Minority Opportunity News

"Our Ninth Year" Established 1991

"The Paper of Choice"

April 15 - 30, 2000 Volume 9, Number 8

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

States receive money for school construction, repairs

The U.S. Department of Education released state-by-state estimates of the amounts that would be authorized under H.R. 4094. This resolution would allocate $24.8 billion in bonds to help communities build and modernize up to 6,000 schools. A 1995 GAO report found that $112 billion was needed to bring America's existing schools into acceptable condition.

Blackmoney.com, Zack's unveil site for black investors

Oakland-based blackmoney.com and Chicago-based Zack's Investment Research rolled out a detailed site April 1 geared towards the growing number of publicly-traded companies led by African-Americans, Africans and Caribbean's at www.blackmoney.com. In addition to the American stocks and ADRs tracked by blackmoney.com, the site accesses stock markets in Africa and the Caribbean. Personal finance features include tax advice, books and videos, job search and mortgage and personal loan research.

Social justice project expands database

Southern Changes is expanding its social justice and civil rights searchable database to the Internet. address is http://chaucer.library.emory.edu:8080/schanges.html. This resource will provide web surfers with information on social justice history and civil rights. It will feature commentaries and interviews from public figures and reviews form historian Dan T. Carter. The site also features essays and articles on social justice issues in the South. Its current database dates from 1982-1992.

Dallas pastor inducted into MLK, Jr. Board of Preachers

Rev. Frederick D. Haynes, III, Senior Pastor of Friendship West Baptist Church was the only Texas inducted into the MLK, Jr. Board of Preachers of Morehouse College. The event was part of the Annual College of Ministers and Laity Program. Haynes has been Senior Pastor at Friendship West since 1983.

Rev. Frederick D. Haynes, III (next line): Senior Pastor, Friendship West Baptist Church

The Aftermath of the Tobacco Lawsuit

Cover Story

Page 12

Special to MON:

Lee Alcorn on tax Abatements

Feature:

Black Mayors Conference 2000

APRIL MILESTONE MOMENTS

16 1862 Slavery is abolished in Washington D.C., when $993,407in compensation is paid to slave owners for their lost property.

18 1983 Alice Walker is awarded the Pulitzer Prize for the Color Purple. Ten days later, the novel will also win the American Book Award for fiction.

20 1969 James Earl Jones wins Tony for his portrayal of controversial heavyweight champion Jack Johnson in the "Great White Hope".

25 1950 At the NBA's annual players draft, the Boston Celtics select Charles "Chuck" Cooper. He is the first African-American ever drafted by an NBA team.

25 1944 The United Negro College Fund (UNCF) is founded by Dr. Fredrick Douglass Patterson, then president of Tuskegee Institute, with 27 charter colleges and universities.

28 1967 Muhammad Ali, world boxing champion is stripped of his tittle for refusal to enter the armed forces.

April 27, 1927

Coretta Scott King was born in Heiberger, AL. She attended Antioch College in Ohio and went on to study at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. She moved to Montgomery with her husband Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1954 and later had four children. 32 years after her husband's death Mrs. King maintains the King Memorial in Atlanta and is a noted speaker on black causes and nonviolent philosophy.

Coretta Scott King

MON Minority Opportunity News

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Next Edition Features

Dallas City Council Race, District 8

Former City Councilman Al Lipscomb has resigned his seat and now the position is up for grabs. Four candidates have placed their names and reputations on the ballot for the May 6th election. Who will win the coveted position? In the next edition, MON will take an in depth at these candidates. Who are they, why are they running, what are their qualifications? We will also explore the actual duties of a city council member and the workings of the Dallas City Council.

Next Edition Wellness Feature:

The Bridge Breast Center

With the rising costs of health care, many people cannot afford proper treatment. The Bridge Breast Center helps low income, uninsured women with diagnostic and treatment services for breast cancer. Their client services are provided by physicians who donate services to clients, and medical facilities offer a discounted fee structure and allow clients to make payment arrangements. Next edition's Wellness section will provide more information on this innovative center and a look at the physicians and staff who offer their services.

Table of Contents

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George Washington Carver

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Schools need community support for fair settlement

History has shown, from time to time, that issues will arise in the African-American community, which warrant and receive much attention and activity. Whether it is the reversal of the affirmative action programs within the state of Texas, the brutal slaying of in Jasper, the failure rate of African-American students on the TAAS test or the diminished emphasis on the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) by financial institutions, African-Americans in Texas face a myriad of complicated yet urgent issues. In the midst of these concerns, one question keeps rising to the forefront – "Where is the ability of the African-American community to deal with and respond to issues over the long term?"

Let's consider the recent landmark ruling of the state of Texas versus the tobacco industry. As most people will recall, millions of dollars have been committed to the state of Texas to compensate Texans for the damages, physical and otherwise, that have resulted from the use of tobacco and related products. As a part of this settlement, large portions of this settlement will reach the public institutions and agencies of our state – most notably the colleges and universities. The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas has already received funds for education and treatment programs. Of the $555 million appropriation, none of Texas' nine historically black colleges would share in these proceeds. That omission is particularly suspect for the two publicly funded hand historically black colleges, Texas Southern University and Prairie View. In this regard, Texas Southern University in Houston has put forth a very justifiable argument that it should receive a significant portion of these funds.

Two conditions serve as the basis for this rationale. First, the impact of the ravages of smoking disproportionately impacts the African-American community. Blacks, as the statistics will bear out, smoke at a higher percentage than is the case for the general American populace. As well, the rates of cardiovascular and related medical conditions, which result from tobacco use, disproportionately impact our communities. Secondly, it has also been well documented that Texas Southern University (and Prairie View) have been on the short end of state funding support for many years. In a compensatory sense then, Texas owes these institutions a larger portion of the revenues from the settlement in an effort to make up for the long-term discrimination that the schools have faced.

The challenge now is the will and the need to address the work, and effort required to bring this matter to a successful conclusion. While the initial discussion of the financial settlement drew great attention, where is the on-going attention and exposure needed to insure that these institutions receive their fair share of the funds? True leadership requires the ability to identify, frame and address issues over the long term. Few of the concerns that exist within the African-American community can be resolved with a brief or quick response. On the contrary, political savvy; detailed action plans and, most of all, competent follow through are required if the final results are to even vaguely resemble what is needed. Otherwise, African-Americans will find themselves in yet another situation where they will have to bemoan the fact that, once again, black communities have been short-changed. Tobacco companies targeted minority communities when selling their products; those same communities need to target the companies for fair compensation.

Opportunities such as the tobacco settlement present a rare opportunity for the state of Texas to do the right thing without it having to cost the state a penny. Moreover, the case is whether or not the state leadership has the moral courage and integrity to withstand those who would suggest that the larger (and predominately non-minority) institutions of Texas should receive a windfall because of this lawsuit. As has always been the case, in most cases political leaders need the long term and focused "encouragement" of their constituents to help remind them of what they need to address. MON advises citizens to take this moment to do so with your area legislator or state political office holder. This is not the time to faint or to wait.

Companies with tax abatements should be monitored

The city of Dallas owes it to its citizens to make sure that those companies that receive tax abatements comply with the requirements that they create jobs or put money into facility improvements.

A recent audit revealed that 22 companies failed to meet their tax abatement requirements and the amount of taxes for those companies amounted to almost $400, 000. That is a lot of tax dollars that are owed to the city that could possibly reduce our taxes.

Lee Alcorn
President, NAACP, Dallas Chapter

More troubles surrounding these tax abatements is the fact, up until this year, companies simply submitted affidavits stating whether they were in compliance or not. We can all guess the results of such self-evaluation. We need and should have constant oversight on these abatements with penalties for those companies that do not comply with the requirements.

Be mindful that the goal of the city's tax-abatement program is to increase the city's tax base by encouraging new business investments and to promote the creation and retention of quality jobs.

Our NAACP organization had often wondered whether these companies that had received these tax-abatements actually had been in compliance. We now know that many have not, and more importantly, these companies were left to evaluate themselves on compliance. This is shameful of our city officials when we are in need of quality jobs and business investments, especially in the Southern Sector.

We continue to get too much lip service about improving conditions economically in the Southern Sector and clearly, just monitoring and making sure that these companies comply with their agreements to get a tax break, would make all kinds of difference in just these critical components, i.e., job creation and business investments.

Please encourage your council representative and mayor to also deal with the unclear wording in the contracts that make it very difficult for auditors to properly monitor these companies. We need the tax-abatement program--with the proper monitoring required to insure that the companies worthy of tax-abatements fulfill their promises.

Lee Alcorn
Special to MON
President, Dallas NAACP Branch
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Minority Opportunity News

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Minority Opportunity News assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material and reserves the right to edit and make appropriate revisions.

Thomas Muhammad

My farewell column: until next time, goodbye

Yes the title is right. This will be my last column in Minority Opportunity News. But, before you shed your tears or start your protest calls, understand that I'm leaving on my own. Publisher, Thurman Jones and the fine staff here at MON have been very nice to me. And from the bottom of my heart, I thank them. I know the road has been tough for them because of the great response these wonderfully nice, sugarcoated columns have received for the many years I've been here. (I know, I know just kidding). And yes, I'm pretty sure one or two of them might have been quite controversial (ok, ok maybe just about all of them). But even those were done with accurate, precise truth. That's very comforting for columnists to know.

Many in this profession love to agitate and spark protest with our work, as long as in the end what we said was true. But, if it does happen to spark outrage, then buddy bring it on, No Justice! No Peace! Of course you will still continue to see from time to time a column from me in MON. They just won't be in the consistent manner you were used to getting them. And another treat will be that you will probably be reading me in other papers in the area, as well.

Now dropping this column does not mean that I've stopped writing. It only means that my obligation to only write for MON, as a columnist in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex, has ended. And as I indicated earlier, that relationship has been a great one.

Reading this, I'm sure will prompt other black newspapers to approach me with offers. And no I'm not attempting to make it appear that there is some big drive to sign me up, or as today's young folks might say: I'm all that! It's just that a number of publishers and editors over the years have tried to sign me on to their papers in the past, but through it all I've stayed loyal to MON. What I'm saying is that although I've stopped writing as a columnist for MON, at this time, I'm just not ready to commit to column deadlines for anyone at the moment. So, hold off on your offers please.

Now what can you expect from me in the future? Well for starters I'm currently working on a book based on some of my most popular columns. Close friends like Cheryl Smith have been after me for nearly four years to do it and I finally gave in. She doesn't know it yet, but she'll be one of those prominent associates who will write the book's forward. It will highlight many of those columns a number of you wrote, called and/or harassed MON's publisher and editors about over the years. You know columns like "the Dallas Silly Council" "Toilet Flushing both the Democratic and Republican parties" and " I-30 Mayes." We will relive past columns about progressive people as well as some popular past issues. The book will re-examine past stories on racists and sell-outs to determine if there has been any change in their attitudes. Stories of community heroes and sheroes will be highlighted as we look to see where they are these days and what they are up to. Yes, this book will be the mother of all books. I know you're going to like it.

I already do.

In the meantime, I will be serving as a roving ace reporter/columnist for MON. Look for stories from me concerning housing, economic development, civil/human rights, religious freedom, court decision issues and more. As mentioned above, MON's publisher and staff have asked me to look deep into my community networking knowledge to see if I can acquaint many of you loyal readers on the wealth of information available that can help us move forward.

Yea, MON seems to believe that somehow I know a lot. Of course many of you who have been the subject of some of my more controversial columns, I'm sure, would gladly tell them that I don't know diddly. And you probably can't wait to tell them so. Yea, I can hear the phones ringing right off the hook, the pens, pencils or email pages burning up with thunderous speed, as you go through your first draft. But, be careful, the publisher and editor may just know what the hell they're talking about. After all, I have been involved in some the most progressive issues in the country. My political and social philosophy is the same as many of the community's most prominent past/ present black leaders. Not to mention the fact, that I've studied, met or conversed with some of those individuals or some of their close surviving family members. So, yea I think I may have something to offer. However, I do reserve the right to write a column now and again about sell-outs, because I still believe that that is one of our community's most pressing issues. We've got to find a way to deal with people who continue to stab us in the back and walk away with impunity, simply because they happen to share our skin color. Short of a "South African neck tie" (burning tires placed around a live traitor), calling out these sell-outs is the only weapon we have. Therefore, look for me to point them out in the future as usual.

But, more importantly, I will continue to try and bring uplifting information on our glorious cultural past. For many of us understanding the concept of Sankofa is our precious gift to our people. We must "reach back, reclaim our past, in order to have a proud and prosperous future." To that end, I leave you with this brief passage from the book "The Debt: What America Owes to Blacks" by Randall Robinson. It illustrates, I think, the importance of what our culture and heritage could do for our uplifting, if we but knew it.

"The Mandinka people, to which I belong, formed the core of our empire. The greatest of our emperors was Mansa Musa who rose to power in 1312 and died in 1337. It was under him that the cities of Timbuktu and Djenne launched their long eras of scholarship and learning, with notice of the excellence of their schools of law and theology reaching far into Muslim Asia. The emperor erected great mosques of brick, expanded the military, and built a trade network so vast that in 1375, thirty-eight years after his death, the Majorcan cartographer Cresques depicted traders from all of North Africa marching to our markets. The Muslim dinar, the gold coin that had supplanted the denarius aureus of Byzantium as the most respected standard of value in much of the world, was minted from our region's gold, Asia Minor's sources having long since been exhausted. In those times, our empires were world powers. It was our gold that under girded the world trading system. Europe was only just emerging from the poverty and chaos that followed the collapse of the Western Roman Empire. Their new money would be based on our gold. No other sources existed anywhere." Reparations, Yes!

Understand that I will miss you all, even those of you who have found yourselves on the other end of my tough, courageous thoughts. Or as my great friend, Dallas City Councilman Albert Lipscomb would often say, "I thank everybody! My friends, enemies and those of you somewhere in-between, also!" Nuff said, Chief, you damn skippy!

Until then the struggle still continues...

DALLAS
HOUSING AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO BID

The Housing Authority of the City of Dallas (DHA) is accepting bids for the purchase of Personal Computer Hardware and Software.

Bids will be accepted until 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 2, 2000 at 2075 W. Commerce, building #100, Dallas, Texas 75208, at which time and place all bids will be opened and publicly read aloud.

Specifications and bid documents may be obtained from the Purchasing Office, 2075 W. Commerce, Building #100, Dallas, Texas 75208, or by calling (214)672-0226.

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

DALLAS
HOUSING AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO BID

The Housing Authority of the City of Dallas (DHA) is accepting Bids for a two (2) year contract with the possibility of two (2) one-year extensions for the purchase of Mini Blinds.

Bids will be accepted until 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 9, 2000 at 2075 W. Commerce, Building #100, Dallas, Texas 75208, at which time and place all bids will be opened and publicly read aloud.

Specifications and did documents may be obtained from the Purchasing Office, 2075 West Commerce, Building #100 Dallas, Texas 75208, or by calling (214) 672-0226. DHA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality in the bids.

The Housing Authority of the City of Dallas, Texas will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or age. Equal Housing Opportunity.

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Congresswoman Johnson upset with drug control efforts

By Lakeesha Joe

Congresswomen Eddie Bernice Johnson, who is currently serving her fourth term representing the Thirtieth Congressional District of Texas, has expressed her disappointment regarding House Resolution 3908. House Resolution 3908 is the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for fiscal year 2000 funding which includes $522 million for the support of the Colombian Army and does not make any funds available for those who need drug treatment.

"While I support the spirit of drug interdiction contained in this bill, I regret the fact that the bill does not make any effort to deal with substance abuse problems in this country," said Congresswoman Johnson. "While we have fought for drug treatment and prevention funding for years, the Republicans have blocked our efforts at every turn. We must put as much effort into helping our own citizens as we put into fighting wars on foreign soil."

Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson

Congresswoman Johnson is displeased with the unwillingness of the House Majority Leadership to hold hearings on the issue of providing money for those who need drug treatment. While Congresswoman Johnson does support efforts to reduce drugs, she also believes that there should be additional programs to help those who are already addicted to drugs.

States sign agreement to form communities for safer guns coalition

Officials from 29cities joined with the Clinton Administration to form the Communities for Safer Guns Coalition, which supports purchase preferences by government law enforcement agencies for guns made by companies that have adopted new gun safety and dealer responsibility standards.

"It's common sense for police to buy guns from a company that makes it harder for criminals to get hold of guns that can be used against police and civilians," said Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo.

Governments in the Communities for Safer Guns Coalition are inviting more local governments to join them in their gun purchase preference policy. If other gun makers adopt the gun agreement they will receive purchase preference from governments in the Coalition when the governments buy guns for police departments and other law enforcement agencies. It is estimated that governments at all levels purchase as many as one-third of the guns made in the United States.

The new gun agreement requires gun manufacturing companies to install mandatory gun locks and other child-safety devices on all guns; introduce "smart gun" technology, that allows guns to be fired only by the owner, in all newly designed handguns within three years; bar gun sales-including gun show sales-without a background check of the buyer; and limit the delivery of multiple handgun sales.

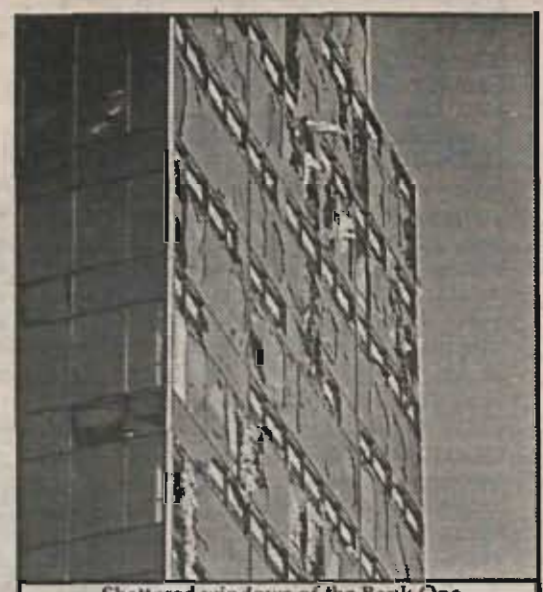
"As a result of this breakthrough agreement, fewer parents will have to bury their children," said Treasury secretary Lawrence Summers.

Smith & Wesson, the nation's larges handgun maker, became the first manufacturer to adopt the new standards. In exchange, local governments, federal government, and the attorneys general of Connecticut and New York agreed to drop pending lawsuits and not bring potential lawsuits against the company.

The Oversight Commission will consist of two representatives from local governments, one from states, one from Smith& Wesson and one selected by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. The Commission will have the power to notify Smith & Wesson of any gun dealer violations. This notification will trigger penalties against gun dealers by Smith & Wesson and the commission that could include barring dealers from selling Smith & Wesson products. Smith & Wesson will also take action, including suspension or termination, against dealers responsible for a disproportionate number of crime gun traces. This provision is designed to focus industry attention on the relatively small number of current dealers that are the source of many guns used in crimes. An estimated 75 percent of guns used in crimes are sold by just 1.2 percent of gun dealers.

The agreement is designed to reduce gun violence, which annually claims over 30,000 lives and injures another 100,000 people in crimes, accidents and suicides nationwide.

Cuomo also announced plans to propose a regulation encouraging the nation's housing authorities to also give preference to gun makers who have signed the agreement. In addition to housing authorities, the regulation would encourage the authorities to apply the same requirements to private subcontractors that provide security at housing developments.



Shattered windows of the Bank One building are remnants of the devastation of last month's tornado that ripped through downtown Forth Worth.
Photo courtesy of Lott's Photography

Assistance available to Tarrant County residents affected by tornado

Tarrant County has been declared a disaster area by the president making state and federal assistance available. Renters, homeowners and business owners who sustained losses as a result of the tornado that struck Tarrant County March 28 are eligible to apply for state and federal assistance. Programs now available to eligible applicants include Disaster Housing Assistance for individuals and families who homes were destroyed or made unlivable. The program provides funding for temporary accommodations or minimal home repairs to make a property safe, sanitary and secure. Low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration are available for the repair, replacement or rebuilding of disaster –damaged property. Grants through the Individual and Family Grant program, are available for those who have serious immediate needs resulting from the disaster that cannot be met by other sources.

The first step in the application process is to register by calling FEMA's registration line at 1-800-462-9029. For more information contact Don Rogers at 512-424-2138.

New booklet available to help obtain government money

Free Enterprise Institute in Washington, DC has published a booklet, "Free Money – Winning the Government Giveaway Game". The booklet gives information on how and where to get free money, free advice and free services from the government. Researchers at the Institute say that there is at last count, $292 billion in government giveaway programs and free services. The booklet also feature listings of sources to obtain government money to write books, start businesses and pay off student loans.

Consumers can receive a copy of the booklet by sending $5 to:

Free Enterprise Institute
Government Giveaway Booklet Offer
Dept. GGB-407-1
P.O. Box 96071
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Information is also available at www.FreeEnterpriseInstitute.org.

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The rise and fall of the Black Panther Party

America's fascination with the African-American militants

By Jamila H. Thomas

Throughout history African-American's have faced a struggle against racism. In the 1970's the struggle caused many African-American's to unite and form groups to fight this injustice. One such group was The Black Panthers. Known for their aggression, they were not only angry and young, but also thought they could change the world. And in the course of 10 years, they did.

In October of 1966 two young revolutionaries, Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale, founded the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense in Oakland, California. The name was shortened to the Black Panther Party (BPP) and it began spreading eastward through the Black urban ghetto-colonies across the country. Though it would set up programs that fed Black neighborhoods, provided free healthcare and other positive programs for children, the Panthers were most known for taking a militant stance against the "White power structure".

Members of the Black Panther Party crusade for equal rights. The organization introduced America to the militant stance of armed defense.

In the summer of 1968, David Brothers established a BPP branch in Brooklyn, New York, and a few months later Lumumba Shakur set up a branch in Harlem. Moving westward, police departments in each city made military raids on BPP offices or homes in Philadelphia, Chicago, Newark, Omaha, Denver, New Haven, San Diego, Los Angeles, and other cities, murdering some Panthers and arresting others.

During its short existence, the BPP was rife with dissension, both internal and external. The internal strife, division, intrigue, and fear had become so embedded that eventually most members drifted or were driven, away. Some continued the struggle on other fronts and some basically cooled out altogether The BPP limped on for several more years, then died what seemed a natural death. But the organization did not go down before drastically changing American society as we knew it. Through their fierce attitudes and determination they left lasting contributions in the lives of African-Americans.

The Positive Aspects of the BPP's Contributions

Self-Defense: This is one of the things that set the BPP apart from most previous black organizations and which attracted members (particularly the youth), mass support, and a mass following. The concept was not only sound, but also common sense.

Revolutionary Nationalist Ideology: The BPP was a nationalist organization. Its main goal was the national liberation of African people in the U.S., and it restricted its membership to Blacks only. It was also revolutionary. The BPP's theories and practices were based on socialist principles. It was anti-capitalist and struggled for a socialist revolution of U.S. society.

On the national level, the BPP widely disseminated socialist based programs to the African masses. Internationally, it provided Africans in the U.S. with a broader understanding of their relationship to the African continent, the emerging independent African nations, Third World nations, Socialist nations, and all the Liberation Movements associated with these nations. Overall the ideology provided Africans here with a more concrete way of looking at and analyzing the world. Before then much of black analysis of the world, was based on making African-Americans acceptable to White society.

Mass Organizing Techniques: Another fundamental principle that attracted members and mass support to the BPP was its policy of "serving the people". This was a policy of going to the masses, living among them, sharing their burdens, and organizing teaching them to find their own solutions to the day-to-day problems. The BPP organized community programs ranging from free breakfast for children, to free health clinics, to rent strikes resulting in tenant ownership of their buildings, to Liberation School for grade-schoolers, to free clothing drives, to campaigns for community control of schools, community control of police, and campaigns to stop drugs, crime, and police murder

... continued on page 10

THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY
Platform & Program
October 1966

WHAT WE WANT
WHAT WE BELIEVE

1. **WE WANT** freedom. We want power to determine the destiny of our Black Community.

WE BELIEVE that black people will not be free until we are able to determine our destiny.

2. **WE WANT** full employment for our people.

WE BELIEVE that the federal government is responsible and obligated to give every man employment or a guaranteed income. We believe that if the white American businessmen will not give full employment, then the means of production should be taken from the businessmen and placed in the community so that the people of the community can organize and employ all of its people and give a high standard of living.

3. **WE WANT** an end to the robbery by the CAPITALISTS of our Black Community.

WE BELIEVE that this racist government has robbed us and now we are demanding the overdue debt of forty acres and two mules. Forty acres and two mules was promised 100 years ago as restitution for slave labor and mass murder of black people. We will accept the payment in currency which will be distributed to our many communities. The Germans are now aiding the Jews in Israel for the genocide of the Jewish people. The Germans murdered six million Jews. The American racist has taken part in the slaughter of over fifty million black people; therefore, we feel that this is a modest demand that we make

4. **WE WANT** decent housing, fit for the shelter of human beings.

WE BELIEVE that if the white landlords will not give decent housing to our black community, then the housing and the land should be made into cooperatives so that our community, with government aid, can build and make decent housing for its people.

5. **WE WANT** education for our people that exposes the true nature of this decadent American society. We want education that teaches us our true history and our role in the present-day society.

WE BELIEVE in an educational system that will give to our people a knowledge of self. If a man does not have knowledge of himself and his position in society and the world, then he has little chance to relate to anything else.

6. **WE WANT** all black men to be exempt from military service.

WE BELIEVE that Black people should not be forced to fight in the military service to defend a racist government that does not protect us. We will not fight and kill other people of color in the world who, like black people, are being victimized by the white racist government of America. We will protect ourselves from the force and violence of the racist police and the racist military, by whatever means necessary.

7. **WE WANT** an immediate end to POLICE BRUTALITY and MURDER of black people.

WE BELIEVE we can end police brutality in our black community by organizing black self-defense groups that are dedicated to defending our black community from racist police oppression and brutality. The Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States gives a right to bear arms. We therefore believe that all black people should arm themselves for self- defense.

8. **WE WANT** freedom for all black men held in federal, state, county and city prisons and jails.

WE BELIEVE that all black people should be released from the many jails and prisons because they have not received a fair and impartial trial.

9. **WE WANT** all black people when brought to trial to be tried in court by a jury of their peer group or people from their black communities, as defined by the Constitution of the United States.

WE BELIEVE that the courts should follow the United States Constitution so that black people will receive fair trials. The 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution gives a man a right to be tried by his peer group. A peer is a person from a similar economic, social, religious, geographical, environmental, historical and racial background. To do this the court will be forced to select a jury from the black community from which the black defendant came. We have been, and are being tried by all-white juries that have no understanding of the "average reasoning man" of the black community.

10. **WE WANT** land, bread, housing, education, clothing, justice and peace. And as our major political objective, a United Nations supervised plebiscite to be held throughout the black colony in which only black colonial subjects will be allowed to participate, for the purpose of determining the will of black people as to their national destiny.

Community organization focused on empowering area girls

By Latrina George

Remember the old adage – What boys can do, girls can do better? Well, a local nonprofit youth agency, Girls Incorporated of Metropolitan Dallas, also known as Girls Inc., is equipping girls in the metroplex with tools to do just that. Though Girls Inc. is not making preparations for the next Battle of the Sexes, the directors, committees, mentors and volunteers are making a huge difference in the lives of girls ages 6 – 18 years and are "Preparing Today's Girls For Tomorrow's World".

Girls Incorporated of Metropolitan Dallas is part of the national organization of Girls Incorporated which serves 350,000 young people ages 6 – 18 at over 1000 sites nationwide. Girls Incorporated of Metropolitan Dallas is the largest affiliate in the country piloting national programs and providing leadership for other Girls Inc. affiliates across the nation. It is located in Oak Cliff and serves girls throughout the metroplex, specifically the West Dallas, Oak Cliff, South Dallas, Love Field and Pleasant Grove communities.

Raised only by her father since infancy, organization member Celeste Belizario talks about the many sisters and "mothers" she has at Girls, Inc.

"Preparing Today's Girls for Tomorrows World" is Girls Inc.'s objective. "We want to empower girls to become self reliant and self sufficient," says Phyllis Bernstein, president of the Board of Directors. Achieving self-reliance and self-sufficiency is no small feat for Girls Inc. particularly since fifty percent of the girls come from single parent homes and sixty-five percent of those households' yearly income is less than $15,000. Despite these odds, Girls Inc. perseveres by providing positive, female-focused programs that encourage the girls to explore and discover their own identity, nurture and develop their potential, and mature in a sense of responsibility to self, family and community.

Girls Inc develops research-based informal educational programs that encourage the girls to take risks and master physical, intellectual and emotional challenges. Some of the programs being offered at the six metroplex community centers are:

- Operation Smart. This program promotes an interest in science, math and relevant technology. The program involves hands-on projects, field trips and experiments while increasing scientific literacy and numeric skills.
- Job Shadowing involves girls ages 12 and up by partnering them with professionals in their field of interest. The girls spend time with these professionals and explore various career options.
- Career Action Center exposes girls to career opportunities and helps them set career goals and learn about the education required to achieve them.
- Friendly PEERsuasion is a substance abuse program that is geared for girls to help them manage the pressures in their lives rather than escaping through drugs.
- Discovery is a leadership program that assists girls, ages 9 – 11, in exploring leadership traits and women in history.
- Economic Literacy provides girls with opportunities to explore how money impacts their world and puts them on the path of controlling their own financial future.

The success of these programs is measured in the classroom. One hundred percent of the girls at Girls Incorporated of Metropolitan Dallas graduate high school compared to the local average of 74 percent. Most of these girls will be and have been the first in their families to attend college. School performance for girls 9–14 years old significantly increased after either being encouraged to continue their studies or matched with individual tutors. Eighty percent of the girls attained a "B" average or better in their studies. Ninety-seven percent of the girls graduate high school without getting pregnant compared to the local average of 58 percent. And in the past two years, Girls Inc. is without a pregnancy.

Zero pregnancies in the past two years is a major accomplishment – one that Girls Inc. is proud of. "We grow the girls. That is our best methodology," said Ruth Thomas, Executive Director of Operations. "We offer a progressive prevention program tailored to the girls' specific ages." Thomas adds that there are four components of the program to prevent adolescent pregnancy, including:

Growing Together – Designed for girls ages 9–11 in an effort to increase positive communication between parents and children about sexuality, sexual information and values.

Will Power/Won't Power – For girls ages 12–14, this program involves assertiveness training with the specific goal of encouraging young people to

... continued on page 23

2000 National Black Mayors Conference focuses on seatbelt safety

By Angela D. Jones

Once a year hundreds of black mayors from across the country converge at a designated location to discuss topics and issues that affect their respective cities. This year, for the first time in its history, Dallas has been chosen to play host to this annual event; otherwise known as the National Conference of Black Mayors, Inc.

Activities for the 26th annual National Conference of Black Mayors, Inc. (NCBM) will take place at Dallas' Wyndham Anatole Hotel; from Wednesday, April 26 to Sunday, April 30. NCBM, Inc. is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, which provides management, and technical assistance to black mayors and articulates the membership's concerns on national policy issues. Hosted by Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk, the four-day conference is expected to bring over 400 mayors from across the country, as well as city managers, municipal staff members and other elected officials and exhibitors. The event will consist of a variety of events and activities including the Black Women Mayors Caucus Workshop and Luncheon, a Media Training workshop, Mayor Kirk's Downtown Walking Tour, the NCBM Town Hall Meeting, the Youth Plenary Session and various other workshops and exhibits. Currently, Mayor Kirk is second on the list of Black mayors representing cities with populations over 50,000. The population of the City of Dallas is 1,053,292, which is second to Houston's 1,660,533 population. In 1998, Texas had more black mayors (43) than any other state in the nation, which, in many eyes, makes it a fitting site for this year's NCBM.

Mayor Ron Kirk and fellow Texas mayors met to discuss the upcoming National Conference of Black Mayors. Mayor Chuck Beatty of Waxahachie (l), Mayor Kirk (2nd l), Mayor Elzie Odom of Arlington (2nd r), and Mayor Keith Woods of Brookshire discussed final plans for the convention that will bring more than 400 black mayors from across the country to Texas for the first time.

The contest to host the 2000 NCBM took place two years ago at the Louisiana conference, where NCBM members voted to hold this year's event in Dallas. NCBM Executive Director, Michelle Kourouma describes the site selection process as being similar to that of an "olympic bid." Prior to these types of bids, she explained that black mayors held more "informal" meetings in rural towns and suburban cities all over the South.

Kourouma added, "after the Civil Rights Act was passed, the country saw a surge in black leaders; mostly at the mayoral level and mainly from the south. They started to meet informally and decided that they needed a group to articulate their concerns and serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas and information; especially those from smaller cities. Out of this need came the NCBM."

The original group, previously known as the Southern Conference of Black Mayors, consisted of 13 founders, but has since grown to a membership of 475. The group held its first meeting in 1972 and became incorporated in 1974.

The theme of this year's event, "Leadership for a New Century," was chosen with the country's youth in mind, as more and more young people are coming face-to-face with life threatening challenges – including death caused by improper seatbelt use.

In light of proven studies, which show that "seatbelt use among African-Americans is lower than the national average and that African-Americans are more likely to be killed in motor vehicle crashes than whites," NCBM members saw this year's conference as a unique opportunity to promote awareness on this very important subject. NCBM's board of directors recently adopted a resolution sponsored by Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk supporting Transportation Secretary Rodney E. Slater's "Buckle Up America" program.

Kourouma says that over 100 young people from not only Dallas, but also other member-cities, are expected to participate in various workshops and "break out" sessions during the conference. The idea to make its traditional Youth Day, the centerpiece of this year's convention, stems from the NCBM's Urban Youth Strategies program, which was held last summer at a lodge in Pennsylvania's scenic Pocono Mountains.

"Nearly 500 youth were involved in

...continued on page 11

John Dudley

Investing tax-free income with municipal bonds

How to Compare Taxable Equivalents

As the old saying goes, you can't compare apples to oranges. This advice is especially important when evaluating various fixed income investments on the basis of yield. One of the key things to compare is not how much investors earn, but how much they keep after taxes.

Consider this hypothetical example: a corporate bond with a coupon of 8% and a comparable municipal bond of similar maturity and credit quality that carries a 6% coupon. At first glance, the corporate bond's 2% higher interest rate makes it appear to be the more attractive investment. But is it?

Both investments are bonds, which means they have fixed interest rates, payment dates and maturity dates. However, the income from most corporate bonds is fully taxable by federal, state, and local authorities; whereas, most municipal bond income is generally free of federal income tax and usually free of state and local income tax for residents of the issuing state. The income on some municipal bonds may subject certain taxpayers to the federal Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT). Also remember, yields and market value will fluctuate so that your investment, if sold prior to maturity, may be worth more or less than its original cost.

Municipal bonds usually carry a lower coupon than taxable bonds because of the benefit of this income tax exemption. Therefore, the answer as to which bond is best for investors requires a comparison of the taxable equivalent yield (TEY) of the two investments, based on their personal income tax rate.

A simple equation can help compare the tax-free yield of a municipal bond to that of a taxable bond. The first step is

Tax Free Yield= Taxable Equivalent Yield
1.00 minus Federal tax rate

to determine the appropriate federal income tax bracket. Then, plug the yield of the municipal bond into this formula:

$$\frac{6\%}{(1.00 - .31)} = \frac{.06}{.69} = 8.7\%$$

Using the above example, the tax-free yield of the municipal bond is 6%, and let's assume the federal marginal income tax rate is 31% or .31. Thus, the equation would look like this:

According to this calculation, the 6% municipal bond would compare to a taxable bond yield of 8.7%. Therefore, in our example, based on a comparison of yield alone, the municipal bond probably would be a better investment than the 8% corporate bond.

Of course, the higher the tax rate, the more advantageous it can be to invest in tax-free bonds. And the above illustration does not take possible state tax exemption into consideration. This is an important consideration for investors who live in high-tax states, such as California, Connecticut, Minnesota and New York, where income from taxable bonds may be subject to state and even local taxes. If individuals buy municipal bonds issued within the state in which they pay taxes, they can increase their taxable equivalent yield.

Sometimes it is helpful to reverse the comparison to see what a taxable bond will yield in comparison to similar tax-free bonds, in which case the following equation may be used:

Tax Free Yield = Taxable Yield x (1.00 minus federal tax rate)

Using the above example, the equation would look like this:

Tax Free Yield = 8% x (1.00 - .31) or .08 x .69 = .055, or 5.5%

Thus, the tax-free equivalent of an 8% corporate bond would be a municipal bond yielding 5.5%. If an investor is in a higher federal tax bracket, or includes state and local taxes in the calculation, the tax-free equivalent of the corporate bond will be even lower.

We have looked at just one typical comparison. It is important to remember that tax-free municipal bonds are not automatically the best choice. One consideration it depends on is an individual's own personal tax rate and how that tax rate is likely to change over the life of the investment.

Also, there are other considerations when evaluating bonds, including price, maturity and risk. Consulting with a qualified financial advisor will help investors to understand more fully and compare various investments.

Editor's note: First Union Securities is not a legal or tax advisor. However interested readers are encouraged to chooses 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 First Union Securities, 500 N. Akard, 1515 Lincoln Plaza, Dallas, TX 75201-3393, (214) 740-3253.

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INTERVIEWS

Interview Household Residents. Major Study of Heart Disease for Local Medical Center

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... continued from page 7

and brutality in the various Black colonies across America.

Practice of Women's Equality: Another positive contribution of the BPP was its support and practice of equality for women throughout all levels of the organization and in society itself. This occurred at a time when most Black Nationalist organizations were demanding that the woman's role be in the home and/or one step behind the black man, and at a time when the whole country was going through a great debate on the woman's liberation issue.

Propaganda Techniques: The BPP made significant contributions to the art of propaganda. It was very adept at spreading its message and ideas through its newspaper The Black Panther. Rallies, speaking tours, slogans, posters, leaflets, cartoons, buttons, symbols (i.e., the clenched fist), graffiti, political trials, and even funerals were all used a conduit to spread the message of the Party. The BPP also spread its ideas through very skillful use of the national TV, radio, and print media.

Along with every organization's positive aspects, some negative ones are always present as well.

The Negative Aspects of the BPP Contributions

Leadership Corrupted: Eventually all three of the BPP's top leaders: Huey P. Newton, Bobby Seale and Eldridge Cleaver. Each, in their own way, caved in to the pressures of their leadership and began acting in a manner that was deliberately designed to destroy the BPP, and to disillusion not only Party members but also other African-Americans. Combined Above and Underground: This was the most serious structural flaw in the BPP. Party members who functioned openly in the BPP offices, or organized openly in the community, by day might very well have been the same people who carried out armed operations at night. This provided the police with a convenient excuse to make raids on any and all BPP offices, or members' homes, under the pretext that they were looking for suspects, fugitives, weapons, and or explosives. It also sucked the BPP into taking the un-winnable position of making stationary defenses of BPP offices.

Rhetoric Outstripped Capabilities: Although the BPP was adept at the art of propaganda and made very good use of the media, still too many Panthers fell into the habit of making boisterous claims in the public media, or selling "wolf tickets" that they couldn't back up. Eventually, they weren't taken seriously anymore.

Negative Tendencies: It can be safely said that the largest segment of the New York City BPP membership (and probably nationwide) were workers who held everyday jobs. Another segment of the membership were individuals who simply used the Party for their own causes without actually understanding the Party's mission. These members sometimes possessed negative tendencies that the media played-up the most. These tendencies included a lack of discipline, liberal use of alcohol, marijuana, and cursewords; loose sexual morals, a criminal mentality, and rash actions. These tendencies in some Party members provided the media with better opportunities than they would otherwise have had to play up this aspect, and to slander the Party, which diverted public attention from much of the positive work done by the BPP.

Dogmatism: Early successes made some Panthers feel that they were the only possessors of absolute truths. Some became arrogant and dogmatic in their dealings with Party members, other organizations, and even the community. This turned people off.

Failure to Organize Economic Foundations in Community: The BPP preached socialist politics. They were anti-capitalist and this skewered their concept of building economic foundations in the community. They often gave the impression that to engage in any business enterprise was to engage in capitalism and they too frequently looked with disdain upon the small-business people in the community. As a result the BPP built few businesses which generated income other than the Black Panther newspaper, or which could provide self-employment to its membership and to people in the community. The BPP failed to encourage the Black community to set up its own businesses as a means of building an independent economic foundation which could help break "outsiders" control of the Black community's economics, and move it toward economic self-reliance.

Although the BPP made serious errors, it also gained a considerable measure of success. The final judgment of history may very well show that in its own way the Black Panther Party added final ingredient to the black agenda necessary to attain real freedom: armed struggle. This vastly new idea helped set the movement on its road to victory.

DART News

WE'LL TAKE YOU THERE

Seniors celebrate Older Americans Month

DART's sixth annual Older Americans Information & Health Fair will be held on Wednesday, May 3, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in DART Headquarters 2nd Floor Atrium, 1401 Pacific Avenue (at Akard Station). Join DART and over 40 participating organizations celebrating Older Americans Month. In addition to local entertainment, seniors can take advantage of valuable giveaways and free services, including: hearing & eye exams; glucose, cholesterol & blood pressure checks, and pet adoption. For more information, call 214-749-2543.

Zoological

Now you can ride DART rail to the Dallas Zoo and see all the critters for half price. On Mondays and Tuesdays through February 2001, receive 50% off an adult or child admission to the Dallas Zoo with a valid same-day DART rail ticket or DART pass. One discount per pass. For more information, call the Dallas Zoo at 214-670-5656.

Annual E-Pass – a valuable employee benefit

DART's Annual E-Pass provides a highly-valued recruitment incentive, while ensuring employees arrive at work safe and on time. For information on all of DART's Employer Programs, including carpools, vanpools, monthly pass and pass by mail, call 747-RIDE (7433).

NEW AND IMPROVED DART

Improved bus service in Pleasant Grove

Starting May 22, 2000, Pleasant Grove Bus routes will realign and expand service, including increased frequency and seven-day service on Routes 29 & 475. Route 11 will extend to Forney Road. Route 42 will be realigned to provide service along Elam Road to Masters Road. Route 161's new alignment will provide straight service along Lake June to Cheyenne, and new service along Buckner, Bruton and Masters. For detailed information about all DART Service Improvements, call DART Customer Information at 214-979-1111.

DART Expansion moves on

The new West Irving Trinity Railway Express Station, new bus transfer centers in South Dallas and Cockrell Hill, and the addition of a landscaped pedestrian walkway linking our downtown Dallas East Bus Transfer Center to our Pearl Station highlight Expansion 2000. Rowlett's new Park & Ride opens in May. Trinity Railway Express service to the Mid-Cities begins in the fall. This winter, Cityplace opens as DART's only subway station, negotiable by stairs, elevators & escalators, 10 stories below North Central Expressway. Also in the works are 100 new bus stop shelters and benches. DART's future expansion plans include 14 new rail stations and transfer centers.

For more information on DART Service Improvements call DART Customer Information at 214-979-1111 or visit our website at www.DART.org

DART
We'll Take You There

Ron Shaw

Don't "Just Barely" Make It

- Eph. 1:19-21

As we approach Resurrection Day '2000 (Easter), there are a few key points I want to bring to our remembrance. As I talk to men and women both young and mature, I'm often amazed at the "that's good enough" attitude that I find. The norm in most workplaces is "I'll do just enough to get by".

To be considered above average means to have an attitude of doing more than what is expected, going farther that just what is asked. Jesus taught this principle in the "go the extra-mile" speech. What might be considered mediocre, or average is all some want. I encourage young people to seek to be above average. Why would you want to just be average when above average is attainable? Why just be the average wife or average husband when above average is available and attainable. Why be an ordinary person when extraordinary is available. If we want true security either at home and or in the marketplace, we must press toward being extraordinary. Extraordinary people are always in demand and never worry about a place to use their abilities. You've heard the phrase "good help is hard to fine"? That's because so many settle for just being average. They have a "that'll do" mentality. You might not be the biggest but you can be among the best.

God never does just enough for us to get by on. He always does much more. The Bible says He doesn't just want fruit from our lives, but rather much fruit. Therefore He prunes us for that purpose. He doesn't want us to just get by, but rather get over. It is a dishonor to God for us to have and foster this kind of attitude about what we do with our lives. We are to be extraordinary people in every sense of the word. There is nothing in our experience with God that would suggest He intends for us to just barely make it. Where did this principle come from? The Easter story.

In our text we are told Jesus wasn't just resurrected from the dead. It says He was raised "far, far above any other king or ruler or dictator or leader. Yes, his honor is far more glorious than that of anyone else either in this world or in the world to come". (TLB) The thief on the cross next to Jesus just made it in. I don't live to just make it. We are to make it the way God raised Jesus, with more than enough room to spare. There is nothing about the resurrection of Jesus that would suggest that God wanted us to have a "just make it" or a "barely make it" attitude.

The Bible says we are not just victorious but rather overwhelming victory (more than conquerors) is ours. Jesus didn't come in order for us to just have life, but life more abundantly. We are not to be just disciples but disciples indeed.

All these things contradict the idea that we should just barely make it or make ends meet. I believe God intended for those who follow Him and His prescribed way of life to enjoy life in overwhelming proportions. Not just joy but joy unspeakable; not just peace, but peace that passes understanding; not just love but perfected love. In short, we are to succeed in life to such a degree that there's nothing even remotely close to us. It simply means that life in God' class stands alone. Far above means being in a class alone. Our new birth puts us in a new class of being. We have become new creatures. That literally means a new species. God has no peers or competition. There's nothing to compare Him to. Therefore, life His way should be lived on the same plain or with the same attitude.

This Easter remember (1) God raised Jesus far above principalities and powers and He has raised us to the same degree. Your trouble is not in your class. You are in a class by yourself. (2) Determine to live a "far above" life. Live far above the normal joy level, the normal peace, the normal love level. Have far above success in your life. (3) Never again settle for just getting by or just barely making it. Live so far above depression and strife that you can't go under for going over. Don't just barely make it in life, rarely fail in life!

... continued from page 8

the program and decided that they wanted to come and participate in the convention," said Kouroma. "Some of them even held fundraising events in order to raise money to travel here with their mayors."

The goal, Kourouma says, is to bring together local and traveling high school students, as well as their parents, educators, community leaders and elected officials – all in an effort to discuss solutions to the seatbelt safety problem. A'Lisha Williams, a public relations consultant for the NCBM says that approximately 120 youth from the Dallas Law Magnet School, as well as about 44 other young people from participating mayoral cities will be attending.

Williams added, "in order to promote awareness, they (youth) will be sharing their thoughts and opinions from previously held focus groups in which they were asked the reasons behind the lack of seatbelt use."

Among those slated to speak on the seatbelt safety issue are Governor George W. Bush, who will participate in the Youth Plenary session, and U. S. Surgeon General David Satcher. Other noted guests speakers who will participate at the NCBM, are Meharry Medical College President Dr. John A. Maupin; DDS, Milton Sanders, KFC Minority Franchise Association, and Bishop T. D. Jakes. Together, with Mayor Kirk, these distinguished guests will discuss strategies to increase seat belt use, economic development through franchise operations in small rural and urban cities, the black vote for the 2000 election year and the importance of the U. S. Census.

"Mayor Kirk and the city of Dallas have done a wonderful job in promoting this year's event," says Kourouma. "I've always heard that Texas does big things in big ways and the response we've received so far is definitely proof of that."

Plans are already underway for the 2001 NCBM, which will be held in Savannah, Georgia and the 2002 conference, which will be held in Jackson, Mississippi.

For more information on the conference and the activities that will be held during the 4-day event, please call (214) 979-0079 or visit the NCBM website at ncbmdallas@aol.com.

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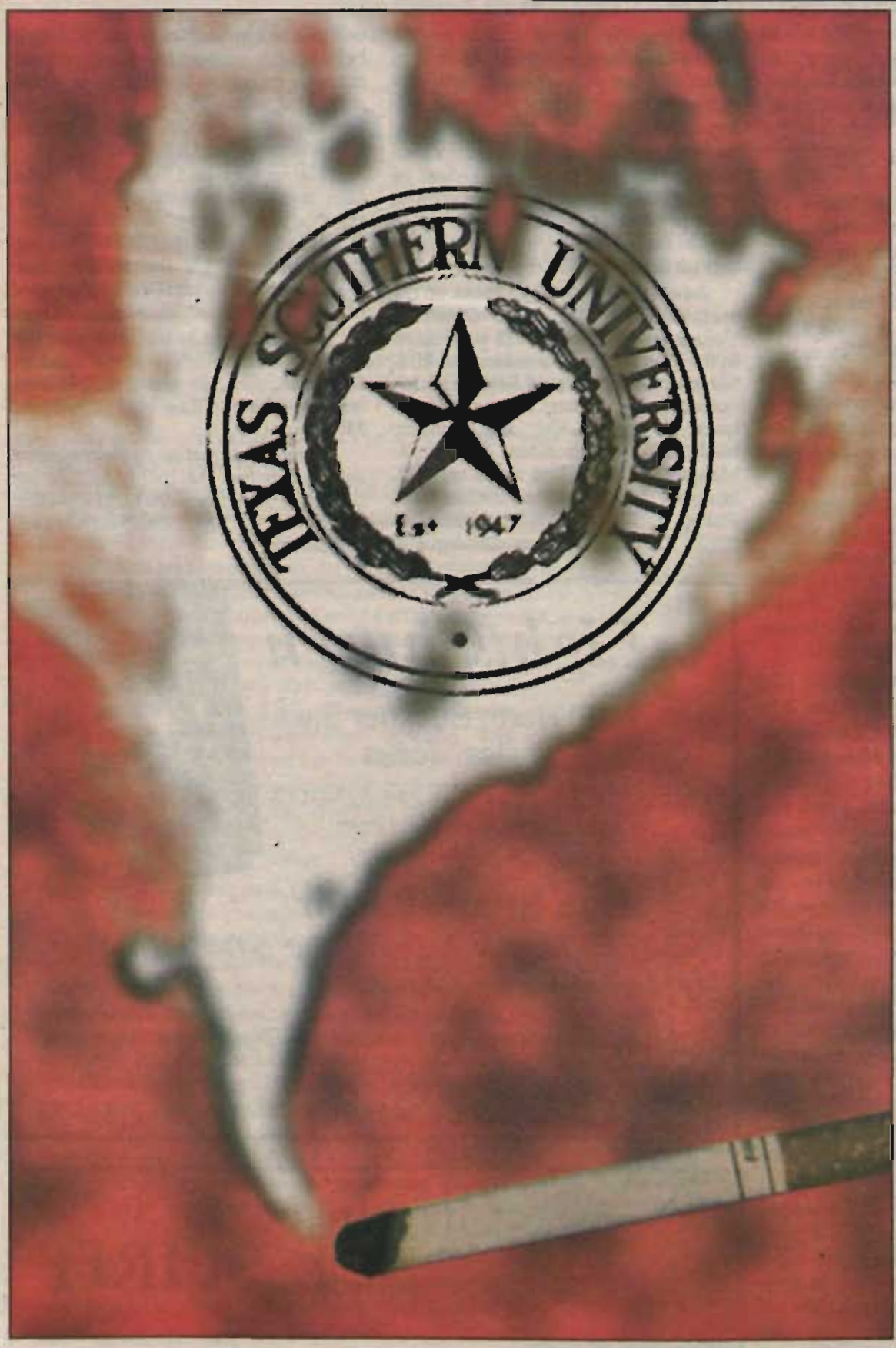


The Aftermath of the Tobacco Lawsuit:

Historically Black Colleges file suit over tobacco settlements

Nearly a year ago Dr. Grover Hankins filed a lawsuit against Governor George Bush because of what he perceives as a blatant act of segregation.

After the landmark tobacco settlement was reached Nov. 23, 1998 between U.S. tobacco companies, 46 states and a number of U.S. territories, Hankins, a law professor at Texas Southern University in Houston, noted that none of the black Texas colleges received funds from the settlement.

"It's a disturbing chain of events," Hankins said. He is one of two professors and half a dozen Houston residents who filed the suit against the state. "And what's more disturbing is that now that the issue is out in the open we've received very little support from the black community or black lawmakers."

The settlement calls for the tobacco industry to provide funding for youth nonsmoking programs and the creation of an anti-smoking advertising campaign, among other things.

The national settlement was divided among the states, with $17.3 billion going to the state of Texas over a 25-year period. Included in Texas' plans for the funds was endowments for the individual institutions for research and other programs ($555 million) and establishing permanent funds for higher education ($400 million). The money spent will be the interest from the settlement money. And no African-American institutions were awarded settlement funds after the case, Hankins said.

Three state bills were created to dispense the money: HB 1676, HB 1945 and SB 928. HB 1676 creates a permanent fund to reduce smoking, a permanent fund for children and health, a rural health care facility capital fund, a community hospital capital fund, a community hospital capital fund and a permanent fund for emergency medical services and trauma care.

Senate Bill 928 creates a municipal employee group benefit risk pool and the Texas Association of School Boards Health Benefit.

But the key House Bill 1945 creates permanent funds for higher education, nursing and allied health and minority health and research education as well as all health center endowments. It is also where all the funding for high education programs and research come from.

The original tobacco endowment promised $555 million to individual educational institutions for research and other programs, a permanent fund for higher education, tobacco education and enforcement, children's and public health, emergency medical services and trauma care, rural health facility capital improvement, permanent fund for nursing and allied health programs and a permanent fund for minority health research and education.

The permanent fund for higher education supports programs that benefit medical research, health education or treatment programs at 10 institutions.

The permanent fund for minority health research and education offers grants through the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. There is also a permanent fund to benefit schools that offer upper-level academic classes and training for nursing or allied health education.

Schools like the University of Texas Southwestern medical Center at Dallas have already received funding from the settlement for education and treatment programs. Also included in the list of tobacco settlement recipients are; University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, the University of Texas Health Science Center – San Antonio children's cancer center, UT - El Paso, Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Tech Health Science Center, UT Medical Branch – Galveston, UT Health Center at Tyler, Texas A&M System Health Science Center and the University of North Texas Health Science Center.

Each school received an average of $25 million with UT Health Science Center — San Antonio receiving the largest amount of $200 million.

These funds can only be issued over a two-year period

and a re subject to changes in tobacco sales.

The part of the funds not going to higher education support local efforts at tobacco education and enforcement with anti-smoking programs, TV advertising, and law enforcement on tobacco sales and distribution laws. There are also efforts to improve children's health through better preventative care and treatment. Cities received grants for public health programs. There is also funding for rural health facilities.

TSU officials said that Hankins and Chambliss were acting independently of the school and TSU has no stance on the issue. Hankins has served as an attorney for more than 20 years and in 1985 he was the national general counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He has been a professor at TSU for seven years at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law focusing on environmental law and Civil Rights.

Dr. Grover Hankins

But what's even more disturbing to Hankins is that even some private schools received funding from this settlement.

"There are two state colleges that are majority black — TSU and Prairie View A&M, but even the private black schools didn't receive money," he said. "However, Baylor received funds."

One of the state's reasons for not providing these funds to schools like TSU is that they don't have the titles of research institutions or medical institutions. But Hankins feels this is a part of a larger problem with the state.

"We aren't getting our fair share of the pie," Hankins said. "Schools like the University of Houston are in a position to become flagship institutions — to open a medical school or to have the title of research institution. That kind of money isn't being poured into institutions like TSU and Prairie View. Of course we don't have a medical or an engineering school."

Chambliss has also filed a separate lawsuit against Gov. Bush and the state because of the small amount of funds placed into schools like TSU. Both suits are still pending.

The issue has also drawn some national attention. Rev. Jesse Jackson made a stop in Texas to address the settlement issue as well as the James Byrd case. Hankins simply ads that they want the fair shot. He believes the money from the Tobacco settlement could help schools like TSU compete with the other state institutions.

"We want an equal share of the pie," he said. "When they're passing out pieces as large as $50 million, we think we should be treated like other universities."

The tobacco settlement was already surrounded with controversy because the current Attorney General John Cornyn accusing former Attorney General Dan Morales of fraud. Cornyn accused Morales of tampering with contracts so that his longtime friend and supporter Mark Murr, a Houston lawyer, could claim hundreds of millions of dollars for work in tobacco litigation that others say he did not do. Morales denied the charges and Murr withdrew his claim.

The lawsuit filed in federal district court by Hankins and fellow Texas Southern law professor Chambliss Jr., claims the tobacco settlement -- negotiated while Morales was attorney general – violates Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. The class action lawsuit names Texas Southern students, former students and residents who live near the college as plaintiffs.

It says the state violated a portion of the Civil Rights Act that prohibits entities receiving federal dollars from discriminating against racial or ethnic groups. Hankins and Chambliss say that Texas Southern, Prairie View and other historically black colleges in the state, and the people they serve, were harmed by the settlement because they received no money.

Some lawyers questioned this legal premise because only health, medical and science-related institutions with graduate and research programs received endowments. The suit seeks to block allocation of the $956 million going to those universities, not the entire $1.8 billion.

The second lawsuit Hankins and Chambliss last year claims that the State of Texas – despite nearly 50 years of desegregation – maintains a largely segregated higher education system for whites and blacks. That lawsuit is styled similarly to the Fordice case in Mississippi. In 1992, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Mississippi had maintained separate educational systems in higher education and therefore violated civil rights laws. Chambliss was a lead lawyer in that case.

Cornyn, as the state's chief lawyer, will defend Gov. George W. Bush, Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander and Health and Human Services Commissioner Don A. Gilbert, who are named in the suit.

"Our litigation team has not received it yet, but we look forward to evaluating it," Ted Delisi, a spokesman for Cornyn, said of the lawsuit in an article in the American-Statesman Capitol.

Rep. Garnet Coleman, D-Houston, said lawyers might be wrong in concluding that TSU and Prairie View are ineleigible. TSU has a pharmacy school and Prairie View has a graduate nursing program. Both are eligible for money under other categories, such as a $45 million endowment for schools with nursing and health-related programs.

"If they find some reason why this violates civil rights, I support that," said Coleman, whose district includes Texas Southern, in the American Statesman. "I don't know whether what we did as a state intentionally or unintentionally left Texas Southern out. What I know is that we funded no four-year general institutions with tobacco money," said Coleman, a member of the budget-writing House Appropriations Committee.

There are also several cases of lawsuits by minorities toward the tobacco industry. The Surgeon General considers tobacco to be a major cause of death among minorities. Approximately 45,000 African-Americans die annually from smoking related diseases. And according to a 1995 study 26.5 percent of African-Americans smoke tobacco, 39.2 percent of Native Americans, 18.9 percent of Hispanics and 15.3 percent of Asians adults smoke cigarettes.

In the case of Rev. Jesse Brown et al vs. Philip Morris et al a civil rights class-action lawsuit, filed on October 19, 1998 in Federal District court in Philadelphia, PA, seeks an unspecified amount of monetary damages as well as injunctive relief from the major tobacco companies (cigarette and smokeless tobacco products) and their trade associations and public relations firms.

The suit claims that for years these tobacco companies engaged in a conspiracy to conceal from, mislead and deceive African-Americans regarding the dangers of menthol, nicotine and other dangerous and toxic additives in menthol cigarettes and menthol smokeless tobacco products; these actions have resulted in devastating harm to the health of African-Americans.

Federal Court Dismissed the lawsuit on Sept. 23, 1999. U.S. District Court Judge John Padova dismissed the Brown vs. Philip Morris, et al lawsuit on September 23rd, ruling that the federal civil rights statutes did not prohibit the marketing of menthol cigarettes to specific groups, including African-Americans. The case had been a novel one because of the legal theories being advanced, and the court was not prepared to agree with the plaintiffs, in spite of clear evidence that minorities are targeted by the tobacco industry and that the product is dangerous. Rev. Jesse Brown and the other plaintiffs have appealed this lower court ruling.

But since the ruling there have been several minority related tobacco cases like the Navajo lawsuit vs. Tobacco Industry

. In August 11, 1999, the Navajo Nation filed a lawsuit in Navajo court alleging that Philip Morris, R.J. Reynolds and other tobacco companies deceived Navajo Nation consumers, illegally targeted minors and burdened their health system, as well as violated the recently enacted Navajo Nation Tobacco Liability Enforcement and Recovery Act. The suit did not specify damages, but attorney Steve Mitchell said tribal law allows the tribe to be compensated for three times the amount paid by Navajos for cigarettes purchased on the Navajo Reservation for the past 20 years. The Navajo Nation will be seeking costs such as those incurred by the Medicaid program. Attorney General Levon B. Henry said the goal is simple: "we want the defendants to follow the law, to tell the whole truth and to repay those who have been harmed by their conduct."

> *"We want an equal share of the pie. When they're passing out pieces as large as $50 million, we think we should be treated like other universities."*
>
> *Alvin Chambliss, TSU law professor*

The Navajo Nation is the nation's largest Indian tribe and has very high smoking rates, with 47.5% of high school age youth in 1997 being smokers. And minorities across the nation are pursuing legislation against the tobacco industry.

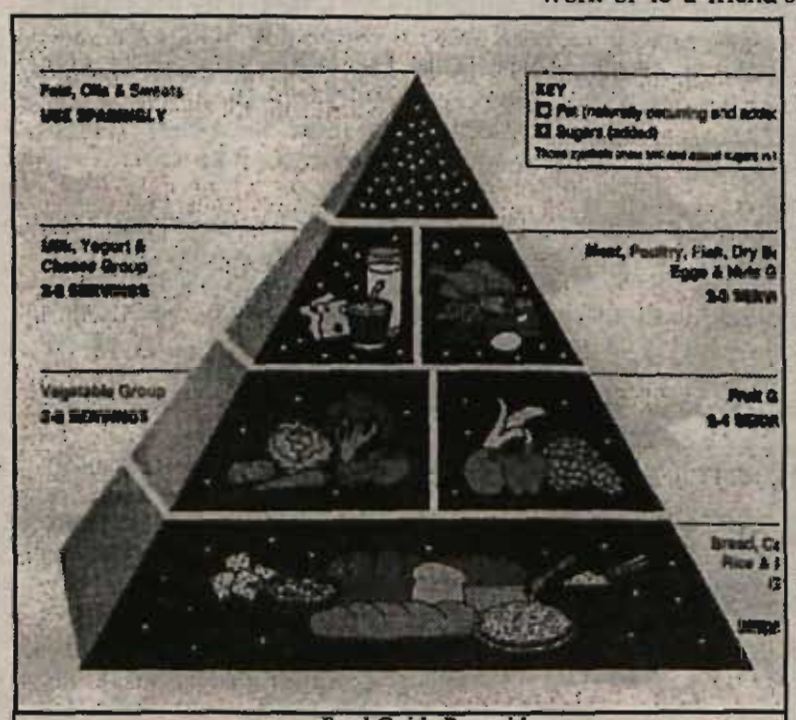
The Wellness Diary

Staying healthy in an unhealthy society

By Delmetria L. Millener

Just as automobiles need fuel to run, so does your body. And just as fuel costs are rising, so are health costs. Maybe you cannot control rising fuel costs, but you can control your personal health costs. By maintaining a well-balanced diet, you can significantly reduce your chance of developing many health risks, and diminish minor ones that already exist, which will lessen visits to your physician. Not only can changing your eating habits to include plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables be the start of living a healthy, nutritious lifestyle, but also, the money saved on doctor's visits can go towards a needed vacation!

Studies show that in addition to healthier eating, maintaining your best weight, staying physically active and avoiding obesity can increase your quality of life. Changing eating and exercising habits are easier said than done for many people. According to statistics, in 1993 42 percent of the population knew they should be more health conscious, and knew that they should eat healthier, but failed to modify their diets. Today, that number is 40 percent, a significant increase from 1997's 34 percent. But by making the commitment now—at any age—to nourish your body with good food and physical activity, your health can be dramatically improved.



Food Guide Pyramid

Weight Management

The American Heart Association (AHA) warns that obesity is a dangerous health risk. The excess weight of an obese person adds strain on the heart causing increased blood pressure, cholesterol levels, and sometimes diabetes. It is essential to rid your body of excess fat. Many Americans decide there's not enough time for exercise, or their lives are too full to add extra activity. However, the AHA suggests a number of simple health improvement exercises that can be incorporated into daily routines:

- Park at the far end of the parking lot for a longer walk or get off the bus a stop ahead and walk the rest of the way to your destination.
- While using your computer, move your body at least five minutes for every hour of computer time.
- Walk around your building, outside or inside, during your lunch or coffee break, and take the stairs instead of the escalator or elevator.
- Play actively with your kids, grandchildren or pets or ride your bike to work or to a friend's home and/or walk to do errands that are just a few blocks away.
- Before and after dinner or in the morning, walk, and talk, with your family..Do some backyard gardening and in the fall, rake leaves.
- While watching television, do household chores or projects such as mop the kitchen floor or sweep, fold clothes, or do sit-ups. Wash windows, your car, vacuum or shampoo the carpet, clean the garage or basement, sweep the sidewalk, mow your lawn (on a push mower, not a driver).

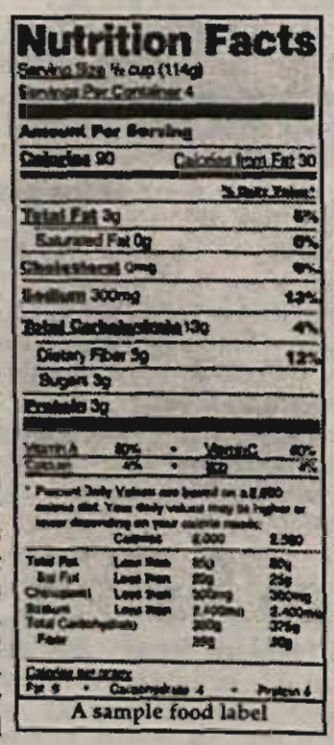
Food Pyramid

Instead of dieting and/or eliminating any foods from your diet, enjoy a variety of foods, including your favorite ones. Following the Food Guide Pyramid guarantees a healthy, balanced diet. According to research, a few years ago, the Federal Government created the Food Guide Pyramid to replace the original four groups. Studies suggest these guidelines were based on current science facts on diet and health. In addition to supplying nutrition and energy for maintenance of body cells, tissues, and organs, eating according to the Food Guide will support and provide sources of energy and nutrition for optimal growth and development.

For a better understanding of minority diets, in 1996, HEBNI Nutrition Consultants (HNC) Roniece Weaver, Fabiola Gaines and Ellareetha Carson, developed a Soul Food Pyramid targeting ethnic markets. According to the HNC, the main purpose of the Soul Food Pyramid is to make teaching methods easier for health-care providers when providing information to minorities. It suggests serving sizes to minorities based on ethnic food choices that minorities consume. While the Soul Food Pyramid emphasizes ethnic foods that are usually higher in fat, the Soul Food Pyramid emphasizes foods from the five major food groups of the pyramid just as the traditional pyramid does.

Dietary Guidelines

Experts agree that food should be consumed as energy for your body, not as fulfillment. Knowing portion sizes is crucial when trying to eat healthy, but many are confused by what a portion size is. "A portion size isn't a plate full of pasta, 32 ounces of soda, or a 10-ounce steak," says American Dietetic Association's (ADA) spokesperson Elizabeth Ward. "People need to realize that when it comes to weight control, they can eat any food they want, as long as they control the portion and get regular physical activity, too."



A sample food label

According to the ADA's definition, "serving sizes are specific, standardized amounts of food. They're meant as guides to help you plan and judge your own portions. With a little visual aid instruction you can figure out what a portion size actually is." Experts explain, "three ounces of meat, poultry, or fish is the size of a deck of playing cards or a woman's palm, and one serving size of meat is the size of a computer mouse. One-half cup of fruit or vegetables, pasta or rice is the size of a small fist, and a cup of milk, yogurt or fresh greens is about the size of a small hand holding a tennis ball and one ounce of cheese is about the size of your thumb."

In Fat to Firm, Dr. Hoerr suggests, "obtain only 20 to 30 percent of your calories from fat, and to lower heart disease, saturated fats should consist of only 4 to 7 percent of your daily caloric intake."

For this reason, it is important to know how to read package labels because they can help control serving sizes and fat intake. Often too many servings and too much fat are consumed due to misreading labels. For example, a label reads a serving size amount is 1, but the servings per container are 2, and there are 300 calories per serving. That means 600 calories is in that one item! Experts also suggest, by obtaining only 3 grams of fat per 100 calories, you can easily control fat intake. In the same label example, the label reads 9 total fat grams per serving. That means for two servings, there are 18 grams of fat!

Water i a crucial part of nutrition and overall good health. Over half of the human body is composed of water. Research proves that without water, an individual would die within days. All cell and organ functions depend on water to function. It acts as a lubricant to form the base for saliva and fluid surrounding joints. The body temperature is regulated by water, as the cooling and heating is distributed through perspiration and it alleviates constipation by moving food through the intestinal tract and thereby eliminating waste.

Dining Out

Eating out can lead to weight gain if you do not know how to healthfully choose from a menu. A noted professor says, "the increase in overweight people in America can be traced, in part, to the amount of eating we do away from home." However, there are small, yet significant measures that will ensure healthy eating habits. Politely "grill" the waiter about the restaurant's food, inquiring about ingredients and preparation. requests. Ask for sauces on the side, or have your fish broiled with wine instead of Finally, the simplest way to dine out is to look for words on the menu that indicate low fat, low-calorie, heart smart, or fat free. Avoid or limit foods sautéed in butter or oil, thick with cheeses and other sauces, or fried foods.

Texas Instruments employee named Engineer of the Year

By Lakeesha Joe

Alan M. Gilkes of Texas Instruments Incorporated was named "Distinguished Engineer of the Year" by the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and recently received the 2000 NSBE Golden Torch Award during their 26th National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina.


Alan M. Gilkes

"Receiving this award came as something of a surprise," said Gilkes. "My colleagues at TI nominated me."

Alan Gilkes has been with Texas Instruments since 1977 and is a member of Texas Instrument's Technical Staff in the Wireless Communication Business Unit. He serves as a member of the research and development team and is currently evaluating new technologies for introduction into mobile phones in the next few years.

"Alan Gilkes is a great engineer, an active supporter of education and an excellent role model," said Texas Instrument's chairman, CEO and president Tom Engibous. "We are very proud that he has received this national recognition."

Gilkes also holds a patent for an electronic Braille display device that makes it feasible to produce low cost, large-scale refreshable tactile displays for the blind. Gilkes' idea was patented in 1996 and Texas Instruments donated the patent to the public in 1998, making it available for any company to further the technology.

"The idea for the electronic Braille device occurred back in 1993," said Gilkes. " I just verified the technology."

Gilkes graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) with a degree in electrical engineering in 1968. He served in the Air Force from 1969-1977 where he was a computer science instructor at the US Air Force Academy in Colorado. Gilkes earned his Master of Science degree in electrical engineering from MIT while on active duty.

"Receiving this award was a gratifying experience," said Gilkes. "My parents were there, my wife was there, and about 50 of my TI colleagues."

Dallasite promoted to Bank One Vice President

By Latrina George

Rod Washington, a native Dallasite, has been promoted to First Vice President and Senior Relationship Manager of Real Estate Lending for the second largest bank in Texas, Bank One.


Rod Washington

Washington began his banking career as a credit trainee in 1981 with Old Mercantile Bank, which was later renamed M Bank, and also a predecessor of Bank One. In 1988, he joined First National Bank of Chicago that is now a part of Bank One. And in 1991, Washington joined Bank One's Real Estate Group where he served as Vice President of Commercial Real Estate.

"My entire banking career has been in real estate," says Washington. "While serving as Vice President of Commercial Real Estate, I dealt with large corporations and developers." Washington adds that in 1991, he also worked with affordable housing lending at Bank One.

When asked what his new job responsibilities are, Washington revealed that his duties are pretty much along the same lines, as it was when he was Vice President of Commercial Real Estate. "My duties are basically the same," says Washington. "I will continue to work with large corporations and developers. The only difference it that I am a team leader for the Texas group."

Washington states that in his new position, he seeks to continue to keep Bank One's name before the real estate community while providing individualized service to the community.

Washington is active in several community organizations such as Oak Cliff Development Company, which supplied affordable housing for first time homebuyers. He is a member of the Real Estate Council and the National Association of Urban Bankers. Washington also served as President of the Bethlehem Center located in South Dallas, which is involved in childcare and early education intervention.

Bank One, Texas, with assets of $30 billion, is a subsidiary of Bank One Corporation that is headquartered in Chicago. With assets of more than $260 billion, Bank One Corporation is the nation's fourth largest banking company providing financial products and services for consumers, middle market companies and large corporations.

Foundation bridges educational,economical gaps

Ponder these statistics provided. In 1996, the total U.S. population was 248,709,873. The total African-American population was 29,930,524 and of this number, 14,170,151 were males.

African-American homicide rates in 1991 were 72.5 per 100,000 – almost eight times higher than for white males. Homicide is the leading cause of death among black children and the leading cause of death among black youth, ages 15-24. Homicide is the second leading cause of death among black males ages 25-44.

In 1996, of the 7,055,063 black families in America, 3,045,283 (43 percent) were headed by black females. 26.3 percent of all black families lived in poverty compared to 7.0 percent of white families.

There are 1,115,111 prisoners in state and federal prisons. 508,084 are African-American and 469,751 are African-American Males.

These statistics were obtained from Repairing the Breach, Report of the National Task Force on African-American Men and Boys. However, statistics of this kind can be found essentially anywhere. Take a look at data compiled by the Census Bureau. Read historical reports in acclaimed magazines such as Essence, Black Enterprise, and Ebony.

And somewhere between reading, one would be remiss to ask, why. Why is it that the African-Americans can't seem to get a break? Why is a nation of people so full of promise, intellect and pride, so far from mainstream America educationally and economically?

Dorothy West, a distinguished African-American writer during the Harlem Renaissance, states in her book, The Wedding: "From among those saved might come the great man, or the father or forefather of the great man, the man made for his time, the man that history would mark." In steps the Village Foundation

The Village Foundation, founded in Alexandria, Virginia in 1997, "repairs the breach between African-American men and boys and U.S. society." According to the President & CEO of Village Foundation, Dr. Bobby William Austin, Ph.D., the program spun out of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, where from 1989 to 1997, Dr. Austin held various executive positions. While still Director of the African-American Men and Boys Initiative and assistant director of the Kellogg National Fellowship Program, Dr. Austin summoned prominent African-Americans to ask them what needed to be done to intercede on behalf of the endangered African-American Male. As a result, the groundbreaking report, "Repairing the Breach: Key Ways to Support Family life, Reclaim Our Streets and Rebuild a Civil Society in America's Communities," was born. The task force, led by Andrew J. Young, bestowed the duty of carrying out the Task Force's recommended 25-year action plan upon Dr. Austin.

According to Dr. Austin, the African-American male population is in a state of emergency. "When The Village Foundation was started," states Dr. Austin, "there was a lack of polis". Defined by Dr. Samuel D. Proctor, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, "polis" means "the establishment and teaching of particular values, manners, morals, and etiquette that are needed for structuring public life in communities."

"What I found," says Dr. Austin "was a lot of people of good will who wanted to work with African-American males to bring them into society. We were all searching for ways to do that and to make these males contributing citizens. Thus, The Village Foundation evolved as a one-stop place providing a multitude of options for young African-American males to develop their lives."

Dr. Bobby Austin, President & CEO Village Foundation

The Village Foundations' mission it to repair the breach between African-American men and boys and the U.S. society through "philanthropy and the operation of comprehensive programs that reconnect African-American men and boys first, to their ethnic community and then to the larger civic society."

The Village Foundation, in its mission to repair the breach, achieves success through its many programs throughout the country. "We take a holistic approach of sustained intervention when it comes to our programs," states Paul Brock, Acting Director of the Media Center. "All of our programs rely on seven competencies." Those competencies are service to humanity, comprehensive knowledge of American cultural history, literacy, entrepreneurship, citizenship education, compassion, and knowledge of a power greater than one's self.

The foundations' structure is centered on six closely connected programs called The Pathways Network. The Pathways Network, as all of the foundation's programs, focuses on early intervention, mentorship, skill building and community revitalization. This network of programs consists of the following: (1) National African-American Male Collaboration, (2) Media Center, (3) Technology Project, (4) Andrew Jackson Young American Futures Institute & Think Tank, (5) Race & Cultural Relations Institute, and (6) the Institute for Economic Education & Entrepreneurship.

The most recognized program under the National African-American Male Collaboration is the National 100 Black Men, Inc. The105 chapters countrywide are a brotherhood of leading African-American men in the fields of business, industry, public affairs and government. This organization works in local communities providing tutoring, mentoring and counseling to young African-American males in conjunction with community-based organizations, parents and cities.

Another notable program that falls under the National African-American Male Collaboration is the Piney Woods Project. Piney Woods Country Life School, nestled in a rural area 21 miles from Jackson, Mississippi, is the largest of four historically black boarding schools. The Piney Woods School, headed by Dr. Charles Beady who serves as president of the school, recognizes that financial and other reasons hinder some students from achieving excellence in education and developing moral and ethical attitudes. And for that reason, says Dr. Beady, no child is ever turned away.

The Media Center is also one of the foundation's pathways. The Media Center serves as a production facility for African-American males to produce stories about their lives dispelling negativity and "building a new civic collective memory." " We want to institute programs that teach kids training in the media," reveals Brock. "There are positions out there in animation, automation, and the like that these children have never even heard of. We want to expose them to this world."

Another pathway in the Village Foundation's Pathway Network is Race and Cultural Relations Dialogue. Its primary goal is to build a more integrated society by creating a national dialogue among the races. This program seeks to cultivate a greater tolerance and understanding of issues facing African-American men and boys by providing support to new and existing conversations being held between the races.

The Race and Cultural Relations Dialogue maintains websites, produces radio commentaries and has developed literature to disseminate to groups or individuals already involved in this endeavor as well as those who want to become a part and initiate healthy dialogue among the races. According to Brock, there have been two seminars presented on Race and Cultural Relations Dialogue, both at Fisk University. Brock states that the whole idea is to create a dialogue so that people of different cultures, nationalities and races are talking one another.

The Technology Project is another pathway of the foundation's Pathway Network. This program will bring computer training and technology access to sites such as churches, community centers and the like, says Brock. He adds that the foundation is currently working with public housing to get computers in the homes. The program's Virtual Academy will soon offer online courses to enhance job preparedness skills and improve over-all educational competence.

The former Ambassador to the United Nations, Andrew J. Young, heads up the pathway, American Futures Institute & Think Tank, says Brock. The decision to rename the institute, The Andrew Jackson Young American Futures Institute & Think Tank, was made because "We wish to perpetuate his extraordinary accomplishments as one of America's servant leaders and we do that by continuing his good works by assisting the development of the futures of young men in America", says Dr. Austin. This pathway addresses the specific needs of African-American men and boys by concentrating on career development, vocational/educational counseling referral services and public policy.

The Institute for Economic Education & Entrepreneurship (IEEE), one of the pathways of the Pathway Network, is very exciting says Brock. "This program has been embraced by a number of major CEO's and former president, George Bush."

The mission of the institute is to help underprivileged communities across America prosper, primarily inner-city neighborhoods where the majority of at-risk African-American men and boys live. Its main focus is to "develop partnerships among civic groups, churches and municipal governments that can transform community assets – human, land, capital, and natural resources – into thriving local businesses which can increasingly meet basic local needs." IFEE wants to transform inner cities into prosperous, self-reliant economies that run parallel to, yet independent of, an ever-increasing global economy.

"The urban areas are potential engines set to drive the American economy," says Brock. "Getting these areas started strengthens America. The key is to get the inner city residents to go into business for themselves."

In an effort to get the inner city residents on the track to successfully starting a business of their own, the Summit on Community Entrepreneurship, was formed. "This summit was the sole idea of Joshua Smith," state both Dr. Austin and Brock. "Joshua knew of the Village Foundation's interest in developing minority owned businesses," states Dr. Austin. "It was Joshua's idea that we join forces and possibly show young African-Americans how to be entrepreneurs."

Sponsored by The Village Foundation, The George Bush Presidential Library Foundation, and Paul Quinn College, the First Annual Summit on Community Entrepreneurship was held in the Presidential Conference Center on the campus of Texas A & M University in College Station, Texas. The three-day summit's mission was to help develop, refine and launch a new program of the

... continued on page 20

Around The Town

On-going

The city of Guthrie, Oklahoma is hosting the Guthrie Aviation and Aerospace Awareness Day at the Guthrie Municipal Airport, 502 Airport Road, Guthrie, Oklahoma. The ceremony begins at 10 a.m. and the air show at 11 a.m. For more information contact Larry Acker at 405-466-3484.

The Gold Label record company is seeking audition tapes for the next crooner. Interested singers should submit audition tapes or CDs to Crooners Contest, The Gold Label, PO Box 23468, Nashville, TN, 37202. All entries must be postmarked by May 15. For more information call Jerry Digney at 323-651-9300.

The T of Ft. Worth is requesting statements of qualifications from designers/artists to commemorate the former African-American Marketplace and Historic Warehouse District for its coming Intermodal Transportation Center. For more information contact Janice Crow at 817-215-8733.

UT Arlington is hosting a mural contest for all UTA alumni and current UTA students. The winner's mural will be hung in the Minority Cultures Collection of the library. Entries are due May 2. For more information call Dr. Kenneth Roemer at 817-272-2729.

New Image Business Associates, Inc. invites the public to their weekly "Small Business Luncheon" held every Wednesday from noon- 1:00 p.m. at Bill J. Prtest Institute of Economic Development, 1402 Corinth, Room 202 A&B, Dallas. For more information call Elrie Freeman at 214-350-9590.

New Jersey Rainbow Poets is holding a special religious poetry contest. Send one poem of 21 lines or less to Free Poetry Contest, 103 N. Wood Ave., PMB70, Linden, NJ 07036. The deadline for entering is April 28.

April 15

Lane Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church of Lewisville will celebrate its 118th church anniversary with a banquet at 7:30 p.m. at the Lewisville City Hall Community Room. Guest speaker for the event will be CBS sports analyst Beasley Reece. For more information call Hurl Scruggs at 972-221-4323.

The Dallas Chapter of the National Association of Negro Musicians hosts an afternoon of music at St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church, 5710 East RL Thornton Freeway (I-30). The festival is free and open to the public. For more information contact JoWanda Jordan at 214-374-6037.

April 18

El Centro College, Downtown Dallas, will begin enrollment for its May and summer terms. Registration will be held 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at the admissions office counter, Room A130 or Room A110. For more information call 214-860-2037.

The Greater Dallas Chamber is holding a job fair from 12:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. at the Dallas Convention Center. For more information call 1-888-550-TREX.

April 19

Voice of Hope Ministries is holding their "Changing of the Guard Luncheon" at the Adams Mark Hotel, Dallas at 11:30 a.m. in the Houston Ballroom, 3rd Floor Conference Center, 400 N. Olive Street. For more information or tickets call 214-631-7027.

April 20-21

Hoop Hunter Basketball Organization is sponsoring a Women's Pro Camp Basketball Tryout for college graduates and former professional players. For more information call Deon Hunter at 972-219-9732.

April 22

San Antonio is holding the 109th Fiesta San Antonio celebration April 22-30 commemorating San Antonio's history and cultures. The opening ceremony is April 22 at Alamo Plaza. For more information contact Dee Dee Poteete at 210-207-6700.

LaFuente and the Texas Ford Dealers will present the largest Easter Egg Hunt in the metroplex during the "Dia del Nino" celebration at the Annett Strauss Artist Square from noon-7:00 p.m. Admission and parking are free and the event is open to the public. For more information call Carmen Garcia at 214-969-0354.

University of North Texas, Denton, presents their third annual African Cultural Festival April 22 and 24. The performances include African dancers and drummers from across the country. Performances will take place at 8 p.m. April 22 and 10 a.m. April 24 in the Winspear Hall of the Murchison Performing Center, I-35E at Avenue D. Form more information call 940-565-2791. For tickets call 940-369-7802.

April 25

The National Association of Black Telecommunications Professionals, Inc. will hold their 9th Annual Convention April 25-30 at the Embassy Suites Outdoor World at DFW Airport. The convention will feature workshops, a job fair and a public exhibit hall. For more information call 214-744-1428.

April 26

The Greater Dallas Chamber's Young Professionals Network is holding their second event at The Capital Grill at 5:00 p.m. Greg Potts, Vectrix Corporation, will discuss how hi-tech Dallas is going global. For more information call Catleah Capuli at 214-746-6651.

April 27

HIV Prevention and Consulting will host its fundraising banquet at the Fairmont Hotel in Dallas. For more information or to buy tickets, call Janice Sam at 214-421-4835.

April 28

The American Cancer Society will hold their annual Relay for Life Event at P.C. Cobb Stadium, 1702 R.B. Cullum, Dallas. The two-day event includes a cancer survivors' lap, luminary ceremony and various entertainment. To register teams or for more information, call Dee Thomas at 214-421-1680.

April 29

Methodist Hospitals of Dallas is hosting its Centenarian Birthday Celebration from 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. in the Hitt Auditorium at Methodist Medical Center, 141 N. Beckley Ave., Oak Cliff. The event is open to the public. For more information, call Jerri Locke at 214-947-4628.

Child Advocates of Tarrant County is holding a volunteer orientation at 10:00 a.m. at their offices on 1020 Macon Street, Ft. Worth. For more information call 817-877-KIDS.

April 30

Fort Worth is holding its 24th Annual "A Taste of Ft. Worth" from 6:00-11:00 p.m. in the West Texas Room of the Will Rogers Memorial Center. Over 35 restaurants will be on-hand for the fundraiser benefiting Big Brothers Big Sisters. For more information call Kim Smiley at 817-877-4277.

Community Calendar Sponsored by Southwestern Bell Telephone

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"Love and Basketball"

From producers Spike Lee and Sam Kitt, and written and directed by first time feature filmmaker Gina Prince-Bythewood, comes a love story told in four quarters. "Love and Basketball" is the story of Quincy McCall (Omar Epps) and Monica Wright (Sanaa Lathan), childhood adversaries and talented athletes who have a love for basketball and each other.

The film begins with Quincy and Monica as pre-teen neighbors, with Quincy as a macho eleven-year old and Monica a ball-playing tomboy. It then jumps to high school where both excel as high school basketball talents. Quincy has never really though of Monica as the datable type, but when he sees her dolled up for the school dance he realizes he has fallen in love with his tomboy neighbor.

Their relationship continues through college and through the ups and downs of being collegiate athletes. Then Quincy decides to leave school to turn pro and decides that their romance is off. Monica is left to decide if "being all about ball" is worth losing the love of her life.

"Love and Basketball" is the story of friendship, rivalry and ultimately, the give and take of a one-on-one relationship; Monica and Quincy share a nearly unquenchable passion for basketball.

The film also stars Alfre Woodard as Monica's homemaker mother, Camille. Debbi Morgan plays Nona McCall, Quincy's protective mother. The film also stars Dennis Haysbert and Shar Jackson with guest appearances by Charles O'Bannon, Dick Vitale and Terry Cummings.

"Love and Basketball" opens April 21.

(Left to right) Omar Epps and Sanaa Lathan star in New Line Cinema's romantic drama, "Love and Basketball"

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"A FORCEFUL, POWERFUL, THOROUGHLY CONVINCING FILM...WITH ITS BRAINS AND ACTION, 'RULES OF ENGAGEMENT' HAS A RING OF TRUTH AND CONVICTION.

NOT SINCE NEWMAN AND REDFORD OR GIBSON AND GLOVER HAS THERE BEEN SUCH A COMPANIONABLE TEAM: JONES AND JACKSON DELIVER."
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"WOW! A MAGNIFICENT MOVIE YOU *MUST* SEE. WHAT A GREAT FILM! 'RULES OF ENGAGEMENT' IS TAUT, TENSE AND THRILLING WITH BRILLIANT PERFORMANCES! The action scenes are on par with the best I've seen. It will keep you on pins and needles throughout."
Larry King, USA TODAY

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

R For rating reasons, go to www.filmratings.com

www.rulesmovie.com

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UNITED ARTISTS GALAXY 9 — JUPITER RD @ LBJ 972-444-GALA
UNITED ARTISTS — MARKET PLACE
UNITED ARTISTS NORTHSTAR 8 — BELTLINE & N. GARLAND 972-444-GALA
amc MESQUITE 30 — Hwy 80 & I-635 972-724-8080
amc GRAPEVINE MILLS 30 — 3100 Grapevine Mills Pkwy 972-724-8080
amc GRAND — I-35 & Northwest Hwy 972-724-8080
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CINEMARK CINEMARK 17
CINEMARK LANCASTER - DESOTO 14
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CINEMARK TINSELTOWN GRAPEVINE
CINEMARK MOVIES 16 - GRAND PRAIRIE
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K.C. AND THE SUNSHINE BAND boogie down and get you dancing at Rowdy Reunion after MICHAEL FINLEY and the Mavericks shake, shake, shake-up GARY PAYTON and the Sonics!

Budweiser 2000

Presents...

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Fri., April 14, 7:30 p.m.

KIOI 101.3fm

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To purchase tickets call (214) 373-8000 or Metro (972) 647-5700 or visit the Reunion Arena Box Office.

UPCOMING GAMES AT REUNION!
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ticketmaster — FOLEYS · FIESTA · KROGER

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Romeo Must Die

R&B singer Aaliyah and Chinese actor Jet Li play the roles of children of two of Oakland's most powerful families. When the gang war becomes more dangerous than either side imagined Aaliyah and Li must put an end to the madness. The film also stars Isaiah Washington and Russell Wong, with a bit part by rapper DMX.

Black and White

This film takes a look into race, sex and hip-hop in Manhattan as it follows a group of white kids mesmerized by black hip-hop culture.

Rules of Engagement

Samuel Jackson and Tommy Lee Jones star in this military courtroom drama about Marines trying to repay old debts. Jackson saved Jones' life in Vietnam, now Jones defends Jackson against a court martial involving a mission gone bad.

Ready to Rumble

Gordie Boggs (David Arquette) and Sean Dawkins (Scott Caan) portray die-hard wrestling fans of wrestling champion Jimmy King (Oliver Platt). After King loses a match and disappears into obscurity, heartbroken Gordie and Sean go on a mission of discovery to hunt down their fallen hero.

SPOTLIGHT

Capitol punishment focus of UTA art exhibition

The University of Texas at Arlington is hosting an art exhibit focusing on the role of capitol punishment in our society featuring the work of three artists. The exhibit features San Francisco artist Richard Kamler, Dallas-based artist Vicki Meek and Houston/San Antonio artist Robert Ziebell. Meek's presentation, "Death Row: Issues of Class and Race" looks at the number of minorities and poor Anglos being executed. Kamler uses prison signs and testimonies of prisoner's families in his "The Waiting Room" exhibit. Third artist, Ziebell presents "Huntsville Still Lives", documenting the last moment thoughts and requests of death row inmates.

The exhibition is located in The Gallery at UTA and runs until April 22.

Houston/San Antonio artist Robert Ziebell documents the last moments of death row inmates in his "Going Home" exhibit.

HOT

Diana Ross tours with "new" Supremes

Diana Ross will begin a 23-city tour with two latter-day members of The Supremes. Original members, Mary Wilson and Cindy Birdsong will not be included on the tour; instead they will be replaced by later members, Lynda Laurence and Scherrie Payne. Promoters attempted to negotiate with Wilson for several weeks but not resolution was reached.

Fugees buy Berlin station

Hip-hop band, The Fugees, bought the German radio station credited with helping to establish the group in Europe. The group bought Berlin-based Kiss FM for an undisclosed price. They plan to use the station as a forum to support young artist by spotlighting up-and-coming bands.

Berry charged with misdemeanor

Actress Halle Berry was charged with a misdemeanor of leaving an accident scene instead of a felony hit-and-run in the Feb. 23 crash with another driver. Prosecutors changed the charge after taking into account that Berry was dazed after the incident and that she reported the crash to a police officer in the hospital. If convicted, Berry could face up to a year in jail and a $10,000 fine.

THE TUBE

Givens, Bledsoe, DeLeon head USA original movie cast

Robin Givens (Head of the Class), Tempestt Bledsoe (The Cosby Show), Idalis de Leon (former MTV 'VJ') and Brett Cullen (From the Earth to the Moon) will star in The Expendables, a USA Network Original Movie. This story follows six "expendable" female prisoners, all violent felons, who are given freedom in exchange for their participation in a covert operation. Their mission is to rescue an undercover agent from a Cuban jail. The female prisoners are put through a training session before the rescue mission – which involves trekking through the Cuban jungle to reach the jail. Will the women survive to attain their freedom...or die trying? The Expendables airs Tuesday, April 29 at 10:00 p.m. ET/PT.

(Center Clockwise) Robin Givins, Cristi Conaway, Jennifer Blanc, Idalis DeLeon, Jenica Bergere, Brett Cullen, Tempestt Bledsoe star in "The Expendables."

Events

April 15-May 7

Dallas Children's Theater and American Airlines present the play Charlotte's Web" at El Centro College Theater, Main and Market Streets, Downtown Dallas. Performances are Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. For more information call 214-978-0110.

April 18-23

Casa Manana presents the classic musical "Grease" at the Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass Performance Hall. Performances are Tuesday-Sunday. For tickets call TicketMaster at 817-467-ARTS or 214-631-ARTS.

April 20

Tina Turner performs in concert at Reunion Arena at 7:30 p.m. Lionel Richie is the concerts opening act. For more information call 214-800-3080. Call TicketMaster at 214-373-8000 for tickets.

The University of Texas at Arlington Percussion Ensemble will feature guest artist Kennan Wylie and the 2K Winter Drumline during its Spring Concert. The concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Texas Hall, 701 W. Nedderman Drive. The concert is free and open to the public. For more information call Michael Varner at 817-272-3471.

April 21-22

Black Cinematheque presents their Children of the Sun Film Festival beginning April 21 at 7:30 p.m. and April 22 at 10:00 a.m. Films will be shown relating to children of all ages at the South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 South Fitzhugh, Dallas. For more information call 214-939-ARTS.

April 23

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra kicks off its free Community Parks Concerts Series with the annual Easter Concert at Lee Park 1:30 p.m.- 2:45 p.m. For more information call the box office at 214-692-0203.

April 29

The Partnership for Arts, Culture & Education, Inc. presents sponsoring a free Children's Art Festival at the Annette Strauss Artist Square in Downtown Dallas from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is free and all school age children and their families are welcome. For more information call Jennifer Kile at 214-823-7601.

Third Eye and The Black Academy of Arts and Letters (TBAAL) present the 15th Annual Spring Rising Lecture focusing on celebration, ceremony, and intellectual discourse related to the African, African-American and Caribbean experience. The event will be held at TBAAL, Dallas Convention Center, Theatre Complex, 650 South Griffin Street, Dallas. For more information call 214-743-2440.

Kindred

By Octavia Butler
(Beacon Press, $13.00, Trade Paperback)

By Delmetria L. Millener

Traveling through time to the antebellum South is not a vacation of choice for most young, black women in the millennium, and especially not for a young, black woman in the 1970's. However, in Octavia Butler's novel, *Kindred*, that's the only choice that Dana Franklin, a black woman has. A writer, in 1976 on her twenty-sixth birthday, Dana is snatched from her Southern California home back in time to save the life of Rufus Weylin, a slaveholder. Dana will later discover that it is crucial that she save this child's life because he is to be the father of a child born of Weylin's rape of Alice Greenwood, one of his slaves and Dana's ancestors. Therefore, Weylin's survival is critical to Dana's survival! Butler amazingly transports Dana to the nineteenth century whenever Weylin's life is in danger and returns Dana to the twentieth century whenever her life is in danger.

Simply hearing about the story, the plot seems farfetched to some, but once the reading starts, it provides a moving, thought-provoking story about slavery, survival and human nature. With an introduction by Robert Crossley, Octavia Butler masterminds the novel in such a creative way that any strangeness for the reader is absolved. Butler moves skillfully between each time period, successfully using the appropriate dialect to match each era. Octavia Butler also successfully uses accents to not only guide the readers through the changing eras, but to also illustrate the "dynamic attitudes and emotions of the characters and their relationships with each other and the shifting social contexts." The tension of the odd, co-dependent relationship between Dana and Weylin as the story travels, makes this book an arresting read.

Released for the second time, *Kindred* is a science fiction masterpiece where Octavia Butler takes both her bizarre and pristine imagination, and teases it with a hint of romance, mystery and major drama to create this hard-to-put-down read. *Kindred* uniquely untangles basic questions about slavery and how slaves functioned during that time period. Simple instruments that are currently taken for granted, such as pens, food processors and typewriters sound even strange to readers as Octavia Butler switches us back and forth through time. Readers also learn about cooking methods as well as survival methods that are not detailed in history books.

Kindred is a well-written book that kept my attention and was easy to follow from page one to the end. Octavia Butler makes it easy for her readers to live the characters' plight and share their experiences as "we" journey from century to century. If you have shied away from reading science fiction because of the bizarre nature of most stories in that genre, this is definitely the book to start with.

... continued from page 16

Village Foundation called Team 2000. The purpose of Team 2000 is to nurture a new generation of entrepreneurs – Millennium Entrepreneurs. The foundation is looking to change the inner cities into vehicles of economic prosperity.

Team 2000's goal over the next five years, beginning in 2000, is to recruit two thousand of the nation's top chief executive officers to coach and mentor two thousand promising young African-American entrepreneurs, ages 15 to 21. And the summit got this goal off to a good start. There were approximately 100 individuals in attendance. The crowd included 25 of the nation's top CEO's; 25 community-based entrepreneurship trainers from foundations, churches, chambers of commerce and non-profit organizations; and 40 outstanding young entrepreneurs along with professors and guests from Texas A&M and Paul Quinn College. Young people with business plans in hand and many already running successful businesses presented their plans and received feedback from leading CEO's in the business.

In addition to the Summit on Community Entrepreneurship, the IEEE currently has three other projects under way, including community directories, business newspapers and motivational training

MINORITY OPPORTUNITY NEWS

Job Description

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MINORITY OPPORTUNITY NEWS

FARMERS BRANCH

CITY OF FARMERS BRANCH

City of Farmers Branch accepting applications for **POLICE OFFICER** ($3213-$3977/mo., must be at least 21 years of age) and **DETENTION OFFICER** ($2190-$2832/mo., must be at least 18 years of age). Both positions require a high school diploma and a clear criminal history. Closing date is April 28th, 2000. Requirements listed in application packet.

Packets are available in the
Human Resources,
WM. Dodson Pkwy.,
Farmers Branch, Texas 75234
Jobline (972)919-2559
EOE

DISD, Associates partner for financial program

By Delmetria L. Millener

The Dallas Independent School District and The Associates have partnered to incorporate a multimedia financial literacy program in DISD schools. The program, Choices and Decisions, is an educational program that was designed to assist teachers with financial instruction to students in grades 7 through 12. DISD will incorporate the program with its current financial curriculum and will be used in over 100 classrooms in the districts middle and high schools.

Students in a Skyline High School accounting class use the multimedia program Choices and Decisions.

Leading educators, consumer groups and Visa U.S.A. joined forces to develop the 12-part instructional tool that will guide educators in teaching children about aspects of finances. The program consists of a 14-chapter teacher's lesson plan guide and workbook, video and interactive CD Rom.

"Choices and Decisions has come along at the perfect time. With our new financial focus in DISD, we could not ask for a more well-designed program," said Arturo Salazar, executive director of Career and Technology Education with DISD.

The program will focus on teaching students financial life skills such as how to balance checkbooks, budget, purchase a home, establish and maintain credit, and how to save money. Keith W. Hughes, chairman and CEO of Associates First Capital Corporation says, "this partnership combines technology and personal instruction to help prepare students for the financial responsibilities of adulthood."

According to Debbie Van, an Associates spokesperson, the program was first introduced about a month ago at Skyline High School. "Eventually, the program will be taught in Home Economic or Life Skill classes, the Magnet School for Finance, other high school math and home economic classes, the Business Education school and in School to Work programs," said Van. "Kids are going to find this program interesting and fun to learn from."

The program is available to all students on middle and high school levels, and is not designed for any particular ethnic background. Van says, "The program is available to all groups. It teaches money management information that we all need more of. The curriculum is very well done. Visa used many resources and acquired many experts to help with the development of the program."

Lou Withrow, a spokesperson for DISD agrees that the Choices and Decisions program is simple to learn. "It's very user friendly, easy to follow and comes with a handy 3-ring binder that has all teacher's notebook guides and convenient pockets for the video and CD Rom," she says. Other information that is included in the instructional material consists of Handy Notes that tells the instructor what materials will be needed to teach each lesson. It contains worksheets and overheads that are easy to copy and it gives the students the opportunity to resolve real life financial situations. The guide also has lesson objectives and provides the instructor with information on the target audience according to the student's age and it clearly outlines lessons and goals. Subject headings include decision-making, buying your own car, banking, loans consumer awareness, saving and investing and the influence of advertising.

"One of the neatest sections is the chapter on buying a home," says Ms. Withrow. "It gives detailed accounts of closing cost fees, and actually tells you what those costs are." Representatives of both the Associates and DISD agree that this curriculum will not only prepare students for adulthood, but many adults will be able to use it as a refresher course, or learning tool as well.

For more information on the Choices and Decisions program contact the Associates at 972-652-7569 or DISD at 972-749-2520.

DISD announces salary increases for new teachers

By Angela D. Jones

In an effort to make Dallas Independent School District (DISD) teacher salaries more competitive with other districts, DISD trustees recently adopted a compensation plan, which will offer new district teachers a starting salary of about $33,000. Effective for the 2000 – 2001 school year, the first 1,000 teachers to sign a contract will receive a $1,500 increase. In addition, persons certified in the critical teaching fields of bilingual education, early childhood education, special education, secondary math and secondary science will receive an additional $500, for a total of $2,000. Finally, new hires possessing dual certification in critical fields will receive an incentive totaling $3,000.

DISD spokesperson, Loretta Simon describes the recent pay hike as part of an aggressive plan to recruit more qualified teachers into the district for the new school year; thus alleviating the critical teacher shortage a lot of districts are currently facing.

"New teachers now have choices when it comes to choosing the districts they want to teach in on a long-term basis," Simon said. "We will also be offering a $100 referral bonus for any campus employee who refers a candidate in a critical teaching field that becomes employed with the District."

The pay increase, which has been in the works since 1998, makes DISD only second to the Hurst/Euless/Bedford (HEB) and Birdville school districts, which are both offering starting salaries of $33,500; and to the Fort Worth ISD, which is offering a slightly higher salary of $33,050.

Funding for the salary increases will come in part from more than $29 million in cuts to the central administration budgets. The administration is also recommending an increase in reserves to the district's fund balance and general contingencies, totaling $3 million.

As far as salary increases for teachers currently employed with the DISD, the wait for information on their respective pay increases will be a little longer, Simon says. These teachers can expect new salary information sometime between now and August 2000.

For Charletta Gaines, a 7-year veteran of the DISD, the news of a pay increase cannot come soon enough. Gaines, who has taught at two predominately African-American schools since she started her teaching career, is currently a teacher and track coach at James Madison High School in Dallas. While she says she enjoys her job and the important role she plays in the lives of the young people she works with, she feels that the compensation currently being offered is just not enough.

"A lot of my students come from parents and households that don't have the best incomes. Sometimes you have to deal with students, who haven't slept or eaten and come to class mad and frustrated," she says. "Many times I have had to play not only teacher, but counselor and friend to kids in need, but it is very hard to teach a child who has to take on so many adult responsibilities."

"Some of them who have these responsibilities consider themselves already grown and often times don't want to listen to a teacher," she adds.

While administrators agree that teachers who teach in large urban school districts face different challenges and teach a more diverse group of students, the new challenge before administrators, trustees and board members, is not only how to attract new teachers to the District, but how to keep the teachers it already has.

For more information on recruitment efforts for the DISD, including specific 2000-2001 salary information and teacher certification information, please contact the Dallas Public Schools office at (972) 925-3700.

UNT System Center Grand Opening

State Senator Royce West addresses the audience at the grand opening of the University of North Texas System Center. The school is located a few blocks south of Interstate 20 and serves southern Dallas and northern Ellis County. Senator West authored legislation to establish the Center as part of a commitment to bring a state-supported institution of higher learning to Dallas.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS

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

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE CONTRACT (S)

District: Dallas
Contract 0094-03-083 for GUIDE SIGN REFURBISHING in DALLAS County will be opened on May 03, 2000 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.
tract 1047-02-039 for REHAB OF EXISTING ROAD in DALLAS County will be ened on May 0 , 2000 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and plications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or trict Office listed below. Bidders must submit prequalification information to OT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. alification 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:182

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

District Office
Dallas District
District Engineer
4777 E. Hwy 80
Mesquite, Texas 75150
Phone: 214-320-6100

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.

REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS FROM CERTIFIED DBE/MBE/WBE SUBCONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS

Houston St. Extension/ Alamo St./etc., Phase II
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Est. Bid Date: April 19, 2000; 1:30 pm

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Tarrant County Personnel,
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Fort Worth, Texas 76196-0105

CITY OF DALLAS

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF WATER UTILITIES

Responsibilities include: managing an operating budget of $17 million; oversight of a capital budget of $120 million, and a staff of 235; Providing overall management including planning, scheduling, and directing all design and construction activities, of the department to ensure a safe, dependable water supply and wastewater treatment facilities for the City of Dallas and customer cities.

Qualified applicants must have a bachelor's degree or equivalent in an engineering field, and six (6) years of progressive management experience related to the construction of facilities for municipal water supplies and wastewater treatment. Must be a registered professional engineer. Salary:DOQ+benefits.

Interested individuals must submit a resume/application, names and addresses of three (3) professional references, and a salary history by May 5, 2000 to the following address:

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

... continued from page 8

delay engaging in sexual intercourse.

Taking Care of Business – Designed for girls ages 15–18 seeks to increase educational and career planning skills as well as motivation to avoid pregnancy.

Health Seminars – For all ages that explores other topics that support the pregnancy prevention curriculum such as AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, rape and sexual harassment.

Successes abound at Girls Inc. Girls Inc. alumni often return after graduation offering encouragement as well as volunteering their time and effort. " Girls Inc. has been my life," says Kenya Wilson, who was a Girls Inc. member for thirteen years. Wilson credits her experience as the foundation she needed to prepare for college. "I am grateful that while at Girls Inc. I was involved in a lot of public activity including public speaking. While my fellow classmates feared speaking in front of the class, I felt at ease because Girls Inc. had prepared me."

A product of a single parent home, Wilson praises Girls Inc. for its dedication to the girls opening doors and providing experiences and opportunities they would otherwise never encounter. "They exposed me to so many things that I am grateful for and that's why I return to help out any way I can."

Girls Inc.' membership is increasing. They serve about 1000 girls every day at their six centers and over 26,000 girls through outreach programs. Thus, helping hands, be they financial or time and effort, are always welcome.

"Since we are a nonprofit organization," states Phyllis Bernstein, board president, "twenty-nine percent of our funding comes from United Way while the rest is funded from other areas." Funding additionally originates from government grants, corporations and individuals, Bernstein added.

According to Lynette Smith, a Volunteer Coordinator, mentors and tutors are needed. "We do recruitment for volunteers at career fairs and centers as well as community groups, but we have a big need right now for volunteers to serve as mentors and tutors. We need volunteers to help the girls with homework after school as well as provide moral and educational support as mentors."

For more information on membership or volunteer opportunities, call (214) 654-4538.

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Printers with capabilities to print four-color process or flat color onto .010 white vinyl material. Must also have die-cutting capabilities. Please submit examples of work, a detailed company history and a descriptive equipment list. Prices must be competitive.

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Printers with capabilities to fabricate metal brackets and print on metal wall signs and curb signs. Please submit examples of work, a detailed company history and a descriptive equipment list. Prices must be competitive.

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