

The Gazette

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NEWS BRIEFS

Researchers clone bull for disease resistance
Texas A&M University researchers cloned a black baby bull, which was the first ever cloned for the animal's unusual ability to resist disease. The month-old calf was named 86 Squared and provides promise of disease-free cattle. The 1-foot-tall calf was produced from genetic material taken 15 years ago from a six-year-old bull named 86 who was found to be resistant to three infectious diseases.

Attica inmates receive \$8 million in settlement
(NNPA) - Complainants who filed suit after the Attica prison riots nearly three decades ago will receive \$8 million in settlement checks for the hundreds of inmates injured in the uprising. Checks ranging between \$6,500 and \$125,000 have been mailed to 502 inmates or their surviving relatives. In their civil suit, surviving inmates claimed they were brutally beaten by authorities after the four-day standoff.

Socially conscious poet dies at 83

Poet and novelist Gwendolyn Brooks died earlier this month after a lifelong career as a master writer. Brooks was known for her poetry during the Black Arts Movement. She was the first African-American to both win the Pulitzer Prize and be appointed to the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Brooks was appointed poet laureate of Illinois in 1968 and received more than 50 honorary doctorates from colleges and universities.

Son of newspaper baron dies of stroke

Randolph A. Hearst, last surviving son of newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst and father of Patricia Hearst, the kidnapped heiress of the 1970s died of a stroke in New York Presbyterian Hospital. Hearst had inherited the publishing fortune worth an estimated \$1.8 billion. Hearst was recently listed as No. 150 of the 400 richest people in the country by Forbes magazine. Hearst was 85.

G.I. Jane?



R&B songstress Erykah Badu sports a new close-cropped look, vastly different from her trademark headwrap.
Photo by Lori's Photography.

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Bush Wins!!

Names senior staff, heads to Washington

By Patricia Wilson

AUSTIN, Texas (Reuters) - President-elect George W. Bush named foreign policy aide Condoleezza Rice as his national security adviser on Sunday, the first woman to hold the post, as he embarked on a post-election, peace-making trip to Washington.

During a ceremony at the Texas governor's mansion, Bush picked two other long-time loyalists for key White House positions that reflect the president-elect's desire to appoint a diverse cabinet.

He chose a Hispanic, Texas Supreme Court Justice Al Gonzales, as White House counsel, essentially the chief lawyer's position under Bush, and a woman, his communications director Karen Hughes, as counselor to the president, a top-level advisory role that will take her out of day-to-day relations with the news media.

Rice, 46, will be only the second black ever to become White House national security adviser. The other, Colin Powell, was nominated on Saturday by Bush to be his secretary of state.

Bush said the message behind Sunday's appointments was that "people who work hard and make the right decisions in life can achieve anything they want in America."

"America will be better off that these three have agreed to serve," he said.

Bush made the announcements shortly before departing for Washington on his first journey there since he won the disputed election over Vice

President Al Gore last week.

He will discuss the U.S. economy with Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, sound out the transition, Republican and Democratic leaders of Congress on his agenda, including a hotly debated \$1.3 trillion tax cut, and meet both Gore and President Clinton to present an image of national unity to a country divided by the election outcome.

He will also interview prospective Cabinet appointees.

In a sign he might clash with Congress over policy, the president-elect said he was unwilling to give ground over his proposed across-the-board tax cut despite criticism from both parties.

"I campaigned on a tax relief package that I firmly believe ... is important as an insurance policy against any economic downturn, and I look forward to discussing my vision of tax relief with the parties," he told reporters during the announcement ceremony.

"It doesn't make much sense for people to be drawing lines in the sand before we've had a chance to discuss things."

Democrats have slammed the proposal as favoring the wealthy. And some Republicans, like House of Representatives Speaker Dennis Hastert of Illinois, have said it might better to present the legislature with piecemeal tax cuts.

"I can't think of anything that would divide this nation more quickly, right off the bat, than to impress upon the

Congress the importance of passing a tax cut of that magnitude," said Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, a South Dakota Democrat.

Replied Bush: "I think it's a little early in the process for people to be making judgments on our plan before they've given me a chance to explain it."

In Washington, Bush plans a breakfast meeting on Monday with Greenspan to discuss the slowing economy, Vice president-elect Dick Cheney (news - web sites) told ABC's "This Week." "We want to work very closely with the Fed chairman," Cheney said.

Greenspan, widely seen as the architect of the record U.S. expansion, has indicated that he would like to see bulging government budget surpluses used to pay down the nation's debt rather than to finance Bush's plan for a large tax cut.

Bush's chief of staff Andrew Card signaled some possible flexibility on the tax plan in an interview with Fox News Sunday.

"We want the Congress to make sure that the ultimate goal George W. Bush - Time is achieved and we may have to do it in different steps," he said.

But Cheney insisted that "we have no intention at all of backing off the big tax cut."

Rice A Staunch Bush Friend

Rice, who grew up in Birmingham, Alabama and went to all-black schools there, was Bush's top foreign policy adviser during the campaign. She was a Russian specialist on



(l to r) Mike Roe, incoming president of the Frisco Chamber of Commerce; Audie Adkins, former president; Marylon Kuhlman and Jim Gandy cut the ribbon during grand opening ceremonies of Frisco Chamber's new location.

Photo by Stan R. Davis

the National Security Council of then-President George Bush and a provost at Stanford University.

"Dr. Rice is not only a brilliant person, she is an experienced person. She is a good manager. I trust her judgment.

America will find that she is a wise person," Bush said.

Rice said Bush will conduct a foreign policy that "combines humility with strength" and that at home, Bush will pursue policies aimed at helping all

See BUSH on page 7

EDS, UNCF partner to bridge digital divide

By Angela D. Jones

In a press conference held earlier this month on the campus of Paul Quinn College, the United Negro College Fund

at the UNCF's 39 private, historically black colleges and universities will be able to utilize the www.uncf.com e-commerce



(l to r) Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk, Paul Quinn College President Dr. Lee Monroe, UNCF President and CEO William Gray and EDS Chairman and CEO Dick Brown announce EDS's partnership with UNCF to bridge the digital divide for students.

Photos courtesy EDS.

(UNCF) announced its newly formed alliance with Plano-based Electronic Data Systems (EDS), as part of the UNCF's Technology Enhancement Capital Campaign (TECC).

Through the TECC program, UNCF students will have the opportunity to purchase computers and software through a website that offering discounted equipment such as PCs, printers and other internet-related products. The site will also serve as a philanthropy facilitator, by accepting and processing secure credit card donations. Officials anticipate that by the end of the year, students

site. At the press conference, William H. Gray III, president and CEO of the UNCF said the purpose of the program is to ensure that all students and faculty at UNCF institutions are prepared for the globally competitive economy of the 21st century and have full access to computers and technology.

EDS Chairman and CEO Dick Brown described the alliance as a milestone in EDS's long-standing partnership with the UNCF and its member institutions.

"And when these UNCF students become graduates,

EDS will be there to hire them," Brown added.

EDS built the site for the TECC using an estimated \$300,000 of its own funds in order to facilitate reduced pricing for hardware and software offered by UNCF partners. Through the TECC, UNCF is still working to raise about \$80 million that will be used to build the technological capacity of its 39 member institutions. UNCF is actively working to find corporations willing to join the campaign. Among the local partners currently supporting the program are Dell, IBM, Microsoft and Lockheed-Martin. Since March of this year, EDS has supported the TECC with \$4 million in technological improvements to 4 Texas-based schools -- Dallas' Paul Quinn College, Wiley College in Marshall, Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins and Huston-Tillotson College in Austin.

As part of the initiative, EDS installed a fiber-optic network and designed and established a local area network (LAN) on the Paul Quinn College campus, and trained faculty and staff on the technology.

"It will also help UNCF member institutions recruit and retain the best faculty and attract the brightest students," Hincholt added. "EDS is committed to helping close the

'worldwide digital divide' or the gap between those who have access and the know-how to use information-age tools, and those who do not. This partnership with the UNCF is just one example of how we are working to do that."

Plano-based EDS is the leading pure-play global services company, providing strategy, implementation and hosting for clients managing the complexities of the digital economy. EDS serves the world's leading companies and governments in 55 countries.

As the nation's oldest and most successful African-American higher education

UNCF's mission is to enhance the quality of education by providing financial assistance to deserving students through the administration of scholarships and fellowships to students and faculty who attend its institutions throughout the country. In its 56-year history, UNCF has raised over \$1.6 billion to promote higher education achievement and has helped more than 300,000 students earn undergraduate and graduate degrees.

For more information on the UNCF Technology Enhancement Capital Campaign (TECC) and the www.uncf.com website, contact



(l to r) Brown, Monroe, and Gray watch Paul Quinn students use the new Web site.

assistance organization, the UNCF currently has more than 55,000 students attending its colleges and universities nationwide -- 3,078 are Texas. The

Jennifer Little of Ketchum (for UNCF) at 214-259-3440, Tracey New of UNCF at 972-234-1067, or Leslie Hincholt of EDS at (972) 665-6786.

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Kwanzaa observances equal big business nationwide

OAKLAND, Calif. (Special to the NNPA) - According to Ebony magazine, the largest circulated national publication among African-Americans (reaching nearly 2 million readers monthly), Blacks spend upwards of \$700 million observing Kwanzaa, which runs Dec. and business owners to meet face-to-face.

- To showcase the diversity of African-American and other business owners, and
- Business-to-Business networking.

Kwanzaa is the 34-year old holiday that recognizes and pro-



Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price autographs his calendar for fans during the Kwanzaafest 2000 celebration held at the Automobile Building in Fair Park.

Photos by Lou's Photography

26 to Jan. 1.

Kwanzaa and Holiday Expo organizer James Moore says his three-day expo yields approximately \$300,000 in the Bay Area market.

Moore started his event in Oakland 15 years ago, seeing the cultural fest as a way for consumers to locate specialty items and to shop for the holiday.

In addition to goods and services, the Holiday Kwanzaa and Gift Show offers retail seminars, business workshops, job recruitment, product samples, business opportunities, entertainment, door prizes and food.

Moore's annual event in Oakland and Kwanzaa events around the nation has four major strengths:

- To enhance the opportunity for business owners to increase their sales during the holiday shopping season.
- To allow consumers

motivate seven spiritual and community-based principles, along with a dual purpose that encourages economic development within the African-American community.

The seven principles of Kwanzaa are: Umoja (Unity); Kujichagulia (Self-determination); Ujima (Collective work and responsibility); Ujamaa (Cooperative economics); Nia (Purpose); Ubumma (Creativity); and Imani (Faith).

The Kwanzaafest 2000 celebration gave shoppers an opportunity to select products from several African-American business owners, including this "Buffalo Soldiers" figurine by Lynn Ward of Blackmark Mercantile Corp.



Verizon to sponsor BET.com's "Lifestyle" Channel

NEW YORK (Special to the NNPA) - Verizon Communications has entered into a three-year, \$3 million pact with BET.com, the largest African-American-targeted Website, to sponsor the site's "Lifestyle" Channel, which provides online movie reviews, industry gossip and behind-the-scenes news from the entertainment arena.

As BET.com's exclusive telecommunications partner, Verizon is working with BET.com to develop new features and services for the site geared toward African-American and urban visitors.

"This sponsorship provides a unique opportunity to strengthen Verizon's link to the African-American and urban communities and positions us to be a leader in this market," said Gregory R. Smith, director of consumer ethnic markets for Verizon. "This type of partnership increases our ability to offer affordable, customized product and service bundles to diverse customer segments."

As part of their alliance, Verizon and BET.com will develop new Lifestyle Channel features including a communications center, which provides information to help customers simplify and enhance their lives using telecommunications products and services. Visitors to the site's communications

center will find useful tips, such as how to access email with their wireless phones, and information to help them make purchases that meet their lifestyle needs.

Users also will find convenient links to information from Verizon about customer bills, product offerings and the latest technological advances that will help keep them connected to family, friends or business associates. In addition, Verizon will develop special promotional packages that will be offered exclusively to BET.com users.

"We are delighted to be selected as Verizon's primary online resource to connect with the African-American community," said Scott Mills, chief operating officer for BET.com. "This arrangement with Verizon is a great addition to our significant relationships with industry-leading companies who have made BET.com their online platform to reach African-Americans."

In February, BET Holdings II, Inc. (the parent company of Black Entertainment Television) partnered with Microsoft, Liberty Digital, News Corporation and USA Networks to launch BET.com as the highest profile and most powerful African-American presence on the Internet with \$35 million in initial funding.

Don't miss your opportunity to reach over 38,675 readers! Call the Marketing Department at 972-606-7351

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John Dudley

Year-end tax strategies for savvy investors

Holders of stocks, options, and mutual funds who took capital gains this year will want to be ready for the tax consequences.

There are steps you can take before the end of the year to reduce your overall tax liability.

First, the bad news. If you sold securities at a profit and haven't paid at least part of your tax bill, you may be subject to penalties from the Internal Revenue Service. The IRS expects to get its cut of your good fortune as you earn it. For income such as business and investment profits, not reduced by withholdings, you're supposed to make quarterly estimated payments instead of waiting until April 15 to pay your taxes.

You may satisfy this requirement by paying the lesser of 90% of the current year's tax liability, or (if your adjusted gross income is under \$150,000) 100% of the tax shown on last year's return. If your adjusted gross income is over \$150,000, you should pay 110% of the tax shown on the prior year's return. If you underestimate, you will be subject to

penalties for as long as your payment is overdue.

The first step in avoiding underpayment penalties is to estimate how much you owe the IRS. If there is still time, you can ask your employer to withhold an extra, one-time amount out of your final paycheck for the year. Or you can make a fourth-quarter estimated payment by January 15, 2000. Depending on when you realized the gains, this can reduce and possibly even eliminate (depending on when you realized the gains) the overall penalty for the year.

Another useful strategy might be to sell the losers now, using your losses to offset gains. If you have some poor performers in your portfolio, and know you're only postponing the inevitable, you could sell them now and make Uncle Sam share in the losses and reduce the gains. You can also sell investments you like, just to take the loss, and later then buy them back. But be careful. If you decide to sell a security for the tax loss, you must then wait at least 31 days before re-investing. Consult both your tax and investment professionals for

advice on this strategy. The bottom line is, you must weigh both the tax and investment considerations in making your decision.

Mutual-fund shareholders have specific ways, strategies they can use to control capital gains. You can specify, for exam-



ple, which shares you want sold when you give an order to liquidate a portion of your fund holdings. Depending on the cost basis of your shares, you can instruct the fund, in writing, to sell the ones purchased at a higher offering price, creat-

ing a lesser gain. If you do not instruct them to sell specific shares, Uncle Sam's assumption is that you sold the ones you bought first—most often at a lower price—creating a higher capital gain.

If you are planning to purchase shares in a mutual fund, you may wish to find out when the ex-dividend date is and buy after that date so that you don't incur the hefty capital gains many growth funds may be preparing to distribute. However, also, if you hold those mutual-fund shares in an IRA or other tax-qualified account, the taxes are deferred. Variable annuities

are a smart alternative for some because they consist basically of mutual fund wrapped in a tax-deferred package.

Another simple but effective strategy is to gift securities directly to a family member rather than selling the shares

and giving them the money. See you want to sell some profitable stocks and contribute that money to a college student's tuition. Instead of taking the gain yourself, simply gift the shares to him or her, and have them sell the shares in their own name and lower tax bracket.

Last but not least, take advantage of qualified retirement plans. Many retirement plans such as 401(k), 403(b), SER, and SIMPLE plans, and some IRAs divert your earmarked savings from income before you have paid taxes on it, giving you an upfront reduction in taxable income. Even when there is no earnings or other tax deduction, as with some IRAs, the money grows and compounds on a tax-deferred basis without the eroding effects of taxation, increasing the total return dramatically.

Finally, most employer-sponsored plans like the 401(k), offer employer matching contributions up to a certain amount of the contributions you make yourself effectively in effect, giving you free money for your retirement. There is usually a vesting schedule that restricts your ownership of these

funds until you have committed a specific number of years to the company. It is in your best interest to find out about matching and the vesting schedule.

These are only a few of the tax-reduction strategies available to astute investors. Contact your Financial Advisor and your tax professional to find out which apply to you before taking specific actions.

Provided by courtesy of John Dudley [name], a Financial Advisor [title] with the investment firm First Union Securities in Dallas, TX [phone]. For more information, please call John Dudley [name] at 214-740-1233 [number]. 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.

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Dear Editor:

Lately folks have been showing their support for George W with a display of a big red W. That's nice. That is a great idea, but I have an improvement to offer on that.

We should unite behind George W and display a W1 meaning Bush won. This is a symbol that can be used no matter the outcome of the election mess. Gore might end up in the White House (a thought that doesn't please me), but W 1.

W1 is a protest of the Florida counting mess, ballot recreation, legal suits, and general Democrat corruption. W1 is a statement of support for George W who is the real winner no matter what Democrats whine about. W1 is a protest against changing the rules in the middle of the game.

W1 is the fair answer and my suggestion for a symbol to unite Americans. I suggest that all Americans who still believe in playing the game with the same rules from beginning to end need to display the big, red W1 in support of George W. Bush.

Sincerely,
Patricia Allison
Rosenberg, TX
281-344-1023



To submit a letter to the editor:

Send all correspondence to: **MON-The Gazette**
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Plano, TX 75074



Ron
Shaw

I recently had the opportunity to speak to a group of young women. During the question and answer period one young lady asked why she continued to attract the same type of men. It reminded me of a question a young man asked who had been through not one, but three failed marriages. My answer was not readily received but eventually I was able to help them see the light.

The truth principle that operates in all of our lives is very simple yet very disquieting for most. It's been suggested that if you want something different you have to do something different. Unfortunately that's not complete truth. The young lady who asked the question said she did something different. She had changed her attire to convey a different message in her dress. She even changed the places she went and the people she hung around. Yet she still seemed to end up with the same type of man. The young man who had been married several times, changed wives and houses and jobs and crowds yet he still ended up with the same results.

The complete truth is if you want something different, you have to be something different. Just changing our outward appearance is not enough to produce significant change. It's what's inside us that's producing what we see on the outside.

In the Bible, Jesus says, "Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a

What kind of tree is it?

tree is recognized by its fruit." (NIV)

If you don't like what's being produced in your life, don't start working on the fruit, start working on the root. That is to say, change the kind of person you are and you'll change the kind of results you're seeing. I often hear a lot of men and women make envious remarks about other successful relationships. They say things like, "I wish I was married to him or her". The truth is, if you didn't change the kind of person you were, when you married him or her, they still wouldn't satisfy you.

It's what is inside of us that produces what we see in our lives. One reason we don't like to deal with this is because it's easier to blame everyone and everything else for what we see produced in our own lives. It's also easier to change the exterior than the interior. It takes conscious and diligent effort to become something else. We must work on being the kind of person we want to attract in our lives. You've heard the expression "birds of a feather..." It's true. We don't attract the kind of people we want in our lives, we attract the kind of people we are. This principle is as old as creation. Every seed produces after its own kind. It's the law of genesis. If you want oranges, you have to become an orange tree. If you want friends you have to become one. If you want to have success, you must first become one.

At the end of each year, I develop a personal re-invention program for myself. I look at what was produced in my life

over the previous 11 months and evaluate the events. I keep what I liked and kick out what I didn't like. Then I set up a strategy that will produce positive changes in myself. I'm under constant construction. I still have a long way to go but I'm making progress. You see, it's more important for me to be a successful person than have a successful profession.

Let's work on becoming a different tree so we'll get different fruit. First, decide on the results you want to see in your life. Even if it's more money you desire, you must change before you receive it.

Next, select the right tools. My insides must be chiseled and sculptured and their composition must be changed. For me, the Word is the most effective tool I can find for this purpose. God's word changes not what I do, but who I am and sculpts me and chisels my character into the person that will produce the things I want. Finally, go to work. If you identify what's going wrong in your life but never make a move to change, you'll get more frustrated and depressed. It always helps in accomplishing this if you make yourself accountable to someone who will have your best interest at heart and will not allow you to just slide by. Considering only about three percent of all the workforce can work successfully unsupervised, it's probably a good thing if you find this person immediately.

What kind of tree is it? Just look at what's being produced. What kind of person are you? The same answer applies.

Capitol Watch

Civil Rights Commission schedules hearings on voting irregularities

WASHINGTON -- The U. S. Commission on Civil Rights announced plans to conduct hearings in Tallahassee on January 11 and January 12, 2001 to look into allegations of voting irregularities in the November 7 Florida presidential elections. The probe is aimed at determining whether eligible persons were denied the right to vote and if their votes were properly counted.

The announcement was issued by Commission Chair Mary Frances Berry in Washington, DC and Vice Chair Cruz Reynoso in Los Angeles.

The Tallahassee hearings will be the first in a series of hearings around the state of Florida in which information about its electoral system will be secured from subpoenaed records and the sworn testimony of public officials, experts, advocates and registered voters. The Commission is authorized to hold hearings and to issue subpoenas for the production of documents and the attendance of witnesses under its statutory and regulatory authority. The Commission is an independent bipartisan, fact-finding agency authorized to study, collect, and disseminate information, and to appraise the laws and policies of the Federal Government.

The Commission is also empowered to study and collect information with respect to discrimination or denials of equal protection of the laws under the Constitution because of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin, or in the administration of justice. The Commission has broad authority to investigate allegations of voting irregularities even when alleged abuses do not involve discrimination.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan fact-finding agency.

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Keeping an Eye on Texas

Dreaming of a White Christmas?

Although the chances are slim to none for waking up anywhere in Texas on Christmas morning with at least an inch of snow on the ground, a few Texas cities can keep a white Christmas on their wish list.

Texas cities' probabilities for a white Christmas this year:

Abilene	3%
Amarillo	7%
Austin	0%
Dallas	0%
El Paso	6%
Gaustonia	0%
Houston	0%
Lubbock	3%
Wichita Falls	3%

SOURCE: Corrie Kauten Rylander, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (www.sindow.state.tx.us), and the National Climatic Data Center.

Light Church

Teaching • Training • Equipping

Helping YOU Discover and Develop Your Gifts and Talents!

Sunday Worship Services
First Service, 9:00 A.M.
Second Service, 11:00 A.M.
(Casual Attire)
Sunday Discovery Sessions
6:30 P.M.
L.I.F.T. Bible Study
(Living Instruction For Today)
Every Tuesday, 7:30 P.M.

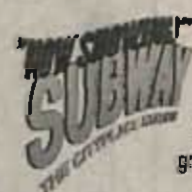


RON SHAW
PASTOR

Light Church

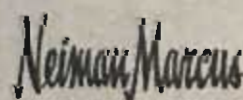
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DART News



DART offers a subway to the Cityplace gateway.

Starting December 18, all DART light rail trains stop in the tunnel at Cityplace Station. Up, up you go 10 stories towards the light for great shopping, movie theaters and entertainment.



Neiman Marcus teams up with DART.

Bus Route 438, now operates Monday through Saturday, serving employees of the Neiman Marcus warehouse in Irving. Route 438 connects the Illinois and Westmoreland light rail stations with the South Irving Station on the Trinity Railway Express commuter line. Service is also open to the public.



Treat the family to holiday trains at NorthPark Center.

Avoid traffic and parking hassles and take the Holly Trolley from Park Lane Station to see "The Trains at NorthPark." The exhibit of more than 40 vintage toy locomotives benefits the Ronald McDonald House.



Plano passengers ride curb-to-curb to Collin Creek Mall.

Attention Plano shoppers! DART On-Call Plano provides limited curb-to-curb van service in north central Plano. Trips can be scheduled from your door to Collin Creek Mall and other shopping destinations during off-peak hours. Just call 972-658-2190.



Ride DART to new century celebration.

Dallas 2001 New Year's Eve celebration takes place on Main Street in downtown Dallas, a convenient ride on the Trinity Railway Express and DART Light Rail. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster at 214-373-8001.



Convenient On-Call service comes to Lakewood.

Starting January 15, Lakewood residents can schedule curb-to-curb DART On-Call van rides from their door to Mockingbird Station and other neighborhood destinations. Service is available weekdays from 5:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Just call 972-880-5958 for more information or to make a reservation.

For more information on DART Services, call DART Customer Information at 214-979-1111 or visit our website at DART.org



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TXU sponsors economic forecast

Close presidential elections, economy to stay undimpled

TPA Wire Service

Despite a close presidential election, count and recounts, dimpled ballots, absentee ballots, and court cases you will be glad to know that the economy will not be dimpled absent or recounted.

January 2001 will mark the 20th year of the Perryman Group Forecasts. Dr. M. Ray Perryman, one of the world's acclaimed economists is the founder and president of The Perryman Group, (TPG). TPG is an economic and research organization with headquarters in Waco and he confirmed it.

The HOUSE though controlled by Republicans is as close as the elections—almost evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats. Most people in the HOUSE are moderates and if anyone gets a radical idea, the WHIP will just have to whip them into line. We should expect to see many coalitions formed. Perryman said, "There will be no radical policies. We will rather see middle of the road policies. The deficit will continue to go down but will not be paid out."

For the busiest shopping season of the year, people are choosing to do nothing, which is one way of reacting to uncertainty. The cash registers are not ringing the way they did last year. Like the election, people are just dragging and dragging their wallets with it too. What does all this mean for the average citizen—presidential elections will finally be settled and there will be job growth.

Furthermore, bear in mind that economy is now global meaning that certain factors overseas can affect even the best economy. External shock can lead to energy crisis. For example, if there is an increase in Middle East conflict leading to restriction of world oil supply, then there will be a recession. However, it has to be absolutely serious and has to be a sustained long-term conflict to affect oil supply—something more serious than we have right now in Middle East. As for the nation, we might be evenly divided but we are not deeply divided.

As for East Texas region, in the early 90s, construction was down. However, our construction sector has grown with the economy. We have now met the demand and construction will slowly taper off. Tyler and Longview are just like the presidential elections—very close in growth.

For the oil industry, this is as close as it can get to an oil boom. The oil industry is more technologically advanced; it will fuel some growth, but will not be the mainstay. Water one of the world's most important economic commodities is in our community. He encouraged east Texans to remain involved in water issues because water will become an economic advantage in the future.

One cannot live in Texas without thinking, pondering or talking about Mexico especially now that Vicente Fox Quesada, popularly known as "the Coca Cola Kid" is president. Quesada and his party National Action Party surprised this country, Mexico and the world at large when he won the presidential elections. His stunning victory ousted the Institutional Revolutionary Party and ended their 71-year reign and sworn in December.

Quesada who brings a strong American business background and Jesuit training is talking about promoting more free trade across the border, unrestricted immigration, forming a common currency for North America, etc. etc. Though he says such radical things, he is up to the challenge of bringing lasting change to his country.

Mexico. Quesada will have to fight corruption, flourishing drug trade, criminality and help 40 million poor Mexicans who

Texas for the utility deregulation. We are not like Californians who do not know what to expect in form of power



Outline: (l-r) Gerald Gotcher, TXU Dallas public affairs, Dr. M. Ray Perryman, Brenda Walker, TXU Longview manager, and Larry Higgins, TXU Tyler electric operations manager.

live on \$2 a day make a better living. He is confident that his government can accomplish that. Any economic stimulus in Mexico is good for Texas so we applaud his efforts.

Just like the presidential elections—too close to call, the economy hopefully without any drastic changes will also be close to what we have right now. It will not end up in the courts at least and will be manageable.

On an elective note, Perry commended our great state of

supply and its rates.

TXU, one of the largest investor-owned energy services companies in the world with assets of over \$40 billion sponsored the luncheon. TXU, a multinational leader in electric and natural gas merchant trading and other energy related services is headquartered in Dallas and delivers energy to 9 million customers most of them in Texas, United Kingdom, continental Europe and Australia.

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AT&T empowers TPA

Telecom giant arms Black Press with technology

TPA Wire Service

When you hear or read about AT&T, wireless telephones, local and long distance, Internet services with AT&T world net, consulting and networking integration comes to mind. AT&T—the nation's largest direct Internet access service for consumers does more than that. Apart from providing services to customers world wide, they give back directly into local communities through funds and grants.

AT&T has a strong relationship with Texas Publishers Association (TPA), the African-American Press of Texas. The global telecommunications giant recently presented TPA a \$50,000 grant check. TPA member publications will use the money to upgrade their publishing technology.

Clem Maddox, regional director legislative affairs for AT&T presented the check on behalf of Mona Williams, public relations and vice president for the Southwest region. At a recent TPA business meeting recently in Dallas, he conveyed her message of 'valuing the relationship, making it stronger and looking forward to its continuance.' In response, Joyceline Fadojutimi, president of TPA said, "TPA appreciates AT&T's relationship. They remain our strongest ally in bringing pertinent news and information to the communities we serve. This check will go a long way to upgrade and buy needed equipments for what we do best—publishing. We are very grateful for your help."

Twentieth century technological revolution has changed modes of communication for every citizen. Technological

See AT&T on page 7



Jim Gilbert, government affairs manager with AT&T; Tommy Wyatt, TPA Parliamentarian and publisher of The Villager in Austin; Clem Maddox, regional director legislative affairs AT&T; Rhonda Pruitt, TPA treasurer, co-publisher of La Vida News, Arlington, Ft. Worth, Houston, Fort Bend; Darryl Johnson, TPA vice president, publisher of Corsicana Press; Joyceline Fadojutimi, TPA president, PR for East Texas Review, Longview proudly display the check.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for highway improvement contracts will be received by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) until the date (s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE CONTRACT (S)

District: Fort Worth
Contract: 8747-04-053 for PAVEMENT REHABILITATION in TARRANT County will be opened on January 03, 2001 until 1:00 pm at the State Office.
Contract: 0902-48-213 for CREATE CITY WIDE NETWORK OF PATHWAYS in TARRANT County will be opened January 04, 2001 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or District Offices listed below. Bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies in Austin, Texas at the expense of the contractor.

NPO: 2292

State Office

Construction Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540

District Office(s)

Fort Worth District
District Engineer
1501 Southwest LP820
Ft. Worth, Texas 76133
Phone: 817-370-6500

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.



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Year 2000 nonstop ride, more adventures planned for 2001

Following the great journalistic tradition, MON-The Gazette dedicates this editorial to a review of the major news themes and perspectives for this year. It is probably an understatement to say that the year 2000 was interesting. In fact, 2000, in the minds of many, marked the beginning of a new millennium and, therefore, another threshold for mankind. The term "millennia" moved from the ranks of science fiction and became a household term. In keeping with this literary theme, it is fair to say that the developments over the course of the year were akin to the setting of the plot for a good suspense novel. We started with great suspense, muddled through the days where we "set the stage," and ended the year with a dramatic flare. Let's follow the tale of 2000.

Throughout 1999, the entire country was fearful of what the implications of Y2K would bring. From the dire warnings of survivalists, who predicted near cataclysmic social upheaval, through the very staid response of the technically impaired, a whole industry was created to respond to something whose existence is now questioned. Many Americans were poised in front of their computers and televisions anxiously awaiting something (or nothing) to happen as the hands of the clock struck midnight on New Year's Eve. As we all know now, by and large, the roar that was to have been

Y2K, at best, proved to be a whimper.

2000 also brought us continued debates over social issues. For example,

1. With the completion of the human genome project, we were again embroiled in the implications of the medical advance for the ethical issues it could lead to. Growing "replacements" for needed body organs, cloning, and disease-specific drugs were but a few of the concerns related to this phenomenon that will be debated for decades.

2. Education continued to be a focus of much discussion ranging from the matter of safety in schools - due to the very public incidents of school violence through the performance level of students in the classroom. On a local level, the ongoing leadership concerns within the Dallas Public Schools reached new depths with the bickering, dismissal, legal jousting between the school board and the superintendent; a new search, and ultimately the hiring of a new superintendent. (We'll have to stay tuned on how this ends.

3. Health care - how it should be paid for, who should be eligible and to what degree - became a major focus of public debate and review. In fact, it was perhaps the major tenet of the election year, both nationally and locally.

4. Affirmative action and its future is winding through the courts in pursuit of clarity as to how America will insure equality

for those who might not otherwise have the advantage of a level playing field.

Without a doubt, the major new story of 2000 had to be the Presidential elections. Who would have ever suspected that, with over 90 million votes cast, that the choice of the American President would boil down to a few hundred votes in one state. One statistician likened this development to the probability of flipping a coin and having it land on its edge. This analogy would have been appropriate if it had been further suggested that it would take five weeks for the coin to finally land on side or the other. Inevitably, thousands of pages of books, articles and essays will be written about this incredible and potentially divisive election. We won't belabor the point (at least, at this time) of expounding on the implications of the election other than to say that this concluding news event of 2000 will surely set the dynamics for 2001.

Stay tuned for what happens next and have a safe, happy holiday.

By Trina George

Since 1964, the Job Corps has provided nearly two million disadvantaged youths with the academic, vocational and social skills training. This training helps them gain independence and obtain good, sustainable jobs or to further their education.



The North Texas Job Corps offers students 17 job training programs, including the carpentry trade.

Photos courtesy North Texas Job Corps
Administered by the U.S. Department of Labor, Job Corps is the nation's largest and most comprehensive residential education and job-training program designated for at-risk youths between the ages of 16 and 25. Currently there are more than 110 Job Corps campuses nationwide, including those in the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The North Texas center is located in McKinney.

ed in McKinney.

Since opening its doors in 1967, the North Texas Job Corps has helped numerous students whose lives have been positively affected. "We are coming off one of the best years ever," says Joseph Oatis, center director for the North Texas Job Corps. "Our goal is for every student to graduate. In 1999, nearly 60 percent graduated and 95 percent obtained jobs, went to college or into the military."

Education and training programs comprises two compo-

accounting clerk, landscape training, electrician training to security officer, which are available at the center. Students enroll in college for advanced career training. Students in the college program attend classes at nearby Collin County Community College and the center provides transportation to and from the campus.

Xavier Giles, who has been at the North Texas Center for a year, is enrolled in Collin Community College. He is studying engineering technology and carries a 3.8 GPA. "I am



The McKinney center opened its doors to north Texas students in 1967.

nents: basic education and vocational training. These individualized, self-paced programs help students achieve their full potential. Students can study for the high school equivalency exam or choose from one of 17 training programs, such as

in process of entering the co-op program," says Giles, which combines school and work. After graduation, from Collin County Community College, he plans to enter a four-year university and get his master's.

"Our vocational program is See JOB CORPS on page 7

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health care, electrical, plumbing, welding, carpentry, security, automotive repair, food service, office skills, computers, and lots more!

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for highway improvement contracts will be received by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) until the date (s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE CONTRACT (S)

District: Fort Worth

Contract 6066-38-001 for POTHOLE REPAIR IN SW TARRANT COUNTY IN TARRANT County will be received on January 17, 2001 until 6:00 am and opened on January 17, 2001 at 9:00 am at the District Office for an estimate of \$86,007.00.

Contract 6066-39-001 POTHOLE REPAIR IN NW TARRANT COUNTY IN TARRANT County 2001 at 9:00 am at the District Office for an estimate of \$42,000.00.

Contract 6066-40-001 for POTHOLE REPAIR IN NE TARRANT COUNTY IN TARRANT County will be received on January 17, 2001 until 6:00 am and opened on January 17, 2001 at 9:00 am at the District Office for an estimate of \$46,602.50.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or District Offices listed below. Bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies in Austin, Texas at the expense of the contractor.

NPO: 2370

State Office

Construction Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540

District Office(s)

Fort Worth District
District Engineer
2501 Southwest LP820
Ft. Worth, Texas 76133
Phone: 817-370-6500

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.



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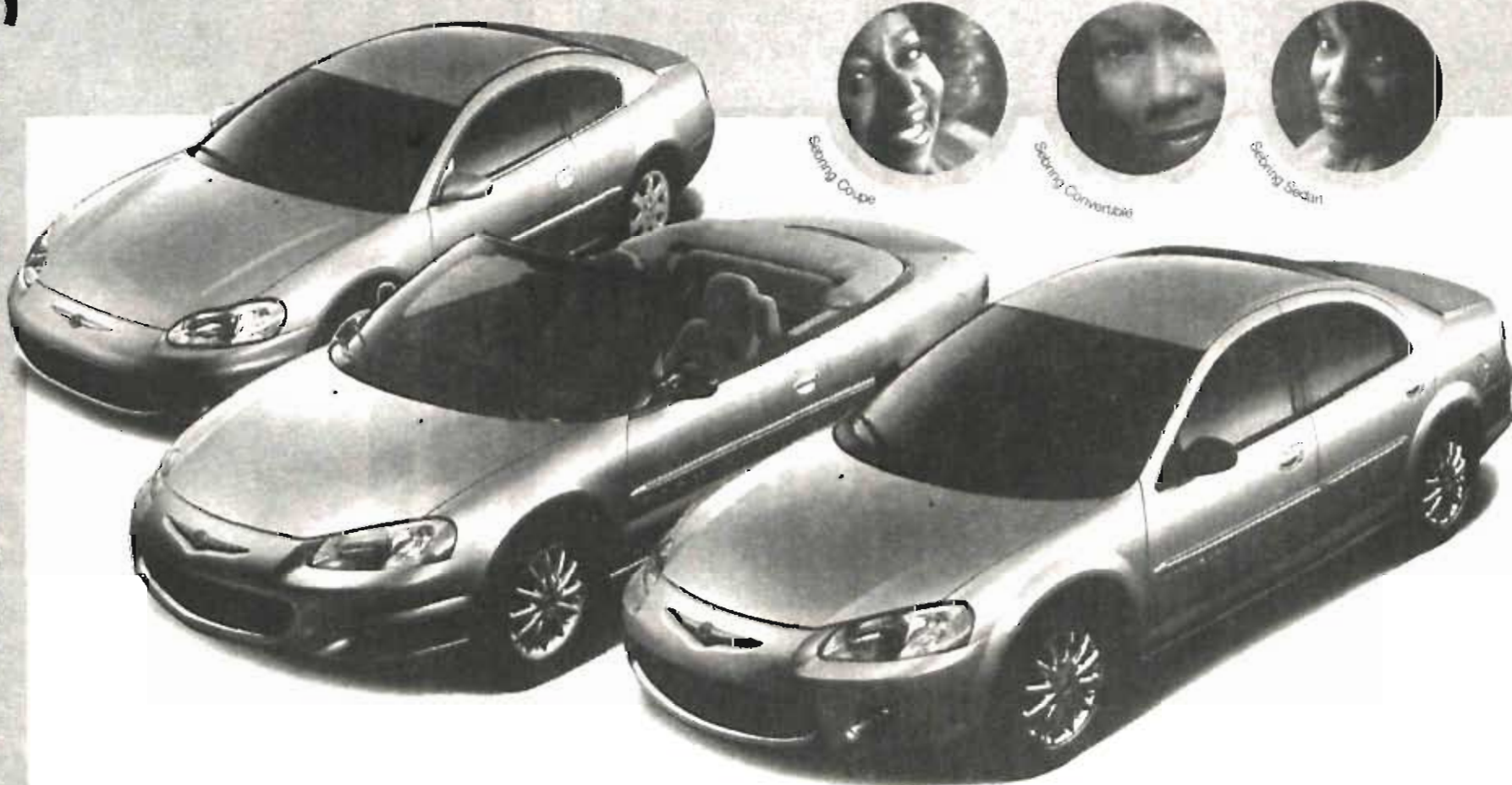
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Wellness Briefs

Congress raises payments to HMOs, hospitals

Congress recently approved \$35 billion in Medicare, Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Program funding approved by a lame duck session of the 106th Congress. Hospitals will receive \$11.5 billion over 5 years, \$11 billion to Medicare managed care plans and \$235 million for independent children's teaching hospitals.

Anesthesia could decrease deaths after surgery

New Zealand researchers report that giving local instead of general anesthesia to patients having surgery could reduce complications and deaths by about 30 percent. Local anesthesia, in which a patient is still conscious and only part of the body is numbed, is used for minor operations. A four-year study found that there were fewer blood clots, infections, heart attacks and kidney failures in patients given local anesthesia.

Tainted turkey may be responsible for deaths

Health officials are investigating four deaths, three instances of miscarriage or stillbirth and over a dozen cases of other illnesses possibly linked to tainted ready-to-eat poultry products manufactured by Cargill Turkey Products. The illnesses and death could be due to turkey products contaminated with a potentially deadly bacteria. Cargill Turkey Products voluntarily recalled more than 15 million pounds of ready-to-eat turkey products produced in Waco, Texas.

Holly responsible for accidental poisonings

Doctors are warning people this holiday season about the potential dangers of holiday decorations. The leaves and berries of holly are toxic and can cause severe nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. The leaves and stems of mistletoe are also toxic and can cause changes in blood pressure, confusion and vomiting. The poinsettia, considered very poisonous is only dangerous in large quantities. A 50-pound child would have to eat 500 leaves before experiencing symptoms of poisoning.

Fast food can cause motion sickness

Doctors are urging passengers driving or flying during the holidays to avoid fast food along the way. Alcohol and spicy or greasy may contribute to queasiness. Doctors also suggest traveling at the least busy times, and sitting over the wing in airplanes. For car travel, sit in the front seat to take in scenery and get plenty of rest.

St. Paul recruiting patients for alcoholism program

Researchers at St. Paul Medical Center are recruiting patients for a program that could help heavy drinkers stay sober during treatment for alcohol dependence and through the holiday season. Patients must be males or non-pregnant or non-nursing females age 18-65 with a diagnosis of alcohol dependence and have experienced four heavy drinking days prior to screening. Call Deanna Adams at 214-879-3014.

Hypothermia can kill Texans during winter months

Heat waves, a prolonged drought, occasional flooding and tornadoes have dominated the weather news in recent years. Winters have been mild. However, health officials warn that even in statistically warm years, vulnerable Texans can die from cold temperatures.

Just last winter, at least 21 people died in Texas from hypothermia, or severe or prolonged loss of body heat, because of the cold. Of those 21, at least 17 (81 percent) were age 60 or older, and many of them died unexpectedly in their own homes.

"While extreme or extended cold is dangerous to anyone, some people are more likely to suffer hypothermia in temperatures that may not seem dangerous to most healthy adults," said Sam Wilson, director of the Emergency Preparedness Division at Texas Department of Health (TDH).

Wilson, who also is a paramedic, said that infants and small children are at risk in cold temperatures because their bodies radiate heat faster than bodies of adults. People who are sick and those taking certain prescription drugs or alcohol may lack resistance to low temperatures. Homeless people, auto or boating accident victims and others unable to find temporary shelter also are endangered during extremes of cold.

"But those people most susceptible to hypothermia," Wilson said, "are usually age 60 and older." Several factors combine to make cold weather more hazardous for people as they age. Often, an older person's metabolism is slower than that of a young person, or the older person may already be in poor

health and taking medications that can alter awareness of dangerously low temperature.

People 60 and older may not perceive or respond to cold as readily as younger people, since the human body's natural alarm signal - the reflex of shivering that increases blood flow - lessens with age, Wilson said. Some hypothermia victims die because they are simply unaware of gradual temperature changes.

In addition, many people, especially the elderly on fixed incomes, may set their thermostats dangerously low for fear of high heating bills. Add to that the fact that elderly people may live alone and unsupervised, and the stage is set for tragedy, Wilson said.

Hypothermia begins when a person's deep body temperature falls below 95 degrees Fahrenheit less than four degrees below normal. Because the temperature drop may be gradual, and since an early sign of hypothermia is mental confusion, the victim may not know there is an emergency. Drowsiness and coma leading to death can occur while the victim remains unaware of any problem.

Besides confusion and drowsiness, symptoms of hypothermia may include:

Wind (mph)	Temperature (°F)											
5	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20
10	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16
15	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12
20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
25	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
30	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
35	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	-1	-2	-3	-4
40	3	2	1	0	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8
45	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8	-9	-10	-11	-12

DEPRESSED AGAIN?

The Department of Psychiatry at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center of Dallas is conducting research sponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health on cognitive therapy for depression. 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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Most people start out jogging for fitness and health, and then find the 'rush' from running so exhilarating they just have to keep going for more.

Becoming fitter by running (or walking) is likely to improve other aspects of your life.

It is a great way to lose weight, and it is one of the best stress relievers.

Regular aerobic exercise, such as running and walking, is one of the most effective ways to improve cardiovascular fitness and decreases the risk of heart disease.

Runners and walkers have stronger bones and lungs than sedentary people.

Regular aerobic exercise increases your energy level for both work and play.

Exercise will improve your appearance and self-concept.

If the excitement of the marathon has you wondering how you can start training to run the grueling 26 miles, 385 yards, you should know that you don't have to run a marathon to call yourself a runner.

Keeping your eyes on the marathon is a challenging and motivating goal, but if you are a novice runner, you will need plenty of training and realistic goal setting.

Don't rush too rapidly into a marathon, but set goals of working towards 5K and 10K races. The average reader of Runner's World runs 20-25 miles a week, which is a good base level for fitness.

In Hal Higdon's Beginning Runner's Guide (www.newrunner.com), he suggests a simple 30/30 plan to get you going,

featuring 30 minutes of exercise for the first 30 days.

Walk out of your door and go 15 minutes in one direction, turn around, and return 15 minutes to your start.

For the first 10 minutes and last five minutes of your workout it is obligatory that you walk, no running.

During the middle 15 minutes you can jog or run as long as you do so easily, without pushing yourself. You can jog for 30 seconds, walk until you are recovered, jog, walk, jog, walk.

If you do this routine every day for 30 days you can move onto the next stage, which is your developing the ability to run continuously for a mile, then two miles, then more if you want.

Gradually increase the length of time in the middle of your workout spent jogging, and decrease the number of walking breaks. For example, 45 seconds jogging, 30 seconds walking, (45/30) then 60/30, then 75/30.

Vary your routine. Work harder one day, then give yourself an easier day. Allow for occasional rest days when you do no walking or jogging, or vary your workout by cross training with another form of exercise.

Test yourself after a few weeks to see if you can run a half-mile continuously, then a mile, always starting by walking 10 minutes and finishing by walking 5 minutes.

Then you can begin to set sights on the 5K and 10K runs (3 mile and 6 miles.) And once

...See JOGGING page 8

Registration begins Dec. 4
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Part Six with Carl Perkins Books

...BUSH from page 1

Americans regardless of race. "I think you will see in the presidency of George W. Bush proves popular recognition of how important it is that we continue the last 30-plus years of progress toward 'one America,'" Rice said in an apparent attempt to reach out to the overwhelming majority of blacks who voted for Gore.

Gonzales, 45, one of eight siblings, said it was the fourth time in six years that Bush has given him a promotion. He was previously Bush's general counsel in the Texas governor's office. "I could not pass up the opportunity to come serve with

you again," he said.

Bush also appointed Gonzales to the Texas Supreme Court.

The straight-talking Hughes, 43, the granddaughter of a coal miner, has been Bush's chief spokeswoman for 6-1/2 years, during his time as governor of Texas and during his presidential campaign.

"I promise I will always give you my unvarnished opinion," Hughes told Bush, who chuckled and said, "No question about that."

As Bush rushes to build his Cabinet before his Jan. 20 inauguration, one potential stum-

bling point is over who will be defense secretary.

Republican sources said Cheney prefers the more conservative former Sen. Dan Coats, an Indiana Republican, while Powell would prefer more moderate Republican Gov. Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania.

Bush, in an apparent reference to the internal debate, said during the announcement ceremony that he would make the decision.

"The issue is resolved as to who gets to pick the defense secretary," he said.

...AT&T from page 4

advances have not only changed what people do but how they do it. From the home to the office, from finance to leisure time activities, technology has imposed change in every facet of life. Moreover, for the industry whose mission is to inform, technology's change of pace has been nothing short of remarkable. AT&T is equipping TPA with the most advanced technol-

ogy in the industry.

In previous years, AT&T, a company that runs the world's largest, most sophisticated communications network, provided the association funding for in-depth, thorough and on-going training thereby helping publishers remain abreast of emerging techniques. Also making it possible for publishers to disseminate news and information in a timely fashion to the communities

they serve. Furthermore, AT&T enhances funding by purchasing advertising space in TPA publications.

TPA represents more than 20 African-American owned and managed newspapers in the Lone Star State. The combined readership of TPA's member papers totals 1.3 million citizens, most of them, African-Americans.

...JOB CORPS from page 5

exceptional," says Oatis. "We focus on both aspects of employment - the ability to perform the task and social development needed to sustain it." After partnering with local businesses, he discovered that certain "soft skills" were missing. "It's easy to teach a person to use a computer, but how do you teach that individual to be dependable?" The Center ensures that every student receives the training needed to sustain the jobs. They teach social skills such as being prompt, interviewing properly and dressing appropriately.

Many students are involved in the school-to-work-program offered by the center. Midway through training, instructors determine if students can benefit from work experience. Students

can work for local companies, transportation is provided and they will be paid. After a six-to-12-week internship, students return to the center to brush up on skills needed to perform the job. The experience reaps three-fold benefits: the students get first-hand, on-the-job-training; established work history, and a smoother transition is made from Job Corps to the work force.

Diana Mendoza, spent 4 1/2 months in the Job Corps studying to be an accounting clerk, and is now employed by the center as an administrative assistant. "Job Corps taught me time management, budgeting, helped me obtain my GED and provided me with the skills needed for my trade."

The Center provides vital

assistance to its 650 students while they are at the center, and provides support after they leave the center. "We track our students up to one year after they obtain employment," says Oatis. "Since we have students from as far east as New Orleans and as far west as Lufkin, we have staff located in the students' respective cities."

Career advisors provide students support to help them with difficult situations. All of the advisors carry cell phones so that students can reach them anytime.

"Our mission," says Oatis, "is to develop individuals to help them get a job, keep it and become productive citizens."

The Perfect Weekend:

I can enjoy the games, while my wife shops online!




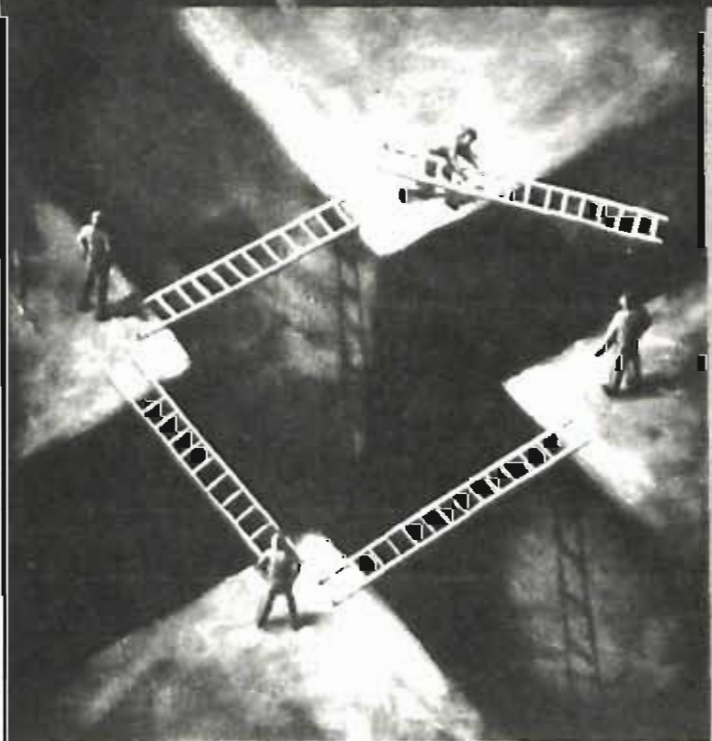
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Chambers of Commerce

City of Frisco

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Men's Warehouse
Ribbon cutting at 8500 Gaylord
Parkway #1 (in front of Target).
For further information call Jack
Duffin at 972-668-5227 or the
chamber office at 972-335-
9522.

Friday, December 22
Chamber office closed for
Christmas
The Chamber Offices will be
closed for the Christmas
Holidays in Frisco, Dec. 22-25.
We will re-open on Tuesday,
December 26.

City of Richardson

Wednesday, December 20
7:30 a.m. - EarlyNet
Castle at Canyon Creek, 2700
Custer Parkway. No reserva-
tions required. Super network-
ing table exchange.

Thursday, December 21
Afternoon - RCC office closes
early for holidays

Friday, December 21-Monday,
December 25
RCC office closed for the holi-
days

Wednesday, December 27
No EarlyNet

City of Plano

Wednesday, December 20
7:30 a.m.-Business Interchange
Chamber Building, 1200 E.
15th Street.

9:15 a.m. - Ribbon Cutting-
Edward Jones (Billie Meador)
6905 Coit Road. Everyone is
invited, no RSVP necessary.

11:30 a.m. - Women's Division
Luncheon
The luncheon will be held at
Gleneagles Country Club. To
register call 972-424-7547.

Friday, December 22
7:30 a.m.-Business Interchange
Chamber Building, 1200 E.
15th Street.

Friday, December 29
7:30 a.m.-Business Interchange
Chamber Building, 1200 E.
15th Street.

City of McKinney

Monday, December 18
7:30 p.m. - McKinney
Symphony Orchestra-Rotary
Holiday Pops
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at First Baptist Church. Call
972-562-9276 for tickets

Wednesday, December 20
4:00 p.m. - Ribbon Cutting-
Freese & Nichols, Inc.
105 S. Tennessee, Ste. 101.
Join us for chocolate bar &
refreshments.

Thursday, December 28
11:30 a.m. - Ribbon Cutting-
Presbyterian Medical Center,
Allen
1105 Central Expressway. Allen
welcomes its newest medical
facility.

City of Allen

Friday, December 15-Saturday,
December 30
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Central between McDermott
and Exchange Drives, this 2
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Tuesday, December 19
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School Choir Show
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Elementary School, 1120
Newport Drive for entertain-
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Show Choir. For information or
reservations call the chamber.

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Sunday, December 24th

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churches visit:
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DALLAS
Camp Wisdom UMC
1300 W. Camp Wisdom Rd.
10:30 am, 6 pm*

Crest-Moore-King UMC
4501 S. Marsalis Ave.
10:30 am, 4 pm*

Glen Oaks UMC
4606 S. Polk
10 am, 4:30 pm*

Hamilton Park UMC
11881 Schroeder Rd.
8 am, 11 am, 6 pm*

Highland Hills UMC
6006 Flagstaff
10 am, 4 pm*

Jubilee Fellowship UMC
301 Frank Keasler
10:30 am

Lambuth UMC
4350 Bonnieview
11:30 am, 6 pm*

Pleasant Grove Fellowship UMC
8301 Bruton Rd.
10:30 am

St. Luke's "Community" UMC
5710 East R.L. Thomson Fwy.
8 am, 11 am, 6 pm*

Umphress Road UMC
7224 Umphress
11 am, 7 pm*

Warren UMC
3028 S. Malcolm X Blvd.
10:45 am

PLANO
All Nations United Methodist Fellowship
1818 Coit Rd. 10 am
2932 Tisinger 6 pm*

TERRELL
Warren Chapel UMC
810 S. Adelaide St.
11 am

*Candlelight Service

..JOGGING from page 6

you are comfortable with that level in your training you will have the groundwork set for the challenge of a marathon.

There are many books and articles that will tell you how to train, and many of the major marathons across the U.S. have training classes to aid runners in their preparation. Most schedules and classes recommend a marathon build-up lasting 15 to

18 weeks, with long runs of 10 to 10 miles at least once a week.

For further information contact running clubs in the Dallas area, such as Run On, in Dallas, Irving and Richardson, or look at running magazines and e-zines.

Approximately 3,500 runners recently participated in the 31st Dallas White Rock Marathon, and nearly 2,000

more joined in the two-person and five-person relays, all of which started and finished downtown at Dallas City Hall.

Joel Ibarra of Toluca, Mexico crossed the finish line of the full 26.2 mile marathon in first place to capture the men's title, and Dallas physician Riva Rahl finished first in the women's competition.

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~HAPPY HOLIDAYS~

First high school all-star football game to be held in Dallas

Four local athletes expected to participate

The first ever National High School All-Star Football game receives nationwide television coverage to over 70 million homes on Fox Sports Net Saturday, Dec. 30 at 2:00 PM CT from Highlander Stadium at Highland Park High School in Dallas.

The game features the top 75 high school seniors from across the United States as



(l to r) Outside linebackers Cole Smith, Ft. Worth Christian High School and Jonathan Scott, Carter High School will both play on the West Team of the All-Star Game.

Photo by Stan R. Davis.

selected by SchoolSports.com in an East vs. West showdown. At halftime, the inaugural High School Heisman is awarded to one player in each of the six balloting regions: Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, South, Midwest, Southwest and Far West.

Fox Sports Net Big 12 Conference football announcers Ron Thulin (play-by-play), Dave Lapham (analyst) and Jim Knox (sideline reporter) will call the action.

Legendary coaches Bob McQueen of Temple, Texas, and Florida's Carl Madison lead the two teams. McQueen, the head coach of the winningest team in Texas High School football history, coaches the West squad. Madison, the 1988 USA TODAY National High School Coach of the Year and former president of the Florida Coaches Association who coached for over 40 years before

recently retiring, leads the East team.

Among the players who have accepted invitations to the game are blue-chip quarterbacks Brent Rawls (West) of Shreveport, La.'s Evangel Christian Academy, and Aaron Alexander (East) from Henrico High School in Richmond, Va. Rawls, a "Prep Star" preseason All-American and fourth on "Max Emfinger's" Top 100 list, passed for 3,459 yards and 35 touchdowns in winning the 2000 Louisiana District 5A MVP Offensive Player award. Alexander, the 1999 USA TODAY Virginia State Player of the Year listed as one of "Street and Smith's" Top 50 national recruits this season, threw for 1,649 yards and 20 touchdowns this season.

The classic east vs. west showdown will showcase four of the premier high school players in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Athletes include Carter High School offensive lineman Jonathan Scott, Jesuit College Preparatory School defensive lineman Thomas Derriks, Garland High School wide receiver Keith Mills and Ft. Worth Day School fullback Victor Mann.

A list of other players who have accepted invitations to participate in the all-star game can be found on the Internet at SchoolSports.com, the game's sponsor and a leading publisher of high school sports news and information and a host of high school team Web sites across the country.

Avon signs Williams sisters to advertising agreement

NEW YORK, (PRNewswire)-Avon Products, Inc. has signed world-famous tennis champions, Venus Williams and Serena Williams, to an exclusive three-year global advertising and promotional agreement. Financial terms were not disclosed.

Under the agreement, the Williams sisters will appear in television and print advertising in connection with Avon's "Let's Talk" advertising campaign, which launched earlier this year.

The new television advertising utilizing Venus and Serena will launch nationally in the United States in the first quarter of 2001. Creative imagery will be made available to Avon's global markets for use in brochures, collateral materials, public relations materials, Internet, and events.

The Williams sisters also will appear as spokespersons for Avon and its products, be featured on Avon-owned websites,

and make personal appearances at Avon-sponsored events such as the company's annual National Representative Convention. In addition, they will be involved with the launch of Avon Wellness, the company's new global line of women's health and well-being products including vitamins and nutritional supplements.

"Venus and Serena are wonderful role models for young women all over the world," said Janice Spector, vice president of advertising for Avon. "Their winning spirit and dedication to being their best is a perfect fit with Avon's heritage of empowering women to strive for their own goals and aspirations."

And their close personal relationship is at the very essence of Avon's "Let's Talk" campaign, which celebrates the relationships women value in their lives.

"This is a wonderful oppor-

tunity for Serena and me to partner with Avon in their efforts to communicate to women the importance of achieving their goals and taking care of their health," said Venus Williams.

"Venus and I are very excited to be associated with a company like Avon that's trusted by women all over the world and that plays such an important role in their lives," Serena Williams said.

The Williams sisters are world-class athletes who have risen to the very pinnacle of professional tennis. Venus Williams, 20, is the 2000 Wimbledon and U.S. Open Singles Champion. She won gold medals at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney in both singles and doubles (partnering with her sister, Serena.) In addition to winning the Olympic gold medal in doubles, Serena Williams, 19, is also the

1999 U.S. Open Singles Champion. To date, they have won 13 Grand Slam titles, including three together in women's doubles. Venus also was named Sports Illustrated's Sportswoman of the Year for 2000. She is ranked No. 3 in the world and this year, Serena reached a career-high ranking of No. 4 in the world.

Both Venus and Serena are studying fashion and design at the Art Institute of Ft. Lauderdale.

This partnership with Avon was negotiated by the Williams' agent, IMG.

Avon is the world's leading direct seller of beauty and related products, with \$5.3 billion in annual revenues. Avon markets to women in 137 countries through three million independent sales representatives.

Gymnastics professionals stop at Reunion Arena

By Che Hill

The TJ Maxx Tour of World Gymnastics Champions show held at Reunion Arena was a pale reflection of the Sydney Olympic games at best. It was marred by mistakes, and substandard performances that were not up to par by a long shot. A few of the gymnasts were from gymnastics schools in the Dallas area and these, though undecorated, seemed to put more heart into their performances. It appeared as if many of the Olympians and sea-

soned gymnasts took the show lightly because of the lack of competition, and looked more like they were practicing than doing a live show.

The production consisted of flashing spotlights, mostly upbeat popular tunes, and traditional gymnastic events such as the trampoline, vertical rings, pommel horse, uneven bars, and floor exercise. The team consisted of 2000 Olympic team members Alexei Nemov, Svetlana Khorkina, Elena Produnova, Amy Chow, Jamie

Dantzcher, and Paul Hamm, Stephen McCain, Jennifer Parilla, John Roethlisberger, Sean Townsend, and Blaine Wilson. Jessica Howard, 2000 U.S. National team member; Mila Marinova two-time U.S. team member; Shannon Miller two-time U.S. Olympic team member; Dominique Moceanu, 1996 Olympic gold medal winner; Morgan White, 1999 World Champion; and Vanessa Arler U.S. National Champion.

In addition to the professional athletes, Team TJ Maxx,

consisting of special Olympic team members, made a brief exhibition of their talents also, with each one receiving a score of 10 from the audience for their efforts in varying events.

The Gymnastics Champions faced a tough crowd that seemed unsure of when to applaud, and was sparing in giving applause at all. After the intermission the show's master of ceremonies came out to recite the audience, but still only offered a meager response to the show.

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Election of 1948 much like Bush, Gore 2000

By Brandy Jones

Just about everyone believed that Harry Truman was doomed in 1948. On October 28, the President came to New York City for two days of energetic campaigning. At dusk, his motorcade arrived for a rally at Sara Delano Roosevelt Park on Manhattan's Lower East Side, an impoverished and traditionally Democratic neighborhood. A crowd was awaiting him.

The crowds were to cheer enthusiastically when Truman appeared, but Douglas, a University of Chicago professor campaigning for the Senate, only witnessed the solemn, almost funeral hush, so different from the noisy mobs that had awaited Roosevelt in 1940.

Moved by the contrast, Douglas remarked, "They have come out today to see the death of a dream that they cherish."

The dream was that of Roosevelt's New Deal, soon to be effaced by a bland new era in American politics that would bear the name of Thomas E. Dewey. Long before the campaign began, the certainty of Dewey's victory was almost universally accepted. On the eve of the Republican convention in June, the "New York Times" reporter James A. Hagerty, dean of American political writers, reported, "the general conviction is that the nominee of the convention will become the next President of the U.S."

For months, the three national polling organizations, Gallup, Roper and Crossley periodically reported that Dewey was leading Truman by a wide margin. As early as September 9, Elmo Roper announced that he was no longer going to publish a poll

on the presidential race. "Thomas E. Dewey," he declared, "is almost as good as elected... That being so, I can think of nothing duller or more intellectually barren than acting like a sports announcer who feels he must pretend he is witnessing a neck and neck race." The evidence of the polls



Harry Truman addresses the crowd on the campaign trail in November 1948.

seemed to be confirmed by an analysis of what had happened to the old Democratic coalition. Roosevelt's long tenancy in the White House had been basically grounded on the traditional Democratic control of the Solid South, plus a firm hold on the urban voters in the North who generally swung the electoral vote in the most populous states. With the States' Rights Party in the field, Truman was clearly going to lose the electoral votes of at least four southern states, and maybe more. In the North, he faced a similar breakaway from the newly created Progressive Party of Henry Wallace, whose appeal was to the militantly liberal urban voters who had always favored F.D.R. No one gave Wallace a chance of winning the electoral vote of a single state. On the other hand, he was likely to attract enough votes from Truman in large states to allow Dewey to take some or all of those states on a minority poll. In addition, Dewey was the

favorite to win the traditionally Republican farm belt of the Midwest, where he had done well against Roosevelt in 1944. It thus seemed impossible for Truman to put together a winning combination of electoral votes.

The psychological atmosphere of the campaign was also demoralizing to Democratic partisans. The Republicans were clearly on an upward spiral, having won control of the House and Senate in 1946. Such a midterm victory by the opposition party had traditionally foreshadowed a presidential triumph at the next election. The Republicans were well financed, blessed with overwhelming press support, and stimulated by the certainty of a victory long overdue. The Democrats suffered from a daze that could be traced back to the dreary day in April 1945 when F.D.R. had died. Truman's problem as a candidate, quite apart from the odds against him, was that he inspired disparagement even on the part of citizens who planned to vote for him out of party loyalty, or fear of the Republicans. Measured against the towering memories of F.D.R., he had always been a puny figure with no commanding presence about him. The common tag of mockery applied to Truman was "ex-haberdasher," as if there was something disreputable as well as ridiculous in having once sold gentlemen's furnishings.

As Truman's campaign progressed, periodic expressions of confidence did come, from Senator J. Howard McGrath,

despite the fact that both the Progressive and States Rights candidates each polled over 1.1 million votes, which would normally have gone to the Democratic candidate. Truman lost four states in the formerly Solid South. He managed to win without the large blocks of electoral votes of such normally Democratic states.

New film explores Cuban Missile Crisis

For thirteen extraordinary days in October of 1962, the world stood on the brink of an unthinkable catastrophe. Across the globe, people anxiously awaited the outcome of a harrowing political, diplomatic and military confrontation that threatened to end in an apocalyptic nuclear exchange between the United States and the Soviet Union.

In "Thirteen Days", the power and peril of the American presidency is dramatically explored by director Roger Donaldson, who captures the urgency, suspense and paralyzing chaos of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

The alarming escalation of events during those fateful days brought to the fore such public figures as Robert McNamara, Adlai Stevenson, Theodore Sorenson, Andrei Gromyko, Anatoly Dobrynin, McGeorge Bundy, Dean Acheson, Dean Rusk, and General Curtis LeMay.

In addition many others -- politicians, diplomats and soldiers -- were on the front line of

the showdown. In "Thirteen Days", we see all of these people, -- and, above all -- President John F. Kennedy and his brother Bobby, through the eyes of a



(l-r) Kevin Costner (Kenny O'Donnell), Bruce Greenwood (John F. Kennedy) and Steven Culp (Robert F. Kennedy) star in the drama "Thirteen Days," a New Line Cinema, in association with Beacon Pictures, production.

trusted presidential aide and confidante, Kenneth P. O'Donnell (Kevin Costner).

O'Donnell, who served as Special Assistant to the President, was a key White House insider with a birds eye view of the crisis. His office was next door to the President's

Oval Office, and he was a major behind the scenes figure in the Kennedy White House. In the film, O'Donnell serves as a conduit to this gripping dramatization of one of the most dangerous moments in modern history.

The film moves from the bitter debates that lingered within 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue to the skies above Cuba, where U.S. spy planes reveal the progressive missile build-up, and to the high seas, where a standoff between U.S. and Soviet ships threatens to trigger war attained their shining moment in what appeared to be the nation's darkest hour.

While mounting evidence suggests that the risk of a nuclear exchange was far greater than previously imagined, no one will ever know everything that happened behind closed doors at the White House

But, drawing on numerous historical sources, including White House tapes, memoirs, oral histories, CIA documents and personal interviews, screenwriter David Self has dramatized and woven together a story inspired by the events of October 1962 into a memorable thriller. "Thirteen Days" is, at its heart, a story of men who, through a stunning and bold combination of force and diplomacy.

majority party. It became apparent that Democratic victories in the four preceding presidential elections were not merely the result of circumstances. Instead, there had been a shift of allegiance from the Republican to the Democratic Party. Truman's decisive victory in the popular vote, confirmed that the nation's center of political gravity had shifted several degrees to the left.

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NOTES: A Scratch Off game may continue to be sold even when all the top prizes have been claimed. For current information on remaining on a Scratch Off game call 1-800-37-LOTTERY. Overall odds of winning any prize in Texas Cash Games: 1 in 4.77; High 5: 1 in 4.12; Single Bucks: 1 in 2.46, including break-even prizes. Must be 18 years or older to purchase a ticket. © 2000 Texas Lottery.

Arts & Entertainment

EVENTS

Eyeing the Arts

On-going

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra has made available "Dallas Christmas Gala," a recording of Christmas classics, sold at the Symphony Store in the lower level of the Meyerson Symphony Center, Tower Records, Border's Books and Records and Sam Goody's Records. For more information call 214-871-4082.

The Anita N. Martinez Ballet Folklorico is accepting applications for students ages 3 and older, interested in Ballet Folklorico and/or Salsa/Meringue at any level. For more information or to apply call 214-828-0181.

The Richardson Children's Theatre will be holding open auditions (adult and juniors) for the Repertory Company 2001, Saturday, Jan. 20 at RCT Studio Theatre, 2100 Promenade Center #2176, Richardson. For more information call 972-690-5029.

December 15-17

Quad C Theatre presents the musical "Don't Rock the Jukebox" in the Black Box Theatre at Collin County Community College, 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway, Plano. For tickets call 972-881-5809.

N.M. Productions presents the Christmas melodrama "North Pole Nightmare" at The Corner Theatre in the DeSoto Town Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd., DeSoto. For more information or tickets call 972-680-4466 or metro 817-784-6671.

December 15-23

The Plano Repertory Theatre will present "The Legend of the Poinsettia" by Roxanne Schroeder, at the ArtCentre Theatre, 1028 15th Place in Historic Downtown Plano. For more information or tickets call 972-422-7460.

The Dallas Museum of Natural History in Fair Park presents "Moments" photographs by Jim Merrett at the Photographic Archives Gallery, 5117 West Lovers Lane, Dallas. For more information visit www.dallasdi-no.org.

The Dallas Theater Center presents "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens at the Arts District Theater, 2401 Flora Street, Dallas. For tickets call 214-522-8499.

Dallas Children's Theater presents the Kathy Burks Theatre of Puppetry Arts original Christmas extravaganza "Not a Creature Was Stirring?" at the Crescent Theater, 2215 Cedar Springs across from the Hotel Crescent Court, Dallas. For reservations or information call 214-978-0110.

The Dallas Opera presents "The Barber of Seville" Dec. 15, 17, 20, 23 at The Music Hall at Fair Park. All performances begin at 7:30 p.m. For more information or tickets call 214-443-1000 or visit www.dallasopera.org.

December 15-30

The Plano Photography Club's Showcase 2000 will be displayed at the Plano Municipal Center, 1520 Avenue K. The exhibit will be moved to the Plano Center from Jan. 3-30. For more information call Sabrina Shuford at 972-941-5201.

Artwork of elementary students from J.W. Ray Learning Center will be on display at City Place Center East, 2711 N. Haskell Avenue. For more information call Don Lawrence at 972-826-5829.

December 15-January 7

Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main Street, Ft. Worth, presents "Black Nativity" a holiday musical by Langston Hughes. For tickets or information call 817-338-4411.

Cathedral Dallas, presents a special exhibit entitled "Mother of the Americas-Endless Source of Inspiration," a depiction of the Virgin of Guadalupe, in the Cathedral Gallery, Ross Ave. & Crockett Street, Dallas. Admission is free. For information call Catalina Montano, 214-871-1677.

December 16

Myrtle Salome and TBAAL Cultural Arts Retirees Committee present the 8th Christmas/Kwanzaa Concert featuring combined choral music from the Dallas Public Schools at 7:30 p.m. at the Naomi Bruton Theatre.

The Plano Symphony Orchestra and the Frisco Choral perform Holiday Pops at Frisco High School, 6401 Parkwood, Frisco. For information and tickets call 972-473-7262.

Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship, 1808 W. Camp Wisdom Rd., Dallas, presents the play "It All Happened in a Moment" Dec. 16-17 at 3:00 and 6:00 p.m., respectively. For more information call 972-228-1281.

The African American Museum in Fair Park will feature local choirs in "Christmas Music Under the Dome" concerts at 2:00 p.m. Dec. 16-17. The concerts are free and open to the public. For more information call 214-565-9026.

The Irving Arts Center & Irving Art Association presents a Dickens Holiday Greeting Card Workshop & Santa from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Dec. 16 & 23. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information visit www.ci.irving.tx.us.

Sounds from Within and GO Entertainment will be holding a casting call for upcoming 2001 productions. Auditions will be held from 12:00-3:00 p.m. at the Martin Luther King Center on MLK, Jr. Blvd., Dallas. For more information call 972-672-8480.

December 17

The Plano Symphony Orchestra presents the Target Holiday Pops Concert in two performances at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. For tickets call 972-473-7262.

December 18

The McKinney Symphony Orchestra will perform a Holiday Pops Concert at the First Baptist Church in McKinney, 1615 Louisiana Avenue, McKinney at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 972-473-7262.

December 26-January 1

The Third Eye is sponsoring the 2000-2001 City Wide Kwanzaa Celebration with ceremonies and events throughout Dallas. The celebrations include parades, children's activities, book reviews and college forums. For information and a schedule of events call Marilyn Clark at 214-426-1683.

Figurative artist Ted Ellis was in Dallas pushing his national program to make African-American art and artists a national treasure. During a show at Stephanie's Collection, the Houston artist explained his hope to help the world see and understand the value of African-American art by bringing attention to some of the most proficient works of art. Not a month passes when the paper does report on a piece of mainstream artwork selling for millions of dollars at a Christie's or Sotheby auction. There has never been a painting done by African-American artists, historically or currently, that has ever sold in the millions. Ellis said that by raising awareness art values would increase nationally since art is valued through a system of supply and demand.

The recent death of Atlanta artist William Tolliver brings home Ellis' point that African-American art is undervalued and under recognized. Tolliver, one of the most prolific and talented artists of our times, carved a path for himself from a house painter to one of the most collected and prominent artists in African-American history. An untrained artist, he mastered a loosely structured cubist style that made his artwork one of the hottest African-American art commodities of his decade. At the height of his career in the 90s he was selling hundreds of thousands of dollars in artwork a year and some of his originals were selling for \$25,000. After his death this summer, gallery owners were expecting a rush on Tolliver artwork, since art customarily increases in value after an artist dies. But Tolliver's death went almost unnoticed in the African-American art community. The rush of customers never came. It was like a giant had fallen and no one noticed. There were a few articles in the Atlanta papers and a few mentions on websites, but not nearly the kind of news it should have generated when one of the greatest contemporary artists of our time dies.

Now the situation has been a little different with the recent death of Harlem Renaissance artist Jacob Lawrence. There were more news reports of Lawrence's death and a retrospective of his work in a New York museum and there was a small surge of interest in his work in the art community. But still nothing like it should have been. Ellis attributes the bit of press

and slight increase of art value to main steam galleries and collectors handling Lawrence's

works, was collected by both Blacks and Whites, and hangs in major mainstream museums

and major corporate art collections. Ellis says African-American artists should be able to reach celebrity in their own communities as well as mainstream communities. Next year, Ellis kicks off

a nationwide campaign to teach the value of, and promote an awareness of African-American artists. His tentative plan includes, banquets recognizing artists and their artwork and programs that will encourage corporate art collectors to include African-American artists in their collections. He also plans to start a program that will send artists into schools to mentor and promote up and coming artists.



"Little Pianist" is one of the many works by artist Ted Ellis.

work. Lawrence's work was sold in prominent mainstream gal-

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Night Vibes

By Ché Hill

"Christmas Carol" full of Merriment, lacking impact

Christmas season. His portrayal contains more comedy than vil-

cold-hearted old Ebenezer; to the loving, thoughtful, Scrooge he becomes during the finale.

Dallas Theater Center's production of "A Christmas Carol," a new production of the Charles Dickens' original is a treat. Jonathan Moscone directed his adaptation of the classic that he co-wrote with Preston Lane. The show gets off to a slow start, and at times the dancing and merriment along with classic holiday music are forced to carry the mundane dialogue.



(l-r) Dolores Godinez, Reggie Montgomery and Joanna Schellenberg star in "A Christmas Carol," playing until Dec. 24 at the Dallas Theater Center.

Reggie Montgomery plays Scrooge with graceful moves and witty comebacks to the masses of cheery individuals overflowing with the joys of the

laine, and fails to show us an actual transformation from a

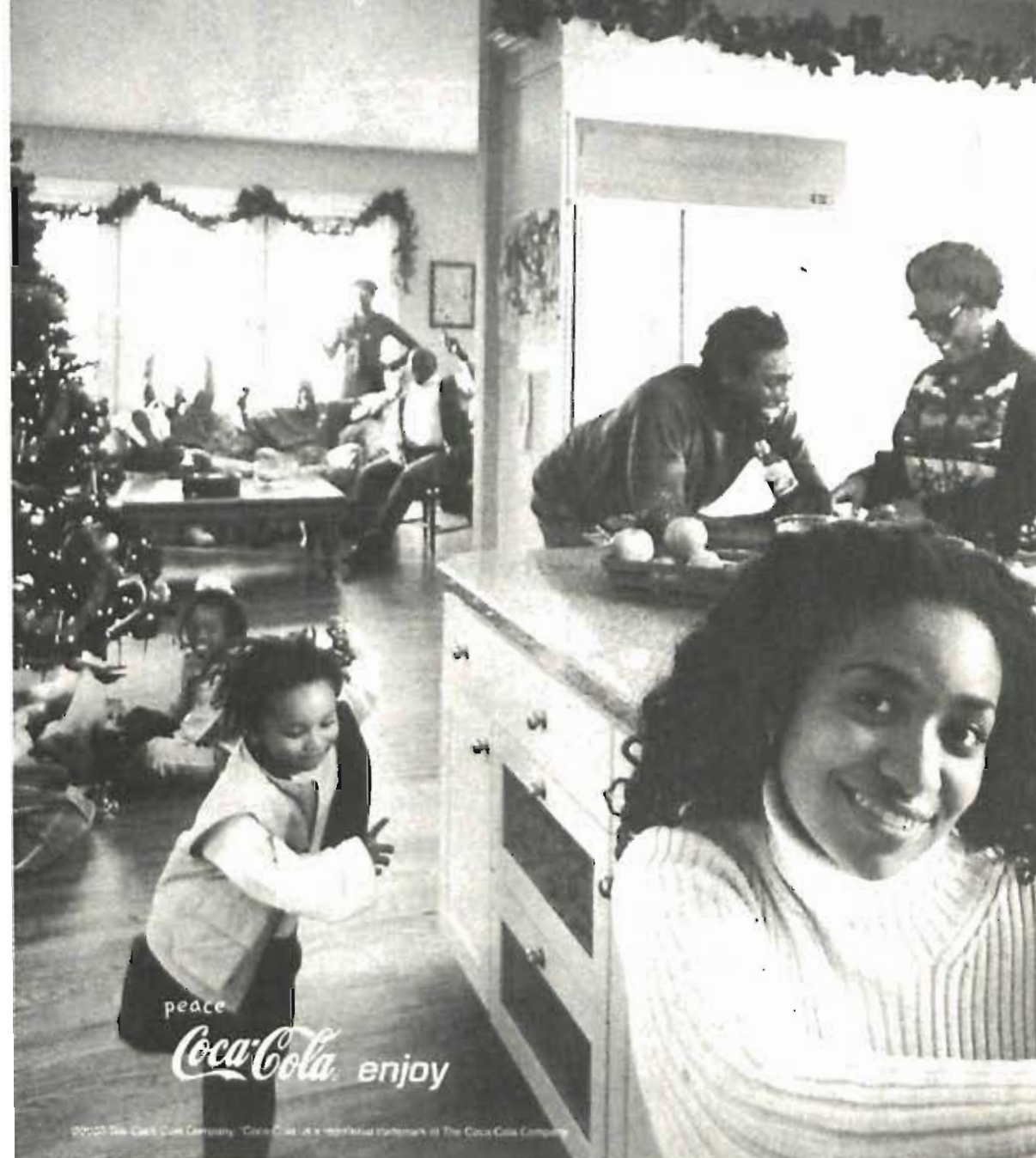
Bob Cratchit, played by Chamblee Ferguson, does an excellent job of making us feel the woes of the Cratchit family during the Christmas season, especially the loss of Tiny Tim. Liz Mikel plays the role of Christmas Present and holds us in awe with her melodious voice and forceful stage presence.

The music and sound design created by Bruce Richardson and Kim D. Sherman are top notch and a highlight throughout the show. Elaine Davidson's musical direction is timely and moving.

My Holiday Recipe

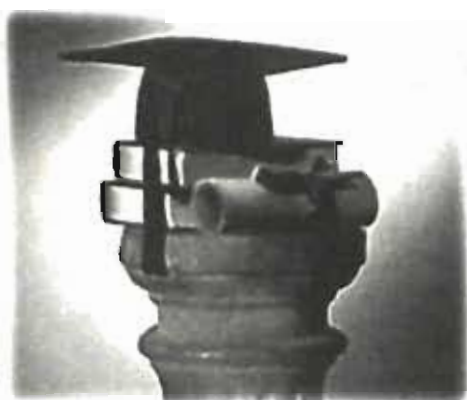
- Grandma's slammin' combread dressing
- Some old-school Christmas LP's
- Kayla and Sharise messing with their toys
- Tavis home from college
- A serious feast with holiday flavors
- The men mad into the game
- Some belt-loosening and kickin' back
- And a lot of thankfulness for another year together

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



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Around The Town

On-Going

Miracle on Wheels is making available Power (Electric) Wheelchairs to non-ambulatory Senior Citizens (65 and older) usually at no out-of-pocket expense if they qualify. For more information call 800-749-8778 or visit www.durablemedical.com.

Major Money Entertainment is holding Unsigned Artist Showcases, looking for the top 30 unsigned artists each Tuesday for the next 6 weeks at GC's Jazz Nightclub, 5915 E. Northwest Hwy. At Shady Brook, Dallas. For more information call Terry McGill at 972-993-2021, ext. 9711.

Birthday Parties are back at the Dallas Museum of Natural History, Fair Park, for

children ages 4-12 years. Parties are available weekdays 3:30-5:30 p.m. or Saturday 10:30-12:30 and 1:30-3:30. For more information call 214-421-3466, ext. 200 or visit www.dallasdino.org.

December 16

African Sisters.com will sponsor Kwanzaa in the Park at the Willie B. Johnson Recreation Center, 12225 Willowdell Drive, Dallas, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is free. For more information call 972-840-0896 or 214-670-6182.

The University of Texas at Arlington Department of Military Science will host its fall 2000 Commissioning Ceremony at 9:30 a.m. in the Carlisle Suite of University, 3012 W Second St., on the UTA campus.

Six ROTC members will receive second lieutenant commissions. For more information call 817-272-3281.

Sounds from Within & GO Entertainment will be holding a casting call for upcoming 2001 productions. Auditions will be held from 12:00-3:00 p.m. at the Martin Luther King Center on MLK, Jr. Blvd., Dallas. For more information call 972-672-8480.

December 19

Robert Thomas of the Dallas Cowboys will appear during the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center Toy Drive from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Recreation Center on the King Center Campus, 2922 MLK Blvd., Dallas. The center is asking the public to bring a new unwrapped toy dona-

tion to the center. For more information call 214-670-8355.



December 23

Elevate Ypur game, Inc. will host the "EYG Holiday Season basketball Clinic" at the Park South YMCA, 2500 Romine, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information call 214-852-0066.

December 25

White Rock Senior Center, 9100 Diceman, Dallas at The Lakeview Christian Church, will be open to provide free Christmas lunch and entertain-

ment to individuals 60 years of age and older. Call 214-328-4863 for reservations before Dec. 18. For information about other senior programs call 214-819-1860.

December 26

The Dallas Mavericks Holiday Hoop Camp 2000 will be held Dec. 26-29, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., at The Greenhill School, 4141 Spring Valley, Addison. Kids ages 8-18 are eligible to participate. For more information or an application call 972-988-DUNK (3865).

December 28

The Dallas Mavericks will host a Fiesta Night during the game against the Los Angeles Clippers. The first 2,500 fans receive maracas and hear Mariachi bands on the concourse. For more information call 214-653-0230.

December 30

Plano will host its Annual Battle of the Bands at Plano Centre, 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway, Plano. For more information call 801-254-5868.

December 31

The South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh, Dallas, is hosting "Kuumba," Creativity Night of Kwanza from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. All performance artists are welcome. For more information call 214-939-2787.

Members of the Jewish, Christian and Islamic faiths will participate in a holiday celebration at Royal Lane Church, 6707 Royal Lane, Dallas, at 4:30 p.m. The service is open to the public. For more information call Marzug Jaami at 214-333-4513 or 214-335-4744.

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