

Minority Opportunity News

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"The Paper of Choice"

April 1 - 15, 2000
Volume 9, Number 7

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Cuomo announces cyber-hate task force

HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo announced the creation of a national task force to fight hate and discrimination on the Internet. HUD will provide \$200,000 to create a national task force of civil rights groups, religious groups, Internet companies, fair housing groups, fair housing advocates and others to develop strategies to reduce hate and discrimination on the Internet while preserving free speech.

Women win sex suit

Plaintiffs in the largest class action case in the history of the Civil Rights Act won \$508 million to settle claims of 1,100 women who were denied jobs at the Voice of America and the United States Information Agency because of their gender. The settlement comes 23 years after the suit was filed and 16 years after the US District Court found the government guilty of discrimination.

Groups lobby for new police legislation

The NAACP, National Urban League, the American Civil Liberties Union, and other civil rights groups have proposed legislation to congress that aims to improve police accountability. At least 20 representatives have joined in co-sponsorship of this bill. The bill will provide those who have experienced law enforcement abuse to hold police accountable for their actions.

Newspaper owners gather for Black Press Week

The National Newspapers Publishers' Association held their annual Black Press Week in Washington, DC during March. Black press leaders challenged Democratic and Republican election-year advertising and media strategies. Democratic politicians vowed to reach out to minority media services during their campaigns.

NAACP President Kweisi Mfume at the Newsmaker of the Year Award dinner.



4th African-American Legislative Summit

Cover Story
pg. 8

Texas Legislative Special

Features: State Senator
Royce West

Editorial: Effectiveness of
Legislative Summits

MILESTONE MOMENTS

03 1934 Marvin Gaye is born in Washington, D.C. In 1962 he will sign with Motown and begin a 22-year career.

04 1928 Maya Angelou is born in Saint Louis, Mo. Noted as the author of a multivolume autobiographical series, as well as several volumes of poetry. Angelou was also the first African-American streetcar conductor in San Francisco.

05 1990 Seven African-American journalists are initiated into the newly created Hall of Fame of the National Association of Black Journalists in Washington D.C. Dubbed "pioneers of mainstream journalism," Twelve Pulitzer Prize winners are also honored at awards ceremonies.

07 1940 The first U.S. stamp ever to honor an African-American is issued bearing the likeness of Booker T. Washington.

11 1883 Spelman College is founded in Atlanta, Ga.

April 8, 1974

Aaron breaks Ruth's record

During the 1974 season, the Atlanta Braves' Hank Aaron hit his 715th home run against the LA Dodgers at a home game in Fulton County Stadium. His home run broke the long-standing record of Babe Ruth. Aaron ended his career with 755 home runs; and more RBI's and extra base hits than any player in major league history.

Hank Aaron



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Next Edition Features

Mayor's Conference 2000



For the first time in its 26 year history the National Conference of Black Mayors, Inc. Will hold its annual convention in Texas. The conference will be hosted by Mayor Ron Kirk and will attract more than 400 Black mayors from across the country to discuss issues of importance to cities and communities across America. MON takes a look at the conference and its history as well as its impact on the city of Dallas and minorities.

Next Edition Wellness Feature:

The New Nutrition



Everyone has heard about the basic food groups and the food pyramid, but over time they have both evolved. In the next edition, MON's Wellness section addresses the traditional and not so traditional methods of fulfilling nutrition requirements.

"Those who take action and find creative solutions to their disappointments and challenges are thrivers. Their reward is the life of their dreams."

Wayne Allyn Root

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Summit should have more focused agenda

From April 6 - 8, 2000, the Fourth Annual African-American Legislative Summit will be hosted in Austin, Texas. Again this year, elected officials, religious leaders, business leaders, private industry leaders as well as federal, state and local government employees will gather for these two days to participate in and contribute to discussions about the concerns facing African-Americans in the 21st Century. The stated goal of this event is "to develop viable recommendations regarding education, technology, economic development, health care reform, criminal justice and gang violence." To review these topics, a series of presentations and panel discussions are set to examine the implications of each of the selected concerns.

Many areas of the life and prosperity of the African-American community will be examined in speeches and panel discussions. There is little doubt that many of these topics are becoming increasingly critical, especially in light of the impending political season. From the local elections and to the declarations of candidacy of those who aspire to the Presidency of the United States, there is an apparent air of the body politic that is growing every day. The challenge for many is to separate interesting conversation from a meaningful delineation of core issues and actions plans.

MON has always served as a point of timely information about those issues that impact particularly the African-American community. In this sense, the confluence of the national elections with the turn of the century should make us all seriously examine our state of affairs. Further, as we look forward, we should likewise consider the issues we face that must be addressed and how might we best prepare ourselves to take advantage of the opportunities that await us.

We believe that, rather than a broad brush approach, the intent and focus of the Summit could better achieve and produce results with a more focused agenda of items discussed by those with the expertise to not only discuss the problem but also offer reasonable and doable solutions. What then is the focus we would propose? The following offers suggestions that we believe are most critical:

EDUCATION - It was the case before, and will continue to be in the future, that our success will be largely shaped by how well we educate our citizens. With the turmoil, on a number of planes, within the

public school systems, we need to be deeply concerned about the nature and quality of the academic experiences of our children. As well, how are the post secondary institutions doing at preparing African-American students for needed and lasting future careers? We need to look at these questions and offer recommendations for personal and career planning.

HEALTH CARE - Managed care, HMO's, PPO's, insurance reform and Medicare and Medicaid changes have become a part of our current language. Corporate mergers and government downsizing have forevermore changed the map of healthcare options and services available to Americans. How will these wholesale changes in the healthcare delivery system affect African-Americans in particular?

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - We have had several decades of promises for real economic development in the African-American communities of Texas. In addition, as it relates to the growth of minority and women owned businesses, what does the next century portend?

NEW TECHNOLOGIES - Cellular telephones, computers, medical lasers, disease-resistant crops, satellites, biotechnology, optical fiber networks—all these technologies and many others can trace their origins at least in part to science and engineering research. Most Americans do not receive a solid education in science, mathematics, and technology, and thus are ill prepared for today's advanced workplace. How will the African-American fair in the midst of such vast and numerous technological advances?

GOVERNMENT/POLITICS - The latter part of this century saw a significant trend towards lower voter turnout among African Americans. This phenomenon was true despite the devastating impacts on our community during the Reagan years. What will be the lasting results of voter apathy? On a more positive side, who is being groomed to serve as the political leaders of the next generations?

There may be overlap of the topics we propose and those scheduled to be discussed. However, without the ability to get a more in-depth examination of a smaller set of issues, we question what impact for change will result from the Summit. Discussions are but one facet of the resolution to our concerns. The real work starts when the Summit has adjourned.

Purpose of Legislative Summits is questionable

Particularly as it relates to our religious life, there is little dispute that "mountaintop" experiences can have a dramatic and lasting impact. Normally a significant and emotional experience, this phenomenon creates within us an acknowledgement of the need for support from a higher power than our own and orients us towards being more receptive to the guidance and direction that may be provided. In this sense, these periods can be seminal points in our lives where we evaluate, recommit and move forward towards greater and better service and prosperity.

It would be wonderful if this same process could occur with other and more secular "mountaintop" experiences, most notably, the upcoming Fourth African-American Legislative Summit. I suspect that it, too, will be laced with emotional discussions regarding the issues and concerns facing the African-American communities of Texas. No doubt, there will be a number of impassioned speeches, meaty floor debates and inspirational orations that hopefully serve to guide the thoughts and legislative initiatives during the upcoming sessions. However, the questions remain, as is often the case with other once-and-a-while events, if there will be any lasting and demonstrable results that will grow from the many discussions.

To answer this question, it is helpful to consider the adage that suggests that the best predictor of what we will do in the future is what we have done in the past. If there are records of previous summits, with goals and objectives articulated, well-defined action plans with assigned accountabilities, then we might be able to have justification in hoping that this fourth event will be meaningful. Unfortunately, we have little evidence to show that it will be more than a lot of talk and fun in Austin during April 6-8.

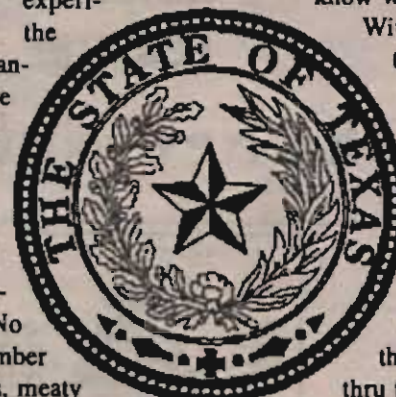
Why is this the case? Please consider this small, but significant indication of my concern. In researching for this editorial,

MON contacted the sponsoring office of the Summit to obtain a copy of the summary reports and action plans that grew from the previous events. Much to our surprise, we were told that no copy was available for the 1996 Summit. (It apparently was produced but their office no longer had a copy.) Furthermore, we were told that no report was produced for the previous year. On this basis alone, we have to question the relevance and real intent of the Summit. To bring all these political and civic luminaries together for two days and not even produce a summary of the findings and results is, at best, a very poor way to do business. Without a written action plan, how are we to know who is to do what? By when?

With what resources? And towards what desired end? Our suspicion is that, in the absence of these reports and guides, this will be little more than a few great speeches and even better parties.

The greater shortcoming of the Summit demonstrated in the apparent lack of follow-thru that is anticipated or planned for its recommendations. Little to no follow-thru has historically been the challenge of other and similar initiatives. Take, for example, the African-American Summit hosted by Representative Yvonne Davis last year, which has proven to be little more than a one-time "flash-in-the-pan" experience - no follow-thru, and even less results.

Webster's Dictionary defines "summit" as being "the topmost level attainable, the highest point". The lasting impact of reaching the summit is, more often than not, defined by what happens when we come down from the mountaintop. It is the "real" work, not only discussions, which translate words into actions, and actions into real differences for the good in the lives of African-Americans across Texas. While not as glamorous nor perhaps quite as fun as the speeches and parties, these are the points where "the rubber hits the road". Maybe, this time, the fourth time will be the charm that moves the track record towards a more results-oriented approach.



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Senator West wisely manages time between work, family

Courtesy Kelvin Bass
Dallas Senate Office

That glide in the ample stride of Texas State Senator Royce B. West is for good reason. Just last month, the Senator helped enroll the first students in what he has at times, referred to as "his baby," the brand spanking new, University of North Texas System Center at Dallas. The new campus is part of West's goal of making higher education available and affordable to citizens in Southern Dallas County and North Central Texas.

"That specific project - what I'm most proud of as a politician - was being able to navigate, I guess you can say, be the captain of the ship that navigated in the University of North Texas System Center," said West.

The System Center is a major step along the path of bringing a full-fledged, four-year, publicly-funded institution of higher learning to Southern Dallas County, an area whose 750,000 residents, educators say, are already under-served by higher education.

It's also part of an overall priority that the stately Senator places on education at all levels.

"The thing is, that in order for Texas, in order for kids in this district to succeed, what we must be able to do is provide educational opportunity," said West. "And what I want to do, is be part of that process in making sure that we have access to education."

It's not just lip service when the Annapolis, Maryland native who graduated high school at Wilmer-Hutchins talks about education, it's a passion and he walks the walk. West is chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education and a member of the Education Committee. In addition to the UNT System Center at Dallas, West is responsible for the creation of the Center for the Study of Juvenile Crime Prevention at Prairie View A&M University.

"We need to make sure that our public school system has the necessary resources in order to do a credible job, a good job of educating our kids. Because if we don't, 10, 15, years hence, we'll end up being a Third World state with an inadequate workforce," he added.

The mention of pulling together civic leaders, business leaders, politicians, Black, White and Brown is symptomatic of a lesson that West has learned, the need to work on building coalitions. That, he says, is critical to being successful in the Senate Chamber where he is one of two Black Senators - Houston's Rodney Ellis is the other.

"Well there are 31 of us," he explained. "And needless to say, you've got to build coalitions in order to get anything done. If at any point, there are 11 Senators against some-

thing that I want to get done, it's dead," said West. "So, there are no permanent enemies and there are no permanent friends. They are all permanent allies."

To work effectively in and across party lines, West, a Democratic, says it's vital to unite and build coalitions based on common interests.

"You can be the most eloquent orator in the State Senate. I could be Fredrick Douglass," West mused. "I could probably have the most moving or compassionate speech ever, and people will sit there and listen to me and still vote against me."

Voting against the man that Texas Monthly Magazine last year named as one of the "10 Best Legislators" in Texas? Yes, it happens to the best of them, even Royce Barry West. One particular defeat still sticks in his craw.

"The gun law," he said. "I'm still not for the right to carry (concealed weapons) in the State of Texas. I've always believed that we have too many guns in our society and I was trying to kill that bill," said West.

West successfully employed the filibuster technique to derail Right-to-Carry legislation in 1993, but in 1995, Senate Bill 60 authorized for Texas citizens, the right-to-carry concealed weapons, with a permit. The Senator plans to continue to fight legislation that would weaken gun-licensing requirements.

"I was able to amend the Right to Carry Bill to put in a provision that allows property owners to determine whether or not they want guns on their property."

But the Senator's legislative victories outnumber his defeats and West, now in his third term, has been able to pass legislation that mirrors his view on one of his other passions, his profession, the law. While co-authoring a complete revision of Texas' Juvenile Justice Code, which strengthened laws and provided stiffer penalties for juvenile and gang related crimes, West also helped to create programs that offer intervention and crime prevention components.

One such program now operates in Oak Cliff, where additional state funds have been put to use in building a collaborative effort between law enforcement, citizens and the civic and business communities that has been

successful in lowering the rate of juvenile crime and recidivism.

Another program, Project Spotlight, just in its inaugural stages in the Pleasant Grove area has the same goals. Dallas County will implement the program, which features community-based supervision of



West's sons join him at the computer during UNT System Center registration.

youthful offenders, but also offers rehabilitative and tutorial services, job counseling and training and provides

outreach to the siblings, as well as, the family and school mates of those currently on probation for serious offenses.

West also worked with State Representative Helen Giddings in passing laws that created

"Alcohol-Free Zones" that prohibits establishments that sell liquor from operating in proximity to schools.

Aware of the current times, that have left grandparents to raise the children of their children, West authored a bill that helps grandparents who have custody of their grandchildren gain access to available financial assistance programs.

Lawmaker, law practitioner, the two seem a natural extension for West, a senior partner in the law firm of Robinson, West & Gooden. He has his share of high-profile clients, including a notable Dallas Cowboy wide receiver a few years back.

"I'm a trial lawyer. That's one of the things I do," said West. "Often times I handle criminal cases, a lot of civil cases, but there's also a lot of business transactions that I do."

West told the story that planted the seed in his mind that eventually blossomed into him becoming a lawyer.

Tommy Edwards, a metal shop teacher at Pearl C. Anderson Junior High staged a mock trial and appointed him as the defense attorney when an item came up missing.

"Mr. Edwards told me I had the gift of gab, so he made me the attorney for the person that was allegedly accused of stealing the apple."

It's come a long way from that point to earning a living, in part as a defense lawyer, but West draws the line on the type of cases he'll accept.

"There are certain types of cases that personally, as a lawyer, I just will

not use my legal skills to try to get somebody off on," he said adamantly. "I will not defend someone who commits a sex offense that I feel is guilty."

After earning his law degree from the University of Houston, West soon joined the Dallas County District Attorneys' Office. For three years, he was the Chief Felony Prosecutor, the first African-American in Dallas County to hold that position.

In 1986, West was the Democratic nominee for the District Attorney of Dallas County. He had an additional incentive.

"Initially, the reason I ran for District Attorney is there was another guy who was running, and I said that somebody had to stand in his way," West recalled. "I won't mention his name, but he has a reputation.... So, I said that before I would concede the District Attorney's Office to a person that people - as well as myself, perceived as a racist - that I was gonna run and defeat him."

Though not successful in becoming Dallas' first African American District Attorney - a feat that has not been accomplished even 14 years later - he took it as a lesson of fate.

West's time came six years later, when then, State Senator Eddie Bernice Johnson decided to run for Congress.

A busy attorney, a State official, husband, father, including two active grade-school age sons. How does he fit it all in? West says he depends heavily on a dedicated staff but, acknowledges that it requires some personal sacrifice but says, "That's the job I signed up for."

What does he do in his spare time? His reply, "My boys, my boys, my boys ... I have sons that are very involved in scouting, involved in football, soccer, baseball and so I spend a lot of time with them," said West. "And needless to say, I still think I'm a romantic." He's not too busy to slip on "a little Barry White, a little Luther" and smiles when saying, "I still date my wife."

So what satisfies Royce West, statesman, counselor, Pop Warner dad, attentive husband? Always saying the right thing he begins with "Obviously, the marriage to my wife," Carol, a certified public accountant, currently on leave of absence to spend more time with family. "The birth of my children, seeing each child reach a milestone in life." Older son, Royce Jr. recently wed.

"That's personally, professionally, being able to dispel the notion that just because an attorney happens to be African American, that they can't get the job done," said West. "Politically, being able to actually, instead of talking the talk, walking the walk as a politician," he said, eyes narrowing. "I hope, I think, well, I know, I'm perceived as a person that will give 110 percent and do what they say they will do."

Texas legislators fulfill office obligations

By Latrina George

In just about two weeks, the 4th African-American Legislative Summit will commence in Austin. No doubt these men and women will discuss the many bills that they and their constituents proposed or authored during the 76th Legislature. Since most of the metroplex citizens will not be



Royce West

attending this gathering, here is an opportunity to take a glimpse at what your elected officials are doing.

Senator Royce West and Representatives Helen Giddings and Yvonne Davis have been burning the midnight oil. Senator Royce West proposed/authored 89 bills during the 76th Legislature.

Representative Giddings proposed/authored 21 bills and Representative Davis proposed/authored 14 bills. The type of legislation authored or proposed by these officials are as varied as the people they represent.

For instance, Senator West has been very busy composing and sponsoring bills in the Senate. Of particular interest is HB2867 that was passed by the

House on April 21, 1999, and sponsored by Senator West. This bill seeks to encourage Texas high school graduates to attend Texas institutions of higher education. Any institution, be they public, private or independent, will be allowed to match all or part of non-athletic scholarships or grants offered to Texas students by out-of-state institutions. For those students who are lured out-of-state by hefty scholarships, but would like to remain in state, they may be able to have the best of both worlds—desired financing on their own turf.

With an obvious quest to ensure the success of college students in Texas, Senator West sponsored HB 2806 that allows the College Board of the University of North Texas to establish a mentoring program at the university. The program may include mentoring, tutoring and any other resources that foster success in the student's education and help them achieve appropriate educational goals. This bill seeks to prepare the student for the transition from college life to a productive, independent adult member of society. Last, this bill particularly stresses the importance of men-



Helen Giddings

tors, tutors and the like in the lives of at risk students who are susceptible to dropping out or are in need of services to help them successfully complete their studies and enter society as productive adults.

Grandparents raising grandchildren is a growing societal concern—one that has not gone unnoticed by Senator West. This bill, SB 1423, provides "supplemental financial assistance for certain persons." In addition to financial support already provided for the dependent child, grandparents may be able to tap into another financial resource. However, there are certain prerequisites that must be adhered to. The grandparent must be 50 years of age or older, is the child's grandparent (as determined by law) and their primary caretaker, and lives at the same residence as the child. There is also an income threshold that cannot be exceeded. This bill took effect in September 1999.

Elected officials are applauded when they address the concerns of their communities. Drunk driving is an evil that plagues every state and every

...continued on page 7



Yvonne Davis



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Capital Watch cont'd

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community. Representative Helen Giddings wrote an act relating to approved drug and alcohol awareness programs. Section 3 of the Texas Driver and Traffic Safety Education Act is now amended wherein the agency develops standards for a separate school certification and approves educational curricula under the Act for Drug and Alcohol Awareness programs. Similar to the popular Defensive Driving courses everyone seems to take, the course provider may have to evaluate the procedures, projects, techniques and controls as part of the educational programs. The act also allows for a five percent premium discount on the personal motor vehicle insurance policy provided that no covered individual on that policy has violated several codes within the last seven years preceding enrollment into the program.

Along those same lines of addressing societal issues, Giddings also authored a bill relating to the punishment for certain assault offenses involving domestic violence. Though the act has several parts to it, one main section seeks to require, as a condition of community supervision, that the defendant be confined no less than 120 days in the county jail. This bill was left pending in committee.

Representative Yvonne Davis chose to tackle a sticky issue that has been in the news recently. HB 2540 relates to survivor benefits payable by retirement systems for police officers and firefighters in certain municipalities. Just a short time ago, something similar to the bill Davis proposed was prevalent in the media when two off-duty firemen were killed during service at a volunteer fire department. Though this bill was left pending in the committee, this bill says that a "person who is an alternate payee and a former spouse awarded a share of benefits payable under the article by a qualified domestic relations order has the status of a surviving spouse and is entitled to the same portion of benefits applicable to the alternate payee's former spouse."

Davis also proposed an act that amended Section 11.158 of the Education Code. This act relates to fees charged by an independent school district for voluntary educational programs. This act gives the board of trustees the right to require payment of fees such as personal physical education and athletic equipment and apparel. Students can bring their own equipment, but if the school disseminates any equipment, there is a fee assessed. Since most schools nowadays are requiring identification cards to be carried by all students, the board has the right to charge a fee for that card as well as fees for those students who drive to school and park their vehicles.

One important part of this act that should be mentioned is that the board has the right to collect a fee for costs associated with educational programs outside of the regular school hours for students who were absent from class. This additional attention is reserved specifically for the purpose of make-up of the missed classes and instruction provided during the day and to help the student meet the class attendance level set forth by the state. This Act states that the board will appoint a committee(s) to hear petitions for class credit by students who fall short of the attendance criteria. Comprised mostly of classroom teachers, this committee has the authority to give class credit to a student because of extenuating circumstances. The board of trustees will define these "extenuating circumstances" and the board will adopt policies that provide alternative solutions for students to make up and regain credit lost because of absences.

It is obvious that elected state officials are keeping the promises they vowed when they first ran for office. Every elected official wants to address issues that affect their communities. These officials as well as other African-American legislators are keeping their promises and making a difference.

Shelly Garrett hosts Children's Easter Pageant

The Dallas Children's Easter Pageant 2000 is coming to Dallas on Easter Sunday,

April 23, 2000. The pageant is being produced by theatrical producer and director, Shelly Garrett. Garrett is looking for Dallas area children ages 2-12 to be a part of the production.

Children can compete in the categories of 'Best Eyes', 'Best Smile', 'Best Personality' and 'Best Dressed'. Separate prizes will be given in each

category. Contestants can also win prizes including an all-expense paid vacation for two to Jamaica for selling the most souvenir booklet ads and a Hawaiian vacation for selling the most tickets.

Entry fees are \$35 and each contestant receives a trophy for entering. For an entry form or more information, call 214-373-2400.

End Of Game Notice



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Three of the Texas Lottery's instant games will close on April 30, 2000: Money Maze, Domino Dollars and 100 Grande. You have until October 27, 2000 to redeem any winning tickets. You can win up to \$20,000 playing Money Maze, up to \$3,000 playing Domino Dollars and up to \$100,000 playing 100 Grande. You can claim prizes of up to \$599 at any Texas Lottery retailer. Prizes of \$600 or more are redeemable at one of the 24 Texas Lottery claim centers or by mail. Questions? Just call the Texas Lottery Customer Service Line at 1-800-37-LOTTO. (1-800-375-6886).



Overall odds of winning Money Maze: 1 in 3.94
Overall odds of winning Domino Dollars: 1 in 4.70
Overall odds of winning 100 Grande: 1 in 4.37

— TEXAS LOTTERY —

Must be 18 years or older to purchase a ticket.
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State senators host 4th African-American summit

By Lakeesha Joe

"Leadership Planning for the 21st Century" is the theme for the 4th African-American Legislative Summit to be held on April 6-8 at the Capitol Extension Auditorium in Austin. Texas State Senators Royce West of Dallas and Senator Rodney Ellis of Houston are the hosts of the year

2000 summit. The co-host for the 4th Annual Legislative Summit will be the Prairie View A&M University Research Foundation. The Mickey Leland Center at Texas Southern University was the co-host of the past three summits.

The hosts of this year's summit are accomplished legislators. Rodney Ellis is currently serving his fifth term as a Texas State Senator and serves as President Pro-Tempore of the Texas Senate, Chairman of the Senate Jurisprudence Committee and is a member of the Senate Intergovernmental Relations and Administration Committees. Ellis is also an attorney and an investment banker with APEX securities, an investment banking firm. Royce West is currently serving his third term as a Texas State Senator. West is also an attorney.

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The purpose of the legislative summit is to bring



Senators Royce West and Rodney Ellis will host the 4th African-American Legislative Summit

together African-Americans who are concerned about what the 21st Century holds for all Texans. The summit will consist of a series of panel sessions, workshops, and brain trusts (a group of experts serving as consultants) aimed at giving the African-American communities of Texas an opportunity to receive information on and discuss the legislative topics that will be the hot items in the 77th Legislative Session that will begin in January 2001. The goal of the summit is to also provide viable recommendations regarding education, technology, economic development, health care reform, criminal justice and gang violence.

Since 1994, the African-American Legislative Summit has been apart of the lives of over 1000 Texans from across the state. The first summit was held in August of 1994 and the second summit was held July 1996. The theme for both summits was "Strategic Planning for African-American Leaders". The third summit was held in February 1998 and the theme was "Strategic Leadership planning for the New Millennium".

"From the growing computer and technology gap to the corrosive brutality of hate, African-Americans face new and old challenges as we begin a new century," said Ellis. "Our goal for this Summit is to turn these challenges into opportunities."

The attendees of this year's legislative summit will be made up of community leaders, elected and appointed officials, neighborhood and crime watch association members, grassroots organization members, religious leaders, business leaders, private industry leaders as well as federal, state and local governments, and many other interested people who want to work on a real agenda that will affect the upcoming Legislative Session.

State Senators Rodney Ellis and Royce West will kick off the Fourth African-American Legislative Summit on Thursday, April 6. The summit will include topics related to Health, Economic Development, Education, Criminal Justice, Human Services, Human Rights, and Technology. With health as the focus of the first day of the Summit, attendees will hear a keynote address from John E. Evans, Deputy Commissioner for Prevention and Community Health. Medical and Health Services professionals will discuss such topics as Cultural Competency: Its Impact on the Health Status of African-Americans; The African-American Morbidity Gap; Is it a Matter of Race or Racism; HIV/AIDS in the African-American Community

and several other topics on the first day of the summit. The first day of the summit will also end with a Praise Musical at Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Austin.

During the summit there will also be several panel discussions and workshops conducted by Texas elected officials and experts on the following: Career Opportunity; The Role of a Lobbyist - Is this an Area of Success for Minorities; Environmental Racism; Utility Deregulation; SB7 and Its Impact on the Minority Community; and the African-American Family - Key to Rebuilding the African-American Extended Family; Women in Leadership; Race Relations, Economic Development: Where are We Now?, Welfare to Work: Is It Working in the Minority Community?, and Hate Crimes: Liberty and Justice for All.

The summit will include brain trusts. Some of the brain trusts will cover Truancy - Kids Falling through the Cracks, Creating a Blueprint of Inclusion for Higher Education in the 21st Century, Electronic Technology - The Wave of the Future, and Criminal Justice. The issues covered by the criminal justice brain trust focus on mental illness, sex offender registration, and certification of children. The panels and brain trusts will conclude on Saturday, April 8 with a Young Adult Rap Session entitled "Generation X Speaks Out", Men in Leadership: Empowerment in the 21st Century, Hate Crimes: Wheels of Justice, Parental Involvement: It takes a Village to Raise a Child, Overcoming Obstacles: Minority Students and Higher Education, and Where is the African-American Voice in Healthcare.

Brain trusts will be included in Saturday's summit activities addressing the Senate and House related interim changes under the heading: K-16 Partnership, The Seamless Transitions, and Criminal Justice. They will also address Education issues such as Transfers, Charters, and Vouchers, and The Texas Plan Twenty Years Later - Struggling to Eliminate Vestiges of Segregation in Texas' Institutions of Higher Education.

General sessions on Technology will also be included in the summit. Technology discussions will include a discussion on The Digital Divide featuring Stephen Downs, Director of Technology Opportunities Program (TOP), U.S. Department of Commerce.

"The Summit is a power packed, three day conference aimed at concentrating the efforts and concerns of Texas' African-American communities into one solid agenda that we can take to the Capitol in January as leverage to make Texas government more responsive to our needs," said Senator West.

Attendees of the summit will be invited to join in the inauguration ceremony of Senator Rodney Ellis as Governor for a Day. As President Pro Tempore of the Texas Senate, Senator Ellis will be sworn in as Acting Governor under a long standing Texas tradition that makes the President Pro Tempore the Acting Governor on a day when both the Governor and Lieutenant Governor are out of the state. Senator Ellis will become only the third African-American: Governor -for-a Day" in Texas History. A reception, barbecue and tours of the Capitol Building and Governor's Mansion are com-

ponents of the Governor for a Day festivities.

During the three-day summit there will also be several keynote speakers, which will include Dallas' very own Mayor Ron Kirk.

The last day of the summit will begin with a "Call for Unity" Prayer Breakfast featuring a soul-stirring message by Reverend Frederick D. Haynes III, Senior Pastor of Friendship West Baptist Church in Dallas. The closing session of the summit will feature an open mike forum in which attendees can ask question of participating State Senators and Representatives regarding the issues. The entire summit will culminate with a banquet sponsored by AT&T.

Portions of the proceeds from this summit will go toward the Texas Legislative Internship Program (TLIP) and the Dr. Emmet J. Conrad Leadership Program. These internship programs have both on-campus and off-campus components and offer a uniquely diverse range of opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students.

4th African-American Legislative Summit

Leadership Planning for the 21st Century



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**John
Dudley**

Exposing ten common myths about IRAs

Saving for retirement is so important that the government provides ways to help you in the form of deductible and tax-advantaged savings vehicles. One of the easiest of these accounts to open and build is an Individual Retirement Account (IRA). If you're under 702 and have earned income, IRAs allow you to save up to \$2,000 each year (\$4,000 for a married couple) in a tax-deferred account. Even if you are covered by another retirement plan, and your adjusted gross income meets the guidelines, your contribution may also be deductible.

Here are some of those common objectives...and the real truth about IRAs:

I don't need an IRA. I'm going to receive Social Security: Social Security pays only 40% of the average retiree's income. Most experts agree that you will need 75% of your current income when you retire to maintain your current lifestyle. An IRA could be an important part of that future income.

I'm covered by a retirement plan at work so I can't open an IRA: You can have your cake and eat it too. You can open an IRA in addition to your pension plan or 401(k) plan. Having as many sources of savings as possible can only bring you closer to your retirement income goal. And IRAs have flexibility in choosing investments that your company plan may not offer.

My adjusted gross income is over \$40,000. If I can't deduct the IRA contribution, there's no benefit: Even without tax deductibility of contributions, IRAs are one of the most efficient ways to save for retirement. IRAs are tax-deferred accounts meaning that the income taxes on the earnings on your IRA investments are deferred until you begin to make withdrawals. This allows your investments to grow faster. Withdrawals are taxed as ordinary income and may be subject to a 10% Federal penalty prior to age 59 1/2.

I'm not old enough to open an IRA. I'll wait until I'm closer to retirement: The sooner you start saving for retirement, the better your chances of building the nest egg you need to enjoy your golden years. That's thanks to the power of compounding - earning interest on your interest, etc. Consider this hypothetical example: Assuming a 7% interest rate on your savings, the dollar you invest at age 25 is four times more powerful than the dollar you invest at age 45. This does not assume any spe-

cific investment nor is it indicative of future results.

I can wait until I file my taxes to open an IRA: Yes, the deadline for opening an IRA for any given year is the tax return due date (without extension). But to get the most from your IRA, open and fund it as soon as possible.

Why bother? IRAs don't earn much interest: With IRAs, your investment choices are not limited. IRA funds can be invested in money market funds, mutual funds, stocks, annuities, CDS, even gold or silver coins, among other investments. Your Financial Advisor can help you select the investments that best match your objectives.

I don't want to lock up my money until I retire. What if I have a financial emergency? Although most early withdrawals from IRAs do result in a 10% penalty tax on the amount withdrawn, there are exceptions. In cases of death or disability, there is no penalty tax for early withdrawal, although you will have to pay ordinary income tax on the distribution. If you withdraw the money in substantially equal amounts based on your life expectancy to pay for essential expenses, you can avoid any penalties.

I can't afford an IRA; \$2,000 a year is too much money: The most you can contribute to an IRA is \$2,000 each year (\$4,000 for a married couple). But you can open and fund an IRA with as little money as you wish, depending on the rules of the financial institution where you invest.

I'm about to retire. I don't need an IRA: If you are receiving a lump sum payout at retirement, an IRA Rollover could be the best way to protect that money from taxes - and continue the benefits of tax-deferred growth. Transferring eligible 401(k) distributions to an IRA enables you to avoid the 20% federal income tax withholding on lump sum payouts.

IRAs cost too much and I don't want to keep opening an IRA each year: There's no need to open an IRA each year and different financial institutions offer plans to make it easier and more affordable to get started on your retirement savings strategy. For example, Prudential Securities will waive the next year's annual IRA Custodial fee if you fund your IRA with as little as \$250 in a year.

When it comes to saving for retirement, the hardest part is often getting started. IRAs are one of the easiest and most cost-effective ways to get your retirement savings strategy out of the land of fairy tales and into reality.

Editor's note: Prudential Securities is not a legal or tax advisor. However interested readers are encouraged to choose their own financial advisor. Financial advisors can work with other professional services such as accountants, attorneys and/or tax advisors. For copies or questions about this or any other column, please contact John Dudley at Prudential Securities, 1201 Elm Street, Suite 4848, Dallas, TX 75270, (214) 761-5142.

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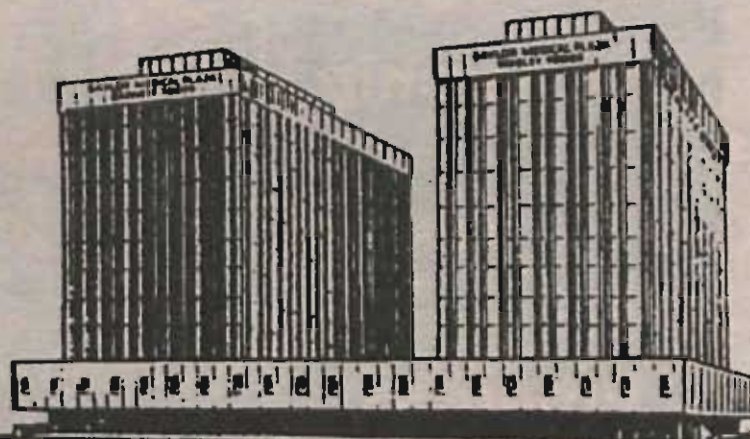
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**Martin Burrell, Arena Group (left); Lee Alcorn, NAACP
(center); Eugene Walker, Austin Commercial (right)**





Ron Shaw

Who Have You Been With?

Acts 4:13

I've met some fascinating people in my life. All of us have had people in our lives that have strange effects on us. As a pastor dealing with people for 23 years, I've seen people in a variety of settings and with a variety of personality types.

One common observation I can see is when emotional interests of people are involved, their behavior changes. In short, when a lady meets a man she becomes emotionally attached to, it doesn't matter how long she has served faithfully in the organization, it becomes obvious when she's been with him. The same is true of men. In other words, I can tell when they've been with their so-called significant other. I listened to a morning radio show a few days ago and a person wrote in about a relationship they had with a friend who had such a profound affect on them that everyone knew when they had spent time together.

The truth of the matter is, all of us have had or presently have someone in our lives that affect us in such a way that it's obvious and noticeable when we've been with them. The things they say to us, the way they make us feel, the chord they strike in us causes us to rethink our position and readjust our perspective and rearrange our priorities.

I have the occasional opportunity to spend some personal time with men and women who would be considered by most to be popular, some extremely wealthy, others great philanthropists and still some who are great humanitarians. They always leave me reevaluating myself, my goals and aspirations. They cause me to stay the course on some things and change my course on others. The point being that the Christian experience is about a personal encounter and experience that should cause us to change from the

inside out. I meet so many church people who seemingly (based on their conversation) are no kinder, no more loving and compassionate, no less greedy or selfish and self-serving as they were when entering the church. What a shame to have the opportunity to meet someone like Jesus and not be changed. Life is too short to remain the same year in and year out. The Christian experience is about change. You change everything. One cannot meet with a person like Jesus and have a personal encounter with him and spend time with him on a regular basis and stay the same.

Consider our text. When the Council saw the boldness of Peter and John and could see that they were obviously uneducated non-professionals, they were amazed and realized what being with Jesus had done for them! (TLB). The council at Jerusalem along with the company of the high priests met to discuss the actions of Peter and John. They realized they had spent time with Jesus. It was something about their speech, their demeanor, and their disposition that made it obvious who they had been with. The time Peter and John had spent with Jesus made a difference in their behavior. It should make a difference in ours as well. We are to provoke one another to do good and sharpen one another to be the best we can be as Christians according to the Bible. Is there a noticeable difference in you that tells if you've had an experience with him? It's obvious when one has become Muslim. It's obvious when one becomes Buddhist. Why? Because their conversation changes and their lifestyle changes. As Christians it should be obvious in much the same way when we've been with Jesus.

Four factors to consider: 1) what did people say about you then and what are saying about you now? 2) What did you do then and what are you doing now? (What changes in your lifestyle have been made?). 3) What was your attitude like before and what is it like now? (Did you have a bad attitude then and do you have one now?). 4) What type of people liked to hang out with you then and what type likes to hang out with you now? (when our lives changes, so do the type of people in our lives).

Is it obvious who you've been with?



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Jesse Owens breaks track records, racial barriers

By Jamila H. Thomas

"I always loved running...it was something you could do by yourself, and under your own power," said Owens. "You could go in any direction, fast or slow as you wanted, fighting the wind if you felt like it, seeking out new sights just on the strength of your feet and the courage of your lungs."

African-Americans have long held the distinction as being very successful in the field of sports. The ability to be athletically inclined is something that seems to come naturally for African-Americans, but the athletes invest much work and effort in their sports. Jesse Owens, the track and field legend, has given African-Americans track prodigies the motivation to continue "fighting the wind".

The tenth and last child of Henry and Emma Alexander, Owens was named James Cleveland when he was born in Alabama, September 12, 1913. "J.C.", as he was called, was nine when the family moved to Cleveland, Ohio, where his new schoolteacher gave him the name that was to become known around the world. At Fairmont Junior High School Owens developed the strength and power of his legs.

The passion of being a runner occupied his thoughts "so completely," he said, "many days would pass" when I would think of nothing else."

Coach Charles Riley set up a training session for Owens because he was too young to compete on the school's track team. As a child Owens worked a part time job after school; therefore, he asked Coach Riley for morning practices. Riley could not turn him down. In time Owens looked up to Riley as a second father and expressed his feelings by calling him "Pop." Riley was concerned about Owens' eating habits and would bring him breakfast and invite him for dinner at his house.

Riley took the track team to the race-track to see the relaxed grace of the horses as they ran. Riley told the students to mimic the horses, to run as if the track was on fire, keeping each foot on the ground for as little time as possible. Riley explained, "No man in the world can come close to them." After the race Riley asked Owens what he observed. Owens replied, "Well, the way they moved... it's like they're not trying." When he asked about the horse's facial expression Owens said there was no expression. "Do you know why the best horses make it look easy?"

asked Riley.

"Because the determination is all on the inside where no one can see it." These characteristics became the trademarks of Owens' running style throughout his career and through his example, revolutionized the way sprinters all over the world learned to run.

At the age of 15, Riley clocked Owens running time in the 100 meters; he flew past in within eleven seconds. Riley asked him to run the distance again and

Owens clocked eleven seconds again. It was then that Riley thought, Owens was ready for the team. Riley signed Owens up for the 100- and 200-yard dashes as well as the long and high jumps. In his first year on the track team he broke the world record for junior high school students in the high jump and long jump.

At the age of 17, Owens' family fell on hard times and as a result he dropped out of school to help the family. Despite the tribulations their family faced, his mother encouraged him to continue his education. In 1930, Owens enrolled at Technical

High School.

He tried out for the football and basketball teams but the timing interfered with track. When he was in high school, he won all of the major track events, including the state championship for three consecutive years. That summer he traveled to Northwestern University to try out for the Olympics team. He did not make the team. He lost both 100 yard and 200 yard to Marquette University sprinter Ralph Metcalfe.

At the National Interscholastic meet in Chicago, during his senior year, he set a new world record for high schools by running the 100 yard dash in 9.4 seconds to tie the accepted world record, and he created a new high school world record in the 220 yard dash by running the distance in 20.7 seconds. A week earlier he had set a new world record in the broad jump by jumping 24 feet 11 3/4 inches.

Owens chose Ohio State University over all of the colleges pursuing him, even though OSU had no track scholarships to offer at the time. He supported himself and his young wife, Ruth, with a variety of jobs - as a night elevator operator and a waiter, by pumping gas and working in the library stacks, and through a stint as a page in the Ohio Statehouse.

All of the hard work and training paid off at the 1936 Summer Olympics when American track and field star Jesse

Owens surprised the world by winning the four gold medals. He set Olympic records in the 100-meter dash, 200-meter dash, and the long jump and shared a new world record in the 400-meter relay. Although the record-breaking performances made him a legend in his own time, Owens struggled to translate his massive fame into an unpretentious life.

Owens achieved what no Olympian before him had accomplished. His stunning victories and achievement at the Olympic games in Berlin have made him one of the most remembered of all Olympic athletes. His outstanding performance during the 1936 Olympic games not only dishonored shocking claims of the dictator, Adolph Hitler; it also affirmed that individual excellence rather than race or national origin distinguishes one man or woman from another.

Throughout his life, he worked with youths, sharing of himself and the little material wealth that he had. He was as much the champion on the playground in the poorest neighborhoods as he was on the oval of the Olympic games.

Owens traveled widely in his post-Olympic days. He was an inspiring speaker and was sought after to address youth groups, professional organizations, civic meetings, sports banquets,

PTAs, church organizations, brotherhood and black history programs, as well as high school and college commencements and ceremonies. He was also a public relations representative and consultant to many corporations, including Atlantic Richfield, which until 1994, sponsored the annual ARCO/Jesse Owens Games. Owens spearheaded the founding of the games in 1964, and over a million boys and girls aged 10-15 participated each year. His nation awarded him its highest civilian honor, the Medal of Freedom, in ceremonies at the White House in 1976. President Ford presented the medal, with the 250 members of the U.S. Montreal Olympic team in attendance. In February 1979, he returned to the White House, where President Carter presented him with the Living Legend Award. On that occasion, the President said, "A young man who possibly didn't even realize the superb nature of his own capabilities went to the Olympics and performed in a way that I don't believe has ever been equaled since...and since this superb achievement, he has continued in his dedicated but modest way to inspire others to reach for greatness". In 1990, President Bush honored Jesse Owens with the Congressional Gold Medal presented to his widow, Ruth S. Owens.

...continued on page 27



Jesse Owens broad jumping in the 1936 Olympics. Owens went on to win 4 gold medals in these Olympic Games.

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Profiles of People Moving Ideas

Creating and building winning supplier relationships

At GTE, long-term, mutually beneficial relationships with diverse suppliers are vital to the on-time delivery of products and services we provide to our customers. Our commitment to nurturing relationships with suppliers include participation in business development programs that seek out highly qualified women and minority-owned businesses, mentoring initiatives and internal accountability systems to ensure mutual and measurable success.

"Our suppliers are a unique blend of business owners who help us succeed in the marketplace," said Oscar Gomez, vice president-Diversity Marketing and

Management. "We work hand-in-hand with diverse suppliers for the good of our customers and the communities we serve. When our suppliers succeed, we succeed. It's a win-win for everybody."

The suppliers featured in the section offer a creative collaboration of business strategies and personal experiences to help them succeed in the marketplace. From advertising to telecommunications, these suppliers, through their expertise, help GTE meet its customer commitments--on-time and within budget.

Cal-Joy Concepts

Business Overview

Owned by Ron B. Calloway, CEO and Donna G. Joyner, COO, Cal-Joy Concepts, an 8-year old full service advertising specialty and promotional company offers customized products and services at competitive prices.

Business Philosophy

"Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you," said Donna Joyner. It's simple... but a principle we live by everyday."

Why did you choose your specific industry?

"The creative opportunities in the promotional industry are endless," said Joyner. "Plus, after working in the property taxes business for over 16 years, I felt I had reached a turning point in my career... it was time for a change."

What's it like to be a business owner?

It's very rewarding, exciting and challenging. It's fulfilling to create successful campaigns for our customers while providing meaningful employment for our staff.

What are some of the challenges of being a

minority business owner?

The lack of a level playing field sometimes makes it difficult to find and pursue opportunities. Also, securing financial backing, and finding skillful, loyal employees.

What keeps you motivated?

Faith in God, helping our customers realize true success and our company's growth.

What are you most proud of?

Having survived this competitive market for nearly eight years.

What differentiates you from your competition?

Cal-Joy Concepts is an innovative company that provides outstanding customer service and leading edge concepts. We offer a product guarantee, quick turnaround on orders, online ordering and much more.

What are your future business plans?

To expand, regionally, nationally and internationally, while adding new products and services to our portfolio.

Cal-Joy Concepts can be reached at 972-488-8171. Email: caljoy1@aol.com



Donna Joyner President, Co-Owner
Cal Joy Concept

What keeps you motivated?

I stay motivated through prayer and meditation. I also listen to motivational tapes and attend motivational seminars. My wife and my son also offer continual motivation and support in my daily life.

What are you most proud of?

I'm most proud of having the opportunity to work on projects for several positive-minded African-American leaders, organizations and business people. I feel extremely privileged to have a pivotal part in helping them succeed.

I also am proud of my involvement with community causes and concerns. We have been an integral player in developing marketing materials for the Dallas Habitat for Humanity, Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation, African-American Museum, Mi Escuelita, The Dallas Black Dance Theatre and AIDS Interfaith

Network. I also regularly volunteer and serve on the board for numerous community organizations.

What differentiates you from your competition?

Larry Powell & Associates are seasoned professionals who know how to marry strategy with creativity. We offer large agency expertise and executions with the personal touch that only a small business can provide.

What are your future business plans?

I plan to offer a broader range of services, including strategic marketing and management. I also plan to offer more student internships to increase the number of African-Americans in this business, as well as provide business and mentoring opportunities for individuals who I believe have the potential to succeed.

Larry Powell & Associates can be reached at 972-307-9258. Email: lpa@onramp.net



Larry Powell, President
Larry Powell and Associates

Lazo Technologies

Business Overview

Established in 1993, Larry Powell & Associates (LP&A) is an African-American-owned advertising, graphic design and marketing communications firm. As sole proprietor of the company, Powell oversees a talented staff with expertise in Advertising, Graphic Design, Strategic Marketing, Integrated Marketing Communications, Promotions, Media Planning/Buying and Ethnic Market Segmentation

Business Philosophy, mottoes and motivations...

"I consider myself a visionary who believes in limitless possibilities, especially for those whose circumstances seem to likely guarantee that they don't have a chance," said Powell.

Life was not easy for boys growing up without their father. That's one reason I am involved with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Dallas. I know firsthand how important it is for children to have role models. In my own journey, I searched for mentors and was fortunate to find many. Neighbors served as surrogate parents. Members of our church looked after us. Teachers took special interest in me and helped me recognize that I had "potential." By the time I finished high school, I hadn't chosen my career path; it had chosen me. I knew that I needed to

work in a field that allowed me to utilize my creative talents.

Great leaders such as Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. had a tremendous influence on me. He made me believe that "Blacks" could be somebody.

What's it like to be a business owner?

Owning a successful business is extremely challenging, yet it gives me a great feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction to know that I'm able to thrive from my own efforts and resources. It also has helped me to become a well-rounded person. I've had to learn much about the aspects of business operations - such as planning, accounting, staffing, equipment, etc. - that I had not previously known.

What are some of the challenges of being a minority business owner?

Minorities in business face many of the same challenges as "majority" business owners. However, there also are added challenges. Often, we found ourselves isolated in networking situations. In addition, we often set the standards when we are selected for specific projects because there hasn't been a minority-owned business before us to pave the way. One of the greatest challenges we face is that we don't have access to a "good 'ole boy" system to speed up our entrée into opportunities and resources.

Business Overview

Lazo Technologies is a telecommunications contract manufacturer that provides services in warehousing, staging, product packaging, shipping and value-added distribution.

Business Philosophy, mottoes and motivations...

"I care about the communities in which I live and work and strive to make them a better place," said Tom Lazo, president - Lazo Technologies. "I don't consider myself more special than anyone else. I am an individual that has been given an opportunity to succeed. I am have been blessed that we have been able to attract both young talent and seasoned professionals."

Business Philosophy

The genius of technology can literally change the world. Tapping in to the power of diversity can make the world a better place for everyone. "We are in business to create careers for our employees, not just provide a place to work," said Lazo.

What's it like to be a business owner?

It's great! I am faced with challenges everyday that I would not have as an employee for someone else. The challenges range from big issues to micro-issues and everything in between.

What are some of the challenges of being a

minority business owner?

Financing is a big challenge. Also, being taken seriously that we can handle the 'big jobs'.

What keeps you motivated?

The satisfaction of realizing dreams. The challenge of business in general...and knowing that we have commitments to our customers.

What are you most proud of?

It is most gratifying when your company succeeds because your employees are committed to your vision and dream. At Lazo Technologies, we believe our employee base is our greatest asset.

What differentiates you from your competition?

Our employees and what they have been able to accomplish. Their success has made LTI a success.

What are your future business plans?

We aspire to reach \$250 million in revenues in five years. We would like to employee people

who live in west Dallas. We demonstrate everyday that people of color can produce quality products and meet or beat customer delivery schedules...we will continue to do provide excellence now and in the future.

Lazo Technologies can be reached at 214-652-9898. If you're interested in finding out more about how to do business with GTE, call 1-800-347-1508.



Tom Lazo, Sr. President
Lazo Technologies, Inc.

TEXAS LEGISLATORS



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512-463-2000

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512-463-5770



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512-463-0001

TEXAS AFRICAN-AMERICAN STATE SENATORS



Senator
ROYCE WEST, (D)-
Dallas, Dist. 23
State Capitol
1E.15
512-463-0123
512-463-0299 fax
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member
Sub-committee on
Higher Education -
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Criminal Justice -
member
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Senator
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Dist. 13
State Capitol
3E.2
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512-463-0006 fax
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Administration -
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Relations - member

TEXAS AFRICAN-AMERICAN STATE REPRESENTATIVES



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GARNET COLEMAN,
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State Capitol
Room E1.408
512-463-0524
512-463-1260 fax
Committees
Public Health - vice chair
Appropriations - member



House Representative
YVONNE DAVIS,
(D)-Dallas, Dist. 111
State Capitol
Room E2.706
512-463-0598
512-463-2297 fax
Committees
Local & Consent
Calendars - chair
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House Representative
JOE DESHOTEL,
(D)-Beaumont, Dist. 22
State Capitol
Room E2.802
512-463-0662
512-463-8381 fax
Committees
Economic Development - member
Judicial Affairs - member



House Representative
DWANNA DUKES,
(D)-Austin, Dist. 50
State Capitol
Room E2.718
512-463-0506
512-463-7864 fax
Committees
Business & Industry - vice chair
Environmental Regulation - member



House Representative
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(D)-Houston, Dist. 142
State Capitol
Room 1N.9
512-463-0510
512-463-8333 fax
Committees
Public Education - vice chair
Calendars - member
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Constitutional Revision - member



House Representative
AL EDWARDS,
(D)-Houston, Dist. 146
State Capitol
Room 1N.8
512-463-0518
512-463-7968 fax
Committees
Rules & Resolutions - chair
Transportation - member
Urban Affairs - member



House Representative
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(D)-Dallas, Dist. 109
State Capitol
Room E2.708
512-463-0953
512-463-5887 fax
Committees
Appropriations - member
Business & Industry - member
House Administration - member



House Representative
TERRI HODGE,
(D)-Dallas, Dist. 100
State Capitol
Room E2.712
512-463-0586
512-463-8147 fax
Committees
Elections - member
Urban Affairs - member



House Representative
JESSE JONES,
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State Capitol
Room GW.4
512-463-0664
512-463-8147 fax
Committees
Elections - vice chair
Higher education - member
Local & Consent
Calendars - member



House Representative
RUTH JONES MCCLENDON,
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State Capitol
Room E1.510
512-463-0708
512-463-7071 fax
Committees
Economic Development - member
Local & Consent Calendars - member
Public Safety - member



House Representative
SYLVESTER TURNER,
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State Capitol
Room E1.320
512-463-0554
512-463-8380 fax
Committees
State Affairs - vice chair
Calendars - member
Appropriations - member



House Representative
SENFRONIA THOMPSON,
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State Capitol
Room 35.6
512-463-0720
512-463-6306 fax
Committees
Judicial Affairs - chair
Calendars - member
Insurance - member




House Representative
RON WILSON,
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Room 1W.2
512-463-0744
512-463-5896 fax
Committees
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Procedures - chair
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House Representative
GLEN LEWIS,
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512-463-8441 fax
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Constitutional Revision - member
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and grow within this diverse fabric called community.

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The Wellness Diary

Insurance program provides children's health coverage

By Delmetria L. Millener

Finally, Texas is fast becoming one of America's lands of opportunity, especially for our children! Imagine your child getting bitten severely by the family dog, yet you hesitate to seek medical attention because you don't have health insurance coverage on them, or you cannot afford expensive emergency room care. In addition to making sure your child's educational expenses are adequately covered, studies reveal that a major concern for most parents is whether or not their children have insurance coverage. Possibly, your health insurance problem will be solved!

In 1999, the 76th Texas Legislature created a new insurance program for children ages newborn to 18 years, whose families could not afford traditional employer health coverage because their income disqualifies them for Medicaid, but is inadequate for them to afford health insurance. Under the TexCare Partnership, The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is one of three federally funded

will be able to enroll their children in CHIP. Depending on their income, a before they can start the enrollment process for CHIP.

MAXIMUM INCOME FOR CHIP ELIGIBILITY

Family Size	Family Yearly Income (Kids 0-18)
2	\$22,120
3	\$27,760
4	\$33,400
5	\$39,040
6	\$44,680
more than 6	add \$5,640 for each additional family member

parent might only have to pay \$15 to cover all of their children. Or for \$15 to \$18, a family whose income is a bit more could receive complete coverage. The following chart, provided by the Texas Federation of Teachers, outlines eligibility:

This means that if the family's household income is above an average poverty level of about \$16,000 for a four-member family, but falls below the guidelines shown above, your children are more than likely eligible to enroll in CHIP.

According to the TFT, in April 2000, federal poverty guidelines will be "revised upward," thus causing CHIP eligibility requirements to be more accommodating for families. The program is sincere in their efforts to make sure that all children are provided the opportunity to have health

benefits, no strings attached. These efforts include allowing families to deduct child-care and transportation expenses from the total family income in an effort to help more families qualify for CHIP.

While there are factors that determine and/or disqualify eligibility for CHIP, the program was designed to make those qualifications as minimal as possible. For example, a child must be without health coverage for 90 days

learn very well. That's why teachers are interested in promoting this program," said John Cole, TFT president.

Is CHIP better than Medicaid? For little or no cost, both Medicaid and CHIP seek to provide health insurance coverage for children. However, the CHIP application process is much easier because applicants can apply by mail. Although the Texas Federation of Teachers is putting heat on government officials to make the Medicaid application process as simple as CHIP's, applying for Medicaid currently requires an interviewing process that is often time-consuming and inconvenient.

There are many sources to obtain information about Children's Health Insurance Program. For more details contact Dr. Lancaster at Children's Medical Center at 214-819-1870 or beginning April 3, 2000, contact the Texas Federation of Teachers at 1-800-222-3827. For information on the 90-day rule for children who have existing health insurance coverage, or to find out what expenses can be deducted from your income, contact a local AFT representative or CHIP office at 1-800-647-6558. Also, to receive your copy of the Texas Federation of Teachers pamphlet on CHIP, or to order an application form, also call the CHIP office at 1-800-647-6558 and leave a message complete with your name, address and phone number.

C.H.I.P. Children's Health Insurance Program



health programs, along with funds from tobacco liability claims that will assist families in providing health coverage for their children.

Under the CHIP program, coverage includes regular check-ups, immunizations, x-rays, vision, hearing and dental exams, other preventative services, and hospital stays. Surgeries and services for disabled and special needs children are covered as well.

At a very small expense, parents

Beginning April 3, 2000, applications will begin being processed and on May 1, health care coverage for eligible children will begin. The Alliance/AFT also takes part in the effort to insure Texas children. Alliance/AFT President Harley Hiscox said, "We want our school employees and parents to be educated about this program, even before applications become available."

Also supported by the Texas Federation of Teachers (TFT), CHIP will be committed to assisting Texas families who qualify to enroll in the program.

Teachers' groups, locally and across the state, are doing their share to take part in this important legislation. To prove their commitment to the program, they will distribute literature that explains the program. Why is so much effort being put into making this program work? "Sick children cannot



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THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IN TEXAS

The Legislature of the State of Texas is the state's law-making body. Its primary function is to enact laws to provide for the health, welfare, education, environment, and economic and general well-being of the citizens of Texas. It also establishes public policy through the passage of bills and resolutions and proposes amendments to the state constitution, which are then submitted to the voters for approval or disapproval.

Like most other states, Texas employs a bicameral system for its legislative branch of state government. The Texas Legislature consists of two separate chambers, a 31-member senate and a 150-member house of representatives. State senators and representatives are elected from single-member districts to serve four-year and two-year terms, respectively. District boundaries were redrawn as required by law after the 1990 census, and each state senator now represents a senatorial district of more than half a million residents, while the average house district is composed of about 113,000 people. The rich diversity of Texas is mirrored in the composition of the two chambers as 181 men and women from all walks of life unite to represent the 18 million people of the Lone Star State.

In accordance with the Texas Constitution, the legislature meets in a regular legislative session in Austin every two years. By statute, the legislature convenes in a regular session on the second Tuesday in January of every odd-numbered year. These biennial sessions are limited to 140 days' duration. The constitution also allows the governor to call additional special sessions as necessary. During a called session, which cannot exceed 30 days, the legislature may consider legislation only on matters specified in proclamations issued by the governor.

BASIC LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

How a Bill Originates

A legislator wishing to pass a bill may draft the legislation personally or obtain the professional staff services of the engrossing and enrolling department of the senate or the Texas Legislative Council, a legislative agency that provides bill drafting services, research assistance, computer support, and other services for legislators. Bills may also be prepared by attorneys retained for that purpose by organizations or individuals with a particular interest in certain legislation. All bills except for general appropriations bills are limited to a single subject.

A bill may also grow out of the recommendations of a special committee created by the legislature to conduct interim studies on specific issues of legislative interest. Interim committees are appointed by the presiding officers of the house and the senate, who also specify each committee's charge and any additional authority and duties necessary to carry out the charge.

To introduce a bill in the house of representatives, a state representative must first submit the required number of copies of the bill for filing to the chief clerk of the house, who sequentially numbers each document according to the order in which it is received. The house rules of procedure permit unrestricted introduction of bills during the first 60 calendar days of each regular session. After the 60-day deadline, the introduction of any bill other than a local bill or a bill relating to a matter declared by the governor to be an emergency requires the consent of at least four-fifths of those members present and voting.

To introduce a bill in the senate, a senator must first submit the required number of copies of the bill to the secretary of the senate, who sequentially numbers each document according to the order in which it is received. The

senate rules of procedure also permit unrestricted introduction of bills during the first 60 calendar days of each regular session. After the 60-day deadline in the senate, the introduction of any bill other than a

...continued on page 24

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Census 2000.
This is our future.
Don't leave it blank.



Ellis successful in Senate

By Janel Burrell

Texas State Senator Rodney Ellis is no stranger to hard work. Currently serving his fifth senate term he has earned praise as a legislative leader on tax cuts, civil rights, education, economic development and workforce development issues.



Senator Rodney Ellis

As one of only two African-American state senators (Senator Royce West of Dallas is the second), Ellis has made his mark on the legislation of Texas. He has earned a reputation as a leader who gets things done in Austin. Since his election to office in 1990, he has passed nearly 300 bills that have become laws.

In what was probably his most famous legislation, Senator Ellis authored a bill reducing Texans' tax burden by \$506 million. The tax relief bill eliminates the sales tax on over-the-counter medicines and creates a 3-day sales tax holiday every August on shoes and clothing to help Texas families prepare for school. The legislation was passed as Senate Bill 411 and saves the average Texas family with school-age children \$20 per child.

"I am very pleased that Texas families benefited as much as they did from the sales tax holiday legislation I sponsored last spring. They saved an estimated \$32.6 million they could use to buy food, medicines and other necessities," said Ellis. "I hope in future sessions that we will add school supplies...so that kids can look forward to going back to school."

Another legislative victory for Ellis came during the 76th Legislature in the form of the Texas Grant Program. The program is an innovative scholarship that will provide tuition and fees to students who have completed college preparatory courses in high school and maintain a 2.5 GPA in college. The \$100 million program will create nearly 20,000 scholarships and has been dubbed a GI Bill for Texas students.

Senator Ellis also sponsors legislation for crime control and prevention. His Hate Crimes Reporting Statute passed in 1993, requires law enforcement to compile statistics on hate acts and report them to the Department of Public Safety. In 1997, following the death of 11 year-old Houston resident, Lori Ann Braden, Ellis' Lori's Law was passed. The new law ensures that young drivers would be held accountable in fatal accidents.

Ellis has never been just an "elected official"; instead he is a dedicated worker for the people of his Senatorial District 13 in Houston, and citizens throughout the state of Texas. He currently serves as President Pro-Tempore of the Texas Senate. In this capacity, Ellis will be sworn in as Acting Governor under a long standing Texas tradition that makes the President Pro Tempore the Acting Governor on a day when both the Governor and Lieutenant Governor are out of the state.

In addition to his pro-tempore duties, Ellis serves as Chairman of the Senate Jurisprudence Committee and is a member of the Senate Intergovernmental Relations and Administration Committees. He also serves on the U.S. Secretary of Energy Advisory Board, the University of Texas Law School Foundation Board, The Rainbow/PUSH Coalition Board, and the Board of Directors for the Center for Policy Alternatives.

The pressures of being a state legislator are familiar to Ellis. Before becoming a senator, he served as Chief of Staff to the late U.S. Congressman Mickey Leland. He also served three terms as a member of the Houston City Council. A successful businessman, Ellis co-founded Apex Securities, Inc., an investment banking firm. He has also

served in the law firm of McGlinchey Stafford, where his clients included the Republic of Mexico and Telkom, South Africa's national telecommunications operator.

Ellis holds a bachelor's degree from Texas Southern University, a master's degree from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, and a law degree from the University of Texas School of Law.

Senator Ellis is married to Licia Green Ellis and has three children.

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Around The Town

Ongoing

Early voting for Runoff Elections is April 3-April 7, 7 a.m.-7 p.m. at various locations. For more information call the Dallas County Elections Hotline at 214-637-7937.

The Bards of Burbank is offering \$1,000 in their millennium poetry contest. The contest is free and religious poems should be submitted. To enter send poems to: Free Poetry Contest, 2219 W. Olive Ave., PMB250, Burbank, CA 91506. or enter on-line at www.freecontest.com. For more information call Dr. Kevin Scribner at 323-769-7054.

The Desert of Texas Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine and Daughters of Isis Prince Hall Affiliate are sponsoring a scholarship for graduating high school seniors and college students. Applications are due April 19, 2000. To receive an application contact Edwin Moore at ZNSPR8502@aol.com or 972-475-7469.

The Texas Workforce Commission is granting 500, \$1,000 awards to eligible child care workers enrolling in summer sessions to earn national child care certification. Applications and guidelines are available at www.twc.state.tx.us, or call 512-463-8556. Applications must be postmarked by April 17.

April 1

The Dallas Auto Show 2000 returns to the Dallas Convention Center. More than 700 automobiles will be on display. For more information call 214-637-0531.

Glendale Presbyterian Church will sponsor a community health fair. The fair is open to the public and will be held at the church, 4611 South Marsailas, Dallas, 75216, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For more information,

call Caritha Smith at 214-374-0379 or 214-573-8264.

April 2

The Alpha Alpha Chapter of Alpha Chi Phi Omega Sorority & Fraternity presents "Expose 2000" at the Dallas Convention Center, 650 S. Griffin Street, Dallas. The Expose will last from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., ticket donations are \$6.00.

April 4

Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk will report on the current business climate at the Mayor's Address to the Business Community at 12:00 p.m. at the Westin Galleria. This luncheon is hosted by the Greater Dallas Chamber. For more information, call Amanda Oneacre at 214-746-6783.

April 5

The Dallas Opera announces chorus auditions for the 2000-2001 season. The auditions will be held April 5-7, from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Individuals must perform three arias from memory. For more information and locations, call Carol Schultz at 214-443-1086.

April 6

The General Services Commissions and other organizations are hosting an Economic Opportunity Forum to do business in the millennium. The forum is open to the public and will include sessions and workshops on business strategies. Keynote speakers include State Senator Royce West. The forum will be held at Gooch Auditorium, 5323 Harry Hines Blvd., 12:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. For more information, call Jennifer Flores at 888-863-5881.

Young Professionals for Heart, in connection with the American Heart Association, invite you to Happy Hour for Heart 6 p.m. at The University Club at the Galleria,

Sixth Floor above Macy's. For more information, or to RSVP call 214-748-7212.

April 7

JPS Health Network is dedicating their new JPS Health Center at 3 p.m., on 4701 Bryant Irving Rd. North, Ft. Worth, 76107. Reception and tours last until 5 p.m.

Senior Citizens of Greater Dallas will offer a free Job Search Seminar to Dallas area residents aged 55 and over at the Center for Community Cooperation, 2900 Live Oak Street, Dallas, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Participants should bring a bag lunch. To register or for additional information, call Renae Redwine at 214-823-5700.

April 8

Clean South Dallas/Fair Park, Inc. needs volunteers for its community-wide cleanup in South Dallas. Churches, schools, neighborhood groups, business and individuals are asked to join in the effort. For more information call 214-421-1662.

April 10

Girls, Inc. will host it "She Knows Where She's Going 2000" luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at the Wyndham Anatole Hotel, Chantilly Ballroom. The luncheon will honor outstanding leaders and role models. For more information, call 972-934-8561.

April 13

Brookhaven College is sponsoring a Spring Career Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Services Center lobby of the college. More than 600 full- and part-time positions are available. For more information, call Stephanie Snarles at 972-860-4894.

April 15

West Dallas Neighborhood Development

Corporation will hold its 6th Annual West Dallas Clean Up from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. This year's clean up will cover all parts of West Dallas. Volunteers are needed to participate. For more information call Lela Edwards at 214-747-4334 or WDND at 214-688-1596.

The Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. will host its 5th Annual Teen Town Hall Meeting from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Dallas City Hall, 1500 Marilla Street, Dallas. Admission and lunch are free. For more information, call 214-428-7400.

The Par 3 Golf Association and Federally Employed Women are hosting their 1st Annual Invitational Golf Tournament at Twin Wells Golf Course, 2000 East Shady Grove Road, Irving, Texas. Proceeds will benefit the organization's scholarship fund. For entry forms call the Twin Wells Golf Course at 972-438-4340. For more information e-mail Alvin Armstrong at Alvin_Armstrong@overheaddoor.com.

Southwest Transplant Alliance will host their annual Celebration of Giving & Living to honor donors and their families. The celebration will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Treemont Retirement Village, 5500 Harvest Hill, Dallas, 75230. For more information call 972-661-1856.

The YWCA Women's Health Services will provide mammogram & pap screening throughout the month of April. April 15 mammogram screenings will be provided at Churches Chicken, 5503 E. Grand Avenue, Dallas, 75223 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. For more information about all screenings call Marti Harvey at 214-584-2325. For information about the April 15th screening, call Trent at 214-887-1841.

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Strategy cont'd

...continued from page 21

local bill or a bill relating to a matter declared by the governor to be an emergency requires the consent of at least four-fifths of the membership of the senate.

The Role of Committees

The size of the legislature and the volume of work confronting it each session make thoughtful deliberation on the many proposed measures by the entire membership impossible. For this reason, the basic business in both houses is conducted according to the committee system whereby permanent, general, and special bodies, determined and formed by the rules of the respective chambers, are appointed to consider bills introduced in the legislature and to advise on their disposition. The committee stage in the deliberative process is at the core of legislative politics since the fate of bills under consideration hinges on committee action. A large percentage of all legislation is never reported out of committee. Thus, committee action is the first crucial step in the process by which a bill becomes law.

In the house of representatives, the membership of committees is determined in part by seniority and in part by appointments by the speaker. Each representative sits on at least one committee, and most representatives sit on two or three committees. The house typically has approximately 30 standing committees.

In the senate, the membership of committees is determined entirely by appointment by the lieutenant governor. Senators typically sit on three or four committees each. The senate typically has

approximately 10 standing committees.

Immediately after a bill has been referred to committee, a determination must be made as to whether a fiscal note or other impact statement is required and, if so, a copy of the bill is sent to the Legislative Budget Board for preparation of the note or statement.

Committee Reports

After considering a bill, a committee may choose to take no action or may issue a report on the bill to the house or senate. The committee report, expressing the committee's recommendations regarding house or senate action on a bill, includes a record of the committee's vote on the report, the text of the bill as reported by the committee, a detailed bill analysis, a fiscal note or other impact statement, and other attachments as necessary.

If the conference committee report is acceptable to both houses, the bill is enrolled, signed by both presiding officers in the presence of their respective chambers, and sent to the governor.

Governor's Action

Upon receiving a bill, the governor has 10 days in which to sign a bill, veto it, or allow it to become law without a signature. If the governor elects to veto the bill and the legislature is still in session, the bill is returned to the house in which it originated with an explanation of the governor's objection. A two-thirds majority in each house is required to override the veto. If the governor neither vetoes nor signs the bill within the allotted time, the bill becomes law. If a bill is sent to the governor within 10 days of final

adjournment, the governor has until 20 days after final adjournment to sign the bill, veto it, or allow it to become law without a signature.

OTHER LEGISLATION— RESOLUTIONS

A resolution is a legislative document used to express the collective will of the members of the legislature or of either house. Resolutions are used to handle specific activities of the legislature and are commonly used to propose amendments to the Texas Constitution, take care of housekeeping functions, convey congratulations or condolences to individuals or groups in the state, express legislative intent, express an opinion or sentiment on matters of public interest, give direction to a state agency or official, or call upon certain governmental agencies, offices, or units such as the U.S. Congress to take a specific course of action. They are legislative instruments that must be introduced, assigned numbers, and acted on by the legislature. Except for concurrent resolutions, the governor need not sign and cannot veto them approved by Texas voters at a general election.

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CELEBRATE

Events

April 1

Prairie View A&M University Department of Music & Drama presents the Charles Gilpin Players and musical ensembles featuring the Cotton Club Musical Production at 7:00 p.m. at the Dallas Convention Center. For ticket information call 214-376-4554.

April 1-8

Edward Albee's play "Seascape" will be performed at the Circle Theatre, 230 W. Fourth Street in Sundance Square. The play is rated PG-13 and has won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. For more information call 817-877-3040.

April 7-8

The 9th Annual Folklorico Festival of North Texas will take place at Molina High School, 2355 Duncanville Road. Admission is free. For more information call Liz Gallego at 972-571-6368.

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra's "You Choose the Music" program is returning to the Meyerson for the third consecutive year. 600 audience members were polled about their two favorite pieces, and 17 pieces from the poll will be played. The program lasts April 7-9 at the Meyerson Symphony Center. All performances will begin at 8 P.M.

April 7-16

"Tom Sawyer" will be performed at the Casa Manana Theatre. The play is suitable for all audiences and tells the tale Tom's many adventures with Huck Finn along the mighty Mississippi River. For tickets call 817-332-2272.

April 7-29

Blacken Blues Productions presents "Wounded" a play by Willie Holmes. The play will run at the 10th Street Playhouse, 620 East 10th Street, Dallas. The play deals with the complexities of relationships. For tickets call 214-515-0076 or e-mail blackenblues@aol.com.

April 8-9

The Gospel Curls will be in concert performing contemporary gospel music at the Muse Café Theatre. The concerts are hosted by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Dallas.

April 9

The Dallas Theater Center continues its Deloitte & Touche In Perspective Series at 2 p.m., at the Arts District Theater, 2401 Flora Street at Fairmount. Catherine Sheehy of the Yale School of Drama will be the featured speaker. For more information call 214-522-8499.

NOW PLAYING AT A THEATER NEAR YOU

Erin Brockovich

Julia Roberts plays lead part in this true story of a jobless single-mom turned law assistant. Roberts ends up cracking a major chemical negligence case involving Pacific Gas & Electric.

Waking the Dead

This movie tries hard at romance as it traces the relationship to two young lovers. The movie is told in reverse order beginning with the car-bomb death of the girlfriend.

Final Destination

A high schooler's premonition leads him to warn passengers about an impending plane crash. Now he must find out why the passengers who heeded his warnings are disappearing.

The Road to El Dorado

A DreamWorks animated production that traces the journey of friends Tulio and Miguel on their journey to El Dorado, the lost city of gold. Voices are provided by Kevin Kline and Rosie Perez.

HOT

CBS cancels "Cosby"

Bill Cosby's comedy series, "Cosby" has been canceled as of the end of its fourth season in April. Although "Cosby" is credited with sparking a turnaround at CBS when it premiered in 1996, the show has declined in viewership since then. Cosby will continue his association with CBS through his multi-series development deal at the network and with other projects. The series finale of the show will air April 28.

Salvage man finds missing Oscars
Willie Fulgear, a salvage worker, discovered 52 of the missing 55 Oscar statuettes and was presented with a \$50,000 reward from Roadway Express, the Oscar shipping company. Fulgear also received tickets to the Oscars where he was escorted by his son Allen. Fulgear found the Oscars in a trash bin. Three of the Oscars are still missing.

Carolina players face court date
North Carolina basketball players Ed Cota and Terrence Newby are scheduled to appear in court facing assault charges. The charges stem from a Halloween night brawl that allegedly involved the men. The court appearances could pose a problem if the Tar Heels advance in the NCAA tournament. Trial for the players has already been delayed three times.

SPOTLIGHT

Musical revue set during Harlem renaissance

Soul Rep Theatre Company in conjunction with the Irving Black Arts Council presents Breakfast in Harlem, a musical revue set during the height of the Harlem Renaissance. The story revolves around a South Carolina girl with her sights set on becoming a dancer among the mass of great performers of the magical era. Through her eyes, audiences will get a glimpse of such greats as Bill Bojangles Robinson, Josephine Baker, Bessie Smith, Langston Hughes and many more.

The play will be performed April 15th, at Carpenter Performance Hall, Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd at 8:00 p.m. For tickets call the Irving Arts Center Box Office at 972-252-ARTS (2787).



THE TUBE

KERA 13 presents "Adventure Divas-Cuba, Paradox Found", April 1 at 7:00 p.m.



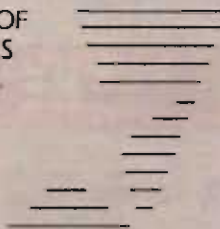
The program follows editor Holly Morris on her pilgrimage to locate extraordinary women. The special highlights the work, culture, vision and individualism of several Cuban divas, including the three young women who compose the rap group Instincto; Lizette Vila, a producer and host of a television interview program; documentary filmmaker Gloria Rolando; poet Carilda Olivar Labra; Santeria priestess Emelia Machado; and Assata Shakur, an American Black Panther leader who fled to Cuba two decades ago.

Light on luggage and heavy on discovery, this program captures the humor, calamity and serendipity inherent in low-rent travel.

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applauds our state's African-American legislators
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The Wake of the Wind

By J. California Cooper
(Doubleday, \$17.21, hardback)
(Doubleday, \$10.36, paperback)

By Delmetria L. Millener

Rich with history, J. California Cooper's *The Wake of the Wind* is emotionally filled on each page enticing you to read the next. If you didn't



learn anything in history class about the wrath of slavery, you'll learn it reading *The Wake of the Wind*. Not only is Cooper an extraordinary storyteller, she's a remarkable history teacher!

Poetic and lyrical in tone, *The Wake of the Wind* is Cooper's third wonderfully dramatic and thought-provoking tale. Beginning with a recounting of the brief and hard existence of two young men and good

friends, Kola and Suwaibu,

Cooper illustrates how the two are captured, enslaved, and then transported to America. Later, both men beget children into slavery and send a part of themselves, "rushing, striving, pulsing on toward some future." A century later, through the marriage of their children, their saga continues.

Set in the South, nearing the end of the Civil War, Cooper takes her readers on a historically realistic and accurate journey through the evolution of the friends' family. Cooper provides a most penetrating look at how destiny dictates their reunion—after their deaths—and how destiny dictates their family's dooms and fortunes for the rest of their lives.

The Wake of the Wind details accounts of the family's freedom from slavery, the birth of their children and grandchildren, and their deaths. In an easy to follow format, it overflows with the family's grief, pain, joys and surprises as they travel across southern states after the Emancipation Proclamation frees slaves. Cooper successfully shows black people surviving in a positive, successful and dignified way to obtain land, peace and happiness, in spite of the bitter trails slavery leaves. Cooper leaves her readers captivated, with a sense of pride and dignity and further respect for their African-American ancestors.

In tune with what a philosopher's words once dictated—simplicity is a statement of profound thought, *The Wake of the Wind* is a very simplistic read, making it so much sweeter to follow and understand from cover to cover. J. California Cooper's *The Wake of the Wind* is a priceless must read.

Corrections: In the February 15th edition of MON Joyce Teal's "The Point System" was listed as self-published. The book was published by Ozark Press.

In the March 1st edition of MON Camika Spencer is the author of "When All Hell breaks Loose" instead of the editor.

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Jesse Owens died on March 31, 1980 in Tucson, Arizona and President Carter added his voice to the tributes that poured in from around the world. "Perhaps no athlete better symbolized the human struggle against tyranny, poverty and racial bigotry. His personal triumphs as a world-class athlete and record holder were the prelude to a career devoted to helping others. His work with young athletes, as an unofficial ambassador overseas, and a spokesman for freedom are a rich legacy to his fellow Americans". Owens was a dreamer who could make the dreams of others come true. As a speaker he could make the world listen and through his living example he was a symbol of hope for millions of young people.

Go, Earth, Go!

TXU celebrates Earth Day everyday. But as part of the 30th anniversary of Earth Day, we've decided to celebrate Earth Month. It's really just a part of our continuing commitment to the environment.

A commitment that's evident in everything we do, and in all our plans for the future, for example:

- We are proposing one of the largest renewable energy projects yet to be undertaken in United States history. This initiative will generate approximately 500 million kilowatt-hours, enough to fuel the needs of 29,000 area homes.
- Our voluntary Climate Challenge program has already reduced the equivalent of 22 million tons of greenhouse gasses. It's one of the largest reductions in the industry, and way beyond what we projected.
- We have recycled over 1.8 billion pounds of aluminum, paper, aerosol cans and plastics.
- We have converted more than 300 company vehicles to run on ozone-friendly compressed natural gas.
- We're experimenting with electric vehicles to determine how they might help us meet our fleet transportation needs while improving air quality.

So join us in honoring Earth Day, or as we see it Earth Month. And who knows, next time out we could be celebrating Earth year!

Go, world.

Go.



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EDUCATION

Hope Grant assists continuing students

By Jamila Thomas

During spring of each year many parents ponder the costly price of education. The price of educating a child has increased each year. The frequent question of finding adequate funding to provide for a child in college can cause many to delay their education. However funds for college are available, but most parents are unaware of them. Texas State Senator Rodney Ellis recently proposed legislation to help parents with college costs.

Senator Ellis is rapidly emerging as a leader on high tech issues, which will shape the 21st Century. Ellis sponsored legislation creating the new Texas Grant program and provided \$506 million in business, sales and Internet tax cuts. The Texas Grant Program has assisted many students, as of December 1, approximately 9,000 students had received Texas Grants. In round numbers, \$18 million in grants have been made. An additional \$2 million will be made during the next couple of weeks. This grant will provide for 20,000 - 11,000 new grants over the biennium. Due to limited funds, the Texas HOPE Scholarship plan will begin on a need-based program. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board estimates the available funds for those with an estimated family income of \$15,000 or less.

This grant is rewarded based on the

student's overall financial ability to cover the ordinary costs of attendance (tuition, fees, room, books, transportation). HOPE awards are equal to the average tuition and mandatory fees at a public university (approximately \$24,000) adjusted for course load.

Each student must carry a course load equal to three-fourths of a full load (9 hours), while maintaining a 2.0 GPA the first year and 2.5 thereafter, and complete 75 percent of their course work without falling below 9 hours in each semester. If a requirement is not met, the student will be placed on probation for a semester without the scholarship, in order to regain the scholarship the student will have to fulfill the requirements while on probation.

Recipients that are juniors or seniors pursuing a degree in teaching are eligible for cancelable Teach for Texas grants equaling approximately \$4,800 per year without exceeding their estimated cost of attendance.

The grant may be used for any customary expense, including books, room and board. One fifth of the grant amount will be waived from repayment for each year the Teach for Texas recipient teaches in a critical teacher shortage school designated by the commissioner.

In Houston, Ellis' home city, a series of billboards were posted, displaying the next phase of Senator Rodney Ellis'

...continued on page 30

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INTERVIEWS

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RESEARCH TRIANGLE INSTITUTE,

a research firm in North Carolina, is seeking field interviewers for the Dallas County area. The study will start in June 2000 and continue through out October 2001.

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- Paid training (7 days)
- June 18, 2000 - June 24, 2000
- Dependable transportation required,
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- Household Interviewing and or computer experience preferred but not necessary.

Call Susan Willis:

1-800-647-9674

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(All times base on Dallas time)

- All interviewers will be employed by Headway Corporate Staffing Services, under subcontract RTI Headway Corporate Staffing Services is an Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer.



CITY OF DALLAS

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Responsibilities include all aspects of veterinary laboratory technology (manual/automated hematology, serum chemistries); specimen collection and preparation; assisting staff veterinarians with procedures, treatments; radiology; records maintenance; nursing care for hospitalized/critical care animals; assisting with research projects and related duties.

Salary range: \$25,511 to \$28,572

Applications/resumes must be received by April 7, 2000 to:

City of Dallas
Human Resource
1500 Marilla, Rm. 6A North
Dallas, Texas 75201
(fax) 214-670-3764
EOE

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 0363-01-113 for LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT in TARRANT County will be opened on May 03, 2000 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Contract 1603-03-022 for DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS in TARRANT County will be opened on May 4, 2000 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. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract (s) are available at reproduction companies in Austin, Texas at the expense of the contractor.

NPO:118

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.

...continued from page 30

effort to raise awareness of the new Texas Grant Program.

"The Texas Grant Program can open the door to opportunity for thousands of Texans, but only if they know the program exists," said Ellis. "Tens of thousands of Houstonians will pass these billboards everyday. We believe parents who see these signs, think about their children's future and call to find out how they can get Texas Grant."

Senator Ellis also authored legislation creating the 100 million Texas (Towards Excellence, Access, & Success) Grant Program, which will provide tuition and fees to high school students who have completed college preparatory courses in high school and maintain a 2.0 GPA or better in their first year of college. It is similar to Georgia's groundbreaking HOPE Scholarship program that provides scholarships to any student with a B average.

"I am delighted to help chart a new course for Texas in the 21st Century," said Ellis. "We must do all that we can to ensure that Texas is wired to use technology to make our government more efficient, we provide better service and are more responsive to the Texans who pay for it."

"In our effort to have smaller smarter government, we must have advice and counsel of lawmakers to realize these goals," Comptroller Keeton-Rylander said. "I'm confident Senator Ellis will be an integral part of the e-Texas team."

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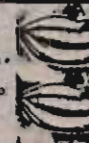
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Texas Lottery - KG P.O. Box 16630 Austin, TX 78761-6630

Career Opportunities



CITY OF DALLAS

ZOO ANIMAL KEEPER (COMMISSARY)

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Qualified applicants must have a High School education or equivalent. Must have the ability to follow oral/ written instructions and communicate effectively. A class "C" drivers license is required. \$10.00 per hour.

Interested individuals must submit an application/resume by April 14, 2000 to:

City of Dallas
Department of Human Resources
1500 Marilla, Suite 6AN
Dallas, TX 75201
(fax) 214-670-3764
EOE/MFD

Request for Proposals For the Purchase of Services Relating to Management Consulting, Coaching & Training

The Housing Authority of the City of Dallas Texas ("DHA") hereby requests Proposals from responsible and responsive management consulting firms and individuals qualified to facilitate management initiatives designed to enhance the overall organizational effectiveness of the DHA by providing consulting, coaching and training services. Contracts may be awarded to multiple firms.

If you are interested in submitting a Proposal, please call (214)951-8323, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. CST to request that a copy of the Request for Proposals (RFP) package be mailed to you. Alternatively, you may pick-up a copy of the RFP at the Office of Human Resources and Administration, 3939 N. Hampton Road, Suite 250, Dallas, Texas 75212 during the same days and times. Written Proposals are due by 4:00 p.m. CST on Monday, April 10, 2000. DHA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality in the bids.

DHA will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or age.



CITY OF DALLAS

SECRETARY 37

High School education or equivalent and plus two (2) years secretarial experience. PC word processing skills and typing of at least 50 wpm required. One (1) year secretarial certificate will substitute for one year of the required experience. A two (2) year clerical experience involving word-processing will substitute for one year of the required experience. \$10.21 per hour

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REQUIREMENTS: H S diploma or GED.
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Apply @ City of Lancaster-211 N. Henry, Lancaster, TX Human Resources Dept. Mon - Fri., 8a.m. - 5 p.m. (EOE)



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