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Why one writer says she cannot support the #BringBackOurGirls campaign

By D.A. Lovell
New America Media

I am not against online activism. In fact, I believe in it and have been moved by its power. From typhoon relief fundraisers to voter-recruitment efforts, I have participated in these Internet-based campaigns and have seen the power that lies in we Americans when we are aligned to create change from behind our computers. It felt good to lend a hand and to know that my contributions made a difference in various campaigns.

But I think hashtag activism should be used judiciously, especially when it comes to issues affecting the black community, at home and abroad. In some situations, it risks offering users of social media a false sense of accomplishment while obscuring underlying policy and structural issues as well as the full picture of what is taking place on the ground.

That's why, after a few tweets, I ceased participating in the ongoing #BringBackOurGirls campaign, which is designed to highlight the plight of more than 200 Nigerian schoolgirls kidnapped by Boko Haram last month. I worried that



this was becoming one of those situations in which people feel an unjustified sense of accomplishment.

The campaign has been going on for weeks, and it's become painfully clear that while the hashtag has elicited attention, the news coverage isn't enough to make a difference to the people at the center of this horrifying story—the Nigerian girls who have not been brought back and who, despite all of the tweets, remain in grave danger.

The abductions still are an international topic of discussion, but the focus of U.S. reporting on the plight of the girls has declined. In fact, by the time the celebrity attention and major media outlets got on board, more than two weeks had passed

since the girls were abducted.

A popular sentiment in the black community is that, in many cases, we have to work twice as hard for equal results. I think a version of that idea applies here. Certainly, when it comes to pushing for accountability and justice, we have to be especially strategic. Social media activism might not be as powerful as many think it is when it comes to tangible results, when we're dealing with situations that call for more than just raising awareness. My concern isn't that it's wholly ineffective but that it makes us feel as if the job is done, thereby keeping us from taking a course of action that may be more effective in the long term.

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UTD research may produce medical breakthrough

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Magic Johnson honored with Staubach award

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New rising star unveiled with the opening of Belle

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COMMENTARY

A slow response to Nigerian atrocity

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

Long after completing his 8-year presidency, William Jefferson Clinton acknowledged that he should have intervened in the conflict in Rwanda. Hundreds of thousands perished from the genocide that shaped the country. In his zeal for international peace President Clinton intervened in Ireland, the Middle East and Bosnia. He acknowledged that had the United States

intervened in Rwanda, at least 300,000 deaths may have been prevented.

Now nearly 300 Nigerian girls have been kidnapped from their school by an extremist group that calls themselves Islamic (I don't know of any legitimate Islamic group that approves of this kind of activity). Beyond the 300 stolen from their schools for the sole purpose of marrying them off, or selling them, it is not clear

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Ann Williams



Chis Sebastian



Fred Hammond

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Ann Williams

May 16 -17 the downtown Dallas Arts Community will be in full force as members come together to celebrate the final performances of the Dallas Black Dance Theatre with Founder Ann Williams at the helm.

Anita N. Martinez Ballet Folklorico, Bruce Wood Dance Project, Texas Ballet Theater and guest performer Kirven Douthit-Boyd (Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater) will perform both evenings as a gift to the retiring Williams. In addition, DBDT will per-

form new choreography by Lily Weiss (Booker T. Washington HSPVA), Christopher Vo (Booker T. Washington HSPVA alum and participant in the NBC hit series SMASH) and Bruce Wood, who has choreographed a work that features members from his own company and DBDT.

Both evenings at the Winspear Opera House will begin with a red carpet reception featuring the biopic The Dream, a biographical film that chronicles the history of Dallas Black Dance Theatre and features inter-



views with several community supporters. After the performance, a VIP reception will be held for performers, guests artists and audience members to min-

gle with Williams.

TACA (The Arts Community Alliance) returns as the presenting sponsor for the series. TACA champions artistic excellence in performing arts organizations and has been a supporter of DBDT since 1978.

"TACA has had the privilege of providing financial support to Dallas Black Dance Theatre since 1967. To date, TACA has awarded DBDT \$641,000. We value the work that this important company does in our community as well as its role as an international ambassador for our city.

DBDT has helped shaped our cultural landscape in many ways," said Rebecca

Young, TACA President & Executive Director.

Serving as Honorary Chairs for the performances are Anita N. Martinez (Founder, Anita N. Martinez Ballet Folklorico), Linda James (Dance Council of North Texas) and Alfreda Norman (Federal Reserve Bank).

The Spring Celebration Series will be Williams' final act. During her reign as Artistic Director, the Dallas Black Dance Academy and Dallas Black Dance Theatre have provided performances to over 3.5 million arts patrons and 2.5 million students worldwide in 30 states and 12 countries.

Chris Sebastian

UT Dallas post-baccalaureate student Chris Sebastian has no regrets about taking the "scenic route" to medical school.

Though he began his academic career with a creative flair, earning a degree in graphic design at the University of Notre Dame in 2007, he always maintained an interest in science as well.

Sebastian kept up that interest working summers as a camp counselor for children diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. At Camp Sweeney in Gainesville, Texas, Sebastian

helped children adjust to a daily routine that included insulin injections, pump site changes, blood-sugar tests and a new diet plan.

"I fell in love with the place and teaching kids about diabetes," Sebastian said. "It made me think that I would someday work with patients and their families."

By summer 2011, Sebastian decided that he would pursue a medical career. Too late to register for UT Dallas classes that fall, he began tackling his science prerequisites at Eastfield College in

Mesquite, then transferred to UT Dallas in January 2012 to complete his post-baccalaureate work in biology and health care studies.

Sebastian will begin medical school this fall at Texas A&M University, and plans to specialize in primary care or pediatrics.

"I'm 29. I could be finishing a residency program now, but I took the scenic route into med school. And I think I've learned a lot more than I would have if I'd gone the usual route," he said.

For one thing, Sebastian wants to see how a design approach to problem-solving can deliver innovative solu-

tions to patients and health care providers, whether it's a new design for a medical device or improving efficiency and workflow by studying the use of architectural space in hospitals.

But the biggest use for his design skills is intentional, effective communication with patients, he said.

"As a designer, I know that how you convey something is just as important as what you convey," Sebastian said.

Dr. Karen de Olivares, director of the Health Professions Advising Center, said Sebastian may have chosen a



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Fred Hammond

Two of the most recognized men in Gospel music today are teaming up for a fall concert tour that will excite fans across the country. From Sept. 22 - Nov. 2, the Festival of Praise tour, featuring Fred Hammond and Donnie McClurkin will cross the country, promising to spread the message of God's love.

Both Hammond and McClurkin are Grammy Awards, Stellar Awards and Dove Awards winners with songs commonly heard in the church and on the radio. Hammond's best-known gospel hits include, "Bless-ed," "No Weapon," and "Celebrate (He Lives)." McClurkin's crowd favorites are "Stand," and "We

Fall Down," a song that made the Top 40 of Billboard's R&B chart and rocketed past platinum sales of over one million copies.

Hammond has entertained his fans for more than three decades. In addition to his successful solo career, this singer/songwriter/producer/musician was a founding member of trendsetting sextet Commissioned and the creator of both Radical for Christ and United Tenors. He's also achieved success as an actor and producer of stage plays, TV shows and movies.

In addition to his musical endeavors, McClurkin pastors the Perfecting Faith Church in Freeport, New York and hosts the nation-

ally syndicated radio program, The Donnie McClurkin Show.

From traditional gospel, praise and worship, to funk,

acoustic rock and a cappella, this show is sure to be one music lovers will be talking about for years to come.



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North Dallas Gazette



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www.NorthDallasGazette.com

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The North Dallas Gazette, formerly Minority Opportunity News, was founded in July 1991, by Mr. Jim Bochum and Mr. Thurman R. Jones. North Dallas Gazette is a wholly owned subsidiary of Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

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A better way to compensate collegiate athletes

By George E. Curry
NNPA Columnist

Athletes at Northwestern University shocked the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), the governing body of college sports, by taking steps to unionize student/athletes. Surprisingly, NBA Hall of Famer Bill Russell, former NFL great Jim Brown and Harry Edwards, who organized a human rights protest at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City that culminated in Tommy Smith and John Carlos giving a clenched fist salute when they mounted the winners platform, do not support the idea.

It's not that Bill Russell, Jim Brown or Harry Edwards have mellowed – they have not. Rather, they think there's a better way to help athletes who generate \$500 billion a year to major universities, athletic vendors and others.

"I am totally against the unions in college," Brown said. "I don't like the NCAA. I think it's a greedy organization, a dictatorial organization, an organization that's totally unfair to the players... But on the other hand, I think we have all gotten away from the value of an education."

Russell and Brown made their comments recently as part of a sports panel moderated by Edwards at the University of Texas. The discussion was part of 3-day summit at the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library commemorating the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Russell said the NCAA's money machine should be viewed within the context of other successful U.S. businesses.

"All great fortunes are amassed on cheap or slave labor," he explained. "The NCAA – the one group everybody is focusing on – has this money machine. To keep it this way, the labor force has to be free or paid low wages."

As Everett Glenn, a former sports agent, pointed out in a 3-part series for the NNPA News Service: "College sports is big business – for everyone except the athletes who make it possible. College basketball and football have long operated as quasi-farm systems for professional teams by discovering talent, training players, and highlighting performance."

For example, Glenn noted, "Black athletes represent 52.9 percent of Ohio State University's basketball and foot-

ball rosters and dominate among its star players, fueling a nearly \$130 million athletic department budget on a campus where Black males represent only 2.7 percent of the student body. The disparity between the graduation rate for OSU's Black football players, at 38 percent, and all student-athletes, at 71 percent, represent the highest disparity in the Big-10."

If colleges are serving as farm teams for the pros, players are spending less and less time on the farm.

This year, for example, Kentucky freshmen basketball stars Julius Randle and James Young have announced that they will enter the 2014 NBA draft. It's one-and-done for the Wildcats. Randle is projected to be among the top five picks, which means he may earn \$6.1 to \$7.5 million over two years.

But many pro athletes have received a truckload of money, only to squander it. Terrell Owens, Allen Iverson, Antoine Walker are just a few who come to mind.

Sports Illustrated reported that by the time former NFL players have been retired for two years, 78 percent of them "have gone bankrupt or are

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how many others have been taken from their schools. This extremist group opposes "Western education and uses their beliefs to justify their action.

Some have shrugged that this is a "cultural" or internal matter that Nigerians must settle among themselves. The United States and the United Nations are nodding on Nigeria if they choose to do little more than offer lip service in this crisis situation. It has been documented in Bosnia and Rwanda that rape was an instrument of war. What about Nigeria?

Dozens gathered outside the White House and outside the Nigerian Embassy to plead that the powers that be "bring back our girls." First Lady Michelle Obama has also carried a sign to that effect. Nearly a month after the girls were seized the international community has begun to pay attention to this vile kidnapping. Again, this capture may well be the tip of the iceberg. Who knows how many girls have been captured from their homes or their schools.

Women have too often been tools in

genocide, yet too often this form of genocide has been ignored. The United Nations spews pithy pronouncements and declares one year or another the year of human rights. But as former Secretary of State Hilary Clinton has often declared, "women's rights are human rights."

Now, every woman in the United States Senate has called for relief for kidnapped girls in Nigeria, President Barack Obama, referencing his own daughters, has offered relief. There have been "high level" meetings to talk about the ways that U.S. can intervene in this repugnant situation.

Our intervention is spot on, but why did it take so long? Were these Bosnian women would there have been so much "deliberation?" As grateful as I am for U. S. intervention, the pace of it saddens me. Were we nodding on Nigeria?

The status of women and girls should be a global concern. Nigeria is one of the countries that visibly impose inequality. We have intervened in human rights that have no gender component all over the world, but

have been notably silent when the African continent is involved. We say that these are "internal matters" that countries must settle on their own, but when human rights activists are massacred in China, we manage to get involved.

To again quote Hilary Clinton, "women's rights are human rights." To suggest that women deserve any less is to deny our humanity all over the world. We cannot fight for social and economic justice by taking weapons from half of the army. The women who have experienced direct subjugation are often, also, the most passionate spokespeople.

Our country has been a champion of human rights all over the world, and when we nod on Nigeria we are suggesting that women's rights do not matter. We know about 300 Nigerian girls today. How many will we learn about tomorrow? How many in another country. How many will be swallowed in world patriarchy because we refuse to act?

Julianne Malveaux is a Washington, D.C.-based economist and writer. She is President Emerita of Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, N.C.

New implanted devices may reshape medicine

Researchers from The University of Texas at Dallas and the University of Tokyo have created electronic devices that become soft when implanted inside the body and can deploy to grip 3-D objects, such as large tissues, nerves and blood vessels.

These biologically adaptive, flexible transistors might one day help doctors learn more about what is happening inside the body, and stimulate the body for treatments.

The research, available online and in an upcoming print issue of *Advanced Materials*, is one of the first demonstrations of transistors that can change shape and maintain their electronic properties after they are implanted in the body, said Jonathan Reeder BS'12, a graduate student in materials science and engineering and lead author of the work.

"Scientists and physicians have been trying to put electronics in the body for a while now, but one



of the problems is that the stiffness of common electronics is not compatible with biological tissue," he said. "You need the device to be stiff at room temperature so the surgeon can implant the device, but soft and flexible enough to wrap around 3-D objects so the body can behave exactly as it would without the device. By putting electronics on shape-changing and softening

polymers, we can do just that."

Shape memory polymers developed by Dr. Walter Voit, assistant professor of materials science and engineering and mechanical engineering and an author of the paper, are key to enabling the technology.

The polymers respond to the body's environment and become less rigid when they're implanted. In addition to the polymers, the

electronic devices are built with layers that include thin, flexible electronic foils first characterized by a group including Reeder in work published last year in *Nature*.

The Voit and Reeder team from the Advanced Polymer Research Lab in the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science fabricated the devices with an organic semiconductor but used adapted techniques normally applied to create silicon electronics that could reduce the cost of the devices.

"We used a new technique in our field to essentially laminate and cure the shape memory polymers on top of the transistors," said Voit, who is also a member of the Texas Biomedical Device Center. "In our device design, we are getting closer to the size and stiffness of precision biologic structures, but have a long way to go to match nature's amazing complexity, function and organi-

zation."

The rigid devices become soft when heated. Outside the body, the device is primed for the position it will take inside the body.

During testing, researchers used heat to deploy the device around a cylinder as small as 2.25 millimeters in diameter, and implanted the device in rats. They found that after implantation, the device had morphed with the living tissue while maintaining excellent electronic properties.

"Flexible electronics today are deposited on plastic that stays the same shape and stiffness the whole time," Reeder said. "Our research comes from a different angle and demonstrates that we can engineer a device to change shape in a more biologically compatible way."

The next step of the research is to shrink the devices so they can wrap around smaller objects and add more sensory components, Reeder said.

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nontraditional path to medical school, but an increasing number of universities have interdisciplinary programs that connect the humanities and medicine, including the University of Florida's Center for Arts in Medicine.

"Chris' path to medical school exemplifies how a person can integrate seemingly disparate areas of interest, fostering richer understandings for the benefit of others," de Olivares said.

Dr. Mihaela Stefan, associate professor of chemistry, said Sebastian has brought his design background into the classroom to help fellow students master organic chemistry concepts. As a teaching assistant at UT Dallas, Sebastian often illustrated chemical elements to help students better understand and memorize them.

"Chris was the best student in the organic chemistry course I taught in the fall of 2012. He has never missed a lecture or a recita-

tion, and he made an almost perfect score in my class, which is an outstanding achievement," Stefan said. "I have no doubt that his dedication, intelligence and hard work are going to be great ingredients for a successful medical career."

Sebastian has taken every opportunity at UT Dallas to learn about the medical field, even serving as communications officer and later president of the Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Health Society.

Though he is leaning toward pediatrics as a specialty, Sebastian has rounded out his experience by working as a hospice volunteer for the last year and a half.

He said the experience with end-of-life issues has helped him learn to listen to patients and their families to see what they want, not just what's medically possible.

"It really brings the spotlight to the patient, which is where it should be," Sebastian said.

Meanwhile, he has also kept up his design kills. When editors at the *Dallas Medical Journal* saw his portfolio online, they offered him a "dream job" of redesigning the magazine. The monthly magazine is the official publication of the Dallas County Medical Society with a subscription

base of more than 4,500 member physicians.

"I polished and unified it, gave it a more defined grid and simplified it. I am going to add illustrations this summer," Sebastian said.

For Sebastian, his creativity never stops flowing.

He connects on Twitter with medical students and

physicians who are interested in the integration of design and medicine and has participated in online discussions hosted by institutions such as Stanford University and the Mayo Clinic's Center for Innovation.

Before he even lands in College Station, Sebastian

has already pursued starting a new student organization at Texas A&M to explore areas for innovation in medicine and health care.

"It's an exciting time to go into medicine because there is a lot of interdisciplinary collaboration going on. I'm excited to see what's next."

Extended Stay America partnering with American Cancer Society to help traveling cancer patients

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — One of the most important keys to surviving cancer is access to treatment. For many patients, the best hope for a cure means traveling to a treatment facility in another city, sometimes for weeks or months. To help patients overcome the financial and emotional stress associated with traveling for treatment, Extended Stay America — the largest owner operated hotel chain in the U.S. — recently announced an unprecedented multi-year partnership with the American Cancer Society — the largest voluntary health organization in the U.S.

Over the course of two years, Extended Stay America will provide 40,000 hotel stays to cancer patients receiving treatment away from home, including 20,000 rooms free of charge and an additional 20,000 stays at an incredibly discounted rate of \$12/night. With an affordable and comfortable place to stay, patients and their caregivers can focus their energy and financial resources on getting well.

The program, previously in pilot, is now launching nationwide with the American Cancer Society

booking patient rooms at Extended Stay America's 632 locations across 44 states. To request a room, patients or their caregivers should contact the American Cancer Society at 1-800-227-2345.

"You never think cancer will touch your family," said Jan Grady, whose 31-year-old son Mike was diagnosed with Stage 2 testicular cancer. "When it does, it's like the rug is pulled out from under you." Mike's treatment at a facility in Boulder, Colo., about an hour away from his home, included five-hour chemotherapy sessions every day for the first week of three, three-week cycles.

"Knowing he couldn't drive back and forth every day, I called the American Cancer Society for help and was told about the Extended Stay America program," Jan said.

For the first week of daily treatments, Mike's father, Peter, traveled from North Carolina to be with him and the two stayed at the Extended Stay America hotel near the treatment center. "Without this, it would have been a tremendous financial hardship. This program lessened our burden by

thousands of dollars." Since completing his treatment, Jan reports, "Mike is doing wonderful! He has a new job and has gradually resumed his training for trail running races."

"Extended Stay America is committed to giving back to the many communities in which we operate, and one important way to accomplish this is by taking care of those who seek a better future for themselves and their families," said Jim Donald, chief executive officer at Extended Stay America.

"Our hotels are specifically designed to bring the comforts of home to extended stay guests and we're especially proud to leverage our unique properties to supplement the American Cancer Society's Hope Lodge program, helping to expand their vital efforts."

"The American Cancer Society is dedicated to removing the barriers cancer patients face when seeking treatment," said Kristen Solt, vice president, Hope Lodge Network, American Cancer Society. "Traveling for treatment puts an additional burden on people who are already experiencing emotional and financial stress.

We're thrilled to have the Extended Stay America donation because every room we provide makes a huge impact. We experienced great success during our pilot effort, proving the partnership is an effective way to expand our room inventory. In Houston, for example, the demand for lodging well exceeds our resources, and now with Extended Stay America's rooms, we are able to meet many more patients' needs for lodging."

In 2013, the American Cancer Society provided more than 265,000 nights of free lodging in its own Hope Lodge locations, saving cancer patients an estimated \$38 million in hotel costs. Through this new partnership, Extended Stay America is extending a hand to help alleviate the demand on the 31 Hope Lodge facilities which often run at capacity.

Extended Stay America provides the comforts and conveniences of home, complete with on-site laundry centers, kitchens in every hotel room for patients to store and cook the foods they enjoy, and flat-screen TVs with

premium channels to unwind with favorite shows. In-room Wi-Fi access allows patients to stay connected with loved ones while away from home, a daily Grab and Go Bar offers quick and healthy food options to start the day, and pet-friendly accommodations allow beloved pets to provide healing comfort.

The company is also leveraging the 632 Extended Stay America locations to collect employee and guest donations to benefit American Cancer Society programs and research. Extended Stay America's approximate 10,000 employees will also volunteer resources and drive individual fundraising efforts through the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life and Making Strides Against Breast Cancer events held across the country.

To join Extended Stay America and the American Cancer Society in the fight against cancer, visit ExtendedStayAmerica.com or call 800-804-3724. For information about American Cancer Society programs and services, including lodging, please visit cancer.org or call 1-800-227-2345.

Three simple things you can do today to feel better tomorrow

"Imagine you're a spider with just one leg," says Dr. Frank King.

"You put forth immense effort to try to haul yourself around and not only does it wear you out, it's frustrating and you don't get far." King is a chiropractor and doctor of naturopathy specializing in homeopathic remedies, and author of *The Healing Revolution* (www.kingbio.com).

"It gets a bit easier with two legs and easier still with four legs. But it's not till you have all eight legs that you can really dance."

Dr. King explains that the eight legs represent Eight Essentials we need for optimum mental, physical and spiritual health: Empowering your human spirit; Water; Nutrition; Fitness; Sleep; Nature; Relationships; and Hands On Techniques (touch).

"It would be overwhelming and self-defeating to look at all eight areas and think, 'I have to make significant changes in every area immediately!'" Dr. King says. "You don't have to and who could?

I know from my experience with countless patients and friends, and even in my own life, that you can see immediate results by making a few small changes at a time."

Dr. King describes three that are easy to make and will have you feeling better quickly.

Drink half your body weight in ounces of spring or well water every day.

If you weigh 150 pounds, that's 75 ounces of water (about 9 cups).

"Many of us walk around dehydrated without realizing it and that can have a significant effect on our health and how we feel," Dr. King says. Dehydrated bodies trap toxins and encourage water retention — a natural defense against the chronic "drought."

"Our bodies need the steady flow of pure, spring or well water. If you don't like the taste, try mixing up to a teaspoon of sea salt into a quart of water," he says.

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Prince Hall Shriners set to host 'Stepping for Diabetes'

The Zakat Temple #164 and Zakat Court #133, Prince Hall Shriners will host its 5th annual Diabetes Walk ("Stepping for Diabetes") on May 17, at P.C. Cobb Fieldhouse Track, 1702 Robert B. Cullum Blvd. in Dallas.

This event is the result of a recently formed partnership between the Prince Hall Shriners and the American Diabetes Association aimed at increasing the community awareness of diabetes and its complications.

Diabetes affects African Americans disproportionately. The inaugural event in 2009 drew an estimated 50 walkers and in 2013 there were over 100 participants.

This year the goal is to have 500 walkers. Stepping for Diabetes 2014 will also feature free health screenings. Healthy snacks and refreshments will also be provided.

The Shriners are inviting organizations to enter teams of at least 10 walkers. The registration fee is \$20 per adult walker. Children (K-

12) can register for \$10. The organization with the most registered walkers will receive an engraved plaque, in addition to public recognition during the walk.

More information is available by contacting Jake Dismuke, Jr. at 214-563-3892 or Barbara Williams at 972-352-3425.

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Time to end predatory career college loans

By Charlene Crowell
NNPA Columnist

Are you tired of complaining to family and friends about things you feel powerless to change? Or, as college costs continue to climb and student loan debts increase, do you or someone you know feel helpless that your opinion could make a positive change?

If you answered yes, know that the federal government is giving you a chance – now through May 27– to speak up during an important public comment period. Specifically, the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) wants to learn more about the quality of career education programs. These programs, offered by a variety of for-profit colleges, have raised concerns about greater student debt and poor employment outcomes. These schools are

also large beneficiaries of federal student loan dollars.

If enough collective voices – organizations, educators, consumers and others – speak in support of consumer protections, for-profit colleges' 'rules of the road' can and will change for the better.

Commonly known as the 'gainful employment' rule, DOE proposes to cut off federal funds to career education programs where former students earn incomes too low in comparison to their debt. When incomes are too low or loan defaults too high, then students have not been prepared for "gainful employment."

By the May 27 comment deadline, DOE wants to learn the answer to one basic question: Are students really gaining the skills and training that lead to career tracks with incomes large enough to offset the heavy debts incurred?

For Black and Latino students, the gainful employment rule is particularly important. A new research brief by the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) finds that students of color enroll more frequently in for-profit colleges than other students. The disproportionate enrollment is caused in part by high-pressure sales tactics. Some schools have been accused of deliberately targeting students of color for enrollment in their predatory programs.

Further, for-profit colleges often have high tuition and fees that cost more than twice as much for a four-year public institution and four times as much for a two-year public school, often with sub-par graduation rates.

The brief states, "A post-secondary education can serve as an asset that enables graduates to secure good jobs with steady in-

comes, enabling further accumulation of other assets in the future such as a home, business and secure retirement Unfortunately, for-profits often fail to provide a quality education for students, leaving many with a dangerous level of debt and little improvement in earning potential."

The proposed rule would also require:

- Institutions to certify that their programs meet applicable accreditation requirements and state or federal licensure standard; and
- Institutions to publicly disclose information about the program costs, debt, and performance of their gainful employment programs so that students can make better-informed decisions.

An earlier 2012 report by the Senate's Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee found that a majority of students at for-

profit schools were unable to complete their programs. It also found that schools often misled students about their ability to secure a job in their field after graduation or to transfer to another institution to continue their studies.

The low graduation rate of for-profit colleges imposes financial burdens that will linger long after enrollment. As these former students enter the job market, they are hindered by the lack of a marketable credential and simultaneously burdened with loan repayment. The low-level of graduates, CRL finds, may also explain why for-profit college borrowers are also more likely to default on their student loans.

In a recent letter to the editor of the Washington Post, Maura Dundon, a CRL senior policy counsel wrote, "Since students of color disproportionately en-

roll in for-profit colleges, they have been disproportionately harmed."

In 2011, for-profit advocates spoke up when a similar proposal was made. Their strident voices derailed attempts to bring fairness to this area of consumer lending. In 2014, we cannot afford a second mistake. If you or someone you know has been affected by this dilemma or felt powerless to change it, now is your chance to make a meaningful contribution to this important public debate.

This time, the same consumers harmed by these institutions should share their real-life experiences at <http://rspnsb.li/1kY3ai0>.

Charlene Crowell is a communications manager with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

UTD grads leave with low debt, strong earning potential

At a time when many college students and parents are focused on post-graduation employment prospects, the balance of earning power and low student debt among UT Dallas graduates is gaining notice in national rankings that focus on the best college values in the country.

With nearly 4,000 graduates earning their degrees from UT Dallas this week, most recent University survey statistics indicate that 84 percent of them will secure immediate employment or continue their education in graduate or professional schools.

A review of the University's top five majors by enrollment – computer science, accounting, biology, electrical engineering and fi-

nance – indicates UT Dallas bachelor's degree holders in those fields will find starting salaries averaging from \$32,549 for biology, to \$58,967 for computer science, to \$61,156 for electrical engineering. Those who go on to medical training or master's degrees will see yet higher salaries when they enter the job market.

This immediate earning potential and a very low percentage of students who carry any debt at all, at 36 percent compared to a national average of 71 percent, have earned the attention of both The Princeton Review and Kiplinger's Personal Finance. Each publication has ranked UT Dallas among the best college values for the past two years.

Those graduating with degrees in the University's five most popular majors, which draw about 30 percent of the students on campus, say the encouraging statistics match their experiences.

For finance senior Jacob Craft, a job offer came a few months before his graduation this week from the Naveen Jindal School of Management. What began as an internship at a private equity firm in January quickly turned into a full-time job, with the company accommodating his class schedule as he finished his degree.

Craft graduated from high school at age 16 and ran his own business as a contractor for an asset management company for about five years, earning an asso-

ciate's degree from Collin College before transferring to UT Dallas in 2012. While at the University, he's been heavily involved in campus activities, including the Financial Leadership Association.

"UT Dallas gave me the opportunity to come out of my shell," Craft said. "I never dreamed I would learn as much as I did, not just from an academic standpoint but about life in general.

"The professors care about the students. For those students who are willing to apply themselves, there are so many resources at UT Dallas to utilize."

Duy-Anh (Tommy) Tran, a computer science senior, also found success on the job as an undergraduate. He has participated

in paid internships with major companies while he earned his bachelor's degree, which includes a minor in enterprise systems. Although he's confident of his full-time job prospects after graduation, Tran said he will take an additional year to finish a fast-track master's degree in systems engineering and management at UT Dallas.

"My internships have been great on-the-job experiences, but they've also been very good for making professional contacts, which is important," Tran said.

Craft and Tran are among the majority of UT Dallas students who will graduate with no student debt. In addition to the overall

See GRADS, Page 12

FEEL, continued from Page 5

A simple test for dehydration: Pinch the skin on the back of your hand and hold for three seconds. When you release, if the ridge from the pinch remains for more than a second, you're probably dehy-

drated.

Take at least a few minutes every day to connect with nature. Nature brings perpetual revitalization and ongoing renewal, especially when experienced through multiple senses: the smell

of freshly turned earth or evergreens in the woods; the touch of cool stream water on your face or feet; the sight of birds on the wing and budding blooms.

"These are not just pleasant little gifts to experience – we need them for restoration, renewal, revival and rehabilitation," Dr. King

says. "The more disconnected we become from the Earth, the more we inhibit our body's natural ability to heal."

Take a brisk, 10- to 20-minute walk every day. Walking is the simplest, most natural form of exercise. "Three brisk 10-minute walks a day are as

effective at lowering blood pressure as one 30-minute walk," Dr. King says, citing an Arizona State University study.

"Outdoor walking is preferable to walking on a treadmill or other machine, since the uneven surfaces and changing directions of natural walking will engage

more muscles and tendons."

Swing each arm in synchronization with the opposite foot to strengthen your cross-crawl functionality and mind-body balance.

*Dr. Frank King is the author of, *The Healing Revolution: Eight Essentials to Awaken Abundant Life Naturally!* (www.kingbio.com).*

Magic Johnson receives Staubach Award and support from Emmitt Smith

by Yolanda Paige
NDG Contributor

Earvin "Magic" Johnson has been propelled into the spotlight again after Donald Sterling's interview with Anderson Cooper aired on CNN. During the interview, Sterling questioned, "What has he (Johnson) done to help minorities."

Well, retired Dallas Cowboy Emmitt Smith took to Facebook to answer the question:

"How can anyone question Magic Johnson's contribution to community and kids? Thank you Magic and Cj by Cookie Johnson for helping us raise \$1M this weekend for kids! In 20 minutes, you changed 20 underserved kids lives forever! Pat Smith and Emmitt Smith are forever grateful."

Pat and Emmitt Smith presented Earvin "Magic" Johnson, and his wife Cookie, the first-ever "Roger Staubach Award" at the fifth-annual Emmitt Smith Celebrity Invitational weekend's "Friday Night Party".

The Staubach Award was established in honor of legendary Dallas Cowboy quarterback Roger Staubach. The award aims "to recognize individuals who have brought together the world of sports/entertainment and business to make an extraordinary impact on the lives of children and youth."



"I'm doubly honored — first, to have this award named in my honor but also to have the first recipients be Cookie and Magic Johnson. They've lived courageously, created jobs and opportunities, and helped so many kids in countless ways," said Staubach.

Former basketball adversary retired Detroit Piston Mark Aguirre introduced Johnson and his wife. After a heart-felt introduction Johnson and his wife took to the stage hand and hand. Seemingly unfazed by the racist and vile comments by Clippers' owner, Donald Sterling Magic Johnson delivered a gracious thank you speech. Johnson and his wife both praised Emmitt and Pat Smith for their work with the youth in North Texas.

"When I discovered that I would receive an award in

honor of my hero I was excited." Johnson went on to say that Roger Staubach was his hero because he excelled in both the sports world and in corporate America.

Other highlights of the night included a performance by Grammy award-winning singer-songwriter Darius Rucker better known as Hottie, from Hottie and the Blow Fish. After the Rucker's performance, The Emerald City Band got everyone on the dance floor.

The charitable festivities continued on to Saturday, with an 18-hole charity golf tournament, sponsored by American Airlines, at TPC Craig Ranch in McKinney. All the proceeds raised during weekend will go to Pat & Emmitt Smith Charities, (PESC), a 501(c)(3) public

See SMITH, Page 13

Texas publishers discuss November elections with Democratic Party Chairman Gilberto Hinojosa

The Political Action Committee of the Texas Publishers Association (TPA) met with Texas Democratic Party Chairman Gilberto Hinojosa in Austin May 10 to discuss the upcoming November Elections.

The meeting was to discuss the Democrats plans to turn Texas Blue and how the African American community will be included in that effort.

More meetings will be held after the Democratic State Convention in June.



Publishers and committee members present were (l to r) Marilyn Miller — West Texas Tribune; James Belt — Dallas Post Tribune, Floyd Miller — West Texas Tribune, T. L. Wyatt — The Villager, Chairman Hinojosa, Waseem Ali — San Antonio Register, Thurman Jones — North Dallas Gazette and Mollie Belt — Dallas Examiner. Photo by Thomas Wyatt.

Congressman congratulates Prosper...



US Congressman Sam Johnson (center) presented the Town Council with a US flag and a Congressional Record in commemoration of the Town's centennial. Accepting the gifts were (from left) Council member Mike Korbuly, Mayor Pro Tem Meigs Miller, Mayor Ray Smith, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Kenneth Dugger, Council member Curry Vogelsang, Jr. and Council member Jason Dixon. The presentation was made at the Prosper Chamber of Commerce meeting on May 13.

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NDG Book Review: *Mistakes I Made at Work*

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Everybody knows what you did.

It didn't take long for word to get around, actually; you can tell by the smirks and the lack of eye-contact in the hall. It was a colossal error, one that cost the company more than you care to think about. And it was all your fault.

How can you ever bounce back from something like this? Will it end your career? Twenty-five leading women say no – and you'll find out why in the new book "Mistakes I Made at Work," edited by Jessica Bacal.

It's a platitude everybody's heard before: learn from your mistakes. Embrace them, we're told, and grow from them. But Jessica Bacal wondered how, with a culture that demands perfection from women and a reluctance to discuss such things, we can ever learn anything from our errors?

She contacted influential women from several walks of life, and asked them about their mistakes, what they learned, and how they grew from it.

Laurel Touby, founder of Media-bistro.com, learned the hard way that no job was worth ignoring who she really was, down-deep. Her advice is to "pursue work environments that feel like the right fit for you."

For writer Rachel Simmons, achievement was the only goal until she accepted a Rhodes scholarship. She realized, once she was at Oxford, that being a Rhodes Scholar was a big mistake for her. She was embarrassed to quit and her family was angry, but it was a turning point in her life. Her advice: "Don't be afraid to quit."

Lawyer and social activist Reshma Saujani lost a Congressional race in 2009 and "I felt like I had let [supporters] down." She advises readers to keep trying: "fail fast, fail hard, and fail often."

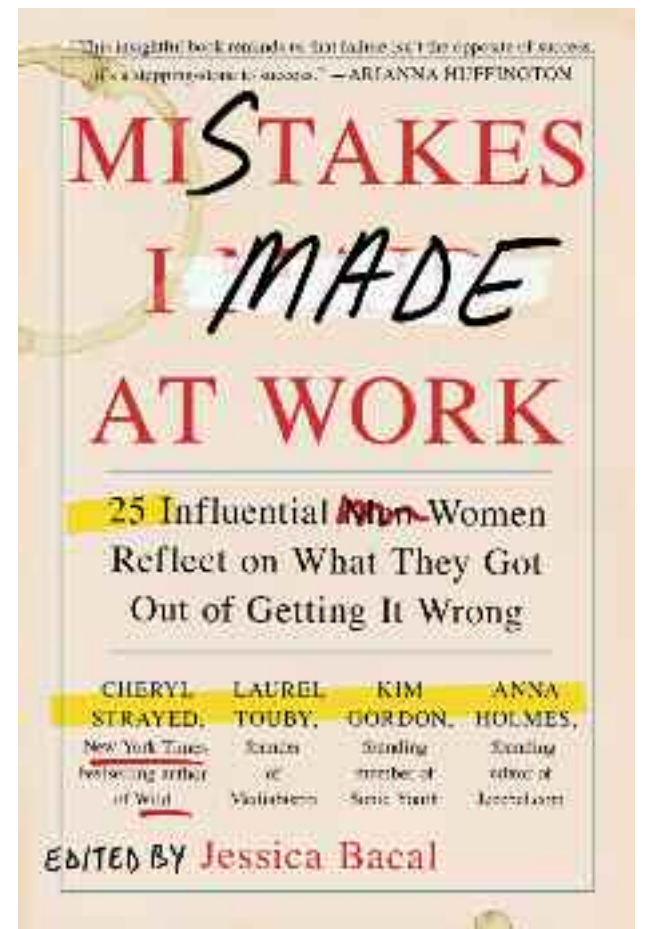
From economist Carla Harris: if you "don't know, you need to ask." From writer Cheryl Strayed: "We're all rough drafts." From physician Danielle Ofri: nobody learns through humiliation. Says writer Alina Tugend: master the art of asking for money. And from writer J. Courtney

Sullivan: "be a kind and generous coworker. You never know where it might lead you in the future."

As a Champion Goof-Up from way back, I approached "Mistakes I Made at Work" with a little trepidation. When it comes to blunders, there are lots of chestnuts out there that are of little help – and then there's this book.

I was pleased with the candor that editor Jessica Bacal found when interviewing the women she chose. Some of the mistakes in this book might seem minor, while some are pretty good-sized but the meaning behind each brief chapter is the same; to wit: these women messed up, they were embarrassed, and they lived to tell about it. Best of all, things were often better, post-oops. And wow, that's pretty comforting to anybody who knows she can't cast that first stone...

This is an excellent book to give to a new grad, an old hand, an employee who's feeling red-faced, or YOU. Reading "Mistakes I Made at Work," in fact, is something you'll be glad you did.



South Dallas Cultural Center hosting unique dance theater performance May 23-25

The South Dallas Cultural Center (SDCC) announced National Performance Network (NPN) artist, Teo Castellanos in "D-Projects FAT BOY" will perform May 23-25 at 8 p.m. This dance theater performance will explore poverty, hunger, American consumerism and waste through out the world. D-Projects has toured South America and China and is currently touring in the U.S.

The core of the choreography in "D-Projects FAT BOY" is hip-hop with influences from Balinese Rice Rituals & Mythology, as well as traditional Buddhist ritual movement. The work also incorporates Reggae music composed by Grammy-nominated DJ LeSpam and video projections of Asia and Africa.

"We're are excited to bring Teo to Dallas with his new production.

This will be a one of a kind performance that is ideal for performance art lovers in the DFW area", said Vicki Meek, Manager at the SDCC.

Tickets are available for mature audiences for \$10 at the SDCC box office located at 3400 S. Fitzhugh Ave or at www.eventbrite.com/e/teo-castellanos-d-projects-presents-fat-boy-tickets-11508551387.

GIRLS, continued from Page 1

I especially worry about how the #BringBackOurGirls campaign will turn out when I think of some examples from the past: U.S. courts are still systematically breaking down affirmative action, Joseph Kony is still free and George Zimmerman got off.

Considering these outcomes, I had to make sure I was honest with myself about the fact that a retweet or hashtag might not do much to contribute to the return of the girls.

But what would help? What are the other options? That's a question I challenged myself to answer. Doing "something else"

doesn't have to mean picking up and moving to Nigeria or sleeping outside the embassy in a demand for action. One quick way to make a lasting difference in the conditions that led to this disaster would be to dedicate some time to learning more about the issue of abduction in Nigeria and in other areas of the world, so that comments and tweets are based on personal research, not just recycled demands.

If that's too time-consuming, start following some of the people and organizations that are doing work on the ground so you know what's happening even after Twit-

ter moves on to the next trending topic. Commit to knowing what the United States can do to prevent the conditions that led to this disaster. Support nongovernmental organizations and international groups that are fully dedicated to protecting and providing for girls around the world.

We should arm ourselves with information and avenues for making an impact beyond just awareness. I'd personally rather see lasting social change in Nigeria than temporary, hashtag-inspired media attention. We know that never lasts long. Plus, the other amazing thing about the Internet is that we don't need the media to be our middleman.

I'm concerned that this cause—

the value of the lives of girls—is now being even further diluted, with the Twitter discussion veering off into a debate about who deserves the credit for the first #bringbackourgirls tweet. No one deserves credit until the girls are safely home. And credit should be the furthest thing from anyone's mind.

I do applaud Twitter users for gaining the media's attention, and I am thankful that so many care about this issue. But I'm careful not to let myself become complacent. For me, that means skipping the hashtag and focusing on understanding and learning about why this happened, what is required to fix it and how we can

make lasting change to make sure it doesn't happen again. If others do choose to use #BringBackOurGirls, I hope they at least understand that there's more that can and should be done, even without leaving their computers.

D.A. Lovell is an international philanthropic adviser living in the United Kingdom and a social commentator on race, culture and the lines where they blur. Follow her on Twitter.

They want to hear your story. Send pitches for My Thing Is, a forum for personal narratives by The Root's readers and contributors, to MyThingIs@theroot.com.

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Belle reveals a little known story and a rising star

By Ruth Ferguson
NDG Editor

The release of *Belle* on Mother's Day weekend in Dallas was perfect, it is the ideal movie for the family. Mom and daughters will enjoy the rich beauty of the film, the search for love of the young girls; meanwhile even the fellas will admit the legal drama is intriguing.

There are so many things to love about this movie, but three things stand out: slavery in Britain, the effective story telling and dis-



covering a rising star in Gugu Mbatha-Raw.

Belle is an inspired true story about the life of Dido

Elizabeth Belle (Mbatha-Raw) she is the mulato daughter of Admiral Sir John Lindsay (Matthew

Goode). The two meet only once, when delivers her to his great-uncle Lord Mansfield (Tom Wilkinson) and his wife (Emily Watson).

The couple is not happy about it, but feel compelled to follow the rules which indicate that if her white father opening claims her, the little orphaned girl (her mother is dead) is entitled to certain privileges, even an inheritance.

At this point, just when you fear of the danger of the story being very glamorized and whitewashing the problems of slavery the skill of

the writing shines through. Yes, the family treats her as their very daughter, yet she suffers the humiliation of never being allowed to eat dinner with guests.

Then as she gets older and her inheritance buffets her from an uncertain future, Belle becomes more and more aware of her unique situation. Belle begins to openly wonder about the slaves in the community and the blacks hired in her family's London household.

Eventually she begins to openly challenging her

uncle, Lord Mansfield. He is in a unique position as the Lord Chief Justice – apparently he was the Supreme Court of Britain – and is pressured from all sides on how he will rule on a case involving the death of slaves.

This is a movie that audiences will find delightful, even as they learn something. Also, there is no doubt it is only the beginning of a promising career for Gugu Mbatha-Raw. It opens today at the Magnolia in Dallas, and the Angelika in Plano.

The devolving of 'journalism' into 'tattle-tale TV news'

By James Clingman
NNPA Columnist

I used to like to watch the news on TV. In the morning I could check it out before my day got started, and in the evening I could get an update on the day's occurrences before going to bed. Not too much of that going on now.

Quite frankly, I detest most of the so-called news now because it's nothing more than political one-upsmanship and "gotcha" reporting. Much of it comprises a tattle-tale mentality among totally biased commentators rather than real news journalists and reporters.

The sad part is that Black people suffer the most from this charade of useless information by folks who couldn't care less about anyone except themselves and their political agendas.

Somewhat reminiscent of the 1976 movie, "Network" today's news shows mimic the main theme of that movie: Desperate measures to increase ratings. As a matter of fact, the writers of "Network" unknowingly predicted what our news shows would look like today. Watch it and see what I mean.

Networks suffering from low ratings resort to parody, accusations, hypocrisy, innuendo, half-truths, and char-

acter assassinations to increase their ratings, all at the expense of their lemming-like viewers. What do they use to accomplish this? Politics, of course.

The two worse culprits are MSNBC and Fox, the dueling ideological networks. Of course, the old guard network news shows, ABC, NBC, and CBS are also lowering their standards more and more as well. Seems they are more into entertainment and shock value than simply reporting the "news" in an unbiased manner.

We have come to a place where news is nothing more than just views. And each one of us should do what Howard Beale did, open our window and scream, "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore."

But that won't happen because we just love political rhetoric so much. We see millionaires arguing over political ideology, and we suck it up like it's a delicious milkshake — empty calories and no substance.

Before finishing this column I made myself watch the "dueling networks" one night. MSNBC carried non-stop shows denigrating Chris Christie and his George Washington Bridge scandal. Of course, that is an effort to tear down a leading GOP presidential candidate for 2016. On the

other hand, over on Fox, they were constantly haranguing the Democrats' leading candidate, Hillary Clinton with the manufactured Benghazi issue.

The evening is filled with diametrically opposed "views" on politics, which they want us to believe is real "news." MSNBC is hopelessly in love with Barack Obama, who can do no wrong in the eyes of their commentators; Fox hates Barack Obama, and anything he does is lambasted, lampooned, and vilified.

Hypocrisy abounds. The most egregious is Fox News' outrage over the four lives lost in Benghazi, the lies they say were told, Hillary's responsibility in the matter, and calling for a full investigation to prove their point. All of this while failing to do the same thing during the Iraq war where over 5,000 lives were lost, lies were told by Condoleezza Rice, Donald Rumsfeld, Dick Cheney, and Colin Powell, and no one was held accountable for ignoring the daily briefing papers that noted an airplane attack was highly probable.

They say Hillary should be held accountable for Benghazi but not Condoleezza for Iraq. Obama, when he won the first time refused to call a special prosecutor to hold any of

the culprits responsible for 5000 plus soldiers killed—a big mistake—but now for four lives, albeit just as precious, Fox is self-righteously outraged.

MSNBC's inclination is nearly everything Democrat. They talk, ad nauseam,

about the evil Republicans, gay rights, the virtues of Obamacare, and of course Bridge-gate; Obama walks on water, and Hillary is the second coming of Joan of Arc. It's an endless rhetorical parade of how bad the Republicans are and how

great the Democrats are doing. Black people have literally fallen for what Harold Cruse called "non-economic liberalism" from the Democrats.

What does all of this

See NEWS, Page 11

NEWS, continued from Page 10

mean to and for Black people? The answer: Nothing. Our unemployment rate is still twice as high as the national average; we are still disproportionately incarcerated, we are still murdering one another at alarming

rates, and we are still mired in a never-ending and never-winning political charade, having left the Republican plantation 75 years ago and now stuck on the Democrat plantation, and still maachin' for voting

rights.

As the network wars proceed, Black folks recede. We are left with Hobson choices, Catch 22 predicaments, and no-win political conundrums, all while falling deeper into the abyss of economic desperation. The views of those political ideologues on MSNBC and

gated and should be committed to delivering on." Edwards said rather than rushing into the pros. Student/athletes should have scholarships that allow them to complete college within six years. For those who complete their education in four years, they should be given another two years for graduate study.

"Ninety-eight percent of athletes who play college football will never be on a professional roster," Edwards explained. "They are going to have to go with what they achieve educationally."

He should know. Ed-

Fox, and some on CNN, who talk about racism and other condescending issues, should be shunned — turned off. All they are trying to do is direct your vote, by giving us their views rather than real news.

To borrow a line from the movie, Network, "You are television incarnate...All of wards has a Ph.D in sociology from Cornell University and has been a longtime professor at the University of California-Berkeley.

George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of *Emergence* magazine, is editor-in-chief of the *National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service (NNPA)*. He is a keynote speaker, moderator, and media coach. Curry can be reached through his Web site, www.georgecurry.com. You can also follow him at www.twitter.com/currygeorge and *George E. Curry Fan Page* on Facebook.

life is reduced to the common rubble of banality."

Jim Clingman, founder of the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce, is the nation's most prolific writer on eco-

economic empowerment for Black people.

He is an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati and can be reached through his Web site, blackonomics.com.

ATHLETES, continued from Page 3

under financial stress because of joblessness or divorce." Within five years of retirement, approximately 60 percent of former NBA players are broke.

Athletes have to cope with other issues as well, said Harry Edwards

"Fifteen percent of the athletes who show up for the combine having already been in concussion situations before they even get to the NFL — and concussions are not something that you get over. That's something the unions can't address."

Instead of unions, Ed-

wards said, the emphasis should be put on making sure athletes get an education so that even if they end up broke, they will have other skills with which to support themselves.

"When we talk about young students, I think there are other considerations that take priority over the monetary aspect," Edwards told me after a press conference in Austin, Texas. "Money shifts the focus even more than already is the case and away from the education imperative that these institutions are obli-

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 635 E. Irving Blvd

Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church "The Green"
 3329 Country Club West

Irving Islamic Center Valley Ranch - Valley Ranch Masjid
 9940 Valley Ranch Pkwy W.

Irving Salvation Army
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New Look Barbershop
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Irving Arts Center
 3333 N. MacArthur #200

Hey Irving, Pick Us Up!

You can find a copy of the North Dallas Gazette at any one of these fine businesses and organizations. Be sure to pick up a copy every week to stay on top of the issues important to the Irving area in particular and the DFW African American community as a whole.

Working Mother magazine includes Allstate on 2014 Best Companies for Multicultural Women list

NORTHBROOK, Ill. — Allstate has been named one of the 2014 “Best Companies for Multicultural Women” by *Working Mother* magazine—an honor that recognizes the 25 U.S. corporations that create and use best practices in hiring, retaining and promoting women of color.

The Working Mother Research Institute has conducted the study since 2003, evaluating how multicultural women are represented at every level of management and decision making at companies that apply for inclusion on the list.

“Inclusive diversity and creating professional development opportunities for

women of color continues to be a core business value for Allstate because it improves our ability to attract, retain and develop the best and brightest of our industry,” said Michael Escobar, vice president, chief diversity & organization effectiveness officer for Allstate. “It also improves our ability to understand our customers better and deliver products and services they want.”

Carol Evans, president of Working Mother Media, says, “The Best Companies for Multicultural Women are leaders in building an inclusive culture so that women of color can thrive and lead. We are proud of the policies and programs these winning companies

support. Creating a culture of inclusion and authenticity is essential for all companies that want to have access to the top talent needed to drive their business.”

Key findings of the 2014 *Working Mother* report can be found on workingmother.com.

Here are some highlights:

At the 2014 Best Companies for Multicultural Women, 9 percent of the executives reporting directly to the CEO are women of color, up from 5 percent last year. Multicultural women represent 12 percent of the Best Companies’ top earners (defined as those among the top 20 percent of earners at the company); last

year this number was 10 percent.

Representation of multicultural women at the senior manager level (8 percent) and corporate executive level (4 percent) each increased a percentage point in the past year. Multicultural women received 13 percent of all promotions to manager and above, down from 15 percent in 2013.

2014’s Best Companies employ more than 2.7 million workers with almost 32,000 worksites across 50 states in the following 7 industries: Consumer Products, Financial Services, Hospitality, Insurance, Professional Services, Retail

and Technology. Multicultural women make up 20 percent of total employees

at the Best Companies while multicultural men represent 18 percent.

GRADS, continued from Page 6

value rankings, U.S. News and World Report also recently gave high marks to the University for having such a low percentage of students with debt, as well as a low average debt for those who do borrow. For UT Dallas students who carry debt, the average is \$17,516, compared to the national average of about \$29,400.

UT Dallas President David E. Daniel said the reasons for lower debt among UT Dallas students lie in the University’s emphasis on timely graduation within four years, the quality of its students, a variety of financial aid and scholarship programs, and a healthy flow of transfer students from community colleges.

“Our University is well known as a destination for top-performing Texas students who often earn grants and scholarships that can reduce the cost of a UT Dallas education,” Daniel said.

Dr. Karen de Olivares, director of the Health Professions Advising Center, counsels UT Dallas students who are preparing for medical or dental school. She said there has been an increase in the number of ap-

plicants, and more slots have opened up as new medical schools have launched.

“UT Dallas students do very well,” in the application process, she said.

In 2013, about 72 percent of UT Dallas students who applied to medical or dental school were accepted. By comparison, about 33 percent of applicants to Texas public medical schools are accepted, de Olivares said.

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Auditions announced for Artisan Center Theater's *Disney's Tarzan-The Musical*

Artisan Center Theater is holding auditions for a few uncast parts in its upcoming production of *Disney's Tarzan-The Musical*. Performers should prepare 16 bars of music from *Tarzan the Musical*. Your song selection should reflect the vocal style of the character for which you are auditioning.

Please be familiar with all of the music from this show in case you are asked to sing something else from the production. If you are only auditioning for ensemble please choose something that shows off your vocal abilities and range.

Parts available are:

• Kerchak - The gruff leader of the gorillas and Kala's mate. Male 40's to 50's Vocal Range Ab2 - Gb4

• Tarzan - A vulnerable but fearless young man



Joe Sturgeon - Director

raised by apes. Male 20 to 30 Vocal Range B2 to Bb4.

Special note - Tarzan must be athletic with upper body strength enough to swing from a rope (gymnastic and weight lifting ability a plus). Also it is requested that all men auditioning for Tarzan prepare 16 bars of one of Tarzan's ballads or a song by Phil Collins.

• Young Terk - A sarcastic adolescent ape; Tarzan's

best friend. Male 8 to 12 Vocal Range G3 - B4

• Clayton - A brutish, greedy hunter and guide for Jane and Porter. Male 30 to 45 - non-singing role

They are also looking for additional ensemble people (who sing and move well) - ages 14 and up.

Audition dates and notes:

- Thursday May 22 starting at 7 p.m.

- Saturday May 24 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Schedule an audition by calling 817-284-1200 or email auditions@artisanct.com with your name, phone number, the date and time you wish to audition.

Audition will consist of a vocal audition and a cold reading. Callbacks will consist of readings, vocal, dance and movement as needed.

Bring your headshot, resume, and filled out forms found online at www.ArtisanCT.com

sanCT.com

Bring list of all conflict dates (May 17 - August 23).

Auditions will be held at 404 East Pipeline Road (Former Belaire Theater lobby), Hurst, Texas, 76053.

Rehearsals will begin early June

The production is scheduled for Friday July 11 - Saturday August 23 with shows on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday also at 3 p.m.

Artisan Center Theater is a non-profit, non-equity community theater-in-the-round located at 444 East Pipeline Road in Hurst, Texas.

Artisan produces 9 main stage and 9 children's shows a year and has an eleven year track record of high quality, entertaining, award winning, family-friendly musicals, comedies, and dramas. For more information on Artisan visit www.ArtisanCT.com.

SMITH,

continued from Page 7

charity that creates and funds unique educational experiences and enrichment opportunities for underserved children.

To date, the Emmitt Smith Celebrity Invitational has raised more than \$2.4 million in support of Pat & Emmitt Smith Charities.

Past beneficiaries include After-School All-Stars North Texas, Autism Speaks, Boys and Girls Clubs of Collin County, C5 Youth Foundation, Community Council of Greater Dallas, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Minnie's Food Pantry, North Texas Food Bank, North Texas Youth Education Town Center - The Salvation Army, Play Like a Girl, The Turning Point, and many more. Funds also go to PESC's own Team 22 program, which provides personal mentoring and unique experiences to underserved youth in the North Texas area.



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9:30 a.m.**

You're invited to join us in
Morning Services as we
worship and praise God for
all of His goodness.

May 21,
Join us for Wednesday
Morning Bible Class at
10:30 a.m.; and come back
for Evening Bible Classes
at 7 p.m.

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Service as we praise and
worship God for all of His
blessings. Our mission is to
empower individuals to live
like Jesus Christ, our Lord
and Savior.

May 21, 7 p.m.

Join us for Bible Study
Night as we learn what God
has to say in His word.

Dr. Terrance Woodson,
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Service as we honor and
praise God for His blessings
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Senior Pastor
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line@theship3c.org

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for county residents. Call
the church or Allen's City
Hall for details.

What's on Your Mind?
Don't copy the behavior, at-
titude and action of the
world. Let God transform
you into a new person by
changing the way you think.
Romans 12: 2a. Join us for
one or both of our Worship
Services as we praise God
for the victories in our lives.

May 18, 9:30 a.m.
You're welcome to join us
for our Mother's Day Cele-
bration as we honor all
mothers at 1550 Edelweiss
Drive in Allen for Sunday

Morning Worship.

May 21, 7 p.m.
You're invited to our
Wednesday Night Live
Bible Study to learn more
about God's Word.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr.,
Ed.D.
Senior Pastor
1550 Edelweiss Drive
In Allen for Sunday
Morning Worship.
Admin. Building Address
Is 200 W. Belmont Drive
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www.theship3c.org

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May 18, 10 a.m.
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IN PLANO**

May 18, 8 a.m.
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2014. Theme: "Mirror,
Mirror: Am I a Reflection
of God's Image?" James

1:22-25. Ladies are asked
to wear white with the lime
green scarves from last
year.

May 21, 7 p.m.
You're invited to our
Wednesday's Bible Study to
learn more about God's
Word.

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.
Senior Pastor
920 E. 14th Street
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-6695
www.smbcplano.org

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and prayer does change
people, things and situa-
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May 18, 11 a.m.
All are welcome to join us
as we praise and worship
God; and as we honor all
mothers on this Mother's
Day.

Dr. Gregory E. Voss,
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'A Refiner's Fire'



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But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.

Malachi 3:2-3 (KJV)

The Lord has a specific manner of preparing His people for useful service. God desires to turn His children from rough, hard-edged stones into gems of gold and silver.

The refiner's fire can only accomplish its purposes when the heat is turned up to extraordinary temperatures. It breaks down the metal in order for it to become moldable and shapeable.

Only when the temperatures reach this level can the work be fully accomplished.

So it is in our lives.

Until the Lord completes His refining process, the offerings we make are not made in righteousness and cannot be acceptable.

Thank God that Jesus is our righteousness and that there is no righteousness apart from Him. Still, the Lord continues to purge all that is not of His righteousness out of our lives.

This comes through trials that bring each of us to the end of ourselves in order that He may only reflect that which is Himself.

When God takes you through the refiner's fire, be encouraged because it is His overriding commitment to turn you from a rough, hard-edged stone to a precious metal.

He will do this through certain events in your workplace, your relationships, and other circumstances in your life. Our job is to avoid trying to blow out the fire.

This can be done by attributes of a life blessed by God. "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation

a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste." **Isaiah 28:16 (KJV)**

Whenever God calls a Christian into a consecrated life, it is made up of distinct stages. This can be often compared to building a house. First, a house must be prepared by laying a foundation.

For a Christian that foundation is none other than Jesus Christ Himself. Any foundation other than Christ will not stand.

Second, as the Christian enter a walk of faith with God, He allows each of us to experience trials, being tested, miracles, and challenges in life that are designed to provide "faith experiences" that demonstrate tangible evidences of His work in our life.

Moses' burning-bush experience, Peter's walk on the water, Joshua's parting of the Jordan River are evidences of trials, miracles and challenges.

These experiences built the faith of these people. The depth and width of our calling is directly proportional to the faith experiences God allows in each of our lives.

The third stage deals with motives. "All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits." **Proverbs 2:16 (KJV).**

What is the motive behind the Christian's actions?

Is it only financial accumulation? Is it to gain control? Is it to create independence?

The primary motive must be God's leading you to take such an action - it must be obedience. These other factors must be by-products of the decision.

Finally, the Christian is prepared to take action. The Christian must ask, "Do I have the skill, quality, and ability to enter into this activity?"

Before you begin your next project, ask yourself these four questions. What is the foundation this project is based on? What experiences has God demonstrated in my life that indicates His involvement? What is my motive for entering this activity?

Do I have the skill, quality, and ability to accomplish the task? Answering these questions will tell you whether God will bless your activity.



(L to R): Sister Tarpley, Michael Morgan (Linebacker for Seattle Seahawks, the 2014 World Champions) and Rachel Lewis

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