

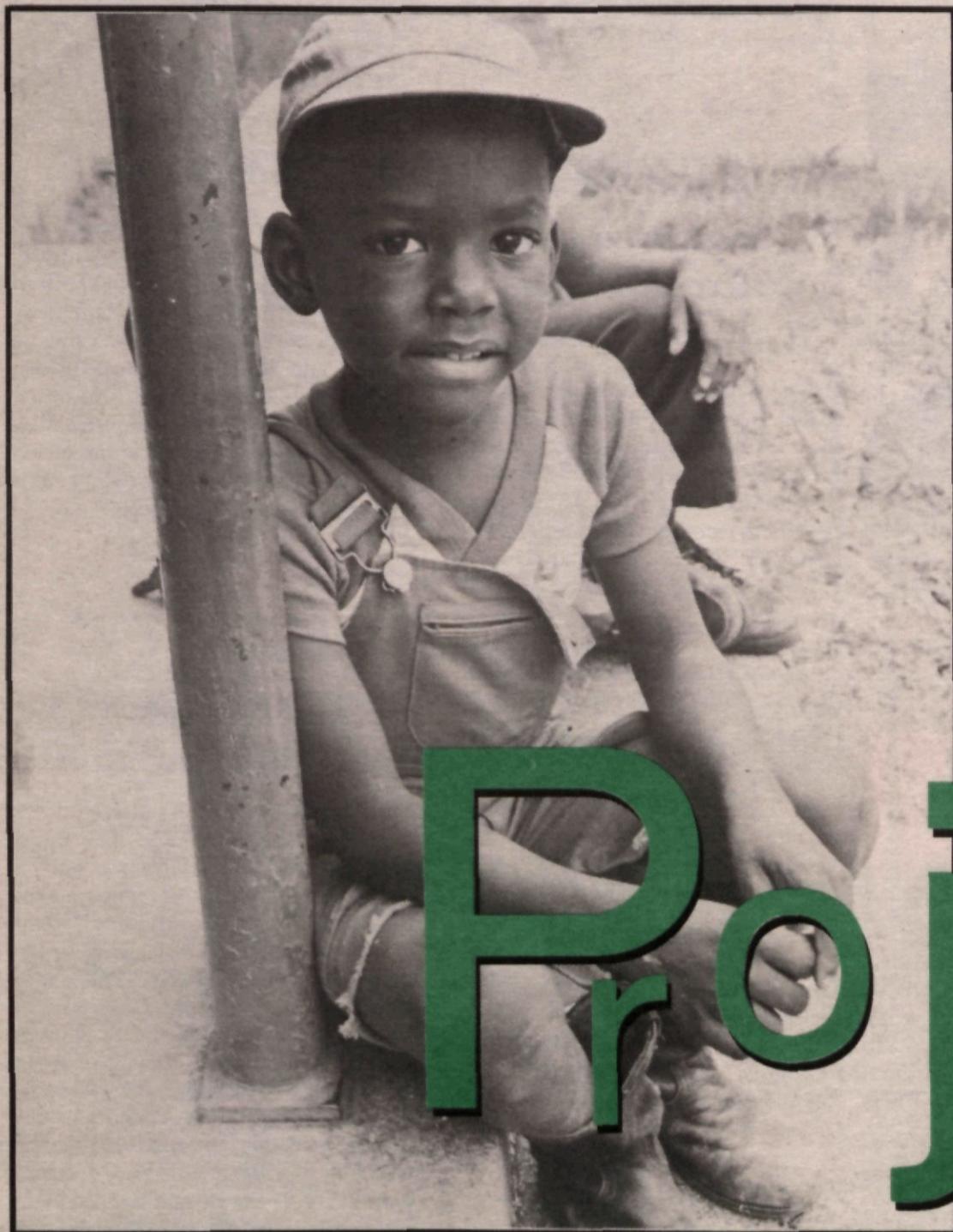
Your Opportunity to Access the Community

Minority Opportunity News

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 2

2730 STEMMONS FRWY • 1202 TOWER WEST • DALLAS, TEXAS 75207

FEB. 1993



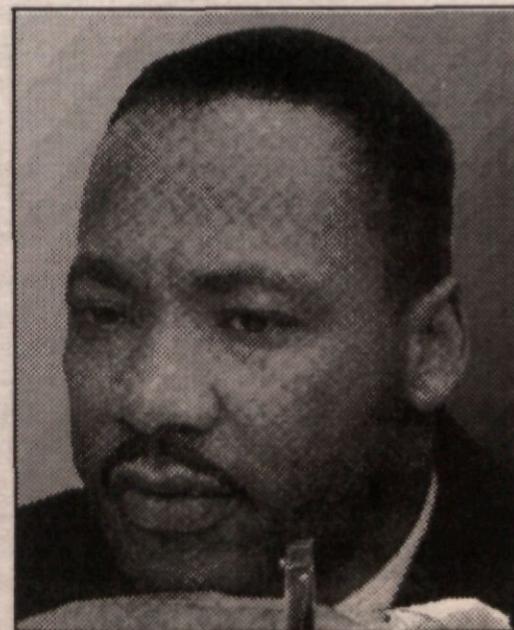
kids -n- the Projects

INSIDE

- The status of DISD's Unitary status
- Entertainment
- Affordable Housing
- Calendar of Events

A Salute To Dr. King

A quarter-century after his death, Martin Luther King, Jr. still remains a touchstone for African Americans from all walks of life—his message timeless as it is urgent.





*From the
Publisher*

Thurman Jones

Harried but Hopeful

New presidential administration looks promising, but...

AS WE APPROACH THE BEGINNING OF A new administration in our federal government, there are many reasons for some optimism. The new Clinton administration may pose a number of positive outcomes for African American communities across the country.

Perhaps the most visible ray of hope for the African American community has been the appointment of African American individuals to high level cabinet positions. A very prominent example is that of Mr. Ron Brown who is the designated Secretary of Commerce. For the first time in American history, an African American individual would influence the broad spectrum of domestic and international business relationships and policies. More specifically, Mr. Brown will have the opportunity to make significant advances for black persons in our country. I hope his appointment will initiate a re-focusing on the opportunities for all African American citizens.

The attention of The Department of Commerce could issue in a new role for African Americans and hopefully address the disparity of business opportunity between African American companies and Hispanic and Asian owned firms. As we all know, African American owned firms are growing painfully slow and have been virtually ignored for the last twelve years of Republican bliss. During this time, the general perception was that *minority* referred to Hispanic, Asian, and just about everybody but black folks. The appointment of Mr. Brown hints at a possibility that the economic holocaust of the Reagan/Bush era is over.

(Continued on next page)

In the News...

Congratulations to new Sickle Cell poster child

The Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation of Dallas has chosen the poster child for 1993. Her name is LaNita Annette Reed. Ms. Reed is a 9 year old, 4th grader at Amelia Earhart Learning Center who enjoys swimming, skating and going to church or shopping with her mother, Ms. Beverly Reed.



theme of the luncheon is "The Gift of Health: Yours To Enjoy, Yours To Destroy" and sponsored by the Omicron Mu Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Sorority, Inc.

Southwestern is doing research to find the most effect anti-depressant medication for older individuals. Call Ann Harrell at 688-3404 for more information.

Nominations being accepted for "Excellence in Teaching Awards"

Dallas, nominate the teachers in your school that you feel have excelled in their fields. Four teachers will be awarded for their outstanding skills, commitment and effectiveness in the classroom from pre-k through grade 12. Contact B. Rodney Davis at (214) 841-4117 for more information.

Second Annual MLK Basketball Tournament

Congratulations to the winners and participants in the Second Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Basketball Tournament. First Place was claimed by the Raiders. Federal Express came in Second and Bank One claimed Third Place. The tournament was held at the MLK Recreation Center in South Dallas on January 11-14. For those interested in participating in next year's tournament, call (214) 748-0466.

Slavery Exhibit by local artist

One of South Dallas Cultural Center's artists in residence, Augie N'Kele, will exhibit a series of wire sculptures at El



Centro College. The exhibit will be displayed on Saturday, February 13, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. in conjunction with the Fourth Annual African-American History in Texas Conference.

Mr. N'Kele will also exhibit some of his work at the South Dallas Cultural from February 8-27 during his tenure as Artist in Residence.

Officers elected for The Alliance of Black Telecommunications Employees

The Metroplex Alliance Chapter is involved with various youth programs and schools throughout the city. Programs such as the Chance Center for Abused Children, Project Optimum personality & Potential, Project Clean Sweep and Roosevelt High school, to name a few. Contact Marvin Wamble at 308-4766 for more information.

Heart Attacks increase in Winter

Nearly 40% of all heart attacks occur between November and February. Cold weather stimulates the body's production of adrenalin, which makes the heart beat faster and causes blood vessels to constrict. According to Dr. Daniel Friedman, Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, "This makes the heart work harder even at rest." Persons with heart conditions should be very cautious. When working outside during the winter months, one should dress warmly, work slowly and take frequent rest breaks. Dr. Friedman says, "if you have any chest pain, weakness or dizziness, or feel your heart racing, it's best to stop." For more information contact Kay Johnson (214) 648-3404.

Plano businessman honored

Founder and president of Telecom Electric Supply Co., Plano, Mr. Fred N. Moses, will be honored at the Seventh Annual Award Luncheon, Saturday, February 27 at the Lincoln Doubletree Hotel at 12:00 noon. He is being honored for helping others through his work in the Plano area Douglas Community and with children at the St. Philips School in South Dallas. The

Mature Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for a comparative study of medications at the UT Southwestern Medical Center. Applicants must be at least 60 years of age and experiencing problems with depression but not currently on antidepressant medications.

It has been found that many medications do not work as effectively as we get older. That is why the Department of Psychiatry at UT

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(Con't from prev. page)

As always, a new administration provides new opportunity for policies and regulations favoring our business community. Minority Business Development Agencies—and other appointments forthcoming in SBA—carry considerable implications for how minority businesses will prosper during Clinton's term.

I, too, am optimistic and hope that the new administration will bring the changes so desperately needed in the African American community. But I am also aware that, as always, the fulfillment of this goal depends on holding accountable those individuals we elect to these very prestigious offices. Together, there may be a good chance for success.



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Advantages of a HUD Home Purchase



Curtis Yates

OK, YOU'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT BUYING a home. Moreover, you have considered buying a HUD home. But you don't want just any old home, but one that's nice. So, now you must be thinking, "Are HUD homes worth buying?"

First of all, if you're not buying a home built from the ground up, you stand to face the same challenges and risks when buying any pre-existing home that's for sale. Buying a HUD home has advantages.

One good advantage is the cost to you would be a lot less expensive than if you were to buy that same home from a private owner or through a real estate office. A second advantage would be

the assistance you'll receive with your closing costs. With closing costs alone, you could save hundreds or even thousands of dollars from the purchase of a HUD home.

HUD home buys are so attractive that many real estate investors purchase them sometimes needing no major repairs. Make sure that you're not one who would turn around and purchase one of the same homes for \$15,000 or \$20,000 more than what you could have gotten if your bid had been accepted.

A good HUD broker would try to not only sell you a HUD home, but arm you with much information as possible about the home you're interested in bidding on.

To find the HUD broker that's right for you, you might begin by phoning several offices or dropping in briefly, just to see how you're received and what your first impression is. There are some very important questions you must ask yourself after you have gotten pre-qualified to purchase a HUD home.

One question is, "What is the approximate value of the home?" A second question is, "How much would you need to bid in order to keep your payments comfortable and still get a good deal?" The school district and the neighborhood are also important factors when buying a home.

Here's some personally advice I'd like to give you if you're considering buying a HUD home,—“Never let the broker set the amount of the bid for you!” There have been many cases where the amount of a bid submitted on HUD homes have been more than the property's estimated value. REAL ESTATE STATUS QUO has issued three golden rules to keep handy when attempting to purchase a HUD home.

REAL ESTATE STATUS QUO'S 3 GOLDEN RULES WHEN BUYING A HUD HOME

1. Before placing a bid on a HUD home call to get the county tax office's assessed value of the property. There's no cost. This would give you a pretty good estimate of the property.
2. Develop a good home inspection sheet to go by in order to do a pretty good visual inspection of the property. Make sure that the property is an insured property. When a property is insured this says that the property's electrical and plumbing work are in working order, or else FHA would not have it stated "INSURED" for financing purposes.

3. Compare the figure you get from the county tax office to HUD's starting asking bid price. Here is where you need to set your bidding range.

Armed with this information you should be better equipped when attempting to purchase a HUD home.

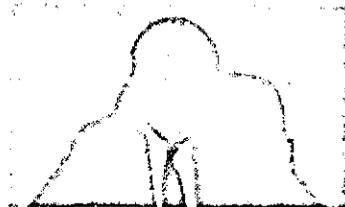
The economic situation that is upon us right now forces us to become both consumer and investor to get ahead in the home buying market. If you do your homework properly before trying to buy a HUD home, you might find that there could be a prospective high total return on your investment.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis McCraney, who recently purchased a HUD home through our office, have found this to be true. They're the proud owners of the property located at 1100 Southpointe, in the City of DeSoto. Using the three golden rules our office recommended has allowed them to purchase their home for a lot less than its estimated value.

For comments or any subjects that you feel would be educational for our readers write: ATTN: Curtis Yates, REAL ESTATE STATUS QUO, P.O. Box 833842, Ste. 149, Richardson, Texas 75080. Real estate questions are to be sent with a stamped return envelope.

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MICHAEL A. JOHN

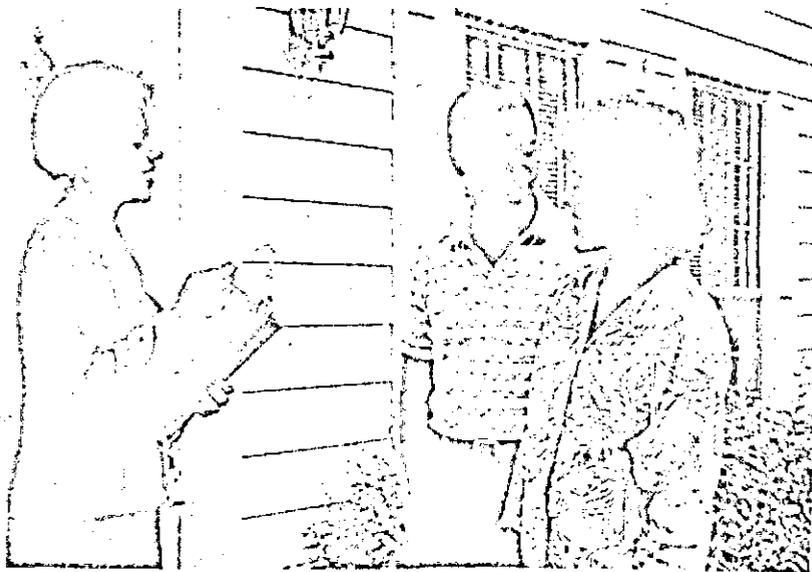
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Voicing Disunity

The DISD is poised to have its court imposed Unitary Status removed, but many in the African American community are concerned that might lead to setbacks in equal education

By Angela D. Ransome

LOOK IT UP IN ANY DICTIONARY AND YOU'LL find the meaning of the word *unitary* to be "of or pertaining to a unit." Ask any member or the Dallas Independent School District, however, and he or she will surely convey a different connotation of the word.

The DISD Fraction of the Board of Trustees is considering petitioning the federal government in an effort to gain unitary status. A unitary status for the district will mean freedom from federal intervention and from the courts in particular. This, says Judge Thomas Jones, is something that should not be taken lightly by the African-American community.

"A unitary status for DISD would mean that we would have no effective means of challenging decisions made by the school board which are adverse to ethnic minority students and employees of the district," says Judge Jones. "DISD feels that because its schools are desegregated, it should be removed from the oversight of federal courts."

The court order imposed upon

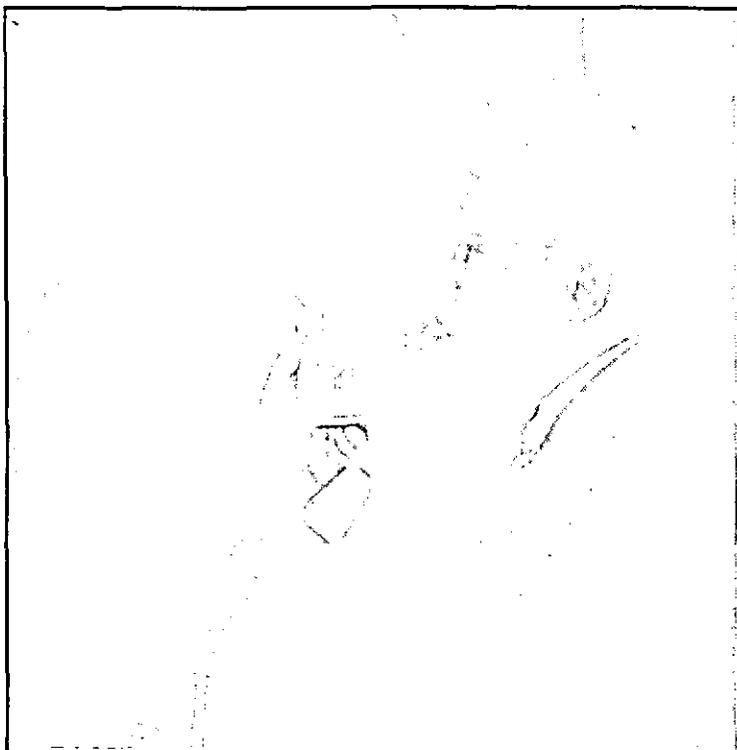
the DISD set guidelines for the district in the areas of transportation, personnel and student achievement, among other things. The focus of the court order, however, was to provide "equity in education" by closing the gap between black and white students in terms of student achievement.

Judge Jones says, as he and others who oppose Unitarianism, equity in education has by no means been achieved.

He says, "DISD should be charged with child abuse

because they have failed to produce students who can matriculate throughout society and develop into fully productive citizens."

Under the landmark Supreme Court decision of *Brown vs. The Board of Education of Topeka*,



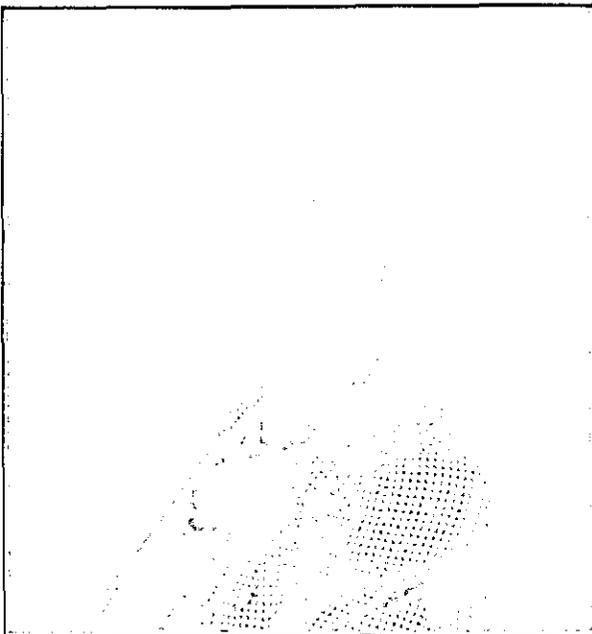
Members of the community—Thomas Muhammed (top) and Adelfa Callejo (left)—air their concerns over DISD's possible shucking of its unitary status.

Kansas, racial segregation is a violation of the Equal Protection Clause as defined by the 14th Amendment. According to Thomas, failure to provide quality and equity in education is also a violation of this clause

"One of the reasons for the unitary proposal is the alleged 50 million dollars that will be saved, but what does money have to with it," asks Jones rhetorically. "Pouring more money into a system that is still failing a majority of our Black students is not the answer."

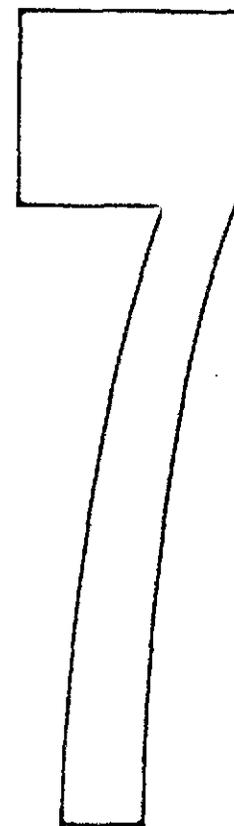
Judge Thomas says he will be satisfied with school board members bringing the DISD into full compliance with the court order, and then pushing towards a unitary status.

"School board members should not be seeking a unitary status at this time," he says. "Now is just not the time." 



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From the
Editor's Desk
Jim Bochum

Salute to a Great Warrior

THE MAN WHO ALMOST SINGLE-HANDEDLY forced White America to concede that rights granted by the United States Constitution also applied to African Americans was Thurgood Marshall, a civil rights activist whose courtroom victories were the legal battering ram against racial barriers during the 1940s, 50s and 60s. As the first African American to hold the position of Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, Mr. Marshall had a brilliant career in constitutional law.

Justice Marshall achieved his greatest distinction from 1940 to 1961 while serving as director and counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, in that position, he argued thirty-two cases before the Supreme Court, winning twenty-nine of them. Of these, the most famous was Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education, the famous school desegregation case. The 1954 decision broke the "Separate but Equal" doctrine of the American judicial system.

Justice Marshall was born July 2, 1908 in Baltimore, Maryland. He attended Lincoln University in Pennsylvania and received his bachelor's degree cum laude in 1930. Barred from Maryland University Law School because of his race, he enrolled at Howard University Law School. Mr. Marshall Graduated Magna Cum Laude, then set up practice in

Baltimore. From 1933 to 1937, he became a champion of the poor. He built up one of the largest Law practices in Baltimore, but still struggled to pay his rent.

In 1936, Marshall became part-time assistant to his former law professor, the famed NAACP special counsel Charles Houston, this time as the veteran lawyer's part-time assistant. It was Marshall who prepared the brief in the 1938 Supreme Court case that resulted in granting blacks the right to enter the University of Missouri Law School. That same year Mr. Houston retired to private practice and Marshall succeeded him as special counsel at NAACP headquarters in New York. In 1939, the NAACP Legal staff became a separate organization as the NAACP Legal Fund and Marshall was made its director.

As director of the new organization, Marshall played a key role in the most important shift in black policy since Reconstruction. Beginning with the Sweat vs. Painter case, an attack on the segregated Law School of the University of Texas, Marshall succeeded in getting the Supreme Court to rule on the validity of segregation by convincing the court that equality involved more than physical facilities.

Justice Marshall explained his predilection for Constitutional Law by citing it as the "ultimate solution for many of the black man's racial problems. The average guy doesn't suffer so much from prejudiced congressmen in Washington as he does from local elected officials. Once you get the laws on the books, it will be the political action that will have the most lasting effect. Men will be elected to office who will enforce the Constitution rather than ignore it."

Justice Marshall retired from the United States Supreme Court in 1991 ending a long and victorious career in law. He died January 24, 1993 of heart failure.

February 11, 1902
Langston Hughes,
writer, poet,
born in
Joplin, Mo.

February 10, 1939
Ronald H. Brown
elected chairman of the
Democratic National
Committee

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KING

Remembered

By Angela Washington-Blair

He had a dream.

He was a visionary, who during his brief lifetime, kept hope alive.

He was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. His name is almost synonymous with the nonviolent philosophy he heartily embraced.

I can remember, as emotionally vivid as if it were yesterday, that fateful day of April 4, 1968, when Martin was gunned down. For me, an 11-year-old approaching her 12th birthday, it started off as a typical day at my junior high school in Los Angeles. I, like my classmates, was doing the usual things—talking with friends and changing classes between periods when the scuttlebutt had it that Martin Luther King had been shot. I was in the courtyard of the school when suddenly all Pandemonium broke out. Many black students began indiscriminately attacking white students. School was dismissed early and my mother safely came and removed me from the ruckus.

As I rode home I pondered what would have caused such reaction. I wondered about a white student named Susan who was hit and shoved just because she was white—just because she was there. She hadn't shot Martin. But to those inner-city youths, she became the very embodiment of those who had.

It is ironic that the very death of a civil rights leader who firmly embraced nonviolence would cause such reactionary violence such as riots and other civil disturbances.

Martin was loved by many and in his martyr's death he became a hero to many more.

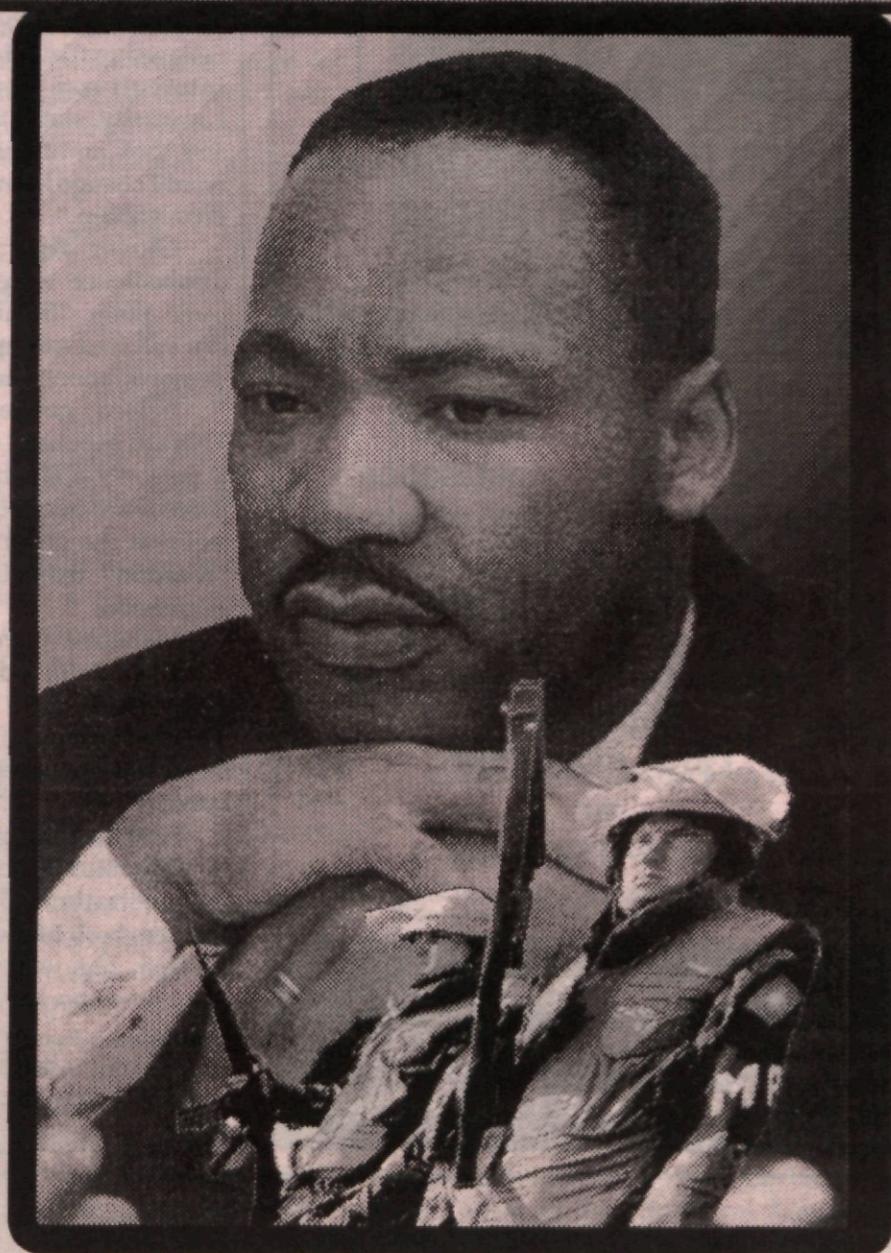
People from a variety of ethnic groups will use the occasion of his birth to reflect on how far we've come in race relations—and how far we still have yet to go in order to increase knowledge and understanding so that we will be able to live peaceably (as much as possible) together in America.

Others, who still view Martin as a sell-out, who still view him as an acquiescing, passive dreamer, will offer alternative philosophies, such as black nationalism, when dealing with the issue of race in America.

But that's ok. We need multiple points of view and we need dialogue among ourselves as well as between the races to find some workable solutions to the seemingly never-ending race problems in America.

Yes, problems do exist—not the same ones, mind you, which our great-great grandparents encountered. And not the same ones which our grandparents and parents encountered during the "career" of Jim Crow.

Let's review for a moment the tenets which Martin endorsed during his thirteen active years in the Civil Rights movement. Even though King grew up in a comfortable, secure home and neighborhood, he developed over the years an acute awareness and empathy for the plight of poor blacks, especially in the



south. Even after earning three college degrees, he remained compassionate to those less fortunate than he.

Because the Supreme Court case of 1896 Plessy vs. Ferguson laid the foundation for legalized segregation, laws of discrimination and segregation had grown tremendously in the first half of the twentieth century.

For some people including some blacks, segregation may have seemed idyllic for a while, but others wanted the window of opportunity opened in all arenas of this democracy. The idea of two parallel societies that were inherently unequal due to the fact that economic, educational, and political power were systematically denied to most blacks apparently did not appeal to the majority of black people at that time.

Like many blacks whose values are rooted in the black church tradition, King accepted Christianity, with its values of love, forgiveness, reconciliation, freedom, justice, and concern for the poor—not as the religion of whites, but as a way of life to be practiced by many blacks as well. He was raised in the Church and throughout his life he maintained a Christian sense of hope and optimism.

Understanding this ideal, we can understand the motivating factors of King's social activism and can understand his philosophy pertaining to racial issues. He was an integrationist, he believed in the ideals of the Constitution, and he believed in what he called the "Beloved Community." He believed he could appeal to people's moral sense of right and wrong by nonviolent protest.

But he was no passive dreamer. He and his co-laborers were proactive in that they confronted civil wrongs in society by civil disobedience and other non-

(Continued on next page)

I wondered about a white student named Susan

who was hit and shoved because she was white.

She hadn't shot Martin. But she became the

embodiment of those who had.



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February 21, 1965

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (Malcolm X)

killed in New York City

(Con't from prev. page)

violent methods such as boycotts and sit-ins.

Clarence Glover, Pastor of the African Bible Fellowship Church in South Dallas and the Director of Intercultural Education at Southern Methodist University, states that "Martin used nonviolent tactics and took an offensive stance when he said that they would change Montgomery, change Selma, and change Birmingham."

Glover also says that nonviolence and civil disobedience were not new strategies when Martin came along. "In America's history and at present, we can still find examples such as in Nuclear power plant demonstrations and in the abortion clinic protests."

Indeed, nineteenth century writer Henry David Thoreau espoused civil disobedience. In this ideology, a person's obligations to their own conscience take precedence over obligations to the government if they feel that the government is unjust or wrong. But the "weapon" used is passive resistance, not violent aggression.

Mahatma Gandhi, twentieth century leader in India's push for independence was another practitioner of this method.

Martin was influenced by both men. He was also influenced by previous black leaders and even his own father.

And the movement was successful.

The Montgomery bus boycott, the sit-ins, and demonstrations by large numbers of civil rights workers both black and white proved that the method worked. The wall of segregation, in the sense that it was known back then, was slowly knocked down brick by brick.

In spite of beatings, jailings, lynchings, dog attacks and the fierce force of water from those odious fire hoses, the people in the movement demonstrated

King's words:

"We shall match your capacity to inflict suffering by our capacity to endure suffering...But be assured that we'll wear you down by our capacity to suffer, and one day we will win our freedom. We will not only win freedom for ourselves, we will so appeal to your heart and conscience that we will win you in the process, and our victory will be a double victory."

King was no starry-eyed idealist, though. In his last years he became quite aware of the lingering problems and racism's strongholds. And contrary to popular opinion, he did not feel it necessary for blacks to abandon all of their own institutions.

Was the dream fully realized? Are we yet judged by the content of our character? Can true peace ever be achieved?

While legalized segregation no longer exists, de facto segregation, white flight, a growing black underclass, and mounting racial tensions are still pervasive elements of everyday life in this country. Collectively, African-Americans still have a long way to go.

There are no easy solutions, but we still have the methods of nonviolence at our disposal. Even a quarter century after his death, many activists—some right here in our fair city—have picked up King's mantle. Despite his untimely exit, King's ideology and methodology remain.

I'll leave you with this thought of King's: "To develop a sense of black consciousness and peoplehood does not require that we scorn the white race as a whole. It is not the race per se that we fight but the policies and ideology that leaders of that race have formulated to perpetuate oppression."

I wonder what those youths and Susan would have thought of that. **CON**



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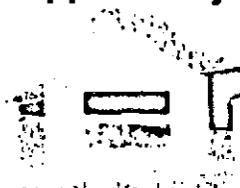
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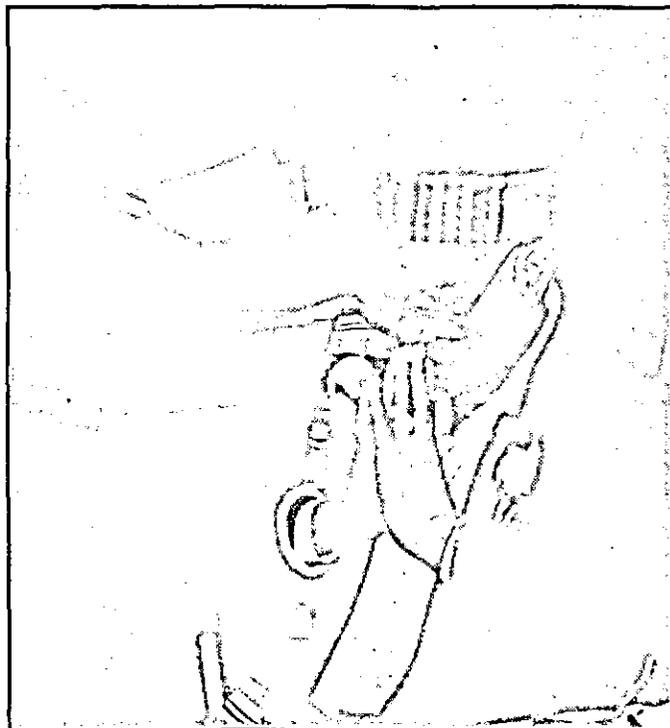
By Vesha Coffey

SHOWERED IN A MIST OF IRONY, the gala celebration planned to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther Jr. represented both everything laudable and everything deplorable about this fair city. Although the annual banquet was created to celebrate, many in attendance—luminaries and just plain ol' citizens alike—echoed a deeper resonance of concern about contemporary racial discord.

Despite the duality of the affair, people showed up in hoards, a successful turnout to resurrect the loving memory of Dr. King. For some the event was

important to keep King's dream alive, while for others the celebration was symbolic of the ongoing struggle. Emotions stirred as a host of politicians—both black and white—media representatives and citizens from all religious backgrounds gathered under one roof to pay tribute to the birth date of the honorable Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., slain civil rights activist assassinated April 15, 1968.

DURING THE TURBULENT 60s, AN ERA KNOWN for its nonviolent change, King stood strong like a man, spoke out like a leader,



Mayor Pro Tem Al Lipscomb takes a moment to compose himself in quiet prayer before addressing the festive crowd at the MLK banquet.



County Judge Lee Jackson

Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration and Annual Awards Banquet. Mayor Pro Tem Al Lipscomb, keynote speaker of the event reiterated the importance of the event as symbolic of taking up the



Rev. Darnell and Edna Pemberton

mantel. "King's legacy demands us to emulate what he stood for... protection of dreams." Diane Gibson, chairperson of the annual celebration nodded approvingly, adding that, "It is necessary to keep the dream alive and to implement what Dr. King stood for: justice and equality for everyone, not just for those who feel they have arrived."

Paradoxically, time today has created a change among those who fought together in the coalitions of the 60s. Today in the 90s some contend that those who

have made it are no longer involved in the struggle. W.D. Anderson said, "They're not involved in the struggle except John

Wiley Price, because they got everything they need—a big house and new car. But this event," he says, "celebrates the achievements of King because he paved the way for both blacks and whites. He will always be remembered." Mr. Anderson said today Dr. King's struggle continues but is changing directions. Like a time bomb ready to explode, it's changing into a race clash. He says in the 90s, unlike the 60s, the struggle is more aggressive, but contends it is not achieving as much now as it did then.

County Judge Lee Jackson said with every passing year accomplishments are mixed with complications. He agreed progress has been made since the 60s, such as legal victories against discrimination and empowerment with African American elected

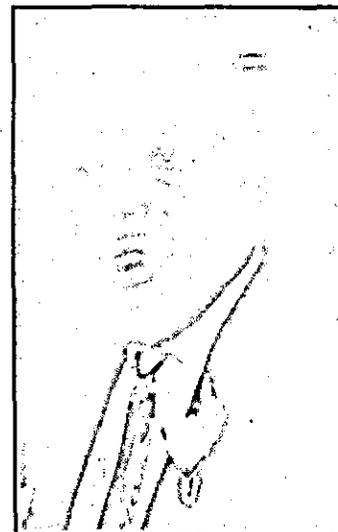
officials, but the strongest barrier remains in the 90s—African Americans are still being shut out of full economic participation. And if King were alive, said Jackson, he would push past the political



County Commissioner John Wiley Price

dream into economics. "When African Americans achieve a sense of satisfaction today and complacency about their point in society, then events like the MLK banquet may become less important."

Some feel we must re-learn nonviolence while others feel they have a different struggle today. Lost trust in our political leaders has created a cold, uncaring environment of distrust according to Larry Duncan, City Council member district 4. "Recommitment, rededication, and doubling efforts are all symbolic of the struggle today. Events like the MLK Parade on Friday, January 15, the balanced budget with 8-7 votes of the northern and southern parts of the city, the levee in Rochester Park, and the Fawn Apartments project are all part of the struggle today," he said. "Ultimately it is each person's right to have a voice in their community and this banquet is symbolic because



Senator Royce West

important things happen in the community, not in City Hall."

Whether you agree with W. D. Anderson who said King was peaceful but the situation today isn't so peaceful, or whether you agree with Lee Jackson who

(Cont. on next page)

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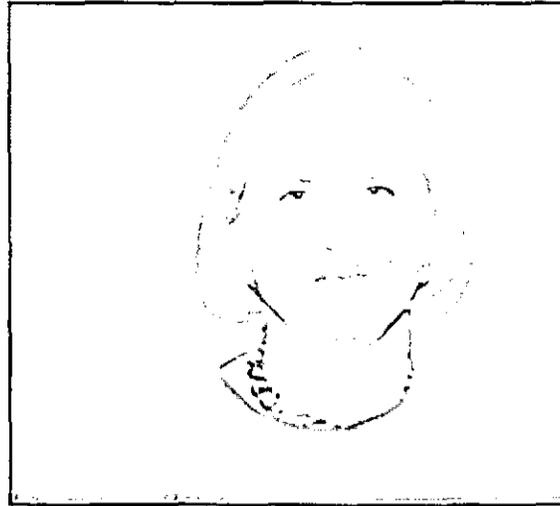
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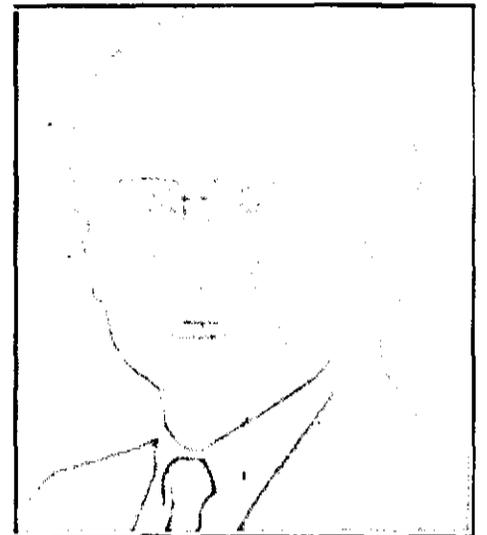
(Top) Nancy Brabandt
(Lower right) Ed Ahnert

said there is little to celebrate about Abe Lincoln because the Civil War has faded into memory but King is the catalyst who raised the struggle to a level impossible for White America to ignore, one thing is certain: both suggest revelation. Change is inevitable because violence, inequality, racism and injustice exist today down to the very core of society, slowly consuming our cities and devouring our country as we know it.

County Commissioner John Wiley Price said, "Martin Luther King Jr. is the nucleus around this celebration. The travesty in this event is another

parade on Monday 1/18 not coordinated by the MLK Board but coordinated by superheros who did not wholeheartedly support Dr. King when he was alive." Price said, "Their actions today sanction a scavengers' parade, and we have to make demands and boycott people like this."

"The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Banquet is an important event because King is our ancestor," said Victor Edinbyrd of Edinbyrd Cultural Crafts. "To keep him alive is to keep us alive." 



City of Garland

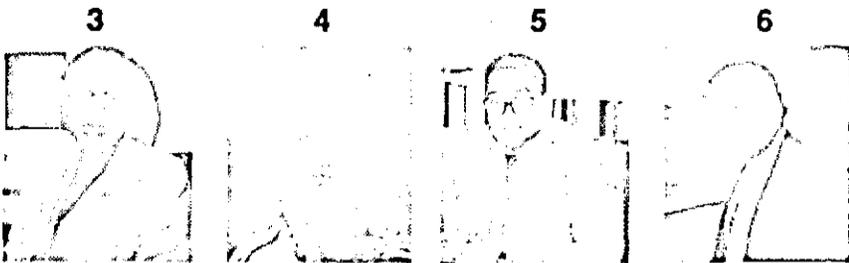
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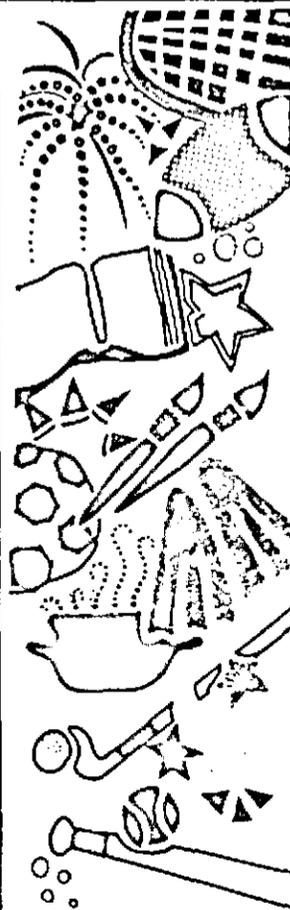


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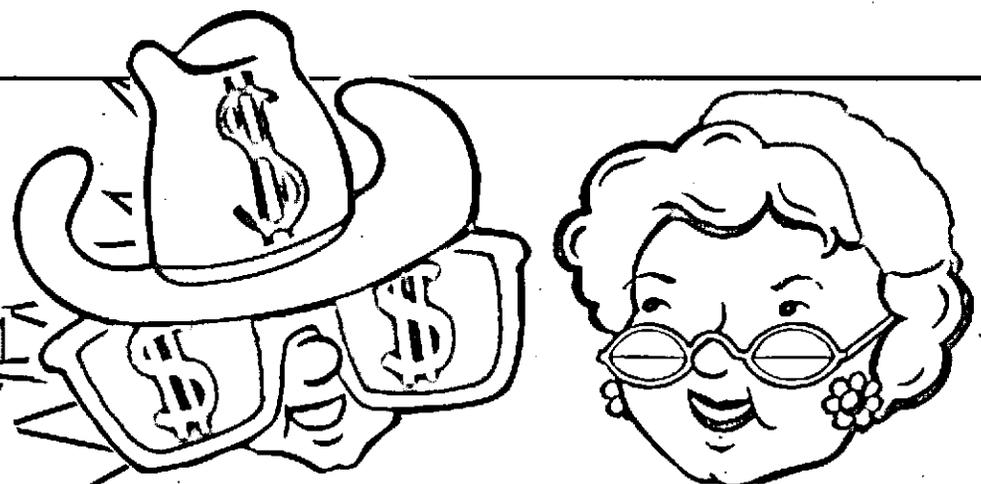
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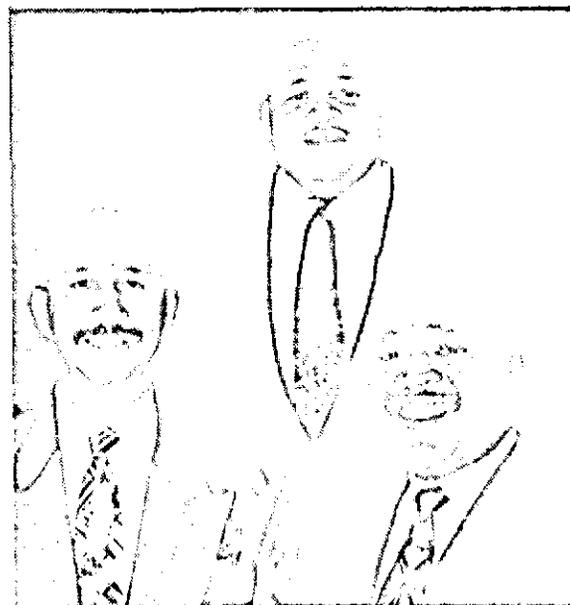
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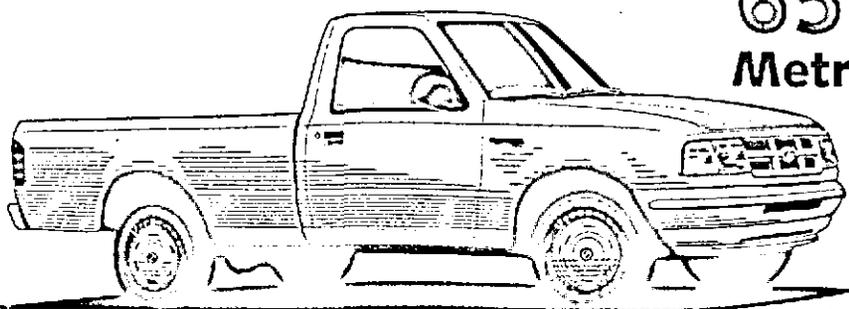


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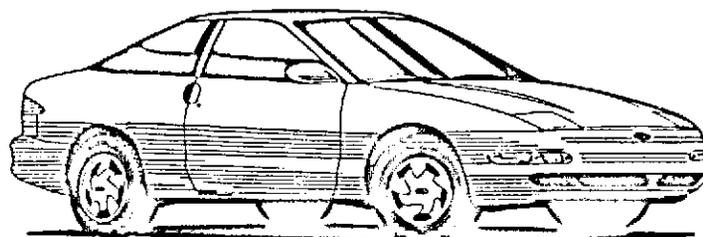
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kids living in the

Projects

Environment Teaches Children Survival In A World Filled With Obstacles

By Leonidas Patterson

Being young connotes enjoying the simple things in life like running, playing or even coloring with crayons.

"He trips me out the way he colors" says Altie Smith, mother of 5-year-old Cleveland. "I say Clev, you don't color that way. You should do it like this. He says, 'I don't want to do it like that.' He colors everything on the page green or everything red. He colors everything the same color."

Adults look at being young as a time free of worries and responsibilities. Children have the opportunity to explore the innocence of their youth only to be occasionally interrupted to learn mundane but necessary life skills—writing their names or adding two numbers to get a sum.

Society wants to believe that all children experience the joy of youth. But turn off the city lights, stop the night sounds of Dallas and listen to over six thousand children silently screaming for help because society's ills have robbed them of a normal childhood. These children are being raised in public housing—popularly known as the Projects. And by virtue of their living environment, they



will be faced with more obstacles than children living in the private sector.

Some community leaders and employees of the Dallas Housing Authority say using the term Projects creates negative images and insist a better—less stigmatized—description to use is housing developments. However, in the midst of battling over the politically correct term, the children are fighting to survive everyday, exposed to a world most children know only from television.

"Some of these children around here who play with my son have junkies for mothers," says Michael Hobbs, father of second-grader Michael Jr. "I have seen a woman beat her child because she can't get drugs to support her habit. I've seen children as young as three outside at 4 a.m. because their mothers are more concerned about [getting] drugs."

The parents who are concerned about their children try to protect them. Unfortunately, it is not realistic for them to be with their children 24 hours a day. They have to let them go out and play with other children.

"Sometimes I'm afraid for my kid," says Smith. "I want to protect him. I would love to keep him in the house with me all day. I have nothing to do with anyone. I speak and keep on walking. I stick to my business.

"My child is a different story. A child needs space, room to breath. He has to have someone to play with. He is only a little boy."

Across town in another public housing development, a little boy was playing outside and now his friends Kinta and Kevin, both 14, have nightmares because of what they saw.

Kinta's aunt Herrie Minafee recalls

looking out of the window after she heard a shot. Kinta was trapped

between the gunman and his apartment. Minafee went down the back steps. She turned off all the lights so that no one would notice her. She

called to Kinta to run and stay against the wall. At 14, Kinta had seen his friend killed.

Kevin's mother Helen saw the shooting too.

"Kevin had nightmares. He would

wake up scared. Me, too. I explain to him what happens in life when you get

involved with certain people. I tell him about the Projects. I get the point to him in the way he understands," she says.

Teaching survival to children who live in the Projects is a common practice of parents. Living in the Projects is a different world that necessitates strict rules which parents say must be drilled into the children's heads from the very

"I can't stop him from seeing

what's going on out there. I can't

stop him from playing." —Hobbs

first day of play.

"I cannot stop him from seeing what's going on out there. I cannot stop him from playing," says Hobbs. "I let him know what to do and what not to do. When he crosses the street, I tell him to look left and right because dope dealers are speeding out of the parking lot. I tell him to be back home at a certain time. And if he's not, then I go get him."

Minafee's three children were raised in the Projects, and now she has the added responsibility of raising her nephew Kinta. Because of the drugs and violence that she asserts have always existed in the Projects and society, rules will be obeyed in her house.

"Kinta has a curfew. He can't come in at just any time. He cannot stay home with me when he's supposed to be at school. He can't come and go without asking me.

"Because of my rules, he thinks I'm mean. He talks about me, but I know what's out there. He don't need to be mad at me anyway. I didn't leave him, his mother did," she says.

While Kinta's mother may have physically abandoned him, other parents in the Projects live with their children but are not mentally capable of parenting.

"Kids are just growing up. People are not raising them anymore," says Craig McPhail, a Dallas police officer assigned to Roseland Homes with Officer Jennifer Pool. "You would be surprised how adaptable these children are. They perform dual roles—they are students at school, when they come home they become adults. Some of them take care of the household. I don't know if many adults can do what these children do."

The police officers are working within the apartments to deter crime, which they say are mostly outside sources. Of course, the officers see their share of domestic violence,

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but the majority of the hardcore crimes such as illegal drug sales and killings are actions of people who do not even live in the Projects. Officer McPhail says the only way to combat crime in the Projects or any neighborhood is through community effort. "If I want to rid the neighborhood of crime, then I have to get involved. It's not just the police or citizens. It has to be a team effort," he says.

Besides fighting crime in the Projects, the officers take their other duty of creating a positive relationship with the children seriously. "Traditionally we have only had only had contact with the children when there is a problem in the home," says Officer Pool. "What Craig and I are trying to do is change that. We want to have contact with the children in positive situations—ones that do not involve taking someone to jail. Last week they had a play, and we went to it."

Officer McPhail knows the road these children have to travel because he was raised in the Projects. He believes the Projects are like any other apartments. People have to take care of themselves, starting with a sense of pride at a young age. "The people who live in public housing are good. Many are victims because of poverty, lack of education or health problems," he says.

The manager of the Roseland Homes, Enacia Lewis, feels that



Lisa lives in the Projects with her brother, Roman, and mother Sylvia Gracia. "I would like a better place for my children to live," says Gracia. "One with less violence."

successful children in the Projects have parents who give them guidance and rules to follow.

"You can live here at Roseland Homes without any guidance and of course you are going to go astray," says Lewis. "You didn't have to be a two-parent household, and your child can be successful. Of course, you have to take a role as a parent because your child can't raise himself. Your child has to be raised by somebody."

According to Lewis, a majority of the parents at her apartments are good. They have supervised activities for their children when they come home in the afternoons. These parents make sure that their children do not come home and throw their books on the table and go outside without any responsibilities,

"You have to be strong parents in order to instill good values in your child. I mean, you don't have to be a scholar. You just have to take the time

sorry to get up and wash them. They offer him \$50 or \$100 to sell drugs. Yes, that child is going to do it because he is going to be able to buy some things for himself because his parents just didn't have enough initiative to buy him the things he needs," she says.

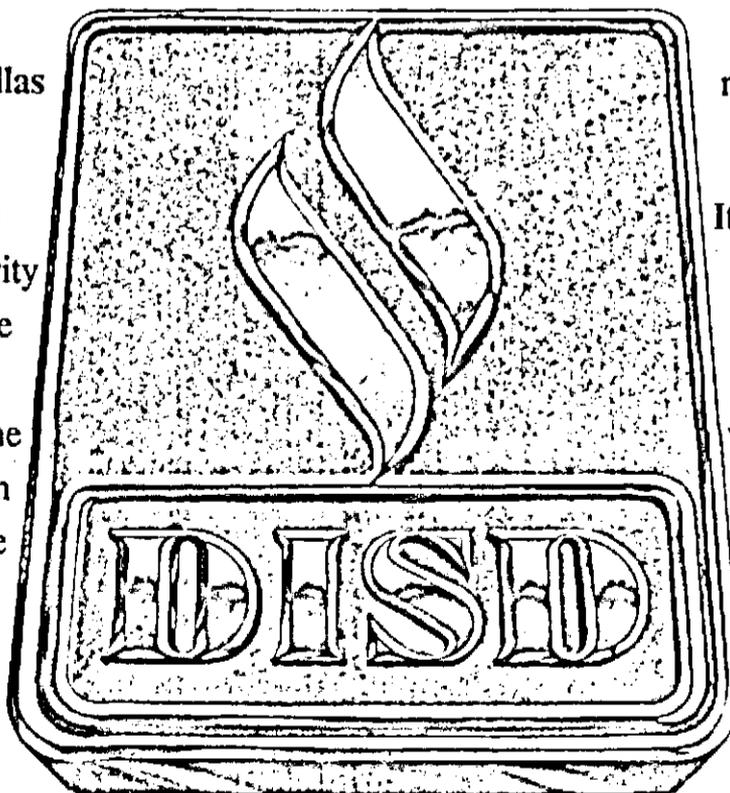
However, sometimes it has more to do with the amount of exposure because life, with its every day experiences, is a powerful teacher. Smith says her son Cleveland learns a

and patience to raise that child," Lewis says, "to give that child a good upbringing because if there is no supervision, that child can go astray." Having their children get involved with the wrong crowd haunts parents like Smith who will not let her 14-year-old live with her in the Projects because of the environment. However, Lewis feels only the weak children are preyed upon by drug dealers. "Outside people come in and find a child whose mother doesn't care about him. His clothes are always worn and dirty because she's too

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The Dallas Independent School District has established a Minority and Woman Business Enterprise Contracting and Purchasing Program designed to increase the number of minority and woman owned companies which can be identified as potential vendors and to make the general public aware that the district is



making a serious effort to do business with such firms.

It is in the interest of the district and Dallas taxpayers that the DISD obtains the best buy possible. Benefits can often be reaped by working with minority and woman owned businesses. If you are a minority or woman owned business and would like to contact the Dallas Independent School District, phone or write to:

Dallas Independent School District

Director, Minority and Woman Business Enterprise Contracting and Purchasing Program
3700 Ross Avenue Dallas, Texas 75204 214/824-1620, Ext. 750



Michael Hobbs looks at the report card of his son Michael Jr. He says, "Michael plays with good students, A students. I check on that."

lot of things on his own by watching the people around the Projects.

"The more he sees the things around here, I'm afraid the more he will become apart of it."

The lack of exposure to the outside world makes it comfortable for several generations to stay in the Projects. Children see their grandparents and parents complacently living in the Projects so they figure that what life's all about.

"People stay here because it is the only life they know," says Lewis. "They have not been shown any other life. They see mom living here, and she's doing okay. Then the child thinks 'I'm going to get me an apartment here because this is the only place I can afford on a small income.'"

"People cut themselves short when they don't see what is on the other side," says Rudy White, a YMCA summer camp teacher who also has taught for 18 years at JW Ray, an elementary school with a large percentage of children who live in the Projects.

"At J.W. Ray, we expose the children to different cultures, a different way of life," White says. "We tell them they are going to have to work with everybody. You are going to have to know them, know their culture if you are going to live next door. When you are not exposed you don't know how to react."

Like Officer McPhail, White also lived in the Projects when she was a

teacher. My mentors were teachers. I saw in them a different kind of life."

"It does not matter where you come from—it's the mind," Hobbs says. Michael plays with good students, A students. I check on that. They are still young. People need to face society and treat children like they are your own. I love Michael's friends as much as I do him."

Michael is an honor student with perfect attendance awards. His report card states: "good progress on articulation skills in conversation." "I like school because I learn my ABCs and how to write my name," Michael says.

Sitting on his front porch with Cleveland, who is also an honor student, Michael enjoys playing with his dinosaurs and, as do most boys his age, he wants to be a police officer.

"I want to be a police officer because of whittie. I don't like guns because some can shoot. I don't want to get killed," he says, uncharacteristically sobering.

Being young connotes enjoying the simple things in life like running playing or even worry about getting killed. Children have the opportunity to explore the innocence of their youth—only occasionally interrupted to learn the meaning of words like "whittie." Someone who likes cocaine.

child. She contends the children who make it out of the Projects are the survivor types. They have exposure to other worlds, high expectations from their parents and opportunities which include education. "Coming up I had a lot of mentors. They were professional people. I was a bad girl," White says. "But I never skipped class. To me, as a young girl, I didn't want to live in the Projects. I did not want to raise my kids in the projects. I always wanted to be a

"These kids see more in a month than some kids see in a lifetime"
—DPD officer

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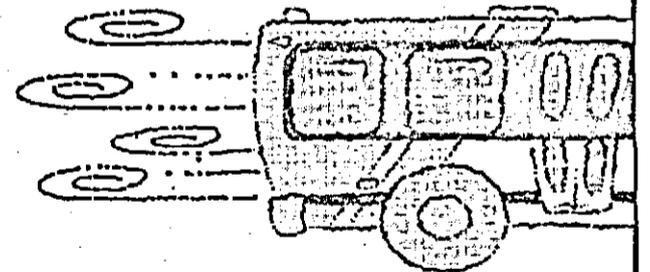
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There to Help

A professional realtor can be quite an asset in today's buying and selling market

By Mary Caldwell

IT'S A NEW YEAR! IT'S THE TIME FOR NEW beginnings and goal setting. No matter what happened in the previous year, you have the opportunity to start over. If your goals and new beginnings include buying or selling a home here are some helpful tips.

First. Choose a professional full-time realtor, one that is committed to doing the job well, whatever the real estate task may be. A good realtor will get the job done and at the same time abide by a uniform Code of Ethics.

Second. Take your realtor's advice—not Tom, Dick or Harry's. The

realtor is the expert. If you have done homework before choosing a realtor, you are in good hands. You should let the Realtor know that you trust her or him. You'll find that you will get better service because of the trust you have bestowed on them.

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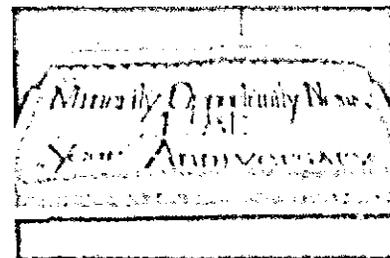
Minority Opportunity News
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or

Bernetchla Solomon
(214) 807-9735 (Beeper)

Thanks for a great birthday!

MON would like to thank the community for such a warm reception at our birthday celebration January 26th at the South Dallas Cultural Center. The accolades, encouragement and goodwill displayed by everyone were deeply appreciated.



CELEBRATING AFRICAN- AMERICAN HERITAGE

Throughout February, the Dallas County Community Colleges are celebrating Black History Month with a wide variety of events that examine the rich heritage of the African-American culture.

Speakers, theatre performances, exhibits, films and seminars are scheduled throughout the month at each of the DCCCD campuses and the Bill J. Priest Institute for Economic Development.

All Black History Month events are open to the community; most are free of charge. For details on events, please contact:

Brookhaven College - 620-4115
Cedar Valley College - 372-8236
Eastfield College - 324-7185
El Centro College - 746-2137
Mountain View College - 333-8685
North Lake College - 659-5230
Richland College - 238-6130
Bill J. Priest Institute
for Economic Development - 565-5803



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Panoramic Overview of the Arts

By Sonia Jordan

THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT GO WITHOUT saying, but I must give an honorable mention to two events that deserve praise. The JBAAL had church at the Meyerson Center in celebration of Martin Luther King's birthday. Ms. Jennifer Holliday roused an already excited crowd to hand-clapping, foot-stomping "Amen-dom." Her rendition of "Precious Lord" brought tears to her own eyes. If you were there you know of what I speak. If you missed it, hey, same time next year.

Again Mr. Al Walsh and the Junior Black Academy brought us another play by Michael Matthews. *I Need A Man* was funny and entertaining. Mama Lily was too tough. The good thing about Mr. Matthew's plays are that they make you think and are so real to life. The bad thing is they don't stay in the city long enough. Well, my suggestion to those of you who continuously miss the wonderful events that Al Curtis and the JBA are bringing to our community is to call (214) 658-7144 and get on their mailing list.

for the month of February. We are all aware that February is Black History Month and there are numerous events around the Dallas/Ft.Worth metroplex to

commemorate this month. *MON's* community calendar lists times, dates and locations of these events. In Ft.Worth, The Caravan of Dreams has Phyllis Hyman in town for two shows on February 12. Get your sweetheart to take you to see Kirk Whalum on the 14th. He'll be doing a Valentine show for lovers and those wanting to be loved. The Five Blind Boys will be celebrating yet another anniversary on the 19th. The Fort Worth Jazz Ensemble will be in concert on the 21st, and Ms. Regina Bell will rock the Caravan on the 24th. For information on tickets and show times contact the Caravan's box office at (817) 429-4000. The Jubilee Theater is doing a soulful 1960s adaptation of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*—appropriately called *Brother Mac*. The play will be performed through March 7 at the Jubilee in Ft.Worth. For more information please call (817) 535-0168. Tell 'em you read it here in *MON*.

REMEMBER THE GROUP OF SISTERS THAT made YOU BROUGHT THE SUNSHINE? I use to rock my car down the freeway singing this. Well, they will be coming to Dallas to perform at

nowhere else but the Junior Black Academy of Arts & Letters on the 28th. "A Portrait of A Black Woman In Love" will be performed for your enjoyment. For Valentine's Day join the Academy for the sweetheart brunch *Let Me Call You Sweetheart*, starting at 7:30 p.m. on the 14th. The film *Solomon Northrups Anthology*

will be shown on the 19th in the Muse Cafe Theater. Just in case I missed something, or the Academy staff added something call (214) 658-7144 for additional information.

THE DALLAS CHAPTER OF THE CONTINENTAL Societies, inc. host A Mardi Gras Masked Ball featuring Dallas' own Bobbi Humphrey. The masked ball will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Dallas on Saturday, March 6 at 7 pm. Come and hear Ms. Humphrey, internationally renowned as the "first lady of the flute." Don't miss an evening of fun, entertainment and a chance to win a weekend in New Orleans or a trip to the Caribbean. For more information call Barbara Hawkins at 558-0438.



of Mine" located at 8141 Forest Lane will host an African Blessing Ceremony on the 27th. Come and join the celebration and hear Auntie Joe tell stories for children ages 3 and up. You can also enjoy A Taste of Africa featuring cuisine using recipes from the motherland. To find out more about this event call Ms. Dee at (214) 907-8300.

THE DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATER OPENED its '93 season with the Sixth International Conference for Blacks in Dance. Saluting Black History Month with works that celebrate themes from the Black prospective, DBDT will be performing a Black Cultural Awareness Series at the Majestic Theater February 26-27 at 8:15 p.m. For tickets call (817) 589-1491 or visit your local Dillard's ticket agency.

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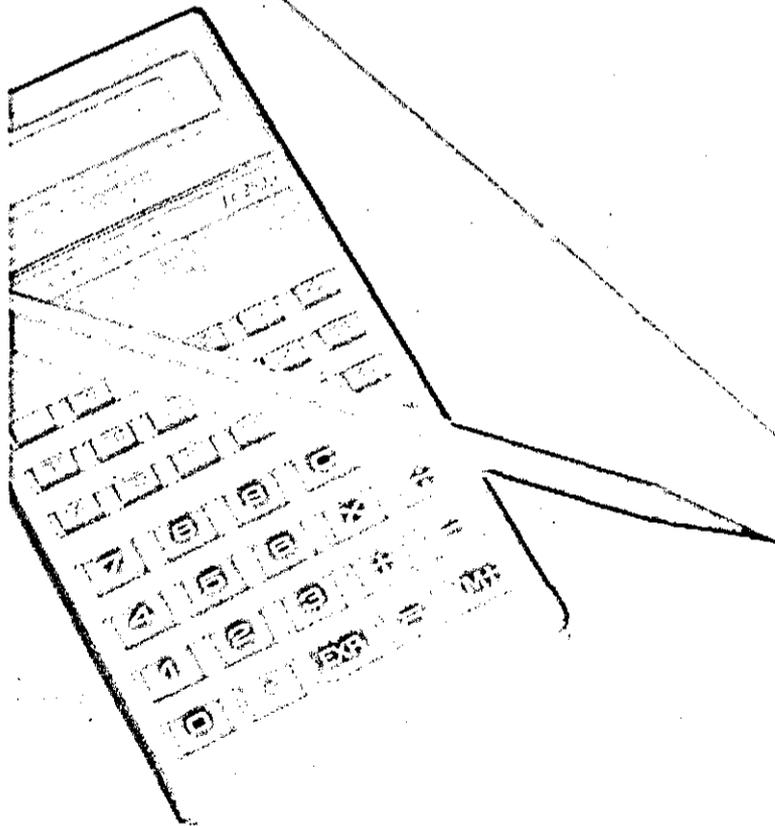
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| 2. Jesus Is The Light | Hezekiah Walker |
| 3. My Mind Is Made Up | Rev. Milton Brunson & TSC |
| 4. Let Everything Praise Up | Min. Thomas Whitfield |
| 5. Run On | Pastor Murphy Pace III |
| 6. Follow Me | Donnie Harper/New Jersey Mass |
| 7. Standing In The Need | New Life Community Choir |
| 8. Through The Storm | Yolanda Adams |
| 9. It's OK | BeBe & CeCe Winans |
| 10. Someday I'll Overcome | Kimberly McFarland |

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February 1 Monday

Multi-Cultural Meet, Munch & Mingle, will be held in the Texas Room at the University of Texas at Dallas from 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Call (214) 690-2098 for more information.

February 2 Tuesday

Minority Business Breakfast 4th Annual Celebration will be held at the Holiday Inn North, 2540 Meachum in Ft. Worth. For more information call (817) 334-3284.

February 4 Thursday

"A Change of Heart" — A free (9-week) dialogue series will be held each Thursday at the Baha'i Center, 723 E. Border in Arlington. (From 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.) The topic each week will be centered around different facets of racism. For more information call (817) 571-9938.

DISD Presents the Academic Options Fair — An alternative education program including GED programs for young adults. The Fair will be held at the Pemberton Recreation Center, 6424 Elam Rd. For more information call the 24 hour Dropout Recovery Hotline at 421-7048.

February 5 Friday

Opening Reception for the McNary Art Exhibit from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Special

Collections (MC3.507) through March 19 at the University of Texas at Dallas. For more information call (214) 690-2098.

February 6 Saturday

The African American Citizen's Advisory Committee will hold an Afro-Centric Awards Recognition Banquet at 7:00 p.m., at the Grand Prairie Community Center, located at 121 Church Street in Grand Prairie, Texas. Contact Col.S. Price-Darden at (214) 263-7761.

*The "First Annual African American History & Heritage Tour" - A guided bus tour celebrating the heritage of Dallas' African Americans from 1840 to the present. Call (214) 421-5141.

African American Student Association Meeting - Round table discussion: "By Any Means Necessary". Call the University of Texas at Dallas' Student Union for more information (214) 690-2098.

February 7 Sunday

Rev. Zan Holmes of Dallas' St. Luke Community United Methodist Church and former State Representative, will be the Wells Preacher for the TCU/Brite Ministers Week from February 8-11. All services will be at 8:00 p.m. For more information contact Ms. Eugenia Trinkle at (817) 921-7272.

February 10 Wednesday

Heritage Expressions— Located at 2430 Irving Mall, has a series of events this month beginning with the Book Club

Meeting at 7:00 p.m. For more information call (214) 255-3890.

"The Civil Rights Movement" — Clarence Glover will be a guest lecturer at the University of Texas at Dallas. Call (214) 690-2098 for more information.

An evening of jazz with NO COMPROMISE at the student union building located on the campus of the University of Texas at Dallas.

February 12 Friday

The Deidra Lynn Woods theater proudly presents "A Woman Called Mae" on stage through March 6. Call 565-1710 or 371-4644 for more information.

"THE LONG WALK HOME" (the movie) — will be presented at 2:00 p.m. February 11 & 12. Admission is free. Contact the University of Texas at Dallas Student Union at 690-2098 for more information.

Collin County Community College will present, as part of their African American History Celebration 1993, "Arise & Sing". Ms. Kathie McGuire, Story Teller Storyvines, Inc.

February 13 Saturday

Heritage Expressions presents Prof. Edward Sims speaking on "New Ritual Systems for the African American Family." From 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. call (214) 255-3890 for more information.

Events Calendar Sponsored by Southwestern Bell Telephone

February 14 Sunday

New Art Six - announced the postponement of its Feb. 12-14 performance of "Black Diva" due to illness. This performance will be presented in August. Don't miss this wonderful group at Club DADA performing with Ms. Sara Hickman. For more information call Ms. Lisa Taylor, Taylor-Made Press, at 9214) 521-1040.

February 17 Wednesday

Aerobics with Soul - a low and high impact Cultural Workout featuring Maria Bergh from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Collin County Community College.

February 20 Saturday

Sandra Walton will present a free seminar on "Pottery," its history and definitions of pottery styles. Seminar includes slide presentation and samples of works created by Ms. Walton. For more information call (214) 255-3890.

New Reality Concepts will present a workshop entitled "How To Buy a Home." Information on financing and qualifying are only a few of the topics to be discussed. Contact Johnnie Johnson for more information at (214) 223-0426.

February 23 Tuesday

SOUTHERN DALLAS BUSINESS

EXCHANGE - NETWORKING FOR THE 90s: Southern Dallas Development Corporation will sponsor a networking/business exchange. If you are a small business you won't want to miss this grand opportunity. For more information, contact Ms. Elaine Vivens at (214) 428-7332. Cost for this event is \$5.00 which includes hors d'oeuvres (and a cash bar will be available).

February 24 Wednesday

Book Club Meeting at Heritage Expressions from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. call (214) 255-3890 for more information.

February 25 Thursday

KARAMU KUBNA, "The Big Dinner" — Come to the African American cultural dinner and enjoy great gospel music, 5:00 p.m. in the Student Union, RSVP 690-2098.

ROOTS: FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM - presented by Collin County Community College.

February 26 Friday

Ties That Bind: IMAGES & VOICES OF AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN — presented by Collin County Community College in celebration of African American History Celebration 1993.

Come to the "Happy Hour" at Heritage Expressions, 2430 Irving Mall. 10% discount on books, perfume decanters & papyrus drawings. Refreshments will be served. Call (214) 255-3890 for more information.

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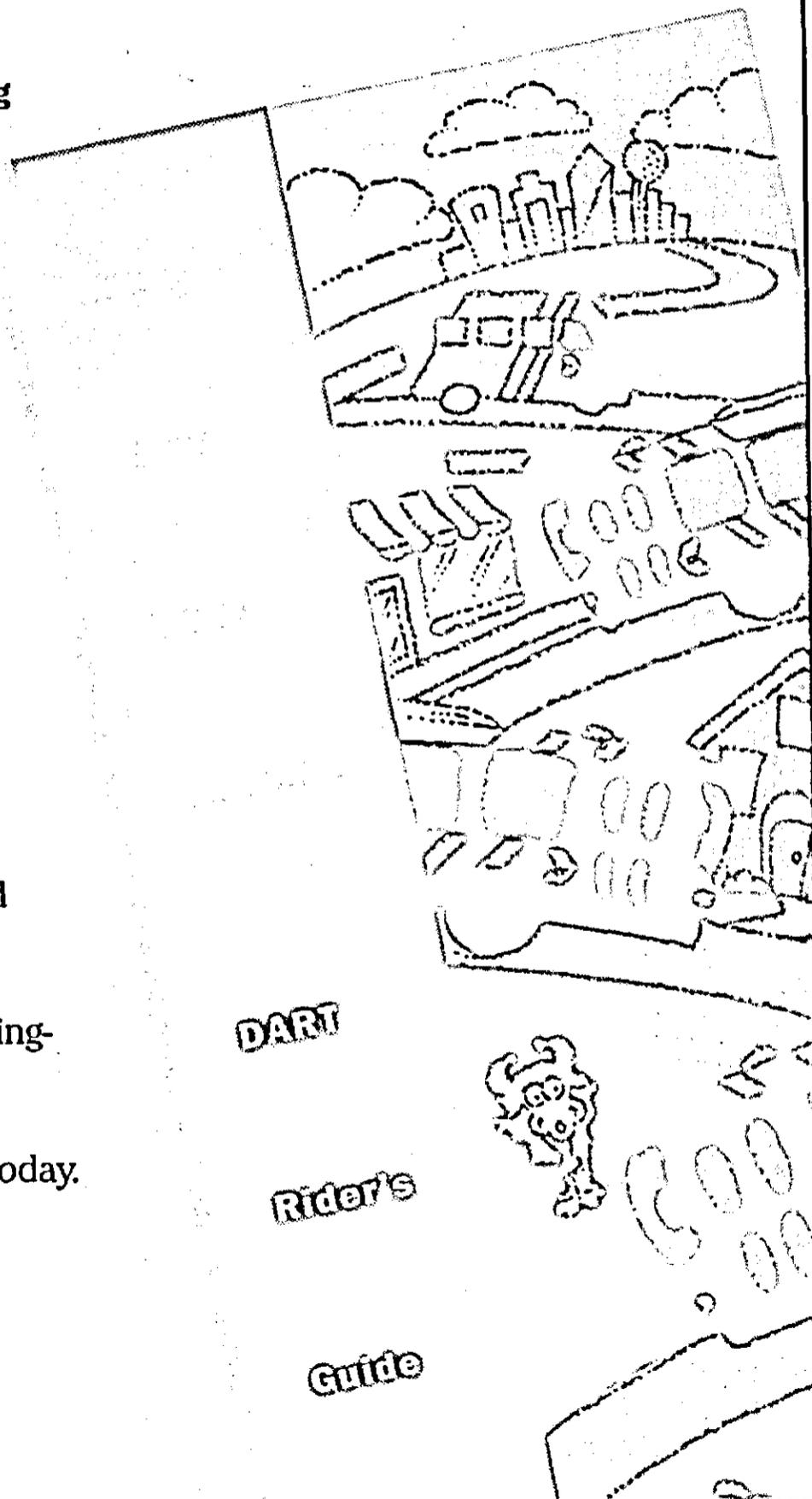
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Creating a Healthy Environment

FOR MANY OF US, TALKING ABOUT environmental health issues can spark strong emotional responses. Just recently during the presidential debates, President Bush referred to Vice President Elect Al Gore as the OZONE man, because of Gore's strong interest in environmental concerns. We might react with extreme outrage when a manufacturing plant dumps hazardous wastes into our neighborhood or we may feel disgusted when we hear of excessive amounts of chemicals in the Trinity River, lead in West Dallas, and the hazy sky over the metroplex. We are fearful of developing cancer as a result of such environmental problems.

Instead of taking up environmental causes some people react to such issues and concerns with apathy. When faced with the reality of our apparent determination to destroy ourselves and our planet, these people respond by becoming less concerned with their environment. After all, they reason,

there is no way to fight the government and country. They feel that no one will be around to enjoy anything anyway, so why bother? This attitude is shown on such behaviors as listening and general carelessness in the use of automobiles and safety in the home.

As humans, we are inseparable from our environment. Frequently we forget the many environmental dimensions. We tend to believe that the environment exists "outside"—somewhere—in lakes, forests, beaches and rivers.

The real deal is that our environment consists of all external physical factors effecting our health and development including the home interior. Therefore, our environmental concerns must extend into our personal and social spheres. Our efforts to change and manipulate the environment in any way will in turn influence and control us to some degree. We cannot escape the environment even through insensibility and apathy.

Environmental health concerns itself with both personal and global issues. Creating a personal environment conducive to well-being is the initial step toward developing an environmental consciousness that includes the larger community. We are all capable of assuming various environmental responsibilities and can begin by looking at personal habits. A healthy personal environment not only enhances personal well-being but it also creates a safe retreat from school-or-work-related distressors and thus contributes to our overall health.



Education
with
Juanita Austin

THE KEYS TO SUCCESS

WHETHER IN SCHOOL, AT HOME OR PLAY, open communication is the greatest factor affecting relationships. Without open communication, problems will arise. By following the suggestions below many of these problems can be lessened or avoided.

First, and foremost, be honest. People need to feel they can rely on your word. If you are unable to keep your word, say so and tell why. You will be respected and appreciated.

Encourage others. By being

supportive of others, you gain respect and admiration. You can benefit from the success of others when you genuinely applaud their success. Not only will they applaud your success, but will more likely be supportive of you when you encounter failure.

Do your part. When a task is to be done, accept responsibility for your share. A holistic view of tasks promotes team building, results in more accomplishments, and fosters good will.

Have a vision. Vision and hard work create success. Clearly identify where you would like to go, determine what it will take to get you there, and implement your plan. Although obstacles may come along, stay focused on your goal—you can reach it.

Through open communication and cooperation, much can be accomplished.

Juanita Austin is Dean of Developmental Education for Collin County Community Colleges.

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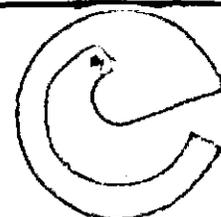
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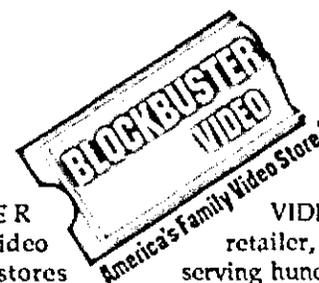
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