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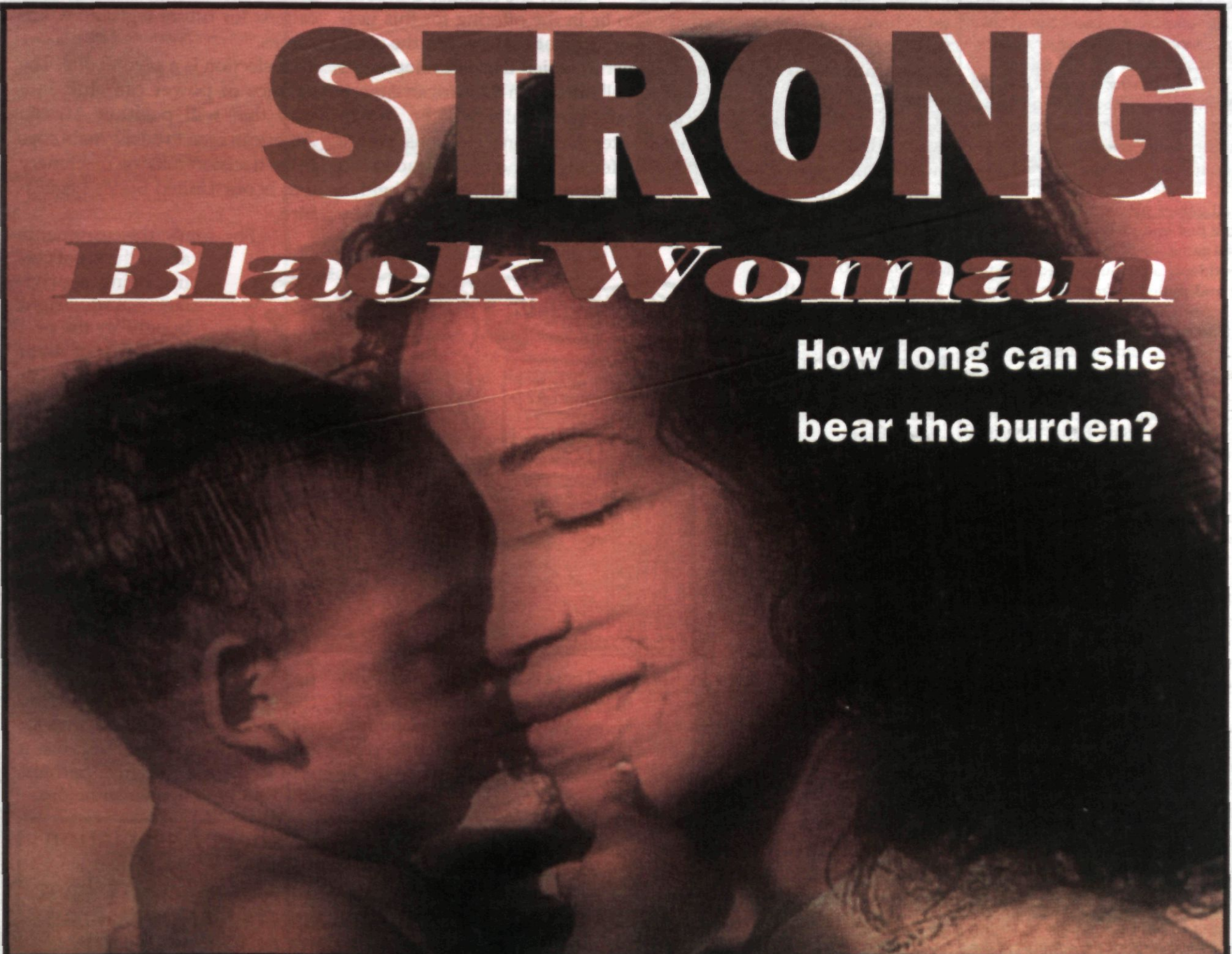
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VOLUME 5, NO. 11 November 1996



STRONG

Black Woman

How long can she
bear the burden?



This year's elections could produce real power

**Dr. Jack Evans
answers
Michael Muhammad**

**NAACP Elections
on Nov. 16 —
Don't miss it!**

**November is
Minority Adoption
Month**



From The Editor

Chris Pryer

photo by Derrick Walters

Needing Male Talk

It was a simple response to a simple question. Nothing profound or particularly noteworthy. Just a casual exchange between father and son on a bright, glorious fall Saturday afternoon. But it spoke volumes about what is increasingly lacking in our society.

I had been paying my usual homage to the lawn gods—mowing and edging, trimming and weed-whacking—when my neighbor came out to do the same. He and I exchanged pleasantries before sliding into an analysis of the high school football games played the night before and the just ended Texas-Notre Dame football game.

Suddenly a pick-up roared onto the street and pulled in front of my neighbor's house. Out popped a wiry, middle-aged man with friendly, crinkly eyes and a weatherworn, outdoors man-type face, wearing the requisite baseball cap (they must come standard when you buy the truck). "Hey, Dad," my neighbor hailed. "What are you doing here?" His dad smiled and replied, "Oh, just thought I'd come by and talk to you."

It was one of those many unnoticed utterances, gestures or actions that communicate in the most powerful way. When my neighbor's dad answered his son's question by say, "Oh, I just wanted to talk to you," it communicated how he felt about his son. Now I could be wrong, but I didn't get the impression that there was something specific my neighbor's dad wanted to talk to him about—not some weighty family issue or crisis that required his son to drop all else. No, he just wanted to talk to his son.

Were my dad alive today, I could easily see him doing the same thing. And doing it often, too. Such strong ties are the steel-like fibers that hold families together; hold communities together; hold civilizations together. This takes nothing from the power of a mother's love. Quite the contrary, this issue commits itself to telling the tales of strong women who, without the support of the father, raised families alone. And did a good job, at that. But there is little doubt that children require the love of both genders—male and female. And one can never really make up for the other.

We can celebrate the triumph of the women chronicled in this issue. However, let us resolve to ensure that our offspring get all they deserve—a mother and a father to talk to.

MON

Editorial

Shifting the balance of power

Many of us are familiar with the old saying about Texas weather: "If you don't like the weather, just wait for ten minutes and it will change." While not perhaps that fast, the wind changes in the political atmosphere suggest tornado-like unpredictability. Let's look at a few of the more significant events that, just a few short months ago, would never have been imagined:

- a Hispanic high school teacher, running for political office for the first time, defeats an incumbent Congressman in the primary election for one of Texas' Senatorial seats

- our Speaker of the House, who, just over a year ago was viewed as the dominate politician in Washington, is now being viewed as a political liability by most of the candidates in his own party

- the Republican Contract for America has proven to be more of a contract on itself as voter polls seem to indicate that the Republicans are responsible for much of the neglect and abandonment of those most vulnerable in our society,

- our President, beleaguered by a constant barrage of Republican-inspired, right wing, ultra-conservative attacks, is now riding the waves of popularity at some of the highest levels ever

- the Republican political domination within the Congress may be in dire jeopardy in light of the

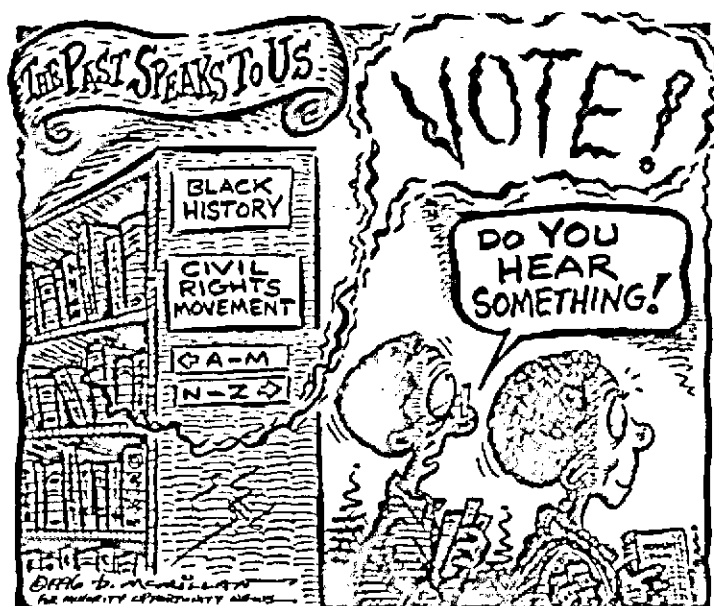
strong position of many of their Democratic competitors

Clearly the changes that seem to be in the offering for this year are dramatic. However, the manner in which these developments will impact on the African American community will be shown after the national elections. We are referring to the major leadership position that will likely be held in the new Congress, not only by Democrats but by black Democ-

not, crafted within the committee structure. Therefore, to control the agendas and processes of these committees can have major implications for future legislative outcomes.

This election is a pivotal one. The balance of power can shift in a way that will position African American men to be the main cogs in the decision-making machinery that is our United States Legislature.

For some, the arguments about the act of voting being a privilege and right bought by the past sacrifices of their ancestors may or may not be enough to galvanize them to do so. Being a good example for children may not be enough either. But for those of you in doubt, you cynics out there, when you think about whether or not you should take the



rats. There is a very real possibility that the Chairs of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, the Judiciary Committee, and numerous others stand to be chaired by African Americans?

Long-time congressmen such as Charles Rangel, John Conyers and Ron Dellums, by virtue of their seniority, will very probably assume the chairs of these powerful committees. The legislation that truly impacts the lives of most Americans is, more often than

time to vote this year, remember that there is a window for truly significant and positive change for our community. Vote because it will make a difference, perhaps this year more than ever before.

Texas Publishers Association

The African American Press of Texas ENDORSEMENTS for NOVEMBER 5 ELECTIONS

President	Bill Clinton
Senator	Victor Morales
RR Commission	Carole Rylander
Chief Justice, Supreme Court	Andrew Kupper
Supreme Court, Place 1	No Endorsement
Supreme Court, Place 2	No Endorsement
Appeals Court, Place 1	Bob Perkins
Appeals Court, Place 2	No Endorsement
Appeals Court, Place 3	No Endorsement

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C P M S

LETTERS...

Is it murder?

In the Dallas Morning News Metropolitan section (Oct. 24, 1996), there is a news story entitled, "Man shoots, kills friend, FW police say," where the question arises as to whether this act was murder or not. That is the same question I hope and pray will be asked and eventually answered in the shooting and killing recently of Mr. Joe Calloway by a Grand Prairie policeman.

In the above mentioned news story, I think a comment by Fort Worth policeman Sgt. Fred Pendergraf is very appropriate in regards to the shooting in Grand Prairie. The Dallas Morning News notes, "We have someone who killed another person and that is murder," said Sgt. Pendergraf. "It's not up to police to determine if that is justified or not. We just gather the facts and present the case to the district attorney's office. It's up to a grand jury, then, to decide whether to indict."

In my opinion, this same line of logical reasoning needs to be applied to the shooting death of Mr. Joe Calloway. It is okay for the Grand Prairie Police to gather all the facts. Let us all ensure that all the facts—the truth and nothing but the truth—is turned over to the DA's office.

Ultimately, the question must be asked: Was the shooting of Mr. Joe Calloway by a Grand Prairie police officer murder? In listening to eyewitness accounts, it is my opinion this shooting was an unjustifiable use of deadly force by an officer of the law. Can an officer of the law commit murder in the line of duty? This question of murder in the killing of Mr. Joe Calloway will define for me, and many others I am sure, what murder is!


Anthony Bond
Irving

Civil Service in Turmoil

When one speaks of civil service, one sees this section of the government, whether local, state or federal, as that entity that is suppose to protect the rights of a worker against unjust practices by the employer. This is not the case when you're a black employee working for the city of Dallas. There have been two black employee organizations that have been complaining for years about the Director of the Dallas Civil Service Department, Mr. David Truly. As of this writing, he is still in control of the civil service, appearing to answer to no one.


This director has seen mayors, city managers and Council members come and go, leaving him in the position to run

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Mr. Buford L. Kemp Jr.

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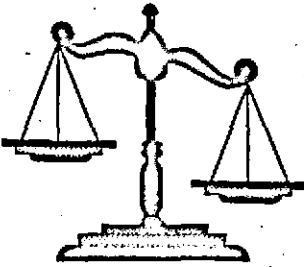
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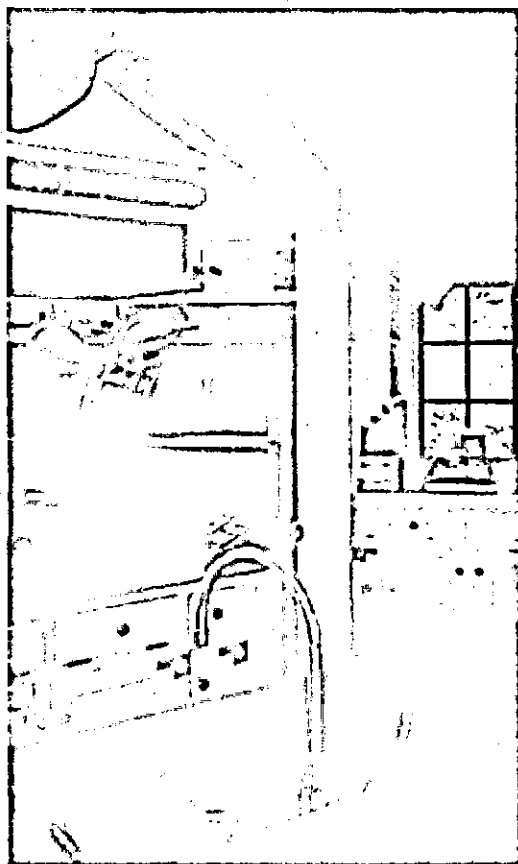
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Thomas Muhammad

Are white Jews hypocritical and RACIST?

In seeking the answer to this very well hushed African American question, one must first begin with some very clear facts: White Jews hijacked the Civil Rights movement. White Jews control nearly all of America's banking institutions, including the Federal Reserve Bank and Board. White Jews control Hollywood images. White Jews control 95 percent of America's foreign policies. White

Jews control a major part of America's media markets. White Jews are the experts for America's Race Relations. White Jews are the primary target of America's sympathy when Americans think of

human tragedies. White Jews financed 75 percent of the African slave trade. Most of you readers (although you do all within your power to keep it to yourselves) would agree with me on all of the above.

But in this column, I intend to go you one better. It's my firm belief that WHITE JEWS ARE PROBABLY THE MOST (clandestinely) RACIST PEOPLE ON THE PLANT! And I also firmly believe that what white Jews have done to the Palestinians is more obvious proof of their racist behavior. The Palestinian issue is a very old and complex one; however, I can sum it up for you in a few intelligent words. Much like the racist South African government, the illegal State of Israel's (more commonly known as Is-it-real) foundation is white supremacy. To feel the pain of the Palestinians, imagine a group of white racist thugs breaking into your four bedroom and one bath home. They rape and kill your wife, slit your seven-year-old daughter's throat, sodomize and kill your ten-year-old son, then lock you up in your only bathroom and say o.k., let's peacefully negotiate for the bathroom. The Palestinian issue is one that we will discuss in future columns, because, as brother Malcolm X reminded us, "South Africa will be free when the Palestinians are free." And vice-versa, because they both were created in 1948 by the same white people with the same racist theology."

This column is intended to show the evil mental state of white Jewish attitudes, primarily towards Africans in

America, a group that they claim to have a loooooong history of racial harmony with. I preface my remarks with a quote from journalist Bob Ray Sanders, one of the most decent, liberal, kind, honest, intelligent, nice, warm, focused and friendly persons in the Metroplex. During the JBAAL/Dr. Khalid Muhammad issue. Bob Ray was quoted in Dallas' only daily as saying "there is a perception that there

has been a long history of friendship between Blacks and Jews. But that has never been the case."

To build on what brother Bob Ray said, let's examine a few events.

In California, James Bakke, a white Jew, filed the first challenge to affirmative action. Then there is the white Jewish attacks on Black Studies departments on college campuses throughout America. In fact, establishment of Black Studies departments and the hiring of Black faculty have been equated with a lowering of standards. White Jews, the recipients of 70 billion dollars in reparations from Germany alone (as of 1985), routinely argue, and with a straight face, against affirmative action programs, compensate (in a minimal way) for five hundred years of African American slavery and subjugation. Yet at the same time, they can march and stand with (some bought out) civil rights leaders and sing "We Shall Overcome." The Black Studies department at City College of New York has been terminated because of white Jewish attacks on people like Dr. Leonard Jeffries and Dr. James Smalls.

No person or college is immune. Take South African born Dr. E. Fred Dube, a former professor at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Dr. Dube was fired in 1986 despite twice being recommended for tenure by the appropriate university committees. His crime was that he had given his class twelve possible essay topics, including one on the then highly publicized issue of Zionism as racism. (The General Assembly of the United Nations had recently passed a resolution to that effect. Zionism was used to take Palestine from the

Palestinians.) The attacks on Dr. Dube, and others, come primarily from the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai Brith (ADL). The ADL, a very well-known spy organization, was set up as an attack dog for the illegal State of Israel. It's important to note that just last month the State of California and the ADL reached a \$25,000 settlement, admitting that it spied on the NAACP, TransAfrica (Randall Robinson's group), Arab American organizations and U.S. anti-Apartheid groups. Yea, that's right! Israel had a nuclear collaboration with South Africa and had a strong sanctions-defying diamond and weapons trade with the white supremacist apartheid state. And in America, the ADL sold the names of many anti-apartheid leaders to the racist South African regime. All this while standing besides you singing "we shall overcome."

Damn man, think about it? They even spied on the NAACP! A group they helped found! Long promoted by white Jews as the "civil rights" organization. One would have thought that announcement of the settlement would make the front page of every major newspaper in the United States. But hell, spying on so-called friends by white Jews is an old issue. Remember Johnathon Pollard the white American Jew who was sentenced to a life prison term after being

man of the board and president, spying on the NAACP and other groups. (The NAACP got its first African American president in 1975). Here's what brother Marcus Garvey had to say about such actions. "The greatest enemies of the Negro race are among those who hypocritically profess love and fellowship for him, when, in truth, and deep down in their hearts, they despise and hate him. Pseudo-philanthropists and their organizations are killing the Negro. White men and women of the Moorfield Storey, Joel Spingarn, Julius Rosenwald, Oswald Garrison Villard, Congressman Dyer and Mary White Ovington type are disarming, dis-visioning, dis-ambitioning and fooling the Negro to death. They teach the Negro to look at the whites in a false direction...at the same time distracting the Negro from the real solution and objective of securing nationalism."

White Jews, at this very moment, are attacking the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for contracting to private security firms owned by members of the Nation of Islam. Such actions are preventing the hiring of jobless predominately African American Christian men from working to feed their families and clean up massive drug and crime infested housing developments all over America. I damn sure don't see white Jews creating jobs and securing any of these places, do you?

So, are white Jews racist? Well, to coin a phrase from brother Wesley Snipes, YOU DAMN SKIPPY!

Until then, the struggle continues...

MON

Please

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

In California, James Bakke, a white Jew, filed the first challenge to affirmative action. Then there is the white Jewish attacks on Black Studies departments on college campuses throughout America.

caught selling top American military secrets to the Israeli government? Well, the ADL has been on an aggressive campaign trying to get President Bill Clinton to release Pollard to Israel. Most experts believe that if Pollard is allowed to go to Israel, he will be royally rewarded for his spying actions. So far, Clinton has repeatedly said hell no!

The Spingarn Award (the NAACP's highest award, named for one of their founders, Joel Spingarn) is named for a white Jewish person who spent almost thirty years in major roles as both chair-

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The Facts on Islamic Propaganda Article

By Dr. Jack Evans, Sr.

In a spurious article entitled "Dr. Jack Evans Humiliated in Radio Debate," written by a Michael Muhammad and published in this newspaper, there was a feeble attempt by Michael Muhammad to do in the newspaper what his leader, Marvin Muhammad, who calls himself "Son of Man," could not do on KHVN radio. The article, filled with inaccuracies and prevarications, was designed to literally "prop up" the failure of Mr. Muhammad to scripturally and intelligently support his false position, which was obvious to the radio listeners and attested to by their call-in telephone responses. Not one telephone caller accepted Mr. Muhammad's position. Mr. Muhammad's biblical deficiency was equaled only by his educational and communicative deficiencies. And his followers are so minuscule in number that a public debate with him would serve no useful purpose. Thus the condition is given to him to be responsible for having a thousand people to attend such a debate, although it is improbable that he could muster fifty followers. Marvin Muhammad and his group, called "The New Nation of Islam," are not recognized as true Muslims by Orthodox Islam or Warith D. Muhammad's faction of the Black Muslims, and are a renegade group of the faction of Black Muslims led by Louis Farrakhan.

The falsity of Mr. Marvin Muhammad is first seen in his self-appointed titles. He claims to be "The Son of Man," a title that the New Testament ascribes only to Jesus (Matthew 16:13), because He can give eternal life and is God's only authorized judge (John 5:26-27). Thus, Marvin Muhammad is described in the Bible as a "false Christ and false prophet" (Matthew 24:24). He claims to be "The Lamb of God," which the Bible ascribes only to Jesus, who was the only one who could "take away the sins of the world" (John 1:29), and the only "Lamb without spot or blemish" (sin—I Peter 1:19). Muhammad does not qualify for this title because he has the "spots and blemishes" of sin (Romans 3:23). He also claims to be the "First and the Last," which the Bible ascribes only to Jesus (Revelation 1:17). In essence, Muhammad claims to be the Jesus of today's world. But he is too limited in righteousness, authority, understanding, and intelligence to make this blasphemous claim.

Marvin Muhammad's further ineptitude in the Bible is reflected in his misunderstanding of the "Elijah" spoken of by Jesus. Muhammad's warped view is

that Jesus was referring to the coming of Elijah Muhammad, the heretical founder of the Nation of Islam, which is better described as the "notion of Islam." But Jesus indicated that the "Elijah" of whom he spoke was in the person of John the Baptist (Matthew 11:8-14; 17:10-13). In reference to John the Baptist, Jesus explicitly says in verse fourteen of Matthew eleven, "...this is the Elijah which was to come." And that was said nearly two thousand years before Elijah Muhammad (whose real name was Robert Poole) was born. John's saying in John 1:21 that he was not Elijah meant that he was not the literal person Elijah, for that Elijah had been caught up to heaven. But the angel's announcing the birth of John the Baptist says that John was to go before Christ "in the spirit and power of Elijah" (Luke 1:17). This is what the Bible means when it says that John the Baptist was "Elijah."

In writing his article about the radio dialogue, why did not Michael Muhammad tell that his leader, Marvin Muhammad, prevaricated to the radio audience. He told the radio audience at the beginning of the dialogue that he was going to read that the Bible said that Jesus Christ did not die on the cross. And then with the pressure on to read it, as he had promised, he went to the 19th chapter of John to read about blood and water coming from the side of Jesus, after reading verse 33, which says that the soldiers who were crucifying Christ on the cross saw "that he was already dead..." This was the light that exposed Marvin Muhammad's prevarication on the Bible. "O, what a tangled web we weave, when you practice to deceive."

Until Marvin gets more biblical and intellectual substance, and a larger following to support his doctrine, this article will conclude this writer's communication with him and his inconsequential group.

MON

Dr. Jack Evans is the president of Southwestern Christian College.

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Cont'd from page 3

LETTERS...

his department without interference from anyone. While other department directors, managers and chiefs are replaced at the discretion of the city manager, this department director appears to be calling his own shots and interpreting Civil Service Board rulings as he sees fit. While he is also the Secretary to the Civil Service Trial Board, he may be able to influence the private citizens appointed by council members to hear appeals by city employees.

Recently, I was "double" subpoenaed by the City Attorney's office and the attorney for a fired black civil service employee to testify before an Administrative Law Judge. This employee worked for the City of Dallas for approximately -years in the Civil Service Department, and was a civilian member of a black employee association. This employee was terminated because the director took information from an Interrogatory of a Deposition, and accused the employee of divulging confidential information when a presentation was made before the Dallas City Council in August 1993, in which there were allegation of misconduct and discrimination in that department.

The director never asked the

employee or myself how my information was obtained. In official documents, the director stated a representative of an employee organization, which the terminated employee was a member, had identified the employee as the source that released confidential information. This statement in his official document was a lie. To accuse this employee of releasing this information was an insult to my ability to obtain information. This employee had previously filed EEOC complaints, grievances and a lawsuit against the department alleging discrimination. It appears this termination was in retaliation against the employee for having taken these actions.

The Administrative Law Judge, after hearing both sides, ruled there was no substance to terminate the employee. If this behavior sounds familiar, think about the lack of control over J. Edgar Hoover and how he ran the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) under several Presidents without being held in check. That is the same mentality that the City Manager and Council members have been made aware of, again, of this "abuse of power" by this director, maybe, just maybe, there will be a change in leadership and credibility restored to the Dallas Civil Service Department.

Calvin J. Howard
Dallas

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Cheryl Smith

Recently I've talked to numerous professionals about how they pursued their professions. Invariably the discussions take on a different twist as I hear the countless stories about how many young people are not preparing themselves for the future.

One local editor told me of a young interviewee who came, armed with clips and dressed for success on a basketball court.

"I can't believe he showed up in shorts and a baseball cap," mused the veteran journalist. "I was embarrassed for him and when I explained that he was not appropriately dressed, he told me that his ability to do the job should not be based on how he dresses."

Public Relations expert Lyria Howland of Howland PR has words of advice for anyone operating under that premise.

"An interview tells the interviewer how well you fit in with the team. If representing the organization is important, then you have to dress the part, and it doesn't matter how well you write or apply scientific methods."

Mrs. Howland, who is known for her expertise and level of professionalism, has worked in numerous arenas and

Amazingly, one college student who wants to be a television anchor, told me she won't be taking any type of speech or voice classes, because she doesn't need them!

garnered an impressive list of clients. She said dressing appropriately sends a message about how you represent yourself, and possibly how you would represent that company.

"A prospective employer must have confidence in your skills as well as your ability to determine what is not only proper attire, but also behavior," she added.

Now after you get the job, you may find that the dress code is very simple. And once again, your judgement comes into play as you adopt an appropriate

If you're even remotely thinking about it, you'd better get on your job!

attire for your position, or the position you would like to hold.

I can remember coming off a late deadline and counting on the next day to be pretty slow, I just pulled on a tight pink knit dress that was hip hugging and about four inches above the knees. I thought that I would just be in the office working at my desk, without any appointments. Just kicking back.

Imagine my surprise when I arrived at the office and saw on my desk calendar that I was scheduled to attend a breakfast with the Governor!

There was no way I could get out of it and I didn't have time to go and change. Now I looked pretty good and so I just sucked in and made my way to the breakfast. And I was really confident until I walked up to the door of the room and saw a room full

of Black men.

The breakfast was with the Governor and Black ministers!

While I received numerous compliments, still, I would have felt better if I had worn something else. So there was a lesson learned.

And that is what we must do with those aspiring to enter any field.

If you're remotely thinking about what you want to do with your professional life, you have to be serious.

It isn't too early to start in grammar school, and if you're in high school, you definitely need to start making some serious plans.

Start taking the PSAT, SAT and any other exams that will help position you for college. Participate in those essay contests and write away for applications for scholarship programs because not only do they provide financial benefits for you; they open up many doors and provide opportunities for you to interface with those who are where you are trying to get.

Amazingly, one college student who wants to be a television anchor, told me she won't be taking any type of speech or voice classes, because she doesn't need them!

Let's say for argument's sake that her articulation, dialect, inflection and presentation are wonderful. Well, then using a few of her electives to enhance

her "greatness" couldn't hurt. Could it?

One high school student recently told me that her parents had better take out a loan because she didn't have time to enter a "bunch of contests!"

I didn't tell the student then, but the next time I'm with her and her parents, I will let them know what is going on in their daughter's head.

You see, we have to do everything we can to prepare our youth for the future, but we can't continue to stifle their efforts by doing everything for them.

College students...

What are you doing in college for three years and you haven't had one internship? You say you're graduating but you don't have any prospects and you haven't formed any relationships with mentors or anyone who could assist you? What do you mean when you say you didn't have time to become affiliated with the very organizations that could assist you in developing your skills so you can take your place in your chosen field of studies?

It is so important to build relationships.

And that is what I see happening with the students in the journalism/communications program at Texas Woman's University and many of the recipients of the Dallas/Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators scholarship program or the participants in the Urban Journalism workshop.

Now while all of them don't send thank you notes or keep you apprised of their progress; there are many who are learning at young ages how to form relationships with people that could prove to be beneficial in the future. Sure you may not need them now, but who knows what the future holds.

Especially if you're serious and prepared. Especially if you don't mind hard work.

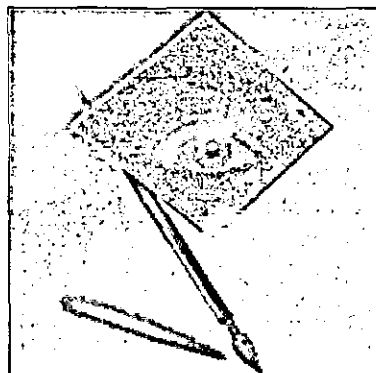
You can't sit back and wait these days. You have to get out there and take care of business; learning, building relationships and gaining experience.

And then, possibly one day, you'll be in a position to do anything, go anywhere and dress anyway you want to!

Until then, you'd better get with the program!!!

MON

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



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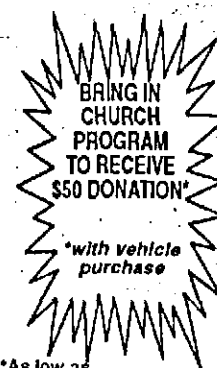


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The Micheaux Film Corporation

Blacks in film: Part 3

By Russell D. Shockley, B.S.Ed

Undoubtedly the most successful of all black-owned independent film production companies which produced films about black people and employed all-black casts was the Micheaux Film and Book Corporation. This company, founded in 1918, was the only black-owned company which continued to produce films through the 1920s and 1930s. It was established by one of the most colorful characters in the history of American films, Oscar Micheaux. During the 21 years between 1918 and 1940, Micheaux produced and distributed nationally and in Europe more than 30 black-cast films, many based on books which he wrote himself.

Until recently, Micheaux has received little recognition by film historians. But among his contemporaries who knew him, he was considered to be a skilled entrepreneur, an astute businessman who was sensitive to the needs of the black film audience. From an analysis of the responses of black film audiences to his films, Micheaux concluded that they did not care for propaganda as much as they did for a good story. Although he recognized that a strong story line was a key ingredient for a successful film, Micheaux also felt that his films should depict accurately the social, economic, and political conditions under which the black man existed in America. Although perhaps unintended, some of his films were considered protest films, and stirred controversy among blacks and whites.

Micheaux was born in Metropolis, Ill., in 1884. Not much is known about his parents and early childhood, except that he had a brother, Swan Emerson Micheaux. The extent of his formal education is uncertain, but in his youth he worked as a Pullman porter and a farmer. Later, as a young man, he was a rancher. In 1909, at the age of 25, Micheaux purchased a homestead in South Dakota and after five years had successfully expanded his holdings to 500 acres.

During his period as a rancher in South Dakota, Micheaux conceived and wrote a book titled *The Homesteader*, which he eventually published in 1914 or 1915. In 1915, he established the Western Book and Supply Company, headquartered in Sioux City, Iowa. Micheaux worked hard, traveling about the countryside around Sioux City selling his book to white farmers and businessmen primarily. "The Homesteader" was based on his experiences as a rancher and the characters in it were black substitutes for

the white persons with whom he had been in contact. The book was fully illustrated and sold for \$1.50 per copy.

In 1918, Micheaux's book came to the attention of George P. Johnson, then General Booking Manager of the black-owned and operated Lincoln Film Company of Los Angeles, Calif. From his office in Omaha, Neb., Johnson contacted Micheaux regarding the feasibility of letting Lincoln Film Company produce "The Homesteader." Micheaux responded

Micheaux Book and Film Company

OSCAR MICHEAUX, President

"Micheaux Pictures" "Special Feature Only"

OFFICES
NEW YORK CHICAGO SIOUX CITY

1918 Production

"THE HOMESTEADER"

A Master Photo Play in Eight Reels, featuring
a Talented Negro Actor in the title role

Adapted from the novel of the same name by Oscar Micheaux
Scenario by The Author

1919

"CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE"

A Photo-play in Eight Reels, based on the Famous
Lam M. Frank case, as witnessed by the author of
"THE HOMESTEADER" in 1914.

Scenario by Oscar Micheaux

A handbill for an Oscar Micheaux film.

ed favorably to this proposition and in May 1918, traveled to Omaha and lived in Johnson's house for two days while discussing the details of the contract. Eventually, contractual papers were drawn up and ready to be signed, but Micheaux insisted that as part of the agreement, he would go to Los Angeles and supervise the filming of the story. On the basis of Micheaux's lack of film experience, Johnson and the other directors of the Lincoln Motion Picture Company decided that they could not go along with the deal, and it fell through. This is the set of circumstances that launched Oscar Micheaux's into a career of film production.

In 1918, Micheaux organized the Micheaux Film and Book Company with offices in Sioux City and Chicago to produce the film *The Homesteader*. Using his considerable skills as a businessman and salesman, Micheaux sold stock in his corporation to the white farmers around Sioux City at prices ranging from \$75 to \$100 per share. Eventually, enough capital was secured to produce *The Homesteader* as an eight-reel film starring Charles Lucas as the male lead and Evelyn Preer and Iris Hall, two well-known dramatic actresses who were associated with the Lafayette Players Stock Compa-

ny.

In 1920, Micheaux's brother, Swan, joined him as manager of the Micheaux Film and Book Company. Swan was later promoted to secretary, treasurer and general booking manager. By 1921, in order to take advantage of better studio facilities and the availability of more talented actors, the company had established an office in New York City. The distribution and financial office remained in Chicago under the supervision of Swan Micheaux and Charles Benson. The distribution of films in the Southwest was done by A. Odams, owner of the Verdum Theatre in Beaumont, Texas.

The first controversial film produced by Micheaux was *Within Our Gates* (1920). Controversial because it contained a scene involving the lynching of a black in the South. The film was shown for the first time in Chicago, at Hammond's Vendome Theatre. Before that, however, the picture had been turned down by the Chicago Board of Movie Censors because they claimed its effect on the minds of the audience would result in a race riot similar to the one which occurred in Chicago a year earlier. (The Chicago Race Riot of 1918-1919.) The picture was given a second showing at the Censor Board, and a number of prominent people, including a representative of the Association of the Negro Press, were called in to see the film in its entirety.

Opinion was divided. Those who objected pointed out that because of the previous race riot, showing the film would be dangerous. Others who approved argued that because of the existing conditions of the time—the lynchings and handicaps of ignorance—it was time to bring such issues before the public.

Those who objected, however, did not give up. They visited churches and protested at length against the showing. Among the most vigorous protesters were blacks, many of whom had not seen the picture. The protests against the film continued right up to the day of its opening. That morning, a committee was appointed from the Methodist Episcopal Minister's Alliance, consisting of both whites and blacks. The committee visited the Mayor of Chicago and the Chief of Police, but without avail. The picture opened to a packed house.

Within Our Gates was shown at the Loyal Theatre in Omaha, Neb., on August 9, 1920. It had taken two months to get approval from the Omaha Censor Board.

Many theatres in the South refused outright to book the film because of its "nasty story." The white manager of the Star Theatre in Shreveport, La., refused to book the picture on advice of the Superintendent of Police in New Orleans, who stated: "... the present manager of the Temple Theatre stated that he had witnessed this picture demonstrating the

treatment during slavery times with which the blacks were treated by their masters, also show the execution by hanging of about nine blacks for absolutely no cause and that it is a very dangerous picture to show in the South."

The controversy caused by *Within Our Gates* did not deter Micheaux from making another picture with a similar theme, *The Gunsaulus Mystery* in 1921, an eight-reel film based on a murder case.

The Dungeon was produced by Oscar Micheaux in 1922. "The Chicago Defender" openly criticized Micheaux for using light-skinned actors and not advertising the film as a "race" production in a column which appeared in the July 8, 1922 edition:

The advertising matter for this production has nothing to indicate that the feature is colored, as the characters are very

"It is only by constructive criticism... that the colored producer can succeed in his efforts and produce photoplays that will not only be a credit to the race, but be on a par with those of the white producer."

-Oscar Micheaux

bright; in fact almost white. "The All-Star Colored Cast" that is so noticeable with nearly every race production is omitted on the cards and lithographs. Possibly Mr. Micheaux is relying on his name alone to tell the public that this is a race production or maybe he is after booking it in white theatres."

Micheaux released *Son Of Satan* in 1924.

Micheaux operated the company with a limited staff, primarily for economic reasons. He wrote scenarios, supervised filming and did the book-keeping; in short, he did everything. His pictures took about 10 days to shoot on average and cost from \$10,000 to \$20,000. Micheaux usually obtained his actors from around the New York City area, frequently using actors of the Lafayette Players Stock Company. In several instances when filming on location, he employed local talent.

Micheaux produced and directed *A Daughter Of The Congo* in 1930 and his first "all-talkie" film, "The Exile" in 1931.

"The Exile" had a successful premiere in New York City, but the first showing in Pittsburgh was halted midway through the showing. The action was taken by two members of the Pennsylvania Board of Censors, both women. Their reason for stopping the showing

was that it did not carry the seal indicating that it had been passed by the State Censor Board. There was some speculation at the time, however, that the real reason for stopping the picture was that it contained scenes showing a black man making love to a "near-white" woman. It was revealed that the woman actually had one percent black blood. Another scene in the picture shows a white man trying to take advantage of the woman and being soundly thrashed by the black man, who comes to her rescue. It was at this point that the picture was stopped.

Micheaux produced two pictures in 1936. "Temptation" and "Underworld". Each picture cost about \$15,000 to produce, of which approximately \$2,000 was allocated for salaries to the actors.

The picture "God's Stepchildren," released in 1938, was probably the most notable of Micheaux's productions.

"God's Stepchildren" had its world premiere at the RKO Regent Theatre, 116th Street, New York City; it was withdrawn after a two-day run and was later prohibited from being shown at any RKO Theatre in the country.

One scene which caused many of the patrons to get up and walk out of the theatre showed an actor, playing the part of a white man, knocking down a young girl and spitting upon her because she had revealed that she had "colored blood" in her veins. Among those groups protesting the picture were the Young Communist League and the National Negro Congress.

In 1940, Micheaux produced "The Notorious Elinor Lee".

Not much is known about the activities of the company after the release of

"The Notorious Elinor Lee" in 1940. The last known activity of Micheaux was in 1948, when he wrote and directed the film "The Betrayal" for Astor Pictures. The film was based on Micheaux's book, "The Wind from Nowhere."

Perhaps the best summary of Oscar Micheaux's

approach to film production is given in a signed article he wrote for the Philadelphia Afro-American:

"It is only by constructive criticism, arising from an intelligent understanding of the real problem, however, that the colored producer can succeed in his

efforts and produce photoplays that will not only be a credit to the race, but be on a par with those of the white producer."

Oscar Micheaux died in Charlotte, N.C., in 1951, at the age of 67.

MON

What African-American Republican said that "there can never be a white man's party or a black man's party under the true principles of the Republican banner."?
Coming in MON's December issue.

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Is Nov. 16 the "real" election day?

NAACP election sparks serious debate, questions regarding various leadership styles

By Cheryl Smith

Considered to be one of the most effective civil rights organizations in the United States, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded in 1909 as an interracial, interfaith, non-partisan, social action organization. Its primary purpose at that time, and still today, was to eliminate racial discrimination and segregation against African Americans and other minority groups.

Securing first class citizenship status for Blacks was a priority for the members and over the years numerous battles have been waged in this struggle. And not only have the battles been against injustices. This veteran organization has had its share of internal problems that have led to numerous lawsuits, as well as public embarrassment for its members.

Then too, there have been those critics, the ones who feel as though this organization that was a champion for the underdog has now become an albatross in the African American community. The NAACP became an organization plagued by scandal, misappropriation of funds and infighting.

Activist-comedian-nutritionist Dick Gregory encourages African Americans to continue supporting the NAACP, despite its troubles.

"The NAACP is a great organization and has done so much for people of all colors," notes Gregory. "And it can do so much more if as many people who called for help would also work with the organization."

He continued, "You don't need to criticize the NAACP. The NAACP deserves your support."

Looking over the history of the organization, it was the NAACP, in 1910, that dealt with the issue of police brutality and the Black community, in the case of a poor Arkansas sharecropper Pink Franklin. The NAACP filed on behalf of Linda Brown in the landmark case, *Brown v. Board of Education* (Topeka, Kan.) in 1954. The organization also withstood government investigations and legislation used to cripple it in southern states in the 50s. A very active organization in the 50s, it was NAACP member Rosa Parks who challenged an ordinance that ultimately led to the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

In the 1960s, the NAACP was right there, along with CORE, SCLC, the

Urban League and SNCC at the March on Washington. It was in the 1970s that the NAACP joined with the Freeway Fighters, Sierra Club, and Environmental Defense Fund to file a suit against the Los Angeles state highway department over urban freeway plans.

Despite all of its activity, the NAACP continues to be plagued by criticism. But many agree it must continue to be supported.

Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton, says, "The revival of the NAACP is vital to all civil rights strategy. The recent fiscal and managerial troubles of the NAACP, which has carried the struggle for civil rights for almost one hundred years are



Lee Alcorn

seen as weaknesses in the struggle itself and in the remedies the struggle has won."

Today, under the leadership of former U.S. Congressman Kweisi Mfume, the organization seems to be headed for greener pastures. Making the organization solvent is a priority for the new leadership. This in the wake of the latest lawsuit filed in October by a former regional director who was laid off in March. Janice Washington is alleging sex and age discrimination. General Counsel for the NAACP Dennis Courtland Hayes said the Washington lay-off resulted from the financial crisis facing the organization.

During a recent visit to Dallas to address the Alliance of Black Telecommunications Employees Inc. at their national convention, Mfume, who took over the helm earlier this year, acknowledged the NAACP's past. He also encouraged the nearly 3,000 in attendance to continue supporting the organization because he was optimistic about the future of the organization.

Hopefully things are just as optimistic for the Dallas Branch as members gear up for elections where three are seeking the presidency. Their leadership styles are different, although they have the same goal. They say it's not about status, egos or prestige; instead, it's about service.

Lee Alcorn wants another term to continue building an active NAACP, working "not only for civil rights, but for silver rights."

Victor Smith wants to bring his education, respect, quality and skills of negotiation back to the head of the Dallas Branch.

Ernest Walker and his wife are a team. They want to focus on proficiency and professionalism; forward moving with forward thinking leadership.

Whoever the voters choose, the NAACP has some work to do in re-establishing the Dallas Branch as one of the strongest in the country. Will that strength come from activism, negotiating or a 90s approach? Can they all work together for the benefit of the organization and the community?

Some would say "no," considering a track record of others who've sought that "prestigious" title, only to disappear once the election is over or after they have served their term.

Walker says this won't be the case. "We (he and his wife, Debbie, who is running for first vice president) love the NAACP and we're just doing what God tells us to do."

There are so many issues that have been raised since candidates began stepping forward. As the last few weeks of campaigning take place, the candidates are spreading the word about their plans for the future, as well as touting their records as loyal members of the NAACP.

Dallas Branch President Lee Alcorn says membership is up nationally, as well as locally. While some of the growth can be attributed to the Million Man March, Alcorn says the Dallas branch's membership ranks have increased because of the level of activity.

"People feel that we are addressing issues in the community," he explained. "Our membership is growing in leaps and bounds."

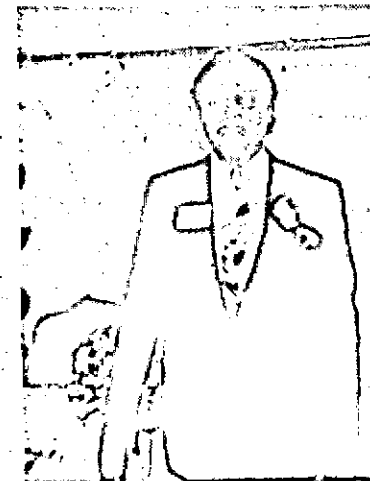
Alcorn said Dallas had the highest number of new memberships turned in at the NAACP State Convention, held in October. Earlier this year, the branch won the same award at the regional conference.

Walker agrees that the membership is growing and he applauds Alcorn for his role in the growth, but he also wants to see the level of participation increasing.

"True, membership is up, but participation isn't and that's the problem," said Walker. "People don't take any organization seriously unless it is firm, assertive, and also professional."

Under Alcorn's leadership, meetings were held on the first Tuesday of each

month at 7:00 p.m. at the Rosa Parks Mall (formerly Westcliff Mall), in Oak Cliff. During the summer months, the meetings were moved to the Thurgood Marshall Recreation Center, also located in Oak Cliff. Moving the location of the meeting sparked controversy among NAACP members and candidate Victor Smith has plans of moving the meetings back to the Martin Luther King Jr. Center



Victor Smith

in South Dallas.

But there was logic to Alcorn's decision to move the office and meeting place from South Dallas to Oak Cliff. In an attempt to support the only "African American owned mall in the state," Alcorn said he made the decision to offer support.

"I knew they were struggling and that having the NAACP as a tenant would help the other businesses in the mall and stimulate economic development," explained Alcorn, adding that the NAACP was trying to set an example and help the mall owners to fill vacancies.

"Secondly, the southern Oak Cliff area was more centrally located and more of the members lived in that area than in South Dallas," he continued.

A subject of debate indeed, for the members; however, it is also a subject that must be revisited in the very near future. Alcorn admits that his good will effort did not pan out because the Mall was unable to meet the needs of the organization.

"We're currently looking for a home for the NAACP. We've grown and we need more space," he acknowledged. "We have a tentative agreement with the Dallas Urban League to utilize space in their new facility."

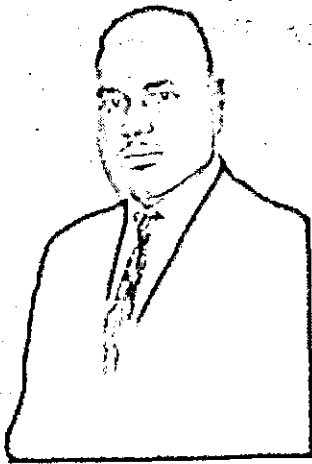
The Dallas Urban League is expected to move into its new facility before the turn of the century, and possibly as early as 1998. The building, an old Minyard Food Store on Lancaster Road in Oak Cliff, was closed on August 27, 1996 after 24 years of business, in preparation for a new store further down the street, at the intersection of East Ledbetter and Lancaster Road.

In order to achieve its goals, the Dallas Branch NAACP has the following

programs that provide the impetus for carrying out the works of the organization: voter education, religious affairs, education, armed services and veteran affairs, international affairs, youth and college division, ACT-SO, membership, legal redress and public relations.

The Dallas Branch has had its share of battles and controversy. Many have said the upcoming election is one of the most volatile ones in recent history, while others can remember elections in the past that attracted significant media attention.

Still the barbs lodged back and forth between candidates has led to considerable attention from the media.



Ernest Walker

Different leadership styles are displayed by the three candidates and some say those styles will be an issue in the November 16 election. Incumbent Lee Alcorn faces past president Victor Smith and past second vice president Ernest Walker.

Lee Alcorn has been president of the Dallas Branch for the past two years. Prior to taking the helm in Dallas, he served as president of the Grand Prairie Branch, which he founded, for about 10 years. His activism and leadership skills have garnered him awards on the state, regional and national level of the organization.

He attributes the accolades to a long list of involvement by the Dallas Branch, under his leadership. Listed among his successes are: "on-going fair share agreement negotiations with American Airlines, Southwest Airlines, Texas Instruments, Electronic Data Systems (EDS) and Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART); intervention in Lancaster Police macing of African American female; Dallas Cowboys Minority Inclusion Agreement; disclosure of Dr. Pepper's dismal contributions to the African American community; numerous resolutions of employment complaints; and contributing to the highest Get Out the Vote campaign in the history of Dallas.

All well and good, says Victor Smith. But the Dallas branch is not respected as it should be. The organization has a credibility problem, which wasn't the case, he claims, when he was in the leadership position. Mr. Smith held the post of president of the Dallas Branch for four years.

In 1994 he was defeated by the Grand Prairie Branch President Lee Alcorn.

Earlier this year, Smith announced that he would once again seek the post in an effort to bring back "respectability to the Dallas Branch."

According to Smith, there are key issues that should be addressed, namely: promoting racial diversity in the NAACP membership; developing youth programs that value family education and health care; creating community development opportunities; and establishing a strong Dallas-based NAACP.

"I'm running for the office of the President of the Dallas Branch NAACP to give it the credibility she had under my leadership," explained Smith. "Presently this branch is at a very low ebb. We want to make sure she has the respect she once had, to give confidence to the Dallas Community."

Bringing education, respect, quality and his skills as a negotiator are of utmost importance to Smith, a graduate of Houston-Tillotson College, who also holds a masters degree from West Texas State University.

A 20-year resident of Dallas and a member of St. John Baptist Church, where he is a deacon, Smith says under his former leadership the Dallas NAACP has secured contracts for minority groups; initiated and gained youth participation on a large scale for membership for the NAACP; and, promoted a strong relationship with churches, schools and social and fraternal organizations.

Ernest and Debbie Walker are a team. They are billing themselves as the "husband and wife partnership that will put advancement back in to the NAACP." They have been married for two years and they are also in business together. Active in the community, they now want to lead the NAACP; an organization they've both held positions in and feel a passion for.

Earlier this year, Earnest Walker, who is an entrepreneur, author, public speaker and publisher resigned as second vice president of the Dallas Branch. The post has been vacant since his departure and now he says he's ready to assume the role as president of the Dallas Branch.

Philosophical differences was the reason given as Mr. Walker tendered his resignation back in May of 1996. Walker said he had problems with the direction of the organization under its present leader, Lee Alcorn.

"The organization was dealing with 90s problems with a 60s mentality," said Mr. Walker, adding that he believe the word "racism" is used entirely too much.

"People are looking for a more 90s approach to dealing with issues. In the 90s, the word 'racism' has been used too freely, as the Band-aid approach that gets temporary results. If you look back, what

major accomplishments can you recall that haven't resurfaced again?

Walker says instead of the Band-aid approach, something has been missing from the NAACP's leadership: a realist approach to dealing with the many issues confronting the organization.

"There's a time and place for everything," notes Walker. "We must sit down and talk, open the lines of communication, show factual information and after we've exhausted all means without suc-

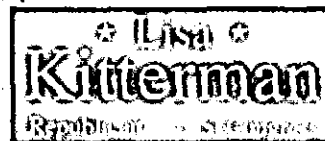
cess, then we can pull a John Wiley Price (Dallas County Commissioner) on them and stomp the pavement!"

As campaigning hits its peak, voters are preparing to go cast their votes at the Thurgood Marshall Recreation Center, 5150 Mark Trail Way on Saturday, November 16. The polls open at 10 a.m. and close at 4 p.m.

New or re-elected officers will assume their posts on January 1, 1997.

MON

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Al Duncan

Boys to men

A Journey of Discovery

Thanks to the St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church, the 3 to 1 Mentoring Program sent 105 boys, ages 4-18, and 35 men to Houston to visit the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on September 7, 1996. As a part of this unforgettable experience, I watched as parents and siblings, wives and friends gathered on the church parking lot around 4:00 a.m. that morning in a touching show of support.

The excursion was masterfully coordinated by Lawrence Perkins, who directed all facets of the travel plans. As we waited for the three Greyhound buses to arrive at 4:30 a.m., the three bus captains, Michael Lowen, Ronnie Evans, and Lee "Archie" Cooper, assembled food, beverages, first aid supplies, and boys and men to make the scheduled 5:30 a.m. departure. We actually left before 5:30 a.m. The trip was on!

A year of planning was finally over. However, prayer and faith were still intact and the fun had now begun. Within 18 hours, some of St. Luke's men could again refute doubters who claimed that God-fearing, Christ-following, and child-loving men could not handle, care for, and create an environment of comfort and enjoyment for a group of rambunctious boys.

The Lord was with us every step of the way—from beginning to end. When I didn't have the heart to cut boys out of the trip at one of our meetings, I went back to Greyhound Lines, Inc. and St. Luke and together they made it happen. Greyhound donated two buses and cut the cost for another by almost a third.

The Dallas and Houston offices of Coca-Cola USA and Coca-Cola Bottling Company interfaced to provide the tickets and tips on how to maneuver the NASA experience.

Albertson's initially provided gift certificates, and Minyard's gave an additional allotment of gift certificates when we told them of our plight.

We arrived at our destination—a McDonald's just inside of Houston. Janson, my 8-year-old seat mate, was quite satisfied with this. Ron Evans and Al Lintz, (mentors from a Christian Church who brought 10 boys), and I are thoroughly convinced that Janson's future is secure. He will probably be a tackle, playing professional football. Then he will start his law career coupled with his career as a professional television com-

mentator. In the off season, he will probably travel the world as an orator. Loquacious? Yes. Something to say? Definitely. Intelligent? You bet your bippy!!

Janson was just one 8-year-old among the many boys that traveled to Houston, but his enthusiasm and inquisitive nature was typical of the boys that we took to NASA.

When we got to NASA, order was the key of the day—not order forced by men over the boys, but order evidenced by the home training already alive and dwelling in the boys' hearts.

I witnessed intelligence and discipline. We had mostly older teenagers on Bus #3—the "Green Machine," we called it. When it started getting noisier and noisier, Willie DeBerry, sitting about midway on the bus, hollered out, "Wait a minute, who was Sojourner Truth?" The answer came, "You are correct," said DeBerry. "Who was Harriet Tubman?" The answer came, "You are correct." "Who was Benjamin Banneker?" challenged DeBerry. An answer came, "You are correct. What did he invent?" The answer came, "You too are correct." "What else?" Another answer, "You too are correct."

No, it did not last all night. But for a while, a man had challenged the big boys. They met and they both, man and boys, fared well.

Before the journey back, there were many physical and intellectual challenges at NASA. There were simulators, computers, weightlessness and gravity related games, mockup cabins, instructions and opportunities to discover how to live, shower, eat and sleep in space.

Historical, educational, futuristic—it was there for the asking, the reaching, the getting. The mentors laid out the options. The boys chose. Those who wanted to play for six hours played. Others chose to explore, investigate and study.

The trip was well planned by the Dallas-based marketing firm of Abundant Business Consort. The firm's president, Elston Howard Bell, is a member of St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church and secretary of the United Methodist Men. The Abundant Business Consort did the research, developed the marketing approach, designed and distributed the flyers, set a short time for accomplishing the recruiting goal (to press for results), executed the telemarketing, provided, distributed and collected the forms, and monitored every detail of the trip.

The 3 to 1 Mentoring Program Committee worked. The staff of St. Luke's worked and provided. The Ad Board assembled the leaders of the Council on Ministries and the United Methodist Men and conferred with the church treasurer and business manager to assess the readi-

ness of the trip. The Pastor and his office, the pastoral care office, leadership from the counseling ministry, assessed the 3 to 1 Mentoring leadership to determine readiness for the trip.

The result: the trip was a glowing success. If you want a thorough picture, a story, a vignette, then stop a boy who went. Ask him to tell you about the trip. Ask him how he enjoyed it. Ask him what happened? What did he do? Ask

him. Then, sit down. Sit back and listen to him. Have patience. It may be a long story.

For us adults, it seems to take more than one family. It takes the "Community" of St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church.

MON

Al Duncan is the former editor of the (Harlem) Amsterdam News.

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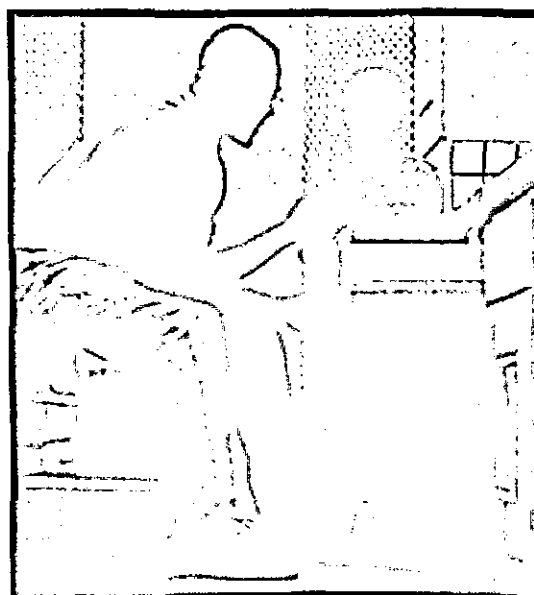
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Mentoring Program to helps kids

Umphrey Lee Elementary School identifies, assists children in need

When a child is in trouble, the signs are there. Poor grades. Low self-esteem. Inappropriate behavior. Lack of social skills.

But when a child is in trouble at Umphrey Lee Elementary School, these signs are not ignored. Instead, teachers, parents, and volunteers rally to find a solution. In this case, the solution was obvious.

Appropriate role models were needed. Persons who could work with children one-on-one or in small groups. Persons the children could confide in when they could not open up to a parent or a teacher. Persons the children could emulate in the absence of a strong model in their home.

With the advent of a new mentoring program using volunteers from the United States Air Force, the Dallas Police Department, faculty and parents, the elementary school hopes to head off serious problems and head children in the right direction.

"Right now, we want to expose to [role models] the girls and boys who need it most," said Dorothy Simpson, coordinator of the program. "Many of them lack a father image and could use a big brother, a strong male figure in their

lives. The mere involvement of such organizations will cause us to be enhanced where our academics are involved."

After several planning meetings and a couple of school assemblies introduc-



Capt. Leland G. Stanford, Sgt. Rodney Williams, Twaneil Spead, Casey Mitchell, Mackeyus Lehman, Roderick Jordan, Bryan Thompson, Kenneth Bolds, Byron Rose, Ashley Dewberry, Tasha Young, Courtney Gipson, Winston Williams, Erick Green, Aaron Hardin, Tyrone Tutson

ing students to the Air Force volunteers (who all happen to be black males), the program held its first sessions last month. However, organizers thought it best, at least initially, to focus on having the volunteers become more personally acquainted with their young charges.

Alfreda Cannon, a first and second grade reading teacher at Umphrey Lee, helps see to that. "We have volunteers coming to the portable building where the [tutoring/mentoring] sessions are held," she said. "I try to make sure it is as comfortable and as convenient as possi-

ble. It's my job to supply them with whatever they need—refreshments, school supplies. I try to build a comfortable atmosphere for the students and the volunteers."

Although still in its early stages, the faculty, volunteers and parents of Umphrey Lee are anticipating measurable results. Specifically, Ms. Cannon says to expect:

- Improvement in school attendance
- An increase in the amount of homework completed and returned
- Improvement in standardized test scores such as TAAS (Texas Assessment of Academic Skills) and ITBS (Iowa Test of Basic Skills)
- A decrease in the incidences of reported negative behavior

Debrit Hudson, 6th grader math teacher and team leader at Umphrey Lee, agrees and believes that even more empirical results can be achieved.

"We hope to see an overall improvement of the social skills of the students involved. We're going to observe to make sure they are getting along with one another, staying out of trouble and understanding and trying to work with each other," she said.

Ms. Cannon also hopes students will begin to set their goals higher and have a better understanding of how to accomplish these goals. "The students will gain something, whether it is self esteem, self respect, or a closer bonding between faculty, other students, and volunteers," she said. "Just having the volunteers here and having the students see that they are dedicated and won't let them down is something that is definitely needed. The students now have something to look forward to."

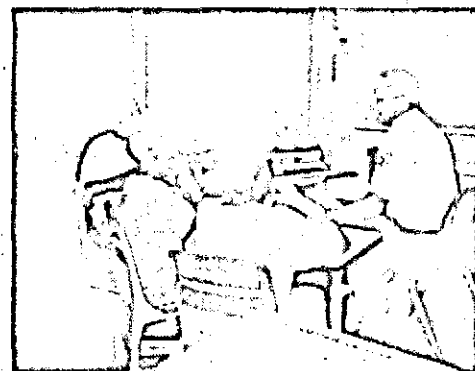
In addition to tutoring students in subject areas they are having difficulty

with, the Air Force mentors have been encouraged to just talk and to be good listeners.

"Quite a few of [the Air Force volunteers] mentioned that they have children so they are accustomed to working with kids," said Ms. Hudson. "We told them to just talk with the kids. Talk with them

about relationships, getting along with each other and trying not to make the wrong decisions. We told the men to warm up to the kids and let them warm up to you."

As the sixth grade team leader, Ms. Hudson helps identify the students most in need of mentoring. Many of the students chosen



Sgt. Gregory Brown, Chris Carnell Dewberry, Chris Leonard Warren, Derrick Taylor, Samuel Davis

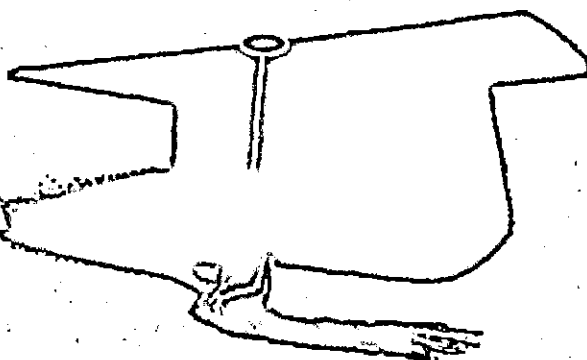
consistently exhibit poor social skills and are in danger of being labeled as "problem children." Although mostly fifth and sixth grade boys have been chosen, Hudson admits that girls can benefit from the program also. "We want the girls to learn that there are positive males that they can associate with," she said. Therefore, all students were invited to participate in earlier school assemblies introducing the Air Force volunteers and if needed, girls can also have access to these very special mentors.

Now that the first steps have been taken to partner children in need of assistance with strong African American male role models, the school welcomes additional volunteers. Persons who would like to volunteer should contact Umphrey Lee principal Herbert Newsome at (972) 228-7520.

"We could always use volunteers, but we'd like them to be meaningful volunteers," Dorothy Simpson stressed. "But where behavior and tutoring are concerned, we're always looking for a few good men."

MON

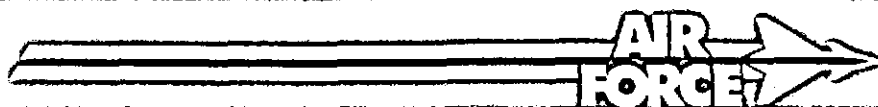
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Waco ISD solving problems under threat of detachment

By Dorothy Gentry

Contributing Writer

It's a new day and time for the Waco Independent School District.

The superintendent, long criticized by parents in the 74 percent minority district as helping to create an atmosphere in which black students were unable to learn, has resigned.

An incumbent school board member also is out - replaced by one many feel may be more sensitive to their needs.

Other more subtle changes are being made throughout the district which



Lester Gibson

make McLennan County Commissioner Lester Gibson think things may be okay after all.

But just in case they aren't, Gibson will always have Project Exodus waiting in

the wings.

Just in case.

Project Exodus

Gibson, the first black commissioner in McLennan County, launched Project Exodus last August.

The movement's ultimate goal was to break away, or secede, from WISD after concerns about the education of minority students, consistently low test scores and classroom expectations, among other concerns, were brought to his attention.

It startled many parents, including Gibson who has two children currently enrolled in WISD, when last year, 75 percent of black students and 66 percent of Hispanics failed the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills test. Only 37 percent of white students failed the test, which is mandatory for a high school diploma.

WISD, Gibson contended then, showed a consistent pattern of insensitivity with regard to minority students.

He got the idea for Project Exodus from Senate Bill I, Section 13.103, which deals with the creation of a school district by detachment.

After announcing Project Exodus, Gibson and Dr. Fred Zachary, WISD Superintendent, met alone and with a newly created task force to discuss the issues of minority education in WISD; 42 percent of students are black, 33 percent are Hispanic and 25 percent are white.

Evidently things were not resolved. Gibson began calling for the removal of Zachary. "He has got to go because he has low expectations himself of students. He has not provided an environment to help

black kids learn," Gibson said at the time. He got his wish.

Zachary resigned as WISD Superintendent at the beginning of the 1996-97 school year. Calls to his office, as in the past, have gone unreturned.

"It was the correct thing for him to do," Gibson says of Zachary's resignation.

"For the first time in WISD, the school board is talking about putting in an African American or Hispanic superintendent; in the past, a superintendent of color wasn't even in the equation."

In the past, Gibson and other minority parents in the district have also had problems with what they term "the South Africa Syndrome, where the minority is controlling the majority."

Last year, the seven-member board had four whites, two blacks and one Hispanic. One of the African-American trustees was Coque Gibson, the commissioner's wife.

"The school board should be accountable for the education of our kids and for what is happening in our schools," Gibson said.

To make that accountability happen, Gibson and a group of minority parents backed a Hispanic candidate, Waco lawyer Gerald Villarrial, in the May 4 school board race in a strong effort to win one of the two at-large school board seats on the ballot.

White candidates have historically won the at-large positions because of higher turnout in predominantly white voting precincts.

Unfortunately, their candidate did not win, losing their effort to create a majority-minority school board. But they did win in two other ways, Gibson says.

The new school board president is Gibson's wife, a longtime school board member and former president, and the incumbent at-large member was not re-elected.

"We fell short of a victory in the school board election, but we did get the incumbent out so it was a partial victory," Gibson says.

The winner of at-large seat was Susan Richards, a white female.

"She seems to be very good and is listening to the African American community - right now that is," Gibson says. "We are not dissatisfied with her yet."

The Future

Gibson says since launching Project Exodus, he has been successful in many of his efforts, including working with the system to address concerns and motivating more minorities to participate in the electoral process.

"Project Exodus raised the level of consciousness and gave us (African

American and Hispanic parents) some leverage," he says. "This is the first time they are taking minorities seriously. We are bringing more to the table."

"We are getting signals that they (district officials) want to move forward," he continued. "They are more educationally minded and more sensitized."

Gibson says he and the parents of WISD students will stay actively involved in the process of educating their

children and will continue to voice their concerns in the district.

"The key thing is academic achievement. We will have to continue academic achievement for minority students or we will break away from the district."

"We will keep Project Exodus as an option," he says. "We won't throw it away."

MON



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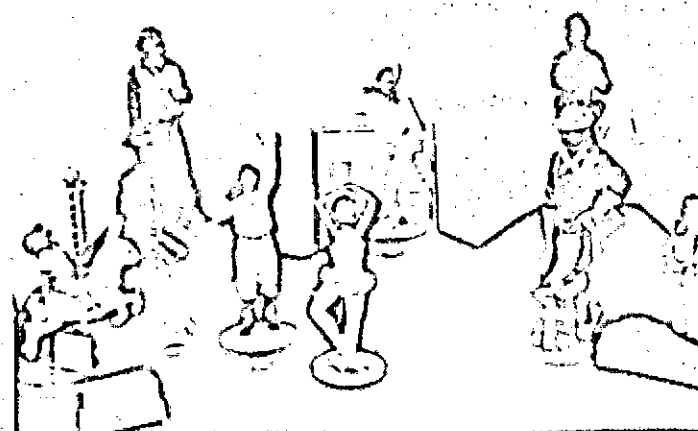
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Vegetarian soul food is good for the soul

By Cheryl L. Williams

Israel Muhammad didn't merely have the vision to start a vegetarian restaurant specializing in soul food. He actually had a vision.

"It was 3:00 in the morning and a vision came to me about 'strictly vegetarian' and I decided there was something to the message if [it] had come to me at this time of the morning," said Muhammad, Minister of Health at the Nation of Islam Mosque #52 in Ft. Worth. At the time, he had just started studying in the ministry about vegetarian eating and the vegetarian lifestyle. After seeking spiritual guidance, his vision became clear.

His son designed the Strictly Vegetarian logo which now states "Healthy Times Call For Healthy Measures." But soon, he says, he will change his business motto to "Your Health is Your Wealth" which Minister Muhammad and his wife and co-owner, Aliyah, have quickly learned to heed.

"When I started this restaurant, I didn't have a whole lot of money," said Minister Muhammad. "I went to the bank and showed them my proposal and I couldn't get any money. So what I decided to do was not pay anybody. I didn't pay my mortgage. I didn't pay my credit cards. I didn't pay anything I had as bills because I needed the money to start the restaurant."

Now he proudly states, "everything in the restaurant, I own." As for the unpaid bills—with the stability his independence from commercial credit has brought him—he's started paying them back.

News of the Muhammad's unique restaurant, which opened in January 1996, has gradually spread, with the help of celebrity patrons such as Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price. Price regularly dines at the restaurant and promotes it's delicious, meat-free fare on his radio program. Promoter Al Wash, owner of ALW Entertainment, lost 35 pounds in eight weeks since Strictly Vegetarian began preparing all of his meals. KTVT Channel 11 weather announcer Brenda Till and pastor Frederick D. Haynes of Friendship West Baptist Church are frequent customers. Other patrons have included attorney Johnny Cochran, Jr., actress Bernadette Stanis, pastor Marshall Hobbs of Bethel AME

Church, Jeremiah Fard Muhammad, Minister of NOI Mosque #52, Councilman Al Lipscomb and local artist Frank Frazier.

But don't be surprised when you enter the restaurant and see menu items that could compete with fixins' from the best barbeque joints in town. Barbeque chicken, roast beef, fish, burgers, hot-dogs, and even Mexican entrees are all meticulously prepared with only the finest vegetable products washed in bottled water and containing no trace of animal by-products.

"Most of the people who come in are unaware of the different textures of food there are today," said Minister Muhammad. "We have wheat gluten that comes from wheat and soy and tofu that comes from the bean. The only thing we taste when we eat something is the texture and the seasoning. Most people will not eat meat without seasoning.

And most people won't eat bloody meat, so people know that they have to cook it and they have to season it. We can take [soy and wheat products] and season it and make it taste like any food. We can make tofu taste like fish. We can make the gluten taste like roast beef. We can make soy taste like chicken, barbeque chicken, fried chicken, chicken salad. We can do those things."

If you're ready for a graphic explanation of why vegetarianism is strictly the path to follow, Israel Muhammad is more than willing to offer it.

"The human body was not designed to have dead flesh in it," said Minister Muhammad. "We've been taught through slavery to eat the worst foods in the world. Here at Strictly Vegetarian, not only do we feed you healthy food, we teach you how to eat to live."

Although Strictly Vegetarian has been open for barely a year, the Muhammad's have gotten repeated requests to franchise their restaurant, which they plan to do in mid-1997. They have been on the waiting list since 1994 for a spot at the Dallas/Ft. Worth International Airport, where Minister Muhammad worked for 26 years before retiring this year from American Airlines. In the meantime, you can satisfy your taste buds and your curiosity at their Wynnewood Village location in Dallas.

MON

Name:	Minister Israel Muhammad
Birthplace:	Norfolk, VA.
Favorite Food:	Veggie Barbeque chicken
Last Book Read:	Black Labor, White Wealth by Claude Anderson
My friends don't know:	How much I really love them

Advice to would-be entrepreneurs:

Name:	Aliyah Muhammad
Birthplace:	Providence, R.I.
Favorite Food:	Alfalfa sprouts
Last Book Read:	The Qur'an
My friends don't know:	I'm opening up a drop-in day care center



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In The News . . .

Charley Pride feted at Fundraiser

Country music legend Charley Pride will be the honored guest at St. Philip's School and Community Center's Ninth Annual Dinner and Roast, 6:00 p.m. on November 16 at the Fairmont Hotel, Dallas.

Pride will be roasted and toasted by friends that include Ernie Banks, former shortstop for the Chicago Cubs; Johnny Russell, a Nashville country music songwriter and singer; and Curtis Ransom, a local franchise-owner who is Mr. Pride's good friend and brother-in-law.

Individual tickets are \$50 for a pre-banquet silent auction, dinner and program. A pre-dinner private reception for Mr. Pride and his guests is an additional \$25. For more information call St. Philip's School and Community Center at (214) 421-5221.

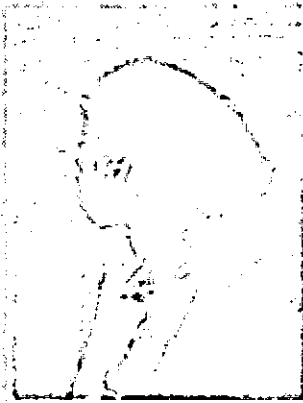


Charley Pride

14 inducted into Texas Black Sports Hall of Fame

The African American Museum will honor and induct fourteen athletes and coaches who were born or played in Texas into the Texas Black Sports Hall of Fame during the annual Texas Black Sports Hall of Fame Banquet, 8:00 p.m. November 13 at the Adolphus Hotel, downtown Dallas.

The 1996 inductees are: Ernie "Mr. Cub" Banks, Chicago Cubs and baseball Hall of Famer; William "Bill" Blair, Indianapolis Colts; Negro Baseball League; Ellis Davis, basketball coach of Roosevelt High School; Lee Elder, golf pro; Zina Garrison Jackson, tennis pro; Barbara Jean Jacket, retired track coach of Prairie View A&M and 1992 Olympic women's track team coach; Freddie James, retired



Francis Ray

coach of Carter High School; Marion "Jap" Jones, retired coach of Ft. Worth Public Schools; Fred "Pop" Long, legendary football coach of Wiley College; W.J. "Billy" Nicks, retired coach of Prairie View A&M; Louis H. Reed, Sr., All-American football player from Wiley College; Mel Renfro, retired Dallas Cowboy and professional football Hall of Famer; Charles Sifford, pioneering African American golfer; and Willie Ray Smith, Sr., distinguished high school football coach in Beaumont, Texas.

All proceeds from the banquet benefit the Texas Black Sports Hall of Fame Program at the African American Museum. For more information, contact Kandace Barnett at (214) 565-9026.

Dallas author tops Best Sellers list

Dallas author Francis Ray's fourth book *Only Hers* took the coveted spot of number one paperback fiction for the third month in a row on BlackBoard, the African American national bestsellers list.

To earn her spot, Ray's contemporary romance with a Texas setting had to compete with sales of all kinds of books including those by E. Lynn Harris, Connie Briscoe and Terry McMillan. *Only Hers* was number one twice in *The Dallas Morning News* bestsellers list and is cur-

rently number one in the November issue of *Essence* magazine.

Ms. Ray, a school nurse practitioner, has been praised for her portrayal of strong, positive African American characters. She is a frequent speaker at writer's and library conferences and is scheduled to have two more books published in 1997.

Psi Chapter of Iota Phi Lambda Celebrates 60th Anniversary

Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., Psi chapter, a Business and Professional organization, is celebrating 60 years of service in the Dallas community at its Emerald Ball gala, 6:30 p.m., November 23 at the Harvey Hotel. Brook Hollow, 7050 N Stemmons, Dallas, Tx.

The business sorority was organized to broaden interest in business education and to develop leaders among high



Membership of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., Psi Chapter



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If you have an idea for a class or activity, you can submit a proposal to the Dallas Park and Recreation Department. Individuals and minority- and women-owned businesses are encouraged to submit proposals.

To find out how you can become a Contract Fee Instructor, call the Dallas Park and Recreation Department at (214) 670-8847 or (214) 670-1923!



More In The News . . .

school and college women through planned programs and scholarship awards. Psi chapter also supports tutoring and mentoring programs, a teenage pregnancy awareness program, and Responsive Interaction Youth Groups for boys and girls.

Guest admission for the dinner, program, and dancing with live entertainment at the Emerald Ball is \$50. RSVP by November 20. For more information contact Shirley Pleasant at (972) 235-4633 or Juanda Wallace at (214) 339-5996.

New Cheerleader/Dance Team at Paul Quinn College

Paul Quinn College has a new Cheerleading Squad and Campus Dance Team under the direction of Deborah "Dee Dee" Gibson.

Miss Gibson, an alumni dancer/choreographer, original choreographer of the comedy stage play "Beauty Shop" and former back-



Debra Gibson (center, standing) and members of Paul Quinn Cheerleader/dDance back-Team

ground singer/choreographer for M.C. Hammer, volunteers her services as the squad's coordinator when not at her job as an airline ticket agent for Delta Airlines.

Any young lady interested in attending Paul Quinn College and becoming a part of this exciting new dance squad should contact either Miss Gibson at (214) 439-2771 or Paul Quinn College's Dean of Students at (972) 302-3569.

Dallas Urban League Welcomes Four New Staffers

The Dallas Urban League announces the addition of four new staff members to its ranks.

Ray Ellinger recently signed on full-time as the Program Coordinator for the Urban League's Parenting Program with Dallas For Children. Previously, he was a major contributor to the 100-Fellows Program. Ray and his wife Brenda have lived in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area for seven years and have four adult children.

Kaylyn Scott joined the Dallas Urban League as a Master Teacher II, assisting in the development and administration of programs such as the Saturday Academy, 100-Fellows, Junior Generation Urban

League and the Family Circle. The Wichita, Kansas native is a graduate of Sam Houston State University. Ms. Scott has two children, Kasaundra and Prentice.

Dolores Raivzee-Bell is the project coordinator for the Minority HIV Intervention Program. As a teen, she worked for the Canton Urban League in their

Urban Arts Summer Program. She has an Associates degree in Psychology from Grambling State University and Bachelors degree in Psychology from the University of Texas at Arlington. Ms. Bell and her husband Kevin live in DeSoto.

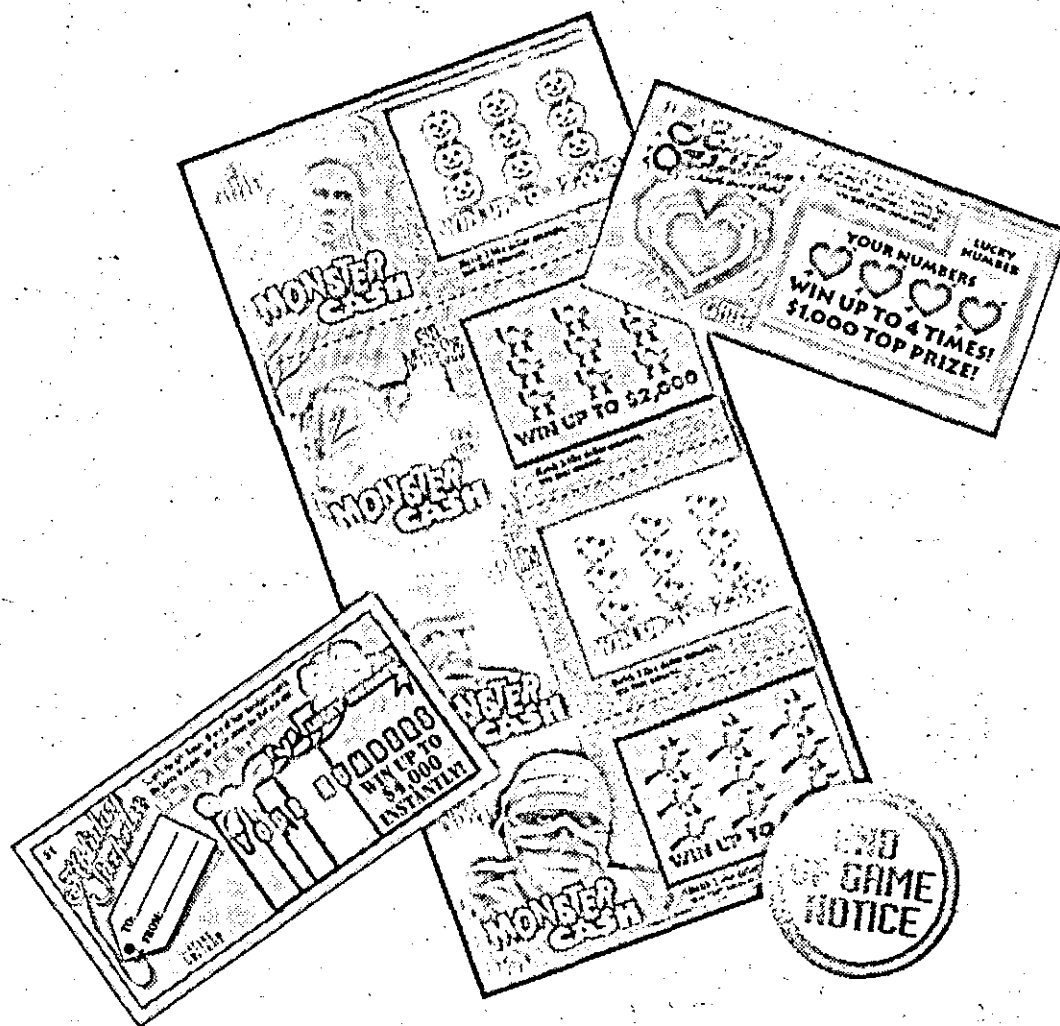
Bob Knight is the Director of Special Projects for the Dallas Urban League. A

former school teacher and administrator, Bob received an undergraduate degree from Mississippi Valley State University and a Master's Degree in Secondary Administration from Jackson State University. Mr. Knight and his wife Stella have one son, Allen.

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STRONG

Black Woman

How long can she bear the burden?

By Allen R. Gray

*The burden she bears is a mother's child.
When they're young, they're constantly on her lap...
But when they get old, they're constantly on her heart.*

Jean Frazier is "proud" to be 41 years old, and just as proud to be the mother of five: Billy Ray Williams-Frazier, 20; AlVaughn, 19; Claudell, 16; and two adult step-children from a second marriage.

Jean is a stout woman (in heart and stature) by any definition, standing just five feet tall. She struts the strut of one who has the "stuff." Never sags in her glide or tires in her stride like some women choose to do when their weight has crept past the size it was when they were 25...because Jean used to dance, dance, dance with the best of them.

Jean's likely to walk into the room a tad late because she's rushing in from some other place she's committed herself to be. And her commitments are strong—strong as a rock. She moves around at a pace that signals she has someplace to go. As she passes, her countenance speaks "I ain't got time, so move out of my Holy way."

Try to talk to her about anything, profound or petty, and she's likely to lose track of the conversation. Her mind is fixed, fixed on where she's gotta go—wherever the Lord will lead—while transfixed on where she's been.

Jean remarried not long ago, at a time when she was mature enough to handle it and strong enough to bear it. She has herself "a good and kind man" and a "praying family." Her husband, Wilbert Frazier, stands half-a-foot taller than she does, but when you ask him who's running the show, he'll duck his head just a little bit and point at Jean two times real quick.

On May 17, 1996, Mrs. Jean Frazier shook hands with Dr. Cook, president of Dallas Baptist University, and received her degree in the final fulfillment of a dream 23 years deferred.

After Jean began living her life by waking up with her mind "stayed on Jesus," she set three goals for herself.

"First," she said, "I was going to get my little car paid for." Until Jean bought her brand new Chevrolet Cavalier (only seven smiles on the odometer when she drove off the lot) in 1984, she was riding six buses a day—three in the morning and three in the evening—in order to take her three young boys to nursery school and herself to work. The day she brought the Cavalier home, Jean said she and the boys "rode around all day long." The boys were so little then that today they look at how small the car is (Jean still owns it free and clear) and laugh about how back then they felt like they were riding in a Cadillac.

Next, Jean said she wanted to "purchase myself a home."

Then finally, she wanted to further her education.

Any goal imaginable seemed obtainable to her when Jean graduated from Grapevine high school in 1973 at the ten-



Wilbert & Jean Frazier

der age of 18 and moved to Dallas in order to attend El Centro College. Then she met and fell madly in love with Billy Ray Williams Sr., the man who would become her first husband and the father of her three sons.

"We married too young," Jean now admits candidly. "We should have become friends before we became lovers, as the old saying goes."

Jean was through with schooling at that point, but she promised herself too that she would someday earn her college degree. Each passing day of her marriage, however, pushed that promise farther away. At age 18, Jean had gotten married quickly—and she had gotten pregnant just as quickly. Back to back.

A year and a half into her marriage, Jean was back at home living with Alta Mae Green, the mother who had raised her (Jean has no siblings) as a single-parent—and who had (Jean voluntarily admits) spoiled her rotten.

Alta Mae meant everything to Jean. Jean's son AlVaughn is named loosely for Alta Mae. She was Jean's strength, and perhaps, Jean leaned on Alta Mae for support too much for her own good.

Because in the fall of the twenty-first year of Jean's life, cancer came...and it claimed Alta Mae.

And Jean's mind "snapped."

Trying to cope with her babies, her estrangement from Billy Ray, and then the death of her mother caused Jean's mind to shut down. Someone found her babbling senselessly at a Good Luck service station on Lamar Street in South Dallas. Billy Ray came to claim her at Parkland Hospital, where she went through a year and a half of counseling.

Jean fought and she got herself back together; learned to stand on her own feet—became her own woman again. She had those boys depending on her. Then she went on and got back together with

Billy Ray.

Their marriage was going great. Their kids were well-adjusted. Then, all of a sudden, the marriage wasn't so great. Billy Ray felt he had to use his fists to make a point. Jean was supposed to be that same naive little 18-year-old he had married.

A decade is not so long ago, and unlike today, during Jean's first marriage, society seemingly avoided spousal abuse. In her Washington Monthly (May 1987) article "Battered Justice," attorney Joan Meier wrote "studies conducted in the late seventies in Colorado and California that showed only 5 to 6 percent of

"For one whole month, we ate cornbread and pinto beans with ground meat."

-Jean Frazier

domestic violence complaints to the police resulted in arrest." In 1976, however, twelve battered wives found it necessary to sue the New York City police department for refusing to arrest and prosecute men simply because the assailant was married to the woman he was beating. When this case reached an out-of-court settlement, which forced New York to change its arrest policies, it "was hailed as a turning point in the country's police and court treatment of domestic violence cases. By 1977, a national survey of the larger police departments found that more than 70 percent had implemented some kind of family crisis intervention training program." That trend caught on in Dallas, too.

Jean was willing to take Billy Ray's mental abuse—for her boys' sake—but when the physical abuse persisted, she packed her and the boys bags.

Billy Ray started acting a shoddy fool then. With the thought of Jean leaving him stuck in his craw, Billy Ray became more violent. One day he busted through the front door with a gun in his hand and a plan in his head: to kill "everybody"—including himself. Hiding is all that saved Jean and her boys.

Enough was enough. Jean said she fixed that type of behavior for good. She made sure "[Billy Ray] was one of the first ones to see how Lew Sterrett (Justice Center jails) looked like on the inside, when it opened." Billy Ray is now serving a long stretch in the State pen.

At 27 years old, Jean was on her own with no one to lean on but herself and her sons. A son has been called a "mother's anchor," so with three sons Jean should have been well-grounded. But with Alta Mae gone and divorced from Billy Ray incarcerated, Jean was left all alone to

face four-and one-half of the most physically and emotionally draining years of her life. Being a single-parent shoved her dream of earning a degree that much further into the abyss.



Carolyn Sanders

Those were trying times for Jean and her boys, hopping those buses to get where they were going, then to get back home again. For over one and a half months Jean labored on three jobs to hold things together.

"For one whole month," Jean recalled, "we ate cornbread and pinto beans with ground meat." And they ate them religiously. Never deviating from their menu. Never faltering in its preparation. They wanted to save up for a car and get off that bus line. Jean said that today neither of her sons will go anywhere near a bean. All three suffer from bean burnout.

Jean hung tough and was able to fight past her situation and realize some of her dreams. In 1984, she purchased the Chevy Cavalier, and moved to Lancaster. In 1988, she remarried. That brought her dream of college back into the light, and she enrolled part-time at El Centro.

She was doing okay. She had a good job, and a good man... but she also had a time schedule. Going to school only part-time wasn't going to give her the results she wanted.

So Jean had a decision to make: "I wanted to go to school full-time," Jean said, but also said, "I didn't know how I was going to leave a well-paying job at U.T. Southwestern Medical Center—but I had to make that call."

"God showed me I had to get up and just do it."

Jean's says Frazier (she calls him by his last name) is a wonderful husband, an excellent step-dad, and an excellent cook—but that he's not so excellent at balancing the budget. When their livelihood was threatened, God "led" Jean to (if you can imagine) driving a Dallas County school bus that was eight times as long as she was tall. Something she would not have remotely considered

before.

If wrestling a block-long school bus full of kids wasn't enough to keep her busy, there were still matters at school and on the home front to contend with. Lancaster has garnered a reputation for being not one of the most accommodating cities for African-Americans lately, and the city proved itself to Jean.

"I've had two sons to get wrapped up in the probation system," Jean's not ashamed to admit. "One didn't do what they accused him of...the other one did a little bit of everything they said."

Jean said the combination of being on probation, and having the primary (adjudicated) responsibility of his daughter Chanze, is what turned her son's (Billy Ray Jr.) life around. But when Jean found out it was she who had to take a newborn baby in to live with her, it nearly turned her world up-side down.

Jean sighs before each sentence: "My last year of college was a struggle—a praying time. I had to talk to God so many times, I thought sooner or later he was going to disconnect me," and she breathes a sigh of relief afterwards.

Carolyn Sanders is 31 years old. She sits in perfect posture. When she stands she is totally erect, and she walks with the backbone of a woman...a lady, a mother. She appears demure and dainty, nearly timid in some ways. In a room full

"My mother had a huge impact on me. She was a hard worker. My father left us when I was only 8 months-old and he never came back. So she was left to raise three children without child support or governmental assistance."

-Carolyn Sanders

of beautiful women, you'd expect her to be wearing the largest diamond in the room. Left hand. Ring finger. And she has the Dallas Cowboys' flashy, flamboyant and famous cornerback Deion Sanders for a husband, to boot.

We know that Deion is as quick as the Roadrunner, but Carolyn keeps a schedule herself that will keep her in the best shape of her life. Or it's going to kill her. But she'll let nothing slow her down. She got that from her mother, Yvonne Chambers.

Earlier this year Carolyn and Deion formed the Prime Life Foundation, a nonprofit organization that assists (in all ways imaginable) families that find

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themselves in a crisis situation, whether it be financial, social or otherwise.

Carolyn, who is executive director and currently working on her masters degree in psychological counseling at Dallas Baptist University, carries out her duties like she has a debt in back taxes to the IRS—or a student loan. And she feels that she does owe a debt, one that was incurred when her mother passed away over a year ago.

The death of Yvonne Chambers wasn't as devastating to Carolyn as the passing of Alta Mae was to Jean Frazier, but it was close. Ms. Chambers was deep in the people helping business. She helped patients in her job as a nurse, sort of like Jean Frazier, who spent 13 years at Parkland Memorial Hospital, a stint at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and is now serving as a volunteer with Operation LIFT (Literacy Instruction For Texas) helping people learn to read. Ms. Chambers maintained her household by frequently working three jobs, like Jean had to do. And though she was a single-parent trying to raise three kids, Ms. Chambers still helped out her more impoverished West Palm Beach (Florida) neighbors by giving of herself and her bread.

Carolyn Sanders said even though they were barely making it themselves, there were several times when her mother purchased groceries for the needy family next door.

The most redeeming quality shared by Ms. Chambers and Jean Frazier, though, is the fact that they both recognized how essential it was that they spend quality time with their children—and they both made the time to do so.

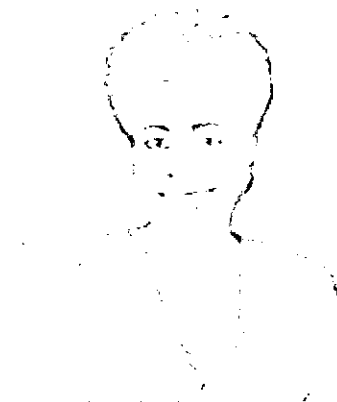
"My mother had a huge impact on me," Carolyn proudly states. "She was a hard worker. My father left us when I was only 8 months-old—Carolyn has an older brother and sister—and he never came back. So she was left to raise three children without child support or governmental assistance.

"We had a very good childhood, though. She was a very good mom. She taught us all the things we needed to make it on our own: faith, right from wrong, and she still allowed us enough room to make our own decisions."

The examples and principles Ms. Chambers instilled in her children prevented them from being sucked into the misery and despair of West Palm Beach like so many of their neighbors around them. Ms. Chambers taught Carolyn "You're either going to become like your environment or you will try to become better."

Above all else, Ms. Chambers displayed her values and principles by simply doing. "She's always taught us to be as much as we can be and to be as good as we can be to others."

It's a noble and courageous effort a devoted mother makes—but when a woman is working multiple jobs, raising



Beverly Mitchell-Brooks

two or three kids, and taking on the troubles of society and her world all alone, she's pushing the edge of the envelope.

Sooner or later something is going to give.

Warning: The same old routine day-in and day-out and year-in and year-out will wear a body down.

Then, constant pressure will burst lead pipes or even rupture iron wills—leaving one's soul completely depleted.

No exceptions.

Women often live in fear of some smooth talking gent who can come in, sweep them off their feet, then leave them dejected, heart-broken and flat broke. Through trial and error, it seems women have become adept at spotting

a dog even before it barks. But if a woman isn't really careful, those three deadly demons—Stress, Fatigue and Depression—will get them every time. And if she's not extra careful, she might find herself combating her adversaries with one of three common social maladies: alcohol, drugs or (the most under-recognized) prescription medication.

Sure, Jean Frazier's mind "cracked" when Alta Mae died, but that fall was recognizable, thus captured, controlled and cured. But during those four-and-a-half years when she was going it alone, a deep depression crept up and seized her, and she never knew what hit her.

It was in the latter part of 1983, after Jean and her sons had moved to Lancaster. What should have been the best of times, slowly dissolved to nearly being the worst of times.

"I would have to drive across the Trinity (River) every evening," Jean confesses. "I had to have something (alcohol-based) to drink. I did that for well over a year.

"I had to have it."

Jean slowly graduated from having one glass of wine a day to gulping down the "hard stuff." She had to have something that would relax her at the end of a tedious and physically draining day. "I'm not a television watcher, but I like music because I used to dance," she said. So she'd sip, listen and remember till she fell sound asleep.

Jean says she even had her boys (who at that time were 3, 6, and 7 years

"Establishing Credit"

by: Monica Taylor, Banking Center Manager, Kiest Banking Center

Most people simply don't have the ability to pay cash for major purchases such as a new car or home. That makes credit -- the ability to borrow then repay a sum of money within a specified time frame -- crucial in today's economy.

Establishing good credit history is the key to getting credit. If you haven't already established a credit history, it's never too late to start. If you've made utility, rent, and phone payments on time, you're on the way to establishing good credit history -- even if the payments have been in cash.

Here are few simple tips to help you get started.

1. Visit a bank. Introduce yourself to a banking officer and ask questions about the credit process. Together, determine what is the best method for you to establish credit.

2. Open a checking or savings account. This is one of the easiest methods of es-

tablishing credit and serves as a stepping stone to other financial relationships.

3. Apply for a credit card. Many financial institutions offer special credit options targeted toward individuals who don't have a credit history or have had credit problems.

4. Apply for a small bank loan. Visit with a bank officer to determine what type of credit works best for your situation.

Once you've established credit, pay your bills consistently and on time. Your credit history will show that you repay debt in a timely manner. On the other hand, if you don't pay your bills on time, this will become a permanent part of your credit history and will prevent you from getting additional loans in the future.

At NationsBank, we're committed to working with you. We offer many products and services that will help establish credit history. To begin the credit process, call or visit a NationsBank location in your area.

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That makes us very proud. Because, after all, we measure our success by the success of every community we serve.

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old) "trained" to keep the door locked after she came home in the evening. She'd have herself a relaxing drink and fall asleep on the sofa. During the entire time that Jean was without a man she refused to sleep in a bed.

The alarm would sound the next morning, one of the boys would awaken her, and Jean would repeat that same old physically draining, tedious (wasteful) cycle over again. Her thirst for good music and a sedating elixir led her to take a third job as a waitress at the now defunct Oak Cliff nightclub, Studio 67.

While Jean was trying to convince herself she was having the time of her life, depression was gaining a tight grip around her neck and squeezing the life out of her. "And I wouldn't admit it," Jean now confesses.

At the Chambers' household, things were a lot stiffer than just a shot of whiskey. Carolyn wasn't sure which of those three emotional demons had possessed her mother, but just about the time Carolyn was entering high school, the tremendous load Ms. Chambers was under began taking its toll on her. Before anyone knew it, Ms. Chambers found herself strongly addicted to drugs. The "harder-than-hard stuff" stuff.

By the time Carolyn had enrolled in college, her mother's habit had become progressively worse. The only answer Carolyn had to remaining in college and seeing after her mother was to bring her mother to live with her on campus and change to a less demanding major.

Given the right set of circumstances, there are periods in a woman's life when the spirit can be wrenched from her body, crumpling the backbone of the black home and leaving her family to fall by the wayside.

Anyone is capable of being caught up in the web, especially when they're trying to make it in this world.

Dr. Beverly Mitchell-Brooks looks as

if she's got it all together, all the time. With Mitchell-Brooks, there's never a hair out of place, never does the smile leave her face and she carries herself with a confident grace. Despair in her life? Never a trace.

Beverly will soon be turning 50, and is proud to announce she's "the last of the baby-boomers"—but the lines on her face don't show it. All alone, she's educated herself, sent one daughter to law school, another to med school...and she taught them both the Golden Rule, to boot.

Ask Beverly about being a single parent and the importance of education (or about being rejected countless times) and she'll let you know, "I can talk from experience. As a single-parent I've experienced some enlightening things."

In the late '70s, after a strenuous divorce, Beverly also experienced something else...deep, dark depression. "After my divorce, trying to get through school with two kids, and having no self-esteem at that point...Depression? I can talk to you about that..."

That depression sent Beverly running, searching for an answer to her despair. She thought she had an answer, but what she actually had was an addiction to prescription medication. Undaunted, she found a way to fight back.

Some time after their personal suffering, Jean, Carolyn and Beverly discovered, as someone once said, that "there is an Arm that never tires when human strength gives way; There is a Love that never fails when earthly loves decay."

The arms in which they all found redemption were the arms of God—and the commitment to the responsibility that was their children.

Jean is well aware that the period of depression she endured had an adverse effect on her sons as well. Jean will be one of the first to admit, "We have a lot to explain to our children—plus an apology," she said. "My children are my all-in-all.

That's what kept me mended. Otherwise, I would have kept on falling apart...until the time came when there wouldn't have been anything worth mending."

Despite emotional torment, Jean was ever conscious of her sons and the direction their life might be headed in. Though her own life was swerving and spiraling, Jean made certain that her boys stayed straight by constantly communicating with them and meting out discipline.

As Jean used to ask her sons when they messed up, "What's does Mama want you to do? What's Mama's song?" It may have been with tears in their eyes, but they never failed to answer "Do Right," a song made famous by soul singer Aretha Franklin.

Keeping children in line was one thing, but there still remained the greater challenge of these women—Jean, Beverly and Ms. Chambers—getting themselves back on track.

It was love and faith that brought these women back from their despondency—the unconditional love of their kids and an unyielding faith in their God. Love and duty to their children snatched them back to reality...except in Yvonne Chambers case, where it was her daughter Carolyn who literally snatched her from the jaws of death.

Of her own once precarious predicament, Beverly Mitchell-Brooks, waving her hand in the air, says: "I had to dig deep inside of me to come out of that one. I mean real deep."

And when she dug deep, she extracted a pat rule that worked for all three women. "You put your kids first. You put God first," Beverly advises. Then she warns, "But someone has to be your support system, to tell you that you can do it. You may not believe them at first, but when that someone tells you that 'you can do this,' and you look around and see people depending on you—and you keep God first—somewhere there's going to be a transition. And that transi-

tion is that you simply learn to love yourself...that's a hard lesson to learn.

"Once I learned that I was okay with me—regardless of what anyone else thought of me—then I found the will and the freedom to do for other people."

If that transition is successful, it can lead to nothing but triumph. Jean made that transition from alcohol dependency. Beverly made that transition from prescription medications. And, thank God, Carolyn Sanders' mother made that transition from her drug addiction.

"She had a big impact on the neighborhood," Carolyn says of her mother, who was clean and sober the final ten years of her life, even doing drug counseling herself. "When people would look at her and see how good she was doing, it encouraged them to do better themselves."

"She had a hard time, but she was strong enough to get out of it."

Tough times are certainly nothing to be ashamed of. "There's a reason for everything," Beverly assuredly states. "And I would have to say that everything that has happened in my life I learned from it. That's a critical step in learning to move forward. Mistakes? I've made a lot."

"Whenever you notice something that you feel is wrong, and it's affecting our attitude or our optimism, speak up right then...write a letter, call somebody, but do something."

In the end we've found that the woman—our mother, our lover, our wife, our friend—has straightened up her backbone, girded up her loins, and carried on to the betterment of herself and her family.

"We had to do a questionnaire in our office," Jean shares, offering parting words of wisdom. "One of the questions was: 'If you had to redo anything in your life, what would you do?'"

"My answer was: Why live in the past?"

[MON]

"METROPLEX EMPLOYMENT EXPOSITION 96"

James Bray and Archie Greer, owners of Bray and Greer Staffing Consultants (one of the first black owned staffing referral companies) in conjunction with The Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the First Annual METROPLEX EMPLOYMENT EXPOSITION to be held at the Bill J. Priest, Bldg. 1402 Corinth, Dallas, Texas 75215.

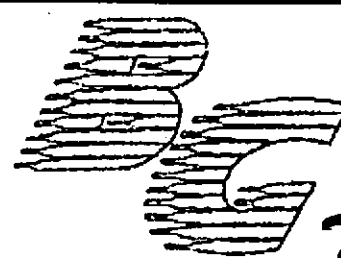
This event will be on Saturday, November 16, 1996 from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.

The exposition will feature major companies from all over North Texas seeking Accountants, Computer Operators, Cus-

tomers Service, Insurance Representatives, Banking and Secretaries of all levels. The exposition will also feature self help seminars on resume writing, interviewing techniques and how to dress for success.

If your company is interested in participating in the exposition, please contact James Bray at (214) 421-2120.

Bray and Greer will soon be announcing their second division "Marketplace International" on the Internet. For more information about becoming a top paid part-time Marketplace Sales Representative, please contact Renita Stewart at (214) 421-2539.



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Spinning the Metroplex

November 1

Girls Inc. of Metropolitan Dallas is seeking nominations for "She Knows Where She's Going Award." Nominations will be accepted through December 3, 1996. For more information call Brenda Snitzer at (214) 654-4536.

Sony Theatres presents a FREE kids film festival through November 21 at select-ed Sony theatres throughout the metroplex. Call theatres for show times and featured movies. For more information call Cristi Lima or Bevin Santos at (972) 701-9434.

Casa Manana Children's Playhouse presents the spirited musical version of Hansel and Gretel Nov. 1, 2, 8, and 9 under the dome at 3101 W. Lancaster, Ft. Worth, Texas. Performances are 7:30 p.m. on Friday and 2:00 p.m. on Saturday. Call (817) 332-CASA for more information.

Jidera Communications is accepting nominations for "Bridging the Gap Award". For more information, please call (214) 467-0393

November 2

St. Paul United Methodist Church begins its three day Stewardship Revival Nov. 2-5 at the church, 1618 N. Routh St., downtown Dallas. The revival's theme is "Totally Committed-From Pocketbook to Outlook." Services begin at 7:00 p.m. each evening. Contact (214) 922-0000 for more information.

Dallas Star Search 96 is looking for talent! Auditions are 1-4 p.m., Nov. 2 and Nov. 9 at 2429 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. The show and talent extravaganza, which is open to the public, will be November 30 from 7-9 p.m. at the Thurgood Marshall Center, 5150 Mark Trail Ave., Dallas. To audition or for more information, call

(214) 421-4848.

The National Black Business Trade Association (NBBTA), a non-profit, self-help organization with over 15,000 members, announces the opening of two new local chapters in Dallas and Houston. Local chapter meetings offer a unique monthly business forum. Anyone interested in joining or starting a local chapter should call (202) 371-1000 for more information.

The Oasis 107.5 FM presents a tribute to Ella Fitzgerald featuring Dee Dee Bridgewater and the Jacky Terrasson trio, 8:00 p.m. at the Caravan of Dreams. For more information call Cyndy Brace at (817) 877-3000 X 2050.

November 3

The Greater New Zion Baptist Church is pleased to announce the Gala Celebration of its 118th Church Anniversary. Speakers include Dr. Vernon Busby of St. John Baptist Church and Rev. Robert Wilson of Cornerstone Baptist Church. For more information call (214) 421-4119.

The Texas Department of Health, in partnership with the HIV Prevention Regional Planning Coalitions is seeking participants to serve on the HIV Prevention Regional Planning Coalitions in each of the 11 public health regions of Texas. The planning coalitions identify and set priorities for proposed HIV prevention activities. For additional information, call the TDH at (512) 490-2525.

Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 2201 E. Park Row Drive, Arlington, Texas is seeking volunteers for its new tutoring center, H.O.P.E. (Helping Our Pupils Excel). To volunteer or for more information call (817) 274-1921 (phone and fax) or leave a message at (817) 274-0116.

Around Town

November 4

The Irving Branch NAACP will hold an election of all officers at 7:00 p.m. on November 4, 1996 at the Shadygrove CME Church, 3537 Gilbert Rd., Grand Prairie, TX. For more information, call (972) 888-8822.

In celebration of its 116th year anniversary on November 10, the St. Mark Baptist Church of McKinney, pastored by Charles S. Wattlely will hold a revival Nov 4-8 at the church located at 1308 Wilcox, McKinney, Texas 75069. The speaker for the revival is Rev. Denny D. Davis, pastor of St. John Baptist Church in Grand Prairie. For more information call the church at (972) 542-6178.

November 6

Camp Wisdom United Methodist Church, 1300 W. Camp Wisdom Rd., Dallas, Texas, will hold its Annual Fall Revival, Nov. 6-8 beginning 7:00 p.m. nightly. The revival's theme is "Faith: Stepping Out, Stepping Up." For more information, call (972) 224-4556.

November 9

KHVN presents Saturday Night Praise Live from the Bronco Bowl, 2600 Ft. Worth Ave., Dallas 4:00 p.m. until 12:00 midnight. The event features uplifting contemporary gospel music for the young and young at heart. Admission is \$5.00. For advance ticket sales call the Bronco Bowl at (214) 943-1777. For more information, call Teresa Turner at (214) 583-2554.

Comedian Shuckey Duckey will entertain at a benefit brunch and fashion show hosted by the Minority Human Resources Association (MHRA), 10:00

a.m.- 2:00 p.m. at CityPlace Conference Center, 2711 N. Haskell, Dallas, Texas. Proceeds benefit the MHRA Annual Scholarship Fund. For more information, call the MHRA hotline at (972) 626-6771.

The African American Museum, Fair Park, Dallas presents E. Barry Gaither for its Fall Distinguished Lecture at 2:00 p.m. For more information call the museum at (214) 565-9026.

The West Dallas Community Center, Inc. Joseph McMillan Community Centers Adult Advisory board is hosting their Annual Harvest Breakfast Fundraiser today from 9:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m. at 3739 Ladd St., Dallas, Texas. Proceeds benefit the Joseph McMillan scholarship fund. For more information call Lilly Jones at (214) 745-1176.

Muhammad Mosque No. 48 presents "BLACK TO THE 70'S BASH" at 2429 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., from 7:30 p.m.- 12:00 midnight. The Mike Tyson fight will also be shown on satellite. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for senior citizens and children 12-18. For more information call (214) 421-4848.

The African American Museum, Fair Park, Dallas presents "Anything Goes in Watercolor Workshop", 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. For more information call the museum at (214) 565-9026.

November 10

The Fellowship of Afrikan Studies & Religion is proud to host Brother Ashra Kwesi, Griot and National and International Lecturer on Afrikan history and religion, 11:30 a.m. at 606 Edgefield, Dallas, Texas. The event is open to the public. For more information call Talibah Modupe at (214) 602-5758.

Around Town cont'd

November 12

The Dallas Chapter of the NAACP meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Thurgood Marshall Recreation Center, 5150 Mark Trail, Dallas, Texas 75232, (214) 670-1928. For more information call the NAACP office at (214) 337-3701.

The Dallas/Ft. Worth Minority Business Development Council is holding its 18th Annual Awards Banquet beginning 6:00 p.m. at the Fairmont Hotel, Dallas, Texas. Organizations and individuals interested in attending should contact the Council at (214) 630-0747.

November 13

The Dallas Bar Association's LegalLine lawyers will answer questions from the public, 5-9 p.m. Nov. 13 and Nov. 20. People with legal-related questions are encouraged to call LegalLine at (214) 969-7066 during LegalLine's scheduled days and times.

Join the African American Museum at its annual Texas Black Sports Hall of Fame banquet, 8:00 p.m. at the Adolphus Hotel, downtown Dallas. Fourteen African American athletes will be inducted into the Hall of Fame. For more information, contact Kandace Barnett at (214) 565-9026.

November 14

Find your ideal volunteer job at the Volunteer Center, 1215 Skiles Street, Dallas, Texas from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Meet with representatives of non-profit organizations to discuss your volunteer interests. Call (214) 826-6767 Ext. 330 for more information.

November 15

Learn how to BE A BETTER MAN !

Come to the LOVE CLINIC, an outreach ministry of Jubilee United Methodist Church held the third Friday of each month from 7-9 p.m. at the church, 301 Frank Keasler Blvd., Duncanville, TX 75116. The sessions are free and open to the public and child care is provided. For more information contact Rev. Dr. Sheron Patterson at (972) 283-2264.

The African American Museum, Fair Park, Dallas presents "Jazz Under the Dome", 8:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. For more information call the museum at (214) 565-9026.

November 16

State Senator Royce West and Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk present the AT&T Super Bone Domino Tournament at Red Bird Mall's Center Court beginning at 11:00 a.m. Proceeds benefit the Visiting Nurse's Association - Meals on Wheels program. Registration deadline for teams is Nov. 6. For more information call (214) 467-0123.

St. Philip's School and Community Center presents its Ninth Annual Dinner and Celebrity Roast honoring country music legend Charley Pride at the Fairmont Hotel, Dallas, Texas. Pride will be roasted by a host of friends and colleagues that include baseball great Ernie Banks. A Silent Auction begins at 6:00 p.m. Dinner and the program starts at 7:00 p.m. For more information call St. Philip's at (214) 421-5221.

Sisters On The Move (S.O.T.M.) invites you to an evening of fun and celebration at their year end dinner themed "And Still We Rise...The Phenomenal Women." The guest speaker is Alice Nolen of Little Rock, Arkansas. For more information call (972) 709-1180.

The Scholarship Committee of the Alpha Xi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa

Alpha Sorority, Inc. is sponsoring its first Annual AKA "Ivy" Bowl-A-Thon from 12:00 noon-6:00 p.m. at Don Carter's West All Star Lanes located at 10920 Composite Drive, Dallas, TX. For registration information contact the AKA Bowl-A-Thon at (972) 738-7085.

The Texas Ski Rangers presents the legendary Leather & Lace Fundraiser from 8:00 p.m.- 2:00 a.m. at the 2001 Club on the 40th floor of the Bryan Tower in downtown Dallas. For more information call the Ski Ranger Hotline at (214) 647-5991.

November 17

The African American Museum, Fair Park, Dallas presents "A Taste of Caribbean." For more information call the museum at (214) 565-9026.

November 18

9TO5 National Association of Working Women presents a Workshop on Sexual Harassment, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. at the YWCA, 4621 Ross Ave., Dallas, Texas. RSVP by Nov. 17. For more information call Fran Pace at (972) 442-6276.

November 19

The YMCA of Metropolitan Ft. Worth will hold its 6th Annual Minority Achievers Banquet, 7:00 p.m., on November 19 at the Worthington Hotel, downtown Ft. Worth. The featured speaker is award winning journalist Tony Brown. For more information contact Jack Booker at (817) 531-2738.

Prudential Securities, Ft. Worth office, presents a workshop, "Investment Planning for Women" 12:00 noon, November 19 and 21 at the Ft. Worth Public Library. Admission is free but reservations are

required. For more information or to make a reservation call Margaret Bryant at (817) 336-8701 or (800) 762-6231.

November 23

Iota Lambda Sorority, Inc., Psi Chapter presents The Emerald Ball in celebration of its 60th anniversary. Program and reception begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Harvey Hotel, 7050 N. Stemmons Frwy., Dallas, Texas. For more information call Shirley Pleasant at (972) 235-4633 or Juan-da Wallace at (214) 339-5996.

November 29

The Men's Gathering, a social and support organization addressing the needs of African American gay, bisexual, and transgendered men is hosting its monthly meeting 7:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m. at Oak Lawn Community Services, 4300 MacArthur Avenue. For more information call The Men's Gathering at (214) 521-5342, ext. 876.

November 30

The Seventh Annual Martin Luther King Basketball tournament benefitting the Multi-Ethnic Heritage Foundation and the MLK Advisory Council will be held January 16-18, 1997 at the Martin Luther King Recreation Center, 2901 Pennsylvania Avenue in South Dallas. Corporate and community teams must register by December 15. Call (214) 821-9000 for more information.

ATTENTION:

If you're interested in placing your event in our events calendar, send it to us by mail or fax no later than the 21st of the month preceding publication to:

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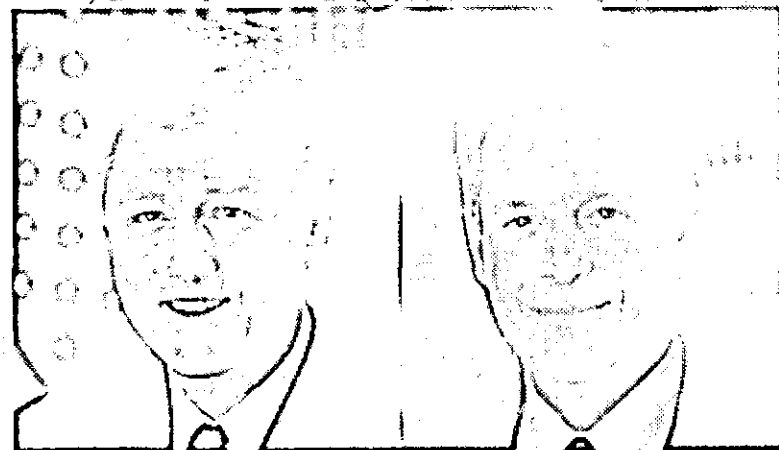
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**Angela
Washington-Blair**

365 Ways to Simplify Your Work Life

By Odette Pollar
(ISBN 0-7931-2281-3/\$8.95)

As I sit here, looking around my desk and observing the clutter, I think to myself, I must do better. I must become neater. I must become organized.

As a librarian, I should already be organized. Indeed, I do know several good ways for organizing and classifying information, whether it be in book form or some other technological media. Dewey Decimal and Library of Congress Classification Systems quickly come to mind.

We surf the net, we word process, we build spread sheets and databases.

Yet, this computerized age has not made us a paperless society. We are inundated with paper. Not only that, but our lives in this information age have become so busy, so fast paced. We suffer information overload and the chronic activity has made us quite weary.

We go to work. We have appointments. What was his name? We have staff meetings. Now where did I put that phone number? We have deadlines. We carpool children. We rush. We can't find the mate to the shoes. The children's schools have meetings. The children have soccer and volleyball games. We go to church. We eat, we exercise. We read, we watch TV. No, I haven't read that bestseller yet. We earn, we spend. Did I forget to pay that bill? We socialize. OOPS, I forgot your birthday!

When we do get a moment, a reprieve, if you will, the obtrusive noise of the telephone ringing gets us from our reverie. Our cups runneth over. We get so much junk mail, we are quickly filling up the landfills. Recycling bins overflow.

How can we surface from this mountain of "stuff" in which we have unwittingly buried ourselves?

Help is on the way!

We need to simplify our lives, and Odette Pollar (like collar) has written *365 Ways to Simplify Your Work Life*. Don't panic. This little 199-page book can be read in an hour; or you can choose to read a tip each day.

Pollar, a time management consultant, is a dynamo. She breezed into MON's offices in October, (Dallas being one of several stops on her 10-city tour) visibly irritated that some snafu had her at the wrong address before she finally arrived at our offices.

But being the professional that she is, she quickly settled into a poised mode as I interviewed her. When asked what the impetus was that gave her the idea for the book, she responded that her book was based on 15 years worth of client tips and interviews with actual clients as to what works. This is not to be considered an advice book. It is replete with practical, workable tips for simplifying not only your work life, but other aspects of your life. If you have a home business, travel a lot on business, write a lot, or attend meetings, you'll find a useful solution to eliminating the complexities.

Some of the clear, easy to implement tips you may already be doing. Some will be new to you. I hadn't thought of that, you'll say. For instance, she gives practical tips on the time-

consumption of those little sticky notes. There are tips for packing for a conference. And tips for using technology as a time-saving tool instead of another time-ro-

ber. Ms. Pollar also includes ways to remove your name from telemarketers and junk mail lists.

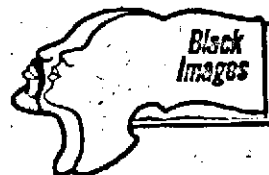
A California native, Ms. Pollar has a degree in Interdisciplinary Problem Solving from the University of California at Irvine. Now residing in Oakland, she has had her own business, Time Management Systems, started in 1979. She is the author of numerous books, has written countless magazine articles, and has spoken before many organizations. Another useful book she showed me is entitled *Organizing Your Workspace: A Guide to Personal Productivity*. Published by Crisp Publications, it is a self-paced guide to organizing.

After our interview, the exuberant and affable Ms. Pollar gave our editor Chris Pryer some tips on organizing his desk. She paid him a compliment when she stated that his desk was a lot neater than that of other journalists she'd seen. She suggested that he eliminate some of the stackable files and label his "in" box.

The *365 Ways...* book is priced under \$10 and would be perfect for the boss or employees that you know. It would be great as a gift for Christmas or for Kwanzaa.

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Autographs

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Saturday, November 9 • 3-5 P.M.

MICHAEL ERIC DYSON

America's leading young African American intellectual reveals how *RACE RULES: Navigating the Color Line* (\$20.00 Addison Wesley). Dyson, unearths the hidden rules that poison our language, our thinking, and our politics. Dyson depicts our ongoing failure to break free of the rule of race. He is currently a professor of Communications Studies at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. His other works are: *Making Malcolm: The Myth and Meaning of Malcolm X* and *Between God and Gangsta Rap: Bearing Witness to Black Culture*.

Also a Guest Appearance

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Pen Notes

By Cheryl Smith

Well, the battle of the brothers is finally over! KXAS-TV decided that Calvin Hughes was their man to be the weekend anchor. Congratulations Calvin and good job on that Million Man March story... Congratulations also to James Ragland who was promoted to National Political Editor and Leona Allen who is the new Night City Editor at *The Dallas Morning News*... Linda Stewart of *The Dallas Morning News* is now a married woman!!! Toska Medlock-Lee has a bun in the oven, again!!! Buff and Rene Parham's little bun, Casey, is doing well and I think she's talking and walking already!!! Ramona Logan at KXAS looks good in the evening!!! KVIL is looking to hire an afternoon news anchor (male). Anyone interested in working with the dynamic Joyce King??? Congratulations to Tom Joyner, Billboard's Radio Personality of the Year. But you knew that!!! KKDA's Tricia Hodge is a Katie finalist. Congratulations... We're trying to locate all past scholarship winners for the Dallas/Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators. Some have been good about taking the money and keeping in touch. Others, well.....Please help us out!!! Call (214) 371-6671... K104 topped the ratings... Former KKDAer Peter Arnel is the entertainment reporter for KRLD... Roland Martin of KKDA is now writing for the *Dallas Examiner*... The Fort Worth *Star-Telegram* has hired Ken Parish Perkins as the television columnist and Carol Lewis as a senior reporter. Carol comes to us from the *Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel* and she is the first African American on the *Star Telegram's* city-desk side to carry the designation of "senior reporter." Also, Kevin Lyons will become an assistant sports editor after the football season. There are several other positions open at the Fort Worth *Star-Telegram* and there are also a number of folk concerned about what's going

on with sports writer/columnist Roger B. Brown. I'm getting late night calls and e-mails, inquiring about the treatment of Roger B. It seems that this veteran sports guy, who has been with the *Star-Telegram* for 10 years (3 of those as a columnist/reporter) and has been a talk show host on KKDA-AM for six years, is running up against a brick wall at the *Star-Telegram*. He's being courted by a number of papers around the country, including the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and *The Dallas Morning News*. Some people want to shake Roger because they said he should have jumped ship and ran to the *Morning News*. It seems the *Morning News* has a history of taking talent from the *Star-Telegram* and building greatness; just look at Lawrence Young, Rochelle Brown, Paula Walker. Need I say more??? Next month, I'll tell you about the *Star-Telegram's* wonderful efforts to tie diversity to performance evaluations... Want information on the National Association of Black Journalist's Regional Conference in Dallas, March 20-23, 1997; call (214) 371-6671. Need information about scholarships, workshops, fellowships, employment; give me a call. I'll direct you to the hard working members of the Dallas/Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators... In the very near future, we're going to examine radio stations and their "alleged" or "implied" support of the African American community. There are some stations that do a good job of faking the funk, but when you really stop and examine what they are doing, you find they are just talking loud and really saying nothing... Join me on November 16 at Red Bird Mall as Senator Royce West and Mayor Ron Kirk present the AT&T SuperBone Domino Tournament. Call (214) 467-0123. Be there and help support the Meals on Wheels Program. DFW/ABC members Lyria Howland and Rose Gafford are the brains and beauty behind this wonderful event!!! See you at tea DFWABC meeting on November 12 at 6:30 at the Fort Worth *Star-Telegram*.

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Tuesday - November 5th

V100 Bounces Back From Tower Tragedy: R&B Station Plan Ways to Help Victims

By Dorothy Gentry

Contributing Writer

"This was a tragic situation. It's always in the back of your mind but you never think that something like this will happen," says Thomas Bacote, program director for KRBV-FM (V100). "In all of my broadcast career, I have never had to deal with something like this."

Skip Schmidt, vice president and general manager for V100, KOAI-FM (107.5 The Oasis) and KHVN-970 (Heaven 97), has been a general manager for 20 years and has seen it all. But nothing like this.

"I have never been involved in an accident of this proportion," says Schmidt, referring to the Saturday, Oct. 12 collapse of a 1,550-foot broadcast tower belonging to KXTX-TV Channel 39.

The accident claimed the lives of three workers and knocked out television and radio signals for hours.

Three of the radio stations knocked off the air were V100, the Oasis and KYNG-FM (105.3 Young Country), all owned by Infinity Broadcasting of New York, one of the largest radio station corporations in the nation.

The collapsed tower held the antennae which transmitted the signals for the popular stations. Young Country returned to the air that same day.

V100 and the Oasis, however, remained off the air as officials searched for alternate transmission lines for their broadcasts.

In the meantime, staff and on-air personalities for V100 embarked upon an impromptu public relations campaign.

"I have one of the best staffs in the city," says Bacote. "They grabbed the vans and hit the streets, passing out flyers and letting people know we would be back."

Finally, after locating a tower to temporarily broadcast their signal, the Oasis went back on the air late Monday evening, Oct. 14, three days after the tower collapse.

A day later, at 5:38 p.m., V100 returned to the air playing songs such as "Ain't No Stopping Us Now," "Back in Stride" and "Back Together Again."

While the station and its staff were clearly happy to be back on the air, it did not and has not, diminished their concern for the victims of this tragedy.

"They have a bigger situation than us being off the air," Bacote says. "We may have lost some listeners, but these people lost their lives."

"There is a bigger picture here. It lets you know that it can all be taken away."

Schmidt said the station has sent flowers to the victims' families and "will continue to do our best to help them. After we get up (broadcasting) permanently, we will devote our time to doing benefits for the families."

In the meantime, the Oasis and V100 continue to work on making their broadcast signal as strong as ever, including working on a backup tower.

Radio ins and outs...

KKDA-FM (K104) is back on top - of the radio stations in the Metroplex, that is. The summer Arbitron ratings (for the period June 27-Sept. 18) were released Monday, Oct. 14 with K104 ranked No. 1 overall (listeners age 12 and up) with a 6.3 summer share compared with their 5.7 spring share.

The station also boasted the No. 4 rated morning show with the hilarious "Skip Murphy and Company-The Home Team" featuring Nanette Lee, Chris Arnold, Sam Putney, The Wig and Gorby.

K104's sister station, KKDA-AM (Soul 73) had some good ratings news of its own. Roger B. Brown's "Talking Sports" came in fourth place as the most-listened-to talk sports show at 6 p.m. Roger's 1.4 share of the audience finished behind WBAP's Randy Galloway (5 share), KLIF's Wally Lynn and Leon Simon (2.5 share) and The Ticket's Chuck Cooperstein (1.8).

Up the dial, V100 continued its great showing, ranking No. 7 with a 4.6 summer share, up from 4.2 in the spring.

In even better news, the R&B hits and oldies station continued inching to a No. 1 ranking in the adult contemporary category by placing a very close 3rd place for the 25-54 age audience (their main target) behind KLUV 98.7. V100 posted a 5.3 share and KLUV had a 5.4. KVIL remains the No. 1 adult contemporary station in the Metroplex with a 5.8 share.

V100, however, remains the No. 1 rated adult station in the African American community.

"We were up in all of our numbers, we met our goals and are still No. 1 at

night," says Bacote of Chris Reynolds' "Night Moods" program, airing from 7 p.m. to midnight Sunday through Thursday.

"We have done what is best for our audience and we will continue to do that. We are pleased with their response and will continue our commitment to the community."

Of new rival station KRNB-FM (105.7) Bacote says, "There is always competition, it is the nature of the business." Schmidt adds, "If the community feels there is a place for them, there will be."

V100's place in the ratings "shows how loyal the African American community is to us," says Schmidt. "When the V came on, listenership went up."

"They were craving this type of station and information. It is a fun radio station - the total source for radio information in the community. We are doing what we think is proper for the community and we thank the people for listening to us."

Although K104 is No. 1 in the ratings, they appear to be receiving a thumbs down to some in the community.

County Commissioner John Wiley Price and his Warriors—carrying signs that read among others, "KKDA is a Plantation Station"—began picketing the station last month partly in protest to the firing of 18-year veteran Yvonne St. John. St. John has since been hired by V100 as their noon to 3 p.m. on-air personality. The firing, one protester says, is "the straw that broke the camel's back."

Station officials have declined comment on the protests.

Yvonne's popular "Quiet Storm" show on K104 was moved to new sister station KRNB-FM (105.7) and has as its new host Rudy V. K104's "Quiet Storm" was replaced by Broadway Joe at 10 p.m.

The station's commitment to the

African American community also is in question. A number of inequities exists at the radio station, protesters say, which need attention. Other issues that need addressing include the absence of African Americans in positions of authority, the presence of only one female on-air personality on KKDA-AM (Sage) and one on K104 (Boss) and the lack of African Americans in sales. KRNB, however, has hired three female on-air personalities.

In an effort to raise clothes and other donated items to the victims of the Monday, Oct. 21 thunderstorms, K104 broadcast live from the Ledbetter Estates Apartments in east Oak Cliff from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Residents of the apartment complex were displaced when their homes were destroyed during the storms.

Station owner and general manager Hymen Childs has been invited to speak before the Dallas/Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators, the local chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists, at its Nov. 12 meeting at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram to address the recent criticisms of his successful stations. Stay tuned for more...Why do traffic man Gorby from K104's Morning Team and KRNB's Michael Thomas "Your Fly-Guy in the Sky" sound like the same person? That's because they are...You can catch your favorite KRNB on-air personality at GiGi's Jazz on Thursday's. The "smooth and classic R&B" station is the official Happy Hour hosts...If you still can't get a clear reception from KRNB, just hold on. The interim antenna from which they are presently broadcasting will soon be replaced and you will be able to hear them clear as a bell...Stay tuned to Heaven 97 and V100 for details on the upcoming "For Sisters Only."

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Cheryl L. Williams

After ten years of raising money in more conventional ways, Pat Wesley, director of Shaun Children's Place decided it was time to try something different. Her nonprofit child care program in South Oak Cliff, which serves children with disabilities and special needs, had just gotten a sizable grant from the United Parcel Service Foundation to build a facility housing more classrooms and a respite care center. However, the grant only covered the construction of the physical structure and did not include funds for furnishing and landscaping the facility.

She decided the best way to get the necessary financial support and bring attention to the plight of children with special needs was to have a fundraising banquet. But on the night of the event, her anticipated attendance of 500 was only half that number, one scheduled emcee canceled a week before the event, three of six principal honorees could not attend, and she did not come close to her fundraising goal.

But two days after the banquet, she was already planning for year two. "Even though I had some problems and everything did not go as I had planned, I brought awareness to Shaun Children's Place, our programs, and to the difficulty that children with disabilities and special needs have," Ms. Wesley said.

So while she did not raise the anticipated capital, she did manage to get radio, print, and television coverage, secure several new corporate sponsors, and forge relationships with organizations and persons that have already agreed to support the event next year.

Undoubtedly, fundraising banquets are not for the faint of heart or faint of pocket. The financial outlay and workers needed to produce such an event can be staggering, especially for first time organizers. Daring to fundraise where an organization has not ventured before can be intimidating, but with early planning and persistent follow through, repeated efforts, can in time, lead to gainful rewards.

To lessen the uncertainty of the first time and to improve subsequent banquets, include these essential steps in your planning.

• Assemble, organize volunteers

Since many nonprofit are long on needs but short on staff, very early, assemble a group of dependable volunteers to help relieve your paid staff (if any) of some

Fundraising banquets— Are they worth the effort?

responsibilities associated with planning the event. Fundraising banquets are labor intensive and require many hours of preparation, especially in the three months before the event.

Organize this group into subcommittees, responsible for small parts of the planning. Tailor subcommittees to fit the needs of your organization and of your event. Typically, the subcommittees might include people responsible for securing and selecting banquet facilities and catering services, soliciting event sponsors, garnering press and publicity, selecting and setting up decorations and displays, and securing a guest speaker. Have committee meetings regularly and ensure committee chairpersons report to a staff member or event coordinator.

• Prepare a budget

To ensure little or no surprises regarding the costs associated with the banquet, prepare a budget detailing expenses. A basic budget for a fundraising banquet will generally include these types of expenses:

- Keynote Speaker Fee
- Airfare, Ground transportation, Room & Board, Banquet Room rental, meal
- Photographer
- Audio and Video equipment rental
- Printing (invitation, programs)
- Awards & Gifts
- Postage

Estimate revenue from event sponsors, ticket sales, and other income producing activities associated with the event. Subtract the proposed expenses and you can project the net profit from the event.

• Solicit sponsors of event

Although many organizations price tickets from \$25 - \$75, the bulk of profit from a fundraising banquet is not from individual ticket sales. Even if you have a committee of volunteers responsible for getting cash and in-kind donations, depending on the amount of money you want to raise, expect your organization and staff to spend additional time soliciting businesses and individuals as sponsors of the event.

Sponsors are asked to buy an entire table at the event and can usually choose from several contribution levels that provide benefits to the sponsor. In preparing to contact potential sponsors by letter, telephone, or in person, tailor

a list of the possible benefits to the sponsor. Attract the sponsor to your event by mentioning prominent honorees, committee chairs, keynote speakers, and individuals, businesses, or civic organizations that already support the event.

Although the financial benefit clearly lies with the nonprofit organization, supporting your event can garner these perks for the sponsor:

- Create publicity
- Set the sponsor apart from its competition
- Complement other marketing programs
- Enhance the sponsor's image
- Improve customer relations
- Sell products or services directly
- Increase employee morale
- Fulfill responsibility as a good corporate citizen

• Create a time line

The more time you have to plan your event, the better chance you have to reach your desired goals and objectives. Beginning a full year in advance is not unreasonable, so as soon as possible, outline tasks to be performed, assign tasks to a committee or individuals, and set deadline dates. Give copies of the time line to everyone involved in planning your event.

If you are still hesitant about beginning a new fundraising effort, consider the success of the annual banquet sponsored by St. Philip's School and Community Center. Now in its ninth year, the

event did not begin as a fundraiser, but as a way to enhance publicity for the school and its community center programs. However, with prominent honorees such as KDFW-TV newscaster, Clarice Tinsley, Congresswoman, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Dallas Cowboy, Michael Irvin, Olympic athlete, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Dallas mayor, Ron Kirk, and this month singer, Charley Pride, the banquet's annual net profit for the South Dallas institution has skyrocketed to more to \$80,000.

St. Philip's Executive Director Dr. Terry Flowers suggests that organizations new to holding fundraising banquets view them for the first few years from a public relations standpoint.

"Look at how much exposure and intangible resources you get as opposed to hard cash," he said. "Our first banquet raised only \$5,000 but it did get the St. Philip's name out to supporters."

Flowers also says to secure a strong core of volunteers with experience in fundraising and to try not to rely on your event for annual operating expenses since results may vary.

So is a fundraising banquet worth your effort? Absolutely! If you have the discipline and desire to continue it for the long term, look for your signature event and your organization to gain the supporters, recognition, and credibility needed to meet your fundraising goals.

MON

Chronology of Nonprofit Series

- JulyStart your own nonprofit ☐
- August.....Board of Directors ☐
- September.....Volunteers ☐
- OctoberAsking for money ☐
- NovemberFundraisers ☐
- DecemberA Time to give ☐

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Angela Robinson

What you should know before starting a home-based business

With the threat of corporate downsizing and company layoffs becoming more prevalent, it's no wonder that each year thousands of Americans are deciding to take the entrepreneurial plunge. Some hoping to add a little more income to the end of the month, while others feverishly romance the notion of one day becoming financially independent.

Whatever your reasoning may be, please keep in mind that just because you hang out a sign and say that you're in business, does not mean that the bucks are going to come rolling in. Forgetting that "little detail" in your haste to start a business can evolve into serious financial and legal problems. So, to help you get started on the right foot, here are some tips on how you can survive and thrive in your home-based business.

Be Realistic. What do you enjoy doing? What are your skills? When picking a business, develop an appropriate match between skills and interest.

Research market potential, seasonal influences, skills requirements, startup costs, and legalities of your dream business. Network with people who have experience in the business you've chosen. If you're uncomfortable asking future competitors for advice, contact people who own similar establishments in neighboring cities. Learn all you can about the pros and cons of any business you're interested in starting.

Design Your Work Space. Yes, it is true that you can start many home-based businesses from your kitchen table, but it is better to take a spare area of your house/apartment and convert it into your office.

Check out the possibility of available space in your den, garage or an extra bedroom. Establishing an actual work place where you can leave papers and equipment in place is more efficient than having to constantly put them away, so as to make room for other activities such as eating.

To help you determine work space requirements, start with a list of equipment needs. Will you require a desk, chair, table, computer, printer, filing cabinet, fax machine, telephone, copier (many are built into today's fax machines), voice mail or answering machine? What about electrical outlets and telephone jacks? How much space will you need to store supplies? Will customers come to your office? Should you plan for extra seating? Do you expect a lot of deliveries?

Keep these two basic rules in mind when designing your work space:

1. Don't let home activities interfere

with your business.

2. Don't let business activities interfere with your home life.

Keep It Legal. As a local radio personality often says "tell the truth and you don't have to remember what you said". This saying holds true when operating your business. Forget the excuses. Start out legal. Don't try to cover up your home-based business. Ignoring legal issues can result in audits, fines and even the closing of your business.

Before you start a home-based business, investigate zoning laws for your community. Zoning regulations spell out activities permitted and prohibited in specific portions of a city or county...such as whether you can legally operate a business from your home and if so, what type of business.

Call your town hall, zoning office, county clerk's office or the library to request a copy of zoning regulations governing your area. Select a legal

form of organization. You can set up your business as a sole proprietorship, partnership or corporation. Most home-based businesses are sole proprietorships or partnerships meaning that you are the sole owner or you and a partner possess co-ownership in that order. Legal restrictions, capital needs, liabilities assumed number of people involved, the kind of business and tax advantages or disadvantages are factors to be considered. An attorney or accountant can help you compare the pros and cons of each type or a trip to your local SBA (Small Business Assistance Center) where this information is often times free of charge.

Most localities have registration and licensing requirements for all businesses, unless you are operating under your own name. Most states require that you register your business name with the assumed name division usually located at the county clerk's office. A search is conducted to ensure that your business name isn't already in use by someone else.

A license is a permit to practice your business. Depending on the type of business that you plan to operate, and where you live, licenses may be issued by your local, state, or federal government. In the state of Texas, it is issued through the state and may or may not be required for your type of business. Always check with your state or county offices to make sure that you are in compliance.

Keep in mind as you choose your business that you can't legally be a home-based insurance agent without securing the proper training and certification to sell insurance.

Finance Strategy. Good financial

planning is the key to unlocking success and profits in your home-based business.

First, estimate start-up expenses. Although working from home eliminates renting office space, there are other expenses to consider. Include all items of a non recurring nature such as licenses, permits, equipment and professional fees for your attorney and accountant.

Next, project operating expenses for six to twelve months. Operating expenses include supplies, advertising, insurance premiums, delivery service and postage. Another question to ask is, while launching your home-based business, will you have another source of income? If not, also estimate personal expenses such as food, car payments, rent or mortgage, clothing, medical and travel expense, if applicable. Maintain accurate records of all business related revenues and expenses. This can be done manually or with an inexpensive accounting software program for your PC, if you use one.

Don't forget the IRS and local tax authorities. Report your income, but don't forget to take every legal deduction you're entitled to. (we'll discuss that in a later column). Depending on where you live, you may be responsible for collecting sales tax. In the state of Texas you are required to collect tax on items sold.

If you intend to have employees you are legally responsible for withholding income and social security taxes. You must also pay worker's compensation and unemployment insurance and comply with minimum wage laws in almost all cases.

Profit Is The Key. Write a business

plan. Think of it as a road map or blueprint for the business you want to build. Prepare a rough draft and then put it away for a few days. Then come back and take a fresh look at your business plan. As you write, review, and rewrite, your ideas will become more formal and grounded.

Going For The Gold! Are you seeking an extra income? Or will your home-based business become your only source of income? The choice is yours. You're the boss...

What are your odds for success? According to Link Resources Corporation, a New York City-based research and consulting firm, only 15% of home-based businesses ceased operation each year during a three-year study lasting from 1989/90 through 1992. That's an 85% success rate! Furthermore, Link Resources estimates the average home-based household earns \$50,250 annually with about 20% of all entrepreneurial households earning in excess of \$75,000 a year. So if you haven't already decided on the type of home business that you plan to start...Let those creative juices began to flow!

Next issue: *Launching A Home-based Business.*

MON

Angela Robinson is owner/operator of Dal-Tex Computer Learning Center for Children & Adults. The center is located at 8928 Lake June Rd. in Dallas. For more information, call (214) 398-4749.

Chronology of Computer subjects

- November.....What you should know ☐
- December.....Launching A Business ☐
- January.....Making Money ☐
- February.....Money on the Internet ☐
- March.....Mail Order Businesses ☐
- April.....Start-ups for under \$100 ☐

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KIDS First

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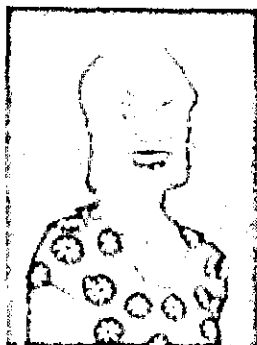
Fairy Street Mama

This is the year that we, the citizens of the United States of American, will decide who will serve as our president. Although you kids are not able to vote, I feel your voice should be heard and that your concerns should be given respect. I also feel that most adults think that your opinions do matter.

Most of you have not had time nor the interest to listen to any of the candidates that are running for office, but in speaking to many kids on this topic, I was able to find a couple that would like their feelings known.

CHRISEANA: "If I had the opportunity to vote, I would make new laws concerning violence....I would also try to change the violence by trying to get some of the gangs taken off of the street.. I would get the guns taken off the streets, too, because I think that the availability of guns is one

of the sources of our problem.....I also feel that black-on-black crime and racism is some of our problems. I feel that everyone is blaming everyone else....Being a teen, I see a lot of other teens contributing to violence....I see kids fighting and hussling and trying to become gang-



Chriseana Butler,
14, Richardson Jr.
High-9th grade

Laws of the Land: What new laws would you make?

bangers.....I really don't think that TV or music contribute to kids and violence because people do what they want to do and I don't think that violence should be blamed on the media. Adults need to start helping kids to be a better person by showing more love to their children because it will change the attitude of a kid that is negative and make him or her feel more positive about their life."

ERICKA: "I haven't really been keeping up with the Presidential race but I have heard both of the candidates speak from time to time.....I think that anyone who is able to be President of the United States



Ericka Barnett, 16,
Lake Highlands
High-10th grade

should put the kids first....and I'm not just saying that because of me being a teen.....I think that kids are the future of the world, so there needs to be laws that will protect kids from child rapists and child pornographers.....I think

that some kids maybe even need to be protected from their parents because of abuse.....There should also be laws to make sure that kids are protected in the school.....I think that there should also be laws that protect parents and other adults form kids who continue to be abusive to

adults and other kids.....When I become old enough to vote, I'm definitely going to exercise my right.....I think that it's important for everyone in America to vote when they are old enough because we all need to come together and chose the people that we want to run our country....If everyone who is eligible votes, then no one can complain when things in our country [go] wrong."

FSM: Kids, as I said earlier, you have plenty of time before you will be able to vote, but if you have an interest, then I invite you to ask your parents or a teacher about issues that involve or con-

cern you. If you get the opportunity to see a candidate on TV and your parent or guardian says that it's OK, then by all means listen to the individuals and consider what they have to say and make your own decisions.

It may be helpful (and a good reading exercise) for you to read newspapers about the upcoming elections!

When it is time for you to go to the polls, remember, your vote will matter and your vote will count! Just make sure that not only you vote, but encourage your friends to do the same. Who knows? You may decide to run for office yourself!

MON

Fairy Street Mama can be seen on cable Channel 23b on Tuesday at 4 p.m., Thursday at 5 p.m. and Saturday at 10 p.m. Also, viewers can see her live or call every 4th Wednesday from 8-9 p.m. For more information, call (214) 561-2002.



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Ask

Girlfriend

Girlfriend,

I have this friend who is a real baracuda. I mean it. She will go on dates with guys and then discard them. I mean some really fine, good looking guys. When I ask her why she does it, she says "do what?" I even set her up on a blind date with my best guy friend and she didn't like him either. She says guys are too clingy and all she wants is to go out and have a good time without committing to love and marriage. I think she's crazy and I know I won't introduce her to another friend of mine. The guy won't even speak to me unless I promise to talk her into going out with him again. He swears he can change her mind. I doubt it.

What I want to know is this, is the girl crazy or what?

Match Maker

Dear MatchMaker,

First of all, didn't anyone ever tell you that you don't mix friends and dating? Now you've upset a good friend because another good friend does not want to go out with him anymore. And, let me share this with you...how many women do you know who have gone out with guys only to be dropped and never called again? Hasn't it happened to you? I think your girlfriend has the right idea. We spend so much time trying to make something work that should never have been in the first place.

In answer to your question, your friend is not crazy. She's just a woman who knows what she wants apparently, and won't settle for less.

Girlfriend,

I hate my job. I know you get these letters all the time but, I really, really, hate my job. When I get up in the morning I am depressed knowing I have to go to that hell hole. If I were the only one, I would think maybe I need to do an attitude check but if you ask ten people about their jobs, nine of them will be unhappy and the tenth person is the boss so he's doing okay.

Employee morale is so low all you hear are grumblings about leaving. Some people have done just that, taking jobs for less pay. I can't afford to take a cut in pay. I'm a single

parent and my kids depend on me. Help me please. Any advice you can give me will help.

I Hate My Job

Hey, hey, hey...

Come on girlfriend, it can't be that bad. Trust me, there are a lot of people like you out there. What you need is a plan. If you are a corporate person and need to have that 9 to 5 to feel secure, its time to get that resume brushed off and copied. If your skills are a little weak or outdated, the community colleges offer community service classes that will enable you to upgrade those skills. Now, tell everyone you know that you are in search of a new job and that you would appreciate their help in the form of leads. Check your local newspaper's "want ads" and call the job lines of companies.

If you are the "I want to be in business for myself" type, think about all the things you like to do and are good at. I don't care if it is baking cookies or public speaking. Take those things and work a plan as to how you can start your own business.

Remember, whether its working for someone else or yourself, make sure it is something that you enjoy doing, otherwise you will end up in that "I hate my job" funk again.

Good luck.

Girlfriend,

Is honesty always the best policy, or is it best to mind your own business? My sister's fiance is not who she thinks he is and I'm afraid to say anything because I know everyone will be mad at me.

????

????

Well, I would say honesty is the best policy in most situations. If you are not honest it has a way of coming back to haunt you. I am told that oftentimes the truth hurts but if it is for the best, then hey, tell the truth.

I can tell you this. If she were my sister, I would tell her what I know. I am not telling you that is what you should do, but I would. I think when a man or

woman is deceitful in a relationship, there are already problems that will only escalate with time. If you were my sister and you knew something about my man and did not tell me, I would be very, very, very upset with you. Then again, I might be upset with you if you told me, but not as upset as I would be if I found out you knew something and did not tell me. You know your sister better than I, so this is your call. Its kind of a catch twenty-two...you're doomed if you do and you're doomed if you don't.

Girlfriend

Remember readers, Ask Girlfriend is a column for entertainment only. Please, if you are experiencing serious problems, find appropriate assistance. Sincerely, Girlfriend.

Write to Girlfriend c/o MON, 2730 Stenmons Frewy, 1202 Tower West, Dallas, Texas 75207.

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I-20
Village

Actually not every member of the Lane family said "Yahoo" when they won LOTTO Texas. One or two of them may have said "Yippee."

▼
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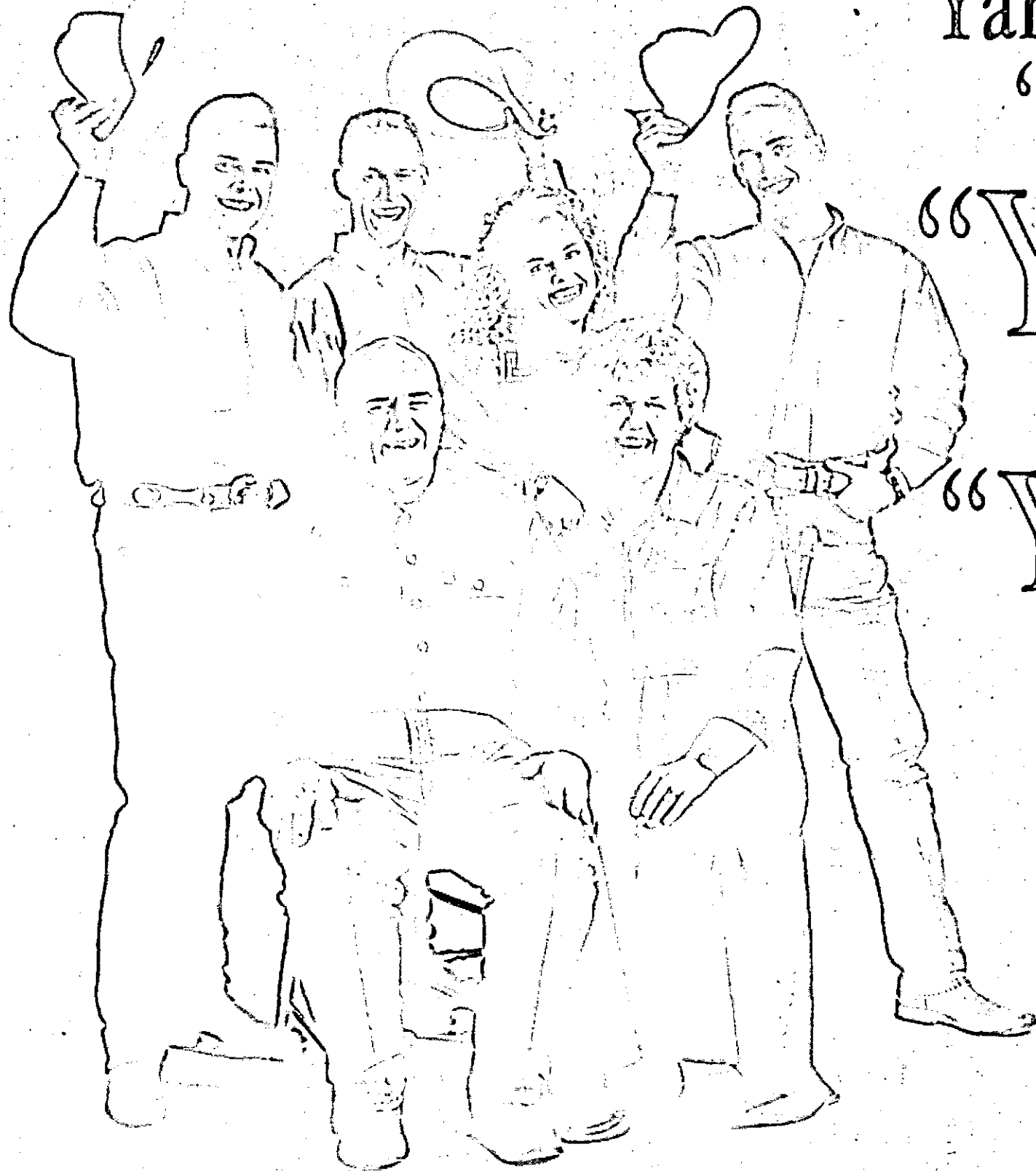
▼
Winning Numbers:
1 3 10 18 19 46

▼
Their System:
Number of grandchildren, 1.
Her age, 3. Her birthday, 10/18/91 (91 became 19) and Lou and Butch's age when she was born, 46.

▼
First Purchase:
Five new trucks.

▼
Best Part About Winning:
"Now I can starch my overalls. I thought that was a little touch of class."—Butch Lane

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"Yahoo."
"Yahoo."
"Yahoo."
"Yahoo."
"Yahoo."
"Yahoo."

▲
THE LANE FAMILY



OVER 200 MILLIONAIRES
AND STILL COUNTING



hilda

When it comes to the basics in beauty, hilda knows. This summer *faces by hilda* takes her knack for skin care over the top by helping you look your best.

Skin care is very important in today's society, so that's why I want to start with the basics.

So let's move on...

Do you know your skin type and/or the condition of your skin? There's dry, dry-to-normal, normal, normal-to-oily and oily. You have the above choices, so identify your skin condition. It changes as the seasons change; it reacts to the summer (in most cases) as being oily, clogged pores, tending to break out, as opposed to the winter, when the skin has the tendency to be normal or normal-to-dry, less likely to breakout.

Do a little research and find a cosmetic line that you favor and stick with it. Invest in a cleanser, toner, moisturizer and exfoliant that's best for your personal skin condition.

Never lose control. Stick with the product and you will begin to see results with proper usage. For you ladies who have been using a skin care product for many years and are not seeing great results as before, it may be time to change products, because what the skin is telling you is "OK, that's enough! I want a change, I've had enough of this!" Listen to those signals and venture on; the grass may be greener on the other side.

Cleansing: The skin should be cleansed with your hands, because you don't want to over-exfoliate the skin by using something abrasive. Massage gently into the face using the same method as cleansing with a soap. Rinse with cold water, which will help to firm and tighten pores. Blot the skin dry; do not rub it.

Toner: The skin should be toned with a toner specifically for your skin condition; most cleansers on the market today have the toner added. Take a saturated cotton pad and use upward and downward strokes over the entire face and throat. However, avoid the area around the eyes.

Moisturizer: Your skin should be moisturized with the appropriate moisturizer. For example, if the skin is dry, a cream would be most compatible and more hydrating. If the skin is oily, then using a lotion would be most effective for normal or normal-to-oily skin (T-zone). You may consider using a lotion as a moisturizer because lotions are usually water-based and lightweight, excellent for those skin conditions. All moisturizers are designed to restore the moisture of your skin that is lost through exposure to air pollutants. Their use is essential to

Beauty is Power—so let's talk Beauty

maintain youthful skin tautness. Also, moisturizers will nourish the skin and work as an aid toward the prevention of wrinkles.

Exfoliation: It means removing the surface layer of dead cells. Use an exfoliant that's gentle to the skin once to twice a week — no more because over-exfoliation can and will cause breakout and over-exhaustion of the skin. Also, if you have any type of active breakout on the face, do not exfoliate in this stage because you can increase breakout throughout your face. This is a cause of frustration, so wait until the breakout clears and begin your routine exfoliation.

To also help with exfoliation, drink lots of water — six to eight glasses daily to maintain skin radiance.

Ladies!! Please cleanse, tone, moisturize and exfoliate...Do not consider going to bed after a hard, long day with your makeup on. If you're tired, just cleanse the skin by removing all traces of makeup (and other pollutants) and call it a night.

If you have problems with unevenness and blotchy skin, my recommendation would be to continue your regular skin care, but consider using moisturizer with fruit acids that will help to exfoliate the skin, making it balanced and even. If you work with your skin, you will definitely see good results and radiant skin.

With this comes:

Positive appearance: When the skin is looking good, you feel good.

Self esteem: You begin to have a positive attitude and a positive outlook, saying, *Yeah, I feel good inside and I'm looking good outside; I got it going on!*

Avoid embarrassment: When the skin is blemish free, you're not hiding behind lots of foundation and powder.

Increase employment opportunities: You're self-confident, having others (co-workers) admire the appearance of your skin and wanting to know your beauty secrets.

Enhance sex appeal: Now, my sistas, having the beautiful radiant skin would give you more self-confidence approaching the opposite sex.

In summary:

Step One: Cleanse daily — morning and night

Step Two: Tone daily — morning and night

Step Three: Moisturize daily — morning and night

Step Four: Exfoliate as needed, preferably once a week

Hope it was fun as well as informative. I'll see you in my next column on foundation and powder. Future segments will focus on colors for eyes,

cheeks and lips and other essentials.

MON

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Who will care for me ?

Church and municipal organizations work to find homes for African American children

By Marty R. Davidson

Adoption is defined in Webster's New World College Dictionary as the following: "to take into one's own family by legal process and raise as one's own child." Yet, long before the birth of Daniel Webster, African American families would take children and raise them as their own and the whole community became involved was one great extended family for their welfare," said Ellaree Lewis, a senior citizen raised by neighbors after her mother died at age three. The African Proverb "It takes a village to raise a child" was truly a statement of our community in the early part of 20th century. One Child, One Church (OCOC) and the Dallas Minority Adoption Council (DMAC) are two organizations reach-

three levels of participation: (1) Inserts, (2) Presentations and (3) an Adoption Ministry.

"The Insert level will consist of written material with a photo of a child or children for distribution. The church liaison will be responsible for getting the information forward to the church bulletins and/or newsletter. Presentation level requires that a church make a commitment of at least quarterly presentations on adoption and church newsletter and bulletins postings. A church that commits to level 3 will have a functioning, ongoing adoption ministry. It will serve as a liaison with OCOC and have a detailed referral system for prospective parents," Foreman said.

OCOC and DMAC have united their efforts to establish adoption ministries



These siblings are victims of abandonment and neglect and are waiting to be taken into a loving home. From left to right are Dean, 8; Jasmine, 5; Tamica, 13; and Alexis, 10.

ing back to that proverb through community awareness in our churches.

OCOC was founded in 1980 by Father George Clements, a black Catholic priest in Chicago. It is a unique partnership between church and state. The Church opens its doors to publicly inform the community about waiting children. The State works with the church to obtain support so that African American children can be placed into adoptive homes. The organization has spread to 27 states and is growing rapidly.

"The basic principle of One Church, One Child is simple, if each church encourages one family to adopt an African American child, there would be no children waiting for homes," said Carol Foreman, Program Director of Region 3's One Church, One Child.

The main objective of OCOC is to increase community awareness through the many churches that exist in Region 3 (19 north Texas counties surrounding Dallas and Fort Worth) by implementing

throughout the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex.

DMAC was founded in 1985 by adoptive parent Rose Pounder. There was a great need to find homes for minority children and the church was a resource being underutilized. As a result, our organization was built based on the premise of working with all minority churches in Dallas County," Pounders said.

The Council works with both public and private adoption agencies and is purely a volunteer organization. "We assist adoptive parents in choosing the right adoption agency, counseling future parents on the child's background, helping ease the transition period for the family and the child," she said.

The goals of DMAC are: (1) to recruit adoptive/foster parents, (2) establish a viable community advocacy/mentor group to promote permanency, (3) provide a cultural foundation to enhance the growth and development of minority children and, (4) interface with other

community agencies and institutions to ensure an effective networking system.

During November, which is Minority Adoption Month, both organizations will sponsor events throughout the D/FW Metroplex to observe the plight of waiting children:

November 3rd, Adoption Sunday—each church throughout the Metroplex is asked to display or observe the plight of children waiting to be adopted.

November 10th—each church should

have a bulletin insert of a waiting child. November 25th—call out Ceremony for waiting adoptive children in Region 3 at Thanksgiving Square, 12-1 p.m.

For additional information about these events, or to join One Church, One Child and/or the Dallas Minority Adoption Council in helping change the lives of African-American children waiting for a loving home, call 817/927-0775 for OCOC or 214/329-5928 for DMAC.

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J. Rags Beauty Salon

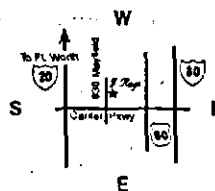
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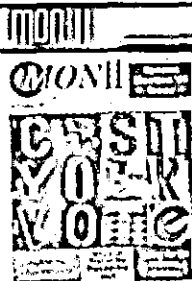
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Watch out for *MON II*, our new, powerful, theme-oriented, mid-month publication. First published as a special election issue in mid-October, *MON II* is an excellent opportunity to enjoy

exciting and informative reading during key times of the African American cultural year—Black History Month, Juneteenth and Kwanzaa. Look for *MON II* at a distributor near you.

Corrections, clarifications

Last issue, our Proprietary Information feature listed the wrong phone number for Kevin Berry. The correct number is (214) 388-9600. We apologize for any inconvenience.



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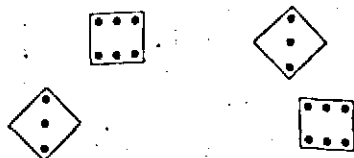
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Stephanie Scott leaving

With great reluctance, *Minority Opportunity News* announces the departure of account executive Stephanie Scott, who has decided to move on to other interests. Ms. Scott has been a loyal, vital and dedicated member of our fami-

ly during her two-year stint with us and could always be counted on to not only do a good job, but to also share



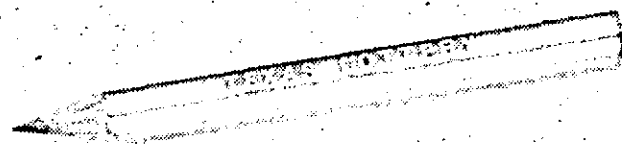
her effervescent personality and infectious optimism with everyone at MON.

MON extends its best wishes to Stephanie and hopes that she enjoys as much success in her future endeavors as she did at MON. Good Luck, Stephanie!

Contact Stephanie at (214) 553-9196

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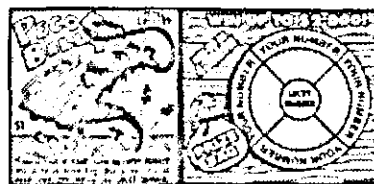
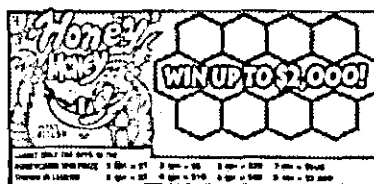
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WHEN IS THE DEADLINE?

Entries must be postmarked by Monday, December 2, 1996. The finalists will be notified the week of May 19, 1997.

Mail your entry to:

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A.L.W. ENTERTAINMENT
Monthly Guide

**Exciting
Upcoming
Entertainment
Events**

DECEMBER

December 31, 1996
8th Annual KKDA
New Year's Eve Party
Hosted by Willis Johnson
At the Sheraton
on Mockingbird

December 31, 1996
The Affair
3rd Annual
New Year's Eve
Extravaganza
Hosted by
Skip Murphy & The K104
Morning Team
At The Holiday Inn Select
Mockingbird

**1997
Events**

January 7, 1997
David E. Talbert's
"A fool & His Money
Starring David Peaston,
Beverly Todd, Glenn
Jones, Melissa Morgan,
LaShun Pace, Shukki
Dukki, BernNedette
Stanis, Ernest Thomas,
Cheryl "Pepsi" Riley,
Maurice Wilkerson

February 8, 1997
Dallas 1st Annual
Heritage Music Festival
Featuring
Issac Haynes
Bobby "Blue" Bland
Marvin Sease



Pro-Family Voters Guide

VOTE NOVEMBER 5

PRESIDENT		
	Bob Dole (R)	Bill Clinton (D)
Balanced budget amendment.	Support	Oppose
15% Federal Income Tax cut.	Support	Oppose
Partial birth abortion ban.	Support	Oppose
Taxpayer funding of abortion.	Oppose	Support
Voluntary school prayer amendment.	Support	Oppose
Public and private school choice.	Support	Oppose
Goals 2000 (Outcome-based education).	Oppose	Support
Homosexuals in the military.	Oppose	Support
Term limits for Congress.	Support	Oppose
FDA regulation of tobacco.	Oppose	Support

U.S. SENATE		
	Phil Gramm (R)	Victor Morales (D)
Repeal Goals 2000.	Support	DID NOT PARTICIPATE
Balanced budget amendment.	Support	
Congressional super-majority to raise federal taxes.	Support	
Human life amendment to the Constitution.	Support	
Eliminate federal funding of Planned Parenthood.	Support	972-329-3010

RAILROAD COMMISSION		
	Carolyn Rylander (R)	Hector Uribe (D)
Voter initiated ballot propositions (Initiative and Referendum).	Support	DID NOT PARTICIPATE
Continued land acquisition by state and federal government.	Oppose	
Prohibition against increasing corporate income tax without voter approval.	Support	
Legalized casino gambling in Texas.	Oppose	210-546-8858

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3		
	Sam Johnson (R)	Lee Cole (D)
Prohibit federally funded fetal tissue research.	Support	DID NOT PARTICIPATE
Repeal Goals 2000.	Support	
Balanced budget amendment.	Support	
Congressional super-majority to raise federal taxes.	Support	
Eliminate federal funding of Planned Parenthood.	Support	
National gambling commission.	Oppose	214-562-2653

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 4		
	Jerry Ray Hall (R)	Ralph M. Hall (D)
Prohibit federally funded fetal tissue research.	Support	Oppose
Repeal Goals 2000.	Support	Support
Balanced budget amendment.	Support	Support
Congressional super-majority to raise federal taxes.	Support	Support
Eliminate federal funding of Planned Parenthood.	Support	Support
National gambling commission.	Support	Support

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 5			
	Pete Sessions (R)	John Poulard (D)	William Foster (D)
Prohibit federally funded fetal tissue research.	S	DID NOT PARTICIPATE	DID NOT PARTICIPATE
Repeal Goals 2000.	S		
Balanced budget amendment.	S		
Congressional super-majority to raise federal taxes.	S		
Eliminate federal funding of Planned Parenthood.	S		1-888-
National gambling commission.	S	214-821-2809	716-6806

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 6		
	Joe Barton (R)	Janet Richardson (D)
Prohibit federally funded fetal tissue research.	Support	DID NOT PARTICIPATE
Repeal Goals 2000.	Support	
Balanced budget amendment.	Support	
Congressional super-majority to raise federal taxes.	Support	
Eliminate federal funding of Planned Parenthood.	Support	
National gambling commission.	Oppose	617-379-0883

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 7		
	Kay Granger (R)	Hugh Parmer (D)
Prohibit federally funded fetal tissue research.	Oppose	Oppose
Repeal Goals 2000.	Support	Oppose
Balanced budget amendment.	Support	Support
Congressional super-majority to raise federal taxes.	Support	Support
Eliminate federal funding of Planned Parenthood.	Oppose	Oppose
National gambling commission.	Support	Support

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 20			
	Ed Harrison (R)	Martin Frost (D)	Marion Jacob (D)
Prohibit federally funded fetal tissue research.	S	DID NOT PARTICIPATE	U
Repeal Goals 2000.	S		U
Balanced budget amendment.	S		U
Congressional super-majority to raise federal taxes.	S		U
Eliminate federal funding of Planned Parenthood.	S		U
National gambling commission.	U	214-943-5581	S

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 23		
	Dick Armev (R)	Jerry Frankel (D)
Prohibit federally funded fetal tissue research.	Support	DID NOT PARTICIPATE
Repeal Goals 2000.	Support	
Balanced budget amendment.	Support	
Congressional super-majority to raise federal taxes.	Support	
Eliminate federal funding of Planned Parenthood.	Support	
National gambling commission.	Support	214-567-1388

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 30			
	John Hendry (R)	Lisa Kitterman (R)	James Sweat (D)
Prohibit federally funded fetal tissue research.	S	S	U
Repeal Goals 2000.	S	U	U
Balanced budget amendment.	S	S	U
Congressional super-majority to raise federal taxes.	S	S	U
Eliminate federal funding of Planned Parenthood.	S	S*	U
National gambling commission.	S	U	U

The following candidates did not participate in this voter education project: Eddie Bernice Johnson (D) and Marvin Dinsdale (D)

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 1		
	Richard Neill (R)	Robert Platt (D)
Parental rights to review school materials and records.	Support	DID NOT PARTICIPATE
Government Regulation of Private Schools.	Oppose	
Repeal of the "Robin Hood" tax plan.	Support	
Outcome-based education replacing current system.	Oppose	817-535-6283

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 2		
	Geraldine Miller (R)	Barbara Montgomery (D)
Parental rights to review school materials and records.	DID NOT PARTICIPATE	Support
Government Regulation of Private Schools.		Support
Repeal of the "Robin Hood" tax plan.	214-419-4000	NR*
Outcome-based education replacing current system.		Oppose
RECORDED VOTES		
School based health clinics: (07/95)	Absent	
Goals 2000 state plan: (07/95)	Support	

STATE SENATE DISTRICT 2		
	Bob Reese (R)	David Cain (D)
Partial birth abortion ban.	Support	DID NOT PARTICIPATE
Legislation limiting Texas Education Agency bureaucracy.	Support	
Government Regulation of Private Schools.	Oppose	
Repeal of the "Robin Hood" tax plan.	Support	
Prohibit contraceptive/condom distribution in schools.	Support	214-826-0180
RECORDED VOTES		
"Robin Hood" school finance plan.		Support*
Legalized off-track betting: (CSHB 1305 - Third Reading).		Support

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 100		
	Joe Granado (R)	Terri Hodge (D)
Partial birth abortion ban.	DID NOT PARTICIPATE	DID NOT PARTICIPATE
Legislation limiting Texas Education Agency bureaucracy.		
Government Regulation of Private Schools.		
Repeal of the "Robin Hood" tax plan.	214-324-0900	214-426-7574
Prohibit contraceptive/condom distribution in schools.		

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 104		
	Mark Mitchell (R)	Steve Wolens (D)
Partial birth abortion ban.	Support	DID NOT PARTICIPATE
Legislation limiting Texas Education Agency bureaucracy.	Support	
Government Regulation of Private Schools.	Oppose	
Repeal of the "Robin Hood" tax plan.	Support	
Prohibit contraceptive/condom distribution in schools.	Support	214-528-5566
RECORDED VOTES		
24-hour waiting period for abortion: (SB1062)		Oppose
"Robin Hood" school finance plan: (SJR 7)		Support

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 104		
	Monty Weddell (R)	Domingo Garcia (D)
Partial birth abortion ban.	Support	NR*
Legislation limiting Texas Education Agency bureaucracy.	Support	NR*
Government Regulation of Private Schools.	Oppose	Support
Repeal of the "Robin Hood" tax plan.	Support	Oppose
Prohibit contraceptive/condom distribution in schools.	Support	NR*

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 105		
	Richard Stokely (R)	Dale Tillery (D)
Partial birth abortion ban.	Support	DID NOT PARTICIPATE
Legislation limiting Texas Education Agency bureaucracy.	Support	
Government Regulation of Private Schools.	Oppose	
Repeal of the "Robin Hood" tax plan.	Support	
Prohibit contraceptive/condom distribution in schools.	Support	214-324-9888

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 106		
	Ray Allen (R)	J. David Gutierrez (D)
Partial birth abortion ban.	Support	DID NOT PARTICIPATE
Legislation limiting Texas Education Agency bureaucracy.	Support	
Government Regulation of Private Schools.	Oppose	
Repeal of the "Robin Hood" tax plan.	Support	
Prohibit contraceptive/condom distribution in schools.	Oppose	214-351-2517
RECORDED VOTES		
24-hour waiting period for abortion: (SB1062)	Support	
"Robin Hood" school finance plan: (SJR 7)	Oppose	

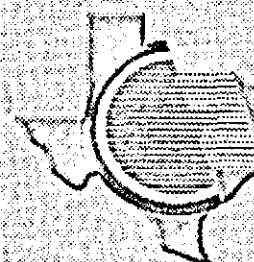
STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 107		
	Ernest Leonard (R)	Harryette Ehrhart (D)
Partial birth abortion ban.	DID NOT PARTICIPATE	DID NOT PARTICIPATE
Legislation limiting Texas Education Agency bureaucracy.		
Government Regulation of Private Schools.		
Repeal of the "Robin Hood" tax plan.	214-651-2249	214-824-3107
Prohibit contraceptive/condom distribution in schools.		

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 109		
	Alene Wokje-muth (R)	Bernard Erickson (D)
Partial birth abortion ban.	Support	Support
Legislation limiting Texas Education Agency bureaucracy.	Support	Support
Government Regulation of Private Schools.	Oppose	Oppose
Repeal of the "Robin Hood" tax plan.	Support	Support
Prohibit contraceptive/condom distribution in schools.	Support	Support
RECORDED VOTES		
24-hour waiting period for abortion: (SB1062)		Absent
"Robin Hood" school finance plan: (SJR 7)		Support

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 109		
	Betsy Faris (R)	Allen Place (D)
Partial birth abortion ban.	Support	DID NOT PARTICIPATE
Legislation limiting Texas Education Agency bureaucracy.	Support	
Government Regulation of Private Schools.	Oppose	
Repeal of the "Robin Hood" tax plan.	Support	
Prohibit contraceptive/condom distribution in schools.	Support	817-865-7419
RECORDED VOTES		
24-hour waiting period for abortion: (SB1062)		Oppose
"Robin Hood" school finance plan: (SJR 7)		Support

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 109		
	Sue Palmer (R)	Homer Dear (D)
Partial birth abortion ban.	Support	DID NOT PARTICIPATE
Legislation limiting Texas Education Agency bureaucracy.	Support	
Government Regulation of Private Schools.	Oppose	
Repeal of the "Robin Hood" tax plan.	Support	
Prohibit contraceptive/condom distribution in schools.	Support	817-246-6890
RECORDED VOTES		
24-hour waiting period for abortion: (SB1062)		Absent
"Robin Hood" school finance plan: (SJR 7)		Support

This voter's guide was compiled and produced by Texas Christian Coalition as a voter education project. This voter guide should not be construed as endorsing any candidate or political party. Each candidate was sent an issues questionnaire by certified mail and/or facsimile. Where candidates failed to respond, we supply their campaign or district office phone number. Responses for positions in the Presidential race are taken from public records.



TEXAS CHRISTIAN COALITION
1810 8th Avenue, Suite A7
Fort Worth, TX 76110-1352
817-923-3772
e-mail: texascc@texascc.org

KEY

- S=Support
- O=Oppose
- U=Undecided
- NR=No response
- *=Additional comments
- A=Absent during vote
- ‡=Voting record doesn't match response
- *=Recorded vote took place in the house
- **=Not a member at time of vote

Mortgage Lending

By Ed Harris

Mortgage Guaranty Insurance Corporation (MGIC) was the Opening Speaker of the 3rd Annual Conference of the Texas Federation of Housing Counselors, Inc. Awards Luncheon in Dallas. MGIC provided some vital information for the counselors and lenders attending the luncheon. Many of the attendees were not aware of the efforts of MGIC and the mortgage insurance industry.

Ms. Charlotte Moore, Vice President of Affordable Housing, stated that MGIC currently insures \$125 billion in home mortgages. As a major insurer of mortgage loans, MGIC has taken steps to increase the focus on pre-purchase education and mortgage quality.

Expanded affordable housing underwriting has resulted in increased incidence of delinquency. Ms. Moore pointed out that an MGIC study indicated that:

Loans with 3% borrower cash resulted in twice the default rate as 5% borrower cash.

Loans with less than two months cash reserves after closing have a 50% higher default rate.

Loans with marginal adverse credit are performing worse than loans with excellent credit.

MGIC loans insured from 1985-90 showed that combined multiple risk factors contributed to increased default.

In November, 1995 the nation's second largest mortgage investor (Freddie Mac), and the nation's largest mortgage lender and loan servicer (Countrywide), and the nation's largest mortgage insurer (MGIC), all expressed a concern about the credit quality of affordable housing.

Ms. Moore asked, "is the concern valid. Do we have a serious enough problem that change is warranted?" The industry must ask what is an acceptable level of loss performance or what is an acceptable failure rate. Based on the MGIC study results, there is a 10% or greater failure rate. Ms. Moore went on to say, "what about the families they had to foreclose on?" We have seen affordable housing programs that do work well. They work because the participants involved in making those loans stay focused on putting people in homes of the long term.

"That to often the Housing counsel-

ing agency will opt for a contribution from the lending community and set aside its mission statements and tools of empowering the potential homebuyer," Mr. Harris said.

The question remains why are we seeing higher defaults? Ms. Moore offered four reasons:

First, the affordable housing programs have inherently more risk. You expect more defaults, especially if nothing is done to offset the risk. The industry introduced loan programs with higher risk factors, but have done little to offset the risk.

Second, the regulatory pressure to satisfy lending and CRA requirements. Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae also have to meet tough affordable housing loan purchase goals. The mortgage insurance (MI) industry, although not under specific regulation, has also been challenged to do more. That pressure has contributed to doing loan programs and approving loans that in hindsight probably should not have been done.

Third, over capacity in the mortgage lending industry is another contributing cause. As the refinancing boom ended, originators found themselves in fierce competition for declining origination volume. Affordable programs too often have become an expedient substitute for the lost refinance market. What we are finding is that the production minded focus of affordable housing will come at the expense of home buyers who tragically can't sustain home ownership and lose their homes. At the expense of

provided too late to have any impact, and two, the way the education is administered. Today, education of the home buyer is viewed simply as another hurdle, or requirement, to getting and closing a loan, rather than a valuable process which can prepare the prospective buyer of successful long term home ownership.

Mr. Harris also stated that, "the one or two hours quick and dirty parade of lenders and real estate agents is not an acceptable version of what MGIC, Fannie Mae, or Freddie Mac have in mind for home buyer education for consumers."

What is the problem and how do we fix it?

Five specific action steps will lead to improve affordable housing performance.

1. Define and maintain reasonable credit standards. Sustain the requirement for two (2) years. MGIC and Freddie Mac currently have clarified that guideline.

2. Deliver home buyer education earlier in the process. Today education is administered in the 11th hour in some cases two weeks prior to closing.

3. Timely and effective pre-purchase education could be a powerful offset to risk inherent in affordable housing lending.

4. In conjunction with prepurchase education, we need to determine the prospects to financial capacity to attain and sustain home ownership.

5. Provide post purchase support to

affordable housing borrowers especially those who meet the need for better follow through on catching potential problems early. Stay close to the borrower after closing.

We need to create the incentives for originators to be more interested in originating quality loans. There needs to be a balance between quality and volume. As professional housing counselors we have to resist the rush to close at all cost mentality.

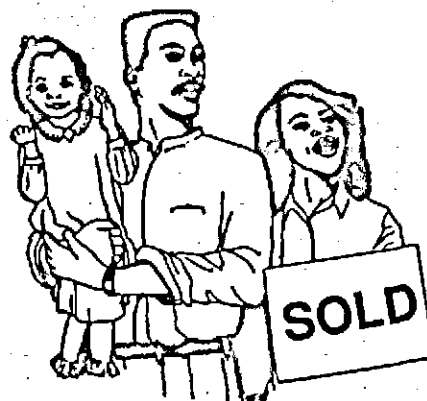
The Texas Federation of Housing Counselors, Inc. supports mortgage insurers that would like to focus on the cost of counseling and post purchase support, including enhanced servicing.

It is more costly to seek solution to delinquency after the loan is several months past due. It is more cost effective for the lending community to make an earnest effort to share the cost burden with counselors and, yes, with the consumers. The consumer is the one with the most to lose in this scenario.

Foreclosure is very expensive and it makes sense to invest more dollars up front to prevent, or at least reduce, the number of foreclosures. There must be true value for the home buyer, if done right borrowers are getting something for their money and they will pay for it (i.e., the housing counseling).

MON

Ed Harris is President/CEO of the Texas Federation of Housing Counselors, Inc. and can be reached at (214) 421-8342.



lenders, investors and insurers who will likely see these higher defaults translate into more losses.

The fourth cause of these results is the scattershot approach to home buyer education. Earlier, I stated that we should expect higher defaults when we don't offset the presence of higher risk factors. When the industry introduced the affordable housing expanded guidelines it was thought that home buyer education would serve as an offset. Our efforts to prepare home buyers are not as effective as they could be.

There are two main reasons. One, because of the timing, the education is

DISD solicits help for Superintendent search

The Dallas Independent School District Board of Education, the Paul Ray Berntson, Inc. and RBL Enterprises, Ltd. are seeking written input from any interested citizen of DISD regarding characteristics, personal skills, experience and qualifications desired in the next school district superintendent. Please record your comments and mail them to the Office of the Board Secretary; 3700 Ross Avenue; Dallas, Tx 75204..

When sending in your suggestions, please include your name address, phone number where you can conveniently be reached and date.

Your written input will be considered along with input received from the Board of Focus Groups appointed by the Board.

Below are listed some of the areas on which the Board would appreciate feedback. Of course if there are some other points you would like to comment about, feel free to list them under other comments.

- Character
- Personal Skills
- Experience
- Qualifications
- Other Comments

All submittals must be faxed or mailed in as soon as possible, but no later than November 11 to get proper consideration. If you choose to fax your input the number is (214) 989-8090.

This is an excellent opportunity for the community at-large to play a significant role in choosing the next Superintendent of Schools.

Editors Note: We welcome feedback from our readers concerning the selection process for the new superintendent. We encourage you to send your recommendations and suggestions to us to be published in the next edition of, MON.

MON



Curtis Yates

Rolling in closing costs

When you're trying to buy a home and are short of cash, you may want to consider an FHA(203b) acquisition loan rather than a conventional one. A prospective borrower is not allowed to include his or her closing costs as part of their loan with conventional financing. A significant advantage in using FHA loans to finance transactions is the ability to include closing costs in the loan. Now, 100 percent of actual closing costs to be charged to the buyer can be "rolled into" FHA loans. The inclusion of closing costs in an FHA loan is known as the "Acquisition Method" of preparing FHA contracts.

On October 16, 1992, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in Washington D.C. prepared Mortgage Letter 92-39 for disbursement to all approved mortgagees. The subject: "Single Family Loan Production - Elimination of Limit on Financing Closing Costs."

Prior to issuance of this letter, only

57% of closing costs could be financed into an FHA loan. However, to quote the HUD letter itself: "This mortgage letter alerts lenders and field office staff to the enactment of legislation removing the 57% limitation financeable closing costs. The 57 percent limitations on financeable closing costs, implemented by Mortgage Letter 91-24, has been repealed by recent legislation. Effective immediately, borrowers may include up to 100 percent of their reasonable and customary closing costs in the calculation used to determine the maximum mortgage amount. However, the mortgage amount is still restricted by the 97.75 percent [of the sales price when the sales price is \$50,000 or more] and 98.75 percent [of the sales price when the sales price is less than \$50,000] loan-to-value limits applied to the appraised value. (HUD still retains authority to approve the acceptability of any charge, including appraisal, inspection, and other fees.)

Just what does this mean to you as a borrower? Well, cash that you would normally have to pay out of pocket can now be rolled back into the loan. This, in effect, creates less cash out of pocket upfront that you'll need to close the transaction. HUD emphasizes that the calculation of closing costs "rolled in" to the loan be actual amounts. It is not always possible to determine the "exact" amount of all charges at the time of preparing the Contract for Sale. A real estate agent would generally state clearly that your closing

costs are only estimates. However, this is not a problem as long as the "estimated amount" does not exceed the actual amount by more than \$250, because the title closer can make the necessary adjustments to the Contract at closing and have the parties initial the changes at that time.

Again, the HUD letter states: "The closing costs (meaning the amounts) used in calculating the maximum mortgage amount during processing and underwriting should be that amount shown on the good faith estimate...HUD expects this amount to be a reasonable reflection of actual closing costs at the time of settlement. If the estimated closing costs used to calculate the mortgage exceeds by more than \$250 of the actual charges, the mortgage amount must be recalculated and reduced before settlement. It is the lender's responsibility to ensure that its loans close in compliance with this requirement.

If you find yourself faced with cash shortage upfront when trying to purchase a home, and there's no public financing involved, you might consider an FHA (203b) acquisition loan. When purchasing a home, financing is all important.

Look forward to future issues of MON when I will discuss more hot topics surrounding real estate.

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Housing Authority of the City of Dallas (DHA) is accepting bids for a one (1) year contract for the acquisition of Personal Computers, Dot Matrix and Laser Printers.

Bids will be accepted until 10:30 a.m. Monday, November 4, 1996 at 2075 W. Commerce, Building #200, Dallas, Texas 75208, at which time and place all bids will be opened and publicly read aloud.

Specifications and bid documents may be obtained from the Purchasing Office, 2075 W. Commerce, Building #100, Dallas, Texas 75208 or by calling (214) 672-0226.

DHA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS.



The Housing Authority of the City of Dallas, Texas will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, handicap,



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Housing Authority of the City of Dallas, Texas (DHA) will receive proposals from qualified engineering firms to provide Engineering Services associated with the installation of Central Air Conditioners at Froizer Courts Tex 9-5, 6 and Turner Courts Tex 9-8. Proposals will be received until 10:00AM on November 6, 1996, at DHA's Central Office, Development and Planning Department, 3939 N. Hampton Road, Suite 350, Dallas, Texas 75212. Proposal submission documents are on file and may be acquired at DHA's Central Office, Development and Planning Department, 3939 N. Hampton Road, Suite 350, Dallas, Texas 75212.

The DHA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS OR TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALITIES IN THE SOLICITATION.



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.



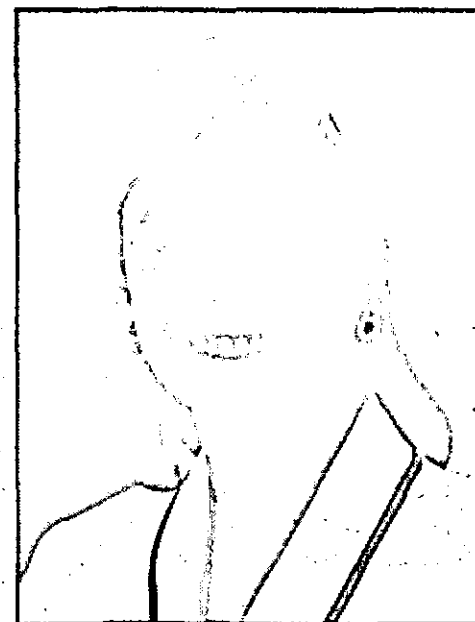
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Ron Shaw

Rights

Rom. 5:17

Recently I was talking with some acquaintance about the various civil rights movements that have taken place in this country. As we talked about what it means to have rights, something in me clicked. Suddenly there was a revelation in me about my rights as a child of God.

If you're in right standing in this country, you are supposed to have certain rights and privileges (that's the way it should work theoretically). Even if you mess up, you are guaranteed certain rights under the laws of this government

If we sin, we have the right to go to Him and receive forgiveness. If we are weak, we have the right to go to Him for strength and power. If we are distressed, we have the right to go to Him and appropriate His peace.

that have the backing of law enforcement agencies, no matter who doesn't like it. According to the law (which is supposed to be impartial) any individual who has been given U.S. citizenship has access to the same treatment and privileges, no matter how old or young, their size or shape, skin color, religious background, or economic status. That's the way it's supposed to work. Well, what excited me was the revelation that though man's laws are sometimes just theories, God's are unchanging realities.

Consider our text. According to Apostle Paul, we have been given right status with God. It was not earned, it was given on the basis of God deciding to grant right status to everyone who accepted it by faith. Through this right status, or standing, we are to rule over our domain the same way a King rules over his. Your life, your home, your body,

your money, are all part of your domain. You are supposed to rule over those areas through your right status. As one who rules, you say what goes on in your kingdom. You can have peace and joy in your life or chaos and sorrow. You can have a heavenly home or a hellish one. Whenever our adversary come around with stuff we don't want and tries to force off on us, as Kings we can issue edicts and rightfully expect all of Heaven and it's angelic forces to back us up.

The Bible says that Abraham believed what God said and God said he was all right. In order for you and I to be all right with God, we must accept what He says. Well, now I was on to something. Since I'm right with Him and a member of His family, I have rights. I have the right to expect Him to answer my prayers. I have the right to expect Him to provide for me and my family. I have the right to expect Him to cause me to succeed in whatever I set my hands to do. It doesn't matter what my skin color is or what my family background is, or what my financial situation is. I have rights as one who is right with him.

At the grave of Lazarus, Jesus said God always heard his prayers. Martha said, "If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now you could pray and God would do for you whatever you ask even if it was asking for my brother to come back from the grave." She had confidence

in Jesus' right status with God, but not her own. Jesus prayed in St. John 17 and said God would treat us like He treated Jesus.

As a citizen of the United States, we think there is something wrong if we go somewhere and are refused service for almost any reason. That's because our minds have been programmed to that extent. Likewise, we must program our minds when it comes to our rights as Christians. We must come to a point where we know that God will do whatever we ask of Him because we are right with Him. If we sin, we have the right to go to Him and receive forgiveness. If we

are weak, we have the right to go to Him for strength and power. If we are distressed, we have the right to go to Him and appropriate His peace.

My children don't ask me for food or clothing or a place to sleep because they understand that as my children they have a right to all of that. Why? Because they are right with me. Even when they mess up, they don't run from me but, rather, to me expecting me to forgive them and make right whatever they have messed up. As Christians, WE HAVE RIGHTS!

MON

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

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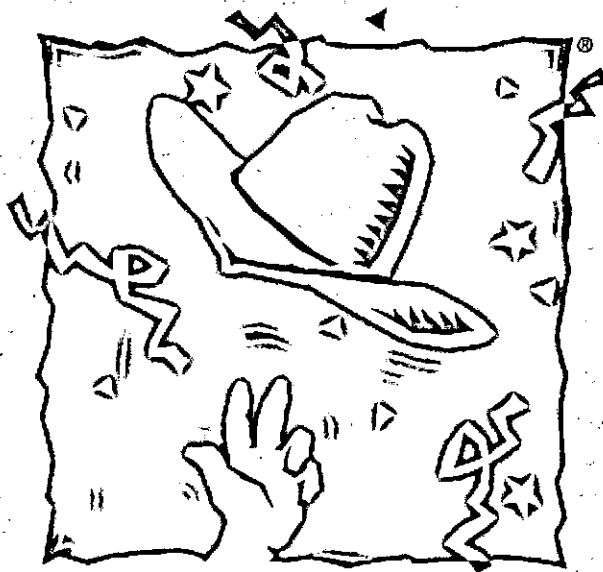
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18 semester hours in English (6 hours must be upper division).
3. Secondary Mathematics (7-12)
24 semester hours in math (12 hours must be upper division).
4. Secondary Reading (7-12)
12 semester hours in English (6 hours must be composition).
5. Composite 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 should be completed in each of the remaining areas.
6. Life/Earth Science (7-8)
24 semester hours in life/earth science. Life science may include biology, zoology, and botany. Earth science must include geology/earth science and may include work in oceanography, meteorology or astronomy. Hours must include, but are not limited to, six semester hours in each area (i.e., life or earth science) with a minimum of six hours of upper division courses.

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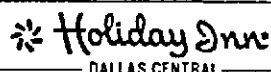
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DALLAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

1. Sealed bids addressed to the Board of Education of the Dallas Independent School District, Dallas County, Texas, for the new Sam Houston Replacement School located at Lucas and Anton Streets in Dallas, Texas for the Dallas Independent School District, hereinafter called "District" in accordance with plans, specifications and Contract Documents adopted by the District, prepared by F&S Partners Incorporated will be received in the Purchasing Office, 3700 San Jacinto, Dallas, Texas until 2:00 PM, Monday, November 18, 1996. At that time, the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud and tabulation will be made to present to the Board of Education at their next regular meeting for consideration in awarding the Contract. Any bid received after the closing time will be returned unopened.
2. There will be a Pre-Bid Conference on Monday, November 11 at 10:00 am at the Dallas Public Schools Facilities Bond Office, main conference room, for the purpose of answering questions and walking the site. Bidders are invited and urged to be present.
3. The Contractor shall identify their bid on the outside of the envelope by writing the name of the project on which they are bidding. The name of the project is the new Sam Houston Replacement School.
4. Plans and specifications may be examined in the office of F&S Partners Incorporated, 3535 Travis Street, Suite 201, Dallas, Texas 75204-1497 beginning on Monday October 28, 1996, and are on file at:

McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. F.W. Dodge Division 1341 W. Mockingbird Lane Suite 1101-E Dallas, Texas 75247-4943 (214) 630-6111 Attn: Nancy Ebarb	American Indian Center 2219 West Endless Blvd. Euless, Texas 76040 (817) 355-5145 (817) 545-5888 FAX Attn: Mary Helen Deer-Sm.ith	AGC/CMD Dallas Plan Room 11111 Stemmons Freeway Dallas, Texas 75229 (214) 484-2030 Attn: Jayme Tomlinson	Association of Gen. Contractors Plan Room 417 Fulton Street Fort Worth, Texas 76104 (817) 332-9265 Attn: Jackie Lazo
F.W. Dodge Planroom - Fort Worth 1300 Summit Ave., Suite 740 Fort Worth, Texas 76102 (817) 338-4788 Attn: Jennifer Gray	Texas Contractor Plan Room 2510 National Drive Garland, Texas 75041 (214) 271-2693 Attn: Linda Gant	ABC/América Company 4320 N. Bellline Rd., Ste. A102 Irving, Texas 75038 (214) 256-2219 Attn: Terry McAdams	Dallas/Ft. Worth Minority Business Development Council 2720 Stemmons Freeway 1000 Stemmons Tower South Dallas, Texas 75207-2212 (214) 630-0747 Attn: Bill Hunter
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5. Plans and specifications may be examined and obtained from the office of F&S Partners, Incorporated, 3535 Travis Street, Suite 201, Dallas, Texas 75204-1497 upon deposit of a separate refundable check (payable to F&S Partners, Incorporated) in the amount of \$250.00 per set. Checks will be returned upon delivery of the plans in good condition to the Architect within fourteen (14) days after bid opening.
6. A cashier's check payable to the Dallas Independent School District, in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the bid submitted must accompany the bid, or an acceptable Bid Bond in the same amount.
7. It is the goal of the District that at least 30% of the work performed under the Contract will be done by minority or woman owned business enterprises.
8. The District reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to waive any formalities.
9. The District is committed to the ideals of equal opportunity in all its business endeavors.



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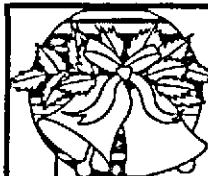
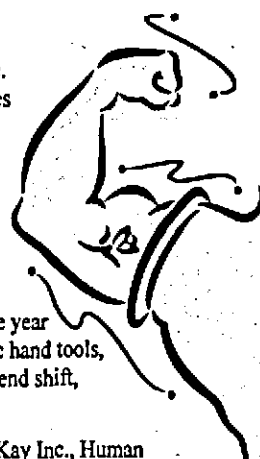
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An Equal Opportunity Employer



Public Service Librarian I- develop and implement library programs with specific emphasis on children and youth. Coordinate circulation procedures and operations. MSL Degree from accredited program or equivalent certification and 5 yrs. exp. library services. Salary \$22,600.

Librarian II/Collection Development/Reference Coordinator. Supervise library operations and staff. Develop and maintain library's materials collection, reference services, and programs. MSL Degree req. and 3-5 years library exp. Sal. \$30,192 - \$39,249.

Truck Driver/Laborer. experienced CDL truck driver to operate dump truck with diesel engine and splitter transmission. Work with street maintenance crew. Tex. CDL-class B req. \$7.55/hour.

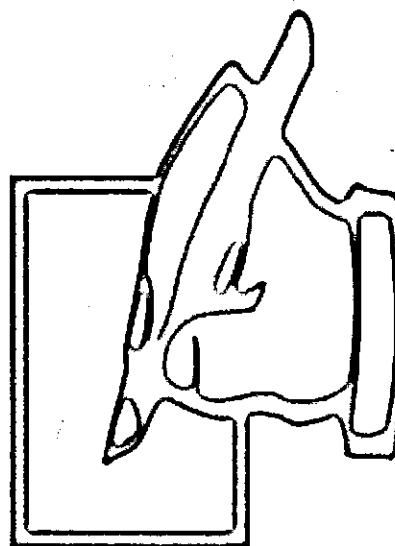
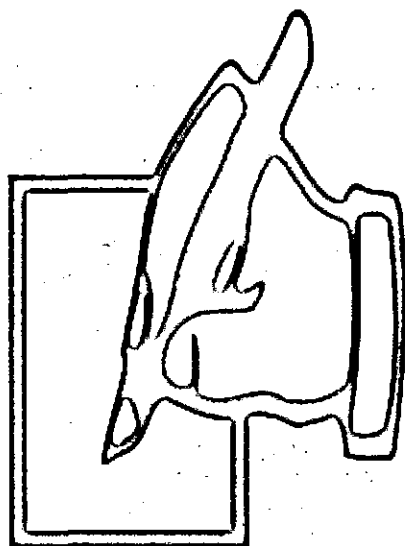
Administrative Assistant. Assist with projects, prepare reports and presentations for bond projects, and work with volunteer boards in Public Works. Requires Bachelor Degree in Public Administration or related field and excell. computer skills. Master Degree preferred. \$25,000 - \$31,603/ann.

Construction Inspector. Oversee street, drainage, water, sewer, and related construction projects to ensure compliance with municipal construction specifications; 18 mo. assignment. Ann. Sal. \$30,000. High School Diploma or GED and Texas Driver License required.

Maintenance Worker I - Entry Level position in Park and Rec. maintenance. Clean, maintain park grounds and recreational facilities. Texas Drivers License required. \$7.30/Hour.

Apply at Human Resource Office, 211 N. Henry Street, Lancaster, Texas 75146. (EOE/MFD)

VOTE EARLY VOTE DEMOCRATIC!



PUNCH TWICE

To vote all Democratic you must punch twice

★ 1ST - PUNCH SEPARATELY TO VOTE IN THE
SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION

★ 2ND - PUNCH #38 DEMOCRATIC PARTY

ELECTION DAY - TUESDAY, NOV 5, 1996 7 AM - 7 PM

REASONS TO VOTE DEMOCRATIC

Democrats sponsored legislation to help
businesses owned by women and minorities.

Democrats increased penalties against
criminals who commit hate crimes,
or crimes motivated by prejudice or bias.

Democrats spearheaded drives
for minimum wage increase.

EARLY VOTING HOURS

THURSDAY & FRIDAY
October 24 & 25
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

SATURDAY
October 26
7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

SUNDAY
October 27
1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

MONDAY thru FRIDAY
October 28 - November 1
7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

Cummings Rec. Center
2900 Cummings

Harry Stone Rec Center
2408 Millmar

Martin Luther King Rec. Ctr.
2922 M.L. King Blvd.

Martin Weles Rec. Center
1111 Martindale

Oak Cliff Sub-Courthouse
410 South Beckley

Records Building
509 Main Street

Samuell Grand Rec. Center
6200 East Grand

West Dallas Multi-Purpose Ctr.
2828 Fish Trap

FOR RIDES TO THE POLLS PLEASE CALL (214) 376-7575 OR (214) 891-1661

POL AD PD FOR BY THE TEXAS DEMOCRATIC PARTY, 919 CONGRESS, SUITE 600, AUSTIN, TEXAS