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FEBRUARY 1992



Dr. Zan Holmes, MLK, Jr.
Parade's Grand Marshall

Martin Luther King, Jr.
January 15, 1929 – April 4,
1968

HE WAS BORN
MICHAEL LUTHER
KING JR., and at the age of
six, he and his father
changed their names to
Martin Luther. He skipped
the ninth and twelfth grades
and graduated from Booker
T. Washington High School
at 15.

1944 – King entered
Morehouse College,
Atlanta, Ga.

1947 – Ordained a minister
at the Ebenezer Baptist
Church, and became
assistant pastor.

1948 – King graduated with
a B.A. degree from
Morehouse.

1954 – he accepted a post as
pastor of the 400-member
Dexter Ave. Baptist Church



in Montgomery, Ala.

1955 – he was awarded his
Ph.D. degree in systematic
theology.

1955 – King was elected
president of the Montgomery

Improvement Association
after Mr. Rosa Parks refused
to give up her seat to a white
person.

1956 – King was arrested for
the first time on the charge of
driving thirty miles an hour

in a twenty five mile zone.

1957 – Leaders from 10
Southern States met at
Ebenezer Baptist Church to
form THE SOUTHERN
LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE. King was



An estimated 6000 people
marched in MLK, Jr.
Center sponsored parade.

elected president.

1958 – First book published
"Stride Toward Freedom"
(Harper 1958) While
visiting a Harlem bookstore,
he was stabbed by a
deranged woman.

1960 – King left
Montgomery for Atlanta, to
become co-pastor with his
father at Ebenezer Baptist
Church.

1963 – He delivered his most
well-known and most
quoted address, "I HAVE A
DREAM"

1963 – EULOGY FOR THE
MARTYRED CHILDREN
IN BIRMINGHAM

1964 – won Nobel Peace
Prize at the age of 35.

1968 – at the Mason Temple,
Tenn gave last sermon "I
SEE THE PROMISED
LAND"



Thurman R. Jones
Publisher

It is not unusual to reflect on the accomplishments of our politicians. As a matter of fact, especially in election years, these public servants often beg us to examine their record and take a close look at all they have done for the community. Likewise, it becomes the responsibility of the citizenry to look behind the face value of their efforts and ascertain the bottom line of what has or has not changed and if we are in fact better off now than before their good works.

It is in this spirit that I want to look at the recent issue surrounding the proposed prison site in southern Dallas. Let me say from the onset that this is not a point of advocacy for or against the prison. Obviously, that issue has been debated and the apparent will of the people was expressed. I do feel, however, that this is a good point to examine what we really did accomplish.

Needless to say, there were heavy handed examples of politics being played out around the whole discussion of the prison issue. For example, let's look at a few...

...The selection, by the mayor, of a newly elected council person to lead the charge on the prison site selection. From what I can gather, this move was made without the consultation, advice or consent of the incumbent (and also African American) council representative from the district. Why was this the case? I am not sure. Perhaps the mayor can enlighten us. In any case, it does seem to indicate a staging of the plan to get prison South Dallas through the politics of exclusion rather than inclusion.

...Once the intentions regarding the proposed sites were disclosed there seemed to be a wave of comments from most of our local African American politicians. Several assumed leadership roles in arguing (predominately against) the prison whether they were asked to do so or not. Of course, I am well aware of the fact that this is an election year and that television and/or radio news coverage is cheaper than paid political advertisements. Perhaps, for some, this was the motivation of their involvement. In either case, I have

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IN THE NEWS...

School Board rehires law firm

The Dallas School Board's three African American members, Thomas Jones, Evonne Ewell and Kathlyn Gilliam, lost the battle to hire more minority lawyers to represent the school district. The school board voted 6-3 to grant a revised two-year, \$540,000 contract to lawyers Leonard Schartz and Dennis Eichelbaum, whose firm has represented the district in personnel cases for six years.

While the board is not required to advertise for bids for legal services, the African American board members were upset at the new contracts provision for subcontracting, which requires the law firm to handle all of the districts legal work for matters of desegregation, workers' compensation and tax collection. The firm can subcontract work in those areas to any firm it chooses. Previously, the law firm was required to subcontract some cases with lawyers of firms owned by minorities and women.

Mandela One-Day Stop in Dallas

In a recent visit to Dallas, Winnie Mandela, wife of leading anti-apartheid advocate Nelson Mandela, came to raise money for famine relief in Africa.

Mandela is known largely for advocating the liberation of South Africa's 30 million disenfranchised blacks. She is a member of the National Executive Committee of African National Congress.

Mandela addressed a noon luncheon at the St. John Missionary Baptist Church Family Life Center, and attended a rally at the Dallas Convention Center Theater later that evening.

Quest for Success

The Eight Annual Quest for Success Awards Luncheon and workshops will be held on Friday, February 21, at the Dallas Convention Center East Ballroom.

The Awards Program will include the Premier of a special video production featuring the 1992 Awards recipients.

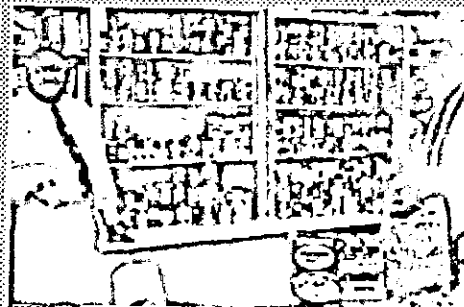
The Mistress of Ceremonies will be Lyria Howland of Howland Consulting. The workshops will be held that morning for 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The various workshops available are (1) Personality Profile: Beneficial Applications for Personality (2) Banking in Today's Environment (small business overview) (3) How to Start a Small Business (4) Myers-Briggs and (5) Exceptional Customer Service - A Must.

The individual luncheon tickets are \$35. You may contact the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce regarding the luncheon at (214) 421-5200.

Joseph J. Rhoads Learning Center

We would like to say "Thank You" to the staff, families and community friends who joined us in holiday fun and celebration on December 20, at the Joseph J. Rhoads Learning Center. What made this celebration special was the donations of food, clothing, money and toys by business, families and community friends. Thanks to you, we were able to feed over 200 citizens of South Dallas. Again, special thanks to all of the people and businesses for their donations and contributions to our school.



In honor of African American Heritage Month, Joseph J. Rhoads Learning Center will sponsor a Family Day on February 23, 1992. The theme is "Saving Our Children - Stop the Violence - Keep the Peace". The festivities will be held at the learning center, 4401 Second Ave. in South Dallas from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The purpose of this event is to bring together staff, students, families, senior citizens, clergymen, business owners and friends in celebration and fellowship. For further information, contact Mr. Mark A. Knight, community liaison at 214/565-6490.

Bokari Ethnic Attire Fair

To provide an avenue by which African Americans and the public can acquire African attire for year round wear, the St. Luke Community United Methodist Church will sponsor its First "Bokari Ethnic Attire Fair" Feb. 26, 27 and 29.

Afrocentric designers and vendors will display clothing to members and friends of St. Luke from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

For information, contact Randy Luster, (214) 492-8724, or Diane Miles (214) 352-5856.

U.S. Postal Service Career Day

In celebration of Black History Month, the Dallas Division Affirmative Action Program has planned a Career Day to include a series of workshops for the benefit of all postal employees interested in working toward self-development and career advancement.

For more information contact Rita Parson, (214) 393-6105.

Texas Veterans Special Benefits

Austin -- A seminar focusing on the state's veterans housing benefits will be held February 13, 1992, in Dallas. The seminar is free and open to the public. It will be held at the Doubletree Inn Texas Room, 8250 North Central Expressway at 7 p.m.

Registration will begin at 6:30 p.m. The VLB (Veteran's Land Board) has made 8,359 loans totalling more than \$40.6 million in the Dallas area. There are approximately 210,320 veterans living in Dallas county. The land program lends eligible Texas Veterans up to \$20,000 at 7.99 percent interest to purchase at least five acres of land.

For more information on the Dallas seminar or the Texas Veterans Land Board programs call 1-800-252-VETS or contact Greta Loney at 214-517-3596. See page 8

You Can Be A Star

Students Targeting Adult Responsibility (S.T.A.R.) is sponsoring a poetry contest entitled "My Guiding Star".

Contestants are to select a person who has served as a role model, and write an original poem on that person's influence in the student's life.

Deadline for all poems is Tues. March 31, 1992 at 5 p.m. Entries may be sent to One Turtle Creek Village, Suite 500, Dallas Tx 75219.

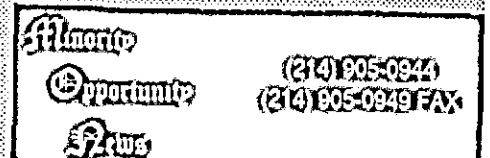
The contest winner's poem and picture will be featured in MON, and he/she will be recognized at a future awards presentation sponsored by S.T.A.R.

Contact Ms. Ragsdale at (214) 520-STAR for more information.

Grand Prairie Voters Say Yes To Track

After relentless campaigning and strategically sound planning by city officials and developers, voters approved a half cent sales tax to help fund a horse track in Grand Prairie.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF A WILL



By Brenda Hull Thompson
Attorney at Law

If you have ever asked the question, "Do I need a Will?", you should consider what a will can do for you and your loved ones.

If you are married, have minor or grown children, own property, including real estate or vehicles, or a bank account, a properly prepared will is in your best interest.

A will can solve or avoid many of the problems and most of the expense created by death without a will.

For example, a valid will can avoid the cost and hardship associated with court-supervised administration of an estate; a will can protect the property and rights of children from current or previous relationships; a will can save on death taxes; a will can minimize family disputes; and a will insures that your heirs receive the intended portion of your estate.

In Texas, if you die without a will, the division of your property is governed by the Texas Probate Code provisions on interstate succession. These provisions rank your survivors and spell out a division of your estate based on whether it contains community, separate, real and/or personal property.

For example, if a married person's estate contains only community property, generally defined as property acquired during marriage, the decedent's one half of the community estate would pass to the surviving children of the current and former marriages and of other relationships. Hence, if such community property included the family home, and if the children are minors, the surviving spouse would own the house jointly with the decedent children. Such a circumstance would require Probate Court involvement in order to sell the house and may result in disputes between heirs from different relationships.

If a person dies without a will, it may be necessary to not only have a court-supervised administration of the estate, but also a judicial determination of who has the right to inherit from the deceased person.

The requirements for making a will are simple. You must be of sound mind and be at least eighteen years of age, be legally married or be a member of the armed forces.

A will should include a designated

manager of the estate, known as an executor or executrix, and if there are minor children, a will could include a designated guardian of the children's persons and estates.

If your will provides for an independent administration of your estate, designating an independent executor and stipulating that the person may serve without a bond, your costs of the administration can be reduced substantially.

Your will should set out clearly how your assets are to be divided, and it should anticipate such situations as death of intended heirs prior to your death, and children born or adopted after you make the will. Your will may include instructions regarding the payment of your bills and funeral arrangements.

A will should be discussed with your attorney and can be normally obtained for a modest fee. Although some of your property, such as life insurance and retirement benefits, can be distributed to your heirs without a will, a will should still be considered for the orderly handling of your affairs after death.

(214) 363-1022

Publisher from p-2

heard that it was their concern for the community that brought out their efforts.

...And what about the trial by fire of councilman Hicks? I am confident that his decision to take the lead position on the prison issue was well intended if not somewhat politically naive. The lack of consultation initially with Mr. Lipscomb, running interference for the mayor in a number of instances and failure to realize that conducting a public discussion is different from arguing a case before a jury in court are a few of his mistakes. Hopefully, they will become hard earned lessons.

... Speaking of Mr. Hicks, it is also important to note the extremely negative response his efforts generated from some members of the community. The profanity, late night threatening calls to

his home and family, and the damages to his automobile show a level of immaturity on how we should civilly disagree. These personal affronts have no place in legitimate debate and discussion of the issues. Whether we agree with another's point or not, this type of behavior is intolerable.

...And what of the cadre of community leaders that rose to the occasion to represent their constituents. Several of these individuals deserve our commendations. They live in the area, are aware of the issues and spoke to what they believed to be the best for their neighborhood. Perhaps the politicians could learn something from them.

As you can see, there were a number of different perspectives operating simultaneously on this issue. Unfortunately, though, perhaps the most significant implications arise from what was not done or said. For example, one of the primary basis for the argument for the prison in South Dallas was that of economic development. More jobs, training opportunities, construction and supply contracts and the belief that the prison facility could serve as a magnet to attract additional development were a few of the supporting arguments in this regard. On the other side, there were those concerned about issues of image, safety and security of having the prison in their neighborhood. Both sides of the argument had merit.

However, the one point that both sides could agree on is that the proposed site represented a large, underdeveloped, underutilized tract of land with few viable opportunities for business development. Although the dissenting perspective ultimately won, I question why an alternate plan for development was not proposed with the same vigor as the arguments against the prison. With all the press coverage and political attention, that was the prime time to put forth a plan for real economic development in the area. Neither the politicians, nor the community leaders, nor the numerous others that rushed forth to argue against the prison offer a substantive, well planned alternative. As a result we may have "won" the prison fight but we still have the large, underdeveloped and

underutilized land and no more jobs, no more contracts and no training opportunities. Even worse, we have no plans for developing viable alternatives.

And while I am questioning why there are no plans, I also question where was the Black Chamber of Commerce during these discussions. If there was any organization that should have played a vital role in developing an economic argument, either for or against the prison, and more over, putting forth a plan for economic development the community could have adopted, it should have been the Black Chamber of Commerce. Instead, we got no commentary, no plan, no new vision for the area and fundamentally, no leadership.

The other set of circumstances surrounding the prison site selection process could serve as a learning experience for the city: The mayor, politicians, civic representatives and the citizens at large. We must remember that arguing against development, in the midst of so great a need and with no alternatives, makes "winning" a moot issue. It is, at best, the politics and economics of raising hell rather than the incomes, buildings and future economic horizons we need so desperately.

TH-22

COLLIN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGES Black History Month

2/4 CC Film: Legacy - "The African
12-1 P.M. In African - American Art"

2/7 SCC "Traditions and Customs:
12:30 - 1:30 Nigerian Perspective", Dr.
Sunday Obiajulu Uzuh,
Presenter

2/11 CC Film: "Black Women Artists":
12-1:00 P.M. A Coming Together

2/13 SCC African Artifacts: Discussion
12:30-1:30 and Demonstration - Ms.
Janet Schriver, Presenter

2/14 SCC "An African Odyssey: Travels

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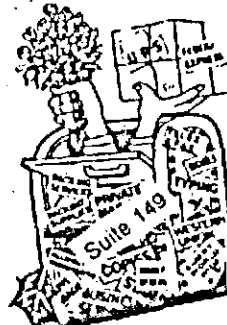
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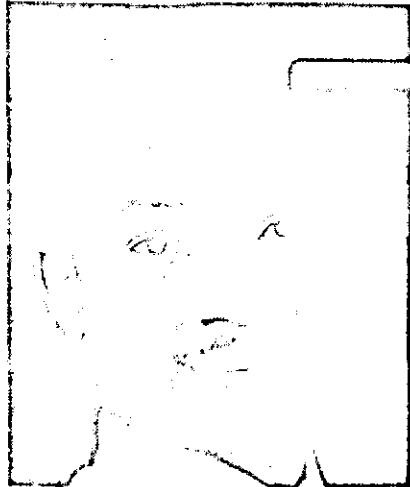
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Philip McCarty
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BUSINESS



By Randy Luster
Business Editor

In 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, initiated Negro History Week, which in 1976 was expanded to Black History Month. Dr. Woodson in 1933 published his most celebrated work, The Mis-Education of the Negro and America was experiencing similar economic conditions (low business activities and high rates of unemployment), as we are faced with today.

In observance of Black History Month, Minority Opportunity News would like to salute the father of Black History Week, Dr. Carter G. Woodson by taking a look at some of Dr. Woodson's views as they relate to the conditions of African American businesses.

Dr. Woodson's view as it relates to failure of African American businesses:

"Yet, investigation shows that in proportion to the amount of capital invested Negro enterprises manifest about as much strength as businesses of others similarly situated. Negro businessmen have made mistakes, and they are still

making them; but the weak link in the chain is that they are not properly supported and do not always grow enough to pass through a crisis. The Negro businessman, then has not failed as much as he has failed to get support of Negroes who should be mentally developed sufficiently to see the wisdom of supporting such enterprises."

Other reasons why African American businessmen do not succeed:

"Negro businessmen have too much to do. They have not the time to read the business literature and study the market upon which they depend, and they may not be sufficiently trained to do these things. They are usually operating in the dark of by the hit-or-miss method. They cannot secure intelligent guidance because the schools are not turning out men properly trained to take up Negro business as it is to develop and make it what it ought to be rather than find fault with it."

Dr. Woodson went on to say, "In the schools of business administration Negroes are trained exclusively in the psychology and economics of Wall Street and are, therefore made to despise the opportunities to run ice wagons, push banana carts, and sell peanuts among their own people. Foreigners, who have not studied economics but have studied Negroes, take up this business and grow rich."

"It is unfortunate, too, that the educated Negro does not understand or is willing to start small enterprises which make the larger ones possible. If we can not proceed according to the methods of the gigantic corporations about which he reads in books, he does not know how to take hold of things and organize the communities of the poor along lines of small businesses."

Dr. Woodson identified lack of support, too many responsibilities, inadequate time to study the market, improper training, and lack of vision as

contributors to the failure of African American businesses. This was in 1933 and businesses today are still confronted by the same issues. It is time we eradicate problems that have been destroying our businesses for over sixty years.

We must develop a plan to save our businesses because all community institutions are centered around economics. Our churches created businesses and financial institutions. Churches are funded mostly by individual contributors, who are employed by others. Historically black colleges are faced with financial difficulty because their graduates have been trained to "get a job" and once we pay our basic living expenses, there is nothing left to give back to our institutions.

After the Civil War, black colleges and churches created businesses and financial institutions. Churches are our largest single source of raising funds in the African American community, and for those much is given, much is required. Black colleges must start developing curriculums that designed to create many jobs and not just to get a job. Individuals must have vision and solve his own problems with the skills he/she has used to solve other's problems. It is imperative that we develop a TOTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT (TQM) strategy; a team approach that requires all of us working together to save us, and implement a plan of CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT to eradicate problems that have been hanging around for over sixty years.

Front Row (l-r): Mary Hasan, Ruby Fulsom, Dianne Gibson.

Back Row (l-r): Vincent Hall, Leon Carter, Michael Hill.

Martin Luther King— Justice Served

We are both proud and elated to announce that the 1992 Martin Luther King banquet was successful because of the generosity and commitments made by several corporations. Those efforts were galvanized by our anchor and chief corporate sponsor, "The Dallas Morning News". In addition, these efforts were abetted by the following national and local companies:

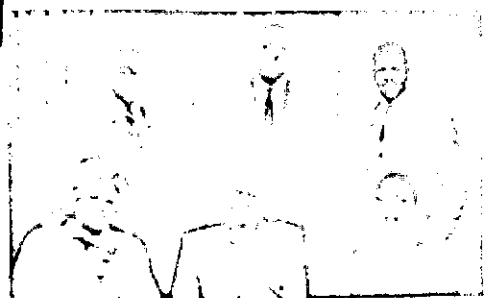
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All proceeds will go to the Alvin E. Moore fund, which was established to provide aid for emergency needs, i.e., basic utilities and shelter. We also recognize the generous donations made by Robert Tilton Ministries. We appreciate this opportunity to express our thanks to all who answered our call.

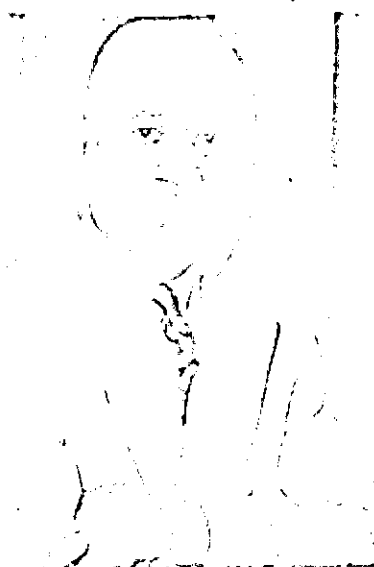
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IT WILL TAKE A MIRACLE

By Agatha S. Richardson
Staff Writer

America, you must be born again! Born to freedom, synthesized with liberty and regenerated with justice for all."

"Your whole structure must be changed." These words were spoken by Dr. Martin Luther King, at his last, and some call, his most radical address as president of the SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Conference). Dr. King sent forth a challenge to all Americans.

Today we stand at the dawn of a new morning; in Dallas and as a nation. A resounding call must go forth! A strong leader must emerge! One who will be militant enough to keep people aroused to positive action and yet moderate enough to keep fervor within controllable Christian bounds." Not so much a leader who has dream in the 90's but one with an ACTION PLAN. Now is the time for Action; action that can transform and organize our strengths, develop techniques for economic empowerment, rally new political powers, and quell the tide of injustices that prevail in the land. It's mandatory.

Over the decades, the names and dates may have changed to protect the innocent, but the story remains the same. One of racial inequities. We must realize that Dr. Martin Luther King was right: "what affects one of us directly affects all of us indirectly." And William Cullen Bryant was right also when he said "Truth crushed to earth will rise again". Just for a moment, let us review a portion of instructions Dr. King gave in his speech entitled "Where Do We Go From Here".

He urged, "Let us be dissatisfied until America will no longer have a High Blood Pressure of Creeds and an Anemia of Deeds. Let us be dissatisfied until the tragic walls that separate the outer city of wealth and comfort and the inner city of poverty and despair shall be crushed by the battering rams of the forces of justice."

The call was released a quarter of a century ago. The message is clear. We must become dissatisfied. We must become dissatisfied to observe a vast number of African American men incarcerated for the majority of their lives, because at some level, society failed them, we must be dissatisfied when our children feel that escaping on drugs is easier than living in the real world, we must become dissatisfied when our 11, 12, and 13 year old daughters announce they are pregnant, as a result of their quest for love. Then we must realize that violence may murder a murderer but you can't murder murder. Through violence you may murder a liar, but you can't establish truth. Darkness cannot put out darkness. Only light can do that.

Therefore, as we begin to unite in one voice, WE WAIT. As history unveils, we must activate that which is inside each of us. We must become educated in unfamiliar arenas. We must learn investment techniques, develop trade

negotiation skills, political acumen and etc.... And then we must raise up our children; and teach them so they will be equipped to follow in our established paths. We should never forget that as long as the mind is enslaved, the body can never be free. As we wait, we realize it's true. It will take a miracle.

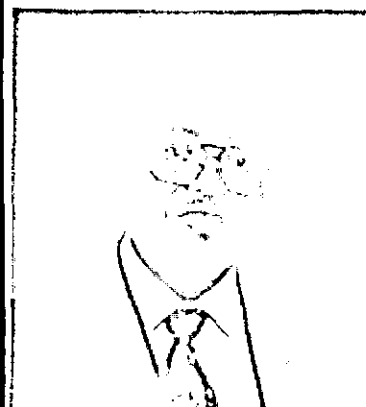
MLK Reception Southland Center Hotel



John Wiley Price and Jan Gore
Dallas County Commissioner
and Political Consultant



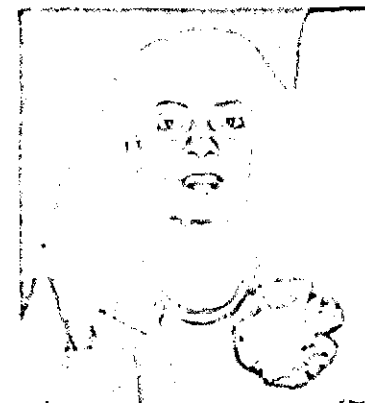
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Councilwoman



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All Dressed Up..Going Somewhere?



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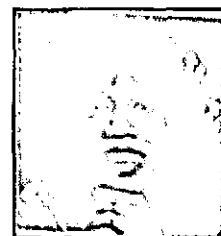
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"WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?"

Excerpts from Dr. Zan Wesley Holmes, Jr., Pastor of St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church - Keynote Speaker at Martin Luther King, Jr. Banquet, January 18, 1992, Southland Center Hotel

By Jim Bochum
Editor-in-Chief

On Dr. King and Dallas...

I want to begin my remarks tonight by recalling one of my favorite quotes from Dr. King recorded in his last book "Where Do We Go From Here, Community of Chaos." You will recall, if you have read that book, he tells about a famous novelist who died several years ago and left a list of suggested props for future stories. Dr. King said "that especially underscored was this one, a widely separated family inherits a great world house in which they have to live together." Dr. King went on to say "that this was the great plight of human kind today, we have inherited the great world house in which we have to live together. Like white, red, brown, and yellow, Easterner and Westerner, gentile, Jew, Muslim, Hindu, protestant, and Catholic, a family duly separated idea of culture and interest who because we can never again afford to live apart, must somehow learn to live together as sisters and brothers or we perish separately as fools."

It seems to me tonight that as we gather here on this occasion to celebrate the birthday of Dr. King, it is appropriate for us to ask ourselves how far have we come in Dallas towards being that beloved community, that community where all of God's children have realized the dream of love and justice in their lives. This day will have no meaning whatsoever for us if we do not ask ourselves how far have we come in Dallas towards the realization of the dream.

Well, let me say to us tonight that I do not believe that we in Dallas can plead ignorance to God, King's call for the beloved community. No we cannot plead ignorance because Dr. King personally came to this city, at least five times that I know about, to share that dream with us here. He first came in 1957 at the invitation of Dr. Caesar Clark, pastor of the Good Street Baptist Church to preach to a Youth Conference. Sometime after that he came again after the Montgomery Bus Boycott where he addressed a session of the National Baptist Convention Meeting in Memorial Auditorium. I was there. He came a third time in 1963. I am very proud to have been a part of that small group of preachers who invited him here to address a voter registration rally that was held at Fair Park Auditorium. I was there to help count the offering. I also recall that on that occasion, Dr. King was not as popular in Dallas as he is today. I recall that Fair Park Auditorium was only half-full. However, Dr. King did not lose faith in us, he came back again, still later in the 1960's to address a session of the Dallas Pastors Association at a noon luncheon held at the Melrose Hotel. I was there. Later that afternoon he addressed a standing room only audience at McFarland Auditorium on the campus of

Southern Methodist University. I had the privilege of riding the elevator with him up to that auditorium. Then for a fifth time, approximately two years before his death, Dr. King returned to Dallas for a final time that I know about, this time he came to address a National Meeting of the Presbyterian Church that also was held in Memorial Auditorium. By the grace of God I was there on that occasion. For I know from personal experience that Dr. King was no stranger to the city of Dallas.

He invested his time and testimony in our midst, in fact, I was reminded of his continuing investment in our city, when some 28 years later during a 14-1 rally in this city last year. On that occasion it was my privilege to march arm and arm with Martin Luther King, III and stand with him at the podium as he addressed the Dallas City Council on behalf of justice for all people in Dallas as his father had done some 28 years prior to that occasion. So it should be with a sense of gratitude and indebtedness to Dr. King as we celebrate his birthday here in Dallas.



On racism...

Let me tell you something my sisters and my brothers, racism is still alive and well. Oh I hope you hear me tonight. Mrs. Willie White of our United Methodist Church says that racism is like Johnson grass, when you think you have arrested it, it will reappear, when you think you have eradicated it here, it will show up over there. Johnson grass will grow anywhere, in good soil, in bad soil, and even in no soil at all, in fact Johnson grass will even grow through concrete.

Likewise, racism is tough, its stubborn, and it seems to grow in the strangest places. In fact Johnson grass looks like good grass when you view it from a distance, but when you get close up to it, you can see that it is bad grass. Therefore, we must not delude ourselves, Dr. King will not have us do it, we must not delude ourselves in Dallas with unrealistic expectations about combatting or eradicating it.

For example, Dallas is still one of the most racially, economically, and socially segregated cities of America today. Listen to me, in fact this was dramatically confirmed three years ago by the report of an exhaustive three year study of the City of Dallas by the Dallas Lights entitled

"The State of Dallas". The study was conducted by the Center for Applied Research at the university of Texas at Dallas. The report clearly suggests a sharp division between whites and the new ethnic majority in Dallas. It notes that a growing polarity exists between whites and the new ethnic majority which is revealed in the facts that the suburbs of Dallas are overwhelmingly white and affluent, whereas Central Dallas is largely black and brown who are disproportionately represented in the ranks of the under employed and the under educated.

The report notes that the percentage of African American families living in below the poverty level is almost five times that of whites. The percentage of Hispanics in poverty is 3.5 times that of whites. On Sunday, October 13, 1991, the Dallas Morning News issued the results of a poll which revealed that eight of ten residents believe that race relations in Dallas are seriously strained, but most in the survey do not think they are part of the problem.

The survey, one of the most far ranging studies ever done on racial attitudes in Dallas reveals a city whose racial groups say they are concerned about the tension, but often live and work in separate environment wary and remote. Dallas also showed major blows from the 1-2-3 punch of declines in oil, real estate, and banking, but more critical than the economic woes, Dallas turned against itself.

The city is now woefully and dangerously divided and also what is happening in Dallas is also reflected across our nation. In August, 1991, you read that report which says that African Americans remain the most isolated minority in the United States. This report issued by the Population Reference Bureau. Evidence points to two African American communities, one a middle class affluent blacks who took advantage of the increased opportunities provided by the Civil Rights Movement, the other the poor, largely urban blacks who remain socially and economically isolated from the American mainstream. That report also went on to say that during the 1980s the number of blacks enrolled in colleges and universities began to decline and since 1985 the average life expectancy of blacks decreased. Black life expectancy remains substantially below that of whites, and blacks are six times more likely than whites to be killed. The 1980's also saw a slowdown in the growth of black and professional managerial jobs. They said that there was an increase in the percentage of blacks living in what we call high poverty areas, such as intercity ghettos.

Nearly half of black Americans live in what are defined as high poverty areas. How far have we come? Even though, oh hear me tonight, even though we brought a cure for our racial polarization through the painful process of a 14-1 plan and a newly

elected mayor and city council, the irony of it all is that most of the elections were the result of racially polarized voting. I am reminded of something Victor Borge once said. He said that his grandfather was working in his lab one day and discovered a cure for which there was no disease. This he said was confusing enough, but he said even more confusing was the fact that a few weeks later his grandmother caught the cure and died. Sometimes if the cure is mishandled, it can be worse than the disease. Hello! I simply say that we must not let new political arrangement make us blind to the fact that racial polarization is still the number one enemy of the brand new future that God is offering us in Dallas. We cannot bury our heads in the sand and pretend that is not the case and as long as this condition continues to exist in Dallas, there can be no real peace.

Dr. King said, and I quote, "So long as the Negro maintains this suburban attitude and accepted the place assigned to him, a sort of racial peace exists" but he said it was "An uneasy peace in which the Negro was forced patiently to submit to insult, injustice, and exploitation." He said it was "a negative peace," but he went on to say that "true peace is not merely the absence of some negative force, such as tension or confusion or war," he said "true peace is the presence of a positive force such as justice."



On Justice...

Those prophetic words of Amos who said "but let justice roll down like waters." every body talks about Dr. King's emphasis on love, "but he said let justice roll down and righteousness like an ever flowing stream" Amos 5:24. Likewise he also had faith in the vision of Psalms 85:10 which says "Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet and justice and peace will kiss each other." You want peace, you got to work for justice.

Now let me tell you something. It is important that we do not confuse justice with charity. Dr. King understood the sharp distinction between the two, for the practice of charity and the pursuit of justice are not the same. You see charity is essentially a temporary provision. It may provide temporary relief. However, it does not deal with the root cause of the problem. You see a charitable response to the problem of

continue on page 7

Dr. Holmes

continued from P6

crime is to build more prisons. Hire more policepersons, but a justice response is to provide programs that seek to eliminate the conditions which we try.

Listen to me, the familiar parable of a Good Samaritan is a classic example of a charitable response. The parable does not speak about any attempts on the part of the good Samaritan to do anything about the root causes of highway robbery. He did nothing to provide better road conditions and security measures that would help prevent robberies. He did nothing to provide reform efforts for the robbers or to provide better job conditions for would be robbers. Nor did he do anything to eliminate the economic disparity between the haves and the have nots.

To be sure he took the wounded man to an inn and provided for him temporary relief and certainly that was important at the moment. I am sure it was important to the man who was wounded. However, justice goes beyond the inn. Justice demands a different set of responses. Justice seeks to remove the root causes. Justice seeks to reorder priorities. Justice more often than not demands a radical change. For example, if one is on a train and the train is moving in the wrong direction, it does no good to get up and run down the aisle in the opposite direction, for you see, the train is still carrying you in the wrong direction, even if you are headed in the right direction.

What you have got to do is get off the train or work to get the train to turn around so it can move in the right direction.

If Moses had been content with nothing but charitable relief measures for his fellow Hebrews who were enslaved in Egypt, they never would have experienced freedom. They would have still been in Egypt, enslaved under Pharaoh with bandaged wounds and balm on their whiplash sores, but Moses moved beyond the charity to the justice. He challenged the institutional and structural injustices of Pharaoh's system, even disobeying unjust Egyptian laws, ultimately lead his people to a new freedom and a new identity. Now this is not to

suggest that we should abandon works of charity and mercy. Don't read me wrong tonight, but rather it is to say that these acts should be done in such a way that the charitable act does not negate the demand for justice. As a matter of fact justice and charity need each other, but individual acts of charity can never be substitutes for collective acts of justice.



On the future for Dallas

I've challenged you, I've talked about the dream for Dallas, I have talked about where we have come, I have talked about our shortcomings, but let me also tell you that if we are to measure up to the city that God is calling us to be here in Dallas, we must again learn how to come home to each other, black, white, red, brown, and yellow on behalf of peace and justice. When we made our best progress in this city, we made it when whites, blacks, red, brown and yellow, business folk, labor folk came together and intentionally did something to enable this city to move forward. We don't do that anymore like we use to do it, cause when we did do it we were scared and after we did a few things we went on off and left them. Like that little boy who was falling out of bed every night and someone asked him why did he keep on falling out of bed every night. He said, I don't know, I guess it is because I went to sleep too close to where I got in.

Dallas is guilty of that, we do a few good things and then we go to sleep and we fall out of bed. Dr. King brought us together during the Civil Rights Movement, and that Movement became the powerful Movement that is because whites, blacks, brown, yellows, and others became

convicted of the greed and worked to enable it to happen.

They did not lose sight of Dr. King's vision of world house and a beloved community that helped them to see that justice denied anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. He said in a real sense, "All of life is interrelated." "All people are caught up in an inescapable network of mutuality." "Caught in a single garment of destiny." "Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." He said, "I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be." "You can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be." That is why we so desperately need to come home to each other in Dallas. It may be true that some of our forefathers and foremothers came to these shores on the Mayflower. Some of our forefathers and foremothers came to these shores on a slave ship, but we are all in the same boat now.

Chat With Mama Nash



By Allan Gray

Mattie Nash has the look of one that would be asked to hand you a band-aid to patch-up a bruised knee, rather than one that would be asked to patch-up the city's problems. A classic case of appearances being deceiving. Please do not be fooled by this woman known to many as "Mama" Nash.

Nash has combined her twenty-six years as a Sunday school teacher, her tenure as an insurance saleswoman, her

being a mother, and her never-ending work to better her community, to make her seat on the city council an effective one.

"You have to be able to talk to all kinds of people," Nash informs, with a smile that reflects her confidence to do so.

Although Nash's district is basically located in the West Dallas area, it also reaches to some parts of Oak Cliff as well as North Dallas. The manmade boundaries of a levy to the north and railroad tracks to the south, have created what Nash considers "a city within a city", and that is what has sustained its residents.

"If you need a cup of sugar or your car stops, you can go to your neighbors to get help. We live together, work together and go to church together...It's like we're all a family," she beams with pride.

A conversation with Nash will quickly tell you that there is more to her than a pleasant smile.

"Mattie Nash is a business woman," Councilman Hicks will quickly tell you when asked about her.

"My years here on earth, that God has given me, Nash proclaims, "let me know things that you're never too young or old to know and understand the needs of the community...That's what I bring to the city council."

In addition to the many other campaigns Nash has lead in West Dallas, she is recently about to embark on a new venture that will have the citizens themselves go out and beautify their neighborhood, instead of depending on the city. She has also cleverly negotiated a financial deal with a credit union, and has enticed a bank to build in the free enterprise zone, which is located in her district.

Nash's quest is to solve modern problems by employing old fashioned values. She speaks openly about the times when "I would sometimes get whippings when I hadn't even done anything," Nash giggles fondly. "There was no such thing as a missed whipping."

"They have whipped you for the wrong reason this time, but they would

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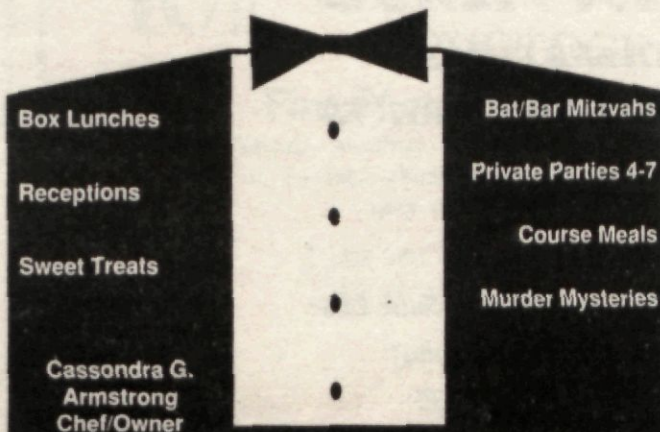
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A MESSAGE TO TEXAS VETERANS



By Greta Loney

The Texas Veterans Land Board is now taking applications for home loans up to \$45,000 through the recently expanded Texas Veterans Housing Assistance program, Greta Franklin Loney, VLB area representative announced this week.

"Increasing the maximum loan available through a Texas VHAP loan brings the program more in line with the realities of today's economy," Loney said.

The increase in the maximum loan amount from \$20,000 to \$45,000 was spearheaded by Texas Land Commissioner Garry Mauro and signed into law in September by Governor Ann Richards.

"A \$45,000 loan will enable Texas veterans to bid on the hundreds of available RTC and HUD properties that fall into this price range," Loney said. "Texas real estate professionals are excited about this because it gives them another financing option to help low-to-moderate income Texans become home owners."

The Texas Veterans Housing Assistance Program currently makes 15, 20, 25 and 30 year fixed-rate loans at 8.5

percent to 8.675 percent for the purchase of a new or existing home.

The Texas Veterans "Housing Assistance Program loan can be used in conjunction with a VA, FHA, or conventional loan from a private lending institution. There is no maximum sales price on a home purchased with a Texas VHAP loan.

Loney can also provide veterans with information about the Texas Veterans Land Program and the Veterans Home Improvement Program. The land program lends up to \$20,000 at 7.99 percent for the purchase of five or more acres.

The Home improvement program will lend Texas veterans up to \$17,500 to 10.5 percent interest (plus FHA Title 1 insurance) for 15 years to make improvements to their existing home. The minimum loan is \$4,000.

To get information on any of the three programs, contact Greta Franklin Loney at (214) 517-3596. She is also available to speak to civic groups and organizations about the VLB programs.

For additional assistance a toll free number, 1-800-252-VETS, is also available.

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T.H., Dallas

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Question:

In looking for employment, it would be so much easier and faster to respond to an employment opening if a cover letter is not required. Why is it necessary to send a cover letter with a resume?

K.J., DeSoto

Answer:

Imagine yourself walking into the public library to select a good fiction book to read. When you enter the fiction section, you see before you rows and rows of shelved books all the same basic color, size shape, and with no titles on them or overviews in them. Finding that interesting book would be equivalent to searching for a needle in a haystack.

The same principal is true of resumes. Personnel departments receive hundreds of resumes every month, all of which are of the same basic shade, style and format. The cover letter acts as the title to your resume, bringing to it color, style, and character. It is an overview of what the

resume contains and is your selling tool to generate an interviewer's interest to read the resume and possibly select you for an interview; which will give you an opportunity to further discuss your qualifications and state why you are the best candidate for the position. A resume standing alone, many times will just get added to the haystack, and cause the interviewer to look further for the needle.

Question:

Who was the first African American city council person in Dallas, Tx?

S.V., Dallas

Answer:

George Allen, a trendsetter in the Dallas community for many years, was the first African American Dallas city council person. He went on to become a distinguished justice of the peace representing Oak Cliff. Allen is now deceased as of 1991.

Olivia's Corner, Minority Opportunity News, 2730 Stemmons Frwy, 1100 Tower West, Dallas, Tx, 75207

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TIPS ON RESUMES

By Susan Lee

Your resume is a reflection of you as an advertising tool. It should be easy to read, placing the most important information on the first page.

In preparing your resume, be sure to use action verbs with each line expressing an idea or fact that will help sell you to a prospective employer. Be sure that your resume contains the following information: 1) name and address, 2) objective, 3) accomplishments, 4) skills, 5) employment history, and 6) education.

Remember appearance is very critical
Until next time.

Lee's Personnel Service, Inc
Susan Turner Lee

IN THE NEWS continued from P2

"I am excited by the win," said Lee Alcorn, president of the Grand Prairie chapter of the NAACP. "African Americans will benefit by having the facility in Grand Prairie."

Alcorn emphasized that the "African American community will receive no less than 30 percent of the one thousand jobs and that the residents of Grand Prairie will have first preference. Developers plan to locate the horse track site north of Interstate 30.

Dallas Minority Business Development Breakfast

The Dallas Minority Business Development Breakfast will be held on Thursday, February 20, from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. at the Clarion Hotel, located on the corner of Mockingbird and I-35. The breakfast will feature a 2-3 minute speech on their particular business. The cost is \$4.

For more information contact Raymond Cervantes at (214) 767-8001.

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The following positions are available through the Dallas Urban League

News photographer - 2-3 years experience in television news. Must be skilled in all areas of ENG news gathering.

Newsroom Administrative assistant - secretarial skills, including word processing, computer and typing required.

Senior reporter - college degree and 3-4 years experience in medium to major market.

Part-time operations assistant - high school graduate with general office experience and knowledge in word processing.

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Contact Willie McCall, Dallas Urban League, (214) 528-8038

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Nash continued from page 7

say that it was for the things that you would do, that they didn't know about. That's what kids need today, love and discipline."

One of the problems Nash believes is the root of the African American community's problem is the lack of the African American male.

"We've really lost two generations of young black men," she says with furrowed brows. "We've lost one to the Vietnam War, and now we're losing another one to drugs."

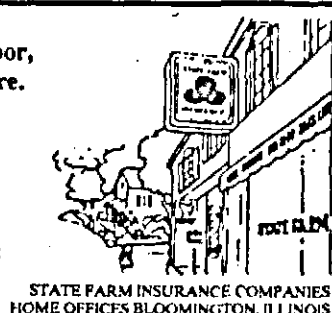
Nash has difficult tasks before her, difficult even for the strongest of men. But somehow, somewhere she will find all the energy it takes to get her job accomplished.

"I've got to have strength to do it because there's so much to be done."

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Collin County Community Colleges
Continued from Page 3

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2/18 SCC Film: "Langston Hughes: The
12:30-1:30 Dream Keeper

2/19 CC Black Panthers: Past to
12:30-1:30 Present- Mr. James Shockley,
Presenter Mr. Larry Collins,
Presenter

2/21 SCC Films: "Music of Africa" and
12:30-1:30 A Spiritual Ordering"

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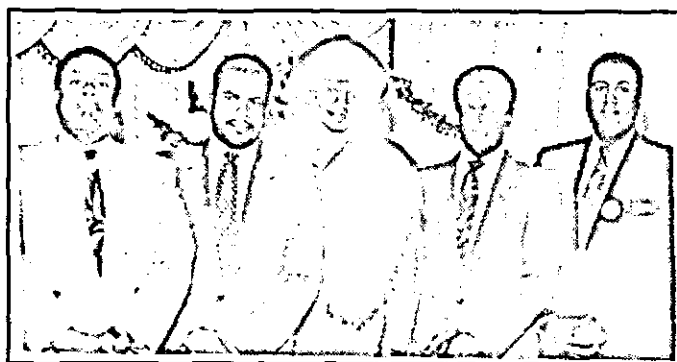
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