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# Minority Opportunity News

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 7 2730 STEMMONS FRWY • 1100 TOWER WEST • DALLAS, TEXAS 75207 JULY 1992



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## From the Publisher

Thurman Jones

Publisher

### The Right Hand needs to know what the Left Hand is doing

It is not at all uncommon for community leaders, especially those who serve as the heads of nonprofit organizations, to suggest the need for cooperation and collaboration in addressing our citizens' needs. Whether in areas of economic development, employment, and/or issues of civil rights, we often hear of the benefits that can be derived from working together. Clearly, there is very strong logic to suggest this is the case. Particularly in times of shrinking resources, it's critical we maximize those resources at our disposal.

I have recently been struck, though, by the realization that many of our leaders—who espouse the benefits of cooperation—should perhaps practice what they preach. Let's look at the recent number of job fairs that have occurred in Dallas as one example of my concern. Within the last month there have been three African American organizations that have conducted job fairs in the city. I am specifically referring to The Black State Employees of Texas, The National Association and The Dallas Urban League. In each regard, the stated purpose of these job fairs



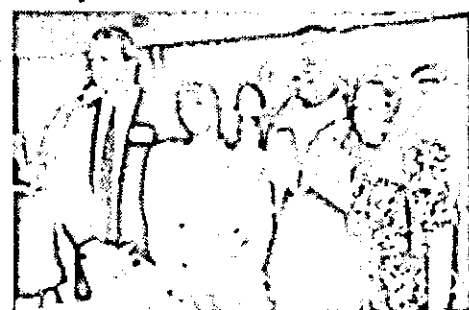
Urban League Inc., job fair in June.

was to match qualified and competent minority candidates with positions in a number of major corporations in our community. With a significant number of layoffs and re-organizations that have occurred, I can understand why this type of service is needed. What has presented itself as a problem, however, is the relatively marginal success of at least one of these job fairs. Without getting into the particulars of some of the problems that occurred at each, I would suggest a collaboration among these agencies could have yielded a far better program than any one of them individually.

The Dallas Urban League for the last twelve years has conducted one of the largest job fairs in this city. Would it not therefore seem to make sense for the other organizations to have collaborated with The Urban League to conduct one very large job fair addressing the needs of all the constituents? With their number of years

experience, I think it's logical to assume The Urban League would have a certain proficiency in conducting job fairs not possessed by more novice agencies. Ultimately, a better product could be yielded for those in need of employment related services.

In other areas, like economic development, and particularly the focus on community reinvestment, The Black State Em-



The Black State Employees fair in June

ployees Organization has been one the leading advocates in our city. As they expand their programming efforts with CRA, it makes sense for The Dallas Urban League and other organizations to cooperatively work with them to enhance the quality and diversity of their program. Likewise, in an area of technical recruitment and/or professional development, the NTA may have strings that neither of the other organizations might possess.

The bottom line of what I am suggesting is that as community organizations attempt to deliver quality services to our community, they should perhaps look at more collaborative efforts rather than competing on certain programs. Our community and its citizens are in critical need of assistance in all of these areas. To this end, it is incumbent upon these organizations to try to bring to bear the best set of skills and



NATA/NATP job fair in June.

services possible. If it is in fact true that individual cooperation can derive great benefits, then is it logical to assume that if organizations could do the same an even greater positives could result? Perhaps now is a great time to give this idea a chance.

## In the News...

### Bank One Now Serves South Dallas

Bank One Celebrated the opening of its Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch June 23. Bank One has named Cynthia Campbell, former manager of Bank One's University of Texas branch in Austin, as the manager of the new site. Campbell said, "Our goal is to be very active in supporting the community with financial services. Bank One is aggressively seeking new business and we have an excellent reputation for our involvement in the communities we serve. I'm personally excited about the opportunity to work with the youth of the commu-



nity and to demonstrate the opportunities that exist for them."

Also named to the MLK branch as vice-president and on-site lender was Huelon Harrison, a veteran Bank One loan officer who is active in such organizations as the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce and the South Dallas Development Corporation.

### Partners for Progress and Profit

The Texas Association of Minority Business Enterprise (TAMBE) and Austin Metropolitan Business Resource Center (AMBRC) will hold their International 5th Annual Business Opportunity Symposium Series (BOSS V) September 17-20, 1992 at the Austin Convention Center, Austin, Tx.

The theme for BOSS V is 'Partners for Progress and Profit,' with major emphasis placed on minority franchise opportunities and corporate contracting opportunities for W/MBEs as well as how to get financing you need in support of both of these activities.

For exhibit or registration information, contact Berdell Collins at (512) 322-0177, fax (512) 339-9597, or write TAMBE/AMBRC, P.O. box 6206, Austin, Texas, 78762

### D.L. Woods Theater Beginning Second Season

The D.L. Woods theater will feature three upcoming plays beginning with "The Park Bench" June 19-August 1; "Double

Standard," August 14-Sept. 26; "Dreams," Nov. 6-Dec. 19.

All performances are Fri. and Sat. evenings. Ticket prices are adult \$6.00, children \$3.00, Seniors \$3.00, to reserve seats call the ticket office (214) 565-1700 or (214) 371-4644

### TCU Journalism Workshop

Fourteen minority students sampled the world of professional journalism and produced a newspaper as participants in Texas Christian University's Urban Journalism workshop. The workshop was funded by the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund, Inc., the Fort Worth Star Telegram and the Dallas Morning News. Workshop director Mercedes Olivera instructs journalism/radio-TV-film at TCU. The fourteen minority students from Brownsville, Dallas, Duncanville, Fort Worth were recruited through their high school teachers. Former US Speaker of the House Jim Wright was keynotes speaker.

### NIBA Presents Seminar

New Image Business Associates is sponsoring a Membership Drive/Professional and Business Networking at Cable Access (studio) 1253 Roundtable, Dallas, on the 9th of July, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Guest panelists are Mr. Frank Wise of Cruise Holidays of Desoto and Ms. Gloria Jones of Century 21. For more information call (214) 350-9590.

### Dallas Minority Business Development Breakfast Now Meets at City place

The Dallas Minority Business Development Breakfast is moving to a new location starting July 16. Meeting will be held at the Cityplace Conference Center (2711 North Haskell), from 7:00-8:20am. Along with the normal agenda, there will be a special style show by CCC Dallas modeling agency and the Center for Women & Business Enterprise. Women entrepreneurs will also be featured during this special show. For further information contact Raymond Cervantes (214) 767-8001.

### MINORITY OPPORTUNITY NEWS

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## Education

with  
Juanita Austin

### Texas Academic Skills Program (TASP) Part 2

As discussed in the June 1992 issue of MON, the Texas Academic Skills Program (TASP) is an instructional program designed to ensure that Texas students have the necessary academic skills to perform effectively in college-level work. In order to pass all three sections of TASP (reading, writing and mathematics), there are some basic test-taking strategies to follow.

First, purchase the official TASP Test Study Guide (approximately \$14) and complete the practice exercises in all three sections. This guide contains instructional review of skills on the test and gives sample exercises, practice tests, and answer key with explanations.

Before taking the TASP, get a good night's sleep. If you are fatigued during the four-hour test, your performance will suffer. To avoid panic, pack your admission ticket, several number two pencils and two pieces of identification (at least one with a photograph) in an accessible place. A zip-

per pouch is an ideal caddy for these items. Eat a well-balanced breakfast the day of the test, but avoid liquids which will require frequent trips to the restroom. Wear comfortable clothes. Layers of clothes will allow you to adjust to possible fluctuation in room temperature. Select your garments the night before the test.

Make certain you know the location and room number of your test and leave in plenty of time to get to the test site. Because you will not be allowed to enter the testing room after the test has begun, arrive early to avoid the "rushed" feeling.

During the test, pay close attention to the time. You will be allowed four hours to take all three sections. Plan to spend no more than eighty minutes on each of the three sections (60 minutes x 4 hours = 240 [divided by 3] = 80). Although you are not required to complete all sections during the four-hour test, please note that it is advisable to do so. If you fail to complete all three sections, you may be required to take remediation in the subjects you did not attempt until you have taken that portion of TASP. Discuss this with your academic advisor at the college of your choice.

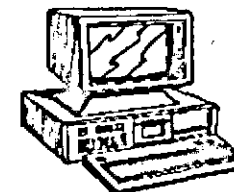
Once you have checked in and received a seat assignment, follow directions carefully, read all test questions, guess wisely (you are not penalized for wrong answers) and mark the answer sheet carefully.

Use all of the time allotted for the test. If you finish early, go back and check your answers. Change an answer only if you are positive it is wrong—generally your first answer will be correct.

When you begin the writing sample, outline your essay. Keep in mind that the following characteristics may be considered by the scorers: appropriateness, unity and focus, development, organization, sentence structure, usage and mechanical convention. Each of these areas is discussed in the TASP Test Study Guide.

Finally, take the TASP seriously. Your performance on this test will not only govern the remediation you will be required to complete, but will remain a part of your permanent academic record. If you follow the above recommendations, you will pass TASP. Good Luck!

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



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# Business



**Randy Luster**  
Business Editor

## Civil or "Silver" Rights? Our Emancipation

*"Brains, property, and character for the Negro will settle the question of civil rights. The best course to pursue in regard to the civil rights in the South is to let it alone; let it alone and it will settle itself. Good schoolteachers and plenty of money to pay them will be more potent in settling the race question than many civil rights bills and investigating committees."*

Mr. Booker Taliaferro Washington, at the age of 28, President of Tuskegee Institute, made this statement in 1884. He realized a people without an economic base had very little ground to stand on when it came to politics.

Mr. Washington endured many criticisms from Black leaders such as W.E.B. Dubois, John Hope (former president of Morehouse College), and a number of religious leaders. However, he did not allow his critics to deter him from moving forward with his plan of self-help, in creating one of the greatest educational facilities in the world. He amassed some of the wealthiest Black business leaders to establish a Black business class which provided business leadership and the foundation to build an economic base in the African American community.

Mr. Washington's statement was misunderstood and taken out of context. He believed in civil rights and that all men are

created equal. The argument lies in what is the best way to achieve economic parity. For African Americans it has been going to the legislators and courts; which has proven to be process of a dog chasing its tail. Mr. Washington's approach was through accumulation of capital (money). He realized if we were going to be treated with respect and dignity it would require us to be self sufficient.

Look at the Asians and other ethnic groups as they come to this country. Their focus is to establish an economic base, not a political case. Don't get me wrong, we need the civil rights laws to ensure some protection from this oppressive system, but at the same time we can no longer afford to sit around and play politics all day. Let's take a look at history according to Lerone Bennett, Jr. *Before the Mayflower*.

April 9, 1866 Civil Rights Bill conferred citizenship on Blacks and gave them "the same right, in every State and territory... as is enjoyed by white citizens." June 16, 1866 The House of Representatives sent the Fourteenth Amendment to the states for ratification. This amendment guaranteed due process of law and no state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens.

The Supreme Court ruled in the Slaughterhouse case of 1873 "there are two cat-

egories of citizenship, state and federal, and that the Fourteenth Amendment was designed to protect the rights of federal citizenship."

In the presidential election of 1876 Republican Rutherford B. Hayes and Democrat Samuel J. Tilden was dependent upon disputed Southern electoral votes. On February 26, 1877 in the Wormley Hotel (owned by black businessman James Wormley) a bargain was arranged. Hayes' representatives handed Southern representatives a signed letter which would give people of South Carolina and Louisiana "...right to control their own affairs in their own way."

The Civil Rights Case 1883 United States Supreme Court Justice Marshall Harlan ruled that: Railroad corporations, inns, hotels, and places of public amusement, he said, are instrumentalities of the state. "It seems to me that... a denial, by these instrumentalities of the States, to the Citizen, because of his race, of the equality of civil rights secured to him by law, is a denial by the State, within the meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment. If it be not, then that race is left, in respect to the civil rights in question, practically at the mercy of corporation and individuals wielding power under the State."

I would venture to say Mr. Washington

realized people of African descent could not depend on the mercy of politicians, or the judiciary system to achieve economic parity.

Not that we should stop voting and concede the political and judicial system to the dominate race, but I am advocating we take a serious look at the economic development strategy of Booker T. Washington.

History tells us that a political strategy to economic parity is slow and very ineffective. Remember there were Civil Rights bills of 1866, 1875, 1964, and there have been many legislative acts whose intent was to do the right thing.

On the other hand there have been many judicial decisions to circumvent those acts. In 1989 the Supreme Court dealt a setback to minority contract set-aside programs when the court struck down the program in Richmond, Va. Those programs had to be reworked in a manner that weakened race-based guarantees.

Attempting to achieve economic parity from a business perspective does not guarantee civil rights; however, history has shown us that politics is a continuous process that definitely has not worked for us. I suggest we stop playing politics and get down to business.

Contact me at (214) 492-8724 if you have any suggestions.

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## From the Editor's Desk

Jim Bochum  
Editor-In-Chief

# The Effect of Military Downstaffing on Minorities

The U.S. military—long considered a springboard to upward mobility for minorities—is cutting back and becoming more selective. The vast changes worry many who fear that minorities and disadvantaged will be the losers.

The combination of the nationwide recession and the end of the Cold War is prompting the armed services to downsize to 1.6 million members from 1.9 million by 1995. Just five years ago the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines employed 2.1 million people.

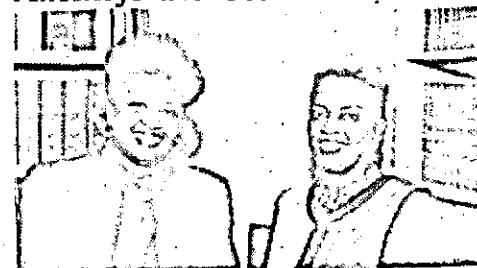
The release of thousands of military personnel will certainly increase our unem-

ployed, our homeless, and possibly increase our crime rate. This also will be the same for our young men and women coming out of high school and college who had dreams of higher education or careers in the armed forces.

Minority leaders worry that youths from disadvantaged areas who have fewer job opportunities will suffer most.

"It's going to really hurt," said Gary Bledsoe, president of the state NAACP. "It's one of the few places where a young African American could go to work without discrimination. That's been the kind of employer of last resort or first resort."

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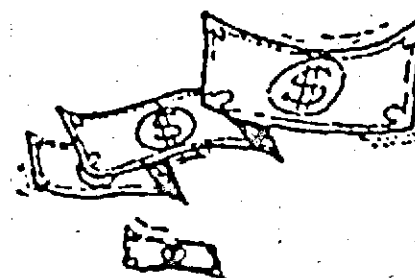
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# Community

## Carrollton's "First Lady"

By Rosalyn Hill  
Interview by Randy Luster



L to R: Jerrell Tarpley, Sheila Tarpley, Harold Demus, Ida Egges;  
Shirley Demus Tarpley, County Commissioner Sandy Jacobs

Shirley Demus Tarpley is many things to many people—to her children, Jarrel (25) and Sheila (22), she is a loving mother; to her constituents, she is a defender of justice and a watchdog over city government; and to the city of Carrollton, Tarpley is the first African American female ever in an elected office.

"I'm interested in getting more African Americans on the city payroll," said Tarpley. Since her election to place 3 in Carrollton, she's done just that.

It all began in 1963. "It's a good community (Carrollton)," said Tarpley, "but it still has a long way to go." Tarpley has always been deeply involved with her community, dating back to when her children were in school. "I wanted to make sure my children were being treated fairly," she said.

"I was always taught that in order to enjoy a place, you must become a part of it," said Tarpley. With that in mind, coupled with the advice of community

leaders, Tarpley decided to run for city council, first in 1989. "I had not decided yet," she said, "but 30 minutes before closing, I decided to throw my hat in the race."

Though unsuccessful in her first attempt for election to the city council, Tarpley did not give up. In 1991, she ran again in the election for place 3 and this time she was victorious. "Being a competitive person, I decided the next time I ran in place 3, I would be sitting in that seat," said Tarpley, "and I told my incumbent that too."

Though she considered the first year to be a learning period for her, Tarpley has been very instrumental in getting African Americans appointed to high profile positions. Theresa Hall and Dolores Connor are two African Americans on the library committee in Carrollton. According to Tarpley, currently they are working on a large facility in the libraries, where there will be books, magazines, and newspapers by or about African Americans and their culture and history. Cliff Simmons is also one of Tarpley's appointees who serves on the traffic committee.

Tarpley says she is seeking new people all the time and encourages more African Americans to apply for those city positions. She also plans to help instrument programs that hire more African Americans for city management. "I'm interested in getting more African Americans to bid on contracts as well," she said. "I also want to see more minority businesses move to

Carrollton and holding high government positions." Tarpley feels that these leaders and business men will provide a vital role needed for the African American community: positive role models for our city's youth.

During her term, Tarpley says she wants to be accessible to the people. Her open door policy for politics has made her very effective in interacting and helping her community. She serves as a role model for other African Americans who want to run for office.

"In the upcoming year, I'm going to continue to check in human resources for more minority policemen and African American Firemen" she said. "These people are visible, out in the field and serve as positive role models for children."

Tarpley also has done much to familiarize Carrollton, a predominantly anglo community, with African American tradition and culture. She was very instrumental

(continued on next page)



L to R: Mrs. Tarpley and Linda Taylor

  
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## Health Focus

with  
Marsha D. Prophet, Ph.D

# Relieving Stress Through Relaxation

Summer is here, it's time to take a break from the normal routine and just unwind, relax and "chill out." Although it can be difficult—and we are not used to doing it—relaxation is a way to escape the pressures faced on a daily basis. Our schedules are so complex that we do not think about allocating time to relieve stress.

Unfortunately, most people decide to relax after a health problem occurs. Working longer hours, being faced with extrinsic pressures, and trying to cope with strenuous duties, can cause us to seek stress management strategies.

Psychologists suggest that relaxation periods be scheduled at the same time each day. It only takes about 20 to 40 minutes to unwind from your daily chores. Relaxation techniques can range from sitting in a com-

fortable position while taking deep slow breaths, to practicing your favorite hobby. Other suggested relaxation strategies include: reading, developing imagery that causes you to relax, sitting in hot water (such as a jacuzzi), listening to music, and walking.

The most impressive thing about relaxing is that it can be done anywhere: in your home, office, and even in your car.

There is research that supports that stress management can add years to your life.. Specifically, stress management can help alleviate problems associated with headaches, backaches, and many other conditions. So the next time you feel the adrenalin surging throughout your body, or the pressure of daily work is intense, stop what you're doing, sit back, and relax.

in holding a reception for King Nana Larte from Ghana, Africa when he arrived in Carrollton on November 7, 1991. "The appearance of the king showed the white community something different that the African American Community has accomplished. Even in Carrollton, which is a city of 85,000-plus, we need to realize that this is a diverse city and that we have to live and work and try to understand different races and what they can contribute to the city."

This Dallasite who attended Booker T. Washington high school from 1955-1959, graduated from Prairie View A&M University with a degree in business and education. She was the first minority high school teacher in the Carrollton district, where she taught at R.L. Turner. She was the first Class Acts teacher recognized by Channel 4 and was recently given a certificate of appreciation by the city of Dallas for her civic and community duties. And of course, she was the first African American female in any elected office in Carrollton, and the first African American on any ap-

pointed commission or board.

She is most proud, however, of the awards of motherhood. Her son Jarrell is a graduate of UNT with a degree in community health. Sheila, her youngest, is graduate of TWU with a degree in broadcast journalism. "If I had not been successful with them," she said, "Then my life would not have any meaning."

Tarpley is a first of many things for Carrollton. With her political career off to such a positive start, there's no doubt she will impact many of the African Americans living in Carrollton. Making a difference starts with just one person, and for Carrollton, that one person is Shirley Demus Tarpley.



Ms. Tarpley and Mayor Milburn Grayley

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# Top Stories

## Haynes Sounds the Alarm—Wake Up!

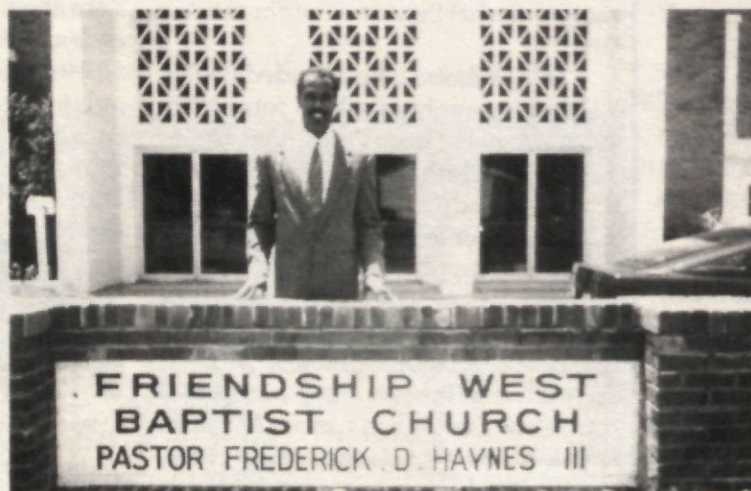
By Agatha S. Richardson

IGNITE A FIRE! THE MOVEMENT HAS BEGUN. A movement of HOPE, Action, and DESTINY. One can feel the electrical currents in the air. The Movement gave birth to leadership and community leader energized to action.

And Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free. I want to be a truth teller. We as a people are still in bondage. If I can tell the truth about our history, God and our people; I can become a part of the liberation and salvation of the movement that God desires to take place in the world."

These words of commitment were spoken by Frederick D. Haynes, III, pastor, Friendship West Baptist Church, located at 616 W. Kiest, Dallas. Pastor Haynes will be celebrating 13 years in the ministry and nine years at the helm of F.W.B. this year. Also, he and his wife Debra Peek-Haynes are eagerly anticipating the arrival of their first child in '92.

Pastor Haynes is a native Dallasite



Haynes.

### Emancipation Program

1) Operation BLACC - Brothers Leading and Loving the African American Church and Community

Focus: Ministry to men and through men.

Purpose: Liberation - develop and disciple African American males for leadership in home church and the community. This group meets every Monday night and Saturday afternoon for males 18 and older. Open to the public.

"Unfortunately, we see ourselves through the eyes of other people whose views are not sympathetic to African Americans," stated Haynes. "Churches who are serious must be able to provide a different vehicle on how they view themselves. We have become victims of colonization of information," he continued.

2) Social Action ministry - ongoing active organization

Focus: host candidate forum, NAACP drive, voter registration every third Sunday in January in recognition of Martin Luther King birthday money is raised and distributed to the masses.

Purpose: Liberations

### EVANGELISM

1) Rites of Passage - Terrance Autry, youth minister

Focus: Designed to help youth in maturation in a holistic process. Meets every Saturday.

Purpose: Saving souls. Presenting Jesus Christ in a way our culture can receive and meet our peculiar needs.

2) Speakers' Bureau - Pastor Haynes

Focus: to reach African American high school students

Purpose: Saving souls. To provide a positive role model to our youth.

"The Lord has blessed me with a gift to reach African American high school students on their level. I love speaking in schools," exclaimed Haynes.

Finally, pastor Haynes is one-fifth of



the "Bishop Five" that joined forces during the Paul Quinn fundraiser held in May. A young man was saved and the fundraiser's goal was surpassed and more importantly the community came together en masse to do something productive. The other pastors were Denny Davis, Rev. Jeffrey Johnson, Rev. Anthony Shary and Rev. Karry Wesley.

"Therefore, I can best rewire the system serving as a gadfly. If I can seek to be the conscience of the government, I will feel that I am accomplishing what God would have me to be. African Americans must wake up. We are still asleep," Haynes concluded.



who spent his formative years in the San Francisco area and in 1978 returned to Dallas where he attended Bishop College in Dallas.

Due to the dynamics of the man and the ministry, it is imperative that the social and spiritual programs at F.W.B. be explored and disseminated.

Pastor Haynes projected a definitive stance on the role of the church in the 90s as having a two-fold thrust. Some of his responsibilities to God, the community and African American people are in the excerpt below.

### Two-Fold Thrust

1) Evangelism- saving souls and 2) Emancipation- liberation. "I am convinced that if there is the spirit without the social, the church becomes irrelevant. If the church is social without being spiritual, it loses its power source," explained

## Climbing Vines

Lamar Vines' rise to hotel GM shows hard work does pay off

By Angela Ransome

There are only 15 in the nation, and he's one of them.

His proud and confident demeanor narrates the all-too-familiar story of a man gone from "rags to riches," as he oversees his "kingdom" at the Radisson Hotel.

His name is Lamarr Vines, and he's one of two African American hotel general managers in the Metroplex.

Out of over 8,000 hotel general managers in the United States, only 15 are African American. At age 35, Vines is one of them.

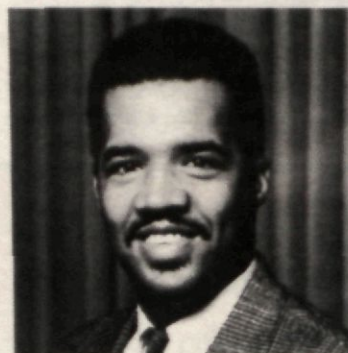
Formerly executive assistant manager at the Dallas Parkway Hilton hotel, where he worked for four years, Vines is now general manager of the Radisson Hotel at Northwest Highway.

"I left the Hilton to come to the Radisson in December of this year.

"I was second in charge there—here, I'm in charge," says a proud Vines.

"My supervisor at the club relocated to Dallas where he was offered a job at the Loews Anatole. One day, he called me and offered me a job as Assistant Executive Steward...Ninety days later, I was promoted to Executive Steward."

Within three years' time, Vines had advanced to Food & Beverage Area Direc-



tor at the Anatole—all proof to him that hard work no matter what the job, doesn't go unnoticed.

Vines' "step up" came somewhat by accident and more or less by fate, when he was laid-off at the Anatole. Around the same time, a successful interview at the Hilton earned

him the position of Food and Beverage Director. By August of that same year he was promoted to Executive Assistant Manager of the 310-room hotel, where his duties involved everything from recruit-

ment and termination to ordering new towels.

Vines says, "I used to put in a lot of hours and now it's paying off. I am now reaping the rewards of hard work I did ten years ago.

"The rewards are paying off wonderfully," he adds.

A hope of Vines is that more African Americans will likewise reap the rewards the hotel industry has to offer.

"We represent less than two percent of management positions in the hotel industry nationwide...there should be more of us (Blacks) in this business."

Vines thinks that part of the problem is due to the fact that African Americans (continued on page 13)



## PERSPECTIVE



## Considering Adoption?

By Brenda Thompson

Historically, African American and Hispanic children have been "adopted" informally within the extended family or community network. today, many African American and Hispanic children have no such "safety net" available due to changes in our society. Hence, they are cared for in state supervised foster homes until permanent homes can be found. In fact, minority children comprise more than half of the children waiting in foster homes in this area.

In the minority community, the legal adoption process has been the subject of much misinformation and myths and many individuals and families do not know how the process works.

Common bits of misinformation regarding adoption are the following:

1. You must be married to adopt,
2. You must own your own home to adopt,
3. You must have no other children, or
4. You must be rich to adopt.

Adoption is the legal process by which a parent-child relationship is established between a non-birth parent and a minor child. The adoptive parent becomes legally responsible for the child. the adopted child becomes entitled to all the rights that he or she would have had as a result of his or her birth to the adoptive parent.

Children become available for adoption typically as a result of abandonment, voluntary relinquishment of parental rights, termination of parental rights, or death of both parents. Children available for adop-

tion may be identified by the State Department of Human Services, adoption agencies or by private parties.

The state of Texas and some private agencies adhere to a "same race" placement policy for adopting parent and child in both foster home and adoptive home placement. This policy and the lack of available adoptive parents have the effect of causing African American and Hispanic children to wait a long time for permanent homes.

Accordingly, these children need minority individuals and families who are willing and able to assume parental responsibilities.

If you are considering adoption, you should deal only with persons or agencies who are licensed for child placing by the Texas Department of Human Resources or with persons, including natural parents or guardians of a child or managing conservators of a child, who are authorized by law to consent to adoption.

State law sets out the requirements for adoption, including who may adopt, who may be adopted, the county where the adoption may be filed, residency requirements, consent requirements, name changes, confidentiality of records and requirements for preparation of a social study and a report on health; social, educational and genetic history. Adoptions may be combined with the voluntary or involuntary termination of parental rights.

For information regarding adoption, you may obtain printed materials from the Texas Department of Human Services or from licensed adoption agencies listed in your phone directory. For legal advice, you should consult your lawyer.

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## Gimme a Break!

*The Earned Income Credit—What you may be Missing*

By Birl Smith, CPA

The earned income credit for the 1992 tax year includes three credits. The earned income credit is scheduled to increase for tax years 1992, 1993 and 1994. The highest basic credit that may be claimed for one child is 1992 is \$1,324. To claim this you must have income from employment in 1992, have earned income and adjusted income of less than \$21,250, and have a qualifying child living with you. You must also file a tax return, even if you do not owe any tax.

The second credit is for health insurance premiums paid by the taxpayer for a qualifying child. You may only claim the amount paid for a qualifying child. The credit does not include payments to dentists, physicians, hospitals, etc. This credit must be deducted from any other medical credit claimed on the 1040 tax form.

The third credit is for a child less than one year old at the end of the tax year. If you have child care expenses you cannot also take this credit.

The definition of who is a qualifying child is the biggest key to claiming the earned income credit. The three basic tests are relationship, residence and age. The credits are not claimed by many taxpayers because they do not know relationship includes a grandchild, stepchild or foster child.

There are additional rules for determining a taxpayer's eligibility. This column is not intended to cover all of the possible situations that could occur. If the taxpayer believes he might be able to claim this credit he should consult with his tax advisor or the Internal Revenue Service.

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Dear Girlfriend:

I want to return to school so that I can upgrade my skills, but the question of time and money always comes up. I have thought about maybe quitting my present job and returning to school full-time, but whenever I mention this to someone, they act as if I have gone crazy.

Got any suggestions?

*I need to go to school!!!*

Dear *I need to go to school!!!*:

Girlfriend, I do understand your dilemma. Have you ever considered the community colleges' continuing education classes? There are a variety of classes available that will enhance the skills you already have and teach you new skills.

Unless Ed called you with news about your millions, I wouldn't quit the present job just yet. I know it may seem that we can budget ourselves better and make a go of it for a year or two, but when it comes down to the bottom line, your entire purpose is to create an avenue to put more

money in your household. I know you've got to give a little to get a little, but let's not defeat the purpose.

Dear Girlfriend:

I have just one question: Where are all the good men?

*Just Looking*

Dear *Just Looking*:

Girlfriend answers this question with hesitancy because whatever I say someone is going to say something about it—but here goes: The Good Men are everywhere you go. Work, church, out, etc...The real question is WHAT ARE THEY GOOD FOR?

Dear *What's In*:

Can you tell me what the "thing" to do when it comes to approaching someone that you find attractive?

*What's In*

Dear *What's In*:

Several cliches come to mind..."Go For It," "You Have Not Because You Tried

Not," and "Patience is a Virtue."

Now, what you really need to do is figure out what kind of person this is because Girlfriend has known members of the opposite sex to run fast when they are approached.

So, if you feel comfortable, go ahead and make your move. Let's just hope it's not too soon.

Dear Girlfriend:

I have been waiting for Mr. Right for so long, I'm getting him confused with Mr. Wrong. What's a lady to do?

*Waiting*

Dear *Waiting*:

Maybe you need to settle for Mr. Inbetween.

If you need Girlfriend's advice, just drop a line to:  
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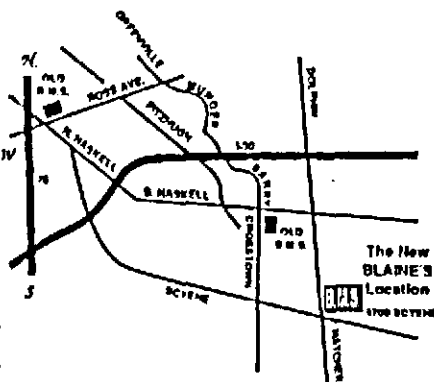
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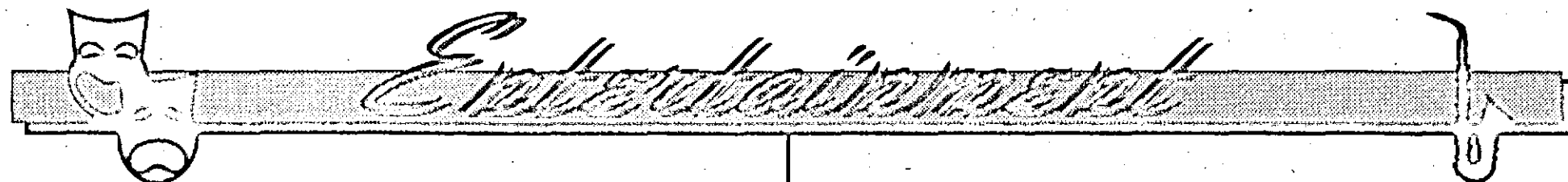
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## Beauty and the Best

Third "Miss Juneteenth" contest eventful, entertaining

By Louis Xavier

You would think a live entertainment event that requires coordinating scores of individuals and unpredictable equipment might—when the curtain finally is raised performance night—disintegrate into a circus of miscues and forgivably embarrassing moments.

But this year's 3rd Annual Miss Juneteenth Scholarship Pageant proves that local African

Americans have the talent, energy and mettle to produce a top-rate beauty pageant.

This third installment of Ms. Linda Ragsdale Sanders' dream-to-reality pageant for young Black women had all the earmarks for what could become a regional, perhaps national event.

Almost 1,000 people, many of them friends or family of contestants, crowded into the Hilltop Inn's Grand Ballroom eager to glimpse this year's showdown of beauty, talent and composure. 18 beautiful young women ages 17 to 25 vied for the coveted Miss Juneteenth crown.

As in previous contests, and fulfilling its namesake, the top prize is a scholarship to be applied toward the school of the



Thee Smith being crowned by last year's Queen, Tanana Williams

winner's choice—this year, \$2,000 donated by Coca-Cola of Texas.

But regardless of this praiseworthy focus, the pageant really seems a chance for these young women to bask in some of the glory and public adoration usually hard to come by in standard beauty contests. Rather than have a competition with a European yardstick for

assessing contestants' merits, The Juneteenth Scholarship Pageant is unapologetically Afrocentric.

Even the theme for this year's contest—"A Royal Beginning"—harkens back to the fact that, essentially, Black women originated the standard for beauty. It was truly refreshing to watch a pageant where the whole spectrum of Black beauty was represented, not merely contestants of color "close enough" to the cookie-cutout beauty image competing for a title.

Not surprisingly, the event followed a somewhat formulated beauty contest approach with contestants being judged in swimsuits and evening wear, with the selected eight finalists moving on to a

(continued on page 13)

## JBAAL Mixes Art with Culture

By Sonia Jordan

The last twelve years, director Curtis King has presented to the Dallas African American community the type of entertainment suitable or Broadway. He has given us concerts with the likes of Eric Gable, Alex Bugnon, and even exhibits such as Dallas' living legends.

Recently, JBAAL and director King presented a play by actor/playwright James Chapman, "Our Young Black Men Are Dying and No One Seems to Care"—a thought provoking, sometimes sad, sometimes humorous performance. On July 3,

they will give us the "You Can't Stop Laughing Comedy Show" with George Wallace, Ajai Sanders, Renaldo Rey and T.K. Carter.

Let's take a moment and talk about JBAAL's

founder Curtis King. Where is he from? What brought him to this area? Why take on such a momentous task as JBAAL? What does the future hold for Mr. King and JBAAL?

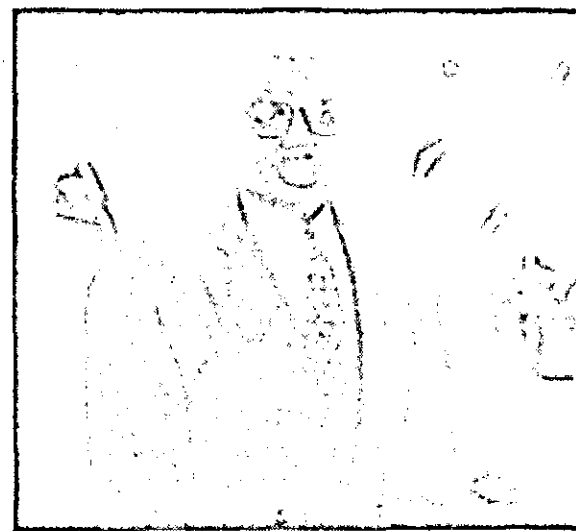
We asked these questions of Mr. King and this is what we discovered:

Originally from Cold Water Mississippi, this outstanding individual has been in the arts for 20 years. Mr. King settled in Dallas after graduating from Jackson State and going on to Texas Christian University to obtain his graduate degree. He studied at the University of Texas at Dallas for his doctorate in humanities. Because of his love for the arts, his belief in himself, his love and belief in Black people, Mr. King felt that a balance in culture is what allows

a nation (city) to really become rich. For years our city did not have constant theater entertainment that was geared toward the African American community. I personally believe that we were hungry for the type of entertainment that we now enjoy year-round. We no longer have to wait for

Black History Month or Martin Luther King's Birthday to celebrate or enjoy the celebration of our culture.

"We are just scratching the surface. The (continued on page 13)



**VISIONS BY DERRYL**

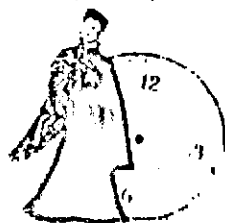
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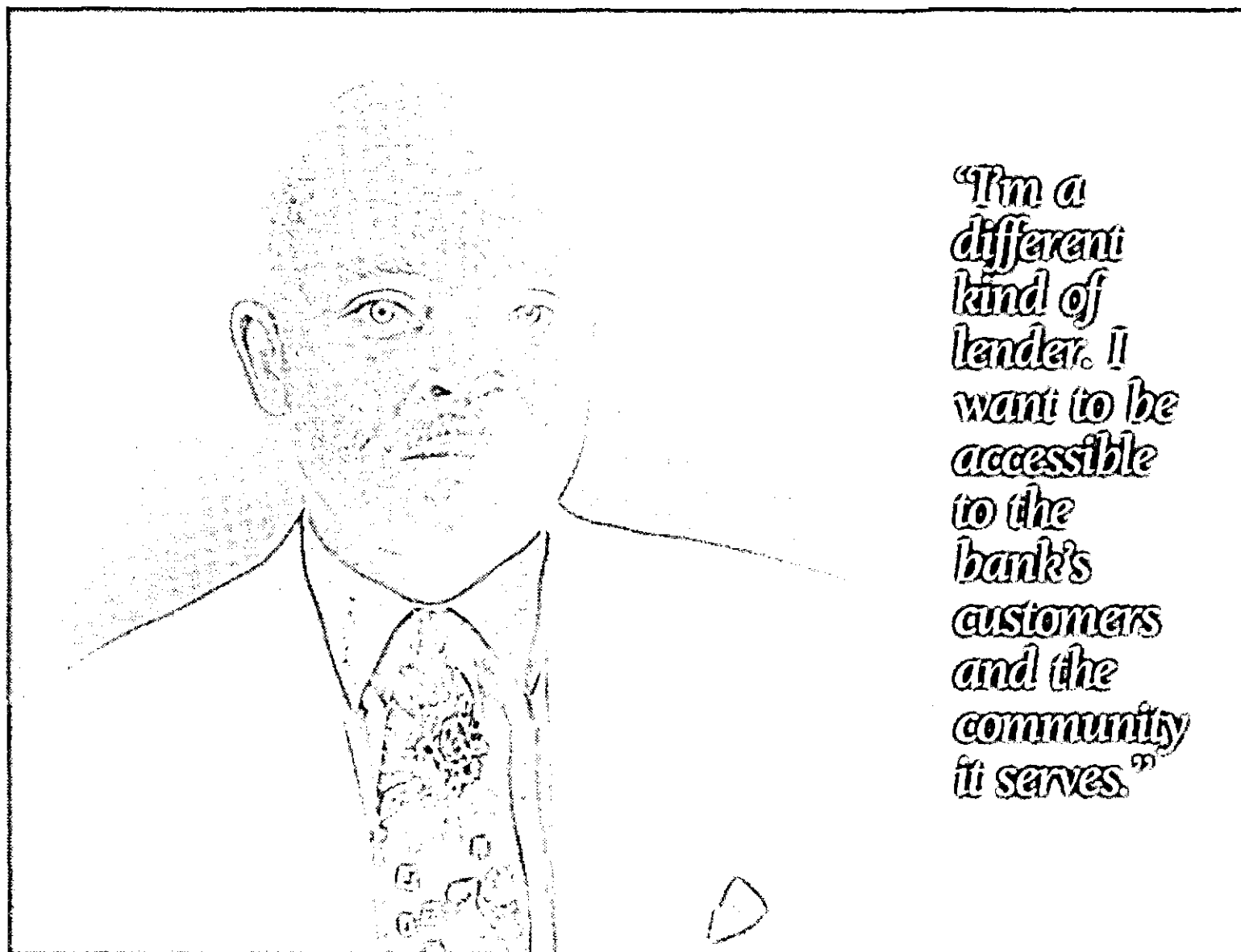
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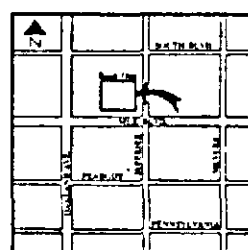
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(Juneteenth continued from page 11)  
Question and Answer session and finally a three minute talent showcase for each.

But despite the pageant's by-the-book angle, the event produced a night as full of entertainment as with pride.

This year, after the laborious marathon of hand calculation, young Alabaman Thebe Smith got the judges' nod as Miss Juneteenth. The 20-year old UTD student was glowing with pride as she was showered with praise and adulation but, surprisingly, her composure never slipped one iota.

When most would think a short mental vacation was warranted after such an exhausting competition, the lovely Ms. Smith was all ready fastidiously mapping out her reign. "I plan to really represent this title well," Smith says with the seriousness of an IBM executive in a board meeting. "I'm going to talk to a lot of kids—I [eventually] would like to be a counselor in the minority community—and push them harder to complete their education. That's my main goal."

The gravity of The Miss Juneteenth title certainly doesn't seem lost to Smith. She sees the crown as more than just a gimmicky PR vehicle; Smith understands it represents both a relationship and responsibility to her community. "If I can reach one kid to tell them to stay in school and get an education, it's worth it," Smith says. "With this title, I think I can do that. I'll have something to present to them, something I've accomplished."

In contrast to Ms. Smith's crowning accomplishment and exciting year ahead was the tearful adieu to last year's queen Tawana Williams. The beautiful 19 year old sophomore attending the University of Houston seemed somewhat subdued—perhaps even nostalgic—as she passed the scepter to the new queen. "It's kind of sad being that I've gone through so much," says Williams, her attorney-like elocution and statesmanship surfacing, then receding with the wash of fond memories. "It's just an experience that every young female should want to experience because it really boosts your self-esteem and makes you feel so much better about yourself."

Ms. Williams will be a tough act to follow. Her striking pulchritude and eloquence coupled with her...well, humanness, served the pageant's title well. Williams marriage of becoming looks, intelligence and commitment certainly "upped the ante" by which future queens will be judged.

The 3rd Annual Miss Juneteenth Pageant was a success. But equally important as this year's success was the success of the Miss Juneteenth concept. Past all the public service brouhaha and competition priming lies a most important facet: it allows young African American women their birthright—to be queens in a world not always so appreciative.

"The most I got out of it was when little kids would run up to me and ask, 'Who are you the Queen of,'" Williams says, all ready waxing nostalgic. "I'll really will miss it."

(JBAAL continued from page 11)  
Academy is designed to promote, foster, cultivate and preserve the arts and letters of Black people in music, dance, theater, film, television and the visual art. We have a multi-disciplined organization with multidisciplinary programming," says Mr. King.

When asked about the classes that were to be presented in this multi-disciplined organization, Mr. King had this to say:

"It's hard to unteach people when they have been taught wrong. Without the proper equipment within our facility we could not teach correctly." Mr. King believes with continued support from the community and additional funding, those classes will soon be starting.

As for the future of JBAAL and director King...This summer director King will go to Europe in an effort to further some of his ongoing projects.

He also wants to do more film and stage directing here with JBAAL and in other places. Comfortable in the knowledge that JBAAL will continue to grow, becoming one of the nation's largest centers for the arts, Curtis King is ready to spread his wings and take on new challenges.

*MON wishes continued success to director King. With King's guidance, the Junior Black Academy of Arts and Letters will undoubtedly grow to national recognition.*

For ticket information call the Junior Black Academy at (214) 658-7144

(Vines continued from page 4)  
have worked in the "service" part of the business for so long that when jobs open up in managerial areas, they don't apply. But sometimes, he adds, these positions don't come up on their own.

"More African Americans should investigate hotel career opportunities," he says. "Maybe the workload deters them or



they're not serious enough about their responsibilities.

"Whenever you're in a work environment, you should let your work do the talking."

So far, Vines says, it's worked for him.

"I thought I'd be a general manager by the time I was 40 — looks like I'm a little early," jokes the father of four.

Vines says a short-term goal of his is to manage a larger hotel. Long-range, he says, he would like to own one...whichever comes first.

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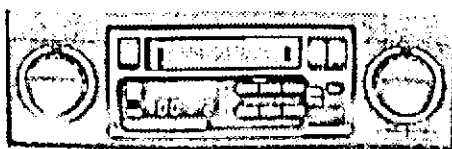
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## College Grads: What to expect?

*Underemployed, but not much Unemployment*

By Susan Lee

The work force is seeing an alarming rate of college graduates in expecting positions for which they are considerably "over-qualified." Unemployment for men and women varies with their level of education. The more educated a person is or becomes the lower the level of unemployment. March 1987, reflected that adult unemployment rates (ages 25 to 64) were 11 percent for those who did not complete high school, 6 percent for high school graduates, 5 percent for those with one of three years of college and less than 3 percent for college graduates. The college graduates are rarely unemployed. Unemployment falls heavily on those individuals with lower levels of for-



maleducation.

The problem of college graduates as you see in the chart is not unemployment but underemployment. During the '70s, the proportion of sales and clerical workers—of both sexes—who were college graduates almost doubled. At the same time, the percentage without high school diplomas fell by more than half.

The number of individuals attending and graduating college is increasing much faster than the number of professional and technical jobs. During the '60s there were approximately a half-million people receiving

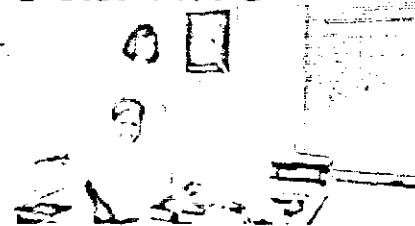
ing bachelor's degrees. By the early '80s this had doubled. As the labor force grew 31 percent between 1970 and 1980, the number of college graduates labor force increased by 85 percent.

What has happened is that three trends came together simultaneously. A larger percent of students went to college, the number of students was itself larger because of the baby boom, and also a higher proportion of the women who received degrees entered the workforce as well. With this number of college graduates looking for work, for the first time in American history we experienced a high level of underemployment.

Those in the baby boom generation may find that college degrees normally lead to less income than they expect, and that their income may remain permanently lower as the years pass as they will be competing with many others of the same age throughout their working lives for a limited number of well-paid positions.

With the underemployment of college graduates in the workforce, it has become very important that college students choose a career that will "somewhat" guarantee them a challenging position. During your sophomore year we urge you to speak with your counselors, parents, business persons and individuals in the workforce—get their opinion! In most cases they are able to direct you toward a career path that will be desirable and not just "another job" after graduation. If your expected date of graduation is within the next 3-5 years, you may want to consider some type of medical, legal or technical degree. We suggest college graduates become familiar with the trends of the workforce.

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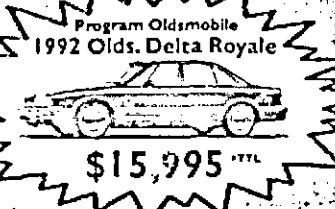
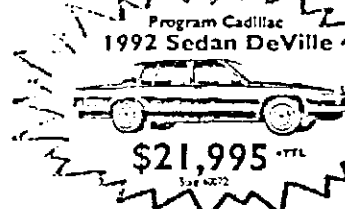
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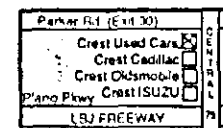
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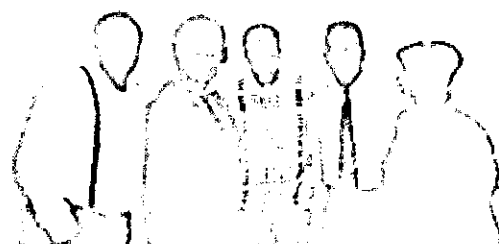


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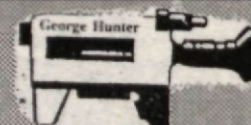
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