

*Your Opportunity to Access the Community*

# Minority Opportunity News

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 12

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DEC. 1992

## IT'S X APPEAL



### Celebrating Ourselves

It's Kwanzaa time again, and Dallas is preparing for some big celebrations. *MON* gives you the what, when, where and the why.

### Townview Troubles

Huge budget cuts, bond elections, increased taxes, and still more delays—what's going on at the Supermagnet?





**From the  
Publisher  
Thurman Jones**

## Best of Times

### MON teams up with Madison H.S. to produce school newspaper

SINCE WE AT MON CONSIDER OURSELVES servants of the community it's always a sincere pleasure to get involved with projects that help unify diverse elements. But perhaps the greatest pleasure is working with the community's youth.

That is why it is gratifying to announce that *Minority Opportunity News* and Bank One have teamed up to sponsor Madison High School's newspaper *The Trojan Times*. Starting in February and continuing monthly through the remainder of the school year, MON will be working closely with Madison High School to develop a strong newspaper for the students there.

All of Madison's 650 students are encouraged to contribute to both the content and direction of the new publication. The tabloid sized newspaper—focused on community pride—will be written, photographed and laid out by the students and should prove to be a growing experience for all involved. MON will provide some of the nuts and bolts of the paper and be on hand to lend any technical assistance needed, but it will unequivocally be a product of the students. A product that will impart as much a sense of accomplishment as experience.

*The Dallas Morning News* has also graciously lent their assistance. DMN staff writers Audrey Jackson, Robin Fisher and Lawrence Young will be involved in assisting the budding Madison journalists in honing their craft.

MON would like to give special thanks to the administrative staff at Madison for their keen foresight and communal goodwill. Principal Alfred Jones, Assistant Principal Charles Osler, Dean of Instruction Maya Lagbara, and Community Business Liaison Delores King worked tirelessly to get this project off the ground.

Bank One's vice presidents Susan Ashby-Sipple and Lee McKinney, and bank manager Cynthia Campbell are also to be highly commended for their help in seeing this project undertaken. They understand that the future advancement of the community is dependant on these young people, and it is all our responsibility to nurture and promote that growth.

So, keep an eye out for *The Trojan Times* or, if you would like to reserve a copy, call the school at (214) 565-6510.

## In the News...

### Rev. Zan Holmes and UMM join protest against DPD

Rev. Zan Holmes and a strong contingent from St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church joined the protests at DPD's Southeast substation recently, swelling the ranks of protestors who have been faithfully picketing since just after Labor Day.

The protests, led by County Commissioner John Wiley Price, bring attention—and community concern—to discrimination within the police department that ranges from hiring and promotion to racial animosity.

With the added support of Rev. Holmes and St. Luke's United Methodist Men, the protests are likely take on added dimension. "I expect this to be just the beginning," said Rev. Holmes, adding that he encourages members of his church to join in. "I've always been supportive of what's happening here."

### Pearl Guards Picket South Dallas liquor stores

The Pearl Guards of Pearl C. Anderson Middle School have begun protesting the liquor stores that surround their school. Once each month the small band of concerned students pick up their

signs and march to protest the liquor stores that are practically at the front steps of the middle school.

Led by teacher Ron Price, the

Pearl Guards—all 8th grade students at Pearl C. who travel throughout the community giving counsel and motivation—are hoping to draw the neighboring community's attention to the liquor establishments that they say promotes a deleterious and dangerous environment to Pearl C. Anderson students.

Similarly, a group of Talented and Gifted students at the middle school are seeking the ear of city bureaucracy to help in the same plight. Thus far the brave

youngsters have contacted the city council and councilwoman Charlotte Mayes attempting to find out if the liquor stores are violating codes and what codes govern the stores' existence.

In this way, the group hopes to close those stores that might be operating improperly.

### Clara's Kitchen under new management

Clara's Kitchen is on the rise again under the new operational management of Billy Gardner. Mr. Gardner brings to Clara's two decades of experience and knowledge in the restaurant and hotel industry. Mr. Gardner pledges to revive Clara's original recipes and to take painstaking measures to ensure the best quality food possible. "We're using all fresh vegetables—no more frozen foods," says Gardner. "Everything is made from scratch."

Mr. Gardner is intent on bringing Clara's back to its reknown for great homecooking. But to him it's not all pots and pans. "I left the corporate world because I felt the need to give back to the community."

And Gardner certainly has the credentials to live up to his promises. His culinary expertise and efficiency have been honed to exacting standards at such establishments as the Marriotts at D/FW, on the Houston Riverwalk and the chains hotels in Chicago and New York.

### DCOC looking for musicians

Dallas Community Outreach Choir is looking for Musicians, Directors, & Singers to form this great organization. If interested in joining, please call Rickey Ellis at 428-0792 or 6470-1615 or meet him at the Dallas Public Library Auditorium, 1515 Young St. In front of City Hall. (No fee to join.)

### Spirit of Christmas Past

KGGR, 1040 AM along with the Renaissance Cultural Center and the Mending Broken People/Lambs Tree Organization, held Christmas in October for a special group of people.

Proceeds from this event went to provide toys and clothes for children of the prisoners involved in the counseling program and to counseling the prisoners and their families.

Christmas in October was held in the Renaissance Cultural Center in Ft. Worth. Entertainment was presented by Gary Ferguson & Co. Cyle Roslyn Young and the Butterfly Band. Also African fashion by "Sandia Addaer" made their fashion debut.

If you missed this Gala Event, your

donation will still be gladly accepted and greatly appreciated. Contact LaDor Frank at KGGR. Call (214) 372-9000 for more information.

### Eviction Seminar

Tenants, landlords and property managers please join Judge Thomas G. Jones and the staff of Precinct 7-1, for their third Forcible Entry and Detainer seminar.

The seminar will address a variety of issues that come before the Court, such as, the appeal process, paupers affidavit, late charges and various tenant and landlord rights.

Date: December 4, 1992

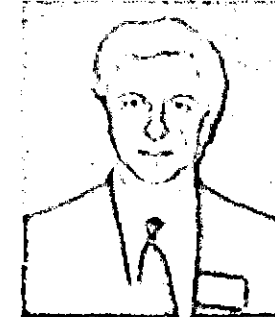
Time: 10:00 a.m.

Where: 408 S. Beckley Dallas County Sub-Courthouse-Courtroom

### First Interstate loan program

"DREAMS ARE OUR BUSINESS," was the theme for the community reception at First Interstate Bank located

at 5801 Marvin D. Love Frwy., on November 17, 1992. At the reception Mr. Rick Pettineo, Manager of First Interstate, presented the "First Advantage



Program," a home loan program designed to meet the credit needs of low and moderate income borrowers. According to Pettineo, the program captures the median income and the low income borrowers. Mr. Pettineo feels that this four in one program will allow more individuals to purchase homes or repair their existing homes.

If you want more information on the "First Advantage Program," contact First Interstate bank at (214) 331-3911.

(In the News can't on page 22)

**Minority Opportunity News**  
(214) 905-0921 FAX (214) 905-0929

**Publisher** Thurman R. Jones  
**Editor-In-Chief** Jim Bochum

**Managing editor**  
Jason D. Webster

**Business Editor** ..... Randy Luster  
**Staff Writer** ..... Agatha Richardson  
**Staff Writer** ..... Angela Ransome  
**Staff Writer** ..... Sonia Jordan  
**Contributing writer** ..... Edlen Cowley  
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**Acct. executive** ..... Shelliah Caddell

## Expected Barrier

IN RESPONSE TO YOUR COLUMN, "GLASSED Out," I just wanted to tell you that what I read reassured me of the banking industry in South Dallas. From the beginning when it was known that Nationsbank was building in South Dallas, I was skeptical of its performance in that part of town, and I had the same feelings about Bank One.

I expressed my opinions to my peers that the service we were going to receive was going to be strained, limited, and overly secured. I knew there was nothing these banks could do for my needs. I would like to see more banking facilities like the Common Ground Community Federal Credit Union in South Dallas and, in all parts of town, banking facilities that understand the area and the people.

I would like to thank MON for that bit of enlightening information.

Pam Moore

## "Economic" Advice and Consent

I THINK I GET THE GIST OF YOUR ARTICLE "OUR Economic Prayer" in that you are referring to the fact that some of the money St. Luke's and other Black churches should be used to purchase

businesses like gas stations, grocery stores, lease space, etc. I see the advantages of doing that but I definitely see some of the reluctance of the churches to go into this new direction.

The only problem is that if something comes out that would really excite the community, Black leadership can't see that vision and it becomes a position where they think they are feeling attacked rather than looking at the merits of their argument. I think you really have not won anything. It is unfortunate that so many names were mentioned and churches cited as examples.

The article could have been written in more general terms. Perhaps it could have gotten the point across without causing some unnecessary problems in the Black churches, because I think everything should be done to bring us together rather than pull us apart.

Dorothy Brooks

I TOTALLY AGREE WITH YOUR ARTICLE "Economic Prayer." I have been asking myself the same questions you posed for a long time. I present a letter concerning this because one of the churches here you named is getting ready to build a church and it makes me wonder sometimes why we can't pool our money with all these churches. We all know these banks would not exist if it weren't for the churches.

Thanks again.

Katherine Watson



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	Overall			Content			Community Service		
	Excellent	Avg.	Poor	Excellent	Avg.	Poor	Excellent	Avg.	Poor
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Post Tribune	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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The Elite News	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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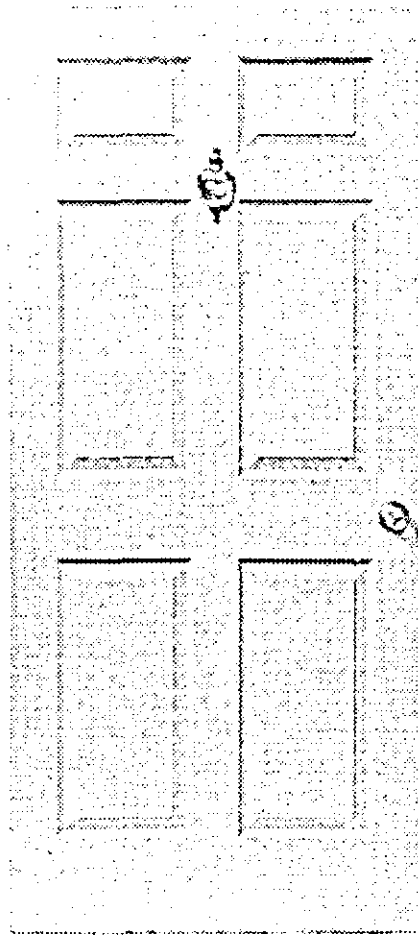
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## Managing Success

*Dennis Hawkins' knows his success depends on more than autos—he understands the community's needs*

By Angela D. Ransome

WE'VE ALL SEEN THOSE WACKY TV commercials that seem more late night comic relief than overt selling—Joe Greed in his comically oversized hat, sunglasses and cowboy boots, performing the crazy antics we've all come to associate with Westway Ford. Greed's real name is Joe Tigie, and he owns the lone star state's number one Ford dealership, Westway Ford/Isuzu/Subaru.

It's been said that "While the cat is away, the mice will play," but not at this dealership. That's what a sales manager is for. In Tigie's case, African American Dennis Hawkins fills the role as Tigie's right hand. As new car sales manager, Hawkins has helped move Westway to the pinnacle in car sales, and made the dealership respected nationwide.

A pioneer of the Ford business, Hawkins has 21-1/2 years experience guiding him. Eleven of those years, he says, have been dedicated to Westway. Currently, he is approaching his fourth anniversary as the dealership's new car sales manager, and as the state's top sales manager in terms of overall Ford new car sales.

"Out of 402 Ford dealerships in the

state of Texas, my department is number one in terms of the most new car sales. On a nationwide scale, we're number seven," Hawkins says. "In the Dallas Metroplex area, my department is doing 20 percent of all Ford new car sales. In fact, we've already sold 1,507 new cars this year."

As manager of Westway's 24-member new car sales team, a typical day for Hawkins entails such duties as inventory, training and motivating his sales people.

"As far as the selling part is concerned," says Hawkins, "I intervene occasionally when a salesperson can't close a deal."

"But because I bring in a lot of business throughout the community by way of referrals, I also often handle final negotiations on a deal," he adds.

A native of Detroit, Hawkins came to Texas in 1982 on a four-week vacation from the Ford Motor Company where he was employed at the Sterling Heights plant for 10-1/2 years. It was during his visit to Texas, he says, that he "fell in love" with Dallas and decided to go into new car sales.

"Looking at this city and the way it was mapped out, I said to myself, 'This would be a good place to be a car salesman,' because the mass transit

system was chaos," recounts Hawkins.

"I elected to get into new car sales through a newspaper clipping I saw—it just happened to be Westway Ford."

With the unemployment rate in Detroit so high, Hawkins says relocating to Dallas wasn't a difficult decision to make.

"I saw a great deal of growth potential in the Dallas area, so it became a dream that I wanted to pursue. I left and never looked back."

As a minority in a key position at Westway, Hawkins sees himself as a "medium" for reaching out to other minorities in the community, specifically other blacks, and bringing them to the dealership. Promotions such as the annual "Praise in the Park" and Black Expo, he says, have made this goal relatively easy.

"We've started to reach out along the lines of radio spots on Black stations like 100.3 and through Joe's latest TV



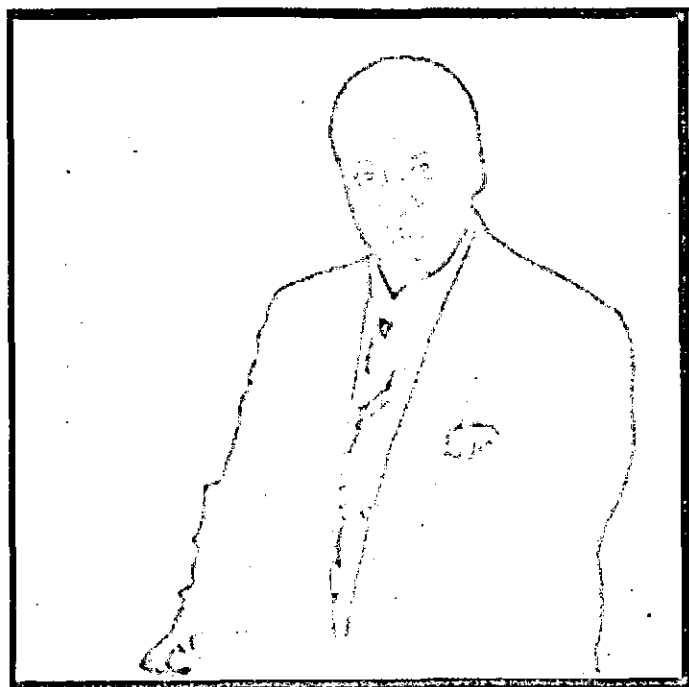
commercial with Black rappers," Hawkins adds, smiling, "because it is very important to us as a dealership."

Owner Joe Tigie agrees.

"You present yourself and your product as being in touch with, and responsive to, these groups," says Tigie. "And their identification with your company is important and informing to us. You will not attract customers in the 90s without understanding each group's uniqueness."

As far as recruitment of minorities into the business is concerned, both Tigie and Hawkins agree that it is equally important.

"As an employer in a major metropolitan market, we believe in (continued on next page)



## Getting His Point Across

*Rev. Anthony Sharp and Goodwill Baptist church design ministries to reach out to the entire community*

By Agaitha Richardson

NESTLED IN THE backdrop of sprawling trees and residential homes stands Goodwill Baptist Church. Under the pastoral leadership of Rev. Anthony E. Sharp, Goodwill has emerged as a voice of hope in the heart of the "Grove." Located at 516 N. Jim Miller Rd., the

During the last two or three years Goodwill Baptist has experienced a rapid growth rate. Extensive negative publicity from the media has deterred the growth many organized churches. Although Goodwill is experiencing a phenomenal growth, Rev. Sharp expressed a desire to reverse a persistent tide of disillusionment felt by many.

One method advocated by Rev. Sharp is dealing with the whole man. Simply stated, providing a support system which meets the physical, emotional and spiritual needs which elevate the caliber of growth of the whole man. Promoting a harmonious family life is also stressed as another tool of quality imagery. The promotion of positive self-esteem within the congregation, at all age levels, is an ongoing technique utilized by Rev. Sharp. One of his strongest sentiments centered around the traditional worship experience. "We must give individuals a sense of reality during worship service. It must be more than an emotional outburst—it must be relational."

Ministering is perceived on all levels at Goodwill. One such ministry is the "Voices of Goodwill" choir under the direction of Elbert Hensley Jr. They recently completed a local taping in the movie "A Leap of Faith" starring Debra Winger and Steve Martin.

Voices of Goodwill consist of approximately 80-100 voices. Other ministries at (continued on next page)

impact of the church extends beyond the boundaries of four walls.

Several ministries service the congregation of Goodwill Baptist Church and the surrounding communities. The deaf ministry was recently implemented during the 10:45 a.m. service. It was a beautiful experience witnessing many hearing impaired youth participate in the complete worship experience.

(con't from prev. page)  
reflecting the general population make-up of the community," Tigie says. "At Westway, we have been able to recruit employees who reflect this ethnic and cultural diversity."

Hawkins alone has 12 minorities under his management and says there are a lot of opportunities for Blacks in the business. "I think a lot of us are intimidated by the risk associated with a straight commission structure, instead of a salary," says Hawkins. "Sure, the hours are long and the job is demanding, but it is also just as rewarding."

Hawkins, who does most, if not all recruiting at Westway, estimates Blacks comprise 10 to 15 percent of the car sales business in the Metroplex. Because of these low numbers, he says he has taken the pledge to make them higher, namely at Westway Ford. In the boss' eyes, Hawkins role exceeds that.

"Dennis has the job because he's the best person for the job," says Tigie. "Because he is a Black man, we are fortunate that his added insight and acceptance in the Black community has helped attract other high caliber minority employees and to better present ourselves to the minority market."

When Hawkins is not at Westway, he is playing "Daddy" to his two-year old daughter Christina, "Dad" to Lori, his 16-year-old, and simply "Dennis" to

Althea, his wife. He is also active in his church, Oakcliff Bible Fellowship, and is a Bo Jacksonesque recreational athlete, playing football, basketball, bowling and golf. Hawkins is also active in the fraternity Phi Eta Psi, which he helped found at the University of Michigan at Flint.

"I think my attitude is my success," he says.

"When I come into work in the morning, I leave my personal problem suit at the gate and put on my salesman suit. When my people are down, I bring them back up. I try to act as a role model in whatever I do."

A long-term goal of Hawkins is to own his own dealership some day. But for now, he says he's comfortable being right where he is—at the top.

"How can I complain? I work for and with the greatest people in the world, and honestly enjoy what I do."

There aren't many people who can say they have Ford in their blood, but Hawkins can. Ford runs in his family 164 years: his father, brother, nephew,

cousin and countless other relatives are all "Ford men," past and present.

"I owe everything to God, first of all, and a lot to my family because they are my strength," says Hawkins. "But I owe so much more to my late father. He taught me everything I know and made me what I am today—a success." **EN**

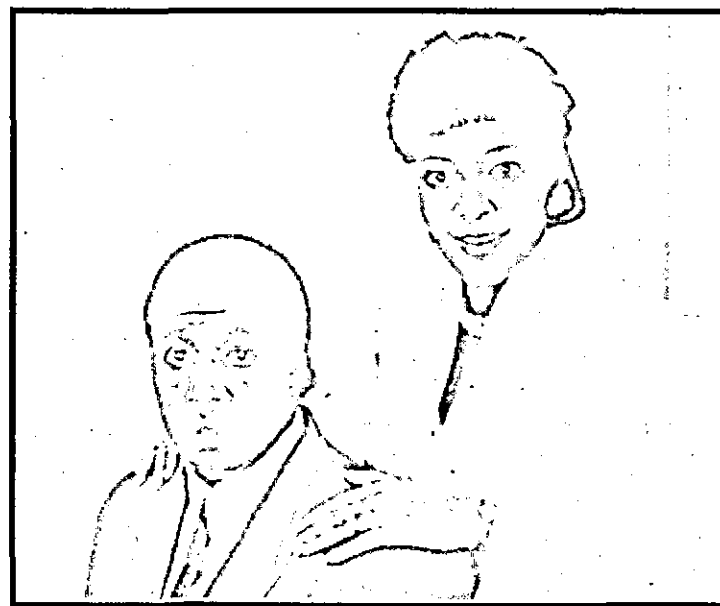
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Goodwill include Boys to Men ministry—young boys are allowed to express themselves on critical issues they face (e.g., gangs, drugs, peer pressure); Men On the Move—who oversee the Boys to Men meetings. They meet the first Tuesday of each month; Youth Development—who meet every Wednesday night.

It is also designed to meet and go where the children are now. The drill team recently was ranked 10 in nationwide competition held in Atlanta. Rev. Tony Reynolds is the youth minister. Goodwill houses a full-time day care center and food bank.

Rev. Sharp and his wife Janice were active members of Sims Chapel in Garland prior to coming to Goodwill. He served as Pastor for five years. Rev. Sharp is an undergraduate of Bishop College and is often referred to as one of the "Bishop Five." Although he does not object to this distinction, Rev. Sharp stresses there are other outstanding preachers in the metroplex who are Bishop graduates.

He received his Master's degree from Bright Divinity Texas Christian University in 1984. He is on the board of trustees for D. Edwin Johnson Baptist Institute and serves as an advisor to the



The Rev. Anthony Sharp and his wife Janice.

Dallas area Junior Women Auxillary. Dr. Fred Cecil Parker is the assistant Pastor, Rev. Dennis Brantley, single's ministry and David Jackson, chairman of the board of trustees.

All at Goodwill are diligently working to construct a new facility to service the expanding congregation by July, 1993.

This particular Sunday morning as the clergyman stands behind the podium, he delivers a powerful and eloquent sermon: "When you pray, God will bring you into a spirit of unity. Yes, when you pray..." **EN**

Goodwill Baptist Church has two Sunday morning services—one at 8 am and another at 10:45 am. If you would like more information about Goodwill, call (214) 391-2907 or 391-4332 (Pastor's study) or FAX (214) 391-8796.

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# Qualifying Dreams

*A bad economy has edged many out of homeownership. But here are two groups that get you from renting to owning*

By Angela Ransome

"I remember the lady we sold the home back in the summer," says Lester Nevels, waxing nostalgic. "She was the grandmotherly type; worked at a supermarket and never dreamed of owning a home. But through our program she was able to have that home and get out of those apartments she had lived in for so many years."

It's a familiar story—"little old lady finds pot of gold at end of rainbow." To Nevels, Executive Director of the Oak Cliff Development Corporation, however, it's more than a poignant story—it's his job. There's not always a happy ending to the story, and Nevels knows this all too well. Sometimes harsh reality sets in—the reality of the economy, unemployment, the plight of the homeless, and the lack of affordable housing.

"The cost of construction on a new home is running into \$90,000 these days," says Nevels. "Over a fourth of the people in the area can't afford that."

A co-founder of O.C.D.C., Nevels says

his "grass roots" organization formed in 1987 to answer the need for more affordable housing in the Oak Cliff area. The goal of the program is to provide homeownership opportunities for low to moderate income families, but as director of the organization, Nevels' duties entail a great deal more.

"I'm responsible for overall operations as well as long range planning, monitoring, forecasting and fundraising.

"I'm also responsible for the board of directors and for crises. They are the lenders, but we are the doers."

Another organization "doing" in the community is the Innercity Community Development Corporation headed by Program Manager Art Weddington.

Located in the South Dallas/Fair Park area, Weddington's organization, like Nevels', grew from a need in the area for affordable housing. The organization has been in existence for six years and, according to Weddington, serves as a catalyst for economic development and housing.

"We are community-based. About two-thirds of our board is made up of community people. We start some projects

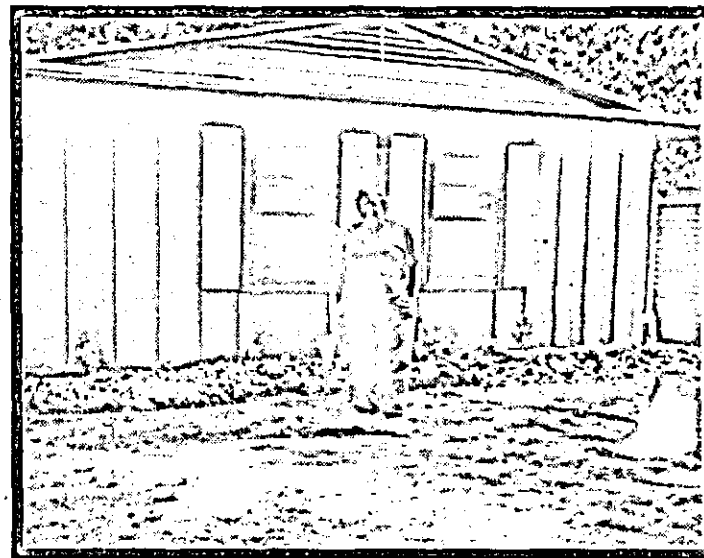
or take on projects that the market won't," says Weddington. "Our area is the hardest because it has been redlined as having the lowest incomes."

According to Weddington, I.C.D.C. received an allocation of funds through the Enterprise Foundation, in the form of a revolving loan, to start a rehabilitation resale program. The Enterprise Foundation is a national intermediary non-profit organization that provides housing technical assistance.

I.C.D.C.'s Lease/Purchase program has been a successful part of the program.

"Through this program, we are allowing people to lease for a year so they can get their down payments together and secure minor credit problems," Weddington says.

"So far, we have four properties that we've rehabilitated and leased. We have six more on the drawing board, depending



on finances," he adds.

At present, I.C.D.C. works in cooperation with American Federal Bank for construction financing for its projects. The organization is credited for helping create the South Dallas/Fair Park Trust Fund.

Many of the organization's properties, Weddington says, are receivership properties, "Where the court appoints abandoned housing and we 'rehab' them and are thus allowed to become receivers of these properties," says Weddington.

While the receivership concept has (con't on next page)



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## Active Reading

THERE APPEARS TO BE NO WAY AROUND reading assignments! Whether in grade school, junior high, high school or college, students are required to read. Following are recommendations on how to be an active reader and how to increase your levels of comprehension.

The first step in active reading is to preview. The purpose of previewing is to draw a "road map" of what is to be learned during the actual reading. To preview, a reader should read the title, introductory paragraphs, subtitles, any charts, graphs, maps and other visuals summary paragraph(s) and questions at the end of the chapter. After completing these steps, take a few moments to relate the visuals and subtitles to the title of the chapter.

Next, change the title and subtitles into questions and write them down. For example, if the title of the chapter is "Remembering Names," convert this into the question "What are the steps to remembering names?" Use as many of the "who, what, when, why, and how" questions as appropriate when converting the subtitles into questions.

Now, skim the paragraph and look for specific answers to questions you wrote down. Skip all the "filler"

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only recently adopted by the Dallas area, it has been in existence on the east coast for some time now, but under "less difficult rules" according to Weddington. I.C.D.C. has already accepted three properties into the receivership program and will complete its first by the end of the month.

Weddington is going into his third year at I.C.D.C. but says the organization still has a long way to go. He and his assistant Carolyn Davis operate the organization "single-handedly."

He says that out of 300 inquires for affordable housing, less than 10 percent are actually eligible for immediate assistance. A higher percentage, though, are eligible for the lease program.

"About 90 percent of our applicants are African American. We've tried to level the demand with the amount of properties we can produce," Weddington says.

Nevels shares this concept of growth for his organization.

"With the slump in the economy, more and more lower-income families are being forced to pay as much as 50 percent of their annual incomes on housing. According to Nevels, families bringing in an average income of \$14,000 or less are paying about \$500 per month for rent alone." The majority of these families, he says, are African American.

information the author may have included. Using a different color pen, write answers to the questions using complete sentences. "For example, the steps to remembering names are: recite and repeat the names in conversations, visualize, use associations..." After writing the answers in complete sentences, leave 3-4 blank lines before writing the next question. This space is reserved for notes and comments the instructor will give before his or her lecture. Students are encouraged to use a different colored pen (usually red) to write these notes. By using red ink you will be able to distinguish the teacher's comments from those taken during your study of the chapter. This will be useful when you study for your test. Complete the entire chapter by changing subtitles into questions, writing the questions down, skimming for the answers, and writing the answers down.

Next, state aloud the answers to all questions you have formulated. This will enable you to hear the answers to your questions.

Finally, read aloud the answers to all questions and answers. A typical chapter will usually yield between 20 and 25 questions. You can be sure these 20-25 questions represent the main ideas of the chapter. Learn them well. Prior to applying this active reading technique to the next chapter(s), reread the notes first. Frequent reviews of each student's notes is the key to learning.

Remember, reading should be conversational. By actively "discussing" information in the chapter with the author, you will comprehend and retain information. Good Luck!

"Our program is to buy homes from HUD and through other programs, renovate them and re-sell them. Because we are a non-profit organization," he says, "we can do this."

Because they are non-profit, Nevels says the average resale price of their homes is \$40,000, and low-income families only pay 25 percent or less of their incomes towards a home.

"We can get them a low interest rate and pay their closing cost and even assist them with their down payment," he says.

"A lot of lending institutions are making a good effort in helping to achieve these goals, but it's too early to tell — there are still a lot of problems in the mortgage area and it needs a lot more work."

Weddington agrees with Nevels and says he believes that banks are now in a race of catch-up, trying to make up for years of neglect.

"There is more creativity and more alternatives in banking and underwriting procedures," Nevels says. "At present, lending institutions are proving to be helpful in affordable housing. Oak Cliff Development Corporation has plans to expand and eventually reach out to more of the Dallas area."

"Our goal right now, however, is to continue to put people into nice, quality housing they can afford." **END**



# X Street

*With a little help from the community, Illinois Ave. might get a venerable new name—Malcolm X Blvd.*

By Jason D. Webster

THE EMBATTLED STREET SIGN ATOP THE POST AT THE intersection of Illinois and Alabama hangs askew, one end drooped precariously toward the ground like the bowed head of a graveside mourner. Scarred, faded and forgotten, the sign seems resigned to neglect, or perhaps—eventually—as a curio in a rebellious youth's bedroom.

But the frustration it would impart a lost motorist may soon be replaced by a beacon of pride for local blacks. If things go right, the sign's blanched green face will be replaced with a sparkling new one bearing an honorable moniker: Malcolm X Blvd.

Before long Illinois Ave.—a thoroughfare that cuts a swath through many of Oak Cliff's African American neighborhoods—will be renamed honoring the slain Muslim leader.

"What was George Washington to the white community?" city councilman Al Lipscomb asks rhetorically. "Malcolm X's contribution bespeaks itself." Lipscomb is part of the group that feels the climate is right to push for the street renaming project.

It's sadly ironic that it has taken almost 30 years since Malcolm X's death for public misinformation to have dissipated to a level where such a resolution has a chance. Even Martin Luther King, Jr.'s name adorns street signs in many major cities, including this one, though he was assassinated three years after Malcolm X.

Having a street named after the late black nationalist—who some still view as controversial—would be a step forward for the politically lethargic Dallas. Malcolm X's fiery oratory, staunch refusal to endorse accommodationist measures,

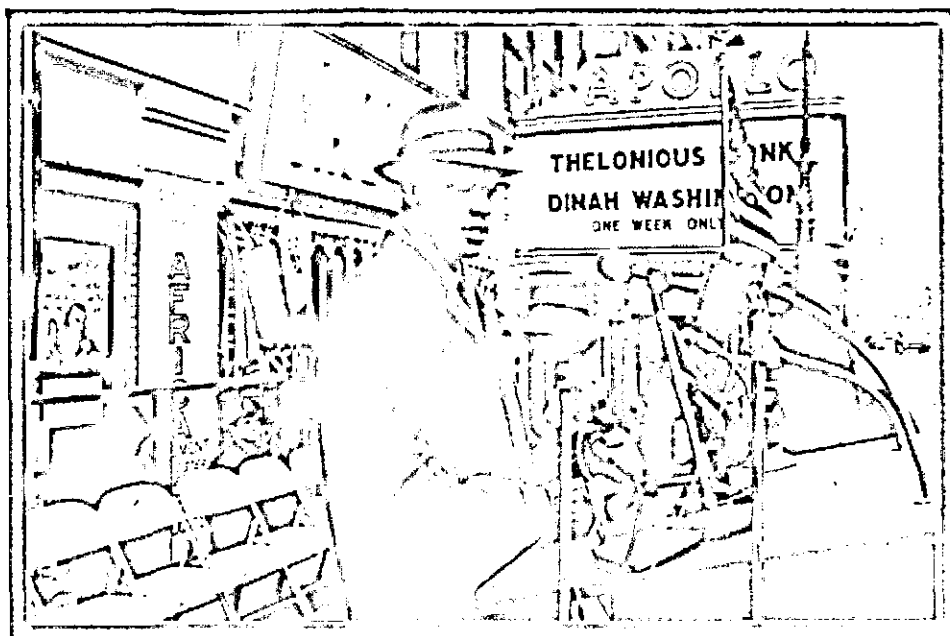


and advocacy of armed self-defense—points vehemently opposed by white establishment locally and nationally—branded him a leftist hater in the '50s and '60s and consigned him to an angry historical footnote.

It's only now, almost three decades after Malcolm's assassination that the mainstream is willing to take a closer look at Malcolm, peer behind the letter, and reassess their impression of the man and what bearing his ideology has on today's society. For many, that Malcolm X was ever considered a controversial figure is simply indicative of tunnelvision. "That's coming from the so-called anglicized conception," says Lipscomb, who is part of the committee pushing the renaming effort, citing that he and many others of that era never bought into the pap about Malcolm fobbed off on the general public. "I don't need them to validate what's controversial and what's not for me. Malcolm is a leader—simple as that. So that view that he was just a troublemaker is in the eye of some of the people who suffer from the illogical illusion of inclusion."

Lipscomb is handling the bureaucratic red tape of getting Illinois Ave. renamed. He promises to be a driving force in lobbying other council members, who will all

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With positive public awareness of Malcolm X so high—thanks in large part to pop culture like Spike Lee's movie—the street renaming project stands an excellent chance despite the historically conservative and lethargic attitude of the city.

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from the illogical illusion of inclusion."

Lipscomb is handling the bureaucratic red tape of getting Illinois Ave. renamed. He promises to be a driving force in lobbying other council members, who will all have to vote in order for Malcolm X Blvd. to become a reality, into seeing the need for such a resolution. Councilman Lipscomb and other members of the renaming committee such as Marvin Crenshaw say the importance of having more streets, buildings, schools—just about any place people associate with as being *the city*—cannot be overstated. The more African American names adorning these places, the more "centered" young Black's consciousness can become. It's also their contention that the youth are inundated with names of local and national

history that they, as African Americans, have no way of relating to.

"I think it's sad to have African American children going to a school named Jeff Davis, or a school named Robert E. Lee, people who were traitors to the nation," says Lipscomb. "But Malcolm has never been a traitor."

It's hard to dispute such logic. After all, we're surrounded by places, streets and schools named after people who historically had less than the best interests of African Americans. Schools like W.T. White High School, named after a former D.I.S.D. superintendent who advocated separate commencement exercises for Black and white students into the late '60s, stand as grim reminders of a lost legacy.

Malcolm X Blvd. would help

## Get involved with Malcolm X Blvd. project

Everyone in the city interested in making Malcolm X Blvd. a reality is encouraged to actively participate. To show your support just drop a letter or postcard to the mayor or your councilmember. Or you can call City Hall and let your voice be heard.

Write:

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Or call:

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Farmer	670-5415	Maxwell	670-4067
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Box	670-4069	Duncan	670-0781
Luna	670-4048	Fielding	670-7817
Mayes	670-4689	Hicks	670-0777

counterbalance some of the historical inequity that presently surrounds the community. By having more public places with African American names would heighten awareness of the pivotal roles African Americans have played in molding and shaping this city and country.

But the sign could also prove more than simply a token effort at political correctness. It would send a positive message out to the youth who are now

starting to identify so strongly with the tenets Malcolm espoused. And while some will decry the new boulevard as symbology that is meaningless without knowing the background of the Malcolm X, the importance of having such a street shouldn't be underrated.

Hey, if a Hollywood movie can ignite such interest in one of our strongest leaders, imagine what could be affected—and effected—by a citywide community effort.

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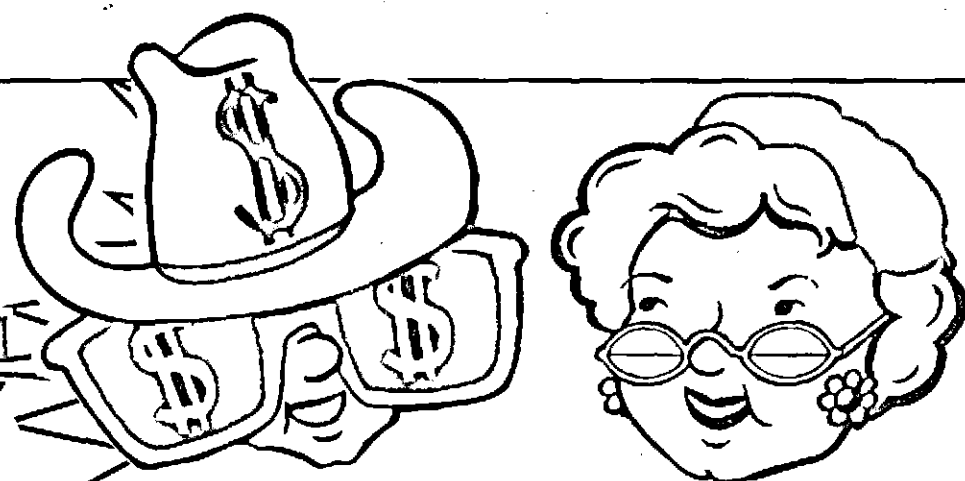
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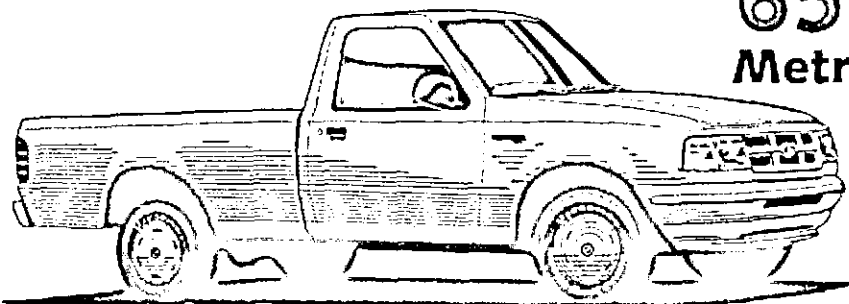
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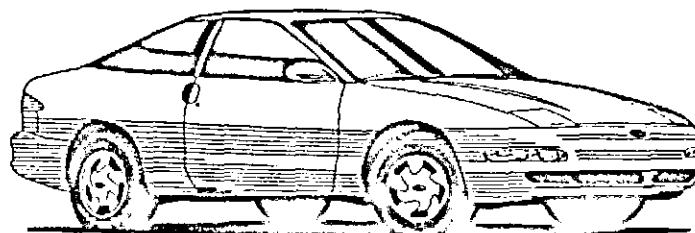
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# Kwanzaa

## Celebrating Our First Fruits

*The festive African American celebration of Kwanzaa gives us a chance to commune with our roots and, in our own unique style, an opportunity to celebrate ourselves.*

By Angela Washington-Blair

Celebrations and holidays come in many forms. You probably know about the practices and customs associated with religious holidays such as Easter and Christmas, American cultural holidays such as Independence Day and Thanksgiving, and hero-based holidays such as President's Day and Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. African Americans traditionally celebrate many of these holidays.

All ethnic groups search for affirmation, that is, ways to positively celebrate their culture and heritage. We search for positive depictions

of ourselves in books and on television. We also often look for ways to give some ethnic flavor to our holiday celebrations by sending out ethnic greeting cards and wrapping our gifts in Kente decorated wrapping paper. Nationally, we celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday either by having the day off, by reading something about the man, by viewing a special on television, or in organized celebrations. In February each year, Black History month is observed in many schools and may also be given attention in some media. The month is replete with homages paid to noted and celebrated black heroes and heroines, past and present.

Yet, 26 years ago, there was no established day in which to celebrate our people collectively and our African culture worldwide. So the celebration of Kwanzaa was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga of California State University at Long Beach. The celebration was created within the "context of the Black liberation movement of the 1960s." It was created one year after the Watts riots,

during a time of healing and rebuilding of the South central Los Angeles community. In 1965, Karenga formed *Us*, an organization dedicated to "the creation, recreation and circulation of Black culture." *Us*, under Karenga's guidance, further laid the foundation for Kwanzaa's inception.

Kwanzaa is, arguably, the only holiday celebration of its kind in the US which celebrates communal issues and events of people of African descent. According to Karenga, he created Kwanzaa to "reaffirm and restore our African heritage and culture"; to "introduce and reinforce the seven principles or values needed in order to rebuild and strengthen family, community and culture"; and to "address the absence of non-heroic holidays in the national African American community."

Kwanzaa is derived from the Swahili phrase *matunda ya kwanza*, which means the first fruits. The origins of Kwanzaa are derived from the African first fruit agricultural harvest celebrations. In Swahili, there is no word spelled "kwanzaa." The added "a" is uniquely African American.



## AROUND *Kwanzaa* TOWN

The Kwanzaa Fest will be held in Dallas and Ft. Worth.

In Dallas on December 12, 1992 at Lincoln High School from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

In Ft. Worth, Kwanzaa Fest will be held at O.D. Wyatt High School on December 26, 1992, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Both celebrations are planned as a means of drawing the African American community together in a time of fun, sharing, and reflection.

Vendors are invited to join the celebration and share their wares with the community. In Dallas (214) 934-3089 and in Ft. Worth call (817) 535-2880 for additional information.

Robert Helm and the Dedra Lynn Woods Theatre present *Family*—a play about a father trying to teach his rebelling family about the Kwanzaa celebration. The Play begins December 31 and runs through January 2, and Jan. 8-9. Showtimes are 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For more information and upcoming plays call (214) 565-1710 or (214) 371-4544.

Karenga chose the Swahili language because he felt that it was "the most appropriate cultural language for African Americans" and because of its "non-ethnic, non-tribal, and Pan-African" nature. The principles, the symbols, and the activities associated with Kwanzaa are all Swahili derived.

The celebration of Kwanzaa, according to Karenga, is based on "The Seven Principles" or Nguzo Saba. He selected these core principles because of their prevalence and recurrence in African societies because of the "perceived relevance to African Americans in their struggles for freedom, rebuilding of community, and contributing to a new history of humankind." The seven principles were also selected because of the "cultural and spiritual significance of the number seven in African culture."

The seven Principles or Nguzo Saba are as follows:

**UMOJA** (unity)—To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

**KUJICHAGULIA** (self-determination)—To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak

for ourselves instead of being defined, named, created for and spoken for by others.

**UJIMA** (collective work and responsibility)—to build and maintain our community together and make our sisters' and brothers' problems our problems and to solve them together.

**UJAMAA** (cooperative economics)—To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together.

**NIA** (purpose)—To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

**KUUMBA** (creativity)—To always do as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

**IMANI** (faith)—To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

—Maulana Karenga  
(continued on next page)





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The holiday of Kwanzaa lasts for seven days each year, December 26 to January 1. Each Nguzo Saba corresponds to one of the seven days, that is, one principle for each day. This last week of the year was chosen by Karenga because it corresponded to the time of first fruit festival in

continental Africa and "marked the end of the high priced hustle and bustle of Christmas buying and selling." It also fit with the "existing pattern of year-end celebrations in the United States" and offered for those so desiring a culturally specific holiday and alternative to existing holidays.

It must be stressed, however, that Kwanzaa is not a religious holiday, but a cultural one in which "African Americans of all faiths can and do practice." According to a December 1992 *Essence* magazine article on Kwanzaa, some 18 million people around the globe now celebrate Kwanzaa. Karenga stresses that Kwanzaa is not meant to replace an existing religion or faith, but that it offers a "common ground" of African culture.

There are activities and special objects associated with this seven day long celebration. These seven basic symbols include: *Mazao* (crops, placed in an African-Made basket instead of the cornucopia); *mkeka* (straw mat); *kinara* (candle holder, not to be confused with the Jewish Menorah) which is placed on the mkeka; *muhindi* (corn, to represent the children of the household, or children of African descent in general; *zawadi* (gifts—children should be the main recipients of these. Suggested gifts included a book and a heritage symbol); *kikombe cha umoja* (unity cup); and *mishumaa saba* (seven candles, one black in the center, three red on the left, and three green on the right). A bendera, (black, red, and green flag), and a poster of the Nguzo Saba might also be added in the decorations. Creativity is stressed for those who observe Kwanzaa; the participants should make what they can and not feel pressured to spend a lot of money.

The activities of Kwanzaa include a special greeting each day of the celebration. The Swahili greeting is "Habari Gani?" or "What news? Instead of the usual reply, njema (good), the answer will be whatever the principle for the day is. So, for example, the third day the reply would be "ujima." To say "Happy Kwanzaa," say the phrase "Kwanzaa yenu iwe na heri."

A tambiko, a libation poured in honor of our ancestors, is another

venerable Kwanzaa activity. The wine or grape juice is poured in the unity cup (kikombe). A libation statement is made honoring the ancestors and committing to furthering the work they already began. Then, all participants join in saying "Harambee!" (meaning "let's all pull together!")

*One especially nice thing about Kwanzaa is the emphasis on children. Children are valued and seen as the key to survival of the community.*

A candle is lit to symbolize the Nguzo Saba each day, starting with the black candle, and alternating with the red and green each day. Each day the previous candles are relit, until finally on the seventh day all candles are lit.

One especially nice thing about this celebration is the emphasis placed on children. Children are valued and seen as the key to survival of the community.

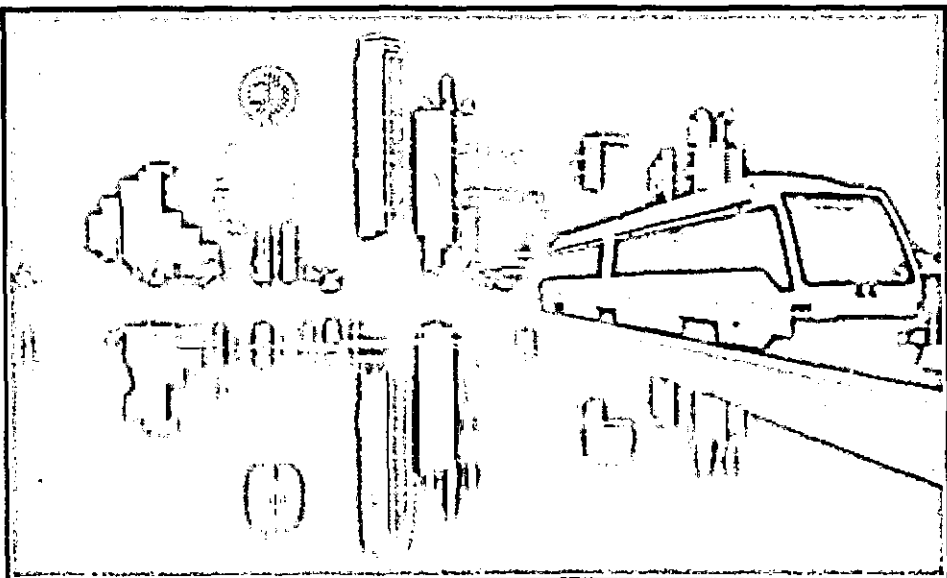
They are invited and expected to be active participants in the decorating, cooking, making gifts, and especially in the candle lighting ceremony each day.

On December 31st, the Kwanzaa Karamu (feast) is held. Participants not only share cuisines from Africa, the Caribbean, and other locales which have African culture, but share in songs, reading, and other forms of cultural expression. This feast may be a city-wide celebration or an intimate family affair.

There are some excellent books on the subject of Kwanzaa for those desiring further information and expanded insight. First from the source himself, *The African American Holiday of Kwanzaa: a Celebration of Family, Community & Culture*, by Maulana Karenga, University of Sankore Press, 1988. This 116-page book contains plenty of information for those interested in the Kwanzaa philosophy. For a quicker summary, try the 16-page *Kwanzaa: a Progressive and Uplifting African American Holiday*, by Haki R. Madhubuti, Third World Press, 1972. An excellent cookbook, procedural book and story book all rolled into one is *Kwanzaa: An African-American Celebration of culture and Cooking*, by Eric V. Copage, Willioam Morrow, 1991. There are several nice books for children.

Whether or not we choose to participate in the uniquely different holiday of Kwanzaa, either in whole or in part, we should definitely take notice of and begin to implement the seven principles. Kwanzaa isn't just about exploring our past and heritage. It is about empowerment, opportunity, sharing, and valuing the many resources we have within our African American communities. It is about reflecting on our history and working together for a better future. And yes, it is also about supporting African American businesses (principle four, Ujamaa).





The proposed DART light rail system is a beautiful and a marvel of technology, but will the community ever benefit economically?

## Balancing Act

*The DART light rail and vehicle assembly plant—where local and federal politics clash*

By Randy Luster



Everyone is probably aware that the DART Light Rail project is more than an improved way to get around—it's potential economic opportunities are vast, and the South Oak Cliff community greatly needs the benefits and investment this major public works project represents. Whether the vehicle assembly facility is ever constructed or not (as committed to by DART in a 1990 city agreement and City Council resolution) the light rail and stations will improve economic conditions and encourage investment and development in South Oak Cliff. Is this the vehicle assembly facility gravy on top of a full plate, or is this another instance where DART refuses to honor previous commitments? Is the vehicle assembly plant really the most beneficial investment to provide the jobs the community needs, or are we pushing to get it without concern for how much it could cost the community in the loss of a more lucrative investment such as the electronics shop and maintenance facility?

Please don't misunderstand my point. The African American community has more than a highly justified reason to doubt DART and the city's integrity when it comes to honoring commitments to our community. The track record for both entities is extremely poor and certainly no reason to believe they will ever do the right thing. But the community needs to act with vision and factual information to ensure they are fighting the best battle

that will produce the best benefits to meet the goals of economic development.

The vehicle facility issue goes back prior to July 1990 when DART and Dallas committed to the facility in a supplemental agreement. More background history may be needed and can be supplied by DART board members J.B. Jackson and Bob Price as well as council member Al Lipscomb. During the course of time from July 1990 to the present, approximately 3-plus years, some things have changed and need careful examination.

During this period DART reexamined all light rail system costs as required by the federal cost cutting requirements. This reexamination, which DART called value engineering, identified some potential cost savings related to the facility like potential relocation further south to reduce site preparation costs. DART also argued that these "project cost saving" could be used to preserve the right of way south of Ledbetter for the future extension of the light rail line. The community could have its cake (the vehicle assembly plant) and some insurance (the right of way reservation) on the future extension of line south. In addition, a requirement that the light rail vehicle manufacturer do some local assembly would allow area taxpayers to share in the opportunities provided by this local assembly including the creation of 20 temporary jobs for approximately 20 months. After vehicle assembly, the facility could be converted to an end of the light rail line shop facility, creating more jobs and encouraging future

(cont. on page 22)

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# Attracting Controversy

*Since D.I.S.D.'s Supermagnet had its budget cut by almost 15 million dollars, there've been calls of racism and a demand for more accountability*

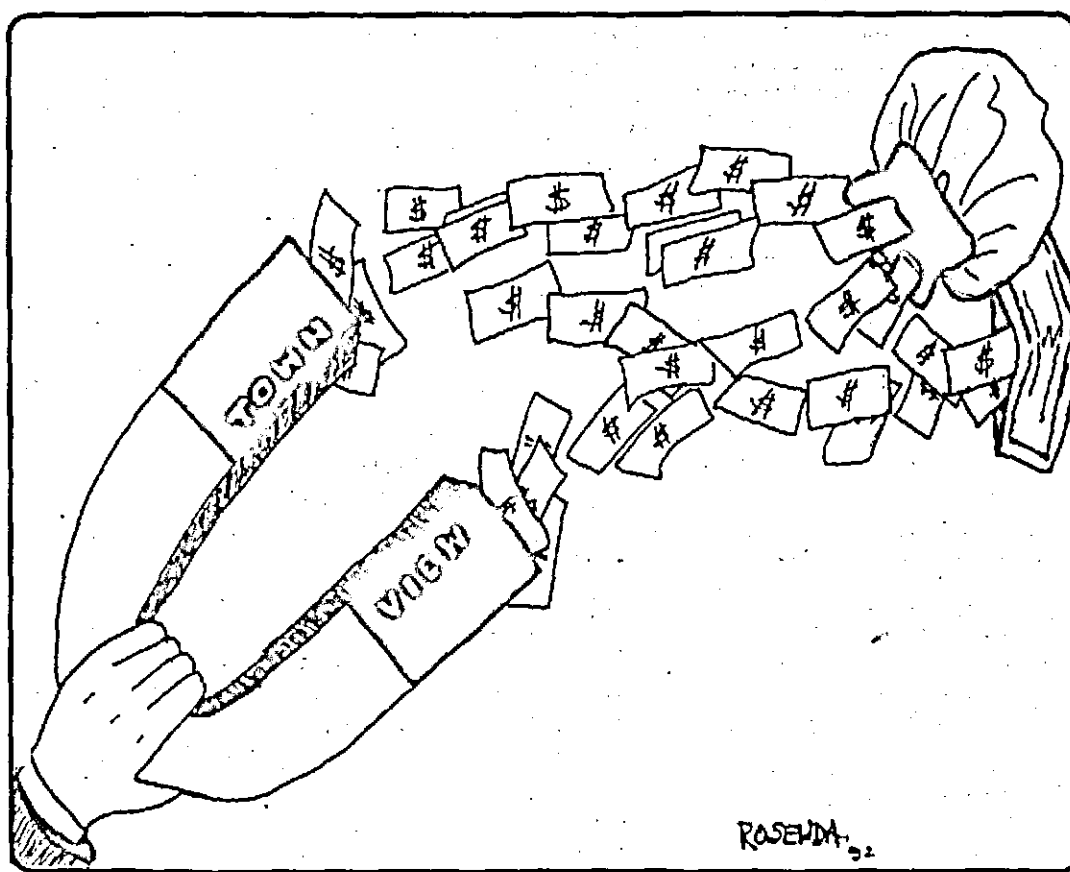
By Edlen O. Cowley

TOWNVIEW, THE "SUPERMAGNET" with a planned Oak Cliff site, has been the subject of much discussion with the bond election coming up next month. Although the ramifications of the school and its effect on our community are great, the issues of Townview have not been presented clearly—or fully, for that matter.

Proposed to cover 21 acres of land bound by Eighth St., Eads Ave., Hutchins St. and Denley Dr., Townview would become the fifth facility housing several magnet programs. This supermagnet will consolidate six magnet schools into one—D.I.S.D.'s Business and Management Center, Education and Social Sciences and Engineering Magnet, Talented and Gifted Magnet and Health Professions High School will all be moved into the new Townview facility. In addition a seventh new school of computer technology could be located next to Townview's main campus that would, along with the media center, serve as the teachers and students' information center.

Townview is a direct result of an attempt to desegregate schools in Dallas and has been in the working for over 15 years. A project manual submitted to the Board of Education in 1984 estimated the cost of Townview to be \$35 million for construction only. Another plan in 1985 set a figure of \$44 million including fees for architects, relocation of utilities, consultants, equipment and furnishings. By August 1991 costs to date including the purchase of land were already \$10 million. The recently reduced figure of \$45 million included construction and all other fees to be considered.

Now that the figure has shrunk to \$29.9 million, Townview's new budget has been met with charges of racism and discrimination. One of the leaders of this charge has been Richard Evans, Co-chairman of the Townview Restoration Committee. While Mr. Evans supports the bond election, he stands firm on the charge of racism considering the downsizing of the original plan.



"The \$275 million figure would be the same if Townview's budget was \$29.9 million or 100 million," says Evans. "The downsizing was a racist action because it limits the quality of the school we wanted to create."

Out of the major changes in the bond package, the only profound change has been in the Townview figure. The additional money intended to give the community a "top-quality" facility will now be diverted to other minority campuses in communities where there are mixtures of Hispanics and Anglos. The most questionable of the actions surrounding the downsizing of the budget is that the issue was never brought before the entire school board for a vote.

"When the board had a chance to vote, they were voting on which downsizing option they wanted of the three they were presented with; they had no vote on the idea of reduction in the budget," states Evans. "That is evidence in itself of the backroom politics that we still have going on here in Dallas." Evans says there would never be a question of money if Townview were to be built north of the Trinity

river.

Sandy Kress, local attorney cum education activist, differs with Evans on some of his views. He strongly defends the actions that resulted in Townview's budget being truncated. "I believe we worked to get the best plan available for passage in the bond election," says Kress. "We wanted a top quality facility and that's what we will have. Townview will be the most expensive school per square foot in the county, averaging \$80 to \$85 per square foot."

Townview does have a \$14.7 million contingency fund paired with its smaller budget. But what some do not realize is that Townview is a federally mandated project and fines will be assessed if progress is not made on the school within certain guidelines.

There must be a completed

Townview architectural and programmatic (curriculum and academic) by August 2, 1993 or there will be a \$20,000 fine for each day after the deadline. And if there is no Townview by the opening of the '95-'96 school year the same fine will be assessed. "It is extremely important that we get this package passed so we can begin construction," says Kress, "not only for Townview but for the other programs as well."

When asked what would happen if the bond election did not pass Evans said, "Taxes could be raised to pay for school, but we will have Townview when this is all done."

Many people have been involved in the reduction of Townview's budget. Mr. Evans feels Sandy Kress is the "racist perpetrator" who will likely destroy what little progress has been made in educating African American children in Dallas.

Kress, naturally, has quite a different opinion. "I feel the motives of most who worked on this project were in the right place," says Kress, dismissing any calculated plan to shortchange anyone. "I think we need to find common ground to work out these issues and I just feel glad that we are this close to getting things done."

The Townview project has been on the books since 1976. It is disheartening to see that it has taken this long to get as far as the project has on a budget using figures from 12 years ago. "As we live in an urban area it's important to remember that sometimes we must compromise to get any progress," says Kress. "Townview has taken two decades to get this far and we want to finish the job."

Evans asserts we need to organize a massive proactive movement that will involve the entire community to monitor and give direction to the redesign of the school. Citizens are encouraged to be a part of the formation of the school. Input could be made in curriculum, construction, and other phases.

As a community we need to take a stand and affect the way this institution evolves. It is our duty. "The battle is just beginning; the community has got to rise up and fight for the education of African American children," says Evans strongly, underscoring the seriousness Townview's success represents. "The very survival of our race depends on it."

**"Townview will be the most expensive school per square foot in the county"**

**—Sandy Kress**



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## Survival of the writest

Local pastor, educator and community activist Dr. H. Rhett James has just released his new book *The Audacity to Survive*, a work shedding new light on the historical legacy of Hamm and ancient Egyptians.

Dr. James has brought much insight and progress to the Dallas African American community over the years. He was pastor of New Hope for twenty-six years, retiring in 1986, and has been active in scores of local organizations working for desegregation and human rights causes.



# Girlfriend "For real, though"

## Dear Girlfriend:

I need to get your perspective on a serious and controversial matter. I'm an intelligent, strong, young African American male and I'm very concerned about the growing tendencies of our young African American sisters to seek and desire a relationship with someone of another race—specifically, Caucasian males. More importantly, I'm insulted at the reasons these sisters are giving for their actions.

Their battle cry is "The Black man is either in prison, a homosexual, or married. Since this is the case, the only alternative (for me) is to begin dating white men."

To be honest, I think these lame excuses are smokescreens. These sisters have begun to believe the big LIE. They have given in to these media images that project white men (like Mel Gibson, Michael Bolton, Richard Gere, etc.) as sex symbols to be worshiped, heroes to be looked up to, admired and adored. On the other hand, Black men are projected as lazy, irresponsible, baby making, dope smoking, violent criminals.

Being bombarded with these images has caused our sisters to sell out by seeking relationships and comforts with a race who subconsciously, if not consciously, abhors Black people. There was a time when it was unthinkable for a sister to even date a white man. Our Black sisters believed in us, stuck by us regardless of the circumstances. Granted, the Black man shares a great deal of responsibility for the wretched condition he's in and the negative images that are projected of him. Sisters need to be aware of the damaging effects of these subliminal images. Having our Black women turn to the white man for comfort and security rather than the Black man is tragic.

I do not object to people of either race falling in love, providing it's the result of some fortuitous encounter. However, what I do object to are the sisters who are aggressively and actively seeking these relationships through white dominant bars, personal ads, on jobs, etc. This type of aggression is a sure sign that some of these sisters are enslaved to their lustful desires for the white man. This type of mental bondage is attributed to subliminal and brainwashing methods purposely

designed for our Black women to submit to the white man's lustful habits.

Would you please provide to the reading audience your opinion on this matter. I'd like to know if I'm off-base or on-target with my assessment of this social tragedy.

*One African-in-America's Opinion*

## Dear African In America:

My goodness! Are we a little upset? Can I safely assume that maybe you've been "dissed" by a sister who preferred someone on the other side of the color line?

My opinion on this subject is, well...let's just say different strokes for other folks. Personally, I prefer men of a darker hue.

The "battle cry" that my sisters are screaming is simply a smokescreen as you say, but it's done to spare your egos. How would you like it if they told you that they'll date who they want to?

You guys date white women and it's okay, but as soon as a sister starts dating a white man, it aint right. Come on, brother. Haven't you heard, "Anything you can do, we can do better."

I honestly believe that the heroes you speak of are like storybook characters. You hear about them, you see them and then you go on to the next phase. They aren't really real. For your information, we sisters like Luther, Billy D., Wesley Snipes and others. But those heroes aren't real either, huh?

And as far as sisters sticking by their men, we still do. We give and give. You guys take and take and don't even seem to appreciate the sisters when you have them.

We still love you guys but, hey, what goes around comes around.

If you need Girlfriend's advice, write:  
Girlfriend  
c/o Minority Opportunity News  
2730 Stemmons Frwy  
Tower West, suite 1100  
Dallas, Texas 75207

December 16, 1976  
Andrew Young appointed  
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President Jimmy Carter

December 25, 1971  
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founded in Chicago, Ill by  
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# Panoramic Overview of the Arts

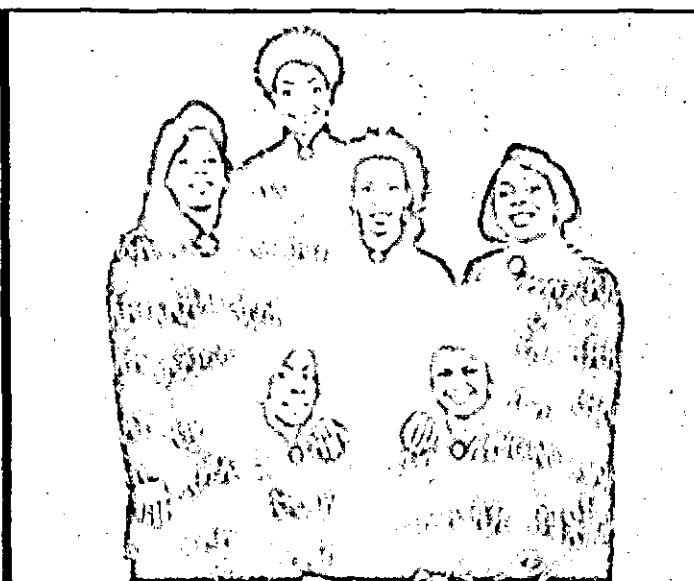
By Sonia Jordan

THIS IS DEFINITELY THE SEASON FOR LOVE, FUN and entertainment. Dallas and Ft. Worth are gearing up of the Kwanzaa season. There is the Kwanzaa Fest and the Kwanzaa celebration. Come one, come all and enjoy the festive celebrations in Dallas and Ft. Worth. Remember, though, that these are two different events geared toward the same holiday celebration.

"Kwanzaa" the celebration, was created over 25 years ago in California by Maulana Karenga. Mr. Karenga implemented the celebration as a way of encouraging people of African descent to turn to their own culture and value systems. It is the only celebration that knows no religious barriers and is reputed to be celebrated by over 18 million people around the globe. Kwanzaa has so impressed individuals from the Motherland that they have taken it home with them.

Here in Dallas Kwanzaa is celebrated from December 26 through December 31. Ife Madhi is the curator of this fine celebration and hopes that everyone will join her at Lincoln High School for the entire event.

THE DALLAS THEATER CENTER WILL PRESENT Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* from November 27-December 26. This year the production will be directed by Lonny Price, and Akin Babatunda will narrate as Charles Dickens. You don't want to miss this classical piece of theater. For more information contact Tina Harlowe at (214) 526-8281. For ticket information call (214) 522-TIXX.



New Arts Six (pictured above) will perform Saturday, Dec. 5 at First Baptist Church of Hamilton Park. For information call 559-4899. The event is sponsored by the Aids interfaith Network.

FROM DECEMBER 11-13 WE'LL CELEBRATE Christ's birthday at "The Party." The Magnolia Lounge at Fair Park will host "The Party" featuring Christmas carols and a visit from St. Nick.

For ticket information contact Lisa Taylor at (214) 521-1040 or call ARTTIX to purchase tickets (214) 520-2787.

IN FT. WORTH, *TAKING STEPS* BY ALAN Ayckbourn will be performed at Stage West. A hilariously entertaining story about six people thrown together by circumstances. They all live together in a three story house. Through mistaken identities and misunderstandings, each character races up and down the staircase taking steps to resolve their problems. For more information contact Buckley Sachs at (817) 332-6238.

AT THE CARAVAN OF DREAMS, ALSO IN FT. Worth, Ronnie Laws will grace the stage

and jazz us all night long. December is a great month for jazz and blues at the Caravan. Shawn Colgin, Paula Poundstone, Albert Collins and George Wallace are only a few of the entertainers you can enjoy. The Ft. Worth Youth Jazz Ensemble will also do a benefit performance. This talented group of young people is raising money so they can play Carnegie Hall. For more information on any of the performances at the Caravan please call (817) 429-4000. Tickets are available at Rainbow Ticketmaster.

RCA RECORD LABEL HAS A GIFT worth giving: "The First Note in Black Music." This CD is filled with black music spanning more than 70 years—from Fats Walker to Kool Moe Dee. The First Note may quickly become a collector's item.

BRANFORD MARSALIS AND DIZZY GILLESPIE are only two of the many jazz artists who share their favorite recipes in the cookbook, "Jazz Cooks: Portraits & Recipes of the Greats." The book was written by Bob Young and Al Stankus. Call Emma, she may have it. If she doesn't I know she'll help you find it.

SPEAKING OF BOOKS, HAVE YOU HEARD THE latest book about sistahs hair? I kid you not, the book is titled "Good Hair: For Colored Girls Who've Considered Weaves When the Chemicals Became Too Rough."

This girlfriend sounds serious. Her name is Lonnice Bonner and she is actually selling this book by mail. If you are interested please write to Sapphire Productions, P. O. Box 10924, Oakland,

CA 94610. If you order it, please let me read it.

ANOTHER GREAT GIFT FOR HOLIDAY GIVING is the cultural daily diary showcasing prominent African Americans. The book is called, "I, Too, Sing America: The African American Book of Days," by Paula L. Woods and Felix H. Liddell.

FINALLY, OSSIE DAVIS AND RUBY DEE PUT the Bible on tape. Together they narrate the books of the New Testament. All I can say is call Emma, she's the diva when it comes to book info.

I SAID I WASN'T GOING TO DO IT AGAIN, BUT I have to. Isaac Hayes was in Dallas on Thanksgiving evening. Words cannot adequately describe the feeling that permeated the room when this wonderful entertainer glided onto the stage.

SPIKE LEE'S LATEST MOVIE *MALCOLM X* opened in November and is a "must see." Take the family. This is one time that Mr. Lee definitely gets a thumbs up.

ELAN PRODUCTIONS AND AARON ANTOINE presented a fashion show for the Citizen's Committee To Save Our Children, headed by Willie Minor, a local playwright and actor. The fashion show served as a fundraiser for the organization and was hosted at the Stouffers Hotel. Garments from clothiers like North Beach Leather and designer Larry Wooten were styled with panache. Ms. An Jeannie James outdid herself with the choreography and the PR for this production. We're looking forward to the next Elan Production in April of '93 for Big Brothers.

Once again we end our overview with a farewell. Until next time....Oh, don't forget—*Dallas Living Legends* will be presented at the Junior Black Academy of Arts and Letters this month.

## Chief Entertainment Officer

Ex DJ Baron Bacon is still around as CEO of one of the hottest entertainment companies—but make sure you don't call him a DJ

By Sonia Jordan

REMEMBER BARON BACON? THE 107.5 DJ with deep bass vocals that lulled you to sleep? Guess what, he's alive and well, and in his own words, "Happy as a lark with my baby." Baron is doing his own "thang" and enjoying it.

I happened on the "happy" DJ by chance. While going through some business mail I noticed a large envelope with a scrawling, large, handwritten return address on it. I had to open it immediately and find out who would dare mail out something so "un-neat." Catchy, but not comforting.

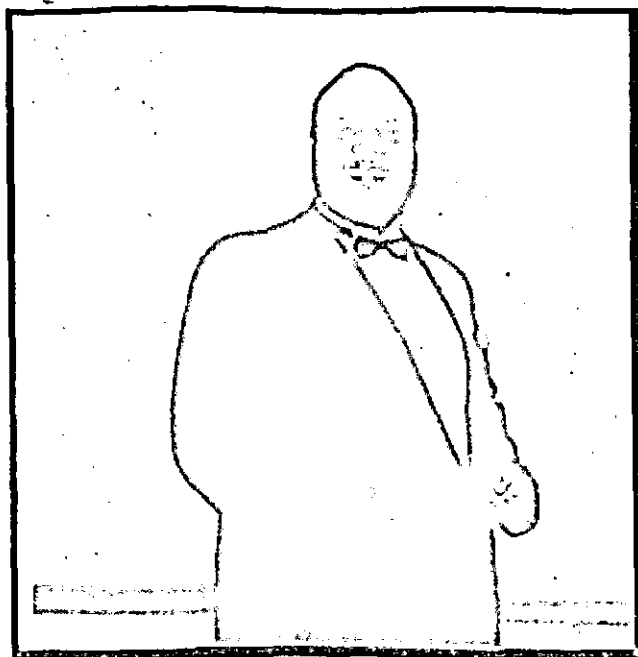
Inside I found an impressive business card that

proclaimed its owner "The Best!!!" The CEO was reportedly Baron Bacon. After a ten-minute debate with myself I decided to give him a call and see if this was really the same Baron Bacon with the "voice." I called. It was, and after several conversations with one another's answering machines, we connected.

Just call me "nervy." I called the brother in the middle of Monday Night Football and, being the sports fan he is, he could have told me to try again later. But not this guy. He was more than just gracious; he was real. We talked for hours.

Baron is from Waco, Texas and grew up in the Pentecostal Church. His father was the minister, his

(con't from previous page)



(con't from previous page)

mother the ivory tickler, and Baron, well, he wooed the ladies (and the Lord) with song. He attended Connally High School and spent much of his time hanging out at the local radio station. By the 9th grade Baron was already deejaying on KRZI in Waco.

Attending college at Baylor University and on to Texas A&M, Baron became the morning personality in Bryan Texas on WPAW. It was wonderful—the station spot, the high school sock hops—but it wasn't quite where Baron wanted to be. The big times were to be had in Dallas, so Mr. Bacon courted two of Dallas' finest stations. "I sent tapes and called those two stations everyday, person to person, for two months." And one day Duane Dancer, then station manager for 107.5, answered his call. He must have known that the young man on the other end of the line was serious. Within a matter of days, the two met and Baron had made it to the "big times."

After his first year in the 7-Midnight spot, Baron was rated the #2 DJ in the market. Now the disc jockey turned

business owner is rated the #1 entertainment company in Dallas/Ft. Worth. From weddings to birthday parties and from fashion shows to proms, Mr. Bacon's company is definitely on the move.

Don't make the same mistake I did and call this group "deejays." "We are entertainologists," says Bacon, dispelling shallow comparisons. "Anyone can get up and play records." The Baron Bacon Agency has fine tuned it to an art form. They entertain—complete with light show, CDs, and tuxedo attire. The agency's entertainologists are ready to rock (or rap, whichever you prefer).

Since leaving 107.5, has Bacon thought about a comeback? Hmm, maybe once or twice. With offers coming in from as far away as "The Beat" in Los Angeles, he might be tempted. Though his friend, his baby, his wife—all named Theresa Bacon—may have a lot to say about that. I think he'll be an entertainologist for years to come.

For awhile I said, "I want to be like Juanita." (You know, Mike's wife.) Well, now I think I want to be like Ms. Bacon.

## Where's the Drama?

By Sonia Jordan

FINALLY, WE ARE BEING ENTERTAINED in the arts. Finally, we are being given some cultural stimulation. Different entities throughout Dallas/Ft. Worth are presenting dramatic and pragmatic plays for our viewing pleasure.

So what's the problem?

Nothing really. Nothing that is if you only like dancing and singing. Lately, all I see in the way of African American productions is dancing and singing. "What's wrong with that?" you may ask. "It is what we do well." Right? Well, yes it is. But we do everything well including allowing ourselves to be fit into little niches that limit our talents. There is nothing wrong with singing or dancing. If I want to hear singing, I got to go to a Luther concert. And as for dancing, hey, Hammer is the man. But when I get "ragged down" (that is, dressed up) to attend a theatrical production, I don't need to see Luther or Hammer unless they came to see the production, too.

*Colored Girls* is a wonderful dramatic piece. No singing, no dancing, just pure undiluted acting. It was beautiful. Then there is *Fences* by August Wilson. It holds the same dramatic purity—just wonderful acting.

So why aren't there more of these plays? Where's the drama? Even *The Mighty Gents* was a pleasant change, but it addressed an issue without offering a resolution.

It's not that I didn't enjoy the performances that have come our way. They were good and I hope they keep coming. *Only the Strong* was heartwarming and *Younger Man/Older Woman* was entertaining. But the singing is what people remember most about these plays.

With works by playwrights like August Wilson, Lorraine Hansberry, and Maya Angelou—just to name a few—some dramatic performances are definitely in order here. What are we afraid of? That no one will come to plays that are not boasting resounding vocal renditions? Someone needs to take a survey. The results are likely to be surprising, maybe even astounding.

Despite this drama deficit on the art scene there are some who are doing a superb job of keeping us entertained. Thanks Al and Curtis. Now, can we have a little drama like *Colored Girls*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, etc.?

Readers, I ask you, do you agree or not? This is just one African American art lover's opinion, and I'd love some feedback on the subject. Write me care of Minority Opportunity News, 2730 Stemmons Frwy, 1100 Tower West, Dallas, Tx. 75207.

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| 4. Let Everything Praise Him | Min. Thomas Whitfield        |
| 5. Standing In The Need      | New Life Community Chior     |
| 6. Through The Storm         | Yolanda Adams                |
| 7. It's OK                   | Bobo & CeCe Winans           |
| 8. Run On                    | Pastor Murphy Pace III       |
| 9. Never Shall Forget        | VIP Music & Arts Seminar     |
| 10. I Can Call Him           | East Coast Regional Mass     |

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## Employment

By Susan Lee

# The Job Hunt

INSTANCES OFTEN OCCUR WHERE A POSITION will be created for a certain person for an interview. The job seeker normally looks for positions that already exist, jobs due to expansion or new business start-up. Listed and charted here are the four basic employment search methods.

Obviously the classified is the most noticed and frequently used tool by applicants. It was estimated that up to 25% of jobs filled were by classified ads. Classified ads draw from 500 or more inquiries or resumes, almost assuring that most of them aren't read. In some instances placing the ad was a matter of contract, policy, or law. Some instructions or hints to remember when responding

to a classified ad are:

- Be prepared to conduct a preliminary interview if you are responding to an ad with a phone number. Have your thoughts and material together.
- Follow instructions—read the ad in-depth. Often they will accept a fax resume, or strictly mail. Many times companies do not wish to receive phone calls.

Your principle objective is to get interviewed, regardless of the method you choose. Your cover letter, phone conversation, or the initial visit are your opportunities to sell yourself over other applicants.

## Employment Search Methods

- Advertising
- Governmental or Private Agencies
- Networking
- Shotgunning



## Health Focus

with  
Marsha D. Prophet, Ph.D.

# Food Facts

THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS HERE AND THAT MEANS visiting family and friends, enjoying good food. After stuffing our faces and feeling fat, we begin to feel guilty and think about exercising. Many of the health clubs tend to advertise during this time of year.

On the average, Americans consume more calories per person than any other group of people in the world. A calorie is a unit of measure that gives the amount of energy we get from a particular food. Calories are eaten in the form of proteins, fats, and carbohydrates, which are three of the basic nutrients necessary for life. Other nutrients such as vitamins, minerals, and water, are necessary for bodily function, but do not contribute any calories to our diets.

Excess calorie consumption is a factor in our tendency to be overweight. It is not so much the quality of food that is

likely to cause weight problems as it is the relative proportion of nutrients in our diets and lack of physical activity.

Foods with a high concentration of fats, particularly saturated fats (those coming from animals), appear to increase our risk of heart disease. High concentrations of highly processed sugars also appear to increase our risk of certain diseases, particularly tooth decay.

According to the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs, the following recommendations should be followed.

1. To avoid being overweight, consume only as much energy (calories) as is expended; if overweight, decrease energy intake and increase energy expenditure.
2. Reduce cholesterol consumption to about 300 milligrams a day.
3. Limit intake of sodium by reducing the intake of salt to about 5 grams a day.
4. Reduce the consumption of saturated fats.
5. Reduce overall consumption from approximately 40 percent to about 30 percent of energy intake.

Your health, now and in the future, depends on your willingness to accept the responsibility and to take action. Following a good diet and proper exercise will have a tremendous impact on how long and how well you live.

**December 14, 1908**  
**1915-Jack Johnson**  
**becomes World**  
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(con't from page 15)

economic development—what a deal! Some in the African American community felt confident this would work. And since DART was using all local dollars for the facility the feds could not prevent the construction of the facility with a stipulation that the vehicle manufacturer do some local assembly—providing additional benefits to the Dallas economic environment—a little bigger return on its investment of local tax dollars.

In the meantime things changed. DART's federal partner in this deal, the Urban Mass Transit Administration (UMTA) changed from UMTA to the Federal Transit Administration and the federal grant process ground rules changed such that the involvement of federal funds in any part of a project would make all federal rules and regulations applicable.

Thus UMTA, excuse me FTA, told DART they could not require local assembly of these vehicles because it would violate their authorizing legislation and jeopardize the federal funding for the SOC light rail project. Was DART and the city trying to pull a fast one and blame the feds for not being able to honor their commitment to our community? Or were the feds actually fouling up the works through the imposition of its heavy bureaucratic hand? After all it is our local tax dollars paying for the facility—how could the feds tell us we couldn't require some local return on our tax dollars?

In an effort to show that it intended to honor its commitment to the community, DART requested a waiver or release from applying with the new federal guidelines, after all this whole thing started before the new rules were adopted and local tax dollars are being used. DART also sought assistance of local and state representatives in Dallas, Austin and in Washington. UMTA/FTA remained unmoved from its position. Given DART's lack of success with the feds, and fairly poor odds of any future success in the matter, they came up with a "substitute idea" that would still bring jobs to the area and develop a capital facility in the southern sector. Enter the electronics shop which could involve up to 40 permanent jobs, some viable skill training for the community and a permanent capital investment that would meet the economic goals of the community.

Once again the ghost of Dallas' poor race relations and ethnic distrust raises its ugly head. Councilman Lipscomb and African American leaders see this "substitute idea" of an electronics shop as more of the same failure to deliver what has been promised to the community. They don't believe DART tried to lobby the feds and is again lying and blaming it all on someone else—UMTA/FTA. Thus

the community begins to call for the vehicle assembly plant the major maintenance facility and electronics shop/training academy—discounting that the feds have the power, authority or will to prevent the construction of the assembly plant with our own tax dollars. Is this the right interpretation of the situation? Is it possible to have the vehicle assembly plant, the bus maintenance facility and the electronics shop? If not,

why not? If the feds have that much say over how we expand local tax dollars perhaps we need to re-evaluate the wisdom of using federal dollars in public transportation projects designed to help economic revitalization.

Would the permanent jobs associated with the electronics shop be better than the 20 temporary jobs associated with the assembly facility? Does DART have the money allocated for all these

facilities or is this more smoke and mirrors? If the community turns down the heat on DART over the assembly facility how can it be sure or even comfortable in trusting DART to honor its commitment to construct the electronics shop? After all, DART's track record in this matter is very poor.

If the community backs off does that mean neither the assembly plant or the electronics shop will be built? Is it better to press for the 20 temporary or the 40 permanent jobs? Which scenario yields the best benefit toward the long term economic development of the community? Should the community join with DART, the city and our state and federal representatives for a waiver to build the assembly facility? If the vehicle assembly facility is in fact dead, can the funds that were to be used for it be used to build the electronics shop with no interference from UMTA/FTA? Or will there be the same restriction on the use of funds for the electronics shop as there was for the assembly facility? Will the community have won a victory if it goes along with the electronics shop instead of the assembly facility. Is the relocation of the bus facility from its Kiest location (still mainly an African American area) to LBJ and Lancaster a matter of better economic development opportunities, or merely a matter of politics?

Somehow these questions need to be asked, answered and carefully analyzed. This is the only way the community can truly recognize the full extent of the economic development potential represented by DART's physical presence in our neighborhoods. If it's good for the politicians does that mean that its good for the long term survival of the community? Inquiring minds and a committed community should ask and demand to know prior to the final decision being made.

## ***Will there be the same restriction on the use of funds for the electronics shop as there was for the assembly facility?***

(In the News con't)

### ***Lee's Personnel Grand Opening***

Lee's Personnel Service, Inc. grand opening was held November 19, 1992, for the main office on Martin Luther King Boulevard.

Among the guests were Jeffery Ware, Texas Instruments; Daryl Thornton, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center; Lesile Ferrel, Frito-Lay Inc. Minority Affairs; Michael Uhl, Texas Instruments; Tom Houston, Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce; Bill Harris, Bank One; Paul Malone, Blockbuster; Jim Bochum, Minority Opportunity News; Marvin Jones, Institute for Minority Males; Greg Cambell, Baker & Cambell Association; Kevin Turner, Houston Highway Patrol; Merrill Hinton, Allen Street Travel.

### ***Institute for Minority Males Seeks Participants***

The Institute for Minority Males (I.M.M.) is a program of the Dallas Urban League committed to assisting minority males to become empowered in an effort to cultivate and exercise their full potential as American citizens.

I.M.M. is located in Paul Quinn College, Price-Branch Educational Building, Room 228, 3837 Simpson Stuart Rd. Sessions are held for 16 weeks, Mon.-Fri. 9 am to 3pm. For additional information call 376-0396.

The program is free to minority males between the ages of 17 and 38.

### ***Public housing resident(s) become B.O.S.S.***

Twenty public housing residents will launch their business careers on Saturday, November 14, 1992 after successfully completing the Southern Dallas Development Corporation's (SDDC) Business Owners Self Supporting (B.O.S.S.) program.

Commencement ceremonies will be held at Southwestern Bell, One Bell Plaza, Concourse level Auditorium at 4:00 p.m. Bill Hamilton, owner and CEO of Annette 2 Cosmetics will address the graduates. The Commencement ceremony marks a step in the transition from welfare dependence to a new beginning of self-sufficiency and self-employment.

### ***AFP fashion show***

Aujourd'hui Facioun Productions (AFP) in joint production with The Emerging Women Ministries (Fundraiser) Fashion Show/Dinner December 12, 1992 at 7pm 3701 Westmoreland, St. John Presbyterian Church. Ticket Price: \$20.00. For more information call: (214) 337-6701.

### ***New Adaptation of A Christmas Carol***

Opening night of *A Christmas Carol* at the Dallas Theater Center's Arts District Theater is set for Tue. December 1. Call Shannon Smith at 526-8210 by noon on November 30 to reserve your tickets.



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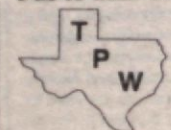
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