

The Community's Access to Opportunity

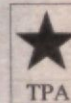
Complimentary to churches
and community groups

Minority Opportunity News



2730 STEMMONS FRWY. STE. 1202 TOWER WEST, DALLAS, TEXAS 75207

VOLUME 5, NO. 1 January, 1996



The Patriarch

Wiley Baker broke
the shackles of
slavery to build a
legacy for his
Texas family.

The driving
force behind
Reach, Inc.



MON's
Year End
Review

Coalition to
take control of
Common Ground
Credit Union



**From The
Publisher**
Thurman Jones
photo by Derrick Walters

Editorial

Seeking Common Ground

Over the last year, *Minority Opportunity News* has continued to follow-up on the new coalition of African American clergy that convened at St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church last January. To put it mildly, this has been an interesting experience. While there is some truth to the adage "The wheels of progress turn slowly," the progress made by the group since the initial meeting has again proven this to be true.

Let me say from the outset that I join many in the community in expressing my pleasure in the recent announcement that the coalition is moving forward in negotiations with the Common Ground Federal Credit Union to assume ownership and control. This is clearly a major development in the life of this organization and for substantive economic development in Dallas. (It could, perhaps, mirror what a single congregation, Greater Christ Temple in Meridian, Miss., was able to achieve with far less resources, as depicted further in this issue. See page 14) Finally, the community will have the opportunity to truly gauge the potential economic clout that can be achieved through a cooperative, church-driven initiative. For years, we have often wished for the Black Church to move beyond the pulpit and establish real programs to help develop the broader community. Clearly, the relationship with Common Ground could be the beginnings of a major step in this regard.

The operative phrase is "could be." The realization of the dream is going to require much more than ceremony. It will also take considerable planning and execution to deliver. Early indications suggest that this may be the area of greatest need for this new enterprise. For example, as our reporters attempted to gather information during the year on the efforts of the coalition, on numerous occasions one of the pastors would refer us to another for more insight. Often, upon being contacted, that pastor would, in turn, refer us to yet another pastor. This quick summary does not reflect the great amounts of time required to actually get to any one of the pastors involved in the coalition. Summarily, it was a frustrating and fruitless process that left the *MON* staff

Continued on page 6

Let's Stay Focused!

The recent brouhaha over the attempted moving of high school students in the TAG (Talented And Gifted) program from the new Townview magnet to another facility has succeeded in over-shadowing an issue of greater significance and concern for minority students—African American students in particular.

This is not to say that the debate over whether the TAG students should or should not be allowed to move, and the legal action that followed, was not warranted. It was.

For the record, allowing the TAG students to leave Townview would be a mistake. It conveys the message that the best way to solve problems, especially social ones, is to run from them. This is not conducive to us ever evolving into a cohesive, united society that is not split along racial and/or socioeconomic lines. Also, underachieving students need to be exposed to achieving ones—*influence can work both ways.* Integration discourages elitism. Instead of our schools being microcosms of the world (and all of its inequities), we should help to make them models for the world.

The parents who are in favor of the move feel their (TAG) children are being hindered by having to interact with students that lack academic motivation,

students who are disruptive and who ridicule academic achievement. Therefore, they seek a more idyllic environment for their children to learn. Trouble is, this request carries strong racial and social undertones. And the vote by the school board implies the same. Is race—and class—the motivation behind all this? Whether it truly is or not, the perception—*ergo* the reality—is yes!

The irony is, the issue of race is not reflected in the racial make-up of the students in the TAG program. The racial breakdown among the students in the program is roughly 38% White, 35% African American, 29% Hispanic and 12% Asian. The racial issue, rather, seems to be generated by the adults involved. (Isn't that where it always originates?)

Underscoring this whole issue is a power struggle between two individuals with key roles: Dr. Ora Lee Watson, the executive principal of Townview, and Susan Feibelman, TAG cluster principal. Dr. Watson is African American, Ms. Feibelman is White/Jewish. Feibelman is supposed to answer to Dr. Watson but is loathe to do so, challenging Dr. Watson's leadership and allegiance to TAG. She is a leading proponent of moving the TAG and has the support of the school board president, Sandy Kress, (White and Jewish) and four other board members. The African American school board members are in support of Dr. Watson and against the move.

Meetings between the two factions

have been volatile and ugly, as issues with racial underpinnings always are. And with U.S. District Court Judge Barefoot Sander's overturning of the school board's majority vote to move the TAG high school, fuel has been added to the fire. Dallas Public Schools Superintendent Chad Woollery is facing heat from Sandy Kress for not displaying proper loyalty during this flap. And, of course, Barefoot Sander's legal right to step in and abort the TAG move is being questioned and appealed by Kress and the pro-move faction.

But enough of these sub-plots and back to what should be the more important issue in the African American community, as mentioned at the beginning of this editorial. Test scores, especially in math, are abysmal. With computers becoming more and more prevalent in our everyday society and the growing popularity and accessibility of the information superhighway (and the resultant need for professionals in computer technology and related fields), it is absolutely essential that this be addressed and rectified without delay. Basic education in all the academic disciplines is deserved by every child, whether they be perceived to be "talented and gifted" or not.

We must not lose our focus on what is really important. The TAG issue is worthy of our attention—but not at the expense of the ongoing quest to demand, and play, an active role in procuring, the very best education available for our youth. MON

View Point

Business Ethics

Business leaders in our nation rejoice at the notion of *laissez faire* and how government interference in business practices should be minimized. One can argue that is not necessarily a healthy atmosphere. Business practices can be abusive, as well as useful, in any society. Predatory pricing, monopolies, gouging, unfair practices and other business practices during our history seem to be missed in such a position by modern businessmen and women. Europe has always been our nation's guide in how one should perform in terms of moral principles. This may not be wise. I would like to take a journey southward and examine a different way one can view business practices. Our way may not be the best way.

Africa has long been ignored as being a place to examine for cultural

ideas. This has been true of centuries. The only place we sense to value on this vast continent is ancient Egypt. We spend some time in our educational career studying about this ancient world and the building of the great pyramids. Students learn about the writing system called hieroglyphics and ruling class. Much else of Africa is ignored. Few courses examine the great kingdoms of Benin, Nigeria, and the accomplishments of Ethiopia. All lessons from this world are lost to our young people. Principles developed over time are never discussed. How sad that our society has lost the ability to accept notions which do not emanate from a particular part of the world! I hope we can change such myopic opinions. Only by trying can one hope to change current thinking.

European businessmen were noted for their shrewd bargaining power. If you traded with them in the ancient

world, you had better be sharp or you would well find yourself holding the short end of the bargain. Scruples were an unheard of commodity in the ancient European business [world]. All that mattered was making the most profitable deal. Coffers needed to be filled to the brim with precious coins and goods. Anything less would be a sign of weakness and poor [entrepreneurship] class. Roman citizens were warned about the unscrupulous nature of the business world. A phrase has come down from those ancient times—*CAVEAT EMPTOR*. Such was the world if the ancient business class. Such notions did not exist in every part of the world.

African traders and business leaders had a different social order. In most African cultures, a person's word was a very valuable commodity. It was so pre-

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C I P W S

LETTERS...

Townview

Question: How does one "Supermagnet" make up for a 60% TAAS failure rate among African American youth at the exit level, answer a 25+ year desegregation lawsuit in a majority-minority district, and provide improvement for non-magnet schools' facilities and academic programs? Answer: It can't, and Townview doesn't.

Dallas Public Schools (DPS) administration, the board in particular, is not in my opinion, truly concerned about the welfare of all the children in the district. The young people in the TAG magnet, and probably the other five elite magnets housed in Townview, are being subjected to no less than their cohorts in other non-magnet schools.

Because they are ridiculed for striving to improve themselves is no reason to move the program. If anything, the program should be expanded to designated schools throughout the district so that other talented and gifted students may have access to accelerated academic programs. Talk to any student who is trying to do their best at the so-called low performing schools and you will find that they are also being ridiculed. Here is the smoke. But the solution for the TAG students does not apply to the rest of the district. They have to suffer through it.

The DPS board has smoke in its eyes, too. It is so divided that it can't see the damage it's causing the city, not to mention its students. For the amount of money proposed to move the TAG program could be used to purchase books, improve facilities at other schools, etc. But they can only see using the money to isolate 153 students from their peers.

The message communicated to the students can't be healthy: Don't try to work out your differences, move. (Sounds like segregation based on intelligence to me.)

Shame on the Dallas Morning News for supporting this message.


Dwayne Johnson
Carrollton

System Bites Back

Upon reading your recent editorial concerning the O.J. Simpson verdict "The System Bites Back" it is evident that your publication is racist in its opinions.

Although Simpson may not have been found guilty beyond reasonable doubt, he was certainly not found innocent beyond reasonable doubt. Singling out Caucasians as being outraged excludes all others responsible citizens such as Christopher Darden, who, regardless of race, have a right to be outraged at injustice, be it O.J. Simpson or Cullen Davis.


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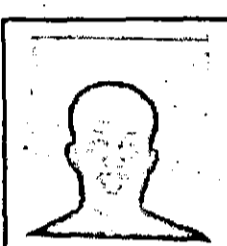
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View Point continued from pg 2

cious that one would never do anything to violate one's word. This was a social faux pas. If you dealt with an African trader, then his word was his bond. He would never think to cheat a customer or do something dishonest with another business person. This was not taken lightly. If a person violated his word, he was ostracized. Any business dealing was held to the same high ideal. A person did not have to beware of any transaction; the word of the owner of the enterprise could be trusted.

I have often said to people that if I lived in the ancient world and was in business, then I would rather deal with anyone from Africa than any European. In Africa, one could trust the deal. In Europe, I would have to be on the lookout for what the person was trying to do underhanded. Isn't that a terrible legacy to leave? Yet, no one criticizes this European notion. We applaud it. If people would look more closely at the reality of such an ethical lapse, then we could make our business world over and emulate the notion developed in Africa as our ethical standard.

Raymond Nowicki
Dallas

MON

Letters continued from page 3

Your closing paragraph raises the slavery issue. That is so old that more than a century and many generations have passed since anyone alive has been involved in that issue. Aren't you aware that it was Blacks in Africa that sold individuals to the slave traders and that tens of thousands of Caucasians gave their lives for the freedom of the slaves? All Races of People have suffered or have you never seen "Braveheart" or heard of Cambodia, Stalin or the Holocaust?

To represent yourselves as a minority publication is dishonest. There is nothing representative of interest in the views of Latinos, Orientals, or others in the true minority classes of Dallas. Your racist views do a disservice to everyone.

J.G. Carroll
Dallas

Meaning of TAAS

Re Vol.4 No. 12 Dec. 1995 "What Does TAAS Really Mean? (Page 2)

Your writer says that an increase in the passing rate from 38.3% to 40.2% is a "2.1% increase." Your writer would fail the most basic math—make that arithmetic—exam! The increase from 38.3% to 40.2% is 4.9608%. And it would not

take 15 years to reach 70% passing rate. It would take 11 years.

You could have set a better example for our students. You have also shown the level of math illiteracy among adults.

I look forward to reviewing your future issues to see if you "fess up" to your readers.

Unsigned

Editor's note: We appreciate your demand for accuracy. However, the difference between 38.3% and 40.2% is actually 1.9%. (See you in arithmetic class!) Furthermore, if each year the percentage of students passing the math portion of TAAS increases by 2%, it would take 15 years to go from a 40% passing rate to a 70% passing rate. The quibbling over numbers aside, can we not agree that there is a problem?

The "N-Word"

I share your sentiments about the solution to all the attention given to the use of the N-word. Those taped conversations were only symptoms of bigger problems we have in this country, and Dallas, Texas. It is the equivalent of a doctor treating the sneeze of a patient diagnosed with pneumonia.

I wish you and your staff a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Exelyn Kelly

I cannot believe that anyone could justify the use of the "N-word" by anyone. As a public school teacher in a pre-

dominantly African American school, I do not tolerate the use of the word among the students, regardless as to whether or not they are the user of the word or having the word directed at them. The N-word is a detrimental poison to the self esteem and self perception. Whether the N-word sits upon the lips of an Anglo American or an African American, it is still poisonous.

Sincerely,
Constance Hollie

In response to your article on the "N" word, it is time to let go.

The "N" word is the ultimate put-down for people of African descent. There are some who use this word as almost a term of endearment, a social norm that actually berates an entire race. It is profanity.

My father did not allow this word in his house. He believed that if his children were to get any negative images of Black people, they sure as hell would not get it from home.

It is time to let the "N" word go.

Mike Hudson

MON

This month, MON has instituted a change in the format of the Letters section. We hope you like it. -Ed.

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Thomas Muhammad

"All right Thomas, Be Nice!"

Recently, it was revealed by way of an illegally acquired taped conversation, that "I-30 Mayes" (City Council person Charlotte Mayes) would announce in 1997 that she would not seek reelection for the District 7 council seat but would "sell" it to a "White man." And that she will run for the 30th U.S. congressional seat currently held by Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson instead. A friend of mine turned to me and said "all right Thomas, be nice." I looked at him with a great big grin and said, "Okay, I'll do my best." So, dear readers, I'm going to ask you to read this column, then write me and let me know if you think I was, or wasn't? Here goes.

First, let's get a few preliminaries out of the way. Mayes was busted, found out. The jig is up, she slapped herself, she mule-kicked herself, she stumbled again, as usual. She has no class, she has an "ehgg" vulgar mouth, she's dumb, she's silly, she's a Black female Dan Peavy, but most of all, she's "I-30 Mayes." Take her or leave her. Well, as usual, I'll leave her. Wow, it's difficult to say all of that in one nice breath, and if you don't think so, you try it.

Yes! What Mayes said was no surprise to most of us and don't believe that what was revealed was all she said either. It seems that this mysterious "illegal taper" wants to always keep his/her victims in suspense. Witness the fact that the Peavy tape was apparently spliced from a series of conversations (based upon the break-ups in the tape), whereas Mayes' tape was evidently one conversation. Meaning there's no telling how long homeboy or homegirl had been taping her. I personally think that this first tape was meant to tease us and the "Unitaper" will strike again. Who knows who else the Unitaper has been taping? Could it be me, or worse yet, could it be you? Only the Unitaper knows for sure.

But hell, I don't care. As long as the Unitaper exposed I-30 Mayes, I'll take it. More importantly, did you see how the "Negro" elected officials" ran to I-30 Mayes' aid, either by saying that it was not an issue, or by not saying anything at all? Makes you wonder what are these Negroes trying to hide? Hopefully

the Unitaper will tell us.

Some people have argued that we should be trying to find out who it is that's illegally taping people and put him/her *under* the prison. However, as I've said to those individuals, just as when we did not worry about who taped Dan Peavy, to be consistent, we should not worry about who taped Mayes. Yes, we should try and catch the culprit. But as Rev. Zan Wesley Holmes, Jr. and others have said, "What's good for the goose is good for the gander." There should be no "double standards." And no, I never cared for I-30 Mayes and I never will. But that's besides the point.

When you consider the fact that she is "BLACK(?)," she does more harm to us than Peavy, or people like him, because by having a White skin and knowing his track record, we know to not drop our guard around him. But this "SAMBO" is "Black(?)" and can therefore walk right up to you and put a knife in you. As brother Malcolm X Shabazz once told us, in cases like this, he would much prefer the "wolf to the fox." Why? Because you know that the wolf will eat you—there's no ifs, ands or buts about it. But that sly fox will skin and grin in your face, win your confidence and wait till your guard is down, then attack and eat you.

The one thing that all of us need to understand is that I-30 Mayes, and Negroes like her, are very dangerous to African Americans, make no mistake about it.

Most people (who had never heard Mayes speak before) were shocked and amazed when Dallas' only daily newspaper reported how she dispenses malapropisms during her public speaking. For example, it was reported that she once praised councilman Al Lipscomb as a "pillow of the community." On another occasion, she prefaced a comment by saying, "Correct me if I'm right..." And she once told a speaker, who used an expletive, that she would

not allow "profound language in council chambers."

But she's done this and worse. For instance, during the ribbon cutting for

against Diane Ragsdale, she was asked that if she won the council seat, would she wear the type of African clothes Ms. Ragsdale does? Mayes said, "No! And if I did, it would be in my bedroom only."

And she wants to go to Congress? As today's youth would say, "Homegirl, I don't think so! You need to move around."

The one thing that all of us need to understand is that I-30 Mayes, and Negroes like her, are very dangerous to African Americans, make no mistake about it. If she was willing to sell a city council seat, what do you think she would do with any other position she may hold? What she needs to hear

loud and clear from all of us is that we will not tolerate her behavior. Dial the Mayes Must Go! committee at (214) 606-5295 to volunteer.

Now, I ask you—was I nice enough?

Until then, the struggle continues...

MON



(Editor's Note: The opinions expressed by Mr. Muhammad's commentary are not necessarily those of the Minority Opportunity News.)

the opening of the African American Museum in Fair Park, she said, "This is the most beautiful-ist building I have ever seen." One prominent minister who was there turned to a guest and said, "I don't think that was a slip because she said it twice." While running for city council in her first race

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MON-thly News Briefs

Oak Cliff Becoming Site of Economic Development

East Oak Cliff could soon be under construction. Literally. The area, which has long been underdeveloped, may become a booming business district if plans introduced by the Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District meet the approval of both the Dallas City Plan Commission and City Council.

Plans to improve the area's economic development have been in the works full swing since last February when City Council requested the formulation of a planned development district for the Gateway Area of Oak Cliff.

According to an urban planner working with the project, the TIF board wanted to attract new businesses to the area without inflicting any new provisions on existing businesses. Existing businesses will not have to conform to new provisional ordinances.

Jim Prince says new businesses will

be required to adhere to "tailor-made ordinances." These ordinances include such provisions as type of businesses (commercial, retail, industrial), height and design. Because of the proposed districts' direct proximity to the view of Dallas' downtown Skyline view, new development cannot obstruct the city's scenic view.

The Gateway Area is divided into five subareas. Subarea A is bounded by Beckley Avenue, Interstate 30 extending to the Trinity River and Interstate 35. Subarea B, the smallest of the districts, includes Brazos and Lancaster Streets. Comprising subarea C is the Lake Cliff area, a mostly residential area, which is being considered for designation as the Lake Cliff Historic District.

Considered a mixed land usage district, subarea D is bounded on the north by Greenbriar Lane, east by Marsalis Avenue, south by Colorado and Zang Boulevards and on the west by Beckley Avenue. Finally, subarea E is comprised mostly of Methodist Medical Center, with some of the area lending itself to residences and businesses.

After a public hearing held later this month, the proposal will be sent to the City Plan Commission and presented to the City Council next month.

MON

From the Publisher continued

believing that it was symbolic of not really knowing "who's on first?" rather than a sharing of responsibilities. Hopefully the group will realize that better organization is critical and that the credit union, if it is to survive and flourish, can not be run by committee.

Incidentally, there is no better name

for the credit union than Common Ground. Perhaps it will become the first of a number of projects that will transcend denominational barriers and find the common focus that we so desperately need in our community.

What are your thoughts?

MON

For more information on Common Ground Credit Union, see related story by Yvette R. Blair on Pg. 22.



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Cheryl Smith

The Black Press Needs a Pledge, Also

At the October 16 Million Man March, Minister Louis Farrakhan led the participants in a pledge. While the pledge promoted self-help and improvement, it also called for support of the Black Press.

The following excerpt from that Pledge sounded especially good to the thousands of Black folk around the country who claim ownership, or are employed by the Black Press:

"I pledge from this day forward, I will support Black newspapers, Black radio, Black television. I will support Black artists who clean up their acts to show respect for themselves and respect for their people and respect for the ears of the human family."

Finally, as it was about time that someone on a national level spoke out in support of the Black Press.

For too long, the Black Press has been overlooked, disrespected, hoodwinked and bamboozled, only to still come to the aid of Black folk when the so-called mainstream media treats them unkindly.

For too long, conscientious men and women have struggled on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis to bring products worthy of support to the African American community. And it was those same African American communities that refused to purchase ads, used the unread publications to wrap used pampers in, or refused to share those "hot" stories with the editorial staffs of Black media.

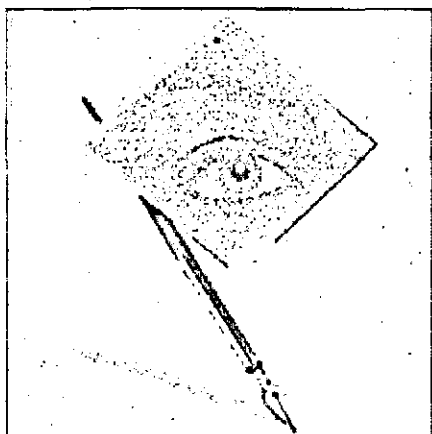
For too long, the Black Press has been overlooked, disrespected, hoodwinked and bamboozled, only to still come to the aid of Black folk when the so-called mainstream media treats them unkindly.

Maybe some have forgotten why there is a "Black Press." Some may even question the need for the "Black Press."

And that is the dilemma facing some who took the "Pledge" on October 16th, because they are finding that in their respective hometowns, the Black Press is not doing what it should.

The support for the Black Press can not be unconditional because there are some publishers who have not REALLY

lived up to the Black Press Credo. Sure, Black newspapers, television and radio stations are businesses and they should be making a profit; however quality should not suffer, nor should it be blemished by poor editorial content.



So, it is incumbent upon the Black Press to take a pledge also. It should go something like this:

I, _____, pledge that from this day forward, my staff and I, realizing that we must plead our own cause, will work to uphold the Black Press Credo.

I pledge that I will focus my efforts on producing a quality product because this is the legacy of the Black Press.

I pledge that I will make every effort to hire an editorial staff to develop the editorial content of my publication or production by insuring accuracy, clarity, command of the English language, a commitment to the community and a desire to present in-depth, investigative reporting and probing commentary.

I pledge that my newspapers will not be a carbon copy of the so-called mainstream publications. I will build sources and build a relationship with the community I am serving. I will not cut items out of so-called mainstream newspapers, and then paste the copy down on my art boards. I will avoid the practice of giving titles, but not money. I will pay for a good quality staff to put out a good quality publication. Furthermore, I realize how important advertising is, but no one will be allowed to pimp my publication, in exchange for coverage. Although resources are limited because the support has not always been there, I will pay the extra money for proofreading. I will tell the truth about my community, and any other community, regardless of who it is or how much money my publication has received in advertising.

And while there are so few of us who own television stations, we still have work to do. Therefore, I pledge to clean up the programming, stop putting up with mediocrity, and invest in some of the many talented people who are out there and would welcome an opportunity to work and help build a growing dynasty. I'll pay decent wages to the

staff I already have on hand. I will produce public affairs programming. I will not promote programming that is insensitive, racist, or stereotypical. Instead I will work to maintain a level of quality unattained by many and I will work to build partnerships that will help my station to grow and be a major news source.

Now, lest we forget our radio stations, I know I have an opportunity to make a stand that will eventually benefit us all. I pledge to help clean up the airwaves. I will not exploit the airwaves or my people by allowing much of the sexually explicit language that comes from not only some rappers, but from the balladeers, as well. I will provide community-based activities and programming promoting positive, uplifting, inspirational, educational, self-loving, self-helping, family events..

I pledge that I will run my operation like a first-class business, because there can be no better business than serving those I love, my people. I will provide good, clean working conditions and an atmosphere that encourages and builds a strong work ethic. I will not be guilty of taking on the ways of the oppressor by treating the people I work with in a disrespectful, dehumanizing manner.

Those of us working in the Black Press have received a wake-up call. No others should cover our communities better than we do. We must be for the truth. We must ask the hard questions. We cannot be afraid. We can not sell-out. It is imperative that we understand truth from fiction and headline grabbers from solid, community citizens. We must encourage young journalists to join us, then we must nurture them and provide that grooming that is necessary for future endeavors. We can't let them leave with a sour taste in their mouths and bouncing checks in their pockets.

You see, I know I stand on the shoulders of Ida B. Wells, Samuel Cornish, John Russwurm, John H. Johnson, Robert Johnson, Frankie Crocker, Roy Wood, Thelma T. Gorham, Susan Taylor, Charles Cherry, Wali Muhammad, Tony Davis, Garth Reeves, Julia Scott-Reed, C.H. Gentry, R.C. Hickman and numerous others who fought with a pen, microphone or tape recorder for their people.

I know that with a renewed commitment, the Black Press can only get stronger and better; therefore I pledge that from this day forward, serving my community with a better product will be as strong a commitment for me as the pledge I took on October 16, 1995 at the Million Man March.

I will do all of this, so help me God, so help us all!


MON

Cheryl Smith is the host of Reporters' Roundtable on Superstation Soul 73 KKDA. Tune in on Sunday mornings at 8:00, immediately following Minister Louis Farrakhan's address.

PEN NOTES:

Another year gone, another year ahead to do something about the condition of this industry. In early December, WFAA-TV, Channel 8, decided not to renew Rene' Syler's contract. For the past 4 years, Rene' has been the co-anchor of the daybreak and midday newscasts, until the latter part of 1995, when she stopped doing the daybreak newscast and began reporting and working station sponsored town hall meetings. Abruptly, and without any warning, Rene' was told that her contract would not be renewed and there's the door (by the way, Rene' is expecting a baby in 1996)...Well on December 18, a new anchor arrived. She's Gina Redmond (also African American) and she comes to Dallas from Pittsburgh's ABC affiliate WTAE, in the state of Pennsylvania, where police brutality and corruption are rampant and where Mumia Abu Jamal sits on death row for allegedly killing a police officer. We welcome Gina, we wish Rene' much success and we also challenge WFAA to look at the number of African Americans on their entire news team and tell us if they are satisfied, or do they think we should be. What do you think??? Also, *Good Morning Texas* lost Gail Nesbitt and Jackie Burke. Michelle Redmond, former WFAA education reporter, is now executive producer of *Prime Time Texas*...Dorothy Gentry is no longer in the University of North Texas' Public Information Office; she recently went to work for KERA radio, the local NPR affiliate...Lock for Lawrence Young on the national desk handling political coverage...*Don't Believe the Hype* finished 1995 on a positive note. In just five and a half months, *Don't Believe the Hype* sponsored a celebrity bowl-a-thon; a Dr. Ivan Van Sertima Lecture; The Million Man March send-off; appreciation journal, satellite viewing and welcome home reception; and, An Evening with Mrs. Mamie Till Mobley. In less than a year, *DBTH* awarded \$3,000 to the Emmett Till Foundation; \$1,500 to the Dallas/Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators Scholarship Program; \$500 each to The Junior Black Academy of Arts and Letters, Dallas Metroplex Council of Black Alumni Associations and Africa Care Academy; \$250 to Mothers Against Teen Violence; \$500 to the Million Man March and \$50 to the striking Detroit Free Press members of the National Association of Black Journalists. *DBTH* takes care of business, that's why you should stay tuned right here for information on the next event, The Bowl-a-thon, June 29, 1996!!!...CLS

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MON's Year End Review

1995 challenged our commitment to African American community

By Veronica W. Morgan

The headlines changed and so did the organizational structure but the *Minority Opportunity News* maintained its editorial focus on economic development.

Minority Opportunity News



January

After four years in publication, *MON* has once again accomplished its goal toward addressing major issues of concern and providing solid coverage on topics that help to promote economic development in the African-American community.

By staying focused throughout the year, the paper experienced tremendous growth—welcoming many new readers and writers—as it buried its roots and established its presence deep into the psyche of the people that it aims to serve.

In kicking off the new year, *MON's*

Minority Opportunity News



February

January '95 issue directed its attention to a dying dream.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center in South Dallas once flourished with services to help the needy but years of neglect and dwindling resources threatened to turn the center into a ghost town. However, today we are happy to report that at the close of 1995, one million dollars in federal grant funds was awarded to the center's Health and Human Services Department, thanks to effective lobbying by Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson.

In February, community and religious leaders were fueled with excitement following the formation of the African-American Clergy Coalition, a nonprofit group consisting of ministers from various denominations whose plans were to raise funds through their congregations to support economic, political and educational empowerment in the black community.

The religious group raised \$8,300 in a spontaneous collection held during an inter-congregational service. Agendas were set and activities scheduled to further its development, but at the close of

Minority Opportunity News



March

the year many questions remain unanswered. Readers can expect to hear more along this story line as the details unfold.

As the March issue roared across the presses, single men from all over the Metroplex sent letters, cards, pictures and phoned in with hopes of meeting one of the 10 independent, intelligent and classy bachelorettes that graced *MON's* pages.

The bachelorette section has become such a popular feature among the areas singles crowd that *MON* opted to expand on its appeal and recognized the hottest single female in '95—Debra Brown—with a special plaque and recognition at a live entertainment

Minority Opportunity News



April

extravaganza held later in the year.

By April columnist Thomas Muhammad was receiving his lions share of readers attention and letters for his less than favorable "I-30 Mayes" commentary about Dallas City Councilwoman Charlotte Mayes.

Later in the year, the councilwoman found herself bearing the brunt of another attack. A secretly taped phone conversation between Mayes and a relative revealed her intentions of endorsing an Anglo male to replace her in District 7, a predominately minority district.

Transcripts of the phone conversation also revealed her plans to run as a Republican for a Congressional seat. Mayes stated that black Democrats didn't support her the entire time she was in office. "But I showed 'em this last time. Them mother f—kers."

The councilwoman was criticized for her use of the N-word. And a Community Group led by Carolyn Davis is calling for her resignation.

Also making headlines was a 32-year-old Houston pastor who, "fueled by God's power" and a vision, established community businesses that are owned and operated by the church.

Rev. James Dixon, II, spearheaded efforts to develop a 37,000 square feet abandoned strip shopping center into a flourishing retail giant, replete with a hair salon, a full-service grocery store and a delicatessen. More development is underway.

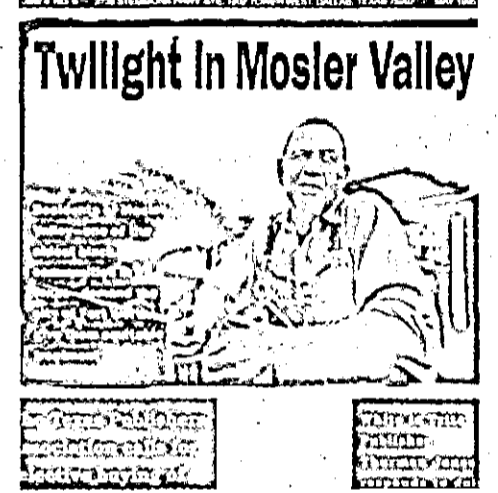
In May, Ron Kirk was elected as the first African-American mayor in Dallas. As the publisher noted: He not only won but he did so with a strong 62% margin. However, the mayor has many challenges to face: one is to be able to recast "his ability to achieve [certain] goals within a realistic time frame and perspective."

Fort Worth faced similar obstacles following the May elections. Of particu-

lar interest to *MON*, was whether the city would do the right thing for residents in the small enclave of Mosier Valley.

Mosier Valley, believed to be one of the oldest black communities in Texas, experienced tremendous decay over its 140-year history. Trash was being illegally dumped alongside the road and dilapidated homes remained an eyesore. And while residents continued to pay taxes over the years, "they had no sewer and running water."

Minority Opportunity News



May

But the residents persistence in working to have their demands met paid off. In a follow-up article, *MON* reported that Euless, a Tarrant County suburban city, had reached an agreement with Fort Worth to provide sewer services to residents of Mosier Valley beginning in 1996. The agreement means that approximately 40 families, whose homes now are on septic tanks, will have access the city of Euless sewer system.

An article by freelance writer Dimple Jean Tucker Ballou, appearing in the June, gave rise to a couple of nagging questions that many African

Minority Opportunity News



June

Americans in the Metroplex may have found themselves asking: "Why is everybody so happy on Juneteenth" and what are we celebrating?

The word "freedom" could be used to answer both questions but obviously there is more to it than that: "Black peoples loves to eat and celebrate," Mama Gulah sighed. "That way, all the pain don't hurt."

July proved to be the hottest month of the year as the faces of 20 well-

Minority Opportunity News



July

groomed, sophisticated, "honest-to-goodness" single, and handsome black men appeared on the pages of MON. Letters from eligible sisters poured into the office. The crowning Bachelor of the Year was Terry Hervey. Keep reading because, you guessed it, there's more to come this year.

The Nation of Islam controversial disciplining of four youth made MON headlines as well as the national headlines.

Four teenage boys were allegedly beaten with bamboo sticks and belts by a group of Nation of Islam members after they broke into Susie's Collectibles, a shop located in West Cliff Mall, and stole a cash register valued at \$300, and an equal amount of cash.

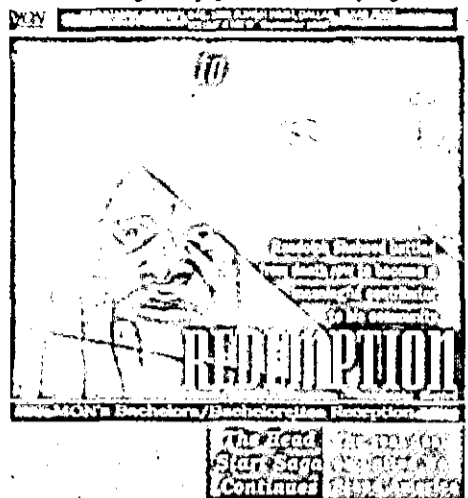
Minister Jeffrey Muhammad, the head of Mosque 48, was arrested and later released. "A Dallas grand jury nobilled the five men (from the Nation), who are now cleared of all charges."

The month of August was scorching as representatives from the embattled Head Start program tried to fend off criticism of mismanagement and squelch internal dissension.

Meanwhile, "Pen on Fire" columnist Cheryl Smith tried to spark a fire under African-American journalist and make them aware of Mumia Abu-Jamal, formerly the president of the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalist, who was scheduled to be executed on August 17 for killing a police officer.

Mumia witnessed the officer beating his brother, who had been stopped

Minority Opportunity News



September

for making a wrong turn on a one-way street.

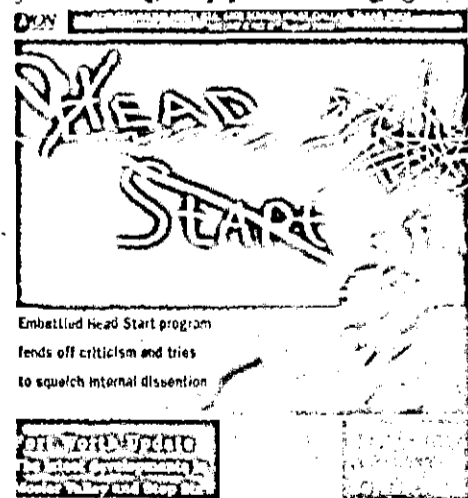
Abu-Jamal was shot and beaten during the alleged crime. He was later tried, convicted and given the death penalty. Abu-Jamal has since received a stay of execution.

Smith challenged black journalists to elevate their consciousness and quit trying to be mainstream commentators. "It's high time that issues of real relevance to black people are brought to the forefront."

By September, another African-American male formerly on death row was making headlines.

Randolph Shaheed, then 17, witnessed his best friend "Skinny" brutally murdered by a white bus driver after an altercation over racial slurs the driver used only moments before. "Injustice" prevailed for the driver and Shaheed became enraged.

Minority Opportunity News



August

He shot six white people, killing one and was convicted of capital murder. After serving 20 years in prison, Shaheed was released on parole in 1984. His life is changed and he has written a book entitled: Catching Yonder: The True Story About a Man Who went from Death Row to Hero.

While Dallas residents had focused

their attention on the derogatory comments made by then School Board Member Dan Peavy (who was forced to resign following the protest of residents, community leaders and teachers) MON's contributing writer Dorothy Gentry directed our attention to the Waco Independent School District.

Black residents in Waco were threatening to secede from the school system and create a smaller minority-controlled district of their own to be headed by McLennan County Commissioner Lester Gibson.

Parents blamed the district for failing to educate minority children, who were consistently bringing in low TAAS test scores. Expect a follow-up on an upcoming MON issue..

During October, the most significant story to make headlines across the

Minority Opportunity News



October

nation and around the world was the Million Man March.

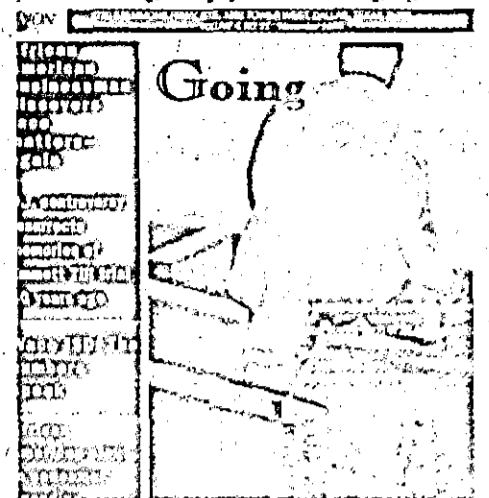
Minister Louis Farrakhan called for one million men to join him in the nation's capital. Billed as a day of "atonement," black men were encouraged to fast, pray, seek God and make atonement for their sins. African Americans were also urged to refrain from spending money on that day.

Also the jury in the O.J. Simpson trial handed down a not-guilty verdict. And finally in October, MON's much publicized "print" protest on a "barrage of offensive rap music on the airways of what was JAMZ radio station" ended on a soothing note.

New owners of the station, now known as V100, changed the format, the content and the sound of the program. Rap is gone completely and a well-received format of contemporary r&b and oldies can now be heard.

In light of issues surrounding Affirmative Action and arguments for and against it, November MON focused its coverage on 21 African-American accountants, employed with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, who filed a class action discrimination com-

Minority Opportunity News



November

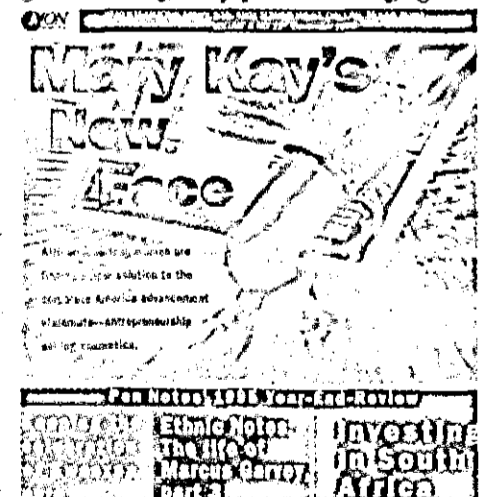
plaint because of the disparity in promotions of whites as compared with African Americans and derogatory comments made by those in upper management positions.

The leading plaintiff, Vicki Mallett, a certified public accountant, was continually denied promotions despite her qualifications.

Before the article appeared, the group had difficulty finding an attorney to take the case. However, an attorney has come forth recently and expressed some interest.

The December publication took a different look at Kwanzaa and efforts being made to keep the holiday pure and non-commercial. Also featured was a close-up look at African-American women who shook off the headaches and stresses that accompany climbing the corporate ladder. Instead, they opted to sell Mary Kay cosmetics and have found peace, joy and more money than they could have imagined.

Minority Opportunity News



December

The headlines will continue to change, as will many other aspects of the paper, but readers can be assured that whatever the issue, the *Minority Opportunity News* will maintain its focus on economic development in 1996.

MON

In The News . . .

Local attorney nominated for federal post

Attorney Cheryl B. Wattlely was recently nominated for federal judge of the North District of Texas. Wattlely has been a visiting professor at Southern Methodist University School of Law and worked in private practice focusing on federal litigation.

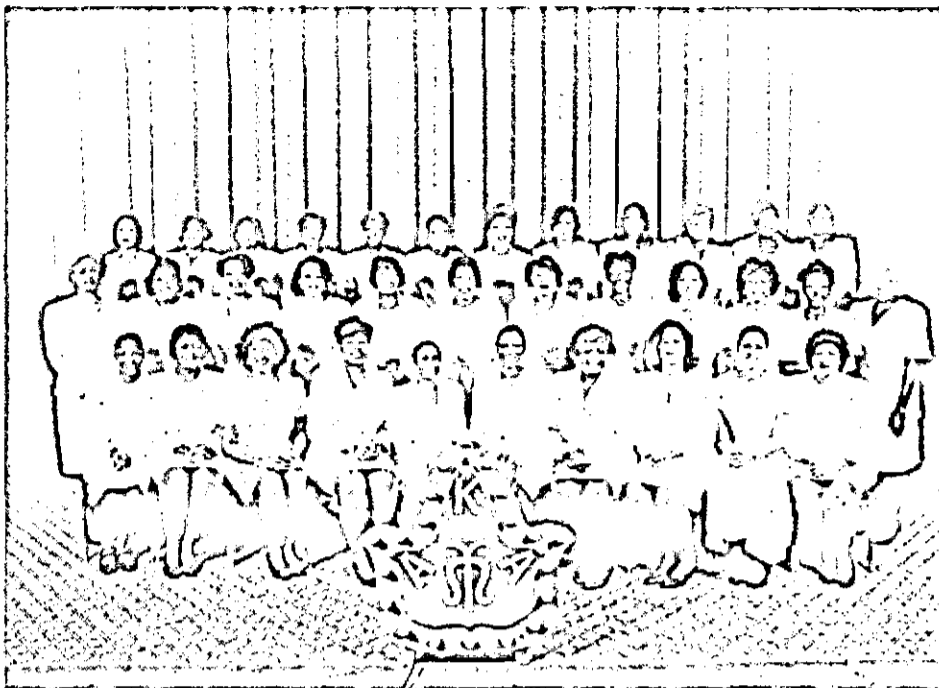
She worked with the firm Ravkind, Rolfe, and Baccus-Lobel and in the United States Attorney's office in the Northern District of Texas, as well as in the District of Connecticut.

Wattlely is a member of many professional associations including the Texas and Dallas Bar foundations and the Dallas Women Lawyer's Association.

Black communicators groups hosts journalism workshop

The Dallas/Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators Urban Minority High School Journalism Workshop begins January 13 and runs through March 2.

The workshop is open to high school students and college freshmen and consists of eight classes held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Daily activities consists of a lecture, pop quiz, a visit by a guest speaker, a press conference or panel discussion, lunch and lab.



The newly initiated members are (front row - l to r): Kina McMillian, Cheryl Skinner, Bonita Turner, Constance Whalon, Ginny Weaver-White (membership chair), Brenda Eikner-Jones (president), Sara Jackson, Tracy Lilly, Erika Alford and Sharon Lockhart.

(Second row standing, l to r): Patricia Sunday, Adell Smith, Cami Mitchell, Michon Fulgham, Gina Wilson, Bridget Harrison, Lisa Fields, Chryste Gaines, Sharon Holland-Modabber, Avalyn Pace, LaShonda Overstreet, and Michele Fair. (Third-row standing l to r): Kimberly Johnson, Shante' Dearion, Jemetra Pipkin, Beverly Randall, Philippa Evans, Yoshaka Fain, Lisa Patrick, Denezer Smith, Paula Stafford, Mae Frances Leach, Lazette Sorrells and Kimberly Washington.

The preliminary schedule includes visits by Senator Royce West, Mayor Ron Kirk and WFAA's Deborah Duncan.

The Dallas Morning News is the co-sponsor for this annual workshop which also give students a chance to win scholarships. For more information, call 376-9525.

New Members of Alpha Kappa Sorority Incorporated

Alpha Xi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Sorority, Inc., under the direction of Mrs. Brenda Eikner-Jones, president, and Mrs. Ginny Weaver White, membership chair, extended a personal welcome to 32 women who were initiated into the AKA Sisterhood in November at the Harvey Hotel in downtown Dallas.

AKA Sorority, Inc. is a public service organization which promotes health care, education, economic empowerment, the black family, the arts, and global concerns.

Houston legislator named chair of Democratic National Committee Black Caucus

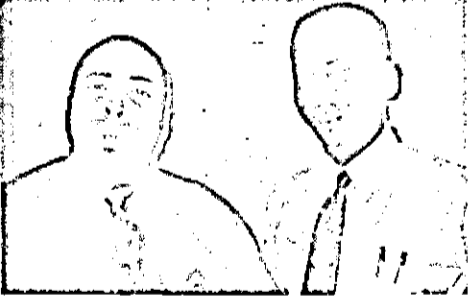
Texas state legislator Al Edwards (D-Houston) was recently elected chair of the Democratic National Committee Black Caucus at its meeting in New Orleans.

As chairman, Rep. Edwards will be responsible for providing leadership not only to the African American community,

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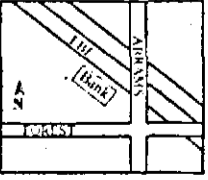
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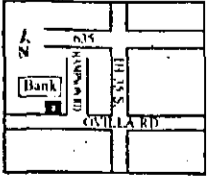


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Martin Luther King, Jr.

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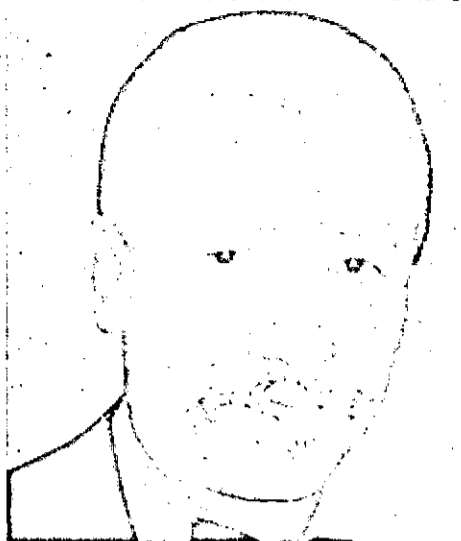


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More In The News



Texas state legislator Al Edwards

but to all Democrats.

Rep. Edwards has served for 17 years as a state legislator. He is currently chairman of the Texas Legislative Black Caucus and chairman of the Rules and Resolutions Committee of the Texas House of Representatives.

He is a graduate of Texas Southern University and Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, where he received certification as a corrective therapist. Rep. Edwards also is an ordained minister and is associate minister of Progressive New Hope Baptist Church.

Book on financial advice for African American now available

Kelvin Boston, host of the popular syndicated television program, "The Color of Money," has written a book offering sound financial advice for African Americans.

"Smart Money Moves for African Americans," is now available at local bookstores. This straight-forward financial guide offers practical advice on issues of concern to blacks, with specific guidance on taxation, insurance, buying a home and starting a business.

For more information, call (212) 951-8469.

New Sr. VP named at NationsBank

Norman F. Scott has been promoted to senior vice president of NationsBank of Texas, N.A. Scott is banking center president of NationsBank Oak Cliff.

A 14-year veteran of NationsBank, Scott was named banking center manager of Nations Bank Fair Park in 1991, the first bank in the South Dallas neighborhood. He held that position until 1993 when he was made

banking center manager of NationsBank Pleasant Grove.

Scott is a native of Kingston, Jamaica and earned his bachelor's degree from City College of New York in 1974, and his master's degree in 1980 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

He is a director of the Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce, Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce, African American Museum, and a member of the National Association of Urban Bankers. He was recipient of the NationsBank Leadership Excellence in Neighborhood Development Award in 1992 and is a member of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship.

Paul Quinn professor featured in black studies journal

Paul Quinn College art director James E. Kemp, is featured

in the latest issue of The Western Journal of Black Studies. The journal is an interdisciplinary quarterly publication emphasizing research, social analysis, political commentary, literary criticism, and contemporary arts published by the Washington State University Press.

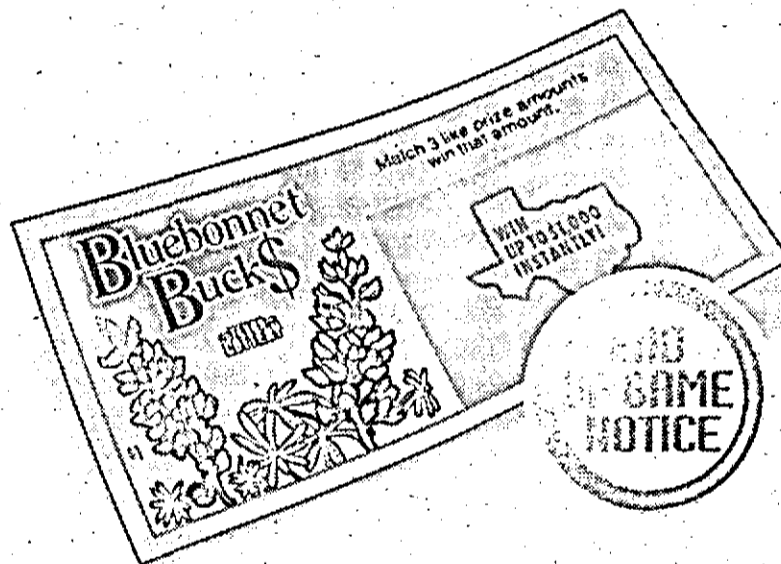
Kemp joined the staff of Paul Quinn in 1990 as an art instructor. Since 1992, he has

sponsored the Young Artists Institute at the College.

In March 1990, The Gallery at the Dallas Convention Center in the Junior Black Academy of Arts & Letters was renamed The James E. Kemp Gallery of Art. The Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Dallas named Kemp the city's Artist-in-Residence. **MON**

It's Okay To Pick These Bluebonnets.

(But You'd Better Hurry.)



It won't be long before these flowers are out of season for good. Bluebonnet Bucks (Game #27) ends January 1, 1996, though you still have until June 29, 1996 to purchase any remaining tickets and claim any prizes.

You can claim prizes of up to \$599 wherever you see the Texas Lottery sign. Prizes over \$599 must be claimed at any of the 24 Texas Lottery Claim Centers, or by mail using a claim form available at any Texas Lottery retailer. Questions? Call our Customer Service Line at 1-800-37-LOTTO.



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The Crater

By Russell D. Shockley, B.S.Ed

This department is dedicated to providing information about African-American history the year around. The department's name, "ETHNIC NOTES," is the name of the organization founded and directed by Russell D. Shockley, B.S.Ed. An outgrowth of his Black Information Project, ETHNIC NOTES, according to Mr. Shockley, is "a study designed to reexamine some of the pivotal events that, over time, have helped to create negative stereotypes about [who] we, as minorities, really are." -Ed.

The events and occurrences of the American Civil War have been, for the most part, pretty thoroughly researched and analyzed. It's been presented in countless books and novels, musical recordings, television mini-series and is even available to us through our local neighborhood video rental stores.

The Civil War was innovative, meaning that it became a testing ground for numerous new weapons of destruction as well as introducing many new and unfamiliar maneuvers and procedures. The acceptance of these unfamiliar ideas would conflict with the older and more traditional ways of thinking.

The war would also become the testing ground for one other type of "innovation," the use of Black soldiers in America's military service. Although blacks had been involved in all of America's wars and skirmishes, this would be the first time that blacks would fight from totally organized units.

The Virginia area, more than any other, was the venue for many of the military actions in which black soldiers participated during the latter part of the Civil War. During the "Siege of Petersburg," the "Battle of the Crater" would prove to be one of the more brutal and spectacular confrontations during the war between the states.

Petersburg, Virginia was a vital railway center, located twenty-two miles south of Richmond. General Grant, recently appointed commander in charge of the union forces, believed that if the union army could capture Petersburg, they could cripple the city of Richmond by cutting off its supply lines and, therefore, forcing it to surrender.

Encamped about 150 yards from the confederate line, the union command thought that if this line could be breached, the assault on Petersburg could be quickly mounted. It was decided that a tunnel was to be dug up to and under the confederate line and an explosive device planted.

Under the command of Colonel Harry Pleasants, an experienced mining engineer, the 48th Pennsylvania (regiment), composed largely of men from the anthracite coal region, began tunneling on June 25, 1864.

Black soldiers from the Ninth Corp, under the Command of General Burnside, were trained to lead the initial charge through the crater after it had been opened by the explosion. After five weeks the black soldiers and the tunnel were ready.

Then, General Burnside's decision to use black troops for the assault came



An ex-slave is transformed into a Union Soldier. More than 200,000 African Americans served in the Union Army and Navy; their courage was admired by friends, feared by foes.

under scrutiny from his commanding officer General Meade. Meade felt that these black troops were not seasoned enough to lead an assault and should the venture fail, the public might feel that these men had been sacrificed.

Despite Burnside's protest, four hours before the assault was to begin, the 4th Division—an all white, untrained unit was given the lead. The black soldiers were placed in the rear.

With the element of early morning secrecy, the fuse was lit and all eyes turned toward enemy lines. Minutes passed, nothing. One hour, nothing.

With the approach of dawn it was reported that two volunteer miners had reentered the mine and discovered that the fuses had failed. The volunteers then relit the fuses and again waited.

The shock from the force of the explosion could have been compared to an earthquake, accompanied by a muffled roar. Then came the incredible as men, horses, guns and caissons were thrown two hundred feet into the sky.

Both armies stood in awe at what they were witnessing through the settling dirt and dust. The explosion had created a gaping hole some 30 ft. deep, 600 ft. wide and 170 ft. long.

Regaining their composure, the untrained 4th Division rallied toward the crater and immediately realized several fatal errors:

1) Enemy ground obstructions had not been removed. This error would cost the Union's 4th Division twenty crucial minutes.

2) Reaching the crater, the untrained soldiers discovered that the sides of the crater were so steep that once in it, it would be difficult to climb out.



were ordered to charge. The soldiers, maneuvering through the mass of hysteria, sealed the crater just as had been originally planned.

This engagement was to result in the only successful part of the assault (the taking of two stands of colors and around 200 captured prisoners). It would be temporary. The severe and almost continuous enemy fire power on these black soldiers, front and flank, caused them to finally abandon the assault and withdraw.

The crater experience by no means demoralized Black Union soldiers. On the contrary, they would be redeemed two weeks later at the "Battle of Deep Bottom."

By the end of the war one thing was certain: many of the questions concerning the capabilities of Black soldiers would no longer be asked.

MON

Russell D. Shockley is a native of Norristown, Pa., and now resides in Dallas. He studied in the Black History Program at Virginia State University and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Cheyney State University (Pa.), one of the oldest African-American colleges in America (founded in 1837). Mr. Shockley's work has been previously published in MON and the Dallas Weekly, and he continues to work on the Black Information Project. For more information, please write to: ETHNIC NOTES: Profiles in African-American History, c/o MON.

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LENDER

A Case For The Defense

By Yvette R. Blair

Ask Michael John why he left a career in journalism to take on the justice system as a "keeper of the law," and he will tell you that his decision was borne out of concern and frustration.

"I got concerned about our system," says the Howard University alumnus. "It's so complicated." The switch from journalism to lawyer was a somewhat smooth transition. The communications major went from a passive role of covering government to a more active role of being involved in government, a role which he said carries a great deal of ethical responsibility.

He said that he noticed many African Americans were not participatory in the judicial system. "Many don't vote or participate in the system because they are frustrated," he said, adding that he wanted to become more active in the judicial system. "I wanted more of a leadership role, and being a lawyer you get to put your finger on people's lives."

The Washington Post and Newsweek fellow said that he wants to change lives. Being a lawyer does just that. As a defense attorney, his client's life is determined by John's preparation and knowledge of the law. "The most important day of the client's life is the day of the trial," he stated. This day is a kind of litmus test, with the outcome of the trial weighing heavily upon the defense attorney's ability to prove the prosecutor has not provided sufficient evidence to convict his client.

But a guilty or not guilty verdict is not the only facet of the law that concerns the former journalist. He said he has an obligation to ensure that his client is fairly tried under the law. Essentially, he said, "I am there to keep

the government honest." He maintains that defendants will not be thrown in jail without the benefit of presenting favorable evidence and having a fair trial.

Having served as a prosecutor in the District Attorney's office, the Trinidad native has had to battle both sides of the fence. As a prosecuting attorney the burden of proof rested upon him. He was responsible for gathering evidence that would lead to a conviction. Although he is on the opposite side of the court, he is still in the game of justice and due process and said there has to be checks and balances in place. "We are the people who make sure the government doesn't overstep its bounds."

Since getting his law degree eight years ago from Oklahoma City University, the father of two has worked cases that run the gamut from traffic tickets to murder. Throughout his career, he said the one thing that has proved most difficult is having a victim relive an experience on trial. "It's horrible and I feel compassion for the victim for having to go through that," he said.

John said that many of the cases he handles are court appointments, with many of his clients being financially strapped. To supple-

ment that monetary setback, John does a lot of civil litigation and personal injury cases at his law office where he has been a partner for some five years.

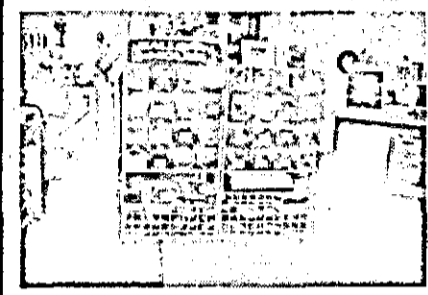
"All you have is hope. You can change the world by making a positive impact on a person's life."

MON

Name: Veronica Sawyer
 Birthplace: Dallas, Texas
 Last Book Read: "Success Runs in Our Race" by George Fraiser

Favorite Food: Ice Cream

Advice to would-be Entrepreneurs: "Don't try to do it by yourself. If you can get a good partner, do so. Believe in yourself and don't let anyone tell you that you can't do it."



(214) 321-1426
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Having a Party

By Dorothy Gentry

Are you planning a wedding anytime soon? Need help with those decorations for your

party items available," says Sawyer.

Sawyer got into the party business by accident, she says.

The former advertising executive was helping a client with an ad when he began discussing his business.

An interested Sawyer visited the store and soon after became a partner. She later bought out her former client-turned-business partner and became the sole proprietor of Party Creations.

Owning a business is a dream Sawyer has had for years. "I've been reading business magazines and reports since I was about 16 years old," she says.

"This was a Godsend because I had the money to go into business, but was waiting until my kids got older. Then the opportunity came up at the right time and I went for it."

In addition to herself, Sawyer has two part-time workers.

Party Creations is unique in that the services it offers frees people up from the responsibilities and pressures of setting up for parties.

In the future, Sawyer plans to expand Party Creations and open up branch locations in several Dallas suburbs and outlying cities. She also plans to add more services, including gift wrapping.

Party Creations is open from 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and closed on Sundays. For more information, call (214) 321-1426 or drop by the store at 2240 Gus Thomasson Road in the Casa View Shopping Center.

MON

TOP SECRET!

child's 4th birthday party? Then Party Creations is the place for you.

Party Creations, located at 2240 Gus Thomasson Road in Casa View Shopping Center, has been in business for a little over two years and looks to be in it for the long haul.

Owned and operated by Veronica Sawyer, Party Creations is a full-scale retail party store, offering everything from latex balloons, paper goods, invitations for weddings, birthdays and other celebrations, and decorations for any occasion. They also help develop themes for parties, make sculptures, deliver, set up and decorate, and for an extra fee, clean up afterward.

Other services offered include world-wide delivery of balloons and flowers, tuxedo rentals, and wedding planning, complete with candles, servers and decorations for the church. Customers also receive free a dozen, latex balloons with the purchase of paper goods and supplies.

"Whatever the season, we have

Name: Michael John
 Birthplace: Trinidad
 Last Book Read: "My American Journey" by Colin Powell
 Favorite Food: Anything with curry
 My friends don't know that: I want to be a photographer



(214) 688-1571
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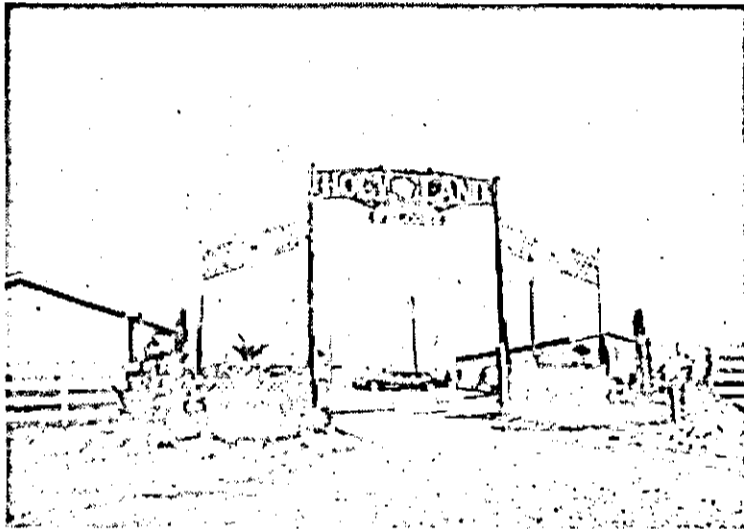
Reaching for the Sky

Church in Mississippi preaches economic advancement in "works," not just words

By Rodney G. Crump

Special Contributor to MON

Bishop Luke Edwards and the 200 members of the Greater Christ Temple Church in Meridian, Miss., have been quietly sustaining a revolution in the Deep South for nearly two decades. But visiting the land they own in parts of



Holyland, the communal village of the members of Greater Christ Temple, located in Sumterville, Ala. Bishop Edwards and his wife live here in a 20-foot trailer.

Mississippi and Alabama, one will not smell the smoke of burning buildings, nor hear the breaking of store windows and cries of terror and confrontation that are usually associated with civil unrest. But do not be misled, for there is an undeniably serious uprising taking place.

"Can't no man stand except he stand on his own land." That is a favored African proverb that Bishop Luke Edwards frequently recites. It may as well be the operating theme for Reach, Inc., the communal corporation based out of the Greater Christ Temple Church in Meridian, Mississippi. Church members, 95% of whom were once on welfare, have completely freed themselves from government dependency and, more importantly, established ownership of property and businesses that gainfully employs them all.

The organization started in 1977 by selling peanuts and peanut brittle on the sidewalk in front of the church. From

such humble beginnings, Reach expanded to a hamburger stand and quick-stop shop. By pooling the congregation's food stamps, the group eventually gathered enough resources to create their own supermarket.

"Once we started to accomplish these things, we were running businesses and off welfare. Then we knew we could do most anything," said Denise Chapman, who has been office manager of Reach's Alabama operations for the past fifteen years. She estimates that their land holdings have more than doubled from last year to over four thousand acres. Reach's success counters an alarming trend of Black farmers and families losing their land at a rate of one thousand acres a day, according to recent United States General Accounting Office statistics.

The year 1995 was a banner one for the group. They opened the Tuskegee Inn, a full-service motel in Tuskegee, Alabama. They now own feed lots where prized cattle, purchased at top dollar, are fed to ensure the finest meat texture available on the market. There are two slaughterhouses, one with state inspection certification and the other with federal inspection certification, allowing for the transport of meat to markets both in and out of state. In addition, Reach Inc. has gradually built an armada of dump trucks, cement trucks and back hoes that are the cornerstone of the group's new construction company.

The dizzying success story may leave some wondering whether the folks in Meridian, Mississippi have the Midas touch. But as Chapman points out, the Reach concept "has no geographical boundary. Success begins in the minds of the people. It's in the heads of the people and it can be duplicated wherever the people and their leaders work together to make it happen."

There is no doubt that the leader of Reach, Inc., is Bishop Luke Edwards. Walk into the Reach offices in Meridian and a huge framed portrait of the Bishop greets you with his trademark

cowboy Stetson hat and cherubim smile. Underneath the portrait is the auspicious title "Living Legend."

However, for all its grandness, it is a title that the Bishop earns each day when he awakens at 1:30 am to survey the fruit of his group's labors. He rarely finishes his work day until after most nine-to-fivers are tucked comfortably away in bed. He is 70 years old but with the strut and youthful appearance of a brother twenty to thirty years younger. "I don't even have time to get sick," he teases.

"Once we started to accomplish these things, we were running businesses and off welfare. Then we knew we could do most anything."

-Denise Chapman, Reach, Inc. office mgr.

His rounds include checking in with South Fork Restaurant in Eutaw, Alabama, which remains open all night for the trucker crowd. Then to the fields, where more than a thousand head of roaming cattle must be inspected. He finishes just in time to lead morning devotional for the students, then returns to the Holyland, the church group's communal village in Sumterville, Alabama, where he lives with his wife in a 20-foot trailer.

In addition to administrative and office details, "the Bishop," as the congregation members call him, has faces one of his biggest challenges: keeping Reach's detractors at bay. But it's a battle, like Joshua's at Jericho, that this humorous, yet combative, septuagenarian clearly relishes.

"We're just playing ball now," he grins slyly.

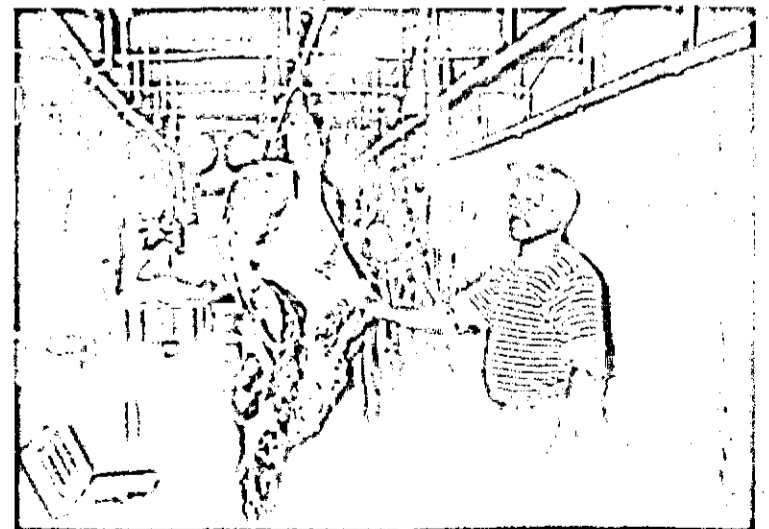
Many of the area's Black churches have expressed little, if any, support for the Bishop's program of self-empowerment. "Religion doesn't free you, it makes you a

slave," says Bishop Edwards. "The congregation becomes a slave to building the biggest church and taking care of the preacher and his family. But the church is the people. Yet the only one free in the church is the preacher," he says emphatically.

The African American church remains one of the richest institutions in Black America. But Bishop Edwards believes the wealth has been poorly distributed, only serving the "so-called church leaders" and not being used to feed the flock. "The widows and orphans have nothing. That little old lady who has supported the church for years, when she should fall ill, somebody may come by and give her a bag of oranges," he said.

Bishop Edwards and the Reach workers have decided to ignore the rantings of [Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives] Newt Gingrich and look out for their own best welfare. The church uses its business ventures to fully employ its members and some secular staff members. Most members live in the attractive dormitories (divided by sex and age, except the married dorms) that they themselves built on the Holyland, a communal village which is similar to an Israeli kibbutz. On the grounds there is a medical clinic, cafeteria, computer room, nursery, library and machine shop.

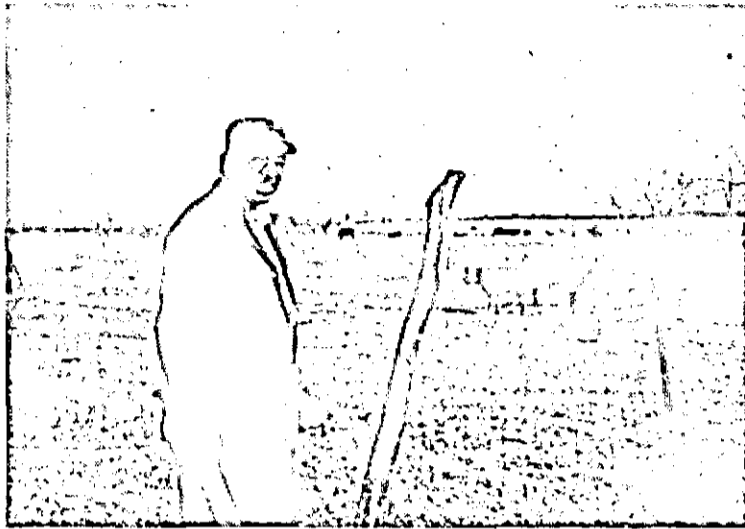
Most importantly, there is a school which is the cornerstone of Reach's mission to save a troubled generation of young black children. Holyland has become a rural haven for children from all parts of the country, but especially those from the harsh urban environments of the North. All children are fed, clothed and educated regardless of their ability to pay.



In one of two meat-packing plants owned by Reach, Troy O'Banner displays a cut of prime beef. This plant is located in Meridian, Miss.

Using the guidelines of Accelerated Christian Education, the Holyland's Christian Academy is a challenging, structured environment where 68 students, ranging from first to twelfth grade, sit at cubicles with their daily progress cards at eye-level. Students are

line "...strong Black men just a keep on a'coming." Sitting at the head of the conference table in the meeting room of the group's Western Inn, located in Livingston, Alabama, Bishop raises his voice to make a roll call. "Booker T. Washington, Marcus Garvey, A.G. Gaston, Father Divine up in Harlem during the Great Depression—these are all my role models because they did something."



A Reach, Inc. farmer looks after livestock. The corporation owns over 1,000 head of cattle and 4,000 acres of farmland.

But Bishop Edwards insists that the general dislike for the Holyland and Reach, Inc. in the local Black community is indicative of a self-oppressing slave mentality. "It's the basic

diagnostically tested at the beginning of the year and are encouraged to progress at their own pace.

Fannie Grantham is a teacher at the Christian Academy and her mission is simply stated. "We don't want them to be schooled in the white man's ways. Our goal is not to train them to go on to somebody's college and get a job working to build somebody else's dream," she said. "We want them to be prepared and qualified for college, but we also want them to understand that this is theirs. After we've passed on, they will someday own the land; they will run the farms, restaurants, motels and everything else."

Bishop Edwards echoes her sentiments. "In the public schools they teach you how to divide an apple, but they never teach you about the orchard and how it grows. It helps the student to know about the division of the apple, but he'll never own the orchard."

His critics in the religious community, he believes, "have the wrong [concept] of what a church is to people. The church doesn't just deliver the spiritual, but the natural man must be delivered as well. The original intent was for the church to be shephardizing, not simply a pastor supported by parishioners. And a shepherd must be responsible for the sheep."

From a Biblical standpoint, Bishop Edwards argues that "when God sent Moses, it was to free them from slavery and to lead them to a land of milk and honey, not some shantytown."

His practical plan to uplift is in the proud tradition of the African American liberation struggle that poet Sterling Brown spoke of when he penned the

crayfish syndrome. A bunch of them are in a barrel, then one tries to get out and the others try to pull him back down." Initially the group faced great opposition from the Meridian chapter of the NAACP which, on a television news broadcast, accused them of being a "cult." Anonymous calls were made frequently to health and safety inspectors to search the group's properties for any violations.

"They didn't need to go to Washington, D.C. because it cost money to stay in those white-owned hotels and so forth. What they needed to do was stay right where they were in their own neighborhoods, go down the street, up the street and atone to the persons they've hurt or neglected. That's all that's needed."

-Bishop Lube Edwards, chief operating officer of Reach, Inc.

But the liberation game has some harsh consequences and freedom is never cheap. Bishop Edwards alleges that the group lost its supermarket when wholesalers wouldn't supply them after caving in to pressure from other buyers who disapproved of Reach.

In his opinion, many Black leaders are show pieces with no connection to the "grass roots" and have a vested interest in making sure that self-help for Blacks doesn't succeed. According to Bishop Edwards, they fear they will be left without the control of corporate grants and endowments that go to their associations, and the "chicken dinners" of these organizational circles will dry up.

"We have eliminated the middle man," he proudly stated. "This is the greatest system in the world, but the middle man keeps the people from using the system for their own liberation." So now that the middle man no longer exists, the profits must be even bigger for Reach, right? Bishop Edwards pauses for a moment.

"We don't know. We really couldn't tell you," he said when asked for hard statistics of the group's worth, which is estimated in the seven or eight figures. "That's how the world thinks. But this is our life. We are one of only a few, if any, Black churches, to my knowledge, who file tax form 501-D, which fully exempts our collective treasury; no one gets a pay check, but we're all fed and clothed and housed and schooled. It's a creative thing, not a get-rich-quick scheme," he said.

Charles Ruffin oversees the group's auto repair shop and lives in the married dorm with his wife and kids. "What more could you ask for?" he asked. "Everything's taken care of. If I eat, you eat." Though they take a role in the community and are strongly encouraged to vote as a "great privilege and right as an American," says Bishop Edwards, the Holyland still functions as a self-sufficient world unto itself.

The Bishop and his wife live on the Holyland in a trailer and he drives a modest flat-bed pickup truck on his early morning reconnaissance. They have no bank account, and though he is the chief operating officer for Reach's ventures, he insists that the holdings completely belong to the group as a whole.

Nestled in rural Alabama, there is a feeling among Reach members that this is a priceless idea whose time has come. "We have finally got a community here," said Bishop Edwards. "Go to California, you'll see the Jews have a community, the

Japanese Americans have their community. But Blacks don't have a community, they don't own and control the land and the property; they are not the landlords."

"What you've got is Black squatters in all these places," he said. "And when something happens (like the Los Angeles civil unrest of 1999) they burn it down cause it's not theirs."

Bishop Edwards' social doctrine comes from years of observing his people become more and more dependent on the welfare system, which he believes to be the greatest corrupter of "our pride and dignity" in the wake of the Civil Rights movement. He waxes intellectual as he speaks in a studied, serious tone.

"Everyone in Congress is on welfare, they're all paid by the public and receive many benefits and a large pension. But they're blaming all the trillions and trillions of dollars the government owes on the lady with six children who's really just getting the crumbs."

"Welfare was a helping hand, but it ended up breaking up our homes. It took the father out of the home and rewarded the mother with more checks with each new baby she had. There was no discipline in the home." He strongly believes that though it will produce initial chaos, welfare "must end."

The words might sound familiar as Congress focuses on dismantling the welfare state but the Bishop cautions that he is not to be confused with Newt Gingrich, with whom he has "many disagreements." Yet he is sometimes assigned a neo-conservative label for his "pull-yourself-up-by-your-own-bootstraps" ideology.

But Bishop Edwards is not interested in labels or any such talk because, as he says, "it's what we've had too much of for too many years," even right up to the Million Man March held last year in October.

"They didn't need to go to
See Reach continued on page 23



Students poised to answer at Christ Temple Academy, where the church educates its own children. Students outscore their counterparts who attend state schools on standardized test.

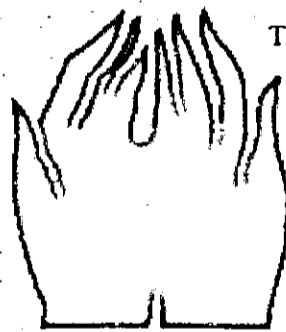
The Patriarch



Wiley Baker: Landowner Extraordinaire

Family to be feted for 100 years of land ownership

By Yvette Rochelle Blair



The towering tree stands as a reminder of the horrible ordeal that took place nearly 100 years ago. The baby daughter of Wiley and Mary Ann Hall Baker was brutally killed in a fireplace that left only the infant's feet remaining. Baby Irene's older sister, Ada, had witnessed the tragedy in horror after she, having been badly beaten, managed to free herself and hide in a nearby closet.

The tragedy took place in less than an hour. The instant that Baker learned of the ordeal, he killed the three men who were responsible for his daughter's murder, hanging them from a tree. Afterward, he buried them beneath the very tree from which they had been hanged, and as an edict passed down through the generations of the Baker family, the tree can never be cut down. It symbolizes the three men who forever will be trod over.

The family history is one that reads like a page out of a history book. And it should. The history of the Wiley Baker family is as rich as the soil of the land where the family has lived more than a century.

Situated approximately 92 miles southeast of Dallas, the city of Mexia is best known for its agricultural promise. But later this month, Mexia will be remembered as more than just an agricultural town; it will be known for the African American family (possibly the first Black family to settle in the county) which has held continuous ownership of the agriculturally productive land for a century.

The family and land will be honored in Austin by the Texas Department of Agriculture under the Family Land Heritage Program. This program is designed to honor families who own farms and ranches which have been in continuous agricultural production at the hands of one family for 100 years or more.

And because of the modest pride and enthusiasm of the Baker historical legacy, third generation family members Shirley Tarpley, mayor pro tem of Carrollton, and her cousin, Howard Childs, an instructor at the Texas State Technical College in Waco, will see that their family has its rightful place in the state's archives, adding to the colorful tapestry of Texas' history.

About the Land

Located in the county of Limestone, the city of Mexia boasts a population of some 100,000. It was founded during the time when Texas was part of Mexico. The rural town is predominantly agricultural, the bulk of its income derived from the production of such crops as sweet potatoes, watermelons, honeydews, corn and crowder peas. The land is also unique in that it produces some crops year-round, this due to the sub-tropical climate of the soil.

"You get a certain attitude about life. We grew up knowing that we have to care for ourselves. It taught us independent living."

-Howard Childs, descendant

Howard Childs knows all about the land. He grew up on the land and worked in the fields. Describing the land as God's country, he says he sensed the pride that had been bestowed upon him by his great-grandfather. "The land was a big part of family discussion," says Childs, who holds a doctorate in education. He says the land always gave him a good feeling.

Childs says that the experience of living there left an indelible mark on him. "You get a certain attitude about life. We grew up knowing that we have to care for ourselves. It taught us independent living," says Childs, whose brother is a physician.

Wiley- the Man Behind the Land

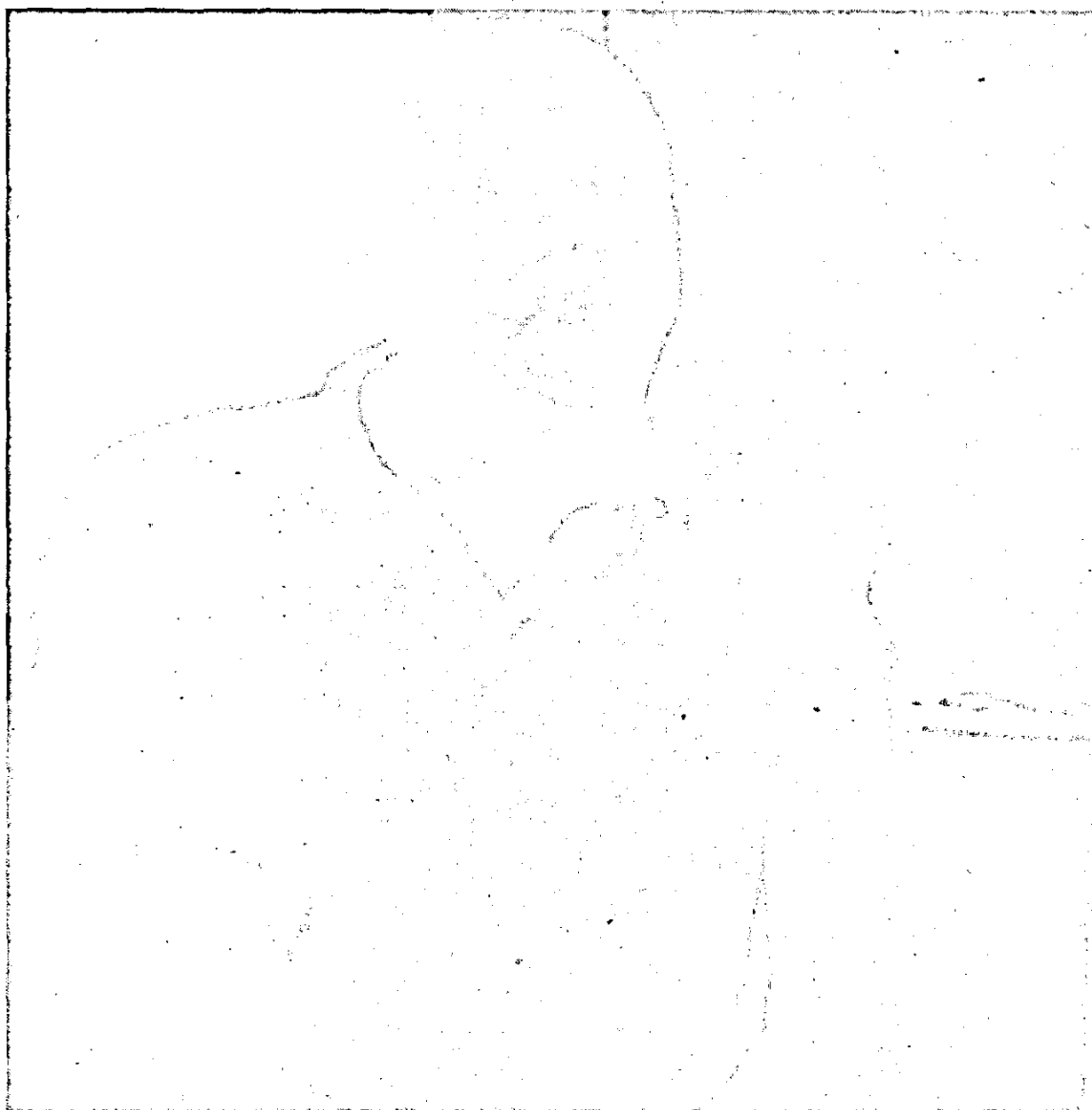
Fondly remembered as the man who never tied his shoes, Wiley Baker was like most African Americans who had just been emancipated from slavery. He was in search of a possession that had been off-limits to slaves—land ownership.

According to Tarpley, self-dubbed the unofficial "family historian," Wiley Baker's mother came to the United States from Madagascar, an island off the south-east coast of Africa. Through her research, Tarpley learned that her great-great grandmother came to the states on a slave ship, as did others during the era of chattel slavery, and, making her way from Virginia, settled in Calvert, Texas.

Born July 10, 1853, Wiley Baker was a little less than ten years old when he gained his freedom. After spending his childhood in Calvert, Baker headed for Mexia, where he would acquire land and begin the legacy that has left the rural city with many of its historical firsts.

It was on April 12, 1894, that Baker acquired approximately 176 acres of land. Deeds show that he acquired the land from a man named I.F. Scruggs. Records also show that the original ownership dates back to 1832, when Andres Varela received the land from the Mexican government. Regarding Baker acquiring the land, Tarpley shares an anecdote of how Baker got more acres than what was originally intended. "Granddaddy Wiley would stand there with the stake in his hand while Scruggs counted out the number of acres. Wiley was truly a smart man because as Scruggs moved down the land, Wiley would pick up his stake and move two steps forward," she shared. This afforded Wiley two more acres of land.

Here on this land is where many of Mexia's his-



The Patriarch Wiley Baker

torical firsts occurred. A genuine and caring man, Baker was one who "shared the wealth." Tarpley says that he allowed other pioneering residents in the community to be sharecroppers on the land. Out of this generosity came one of his greatest adversities: Three of the very men who were sharecroppers—one of them a Native American—were responsible for his daughter's death.

However, adversities were far and few for Baker. Near the turn of the century, Mexia had its first schools for Blacks. "Education was extremely important to him, so he wanted to have a place where his family and [neighboring] families could have a place to learn," says Tarpley, an educator in the Carrollton school district. Baker donated three acres of land for the establishment of Sims Colony (named for his brother) and allowed teachers to live in a dormitory on the land. In addition, he paid the teacher's salary.

The school, where one of Baker's daughters taught after a teaching career in Waco, soon saw its demise. Sometime in the late 1930's it was burned in a fire that left nothing. "There aren't even any records left. Everything burned," Tarpley says. Ironically, the city's only white school at the time also burned, leaving nothing.

The Baker Family

When the tragedy of their daughter's murder struck the Baker family, it left Mary Ann praying to

God, asking why her baby had been taken. "She was distraught," says Tarpley. "She couldn't understand why God had done this to her." Tarpley says Mary Ann continued to ask God to give her back her baby. And a few years later he did. "It was so amazing. When the baby was born she looked so much like baby Irene that grandmama Mary Ann named her Irene. The baby was the spitting image of the baby who had burned in the fireplace. Mary Ann took this to be a gift from God. She felt God was answering her prayer by giving her her baby back."

The family speaks of another mystery that took place. One night while Rhoda, Wiley's mother, was home, a figure appeared to her in the doorway. "Nobody knows who this figure was or why he came," says Tarpley as she recounts the story. She adds that the figure instructed Rhoda to go to the most northeastern part of the land and dig. There she would find a pot of gold.

"The figure told her not to worry about where the money came from or what she was going to do with it. He told her to keep her mind on God, get the money and leave." Rhoda did just that. Homesick for her life in Madagascar, Rhoda gathered her belongings and headed for the train station. Tarpley says that her suitcase was so heavy that the porter inquired about it. "She told him, 'Mister, I got irons in here. I've been ironing for y'all white folks down here all this time and now I wants to go up north and iron for them white folks'."

Continued on next page

Mooting Marcus Garvey

Rhoda left and went as far as Virginia. "Virginia held such bad memories for her that she had a hard time living there," says Tarpley. She then left and went as far north as she could get and ended up in New Jersey. Getting acclimated to this new environment was much easier than the environment in Virginia, not to mention that Rhoda met and was encouraged by a man named Marcus Garvey to go back to Africa.

The time was the early 1900's and Jamaican-born, militant, charismatic Marcus Garvey was preaching "going back to Africa." Rhoda had met him in New Jersey and he would come to her home in the evenings, have supper and talk about his strategies. Tarpley's great-aunt, 94-year-old Irene remembers those days in New Jersey. Irene, who tells Tarpley much of the family's history, couldn't remember Garvey's name but her description of him enabled the family to know just who she was describing.

"He had big feet. That's all aunt Irene could tell us about the man who got great-great grandmama to go back to Africa," laughs Tarpley. She says her aunt recounted how this man with big feet would come and have supper with them. "We had no idea who she was talking about. We thought she was talking about an Indian named Big Feet." It wasn't until her aunt said that the man was a man from another country who was trying to get Black people to go back to Africa that they instantly knew his name. "At the same time, we all said, 'Aunt Irene, you're talking about Marcus Garvey,' and she said, 'yea, that's his name'."

Garvey convinced Rhoda to return to Africa. Along with her daughter, Rhoda stayed for some years in Africa until an illness prompted her daughter to bring her back to the United States. "She was afraid that great-great grandmama was gonna die and she didn't want her way over in Africa," recalls the mother of two. Rhoda returned to New Jersey where she lived for a few years more until her death.

Another interesting discovery that Tarpley made during her fact-finding is that Wiley purchased Mary Ann out of slavery. Records have not yet shown the price of this purchase. (Though purchased out of slavery, Mary Ann's birth records show that she was born in 1867, well after slavery had been outlawed.)

Family Being Honored

On January 26, all the descendants of Wiley Baker will be in Austin to participate in a historic moment. "We have family from all over coming. We are chartering a bus to Austin so that all of us can be there," says Tarpley, who got interested in the land after her mother's death.

For nearly 50 years, Wiley's children and great grandchildren have convened on the family land every June for a family reunion. Tarpley says this was very important to her mother. "She really enjoyed this, and I promised after her death that I would do whatever I could to keep the family reunion a big event."

The reunion begins with family activities and culminates with a worship service at the tabernacle that was built by the family.

Memories of Wiley Baker

Through her research, Tarpley learned that not only was Wiley an entrepreneur of sorts, he was a man who knew a lot about planning. The barn that he built was two-story; however, looking at the building, one couldn't readily assume that. "He built part of the barn underground. And that's where the animals stayed when the weather got really bad," says Tarpley.

Baker also demonstrated his business savvy when he planted his crops. He dug at an angle so that when it

rained, the water would trickle directly onto the crops, giving them just the right amount of water needed. "This man had to be smart to think of something like that," shared Tarpley. The father of nine was also smart in the sense that he never let on how much money he had. "When he went to the general store to buy things, he always bought on credit and told the owner he would pay as soon as he could," revealed Tarpley.

For the era in which Wiley lived, he surprisingly never had any trouble with anyone trying to take his land. "He was double-jointed and very strong. Once he hit a steer in the head and killed it. He was feared by a lot of people," Tarpley informs.

Aside from being feared, Baker was revered as a fair and honest man. Tarpley says he made things welcomed for people who were traveling through Mexia. She says he was cognizant of the hardships that were common during this time and did what he could to help others.

While the house where Wiley lived was burned decades ago, the memories

are emblazoned in the minds of his descendants. Wiley built his house, school and barn with lumber, not wood. Building with lumber was not characteristic of this era because wood was more affordable.

"I remember hearing that he was a gentle father," Tarpley remarked. During the holidays, he bought porcelain dolls for his daughters." She intimated that Wiley always got his family the finest things and made sure they had what they wanted to eat. She says, "They didn't have to want for anything."

Wiley, who never learned to drive, and Mary Ann, who went blind later in life, were both very spiritual people. They were very strong and extremely proud of their children. And, Tarpley believes, they would be just as proud of their lineage, many of whom have gone on to pursue professional careers as doctors, ministers and teachers.

Josephine Baker, the famed singer and stage performer, is believed to be the daughter of Sims Baker, Wiley's younger brother. Tarpley says she is still researching information to make that confirmation.

One of Wiley's most prominent traits is that he believed in ownership. "He passed down to all his children the importance of the land, of having something that you owned, that you could be proud of," says a proud Tarpley.

The Fruits of Wiley's Labor

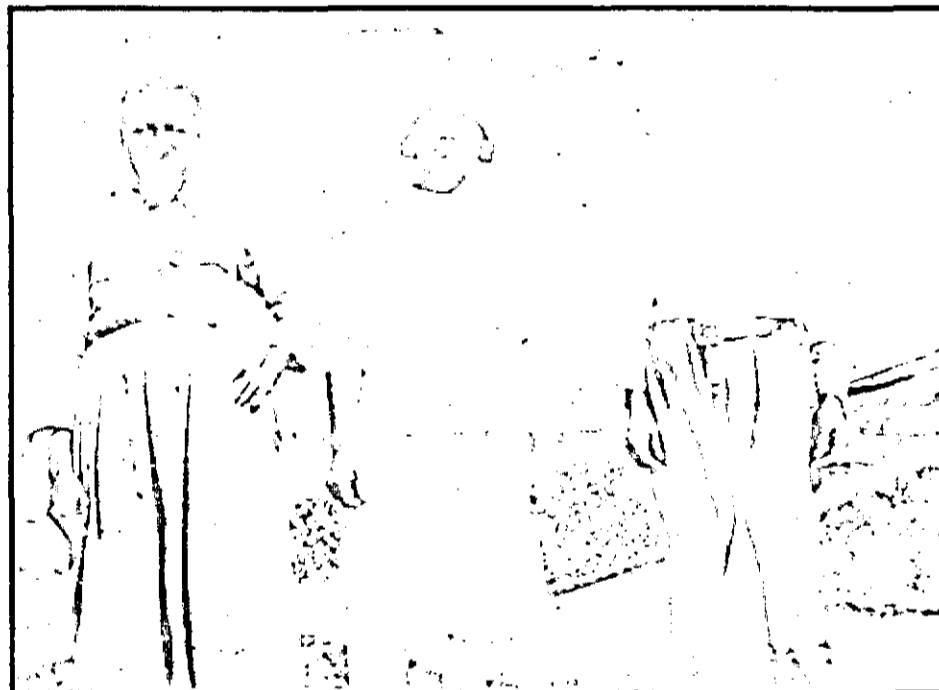
Two wells that are still in use were dug on the land. According to Tarpley, these were the first wells in the community. The community also saw the direct results of Wiley's labor in other ways. He cleared land for roads and helped neighbors build log houses and helped them settle in the community.

When, in 1934, the land was passed down to James Baker, the third child of Wiley and Mary Ann, he utilized the land by leasing the mineral rights to an oil company in 1947. The first production from the oil well came one year later.

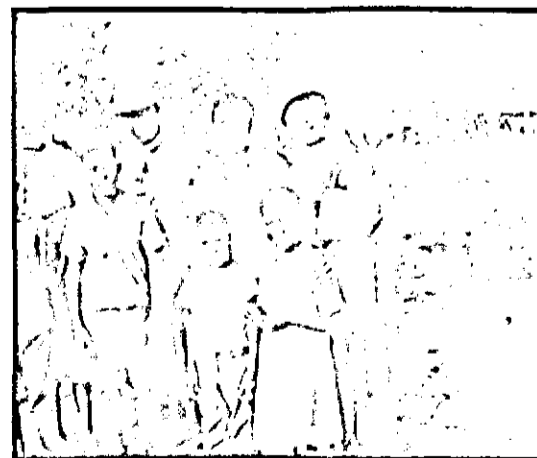
During James' ownership, he curbed a stream and made it into a lake. He also put in drainage pipes and traveled to Ft. Worth to purchase minnows from a minnow farm. He stocked the lake with minnows, providing both food and recreation.

During the past century, the undivided land has remained a steadfast remnant of Texas' history. Plans are under way for a huge 50th family reunion in 1997. As it stands today, the land is cared for by Charlie Baker.

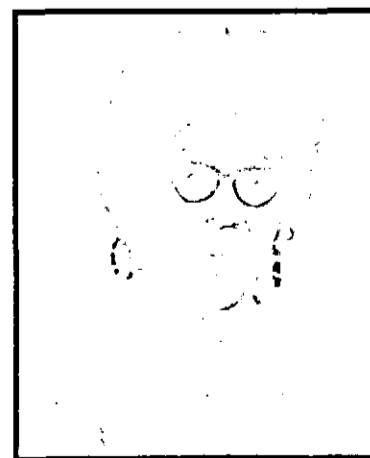
Having lived there for some 11 years, Howard Childs says it was a euphoric experience. "When you left the land, you went away with a feeling of motivation."



Wiley Baker poses on the farm with his wife Mary Ann and one of his children, Ada, during the 1920s.



Howard Childs (front row, left) with family members, circa 1959. (James Baker, Wiley's third child, is second from left in back row.)



Irene Baker Bailey, 94, remembers Marcus Garvey visiting her family in New Jersey.

Discovering the Family Tree

When Alex Haley's *Roots* premiered in the 1970's as a television mini-series, it sparked many families to begin researching their family tree. A decade later, Shirley Tarpley decided to take on this endeavor.

The mother of two, Tarpley says she became interested in her family's history after the death of her mother. "Family was very important to my mother," says Tarpley. "She enjoyed being with her family and especially loved the family reunions we had every year."

Tarpley says one year after her mother's death in 1985, she made a pledge to ensure that the family reunions would continue. "I made a promise to my mother that I would do whatever I could to keep the family reunions a yearly tradition."

And much of the family history that Tarpley gathered was during these family reunions, which have been taking place for the past 48 years. She says that for anyone who is interested in researching their family history, this is one of the best ways to gather information because you have an opportunity to learn and share with other family members.

To commemorate her family, Tarpley has designed a special showcase on a family picnic table that includes pictures, a marriage license and other memorabilia. She plans to design a book for the 50th reunion in 1997.

Tarpley says she began her research by going to the county courthouses. "I knew where my family originated, so I went and searched through the records at the courthouses," she says. There she found records as far back as the 1850's. She was successful in finding records of both her maternal and paternal family.

"They were so close together. My family on my mother's side came from Limestone County and my family on my father's side came from Freestone County (35 miles apart)."

An interesting fact that Tarpley learned through her search is that her paternal grandfather changed his name. "He didn't want to keep his slave name, so he looked through the Bible and picked out Nicodemus (thus making his name Nicholas Demus). She believes that he chose this name because in the Bible Nicodemus was described as a man who was born again and by her grandfather changing his name, he too was born again.

Finding out about her family history gave her a sense of pride. "It was both joyous and sad," she shares, adding that

"I wish I had started this project before my mother's death."

She believes that her mother would have been proud that she took an interest in the family tree.

"The thing that really got me wondering about my family was years ago when I was making a family book for my son," shares Tarpley, the mayor pro tem of Carrollton. "It asked for information about grandparents and great grandparents and I started taking an interest in wanting to learn as much as I could about my family."

After searching at the courthouses and going through census records, she gathered a lot of information from family photo albums, Bibles and other personal belongings.

She was able to identify a lot of pictures with the help of her great-aunts, Irene and Corita Baker. They also were instrumental in telling Tarpley about her great-great grandmother's slavery trip from Madagascar to the United States.

"All of this makes time a very important element to me now," says the Newman Smith High School teacher. "All of a sudden, dates became important." She says this also sparked an interest in reading African maps. "I wanted to trace the route that my great-great grandmother took from Africa to the United States."

During the last decade, the family history buff has collected so much information that it was necessary to buy a storage bin to house the material. "I have so many things. It's wonderful. She intimated that," What I would eventually like to do is dedicate a room in my house so that I can have everything where it's easier to get to."



Shirley Tarpley—the Baker family's unofficial historian

Research Tips

- The library has census records of nearly every state
- Check family photo albums and Bibles
- Talk with seasoned family members who can share information
- Find out what county the person was born in and check the county courthouse for records and other documents
- Check for birth/death certificates and marriage licenses
- Check with funeral homes and/or cemeteries for records
- Check newspaper archives and obituaries

—YRB



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Henry Masters, Superintendent South Dallas District



Zan Holmes, Sr. Pastor St. Luke (Community) UMC



Ron Henderson, Sr. Pastor Hamilton Park UMC



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Around Town

January 1

The Southern Dallas Development Corporation is sponsoring a "Youth Entrepreneur Business Story" essay contest. Youth, ages 14-18, are asked to submit an essay of 100 words or less describing how they started a business. For more information, contact Barbara Bradford at 214-428-7332.

Brookhaven College is offering support for single parents and displaced workers who want to complete their education. The help is for a student enrolled in continuing education or credit technical-occupational degrees. Call Janice Groeneman at 620-4849 for more details.

January 2

Early voting begins for the January 20, DISD special election for district 3 (formerly Dan Peavy) seat. Early voting locations are the DISD administration building, 3700 Ross Ave., and the Harry Stone Recreation Center at 2403 Millmar. For more information, call (214) 653-7192.

January 4

The Dallas Video Festival will feature a series of programs to kick off its ninth annual event at the Dallas Museum of Art. Call 214-823-8909 for more information.

San Antonio artist Larry Graeber will have art on exhibit through Jan. 29 in the Studio Gallery at Brookhaven College. Call 620-4101.

January 5

The Dallas Video Festival presents Spencer Williams: Remembrances of an Early Black Film Pioneer at the Horchow Auditorium at the Dallas Museum of Art. Dallas director/producer Walid Khaldi interviews people who knew the maverick filmmaker. The event begins at 9 p.m. Call 214-823-8909 for ticket information.

Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price will lead a discussion concerning the values of Amos 'n Andy to the African American community at 9 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Dallas Video Festival. Call 214-823-8909 for more information.

January 6

The video Suicide King will be shown at 4:30 p.m. as part of the Dallas Video Festival's series of programs aimed at African Americans. The film is by Denton filmmaker King Hollis. Call 214-823-8909 for more information.

The Dallas Theatre Center will host its second annual "Family Day" with a free performance of Ugly Duckling. Family Day will be 9am to 1 p.m. at the Kalita Humphreys Theatre at 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. For more information, call 214-526-8210, ext 304.

The College Fund/UNCF Telethon is seeking volunteers for the 16th annual Lou Rawls Parade of Stars. Call 754-9020. The telethon will be held at KTX-Channel 39 at 3900 Harry Hines from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m.

January 7

A documentary by Daniel Riesenfeld and Peter Davis will be shown at 3 p.m. In Darkest Hollywood deals with the role of cinema in the creation and struggle against apartheid. Call 214-823-8909 for more information.

At 7 p.m. the film A Day in the Life of a Six Foot Black Man by Denton writer/director Reginald R. Sutton will be shown. It details the incidents of racism in the life of Ahman Reed. Call 214-823-8909 for more information.

Clean South Dallas/Fair Park, Inc. is seeking volunteers. To find out how you can help call 214-421-1662.

January 8

The Dallas Area Red Cross is offering a Home Health Aide/Nurse Aide course. For course fees and registration information, call 214-871-6249.

January 9

The Dallas Ft. Worth Association of Black Communicators will hold its monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the A.H. Belo Bldg., located at 400 S. Record Street. The meeting will include a reception. For more information,

call 214-977-7023.

The Junior Black Academy of Arts & Letters will present the play "He Say, She Say, But what did God Say?" through the 14 at 8 p.m. Tickets range from \$17.50 to 24.50. Call 658-7147.

Egbe Obatala/Yeemoja and the International Institute of Afrikan Studies and Knowledge presents a series of FREE classes on Afrikan Spiritual Development for its Spring semester. Classes are every Tuesday nightly from 6-9 p.m. Call the hotline at 669-5783. They are held at the M.L.King Center.

January 10

Consulting & Planning Associates presents a workshop on resume writing, interviewing techniques and more, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the CPA Training Center, 2550 Beckleymeade, Suite 100. For more information call (214) 709-9545.

January 11

The Dallas Theatre Center will present The Sternheim Project: The Unmentionables & The Snob through February 4. The play will be shown at the Kalita Humphreys Theatre at 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. For ticket information, call 214-522-TIXX.

Brookhaven College is hosting an open house for seniors, age 65 and up who are interested in returning to college. Seniors will be able to register for up to six credit hours without paying a tuition fee. The seminar will be held from 2 to 3 p.m. Call 214-620-4823.

Ret. Maj. Gen. Hugh G. Robinson will address the Bridge Building second annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast, 7 a.m. at the Hamilton Park United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Hamilton Park is located at 11881 Schroeder Road, one block north of Forest Lane and one block east of N. Central Expressway. Tickets are \$9.50 per person. For more information, call (214) 239-1618.

January 13

The Urban Minority High School Journalism Workshop, an eight week session sponsored by the Dallas Ft. Worth Association of Black Communicators and the Dallas Morning News will be held every Saturday through March 2 at Lincoln Humanities High School. The sessions include speakers, and hands-on training for preparation into the journalism field. Call 371-6671 for more information.

The South Dallas Cultural Center will host a series of Saturday "Black Real to Reel Film series and lunch discussions from 11 am to 2 p.m. The event carries through February 24. Call 214-670-0314 for more information.

The Metropolitan Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is hosting a Blood drive/Marrow drive from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at One Delta Place. The location is 2525 M.L. King Blvd. This event is a part of the National Blood Donor Month activities. Call Cindy Moy at 553-1992.

An African American nurses organizations is seeking RN's of LVN's who are interested in joining the group. Call 553-1530 for info.

Granum Communications will host a FREE job fair to assist displaced workers from 10am-9pm at Six Flags Mall in Arlington. Call 214-630-3011 for more information.

January 14

Granum Communications will host a FREE job fair to assist displaced workers from noon to 6 p.m. at Six Flags Mall in Arlington. Call 214-630-3011.

The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth will exhibit Arshile Gorky: The Breakthrough Years in Fort Worth's Cultural District. The exhibition runs through March 17. For more information, contact (817) 738-9215.

January 15

The 8th annual M.L. King, Jr. Commemoration Breakfast & Scholarship Awards Ceremony will feature Paul Robeson, Jr. as its speaker. The breakfast will take place at 8 a.m. at the Fairmont Hotel. Tickets are \$25. The event is sponsored by the South Dallas Cultural Center. Call 670-0314

Around Town Cont'd

January 16

The Dallas Theater Center presents the premiere of The Sternheim Project: The Unmentionables and The Snob, a comedy about an upwardly mobile and socially ambitious family. For ticket information, contact the DTC Box Office at (214) 522-8499.

January 17

Clean South Dallas/Fair Park, Inc. will hold its management board meeting at 4:30 p.m. For information, call 214-421-1662.

January 18

The Kindred Community Singers will perform their 3rd Annual Tribute to M.L. King at the Chamizal National Memorial Theatre. Call 915-590-1688 for information.

The U.S. Department of Commerce and the Minority Business Development Agency will co-host the Dallas Minority Business Development Breakfast at 7 a.m. at the Radisson Hotel-Dallas, Cesars Room, 1893 W. Mockingbird Lane. Cost is \$7. For more information, call Carmen Chairez at (214) 767-8001.

January 20

The South Dallas Cultural Center will feature "Ain't Scared of your Jails and "No Easy Walk." For ticket information, call 214-670-0314.

January 22

McDonald's is sponsoring its 8th Annual Black History Makers of Tomorrow Scholarship Essay Contest. The contest is open college-bound juniors and seniors who demonstrate leadership, character and community service. Students must write a 500-word essay. For more information, contact your high school counselor or call Renaldo Williams at the Dallas Urban League at 214-528-8038.

January 23

Brookhaven College's Continuing Education division is sponsoring a Telecommunication Career Fair at the Medallion Hotel in Farmer's Branch. The event will be held from 7 to 9:30 p.m. and will educate participants about opportunities in the telecommunications industry. For more information and registration, call the office at 214-620-4715.

January 24

USA Pictures Original will present The Road to Galveston, starring Cicely Tyson. The movie will air tonight.

January 26

A Bill Cosby Benefit Concert for Dental Health Programs will be held at 8:30 p.m. at the Dallas Convention Center Arena. Ticket information call 750-7400.

Recording artist Jeffrey Osborne will perform at Caravan of Dreams at 7 p.m. Call metro (817) 429-4000 for ticket information.

The Dallas Museum of Natural History presents the Butterfly Coming Out Party. The event will be the Grand Opening celebration for the Museum's new exhibit, MONARCA - Butterfly Beyond Boundaries. For more information on the celebration and the exhibit, contact the museum at (214) 428-1663.

January 27

To register for the Hollywood Enterprises third annual VIP Valentine Ball as a designer or exhibitor, call Charlotte at metro (817) 640-8277.

The Dallas Legal Hospice, a on profit corporation is seeking volunteers for their Tenth annual Will Clinic. Attorneys, notaries and word processors are needed to volunteer. Call the office for more information.

The South Dallas Cultural Center will present the film "Mississippi's This America" and "Bridge to Freedom" at 11 a.m. Call 670-0314.

The Nation of Islam's Muhammad Mosque No. 48 is having a building fund auction at 1 p.m. To find out about vendor information and auction displays, call La Tonya X Hopkins at 283-4004 or 339-1323.

The Volunteer Center of Dallas is offering a series of volunteer opportunities. Call 826-6767 for information.

The third annual "Youth and Young Adult Career Fair" sponsored by the Black State Employees Association of Texas will be held in conjunction with Six Flags over Texas. The fair will be at Red Bird Mall from 9a.m. to 12

p.m. in the center court area. The fair is for participants 15-25. You must wear professional business attire. Call Connie Buford at 371-7710, ext. 5 for pre-registration information.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, in conjunction with Equity Link Financial Services, presents a free, introductory seminar on "How to Start Your Own Non-Profit Company," 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the MLK Jr. Community Center, room 145. For more information, call (214) 424-7830. Sources of grant funding will be provided to participants.

February 1

The Caravan of Dreams Jazz Club presents, "Just the Sax," featuring Gerald Albright, Everette Harp, George Howard and Walter Beasley for two shows, 7 and 10:30 p.m. Reserved seating. For ticket information, call Metro (817) 429-4000.

February 2

Strengthening the African American Family (STAAF) will hold its 7th annual conference through the 4th at the Radison Hotel on Mockingbird in Dallas. The theme is "Saving our Children in Turbulent Times to the Glory of God." Call 330-1343 for information.

The Junior Black Academy of Arts and Letters presents, "Behind the Broken Words," starring national award-winning actor, Roscoe Lee Browne, in the Clarence Muse Cafe Theater at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Call the JBAAL Box Office at (9214) 658-7147 for more information.

February 3

The film "The Time Has Come" will be presented by the South Dallas Cultural Center at 11 a.m. Call 6470-0314.

The Dallas Black Dance Academy is now enrolling for Spring classes. Classes in ballet, tap, modern, jazz and martial arts are available for children and adults. Call 871-2387.

February 13

Friends of Jazz at North Texas Membership

Club presents a night of jazz with Dr. Billy Taylor and Jon Hendricks at the Majestic Theatre. They perform in concert with the UNT One'O'Clock Lab Band and the UNT Jazz Singers. Tickets begin at \$18. For more information call (817) 565-3743 or (214) 373-8000.

February 14

The Junior Black Academy of Arts and Letters presents, "Scott Joplin and Ragtime America," a storytelling musical presentation performed by the Jan Rosemond Trio. The daytime show begins at 10 a.m. and tickets are \$2. For more information, contact the JBAAL Box Office at (214) 658-7147.

February 15

The Dallas Theater Center, "Arms and the Man," a comedy by George Bernard Shaw. Arms and the Man, the story of romance between a fair lady and a soldier, runs through March 10 at the Arts District Theater, 2401 Flora St. Tickets range from \$15 to \$39 (\$9-\$24 during the first preview weekend). For more information, call the DTC at (214) 522-TIXX.

February 26

Quad C Theatre at Collin County Community College presents a special one-night only benefit performance of the acclaimed rap/drama, "Stand-Up Tragedy," by Bill Cain, with original rap music by Bill DeMain. The performance is \$10 with proceeds assisting the CCCC Theatre Department. For more ticket information, call (214) 881-5809.

March 8

Caravan of Dreams Jazz Nightclub presents, "Guitars & Saxs & More," featuring Krik Whalum, Rick Braun, Peter White and Mark Antoine, for two shows, 7 and 10:30 p.m. Reserved seating. Tickets are \$27. For more information, call METRO (817) 429-4000.

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African American Clergy Coalition

By: Yvette Blair

When local pastors formed the African American Clergy Coalition one year ago, they did so with the pledge of healing the social and economic woes of the African American community, while at the same time liberating it.

One year later that pledge has come into fruition. Plans are underway for the

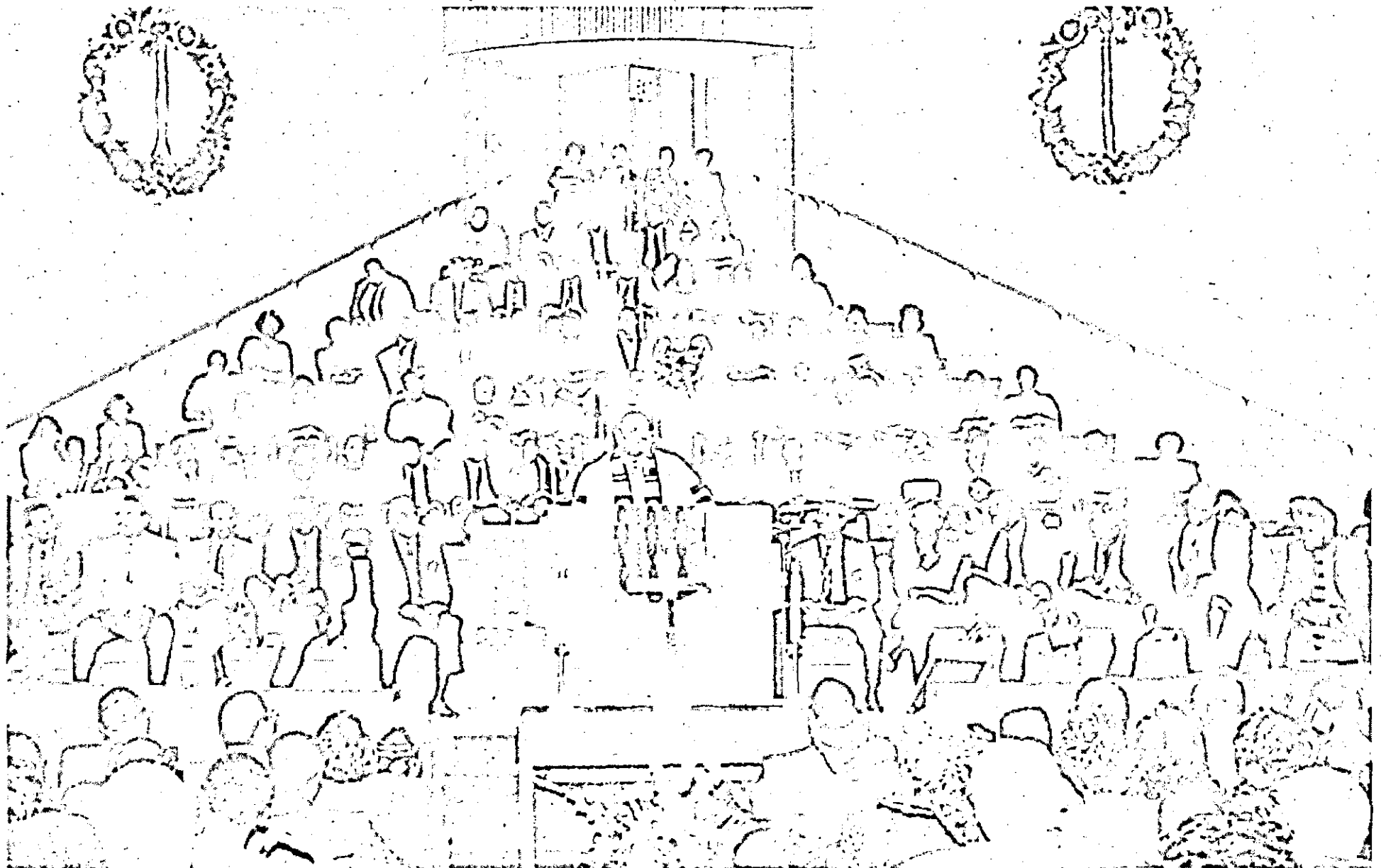
ous advocacy work on social issues and we were working them," says John Fullinwider, founder of Common Ground. He said the credit union's board was looking to expand its potential and felt that the pastors would be a viable asset. "I asked them if they were interested," he said, adding that he is pleased the ecumenical group is concerned with the whole life of the community.

glad to be in partnership with them," said Fullinwider, an educator in the Dallas public school district, who said he will continue to volunteer his time.

This partnership could very well prove to be a much-needed boost for an area which is economically disadvantaged. Fullinwider said that with the coalition's participation, the credit union, which is run by volunteers, could

charter's geographical boundaries, will have to petition the regulatory agency for inclusion.

Upon the formation of the group, Rev. E.K. Bailey, pastor of the Concord Missionary Baptist Church and 1st vice president of the coalition, said in order for African Americans to move forward in productivity, they must "cultivate the barrenness" in their own community.



Left to Right: Dr. W.C. Champion, Rev. James Larry, Rev. William Vaughn, Dr. Dennis Haggary, Dr. Zan Holmes, Jr., Dr. E.K. Bailey, Dr. Barry Jackson, Dr. Jerry Christian, Rev. G.L. Britt, Dr. Marshall Hodge, Dr. Derrick Harkins, Rev. Frederick D. Haynes, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Choir.

group to become a chief sponsor, and essentially the controlling force, of the Common Ground Community Federal Credit Union.

The south Dallas community-based credit union, which was chartered in 1987, has grown in membership from 35 to 2600 and has shown a steady increase in assets from a mere \$1,000 eight years ago to some \$700,000 today.

According to one of its founders, the idea to get the coalition involved began with a series of discussions a couple of years ago. "They (the coalition) did seri-

According to coalition president Zan Holmes, negotiations with the credit union are still in progress and when the coalition assumes responsibility of the credit union, the group will have oversight over the board of directors, ownership of the existing building and property located at 3741 Atlanta Street and will also have control over the lending institution's practices and investment policies. The coalition offices will be on the second floor. Fullinwider said the coalition is expected to open their office the early part of this year. "I'm

help more people get financial help. Borrowers range from the elderly to people who are seeking loans for their first car.

The credit union, the only one of its kind in this area that would be controlled by the minority community, is open to persons who are members of the churches in South Dallas, West Dallas, Fair Park and parts of Oak Cliff (mostly the southwestern part) or to persons who live or work in these areas.

In addition, other churches that want to join but which are not in the

This cultivation of sorts began when the coalition raised more than \$8,300 from their kick-off service during a M.L. King birthday celebration last January.

The Rev. Zan Holmes, pastor of St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church, said that the time has come for an organization such as the coalition to facilitate working together rather than individually. During the groups' formation he stated that, "I believe the great sin of the African American church in this city is that we do a lot of great

Seek Common Ground...



The future of the Common Ground Community Credit Union and its patrons should brighten when the African American Clergy Coalition assumes control. The Coalition will take offices on the second floor, thereby establishing its presence in the community.

things individually, but nothing collectively. With this organization, we will be pooling together our strengths for economic development in the African American community."

In pooling their strength, the pastors are expected to assume leadership positions and be an integral part of the credit union's progressive direction. With a mission statement of "not for profit, not for charity, for community service," the credit union's future will be bigger and more effective, said Fullinwider.

Last month, the coalition, comprised of some 50 churches, called upon its members and other congregations to join in the drive to raise more than \$50,000 to pay off the mortgage of the Common Ground Community Federal Credit Union.

"There is a great spiritual and financial power among African American congregations," said the Rev. Frederick D. Haynes, III, pastor of the Friendship West Baptist Church and treasurer of the coalition. He said that there is a need for a renewed accountability within the African American communities and that it is incumbent upon the Black church to be the leader for a social reawakening. "There are those hurting and we need to provide the channels for solutions to meet the needs for what the Bible calls, 'the least of these among you.'" That, said Haynes, is the calling of the

church and it is time to completely fulfill that call.

While the pastors' coalition will be the chief controllers of the credit union, they will be required to employ a financial administrator who will be responsible for adhering to the regulatory policies of financial institutions. Currently, the credit has one full-time teller and a security guard, with the rest of the staff consisting of volunteers.

Historically, the Black church has been the catalyst for the progressive movement of its people. According to the pastor of the Munger Avenue Baptist Church the Black church is the best place to start any type of empowering move since "the black church has always been, and remains, a big force in the lives of African Americans."

Holmes agrees, adding that many of the institutions within the Black community were born out of the Black church, with many starting on land owned by the Black churches. As such, Common Ground Federal Credit Union was born out of Waverly Baptist Church.

He continued that the Black church needs to once again become involved in the business and educational affairs of the community.

He said the coalition's involvement with the credit union is an area of opportunity that has been discussed by

Black clergy in Dallas for some time now. "I feel that God has opened this door and it is up to us to walk through it with the confidence of faith."

Because of its tremendous growth, the credit union was becoming too big for the Common Ground Economic Development Corporation to continue its sponsorship. Fullinwider said with the

coalition's participation, the credit union could reach its full potential. "They saw it could be bigger and could do more. This was a tool that was not being used to its full potential," he stated.

Aside from this door of opportunity, the nonprofit group will be working towards its aim of healing the African American community by re-establishing the Black church as a strong force, taking on the initiative to implement new projects and restore old ideas. "We don't have to reinvent the wheel," said Holmes, "we must continue the progress started by our ancestors."

Earlier in the infancy of the group, Holmes said that while the talk of forming such a group had been brewing for some time, the wait was due primarily in part to each church waiting for the other to take the initiative.

"We can no longer look to others to do what we can do for ourselves," he said. "The time for words has ended. It is now time for action." He said that the best action he believes in is reaching deep into our pockets and showing God that "we know if we make one step, [He] will make two."

MON

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Reach continued from page 15

Washington, D.C. because it cost money to stay in those white-owned hotels and so forth. What they needed to do was stay right where they were in their own neighborhoods, go down the street, up the street and atone to the persons they've hurt or neglected. That's all that's needed.

"We've marched before and it served its purpose. But now it's time to lay it to rest and forget the lending institutions. We have to work together," he says firmly.

Towards that goal Reach plans to keep reaching out, spreading its gospel of economic deliverance. Nearly every weekend, interested clergy and business leaders from around the nation arrive at the Western Inn to see the success story first-hand. "Imagine if we had two or three more Reach programs, what an impact it would have," says Bishop Edwards. And he is steady pressing towards that goal as well, enthusiastically hoping that initial talks with Black clergy in parts of Texas will produce a similar project in the near future.

He affirms the role of the church in the life of the people. "We have to be there for each other. Our church in Meridian is located by a housing project and we get broken into from time to time, but we've got to stay there and minister to the community." He strongly believes that the Black affluent and middle classes must do more to heal the suffering of their less fortunate brothers and sisters.

"We can't control the inner-cities now without some spiritual strength. It's a game like rats in a box. You deprive them of things and they start feeding on each other. Then they pump the drugs in on us. Now the Klansman has taken off his white robe and sits back on his porch and enjoys the scenery of us killing each other," he said.

All the more reason for the Black community to leave the cities and return to the land, he believes. "Our children, when they are in an environment with values and without fear, they are not these gun-toting gangsters with head rags and dark glasses that they seem to be. Just like the African proverb says, it takes a whole village to raise one child," he exclaimed.

By reconnecting the people to the land, says Bishop Edwards, we restore our humanity and cultivate a replenishing source of wealth. "That was the worst mistake the Black farmer made, selling his land to move to those cities.

"All life is from the land. Land gives life to all." Flashing that winning smile, he laughed before adding, "Land is so important even God isn't making it anymore."

MON

For more information, write: REACH, P.O. Box 5401, Meridian, MS 39301 or call (601) 483-4505.

January Moments to Ponder

Discover and Celebrate African American Arts, Culture, and Entertainment History this month-- and all year long

By Sarah N. BRUCE
Cultural Editor

It's January 1996 already. Next month MON will feature many articles highlighting and celebrating Black History Month.

As we ponder the challenges that lie ahead, we must know of past struggles and progress. It is good to look back to see how far we have actually come. We then can get a better idea of what we need to do.

In MON's continuing effort to offer minorities an abundance of opportunities, we continue our "Moments to Ponder" series with "Discover and Celebrate African American History all year."--Ed.

January 1

-Last day of Kwanzaa - IMANI (Faith).
-New Years Day.
**Journal of Negro History began publication in 1916.

January 2

-W. Wilson Goode becomes the first African American Mayor of Philadelphia, PA. in 1984.
**Sam Cooke, legendary singer, born in 1931.

January 3

**William Tucker, first black in North America, is born in 1624.

January 4

-Dr. Melvin H. Evans becomes the first African American Governor elected in the U.S. Virgin Islands, in 1971.

January 5

**Alvin Ailey, foremost black American choreographer, born in 1931.

January 6

**Harold Perry, first black Catholic Bishop, consecrated in New Orleans, in 1966.

January 7

-Philip A. Bell establishes the *Weekly Advocate*, an African American newspaper, in 1837.

**Marian Anderson, first African American to sing at the Metropolitan Opera House, in 1955.

January 9

**Fisk University established, in 1866.

January 10

**George Washington Carver, scientist and agriculturist, born in 1864.

January 11

**Charles W. Anderson named Kentucky's first black legislator, in 1936.

January 12

**Joe Frazier, heavyweight boxing champion, born in 1944.

January 13

**First black governor, P.B.S. Pinchback, relinquishes office, in 1873.

January 14

**Julian Bond, civil rights and political activist, born in 1940.

January 15

**Martin Luther King, Jr., Clergyman/Civil Rights Activist, born in 1929.

January 16

-Debbie Allen, Actress/Choreographer/Film Director, born in 1950.
**African American astronauts Maj. Frederick Gregory, Maj. Guion S. Bluford and Dr. Ronald E. McNair announced by NASA.

January 17

-Observed birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
**Mohammad Ali (formerly Cassius Clay), heavyweight champion boxer, born in 1942.

January 18

**Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, first doctor to perform open heart surgery, born in 1856.

January 19

-John H. Johnson, founder & publisher of *Ebony* and *Jet* magazines, born in 1918.
**Alumnus Ralph Bunche has his name placed on the social science building of UCLA, in 1969.

January 20

**Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Patricia Harris, becomes the first African American to hold a cabinet post, in 1977.

January 21

**Barbara Jordan, congresswoman, born in 1936.

January 22

**George Foreman captures the heavyweight championship from Joe Frazier in 1973.

January 23

**One of the first nursing schools for African Americans, Provident Hospital, is established by Dr. Daniel H. Williams, in 1891.

January 24

**13th Amendment passes, abolishing slavery, in 1865.

January 25

**The African American Women's Rights Convention hears its first speaker, Sojourner Truth, in 1851.

January 26

-Eartha Mae Kitt, Actress/Singer, born in 1928.

January 27

**Metropolitan Opera stars Leontyne Price, in 1961.

January 28

**The Society of Free Africa established in Philadelphia, in 1787.

January 29

-Oprah Winfrey, actress/talk show host, born in 1954.

January 30


**The Ford Foundation announces Franklin Thomas as president, in 1979.

January 31

-Jack Roosevelt Robinson, first Black professional baseball player to play in the major leagues inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame (1962), born in 1919.
**Ernie Banks, the National League (Major League Baseball) MVP for 1958 and 1959, born in 1931.


MON

*Special Thanks to Black History Interactive Software - Calendar Course for the ** submissions. For more info on the software: Harry Anderson Interactive Software 18719 Rembrandt, Dallas, TX 75287 214/307-8456.*



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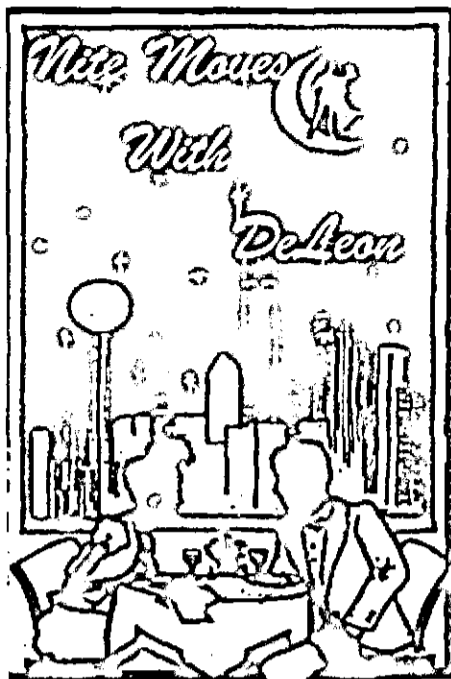
Dallas After Dark: Does It Still Exist?

Street corner singing, block parties, basement parties, twenty-five cent parties, tavern joints and momma's birthday parties. Remember back in the day when entertainment was home grown? You know who was throwing the party, who was cooking the food and who was playing the music. Fortunately the days of Ree-Ree's house parties are fading. Not in popularity, but hey, let's face it, there's just more to do. So, if you're tired Ree-Ree's or just looking for some fun places to visit, then check out some of these hot spots.

DINNER & MUSIC

Soul Embassy Cafe: The best in upscale dining and entertainment, with live jazz. (214) 357-SOUL

Jeanette Brantley's Green Parrot: This classy, intimate, Dallas landmark will seduce you with their fine dining and live jazz. (214) 565-7811



Sambuca: The finest in Mediterranean dining with a festive atmosphere that's served up with a generous portion of live jazz. (214) 385-8455

MON

Hollywood Enterprises to throw Valentine's Ball

Plans are underway for one of the biggest events of the new year. The third annual "Black White" (Black Tie Affair) VIP Valentine's Ball is about to be a major hit. The event is presented by Hollywood Enterprises and CWC Enterprises.

The celebrated event will include a host of celebrities from America's favorite team, the Dallas Cowboys, representatives from Sony Records, Uptown Records, Jive Records and Capitol Records. There will also be celebs and VIP's from Warner Bros. Records, Motown Records, Ebony Magazine, Jet Magazine, Funky Times Magazine and special radio personalities.

Participants will be privy to some inside scoop on fashion by some local fashion design experts.

All of this and much more will take place on February 9 at the Bristol Suites Hotel, located at 7800 Alpha Road (I-635 and Coit) in Dallas. The event kicks off at 6 p.m. with various exhibitors selling their wares.

But the much awaited event begins at 8 p.m. when the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex Fashion Design Competition kicks into high gear. They will showcase some of their "Hottest Spring Fashions."

Dallas will definitely be the place to be! Not only will participants enjoy fashions and celebs, but the single ladies will meet the top 25 most eligible bachelors

and contenders of 1996. Plus, an auction featuring the bachelors, and some of the players from the Dallas Cowboys and other sports teams will be auctioned for a dinner date!

The night continues with a dance featuring live entertainment at 10 p.m. A highlight of the evening will be a special gift presented to the "best dressed couple" and the couple married the longest.

At 11 p.m. the after party begins and Hollywood Enterprises will have a drawing to give away a hotel suite.

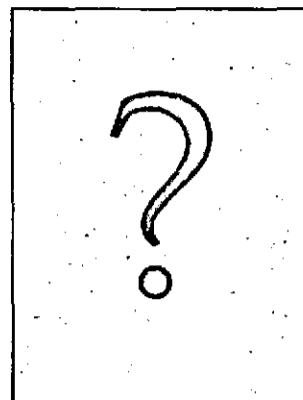
For exhibitor information, call Charlotte at metro (817) 640-8277. Reservations and registration will take place on Jan. 6, 13, and 27 from 12-3 p.m. Prizes for the most popular designers will be awarded and you will be invited to showcase your creations in various events this season.

Co-sponsors of the event include Michael's of Arlington, Stepper's in Grand Prairie, The House of Blues-Maceo's, Soul Embassy Cafe, Earthquake Comedy Club, Klymaxx, The Club, Greg Powell of Jive Records, James Brown of Sony Records, Highcappers, George Green of Solstar Video and the Minority Opportunity News.

For more information, call the hotline at metro (817) 640-8277. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.

MON

Attention Single African American Ladies!



"Are You
Miss Bachelorette 1996?"

Minority Opportunity News
and "V100" are
searching for

"Miss Bachelorette 1996"



Miss Bachelorette 1994,
Toni Langley



Miss Bachelorette 1995
Debra Brown

Cut & Mail



"Miss Bachelorette 1996"
Contest Nomination Form



Complete nomination form below and mail, along with a photograph and \$5.00 entry fee to: "Miss Bachelorette 1996", 2730 Stemmons Freeway, Tower West Suite 1202, Dallas, Texas 75207 by Friday, February 24, 1995.

Name (Please *Print* Legibly) _____

Street Address _____

City _____

Zip _____

Phone: Day () _____

Eve () _____

Age _____

Education _____

Occupation _____

Organizations/Community Involvement _____

Hobbies/Interests _____

Signature _____

Rules

1. HOW TO ENTER. Complete and mail the original nomination form which includes you full name, mailing address with zip code and phone number with area code (day and evening); along with a recent photograph and a \$5.00 nomination fee. No mechanically produced entry forms accepted. All completed Nomination Forms with photograph and \$5.00 nomination fee must be received not later than Friday, February 24, 1995. Sponsors not responsible for lost, late or misdirected mail.

2. ELIGIBILITY. All applicants must be single, African-American females 21 years of age or older. Employees of MON, V-100, retail sponsors, their parents, affiliates, advertising and promotion agencies and their immediate family members and/or those living in the same household are not eligible.

3. PRIZES. The "Miss Bachelorette 1996" winner will be presented in the September issue of MON and will receive a cash prize of \$500. Up to twenty (20) finalists will receive consolation prizes.

4. JUDGING CRITERIA. All eligible Nomination Forms will be judged, and up to 20 finalists selected by an independent judging panel whose decisions are final in all matters. The finalist who receives the highest amount of response by readers from the March edition of MON, will be selected as "Miss Bachelorette 1996."

5. GENERAL RULES. No substitution of prizes permitted. All federal, state, and local taxes are sole responsibility of winners. All federal, state and local laws and regulations apply. No letters, correspondence, or contracts other than official nomination forms and photographs will be considered. All Entry Forms become the property of Minority Opportunity News and none will be returned. Entering this contest and acceptance of prizes offered constitutes permission to the sponsors and the agencies to use your name and likeness in publicity and advertising. By participating in this promotion, entrants agree to be bound by the official rules. **No purchase necessary.**

6. For the names of the "Miss Bachelorette 1996" finalists, look in the March issue of MON, or send a self-addressed stamped (#10) envelope to: "Miss Bachelorette 1996", 2730 Stemmons Freeway, Tower West Suite 1202, Dallas, Texas 75207 after March 31, 1995.

All nomination fee proceeds to benefit the Jeffries Street Learning Center.

The Dining Table

Where "good" and "healthy" do go together

By Sonia Jordan

Nestled in Oak Cliff, The Dining Table, owned by Cassandra Armstrong, is one of Dallas' premiere restaurants. It has a unique menu of healthy soul food that many attest to being the piece-d'-resistance.

The Dining Table opened over four years ago with its non-traditional way of preparing soul food. Ms. Armstrong calls it "Classic Southern Cuisine: The food we have grown up eating, presented and served to you from a healthy prospective."

But, soul food it is. The very mention of soul food makes our mouth water as we look forward, with anticipation, to the delicacies that only Mama could make. Well, take heart.

Ms. Armstrong will please your palate without giving you heartburn or making your cholesterol level rise. She has even taken her art to another level by growing many of the herbs and vegetables that she uses in her preparation of the restaurant's food. One would think that a person who puts so much into a business has to be doing something they truly love, something they have always wanted to do. Right?

Not so with Ms. Armstrong. After attending the culinary school at El Centro College Cassandra had dreams of opening a catering business. Thanks to the City of Dallas, that dream was altered and expanded. Because of the way the Dining Table was set up, complete with tables and chairs, the City classified and regulated it as a restaurant, not just a catering business. So Cassandra did what any good entrepreneur would do. She capitalized on this minor setback and took the necessary measures to make the Dining Table a full-fledged restaurant.



Whether we are dining out or preparing food at home, it should be done the healthy way. Watching what we eat and how it is prepared is a habit that we should make a part of our everyday living. Throw away the fat-back in the collard greens and pinto beans. Instead, use smoked turkey. Food can be seasoned with herbs instead of white salt, and you will be insured of a taste that is pleasing. That's the way The Dining Table does it.

Stop by and enjoy a variety of dishes. Mixed greens, cabbage, black beans, herbal crusted lamb chops, herbal roasted chicken or the spicy pan-fried catfish are some of the foods listed on the menu. And dessert? Cassandra says her relatives are responsible for the delicious desserts served at the dining table. There's the traditional sweet potato pie and cobbler of course, but don't miss the

coconut pineapple cake or the pecan pie. Look, just go on by or call, B-A-Guest (224-8378).

A native Dallasite, Ms. Armstrong attends Friendship West Baptist Church in Dallas. While attending culinary school she worked at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Dallas, where she honed her knowledge and skills of food preparation. Soft

spoken and with a wonderful smile, Cassandra Armstrong does not hesitate to share her spiritual beliefs or her culinary know-how. When asked if there was any advice she would give to those thinking of going into business, she says, without hesitation.. "Free enterprise is good but its going to be the hardest thing you will ever do," says Ms. Armstrong "But of course as the scripture will have it, those that endureth to the end will receive their crown" Enough said.

In honor of Black History Month, beginning the first of February, the restaurant will feature different regions of the Motherland (Africa) by preparing foods unique to that area. Don't worry though. You can still enjoy Cassandra's Classic Southern Cuisine. The Dining Table is located at 1409 Ferndale. Keep your eyes and ears open because there are wonderful things happening for the restaurant and its owner. And remember, the number to call is (214) 224-8378.

MON

Ask



Girlfriend:

I need help. I mean serious help. I've gone to my minister, but he's a man and I don't feel like he really understands. After working hard all week, I don't feel like dealing with my family. As a matter of fact, I even hate going home in the evenings. My husband doesn't understand and I guess I don't either. A friend suggested I seek counseling but I just can't see my self telling a perfect stranger all of my business. I just don't know what to do.

Seeking

Dear Seeking:

Honey, I am a perfect stranger and you're telling me. Believe this, there is not one single, solitary thing wrong in this world with seeing a counselor or therapist. If you fell bad physically, you go see a doctor don't you? Well, the same should go for you mental and emotional well being.

For some reason, we, as African American women, feel there is something wrong with not being Superwomen. Take heart. We are all of that and then some, which is why we need to take the time to take care of ourselves. Go to that friend that suggested counseling and see if she can refer you to someone she knows is good.



Girlfriend:

Say you have a date (blind) and you go out, meet the guy. You may be slightly disappointed but are willing to try to work on the flaws and then you find out he's taking medication for some stress related depression. Is it worth staying around?

Dating Blind

Dear Dating Blind:

Let's get one thing straight. Girlfriend does not go on blind dates. Its too...too scary. Anyway, if you honestly believe that anything worth having is worth working for and waiting, you need to be on medication. Are you desperate, girlfriend? Now I now that the

holidays may leave us feeling alone and lonely but please, do yourself a favor...RUN!!! Run like the hounds of hell are pursuing you. Trust me, if you don't it may come to that.



Girlfriend:

What do you do about feelings that you have no control over. I'm in love with someone that I should not even entertain the thought about. How can I deal with this? If anyone finds out it would destroy my family.

????

Dear ????:

You don't need my advice sweetie. You need to do what you need to do and that's what you know is right. Oh, and by the way, you do have control over your feelings. To deny this fact simply means that you want to place the blame on something or someone else. Buck up baby. Forget about those wanton feelings. Its probably just lust in disguise.



Write:

Girlfriend
c/o MON
2730 Stemmons
1202 Tower West
Dallas, TX 75207

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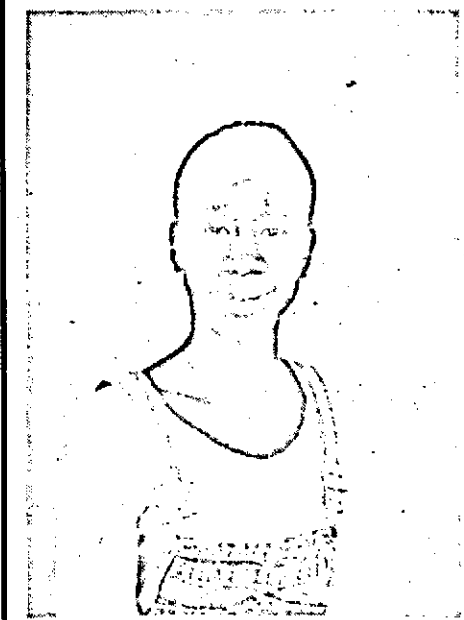


**Fairy Street
Mama**

**Role models-
Who is yours?**

As children, we tend to imitate those that we admire, those that are the closest to us and those that we most respect. As life goes on, we meet, read,

see or hear about someone that we would like to imitate. We sometime imagine ourselves in another state or country or maybe with lots of money while still others wish for fame. Some kids tend to pattern their lives after someone they consider their hero or role model. Some kids choose good people, but unfortunately, some choose bad people to mold themselves after. As I traveled this month around Dallas, I had the opportunity to talk to a number of kids about their choices for role models. Here are a couple of their comments.



KARVASHEA: "...My parents are my role models. My mother is always cooking me the types of foods that I want to eat and my father works hard to provide for me. They teach me things I need to know in life and they also teach me not to depend on someone else and to do things for myself. My mother teaches me different skills, including cooking and sewing and how to treat other people and myself.....I think that a kid can be their own role model too by not listening to other kids and doing what they know in their heart is right."

**Karvashea Hailey, 12 yrs. old
Webb Middle School-7th grade**



**Demarcus Jones, 9 yrs. old
MST-Magnet School**

DEMARCUS: "...Emmitt Smith is one of my role models because he is a good athlete and he has been my idol every since I was 7 years old....I like to watch him on TV too....and I like to keep in shape like I know that he has to play football...."My real role models are my parents because they take good care of me, like making sure that I do my homework and they make sure that I get to bed on time so that I can get the proper rest that I need...."They let me open up a bank account a few weeks ago which is going to teach me about saving and responsibilities."

Role models vary from parents, teachers and athletes, physicians, attorneys and musicians. Regardless of who you mold yourself after, you should only chose those people who are positive. Don't let anyone other than a parent or guardian make decisions for you. Never copy someone else-follow your own mind and remember: "The best model for you is you!"

MON

Fairy Street Mama can be seen on cable channel 23B on Tuesday at 4:00 p.m., Thursday at 5:00 p.m. and Saturday at 10:00 a.m. Also, viewers can see Fairy Street Mama live or call in every 4th Monday from 8-9 p.m. For information, call (214) 561-2002.

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- Martin Luther King Jr.

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Sports CAPSULE

By Syd Sinclair



Natalyn Williams has always won the youth tennis singles division competitions within her category. A 19-year old teen sensation at Northeastern University, the

Texas-native has risen in rank at her university over the last year. All the while managing to maintain a 3.25 overall GPA, serving "aces" in the classroom as well as on the tennis court.

Her concerns remain focused first on her education, and secondly on the opportunities that her tennis career may provide. She doesn't deny that she would one day like to be another Zina Garrison, but first she wants to continue her educational pursuits.

"Tennis is a fast game, very competitive," Natalyn says "in every sport you can only give it your best shot...and then work out any kinks from there."

One main "kink" is the healing of the sprained ankle Natalyn received while decorating her families' Christmas tree last month. She said her coach had warned her prior to leaving school to be careful at home; she just didn't know to take it literally. According to her physician, the ankle will be fine within the next two weeks.

"Well, my perspective is never clouded by little things—this sprain is nothing," laughs Natalyn, "I'm really enjoying having my Mom and Dad waiting on me while I sit her on the couch with my feet up. What a semester break...!"

Natalyn is originally from Mexia, Texas and is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Louis Williams.

To have your items included, please send a photo and profile to:

SportsCAPSULE c/o MON
2730 Stemmons Frwy.
Tower 1202 West
Dallas, TX 75207

Sports TIDBITS

By Syd Sinclair

Indoor Soccer

Soccer Plaza, Inc., an African-American owned indoor soccer facility, is conveniently located within the

Redbird/Duncanville area. The facility provides an outlet for soccer players to play year-round soccer. A sport for all ages, the soccer leagues range from as early as 4 years old to those for the over 30 crowd and senior citizens. Each league may be comprised of men, women or coed teams each lasting 8 to 9 weeks. For more information on the winter leagues, please call Victor or Pat Ward at (214) 709 - 5691.

Cowtown Marathon Adds Relay

Fort Worth's Cowtown Marathon and 10K race will add a three-member marathon relay to the 1996 event to be held in February 1996. The three member relay will be run in three legs of 10 miles, 8 miles and 8.2 miles. Teams may be all female, all male or coed. The marathon will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Main Street, north of Exchange Avenue in the historic Fort Worth Stockyards. For more information, call the Cowtown Marathon office at (817)735-2033.

Basketball Tourney

The Martin Luther King Basketball Tournament, a single elimination tourney, with only winning teams advancing to the next level, will run January 11 - 13, 1996. Team members will consists of a maximum of 10 members, ages 18 years or older - with entries being accepted on a first come, first serve basis. The tournament benefits the Multi-Ethnic Heritage Foundation and the Martin Luther King Advisory Board. For more information, please call (214) 821-9000.



'96 Mavericks Schedule

| | | | |
|-------|----|---------------|-----------|
| Tue. | 2 | Utah | 7:30 p.m. |
| Thu. | 4 | at Washington | 6:30 p.m. |
| Fri. | 5 | at New Jersey | 6:30 p.m. |
| Sun. | 7 | at Boston | 6:00 p.m. |
| Tue. | 9 | Indiana | 7:30 p.m. |
| Fri. | 12 | at Phoenix | 7:00 p.m. |
| Sat. | 13 | Charlotte | 7:30 p.m. |
| Mon. | 15 | Orlando | 7:30 p.m. |
| Fri. | 19 | Boston | 7:30 p.m. |
| Sun. | 21 | at Seattle | 7:00 p.m. |
| Tue. | 23 | at Sacramento | 9:30p.m. |
| Thur. | 25 | Detroit | 7:30 p.m. |
| Sat. | 27 | Portland | 7:30 p.m. |
| Tue. | 30 | LA Clippers | 7:30 p.m. |

For ticket information, please call (214) 748-1808.

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The African Herald - Dallas

Austin Sun - Austin

The Tyler Leader - Tyler

North Texas Journal - Wichita Falls

Capital City Argus - Austin

SNAP News - San Antonio

The Examiner - Corsicana

South Texas Informer - Corpus Christi

Dallas Examiner - Dallas

Houston Newspages - Houston



**Elizabeth Davis
Attorney at Law**

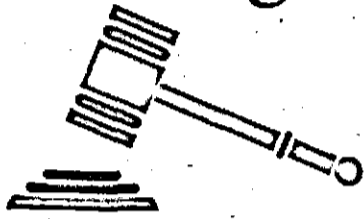
Protecting Your Rights

What to do when in a car wreck

1. *Protect injured parties and others from further damage.*

Call an ambulance if someone is seriously injured, and secure the scene. You may be liable for damage to approaching drivers unless they are properly warned.

Looking At



The Law

memories are fresh to insure that the facts are preserved. Also, get your lawyer's advice before giving any interviews or statements to investigators or adjusters.

6. *Report the accident to the Department of Public Safety.*

If, for some reason, an officer is not called to the scene, be sure to report the accident. An accident report is required by law to be filed with the Department of Public Safety within 10 days from the date of the accident if there is an injury, death or damages exceeding \$500.00.

MON

Elizabeth I. Davis is a cum laude graduate of the Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law and was listed in the Who's Who Among American Law Students. Her office phone number is (214) 689-7800.

The Legal Advisor is sponsored by the following attorneys-at-law: Michael John (214) 688-7571; Rudolph Brothers (214) 631-3371; Elizabeth Davis (214) 689-7800.

2. *Call an officer.*

Always call an officer to the scene. This serves as evidence of the accident and conditions at the scene. Police Officers and Highway Patrol Officers are trained accident investigators whose testimony may be valuable in establishing a civil claim for damages.

3. *Gather information and write it down.*

Ask to see the driver's license of the other driver. Since, drivers are required by law to exhibit their driver's license to each other, insist on viewing the license. Also, write down the name and policy number of the driver's insurance company. An Officer will obtain other necessary information. However, if the driver refuses to exchange information or attempts to leave the scene, write down the license plate number, make and model of the vehicle.

4. *Be careful of what you say.*

Even if you feel you might be at fault, it is best not to make an admission. You may learn later that the other driver was equally at fault, or more so. Just write down the facts of what happened, and contact an attorney as soon as possible.

5. *Consult your lawyer immediately.*

The sooner your lawyer is brought into the matter, the better he or she can advise you and protect your rights. Your lawyer can obtain statements from witnesses while their

Chronology of Legal Series

- October.....DNA Testing
- November.....Preparing your Will
- December.....Revising & Storing your Will
- January.....Auto Accidents
- February.....Divorce
- March.....Family Law, Q&A

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Samuel D. DeWitt Proctor

Book Review



In *The Substance of Things Hoped For*, Samuel DeWitt Proctor chronicles his own family history against the larger history of the

black struggle for equality in America. He also reveals the common thread in the lives of millions of African Americans — pure, enduring faith that still flourishes despite continued pre-judgements, deceptive racial stereotypes, and cynicism. From slavery throughout the Reconstruction, from urban migration and the Great Depression to the NAACP victories of the Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson administrations, from Nixon neglect and Reagan-Bush hostility all the way to the Clinton debate, Proctor brings the African-American experience in this country of life.

Issues and key events revisited in *The Substance of Things Hoped For* include:

- A look at one of the most stubborn barriers to racial progress—the insistence that negative behavior stems from race, rather than from poverty and isolation. Proctor examines the scandal

among scholars, educators, criminologists, and social scientists who often report statistics by race alone.

- How rap songs and filthy jokes on “black” shows and networks—and the implications that they universally represent black culture—add to the burden on blacks by reinforcing negative stereotypes that are already almost impossible to destroy.
- Why blacks are losing their best opportunity for real empowerment by rejecting education.
- Black discrimination against other blacks: Proctor denounces and dismantles the theories of public figures such as Louis Farrakhan, Leonard Jeffies and others who advocated absolute Afrocentrism, separatism, or isolationism.
- A frank assessment of the “Christian” right and public figures such as Dr. Thomas Sowell of the Heritage Foundation and Justice Clarence Thomas who have “ingratiated themselves among white conservatives.”
- Pivotal episodes in Proctor’s life when the barriers of race dissolved and reaffirmed the power of faith. For example, Proctor tells about a fire that destroyed his father’s church in 1937. In the pre-dawn darkness, as the fire

raged, the pastor of a neighboring all-white church, tears streaming down his face, invited Proctor’s congregation to worship in his church’s auditorium — this is a time when the two races did literally nothing together voluntarily.

- Encounters and experiences with some of the most prominent black leaders in recent history—some of them former students—including Martin Luther King, Jr., Medgar Evers, Jesse Jackson, Douglas Wilder, and many others.

The Substance of Things Hoped For takes a look at separate efforts that need to be blended together to combat persistent and ongoing racial stereotypes while building a genuine all-inclusive community: individual involvement, family rejuvenation, specialized teacher training for public schools, and more committed church leadership. It also offers a detailed outline for a National Youth Academy program that could help recapture failing and lost youths while saving the government millions of dollars that pour into welfare programs and spending on federal and state correctional facilities.

As Proctor makes clear, hard-won victories are being threatened by continued racism on the parts of whites—and cynicism and a feeling of futility on the

part of many blacks. “It has not been easy for us to reject rejection,” writes Proctor. “In the wake of popular movements that offer more problems than answers, we all need our faith to be edified. There can be no peace without justice, but we must pursue both without adding to the problem by engaging in inflammatory rhetoric that exacerbates an already polarized situation.”

Dr. Samuel DeWitt Proctor is a graduate of Virginia Union University and Crozier Theological Seminary. He received his doctorate degree in theology from Boston University. Other books by Dr. Proctor are *The Young Negro in America* (Associated Press, 1966), *Sermons from the Black Pulpit* (Judson Press, 1984, with Dr. William Watley), *Preaching About Crises in the Community* (Westminster Press, 1988), and *My Moral Odyssey* (Judson Press, 1989).

MON

Dr. Samuel D. Proctor will be appearing in Dallas, February 21. For more information contact:

The Black Bookworm
817-923-9661 (Ft. Worth)

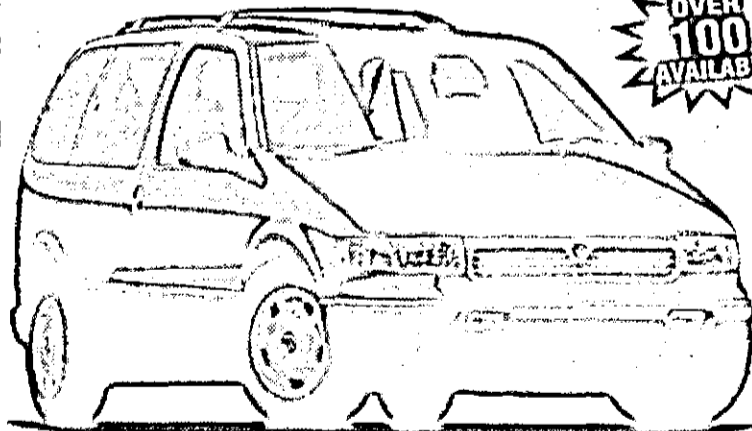
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(G.P. Putnam’s Sons; January 3, 1996; \$22.95 U.S./\$30.95 CAN)

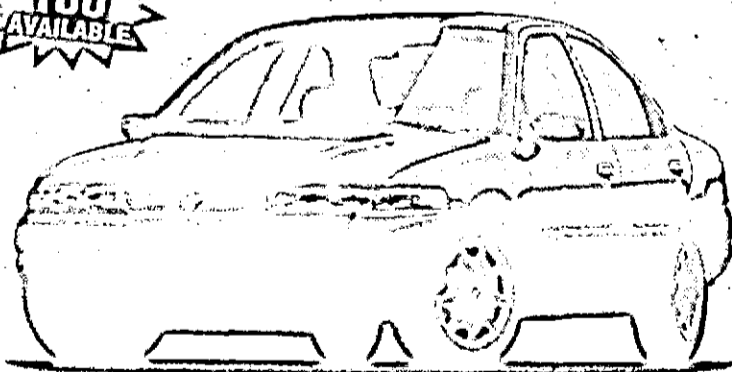
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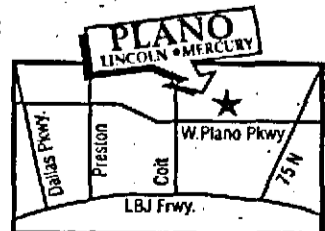
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Ron Shaw

Heart Trouble

St. John 14:1

In a day when the daily news seems to report more tragedy, trouble, crisis, and calamity, most Christians suffer from a disease Jesus would call heart trouble. According to Jesus, it affects the way they talk, the way they hear, the way they think and the way they serve. He said it causes their treasure to be the wrong things.

When heart trouble sets in, Christians develop a distorted view of their circumstances. Everyone else is their problem. They evaluate their situations in a non-scriptural way. They treat badly those people whom God has used to bless them, those who have been gentle and kind to them with disdain and disrespect. Because of this disease, they are never satisfied or content. It affects their physical bodies. They develop hypochondria. Because of this disease they can't sleep through the night. They seek refuge and solitude in stuff. They can't buy a house big enough. They can't buy a car fancy or fast enough. They can't buy a wardrobe that will satisfy them.

This generation of Christians has become the prozac generation. Counselors and psychiatrists become their saviors. Instead of that old time religion, they practice that on-line religion. They seek protection from burglar bars and elaborate security systems. They can't find a woman fine enough, or a man handsome enough. They are dissatisfied with themselves—to such an extent that they spend billions of dollars to try and change their exterior: new hair, new eyes, skin lighteners, breast implants, hair implants, makeovers and make-up, African garb, European styles, health clubs and self help courses. All used to try and cure what Jesus said was the problem.

Consider grandmother and grandfather, who perhaps never had a burglar system or a Mercedes, never made \$100,000 in a year or knew how to use a computer. However, they knew the secret to preventing heart trouble. Their diets were supposedly lethal and their lifestyles supposedly uncomfortable, but they seemed to know the secret to preventing heart trouble.

This very basic tenet of our faith

seems to escape modern day Christians. Even pastors suffer from this disease. We have bigger congregations and bigger buildings and more programs and bigger budgets, yet we have not escaped this deadly disease. We preach more sermons and teach more lessons on how to be successful and acquire more of life's luxuries. Yet our parishioners are getting more wicked and more distant from this very basic tenet of our faith.

The answer, according to Jesus, is to develop a trust and confidence in God: "Let not your heart be troubled, believe (trust) in God believe (trust) in me." We don't hear much these days about trusting in the Lord. We hear complaining about what man has done to us or has not done for us. According to Jesus, God can either allow it to be troubled or be trusting. When we meditate on the word of the world (the layoffs, the crime statistics, the racial tension, they dysfunction, etc.), we are developing a troubled heart.

When we meditate on the word of God (his promises of deliverance, provisions, protection), we are developing a trusting heart. If you will tend to matters inside (your heart), He will tend to matters outside (your situation). Israel's situation was not a problem for God. His biggest challenge was getting them to keep their hearts right.

More next month!

MON

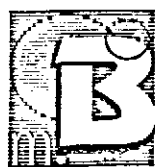
Ron Shaw is the pastor of Light Unlimited Christian Center and can be reached at (214) 320-5744.

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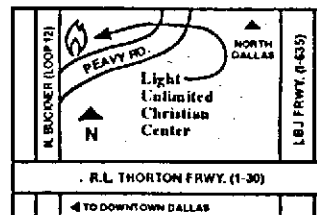
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Tai E. Jones
Business Editor

Dr. Samuel L. Ross
Parkland Medical Center
5201 Harry Hines Blvd.
Dallas, TX 75235



Dr. Samuel L. Ross has been named senior vice president and medical director of Parkland's community-oriented Primary Care program after serving as the interim director for over a year. President/CEO Ron Anderson said that Ross had done an excellent job during the development phase and had definitely earned the position. Additionally, Ross has expounded on the roles of the assistant medical directors and health center directors by expanding their decision-making duties in budgeting, personnel management and patient services. Under his leadership, Parkland has linked information from the health centers to the hospital's main campus, such as medical records, information systems, business and laboratory services and radiology.

James M. Douglas
Texas Southern University
Houston, TX 77004
(713) 527-7456



The Texas Southern University Board of Regents has named James M. Douglas, President of Texas Southern University. Douglas, who served as the interim President since October of last year, becomes the university's ninth president. A Houston native and TSU alumnus, he has served as Dean of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University for 14 years and for a short stint was the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at TSU.

Dr. A. Raj Chowdhury
Texas Southern University
Houston, TX
(713) 527-7456



Unanimously elected by the National Association of Industrial Technology, Dr. A. Raj Chowdhury has been chosen as the president of the university division of the professional association for 1996. NAIT has served the technology profession for over 30 years, and fills the spot of leading change agent for the 21st century. NAIT accredited 78 baccalaureate degree programs, and 170 technical specializations at 49 major universities across the USA. TSU and

the School of Technology's academic programs (B.S. degrees) received its 4th re-accreditation by NAIT.

Councilman Al Lipscomb
1995 Willow Award
Recipient
Dallas, TX



Recently, Councilman Al Lipscomb was honored by the Willow Distributors and Coors Brewing Company as the recipient of the 1995 Willow Award. Recognized for years of significant volunteer contributions to the civic enhancement of the Dallas African-American community, Councilman Lipscomb was awarded \$20,000 to be distributed amongst the charities of his choice.

During a luncheon in his honor, Councilman Lipscomb announced the organizations to receive the award funding and presented checks to: Just Do It-Youth Group, St. Marks Missionary Baptist Church; Johnnie's Manor, Inc.; Shunn's Place Preschool Academy; Stewpot, First Presbyterian Church of Dallas; Lincoln/Booker T. Alumini Association; Boy Scott Troop 167, Good Street Baptist Church; M.F. Bailey Choir, Lincoln High School; The Bethlehem Foundation; I Am That I Am Learning Center; and Black Citizens for Justice, Law & Order.

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First Interstate Bank of Texas, N.A., and Randalls Food Market, Inc. has entered an agreement that will dramatically expand the banking presence in Tom Thumb stores in the Dallas market. Under the terms of the agreement, First Interstate has taken over operation of the automated teller machines in over 40 Tom Thumb Stores, owned by Randalls Food Markets, in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex. Additionally, Randalls and First Interstate have agreed that the bank will open in-store branches in all new Randalls and Tom Thumb facilities constructed in markets where the bank currently operates. This strategy will give consumers maximum flexibility to obtain a full range of banking services.

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Business Spotlight: Comerica Bank-Texas



The 1995 graduates of the Community MBA (Minority Business Advancement) Program were honored in a graduation ceremony and reception at the Dallas

Museum of Art sponsored by Comerica Bank. An intensive, eight-week business fundamentals curriculum was taught by leading instructors from the University of Texas at Austin, College and Graduate School of Business. On hand to congratulate the graduates were: (Left to Right) Charles O'Neal, director of the Main Street Program at the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce; Pat Faublon, executive vice president of Comerica Bank-Texas; Nancy Chien Nevalsky, board member of the Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber of Commerce; and Dr. Ernest W. Walker, The Gale Chaired Professor Emeritus in Small Business and Entrepreneurship and Director of the Community MBA Program, the University of Texas at Austin.

MON

Gates to Head Chamber

Reginald Gates is starting 1996 off on the right foot. He was recently named the new president of the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce, the nation's oldest and largest specialty chamber.

"The hope is that through business and economic development, the Dallas African American community will bear economic fruit and enjoy economic prosperity," Gates says in a prepared statement.

Sam Brown, chair of the Dallas Black Chamber says, "We are confident that under Gates' stewardship, local African Americans who yearn to become a part of Dallas' strong, thriving economic community, will realize their dreams.

"Gates brings to his current assignment, his collective experience in business, marketing, fund-raising and collaboration." Prior to being tapped as Dallas' Black Chamber head, Gates spent nearly four years as president of the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce.

During his term in Fort Worth, he established a number of small business assistance programs, with added emphasis on the needs of African Americans. Those programs include the bonding assistance program, the small contractors development corporation, and the business assistance center outreach program.

Gates' career began in 1980 when, upon graduating from Bishop College, he became the school's youngest administrator. He was director of campus housing for three years before moving

to the position of director of alumni affairs.

During his tenure as alumni affairs director, Gates began working with the United Negro College Fund. For three months each year, Gates assisted the North Texas/Oklahoma regional office with coordination of its fund-raising efforts.

Three years later, Gates joined UNCF as its project manager, organizing and managing the Dallas, Fort Worth, and Oklahoma telethon campaigns.

Gates joined the staff of the Dallas County Community College District two years later as senior account executive at the district's Business and Professional Institute.

While there, he strengthened the district's standing in the Dallas business community through BPI's training programs for major corporations. Gates main duties were to identify individual business need and then customize training programs to meet those needs.

Gates moved back to UNCF, this time as assistant area director, managing the fund-raising activities of the telethon and annual campaign for Fort Worth and Oklahoma.

He was then chosen to head the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce.

Gates holds a bachelor's degree from Bishop College and a master's from Prairie View. He also has studied business, industry and labor through the University of Georgia extension program.

MON



Curtis Yates

One-sided Mortgages

When only one spouse's credit qualifies

Just around the corner, there's a very nice three bedroom home that you and your family have viewed, and wouldn't mind buying. So, you contact a real estate agent in order to pursue

marriage is equally owned by both husband and wife. With this in mind, many lenders take on the approach that in order for them to process a mortgage application on a couple, both applicants should possess good credit and supported income. This is also the same procedure taken by the other percentage of mortgage companies willing to process an application for a mortgage on only the qualifying spouse with supported income.

While you've found the right lender, it may appear you have fallen just short of your home buying dream. Don't be dismayed at all. In this situation, the qualifying spouse with the income to support the purchase price applies for the mortgage, meaning that only one spouse's name would exist on the promissory note of the mortgage lender (note holder). At this point we are in violation of the Community

estate is as good as its financing and financing of real estate is an important aspect of home buying. If you would like a copy of the above example breakdown analysis sheets faxed to you, contact our office by fax or send self-stamped addressed envelope to the address below. Look forward to the next issue of MON where you'll find the most infor-

mative topics involving real estate.

Please address all comments or questions with a self-addressed stamped envelope to me and I will promptly send you a reply.

MON

Curtis Yates is the owner/operator of REAL ESTATE STATUS QUO, P.O. Box 833842, Richardson, Texas; (214) 702-0151, Fax (214) 934-2706.

FIG 33-1

ESTIMATES

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Single spouse supported income | \$4,590/Month or \$55,080/Yr. |
| Maximum monthly debts allowed | \$1015/Month |
| Maximum House payment after debt | \$846.35/Month |

CLOSING ESTIMATES

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Estimated Title Charges | \$1,988 |
| Estimated Prepaid Expenses | \$607.87 |
| Estimated Reserve Expenses | \$534.55 |
| Estimated Down Payment | \$1,950 |
| Less Earnest Money | \$500 |
| Estimated Cash Needed To Close | \$4,580.42 |

buying the property. Suddenly, after the agent pulled up a credit in-file on you and your spouse, you're told that the credit problems of one spouse will prevent you from acquiring mortgage financing. Even though the income of one spouse would support the necessary amounts after expenses needed to purchase the home, it appears that your home buying dream has ended. Here is where a real estate agent should have knowledge of many different lending institutions, including some who's underwriters are willing to process an application on just the qualifying spouse applying for mortgage financing.

Though it is true that Texas is a community property state, it is also true that couples faced with a similar one-sided credit situation can still purchase a home without having to break any Community Property Laws. The Community Property Law basically says that all property acquired during

Property Laws, so we cure this problem by having both spouses sign the Deed of Trust at closing. Well, there it is, it's done! You're back on home buying dream avenue.

Now, how about a case study. The home you're interested in sells for \$85,000. Here's how the income of one spouse must support the sales price using FHA financing, at let's say, 8% fixed for 30 years. (FIG 33-1)

Monthly payment is based upon the sample property being located in the City of Dallas, and also Dallas County and Dallas Schools. House payment breakdown is shown below.

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|--|-----------------|
| Principal & Interest | \$609.39 |
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| Hazard Insurance | \$42.50 |
| Mortgage Insurance | \$34.60 |
| Estimated Total Monthly Payment | \$846.35 |

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The company's director/choreographer, Dee Dee Gibson, is a former background singer and choreographer for M.C. Hammer. She was also the original



Deborah "Dee Dee" Gibson

choreographer of Shelly Garrett's "Beauty Shop-One," she choreographed the 1995 Minority Opportunity News Bachelor/Bachelorette and Hollywood Enterprises VIP Party and is an alumni dancer and choreographer from Grambling State University.

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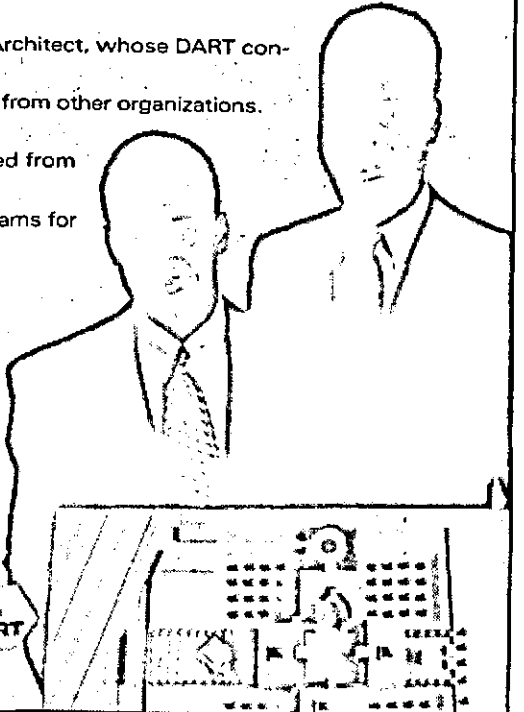
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Call our job line for
career opportunities
(214) 360-2750



The Dallas Fire Department has a career for you. If you are interested in becoming a
Firefighter/Paramedic
Call Captain Louie W. Bright or Horacio Garcia at
(214) 670-0223 or 1-800-510-FIRE

- 45 semester hours with "C" average or better
- Minimum age: 18 years (no maximum)
- Starting salary (25,849 - 27,049)
- Paid training (24 wks. Recruit School, 22 wks. EMS training)
- On duty 24 hours, off-duty 48 hours (after training)



CERTIFIED TEACHERS NEEDED

TO FILL 1995-96 VACANCIES AND FOR THE PROJECTED VACANCIES FOR THE 1996-97 SCHOOL YEAR IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

*Bilingual/ESL; General Elementary (K-6); Special Education (K-12); Mathematics; Composite Science; Reading; Spanish; Librarians and Speech Therapist

*ENGLISH PROFICIENCY REQUIRED

Salaries:

Teachers: \$25,250 - \$45,720

Bilingual Stipend: \$3,000 + \$1,000 Signing Bonus

Career Ladder: \$1,500 - \$3,000

(Transferable)

(Attractive benefits program, Quality staff development & advanced study program)
Call Mrs. Willie Crowder, Employment Administrator at 214/989-5537 for an application or to schedule an interview.

College applicants, please contact your placement office.
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



SEEKING A NEW CAREER?

TEACHING IS IN A CLASS BY ITSELF!

Are you a college graduate who may or may not have a teaching certificate and would like to pursue a career in education through a teacher training program? If so, the Dallas Public Schools' PERMANENT SUBSTITUTE PROGRAM IS FOR YOU!

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL POSITIONS:

Four-year college degree from an accredited university. 2.5 overall grade point average on a 4.0 system. Submission of completed application form/all requested items.

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS MUST HAVE A GENUINE DESIRE TO WORK WITH YOUNG ADULTS/CHILDREN IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

1. Bilingual Education (Pre K-6)
24 semester hours in a combination of courses. 3 in each of the following: English, math, social studies, natural science, and the remaining 12 hours in a combination of the above areas. Bilingual applicants must read, speak, write both English and Spanish fluently.
2. Secondary Mathematics (7-12)
24 semester hours in mathematics (12 hours must be upper division coursework).
3. Composite Science (7-12)
48 semester hours in a combination of science courses which must include biology/zoology, chemistry, geology, and physics/physical science, with 24 hours in one of the above areas (12 hours must be upper division). A minimum of 6 semester hours must be completed in each of the three remaining areas.
* Persons who are deficient 3 to 6 hours of coursework may be considered for recruitment by agreeing to complete coursework deficiencies during the spring, 1996, semester.

FOR AN APPLICATION, PLEASE CALL:

(214) 302-2433 - leave name/address for application packet.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 6, 1995, 4:30 P.M.

(One unofficial transcript reflecting all coursework must accompany application.)

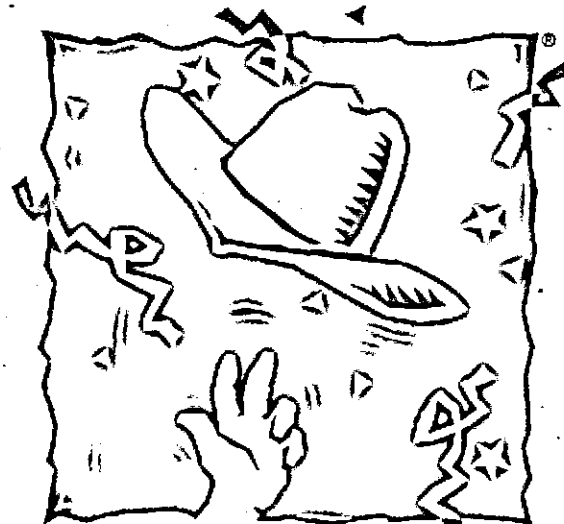
IF SELECTED, YOU MUST BE AVAILABLE TO BEGIN

December 1, 1994, 8:00 a.m.

Rate of Pay...\$136.50 per day

DALLAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER M/F/H



WE GIVE EVERYONE A CHANCE. AFTER ALL, WE'RE THE LOTTERY.

A Texas Lottery vendor is currently searching for Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs) certified with the State of Texas and experienced in the following areas:

ACRYLIC FINISHERS

Acrylic finishers with capabilities to die-cut and print on acrylic. Please submit examples of work, a detailed company history and a descriptive equipment list. Prices must be competitive.

STATIC CLING PRINTERS

Printers with capabilities to print four-color process or flat color onto static cling material. Please submit examples of work, a detailed company history and a descriptive equipment list. Prices must be competitive.

WHITE VINYL PRINTERS

Printers with capabilities to print four-color process or flat color onto .010 white vinyl material. Must also have

die-cutting capabilities. Please submit examples of work, a detailed company history and a descriptive equipment list. Prices must be competitive.

METAL SIGN PRINTERS

Printers with capabilities to fabricate metal brackets and print on metal wall signs and curb signs. Please submit examples of work, a detailed company history and a descriptive equipment list. Prices must be competitive.

Please respond in writing to:

Melissa Villaseñor-Dye

Retailer and Minority

Development Supervisor

Texas Lottery-GPP

P.O. Box 16630

Austin, TX 78761-6630.

TEXAS LOTTERY

MON's Career Monthly

We're looking for **PART-TIME TELLERS** with attitudes



We are seeking candidates with superior customer service skills and at least 6 months previous cash handling experience. 10-key/calculator skills are preferred.

We currently have opportunities with various schedules available—morning, mid-morning and afternoon.

We think you'll find our competitive salary and advancement opportunities of great interest.

Please call our JOBLINE at (214) 290-3688.

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Bank One is an EOE committed to diversity in the workplace and promotes a drug-free environment.

UTD

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has

"SUPER" JOBS FOR SUPER MARKET

Enjoy the holiday season and secure a position now to begin working in January for Dallas Market Center's Super Market. We have over 56 positions open in the Food and Beverage and Property Management Division.

• Cashiers - pay rate \$6.00 per hour, good communication, customer service, and mathematical skills and 6 months previous experience. Cashier training provided.

• Housekeepers - pay rate \$5.50 per hour, good communication skills, and 6 months previous experience.

Free parking and opportunities for advancement and promotions available. Must be able to pass background check. Apply in person Monday - Thursday, 2 - 5 p.m. or call 655-7602 additional information.

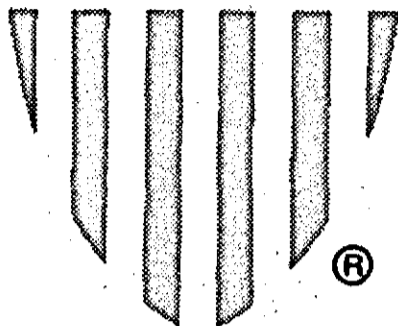
Dallas Market Center
Dallas Trade Mart Building
2100 Stemmons Freeway
(on the corner of Market Center Blvd. and
Stemmons Frwy/next to World Trade Center)
Dallas, Texas 75207

KRRW Arrow 97.9
Radio looking for air talent for Dallas' All Rock & Roll Oldies station. Qualifications include a minimum of three years medium/major market on-air experience. Production skills essential. Creativity, enthusiasm, professionalism and dedication a must. Knowledge of RCS software extremely helpful. Contact Cynthia Alford, Dept. E KRRW 4131 N. Central Exp., Suite 1200, Dallas, Texas 75204 / (214) 528-5500. KRRW-FM Radio is a CBS/Westinghouse owned affirmative action, equal opportunity employer.

Plano



All-America City



1994

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For Business
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the City of Plano,
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214-578-7135



THE CITY OF PLANO HAS THE FOLLOWING
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PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT,
1520 AVE K, Suite 130,
P.O. BOX 860358,
PLANO, Texas 75086-0358,
PHONE 214/578-7115.

Position:
Department:
Salary Range:

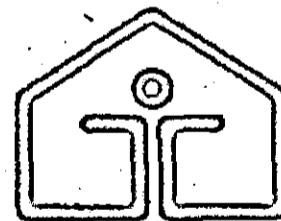
PROFESSIONAL
DEPUTY CITY MARSHAL
Municipal Court Judge

\$2,207 to \$3,048 Closing Date: 1-12-96

Will execute subpoenas and supply other legal assistance to the Chief Municipal Court Prosecutor and provide assistance to the Municipal Judges and Judicial staff in the preparation for and operation of Municipal Court sessions as well as keep accurate records of daily activities and other work-related reports. Will function as Court Bailiff.

High school graduate (or GED) plus a minimum of one (1) year of law enforcement experience as a licensed peace officer; ability to speak Spanish "a plus". Valid Class C Texas Driver's License and have an acceptable driving record as defined by applicable City policies; maintenance of an acceptable driving record will be considered a condition of continued employment. Must be licensed by the State of Texas as a certified peace officer. HOURS: 8:30 am - 5:30 pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and 1 pm - 10 pm on Tuesday; must be willing to adjust schedule as court dockets require.

AA/EOE/ADA



DALLAS
HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Housing Authority of the City of Dallas, Texas (DHA) will receive bids for the Abatement/Repairs to the Administration Building at Frazier Courts, Tex 9-5, until 11:00 A.M., on Thursday, January 18, 1996, at DHA's Central Office, Development and Planning Department, 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 and Planning Department, 3939 N. Hampton Rd., Suite 350, Dallas, Texas 75212. A \$25.00 non-refundable fee is required for each set of plans and specifications.

The DHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. The Housing Authority of the City of Dallas, Texas will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or age. Equal Housing Opportunity.

MON'S

Career Monthly

Advertiser
Call
214-951-9551
Fax
214-951-9551



NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The City of Lancaster invites sealed bids from all qualified vendors desiring to provide **Group Dental Insurance** for City employees. Sealed bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. CST on January 9, 1996, 3:30 p.m. CST at the City of Lancaster Municipal Center, City Council Chambers, 211 N. Henry Street, Lancaster, Texas 75146-0940. Bid Proposals should be clearly marked "Group Dental Bid Proposal". Specifications may be obtained from the Administrative Office at Municipal Center, 211 N. Henry Street, Lancaster, Texas on Tuesday, December 12, 1995. The City Council will consider awarding the proposal at its regular Council Meeting on Monday, January 23, 1996 in the City Council Chambers located at Lancaster Municipal Center, 211 N. Henry Street, Lancaster, Texas.



Texas
Commerce
Bank

SECRETARY

Texas Commerce Bank currently has a secretarial position available in our Lockbox Department in Downtown Dallas. Requirements include typing 60 wpm, proficient experience with Word, WordPerfect, Excel, and graphics is a plus. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills are required. Other duties include heavy phones, faxing, copying, etc. Texas Commerce offers a competitive salary and benefits. Qualified candidates should fax a resume including salary history to 214/965-2928. **NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.**

Texas Commerce is an Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/D/V



DALLAS



POLICE DEPARTMENT

EARN \$25,849 - \$27,049

The Dallas Police Department is one of the finest in the nation.

Starting salaries while in the academy range from \$25,849 - \$27,049, with career step increases that amount to \$8,786 during the first nine years of service.

Benefits include deferred compensation, flexible life and health insurance plans, an excellent retirement plan, and a tuition reimbursement plan. In addition, all equipment and uniforms are furnished.

Be a part of the tradition of excellence. If you have at least 45 semester college hours with a "C" average or better, step up to the Dallas Police Department. Women and Minorities are encouraged to apply.

Contact: POLICE RECRUITERS FOR MORE INFORMATION:

APPLY IN PERSON AT
2014 MAIN STREET RM 201
DALLAS, TEXAS 75201
MON-FRI 8:00 am-5:00 pm
(214) 670-4407

DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT
214-670-4407 or 1-800-527-2948
An Equal Opportunity Employer, By Choice

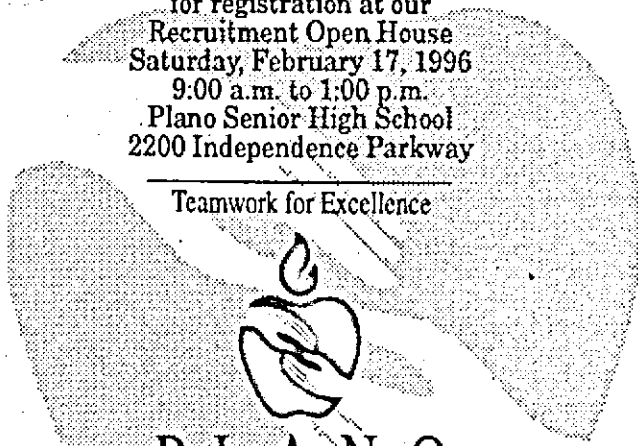
SHADES OF PROGRESS

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As we strive to achieve greater diversity and broaden our children's understanding of the world at large.

Call 1-800-909-7473 to request an application for registration at our Recruitment Open House Saturday, February 17, 1996 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Plano Senior High School 2200 Independence Parkway

Teamwork for Excellence



PLANO

Independent School District

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Located 20 miles north of Dallas, Texas

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Comerica Bank-Texas is a dynamic, fast-growing force in Texas' financial industry. As one of the 10 largest banks in the state with assets of more than \$3 billion, we have 53 branches in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex, Houston and Austin. We continue to expand our branch network and are seeking qualified applicants who share our core values of integrity, customer service, teamwork, flexibility and trustworthiness.

Comerica is committed to extending career opportunities to the residents of the communities we serve. We operate a 24-hour job hotline, which lists all full-time and part-time positions currently available. Please call (214) 828-8810 for a listing of positions in the Dallas area.

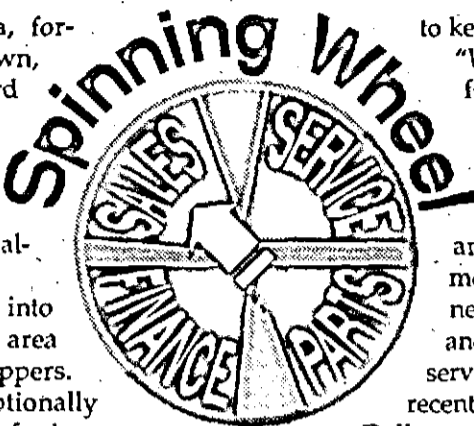
We reward our employees with a competitive compensation and benefits package and promote an alcohol and drug-free work environment. Comerica Bank-Texas is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate in hiring or employment on the basis of age, race, sex, color, religion, national origin, disability, or veteran status.

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Fowler Toyota Expands Business

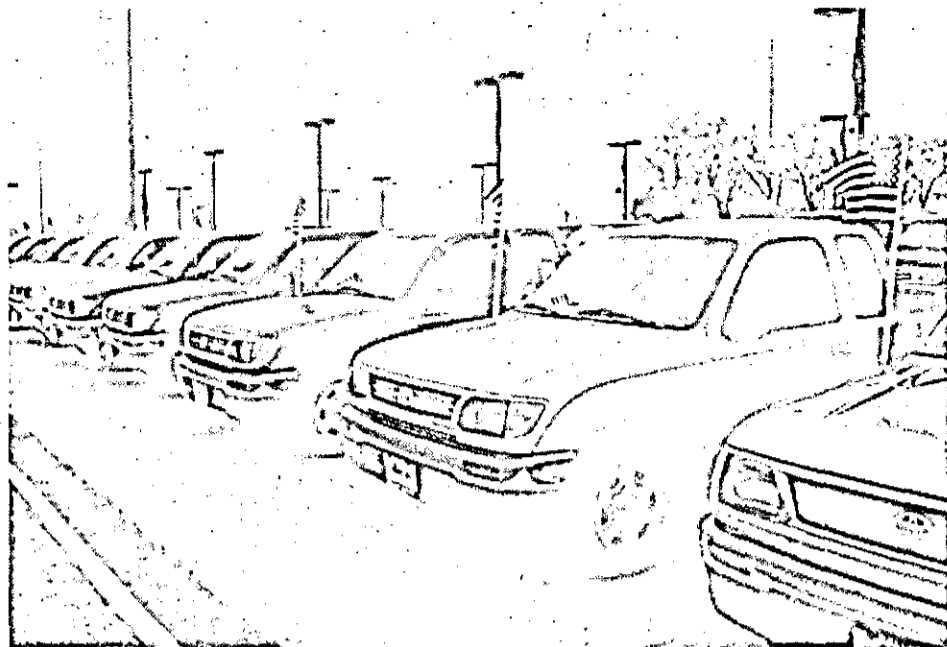
Fowler Toyota, formerly Toyota Town, has seen five record car sales months since its grand opening, and is building a reputation as a volume dealer in Texas.

That translates into good news for area automobile shoppers. Fowler has exceptionally high customer satisfaction ratings and the staff there said they intend



to keep it that way. "We will continue to focus on being a people-oriented dealership and are in the process of expanding our used-car and service departments to better meet the needs of our customers and the community we serve," staff members said recently.

Dallas native Bill Fowler opened his first dealership in Norman,



Okla. in 1971. In September 1994, he bought a Toyota dealership in Mesquite in September 1994 and named it Fowler Toyota. Fowler brought to his new dealership years of experience in the automobile dealership business.

Currently, Fowler sells Toyota products, pre-owned vehicles and has a well-equipped service department with a well-trained staff.

Fowler Toyota, with more than 80 employees is a major employer in the Metroplex. Its staff undergoes regular rigorous training to meet the needs of customers. In addition, the service department has eight master technicians who are specially trained to service Toyota products.

"Fowler Toyota is truly a customer-oriented dealership," staff members said. "Our goal is to provide complete satisfaction to our customers and make their car-buying experience a happy one."

"For more than 27 years, Bill Fowler has made it his goal to build a good reputation. We realize the importance of

serving the customer in every way - from the sale of the product - delivered as promised, to follow up care in the service department. We stand behind our product and our name."

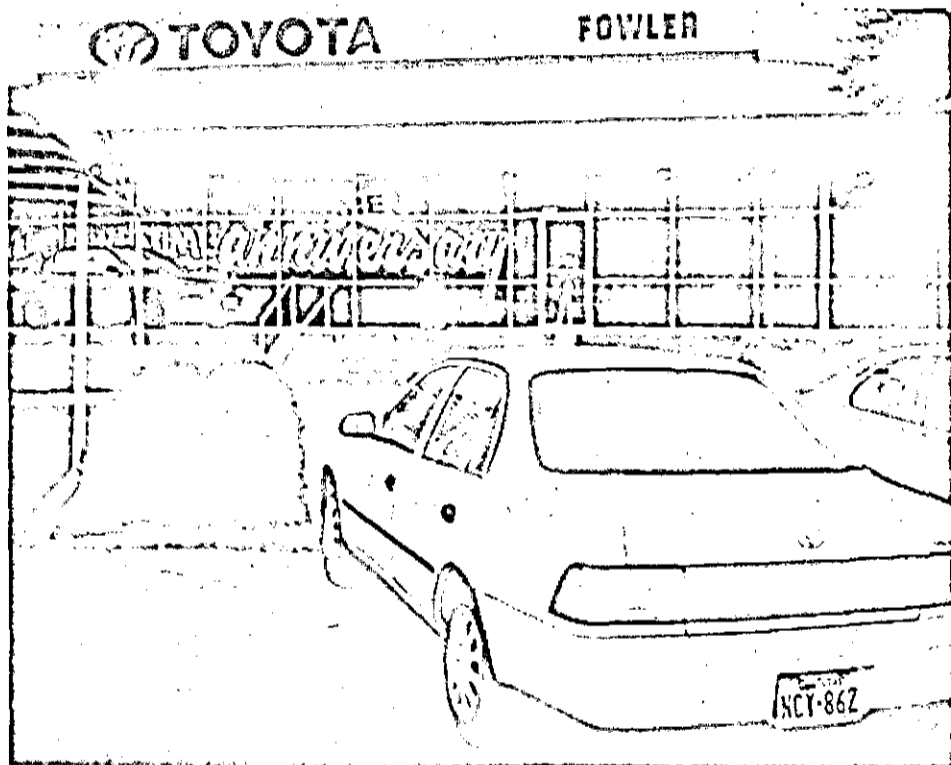
Fowler Toyota has begun construction on new facilities designed to increase its lot space by 180 spots, expand the services department by 10 bays and add 10 offices for its sales staff.

"Sales are brisk for Toyota's and Fowler's sales have grown by 50 to 60 percent over the last 15 months," says new car sales manager Cody Thompson. "That's why we need more room and more people."

The dealership is adding 10 new sales representatives, and when construction is completed, will have room for an inventory of about 400 vehicles.

Fowler Toyota is located at 9525 East R.L. Thornton Freeway in Dallas. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday. For more information call 324-0411.

MON



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ASK YOUR BANKER

Practical answers to financial questions that matter to small business owners

Q. *When is the best time to obtain a loan or line of credit and why?*

A. This may sound ridiculous, but the best time is when you don't need it. Let me explain what I mean. In banking, as with any institution, procedures are developed to ensure we maintain a sound foundation. These safeguards protect our customers, as well as the banking system. The loan process generally includes these four steps:

1. You discuss your borrowing needs or submit an application to the bank.
2. Your banker reviews the application and makes a determination regarding the request.
3. Loan documents are prepared and thoroughly reviewed.
4. Funds are released to you when the documents are signed.



Michon Fulgham
Assistant Vice President &
Financial Services Officer
Comerica Bank-Texas



Comerica Bank-Texas

Don't let the process discourage you, though. We understand you don't have time to shuffle papers all over town when you're in dire financial need. That's why it makes sense to anticipate your need when possible, and to begin this process so you can avoid getting into a financial bind or time crunch.

One thing we can do in Comerica Bank-Texas' Community Lending department is review your current financial situation and help you to determine what your future needs might be and how Comerica can meet them. If your company doesn't need additional capital right now but you're thinking about expanding your business (e.g. adding employees, inventory, equipment, etc.), call me at (214) 841-1341. We can discuss which banking services work best for you and help you prepare to obtain them before you need them!

More questions and answers to come in future issues as this series continues.