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DISD teacher wins national award

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Blacks need to focus on STEM classes

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TeCo play competition thrills crowds

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COMMENTARY

Inmates overlooked in reform efforts

By Freddie Allen
 Senior Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – In a system that is often overlooked by the public and misused by law enforcement, Blacks account for more than one-third (36 percent) of the jail population, according to a new report from the Vera Institute of Justice, a nonpartisan research and policy group.

The report titled, “Incarceration’s Front Door: The Misuse of Jails in America,” details the practices and policies that funnel a disproportionate number of Black men and women in and out and back into jails.

In the introduction to the report, Nicholas Turner, the president and director of the Vera Institute wrote that jails are

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Rape and the myth of the Strong Black Woman

By Jazelle Hunt
 NNPA Washington Correspondent

FIRST IN A SERIES

A woman gets raped every 2 minutes in the United States. According to the U.S. Justice Department, nearly one of every five Black women – 19 percent – are raped each year. Many experts suspect those figures severely understate the problem. For example, research by the Black Women’s Blueprint, Inc., a New York City-based civil and human rights organization of women and men, reports that 60 percent of Black women have been sexually assaulted by the time they are 18 years old.

Whatever the actual number, too often, the victims – including a surprising number of males and young girls – suffer alone. Efforts to discuss the abuse are usually met with disbelief or a feeling that such behavior should be quietly swept under the rug, as though ignoring the problem will magically make it disappear.

As a matter of policy, news organizations generally withhold the names of rape victims. But Black women in particular are beginning to break this silence, bravely coming out of the shadows to publicly reveal their names and faces and share their painful stories in hopes



of exposing and ending this all-too-common violence. This series by NNPA Washington Correspondent Jazelle Hunt examines rape in the Black community and the long path toward healing.

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – For 20 years, Sharita J. Lee was numb. She did not cry. She did not love the men she dated. The only emotion she could muster was rage.

But that changed recently when she caught wind of the storm of sex-

ual assault allegations involving Bill Cosby, America’s favorite TV dad. One by one, more than 30 women lodged charges against the comedian, some dating back 45 years. And one by one, their revelations were met with skepticism, personal attacks on the accusers, and even outright scorn.

“Until then, I had thought about [my assault], but I didn’t have any emotion about it,” Lee recalled. “I wouldn’t have felt anything until I

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Mohamed Elhassan Mohamed



Amiya Alexander



Laverne Brackens

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Mohamed Elhassan Mohamed

Mohamed Elhassan Mohamed, born in Sudan in 1961 but long time resident of Irving, has announced plans to run for President of the African nation Sudan. The oldest of nine boys, he is now the father of seven children.

Mohamed's journey in America has taken him from selling hot dogs on the street corners of New York City to driving cabs in Dallas before he went on to own a cab company. The company grew to 200 driv-



ers in the ranks before he sold Jet Taxi to Yellow Cab.

His childhood in the African village was filled with hardships and struggles, but Mohamed aspired for more and gained his de-

gree from Cairo University in Khartoum in philosophy.

Education has its benefits, but it is not a magic bullet to solve all problems, Mohamed shared, "My struggle did not decrease, but my ambition increased. I worked at Khartoum International airport as an employee of assistance clearance customs until I became the director of clearance customs, and the president of workers. Once I realized my dream was bigger than what Sudan had to offer I immigrated to America in the mid-1980's."

Unfortunately his degree was not accepted in Amer-

ica so he found himself selling hot dogs, candy, and newspapers in Manhattan.

"I realized this wasn't enough for me, and I packed my bag and moved to Dallas, Texas y'all," Mohamed shared.

He started out as a pizza delivery man before he became a taxi driver. But while he was working he was also pursuing his education in America at Spring Creek Community College in Plano.

"I excelled in the transportation and communication businesses which helped me as an entrepreneur."

In addition to Jet Taxi, Mohamed created two companies, one in America called Paradise Prime Investment, and one in Sudan called AlSufi International for solar energy. He serves as president of the AlSufi Center in Irving.

Also, Mohamed still takes time to help others in his adopted homeland, serving as a mentor at Jack E. Singely Academy High school in Irving.

But his love for his native land has led him to stay involved. He serves as the vice president of the National Reform Party in Sudan and was nominated

for President in 2010 and 2015.

"When I went for the elections in 2010 they were rigid. When I was there my country was worse than I had left it. I saw people starve, and babies, die, and women cry in Darfur. No peace. No justice. So I am back to save my Sudan, so help me God. I'm hope for my country to become great, and to reestablish good connections with America. My country is going through economic hardship because of the embargo, and I would like to lift it."

Amiya Alexander

Detroit, MI (BlackNews.com) -- Dancer and aspiring Obstetrician Amiya Alexander, is the owner of the only dance studio on wheels, Amiya's Mobile Dance Academy. She started her business as a 9 year old entrepreneur who provides dance training and community programs for all youth. Since the start of her business, Amiya has been featured on the *Tyra Banks Show*, Disney, CBS News, Fox 2, and *The Doctors* TV show, just to name a few. Her business has been a true accomplishment. Amiya's



positive attitude and elimination of "can't in her vocabulary has contributed to her success."

Amiya's entrepreneurial spirit comes from her mother who is a Registered Nurse; she also owns busi-

nesses that help the community.

With her mother's support, Amiya did not allow her age to limit her ability to do everything she set her mind to do. Amiya's Mobile Dance Academy's mission "is to further the art of dance in an extended cultural community which will provide dance training and community programs for all youth. She targets under privileged youth, who may not have an opportunity to do what they love because of their circumstances. She encourages them to rise above all odds and pursue their dreams. As a role

model, many of the participants look up to Amiya and would like to follow in her footsteps.

Amiya's response to her positive influence is, "building the kids self esteem makes me feel really good because it lets me know that I'm doing something right.

As a result of her doing things right, the doctors on *The Doctors* TV show donated a \$25,000 scholarship and created a website so others can contribute to help Amiya as she strives to go to college to pursue her dreams of being an Obstetrician. Children and teens join Amiya, as she teaches

dance in her personal dance studio on her pink dance bus. Amiya's Mobile Dance Academy travels to various communities to bring dance to its participants. The dance bus has festive décor that resembles a hip hop dance studio. Amiya teaches modern, African, Hip Hop, Flamenco, Jazz, Lyrical, and Salsa dance to her eager students. The variety of dance keeps her students intrigued and allows Amiya to reach many age groups and ethnicities.

Amiya has been dancing since the age of two and because it has been her passion for over a decade, she

can relate to many of the participants of Amiya's Mobile Dance Academy. This allows the students to feel close to Amiya and creates an atmosphere that cannot be described.

This atmosphere is boosted once the families are informed of Amiya's non-profit company; Rising Stars Dance With Me Program. This program offers scholarships and garments to the underprivileged. It helps them with funds to receive dance lessons and provides leotards, tap shoes, and other gear to ensure the dancer's success.

Laverne Brackens

Laverne Brackens is the focal point of interests born and raised in Fairfield, Texas

A textile artist from Fairfield, Texas, Laverne Brackens represents a long tradition of improvisational quilt making among African-American women. Born in 1927, Brackens learned the art of quilt making as a child by helping her mother tack quilts. However, Brackens did not begin making them herself until 1987 when she retired from her career as a cook following an accident.

Today, Brackens is among four generations of



family quilt makers including her mother, Gladys Henry; her daughter, Sherry Byrd; and her grandchildren.

A highly productive quilter, Brackens is known for her improvisational technique that uses bold, bright colors and often features

letters and numbers.

"I don't go by patterns," says Brackens. "I make it up out of my head. When you pick up the material and start working with it, that's when you know what [the quilt] will be."

Brackens' quilts regularly feature an off-center center-piece, rotating printed stripes, and both horizontal and vertical stripping, all contributing to art works that are distinct and unexpected.

These distinctive quilts have been featured in numerous exhibitions and documented in many books and publications. Notably, in 1996, her quilts and those of her family members' were featured in the exhibi-

tion *Four Generations of African-American Quiltmakers* at the High Museum in Atlanta.

This exhibition then developed into the show and catalogue *Will The Circle Be Unbroken: Four Generations of African-American Quiltmakers* for the Museum of Craft and Folk Art in San Francisco in 2006.

Brackens' quilts have also been included in the 1999 Texas Folklife Resources exhibition *Quilts of Color: Three Generations of Quilters* in an Afro-Texan Family and Storytelling: *One Stitch at a Time*, a 2001-2002 exhibition at the Texas Memorial Museum of Science and History.

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DuBois and Trotter: My civil rights heroes

By George E. Curry
NNPA Columnist

In the interest of full disclosure, I have been a W.E.B. DuBois fanatic since my teenage years in Tuscaloosa, Ala. I have a healthy collection of books by and about DuBois, including David Levering Lewis' two-volume biography of DuBois (W.E.B. DuBois: The Fight for Equality and the American Century 1919-1963 and W. E. B. DuBois: Biography of a Race, 1868-1919), each a winner of the Pulitzer Prize.

I first became enamored of DuBois at Druid High

School when I learned he was the polar opposite of Booker T. Washington. In his Atlanta Compromise speech in 1895, Booker T. said in defense of racial segregation, “In all things that are purely social we can be as separate as the fingers, yet one as the hand in all things essential to mutual progress.”

DuBois, on the other hand, was unwilling to settle for anything less than full economic, social and political equality for African Americans.

When I learned that DuBois and I shared the same birthday – February 23 – I was ecstatic. I was

born at 11:30 at night and told Mama if she had waited another 31 minutes, I don't know if I would have ever forgiven her, not that the timing of my entry into this world was under her control.

Enough disclosure.

As much as I admire William Edward Burghardt DuBois – my middle name is also Edward – in temperament, I am probably more like William Monroe Trotter than DuBois. And we both pursued full-time careers in journalism.

Even during Black History Month, I am surprised that Trotter's name is rarely, if ever, mentioned.

Born in Chillicothe, Ohio, Trotter grew up in Boston. He graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Harvard in 1895 – the same year DuBois became the first African American to earn a Ph.D from the university. A year later, Trotter earned a master's degree from Harvard in finance but could not find a job in banking because of his race. Instead, Trotter worked at his father's real estate company.

In 1901, he and George Forbes founded the Boston Guardian newspaper, an uncompromising voice for

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necessary for some people, but too often ordinary people are “held for minor violations minor violations such as driving with a suspended license, public intoxication, or shoplifting because they cannot afford bail as low as \$500.”

The report said that roughly 75 percent of sentenced offenders and those awaiting trial in jail were there on nonviolent traffic, property, drug, or public order offenses. And while they sit, life goes on without them. Bills pile up, rent goes unpaid and hourly wage workers watch paychecks shrink or they just get fired.

Turner added: “Single parents may lose custody of their children, sole wage-earners in families, their jobs – while all of us, the taxpayers, pay for them to stay in jail.”

In everyday dialogue, people often use “jails” and “prisons” interchangeably, but these tools of the criminal justice system serve distinct purposes.

“Unlike state prisons, which almost exclusively hold people serving state sentences, jail populations are heterogeneous, making them particularly challenging to manage,” the report said.

Pretrial detainees, locally and state sentenced inmates, apprehended pretrial or sentenced inmates from other

jurisdictions and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainees all bunk in local jails, while local jurisdictions collect fees. Sentences can range from a few hours to months for more serious offenses or overcrowding at other facilities.

But just like mass incarceration in prisons was sparked by the War on Drugs, the growth in the jail population also soared because of drug arrests.

“From 1981 until 2006, when they peaked, total drug arrests more than tripled, from 560,000 to 1.9 million, and the drug arrest rate (per 100,000) grew 160 percent,” according to the Vera report. “The share of people in jail accused or convicted of a drug crime increased sharply in the 1980s.”

Even though, state and federal prisons house more inmates, jails record about 19 times more admissions. African Americans account for 25 percent of the 12 million jail admissions every year.

“Black males, in particular, are arrested at a younger age and at higher rates than their white counterparts, often giving them a longer ‘rap’ sheet regardless of the charges or the eventual dispositions of the cases,” the report explained. “Schools in minority neighborhoods are more likely to have law

enforcement officers on site and to embrace ‘zero tolerance’ policies.”

The report continued: “With arrest records on file at earlier ages, subsequent contacts with police result in more severe case outcomes as these young men come of age.”

When people suffering from mental health disorders find themselves homeless, unemployed, or on drugs they are arrested for minor crimes at higher rates than other offenders and spend time in jail where their conditions deteriorate.

“Serious mental illness, which includes bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and major depression, affects an estimated 14.5 percent of men and 31 percent of women in jails – rates that are four to six times higher than in the general population,” the report said. “According to the [Bureau of Justice Statistics], 60 percent of jail inmates reported having had symptoms of a mental health disorder in the prior twelve months.”

On the inside, jailed inmates with few options pay private phone companies exorbitant fees to stay in touch with loved ones on the outside. Some jails also charge for laundry services, room and board, and medical care.

“Add to this child support payments, credit card debt, rent, and other living expenses that can accumulate during incarceration – often

with late charges or compounded interested tacked on – the financial picture for many leaving jail is very bleak,” said the report. High bail amounts often contribute to that bleak financial picture and “combined with overloaded courts, a situation arises in which defendants can spend more time in jail pretrial than the longest sentence they could receive if convicted.”

The report recommended introducing debt payment plans, making basic re-entry tools available for everyone leaving jail, and problem-solving courts that address socioeconomic issues surrounding incarceration including substance abuse, mental illness and homelessness.

While some jurisdictions have made modest gains in steering individuals away from jails and curbing the length of sentences, the report said that systemic reform would take significant cooperation among all local law enforcement officials.

“The misuse of jails is neither inevitable nor irreversible,” the report said. “To both scale back and improve how jails are used in a sustainable way, localities must engage all justice system actors in collaborative study and action. Only in this way can jurisdictions hope to make the systemic changes needed to stem the tide of people entering jails and to shorten the stay for those admitted.”

Texans saved an average of \$946 with the Affordable Care Act closing the Part D prescription donut hole

The Department of Health and Human Services released this week new information that shows that millions of seniors and people with disabilities with Medicare continued to enjoy prescription drug savings and improved benefits in 2014 as a result of the Affordable Care Act.

Since the enactment of the Affordable Care Act, 9.4 million seniors and people with disabilities have saved over \$15 billion on prescription drugs, an average of \$1,598 per beneficiary. In 2014 alone, nearly 5.1 million seniors and people with disabilities saved \$4.8 billion or an average of \$941 per beneficiary. These figures are higher than in 2013, when 4.3 million saved \$3.9 billion, for an



average of \$911 per beneficiary.

Texans saved \$971,785,893 since the Affordable Care Act was enacted in 2010. In 2014 alone, 345,452 people with Medicare in Texas saved \$326,863,038 -- an average of \$946 per Medicare beneficiary -- thanks to the Affordable

Care Act closing the Part D prescription drug donut hole. Use of preventive services under the health care law has also expanded among people with Medicare.

In Texas, an estimated 2,539,372 people with Medicare (including those enrolled in Medicare Advantage) took advantage of

at least one preventive service with no cost sharing in 2014.

Use of preventive services has also expanded among people with Medicare. An estimated 39 million people with Medicare (including those enrolled in Medicare Advantage) took advantage of at least one preventive service with no cost sharing in 2014. In contrast, in 2013, an estimated 37.2 million people with Medicare received one or more preventive benefits with no cost sharing. In 2014, nearly 4.8 million people with traditional Medicare took advantage of the Annual Wellness Exam, which exceeds the comparable figure from 2013, in which over 4 million took advantage of the

exam.

“Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, seniors and people with disabilities have saved over \$15 billion on prescription drugs, and these savings will only increase over time as we close the Medicare coverage gap known as the donut hole,” said HHS Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell. “By providing access to affordable prescription drugs and preventive services with no cost sharing, the Affordable Care Act is working for seniors to help keep them healthier.”

As part of the Department’s “better care, smarter spending, healthier people” approach to improving health delivery, providing affordable prescription drugs and certain preven-

tive services with no-cost sharing are some of the many initiatives advanced by the Affordable Care Act. To achieve better care, smarter spending and healthier people, HHS is focused on three key areas: (1) linking payment to quality of care, (2) improving and innovating in care delivery, and (3) sharing information more broadly to providers, consumers, and others to support better decisions while maintaining privacy. Today’s news comes on the heels of Secretary Burwell’s recent announcement that HHS is setting measurable goals and a timeline to move Medicare toward paying providers based on the quality, rather than the quantity of care they give patients.

Study finds black women endure menopause the longest

By Elaina Johnson
Special to the NNPA from
Howard University
News Service

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – Sarah Finney, 57, said she gets hot flashes throughout her body at least once an hour. She even wakes up in the night with so much perspiration that she looks like she just left working out at a gym, she said.



“Hot flashes are very annoying,” said Finney, a married mother of two who de-

clined to use her real name. “A surge of heat goes through my body, some-

times accompanied by nausea. As the energy builds, I begin to sweat from my hair, neck, chest and underarms.”

Finney, a vegetarian, said she hoped eating healthy and her intense daily routines as a marathon runner would alleviate the symptoms, but no luck.

Finney, who lives in

Alexandria, Va., is experiencing the results of menopause, a natural decline in reproductive hormones that affects millions of woman annually when they reach their 40s or 50s.

For women going through menopause, just one day of hot flashes can be too much. Imagine 14 years. A new study pub-

lished in JAMA Internal Medicine, a medical journal of the American Medical Association, found that women could experience hot flashes for up to 14 years, and that African-American women like Finney typically experience the symptoms longer.

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Plano's Star Medical Center honored for commitment to patient safety



Star Medical Center in Plano has been recognized for outstanding commitment to patient safety.

Star Medical Center, a specialty surgical hospital in Plano, TX and affiliate of Lumin Health, announced today that the facility was awarded full accreditation status by Det Norske Veritas Healthcare (DNV GL – Healthcare).

In earning the accreditation, Star Medical Center has demonstrated it meets or exceeds patient safety standards.

To achieve this distinction, Star Medical Center underwent a rigorous on-site review in January 2015. DNV GL experts evaluated the facility for compliance with standards of care specific to the needs of patients and families, including leadership and medication management, and infection prevention and control.

“In achieving the DNV certification, Star Medical

Center has demonstrated its commitment to the highest level of care for its patients,” said Mark Kennedy, CEO of Star Medical Center. “Certification is voluntary, and I praise our team for successfully undertaking this challenge to elevate our standard of care and inspire confidence in the community we serve.”

DNV GL – Healthcare is a Centers for Medicare and

Medicaid Services (CMS)-authorized accrediting organization for acute care hospitals.

More than 400 hospitals across the country have received accreditation. The DNV GL accreditation program is the first and only program to integrate the Medicare Conditions of Participation with the ISO 9001 Quality Management System.

Dallas ISD Bilingual teacher wins national award

The National Association of Bilingual Education has named Irma De La Guardia, of Harry C. Withers Elementary School, the 2015 Teacher of the Year.

The third-grade dual-language teacher became the

state winner in the Texas Association of Bilingual Education competition last fall, which qualified her for the NABE award.

Originally an auditor in Mexico City, De La Guardia and her husband

moved to the Dallas area nearly 15 years ago. A career change through Alternative Certification led her to the Dallas ISD a few years later.

In 2007, De La Guardia was recruited to Withers to help start its dual-language

program. In 2013-2014, the Multi-language Enrichment Program instructional coaches named her Dallas ISD's Teacher of the year nominee for the Bilingual/ESL Education Association of the Metroplex.



Irma de la Guardia

STUDY, continued from Page 4

Finney has been going through it for 10 years.

The 17-year study of 1,449 women across the U.S. found that while on average, the women endured the symptoms for about seven and a half years, Black and Hispanic women experience hot flashes for significantly longer than White or Asian women. The median was 10 years for African Americans, nearly nine years for Hispanics, six and a half years for White women, about five and a half years for Chinese and nearly five years for Japanese.

“This is the only study that has looked at a very diverse population,” said Dr. Ranit Mishori, associate professor of Family Medicine at the Georgetown University School of Medicine.

“No one knows for sure why African-American women are at risk for a longer duration of hot flashes. There could be a re-

lationship between hormone levels, genetic differences, body mass index, the number of children you have or the age you began having children.”

Though the study's results may not give the quick relief women hoped for, but it allows doctors and medical professional to give patients realistic expectations and find ways to help alleviate the hot flashes.

“This is not a fun thing for the doctor or the patient to realize,” Mishori said. “However, there are ways to manage the symptoms including hormone replacement therapy.”

Hormone replacement therapy is medication containing female hormones to replace the ones the woman's body no longer makes after menopause.

This method can be a good choice for certain women, depending on their health risk, Mishori said. Women who consume es-

trogen pills are alleviated from hot flashes and other symptoms of menopause, she said.

The down side is that hormone therapy has been linked to increased risk of breast cancer, stroke and heart disease for some women.

Lifestyle changes, such as diet and exercise, may help some women, health officials said, and there are also non-hormonal medication and supplements that can help. These things may not shorten the duration of hot flashes, but it may lessen the affect and intensity of them.

If the symptoms are unbearable, health officials suggest you consult with your doctor.

Finney said she is resigned to the day-to-day struggle with the condition.

“Menopause is just something we have to deal with as women,” she said. “We all must continue to move forward. This is a part of life.”

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1580	50X The Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 3.06	\$10	4/29/15	10/26/15

For detailed odds and game information, visit texaslottery.org or call 1-800-371-LOTTO. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. The Texas Lottery supports Texas education. © 2015 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.



Richland College offering STEM summer camps

Richland College will host three types of youth camps in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields this summer. These summer camps will introduce young students to various STEM industries, including programming and game design, animated and sculptural art and robotics.

"Richland College is thrilled once again to be hosting such exciting summer camps," said Heather Lozano, Richland College's assistant dean of continuing education and workforce

training. "These camps are really a win-win for parents and their children—parents are sending their children to a wonderful learning environment, and the kids are having a great time at camp as they explore these STEM subjects."

In partnership with the University of Texas at Dallas, Richland College will host a programming summer camp, where campers will learn Scratch, Logo, JavaScript and GameMaker. The sessions will be July 6-10 and July 27-31 and will be split into levels: level

one will be for grades three through five, and level two will be for grades six through eight. Campers in level one will attend camp in half-day sessions from either 9 a.m.-noon or 1:30-4:30 p.m. and will be provided computers. Level two campers will attend full-day sessions from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and they will be required to bring a laptop.

New this summer, Richland College will be offering a dynamic art summer camp for children age seven to 12 in partnership with Dynamic Art Design.

Campers will create unique animated art projects that incorporate visual designs that the students arrange as their own creations, combining art and technology while also challenging the children to explore the relationship of these ideas with the use of motors, gears and pulleys to take their artwork to an exciting new level.

The three sessions for this camp take place June 8-12, July 6-10 and Aug. 27-31, with both morning and afternoon sessions offered from 9-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-3 p.m. respectively.

Teaming up with Robots 4 U, Richland College will also offer its robotics summer camp. This camp combines computer science and engineering with daily robotics challenges and an end-of-the-week competition. Each session is mostly hands-on and includes individual design, building and creating up to seven robots.

While beginners are welcome, all levels will find this camp challenging and fun. This camp is for ages seven to 17, and the three sessions take place July 22-26, July 20-24 and Aug. 17-21. Morning and afternoon

sessions will be offered at 9-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-3 p.m., and campers should bring their own lunches and drinks.

Registration is currently open for all camps. Space is limited, so early registration is suggested for all camps. For information on all summer camps, including links to registration, visit www.richlandcollege.edu/summercamps.

All three camps will be located on the Richland College campus. Richland College is located at 12800 Abrams Rd. in Dallas.

Collin College hosting health fair on March 6

Collin College invites the public to put health under the microscope at its 10th annual "Live Smart! Health and Safety Fair" from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Friday, March 6.

The event will be held at Collin College's Central Park Campus, which is located at 2200 W. University Drive in McKinney.

At this free event, attendees will learn facts about wellness from more than 50 health serv-

ice vendors and can complete a survey to receive a door prize.

Those in attendance can also participate in proactive health screenings, watch informative safety demonstrations or save a life by donating blood. In addition, the fair offers free glucose, cholesterol, vision and hearing screenings and more.

For more information, contact Dr. Linda Muyserson at 972.881.5777.

Blacks Underrepresented in STEM Classes

By Freddie Allen
NNPA Senior Washington
Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) Many young African Americans will be shut out of the high paying jobs of the future, if they don't earn a degree in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), according to a new report.

The new report by The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition of more than 200 advocacy and outreach groups, said that less than 3 percent of Blacks have earned a degree in the natural sciences or engineering fields by the age of 24 and that the STEM labor force is projected to grow by 2.6 million jobs over the next five years. Researchers said that more than half of those jobs will go to people with



Wade Henderson, president and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights. (Freddie Allen/NNPA/FILE PHOTO)

bachelor's or master's degrees.

In a press release about the report Wade Henderson, president and CEO of both the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and the Leadership Conference Education Fund, said that equal access to a STEM education is crucial to the future of our country and

economy, and to the lives of millions of minority and women students.

"We must – all of us – examine what systemic changes are necessary to ensuring that STEM learning is inclusive, engaging, and equally accessible, so that all of our children have the

same opportunities to adequately prepare for college and for careers that will allow them to support themselves and their families," said Henderson.

According the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, STEM workers, specifically in computer and math careers, make more than \$80,000 per year. Even workers that graduate with associate's degrees earn about 10 percent more than those working in non-STEM jobs.

"Yet, right now, all across America, there are nearly 40 million adults – disproportionately people of color and those who grew up in poverty – who do not have a high school diploma or its equivalent," stated the report. "And they are effec-

See STEM, Page 13

Dallas Maverick scholarships due Feb. 27

The Dallas Mavericks and Century 21 Mike Bowman, Inc. are accepting applications for their 5th Annual Dallas Mavericks Scholarship to Metroplex high school seniors, who are in financial need.

Students currently enrolled as high school seniors within a 75-mile radius of American Airlines Center and are eligible to attend a two- or four-year college or



university may apply. Applicants must be legal U.S. residents, be less than 21

years old, have a minimum 3.0 GPA and participate in extracurricular activities.

Eligible students must submit a complete application (typed or clearly printed) and STAPLE (no paper or binder clips) all of the required documentation together or their application will not be reviewed.

Applications must be received at the Mavs offices by 12 p.m. February 27, 2015.

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Dallas Cowboy giving back...



(Left) UnitedHealthcare presented a check for \$12,000 to Jason Whitten's SCORE FOUNDATION to help fund the newly remodeled teen activity room at the Oak Cliff Boys & Girls Club. The grand opening of the room was celebrated on February 20 and teens were encouraged to have a healthy lifestyle through good nutrition and fitness.

(Right) Jason Witten played a competitive game of Giant Jenga with teens at the Oak Cliff Boys & Girls Club on February 20. The game was part of a celebration of the opening of the newly remodeled teen room sponsored by UnitedHealthcare and Witten's SCORE Foundation.



RAPE, continued from Page 1

read that article," Lee said.

After reading the article about comedian Hannibal Buress' jab at Bill Cosby, Lee scrolled to the comments section. She couldn't believe how many people questioned why these women were coming forward decades later. Appalled, she opened her laptop, and penned all the gory details of her rape and its aftermath for the world to see. Her account was published on a blog just before Christmas.

The topic of rape has not only been revived by the controversy surrounding Bill Cosby but also by misbehavior in other segments of society. For example, dozens of high-ranking military officers have been fired for rape or having inappropriate sexual affairs with women within and outside their command.

Rape on college campuses has received wider coverage following a series of high-profile campus rapes, including one at the United States Military Academy at West Point. The Department of Education announced last May that it is investigating 55 colleges for mishandling complaints of sexual violence, a figure that has since risen to 90.

Last week, two Vanderbilt University football players were found guilty of raping an unconscious fellow co-ed and two more former football players are awaiting trial. And

Florida State quarterback Jameis Winston, a former Heisman Trophy winner, has been dogged for more

than a year amid allegations that he raped a FSU student in December 2012; an attorney for the student announced plans to sue the university.

Most Americans do not know as much about rape as they think.

According to the Department of Justice:

- Somewhere in America, a woman is raped every 2 minutes;

- 22 percent of victims were younger than age 12 when they were first raped, and 32 percent were between the ages of 12 and 17;

- 25 percent of girls and 17 percent of boys are sexually abused before the age of 18;

- 70 percent of rape and sexual assault victims know their attacker prior to the assault and

- Of college women questioned, about 90 percent of rape and sexual assault victims knew their attacker prior to the assault.

It took Sharita Lee close to two decades to truly break her silence.

Two decades ago, she was a 20-year-old New Orleans native serving her country as a member of the U.S. Navy. She had joined the military to distance herself from home, where her stepfather physically abused her mother, who was battling alcoholism.

But she returned to New Orleans immediately when she learned her grandfather was on his deathbed. During her visit, she ran into a childhood friend at her uncle's house, and the two caught up. A few hours

passed as they laughed and reminisced on the couch. Then, Lee got the call that her grandfather had died.

Abruptly, in the middle of condolences and small talk, he lunged at her. In a fluid flurry, he grabbed her legs and pulled her toward him. He pinned her knees to her chest. She shoved him. Unmoved, he yanked the back of her pants up to her thighs. He was a foot taller and outweighed her by 100 pounds. She was stunned.

"I would've never thought, prior to that moment, that that was something he had done before, but it happened so fast," she said. "I couldn't even say 'what happened,' I just felt him go in. In my mind I'm thinking, 'Wow, is this happening, are you serious?'"

Afterward he got up, apologized, kissed her, and left. She didn't move. She couldn't speak. When he was gone, she got up, cleaned up, and cried. Then she carried on as if nothing had happened.

"Every time I think of my grandfather, that comes to mind," she says. "My grandfather died, but I was supposed to go and see him that night. And I didn't go because I was dealing with my friend. And that friend raped me. It's like, oh my God, if I had been where I was supposed to be – you know, all the would've, should've, could've."

Called a 'Whore'

At the time, Lee told exactly one person: her then-boyfriend, when he came to visit her on the Navy base after her grandfather's funeral.

"He responded by calling

me a whore. He said I invited it, and cheated on him, purposely," Lee recounted. They argued all night and ended the relationship. The reaction pushed her into stoic silence. "I never told anyone else," she said. "That was the first time I actually went that far, and for his reaction to be the way it was...I felt humiliated but I also felt unworthy."

Slowly, she lost her bearings.

"I became very promiscuous. I put myself in the mind of a man. However they thought that they could handle a woman, is how I began to handle them," she says. "I know I was angry and bitter for some time. I was drinking a lot – try to couple that with being in the military – and I was having sex a lot."

Her pain hardened to numbness, then curdled into a bad temper, worsening as years slipped by and hardship bubbled up. There was the birth of her first child and a young and unhappy marriage and then divorce at 25.

"I was 28 when I first sought therapy. I went for depression, because my brother was murdered. I was having anxiety attacks, but I couldn't cry over it," said Lee. "I realized I'd hit rock bottom in my emotions, or lack thereof. I knew I was to my limit with not dealing with anything."

The Path to Healing

Today, Lee is the only person in her immediate family who has sought professional help as part of dealing with her trauma.

"People are afraid to go

to therapy – my mom is afraid, in my opinion, that she is going to hear the absolute truth. It's facing your truth, I think, that's hard for people.

"... The biggest thing for me was allowing myself to deal with whatever hurts I had buried. I had to have healing in my own home. I told my husband and my sister things...I'm not a writer, but I wrote...dealing with my mother, stepfather, and my father, writing letters to them.... As time went, I felt better," Lee says.

"It's like, OK, I was

raped. But as I get older and realize it's affecting my relationships...what are you going to do to change it? You have to go find help for that. Because ultimately, you're a prisoner in your own mind, and in your own heart."

IN THE NEXT INSTALLMENT: Rape's other victims

(The project was made possible by a grant from the National Health Journalism Fellowship, a program of the University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism.)

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Fmr. Councilwoman Crenshaw announces plans for historic 150th Juneteenth Anniversary celebrations in Dallas

“When we talk about black history, no historic event is more debated and celebrated than “Juneteenth” proclaims black historian and former Dallas City Councilwoman Sandra Crenshaw.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of June 19th, 1865 when President Abraham Lincoln sent troops to the Texas Gulf Coast City of Galveston to announce the end of the civil war and thus the enforcement of the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation to free the slaves in Texas. The event is now a state holiday in Texas as well as several other states in the U.S.

Younger generations have said they do not recognize the celebration because it reveals the ignorance of the slaves in Texas for celebrating the emancipation proclamation two years later. Historians will tell you however; that the very last battle of the civil war was fought near Brownsville, Texas in 1865. The Texas confederacy continued to fight to the bitter end, Texas was not part of the union and the slave owners were not bound by the 1863 proclamation. So in effect, the slaves celebrated the end of the civil war on June 19. The African Americans in Texas knew that it was only when the confederacy troops of Texas were defeated, that the proclamation would become enforceable.

Juneteenth was an occasion that brought unity and community to the lives of the formerly enslaved. Although they were legally freed, the African American continued to be subjected to racism, segregation, and violence. In several areas in Texas, the freedmen were not allowed to celebrate Juneteenth on



the plantation, therefore groups of black men and women pooled their money and actually purchased land in Houston, Austin, and Mexia to host their local annual celebrations. Those sites are now City parks.

“What other state’s freedman celebrated the 1863 proclamation and which state had descendants of their enslaved demand that the historic event become a state holiday, other than Texas African Americans,” Crenshaw asks. “Our younger folks need not hold their head in shame and avoid eating watermelon and drinking red soda water. Don’t let others define your history, your legacy, and your culture.” she says.

The Dallas Historical Parks Project recognizes that the celebrations in parks also “reflects on the many complex ways that Black citizens responded to social inequity and how they created community to thrive in despite oppressive realities.” This project is funded by the Boone Family Foundation to gather, preserve and present documentation aimed at contributing to discussions on

how to resolve the lingering racial problems we face in America today.

This year, Crenshaw has urged several historical, cultural, religious, and business organizations to co-host several events to commemorate not only Juneteenth but the 100th Anniversary of two historic parks in Dallas.

In 1915, the city bought three acres near Hall Street in what is now known as Uptown and near the Houston and Texas Central Railway tracks for its first parks for black residents. Nine years later, the Hall Street Negro Park was renamed for the Rev. Allen R. Griggs, a leading black educator, minister and caregiver until his death in 1922.

The park was a social center for the city’s black residents, with its swimming pool and bathhouse, movies and concerts, carnivals and plays. The Old Oak Cliff Negro Park near Golden Gate Baptist Church, also developed in 1915, was renamed Eloise Lundy after one of the first managers in the City of Dallas Park and Recreation Department.

The events will be geographically diverse and intergenerational to make sure that everyone has a good time and that they re-ignite the spirit of our ancestors to continue the struggles for racial equality in our American society as communities, not as individuals.

The weekend long planned events include a family walk along the Santa Fe Trail, Miss Juneteenth pageant and a parade and car show and to unite the Eloise Lundy/ Old Oak Cliff Negro Park communities and a

gospel concert, prayer vigil at Freedom’s Cemetery and State-Thomas Old Timer’s reunion at Griggs Park to reunite the Freedman’s town in Short North Dallas.

Everyone in the community is

invited to help. For more info missjuneteenth@yahoo.com or 214-498-5298. For more on the historic parks contact Lauren Woods at 469-269-5079, info@dallashistoricalparks.com.

Eastfield College reschedules *The Great Gatsby* due to winter weather

MESQUITE — The Harvester Theater Company at Eastfield College will present two performances of “The Great Gatsby” by F. Scott Fitzgerald in the college’s Performance Hall on Monday, March 2. The performances, which were rescheduled from this past weekend due to inclement weather, will begin at 11:20 a.m. and 7 p.m. Admission to both performances is free.

The Eastfield College Theater

program will also compete in the Texas Community College Speech and Theater Association State Festival on Feb. 26-28 in Kingwood, Texas. The students will present another performance of “The Great Gatsby” at the festival. This is the second year Eastfield has participated in the event. Last year the college won several awards for its performance of “The Miss Firecracker Contest,” including Superior Play, Best Actress, Best

Actor, and Superior Costumes, Makeup and Set Design.

“For the play festival, students do all of the work, including set design, props, costumes, makeup, sound and lights,” Eastfield College Theater Program Coordinator Dusty Reasons Thomas said.

“I am incredibly proud of the students and the experience they gain from participating in a one-act play festival.”

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The audience is the true winner of TeCo's 13th Annual New Play Competition

By Ruth Ferguson
NDG Editor

Six plays in less than three hours, there is bound to be a dud in the mix right? Well, after watching the 13th Annual New Play Competition hosted by TeCo Theatrical Productions, Inc. at the Bishop Arts Theatre Center last Friday night, that is not true. Every single play was engaging, entertaining and the performances were great.

Hats off to the producer of the show for the way they presented the order of the plays, starting with heavier themes in the first two before a lighthearted and funny segment before the intermission. Then following the same format in the second act. In both instances, it allowed the audience to walk out on an upbeat which increases enjoyment of the experience.

The plays are no longer than 20 minutes each, but it was plenty of time for these skilled writers and performers to tell their story. The list below is alphabetical to avoid tipping my hand of my favorite.

Antay Bilgutay (*Lather, Rinse, Repeat or: The Dating Game*) This story was actually the last in the show, and the audience enjoyed



Sam Green, Antay Bilgutay, Paul Engle, Ruth Cantrell, Victor Bravo, Buster Spiller IMAGE: Photos-ByPJP.com

watching Drew go through several unsuccessful dates. The men he met were bizarre and over the top, until he finally meets someone that is charming and more his speed. It is witty, funny and charming look at the struggles daters of all stripes go through.

Victor Bravo (*Hikers*) Kurt is enjoying a hike he visited once before decades

earlier, and encounters a young man a little lost and thirsty. A pleasant chat uncovers an interesting connection between the two. The audience will walk away wondering, if I could, what would I...

Ruth Cantrell (*7-10 Split*) Lois Lanes, a drag queen who did look MARVELOUS OK, looks back on the advice his late grand-

mother offered and her support when rejected by others. She was the wind beneath his wings.

Paul William Engle (*Perchance to Dream*) Imagine if President Barack Obama's press secretary (or better yet President Obama himself) stood up at a press conference and said what he was really thinking. It might go a little something like

this. Interesting topic at hand is not what is happening in Washington, it is closer to home in Texas – capital punishment.

Sam Green (*Can I Call You Daddy?*) Mama gotta a new man, her daughter is happy for her, very happy for her. But her mentally disabled son is not singing a happy tune. In such a short period of time, the performers bring to live the words of Green to show how you can run from the pain of your history, but it is usually never buried as far as you think.

Buster Spiller (*Nappily Ever After*) This is oh my goodness funny, Birdie Brooks is a woman on a mission to marry off her daughter because she is ready for some grandbabies. And if her hard headed daughter Alfreda can't find a man, Mama will! Now Daddy ain't too impressed with the choice, but between his hair and President Obama obsession he is not quietly sitting in the corner without making his views known. Will the blind date woo Alfreda as easily as he has Birdie? Time will tell...

I love the Bishop Arts Theatre, it is spacious enough to feel roomy and substantive but intimate enough that you can truly

study the faces of the performers. It simply adds another element to the experience for the audience in my opinion. Watching the courtships and the heartbreaking disappointments you feel as if you are peering into their windows, if not in the room.

There is \$1,000 on the table for the playwrights, because after all this is a competition. They each did such a good job of giving a voice to their characters pains and joys. The performances began last weekend, and will end March 1. Now comes your part: at the end of every show the attendees have an opportunity to put their ballot in the box on who they feel deserves to be declared the winner of the competition. Nope, I won't tell you my choice – but I will tell you that there is truly not a single one that is undeserving. That is why at the end of the day the real winner is the audience!

Hats off to TeCo for spotlighting such talented writers. See for yourself this weekend and cast your vote for your favorite! Tickets are available at www.teoctheater.org or by phone at 214-948-0716. Showtimes are 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Please check the website for exact time.

Fan Fest Schedule Announced For Phillips 66 Big 12 Women's Basketball Championship

Fun for the entire family will be provided at the Phillips 66 Big 12 Women's Basketball Championship Fan Fest! Located on the AT&T Plaza outside of the American Airlines Center prior to each game session, Fan Fest will coincide with the Phillips 66 Big 12

Women's Basketball Championship. All Fan Fest activities will be free and open to the public (see attached schedule).

Activities include appearances by Big 12 school spirit squads and mascots, photo opportunities with the

Big 12 Championship Trophy and the 2011 Dallas Mavericks NBA Championship Trophy, and fan interactive experiences provided by the Dallas Mavericks, Dallas Stars, FOX Sports Southwest and Texas Legends. There will also be

a Skills Shooting Challenge on two half-court Sport Courts with prizes provided by the Big 12.

The Phillips 66 Big 12 Women's Championship will be played March 6-9 at Dallas' American Airlines Center, which serves as

home to the NBA's Dallas Mavericks and the NHL's Dallas Stars.

Tickets for the Phillips 66 Big 12 Women's Championship games are available through Ticketmaster by calling 1-800-745-3000 or online at www.ticketmaster.com. They can also be purchased at the American Airlines Center box office Monday - Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. CT. The box office accepts Mastercard, Visa, Discover, American Express and cash as methods of payment.

**Enter to Win!
Ticket Giveaway**

NDG Entertainment Ticket Giveaway!!! Visit www.northdallasgazette.com to win tickets to the North Texas Irish Festival March 6-8, 2015.

North Texas Irish Festival Returns March 6-8 and NDG readers can win tickets for two!

The pipes may have called Danny Boy away, but this year, they will bring thousands of fans of this beloved festival back to Dallas's Fair Park March 6-8, 2015, for everyone's favorite celebration of Irish music and culture, the North Texas Irish Festival. Presented by the Southwest Celtic Music Association, a non-profit that promotes the great traditions of Irish culture, this largest cultural festival in DFW is also revered as one of the best Irish festivals in the U.S.

This year's theme, The Pipes Are Calling, is a nod to that unique instrument so beloved in Celtic culture that produces such a haunting sound that it is a stirring call to arms and battle, as well as to tell tales of love and lore. From the traditional Scottish great pipes that most people recognize as "bagpipes," the festival will also feature the world's top musicians on the uilleann pipes, or small pipes, the national bagpipe of Ireland, and the gaita, the bagpipes of Galicia from Spain's northwestern region.

"Pipes are so integral to Irish, and indeed Celtic, culture that we would be remiss if we didn't highlight them in all their incarnations," said Sheri Bush, president of the Southwest Celtic Music Association, the presenting organization of the festival. "There is no mistaking a pipe for any



other sound, and it is uniquely Celtic. They can produce a haunting, eerie, misty sound, or a stirring call to arms and battle. Romance and fire. This will be a welcome addition to the wide range of music we have at the festival."

The North Texas Irish Festival features top Irish musicians and dancers from around the world and a number of cultural presentations on 14 stages at Fair Park. After all that music and dancing, hungry appetites can be satisfied with Irish stew, Shepherd's pie, or even fish and chips at one of the many food booths featuring traditional Irish cuisine.

Cooking presentations from top chefs will modernize Irish classics with new flavor twists and cook with traditional Irish ingredients like Guinness -- fare that attendees can taste and then wash down with a glass of their favorite Irish beverage. Whiskey tastings, blacksmithing demonstrations, Gaelic football and horse displays allow atten-

dees to experience Celtic culture. Urchin Street kid-friendly activities include children's entertainment, a petting zoo, safety demonstrations and art activities. Storytellers (those blessed with the Blarney gift of gab!) will weave tales of Celtic lore for everyone to enjoy.

Tickets will be available online in early 2015 www.ntif.org. Admission is FREE on Friday from 6 to 7 p.m.; \$10 after (50 percent off coupons online at www.ntif.org). A one-day ticket is \$20 on Saturday and \$15 on Sunday at the gate, while a two-day ticket is \$25 and a weekend pass is \$30.

Discount tickets for all three days will be available at area Tom Thumb stores in February. Children 11 and under are FREE when accompanied by adult family member. Seniors over 65 or current military members (with valid military ID) receive \$5 off all gate prices. Dogs are allowed in on a short leash with a \$1 requested donation to animal

rescue groups supported by the festival. Leprechauns (in full ceremonial dress and carrying pot of gold) are FREE.

Parking is available in and around Fair Park, or attendees can take the DART

Green Line (take the Green Line and save some green!) to the front entrance of Fair Park and the North Texas Irish Festival. Detailed directions and parking tips are available at www.ntif.org. The public can call (214)

821-4173 or visit www.ntif.org for more information or to volunteer to work at the festival.

Visit NorthDallas-Gazette.com for details on how to win tickets to festival.

UNCF hosting Masked Ball on Feb. 28

The Dallas chapter of the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) is hosting its signature Masked Ball event on Saturday, Feb. 28 at the Omni Hotel Downtown Dallas.

Each year, UNCF recognizes the extraordinary work of corporations and

individuals who have made significant contributions to UNCF's work to improve the educational outcomes of African American and other minority students who deserve a quality, affordable college education.

Approximately 500 attendees attend the Masked Ball

for an enjoyable evening comprised of a VIP reception, live auction, awards presentation, student scholars and performances by notable professional recording artists.

For more info on the annual UNCF Masked Ball call 972-234-1007.

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NDG Entertainment Ticket Giveaway!!! Visit www.northdallasgazette.com to win In Real Life @ Jubilee Theater.

Seven must-ask questions in any negotiation

A negotiation is nothing more than a discussion through which both parties seek to formulate and settle upon a mutually beneficial agreement, whether this agreement is a multi-million dollar contract or simply at which restaurant to meet for dinner. Our daily professional and personal lives are riddled with negotiations, those across a boardroom table, the kitchen table and everywhere in between.

But, what sets a successful negotiator—one who comes out on top in deal-making more often than not—apart from those who struggle to gain advantages? Of course, there are numerous strategies one can employ to improve their chances of emerging victorious in a negotiation, and paramount among these is asking just the right kind of questions—those that will elicit answers that facilitate a win for all parties involved.

With this in mind, here are 7 “must ask” questions in any negotiation to best ensure a desirable outcome:

Would you explain the reasons for your position?

If you can't clearly understand the other party's reasoning through simple discussions, the best way to discern the other parties position and motivations on deal points is to directly ask them their rationale for what they are offering or seeking. Once you know the other party's thought process and justifications, rather than just the outcome they desire, you can better adjust your strategy and response to coincide with their position. For instance, in a scenario where the other party is requiring some advance payment that doesn't sit well with you, you might find out that they need the funds at this initial juncture to fund required material or other costs in order to put the arrangement in motion. Once you understand the logic behind requests and demands relating to a deal structure, you are better able to control discussions and create

agreeable terms.

Is there any reason you can't?

This is a great question to ask when you know the other party is avoiding or rejecting your offer for no legitimate reason or not having thought it through well enough. Sometimes people make shallow excuses for why they can't do something or shoot down an idea with short-sighted objections. Most often when the question is asked this way, the other party has a hard time coming up with truly legitimate reasons that effectually negate your argument or offer. In instances where the other party does happen to come up with a viable objection, you now have the opportunity to directly address, and hopefully overcome, that objection with sound reasoning of your own.

Why do you think this is a fair and reasonable term or condition?

A fair and reasonable

term or condition, such as a price, proposal or provision, can be defined as what's prudent under competitive market conditions, given a reasonable knowledge of the marketplace. Fair implies a proper balance of conflicting or divided interests. Reasonable means not extreme or excessive. So a fair and reasonable term or condition is one that is balanced between all parties and somewhat moderate. If you are concerned about the reasonableness of an offer, do some due diligence to research comparables. Then ask the opposing party this question to encourage them to define and defend the reasonableness of their requirement. This will help assure you are securing the best deal possible.

Why is that point or provision important?

Understanding the significance of a specific point or provision is imperative, and can even result in an adjustment of your own position.

The answer the other side provides will allow you to fine tune your strategy based on this key learning about their critical priorities and values.

Understanding, acknowledging and validating the significance of the opposing party's requests can not only help you recalibrate your approach, but also create more of a team atmosphere or affinity that builds a level of trust at a faster pace.

What part of my proposal gives you the most concern?

This can apply to a large contract negotiation, a job offer or handling an issue with a family member. Breaking an offer down into individual elements or points makes it easier to take things in small bite-size pieces versus one large chunk that, on the whole, is causing kickback.

Discussing a proposal point-by-point, particularly specific areas of utmost

concern, allows the parties to come to small fractional agreements that may not otherwise have been reached if you discussed the arrangement as a whole. Dealing directly with the

most difficult deal points in triage mode—from the most to least problematic for the other side—shows you care. This can get you past those sticking points

See ASK, Page 13

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DCMA provides skills grant to Richland College

Seven members of the Dallas County Manufacturers' Association (DCMA) are partnering with Richland College to provide job training using a \$629,602 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The grant will be used to

provide custom training to 334 incumbent workers in mechanical and electrical processes, computerized systems, machine programming, manufacturing blueprints, automated systems operation, and hydraulic, pneumatic and electrical systems.

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Powerful book on mentoring features real-life short stories

Los Angeles, CA — In recognition of Black History Month, Barbara A. Perkins, releases *The Magic of Mentoring: Pearls of Wisdom*, a collection of short stories written by 47 Pearls (contributors) who believe as she that mentoring is the key to success for young people today.

Perkins comments,

“Every child deserves to be mentored. Every child deserves to feel protected and nurtured. Every child deserves to feel that they have a chance at doing and being something great in life. Sadly, this is not our reality.”

In planning and researching for this book, Perkins learned that a 16 inch neck-

lace requires 47 matching pearls. She discovered that expert pearl processors culls 10,000 pearls to find 47 that are considered a match. It is a highly specialized skill to find matching pearls for one strand. There are many types of pearls, however Perkins, the originator selected the Tahitian Pearl or the Black Pearl as it is most

often called. The Tahitian Pearl is a rainbow of colors which make them a prized possession with additional qualities such as luster, pure surface, clean and without blemishes, great shape and perfect size.

The 47 Pearls (contributors) of *The Magic of Mentoring: Pearls of Wisdom* are a match as they are rare

individuals living their lives in service and following their heart and passion for our most prized possessions, our children. They each share their personal journeys on how their lives were changed for the better because of mentoring. The Pearls know firsthand about the overwhelming need to find perfect matches for children in cities across this

nation in need of all the benefits that positive mentoring will bring to their lives.

Jacqueline Castillo, President of Legacy Ladies, Inc., recognizes her Mom as being her first mentor “Mother was that consistent role model in my life. ‘You can be anything you want to be, just put your mind to it.’”

STEM, continued from Page 6

tively locked into the lowest rungs of the occupational ladder.”

The majority of poor children don’t know enough words or have enough math skills when they start kindergarten and confronted with less experienced teachers and limited resources are ill-equipped for Algebra, a prerequisite for higher-level math courses, by the time they reach the 8th grade.

Some states failed to provide minority students ac-

cess to those high-level math and English courses altogether.

“In 2013, there were 11 states where not one Black student took the Advanced Placement (AP) computer science exam, which allows high school students to earn college credit: Alaska, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming,” stated the report. “Nearly 20 percent of African-American high

school students attend a high school that does not offer any AP courses.”

The report included a number of policy proposals and necessary actions for federal, state, and local lawmakers as well as the private sector and philanthropic groups designed to encourage diversity in STEM careers and to raise the awareness of opportunities in STEM in the Black community. Those proposals included provided access to STEM courses as early as elementary school, investing more resources into

training teachers, developing technical job programs for an evolving workforce, and asking business and industry leaders to collaborate with colleges to make sure that students are gaining skills to fill vacant STEM jobs.

The report noted that, “The President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) warned that 300,000 or so college students graduating each year with bachelor’s and associate’s degrees in STEM fields is one million off the mark

The Department of Education launched The Equity and Excellence Commission, in an effort to eliminate the racial and socioeconomic disparities in education.

That group recommended ensuring high-quality early learning programs for low-income students, distributing highly effective teachers equitably, incentivizing the development of racially and socioeconomically diverse schools, and strengthening parent engagement programs.

The Leadership Confer-

ence report said that it’s time for the United States to examine the pressures that squeeze minority children out of the STEM pipeline and to accelerate the reforms that work to close the opportunity and achievement gaps.

“STEM education isn’t merely a new feel-good fad,” stated the report. “It is now – and will continue to be – the backbone of our dynamic and constantly changing world. And it’s critical that we make sure that it’s equally available to every child.”

ASK, continued from Page 11

and greatly expedite the entire process.

What documentation or proof do you have to validate your position?

You may have heard the adage “Trust but Verify.” It’s important to know that what is being presented is 100% factual. The best way to determine authenticity is by verifying the facts through documentation that validates what is being presented. A trusting nature will not serve you well in a negotiation where decisions are being made based on certain claims. It’s imperative to secure documentation to back up applicable assertions. And, while cliché, it’s often true: if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. There is an important place for skepticism in a negotiation in that it’ll fuel your need for verification prior to officiating an agreement or signing on the dotted line. Once that ink is dry, undoing a deal, however disingenuous, is far more difficult and quite

unpleasant.

What else do you think I should know?

After you’ve asked all of the questions you intended and can’t think of any other, but you still want to ensure you have thoroughly vetted the arrangement, asking this question may induce some other points that you haven’t uncovered or considered through prior discussions and the negotiation process. There could be something you don’t know that, once revealed, might actually change your way of thinking, what you are seeking, or the strategy you originally started with.

In any negotiation, however large or small, direct communication with open ended questions is vital. People often don’t ask such questions because they fear rejection or how they will be perceived. Even asking just these 7 powerful questions above will help ensure that the agreement you reach is not only in your best interest, but also fair

and reasonable for all involved.

Veteran negotiation and contracts expert Eldonna Lewis-Fernandez, author of “Think Like a Negotiator,” has over 30 years of experience crafting killer deals both stateside and internationally, many in excess of \$100 million. She’s currently the CEO of Dynamic

Vision International—a specialized consulting and training firm that helps individuals hone negotiation skills—as well as a nationally regarded keynote speaker, session leader and panelist on the Art of Negotiation. Eldonna may be reached online at www.ThinkLikeANegotiator.com.



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March 1

Join us this Sunday at 8 a.m. for our praise and worship services, God will bless you. And don't forget to come back for our Iglesia de Cristo Services (the Word of God in Spanish.)

March 4, 9:30 a.m.

You're invited to join us for Bible study as we worship and praise God for His blessings.

Prepare to be encouraged by God's plan to grow.

Brother Ramon Hodridge, Minister of Education 1026 Avenue F Plano, TX 75074 972-423-8833 www.avefchurchofchrist.org

BETHEL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CARROLLTON

March 1

You're invited to our Sunday Morning "Prayer and Meditation" followed by Morning Worship Service at 10 a.m. See what God is doing through and with us; you will be blessed. We will also have some Black History facts to share with you.

March 4, 7 p.m.

Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Senior Pastor Dr. Woodson and/or Associate Pastor Brenda Patterson teaching on the subject of Spiritual Warfare. These are Hot Topics in Winter Months. We will learn what God says about critical issues and topics through the study of His word. Come and be blessed by God.

Dr. Terrance Woodson, Senior Pastor 1944 E. Hebron Parkway Carrollton, TX 75007 972-492-4300 www.bethelbiblefellowship.org

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN RICHARDSON

March 1, 8:45 a.m. And 11 a.m.

You're invited to our Morning Services as we worship, honor and praise God for His blessings. Our February Month Series is "Being Wired for Sex."

March 4

Join us at 12 Noon with Rev. Viveca Potter teaching on the Word of God; come back at 6:45 for Corporate Prayer and stay for Senior Pastor Autry at 7:30 p.m. teaching the Word of God. Our youth will come for Food and Fellowship at 7 p.m. followed by Bible Study at 7:30 p.m. and Tutoring/Homework Assistance at 8 p.m.

Dr. Terrence Autry, Senior Pastor 701 Centennial 972-991-0200 Richardson, TX 75081 www.Christcommunityrichardson.org

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TheShip3C's Prayer Lines for those that are in need are 972-649-0566 and 972-649-0567 or they may be submitted via email to: prayerline@theship3c.org

March 1

Join us this Sunday for our praise and worship services at 9:30 a.m. followed by Morning Services at 1550 Edelweiss Drive in Allen and bring someone with you; you will be blessed.

March 4

You're invited to our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live Prayer and Bible Study and/or our Wednesday Night Live Prayer and Bible Study at 7 p.m. to learn more about God's Word at the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, 200 W. Belmont Drive in Allen. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all, be prepared to grow.

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 Allen, TX 75013 972-359-9956 www.theship3c.org

BIBLE WAY COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

March 1, 7:35 a.m.

Join us this Sunday for our praise and worship services and receive a blessing from God.

March 4, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Wednesday Bible Study to learn more about God's word and how it can lead and guide you.

Dr. Timothy Wilbert, Pastor 4215 North Greenview Drive Irving, TX 75062 972-257-3766 www.biblewayirving.org

MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO (MOCOP)

March 1

Join us in Sunday School at 8:30 a.m.; stay for our Sunday prayer at 9:30 a.m. and our Worship Service at 10 a.m.

March 4, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study; you will learn what God has to say to us. Come to be encouraged by

God's plan for your spiritual growth and His glory.

Pastor Sam Fenceroy Senior Pastor 300 Chisholm Place Plano, TX 75075 972-633-5511 www.mocop.org

NEW MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

March 1

You're invited to join us for Early Morning Services at 7:30 a.m., followed by Sunday School at 9 a.m. and Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

March 4

Join us for Wednesday's Bible Study and learn what God has to say to us.

Dr. Tommy L. Brown Senior Pastor 9550 Shepherd Road Dallas, Texas 75243 Phone: 214-341-6459 www.nmzb.org

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO

March 1, 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Come and worship with us this Sunday. God will greet us and bless us with words of wisdom as He leads and guide us in all truth and righteousness.

March 4, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study to learn more about God's Word. Come and be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and growth; and, it's all for His glory.

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

THE INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH

March 1, 7:30 and 11:30 a.m.

You're invited this Sunday

to our praise and worship service as we honor and magnify God's Holy name; and receive a blessing from Him.

March 4, 7 p.m.

Join us in Monday School as we learn what God has to say to us.

March 6, 7 p.m.

All men are invited to join us for Men's Fellowship night. What is God saying to us?

Pastor Rickie Rush 7701 S Westmoreland Road Dallas, TX 75237 972-372-4262 www.Ibocchurch.org

METROCREST BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM

This Saturday, February 28, 2 p.m.

Join Carrollton City Hall; Carrollton-Farmers Branch I.S.D.; Christ Community Connection, Inc. and Farmers Branch City Hall in celebrating Black Trailblazers of the Metrocrest cities. There will be speeches, songs, skits and much more at Ted Polk Middle School, 2001 Kelly Boulevard in Carrollton. Hear about the Tarpley's owning the first Model-T Ford in the area. Prominent Black landowners, the Tarpley's, Heads, Rainwaters and other Black families in the local area.

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It's still Black History Month...



Sister Tarpley

Send email to: businessoffice@northdallasgazette.com to sign up for Sister Tarpley's weekly electronic newsletter.

2015 theme: "A Century of Black Life, History, and Culture." This week I will highlight Robert Tanner Freeman, D.D.S. Dr. Freeman was the first professionally trained Black dentist in the United States in 1869.

Freeman was born in Washington DC in 1846. He was the son of slaves who had bought their freedom in the 19th century. Historical records are unclear but they probably adopted the surname Freeman in response to their transition, from slaves to "free men."

In the very early days, many dentists learned their profession, truthfully, more properly thought of as a trade at that time, as apprentices and laboratorians. This "preceptorial system" was criticized by those who believed that theory, as well as practice, was vital in the education of a dentist.

The first three formal dental schools created in response to this need were the

Baltimore College of Dental Surgery founded in 1840, the Ohio College of Dental Surgery founded in 1845, and the Michigan School of Dentistry.

These were all stand-alone schools, however, the medical schools and universities of the time refused to let dentistry become a part of their curriculum. They viewed dentistry as a trade rather than a profession requiring a university-based education.

Yet, it eventually became apparent that the public would best be served by making formal dental education part of the university system and on the same level as medical schools.

The first university-based dental school in the United States was Harvard Dental School, founded in 1867. Two other dental schools soon opened.

Robert Tanner Freeman had a strong interest in the health professions, and he sought work as a dental assistant and clerk from Dr. Henry Bliss Noble, his white dentist who tutored Freeman and encouraged him to pursue his own career in dentistry.

Dr. Noble hired Freeman to work in his office in the 1500 block of Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC.

At this time it is estimated that there were a total of 120 Black dentists in the entire United States.

Dr. Noble encouraged Freeman to pursue a dental career, pointing out that Freeman would be in a better position to help alleviate human suffering and serve the dental health needs of his fellow Black people.

Freeman applied to two of the independent dental schools. He was rejected on racial grounds. Dr. Noble set about the process of lobbying his colleagues for them

to accept Freeman in the first class of their new school, at the age of twenty-one and Harvard's Dental School inaugural class of sixteen.

On May 18, 1869, Dr. Freeman, became the first Black graduate of a U.S. dental school in history. After graduating from Harvard in 1869, Dr. Freeman returned to Washington, D.C.

He became a pillar in the D.C. Black community because of his commitment to mentoring other Black

youth interested in the medical profession.

Dr. Freeman's death in 1873 at 24, came only four years after dental school. He contracted one of the water-borne diseases so common at that time, most probably cholera; and, the American Civil War ended four years before his graduation.

Dr. Freeman's career also began a distinguished legacy for his family. His grandson, Robert C. Weaver, Ph.D., became the country's first Black presidential cabinet member, serving as Lyndon B. John-

son's Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

It has been said that the success of Dr. Weaver probably would not have happened without a small group of dentists listening to a few influential members who stood up for something that must have been exceedingly unpopular at the time.

It is also interesting and inspiring that the decisions of a relatively small circle of people in the 1860s could come down through time and influence a choice at the

See TARPLEY, Page 16



Robert T. Freeman, D.D.S.

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NDG Book Review: *Black Broadway: African Americans on the Great White Way*

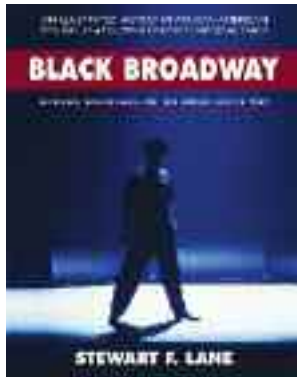
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

A remote control and five hundred channels.

That's what you've got for entertainment, and there's still nothing on TV. That doesn't keep you from looking, though, and wishing for something different.

Finding entertainment shouldn't be such a big production – but in decades past, that's exactly what it took for African Americans, in more ways than one. In the new book "Black Broadway" by Stewart F. Lane, you'll find out why.

When William Alexander Brown decided to retire, he knew where he'd do it: in the two-story home he'd



purchased in lower Manhattan. It was 1821 and Brown, a free black man, knew that there were few places for black actors to perform for black audiences, and he planned to allow performances there.

The popularity of those performances spurred Brown and a friend to "go a

step further" with a 300-seat establishment they named the African Grove Theatre. It, too, was successful, until Brown was forced out of business by a local white theatre owner who feared competition.

Not long after the African Grove Theatre was closed, minstrel shows began attracting crowds of both races. Many shows featured white and black entertainers in burnt-cork blackface, as well as comedy sketches and dancing – including many skits satirizing black life and culture.

"It's not clear," says Lane, "why the African Americans of the era turned out to see" those shows –

but they did, perhaps to laugh "at the absurdity of the caricatures..."

By the late 1800s, vaudeville and burlesque had become popular, and that added increasing diversity to shows. Black entertainers were often included onstage, and entire productions were created with black troupes, for black audiences. White people, of course, were welcome and did attend; one theatre owner even gave them their own section ... in the back of the house.

Throughout the years, African Americans – both performers and audience members – made strides, but slowly and with help

from the NAACP and the Harlem Renaissance. By the 1930s, Broadway shows included racial issues; by the 1940s, interracial marriage was a common theme. In the 1950s, audiences enjoyed performances dealing with poverty and racism – but it wasn't until well past the Civil Rights years that black faces became a non-issue on the Great White Way.

Loaded with pictures, playbill reproductions, advertisements, and drawings, "Black Broadway" is a theatre-goer's delight.

But I was equally happy to see that there's plenty for the historian, too: in addition to a rich narrative on

equality for African Americans on Broadway (and off), author Stewart F. Lane includes a running timeline of national and world history to put the main body of this book into perspective.

We're also treated to dozens of short-but-comprehensive profiles of influential performers and people who, though many haven't graced a stage in decades, are still familiar to followers of theatre, jazz, dance, and music.

With all that's inside this book, give yourself time to browse, read awhile, then browse again and enjoy. "Black Broadway" is perfect for fans of stage and screen and, of course, when there's nothing on TV.

HEROES, continued from Page 3

Black liberation that routinely denounced Booker T. Washington as Benedict Arnold, the Great Traitor and an errand boy for Northern philanthropists.

When Washington went to Boston to address a National Negro Business League meeting at a local Black church, Trotter repeatedly interrupted him, challenging his views.

DuBois wrote that Trotter attempted to make Washington "answer publicly certain questions with regard to his attitude toward voting and education." Instead of getting an answer, Trotter got arrested in what was mislabeled "The Boston Riot" for disorderly conduct and served a month in jail.

It is widely recognized that the founding of the NAACP grew out of the Niagara Movement. But it is not widely known that the Niagara Movement was es-

tablished as a direct result of William Monroe Trotter's arrest after confronting Booker T. in Boston.

"...When Trotter went to jail, my indignation overflowed," DuBois wrote. "I did not always agree with Trotter then or later. But he was an honest, brilliant man, and to treat as a crime that which was at worst mistaken judgment was an outrage. I sent out from Atlanta in June 1905 a call to a few selected persons 'for organized determination and aggressive action on the part of men who believe in Negro freedom and growth.'"

Answering that call for a meeting on the Canadian side of the U.S./Canada border were 59 African Americans from 17 states in what became known as the Niagara Movement.

Though instrumental in the Niagara Movement and the founding of the NAACP,

Trotter refused to join the nascent national civil rights group because he felt its leadership and finances were controlled by Whites.

Trotter continued to press for civil rights through his National Equal Rights League and an advocate for better treatment of African Americans in World War I, tried to get the racist movie "Birth of a Nation" banned in Boston and confronted President Woodrow Wilson over his policy of segregating of Black federal employees.

Trotter died on April 7, 1934 at the age of 62.

The William Monroe Trotter Institute at the University of Massachusetts publishes a scholarly journal called the *Trotter Review*. The editor of the journal, Kenneth J. Cooper, is a friend and former colleague from our days as reporters for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

Several years ago, he asked me to serve on the ed-

and education to the impoverished, the disabled, and people of color as well as those who may not seek proper care due to age. In 1907 the predecessor organization to the National Dental Association called itself the Robert T. Freeman Dental Society.

itorial board of the *Review*. I quickly accepted. Being affiliated with the Trotter Review, even from a distance, keeps me connected

to William Monroe Trotter as well. DuBois and Trotter – it doesn't get any better than that in Black History Month or any other month.

George E. Curry is editor-in-chief of the National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service (NPA).

TARPLEY, continued from Page 9

presidential cabinet level. Dr. Weaver would not have been able to reach his own success without building on that of his grandfather.

Dr. Freeman was honored by the National Dental As-

sociation, the all-Black dental group founded in 1913 and is headquartered in Washington, D.C.

The Association adopted the mission of Dr. Freeman to extend dental treatment

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