

*Your Opportunity to Access the Community*

# Minority Opportunity News

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 4 2730 STEMMONS FRWY • 1202 TOWER WEST • DALLAS, TEXAS 75207 APRIL 1993



## The Race is On

The Dallas City Council elections are only a month away, and things are heating up in the districts

### INSIDE

- The Donald Thomas murder trial debacle
- Steve Harvey's new comedy club
- How to beat Foreclosure

### Today's Avenger

Brotherman isn't merely a comic—the publication is a Black entrepreneur success story.





**From the  
Publisher  
Thurman Jones**

## Lasting Marketplace

*"Soko" needs to move  
from our vocabulary to  
our lifestyle*

St. Luke "COMMUNITY" UNITED METHODIST Church's "Soko" (Swahili for marketplace) was a success. Saturday March 27, over 50 vendors and hundreds of patrons practiced the Ujamaa (co-operative economics) principle of Nguzo Saba, one of the seven principles our African ancestors discovered long ago.

As Chairman of St. Luke's Economic Development, our second annual "Soko" was a successful exchange of culture and commerce (cash). Where faith was restored in the form of collective receipts in excess of \$10,000 in vendors shared, something must be said for Pastor Zan W. Holmes "Dream." In 1992, members and friends of St. Luke would dress in African garb for our "Easter" celebration and rejoice in our heritage as well as the resurrection of Jesus.

This winning combination has parlayed new customers who continue to trade with the vendors they met at previous Sokos. So it's a safe assumption those vendors who participated in "Soko" '93 can look forward to a continued influx of business, especially now that St. Luke church members are showing up on first Sundays dressed in African attire with added emphasis on our culture.

"Soko" for St. Luke's Economic Development Ministry is considered a mainstay on our agenda since it promotes "trust" and business opportunities among St. Luke members and friends who would otherwise never think to trade with fellow church members who they have been worshipping with for years.

Perhaps the St. Luke members became so intoxicated on the spirit of "Soko" they have been moved to join Common Ground Credit under John Fullinwider's leadership. This federally insured credit union has grown to assets of over \$700,000, providing loans to low-to moderate-income families in our community and being an impetus to spur economic development in areas historically red lined by large lending

institutions.

This is timely news, in light of the fact that *Minority Opportunity News* has gone on record opposing the merger between Guaranty Federal Bank, F.S.B. and American Federal Bank, F.S.B.—who, unlike the Common Ground Credit Union, see African Americans as not "economically viable."—two banks that have systematically excluded African Americans from their underwriting practices.

To those ministers and community leaders who have pledged to stand with MON in opposition to this merger, we need to look no further than Dr. Martin Luther King's boycott of the Birmingham, Alabama Transit System as an illustrative example of a protest's power to change things. But how effective would the boycott/protest have been without an alternative?

With the Common Ground Credit Union we have an alternative and a partner to help us rebuild our community, while sending a loud message of protest against discriminatory entities such as Guaranty Federal and American Federal.

With combined assets over \$9 billion, they have made fewer mortgage loans to African Americans than has Common Ground whose assets do not rival one percent of these two institutions. Common Ground has disproved the Banking myth that Black folks are poor credit risks and shattered the notion that it would be impossible to stay solvent making loans to businesses in the African American community.

Through our unified effort we can put a halt to this red lining practice and deposit our dollars with institutions



St. Luke's "Soko" was a tremendous success

committed to the reconstruction of our community. If the community stays vigilant and focused on this type of economic objective, events like St. Luke's "Soko" will evolve from planned events to being a part of our everyday lives—a local, national and global marketplace.

If you are interested in joining MON in opposition to the merger between Guaranty Federal and American Federal call (214) 380-7377 or write: **The Publisher  
2730 Stemmons  
1202 Tower West  
Dallas, TX 75207**

## In the News...

### GROWING...GROWING....

The King Group, Inc. Dallas, has been retained by Bank of America to handle their statewide African American marketing efforts. The King Group has an impressive client list which includes J.C. Penney and The Southland Corp. Contact Mr. King at (214) 720-9046.



March 23, 1993. This move should create 30 additional jobs in the company. Funds for working capital and relocation expenses were provided by the Southern Dallas Development Fund.

### MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BANQUET

Texas Instruments held a business development banquet at the Doubletree Hotel, Lincoln Center on March 31, 1993 to focus on Minority Business: Competitive Advantage.

The Texas Instruments Minority Business Development Award Banquet is held annually to recognize employee efforts in support of the business development program. Keynot speaker was Joshua I. Smith, Chairman and CEO of Maxima Corp., the 16th largest black-owned company based in Maryland.

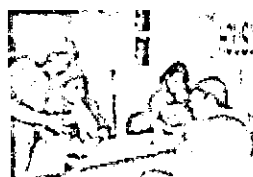
### SICKLE CELL FOUNDATION DONATION

Dallas area 7-Eleven employees raised \$10,000 for the Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation. The in-store fund raiser and employee contributions total over \$63,000 in the past 5 years.



### AFFORDABLE HOUSING FAIR

The staff of the Dallas Affordable Housing Partnership are preparing to present their 2nd Housing Fair on April 17. This program was designed to reach low to moderate income individuals and families interested in becoming homeowners. Individuals interested in becoming first time home buyers, earn between \$14,000-\$38,000 annually and have fairly good credit can contact Dallas Affordable Housing at (214) 826-6594.



### COLORING CONTEST PROMOTES HYGEINE

Dr. James Ellison, artist has planned a coloring contest for children, ages 4-11 centered around good hygiene. He believes as children grow, they can develop many skills through coloring such as coloring concepts, hand-eye coordination and picture comprehension. Dr. Ellison's coloring contest will kick-off April 3. Coloring sheets can be obtained at any K-Mart and must be returned by April 23. For more info. contact James at (214) 807-1411.

### AZTECA STEEL OPENS IN W. DALLAS

An Open-House was held by Azteca Steel at 2818 Ruder Street in West Dallas on Tuesday

### COMERICA BANK- TEXAS GIVES AGAIN

The Creative Learning Center, 2324 South Vernon Avenue, Dallas, received a check for \$3,000.00 from Comerica Bank-Texas for a tuition assistance program for economically disadvantaged students who attend the school.

Comerica Bank-Texas joins EDS and Exxon in support of Creative Learning Center and you can too by contacting Susan Kruer at 942-0622.

### LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL ELECTION

James Fowler will be on the ballot in Lancaster, Texas seeking a seat on the City Council. Mr. Fowler proposes to increase jobs in the area, improve city services to all citizens, fight racism and fair representation on the city council. For info. contact Doris Fowler at (214) 227-1618.



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**Office Asst.** .....Megan Whitfield

## Letters

### Getting the records straight

I read the article "Public Offense" by Angela D. Ransome last week with a great deal of interest. The article by Ms. Ransome gave the impression that KJMZ, 100.3 JAMZ is playing the songs "Gangsta Bitch," "Shake What Ya Momma Gave Ya," and "Damn It Feels Good to Be A Gangsta." KJMZ does not and has no plans to play any of these records.

Should anyone hear these songs on the radio, they would have to be listening to another station. I agree with Ms. Ransome that these songs are not necessarily the best representations of life within our communities.

Howard C. Toole  
Vice President/General Manager  
KJMZ/KHVN radio

### Misunderstood

I would like to respond to Thomas Mohammad's March, 1993 column concerning the need for brown/black solidarity.

I agree that relationships between both of Dallas' new emerging majorities require further strengthening and networking. In that respect, I worked for the 14-1 plan, am against unitary status for DISD, and against racism. Furthermore, two years ago, as chairman for the Greater Dallas Legal Foundation, we initiated the lawsuit styled LULAC vs. MATTOX for judges in single member districts. Further, Judge Mary Ellen Hicks

of Ft. Worth later joined the suit as an intervener.

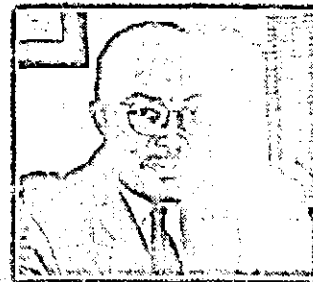
On the council I have established a close working relationship with my fellow African American councilmembers and on a vast majority of votes, we vote together. However, because I am a man of principle, I recognize that the events that followed the Cowboy Parade were not revolutionary acts, nor were they attacks in favor of civil rights—they were blatant racist attacks against innocent White and Chicano bystanders. As I sat stuck in traffic one block from the intersection of Griffin and Commerce, I was able to witness the violence that was occurring before me.

Police, media, and eyewitness reports indicate that young black males intentionally targeted non-blacks for violent attacks and robberies. This is not a distorted view, it is the truth.

My call for hate-crime charges against those involved is based on my principles that I would not tolerate a skinhead or KKK attack against blacks, white police brutality against Chicanos, or black thugs attacking people because of their color. Racism is wrong—PERIOD. By the way, those thugs are the same ones who terrorize the black community and make most law abiding citizens in South and West Dallas prisoners in their own homes. Most of those arrested had long criminal records—even Mr. Mohammad would not want them as neighbors.

It is time for people to take responsibility. Yes there is discrimination and racism, but all people must learn to live and work together. The Dallas Police Association (DPA) had an unwritten policy of never criticizing its own personnel, even when they were aware of their lack of professionalism. Do we want to repeat the same mistake of our oppressors?

Domingo Garcia  
Councilmember—District 1



Former  
Assistant DA  
Dallas County

Michael  
John  
Attorney  
&  
Counselor  
at Law

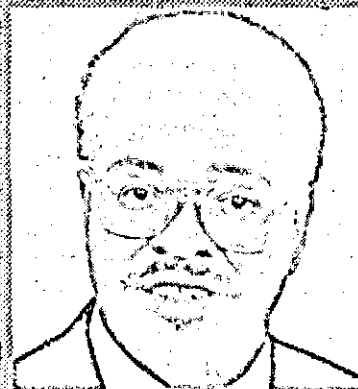
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## Life after foreclosure

Here are some tips to either get you out of foreclosure or past it.



**Curtis Yates**

Many homeowners are increasingly being threatened with foreclosure on their homes. It's such an effort to try and meet those ongoing house payments, month after month, and year after year. Imagine how painful it must be to lose your home after you have been paying on it for fifteen years! This actually happened to a couple I knew. Through the entire foreclosure process the couple never really understood what was happening, other than the fact that they were losing the home they had worked so hard for. Situations like these have created a challenge for me to try and explain the foreclosure process and suggest what can be done to save your home from foreclosure.

Most mortgage procedures in Texas require the execution of two instruments: the promissory note and the deed of trust.

In financing real estate transactions, the promissory note used is generally referred to as real estate lien note. This note is the actual promise to pay, and also the reference to the real estate used as security for the payment of the note. The most commonly used mortgage in Texas is referred to as the deed of trust. The deed of trust is most easily defined as a conveyance by the borrower (called the "grantor" in the deed of trust) to a third-party trustee (usually an attorney chosen by the lender) as security for a debt on money loaned by the lender (called the beneficiary in the deed of trust). The conveyance of the trustee does not become effective until there has been a default in the payments of the promissory note and the trustee must exercise the powers bestowed upon him in the deed of trust.

There is one important clause that's

included in the deed of trust, and that is the "power of sale clause." The power of sale clause provides for an out-of-court foreclosure in the event of a default in the payments of the real-estate lien note. This clause generally provides that in the event of default in the payment of the real estate lien note, the trustee, upon request, will post a public notice at the county court house. There are generally bulletin boards located near the court house door for posting purposes.

A copy of this notice must be sent by certified mail to the last known address of the grantor (person being foreclosed on) in the deed of trust, so that he will have notice that such a sale is to take place. The date of the sale, according to the power of sale clause, is always on the first Tuesday of the month following the required notice posted at the courthouse door.

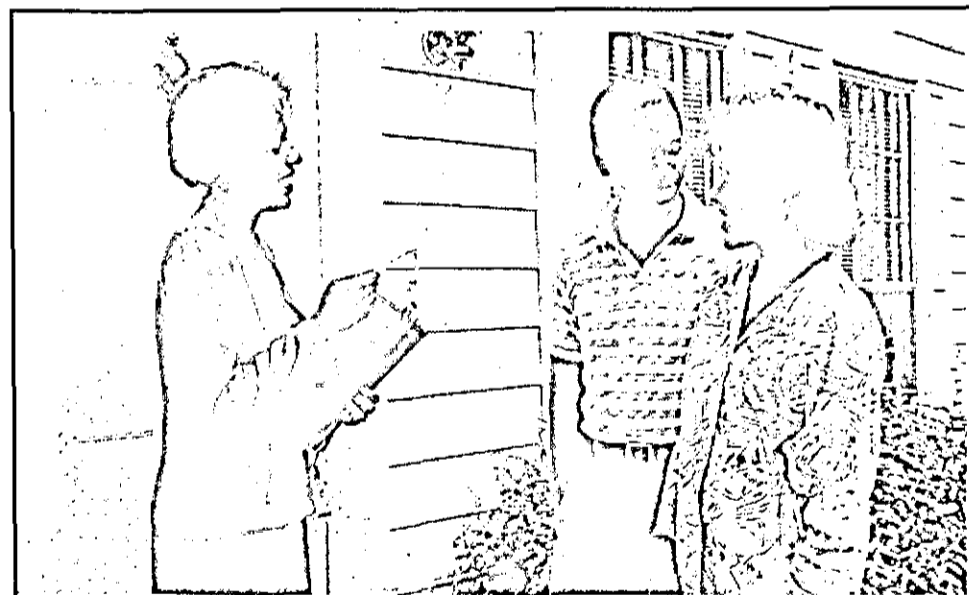
The most critical stage of the foreclosure process is when the sale is about to take place and the home is about to be lost. At this point, you may want to consider filing a wage earner plan under the chapter 13 bankruptcy court, which in most cases will stop the

foreclosure process immediately. You must be employed at the time you file a wage earner plan under a chapter 13 bankruptcy case.

Also keep in mind that debts are not discharged but rearranged and adjusted for repayment of the debt amount you're fallen behind on. You must continue paying your monthly house payments on a timely manner. On the other hand, the amount that you're behind on will be paid in installments, agreed upon by the bankruptcy court trustee. The current filing fee for a Chapter 13 bankruptcy is \$150, which can be paid in installments.

You can file on your own if you're short on cash, and can't afford an attorney. Filing on your own, of course, will be less expensive, but you must be prepared to act as your own attorney. If you choose to file on your own, you may want to contact our bankruptcy typing consultant, Vivian J. Short, who can assist you in preparing the official forms used when filing a (wage earner plan) Chapter 13 bankruptcy.

Please send all inquiries with a return stamped envelope to ATTN: Curtis Yates, REAL ESTATE STATUS QUO, P.O. Box 833842, Ste. 149, Richardson, Texas 75080-3842.



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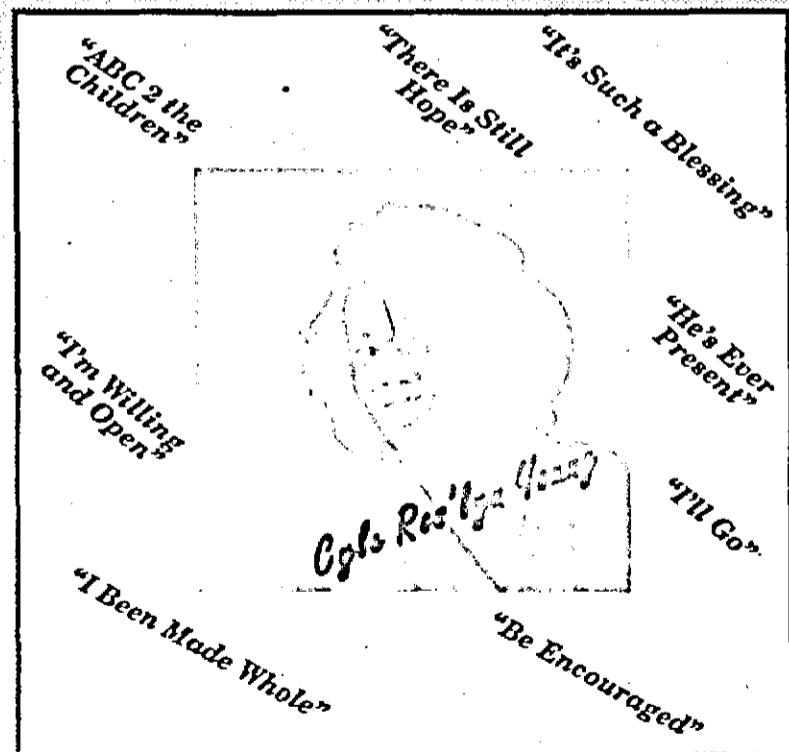
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# Fund memories

## Reflections on the South Dallas/Fair Park Trust Fund from someone who was there.



**Thomas Muhammad**

YOU'RE PROBABLY TIRED OF HEARING about the South Dallas/Fair Park Trust Fund and, to tell the truth, so am I. But after sitting and watching some of these new annointed, appointed—or whatever you

want to call them—leaders, I thought you might want to hear about it from someone who was there from the beginning to the end.

The idea about a trust fund grew out of the South Dallas/Fair Park Housing and Economic Development Plan, better known as the District 6 Land Use Plan spearheaded by then City Council member Elsie Faye Heggins. With Ms. Heggins' leadership, the SD/FP community received a \$75,000 grant to hire a consultant to study ways to save and improve the SD/FP communities. For the first time the community was able to screen and hire a consultant of their choice. The consulting firm chosen was Wilson, Daggahart and Johnson of Atlanta, Ga. Ms. Heggins was not on the council at the time, having retired from the city council to run for County Commissioner.

We then had Deputy Mayor Pro-Tem Diane Ragsdale who assisted in

the selection of the consultant. She was all ready serving on the City Planning Commission and was the founding President of Common Ground—which has probably produced more housing for low- to moderate-income people than any community based non-profit in America.

Our consultants were some of the best in the country and churned out information and suggestions at a dizzying pace. They provided the principle ammunition the community's CRA lawsuit against Republic Bank that brought us a \$25 million settlement for loans throughout the city of Dallas. The consultants also talked about other potentials, among them the concept of the trust fund.

Some time elapsed before the city got back around to implementing the trust fund, which was about 1989. Under Ms. Ragsdale's leadership the first test of the trust fund was with Starplex and the Grand Prix.

With Starplex we had a 15-cent-a-ticket process that grew into about

amount he would pay residents near Fair Park who complained about the noise of the race cars, so we broke off the relationship and he reneged on his \$15,000 promise—but good riddance.

But our hats are off to Larry Fontana of Staplex. He was willing to do anything to get that program working, which was good enough for Ms. Ragsdale to present to the city council. With that the city council approved the formation of the Trust Fund Task Force (which I served as a member).

Going in to the meeting, I did not think too much of 15 cents a ticket, and many others in the community shared that same thought. So you can imagine how I felt when we woke up one day and city manager Richard Knight Jr., had negotiated us into a 10-cent-a-ticket with the State Fair Association, the Cotton Bowl Association, Fair Park Museum etc. The last I remembered, the deal was one dollar a ticket.

The 10 cents per ticket deal came after many months of negotiations. I was furious, but we were in the door so I figured we could bargain later for more. After the Associations in Fair Park okayed the 10-cent rate (thanks Richard, it's better than nothing) the City Council—with former Councilmember Jim Buerger fighting against Ms. Ragsdale—passed the concept of the Trust Fund.

Originally the concept passed by the council would only award money to non-profits that would work in the SD/FP area. But Ms. Ragsdale requested the council to recommend that the Council Legislative Committee ask Austin to ease restrictions on awarding money directly to businesses. This was not passed until late November '91, after Ms. Ragsdale lost her council seat.

There were, however, five non-profits awarded contracts up to \$50,000 while Ms. Ragsdale was in office. They were Jeffries Street Learning Center—\$32,960 to rehab a donated apartment complex to house their new center.

Museum of African American Life and Culture—\$10,000 for staff to finish their complex in Fair Park.

Dallas Youth Services Corps Incorporated—\$49,976 to pay salaries to youth who rehab low- to moderate-income housing for residents in SD/FP.

Dallas County Community Action

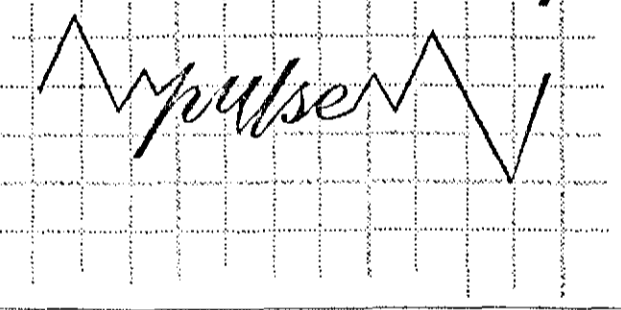
*We woke up one day  
and the city manager  
had negotiated us into  
10-cents a ticket. The  
last I remembered, it  
was one dollar a ticket.*

Committee, Inc.—\$50,000 to rehab an abandoned shopping center on Martin Luther King Blvd. at Trunk Ave.

SD/FP Innerscity Community Development Corporation—to do facade improvements to L.A. Bedford, Jr. & Association Law Offices, Lott's Mortuary, W. Larry Lundy, D.P.M. Podiatrist, Fellowship Drug Program and Dorsey shopping center which houses Black Jack Pizza, Sands Records etc.

Hopefully you have been enlightened by this old information and hopefully have reached the same conclusion that we did in creating this program—it is one of the most outstanding programs in the country. Because historically getting funding from entertainment institutions in the low-income areas throughout this country has been near impossible—but not when you have a Diane Ragsdale.

### On the Community's



\$75,000 by 1990. As for the Grand Prix, Buddy Boren, Manager of the Grand Prix, did not keep his word on the

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Ms. Cole is the Fashion editor for Essence Magazine



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## Mortgage Possibilities

By Harold Carter

THE LINGERING ECONOMIC RECESSION OF THE last decade has contributed to a record number of bankruptcies and mortgage foreclosures in Texas. This has impaired the credit record of many people and has impacted the African American community the most, causing many to experience poor to bad credit ratings. Consequently, there is much uncertainty regarding whether these people can qualify for new mortgage loans.

Some think it takes 10 years for a bankruptcy to "fall off" their credit history, while others think it's 7 years. The truth is that it normally takes only 2 years.

There are two major types of bankruptcies: Chapter 7 (personal bankruptcy) and Chapter 11 (petition to reorganize). Both require the ultimate settlement of debts (discharge) before new credit can be established. Lenders will not risk business with unsettled bankruptcies.

To qualify for a new mortgage loan following a bankruptcy, a borrower must meet the following conditions: Two years must have passed since the bankruptcy was discharged; The borrower must re-establish good credit and have demonstrated an ability to manage finances.

Similar rules pertain to home mortgage foreclosures, except the

waiting period is three years. Divorce may or may not create eligibility problems depending on the divorce decree and whom the payment of outstanding bills was awarded. Once all bills, judgements and liens from divorce actions are settled, borrowers usually become eligible for new mortgage loans.

Ironically, mortgage loans are among the easiest loans to obtain. Recently, the national, state and local governments have been encouraging first-time buyers and others to return to the home buying market through various incentives. One new program is the one year test program to increase homeownership to people with incomes in the \$15,000 to \$30,000 range or with non-traditional credit histories.

To be eligible, applicants must first receive in-depth counseling on the home buying process, which is expected to begin in late April. One of the areas where this pilot program is scheduled is the Dallas/Fort Worth market. The first loans should be approved in early May. Realtors are now developing a list of eligible applicants and directing them to the proper lender. The HUD Home Buying Program is still available and the VA has homes that anyone can buy even if he is not a veteran.

These are just a few programs available to anyone who wants a home. They allow for reduced cash outlay and reduced credit standards. The interest rates for these programs—the lowest in 20 years—are also favorable.

Home ownership is not automatically out of reach for those who have credit problems or little cash. People who think they might be disqualified for a mortgage loan should get details from any realtor or mortgage lender—they may be pleasantly surprised.



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So, if you're a low- or moderate-income individual or family, FirstAdvantage may be right for you. For more information, contact the First Interstate office near you—and get the credit you deserve.



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Outside Dallas

# Brothers of Discipline

*The Sims created the market for Black comics with Brotherman. And even though there is some stiff competition now, they're confident that Big City Comics will emerge the leader.*

By Angela Washington-Blair

HE IS AN ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY. HE IS a smart, strong, and handsome brother. He is considerate and treats women with respect. He is a champion for justice. His eating habits are healthy and he exercises. Most importantly, he believes that comic books are entertaining literature.

Does he sound like a superhero?

Well, he is!

He is Antonio Valor, *Brotherman*, Dictator of Discipline and lead character

*"We do what we like. We produce*

in the exceptional African-American comic book series *Brotherman*, the premiere title of Big City Comics, Inc.

Big City Comics is a family-owned

*a family-oriented product and*

and operated comic book publishing and distribution company based in Las Colinas (Irving), Texas. Founded by the Sims family, this African-American

*promote self-determination."*

comic book company remains on the fore with its action-packed, thought-provoking, highly literate, boldly drawn, and very entertaining *Brotherman* stories.

With over 300,000 copies in print and another issue due out soon; with over 400 distributors nationwide and abroad; with national exposure on BET News, CNN, Arsenio Hall, Americas' Most Wanted; and with added sales of related *Brotherman* products such as T-shirts, color posters, balloons and postcards; the Sims' venture has become quite successful in the three years that the company has been in existence. Distributors include comic book stores and black book stores, including Mother Earth, Heritage Expressions (Irving) Black Images, Kaboom Comics and Stufnd Lone Star Comics. Their work has received a nomination for the Will Eisner Award (A comic book award named after renowned 1940s comic artist Will Eisner who was innovative in

his use of techniques such as angle shots, lighting, mood, and framing in comics), though the brothers acknowledge that some in the comic industry don't feel that *Brotherman* is a "real" comic book.

The first issue of *Brotherman* made its debut April 7, 1990 at the Black Expo USA held in New York. Prior to its premiere, three brothers, David, Jason, and Guy Sims shared a vision—not necessarily for a comic book company, but to be entrepreneurs. They agree that their experience with entrepreneurship did not begin with Big City Comics.

"We had a graphic design business in East Orange, New Jersey and in Philadelphia. Since 1984, we did custom T-shirts for walk-in customers," explains David. The storefront shop in New Jersey was called Novel Tees and provided custom airbrush services.

According to David and Jason, work on the first issue of the comic book began in January 1990. Big City Comics was established and incorporated in February, and by April, they had 8,000 copies of issue #1 in print. By June 1990, they closed Novel Tees and relocated to Irving in order to reduce overhead. Jason sites "the convenience to shippers in Dallas, and the lowered cost of living and lease spaces" as crucial economic factors in the decision to relocate to this area.

Their parents also had some influence on getting their sons to move here—they're here, as well. Dad, Edward Sims, Jr., Ph.D, is the Director of Multicultural Research at Northlake College. (Part of the Dallas County Community College District). Dr. Sims is the Senior Consultant for Big City Comics. Mom, Deanna Sims, M.Sc., is an Irving elementary teacher and is the Director of Administrative Services for Big City. She is developing a curriculum that will use *Brotherman* in school classrooms and libraries for such subjects as reading, writing, art, math, social studies, and health.

Jason, 29, is President. He has a degree in communications from UCLA and originally majored in film at Temple University. He handles the business aspects of the company. He schedules

printing services and takes care of sales and marketing in addition to handling shipping and receiving. Jason says that "all parts of our business are handled in-house short of printing services. These are handled by a printer in San Antonio, but our goal is to become self-sufficient in the future." He also comments that people don't realize the other areas in which the brothers have talent. "We are experienced in photography, graphic design, computer graphics and animation, audio and special affects," agrees artist brother David.

David, 28, is Vice-President and illustrator. He began his art training and career while in high school in Philadelphia. He adds that "my family encouraged me in my endeavors." He attended art school at Rutgers and Temple University. David, whose artistic abilities as a cartoonist can best be described as phenomenal, when asked who

was the target customer of *Brotherman*, responds confidently that "We do what we like. We produce a family-oriented entertainment product and we promote self-determination."

Yes, when those naysayers said there was no market for a comic featuring African-American characters, the Sims' believed that there was, and did not try to cater to mainstream dictates. Guy, 32, writes the stories from San Diego where he works in admissions at

National University. He holds degrees from Lincoln University and Beaver College. His writing displays his awareness of current culture from all segments of the African-American community. Like many comic books, the stories contain social commentary, satire, wry humor, and the onomatopoeia of vrooms and blams, in addition to the added color and spice of dialect and dialogue. The serial stories are reminiscent of the old television cliffhangers—when you finish one book, you'll want to get the next to see what happens. In keeping with the family-orientation, parents need not fear—no foul language is contained in the pages. Once Guy finishes the script, he mails it to brother David, who lays out the illustrations.

Oldest brother Michael, while not actively involved in the company remains "a loyal customer," states Jason.

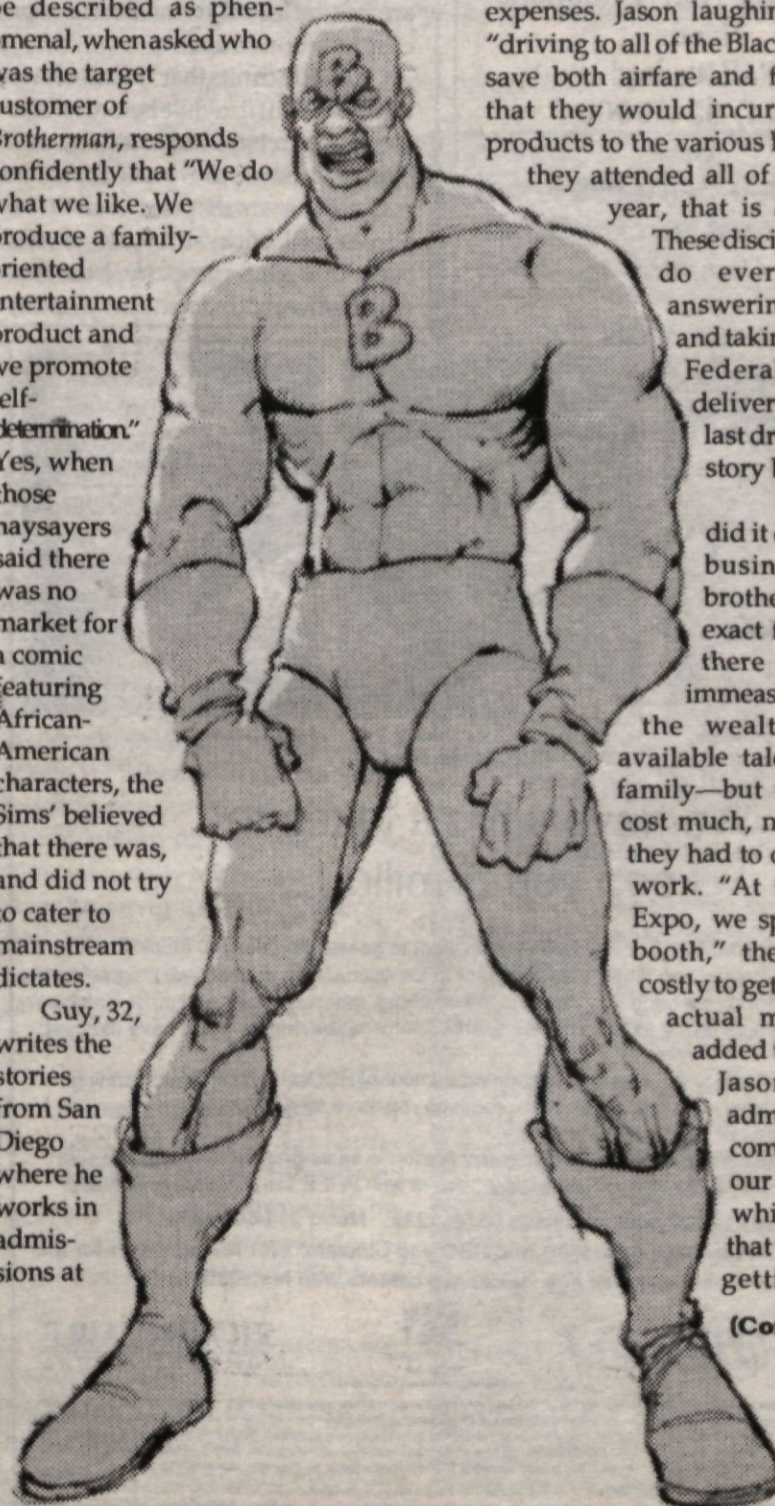
Jason and David share an apartment to save expenses. David produces his artwork from the apartment. Shrewd businessmen, they carefully watch their expenses. Jason laughingly admits to "driving to all of the Black Expos." They save both airfare and freight charges that they would incur to ship their products to the various locations. Since they attended all of the Expos last year, that is a big savings.

These disciplined brothers do everything from answering the phones and taking shipments to Federal Express for delivery to drying the last drop of ink on the story boards.

So how much did it cost to start this business? The brothers cannot site exact figures because there are too many immeasurables such as the wealth of readily available talent within the family—but it would have cost much, much more had they had to contract out the work. "At the first Black Expo, we spent \$750 for a booth," they say. It was costly to get started and the actual move to Texas added to the expenses.

Jason modestly admits "I sold my computer to pay for our first print run," while David says that "We considered getting part-time

(Cont. next page)



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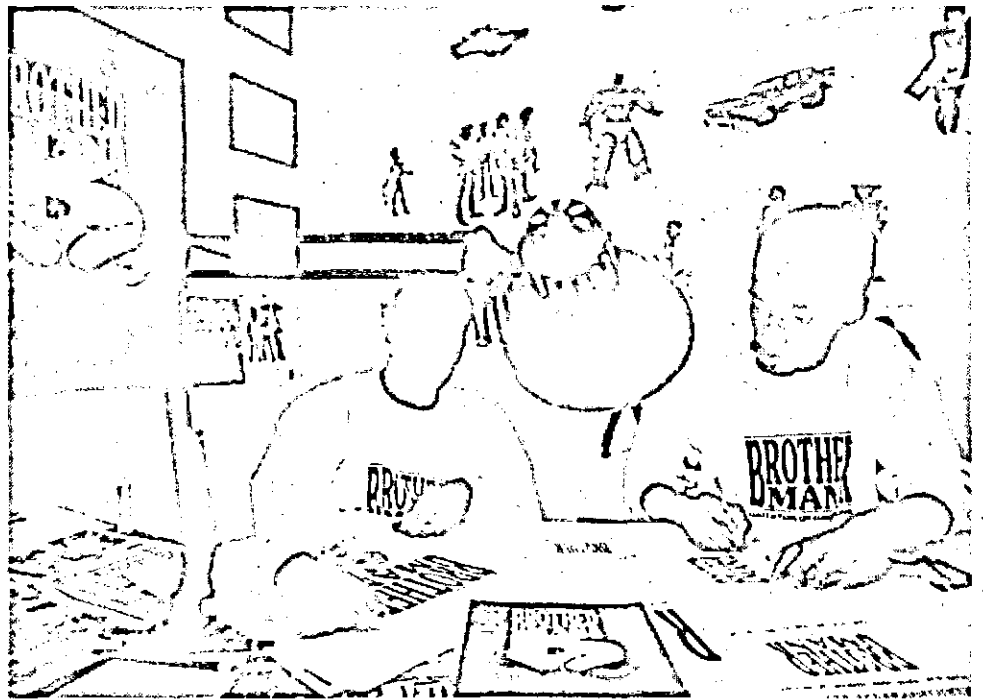
(Con't from prev. page)

jobs when we first got here."

They print 10,000 copies of each issue, to increase to 20,000. "Each new issue of *Brotherman* spurs the sale of back issues," states Jason. There are seven issues in print, with number eight due out shortly. "The first issue, if you can find one with the New Jersey address, is a collector's item," according to David. Keeping the much sought after back issues in print is a key to the success of their company, though all issues now bear the Irving address.

The cost to produce a copy of *Brotherman* is approximately \$4,000, including separations, lab and Zipatone, and another \$2-3,000 for printing. Then there are freight costs from the printer and costs to ship out to customers. They are quick to point out again that they save tremendously by using the "in-family" talents of writer, artist, and business manager, whose "costs" are not reflected in the production cost mentioned above.

David admits that "I really have to think about it a while before I make a major purchase like sneakers or a bicycle. I think to myself that that could be a small print run." The Simses roll back all of the profits back into the company business which operates from the prestigious



Jason (right) and David poring over the next edition of *Brotherman*.

Communications Complex in Las Colinas.

These guys do not operate on egos. They work very hard and say that they are not seeking celebrity status. They seek growth of their company, which would allow room for very talented friends and additional family involvement. They envision east and west coast Big City operations and a business not unlike Universal or Disney in its range of operations, product offerings and ventures. But they take it gradually, making sure they have the capital before progressing to new

levels. They let their operations pay for themselves. According to David, the business "is built on talent, not funds." And they make no hasty decisions admitting that "we're still sitting on a contract after 2 years for a TV series based on *Brotherman*." The Sims desire to continue to maintain both creative and business control over Big City Comics. They do that by having a shared vision and work ethic, by continually producing a high-quality product, and most importantly, by enjoying what they do. **CNN**



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# Mending fences

## DART's Surety Support Program can help contractors get in the door.

By Elden O. Cowley

IN RECENT YEARS, DALLAS AREA RAPID TRANSIT has had its share of run-ins with the African American community concerning the issues of contracts on DART projects. The most recent flare-up took place just months ago involving the lack of black contractors working on the new rail system in South Dallas. To build a better relationship and help quell the talk of DART being racist in their contracting policies, a new program—the Surety Support Program—has been established to help small, minority, and women-owned businesses get bonding so they can obtain DART contracts.

Surety Support helps the contractor through all the phases of bonding. This support is supplied in three basic areas: preparation and completion of bond packages—which includes completing the bond statement, income statement, obtaining a certificate of insurance,

*"This program should send a positive message to the community that DART is committed to helping"*

*—Calvin Stevens*

agreements on escrow, assignment of proceeds and general indemnity. This phase helps the contractors schedule their accounts receivable, accounts payable, contracts under construction and completed, and also helps with contractor's estimate of a suspect job.

In the technical area, the program involves pricing assistance, preparing and analysis of bid proposals, assistance with material purchases, change orders,

job budgets an trade payments. It also assists with obtaining construction permits and with scheduling, quality control and cost controls. Loan packaging, banking services are covered in the financial assistance section of the program.

There is not a fee assessed by DART for their help in these areas. The contractor does have to pay for his own bonding. This program is being provided as a service to the community to help enhance its relationship with minority citizens in Dallas. This is a win-win situation for DART's relationship with the community—it helps minorities get bonding to establish a base to build upon, and it helps the community because it creates jobs by bringing in subcontractors to help complete a proposed project.

It helps DART because they have helped to bond contractors who can go out on their next job with DART on their resume or perhaps contract with the city, DFW, or other large bond-requiring facilities. This establishes DART, unlike many other "big" businesses in Dallas—as helping small, women, and minority owned businesses succeed.

Important to note, however, is that to be considered for the program, a contractor must be either in the process of acquiring a contract with DART or currently holding a DART project.

The task of implementing the program has gone to Calvin Stephens & Associates and Mitchell Jobe & Co., A Joint Venture. Martin Burrell who authored the program had praise when speaking of the handling of the program to this point. "They're doing a great job over there, the program is going as well as could be expected."

Calvin Stephens, Project Director for Surety Support Program, expresses happiness and satisfaction with the success with clients since the program began in September of last year. "This program should send a positive message to the community that DART is committed to helping," Stephens said. "It is not a program of set-asides or just giving money. We help these small contractors get on their feet and become successful with, and possibly beyond, DART if they choose to do so."

He stressed the main thing the program does is help people get started. He does not want people to think it is just another program designed to better relations between businesses and the community. "We help people up



Calvin Stevens (second from left) says the SSP is a tool to help M/WBEs qualify for lucrative contracts.

through the process of getting their bond. However, they have to pay for their bond, but we provide assistance for qualified contractors up to that point."

Contractors who are currently being helped by the program have been kept confidential and may be divulged at a later date. "I cannot give out names, but in one situation we have helped one contractor obtain their first \$100,000 contract and they have just gotten another contract for between \$700,000 and \$850,000—so we are helping," Stephens added. When asked if the program only applied to construction contractors Stephens replied, "Whether a contractor is bidding on a contract with DART construction or not, they might give us a call, and I want to be clear however to let people know that you must be intended on doing business with DART, we can't help if there not going to be with us."

Stephens expressed regret because the program has not been written about in *The Dallas Morning News* or been introduced formally to the community because he thinks his program is one of the best he's ever been involved with.

"In all of my 23 years working, I haven't seen a better situation for them to come in to DART. It helps the community, the community helps itself, and everyone benefits."

### Who Qualifies?

The SSP will provide technical assistance, financial assistance, surety support and community outreach to small, minority, and women business enterprises performing as prime contractors or subcontractors, on DART projects requiring bonds.

### What Services are Provided?

#### Basic Bonding Services

- Assistance with completing the Bond Package
- Bond Application
- Income Statement
- Certificate of Insurance
- Escrow Agreement
- Assignment of Contract Proceeds Agreement
- Agreement of General Indemnity
- Contractor's Estimate of Subject Job

#### Technical Assistance Services

- Pricing Assistance
- Preparation of the Bid Proposal
- Analysis of the Bid Specifications
- Assist with Material Purchases (as required)
- Assist with Preparation of Change Orders, Job Budgets, and Trade Payments
- Assist in Obtaining Construction Permits

#### Financial Assistance Services

- Loan Packaging
- Banking Services
- Letters of Credit
- Accounting Services

### What is the cost of SSP services?

No fee for SSP consultant services. However, the bonding companies require a fee for their services. Typically, commission rates on Performance and Payment Bonds are 3% for the first \$100,000 and 2% on bonds over \$100,000.

How can I get assistance from the SSP? Just call or drop by the SSP offices at: 400 S. Zang, Suite 412 Dallas, Texas 75208 (214) 941-1297

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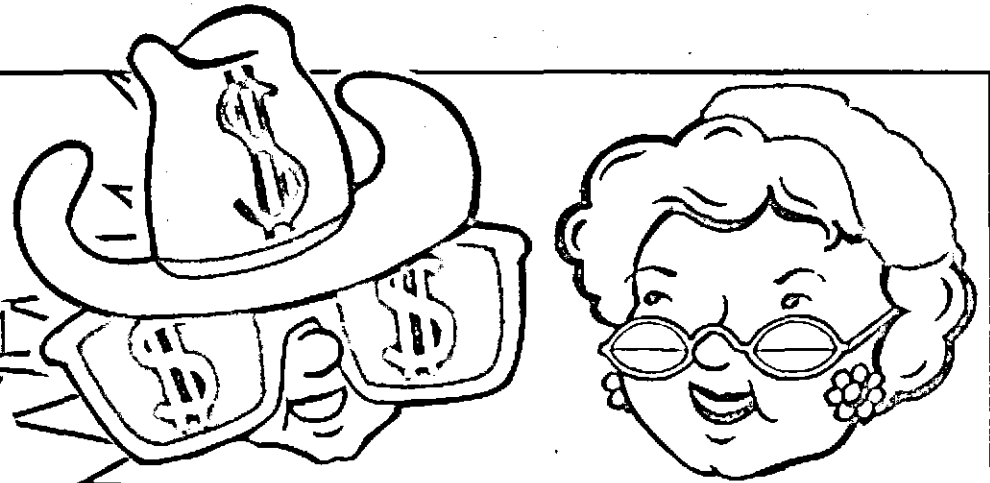
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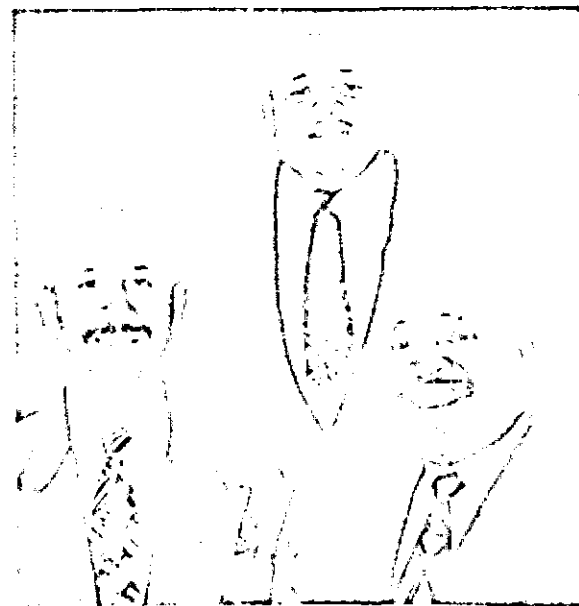
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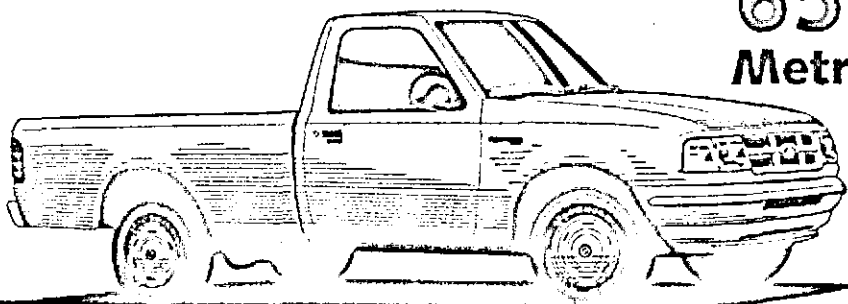


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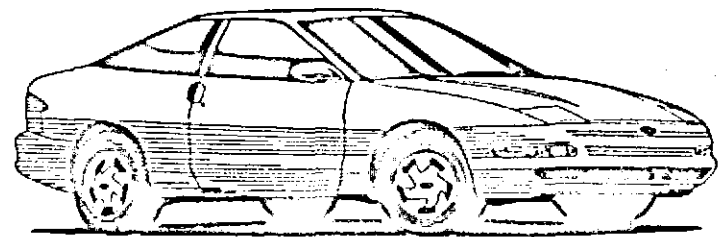
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# Is it Justice—Or Just Us?

*The outcome of the Donald Thomas murder trial shows that it's not just the system that works against us*

By John Posey

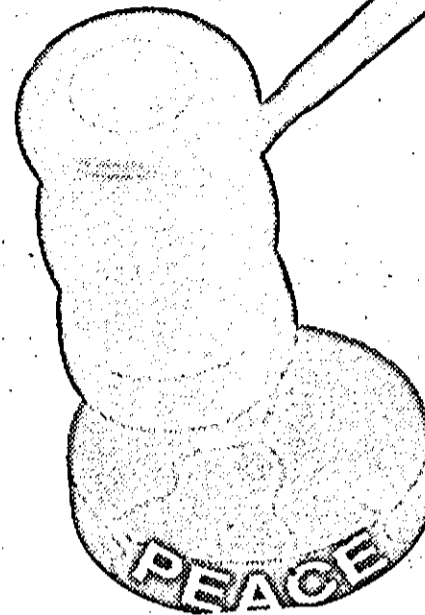
*What have I or those I represent to do with you national independence? Are the great principles of political freedom and of natural justice, embodied in the Declaration of Independence, extended to us?*

Frederick Douglas, 1852

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE HAS been hailed, throughout the ages as the combined genius of men who believed that individual freedom and justice are inalienable rights. They created a system of laws to protect those rights.

Amidst the national wailing and gnashing of teeth in the aftermath of the recent Brosky trial, African Americans are being forced to ask majority America the same questions that Mr. Douglas posed to his countrymen in Rochester, New York—When will we be allowed to sing the song of freedom in every courthouse in America?

Benjamin Franklin, as one of the crafters of the Constitution, posed a similar question during the Constitutional Convention of 1787 when he observed, "I think a general government necessary. . . I believe that this . . . can only end in despotism . . . when the people shall become so corrupted as to need despotic government, being incapable of any other . . . From such an assembly can a perfect production be expected?"



While the Donald Thomas murder is only the latest in a long line of injustices heaped on African American men in Tarrant County, the question that has not been asked is what role the citizenry has played in the deterioration of the Tarrant County criminal justice system.

Can the majority community continue to ignore the racial problems simmering beneath the surface in Tarrant County? I have been called nigger to my face more, in two years in Texas, than I have in my entire lifetime elsewhere.

The depth of the intolerance of African Americans is evident in the scores of hate mail that whitesupremacist groups send me with the same regularity as my *Business Week*

magazine. Local law enforcement officials must shoulder some of the burden. Their lax approach in investigating these crimes sends a message to hate groups that they do not have to fear retribution.

Tarrant County African Americans have also contributed to the sorry state of race relations with their ambivalence.

Can African Americans justifiably decry the lack of Blacks on the Brosky jury when they don't actively participate in the process? Potential jurors are selected from voter registration rolls. In Tarrant County, there are 93,765 African Americans of voting age. If blacks registered to vote and showed up for jury duty, sheer demographics indicate that it would be almost impossible to have a jury pool with only two African Americans.

The Donald Thomas murder is also a referendum on black leadership. Where were black leaders when the District Attorney chose to allow the trigger man and driver to plea bargain and take the weakest case to trial? How many times have black leaders allowed an innocent African American man to be railroaded in the Tarrant County criminal justice system in the spirit of accommodation?

Yes, Christopher Brosky was guilty of a crime. But so are we all. Our neglect and complacency contributed to a young man's death.

And as long as whites practice status quo racism—and Blacks allow it—there will be endless more Donald Thomases. It is time to solve our racial problems and fix our archaic criminal justice system. What choice do we have?

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**April 9**  
 Egg Hunt 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.  
 Enjoy refreshments and entertainment. Children are asked to bring one wrapped candy egg. Kiest Recreation Center, enter Kiest Park from Rugged Dr. Ages: 2-10. FREE. 670-1918

**April 10**  
 Egg Hunt, 10 a.m. Hunt for candy and eggs. Different hunting areas divided according to age. There also will be a "basket-decorating" contest. Redbird Recreation Center, 5150 Mark Trail Way. Ages: 10 and under. FREE 670-1928.

Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt, 10 a.m. Search for eggs and prizes all over the grounds. Enjoy carnival rides and fun. Harry Stone Recreation Center, 2403 Millmar, Ages: 5-12. FREE Admission. \$2 for photo, \$1 per carnival ride. 670-0280

Hamilton Park Easter Egg Hunt, 1 p.m. Community Easter egg hunt. Churches from the area join the recreation center and hide eggs for youth in park Willie B. Johnson Recreation Center, 12226 Willowdell Dr. Ages: 12 and under. FREE 870-6182

Crawford Park Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m. Features three different hunting areas for kids! Cosponsored by Malone's Cost Plus Super Market, Crawford Park, 1/4 south of Elam Rd, on Praine Creek Rd. Ages: 8 and under. FREE. 670-0227.

Community Easter Egg Hunt, 9 a.m. Day will feature games, the hunt, refreshments and contest for funniest basket, prizes and coloring contest. And a special visit from the Easter Bunny. Exline Recreation Center, 2525 Pine St. Sponsored by Dallas Urban League Young Adult Council, Ages: 10 and under. FREE. 670-8121.

Rochester Park/Rhoads Terrace 3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m. Games, music and refreshments. Prizes for the most creative Easter basket and for the largest number of eggs found! Cosponsored by Park Cities Baptist Church. Kids must meet at 9 a.m. at Rhoads Terrace Center, 5712 Pilgrim Dr. Rochester Park, 3000 Rochester. Ages 12 and under. FREE 670-8527.

"Ten Cake Kids" and MLK 3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt, 1-3 p.m. A special Easter egg hunt for minority and financially-challenged youth. Sponsored by Tea Cake Kids and other African-American businesses. Entertainment by Lincoln African Dance Ensemble. Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center, 2922 MLK Dr. FREE 670-8372



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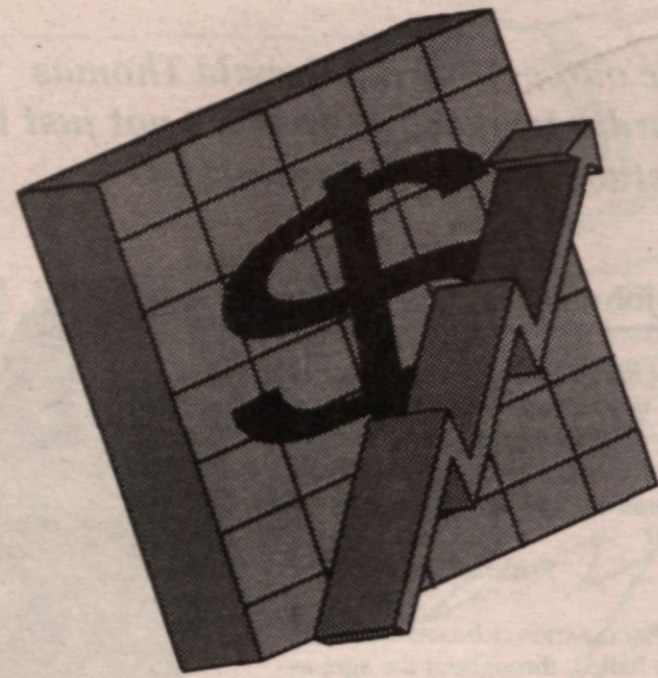
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**MON takes a look at two districts that are sure to be the center of attention, and maybe controversy, in next month's City Council elections**



**The District 4 Race**

By Angela D. Ransome

RUMORS HAS IT THEY MAKE THE BEST POUND CAKE in "the Cliff." Some say you can smell the aroma clear down Camp Wisdom Road.

For 10 years now, Richard and LaJeanne Williams have been baking cakes and pies for the sweetest of teeth, down at their Scratch Baker Bakery, which sits in the heart of District 4.

Since moving to the Camp Wisdom location three years ago, Richard Williams says he hasn't seen very much change in District 4—virtually none. Like others who own homes and businesses in the district, which contains parts of Oak Cliff, South Dallas and Pleasant Grove, he too hopes that the May 1st City Council elections will bring about some much needed change.

On one side of this race is a candidate who some say disappeared from Dallas politics in 1986 when he decided to try his hand at state legislation. On another side is Larry Duncan, an Anglo who currently holds the District 4 seat, and who some consider to be a "sore thumb" that sticks out in a district which predominately consists of Black people.

Elijah McGrew and Lorenzo Cole are also competing for the seat in District 4, but are somewhat "underdogs," or low-profile candidates in the election set for next month.

A resident of the district for 30 years, Blair is no stranger to Dallas politics. From 1980 to 1984, he served on the Dallas City Council—as Deputy Mayor Pro Tem from 1980 to 1983, and as Mayor Pro Tem from 1983 to 1984. After serving his third term as a councilmember, Blair says he was "forced" to leave due to the three-term limitation enforced by the council at that time.

"All of us want to go higher than we already are," Blair says, "so I decided to run for the District 3 seat on the County Commissioners Court."

In 1984, Blair ran in a bitter race against John Wiley Price—and lost. Just last year,

he was defeated again by Commissioner Price in a just-as-bitter battle for the District 3 seat.

"I could have been vindictive or a sore loser about it," Blair says, "but I wasn't. Instead, I turned around and supported Price, and endorse him all the way."

In 1986, Blair decided to run for a seat on the Texas Legislature, and was successful. He was elected to the Texas House of Representatives, District 110, where he served until December of last year.

He says, "I didn't resign like a lot of people think I did. I simply chose not to run again."

His decision not to run again brought Blair back to the Dallas political arena, and eventually to this most recent City Council race. But this race is different, he says, because it is, in his eyes, a race to "reclaim and take back control" of the community.

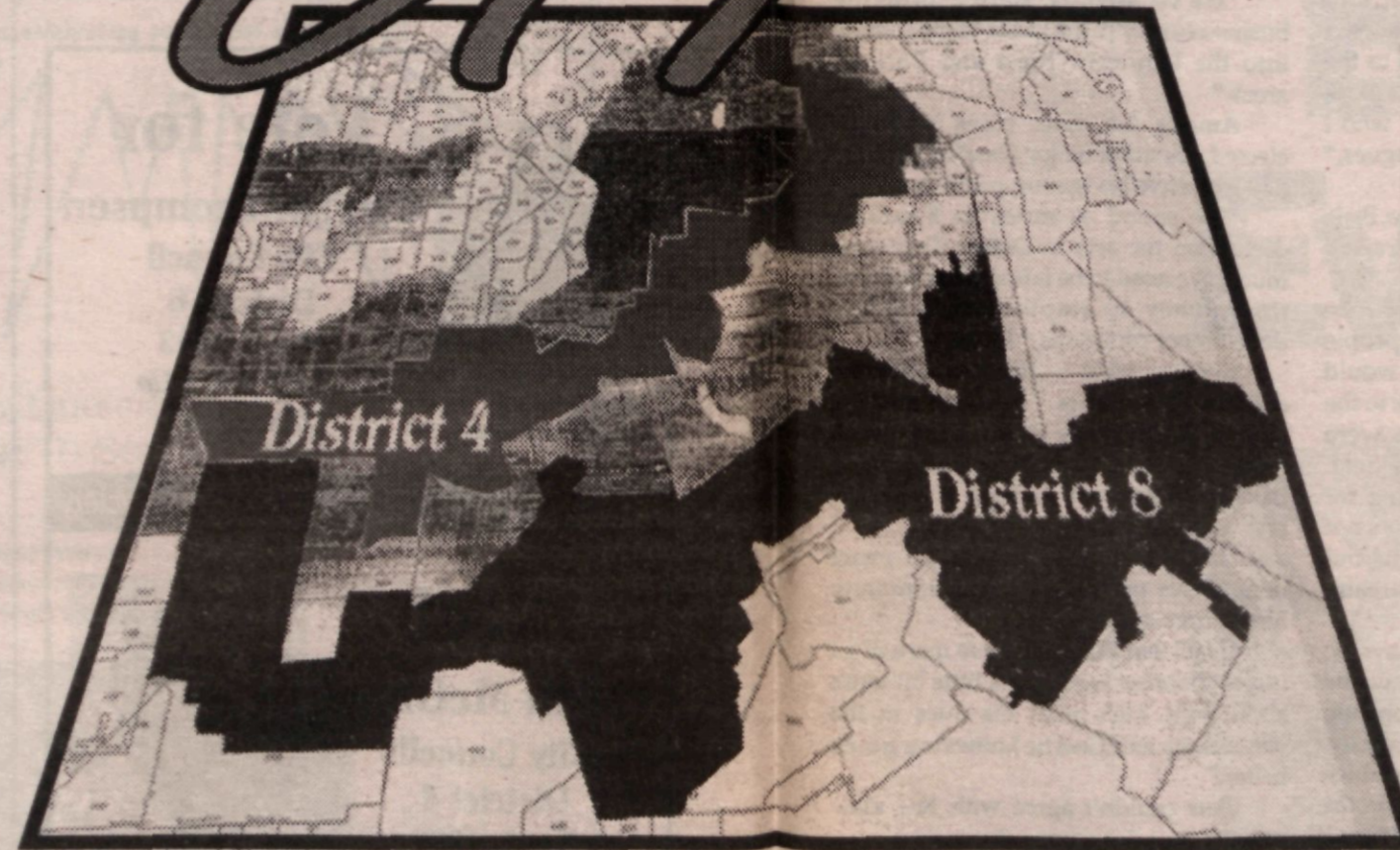
"It is necessary that we reclaim this district, before it has a domino effect," Blair says. "If we are not successful, we can look forward to the loss of seats on districts 6 and 7 as well."

According to Blair, he is representative of Blacks in District 4 and other districts in the city, who feel they cannot be adequately represented by a White councilmember like Larry Duncan, who currently occupies the District 4 seat.

"Look at my record and talk to the people in the neighborhoods I've been working with," says Duncan. "For less than a year and a half in office, I think I'm off to a pretty good start."

A graduate of Drake University and a Vietnam veteran, Duncan has been a resident of District 4 since 1975. After spending 19 years of working with neighborhood groups and

# HEATING



**The District 8 Race**

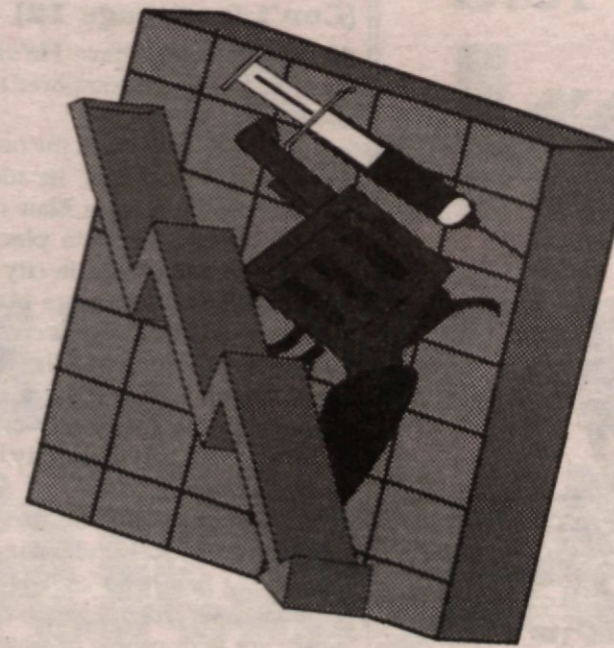
By Megan Whitfield

WHILE MANY CANDIDATES ARE PREPARING TO BOMBARD the public with dozens of newspaper advertisements and hours of radio and television commercials, many residents are carefully evaluating each message and trying to find out which candidates are truly sincere.

Some will get tired of hearing the same old message or seeing the same advertisement and simply change the channel or flip the page. But for a while, one race is going to shake things up and give the people something of interest. The race for the District 8 City Council seat—being vacated by longtime Councilman Al Lipscomb—would be interesting to anyone.

Although curbing crime and increasing economic development are at this year's election forefront, two of the District 8 candidates have all ready faced on a controversial issue.

A Parks Board committee that candidate Sandra Crenshaw sits on voted to allow the Sons of the Confederacy to have a celebration at Lee Park. The



media and several politicians snapped up that decision and are using it as a way to grab the attention of the people and have them pay close attention to the May 1 election.

Crenshaw, who is being backed by outgoing councilman Al Lipscomb, feels the controversy is just politicking by her opponent, Black State Employees Association of Texas President, Darren Reagan. But Reagan claims the Lee Park incident is illustrative of why Crenshaw wouldn't favorably represent the African American Community on the City Council.

"Basically, I think that it is hypocritical and ridiculous that African Americans would support, lobby and vote for the Sons of the Confederacy to have a celebration—especially when there are blacks trying to get that (confederate) flag down and remove the notion of what confederacy stands for—slavery and the oppression of black people," says District 8 candidate Darren Reagan.

"Nazism, antisemitism and the skinheads developed as a result of the confederacy. The African American community deserves more credit...we want someone to represent us that doesn't support a group that celebrates the slavery and oppression of black people."

But Crenshaw is unruffled by Reagan's strong rhetoric. "I am not worried about the Sons of the Confederate Veterans running around in historical costumes in Lee Park playing soldier," Crenshaw explained. "I want to keep my eyes on the white supremacist wearing black robes and drives around wearing blue uniforms and sits around in a gray suit at the legislature and city hall."

"We have too many big battles to worry about than to waste time worrying about an issue that we can't do anything about."

She noted that from a legal perspective the committee members could not prevent the group from assembling. However, she said that in situations like this committee members sit down with the group and ensure that no offensive activities are to take place.

"All citizens have the right to freedom of speech and assembly—that is the law."

When Sandra is not defending her stand on sensitive issues, she works diligently to get her message out to the people. She is very concerned about the needs of the community. "We need clean and safe environments for the residents of our community." She says that one of the biggest issues in this race is police protection for residents and neighborhood improvement.

"Right now we have a flight out of our

neighborhood," she said. "Residents are moving away for the area. We need to stop the crime and increase code enforcement."

She explained that these efforts will make the community attractive and allow it to retain its home owners and spur economic development and growth. "We need more business...major corporations that will provide jobs, and we need affordable housing for our residents."

Reagan echoes those same sentiments. "I want to see our community and the lives of our people improved and enhanced."

"We have problems with the sewers, streets without gutters, no sidewalks, high weeds and stray dogs."

Part of Reagan's platform will be centered around economic development in the African American community. "There aren't any banks, movie theaters or upscale restaurants like Chilli's or Bennigan's located in this area which has an average income of \$27,000 per household." Reagan said that he wants to see the community have the normal business and residence infrastructure that is seen north of the Trinity.

Reagan claims his experience as head of BSEAT, a volunteer organization that has assisted African Americans with everything from discrimination complaints to securing jobs and scholarships, is a strong track record of his dedication to community concerns.

Twenty-six year old candidate Cedric Davis wants to see a number of changes within the district as well as other parts of the city. He wants to reduce the number of police chiefs. "The money from those salaries could go to increasing the number of patrol officers for the city," he explained.

Davis, a Desert Storm veteran, wants to seek funds for developing job training programs and creating jobs. "I want to develop an economic development plan that will encourage financial institutions, retail and other corporations to locate to the City of Dallas, mainly in District 8."

Davis also wants to lobby corporations and get them to participate in fund raisers for job training for youths. "This would bring dollars to the southern sector without raising the tax base for the residents here or over the city," he noted.

Along with these goals, Davis wants to develop a "rebuild a home" program that would give low-income families a place to live.

James (JL) Fantroy, a resident of District 8 for over 32 years, is the owner of JL Investigations, a security company located within the district. Fantroy was a leader that was involved with the opposition that was successful in defeating a proposed prison site within the district. Fantroy says that his platform is simple and prioritized. He is pushing for safer neighborhoods, economic opportunity and education.

"I am for economic development," he said. "I want to bring blue and white collar jobs into District Eight."

Some of those industries that he would like to see in the southern sector include IBM, Texas Instruments, and a satellite airport. He indicated that he would like to see a DART facility in the district that would construct and repair rail cars.

"Once the crime is lower, we can bring in businesses. This will them lead to improving education."

Fantroy said that his experiences as a businessman, a community leader and a family man will help him communicate effectively with the residents.

Darren Reagan says that it is very difficult for a community, its residents to be proactive on the back end of the issues. "We simply need strong, experienced and trustworthy leadership that is not afraid to take a position whether that position is popular or unpopular. The community needs someone who wont succumb to

**(Continued on next page)**

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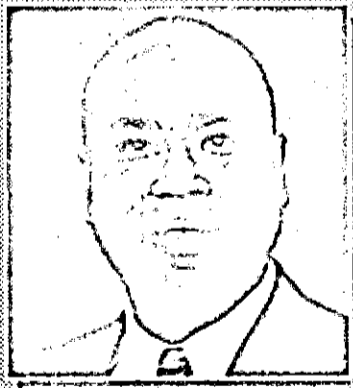


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## District 4

(Con't from page 12)

the experience that I have. He's spent two years on the council, compared to my four years.

"I think I understand the needs of the community much more," he adds.

Among the notches Blair carries on his belt are his efforts in placing more black department heads in city and state agencies, and getting more black police officers. In addition, Blair is credited with establishing the City of Dallas Industrial Development Corporation, a non-profit organization designed to attract businesses to the southern part of the city by way of revenue bonds.

"I served as mayor pro-tem and deputy mayor, so I understand more. I could bring first-hand knowledge to the position. I served 6 years on the state legislature with people of power, who I considered to be my peers and colleagues," Blair says.

Besides having more experience, Blair says he feels he has an unparalleled advantage being black.

"I don't feel that he (Duncan) can be the example that our young black people desperately need today. I mean, it would have been difficult for him to speak to the young brothers and sisters that were involved in the Cowboys parade incident.

"Our young people are looking for someone who understands them. It's not only matter of knowing the problems, but living them and breathing them. You can't just assume the role."

Duncan, on the other hand, says he disagrees with the color issue and wants to base the election strictly on concrete issues that most effect the community. Two major issues in this election, on which both candidates agree, will focus on the high crime rate and the poor economic development within District 4.

"Since code enforcement is weak in the area, we will be trying to prevent the deterioration of half the district, which is covered by crime," says Duncan. "We'll be doing this through crime watch programs, increasing gang intervention, and closing down hotels that rent by the hour, because they breed drugs and prostitutes."

Blair agrees and adds that his ultimate goal on the council concerns bottom line economics. In terms of economic development, Blair says there has been a hemorrhage of businesses lost in the community. He sites K-Mart, Sam's

Warehouse and Chief Auto Parts, as a few of these lost businesses.

"The nucleus is to provide capital to provide jobs and entrepreneurship," he says. "We've got to use the enterprise zones and have to have the capital investments. Too often you hear small business owners talking about the lack of capital."

Duncan agrees and says that the key is to come up with incentive packages in the areas that are losing the most business.

"We've already started doing this by creating financial incentive packages for K-Mart/Village Fair, the Lancaster Kiest Shopping Center, and for business on Buckner Boulevard in South Dallas, which is a major strategic area.

"We've already started bringing businesses in with the Fiesta Marts coming into the Lancaster Kiest and Buckner areas."

Among the other plans he has if elected, are more major flooding projects and extensive budgeting priorities.

"We spend as much as 8 million dollars on the arts in Dallas. That's too much. We need to be fair and use more of this money to implement business development programs," he says.

Even with his numerous accomplishments and extensive objectives, some say Duncan still hasn't made "his mark" on District 4. Scratch Bake Bakery owner Richard Williams is one such person.

"He hasn't made very much impact because his presence in the community hasn't been made.

"I feel that Blair will have more of an impact because we know a little bit more about him. He's paid his dues in the community and I feel he knows our needs better."

Blair couldn't agree with this view more.

"After Al Libscomb leaves, I think there will be a void as far as black senior leadership on the council is concerned. I feel that Duncan is ineffective and cannot be effective as a leader in this sense.

"Minorities in the district have very special needs—I feel that I am the one who can provide them with the sensitivity and understanding they need," says Blair.

On the other hand, Duncan says he feels that his record is proof of his leadership ability and that his year and an half on the council is "just the beginning."

"I finish everything that I start," Duncan says, "and I haven't quit yet."

## District 8

(Con't from prev. page)

pressure and certainly won't sell out."

Crenshaw says, "I am the only candidate that is running that has experience with city government." She has served on a number of committees concerning the community, Dart and the Park and Recreation Board.

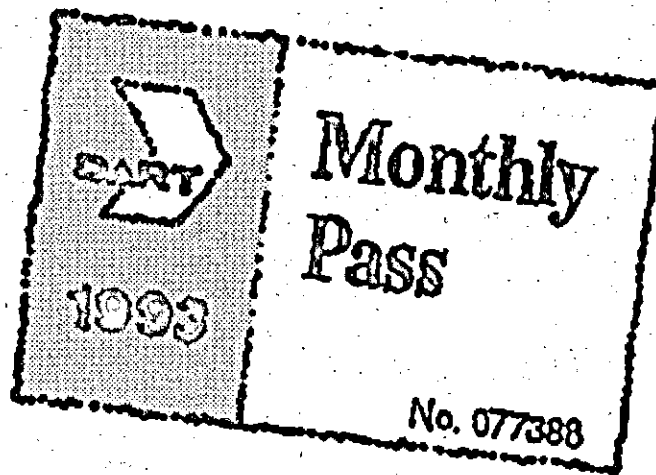
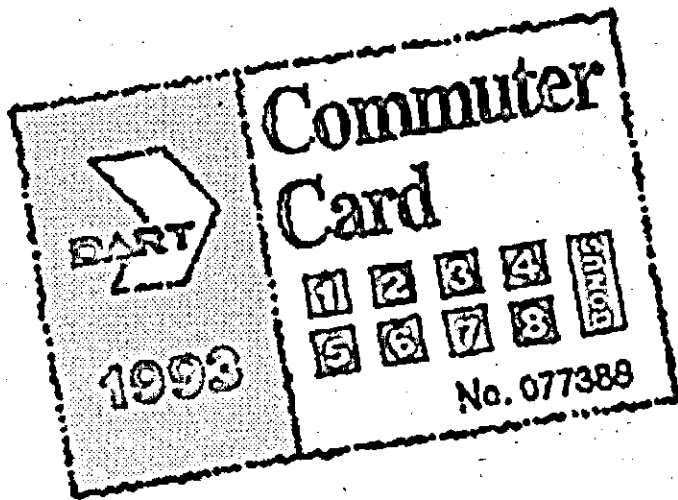
"I will not need on-the-job-training and with so many challenges facing the community today, we don't need to lose

time by having to train anybody."

But the other candidates of District 8 feel a new breath is needed in Dallas city management. To them—and many community members as well—it's the bottom line that counts, not previous involvement with city organizations all ready under fire for ineptness and insensitivity.

"It is not enough to say that you know your way around city hall," says Reagan. "More importantly you understand how to get things done."

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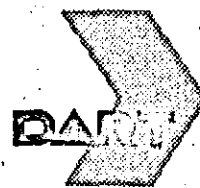
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fares, and commuter cards have no expiration date. DART discount passes are available at the DART Retail Sales Center, Dillard's and other locations. To find out where to get yours, call 979-1111. You'll be surprised how far your money can go on DART.



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# Panoramic Overview of the Arts

By Sonia Jordan

APRIL SHOWERS BRINGS US TO THE JAMES Kemp Gallery, located at 650 S. Griffin St. in the JBAAL complex. The gallery will host an exhibit by local artist Frank Frazier. This exhibit will be entitled "Retrospective—Frank Frazier—Thirty Years as an Artist," and will be on display from April 4, through June 11. For information and gallery hours please call (214) 658-7144.

THE DALLAS MUSEUM OF ART IS OFFERING A free supervised children's program, consisting of gallery visits, storytelling, and art activities for children 4-10 years of age with Gloria Naylor. For reservations call 922-1220.

THE CLARENCE MUSE THEATRE will present the award winning film, *Two Dollars and a Dream* on April 16 at 7:30 p.m. admission is FREE. This film is a documentary

depicting the late Madame C.J. Walker and her daughter A'Lelia.

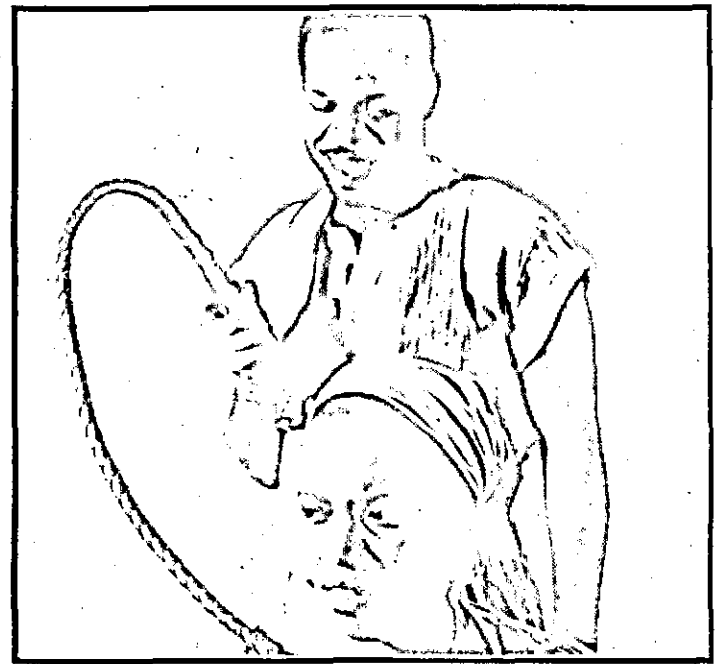
THE EIGHTH ANNUAL SPRING RISING Conference, sponsored by the Third Eye, will be hosted at the JBAAL, April 24, at 5:00 p.m.. This year's theme is "BLACK ON BLACK VIOLENCE." Dr. Amos Wilson, noted author, teacher and lecturer will be the featured speaker. For more information please contact Ms. Marilyn Clark at (214) 658-7144.

Dallas Theatre Center presents *Spunk* directed by Reggie Montgomery. *Spunk* is based on three stories written by Zora Neale Hurston. Ms. Hurston's stories depict African American life from 1920-1940 in the deep South and in Harlem.

The actors in *Spunk* play several characters, and Ms. Hurston's style of writing, coupled with the talents of the actors, works together to educate some and entertain others. The play began March 18 and will continue through April

11. For ticket information call (214) 522-TDXX.

FT. WORTH'S CARAVAN OF DREAMS PLAYS host to Ms. Regina Bell on April 8 and 9 for two shows (8:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.) both nights. INCOGNITO will give a FREE show on April 16. If jazz is your "thang," you won't want to miss Grover Washington Jr. on April 21 and Mr. Jonathan Butler on April 22. For more information call (817) 429-4400.



WHO SAYS BROTHERS DON'T KNOW ANYTHING about raising children? Mr. Earl Olfari has written a book entitled *Black Fatherhood: The Guide to Male Parenting*. This book presents information and advice on child rearing from the African American male's perspective. Subjects from discipline to single parenting are explored with brothers from ages 26 to 88.

FROM BOOKS TO LECTURES BACK TO music....South Dallas Cultural Center is now hosting Thursday Night Lecture Series the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Come hear Linda Reed, PhD, Director of African American Studies at the University of Houston on April 8, 1993. Each fourth Sunday at 4:00 p.m. beginning April 25, with Marchel Ivery. For information call (214) 670-0314.

## Laughter's Return

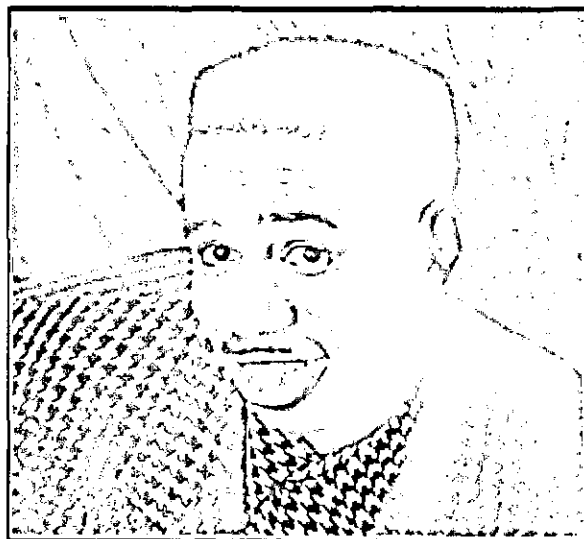
Comedian Steve Harvey said he'd do it, and he has—The Comedy House is sure to be an unqualified success.

By Sonia Jordan

HE'S FUNNY, HE'S FANTASTIC, HE'S LIVE! Steve Harvey, one of the funniest comedians ever has opened what will most certainly be a success—The Comedy House. This home away from home is located on Camp Wisdom, down the street from his old hang out.

Opening night at The House was spectacular. The opening act was good—Shucky Ducky is getting funny, but Mr. Harvey brought the House down. It was amazing to sit and listen to him make jokes as he went along. I certainly would not want to be the lady on the front row with the empty seat next to her, or the brother with the Jeri curl.

Opening night is always terrible, right? Well, it was in the beginning but eventually things worked themselves out. After Steve had us all weak from laughter, before we could recover, Mr. Funnier than Funny cried. Yes, cried. Steve held his head down and could not finish his last joke. "Da" House was packed. They had to turn away over 100 people and this was opening night.



Tom Joyner, Jim Jeffcoat, Mrs. Randy White and other celebrities were there along with the rest of us. With that kind of support, anyone would shed a tear or two. Steve shed a bucket.

Everyone knows Steve is funny, but how many of you know that Steve is a humble, astute businessman? Mr. Harvey has plans to get involved with the community in various ways. In

conjunction with some of the high schools, he plans to go to South Dallas and help small businesses do a facade facelift. "If these kids do the work and then see some of their friends destroying it, they'll say, hey, our school did that."

The business side of Steve designed The House on a bevnep enroute to New York. He hired all minority contractors to help weave this dream together. Steve says, "This is the house that Blacks built." With his fiancée/business partner, Mary Shackelford, his business manager Mr. James "Wolf" Woodford and his sensitivity to youth and the community, Steve is sure to be a continued success.

You can go to The House to be entertained, make business contacts and help the community. The week starts with Monday Night Jazz. Tuesday Night is Business Network Night. Wednesday Night is Amateur Night. Thursday through Sunday is back on track with comedy featuring some of the best comedians throughout the U.S.

Steve Harvey's Comedy House is here! He says he promised to keep African American comedy here, and he did. Surmounting those odds that got in his way, Steve didn't give up. He didn't stop until The House was more than just a dream. Now it's a reality.

Come on out to The House and, as Steve says, "Show Your Love!"

## Taking Wings

Cyle Young's gospel music is a gift from above.

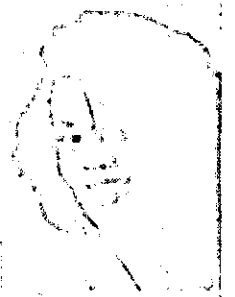
By Sonia Jordan

Dynamic, talented and carrying a powerful message—meet Ms. Cyle Ros'lyn Young. The lady has a calm demeanor that belies the powerful voice she uses so effectively to sing praises to God and entertain her listeners.

Her new album, *It's Such a Blessing* takes only a little time but the phrases and the message stay with you. Just listen to the words of "I've Been Made Whole" and you'll find yourself humming as you go through the day.

Ms. Young began singing as a young child but did not take her singing seriously until she was in her late teens. Later, when throat cancer claimed the singers voice, Ms. Young says, "I

(Continued on next page)



Cyle Ros'lyn Young

**(Con't from prev. page)**

promised the Lord if He gave me my voice back, I would sing and minister for Him." And minister she does with songs like "Be Encouraged," and the "ABC" song for children. All are on her album which debuts April 3, and is available at Sam's Records, Sands Records and HIS Place.

Along with the album's debut, Ms. Young will be in concert at Calvary Temple on April 3rd, 2414 S. Buckner, where Elder Clifford Frazier ministers.

Known to many as the "Giver," Ms. Young believes in not only sharing His word, but in helping others anyway she can. "I love people and I love to

sing," says the lady who sits in a room decorated in red and white and filled with peppermint candy. "I'll sing at the drop of a hat if someone asks me to."

Her giving spirit also flows through her teaching of voice and piano lessonst. But it doesn't stop there—Monday through Friday at 5:00 a.m. you can find Ms. Young on the Prayer Line talking and praying with at least fifteen other ladies.

If you would like more information about Ms. Young's new album, the upcoming concert, voice or piano lessons, or even the Prayer Line call Ms. Young at (214) 374-0506.

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| 4. Follow Me                 | The New Jersey Mass Choir       |
| 5. My Mind is Made Up        | Rev. Lilford Brunsford & T.C.S. |
| 6. Let Everything Praise Him | Min. Thomas Whitfield           |
| 7. So Good (Live)            | Melvin Williams                 |
| 8. Get Away Jordan           | TM Mass Youth Choir             |
| 9. Through the Storm         | Yolanda Adams                   |
| 10. Standing in the Need     | New Life Comm. Choir            |

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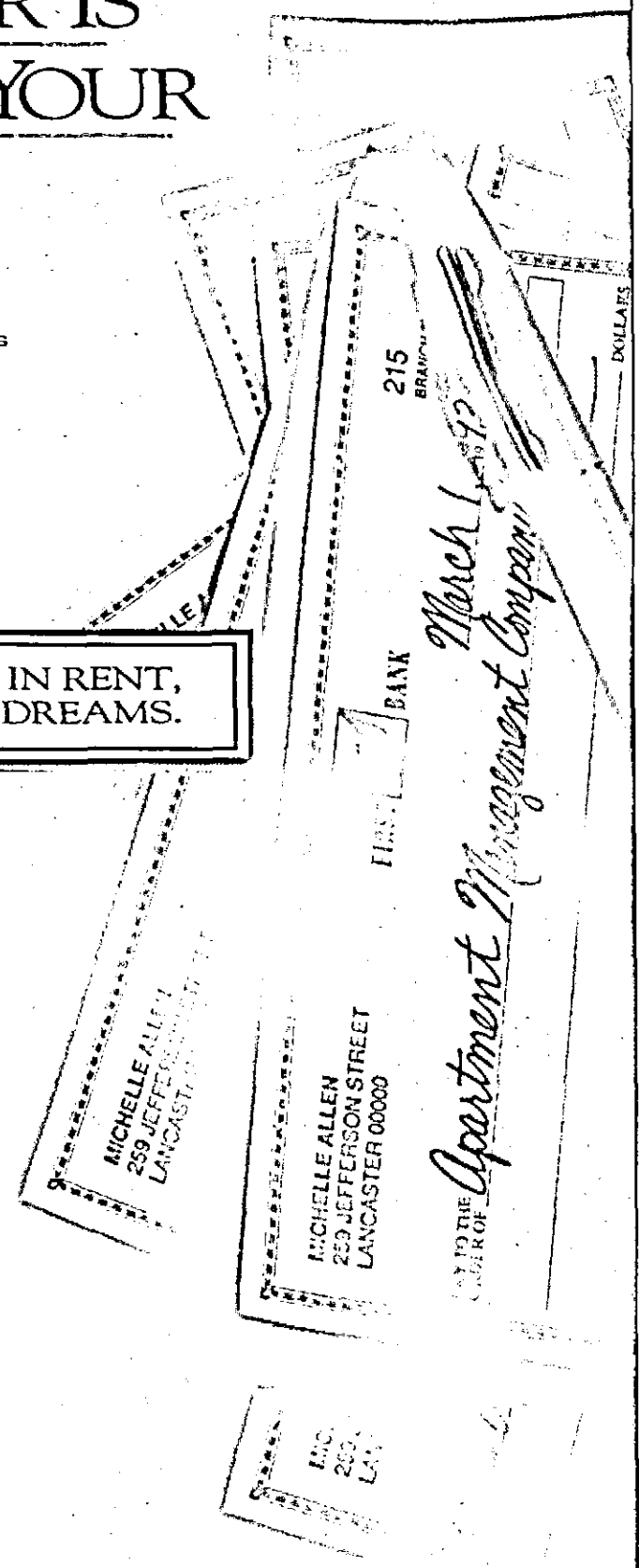
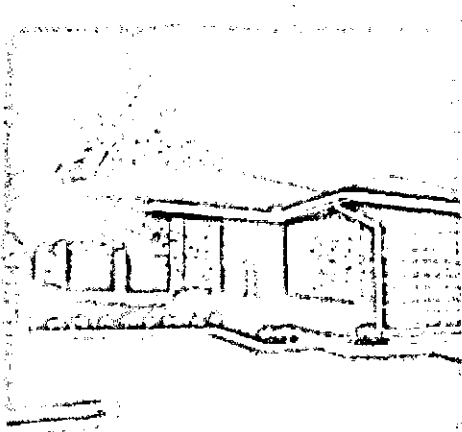
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**APRIL 1  
THURSDAY**

DISD Racial Ethnic/Hearings at Kimball High School, 3606 S. Westmoreland (214) 841-4117 for additional information.

TCU African American Sorority Plans April Fund Raising Event entitled the "Mr. Ebony Man" contest in the Brown-Lupton Student Center Ballroom. For more information call (817) 921-7926.

**APRIL 2  
FRIDAY**

NEW ART SIX presents and Easter Celebration - "Ride On King Jesus" through April 4 at the Magnolia Lounge in Fair Park, 1121 First Ave. Call 520-ARTS for more information.

**APRIL 3  
SATURDAY**

Mount Tabor Baptist Church Tender Care Circle presents "Steps to A New Beginning" at 3700 Simpson Stuart Rd. for information call (214) 255-1704.

Come to Mother Earth Books and Discover The Storyteller In You with Britt Miller. RSVP at (214) 252-4547 or 956-8346. Don't miss Benita at the Venue. Ms. Atterberry will be in concert at 9244 Markville Drive (at Greenville South of LBJ)

SWMU Auxiliary of the North Texas District Association presents it's first Annual Mini Conference. Contact Ms. Lois Peterson at (214) 374-4169.

Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation of Dallas will meet at their office located in Suite 205 of the Wynnewood Professional Bldg. Volunteers are asked to contact Mr. Eric Wells at (214) 942-1262 for more information.

Heritage Expressions, Irving Mall, will present "Everybody Let's Talk." A rap session discussing crucial issues for the African American Community. Call 255-3890 for more information.

DISD Racial Ethnic/Hearings at Kimball High School, 3606 S. Westmoreland.

Universal African Youth Cultural and

Educational Services (UAYCES) seeks volunteer tutors and advisory committee members for assistance with youth programs in math, spelling, reading and writing as well as workshops on gang violence and preventing drug abuse. Contact Deborah Lott at (817) 261-6741.

**APRIL 4  
SUNDAY**

Brotherman 8 is here!! Come to the booksigning at Heritage Expressions in Irving Mall. Also, don't miss Mr. Brodan Ware, a freshman at Lincoln High School as he presents a Teen Summit from 4-5:00 p.m. For more information on both events call (214) 255-3890.

**APRIL 5  
MONDAY**

SWEET TREAT SHOP, 1019 W. Pleasant Run will hold it's grand opening with radio personalities from K104's Morning Team. Call (214) 218-1740 for time and information.

DISD Racial Ethnic/Hearings at Skyline High School, 7777 Forney Rd. Call (214) 841-4117 for additional information.

**APRIL 6-7  
TUES-WED.**

Join other concerned citizens in Dallas City Council Chambers in support of the City's Security Force. For more information call (214) 993-2854.

DISD Racial Ethnic/Hearings at Spruce High School, 9733 Old Seagoville Rd. (214) 841-4117 for additional information.

Plan to attend a series of seminars (through May 5) at Richland College through their Enrichment Series II program. Call (214) 238-6393 and ask for the Richland Emeritus Program.

**APRIL 9  
FRIDAY**

"Tell The Secret Seminars" presents A

TIME TO HEAL featuring Ms. Irie L. Session beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Professional Plaza, 4650 S. Hampton Rd. Call (214) 240-5189 or 283-5811 for information concerning this seminar on sexual abuse.

**APRIL 10  
SATURDAY**

Positive Black Women of Dallas present a Spring Minority Expo/Flea Market at 12225 Willowdell Dr. from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.. For more information call 840-0896 or 368-6166.

YOUTH SUMMIT - "Getting It Done" - Will be held at the Loew's Anatole Hotel, 2201 Stemmons Frwy @ Wycliff. The summit is being presented to provide the youth of the Dallas area an opportunity to come together and discuss issues facing them today. Call the Summit Hotline at (214) 421-3637 for additional information.

Tea Cake Kids will present its 3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Martin Luther King Recreational Center from 1 - 3:00 p.m.. Contact Ms. Jonquil for additional information at (214) 709-5537.

**APRIL 11-12  
SUN-MON**

Producer, Spike Lee, will speak at the University of Texas at Arlington. Call STS at (214) 986-7955.

**APRIL 13  
TUESDAY**

Ms. Hariette Cole discusses/autographs her book "Jumping The Broom: The African American Wedding Planner" at Black Images Book Bazaar, 230 Wynnewood Village Shopping Center. Call (214) 943-0142 for additional information.

**APRIL 14  
WEDNESDAY**

DISD Racial Ethnic/Hearings at Spruce High School, 9733 Old Seagoville Rd. (214) 841-4117 for additional information.

**APRIL 15  
THURSDAY**

DISD Racial Ethnic/Hearings at Woodrow Wilson School, 100 South Glasgow Dr. (214) 841-4117 for additional information.

Join Sisters Organized to Survive as they meet at Stephanie's Collection, 8371 Park Lane. This month's discussion will be on personal insecurities and rooting them out. For more information contact Camelia at 9214) 369-4438.

This is the last day to reserve your tickets for the Celebration of the 1963 March on Washington presented by the Junior Black Academy of Arts and Letters and Howard University. For information call (214) 658-7144.

The Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation of Dallas will hold a Self-Support Group meeting at 401 Wynnewood Prof. Bldg. Suite 205. For more information contact Ms. Connie Waters at (214) 942-1262.

**APRIL 16-17  
FRI-SAT**

Dallas Affordable Housing Partnership Program will present a second housing fair for residents to pre-qualify for home ownership. The event will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Center for Community Cooperation, 2900 Live Oak Street. For more information (214) 826-6594

YWCA Resource Center, located at 4621 Ross Ave. (3rd floor) will host a workshop entitled "Building Good Leaders". The presenter will be Ms. Loretta Johnson, Csw. Seating is limited. For more information contact Mrs. Scheryl Johnson at (214) 821-9595.

FREE Seminar at Heritage Expressions on the 10 Commandments of Networking by Loretta J. Barr of Resume Rx Clinic. Call (214) 255-3890.

**APRIL 19  
MONDAY**

DISD Racial Ethnic/Hearings at Lincoln High School, 2826 Hatcher St. (214) 841-4117 for additional information.

**APRIL 20  
TUESDAY**

DISD Racial Ethnic/Hearings at Thomas Jefferson High School, 4001 Walnut Hill Lane (214) 841-4117 for additional information.

**APRIL 22  
THURSDAY**

"Beauty Shop Part II (The Laughter Continues)" will play through April 30 at the Junior Black Academy of Arts & Letters. For ticket information please call (214) 658-7144

**APRIL 24  
SATURDAY**

A&M Art Studio of Austin Texas, will hold an art display at Heritage Expressions. For additional information call (214) 255-3890.

"Return To Yester Year" - an event to reunite residents of the Lagow/Mildred Dunn Community. Contact Anita Simms or Fred Cotton at (214) 670-8028.

**APRIL 26  
MONDAY**

Mr. John Ross will begin presenting African and African American history classes at Heritage Expressions. The classes are free. Call (214) 255-3890 to sign up.

This is the last day to purchase advance tickets for the Alison Bonham & Co. performance or Electric Retro Babies Part One. The dance troupe will perform on May 1, 1993 at The I Dance 2 Studio, 5706 E. Mockingbird, Suite 25. For more information call (214) 522-2558.

**APRIL 27  
TUESDAY**

New Image Business Associates will host guest speakers from different organizations at New York, New York/Cafe Society. For information call (214) 350-9590.

Calendar Sponsored by Southwestern Bell Telephone

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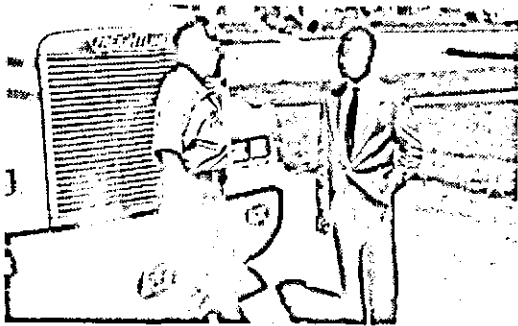
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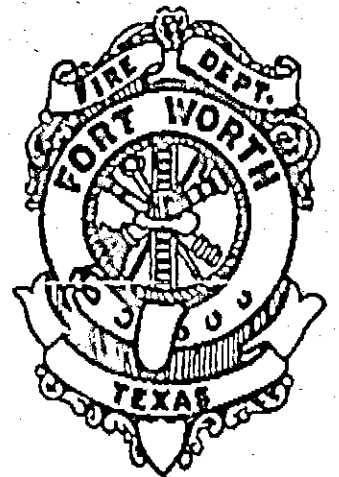


Looking for an opportunity to broaden your cultural awareness and utilize your communication skill? Then we've got the job for you. Minority Opportunity News has an opening for an experienced writer. For immediate consideration please send your resume and clips to *MON*.

*MON*

c/o Jason Webster  
Managing Editor  
2730 Stemmons Fwy.  
1202 Tower West  
Dallas, TX 75207

## City of Fort Worth Fire Trainee



\$1,635 Monthly while training  
\$2,064 Monthly upon graduation

High School or GED, 18-35 years of age, valid class "C" driver's license, 20/20 corrected vision, veteran must submit photocopy of DD 214 at time of application and have honorable discharge to qualify for Veteran points with passing score of 70. Position offers liberal fringe benefits.

Applications will also be accepted April 17 and April 24, 1993 from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Application Deadline: April 30, 1993 at 4:00 p.m.

Apply: Fire/Police Training Center  
1000 Calvert Street  
Fort Worth, Texas

EEO/AA/Employer  
(817) 871-7760 24 Hour Job Line

Looking for a health care career?

# Call Parkland Hospital's Job Line. 590-HIRE (4473)

To Place Your Bid or  
Proposal Announcement  
call 905-0944

## PROPOSALS



### Invitation For Proposals

DALLAS  
HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Housing Authority of the City of Dallas, Texas (DHA) will receive proposals from qualified firms for conducting an Energy Audit of DHA's properties, until 2:00 p.m., on Wednesday, April 14, 1993 at the Dallas Housing Authority's Development and Planning Department, Suite 350, 3939 N. Hampton Road, Dallas, Texas 75212. Proposal submission documents are on file and may be acquired at DHA's Development and Planning Department.

The DHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding.

Call the St. Luke "Community"  
United Methodist Church's  
Job Hotline  
328-3167

# CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

## BIDS

### NOTICE TO SMALL AND DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

7K CONSTRUCTION COMPANY  
144 Greenbay Road  
Winnetka, IL 60093  
708-541-8200  
Fax Nos. 708-459-4308 or 708-541-8838

is seeking qualified small and disadvantaged business enterprises for the following:

Superconducting Super Collider  
Ellis County, Texas  
Construction of S40 to S25 Tunnel Basic  
CCU A-720 Contract No. SC-C16-1196  
BID DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 1993

All interested and qualified small and disadvantaged business enterprises should contact Robert K. Stineman, Sr. to discuss the contracting opportunities. All negotiations must be completed prior to the bid opening date.

*To Place Your Career  
Opportunity Ad  
call 905-0944*



### Invitation to Bid

The Housing Authority of the City of Dallas (DHA) is accepting Invitations to Bid for a two-year contract for TYPEWRITER SERVICE AND REPAIR.

Bids will be accepted until 11:00 a.m., April 19, 1993 at 2075 W. Commerce, Building #200, Dallas, Texas 75208, at which time and place all bids will be opened and publicly read aloud.

Specifications and bid documents may be obtained from the Purchasing Department, 2075 W. Commerce, Building #100, Dallas, Texas 75208 or by calling (214) 741-7790. We reserve the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities in the bid.



### Invitation to Bid

The Housing Authority of the City of Dallas (DHA) is accepting Invitations to bid for a two-year contract for COURIER SERVICE.

Bids will be accepted until 2:00 p.m., April 19, 1993, at 2075 W. Commerce, Building #200, Dallas, Texas 75208, at which time and place all bids will be opened and publicly read aloud.

Specifications and bid documents may be obtained from the Purchasing Department, 2075 W. Commerce, Building #100, Dallas, Texas 75208 or by calling (214) 741-7790. We reserve the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities in the bid.



### Invitation For Bids

The Housing Authority of the City of Dallas, Texas (DHA) will receive bids for the Make Ready Repairs to 6534 Tioga Place, Turnkey III Homes, Tex 9-16, until 2:00 p.m., on Tuesday, April 13, 1993, at 3939 N. Hampton Rd., Suite 350, Dallas, Texas 75212, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid Documents, including Plans and Specifications, may be acquired at DHA's Central Office, Development Department, 3939 N. Hampton Rd., Suite 350, Dallas, Texas 75212.

The DHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding.



### Invitation to Bid

The Housing Authority of the City of Dallas, Texas (DHA) will receive bids for the Make Ready Repairs to 4150 Tioga Street, Turnkey III Homes, Tex 9-15, until 2:00 p.m., on Tuesday, April 13, 1993, at 3939 N. Hampton Rd., Suite 350, Dallas, Texas 75212, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid Documents, including Plans and Specifications, may be acquired at DHA's Central Office, Development Department, 3939 N. Hampton Rd., Suite 350, Dallas, Texas 75212.

The DHA reserves the right to reject any of all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding.

# CAREER OPPORTUNITIES



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City: \_\_\_\_\_  
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## OFFICE ASST.

Candidate needs office experience, Wordperfect, pleasant phone manner, organizational skills, and ability to handle multiple priorities in key support staff position. Send resume & salary history to: 3500 Maple Ave., #1600, Dallas, Tx. 75219  
Attn: Diana

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COMERICA BANK-TEXAS, one of the nation's largest financial institutions, has excellent opportunities for Mortgage Loan Processors in our South Dallas office (1-35 at Illinois Ave.).

You should have at least one year experience in processing FHA, VA, and Conventional loans. Excellent communication and organizational skills are required, as well as knowledge of Wordperfect 5.1.

For immediate consideration, please FAX your resume to: (214) 818-2303 or stop by the following address between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM to complete an application. Comerica Bank-Texas, Human Resources, 6260 E. Mockingbird Ln. (between Skillman and Abrams).

We are an equal opportunity employer.

# Comerica

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Interested candidates should contact our job line (214) 828-5998 for more information or stop by our Human Resources Office at 6260 E. Mockingbird Lane (between Skillman and Abrams) to fill out an application.

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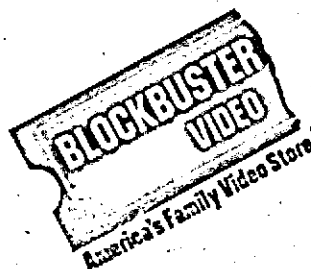
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For consideration, please send resumes to:

THE PB/MK TEAM  
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or FAX

(214) 631-4218.



The City of Lancaster is accepting applications for Maintenance Worker in Street Department. Seasonal position for 90-120 days. Maintains landscape/grounds located in City right-of-way. Apply at 211 N. Henry Street, Administrative Office, City Hall, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday, until April 1, 1993. E.O.E. (MFD).

The City of Lancaster is accepting applications for Summer Lifeguard positions. All applicants must possess current American Red Cross Basic Lifeguarding certification, with certification in Lifeguard Training and W.S.I. preferred. All applicants must also be American Red Cross certified in Basic First Aid. All applicants must pass a physical skills test prior to employment. Applications may be picked up at the Lancaster Municipal Center located at 211 N. Henry. Applications will be accepted until April 15 at 5:00 p.m.

The City of Lancaster is an Equal Opportunity Employer (M.F.D.)

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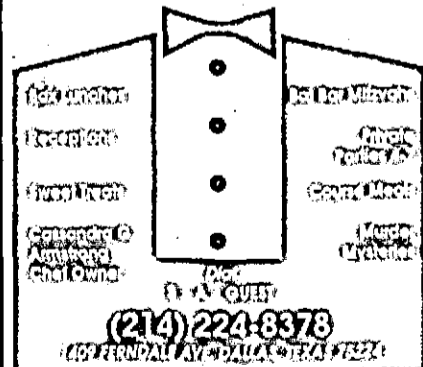
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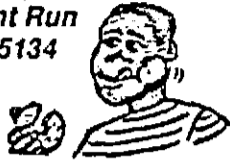
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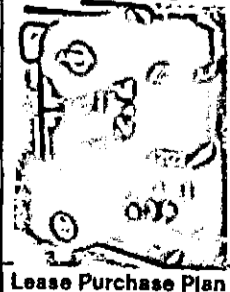
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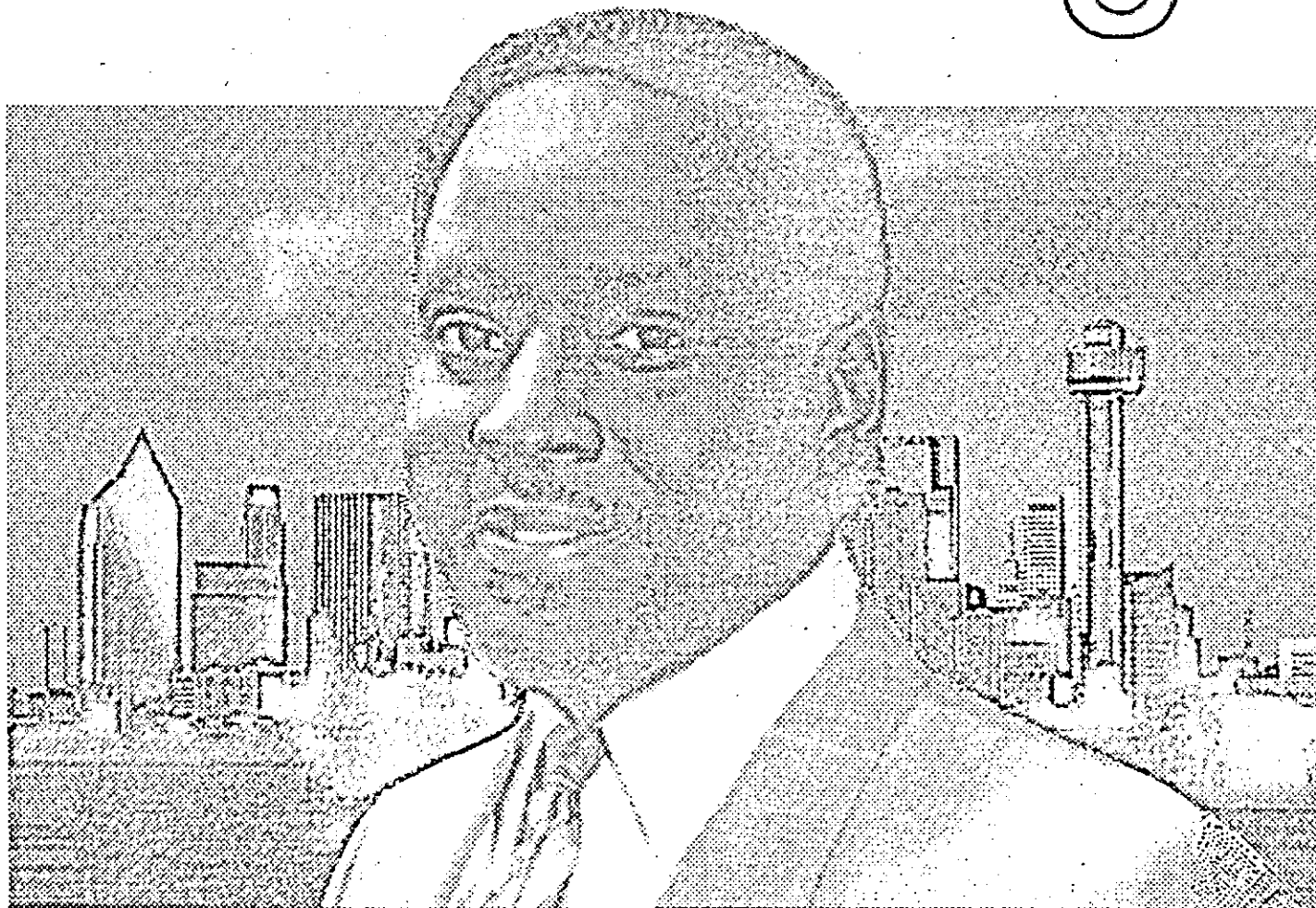
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