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BULK RATE  
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# Minority Opportunity News

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 5

2730 STEMMONS FRWY • 1100 TOWER WEST • DALLAS, TEXAS 75207

MAY 1992

## Pearl C. Anderson: *Black Philanthropist*



Comedy in the Hood

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**THURMAN JONES**

Publisher

Publisher's note continued from the April 1992 issue.

If in fact the purchasing power of the African American community does in fact carry the clout that is often quoted it is at minimum unwise to neglect this emerging market share. These individuals often serve in a "gate-keeping" role. They control the flow of advertising dollars from the corporate sector that ultimately, in many ways, serves as the lifeblood of the minority media. Without a particular social conscience, their decisions carry a significant impact on our ability to continue to be of service to you our readers.

As a second approach to address this growing problem, I have approached my colleagues at the other media publications to encourage them to work collectively to try to generate a reasonable media advertising rate for each of our respective papers. My rationale for doing so is a not only economic, but as well reflects a level of respect that is deserved by these publications in the constituencies that we serve. To date, my response in support of this effort has been mixed. I would encourage you to support me by encouraging members of the media to work collectively to bring about a needed change in this area.

It is of course the case that we services competitors as it relates to the growth and development of each of our businesses. But, what good does it really do us to continue to struggle for a relatively meager advertising dollar when our non minority competitors, united per capita basis, command a far more reasonable figure.

I would encourage you to please utilize the firms that advertise in our publication and please let them know that you appreciate their support in the minority press by advertising in our and the other publications in our area. Your direct response to the firms allows them to understand that their advertising is definitely being seen and responded to by the constituencies that they are attempting to identify. As a result of your efforts, we all will ultimately be the beneficiaries. The minority community will have the continued benefit of a variety of media which discuss issues and concerns in our community. The minority press benefits from the ongoing economic support it receives from its advertising and the corporate advertiser benefits through the identification of a new viable and growing market for their product and services.

At the Minority Opportunity News we are committed to insuring that opportunities are extended to the fullest spectrum of individuals and businesses in our community. Through your cooperative support, I am confident that we can in fact make a difference.

# IN THE NEWS...

## Dallas Urban League Donates Shoes

The Dallas Urban Guild donated 25 new pairs of shoes to Benita Tyler, founder of Shoes for My Children. The Guild has several other community projects scheduled for this year. For more information, call Sue Grant at 241-1611 or Shirley Walker at 528-8038.

## Free Concert For Youths

Students Targeting Adult Responsibility (S.T.A.R.) presents "Jazz: The Heritage Awakening", a free jazz concert for the youth of Dallas. The concert features Clark Terry and Red Holloway. Also appearing are Dallas' own Whitney Russell Quintet and Shirley McFatter.

On Friday, May 8, the concert will be held in Hamilton Park at the Willie Johnson Recreational Center, 12225 Willowdale, at 7:00 p.m. For more information, call 670-6182. On Saturday, May 9, the concert will be held in West Dallas at the North Hampton Recreational Center, 3710 North Hampton, at 4:00 p.m. For more information, call 3670-6194.

Also, the concert will be held on Sunday, May 10, at the South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 South Fitzhugh, at 4:00 p.m. For more information, call 670-0314.

## Talent Show to Benefit Paul Quinn

The Dallas Law Enforcement Officers presents a talent show on Friday, May 15, at 7:00 p.m., at Paul Quinn College on Simpson Stuart Road. Police officers will showcase their talents during this event.

Cost of the talent show starts at \$2.50 per person. All funds received will benefit the college in an effort to keep the school open.

## Pageant Needs Business Sponsors

The Miss Juneteenth Scholarship Beauty Pageant, a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, needs businesses to sponsor contestants or purchase ads for their souvenir booklet to support the educational progress of the youth. This year yields the third annual pageant, to be held June 13 at Hilltop Inn Grand Ballroom, located at North Central and Mockingbird in Dallas.

The organization's goal is to provide over \$10,000 in scholarships, cash, and prizes to the winner and runner-ups. For more information, call Linda Sanders at 214-321-4645.

## Mount Tabor Holds 33rd Anniversary

Mount Tabor Baptist Church

celebrates its 33rd church anniversary on Sunday, May 3. Guest church for this event is Greater El Bethel Baptist church, Dr. C.C. McNealy, Pastor. The church is located at 3700 Simpson Stuart Road in Dallas. For more information, call 255-1704.

## Opportunities Network Breakfast

The monthly Dallas Minority Business Development Breakfast is Thursday, May 21, from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. at the Clarion Hotel, located on the corner of Mockingbird and I-35. The breakfast features 2 to 3 minute speeches on business topics. The cost is \$4. For more information, call Raymond Cervantes at 214-767-8001.

## Tandy Holds Sales Meeting for Minorities

The Tandy Corporation invites minority and women-owned businesses to visit with purchasing entities from their company on Thursday, May 7, from 1:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Two Tandy Center in Fort Worth. Some of the purchasing entities include special promotions, computer manufacturing, advertising, consumer national parts, etc.

This meeting provides an opportunity to learn about various goods and services purchased for over 25 buying areas and their bid process. A networking reception begins at 6:15 p.m., and door prizes will be given away. For more information, call 817-338-2299.

## St. Philips's Committee Inaugurated

On April 21, Mayor Steve Bartlett inaugurated the charter members of the newly formed St. Philip's Neighborhood Development Committee for the St. Philip's School and Community Center. Some of St. Philip's goals are to attract quality, low to moderate income housing; affordable home improvements; and economic and community developments to the Pennsylvania/Holmes area.

The committee consists of South Dallas residents and business owners, heads of low income housing organizations, local banks community reinvestment officers, and community volunteers. For more information, call Karen Ashmore at 421-5221.

## Calvary Temple Honors Women

Calvary Temple Church in Pleasant Grove is honoring women who are making a difference in Dallas/Fort Worth at a 10:00 a.m. brunch on May 16 at the Holiday Inn, Downtown Dallas.

Some of the honorees are Senator Eddie Bernice Johnson, Judge Faith

Johnson, Dr. Phyllis Laws, Principal Marilyn Calhoun, and Mrs. Daisy Pate. Keynote speakers for the brunch are Dr. Ola Reagan of Eastgate Baptist Church, Evangelist Michele Calloway of Lighthouse Church of God in Christ, and Sis. Robie Lartey of Hamilton Park United Methodist Church.

The brunch is an extension of the 1992 Women's Convention held May 14-16 at 7:30 p.m. each night. For more information and ticket prices, call 214-388-5683.

## Robinson Foundation Host Academic Camp

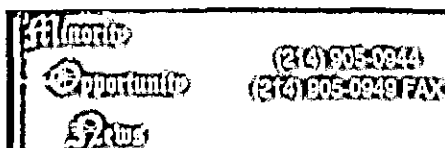
The Ronnie Robinson Awards Foundation holds its annual Academic Camp on May 26 at 6:30 p.m. at Lincoln High School in Dallas. The purpose of this event is to recognize and honor community leaders, parents, teachers, and students for inspiring and encouraging academic excellence. Honorees include: Hugh Robinson, Joyce Morgan, Doc Lawson, Jeff Heller, Willis Johnson, Gary Fernandes, Bob Ray Sanders, Judge Larry Baraka, Leon Meadors, Tamara Lacy, Judge Mary Ellen Hicks, and many others. For more information, call Ronnie Robinson or Eli Whitney at 604-9058.

## Family Day Festival

The Moorland YMCA and KKDA radio are sponsoring a community parade and a Family Day festival that is full of fun in the sun activities on May 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Interested groups and float participants for the parade need to call 375-2583 to get a line-up number. Parade starting points are Glenome Park, New Birth Church and South Oak Cliff High School.

Occurring during this event is the summer program sign-up for discovery camp (ages 4-5), day camp (ages 6-12), pre-school (ages 2 and 3), and swimming lessons. Financial assistance will be awarded at the festival.

NEWS continued on page 4



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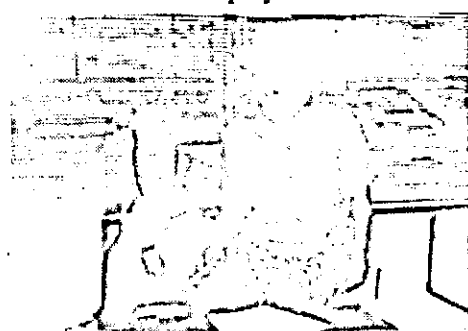
## FROM UNEMPLOYED TO EMPLOYER

By Cherita Montgomery  
Staff Writer

Not more than three years ago, Richard Knight, Dallas City Manager at the time, presented to the council the 1989 budget calling for a reduction in janitorial staff. He sought to privatize city services and contract out city's custodial needs to save money.

Despite the layoffs, Annie Brown, a laid-off city worker, realized that the city would still need someone to clean its buildings.

"I thought, who knows better how to clean these buildings than those of us who have been doing them for years," Ms. Brown said. "Wouldn't it be great if the employees could go in together and form their own company."



Chaundra Martin (seated) and Annie Brown

She took the idea to one city director and then to Knight, who thought it was an excellent idea. The end result was the formation of Clean City Janitorial Service, Inc. in December 1988, which now has city contracts on 36 buildings and employs 25 workers.

The city of Dallas played an important role in getting Clean City off the ground said Brown.

"We knew the cleaning part, but we didn't know the business part, so the city hired the firm, Alphonso Solomon and Co., which has a track record for providing management services to small and medium sized businesses to help them get started."

"Solomon trained us in the areas of marketing, bookkeeping, equipment and supply purchasing, and training," she said. "For two years we took classes on managing an office, and how to do your taxes."

Solomon, who is a CPA and owns a janitorial company, Sunbeam Environmental, says the city felt obligated to help Ms. Brown in her efforts.

The city provided the initial set up funds of \$190,212 for this endeavor. In addition, the city awarded Brown and Clean City 17 buildings to service.

The city is very familiar with Clean City and has helped in its ventures. Many people have been discouraged from bidding against her company for fear that the city will always grant Clean City the contract.

"That's not true," says Brown. "Outside of those 17 buildings, we have to bid and present proposals like everyone else."

"I want to get government

contracts and highrises. That's where the money is," she said.

While it was Brown's brainstorm to go into business for herself, and while she went from employee to employer, in many ways she continues to play a part as employee.



Annie Brown

"If I go out to one of our buildings and see that something needs to be done, it's not beneath me to do it," she said. "Sometimes I show up and ask if they (employees) need any help, most of them say 'Ms. Brown you don't need to help,' but I help anyway."

Out of the 74 laid-off workers, only three others own Clean City with Brown: Garen Hewitt, Jossie Mae Thomas, and Shelia Jefferson.

It is our goal to attract those other workers and employ them as supervisors, Brown said.

Being able to give someone a job is the most rewarding part of her work she said.

"I feel good when someone comes to me and asks for a job," Brown said. "Because of hard work and dedication, I'm able to do it." (214) 327-1724

May 19, 1925  
Malcolm X, civil rights leader  
born in Omaha, Ne.



B.J. Warren (Attorney) and Loren Parker-Jackson (Attorney)

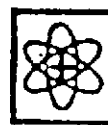
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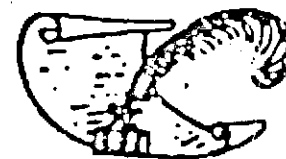
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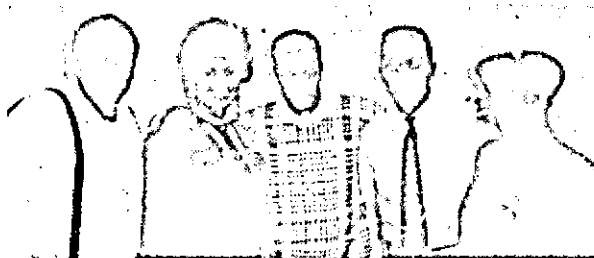


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# BUSINESS



**RANDY  
LUSTER**  
Business Editor

## LET'S MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

By Randy Luster

Recently, I attended an African American Heritage festival on the campus of Texas Southern University. The experience I had was very moving and gave me a sense of new hope. I witnessed a group of youths from St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church of Dallas and a group of youths from the Windsor Village United Methodist Church of Houston come together to make a joyful noise unto the Lord. As they sang, I began to clap my hands and sing along. I realized that these children had not really practiced together. Then I had another thought, if our youth can perform well with little to no practice, what can we as adults do if we tried? I remembered the times when I was a member of the St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church "Million Dollar" Male Chorus and how we would annually get together with other male choruses such as the world renowned Hamilton Park Baptist, Pilgrim Rest, and many others to have a foot stumping, hand clapping, and pick the women up off the floor good time.

In last month's issue, I stated that "team work can solve community problems too." The statements above are evidence that we can come together, build teams, and make beautiful music. I believe that with these types of efforts, those who have been traditionally left out of the system (US) can begin singing a new song. However, it will not happen until the masses realize that we can do more than just sing.

Allow me the opportunity to share with you what history has taught me. In

his book *Before the Mayflower*, Lerone Bennett, Jr. tells us that after slavery in October of 1888, Capital Savings Bank, the first Black owned bank, opened in Washington, D.C. and the Savings Bank of the Grand Fountain United Order of True Reformers, opened in Richmond in April of 1889. This was the results of direct and reciprocal relationships between Black colleges, churches and lodges. Which compels me to ask these questions: Where are these institutions today as African American business continue to fail from lack of financing, support, and inadequately trained personnel? Why is it that we can do excellent jobs in recognizing the needs, and develop solutions to other peoples problems, but not our own? Is this what Dr. Carter G. Woodson meant in the 1930's when he stated that the "Negro is being MISEDUCATED?"

In 1898 at the fourth annual Atlanta University Conference on "The Negro Business," John Hope, future president of Morehouse College, said that, "The salvation of Black America depended, to a great extent, on the development of the business class." Dr. Na'im Akbar stated in his book *Visions for Black Men* that we need to develop strategies for economic development similar to Booker T. Washington's strategy. His strategy for economic development served as a vehicle to break us out of slavery and began to give us control of our own environment. According to Dr. Akbar, "Booker T. put together every significant Black earner of dollars in the country into one central organization and called it the National Business League." This organization for years was the center of Black wealth in this country.

More importantly, Booker T. Washington believed in self-help. His students at Tuskegee built all the campus buildings, with bricks that were made by them from Alabama clay. These students grew their won food, made their own clothes, and raised the cows that provided their milk. It is amazing how former

slaves and children of slaves had the brilliance and natural instinct for survival after enduring the de-humanization of slavery.

I marvel at their accomplishments and ask myself, how did they do it? I bet they did not sit around blaming racism; although it played a significant part. I bet they did not sit around and wait for someone else to do it for them; although the thought might have crossed their minds. I bet they did not just sit around all day singing, praying, and waiting on Jesus. I bet they realized the God that had delivered them this far, and would not fail them now if they continued to work together. I bet they put selfish pride aside and allowed community pride to preside. I bet they realized their weaknesses and sought strength from each other. I bet that once they identified a problem, they did not wait for their former slave masters to solve it or give them approval. I bet they did not sit around complaining about what they didn't have. I bet that once the work was over, and they truly could feed themselves, they really could make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Let's make a joyful noise together. If you have any suggestions regarding community improvement, give me a call at (214) 492-8724.

NEWS continued from page 2

### Talent Show Auditions Held

Talented Dallas youth are encouraged to try out for the All Stars Talent Show Network. Auditions are being held at K.B. Polk Recreation Center, 6801 Roper St. Times: May 9 11:00am-2:00pm; May 14 3:00-7:00pm; May 23 11:00 am-2:00pm; May 30 11:00am-2:00 pm. Contact Hamid MuhammaJ at 504-8338.

### "Taking Steps" Ends Season

Dallas Theater Center closes its season with "Taking Steps", a hilarious comedy by Alan Ayckbourn. The

self-absorbed characters try to sort out their lives over the course of one uproarious night and morning in an old country house that is supposedly haunted by a former tenant.

Performances run from April 28 through May 17, at the Arts District Theater, 2401 Flora in Dallas. Ticket prices range from \$16 to \$26. Group, senior citizen, and student discounts are available. For reservations, call 214-522-8499.

### Sickle Cell Volunteers' Meeting and Annual Dinner Show

Community volunteers for the Sickle Cell Anemia (SCA) Foundation of Dallas will meet on Thursday, May 14, at 6:30 p.m., at Clara's Kitchen, 3126 Grand Avenue in Dallas. People interested in volunteering are invited.

Also, the SCA Foundation is holding its 15th Annual Dinner Show on Saturday, June 27 at the Dallas Apparel Mart, Gray Hall. The theme of the 1992 benefit is "Together With a Vision We Will Make a Difference". A reception and silent auction starts at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner and the show. Guest singer is Peabo Bryson. Mistress and Master of Ceremony are Clarice Tinsley of KDFW-Channel 4 and Willis Johnson of KKDA radio. Tickets are \$50 per person. Various levels are available for corporate and community tables.

For more information about volunteer's meeting or dinner show, call Eric Wells at 942-1262.

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# WILLIS JOHNSON: PREACHER'S SON GONE GOOD

by Allen R. Gray

If your mother were to say to you, "Why don't you try to be more like him?" she would more than likely point to Willis Johnson, disc-jockey and program director for radio station KKDA, or someone very similar to him. It is because of this "clean cut" image that Johnson has been selected to act as the master of ceremonies at the newly formed Ronnie Robinson Awards. Johnson's sense of caring has also made him the recipient of awards as well. Including the prestigious Willow Award, for his unyielding voluntary service to the African American community.

Thirty-seven years ago, in Gladewater, Johnson was born the son of a Baptist minister. At the age of twelve, Johnson's unfortunate loss of his father had a profound affect on his life.

"Most of the things I do were set by my father. My father was very influential on me," Johnson said. "But it hurts, more so now, than it did when he passed. I miss my father more now than I ever did as a teenager. There are some things as a man that I need to talk to another man about. There are some people who filled that void, but they can never take the place of my father."

Johnson kept himself occupied mostly by playing sports and doing ordinary teenage things. His father was involved in the community and with the National Alliance for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and anti-crime efforts. His mother worked in organizations such as the 4-H and home demonstrating.

"It has just come naturally . . . That's what I have always done. Just tried to help someone else," Johnson said.

Although, Johnson considers himself to be a typical child, he was able to avoid trouble because his mother was

so strict after his father died. He never wanted to disappoint her. Johnson, in his quest to do his mother proud, never ever tried drugs or got into any "real" trouble.

"I've not always been right. I'm no angel," he says with unassuming candor. "My conscience just won't let me do some things."

There is an old African adage: It takes a tribe to raise a child. Johnson proves this to be true . . . if you want the child raised in a positive manner.

After high school Johnson's principal, who acted as a father figure, took him to East Texas State University. It was the closest university to his hometown. Johnson had no idea what he wanted to do. He only went because his mother said that he had to go.

A B-student in journalism, Johnson found college to be rewarding. It allowed him to learn more about everyday common sense and life than he did from his academic studies. He graduated still unsure exactly what he wanted to do.

In 1973 Johnson heard radio disc jockey Tom Joyner of K104, KKDA's sister station.

"My God," Johnson remembers himself saying. "This is the greatest guy I've ever heard in my life."

After a while, Johnson was able to meet Joyner and he would go and knock on the door of Joyner's broadcast studio until he gained entrance. Johnson basically learned the trade by watching Joyner during his show.

Johnson had worked at a couple of other jobs when finally Joyner called him one day and asked, "Are you ready to go to work?" Though it was only for \$150.00 a week, Johnson was ready and willing to come on board.

"I wanted to work for KKDA," Johnson emphatically stated. "I liked what the station stood for back in the '70's . . . and we're getting back to doing some of those things."

With no format, plan, or idea

what his show would be like, Johnson would literally pray, "Lord just let me hold on to my job," each time the radio ratings came out. Chuck Smith, the operations manager at the time, had come to KKDA from Memphis, Tenn. station WDIA, a station known for serving the community. Johnson got back to what came naturally for him - serving and being a part of the community.

"I happen to be on the radio," says Johnson, " . . . but it's all about serving."

One has but to listen to understand what Johnson is saying. His radio show sounds more like a telephone conversation between an obliging relative and one that is in need. Johnson eagerly helps with utility bills, church bulletins, car pooling, Christmas toys, car repairs, birthdays, diets, free haircuts, . . . You name it and he'll help with it. Take for example this recent conversation with one of his fans:

Fan: Hello, Willis.

Johnson: Yes. Thanks for holding.

Fan: OK. I'm a truck driver. My husband is getting ready to take his driver's test for his license. Somebody was telling me that y'all knew a place that would let you use rigs to take the test in.

Johnson: Naw. We don't know of a place. What we did was to make an appeal and we received some results from that. We can do the same for you. Just leave your phone number and we'll get back in touch with you.

Fan: OK. This is "Grasshopper's" sister. They call me "Lady Blue" over the C.B.

Johnson: Ohhh! Hi. Tell Grasshopper I said hello.

A few years ago, Johnson would play a record by Nat King Cole. At the end of that record, he would sing as the ending faded from the ears of his listeners. It only takes one listen to know that Johnson is not a legitimate "crooner."

"That's the whole joke about the



thing," Johnson says, "I tried to sing, but at the end of the (Nat King Cole) record, a lady by the name of Elizabeth Roy called in and gave me the name 'Crooner.'"

It was these type conversations that, nine years ago, eventually led one listener to call Johnson and tell him her love troubles. Her husband had been cheating on her, and that she was trying to leave him. At the end of her confession, she requested that Johnson play her a consoling tune. That, in essence, was the beginning of his now famous prelude to his popular early morning show. Johnson receives from 800 to 900 letters every day with love problems and song requests.



So, every morning, promptly at 5:40 am, a hardy call can be heard:

"This is Dear Crooner, solving your love problems with a love song. Are you wit'me?"

Johnson continued on Page 10



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## **RITES OF PASSAGE**

By Cherita Montgomery  
Staff Writer

To build a community of strong African American men who are infinitely strong in body and mind is the focus of relatively new rites of passage program, MANdala, organized by the United Methodist Men of the St Luke Community United Methodist Church.

Beginning in February 1989 a group of twenty men met for about a year to come up with a program describing what a boy would need to know to become a man said Randy Luster, who played a vital role in implementing the MANdala Project.

"MANdala means totality, the development of mind, body, and soul from an Afrocentric perspective. The elders, a council of responsible, productive adult males from both the church and the community-at-large, are

Passage Continued on page 9

## **Veterans Services Available**

"We don't need to do our Veterans a favor, just repay one." This is the philosophy of the Texas General Land Office/Veterans Land Board. It's our theme, our motto that we strongly follow. We're excited about what we have to offer, and we hope that you're excited too . . . because you, Texas Veterans, deserve the very best."

Greta Loney

Our three low interest loan programs have enabled more than 130,000 Texas veterans to borrow \$1.8 billion to buy land, a home or make home improvements on an existing residence. Our housing assistance program is now at \$45,000 for 30 years at an all time low interest rate of 7.25% or 7.45% in a none note situation.

The home improvement program's interest rate has also recently lowered. It is currently at 9.25% and the maximum loan amount is \$17,500 for 15 years. The Texas veterans land program offers eligible Texas veterans a maximum \$20,000 for thirty years to buy land. A minimum of 5 net acres is required. The interest rate is 7.99% and a 5% down payment is required.

Texas veterans can use all three loan programs one time each. I'd like to encourage all veterans to apply for the benefits, because they are yours to use. Our loan programs are not associated with the federal VA, therefore, even if you have used your VA benefits, you may still be eligible for these state programs.

A free seminar, sponsored by the Texas Veterans Land Board, for all Texas Veterans will take place on May 7, 1992 at the Douglas community Center in Plano. The time is 6:30 pm, the address is: 1111 Ave. H. Texas veterans will be able to learn about all the New and exciting changes taking place at the VLB, as well as questions and answers concerning the program.

I would be happy to visit with you, set up a seminar, or presentation with your group or organization. Please feel free to contact me for further information at (214) 517-3631.

May 11, 1895

William Grant Still, Black  
composer born.

May 18, 1955

Mary McLeod Bethune,  
educator, died in Daytona  
Beach, FL.

Black State Employees Association  
of Texas 1st Annual Scholarship  
Awards Luncheon May 7, 11:00  
am -1:00 pm; Dallas Civic Garden  
Center; 3601 Martin Luther King  
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Adults-\$35 Kids \$20 Guest  
Speaker Dr. Yvonne Ewell, Phd.

Dorothy Lee

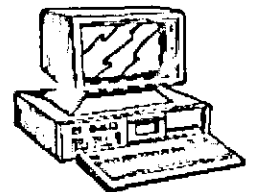
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May 17, 1954

Brown vs. Board of Education  
Supreme Court declared  
segregation unconstitutional.



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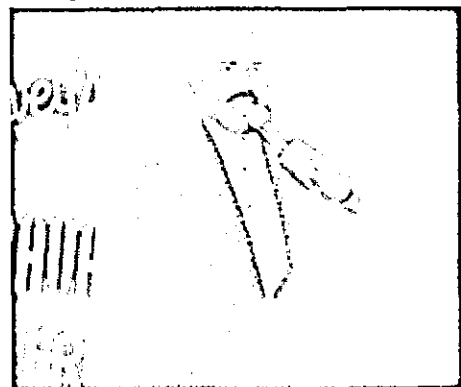
## COMEDY STRAIGHT FROM THE HOOD

By Agaitha S. Richardson

One can hear the sounds of laughter echoing in the night at Vucurae's. Laughter often accompanies an explosive voice, sounds of amusement, a guffaw, as defined by Webster. Behind the scenes of all the action at Vucurae, is Steve Harvey, a shrewd businessman and comedian, with Steve Harvey's Comedy Caravan of Funny Fonkie Friends. The concept of Vucurae's emergence in the community was to "fill a void with Black talent," according to Mr. Harvey.

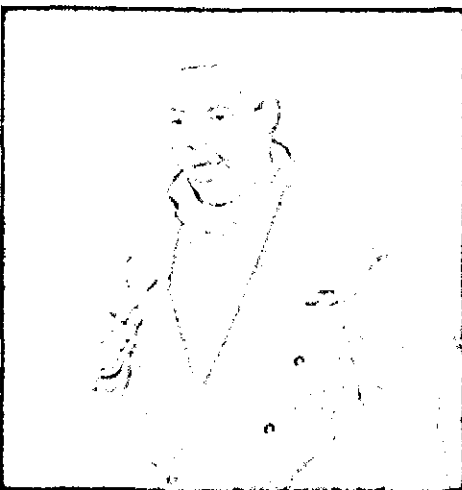
In order to achieve this goal, Mr. Harvey determined the need to: 1) pay talent fair market value 2) provide atmosphere where Blacks could freely express themselves and 3) establish a place where Black people could come and view Black comedians.

Vucurae features "neckbone comedy", Uncle Willie and Sitting around the Bar-B-Q-Pit" humor, four nights weekly. On Thursday and Sunday, the comedy club has one show at 8:30 pm and on Friday and Saturday, there are two shows nightly, at 8:30 pm and 10:30 pm. The admission is \$8.00, Thursday and Sunday, and \$10.00 on the weekend.



Steve Harvey

Vucurae opened its doors in December 1991, and all the comedians have performed to packed houses. There are four other comedy clubs in the metroplex, Funny Bone, Improv (2 locations) and Comedy Corp. in Arlington. The comedy club has featured Renaldo Ray, Mark Curry, Joe Torrey, A.J. Jamal, George Wallace and Shirley Hemphill. Upcoming attractions include A.J. Sanders, Myria J., Adelle Givens and Arnez J.



Renaldo Ray

The comedy club is good for business and for the neighborhood. Vucurae has the distinction of being the only comedy club in Dallas servicing a Black audience, Black community and Black staff. Mr. Harvey has employed a staff of 24 in an assortment of positions. Gerald Fields, is the club manager. Tanya English, promotional director and James Woodfur, marketing director.

Steve Harvey at the age of 35, has experienced life's darker side on the streets of Cleveland, and now enjoys phenomenal success as a comedian. He has been in the business 6 1/2 years, beginning at the Hilarity Comedy Club in

Cleveland. "This is all I ever wanted to be," said Harvey. He was voted "most difficult" at Glenville High School in Cleveland. He grew up "in the hood" and attended Kent State University in Ohio. Harvey's first television breaks were on *The Night Shift Show* and *Evening at the Improv*, but he credits his big break with his appearance on *Showtime at the Apollo*. Mr. Harvey is a high school motivational speaker. The topics he addresses are gang warfare, staying out of jail, and how to set a dream.

He is very interested in investing in the community. This summer, the comedy club will sponsor a boys and girls athletic team, as a solution to keeping kids off the streets. Other upcoming projects are a food drive and permitting community organizations to use the facility for meetings and special events. The fast growth in Dallas contributed to expansion plans to Houston and tentative future plans for Memphis.

Mr. Harvey is often asked to relocate to North Dallas. He quenches the question each time. He said that he is adamantly opposed to moving to North Dallas, because "... residents don't understand the mentality, we will always be in the hood."

Harvey explained that the Black audience is the most difficult because they show no mercy. If the material is not funny, they will not laugh. However, on the other hand, Blacks laugh harder than anybody else, stomping feet and hard high fives. He continued that performing is a natural high that requires no artificial stimulation. The exhilaration you get from applause and laughter is an indescribable high.

Amateur Night is every Wednesday night and free to the public. Persons who would like to perform on stage, must register at the D.J. booth at

8:00 pm and will be allowed a 5 minute act.

Come and see Steve Harvey and friends in action at 3304 Camp Wisdom, they are really funny. For more information, call James "Woof" Woodfur at 214-709-1786.



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Joe Lewis, boxer, who held  
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# Pearl Corina Anderson: The Giving Saint

By Allen R. Gray

There are two photographs that remain etched on my mind that epitomize the life of Pearl C. Anderson. The first is a photo of her upon being named an honorary lifetime member to be board of directors of the Dallas chapter of the American Red Cross. Mrs. Anderson began serving as a volunteer in 1958. She is wearing horn-rimmed glasses, and a white Red Cross nurse's uniform (complete with hat). Her hair hangs limp along her neck giving her an overworked appearance and her thin lips are creased with the smile one dawns having completed her mission.

The second photograph is one taken at Mrs. Anderson's 74th birthday celebration. Two white men, one positioned on either side of Mrs. Anderson, straining to force kisses on her cheeks, as she gleams a broad smile. In all actuality, they seem to be kissing up to her, but why?

During her nearly 73 years in Dallas, Pearl Corina Anderson has given of herself, her heart, her money, and her land (prime land). All totaled and judged by today's standards a conservative estimate would be, roughly, \$8 or \$9 million. She first contributed 20 acres of land near Central Expressway to the St. John's Catholic church, in honor of her newly deceased husband, Dr. John Wesley Anderson. Mrs. Anderson later found out that the St. John's minister had sold the land and pocketed the money. That land is what Mrs. Anderson called "Ross Perot's place," the campus of Electronic Data Systems (EDS).

How did Pearl Corina Bowden, a poor Louisiana farm girl who didn't start school until age 12 and then was forced to practice her alphabets in the sand, go on to become an internationally known philanthropist? To find out how is best viewed from the beginning.

When Slaving vessels monopolized the harbors of America, a slave ship with its hull packed sailed from Africa past the Isle of Antiqua. On the beach of that Caribbean island sat a hut that was inhabited by a family, which included two sisters. They were both stolen and taken to America with the captured Africans.

When the ship docked in New Orleans, LA., and the prisoners were being unloaded the two sisters ran away to the interior portion of the state. There, one of the sisters met an Englishman, Henry Stringer, who instantly took a liking to her. A libidinous relationship developed and because of that, this particular sister never spent time as a slave. This woman was Nellie Stringer, the grandmother of Mrs. Anderson.

Even though, Nellie Stringer was not from Africa, she was still identified as all people of color were identified. Mrs. Anderson said, "All people of color weren't black, but in Louisiana if you weren't white you were a nigger. They

called my grandmother a negress."

Though they never married, Henry Stringer took good care of Nellie and the four children born of their relationship. Nellie was given 60 acres of land in Jackson Parish, the birthplace of Mr. Anderson and her mother, Nettie Bowden. Both Anderson's mother and grandmother worked as midwives. Her father, a medical doctor, and of a different race than her mother, never married her mother, but never denied the fact that Mrs. Anderson was his child.

Nettie Bowden moved from Jackson Parish to Winn Parish, where Pearl's formative years were spent. She attended the first school for Blacks in the area -- school established, taught and ran by a Professor Peters. The classes were taught in a Baptist church. Mrs. Anderson's religion before converting to Catholicism after her marriage. In Professor Peters' absence, Mrs. Anderson took over the teaching duties. After leaving Winn Parish, she also spend three months teaching in Arkansas.

Mrs. Anderson found opportunities for Blacks to be few and far between the areas that she had visited in the past. she thought that better opportunities existed for Blacks in Texas. So, in 1919 at the tender but experienced age of 18, she boarded a train bound for Dallas.

Upon her arrival in Dallas, Mrs. Anderson was afforded an opportunity that many Blacks (possibly at the tail-end of the frustrations of discrimination) would have opted for. The opportunity to breakout of that pigeonhole that her grandmother had been placed into, the chance to be . . . white.

"You can't help how you come into the world," said Mrs. Anderson.

Nonetheless, Mrs. Anderson had to use her caucasian-like features to acquire shelter when she arrived in Dallas. A white family from Munger Avenue in East Dallas, in their efforts to help "one of their own," allowed Mrs. Anderson to live with them for two days.

As Mrs. Anderson put it, in recalling the incident, "I didn't meet these people until the day I went out. I got off the train and the lady had come there to meet someone and they didn't get off and she said, 'where are you going?' She didn't know my race or background."

"I said, 'Well, I am coming to Dallas to stay, but I don't know where I'm going to stay yet.'"

She said, "Come on and go home with me."

"I will never forget that," said Mrs. Anderson, "that was nice."

After calling several churches throughout Dallas, Mrs. Anderson got through to a Black church, which directed her to an area "where most of my people live." After a week or so, she decided to get her own place to live. With borrowed money, with which she purchased a lot,

and promises of paybacks for building materials, Mrs. Anderson built a two-room house on Dildock Street in South Dallas.

"I'm really thankful to God that I didn't have it so hard," Mrs. Anderson would quickly tell you. "I mean, the people trusted me, and I'm glad they did because I meant well and never wanted to owe anybody anything . . . and don't owe anybody anything -- not that I can think of . . . money-wise anyway."

From one room of that house, Mrs. Anderson ran a grocery store. Again, she depended on people's trust in her to stock her business with supplies from vendors. She later got a job with one of those vendors, an ice company. There she worked until she got sick one day. Anderson asked a neighbor to refer her to a doctor and Dr. J.W. Anderson, a wealthy physician, was that referral.

"He liked me as soon as he saw me," Mrs. Anderson boasted, of the physician who was old enough to be her father.

Although Dr. Anderson admired her for being spirited enough to start her own business, especially during those times, he convinced her, in 1927, to give up her job at the ice company and her grocery store.

Mrs. Anderson said, "He told me he would pay me more than I was making at those other places. So he bought me a little Ford to get around in and made me his nurse." They married in 1929.

Much of Dr. Anderson's wealth was in prime real estate. His office and adjacent home, built in 1922, was located in downtown Dallas near the streets of Weed, Jackson, and St. Paul. All of the land was donated to society.

The gentlemen in the aforementioned photograph? Officials with the Dallas Community Chest Fund founded an agency for which Mrs. Anderson was the initial donor. Mrs. Anderson donated land valued at \$350,000 and that was in 1955. It seems as though the agency was "tailor made" for Mrs. Anderson's "naive" generosity.

One may be moved to say that Mrs. Anderson was taken advantage of, seriously taken advantage of. This may be true, but she would have never noticed. After the death of her beloved husband, Mrs. Anderson moved from their lavish home made of imported Michigan bricks back to her people on Myrtle Street, in South Dallas.

When once asked if she were rich, Mrs. Anderson responded, "Most people think I'm rich and I guess I would be if I didn't keep giving it all away."

Riches meant little to Mrs. Anderson. For her, after her husband's death, there was only her life's philosophy. "My philosophy is helping others and giving of myself. That is the most important thing in my life. . ."

That philosophy garnered Mrs.

Anderson a plethora of awards and positions; as well as recognition locally, nationally and internationally. During the 1950's and 1960's the Communists attempted to play on the sentiments of America's Blacks by issuing propaganda which stated that it is impossible for Blacks to succeed or establish property rights in the United States. So, to counter that propaganda, the United States Information Service issued some propaganda of their own. Stories of Mrs. Anderson's philanthropic accomplishments were circulated worldwide.

Although Mrs. Anderson ultimately gained worldwide fame as a successful Black woman, there was a time immediately following her husband's death when some Blacks tried to get her to move away and essentially become . . . white.

"Some people tried to tell me to move to New York or somewhere else and not be, you know, colored. But it doesn't mean nothing to me - I don't care. You can be somebody, no matter what race you are - you can be somebody. I felt like being what I am. I'm not going to change that. I can be whatever I want to be. And I have been . . ."

On Monday, April 30, 1990. a rosary was said for Mrs. Pearl Corina Bowden-Anderson. The giving saint died of natural causes at the age of 91 at her modest home on Myrtle Street in the heart of South Dallas. She was laid to rest among her people having been exactly what she wanted to be.

Source: Pearl C. Anderson: An Oral History Interview By Authors P.C. Anderson, David Strickland, and Gail Tomlinson.

## UPDATE: BSEAT vs. GIBRALTAR BANK

The recent closing of the Red Bird Bank of Dallas, that was picketed by the Black State Employees Association of Texas (BSEAT) during the summer of 1990 has seen positive results.

Darren Reagan, chairman/exec. director of BSEAT says that customer activity at Gibraltar Bank has dramatically decreased. BSEAT maintains that businesses, such as Gibraltar, are not in our community to promote and provide good sound business practices and services. Since the closing, complaints have been filed with the Office of Thrift Supervision and a series of Third Party Class Action Discrimination Complaints have been filed against the bank with the U.S. Dept. of Labor/OFCPP.

First Gibraltar is now out in the African-American community virtually knocking door-to-door at many business. They're reportedly even attempting to hire and promote African-Americans into Management and Branch Management positions.

Contact BSEAT at 214-371-7710 for more information.



# PEARL C. ANDERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL LEARNING CENTER BENEFICIAL FOR STUDENTS

By Jim Bochum  
Editor in Chief

The mission of the faculty and staff of P.C. Anderson Middle School Learning Center is to provide its student population with an excellent education, a sense of being and sense of belonging; to reward the uniqueness of the individual student, and to equip the student with the tools necessary to become responsible member of society and a life-long learner. Because of our student's individual needs, we stress individual attention to each student, thus allowing them to develop to his/her fullest potential.

The P.C. Anderson Middle School Learning Center is a unique facility that provides traditional classes in addition to outstanding enrichment programs. The pupil/teacher ratio of 18:1 promotes a close teacher/student relationship and encourages an atmosphere of learning. Middle school students were welcomed back to South Dallas community for the 1991-92 school year after a 15 year absence of a seventh and eighth grade neighborhood school. Students were previously bussed to East Dallas, Pleasant Grove, and the White Rock area for middle school instruction. After a \$2 million face lift, the school re-opened with new science and computer labs, a dance studio, a state-of-the-art life skills classroom, and an industrial technology program that includes computer graphics and animation, rocketry and space, robotics, physics audio broadcasting, electricity and electronics, energy, power and mechanics.



Computer Room

Each module has its own library and self directed instructions and video directions. The students work in teams of two and stay at one module for seven days. They complete daily records, worksheets, hands-on activities and post tests. They manage their workstation equipment, including computers, videotape players, monitors and other



Art Room

equipment as directed in their instruction sheets.

In our after school program, the students have formed a company, ITC corp., and are manufacturing and selling name plates, desk plates, name tags and buttons. We have a sales force, labor crew and management team. The students are learning how to design and use other forms, sales techniques, money and time management as well as other skills involved in a business.

Teachers were specially selected from the "cream of the crop" of the educational field, both locally and nationally. Home visits and direct parent communication are integral parts of the teacher's approach to learning.

This has been an exciting year for students, staff, and parents. Field trips have reinforced learning outside the classroom. Ft. Sill, Oklahoma Indian reservation, Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi for a math conference, Future Homemakers of American conferences in Tyler and Ft. Worth, Infomart, LTV, Texas Instruments, Proline, Dikita Engineering,

and many other exciting destinations. The "Miss Pearl C. Anderson" pageant and coronation was one of the most professionally produced events ever staged in a secondary school. The students are encouraged to compete academically, as well as athletically - Science Fair, Math Olympiad, Black History Jeopardy, Oratorical Contest, Spelling Bee, football, baseball, soccer, basketball, and track and field. An outstanding group of young men, the "Pearl Guards" have committed themselves to being positive role models for younger students in the community. The "Pearl Guards" tutor at elementary schools, speak at local churches, visit nursing homes, and become involved in other projects that positively impact the community. As Mr. Wilber Williams, principal, says "We're good and getting better."



Dance Class

Mr. Williams also said, "The math class is both on average and above the national level."

"Our theme is that 'all children can learn'", said Mr. Williams.

May 9, 1862  
General David "Black David"  
Hunter enlists Blacks for  
combat in South Carolina

Passage Continued from page 6

committed," said Luster, "to providing structured learning experiences centered on solid spiritual and communal values." Communal values of Nguzo Saba, unity, self determination, collective works and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith.

It is an on-going program that promotes dignity(DOING IN GOD'S NAME INCREDIBLE THINGS YOURSELF) through teaching African tradition and history, self awareness(KNOW THY SELF), and community/economic development. Required reading for MANDala are: Before the Mayflower, Lerone Bennett, Jr., From Miseducation to Education, Dr. Na'im Akbar, and The Miseducation of the Negro, Carter G. Woodson.

MANDala is designed for two groups of young men. The BEN(bird of regeneration of new life) program targets adolescent males between 12 and 18 years of age; the SIMBA(young lion) program focuses on pre-adolescent males from age 8 to 11.

Dwayne Johnson, a dedicated elder of MANDala, says the younger guys ask a lot of questions.

"We are succeeding by peaking



Back Row: Dwayne Johnson, Anthony Fletcher, Orlando Backer Kjull Temple, Chris Cochran, Antonio Anskar, Naji Faggett, Vincent Richards Front: Charles Livingston, Terrance Nance, Dominick Robinson, Laven Touchstone, Randy Luster

their interest," he said. "The program makes them think about the things that are going on around them."

A major theme of MANDala is self determination.

Johnson said, "We seek to teach these young men not to bow down to negative peer pressure and stereotyping."

Currently there are four men and twenty boys enrolled in MANDala.

"There is a definite need for more men to get involved in projects like MANDala," Johnson said. "Anyone who has overcome the odds of being dead, or in prison, and are making something for themselves, has something to share with these young African American men."

Mr. Luster's dream is to see all churches with a Rites A of Program that advocates the development of self and the community. Everyone agrees that the youth are our most valuable asset. If that is true, why we do not invest more time and money to assure their proper development?

Contact Randy Luster @ 214 492-8724 or Dwayne Johnson @ 214 530-1016.

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Jerrel Solomon

## TAKING CARE OF YOUR HAIR

by Jerrel Solomon

Black women need to know about colors, relaxers, cuts, shampoos, conditioners, styling aides, maintenance - the works. Develop a relationship with your stylist, in order to educate yourself on keeping and managing your hair to its optimum condition.

Black hair has many different hair textures, ranging from straight to excessively curly, including textures in between. It's very delicate and should be treated as such. A lot of people think black hair is strong, but it is not. It needs lots of care and you must use extreme caution when dealing with it.

I recommend that you have a professional hair stylist analyze your hair type to give you suggestions on which brand and strength of chemical (relaxer, curly perm or color) would best suit your need. Choosing a chemical that's right for you is always important consideration. It is advisable to have your first chemical service done by a professional hairstylist.

It takes a lot of time and money to maintain you chemically processed hair. Therefore, it has become common to do it yourself. It is very important to read the enclosed directions carefully and follow them to the letter. What's important to remember is that chemicals should be applied only to virgin hair. Chemically over processing the hair can result in hair loss. Therefore, avoid double chemical processing. This means not using relaxers or curly perms on bleached or highly tinted hair. Nor should you add a curly

perm to relaxed hair or a relaxer to curly permed hair.

Relaxers are meant to remove a significant amount of excessive curliness, not all of it. When excessively curly hair is treated chemically, it loses strength. If breakage occurs, use only intensive treatments monitored by a professional in order to reverse the situation. Chemical processing can also damage the scalp. Remember your scalp is like the skin on your body, it should be treated with great care. A damaged scalp can promote unhealthy hair growth.

Women suffering from thyroid conditions should avoid chemical services. The body chemistry of these women is unbalanced and the hair becomes extremely dry and wiry. Therefore, harsh chemicals only make it more difficult to control. The safest service is a simple press and curl.

Caring for our children's hair should be the utmost concern of a parent. The most important thing to consider is the safety of the products chosen and the health of your child's hair.

Again, consult a professional concerning your hair. A hair analysis determines what condition the hair is in. Get to know the type and texture of the hair and the health of the hair and scalp. CONSULT with a professional hairstylist. You may be charged a consultants fee, but the expert advice will be well worth it for you best look and health hair.

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## Johnson from Page 5

Johnson believes that it is these "real life" problems that enable people to relate to its participants, and his show. Johnson gained national attention recently when he was called by the infamous "C.J.", who told of her attempts of infecting as many African-American men as she could with the deadly Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) virus.

He knows that what he is doing is no joke. These are real people with real problems, no to be taken lightly.

Johnson was made aware of this even before the "C.J." incident, which he considers the second most devastating occurrence of his radio career. A man from Plano was killed in Houston by his estranged lover when that relationship was made public on the "Dear Crooner" show. Johnson now refers all serious callers to the segment of his show that he labeled "Call Dr. Wall."

"I knew at that point - Hey, you can't play with this," Johnson said. "There are times that we can still have fun. But a lot of the time we have to be serious."

There are a number of confessions of suicide attempts, and what Johnson describes as, life threatening situations that never are heard across the airwaves. Johnson chooses to spare his listeners of this morbid depression.

To keep his head on straight through this whirlwind of events, Johnson turns back to his number one influence. The recommendation of his father. His undying faith in his religion. Johnson, a member of St. John's Baptist Church in Grand Prairie relies heavily on his pastor, Denny Davis.

"He has directed me back to Christ," Johnson said. "I openly admit I got away (from his religion). I've made some mistakes in life . . . No, I'm not the perfect man, by no means at all. The thing I live by is, 'I'm not the man I ought to be, but I thank God I'm not the man I used to be.'"

Johnson will quickly tell you that religion is extremely important to his life, - first and foremost in his life is Christ. Everything else simply falls into place.

"Once I put God back into my life, everything else was like a domino effect," Johnson said.

Johnson's future plans are to keep going the way that he is going. When asked what song the "Crooner" would play to solve the city of Dallas' problems, Johnson hesitates and thinks for a minute, but only for one minute.

"'Wake Up Everybody' by Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes."

"Are you wit' me?"

## Prophet Receives Doctorate Degree



Marsha Denise Prophet, Dean of Instruction at the Charles Rice Learning Center in South Dallas, is receiving a Doctorate of Philosophy degree in Health Studies from Texas Women's University on May 9, 1992. Prophet's dissertation was entitled "Elementary Teacher's Attitudes Toward Human Growth Development and Sexuality". Prophet is a St. Louis native and a 1986 H. Ross Perot Teaching Award Recipient.

City of Dallas Parks & Recreation Dept. Concert in the Park at Pike Recreation Center - Teen Council. \$2 donation at the door. May 8, 8pm-11pm. Concert party, Mafia of Soul dance group performing and a D.J. For more info. contact Brenda Myers at 214-670-1491.

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# EDUCATION: DOES TEXAS MEASURE UP?

By Juanita Austin

Although President Bush wants to be known as the "education president", it is ironic that his home state of Texas ranks in the bottom percentile when it comes to education. According to the Texas Business Today, a publication from the office of Commissioner Mary Scott Nabers, Texas is 47th among all states in literacy. That means only three other states have more illiterate citizens! Thirty-three percent of all adults in Texas are functionally illiterate, reading at or below a sixth grade level. With 85 percent of future jobs projected to require at least a high school education, one Texas worker in five could be unemployable in the near future. What does this mean for Texas and what can be done to reverse this trend?

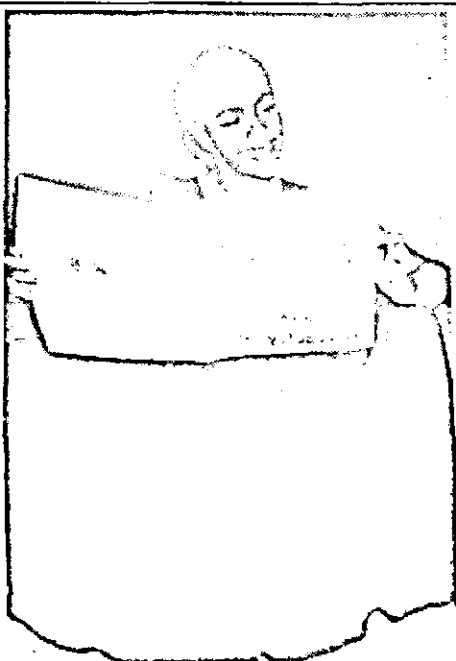
The impact of illiteracy affects Texas in startling ways. Twenty percent of Texas workers can not read or write or do simple math. Over seventy-five percent of Texas prison inmates are school dropouts. Texas leads the nation in the number of convicts on parole or probation. Over 109,000 parolees and more than 308,000 probationers currently reside in Texas. Estimates show that 80-90 percent of convicts in Texas prisons are functionally illiterate and about the same percent are substance abusers. It is estimated to cost \$17 billion annually to cover the costs associated with school dropouts. Dropouts are more likely to be unemployed, to wind up on welfare or in prison, and to become unwed parents.

Many cities and communities are implementing programs to educate their citizens and develop their work forces. In Los Angeles, for example, the schools system had decided to "guarantee" its public school graduates. When a student graduates and goes to college or seeks a job and is lacking some skill which should have been learned in school, the school will retrain the individual at its own cost. Another innovative program has been instituted by the state of Colorado. When a baby is born in that state, a volunteer visits the new mother and delivers a gift containing a library card, information about the importance of teaching children to read, a social security application and a list of telephone numbers for all the county's family resources. Also included is a passbook with an explanation that \$50 has been deposited in the child's name. The money will be made available when the child graduates from high school. The volunteer visits the child for the next year to encourage the family to see that the child becomes a "lifelong learner."

Texas can change the trend of illiteracy. It is far less expensive to educate a child than to house a convict. The \$17 billion spent annually to cover "associated school dropout costs" could yield greater dividends if spent on education rather than attempts to fix the problems resulting from school dropouts. The current debate in the state legislature about school funding must include a strict

analysis of how funds are currently spent and must provide a specific plan to show these funds can be redirected to the benefit of education. Although the Dallas metroplex has literacy programs in place, 100 of Texas' 254 counties have no literacy programs. To improve literacy, all counties must establish and promote literacy programs. In addition, literacy programs must be combined with crime prevention incentives and dropout prevention programs if Texas is to capitalize on the vast human resources and realize the economic prosperity which exists in the people.

Juanita Austin is dean of developmental education at Collin County Community College.



Ballerinas also read MON

# DALLAS' ONLY "REAL" SUPER HERO : DALLAS JACKSON

by Rosalyn Hill

"I don't have a lot of money or education ... but what I do have is a plan." Dallas Jackson's plan for the city of Dallas was cut short on April 24th, as his life ended amidst the humble surroundings of his northern Oak Cliff apartment of apparent natural causes. Jackson, 44, suffered from the ill effects of diabetes and related health problems.

Although Jackson was an individual of low income and education, he dedicated his life to serving the impoverished and despondent. He began his help with others in 1973 when he first left Philadelphia and arrived in Dallas. During this time, Jackson grew disgusted at the mistreatment of the city's African Americans. He then attacked the city's problems as if he had been named for the city - or vice-versa.

Jackson's community service and bold presence will be sorely missed in the South Dallas area, as well as in the city of Dallas. Though often considered a thorn in the side of city officials, Jackson gained across the board respect when he recently established himself as a serious mayoral candidate. Jackson was to be the candidate representing "the people's issues".

Jackson was a youth employment director for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People during 1969-1973. Before his death, he

was a self-employed community organizer and political consultant and a public access host and producer for cable television. He established two youth job programs, Youth Against Unemployment and Operation Pic-Up (Pride In the Community Equals United People).

Jackson's paunchy physique and African regalia may have been viewed as a political hinderance to some, but Jackson felt that he had to be different in order to be heard. This man, who was sometimes referred to as "the mayor of South Dallas" felt himself not too dignified, when it came to kids. Jackson could often be seen dawning black tights, black cape and a mask and slip into the anonymity of the anti-crime advocate, "The Black Hornet".

By the staff of the Minority Opportunity News as well as countless citizens of the community, Dallas Jackson will always be remembered as a man who put others before himself. He was able to get things done with little or no resources, and was a champion of justice by use of non-violent methods. He was truly, as he once described himself, as "Dallas' only 'real' super hero".

May 24, 1854  
Founding of 1st Black College :  
Lincoln University.

May 21, 1965  
Dr. Martin Luther King leads his  
1st Selma to Montgomery march.

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Brenda Thompson  
Attorney at Law

## UNDERSTANDING CHILD SUPPORT

by Brenda Thompson

Paul pays \$300 a month for three children, but Mike pays \$500 for two children. Why? What happened to child support when my disabled child reaches 18? May child support be awarded for adopted children, if there is a divorce?

Questions like these sometimes get answered out of context and without a full understanding of all the facts and legal requirements. Further, the issue of child support has become a "hot" topic today owing to the increasing incidence of nonpayment of child support, widely publicized contempt proceedings and the activities of groups alleging outrageous child support awards. Hence, child support is confusing to the public.

Child support laws in Texas have changed dramatically in the last ten years. For example, subsequent to the

ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, the Texas Family Code was amended to impose a duty of support on both the mother and the father of a child. Another change in the law has to do with the definition of a child, for child support purposes. It has been expanded to include persons over the age of 18, if the child is fully enrolled in an accredited secondary school program leading to a high school diploma. In addition to the over 18 years child definition, the definition of a child for support purposes in one who is unmarried, under the age of 18, who is not or has not been married and who has not had the disabilities of minority removed for general purposes by court order. It should be noted that support may be ordered for a minor or adult disabled child.

Who owes a duty of support? Courts have the power to order parents of a child to provide support. Parents include the mother, the presumed biological father, the judicially determined father or an adoptive mother or father. Courts may order any other person who has legal parent-child relationship with a child to provide support for a child. The amount and type of support ordered for a child depends on many factors, including evidentiary factors, state guidelines for child support, judicial discretion, factors related to the state guidelines and other factors. Hence, accurate comparisons of support orders is not possible without knowledge of all facts and circumstances

peculiar to a particular case.

Financial support may be ordered to be paid periodically lump sum, by purchase of an annuity or by a combination of methods. Other forms of support for a child, such as health insurance coverage may be ordered. Support may be determined by a judge or may be mutually agreed in advance of an order entered by the judge handling the matter. Support may be established in different kinds of suits and may be temporary or permanent. Support may be changed by court order and can be affected by many circumstances beyond the scope of this article.

State law determines when child support obligations cease, the circumstances under which a person's wages may be garnished for child support, collection of unpaid child support, punishment for nonpayment of child support and the like. If you have questions about this area of the law, you should discuss this matter with a lawyer.

Brenda Hull Thompson, Garrett and Thompson (214) 363-1022.

Black State Employees Association of Texas Job Discrimination/Affirmative Action Workshop May 9, Registration: 8:30 am Sessions: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm; Fellowship Hall of the East Gate Baptist Church, 6960 S. Polk St. at Camp Wisdom Rd. Admission \$3 per person For more info: 214-371-7710 ext. 8.



## FROM: THE GOOF DEPARTMENT

In MON, April Edition, The story about Judge George Allen omitted the fact that Commissioner John Wiley Price sponsored the resolution to have the court house named in honor of Judge George C. Allen.

MON mistakenly identified Red Oak Bank as an institution picketed by the Black State Employees Association of Texas. That is in error. Red Bird Bank (not affiliated) was picketed by BSEAT. Also, in the same story, Darren Reagen was identified as President of the Dallas Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. That too is in error. Mr. Hank Wilkins, Pastor of Highland Hills United Methodist Church is President of the Dallas chapter of SCLC.

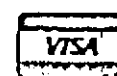
May 12, 1910  
Founding of NAACP.

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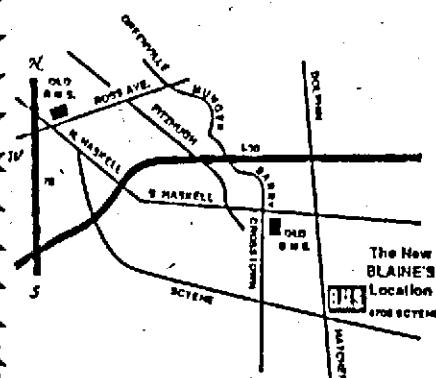
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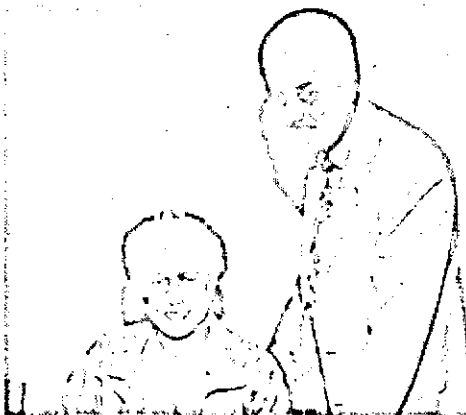


## HORACE IRWIN'S BLUEPRINT TO SUCCESS

By Cherita Montgomery  
Staff Writer

With growing concern for fitness and health on the rise, Horace Irwin and his family has taken advantage of the business opportunities in the fitness industry. In October of last year Irwin opened a second full-service exercise facility, The West Plano Athletic Club.

The 26,000 square foot facility houses seven racquetball courts, one full-sized basketball court, 4,100 pounds of free weights, cardiovascular workout equipment, jacuzzi, sauna, sports shop, and snackbar. The Irwin's first center, opened nearly five years, has a swimming pool and is located on Lake June and Masters.



Horace & Marg Irwin

Upon the initial visit, each member is given a complete physical examination, and based upon the results, a personal fitness program is designed for each individuals needs.

"Our desire is to satisfy current members in hopes that they will share their experience with friends and family. Presently, 60 percent of our members were referred by satisfied customers," Mr. Irwin said.



Sports Shop

Although both facilities are minority-owned, only 5 percent of 1,300 members are black.

Marg Irwin, clubs' controller and accountant, says, "Health is not a big factor with our people."

In an effort to increase minority membership, the Irwins are looking at implementing a health education series at the First Baptist Church of Hamilton Park, where Mr. Irwin is the Family Ministry coordinator.

"There are tremendous expenses involved in starting up a fitness club," says Irwin, "including a \$20,000 licensing fee; the purchasing of equipment could total as much as \$150,000."



Exercise Room

"We went into the West Plano facility about \$200,000 in the hole, but with membership increasing each month, we should be at breakeven or profit level after 1.5 years is operation."

Before branching out into fitness center ownership, Mr. Irwin served as Chief Operating Officer for the fitness division of Club Corporation of America. All major country clubs are members of this group.

In addition to many years of experience in the industry, Irwin attributes his success to faith in God, hard work, dedication, and the belief that their goal is to contribute to the community.

To do that, Irwin envisions a program to bring in Black staff members and put them in a position where they could learn and grow.

"By using us as a launching pad, these workers could possibly go on to open their own club," said Irwin.

While the Irwin's run centers that cater to the family, both facilities have active daycare centers on location.

"Over fifty percent of our members utilize the daycare," said Irwin. "It gives parents an opportunity to workout and not worry about what to do

with the children."

The daycare also teaches the children healthy lifestyles.

"When we succeed in satisfying the parents, and they remain with us for extended periods of time, their children will become our future patrons."

With the growing success of the two clubs, Irwin is looking to open another club late this years, either in the DeSoto/Duncanville areas, or in East Plano. He also plans to venture into other areas of the fitness industry, namely rehabilitation and training for pro athletes.

Join the Dedra Lynn Wood Theatre for its second season! Featuring The Park Bench, a comic drama by Robert Helm. A bum, stock broker and 2 prostitutes meet at a park bench. Friendship, love and death follows. June 19-Aug.1 Tickets Fri. & Sat. 8 pm Adults-\$6; Kids (to age 12) \$3; Seniors (65 & older) \$3.



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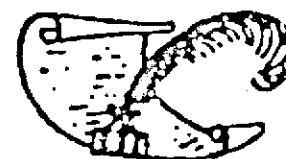
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Dred Scott decision: "Slave is not a citizen, so he can't sue in court."



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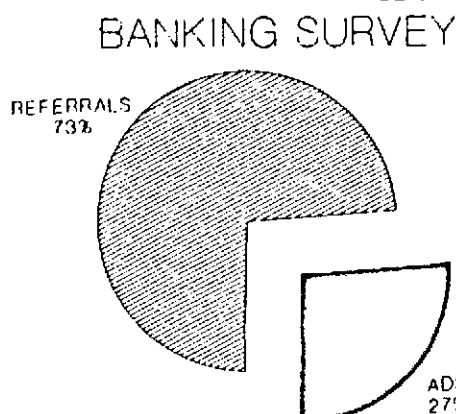
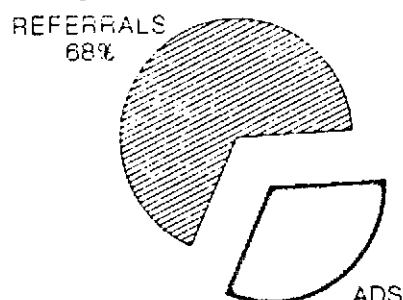
Susan Lee

## REFERRALS ARE HIGHLY ACCEPTED BY EMPLOYERS

by Susan Lee and Anne Gaines

Statistics indicates that more than 68% of employees that were hired from referrals are still employed compared to a low of 27% of employees hired from ads. Two types of firms were studied, a banking and insurance.

## HIRING - REFERRALS OR ADS AFTER ONE YEAR OF EMPLOYMENT



## INSURANCE SURVEY

With the bureaucracy of the hiring process in larger corporations, there are some similarities of the hiring process in smaller companies. It was been studied that managers, owners and personnel

officers have a preference for hiring individuals from persons referred to them, especially from active employees.

This preference however, creates a conflict with the established Affirmative Action and Equal Unemployment Opportunities. This "word of mouth" process tends to exclude individuals from impoverished and minority groups. Without friends, relatives or neighbors with good positions, there is no one to pass on the words on job openings or possibilities of employment. Equal Employment Opportunity regulations require wide advertising of job openings. In some cases, however, the position has already been filled and it is just a formality or procedure to post available positions within the company and advertise to the public. It is essential that we as African Americans pass on the information on job availability to those individuals who are unemployed and to those in a position to assist in the hiring process with corporations or personnel agencies.

We as a personnel agency not only place persons in corporations that are beneficial to us, but we are constantly referring individuals to corporations that we know are hiring and who are not asking assistance in locating employees. We also want to thank those of you who are referring individuals to our corporations as we appreciate you a an individual and the contribution you are making toward higher statistics of minorities in the work place.

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May 8, 1958  
Ernest Green becomes the 1st  
Black graduate of Little Rock's  
Central High School.

## African-American Males Urged to Join Title III Program

By Cherita Montgomery  
Staff Writer

"As you know, we have experienced numerous layoffs and plant closures in the city and county of Dallas," said John Thomas, Client Services Manager for the Private Industry Council of Dallas, Inc.

Title III gives layoff victims the opportunity to redirect their careers and learn new skills. There is a shortage of African American males within the program, and many are needed to help the success of the program.

Perks that come with enrollment in Title III include classroom and training at no cost to the individual, 50 percent of on-the-job training paid for by JTPA, and membership in the Job Club, which provides sessions on networking, effective resume and cover letter writing, tapping into the hidden job market and stress management.

To qualify individuals must be at least 18 years old, and present a letter of severance or notice of termination; be a self employed person going out of business; be long term unemployed or; have been laid off.

James Lewis, who had worked in the mortgage industry for many years found himself unemployed with the closing of the Dixie Lead Smelter Plant.

After initial aptitude testing with PIC, and since Lewis had always enjoyed being involved in law, counselors decided to place him in the Southeastern Paralegal Institute for four months. Lewis has now passed his 90 day evaluation as a bankruptcy paralegal with Union Mortgage. For more information, contact Don at 214-520-9377.

## PIC PROGRAMS OFFER JOB TRAINING

By Cherita Montgomery  
Staff Writer

The Private Industry Council of Dallas, Inc. focuses on increasing employability of the economically disadvantaged, at risk youth, dislocated workers and other individuals facing serious barriers to employment by providing training and placement services, said Jack Miller, president of the council.

Funding in excess of 10 million dollars from the Job Training Partnership Act enhanced PIC programs to service Dallas residents. Services include training in accounting, clerical, computer repair, GED preparation, surgical technology, word processing and other skilled areas.

John Thomas, PIC Client Services Manager said, "We determine what training to provide based on demand occupations and the local economy. We look at jobs that are available in high demands.

"Dallas economy is primarily a service industry," he said. "We do a great deal computer and general office training."

He says the council has recently looked closer at those occupations that will attract more males.

"The programs haven't attracted a great deal of males because we provide mostly for entry level job training; entry level wages. To a male with a family to support, this is not very attractive," Thomas said, "so we plan to identify more occupations that will not only be oriented to males, but will also produce a more attractive wage."

Programs offered through the Council are:

Title IIA - designed to provide training and employment to youth and adults on a year round basis. This program is required to serve youth with at least 46% of total funding. Funding for city - \$7.2

million dollars, for county - \$1.4 million dollars.



John Thomas

Title IIB (YES Summer only program) - for youth between 14-21 years of age.

Title III - specifically for dislocated workers. (Funding for city - \$1.4 million for county \$8.5 million)

Troy Taylor, graduate of the Title IIA program, now works as a mail supply clerk for the Dallas Branch of PIC.

Unemployed for six months, Taylor and PIC counselors realized that he should take some courses to upgrade his clerical skills.

"I went to school for six months," he said. "And within two weeks before graduation, I received a job offer."

Taylor says the most important thing for disadvantaged persons looking for work is to not give up, because there are a lot of things available out there.

"It's never too late to go back to school."



James Lewis, recent graduate of Title III program, currently employed with Union Mortgage as a Paralegal Bankruptcy Clerk.

There are three offices in the city of Dallas where an individual can go to apply for JTPA services.

"Because transportation is a problem for many of our clientele, there is a Downtown location on Main St.," said Thomas, who received his Masters degree in Guidance and Counseling from Prairie View A&M University.

"We wanted to make sure that we had an office that was easily accessible to anybody."

Other offices: Crest Shopping Center, Westmoreland-Ft. Worth Ave., Mesquite, Garland, Irving, Lancaster and Grand Prairie.

Individuals eligible for JTPA programs include AFDC recipients, Food Stamp Recipients, foster children, teenage parents, veterans, dislocated workers and school dropouts. There is NO COST INVOLVED. For more information call (214) 443-WORK.

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How to apply: Complete Texas Department of Human Services Personal Data form and Application for Employment. Send Application to: Texas Department of Human Services, Alvin Johnson, P.O. Box 5128/631 106th Street, Arlington, TX 76005-5128.

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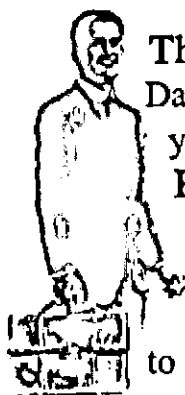
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The Private Industry Council of Dallas, Inc. (PIC), along with Stever Bartlett, the Mayor of Dallas, Lee F. Jackson, the Dallas County Judge, and major employers within the Dallas Area invites you to attend "Job Fair '92 - Putting Dallas to Work" at the Dallas Convention Center, East Ballroom on Wednesday, May 27, 1992 from 10:00 a.m. til 4:00 p.m.

If you reside in Dallas County and are laid-off, or unemployed with work experience, and need assistance in securing employment and/or training for employment, you are urged and welcome to attend.

PIC staff will be available to register eligible individuals for training, retraining, and/or job search assistance. Official Notice of Lay-off and proof of citizenship or legal authority to work is necessary for participation in the PIC programs.

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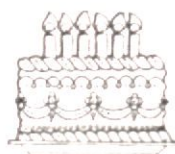
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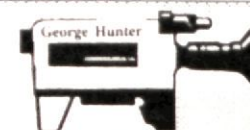
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