and coverage that a fascinating phenomenon has developed, namely the importance and role of the presidential debates.

With great anticipation, the public viewing the presidential debates has exceeded that of the candidates' nomination speeches. Many voters watching the debates did so to get a clearer insight into the candidates' character, positions on major issues and

intentions. The debates provided the opportunity for Bush and Gore to discuss their platforms and see them debate.

Who is the best debater? Will there be a famous one-liner, à la the Bentsen-Quayle debate, that will long be remembered after the election? Who will choose the best colored tie? Whose haircut will appeal more to voters? Whose stature will prevail? All of these questions have received both pre- and post-debate attention.

In view of the massive attention the debates receive, will we get a true picture on where the candidates stand or will we see just well rehearsed coaching? Clearly, the debates offer the audi-

ence a chance to get more information and determine the victor. Despite the drama, we must remember that the debates are only one indicator of both candidates' intent and political inclinations. The "spin" phenomenon refers to the candidate's tendency to slant their comments to enhance public perception. Much of the analyses of debates, too, are subject to the influences of spin.

As a result, voters must weed through all the superfluous commentary to try to determine the "real" truth.

Whatever process you choose to select your presidential candidate, do realize debates are only one "snapshot" of the candidate. You still need to examine their

political and personal histories, a good indicator of what they will do in the future. We still need to examine their supporters, as their character and actions can be reflected upon the candidates. We still need to look at the source of their financial support, because money is very influential.

Over the next few issues leading to the election, M O N - T H E Gazette will provide information toward helping

you shape and make your voting choices. We have provided a brief biography on the two candidates, as essentially given on their Web sites. In our next edition, we will compare where the candidates stand on the most debated issues.

Here for the music.

Here for the crowd.



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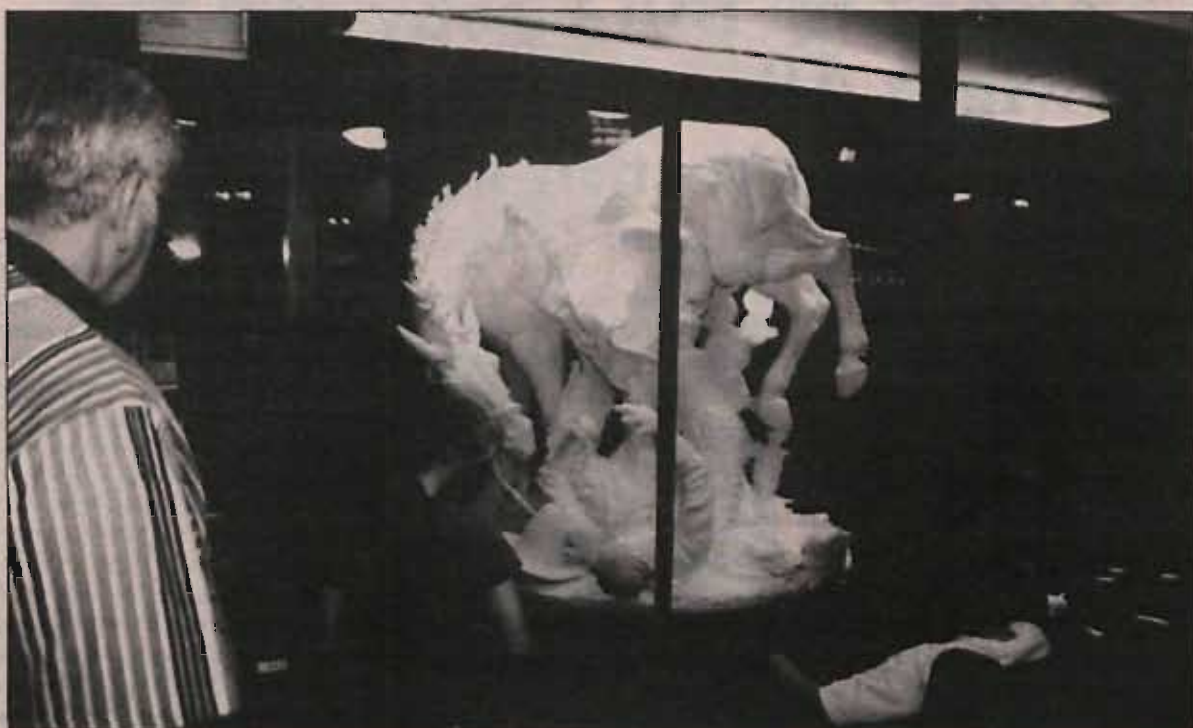
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Photos by Lott's Photography.
Bottom Center: Fairgoers tour the Centennial building to see the latest in automobiles.

Left: Artist Arthello Beck displays his paintings at the State Fair of Texas.

Top Left: Viewers are amazed at the Land O' Lakes butter display of a cowboy and his horse.

Middle: A dancer and band entertain the crowd.

Far Left: The Batmobile on display.

Top Right: Texans get a chance to see the future in this model of a completed LBJ-Central Expressway interchange.

KINSHIP from page 4

gration, our hope for the future.

Who are we? We are Americans. And, the only way "we" will bring wholeness to our fractured lives will be to understand that what we think is the fault line of race and ethnicity -- is not a fault line. It is instead a bedrock issue that engenders hatred, malice and dissension -- so that public kinship cannot take hold.

Without public kinship we retreat to our suburbs and our inner cities, our homes and apartments. Anywhere we can isolate ourselves from the ravages and symptoms of our dis-temper. We hide from the violence, which is nothing more than a byproduct of a broken society.

To heal this breach, my work at the Village Foundation has called on me to create a program called "Repairing the Breach." This work calls for internal healing with external support, which starts by asking the same questions mentioned above.

We, Americans, -- who have not legislated justly on gun control, nor solved the riddle of how to reorient Hollywood's penchant for violence and gratuitous sex -- have before us an urgent need to reexamine our lives. If we can create the appropriate responses to what everyone creates or makes for our consumption, we can then use this utility for our benefit -- and discard that which demeans and degrades us.

In reality it is up to us. What will foreshadow the 21st Century is culture, not race. Culture will dominate the new century, and all culture we develop in America will be important. What will be even more important will be how we go from here to create community, and if we go as repairers of the breach -- to proclaim our public kinship and resolving to bring wholeness to fractured lives.

Dr. Bobby William Austin is president and CEO of the Village Foundation, an organization founded in 1997 to develop and support programs that take a systematic, holistic approach toward solving the multi-dimensional problems destroying the future of African-American males



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Football fans can park free at 10 park & ride locations, and ride DART's Cowboy Flyers to home games. Roundtrip \$5 Flyer fare includes free admission to Corral Club at Texas Stadium.

Mustangs saddle up new stadium shuttle.

The new DART/SMU Game-Day Shuttle bus is free between Mockingbird Rail Station to SMU's new Gerald J. Ford Stadium. Plus, your SMU football ticket is good for free rides on all connecting bus & light rail service after 4 p.m. on game days.

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DreamWorks film examines political power plays



President Jackson Evans (JEFF BRIDGES, center) announces that his choice to become the next Vice President of the United States is Senator Laine Hanson (JOAN ALLEN, left) as her husband William Hanson (ROBIN THOMAS, far left) looks on in the DreamWorks film, "The Contender".

Just in time for November elections, DreamWorks releases its new film, "The Contender". The film is a political thriller that takes us behind the scenes of political power plays. When the sitting Vice President dies, Senator Laine Hanson, played by Joan Allen, is chosen by the President (Jeff Bridges) to be the first woman to hold the office. The selection meets with opposition from members of both parties, in particular a powerful political adversary, played by Gary Oldman, who will seemingly stop at nothing to discredit her. Her confirmation hearings set off a firestorm of controversy as shocking secrets from Hanson's past are revealed, threatening her personal life as well as her political future.

Laine Hanson has what it takes to be a heartbeat away from the presidency. Now she must prove she has the stomach for what it takes to get the job.

The film is the work of writer/producer Rod Lurie, a self-described "political junkie"

who enjoys the power plays of government the way some people enjoy gridiron plays. "Presidential election years are like football season to me," Lurie says. "I watch the events unfold with great excitement. I can't wait to see who the Vice Presidential pick will be; I can't wait to see the debates."

However, Lurie is quick to add, "The Contender" is more about principle than politics. The challenges that Senator Laine Hanson faces in this film are decidedly more about her personal life than her public persona. Her principles tell her that under no circumstance should she allow her personal life to mesh with her public one, and her courageousness emerges when she takes a stand and refuses to give in, despite pressure from both sides. Her heroics are based on her sticking to those principles even when they're inconvenient.

Jeff Bridges stars as President Jackson Evans, whose choice of a woman to become his new Vice President leads to a showdown on

Capitol Hill.

"I've spent some time in Washington lobbying for different causes and I'd always thought it would be interesting to play someone in politics," Bridges remarks. "But to play the President of the United States is an entirely different matter. It was fascinating to get in touch with that kind of power and what a complex job it is, but then you have to put it in some kind of normal context. There has to be a seeming normalcy to your portrayal because that is his everyday life."

"It is virtually impossible in politics to paint anyone as a good guy or a bad guy," Lurie explains. "The notion of what is good and what is bad changes with time. It's not just liberal versus conservative; it's not just good versus bad... Human beings tend to be enigmas, and social or political ideologies should represent that."

"The Contender" opened in theaters Oct. 13.

eBook by Bill Cosby and Dr. Dwight Allen Calls on industry to invest in schools

NEW YORK, (PRNewswire) -- From Dr. Dwight Allen, a noted professor of education reform at Old Dominion University, and William H. Cosby, Jr., Ed.D., one of America's most respected and popular authors, actors and thinkers, comes a provocative call-to-arms on behalf of America's kids.

"AMERICAN SCHOOLS: The \$100 Billion Challenge" is guaranteed to spark debate in this election year. With candidates at all levels of office making Education reform a centerpiece of their campaign platforms, Allen and Cosby weigh in with a bold challenge to the federal government and the new dot-com captains of industry: Add \$100 billion per year to implement the "National Experimental School Administration," and their

comprehensive plan to reinvent American education.

Convinced that technology and the people behind it

lished as an eBook.

"We thought an eBook was the best way to bring this important debate to the digital roundtable and engage the very industry leaders we are determined to recruit," said Cosby, who dedicated the book to his late son Ennis, a teacher.

In "AMERICAN SCHOOLS," Cosby and Allen do more than discuss the problems facing America's schools -- crumbling buildings, flagging test scores, and failing students -- they deliver concrete solutions, outlining a point-by-point plan for putting dot-com dollars to work for the nation's students.

All royalties from "AMERICAN SCHOOLS" will go to the newly established Dwight and Carol Allen Foundation for educational reform.



must play a central role in overhauling the nation's schools, bestselling author Cosby ("Fatherhood" and "Congratulations! Now What?") says it was only appropriate that "AMERICAN SCHOOLS" be pub-

Is Your House Ready for Indoor Allergy Season?

MADISON, (PRNewswire) -- For the estimated 35.9 million Americans who suffer from allergies, fall marks the end of hay fever season, but for many, allergy season never ends.

According to the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, dust mites, mold, animal dander and cockroach droppings are the main causes of indoor allergies.

Most experts recom-

mend a strategy of avoidance to reduce indoor allergies.

The AAAAI suggests that homeowners consider such measures as:

- Covering mattresses and pillows in non-permeable covers

- Removing carpets and curtains from bedrooms

- Having non-allergic members of the household do the vacuuming

- Keeping pets out of the

bedroom

- Installing a high efficiency air cleaner

New air cleaning technology introduced this year is the most efficient at cleaning the air in your entire home, according to independent testing. Because the beginning of the heating season is often a time when people are having furnace work done anyway, many heating/cooling contractors recommend installing a whole-house high efficiency air cleaner in the fall.

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Arts & Entertainment

Night Vibes

By Ché Hill

October 15-20
Dallas Visual Art Center, 2801 Swiss Avenue, Suite 100, Dallas, presents the acrylic paintings of painter Michael Lansangan in its Mosaics series. The exhibit is free and open to the public. For more information call 214-821-2522.

October 15-29
The Dallas Children's Theater presents the campy comedy-thriller "The Mummy's Claw" at the Crescent Theater, 2215 Cedar Springs across from The Hotel Crescent Court. For reservations or more information call 214-978-0110. This show is recommended for families with children 9 years of age and older.

October 15-30
The Plano Art Association Members' Exhibition 2000 will be displayed at the Municipal Center, 1520 Avenue K, Plano. For more information call Sabrina Shuford at 972-941-5201.

October 15-November 21
The Gallery at UTA, 700 W. Second St., Arlington, hosts an exhibit featuring the works of Barbara Andrus and Joe Mancuso. For more information call 817-272-3143.

October 15-December 16
The Black Academy of Arts and Letters, Inc. (TBAAL) presents the visual art exhibition "Three Legends: Elizabeth Catlett, Jacob Lawrence and Samella Lewis" at the James E. Kemp Gallery of TBAAL. For more information or gallery times call 214-743-2440.

October 18
The Boston Flamenco Ballet will present the Hispano-Americano Spanish Dance & Song Festival at the Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd., Suite 300, Irving, in two shows at 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. For more information or tickets call 972-252-7558 or visit www.ci.irving.tx.us.

October 18-November 12
Dallas Theatre Centre presents "An Experiment With an Air Pump" about the secrets of a family and love buried for 200 years. For tickets call 214-522-8499. Performances will be at the Kalita Humphreys Theater.

October 19-22
The Texas Instruments Classical Series concerts featuring the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and Maestro Günther Herbig and the Dallas Symphony Chorus will be held at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center. Performances will be held at 8:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. For more information call 214-692-0203.

Cedar Valley College Family Music Theatre presents "The King and I" at the Performance Hall, F Building, Cedar Valley College. Additional performances will be held Oct. 26-28. For more information call 972-860-8258.

October 20
The Artist & Elaine Thornton Foundation for the Arts, Inc. and the Irving Black Arts Council present "Two Trains Running" by Pulitzer Prize winner August Wilson at the Carpenter Performance Hall in the Irving Arts Center at 8:00 p.m. For tickets call 972-251-AR7S (3787).

October 20-29
N.M. Productions presents "Dark Dreams," a staged old-time radio show full of chills and thrills at the Corner Theatre in the DeSoto Town Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd., DeSoto, Fridays-Sundays at 8:00 p.m. For more information or reservations call 972-680-4466 or metro 817-784-6671.

October 20-November 19
Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Ft. Worth, presents

"Ceremonies in Dark Old Men" about a 1965 ghetto family and the daughter who supports them. For tickets and information call 817-338-4411.

October 21
The Las Colinas Symphony Orchestra presents its fall concert featuring Latino Folk-Artist Tish Hinojosa at the Irving Arts Center at 8:00 p.m. For more information or tickets call 972-580-1566.

October 21-November 12
The Irving Arts Center presents "Empires: Russia Past and Present" featuring the works of Bill Wright, Steve Yates, Valery and Natasha Cherkashin. Exhibitions and receptions are free and open to the public. For more information visit www.ci.irving.tx.us.

October 25-29
Quad C Theatre presents the Texas State competition of the American College Theatre Festival, known as D r a m a P A L O O Z A ! Productions and workshops will be held the entire week, with the winning production to perform at the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. For more information or tickets call 972-881-5809.

The Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University presents "As Bees in Honey Drown" emulating the sat of our society's media and celebrity dependent culture. Performances will be held at SMU's Margo Jones Theatre. For more information or tickets call 214-768-2787.

October 26
Comedian D.L. Hughley will perform at the UTA Texas Hall, 701 W. Nedderman Dr., Arlington at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 817-272-2963.

October 27-28
Irving Chorale in conjunction with the IISD middle and high school students presents "Music for Young Hearts" at the Irving Arts Center at 8:00 p.m. For tickets or information call 972-252-2787.

October 27-29
The Dallas Symphony Orchestra presents its 3rd Halloween SuperPops Concert at the Meyerson Symphony Center. Festivities also include prize drawings and pre- and post-performance events. Concertgoers are encouraged to come in costume, especially to the Sunday matinee featuring a costume contest at 1:45 p.m. and free "Wild About Harry's" frozen custard at intermission. For more information call 214-692-0203.

October 28-29
The American Indian Arts Council presents the 11th American Indian Art Festival and Market featuring over 150 "documented" visual and performing artists from around the country will be held in the Annette Strauss Artists Square. For more information call 214-891-9640.

October 29
The Black Academy of Arts and Letters, Inc. (TBAAL), Dallas Convention Center, corner of Akard and Caron Streets, Nannj Bruton Theatre, presents recording artist Oleta Adams performing with the TBAAL Women's Chorus in concert commemoration National Breast Cancer Month at 4:00 p.m. For more information call Sherry Tanksley at 214-743-2442.

October 30
In this election year, KERA 13 looks back at presidential campaign of 1960 in its television special "The Great Campaign of 1960." The show chronicles the events of the 1960 campaigns between John Kennedy and Richard Nixon.

Ever long to hear some of that old time blues music? You know the kind that conjures up thoughts of soulful sounds amid a smoke filled room, and a saxophonist playing his heart out? Dallas has some of the finest blues clubs around, and Blue Cat Blues in downtown Deep Ellum is definitely one of them.

I like blues so I decided to check the place out. On the night that I went, there was an ebony-ivory band playing, complimenting each other with strums of bass and saxophone, which made for a sound of fused jazz and blues. Ellum

Each of the four members took their turn 'funkin it up' and getting their well-deserved applause from the moderately filled house. The band consisted of Kent Ellington on keyboard, Ira Bassett, on trumpet, Doug Morris strumming the bass, and Shelley Carrol blowing the saxophone (who by the way shamelessly informed me that he has a CD entitled Distant Star scheduled for release in November).

Then they brought a vocal-

ist named Naydja to the stage. Her performance was a tribute to the legendary Billie Holiday and she played the role well, all the way down to the white gardenia that was the famed singer's trademark. She opened up with "They Can't Take That

"All of Me," and "Don't Explain" were great, and the band did an exceptional backup job.

Occasionally, in between songs she joked with the audience, and thanked those who continuously supported her.

Naydja bears a slight resemblance to the late Lady Day, and I believe that if Ms. Holiday could have seen what I saw she would have been flattered. That's not to say that Naydja could be the next Ms. Holiday, as I think it will be a longtime before the world is graced with raw talent like that

again. However, her imitation was indeed a great form of flattery and brought back some good old memories. Blue Cat Blues is centrally located in Deep Ellum at 2612 Good Latimer @ Commerce and definitely worth a visit if you're into blues music. If Naydja should be there when you visit, prepare yourself for an extra treat.



Musicians warm up for their show at the Blue Cat Blues club in Deep Ellum.

Eyeing the Arts

By Stephanie Ward

When some people hear that I own an art gallery, one of the first things they ask is the current value of some of the artwork they've purchased. In most instances, they have open edition prints, which do not increase in value. And in those situations, the framing on these items usually costs more than the prints are worth. I use this as an opportunity to explain a little bit about how to purchase art for collecting and then I explain the secondary market.

The first market is the term used when an art patron purchases art from an artist or from a gallery. It's the first place the artwork has been sold.

The secondary market is the second time artwork has been sold to someone. It can be from artist to art patron or from a gallery to art patron. Usually the prices of artwork more than double once they are sold on the secondary market. The amount of increase depends on the supply and demand for the pieces. Paying a high price for a unique piece of art doesn't mean that someone else will give you money for it.

I am faced with this situa-

tion during tax time when customers who need money to pay tax debt and want to bring in half of their art collection to be sold. This would be great if all of the pieces were hot items with

artists and galleries usually raise the price on them, which is why prices double on pictures that just sit in print bins in galleries. Time does nothing but increase the value of truly good art produced by a reputable artist.

Now keep in mind that just because a piece of art is signed and numbered it doesn't necessarily mean that the item will ever increase in value. That is why it is important that you like the art work you purchase, so that you can attach your own value to it.

Also for a piece of art to increase, the work has to be a popular and undated. Real value comes with time but if the images inside the picture dated the picture and the artist is still producing, then chances are that new patrons will purchase some of the newer images, which will not create a value for the older work. And in most cases, the secondary market doesn't become an issue in an artist's life until after he is very old or dead. My advice is to purchase art that you like and plan to hold on to it for the long-term.

high demands, but often the artwork they are trying to sell is still available in the gallery for the initial sales price. Also, artwork is never a quick sale. If you put it on consignment in an art gallery there is no guarantee that it will sell and there is no way of telling how long it will take to sell unless the gallery representative knows someone who is looking for the artwork.

When artwork gets down to the last numbers of the edition,



Original artwork by local artist Tatjana Kriskov. Because she is not a nationally renowned artist, the artist must continue producing to increase the value of her artwork.

Movie celebrates random acts of kindness

(PRNewswire) — In the movie, "Pay It Forward" a young boy's teacher challenges him to start a project that will make the world a better place. The boy devises a plan where he will perform favors for strangers, and rather than having the strangers "pay the favor back", they will be asked to "pay it forward" to three more strangers and so on and so on. These actions soon form a chain reaction of random acts of kindness, thus fulfilling the boy's assignment by making the world a better place.

"Pay It Forward" is already motivating and encouraging moviegoers, teachers, students and community leaders alike to make a difference with kindness. Paralleling the movie's premise of performing random acts of kindness, The Random Acts of Kindness(TM) Foundation, a nonprofit organization headquartered in Denver, also focuses on the possibility of changing the world through the Kindness Movement. The Foundation is happy to provide programmatic support and materials, free of charge, to those people who believe that they, like the boy in the movie, can make the world a better place with kindness.

As things happen, the opening of the movie comes just two weeks before the sixth annual Random Acts of Kindness Week 2000 (Nov. 6-12) and the first



annual World Kindness Day (Nov. 13, 2000). Both are international celebrations encompassing over 5000 communities and 35 countries and dedicated to reminding everyone of the positive benefits and effects of kindness. The Foundation hopes that watching the movie "Pay It Forward" will prompt even more people to become interested in spreading kindness and "paying it forward."

What's Happening in the Hood

Who said that legislators don't party? Recently State Representative Yvonne Davis held a southwestern style fashion show, featuring familiar faces from the Dallas area. Judge Thomas Jones, Commissioner John Wiley Price, Publisher Mollie Belt and bookstore owner Emma Rogers, showed Dallasites the latest in fall fashions for people on the go. Complete with jazz music from Don Diego, and all natural bodybuilder Richard Conner, it was a fun-filled evening complete with ostrich skin boots and Texas-shaped belt buckles. One of the evening's highlights came when Commissioner Price came out modeling a stylish burgundy suit and began doing a mock strip tease, mimicking body builder Richard Conner. The crowd went wild, and Commissioner Price actually gave the young buck a run for his money, living up to his title of "fit at fifty."



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Around The Town

On-going

Miracle on Wheels is making available power wheelchairs to non-ambulatory Senior Citizens (65+) usually at no out-of-pocket expense if they qualify. Call 800-749-8778 for more information or visit www.durablemedical.com.

Applications are being accepted for electrical apprenticeships in the electrical construction industry with the North Texas Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Program. Applications will be accepted on Mondays only at 8:30 a.m. only. For more information call 214-821-0720.

University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas is accepting applications for Faculty Associate in the Women's Health Care Advanced Nurse Practitioner Program. For more information call Jerry Melendrez at 214-905-2131.

The Video Association of Dallas is accepting entries for the 14th Annual Dallas Video Festival March 14-18, 2001. To obtain an entry form or for more information call 214-999-8999 or fax 214-999-8998. Deadline for submissions is Monday, Nov. 20, 2000.

October 19

"Years Gone By: A Historical Look at Lewisville with Jim Polser" will be presented at the Lewisville Library Community Meeting Room, 1197 W. Main, Lewisville. For more information or to RSVP call Erik Wilkinson at 972-219-3778.

Charlton Methodist Hospital,

3500 W. Wheatland Road near Highway 67, is offering a support group for survivors of stroke from 4-5 p.m. in conference room #5. For more information call 214-947-0579.

Plano Public Library System is participating in a free six-part discussion series of "Fro Rosie to Roosevelt: A Film History of Americans in WWII" at the Davis Library, 7501 Independence Pkwy., Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. For more information call 972-964-4200.

October 20

The Dallas Plan is hosting a symposium on Smart Growth at the Sara Ellen & Samuel Weisfeld Center, 1508 Cadiz at Browder, Dallas, from 7:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For more information call 214-670-1200.

October 21

The 18th Annual-Komen Dallas Race for the Cure 2000 will begin at NorthPark Center. Events begin at 6:00 a.m. and include a 5K run/walk, survivor celebration and breakfast and concert by the Havana Boys. For more information call Jennifer Little at 214-259-3440 or Dawn Duplantier at 972-541-6185.

A casting call will be held for actors, models and dancers for the motion picture "Ghetto Gold" at Eddie Dean's Ranch, 944 S. Lamar (downtown Dallas) at 8:00 p.m. For more information call Terry McGill at 972-993-2021, ext. 9711.

The 23rd A. Maceo Smith Community Service Award Brunch will be held at the African American Museum. For more information

call the museum at 214-565-9026 or Sharon Steele at 972-216-1280 or Anthony Honoré at 972-307-7352.

The 25th Old Oak Cliff Home Tour will be held Oct. 21 & 22 from noon to 6:00 p.m., featuring 12 homes spanning 90 years. The tour begins at the Bishop Arts District at David & Bishop Streets. For more information or tickets call 972-606-3693 or visit www.HomeTour2000@Clifftop.com.

The 8th Annual Dallas Academy Day offering area students information on the nation's service academies, will be held at the Dallas Public Schools Administration Bldg., 3700 Ross Ave., Dallas, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. For more information call Dorothy McMullen at 214-922-8885.

The Trinity River Corridor Project Office is holding a community workshop at the Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center, Auditorium, 1201 East 8th Street, Dallas from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information call 214-948-4202.

The Hope Center is hosting an Apollo Night at 7:00 p.m. Performers are needed. To register or for more information call 817-534-6739 or 817-640-6142.

"Teen Fest 2000" will be held at Haggard Library in Plano from 1:00-3:00 p.m. For more information call 972-964-4200.

October 22

The Fair Housing Office of Dallas is presenting a workshop on

Housing Rights in the City of Dallas at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young Street, 1st Floor, Dallas East/West Meeting Room, from 3-4 p.m. For more information call 214-670-1400.

October 25

Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk is hosting "Dallas' Celebration of the Summer Down Under" for the City of Dallas featuring Olympic athletes with Texas ties. Events include a Pep Rally at 7:00 p.m. followed by a Dallas Stars game. The event is open to the public. For more information call Suzanne Harrison at 214-841-1000.

October 26

The City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs is sponsoring New Mundo 2000, Oct. 26-28. The conference will present the global contributions of Hispanic and Latino artists and scholars. For more information or reservations visit www.dallasculture.com.

October 27

West Dallas Community Centers, Inc. Drug Education & Prevention Program is holding a Red Ribbon Celebration at the Elmer Scott Center, 2600 Morris St., Dallas at 6:30 p.m. For more information call Lavetta Adkison at 214-637-6256.

Don Roberts, founder of the Fair Oaks Press in San Francisco, will be the next speaker at the Friends of the UTA Libraries meeting at 7:30 p.m. A book signing and reception will follow the program. For more information or reservations call Betty Wood at 817-272-5797.

October 28

"Women on the Move for God Ministries" is holding their annual charity event benefiting the American Cancer Society and the American Heart Association. For more information call Darlene Scott at 972-216-9923.

The Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the Theta Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity will host a "Black Dollar Day" from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Black Academy of Arts and Letters, 650 S. Griffin Streets, Dallas. Admittance is free. For more information call 214-428-7400.

Dallas Historical Society's Cemetery Tour will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The tour departs from the Hall of State in Fair Park. Seating is limited and reservations must be made by Oct. 27. For more information or reservations call Leslie Lang at 214-421-4500 ext. 105.

The Forth Worth United Negro College Fund walkathon will take place in Trinity Park, 2300 W. 7th Street (beginning at the Shelter House) at 9:00 a.m. The Dallas UNCF walk takes place Nov. 4 at the Ferris Plaza Park. KRNB-105.7's Lynn Haze and Joe Soto will host both events. For more information call 972-234-1001 or visit www.Dallasblack.com.

Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is holding its 3rd Delta Open Golf Tournament beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Cedar Crest Golf Course,

1800 Southerland, Dallas. Entry deadline is Oct. 20. For more information call Sandra or Karen at 214-467-4255 or Kelly at 214-428-7400.

October 29

Mt. Pisgah, 11611 Webb Chapel Road, Dallas, is holding its annual women's "Red Dress Tea" at 1:30 p.m. in the education building. For more information call Bobbie Fontenette at 972-241-6151.

October 31

The Plano Police and Fire Departments, 911, and Market Square Mall is holding its annual Kids Night Out, a safe alternative to traditional Halloween festivities, for children grades K-5, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Plano Market Square Mall, 1717 E. Spring Creek Pkwy., Plano. For more information call 972-941-2431.

Brady Senior Center will be having a Halloween Dance at its facilities. For more information call Ella or Oralia at 214-826-8330.

November 1

Cedar Valley College will be hosting a Job Fair from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The job fair is free and open to the public. For more information call Mike Alford at 972-860-8146.

November 2

The American Indian Chamber's 8th Awards Banquet will be held at the Arlington Convention Center, 1200 Ballpark Way, at 6:00 p.m. For more information call Shirley Hankins at 817-429-2323.

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