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Minority Opportunity News



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VOLUME 5, NO. 12 December 1996



William Madison

**McDonald broke the
barriers of prejudice
to be known by all as
a statesman, busi-
nessman and ...**

A Distinguished Gentleman

**Texaco
settles for
a pittance**

**MON
reviews
1996**

**Revelation Corp.
seeks to recycle
Black dollars**



From The Editor

Chris Pryer

photo by Derrick Walters

Race Matters

Race Matters, the title of Cornel West's sociological treatise, is succinctly and appropriately named. The spinal cord of race runs through every aspect of American life, either unmistakable in its brazenness or, in all too rare occasions, conspicuous by its absence. And whether you interpret Mr. West's title as meaning "issues of race" or "race makes a difference," its painfully, disturbingly and unceasingly accurate.

In the small Tennessee town of Bristol, hard by the Tennessee-Virginia border, another example of what appears to be unequal justice is being played out. Lon Pierce, 16, has just been tried and convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to life in prison for the killing of a county deputy. The crime occurred when Mr. Pierce, along with two female accomplices, relinquished control of a stolen van during a police chase and ran into the deputy's vehicle, which was being used as a roadblock. The deputy was standing behind the vehicle with his gun drawn. The resulting impact flipped the officer in the air. He landed on the hood of a nearby truck before striking the pavement, later dying from massive head injuries.

Then comes the predictable. Young Mr. Pierce is African American. The aforementioned female accomplices are white. They were not charged with first degree murder and, furthermore, have been detained as juveniles. Mr. Pierce has been bound over to adult court. He was also convicted of felony theft of an automobile, petty theft and felony evading arrests and sentenced to life imprisonment with no parole for a minimum of 25 calendar years. They all were 15 years old at the time of the crime, which took place back in November of 1995.

The trial took place in Kingsport, Tenn. The jury was white—all white. Mr. Pierce testified, during the trial, that it was not his intention to ram the police-car roadblock and kill the officer. Facing a drawn gun, he panicked and ducked. The two white females, who corroborated Pierce's story, have gone through the legal process relatively unscathed. April Worley, Pierce's girlfriend, and Sarah Camacho, who originally stole the van in Orlando, Fla., seem equally as culpable. Even the daughter of the killed deputy said she thought the trial was unfair.

Reaction to the seemingly partial verdict does not fall totally along racial lines. Many local whites confess that they are witnessing an obvious injustice.

Race Matters? What do you think?

MON

Editorial

Texaco can turn slur debacle into great opportunity

When the news broke that a number of high-level members of management at Texaco were taped making racial slurs about fellow African American employees during a meeting, it sent shockwaves across America. While the firmly entrenched white business establishment expressed appropriate outrage and dismay, the collective response of African Americans of all socio-economic strata nodded their heads knowingly. It was as if to say, "This is what we've been trying to tell you all along—this is how corporate America has always felt about us!"

Texaco's CEO, Peter Bijur, immediately accepted an invitation to appear on ABC's *Nightline* and answered every question host Ted Koppel posed unflinchingly. Well, almost unflinchingly. And he seemed genuinely perplexed and embarrassed by the revelation that there are attitudes of out and out racism at Tex-

aco. He solemnly pledged to stamp out any vestige of discrimination that exists at his company.

Eventually, rather than fight a class-action suit filed against it by 1,400 current and former employees, Texaco settled out-of-court for the sum of \$176 million. A princely sum, you think? We think it's relatively paltry.

While \$176 million can go a long way, it is not inexhaustible. If things go according to plan, the larger, more well-known national black organizations will be deemed the proper custodians of the payoff. These organizations will serve as agents for the business establishment (oops, we mean the black masses), disbursing the money as they see fit. But isn't that like giving the starving man a fish? It's an appreciated gesture, but an inadequate one.

What the African American commu-

nity needs is real trickle-down economics. Just as the years of discrimination have had a profound effect on the collective economic well-being of blacks, vigorous steps taken by corporate America in the areas of contract procurement, upper-management opportunities and access to capital for business start-ups and expansions is the only solution to African Americans realizing the real American Dream.

Hopefully, the few nationally recognized African American organizations that stand to gain financially from Texaco's guilt offering will leverage their positions to help all black Americans gain their rightful access to the opportunities for which they are so richly qualified.

Settling for anything less would be a real pittance—and a pity.

Omni-American Credit Union gets the shaft!

The Grinch came early for the predominantly African American community of Polytechnic Heights on Fort Worth's southeast side. This time, however, the Grinch—appropriately disguised as the national banking industry—stole more than Christmas. It effectively quashed the hopes of a community disproportionately impacted by redlining and bad credit reports to take some control of its financial destiny.

In October, a federal judge ruled that credit unions like OmniAmerican Federal Credit Union, which would have been able to offer to Poly residents many of the financial services banks either have been unwilling to provide at a reasonable cost or at all, were prohibited from serving anyone outside the businesses, industries or geographical areas they were created to serve. In effect, OmniAmerican could move into Poly, but it couldn't secure any "new" business there. That action came only days before OmniAmerican had planned a daylong celebration marking the opening of the first financial institution in Poly in two decades.

What makes the ruling so unfair for Poly is that the banking industry long had the opportunity to move in and offer financial services. It did nothing. But as credit unions have expanded their bases by serving unserved and underserved communities, suddenly they have been

noia?

If it can happen in Fort Worth, when does a federal credit union like Dallas' Common Ground Federal Credit Union, which last summer got a new sponsor in the well-organized and highly visible African American Pastors Coalition, become a threat? In attempts to keep African Americans from controlling their financial futures, will a new Grinch surface, presenting a myriad of superficial issues to the federal courts to keep Common Ground in its place?

By stymieing consumer choice of financial institutions, the banking industry has truly become the Grinch for Polytechnic, which stood to benefit greatly from OmniAmerican's services; perhaps, pumping economic life into a community starving for just that. Admirably, U.S. Rep. Martin Frost has pledged to introduce

legislation enabling credit unions such as OmniAmerican to continue serving unserved communities like Poly, and some local officials are working with the credit union for a reversal. Anything less would be more than stealing Christmas, it would be downright criminal.

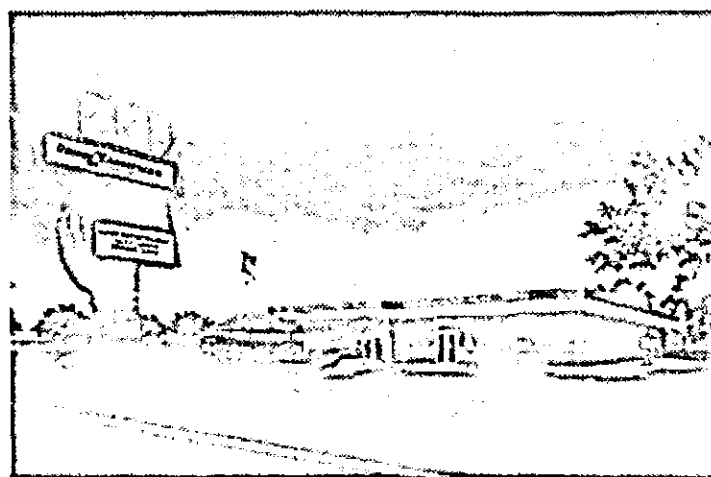


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C P V S

LETTERS...

PromiseKeepers: Let's Reconcile

I prayed that God would allow His Holy spirit to convict PromiseKeepers throughout the Metroplex and those from around the U.S. to get energized and make racial reconciliation an objective to be obtained in reality here in our country. God answered my prayer this weekend by the focus of the Texas PromiseKeepers conference being racial reconciliation.

It is not by coincidence that Mr. Bill McCartney, founder of PromiseKeepers made the comment that the "white church" must reach beyond any racial barriers to demonstrate the power of biblical unity. The fact that 86% of the men attending the Texas conference were white is also not a coincidence. I believe God is calling on the white church, especially its ministers, to reach out to others (pastors and men) of color to forge relationships that will begin the healing process of racial reconciliation.

I am an Ambassador for PromiseKeepers and an African American who has experienced the joy that comes with racial reconciliation. The Spirit of God inside me compels me to issue a call to all PromiseKeepers in the Metroplex to say: Let's all go out everyday and encourage other Christian brothers to reach out to men of all colors to begin to form lasting relationships. Jesus Christ desires that all of God's children experience the joy that comes when we love each other with God's love irregardless of one's color.

Ultimately, God is calling all men who have made the promise of the PromiseKeepers' ministry to fulfill in reality the sixth promise to reach beyond any racial or denominational barriers to demonstrate the power of biblical unity!

Anthony Bond
Irving

God is Awesome

Awesome is a word that accurately describes the Lord God Almighty. God is to be feared with great veneration or respect. The heavens declare His glory and the earth declares His mighty works. God is...Almighty, Worthy, Eternal, Strong, Omniscient, Majestic, and Everlasting! God is All...All is God!

The man who has everything and does not have God is nothing! Materialism seems to rule this world. Greed is a consuming fire—the more we get, the more we desire to have. Love of fellow man and love for one another seem to be disappearing. Love is the key which opens the door. God is Love, need I say more. The kind of relationship that we have with God determines our relationship. See letters, pg. 6

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Thomas Muhammad

Be fast, Michael Johnson, but watch your step!

Before beginning my column, I want to pose this post-election question on you. The other day, after Bill Clinton was re-elected to the White House, Haley Barbour, the chairman of the Republican National Committee, was asked after his presentation before the National Press Club,

"Since Clinton had been re-elected and the Republicans have maintained control of both the U.S. House and Senate, do you think that this means that both the Democrats and Republicans will have to work together on issues?" Mr. Barbour's response was, "In as much

as President Clinton ran on a Republican agenda and was elected on that agenda, we Republicans will have to work with him to the extent that he follows that agenda."

Now I don't know about you, dear reader, but my question to Mr. Barbour would be, "If Clinton ran on the Republican agenda and it got him elected, then as the announced Republican candidate, what in the hell did Bob Dole run on?" Boy! Is that stupid or what! Man, that's almost as stupid as County Commissioner candidate Verna Melton asking for a recount on 42,000 votes. Sometimes you think you've heard it all, then something as dangerously stupid as this comes along. Dangerous because it can make you laugh so hard you could get a hernia.

Now back to our column. I, too, watched on television as my home boy, Michael Johnson, streaked down the '96 Olympic tracks to win gold medals in both the 200 and 400 meter races in Atlanta. It was like *deja vu*, an Olympic track star once again made me proud to be a native Dallasite. Yes, that's what I said. This is my second time around the track with the "world's fastest human." I just happen to be old enough (don't tell anybody) to remember "Bullet" Bob Hayes. I had flashbacks as I watched Michael slice through the air with astonishing speed and propel his body through the tape at the finishing line. I still remember Bob Hayes gracefully doing the same, and it left an imprint that will be with me forever. However, after listening to all the hoopla and the kinds of tributes "certain white folks" are paying to Michael Johnson, I thought it best to share my opinions on some of the pitfalls that have befallen past athletes of the

same (or greater) stature.

I must first say that I do believe that Michael has it all together. A glance at his newly released book, *Slaying The Dragon: How to Turn Small Steps into Great Feats*, seems to suggest that he is not taking his stardom for granted, and that's good. He also seems to come from a family that

espouses the good old-fashion values that were very much a part of Dallas' African American life for many years until strange, evil behaviors destroyed most of our communities. Things like illicit sex;

drugs and alcohol; greed for money; materialism; weird, homosexual

My humble advice to Mr. Johnson would be to try and spend just as much time in South Dallas, Oak Cliff, Pleasant Grove and West Dallas as his promoters will like him to spend in Far North Dallas and the West End.

behavior; obsession for gold and diamond jewelry; lack of time; and kindness and love abuses.

The high-profile and celebrity examples are endless: O.J. Simpson; Harvey Martin; Ervin "Sleeping around Magic" Johnson; Michael "the gambler" Jordan; Drew Pearson (who lost his brother because Drew was driving while intoxicated); Hollywood "the coke man" Henderson; Muhammad "the sex hound" Ali; Roy Tarpley; Michael Irvin; Mike Tyson; Nate "fast, drunk-driving" Newton; Bob Hayes; Darrell Strawberry; and many more.

All, at one time or another, were stars who had been placed on pedestals by greedy white folks who were out to kill two "black" birds (so to speak) with one stone. Number one, these athletes would create billions of dollars for a system that they themselves would never really benefit from. (Except for Muhammad Ali and Drew Person, these guys will probably

not have a chance to financially capitalize on the very sport that milked them for all their youth and abilities.) In fact, white folks wanted so badly for a white man to beat the bad, fast, brash and talented Muhammad Ali that they created the movie Rocky to do it. The movie went over so well that it made its creator, Sylvester Stallone, a household name as he went on to produce Rockys 2, 3, 4 and 5. Magic Johnson and Dallas' Larry Johnson are, so far, the only celebrities to give financial assistance back into their communities.

Number two, by giving these black brothers a "chance," white folks could hopefully cleanse their consciences of their past sins of the raping Africa and brutally transporting us to America's shores against our will.

Now my analysis may sound strange—even a bit funny. But before you write me off as a candidate for the funny farm (and of course I know there are some who would suggest that I should have been there a long time ago), answer one thing for me. Why are white folks parading Michael Johnson all over town holding him up before the world as "Mr. Ethics?" Now don't get me wrong. I believe Mr. Johnson is probably more ethical than the very white folks who are promoting him. But to take a person on speaking tours and give him "ethic awards" when he has yet to live a full and tested adult life is a little too premature. And after the \$150,000 legal tussle between Michael Irvin and a local car dealership, Mr. Johnson had better be extra careful with how he accepts corporate sponsorships. Let me see, what was it again that Mr. Irvin's former business associates accused him of? Oh yes, it was

for "displaying an unbecoming immoral character which caused the dealership to loose thousands in car sales."

In other words, customers were coming by and phoning the dealership saying, "Because of Mr. Irvin's drug-smoking, over-sexed being, prostitute-hot spots-frequenting, obsessed-with-buying-drugs-while-friends-who-are-snitches-drive-being, black full-length mink coat-and-dark glasses (and oh yes, smiling)-while-appearing-for-court-wearing, our customers have said they will not buy any of our cars."

O.K., maybe I exaggerated a bit, but it did sound that stupid! In any case, the dealership won and Michael had to settle out of court. The point is, Mr. Johnson should draw from these very public mistakes and not forget that, just as you are raised up, brother, you can be brought down, and a lot harder and faster.

My humble advice to Mr. Johnson would be to try and spend just as much time in South Dallas; Oak Cliff, Pleasant Grove and West Dallas as his promoters will like him to spend in far North Dallas and the West End. And don't wait on an invitation. Just get in your car, without the media, the cameras or press agents and drive to these places. You know where to go—you've been there before. By revisiting these areas, you will be assured the kind of balance that will keep you as focused as you seem to be at this moment.

And just keep in mind that you are human and capable of making mistakes. You will make some and, yes, you will fall, but such mistakes will only make you a better person, especially when you learn from them. Oh yea, don't worry if you loose favor with your white handlers. Remember, we got your back!

By the way, Michael, has David McDavid offered you a car yet?

Until then, the struggle continues...

MON

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

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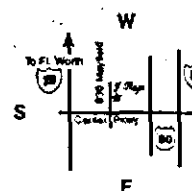
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Let's not forget personal, parental and community responsibility

By Carroll G. Robinson

During the past several months, there has been a great deal of outrage expressed over concerns that the CIA, and possibly other government agencies and officials, were involved in helping to perpetuate the onslaught of crack cocaine in the inner city of Los Angeles, and indirectly across the suburban landscape.

Though uncovering the truth or falsity of this allegation is imperative, African Americans cannot lose sight of the issues of personal, parental and community responsibility as they relate to the abuse, use or sale of drugs by African American teenagers or adults.

Over the last several months, it has been reported that the use of illegal drugs is once again on the rise among teenagers. Even if the CIA helped place crack cocaine in inner city Los Angeles, no one has claimed that they forced African American youths to use it. One can only be entrapped into doing something if they originally had no intention of doing it and were enticed into doing it.

If the African community's response to the CIA allegation is going to be, "African American youths were entrapped into the use of drugs," then what future have we? What does that argument say about our ability to transmit and inoculate young people with a

strong enough sense of self, self-worth, self-respect, self-discipline and personal responsibility to resist temptation?

Yes, get to the truth, but let us not overlook the possible danger on the inside while fighting those on the outside.

The first line of defense against drug use and abuse must be a strong family, whether two-parent or single-parent household, male or female, that communicates the values of self-respect and self-discipline.

The community must also be there to support and assist families in this endeavor with public service programs and meaningful community-based alternatives to engage young peoples' intellect and energies.

We cannot place the blame, solely or primarily, on television, movies, heavy metal nor gansta rap for young people's use of drugs or violent behavior. Young people and adults, be they television producers, record moguls or ordinary citizens, must actively engage in the exercise and manifestation of personal, parental and community responsibility. These values must not be lost, or overlooked, in the torrent of concerns related to the alleged conduct of the CIA.

MON

Carroll G. Robinson is an assistant professor of law at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University.

LETTERS... continued

ship with others.

If we draw nigh unto God, He will draw nigh unto us. Seek ye the Lord with all thy heart. The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. With a pure and contrite heart, pray unto the Lord. Prayer, Fasting and Meditation will bring the anointing upon us, which is the "Holy Ghost," and will destroy the yoke. Jesus has said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest upon your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (St. Matthew 11:28-30)

Jesus is the Anchor, the Rock, our shelter in a storm, our Peace, Joy and our Salvation! To be without the Lord is to be lost, wandering in the wilderness of life. We all seek to know the TRUTH, the meaning of life, why are we here and is there life after death? He who believes on the Lord shall never die, but have eternal life. Though we walk in the flesh, we war not against flesh and blood but against principalities, demons of darkness and spirits in high places.

Every good and perfect gift comes from above, all power comes from GOD. Without God, we have only the appearance of power. Mankind seeks to dominate and rule over one another. The servant of the most high living God has the most powerful position on earth. A true servant of God has first of all Love in his heart for everyone. His delight is in being God's messenger and spreading the "Good News" to all who mourn and are heavy laden with burdens. As servants of God, we must go into all the world and preach the "Gospel" to every living creature, to destroy the works of the devil and to set the captive free. We must bind up the brokenhearted and proclaim liberty, the opening of the prison to them that are

bound. To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God to comfort all who mourn.

Be ye not weary in well doing, for we shall receive our blessing in due season if we faint not. God is a Spirit and he who worships Him must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies in a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your minds, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. For I say, through the Grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." (Romans 12:1-3)

There are no words that can truly describe God; we can only say that, "God Is Awesome!" God is incomprehensible, His ways are not our ways, His thoughts are not our thoughts. God loves us because of who He is, not because of who we are. God's Love is unimaginable, unconditional Love! Man is fearfully and wonderfully made in the likeness and image of God. Let us strive to be more "Christ-like," this being more "God-like," for the Father and the Son are ONE.

In a world like the one in which we are living today, "Faith" in God is our only solution. When you have tried everything else and all have failed, call on Jesus and He will answer! Whatsoever we ask in the name of Jesus, He will do it that the Father may be glorified. Glory to God in the highest, His mercy endureth forever and ever. GOD IS AWESOME!

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Cheryl Smith

Star-Telegram editor plays hardball

When you think about diversity and how to implement a program in the workplace, many are puzzled. Well, I guess puzzlement would be a good excuse, considering that it seems as though many have a hard time establishing a policy that would help to deal with discrimination and racism on the job.

Since it seems like such a hard task, and many managers don't notice how unlike America their boardrooms are, it's really refreshing to hear about someone trying to make a change.

In fact, most seem to strike out.

Well, Jim Witt, executive editor of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, says there is a new game in town and he's ready to step up to the plate and make some serious changes at the publication.

In a communique to his staff, Mr. Witt wrote, "From now on, we will make no hiring decisions on vacancies in our newsroom until I am satisfied that we have considered people of color and women for those positions. This is a diverse city and we, in order to do our jobs, need to reflect that diversity."

"On rare occasions we will fill jobs (almost always from inside) without posting them because of some special circumstance. But most of the time the job will be posted and open to all. I believe the Star-Telegram has a fine tradition of promoting people, and we will continue to do that whenever possible."

He continued, "As part of their annual evaluation, newsroom managers (including me) will be judged on how well they did in seeking diversity. And reporters, photographer and graphic artists will be asked to show during their annual evaluation just how diverse they were in their sources, stories, photographs and graphics. Not sure yet how to include designers and copy editors in this, but we will."

"It will not be up to your supervisor to figure out just how good you did in diversity — it will be up to you to prove it. Your marks on your annual evaluation will depend (in part) on this."

It was also pointed out that this diversity component was long overdue and would appear on review forms in six months (April 1, 1997). "And that's no joke," Witt concluded.

And it shouldn't be. Righteous, conscientious minds must rule. Every Black person I've talked to seems to be pleased with the "diversity program." But according to comments made out of the earshot of Jim Witt, there are others who

have a serious problem, and that's to be expected.

Of course not everyone is going to do the right thing voluntarily. If that were the case, there wouldn't be any need for any diversity program in the first place. However, as we approach the end of this century, we're still having to fight racism and deal with archaic, Neanderthal types who have no desire to do what is right.

Instead we're hearing about the racist behavior at Texaco and Avis, and some are surprised. But in actuality, those two companies are just the tip of the iceberg, and no one wants to talk about it.

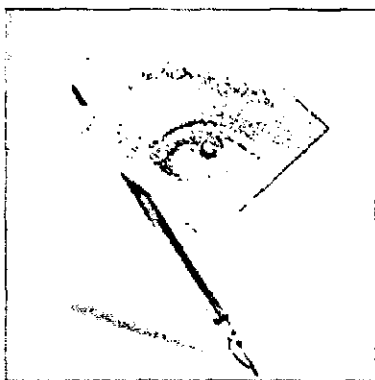
Everyone is in denial.

This was not more evident than when the verdict was read in the O.J. Simpson trial. And still today, although no one really cares to hear it, there are a lot of Black people out there who are angry because of the outcry following that verdict.

They are not angry because of the verdict. No, many are angry because they are wondering where all of these "righteous" people were during the numerous other times when the system hadn't worked for Blacks.

There's a population out there that wants to call the roll on the many cases when the system has railroaded people of color.

Never was the roar as loud as the one heard when O.J. was acquitted. But still,



Of course not everyone is going to do the right thing voluntarily. If that were the case, there wouldn't be any need for any diversity program in the first place.

we remember Emmett Till, Mumia Abu Jamal, Geronimo Pratt, and Joyce Ann Brown. We also remember Susan Smith, Walker Railey, William Kennedy Smith, J.W. Milam and Roy Bryant. And the list goes on and on.

So, what we have now from the Fort Worth Star-Telegram is an effort to tie a person's chances of advancement and financial gain to their ability to act righteously and do the appropriate thing,

regardless of their personal feelings or agenda.

Hopefully others will follow Jim Witt's leadership. He should be commended for making the effort and facing a very "controversial" subject.

And, it is important that we watch to see what comes of this mandate.

Will we see a difference in the coverage? Will there be a mutiny in Cowntown?

Stay tuned...

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.

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Housing Authority of the City of Dallas, Texas (DHA) will receive bids for the Roof Replacement of the Texas Department of Human Services Building, located at 3131 Fishtrap Road, Dallas, Texas 75212 (A Dallas Housing Authority facility) until 10:00 A.M., on Monday, December 9, 1996 at 3939 N. Hampton Road, Suite 350, Dallas, Texas 75212, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Bid documents, including Plans and Specifications, may be acquired at DHA's Central Office, 3939 N. Hampton Road, Suite 350, Dallas, Texas 75212. A \$25.00 non-refundable fee is required for each set of plans and specifications.

The Housing Authority of the City of Dallas, Texas (DHA) will receive bids for the Construction of the Lakewood Multi-Purpose Facility, a new 57,000 square foot facility until 2:00 P.M., on Thursday, December 19, 1996 at 3939 N. Hampton Road, Suite 350, Dallas, Texas 75212, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 3, 1996 at 2:00 P.M., at the DHA's Central Office, 3939 N. Hampton Rd., Board Room - 3rd Floor, Dallas, Texas 75212.

Bid Documents, including Plans and Specifications, may be acquired at DHA's Central Office, 3939 N. Hampton Road, Suite 350, Dallas, Texas 75212. A \$150.00 non-refundable fee is required for each set of plans and specifications.

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

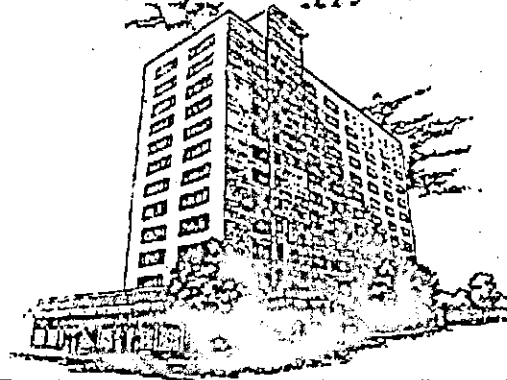


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Kwanzaa celebrates principles for success

This African American cultural celebration is not just another commercialized holiday

By Sonia Jordan

Habari gani. The Swahili greeting which means "What's the news?" is being voiced throughout the United States by millions of African Americans who celebrate Kwanzaa. Many of us are familiar with the African American celebration that embodies the premises by which our communities can thrive, survive and grow.

Kwanzaa, celebrated for seven days, beginning on December 26 and lasting until January 1, is not a "new" holiday. It is not a religious holiday. As a matter of fact, the question is often posed... "is Kwanzaa a holiday at all?" It is safe to say that this seven day acknowledgment of familial and social values is a celebration patterned after various African agricultural festivals. The name "Kwanzaa" was derived from the Swahili word which means "first fruit of the harvest."

Created and implemented in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, this African American celebration is becoming a family and community tradition. Dr. Karenga, a black studies professor at California State University-Long Beach, says, "The purpose of the holiday is to help black people rescue and reconstruct our history and culture and to shape them in our own image."

From the outset, Kwanzaa was celebrated by the more radical members of the black-nationalist community. Today, Kwanzaa is celebrated by African Americans from all walks of life. Many churches, museums and other institutions have begun to participate in the festivities. While this celebration of values is recognized during the Yule season, the Kwanzaa celebration is not a substitute for Christmas. As stated earlier, it is a cultural experience created to assist African Americans as we explore our family and social values. Parents play the key role in this celebration, which stresses family unity and cultural self-determination, responsibility, purpose, creativity, and faith. Historically the festivals of many ethnic and national groups are credited with the preservation of unique customs, folktales, costumes, and culinary skills.

Have you ever noticed that the key number in this celebration is the number seven? There are seven letters in the celebration's name (K-W-A-N-Z-A-A); seven principles (Umoja, Kujichagulia, Ujima, Ujamaa, Nia, Kuumba and Imani); and seven symbols of Kwanzaa. The symbols

are very important in the actual celebration and festivities. Let us explore them, beginning with Mazao:

Mazao (mah-zah-oh)—the vegetables and fruits of the harvest. The harvest is a time of joy and thanksgiving. In African farming communities, the fruits of the harvest are a testimony of the farm-

corn, one for each child living in the household. The ears of corn represent the dream of parents that their children and future generations will grow strong.

Zawadi (zah-wah-dee)—symbolizes the Kwanzaa gifts that parents give to their children. These gifts are in the form of educational games, books and special handmade gifts and reinforce the values of Kwanzaa.

With the growing popularity of Kwanzaa, it is becoming apparent that yet another honored celebration is becoming commercialized. Commerce will not ignore an opportunity to exploit ways to make money and people will not ignore opportunities to spend their dol-

ing of the first candle to the seventh principle, Imani, each phase of the Rites of Passage is intertwined with Kwanzaa and its meaning.

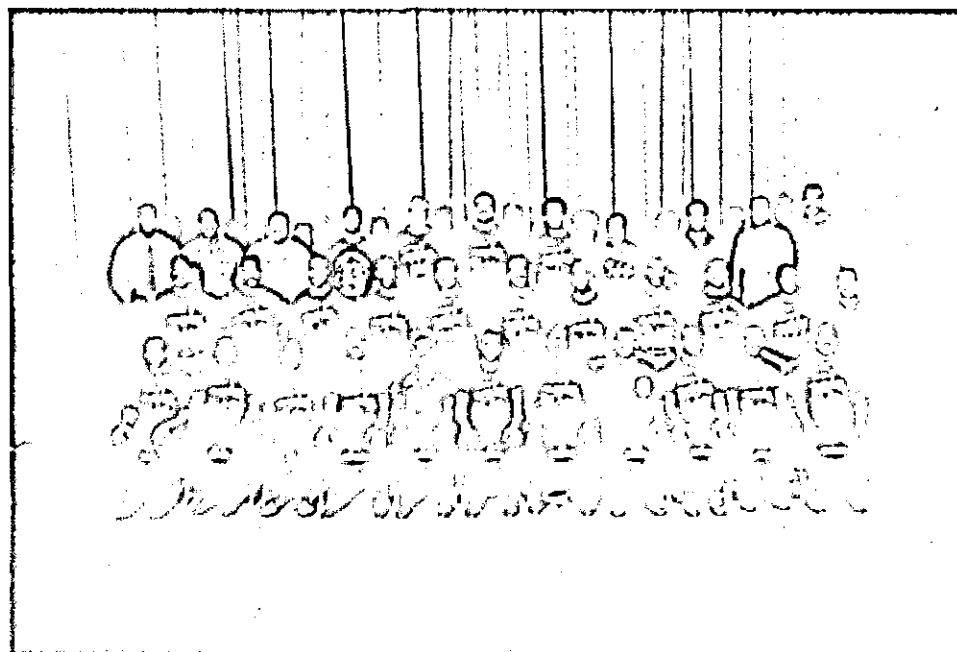
With the powerful statement made by the Million Man March, programs such as Operation BLACC garner special attention. Operation BLACC (Brothers Loving & Leading the African American Church and Community) was founded in the summer of 1991. It is the culmination of a vision received by Frederick Haynes, the community-minded pastor of Friendship West Baptist Church. Operation BLACC is comprised of African American men who patrol the community, sponsor speakers, work with youth through a mentoring program and so much more. African American men at work, home, church and in their communities making a sizable, recognizable difference. The main focus of Operation BLACC is to empower black men from a spiritual basis. This wonderful and much needed program is yet another example of the Kwanzaa principles at work.

And there are many more churches, nonprofits and businesses that incorporate the principles of Kwanzaa into their everyday operations. Ask yourself what you can do to incorporate the spirit of Kwanzaa in your everyday life. Think Nia (purpose). What is your purpose? Are you interested in making a difference in your community? If so, you can begin by volunteering with one of the organizations mentioned in this article. Contact St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church, West Dallas Community Center or Operation BLACC for more information.

This year the Kwanzaa festival will be coordinated by the Third Eye. Mr. James Tyler, of the Third Eye believes we should celebrate Kwanzaa because... "Kwanzaa is the only holiday we have that celebrates our ethnicity. All the other holidays are either religious or heroic. It was the founder's desire that we have such a holiday in order that we celebrate our common culture and our common destiny." Ms. Ife Madhi, who has coordinated the festival will be more than happy to give you more information on scheduling of Kwanzaa activities. You can contact her at (214) 339-1956.

Kwanzaa does not have to be a celebration recognized only during the Yule season. It can, and should be, our celebration and our duty to exemplify those principles by which our communities can thrive. Collective work and responsibility does not cease to be necessary as the old year merges with the new year. We, as a community, are responsible for ourselves. So now, when you speak to your brothers and sisters, greet them by saying Habari gani.

MON



The Men from Operation BLACC

ers dedication and goodness.

Mkeka (em-kay-kah)—the mat on which the symbols of Kwanzaa rest. The mkeka is usually woven from grasses, but can be made from strips of fabric or paper. The makeka is a symbol of tradition and history.

Kikombe cha Umoja (kee-kom-bay cha oo-moh-jah)—the unity cup. In honor of the ancestors, a libation called tambiko is poured from the cup. Of course the ancestors are those who have gone before us such as Harriet Tubman, Dr. King, Malcolm X, and our slave foremother and forefathers.

Kinara (kee-nah-rah)—a simple wooden candle holder often made by hand. It serves as a symbol for the ancestors of African Americans. There are seven candles placed within the Kinara, called Mishumaa Saba (mee-shu-mah Sah-bah). Each candle represents one of the principles of Kwanzaa. The black candle is placed in the middle and three each of the red and green are placed in the remaining slots. Each night a candle is lit, beginning with the black one and alternating between the red and green until all candles are lit.

Muhindi (moo-hin-dee)—ears of dry

lars. Therefore, it becomes important to our families that the principles of Kwanzaa be incorporated into our everyday lives...not only for the celebration of Kwanzaa, but for the celebration of our lives and future.

Throughout the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex, the spirit of Kwanzaa is incorporated into our communities daily. St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church exhibits close to all seven principles through its many ministries. One of these ministries is the 3 to 1 mentoring program, designed to create dialogue and positive role-modeling between African American male adults and our youth. The Bread and Loaves ministry, the neighborhood clean-up ministry, Parents and Children (PAC) and the Economic Development Ministry, to name a few, are ways that the principles of Kwanzaa are incorporated into our communities.

Another organization that operates on the principles of Kwanzaa is the West Dallas Community Center. One of its many programs, the Rites of Passage Program, is set up and implemented using each principle of this now historical festival. Beginning with Umoja and the light-

Nguzu Saba

(The Seven Principles of Kwanzaa)

1. UMOJA (Unity)—To strive for and maintain unity in the family community, nation, and race.
2. KUJICHAGULIA (Self-determination)—To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves instead of being defined, named, created for and spoken for by others.
3. UJIMA (Collective work and responsibility)—To build and maintain our community together and make our sisters' and brothers' problems our problems and to solve them together.
4. UJAMAA (Cooperative Economics)—To build and maintain our own businesses and to profit from them together.
5. NIA (Purpose)—To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.
6. KUUMBA (Creativity)—To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.
7. IMANI (Faith)—To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders, the righteousness of our struggle and our ultimate victory.

Suggested reading:

Kwanzaa: Origin, Concepts, Practice By Maulana Karenga

An African American Celebration of Culture and Cooking By Eric Copage

Kwanzaa: An Everyday Resource and Information Guide By David A. Anderson

Let's Celebrate Kwanzaa, An Activity Book for Young Readers By Helen Davis Thompson

Celebrating Kwanzaa by Diane Hoyt-Goldsmith

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Revelation Corporation seeks to recycle Black dollars

Church groups and business join forces in economic venture

By J.L. Larson

An entrepreneurial new venture linking black church groups and businesses is gaining momentum.

Through "affinity buying" the Revelation Corporation seeks to turn some of the profit from black spending back towards black churches and home buyers in a new for-profit program that is being hailed as an opportunity for African Americans to do for themselves.

Revelation is expected to be up and running in the Dallas area in 1997, and has targeted Dallas in its home construction program.

The plan has hefty backing - the leaders of five of the nation's largest black religious denominations, shepherds of flocks that represent over half the black population in America.

Revelation offers its members discounts on consumer goods and services, a portion of money spent returned to churches for community projects and ministerial retirement plans and a national housing fund designed to help people without perfect or "A" credit become home owners.

Supporters point to the buying power of America's 34 million blacks, who spend about \$300 billion annually yet find difficulties financing and purchasing homes due to poor credit history and redlining by many traditional lending institutions. While there are some "good guy" bankers out there, blacks are turned down for financing and/or insurance in disproportionate numbers, especially in what is deemed to be "undesirable" communities.

Officed in Dallas, the Reverend Marshall Gilmore is the presiding bishop of the 50,000-member 8th Episcopal District of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, one of the five major African American denominations backing the Revelation Corporation.

Gilmore has worked with Revelation founder and primary investor John Lowery in an enterprise between Lowery-Riggan, the CME denomination and the City of Memphis to build homes outside of Memphis, another example of the church teaming up with entrepreneurs to meet a ministry goal - namely, enabling 290 home renters to become home owners.

Empowerment through home ownership is a topic dear to Gilmore's heart.

"Revelation will have an impact on African Americans. We have lost so much in home ownership - if we keep going the way we're going, we're going to become

a landless people.

"I think anything we can do to generate ownership is very important. It provides some stability for people, some centering for their lives. It gives children pride, and it gives a community stability," Gilmore said, pointing to the biblical mandate to care for the welfare of others.

"I think the welfare of people is what the Bible is all about. I mean, the only soul I ever saw was a person. I think the important thing is what we do for people," Gilmore said.

Revelation calls for an intricate purchase-rebate cycle. Using a barcode system like a buyer's club for member organizations, purchases of selected products from a discount coupon book and items available in a catalog will provide a rebate to Revelation from the manufacturers in exchange for their inclusion in the coupon book.

The resulting clout is expected to win widespread participation from companies seeking endorsement and access to the buying power of African Americans.

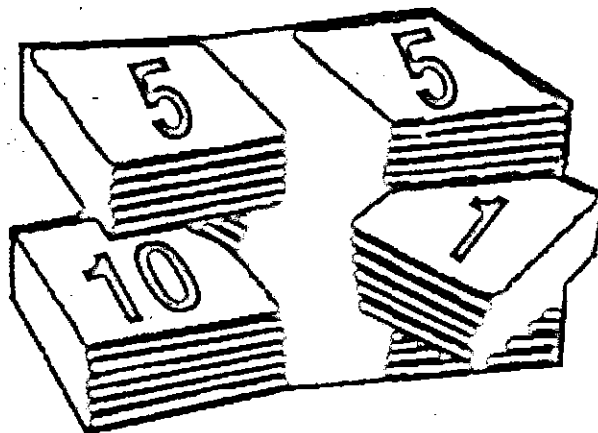
The coupon books will be printed with individual ID numbers for each church or member organization. They are then distributed to members, who redeem them at stores when making purchases. The coupons are then sent for processing by ID number and the redemption information sent to the manufacturer. The manufacturer, in turn, sends checks to the bank for distribution to member organization accounts.

According to Black Enterprise magazine, by generating \$100 million in sales of designated brands and goods in its first year of operation, \$5 million or five percent will be rebated back.

Of the rebate portion controlled by the churches, which hold 70 percent of the ownership, 10 percent will go to a pension fund for 120,000 ministers, 20 percent will go to participating churches and 70 percent will go to a national housing trust fund.

Dallas-based Electronic Data Systems will serve as Revelation's "gatekeeper" by providing all call center ser-

vices and the extensive data base required for the system. All 1-800 calls to Revelation will be processed through EDS, who will then transfer the caller to the desired "affinity partner" product or service - auto insurance, home loans, coupons or catalog sales.



Paul Divis is the EDS corporate account manager for Revelation. He said the company is excited to be involved.

"This is something we've looked at as being very positive - an

opportunity to do good while doing well for the corporation," Divis said.

"It's just like the AARP (American Association of Retired Persons), but with a nice return to the community," he added.

While Revelation has gained widespread endorsements, some critics of the program point to the fact that 30 percent of the ownership is in the hands of John Lowery, who put \$1 million up front to start Revelation.

A white businessman with strong ties to the black community, Lowery is president of the Lowery-Riggan Company, a privately-held group of companies.

"I think anything we can do to generate ownership is very important. It provides some stability for people, some centering for their lives. It gives children pride, and it gives a community stability."

-Rev. Marshall Gilmore, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

He also serves as CEO of affiliated companies engaged in large construction projects in the hospitality, housing and health care sectors.

A graduate of Memphis State University, he was previously president and

director of Fidelity Bancorp, Inc., a bank holding company. He was staff director for Harold E. Ford, Tennessee's only black congressman, from 1992-1994.

Rev. Gilmore describes John Lowery as a good man, and said he's grateful for the idea - and the capital.

"I don't have any problem with John Lowery because he had the investment that we did not have," he said, noting that the churches did not have to put money up front for their ownership.

Supporters note that Lowery has agreed to sell his stake in Revelation to the churches after seven years, enabling it to be completely minority owned.

Each of the denominations serves as an individual shareholder, and the corporation is majority-owned by them. The leaders of the denominations make up Revelation's directors.

Revelation is a for-profit corporation and will pay taxes.

Denominations signed on to Revelation to date include the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (2 million members), Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (800,000 members), National Baptist Convention of America, Inc. (4.5 million members), National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. (8.5 million members), and the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. (1.8 million members). According to Gilmore, other black denominations have been invited to participate as well.

A minister whose denomination has signed on to the Revelation Corp. program said he is waiting to receive additional information about local involvement. While he said he will look forward to receiving additional information about the program prior to making a judgment about it, the minister said one of his biggest concerns is that he believes the housing fund is for housing in black communities.

"Which means that if you're in a black area, you can't get any funds to get out of that area. You have to stay where you are, regardless of the environment of that community," he said.

A press kit from Revelation indicates that the construction loan program is for building whole neighborhoods.

"We want to build neighborhoods rather than isolated homes. Therefore, we look for cities that have large tracts of available land for development and a large church population to provide the number of participants necessary to finance the effort," the Revelation material states, adding that Dallas is one of 10 major centers targeted for the construction loan program.

As more products and services join the Revelation line, they will be made available to participants. Callers to 1-800-893-5555 are asked to register and to provide basic information, and are given an identification number registering them with the program.

The telephone operator also asks for

the caller's social security number, but will still provide membership without it.

In a news release, Lowery expressed his vision for the program.

"In today's world of corporate downsizing, welfare cuts and trimming of the social security budget, many black Americans face a continuing downward cycle of poverty. Revelation is a viable alternative that will bring forth solutions and hope," Lowery said.

In the press kit issued by Revelation,

the corporation finds itself in line with biblical teachings.

"Anything that brings together the African American church in an enterprise that will benefit each of its members and the community at large makes sound, moral sense. The bible says, 'Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you (Matthew 633).'"

MON

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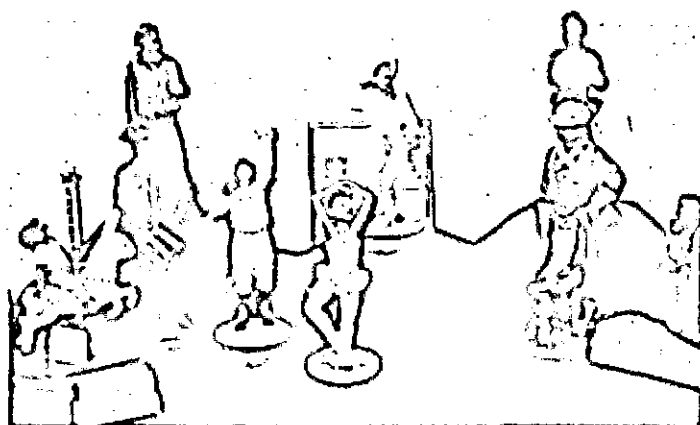
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MON reviews the year 1996

By Cheryl L. Williams

After five years of operation, *Minority Opportunity News* has secured a stronghold in the local publishing industry and gained a reputation as one of the finest publications in Texas serving African Americans.

Its readership has continued to increase and MON now boasts a readership of 50,000.

As MON grows and improves, the publication reinforces commitments to stimulate economic development, promote racial equality, and inspire intellectual and spiritual growth in its readers.

In January 1996, MON introduced us to Wiley Baker, patriarch, former slave and landowner extraordinaire. A shrewd man, Baker, in 1894, acquired nearly 200 acres of land in Mexia, Texas, that has, to date, remained in his family. Near January's end, more than 25 descendants of Baker gathered in Austin, Texas at the Texas Family Land Heritage Ceremony to receive honors for over 100 years of land ownership.

The sustained prosperity of Wiley Baker's clan sharply contrasted in February with the tragedy of the Hollie family of Slocum, Texas. In 1910, over half of the land in the lush, rural town was owned by blacks. Fueled by resentment of white citizens and an alleged altercation between longtime black resident Marsh Hollie and a disabled white resident, a frenzied spree of random shootings and slayings soon erupted.

In all, older residents estimate, up to 200 blacks lost their lives in a 4 day period dubbed by some whites as a "War of Extermination."

The outbreak also claimed the life of Alex Hollie, Marsh's brother. The Hollie family remembers, but Anderson County officials chose to forget, disavowing any occurrence of a "race war."

Columnist Thomas Muhammad



January

expressed confusion and disbelief over the popularity of the book turned movie "Waiting to Exhale." Why, he asked, were sisters waiting to exhale—getting so worked up over entertainment when "we should be in tears and angry as hell" about the physical and moral deterioration of our communities.

But in March, black women discovered that they could not breathe easier because of the growing threat of AIDS.

One in 32 black men age 27 to 39 are infected with HIV, and blacks now constitute more than half of all AIDS cases among women and children. Homophobia helps fuel the spread of the disease in the African American community but unprotected heterosexual sex is quickly becoming a major contributor. Celibacy,

abstinence, latex condoms? We do have a choice.

Publisher Thurman Jones assumed a new leadership role and announced his candidacy for president of the Texas Publishers Association in April (he later won the office) and Chris Pryer took the helm as editor.

Amidst concern over poor test scores and low classroom expectations, McLennan County Commissioner Lester Gibson threatened secession by black students from the Waco Independent School District. Coque Gibson, the commissioner's spouse and a Waco ISD school board member believes a minority majority on the school board can effect an improvement in student's achievement. Plans are underway to literally change the face of Waco's school board.

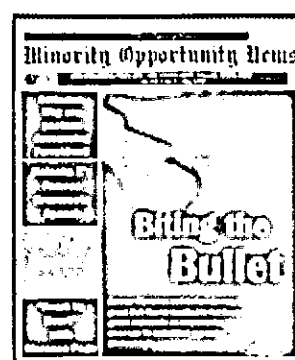
In May, as the scandalous account of Cowboys wide receiver Michael Irvin's presence in a hotel room with "self-employed models" and illegal drugs mushroomed, former Olympic gold medalist and Dallas Cowboy "Bullet" Bob Hayes recalled the events that sent his life plunging in a downward spiral. Hayes, who was convicted of delivering narcotics to an undercover policeman in 1979, alleges entrapment. Racism, envy, and jealousy he said are the reasons many black athletes have trouble with the law. He

served 10 months of two five-year terms at Huntsville and questioned whether black athletes came under undue scrutiny, consequently becoming unwitting targets. In June, MON attempted to provide answers.

News coverage of Michael Irvin's fall from grace and his impending trial had gained steam by June, sometimes outpacing coverage of a Rowlett woman accused of murdering her two young sons. Irvin joined a long list of prominent African American sports stars skewered and served to the hungry media. After all was said and done

(apparently in some very kinky ways), some think he got off easy, incurring a sentence of four years' deferred probation and a \$10,000 fine.

Among African Americans, the debate lingered over the value of celebrating Juneteenth which recognizes the emancipation of Texas slaves two years after Congress passed the thirteenth amendment abolishing slavery. The National Association of Juneteenth Lineage held its first national conference in New Orleans last year holding workshops and programs centered around Juneteenth. Yet for some, the celebration signals not a day of emancipation but a day "black people were lied to."



May

While many were celebrating independence day, July brought little semblance of freedom for the Hollie family from the affects of Slocum's "race war." Although unacknowledged, the massacre and its alleged origin have never been forgotten and the Hollies have faced repeated retribution for the part they presumably played.

Black journalists were finally getting it together, MON columnist Cheryl Smith reported, when the National Association

of Black Journalists (which includes journalists that work in mainstream media) and the National Newspaper Publishers Association (comprised of publishers and executives of over 100 black newspapers) met and discovered a common goal—providing accurate, sensitive and fair coverage of issues affecting the African American community.

In August, the black press assumed the role of neighborhood

watchdog when Bank of America's disparate loan approval record came under fire by both *Minority Opportunity News* and the *Dallas Examiner*. Figures showed that whites (depending on the type of

loan) were one and one half to two times more likely to get loan approval from the lending institution. But even more significant, there were nearly five times as many white applicants as African American applicants, suggesting a blatant lack of consumer outreach in the African American community.

The black press demanded a voice and Bank of America listened.

But the African American Pastors Coalition promised action. After months of planning and negotiation, the coalition representing more than 50 congregations took control

of the Common Ground Credit Union. The coalition's ultimate goal is to expand financial opportunities for families and individuals plagued by the effects of redlining and bad credit reports.

September highlighted an increasing trend in the efforts of African American clergy to bring economic and social empowerment to their congregations and community. We lauded the Rev. Denny D. Davis of St. John Baptist Church (in Grand Prairie) for Visions 2000, a campaign of expansion and growth that includes building a day care and private school, a fitness center and a new sanctuary.

The Rev. Frederick Haynes of Friendship West Baptist Church, however, expressed frustration over the barriers to the church's procurement of Wheatland Terrace Apartments and Community Learning Center in Oak Cliff. Friend-

ship West Empowerment Corporation, a non-profit organization for housing development, job training, entrepreneurial training, small business consultation and investment

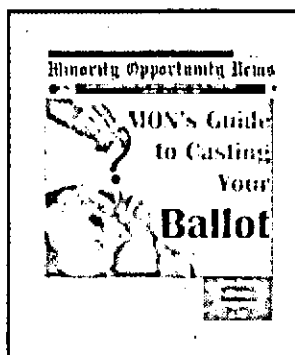
purposes, was deemed less qualified to manage the apartment complex than its



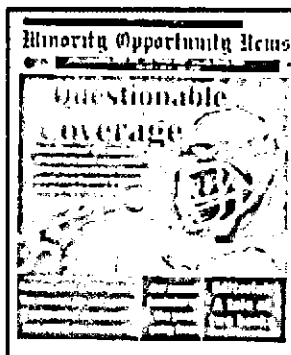
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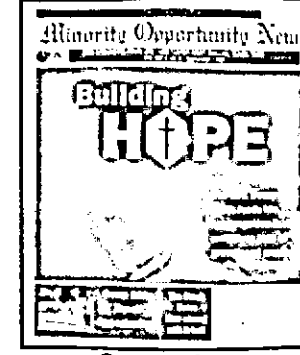
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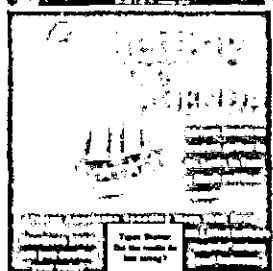


June



September

Minority Opportunity News



October

effectively run the complex. However, the inability to obtain the Oak Cliff property did not dampen his quest for other opportunities to enhance the African American community.

October carried news of the dawning of a new political era for African Americans and other oppressed people. Nation of Islam leader Minister Louis Farrakhan and the Rev. Benjamin

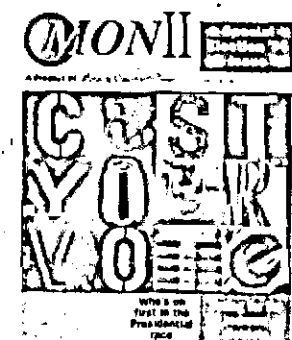
Chavis, Jr., National African American Leadership Summit chief, convened in St. Louis with African American leaders for the Black National Convention. Rev.

Chavis emphasized the goal of the convention was to "transform the political system by practicing the principle of self determination and affirming a God-centered, spirit-filled, mass movement for empowerment." Finally, the oppressed stand prepared to create a political machine with a platform based on inclusiveness and not special interests.

The Dallas Together Forum, a group of the city's most respected and notable leaders, was thrust into the discerning eye of the African American public when MON published the forum's Declaration of Shared Beliefs along with an alternate Declaration of Shared Beliefs and Behaviors endorsed by Dallas

County Commissioner

John Wiley Price. Noticeably absent from the "beliefs" of original declaration was the identification of actions necessary to accomplish goals. On the other hand, Price's version strongly encouraged the "full participation of all Dallas citizens in every aspect of social and political governance" and suggested specifics ways to reach desired objectives. Price refused to approve the declaration's original version.



November

competitor, Dean Learning Center, which is governed by an all white male board of directors. To no avail, Haynes asserted that his grassroots organization could more

Although fresh from setting a new agenda, African Americans still had to contend with the "old agenda" when MON II rolled off the press in mid-October examining key political races, issues and candidates. All eyes were on the race for the fiercely contested 30th Congressional District seat that the seemingly invincible Eddie Bernice Johnson eventually won. In 1997, look for more special MON II issues, our powerful theme-oriented mid-month publication.

The plight and the triumphs of the strong black woman were chronicled in November and we learned that for her, God and family are everything. And though she gives herself completely to those she loves, it strengthens her to know that she is also loved.

The November Dallas NAACP elections sparked controversy as current president Lee Alcorn stood opposed by Victor Smith, a former Dallas NAACP president and Ernest Walker, former second vice president in Alcorn's administration.

Leadership styles were at issue, with Walker calling for a 90s approach and Smith eager to utilize his negotiating skills. But voters later opted for the brash and sometimes confrontational but effective style of Alcorn, proving that results talk.

Throughout the year, MON diversified its coverage of topics relevant to the community. The introduction of special series dealing with the Internet, money

management, nonprofits and home computing kept our readers informed of the latest developments in these quickly changing fields. Ethnic Notes placed an entertaining spin on black history with tales of the Buffalo soldier, minstrel shows and black-owned film companies. The black media—television, print and

radio—were lauded for their contributions and, when applicable, chided for their lack thereof.

In 1997, MON pledges to sincerely and responsibly address the concerns that gnaw at the African American community. Your calls and letters are not only welcome, they are necessary.

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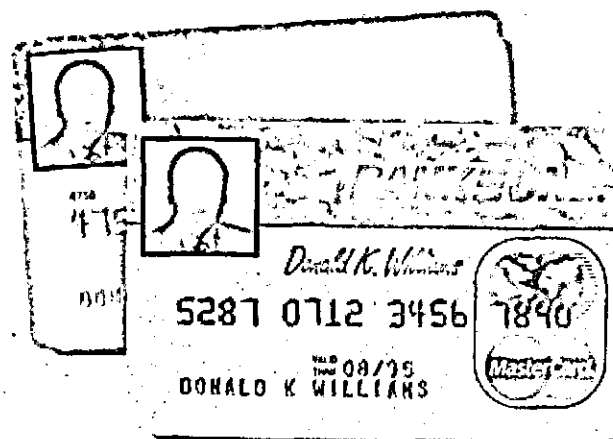
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Isis: A Black Madonna

Evidence abounds that many cultures worshipped a dark-skinned Virgin Mother

By Russell D. Shockley, B.S.Ed.

The goddess Isis represented, above all else, the wifely and motherly virtues that Egyptian culture held so sacred. The mother of Horus, Isis was also the mother of Pharaoh and thus the "guarantor of royal succession." Always a goddess of importance, Isis was especially popular during the later periods of Pharonic rule (664-525 B.C.—26th Dynasty). Under the Romans, the worship of Isis spread throughout the empire and she was regarded as the "Goddess Par Excellence" (Isis Lactans). Isis, her son Horus and husband Osiris were worshipped in Europe centuries before the Christian era. The first historical contact of Italy with Egypt was about 1400 B.C. Later, into Italy came the Phoenicians, sea traders who already worshipped the black goddess (Isis) and carried this belief with their trade as far as northwestern Europe and even into what is present-day Great Britain.

In 58 B.C., the Roman senate ordered all statues of Isis to be destroyed. However, in 48 B.C., the worship of Isis returned with an even greater enthusiasm when Cleopatra came to Rome as the wife of Julius Caesar. After the Battle of Actium, in which Cleopatra and Mark Antony were defeated by the Romans, the worship of Isis was again banished. However, efforts to enforce this order caused riots in Rome and served only to increase the zeal for the religion. Persecutions of Isis followers continued until the reign of Tiberius.

The worship of Isis continued for centuries after the introduction of Christianity. As late as 394 A.D., a procession in her honor was still paraded through the streets of Rome. The worship of Isis spread rapidly throughout Europe and into Asiatic Russia. Ancient statuettes of her have been found in northern France and in the Rhineland, with her temples extending into Britain. Isis is believed to have had a religious temple in Paris. The name Paris is thought to be a corruption of Bari-Isis, becoming through Roman pronunciation Parisii, the name of the tribe that had inhabited the site on which the city of Paris, France now sits.

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, Isis was worshipped in Egypt, Greece, Rome, Gaul, and almost all of the remainder of Europe and England. The Larousse Dictionary states: "Isis was one of the most ancient divinities of Egypt. She

formed, along with Osiris and Horus, a mythical trinity. Isis was considered to be the force of life itself, gathering all the scattered forces of life from death and decay and warming them in her bosom, perpetually giving them new life." The Christians, after the edict of Constantine, found themselves to be virtually powerless against the influence of Isis.

It should be noted that Isis, the symbol of motherhood, was considered to be the first Madonna. Cleopatra and her son Caesarion were also worshipped in Rome as Isis and Horus.

Dr. Bonwick, in his *Egyptian Beliefs* (London-1878), reveals: "We may not be surprised to find that, as Europe has its Black Madonna, Egypt also has its black



The Egyptian goddess Isis and son Horus.

images and pictures of Isis. At the same time, it is odd that the Virgin Mary should not only be black, but also have a very decidedly 'Isis' cast of features."

Conclusive proof that the Black Madonna is Isis is contained in the fact that Isis was the goddess of navigation. The greatest feast of the cult of Isis was that of the ship. On a great number of the coins of Asia, Isis is represented standing on a galley, holding a veil inflated by the wind.

Even now, European sailors hold religious ceremonies, revering a Black Virgin called Mary as their ancestors of two thousand years ago revered a Black Virgin called Isis.

MON

Russell D. Shockley is the director of Ethnic Notes. For lecture or presentation information, call or write Ethnic Notes, c/o MON.

The Black Madonna(s)

Although virtually unrefereed to within the United States, a number of Europe's astute religious community has for centuries been making pilgrimages to pay homage to a host of miracle-performing Madonnas. Another reference that has not been expounded upon is that a majority of these "Original Madonnas" are dark-skinned, or black.

Tradition says that St. Luke, who knew Mary the Mother of Christ personally, carved many of the original images with his own hands. It is interesting to note that if the Mother of Jesus Christ was not black, then how is it that she is represented as such in Switzerland, France, Italy, Spain, Greece, Germany, Russia, and numerous other European countries?

For example, The Black Virgin, a Madonna of the Hospice of Espallion, France is called "La Negrette." The Black Virgin of Notre Dame of Hal, near Brussels (Belgium), has been the recipient of countless pilgrimages for centuries. She is credited with having performed many miracles, one of which was the saving of the cathedral she resided in by catching 33 cannon balls within the folds of her robe.

The Virgin of Czenstochowa (Poland) is of the same color. The Black Virgin of Czenstochowa is the shrine that solidarity leader Lech Walesa visited and prayed to after winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 1983.

In Normandy, two black virgins have been the object of a veneration that goes back to the earliest times of our national history and attracts each year, at Notre Dame de Deliverance, near Lion-sur-mer and at Notre Dame de Graces, near Honfleur, innumerable pilgrims, especially sailors. The Virgin of Notre Dame de Liesse (Aisne) is one of the oldest of France, and the pilgrimage to her dates back to the 13th century with its legend of Ismery.

Black Virgins abounded in Russia. The Eastern Church has two types of Virgins; one African with Ethiopian, or Galla, features; the other Byzantine, with a copper complexion and classic Greek features. The preferential worship of this Black Deity by the Slavs goes back to the dimmest antiquity.

Two of the oldest Black Madonnas of Europe are those of Loretto, Italy, and of Nuria, Spain. The Black Virgin of Nuria, which is called "The Queen of the Pyrnees" is distinctly Negro.

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The sweet sensation of "Setting The Table"

By Marty Davidson

Upon entering Just Set the Table, Inc., the sight of rose centerpieces on classic Chippendale tea tables takes you back to a time of style and elegance

when every meal ended with dessert, coffee and pleasant conversation. Then, you inhale the sweet aroma of freshly baked breads, cakes, pies and other delectable delights.

"My grandmother is the inspiration for Just Set the Table. She imparted her vision of the shop to me one afternoon and after three years of planning, recipe testing and faith, it is a reality," said Cheryl D. Warner. The doors of Just Set the Table opened in January 1996.

The selection of desserts include Snowball cookies; Pineapple Banana

Spice Cake; Strawberry, Blackberry or Pina Colada Pound Cake; Peach Cobbler; and Apple Raisin Bread Puddings with rum sauce. Pineapple Banana Spice Cake and Apple Raisin Bread Pudding are requested the most, according to Warner. All of the pastries are made with all natural ingredients with no preservatives or additives.

Ms. Warner's future goals include creating a schol-

arship funded

by 10 percent of the profits to give to a student and to open up more shops throughout Dallas County.

The hours of operation are Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. A notice of at least 24-hour is requested for a pastry order. It's a treat for a sweet tooth.

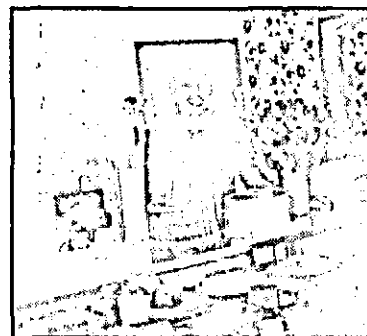
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Name:	Cheryl D. Warner
Birthplace:	Fort Worth
Favorite Food:	Smothered Steak w/rice
Last Book Read:	Ditchdigger's Daughter
Advice to would-be entrepreneurs:	Persist no matter what the obstacles or setback to attain your goal.

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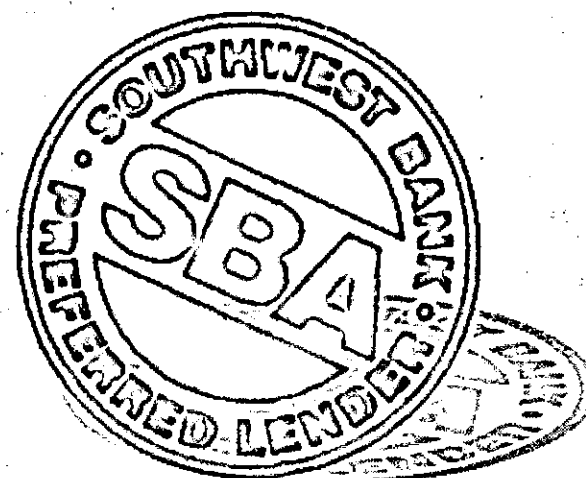
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In The News

Dallas Urban League and Alpha Kappa Alpha Honor Grandparents

The Dallas Urban League and the Alpha Xi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa

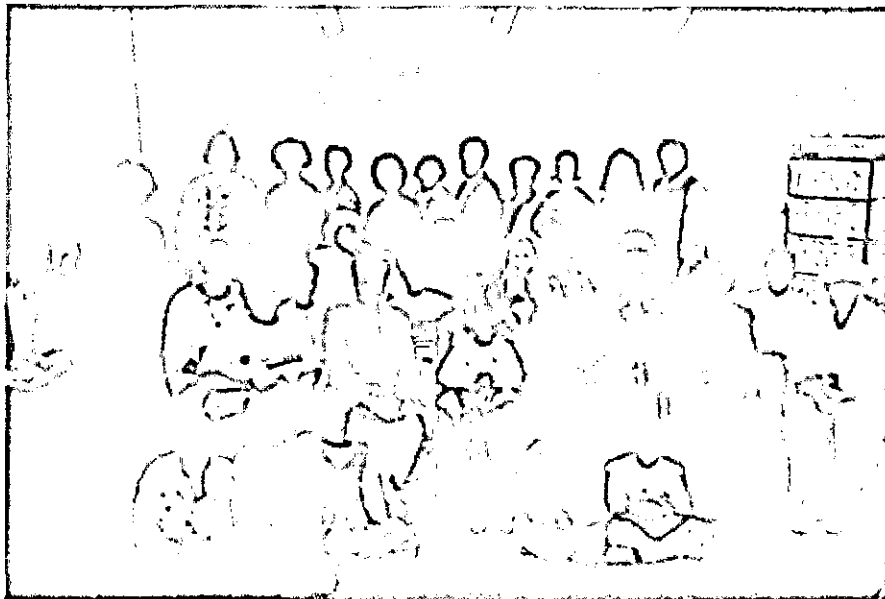
Alpha Sorority recently collaborated at a celebration of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program designed to increase community awareness and address concerns about grandparenting.

The event, held at the Dallas Central YWCA, was coordinated by Christine Thomas, Human Resource Committee Board member for the sorority and Treva

McDaniel, project director for the Seniors in Community Service Program of the Urban League.

Honored as grandparents were Reverend and Mrs. Hubert Stephens and Mrs. Naomi Sampson who also shared personal experiences of raising their grandchildren. Special presentations were given to the families and grandchildren of the honorees. Recognition was also given to the Encounters, a youth group of the sorority that performed for the grandparents and other guests.

The Family Circle Project of the Dallas Urban League sponsors the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program. For more information about the program call the Dallas Urban League at (214) 528-8038.



Alpha Xi Omega Chapter President, Mrs. Mae Frances Saulter (seated front row, 2nd from left); Mrs. Christine Thomas, Alpha Xi Omega Chapter Human Resource Committee Board; Mrs. Treva McDaniels, Project Director for Seniors - Dallas Urban League and Alpha Xi Omega members congratulate grandparents and their grandchildren.

the company's executive offices in New York and was appointed a Sales Representative in 1970 in New York City. Stanfield was subsequently promoted to positions of increasing responsibility on both the East Coast and in Houston.

Stanfield will relocate to Texaco's corporate offices in Harrison, N.Y. For further information call Texaco's office of U.S. Public and Government Affairs at (713) 752-4816, Jim Swords at (914) 253-4156 or Maripat Sexton at (914) 253-7871.

"Who's Who" Selects UTA Professor

Dr. Chinita Ann Heard, assistant professor of criminology and criminal justice at the University of Texas at Arlington, was selected for inclusion in the fourth edition of "Who's Who among America's Teachers, 1996."

Heard was one of 120,000 teachers nationwide and one of 20 from UTA who

Willie M. Stanfield to Head Diversity Efforts in the Office of the Chairman of Texaco, Inc.

Willie M. Stanfield has been named to the position of Assistant to the Chairman of Texaco, Inc. responsible for corporate-wide minority business plans and interaction with key national and civil rights and business leaders. Stanfield's appointment to this position, which reports directly to the Chairman, is effective immediately.

Stanfield, 49, most recently held the position of Director of U.S. Public and Government Affairs, Eastern U.S. In this position, he was responsible for all Public



Dr. Chinita Ann Heard, UTA

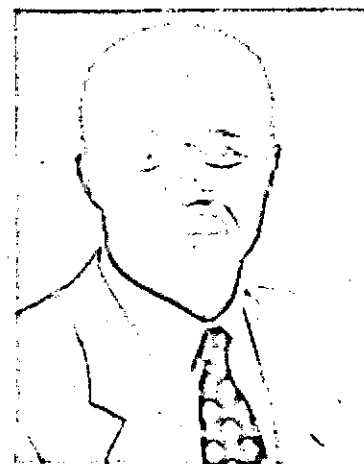
were chosen for the distinction. Criteria includes recognition of teaching excellence by the designee's former students.

Heard specializes in institutional and community corrections. In 1993, Heard and Associate Professor Robert Bing published the United States' only directory of doctoral-level African American experts in criminal justice and criminology.

Allstate Opens New Oak Cliff Area Service Center

Texas State Senator Royce West and other dignitaries joined with Allstate Insurance Company as the company officially opened its new Sales and Claims Center, 920 Wynnwood Village, in Dallas' Oak Cliff neighborhood.

The company also provided details on the upcoming Los Encinos housing project, co-sponsored by Allstate, which will deliver 158 units of badly-needed,



Willie M. Stanfield, Assistant to the Chairman of Texaco, Inc.

and Government Affairs and constituency relations activities in the Mid-Continent, Southeast and Northeast Regions.

He graduated in 1981 from Northeastern University in Boston with a bachelor of science degree in transportation and distribution management. Stanfield began his career with Texaco in 1965 at



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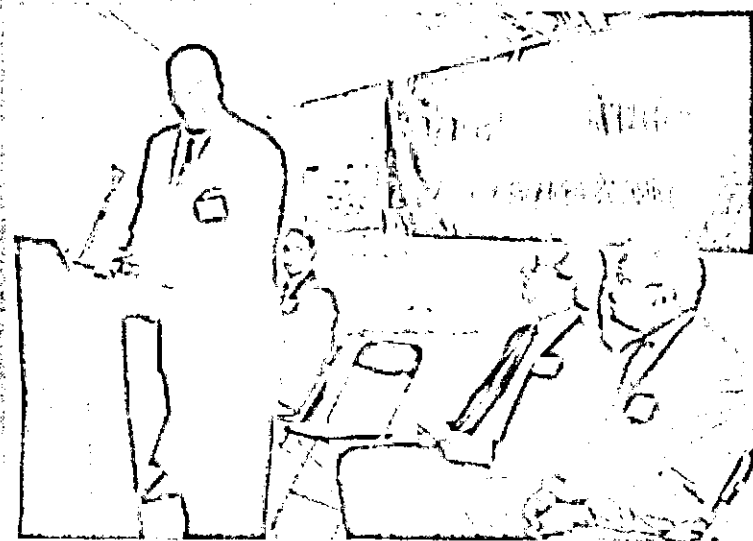
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More In The News . . .



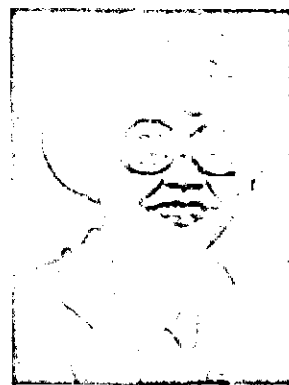
State Senator Royce West addresses officials at the grand opening of Allstate Insurance Company's new Sales and Claims Center. Seated, left to right, Don Herring, Chairman, Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce; Gary Briggs, Allstate Texas Regional Vice-President, Dallas; and Ron McNeil, Allstate Senior Vice President, Northbrook, IL.

moderately priced single-family homes to the Oak Cliff neighborhood.

The new Sales and Claims Center will serve Oak Cliff and south Dallas and will employ 10 people. For more information call Kim Whitaker at (972) 869-6656.

Ina B. Daniels McGee Crowned "Miss Homecoming Queen Class of '56" at Prairie View A&M Celebration

Prairie View A&M, class of 1956 celebrated their 40th anniversary recently with the crowning of Ina B. Daniels McGee as "Miss Homecoming Queen Class of '56". Mrs. McGee, a Dallas Independent School District counselor, and her escort, Mr. Sidney E. Freeman, raised over \$9,000 for



Ina B. Daniels McGee

the Prairie View A&M Teacher Education Scholarship Fund which supports college students who desire to become teachers. This is the second time Mrs. McGee has won the title.

Training site opens for unemployed

United Methodists consecrated a recy-

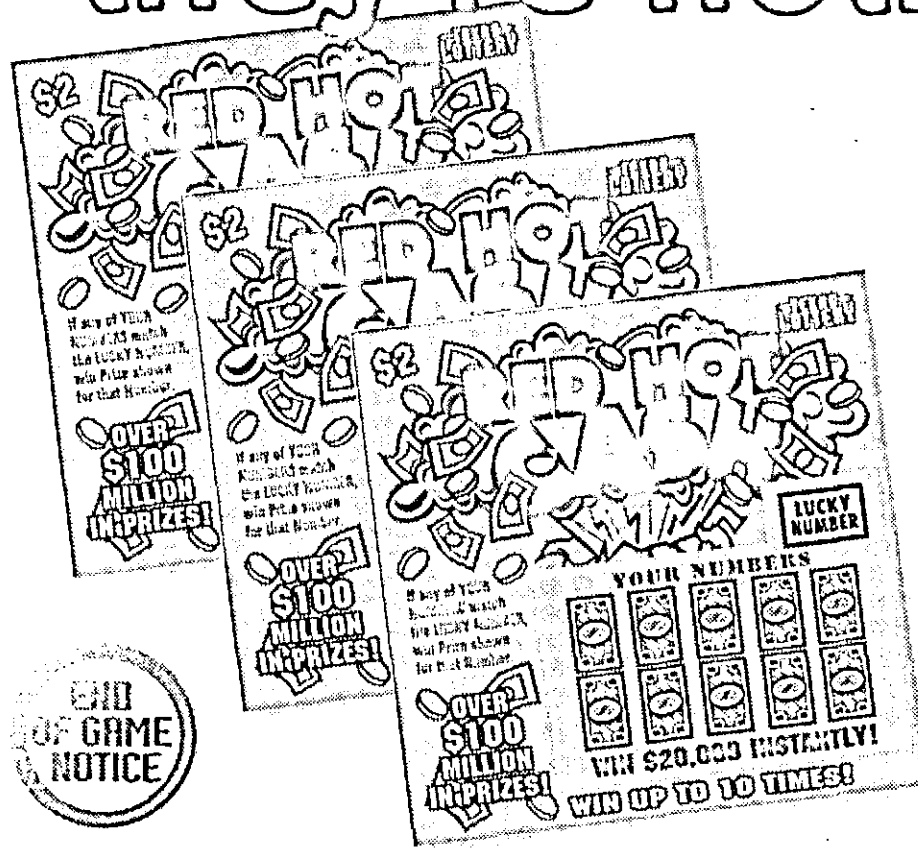
clad warehouse at 901 Singleton, Dallas on November 9, 1996 as a building skills training center. The

hands-on site trains persons to do roofing, plumbing, painting, house framing, and door and window repair.

Each training station inside the warehouse provides individuals with actual working models to do the work of plumbing, roofing, framing or painting

under the supervision of a qualified trainer. In addition to training the unemployed, United Methodist volunteers are trained for weekend, vacation and youth work projects across the region. Call Larry Cox at (972) 490-3438 for more information.

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William Madison McDonald: Statesman, Businessman, All-Around Man

By Angela M. Blair, Ph.D.

His tall, commanding presence, his keen gaze, his anticipation, gazes on the faces that made his state his state. As a skilled and of requested orator, it was a familiar circumstance for him to find himself, the state of his mind and began his eloquent presentation.

After a brief preamble, he addressed the audience:

"It is not the hospitality of our citizenship that for the moment I wish to draw attention to and dwell upon, but the more serious phases of our life's problem. The serious thinker will perhaps agree with me that this is not a time of speculation but of action."

"Knowledge is spreading from nation to nation, from race to race, and from man to man, bringing all within the sphere of its operation. Its immediate tendency is to reduce the artificial distinction which time and power have created and to establish a common standard of virtue, Christian ethics and intelligence. By this standard, black and white, prince and people must be judged. We know that you can not be idle spectators of these efforts or unmindful of their effects."

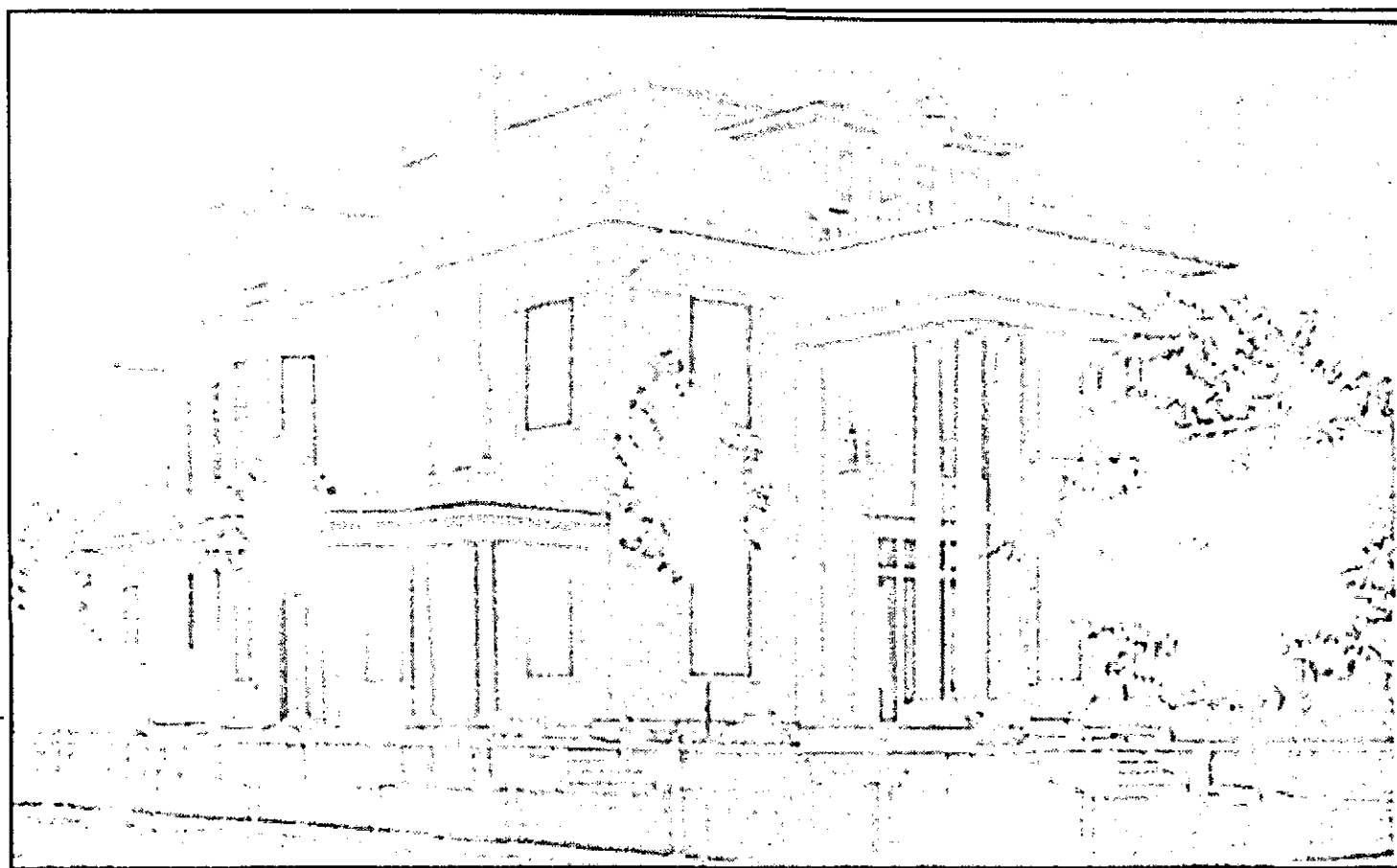
"We, as American black men, are connected with American white men and with other nations by ties of intercourse not easily severed; and we American black men are, ourselves, deeply interested in the operation of those causes which can ameliorate the condition of mankind either in their religious, social, political, or moral relations; which can add stability to American institutions, prosperity to our country and contentment to all American citizens."

"We need no long or learned lecture about the nature of government and the influence of property or ranks of society. We should content ourselves with studying the true character of the American black man and with knowing that their interests are confined to a race leadership capable of doing and suffering all things for their God-given rights and liberties. Such a race, if its leaders be faithful, must be invincible. It has always been a favorite idea with me that no united race that resolves to be free can be conquered...."

This was just the beginning of a brilliant, insightful speech made to more than five-thousand black men and women who attended the Baptist National Convention in Fort Worth in the year 1893. The white mayor of the city, E.R. Cockrell, gave the introduction and welcome before Mr. McDonald came to the dais.

Remember that this is the year 1893. Black people had been free from slavery for fewer than thirty years. Do you think the audience members, after listening to the white mayor's speech, sat waiting eagerly for the black man's speech to make comparisons? Probably a few did. But this McDonald they waited to hear was a renowned and frequently requested speech-maker. His audience was moved to truly heart-felt emotion as they listened with rapt attention.

What he told them was not said to tickle their ears with his skill of wordplay, but to uplift, educate, and inspire the listeners to action. Before seeing what kinds of information he tendered to listeners on this and other occasions, let's learn more



Home of Mr. and Mrs. McDonald
Fort Worth, Texas

about the man himself.

William Madison McDonald was a native son of Texas. No Texas history textbook should exclude his name (though some have). McDonald was born in Kaufman County at College Mound, about sixteen miles east of the city of Kaufman on June 22, 1866. He was born a free person. His mother, Flora Scott, was born into slavery in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Her father had been a free Choctaw Indian. McDonald's father, George McDonald, was also born into slavery, but in Cumberland County, Tenn. and was later sold to the Martin family—the same family that owned Flora. After meeting and falling in love with her, George and Flora were united in a slave marriage.

From Alabama, the pair moved to Louisiana, then to College Mound, Texas. This couple had five children, four girls and a boy: Ruth, Amelia, Emma, Earline, and William Madison, who was named by the former owners of his mother for William Shakespeare, the famous English playwright, and James Madison, 4th President of the United States.

His mother was a devout woman and a good mother. His father, a farmer, was a hard worker who loved his family. Both parents believed in training their children and raising them in a Christian home. They were not immune to tragedy, however. Two of the girls died in childhood, and when William was five years old, his mother died, having only been free for seven years. George remarried and took the remaining three children to Kaufman.

At the age of seven, William, called "Little Buddy" by his sisters went to

school for the first time. The "colored school" had a white teacher, as was common for that time, and the school term lasted only three months. When not in school, William worked on a cattle ranch, where he earned the nickname "Bigity Mat" because of the skill he displayed handling cattle while riding a horse. Such skill earned him twenty-five dollars a month as a teenager while in the employ of Capt. Z.T. Adams, who encouraged young William to make something of himself.

While attending Kaufmann High School, McDonald studied law under the tutelage of Capt. Adams. He graduated from Kaufman High School in 1884 as the class valedictorian. His valedictory address showed the beginnings of what developed into a distinguished career as a renowned orator. Not only that, but the County Superintendent of schools was present at the graduation, and offered McDonald, who had neither college diploma nor teaching certificate, the principalship of one of the largest schools in Kaufman County.

At the tender age of eighteen, William Madison McDonald became the principal of the Flat Rock public school. He took the test for teacher certification and was sometimes even asked to grade other certification test papers. After a year as principal, McDonald resigned and moved to Fort Worth to work as a shipping clerk, earning a good salary. Being a true bibliophile, he read as many books as he could and, being a lover of the theater, attended many Shakespearean plays as well.

In 1889, McDonald accepted the principalship of the graded school in For-

ney, Texas. He was only twenty-three, but was experienced and well-traveled. Consequently, he brought not only book-knowledge to the young black children, but a wealth of life experiences as well. This positive and kind young teacher and leader inspired his pupils and expected excellence from them. He taught in Forney for six years before being bitten by the "political bug."

Always active in his community, and having studied law, McDonald decided to enter the political arena. Though offered many positions in education due to his spreading reputation in Texas and other states, he still leaned toward politics.

Yet, because education was important to him in a personal sense, he kept reading and learning. He studied people, forms of government, races, styles of architecture, and oratory style. His diligence paid off. In 1905, he submitted a paper (one of many) entitled "Thesis on Moral Philosophy" to the president and faculty of Paul Quinn College, then located in Waco, Texas. The recipients of this paper were beyond pleased and conferred upon him the degree of "Doctor of Philosophy" at their commencement exercises in June of 1905. McDonald, however, chose to not ever place the letters "Ph.D." after his name, preferring that people judge him on his works in helping people.

McDonald was a staunch believer in secret fraternities and joined several during his lifetime. In 1882, he joined the Seven Stars of Consolidation, and later, McDonald joined the Free and Accepted

See GENTLEMAN next page

GENTLEMAN from page 19

Masons of Texas. He became a member of the Pilgrim Lodge (Denison, Texas) in 1886 and for 26 years held the position of "Right Worshipful Grand Secretary." He exhibited skill in handling finances and a Masonic Temple was built under his leadership in Fort Worth at the corner of Ninth and Jones streets in what was called Panther City.

McDonald was loyal to the Masons and his other fraternal orders and did not feel that they clashed with his religious beliefs. He was also a member of the Odd

"I was a young boy and lived across the street from Bill McDonald. It was quite an impressive sight for a young black child to see this black banker pulling out of his driveway in his chauffeur-driven Cadillac."

-Dr. Marion Brooks, Ft. Worth resident

Fellows and the Knights of Pythias, having joined them in 1886. He was quite involved and a leader in each group, but it was his work with the Masons that is most notable.

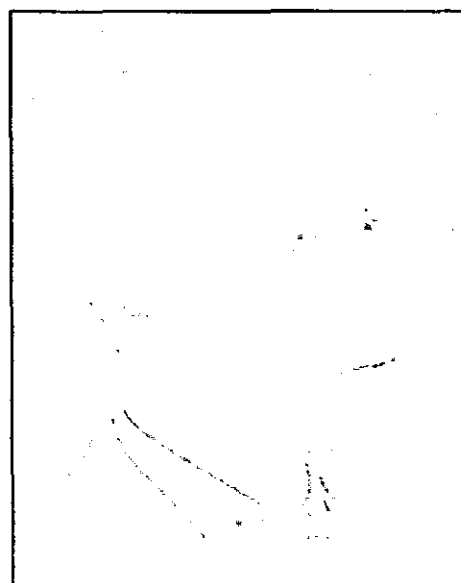
William Madison McDonald was an energetic man of vision. Though busy with learning and lodge activities, he brought together black leaders, forming the "Texas Colored State Fair Association" in 1887. McDonald saw the fair as a way to promote black economic enterprises. Prominent men of the day like B.P. Johnson, J.D. Johnson, Rev. T.W. Wilburn, S.W. Woodard, John W. Milledge and Z.C. Brooks were the organizers of the

association and began with \$25,000 in capital. McDonald was made general superintendent and president by the stockholders.

The Fair was an exciting proposition but the planning of it raised many concerns, location being chief among them. Eventually, Fort Worth, considered to be a great railroad town, was selected as the site for the first annual "colored" fair. Women would compete in sewing and cooking; farmers would vie for livestock and produce honors; children would provide works of art. The fair would be a showcase of African American culture and talent.

On a rainy day in October of 1887, a fair for black people began, complete with parade. This first Colored State Fair was not a financial success, but it attracted the attention of the entire state of Texas and "advertised the Negro as never before."

The officers of the association knew they needed a permanent location for the fair. Cities jumped at the chance to furnish a home. Waco, Marshall, Houston, and Dallas were among the cities bidding for the opportunity. Dallas offered to give 20 percent of the gate receipts, furnish the grounds, and do all the advertising. Houston would give \$3,000 toward the purchase price of a location near the city. Waco offered forty acres of land within three miles of their city limits. It was Marshall's bid that won, however. McDonald met with the city leaders of Marshall at their invitation. He was lauded for his business acumen and financial savvy. Marshall's leaders offered a biannual fair, fifty acres of land at no cost, \$3,500 worth of lumber for buildings, and a portion of the gate receipts. The colored fair stockholders voted for Marshall to be selected as the permanent fair site. The first Marshall fair was a success, but when McDonald resigned in 1889 due to lodge obligations, the Colored State Fair Association lost a brilliant leader.



William Madison McDonald

McDonald, for all of his activities and commitments, was a dedicated family man. He was twice married, first to Alice Gibson, then to Helen Ezell. His second marriage produced a son, William Madison McDonald, Jr. born in 1898. William Jr. was doted on by loving parents and, like his father, was a good student. He enrolled at Howard University after high school and was an active and popular student, again in the tradition of his father. But his life was cut short by sickness and, at the age of twenty, the young McDonald died. His father went to get his son's body, letting his wife believe that their son was only ill, and not dead. He did not want her to grieve for the six-day journey that he was away. While in Washington, many people, black and white, paid their condolences to the senior McDonald. Thereafter, at each anniversary of his son's death, McDonald would compose a poem in his memory. Here is a stanza from one written seven years after his son's death.

*"Just Seven years ago, dear William,
Since you passed away to rest;*

*Though you're gone, you are not forgotten
By the ones you loved the best."*

The poems express the poignancy of the sadness of a father for his son, yet also express the hope that they will be united in Heaven with him one day.

*"We can not tell which of us next may fall
Beneath the scythe of time,
You were first; our hearts have since been
sad,
But we shall soon come and be with you
In your home of eternal bliss."*

The McDonalds built a home in Fort Worth at 1201 Terrell Avenue. Even by today's standards, the home was large, an imposing two-story structure with 12-foot ceilings and multiple porches. According to Dr. Marion Brooks, 76, a longtime Fort Worth resident who had the privilege of meeting McDonald, Terrell Ave. was for many years the home of the elite blacks in Fort. Worth: "We were fortunate to live there in a neighborhood that was home to black doctors, dentists, school teachers and Bill McDonald."

McDonald hired an architect to design the house after purchasing the lot. The author of his biography, W.O. Bundy, describes the library in the house:

"Upon the book shelves are encyclopedias, histories, the works of English and American poets, the standard literature of all nations, the works of the leading dramatists from Greece to the present, the works of the scientists, the mathematicians, the classics of all nations, books on theology, the lives of great men, law books, books on pedagogy, on medicine, on business, on public speaking; in fact his library contains the most complete collection of books I have ever seen in a private home, white or colored."

Bundy, a contemporary of McDonald, penned his biography in 1925. Him-



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self a learned man, Bundy valued the book collection at an estimated \$8,000. Quite a staggering library for a black man of that era!

McDonald, because of his extensive reading, was a man of ideas. Not only a man of ideas, but also of action. His prowess in the political and business sector was second to none. So much so that Hedda Green, a wealthy white woman from New York, assigned McDonald to lead her son, E.H.R. Green, in the family's railroad business.

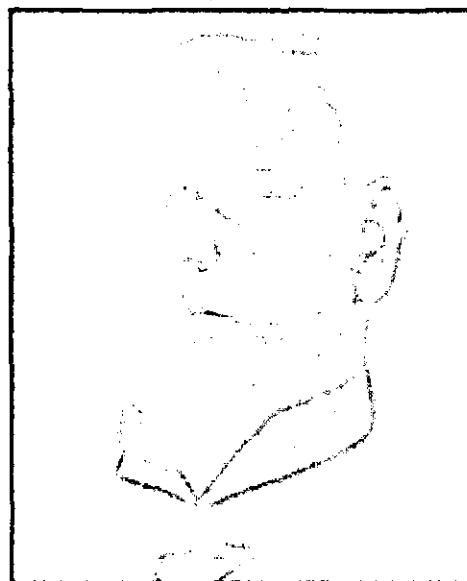
McDonald was also an active member of the Republican Party and for many years, along with E.H.R. Green, controlled it. He unceasingly voted the Republican ticket, with the exception for the gubernatorial election of 1896. For thirty-two years, from 1892 to 1924, he was a delegate to the Republican National Convention.

McDonald was a patriotic man, loving his country and the Grand Old Party. He realized, however, that the party was not without fault, and not without racial strife. This strife led to the Republican Party splintering into two segments: the white faction, called the "lily whites" and the black faction, called the "black and tans." McDonald firmly lambasted those who caused this discord and tried to harmonize both groups. He stated, "The principles of the Republican Party appeal to me and I am a Republican in a convention composed of white men, red men, or black men. There can never be a white man's party or a black man's party under the true principles of the Republican banner."

McDonald was called "Gooseneck Bill McDonald" by the media. It was a nickname he received at the St. Louis Convention in 1896 and carried with him for thirty years. A white correspondent penned the name in disdain, but garnered much attention throughout McDonald's illustrious career. The correspondent wrote: "There is a colored man here from Kaufman by the name of McDonald. He has an Irish name, but is kind of a goosenecked Negro, evidently as smart as a whip...."

The Honorable William M. McDonald was the chief justice of what was called the Sanhedrin Court. The Sanhedrin Court was composed of people calling themselves "truth seekers." Its members included clergymen, doctors, lawyers and other professionals and lay men. Weekly, they would have debates on a variety of issues from the insignificant to the sublime. From rules of grammar and use of the "king's English" to whether the chicken came first, to local and national issues. Critiques of public speeches and sermons were also held in that court. The court was quite influential and Bill McDonald had a key role in that influence.

If this were not enough, he was also a banker and businessman. At a time when there were not too many stable black businesses, save for barbershops, the Frater-



E.H.R. Green was the son of Hedda Green, a wealthy white woman from New York. For many years, he and McDonald controlled the Republican Party of Texas.

nal Bank and Trust Company was organized in Fort Worth, McDonald being the chief organizer, president and largest stockholder. (The bank was housed in the Masonic Temple.) Depositors from all over the state had confidence in this institution, a bank operated by blacks that also had white depositors. The bank opened in 1912 and saw continual operation, even during the early 1920s.

Again, Dr. Marion Brooks recalls:

"The bank was located one block east of the Greyhound bus station in downtown Fort. Worth. The two square blocks surrounding the bank was the heart of the black business community, with movie theaters, hotels and other black business.

"I was a young boy and lived across the street from Bill McDonald. It was quite an impressive sight for a young black child to see this black banker pulling out of his driveway in his chauffeur-driven Cadillac."

McDonald also owned the Temple Drug Store, housed in the same building. It was the largest black-owned drug store in the country.

In that time, just as now, some blacks were wary of doing business with another black; they did not regard their own as credible businesspeople. In addressing that issue, William McDonald exhorted: "There is not a scarcity of money among Negroes, but there is a scarcity of Negro business. And this scarcity of Negro business springs from lack of confidence in the Negro business men...Avenues of employment for Negro men, Negro women, Negro boys and girls must be opened up by Negro enterprises."

He logically explained that even when there are "bad" preachers or lodge leaders, confidence remained with those black institutions. The same, he said, needed to be true for black businesses. Still applicable today, isn't it?

MON

For further reading, see William Madison McDonald by W.O. Bundy (out of print) available at your library.



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Around Town

December 1

The Music Department of St. John Missionary Baptist Church, 2600 S. Marsalis Ave., Dallas, invites you to attend "Christmas in the Community - A Musical Celebration," at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of the church. For more information call (214) 375-4876.

The third unveiling of the AIDS Resource Center's Memorial Bricks commemorating World AIDS Day will be held at the Community Center, 2701 Regan St., Dallas from 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. For more information call Jim Brown at (214) 521-5124.

The Dallas Children's Theater is sponsoring the "Who Has Made a Difference in Your World" Essay Contest open to youth in grades 5-8. Essay contest guidelines and entry forms are available at the Crescent Theater, 2215 Cedar Springs, Dallas. Contest deadline is December 6. For more information call (214) 978-0110.

December 2

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. is accepting grant applications for the Community Outdoor Outreach Program. The grants are designed to provide ways for minorities, inner-city youth, single parents and other groups to enjoy the outdoors. Application deadline is Dec. 15, 1996. For more information contact Darlene Lewis, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744, (512) 912-7145.

The Wilkinson Center, an emergency relief center sponsored by the East Dallas Cooperative Parish located at 1314 Munger, Dallas needs donated goods to meet client needs during the winter. Donations of coats, blankets, toys, baby diapers, food and more are needed. Call

Brian Burton at (214) 821-6380 for more information.

December 3

The Dallas/Ft. Worth Association of Black Communicators will hold its monthly meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the Dallas Morning News. For more information call (214) 376-9525.

The Fourth Texas Minority Health Conference will be held December 3-5 at the Radisson Hotel on Town Lake, 111 Cesar Chavez St., Austin, Texas. Learn how minority communities can deal with welfare reform and Medicaid managed care and its impact on children's health and safety. For more information call (512) 458-7629.

The Ft. Worth Dallas Ballet presents "The Nutcracker," a magical holiday tale for children of all ages, December 3-15 and December 19-22 at the JFK Theatre, Tarrant County Convention Center. For more information call (817) 377-9988.

December 4

Holiday Lights at Fair Park in Dallas will be on display nightly from 5:30 p.m.-11:00 p.m. through January 4, 1997. Admission for the spectacular driving tour is \$8.00 per vehicle. A discounted price of \$3.00 is available some evenings. Call (214) 741-4848 for more information.

The Wilkinson Center, an emergency relief center sponsored by the East Dallas Cooperative Parish, 1314 Munger, Dallas is sponsoring an "Adopt a Child for Christmas" program. Gifts most in demand are Barbie dolls, small toy trucks and cars and blue jeans for children ages 3-11. Gifts are needed by Dec. 13. Call Debbie Thorpe at (214) 553-5940 for more

information or to adopt a child.

December 5

The Ideal Neighborhood Association is holding its Annual Fundraiser Fashion Show, 6:00 p.m. at the South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 Fitzhugh. The donation is \$5.00. For more information call Evelyn Austin at (214) 426-2627.

McDonald's of Greater North Texas is looking for college bound seniors for the 1997 McDonald's Black History Makers of Tomorrow Scholarship Essay Contest presented with the Dallas Urban League. The contest deadline is January 10, 1997. To get an application call Renaldo Williams at the Dallas Urban League, (214) 528-8038 or contact your high school counselor.

The Garland Civic Center presents "Smoke on the Mountain," an irresistible, down-home musical sure to provide an "up-liftin' evening of singin' and witnessin'." Performances are December 5-7 at 8:00 p.m. with matinees December 7-8 at 2:00 p.m. To purchase tickets or for more information, call (972) 205-2790.

AARP will conduct an eight hour classroom study course for 55 ALIVE - DEFENSIVE DRIVING on December 5-6, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at C.C. Young, 4829 W. Lawther Drive, Dallas. The cost is \$8.00 and reservations are required. For more information or to register call Pat Johnson from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at (214) 827-8080.

December 6

The Dallas Children's Theater (DCT) presents "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," December 6-22 at El Centro College Theater, Main and Market streets in down-

town Dallas. Tickets are \$9 for children and \$11 for adults. For reservations and performance times call the DCT Box Office at (214) 978-0010.

Casa Manana presents the "Miracle on 34th Street," December 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 and 21 on its Cultural District stage, 3101 W. Lancaster, Ft. Worth, Texas. Performances are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and 2:00 p.m. Saturdays. For tickets or more information call (817) 332-CASA.

Deep Ellum Opera Theatre presents "Amahl and the Night Visitors," December 6-29 at Theatre on Elm Street, 3202 Elm Street, Dallas. Performance times are 8:00 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. Sundays. For tickets call ARTTIX at (214) 871-ARTS.

December 7

The First Dallas County Summit on African American Youth will be held today from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. on the campus of Paul Quinn College. For more information or to register call (214) 302-3619.

V100 and Heaven 97 present "For Sisters Only" December 7 from 12:00 noon-8:00 p.m. and December 8 from 1:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at the Dallas Market Hall, 2100 N. Stemmons, Dallas. For more information, call Teresa Turner at (214) 583-2554.

The Dallas/Ft. Worth Association of Black Communicators presents the 1996 Griot Awards at the St. John Family Life Center. For tickets or more information call (817) 436-4126.

The African American Museum proudly welcomes the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra to Dallas December 7-8 at the Caruth Auditorium of Southern

Around Town cont'd

Methodist University. For tickets and more information call Kandace Barnett at (214) 565-9026, Ext 304.

December 8

For larger than life thrills this holiday season, The Science Place IMAX Theater at Fair Park in Dallas presents a "Holiday Film Festival" through January 6, 1997. For prices and show times, call The Science Place at (214) 428-5555.

The Science Place at Fair Park in Dallas, will feature a special holiday presentation of the "Story of the Star" which explains the famous "Star of Bethlehem." The presentation, which runs through January 5, 1997, is appropriate for all ages and religious faiths and explores other holiday legends. For more information call The Science Place at (214) 428-5555.

December 9

North Dallas Area National Organization for Women (NOW) meets 7:00 p.m. the second Monday of each month at the Dallas North Unitarian Church, 2525 Custer Road, Plano, Texas. For more information call (972) 833-6810.

Religious Poetry Sought. A \$1,000 grand prize is being offered in a religious poetry contest sponsored by New Jersey Rainbow Poets. To enter send one poem only, 21 lines or less to: Poetry Contest, 103 N. Wood Ave., Suite 70, Linden NJ 07036. Deadline is December 25.

December 10

If you are a working woman and need information concerning sexual harassment, job discrimination and other workplace issues, call the 9to5 National Association of Working Women Hotline at (214) 828-9925 or 1-800-522-0925.

December 11

The South Dallas Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc. and the South Central Community Development Center's "Neighborhood Nest" presents an Economic Development Workshop, "Reaching New Heights With Our Elderly" from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at 8126 Carbondale, Dallas. For more information call (214) 375-9200.

December 13

The joint will be jumping at the performance of "Struttin': A Christmas and Kwanzaa Concert" in the Naomi Burton Main Theater, JBAAL, 650 S. Griffin St., Dallas at 8:00 p.m. The concert features seven high school choirs. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the JBAAL Box Office, (214) 658-7147 or call (214) 658-7144 for more information.

December 14

The Education Committee of the Alpha Xi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. is sponsoring a Historically Black Colleges and Universities Recruitment Fair from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Martin Luther King Center, 2922 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Dallas. For more information call Jearlene Miller at (972) 790-5182.

The Psi Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. will host a holiday celebration for all active and inactive sorors, 10:00 a.m. at the Psi Omega Fraternity House, 1306 South Riverside Drive, Ft. Worth, Texas. For more information call Maricia Johns at (817) 551-0623.

Want to learn more about Kwanzaa? Come to the Pre-Kwanzaa workshops at the S.H.A.P.E. Community Center, 3815 Live Oak, Houston, Texas. Guest speaker and special presenter will be Dr. Maulana Karenga, creator of Kwanzaa. Registration is required. For more information

call Deloyd Parker or Sheila Lane at (713) 521-0629.

December 15

Dallas Can! Academy is offering pre-apprenticeship training in the construction field specializing in Electrical, Plumbing and Construction. For more information and to sign up for the next orientation, call Tammy Stancil at (214) 943-2244.

December 16

Curtis King, president and founder of the Junior Black Academy of Arts and Letters is seeking 400 singers to participate in the "JBAAL 20th Anniversary Choir" which will perform during a tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr., January 19, 1997. Rehearsals start Jan. 2, 1997. To participate call (214) 658-7144.

December 20

The African American Museum, Fair Park, Dallas presents "A Taste of New Orleans" at Jazz Under the Dome from 8-10 p.m. For more information call the museum at (214) 565-9026.

December 21

The young and young at heart are invited to the cable television filming of the "Rapping with the Fairy Show," hosted by cable television personality, Fairy Street Mama. The show, which lasts from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at Red Bird Mall in Dallas, features many local performers. Call (972) 907-9532 for more information.

The Emerging Woman Ministry of Word of Life Church, 2504 W. Illinois, Dallas, TX announces free seminars to move women toward personal and professional excellence, every third Saturday of the month from 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. For

more information call Louise Tucker at (214) 337-6701.

The University of Texas at Arlington will feature the traditional holiday ballet, "The Nutcracker," for three performances by the North Texas Ballet Theatre. Performances are 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. December 21 and 2:00 p.m. December 22 at UTA's Texas Hall, 701 W. Nedderman Dr. For more information call (817) 294-5731.

December 26

The Forever Forward Group, Queen City Neighborhood Association along with the senior citizens of Park Manor High Rise will host their Sixth Annual Kwanzaa Celebration, 7:00 p.m. at the Park Manor High Rise, 3333 Edgewood, in South Dallas. The celebration is complete with free food and hot apple cider. For more information call Yasmin Thomas at (214) 823-2733 days or evenings at (214) 941-0709.

Join the African American Museum, Fair Park, Dallas in its celebration of Kwanzaa, December 26-31. For more information call the museum at (214) 565-9026.

December 31

The African American Museum, Fair Park, Dallas presents a New Year's Eve Under the Dome Party. For more information call Kandace Barnett at (214) 565-9026.


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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(214) 905-0949 Fax

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*"We went to the store for
sour cream and to check our
numbers. We never did get
the sour cream."*



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matched,
and I just went
to dancing."*

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AND STILL COUNTING



**Angela
Washington-Blair**

The African American Network

By Crawford B. Bunkley
(ISBN 0-7931-2281-3; Plume, 381 pp./\$14.95)

Don't forget to include books on your gift lists when you go shopping this Christmas season. Books are also very important as you celebrate Kwanzaa. There are so many wonderful new books out there this season, both fiction and non-fiction, that it was hard to decide which book to review.

Then I came across a little gem that every home needs: *The African American Network* by Crawford B. Bunkley. Bunkley, the husband of black novelist Anita Richmond Bunkley, has put together a compendium of "more than 5,000 prominent people and organizations in the African American community" nationwide.

This book, like *The African American Address Book* by Tabatha Crayton (reviewed in MON, June 1995), provides a listing of people with connections. Arranged alphabetically, it lists names and addresses of prominent government officials, entertainers, writers, athletes, educators, CEOs of corporations, and clergymen.

The second half of the book provides the names, addresses, and phone numbers for "important organizations, associations, and places of interest to the African American community." This highly useful directory includes the largest black-owned service and industrial companies in the U.S., banks and financial institutions, insurance companies, restaurants and cabarets, and automobile dealerships. Black-owned radio and TV stations, recording companies, bookstores, publishing companies and newspapers are also listed, as are theater and repertory companies. The inclusion of museums, art galleries, charitable organizations and foundations, and tour and travel services add to the usefulness of this book. In addition, civil rights groups, embassies, and political organi-

zations have listings. Colleges and fraternal organizations are also included here as are religious organizations.

Bunkley's book is useful for those seeking to network and make contact with key people in a variety of fields. This book does not include individual black professionals in different fields, so you won't find a listing of black architects, or librarians, or doctors, etc. What you will find, however, are those people who are the decision makers, and those who can provide valuable information if you need a service or are offering one. If you are looking for a job, a scholarship, or want to write a fan letter, this book will certainly help.

What makes this book extra useful among directory-type books are the "fact boxes" of African American firsts—in religion, sports, education, and politics, to name a few. But the book's uniqueness lies in its Internet resources listing. A chapter entitled "African Americans Online" contains Internet and e-mail addresses of selected organizations, services, and individuals.

It also lists a book entitled *The African American Resource Guide*

to the Internet for all of you techies out there. And before you commence a letter-writing campaign, helpful hints on writing letters that get read are included.

This book is fresh off the press and up-to-date. Begin your new year making those important business, educational, social, or religious contacts. Why waste time sending letters to the wrong people or to the wrong addresses? Add this useful book to your other black directories and phone books. It will quickly become dog-eared as you refer to it again and again.

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Saturday, December 7 3-5 pm

VISIT OUR BOOTH #127 at FOR SISTERS ONLY at Market Hall and meet
Photographer **RUNDU STAGGERS** as she autographs **BODY & SOUL: Black Erotica** (Crown Publishers, Inc. \$35.00). Ms. Staggers first assembled and produced an all-black male calendar, "Men...Rundu Style," in 1991 as her thesis project at the University of Texas at Dallas. She continues to photo and publish a new heated version at her all male calendar each year.

Saturday, December 14 3-6 pm

Triple Header
DARRYL KENEBREW autographs **AWARENESS: Self-Expression of Life** an inspirational (Keneweb Business Services \$9.95).

HANNAH MASON PERRY autographs **STRUNG WITH CARE**, an inspirational Christian work (Resource Living \$15.95).

ANNIE ROBERSON autographs **"WHEN YOUR MATE IS ABSENT: HANDLING YOUR EMOTIONS."** This essay is included in *Women to Women: Perspectives of Fifteen African-American Christian Women* (Zondervan \$12.99).

Saturday, December 21 6-8 pm

HATTIE HILL autographs **WOMEN WHO CARRY THEIR MEN** (Odenwall Press \$18.00). Ms. Hill is a consultant and CEO of International Productivity Institute, Inc. of Dallas.

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Pen Notes' year-end review

1996 provided a whirlwind of activity in the black media

By Cheryl Smith

This year has been something else! There have been so many changes in the media and 1997 looks like it's going to be very interesting! Let's look at some of the many happenings in 1996, keeping in mind that there have been numerous battles this year to ensure a more balanced media. Let's see what happened locally in 1996:

There were some babies born: KVIL's Rene Syler and KDFW/KDFI-TV's Buff Parham became the proud parents of a baby girl, Casey, born on Labor Day. How appropriate!!! Tonya English, of the *Dallas Weekly*, gave birth to another baby girl. KDFW's Kevin Bell and his wife Delores have been expecting for quite a while this year, but that baby is not expected until 1997. Toska Medlock-Lee and Dawn Dorman gave birth late in 1995 but we might have missed sharing the information.

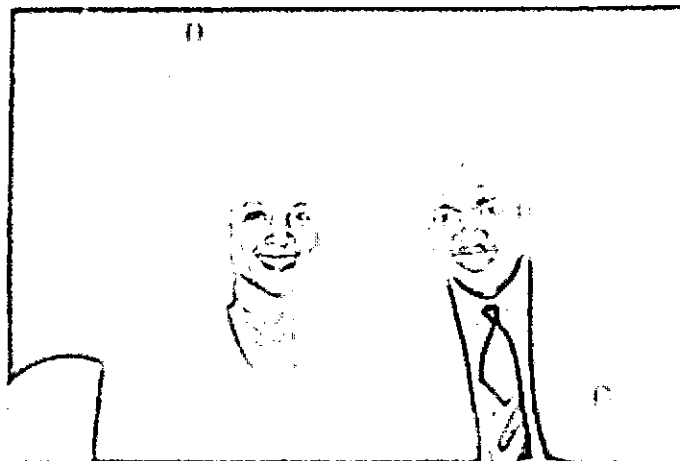
We extended our condolences in 1996 to both Clarice Tinsley and Karla Winfrey on the death of their fathers. NABJ Region VII Director Vince Johnson lost his father and father-in-law in 1996.

Let's get it on!!! Former KKDA staffer Jailyn Thornton heard wedding belles this year. And so did Karen Harris of Mary Kay Cosmetics. Robin Fisher and John Yearwood, both of *The Dallas Morning News* tied the knot on April 6 and DMN's Linda Stewart is still enjoying her honeymoon! And KRNB's Rudy V. brought his bride to the Metroplex with him!

Isn't it nice to be honored for your works? The Women of Insights garnered numerous awards and were also nominated for an Emmy. They took home first place from the National Association of Black Journalists, American Cancer Society and the Board of Sponsors of the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month...Tom Joyner was named Billboard's Radio Personality of the year...KKDA's Tricia Hodge was a finalist for a KATIE... Commissioner John Wiley Price's talk show, *Talk Back*, was honored by the National Black Programmers Coalition at their national convention...Dorothy Gentry and Robin Yearwood received the president's award from DFW/ABC President John Yearwood for their outstanding work during the year...Bob Ray Sanders received the Lifetime Achievement Award from DFW/ABC and he was also honored for his work, by the Tarrant County Black Bar Association.

There were some folk who felt that the Metroplex was the place to be. With

the signing on of KRNB, 107.5, several new folk came to town. Valerie Moore, formerly of the K104 morning team, was joined by Steve Woods, Mark McCrae (formerly of KRLD), JoJo Davis, Rudy V., Angele Newton, Wendi Schofield and Eva Gray...Carmen Jones joined Red Bird Mall as the new marketing director...Carol Lewis came to the *Fort Worth Star Telegram* from the *Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel*. She is the first African American on the *Star Telegram*'s city desk side, to carry the designation of "senior reporter." Broadway Joe joined K104...Joy Tillman came to *The Arlington Morning News* by way of Fort Wayne, Ind. and Donald Lee left the *Kansas City Star* to join *The Arlington Morning News*... Steve Pickett and Deborah Jones both



Newly elected president of the Dallas/Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators Cheryl Smith and outgoing president John Yearwood.

joined KTVT-TV (Channel 11.)

Then there were those who said the Metroplex was not the place to be. Russ Parr sort of left, and returns when necessary. He's working in Washington, DC., at Radio One and Scott West, formerly of a number of stations in the market, got the nod to take Russ' afternoon drive time slot...Karen Denard moved to Seattle...KXAS' Kent Harrell accepted a news director's job in Amarillo...Glen Cosby left ABC, but I heard he's doing his own thing...KTVT's Latrece Washington left. No word on what she's doing.

Some folks' bosses finally realized how great they were. Lawrence Young was named Managing Editor of *The Arlington Morning News* and Neil Foote received a promotion at *The Dallas Morning News*. He's the head Internet whiz now...Calvin Hughes was named weekend co-anchor at KXAS-TV after a mini-anchor war at the station...James Ragland was named Political Editor and Leona Allen was named Night City Editor at *The Dallas Morning News*...Kevin Lyons will become Assistant Sports Edi-

tor at the *Star Telegram*, following the football season...Gordon Jackson was recently promoted to Associate Editor of the *Dallas Weekly*.

Still, there were those who said, "See Ya!" But now they are returning! Writer extraordinaire Ken Parish Perkins, returns to area, but not for his old home, *The Dallas Morning News*. Now he's over at the *Star Telegram*. A big coup for Jim Witt!!! Kerri D'Oyen, formerly of K104, returned to the Metroplex and she now covers the entertainment beat for KDFW-TV.

The grass got greener for some folk on the other side. Valerie Fields moved from the *Fort Worth Star Telegram* to *The Arlington Morning News*. Yvonne St. John, after nearly 20 years at K104, received the good ole, "let the door knob..." and she Y-zercised right over to V100 to heat up the airwaves middays. April Washington said goodbye to the *Denton Record Chronicle* and hello to big City life at *The Arlington Morning News*

and she was joined by former *Dallas Morning News* intern Felicia Stills. Denise McVea tells the *Dallas Observer* goodbye and she's doing her own thing and also writing for the *Dallas*

Examiner...Dorothy Gentry left the University of North Texas PR Department and went to work for KERA; she also writes for the *Minority Opportunity News*. Yvette Blair and Stephanie Scott both left the *Minority Opportunity News* this year.

Yvette is busy at Harbinger Communications and Stephanie says call her for some Mary Kay. It was announced that Felicia Venters was going to work for the *Dallas Post Tribune*, then the announcement came that she would be an assistant editor at the *Dallas Examiner*...Well, Felicia finally ended up working at The Associates...Shari Carroll leaves the Volunteer Center in December to work with young people...

Talk about the switcheroo!!! Gyna Bivens, who left KKDA a while back, moved to KRLD, then went to KDFW-TV, enjoyed a stint at KTVT-TV before KDFW-TV management realized what they let get away. And then before you knew it, Gyna was saying adios to KTVT, and headed back to KDFW-TV...L. Michelle Smith left the assistant producer's position at KDFW-TV to become a senior copywriter for JC Penney...Toska Medlock-Lee left the State to go to the Public Relations department of Dallas Public Schools...She also has another bun in the oven! Again!!! Changes at KDFW-TV resulted in Phyllis Watson moving

from weekday evening anchor to weekend anchor...Clarice Tinsley is now the solo anchor of the station's weeknight 10:00 newscast...Earlier this year, Diane Beall parted from the *Dallas Weekly* after three years and for a short while held down the fort at the *Dallas Examiner*. I think she's in the market now...Peter Arnel, formerly of KKDA and ABC Radio, is now the entertainment expert at KRLD.

Here's a clear case of multiplicity. Do these people do anything else but work? Dewayne Dancer, in addition to KLIF and acting, well he joined ABC Radio. Ken Bell joined him over there with Pam Gibson and Cindi B. Eva Gray wasn't happy just working for Westcott Communications and KRLD. She joined the KRNB family at 105.7 where, after three months, we were finally about to hear her voice!!! And, you know, Chris Arnold is all over the place at K104, The Ticket, WFAA and most recently, the Mavericks. NO, he's not playing!!! Brenda Teele is an early morning person, on both KKDA-AM and KTVT-TV; she is the only African American weather person in the Metroplex. She looks good on those billboards, too!!! V100's Keith Solis was promoted to Assistant Program Director earlier this year; he's on the air from 9-noon and you can also read his column in the *Dallas Weekly* and catch his entertainment update on Sunday Mornings...Sandra Daniels found time away from hubby, Gary, the two babies and V100 to move back into television. You can see her on channel 33. Roger B. Brown is the sports man for KKDA and he's also a columnist and writer for the *Fort Worth Star Telegram*...Willis Johnson is on KKDA in the mornings and you can catch his show, *Impact*, on WFAA-TV. He was writing for the *Dallas Examiner*. But you know how it gets. BUSY!!! Carmen Pagano is in the public school system by day but you can catch her hosting her own radio program on KKDA. She's also been dabbling in television...Ken Bell is heating up the airwaves at KRBV/KHVN/Oasis AND he has started his own entertainment business...Danielle McClelland is at the City of Dallas, KERA Radio and Dillards. Earnestine Cole is writing and also working at KRLD...Roland Martin is on the *Willis Johnson Show* on KKDA and also writes for the *Dallas Examiner*. He teaches a class at UTA and he's done special pieces for the *Minority Opportunity News*.

Other sightings of note: K104's Reggie D. jams the airwaves on Friday mornings at 8:00 with Skip Murphy, Nanette Lee, Chris Arnold, Sam Putney, Wig and Charlie Rock and Roll. Christopher Johnson is an on-air personality over at KTVT, Traci Jackson is the Community Relations Specialist for the City of Dallas, Quinton Browder is the public relations director at the South Dallas Cultural Cen-

ter, former Dallas SCLC chief Peter Johnson began hosting a talk show on KRLD. Cheryl Williams is the Assignments Editor at *Minority Opportunity News*...Randy Evans is a reporter at the *Dallas Weekly*...Sam Putney released "Sam Putney's Greatest Hits" and I hear there is a new CD expected out in 1997...

Throughout the year, as you can see, people were busy, but there was also time to hold the Dallas/Fort Worth Association



The newest and littlest Parham—Baby Casey.

tion of Black Communicators Urban Journalism Workshop, with nearly 40 students from throughout the Metroplex. Professionals from all walks of life shared their experiences with the aspiring journalists. There was the banquet, featuring keynoter speaker Bob Ray Sanders, one of the premier journalist of our time! Nearly \$35,000 in scholarships were awarded to area students. *Minority Opportunity News*, Warren Smith, *The Dallas Morning News*, the *Fort Worth Star Telegram*, AT&T, Miller Brewing, Dallas Southwest Osteopathic Physicians, John and Robin Yearwood, Buff and Rene' Parham, Bank of America, the Toni Y. Joseph Memorial Scholarship Fund and Don't Believe the Hype all gave scholarships between \$1,500 and \$6,000. And AT&T donated a computer, which went to the Toni Y. Joseph Award Recipient, Texas Woman's University student Tamara Hill. Thanks to Steven Hendricks at AT&T for his support...

Then DFW/ABC elected officers and a new reign began. No, it is not a reign of terror! The officers are: President, Cheryl Smith; Vice President/print, Selwyn Crawford; Vice President/broadcast, James "Buff" Parham (who replaces Kent Harrell); Treasurer, James Ragland; Secretary, Gracie Bonds Staples; Parliamentarian, Gordon Jackson; Community Action chair, Dorothy Gentry; Jobs and Internships chair, Yvette Blair; Fundraising chair, Valerie Fields; Media Monitoring chair, Karen Gittens; Public-

ity chair, Nichele Hoskins; and scholarship chair, Norma Adams-Wade. Kim Dunn will be the administrator for the Urban Journalism Workshop...The Dallas/Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators held a public forum: "Looking at Tupac Shakur, the Music and the Message," with Steve Crocker of KDFW, Thor Christensen of *The Dallas Morning News*, counselor Froswa Booker-Drew and entertainment writer Tonya English...DFW/ABC also has forums at its monthly meetings, bringing in a number of people, including FWST's Jim Witt, Paul Harral, Justice of the Peace Thomas Jones, Senator Royce West,

Commissioner John Wiley Price. Also V100's Steve Giles, Cameron Smith, Thomas Bacote, Scott West and Keith Sol, along with K104's Skip Cheatham and KRNB's JoJo Davis, Mark McCrae and Rudy V. December's meeting will feature publishers of Black newspapers.

Now, while I'm sure some have been left out, we'll pick them up in the future. Stay with us.

If you will remember, at the end of 1994, I asked whether Ramona Logan would ever be moved off of weekends. Much to everyone's delight, in 1995, the answer was yes. Now she anchors the weekday noon newscast. Well, at year's

end for 1995, the question was, "Will KTVU continue insulting the intelligence of Metroplex viewers or will they eventually hire a staff that is more reflective of the marketplace?" We're still waiting....

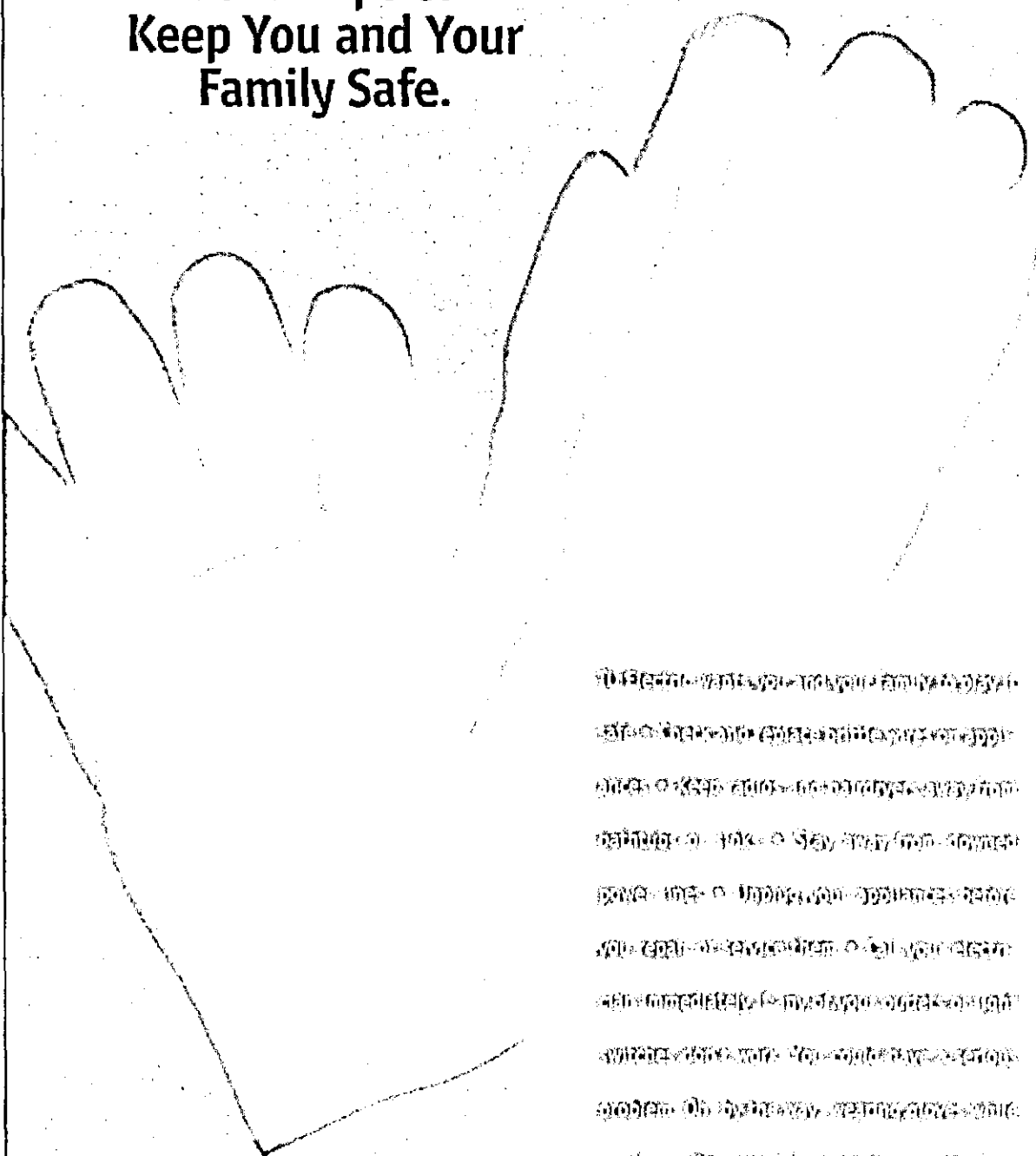
Now as we look ahead to 1997, the question is four-fold: Will KTVU hire an African American anchor? Will *Minority Opportunity News* become a weekly? Will Roger B. Brown become a full-time columnist for the *Star-Telegram*, or will he move on somewhere else where he can reach his fullest potential? Will I ever get a copy of Sam Putney's Greatest Hits???

See you in 1997!!!

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Some Tips to Keep You and Your Family Safe.



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For Sisters Only to hit the Metroplex Dec. 7-8

By Dorothy Gentry
Contributing Writer

After months of promotion, it's finally here. "For Sisters Only," presented by KRBV-FM (V100) and KHVN-FM (Heaven 97) is set for Dec. 7-8 (Saturday and Sunday) at the Dallas Market Hall. This is the third year for the two-day extravaganza, which has something for everyone. Performing at this year's event are Howard Hewitt, Evelyn "Cham-pagne" King, Dallas' own Johnny Taylor, Ann Nesbee (formerly of Sounds of Blackness) and several gospel acts, including Commissioned. Special guest is T-Boz of the group TLC. T-Boz is the national spokesperson for the Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation. Part of the proceeds from FSO benefit the Dallas chapter. Other events for the week-end include a fashion show by J.C. Penney; the fabulous Men of Rondy, vendor booths, arts and crafts, workshops, music, book signings and more. Artist Arthello Beck, KDFW-TV anchorwoman Clarice Tinsley, author Ella Patterson and other celebrities are expected to be on hand. There will also be a real-life wedding taking place during FSO. And of course, we can't forget the brothers! A "For Brothers Only" area will be reserved for the men to watch sports on big screen televisions, play dominos and have big fun. Admission to the spectacular event of the year is \$5. Don't miss it or you'll be sorry! For more information, call 214/630-3011...Speaking of V100, has anyone seen the V100 Dart Bus rolling around town? The bus will be used in station promotions. Stay

tuned...*Beyond Race*, an hour-long talk show on the issue of race in America and hosted by former SCLC leader Peter Johnson, has moved from Saturday evening to Sundays at 8 p.m. on KRLD-AM (1080)...Speaking of KRLD, the station will begin simulcasting CBS' 60 Minutes Sundays at 6 p.m. beginning Dec. 1...Listening to the radio you just never know who you might hear. Back at KKDA-FM (K104) on the weekends is none other than the infamous "Hollywood Hernandez," the popular on-air personality from the 80s...Speaking of K104, Skip Murphy and Company held their annual food drive at Kroger (Hampton and Ledbetter) on Friday, Nov. 22. The Morning Team broadcast their show live from 5 a.m. to 10 a.m. from the parking lot and collected food and canned goods for the hungry...Chris Arnold isn't the only radio guy in town with 13 jobs! V100's Scott West of the Scott West Traffic Jam (3-7 p.m.) can also be heard talking sports on KLIF-AM (570). And Ken Bell, V100's Sunday afternoon guy (10-3 p.m.), can be heard playing the smoothest cuts on Smooth Jazz 107.5, The Oasis...The producer of the highly rated David Gold Show on 570 KLIF is a brother. He is M.I. Blackwell, of Missouri. That's all for this month. I hope you are enjoying this new feature in MON as we try to spotlight your favorite radio stations and on-air personalities. Happy Kwanzaa, and see you in the new year!

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Howard Rollins stars in Kwanzaa holiday special

Story deals with realities of random violence

By Dorothy Gentry

Contributing Writer

It's a very rare day when African Americans and their realities are portrayed on the television or movie screen.

And all too often, when they are, we sadly seem to not enjoy those portrayals. The ones we say we want desperately to see.

We tend to shun movies like *Get on the Bus* and *Panther*, opting instead for movies about being down in the hood, shooting up something (or someone) and otherwise getting into some type of trouble.

It's OK if you see those type of movies, just be sure to see the positive ones too.

Fortunately, for Fracaswell "Cas" Hyman, his new film, *Harambee!*, is not showing at your local theater and is not dependent upon our collective \$6 to deem it a success.

It is showing on the television screen right in your very own home.

Harambee! is public television's first Kwanzaa holiday special and features actors Howard Rollins (*In the Heat of the Night*), Novella Nelson (*Broadway's Having Our Say*) and Aaron Beener (*The Bill Cosby Show*) in an original family drama that entertains and educates by weaving the seven days of Kwanzaa into a spiritual journey of discovery, community and responsibility.

When an errant gunshot crashes into the Barnes family's apartment on Christmas night, the family and their neighbors unite to use the Kwanzaa holiday as a catalyst for change.

Written and directed by Hyman and produced by Liz Nealon, *Harambee!* (Swahili for unity) will air nationwide on PBS and is presented by the Independent Television Service (ITVS).

The Barnes family is forced to confront the realities of random violence after the shooting incident. Because of fear and intimidation, 11-year-old JoJo Barnes (Aaron Beener), his sister and a cousin must spend the remainder of the Christmas holiday indoors.

An unhappy JoJo writes a school essay on the injustice and unfairness of violence, and how it has made him a prisoner in his own community, even within his own home.

JoJo writes: "I hate being locked up in the house on my Christmas vacation. I

can't ride my new bike or hang out with my friends just because someone shot a bullet through my window. It's not fair. It makes me all sad inside. Why don't the police do something?"

That evening, JoJo's family attends their first Kwanzaa celebration at their housing project's community center. There they encounter Chimbuko



Clockwise, from top: Howard Rollins, Aaron Beener and Novella Nelson.

(Howard Rollins), an activist and former drug addict, who sees Kwanzaa as a way to help the community come together to meet the changes in their neighborhood.

Harambee! writer and director Cas Hyman said growing up in Brooklyn gave him the inspiration for the film.

"Unfortunately, a lot of stuff on TV for kids during that time did not address their lives," he said from his home in Los Angeles. "I wanted to do a film that talked about their lives and what they go through."

The writing and production of the film took 9 months and was shot in Brooklyn. "We had to get it done as soon as possible but it was good to be home."

Hyman, who recently completed two seasons as a writer and executive story supervisor for the hit children's show *Gullah Gullah Island* (shown on the cable channel Nickelodeon) said they "were blessed that Howard was interested in this project. And we were also blessed with a wealth of talent auditioning for us."

The film "was the best experience of my life," Hyman says. "I really wanted to do something for the people, for the

place I grew up in. I hope to do another project like this in the future and continue to tell stories to and about our people."

After watching his film, Hyman says he wants viewers to leave with more than the seven principles of Kwanzaa.

"Along with those principles I really want people to watch and come away with a sense of hope. Kwanzaa can show us the way to make a difference in our community, to strengthen us. I want us to come away with hope for family and community."

Hyman was also a member of the core writing staff for the popular PBS literacy mystery series, *Ghostwriter* and stepped into the role of head writer for the final season. He has also worked extensively in film and theater as an actor, including five years as a member of the improvisational Living Stage Theater Company in Washington, D.C.

Harambee! is a film for the entire family. Although a gun appears in three scenes, there is no on-screen violence.

The film is both entertaining and educational, taking time to explain the meaning and purpose of Kwanzaa and even showing how the holiday is celebrated.

Some viewers may find themselves in the characters, such as when Queenesther (Novella Nelson) is asked whether she is attending the Kwanzaa celebration. Her response? "Sounds nice, but I'm not African. An American holiday is enough for me."

If you can't say Amen, just say ouch! Chimbuko's speech to the paltry 20-something people who showed up for the first night of Kwanzaa reveals, with much emotion, why we can't give in to violence in our community, no matter how afraid we are. And why we must embrace our culture with all our might.

Says Chimbuko: "I must say I was expecting a larger turnout, but because of the shooting last night, I can see why some people chose to stay indoors after dark."

"That is why Umoja is so important. We must be able to unify so that we can take back our streets. No hoodlum should be allowed to scare us into staying behind closed doors. If we let them do that, then we are letting them take away our freedom."

Harambee! is the type of family drama that we say we want and need. Later this month, we'll get the chance to prove it.

And it won't cost us \$6.

MON

Harambee! airs Saturday, Dec. 21, at 5 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 22, at noon and 8 p.m. on KDTN-TV (Channel 2). It is in stereo and is close-captioned for the hearing impaired.



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
The Manhattans featuring
Gerald Alston
Denise LaSalle
Marvin Sease

A night out with Duke Ellington

Jr. Associates throws benefit to raise funds, awareness for African American Museum

By Sonia Jordan

Dallas' own African American Museum is receiving national recognition for its innovative exhibits and programming. Directed by Dr. Harry Robinson, the African American museum is growing and educating the community at large about the wonderful world of African American art and artists. To assist the museum in its fundraising and educational process is a group known as the Jr. Associates. Throughout the nation, Jr. Associates works to increase awareness and memberships of many of the finest museums.

The Jr. Associates consists of young men and women who strive to implement events and programs that will bring



Michael Pegues (top), of Haynes & Boone, LLP, schmoozes with friends at African American Museum. Haynes & Boone sponsored the event.

increased awareness to the cultural heritage the museum offers. Co-chair Michael Pegues, an attorney with the law firm of Haynes & Boone, says the Junior Associates is designed for those individuals under forty who wish to increase not only their knowledge of the arts, but other's knowledge as well. These individuals form a support group which fosters understanding of the goals and structure of the African American Museum through educational and social activities.

A recent social event was "An Evening at the Savoy," sponsored by Haynes & Boone, LLP. The event featured Candy Williams and the Candy Williams Band. While beautiful melodies and song floated throughout the museum, the Jr. Associates and guests enjoyed the museum exhibit "Beyond Category:

The Musical Genius of Duke Ellington."

The Duke Ellington Exhibit creates an atmosphere of nostalgia and melancholy. As you enter the space with life-size pictures depicting not only Mr. Ellington, but Black America during the 40s, 50s and 60s, you become engulfed with a sense of "wanting to be there."

During the first decade of the 20th century, the musical practices of black Americans formed a new genre of music called jazz. New Orleans, La., is where the new music first flourished before spreading to cities all across the country. Among the most important jazz innovators in the first half of the century were Louis Armstrong, Fletcher Henderson, Billie Holiday and of course, Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington, (1899-1975). Mr. Ellington, besides being a great band leader, composed suites like "Black, Brown, and Beige" (1943), "Liberian Suite" (1947) and "Harlem" (1950) His film scores and songs include "Ko Ko," "Mood Indigo," "Sophisticated Lady," "In My Solitude," and "Don't Get Around Much Anymore."

As you meander through the photo exhibit, listen to the strains of the melodies playing. In the rear of both exhibition rooms is a set up, complete with earphones, which allows you to listen and enjoy music and dialogue.

If you are interested in learning more about the museum or the Jr. Associates, please contact Ms. Kandace Barnett at (214) 565-9026, ext 304.

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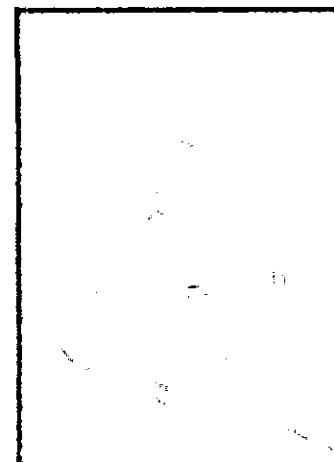
MON announces the winners of the 1996 Miss Bachelorette contest

All 20 of their faces graced the centerfold of MON-each has received a response or gone on a date with an interested gentleman, and now, that the moment has finally come to crown the MON 1996 Miss Bachelorette, who would have thought...there are two!

CONGRATULATIONS to Fellastonces Starr Page and Sherri Renee Young, winners of the MON Miss Bachelorette 1996 contest!

Due to an insurmountable amount of mail for both ladies and undefined contest requirements, the MON staff and the 1996 Bachelorette finalists decided to have a shared crown. Both Fellastonces and Sherri will jointly share all the prizes

Langley (1994) and Debra Brown (1995). Fellastonces Starr Page, 25, is a metroplex hairstylist who is actively



Sherri Renee Young



Fellastonces Starr Page

involved in Aids awareness and the drug & alcohol ministries. Her hobbies include running, acting, modeling, swimming and singing.

Sherri Renee Young, 36, is a metroplex banking representative who is an active member of the St. John Soaring Eagles Singles. Her hobbies include movies, plays, sports, traveling and jazz.

In keeping with the MON tradition, both women are committed to selfless service. They are community servants, in addition to enjoying their own hobbies and interests.

Again, MON congratulations Fellastonces and Sherri, Miss Bachelorettes 1996.

MON

and monies from the contest. This symbiotic relationship will allow both the Bachelorette with the most responses and the most male responses to share their reign with former Bachelorettes Toni

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Cheryl L. Williams

A time to give

Holiday gifts to charities offer benefits to donors

For many of us, the holiday season symbolizes more than just an excuse to go shopping. It is a time of rededication to our families, our community, and the organizations and charities that serve us.

Americans gave an estimated \$143.9 billion to charity in 1995 according to *Giving USA*, an annual report on philanthropy. This was nearly an 11 percent increase from 1994.

Yet some types of charities did not fare as well. Donations to human services groups declined, and *Giving USA* maintained that social service organizations and arts groups had far more trouble raising private money than most other types of charities. With proposed cutbacks in government funding, charities that provide social services needed by African Americans risk being under funded.

As we near the end of another year, now is an ideal time to give back to our communities, indulge our charitable tendencies, and share in the fruits of our generosity. "Your charitable contribution reduces a percentage of your tax liability when itemizing deductions," said William Turnley, owner of WCT Financial Services.

What follows are gift giving ideas

that could lower your tax debt:

- **Make a cash contribution to the charity of your choice.** For any contribution of \$250 or more, ask the charity for a letter of acknowledgment. A canceled check is no longer acceptable documentation.

- **Leave money to charity in your will.** Besides receiving a partial tax deduction for your donation, you can also receive a lifetime income from the charity. Consult your accountant or financial planner to establish a charitable trust or annuity that can accomplish this goal.

- **Donate personal property.** Instead of saving used clothing, appliances, and other personal property for a garage sale in the spring, donate your possessions to a charity that can use them. You get a tax deduction for the fair market value of any items you donate.

- **Give appreciated property as a year-end gift.** You get a tax benefit by giving shares of stock that are worth more than you paid for them. If you have held the stock for more than twelve months, you get a deduction for the current market value of the stock. Also, you can avoid

paying a capital gains tax on the difference between the original cost and the current value.

"There are different ways to value gifts of property and stock to a charitable organization, so you should seek advice from your CPA to ensure the maximum deduction of the charitable gift," reminds Turnley.

Finally, if you are looking for a gift for the person who has everything, your gift to charity can work double duty. Donate in honor or remembrance of a friend or loved one. Ask the charity to send an acknowledgment of your gift with holiday greetings to the person honored or the family of the one memorialized.

One final reminder. Make sure the charity of your choice has nonprofit status so that your gift qualifies for tax credit. There are many organizations that qualify and a few have been highlighted in this series.

Everyone loves a cheerful giver, so don't give until it hurts. Give until it feels good.

MON

Chronology of Nonprofit Series

- JulyStart your own nonprofit ☐
- August.....Board of Directors ☐
- September.....Volunteers ☐
- OctoberAsking for money ☐
- November.....Fundraisers ☐
- DecemberA time to give ☐

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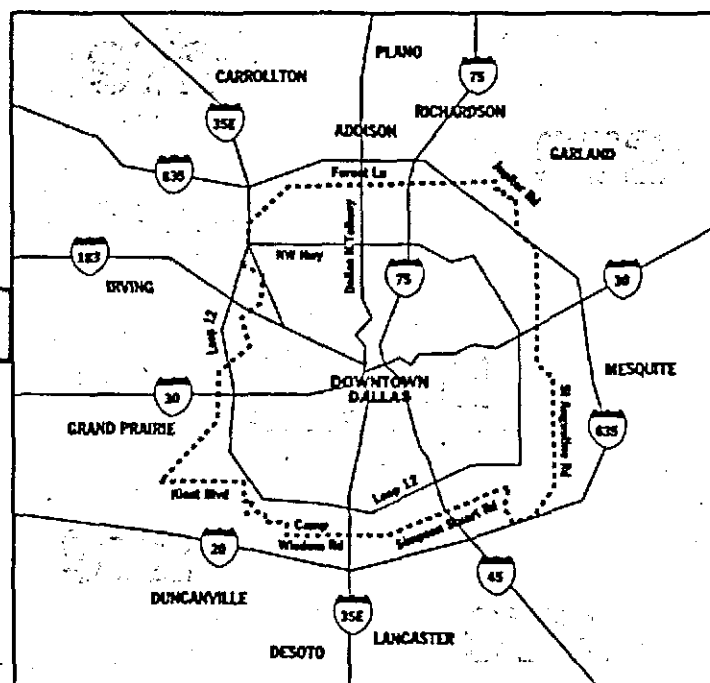
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205	254	296	385	434	480
206	255	297	386	435	481
208	256	298	387	436	483
209	257	299	389	437	484
216	258	300	390	438	485
217	259	301	392	441	486
218	260	303	393	442	487
219	261	304	394	444	488
221	262	305	395	445	490
222	263	306	396	446	491
223	264	307	397	447	492
224	266	308	399	448	493
225	269	313	449	494	494
226	270	315	401	450	495
227	271	316	402	451	496
228	272	317	403	452	497
229	273	318	404	453	498
230	274	322	405	454	499
231	276	323	406	455	500
233	277	325	407	456	500
234	278	326	409	457	501
235	279	329	412	458	504
237	280	334	413	459	506
238	281	335	414	461	509
239	282	336	416	462	513
240	283	338	417	463	514
241	284	346	418	466	515
242	285	347	419	468	516
243	286	355	420	470	517
245	287	366	422	471	518
247	288	370	423	472	519
248	289	377	424	473	524
249	291	378	425	474	525
250	292	379	427	475	527
251	293	380	429	476	529

- For calls within the same area code, dial 7 digits.
- For calls between the 214 and 972 area codes (and vice versa) dial 10 digits – the area code plus the 7-digit number.
- To avoid debating "is it 7 or is it 10?" every time you dial, include the area code with all calls.
- These new dialing procedures took effect on September 14, 1996. If you delay, you run the risk of calling someone you hadn't intended or misdialing.
- If you get calls intended for others, ask the callers to include the proper area code when they try again.
- Businesses: Protect yourself by ensuring that customers, vendors and other regular contacts know your full telephone number – including the area code.
- Residents: Make sure that family members and friends know your full number.
- Everyone: Check to make sure your communications equipment and special services such as Speed Calling, Call Forwarding, Selective Call Forwarding, Voice Dial and voice messaging are reprogrammed to reflect the new area code and 10-digit dialing.

Following these tips will help you as the communications industry works together to meet increasing demands for telephone numbers.

Call our information hotline if you have questions:

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- 1-800-758-5388 (Business Customers)

530	592	646	722	798	909
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539	594	650	724	800	915
540	596	659	726	805	916
541	600	660	727	814	917
542	601	661	731	830	918
544	602	662	732	831	919
545	603	663	733	837	923
547	604	664	734	838	924
548	605	666	735	840	927
550	606	667	736	842	929
551	607	669	738	843	930
552	608	677	751	845	931
554	609	680	752	846	932
556	612	681	753	851	933
557	613	682	756	853	934
558	614	684	758	864	935
560	615	685	764	866	937
561	617	686	766	867	938
562	618	687	770	868	949
563	619	690	771	869	952
564	620	694	772	872	960
568	621	699	773	873	962
569	622	700	774	875	964
570	623	701	775	876	966
572	624	702	776	878	968
574	625	705	778	881	975
575	626	708	779	882	980
576	627	709	780	883	982
578	628	713	782	884	985
579	629	714	783	886	986
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584	635	716	788	889	991
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587	642	719	791	901	996
591	644	721	795	907	997

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The Power of Beauty

Proper foundation and powder application can make for a radiant complexion for anyone

Properly selected and applied, foundation and powder gives your skin a finer texture, making your natural complexion color more uniform, and concealing minor imperfections. Foundation should be chosen according to the skin condition; considering if the skin is dry or dry-to-normal, a hydrating foundation would be an excellent choice. If the skin is normal, normal-to-oily or oily all over, an oil free foundation would be a wise decision in choosing the correct foundation which will be most effective for your skin type.

Also, when choosing a foundation, think about the condition of your skin. This will determine if you need more or less coverage from your foundation. More coverage foundations are for women who want to cover blemishes or unevenness of the skin. Less coverage foundation would apply if the skin is radiant.

For you ladies that want a bit more coverage from your foundation, you can apply it on the face with a Q-tip (do not pour foundation into a sponge, it is a waste of product). While dabbing into the area of concern, you are blending and getting extra coverage from your foundation.

When applying, always use your fingers for blending, going in downward strokes (going with the hair follicles on your face). You don't have to pull on the face, so forget the old cliché about blending foundation in an upward motion. Also, if you think about it, you will get a longer and better wear with your foundation with downward strokes as opposed to upward. Foundation and powder application are done with patience and extreme care. After you have applied it with your finger, use a sponge for a smoother finish.

When matching your foundation, always be aware of the neck, because 95 percent of the time, it is darker than the face. So before handing over your charge card, make sure your foundation is a perfect match. If you're not sure, go outside and take a look before you buy. Or have the makeup artist at the counter apply the foundation on the entire face, then wear the foundation for the day or evening. If you like it, return to the store for purchase; it's that simple. Remember, you are in charge. Do not let the salesperson talk you into something if you're not sure.

Foundation and powder are used together, as one is dependent on the other for that perfect finish. Foundation is always applied first, followed by con-

cealer, then powder.

Concealer is to be applied only where needed—under the eye area, always on the lid before applying eye shadow, and any other area of the face that needs extra coverage. When choosing a concealer, it can be the same shade as your foundation or maybe a shade lighter.

Then powder. There are two types—loose and pressed. Using a loose powder would be the wisest choice. Loose powder sets the foundation perfectly, and it lasts three times longer. (Pressed powders are good choices for all skins and also convenient for carrying with you to freshen up during the day or evening.

Loose powder will not only set foundation perfectly, it will also help to prevent oil buildup. Always use a loose (translucent) powder as it has no color value and provides a smooth matte finish. Plus, it will not alter color in oily areas.

When applying loose powder, always use a velvet textured puff for even coverage. You can use a brush for an all over finish. Dip the brush into the powder and shake off the excess. Brush powder lightly over one area at a time. To apply powder under the eye area, use your finger for a much softer, smoother finish. Also apply powder on the lid; this will give your eye shadow a very long wear.

Before moving on, check hairline brows and all concentration of hair on the face because foundation and powder tend to cling in these areas. If this happens, use your sponge and blend, blend, blend.

After powder application, you may occasionally notice slightly flaky areas. Your makeup is not creating this problem. It may be the result of dry skin condition or an old, scaling blemish. You don't have to redo your makeup. This is an indication that you need more extensive skin care, including exfoliation. (To freshen up on skin care tips, go back to my previous column on skin care and work it!)

For a quick touch-up, there's nothing better than powder; always carry it with you! Press gently under the eyes and on the nose, chin and forehead.

This season the look is soft, sheer opalescent colors, shimmer, shimmer, shimmer on eyes and soft cheeks from bold, plum lips to the soft sheer.

In summary:

Step One: Foundation — blend with fingers in a downward motion.

Step Two: Concealer — under the eye

area and on the lids.

Step Three: Powder — apply with a puff in a downward motion and apply on lids.

MON

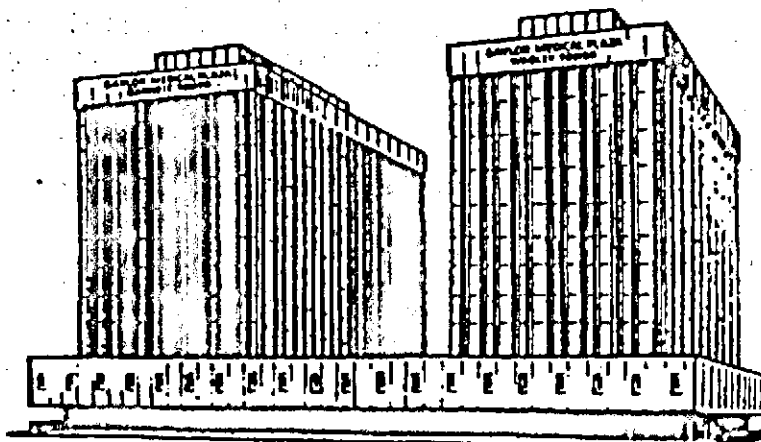
For suggestions or feedback, write to faces by hilda, P.O. Box 451221, Garland, TX 75045-1221 or call (214) 679-4114.

Chronology of Beauty Series

November.....Beauty is Power ☐

December....Foundation/Powder ☐

JanuaryColors and Features ☐



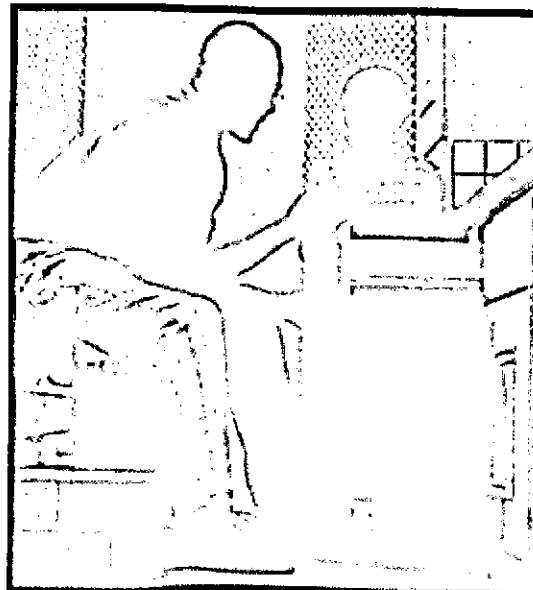
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College football's most wanted: A close-up of Alvin Ray, III

By Angelia Williams

The teenager has just walked in the front door from football practice. He is exhausted. Sweat still runs down his face. As always, he makes his bedroom his first stop.

As he opens the door to his room, the 5'11" Ray's eyes quickly shift to the walls. There, he sees many framed documents. They align like the starting squad of a football team, strategically and carefully. He walks to the wall and begins to scan them. Finally, he removes one of them from the wall for closer inspection.

Alvin Lloyd Ray, III, Bishop Dunne High School honor student and football star, often reviews the many scholarship offers that decorate his bedroom wall.

Later that evening, at about 9:00 p.m., the phone rings. When Ray answers it, a man on the other end says, "How are you?"

"All right," Ray replies.

"How was practice?" the man asks.

Ray responds by telling the man some of the highlights of his practice.

"How's your weight?"

"Oh, I weight 195 lbs. now."

The man keeps a running record of any previous weights given by Ray.

This call was from one of the university coaches who recognizes the playing skills that Ray possesses.

"He wants to know if I am getting bigger or not," Ray explains. "They all ask me the same questions and the last one is always the same. They want to know if I am still interested in their school."

Someone else, besides the university coaches, is interested in Ray's playing ability as well. It is, of course, his mother, Carolyn Ray. She attends all of his games and watches very closely. After a play at a recent game pitting Bishop Dunne against Garland Christian Academy, Ray appeared to be injured. Carolyn leaped over about three rows of bleachers as she rushed to the nearest aisle. However, Alvin was okay. Carolyn discovered later that her son had only suffered a muscle cramp.

Ray has played football for many years, starting in little league, through middle school, and now high school. "That's 13 years total," Ray said. In his little league years, he played offense and defense. Now, at Bishop Dunne, a 3A Division school, he plays on the offense as tailback and on the defense as strong safety.

"It is more time consuming—playing both offense and defense," Ray explains, "because I work extra hours on weights and at practice."

Of the four years on the team, Ray was elected team captain for three of them. The coaches vote for a player to be captain. It's usually someone who is motivated and who motivates others.



Alvin Ray, III

Someone who is a leader. Someone who is dependable and communicates to the other players.

"Ray is a natural leader on the field," Mike Satarino, Bishop Dunne athletic director, says. "He always has a positive attitude and he gives his all."

Not only is Ray a leader on the field, but he is a leader at his church also. He is a member of the United Faith Baptist Church in Dallas and he had held the positions of junior deacon for the last six months and usher for the last two years.

Ray says he enjoys church and credits his "spiritual relationship" for his success in football.

"Being involved in church gives me the strength to overcome doubts [about] my abilities. It powers me to have faith when I am playing."

Many schools have noticed this playing ability, including Purdue, Texas Tech, South Carolina, Iowa State, the University of Cincinnati, Nebraska, Kansas State, and the University of Texas at Austin.

"Aside from the scouts watching at practice and games," Ray said, "I think they chose me because of my grades, performance on the field, and my leadership qualities."

"I've been looking at Iowa State's curriculum," he said. "They have a good criminal justice program, which is the major I've chosen. I also like the confer-

ence they're in."

Ray focuses on some of his favorite football stars in an effort to mimic their playing styles. Barry Sanders, running back for the Detroit Lions, is one of Ray's model players.

"He has the moves and he possesses a humble attitude. A humble attitude is necessary, because if you forget who gives you strength, you won't play as well," Ray said.

Ray also patterns some of his moves from other NFL players. "Emmitt Smith is a hero. He's not that fast, but he has the moves. He's a leader on the team," Ray said.

Athletic Director Satarino recognizes professional playing abilities in Ray.

"Ray is an excellent candidate for the NFL," Satarino said. "He has the talent and psychological makeup to play there. He would be a great role model which is so sorely lacking in the NFL. Ray possesses the talent, leadership potential, skill, and attitude of those players."

Alvin Ray is taking his football career step-by-step. He continues to work and improve his football skills as he prepares for what is to come.

"Within the next five years, I see myself as a first draft pick for the Dallas Cowboys," Ray predicts. "They have a dynasty for winning the Superbowls."

Ray has a busy schedule with football occupying six days of his week. His only off-day is Sunday, but he still com-

mits to his duties at the church.

"During leisure time, I listen to and write music and watch TV," says Ray.

But now, as he stares at his bedroom wall, Alvin Ray, III is thinking of what the sport he loves so much will offer him.

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Angelia Williams is a student at the University of North Texas.



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Olympic gold medalist Michael Johnson chases dreams in new book

By Dorothy Gentry

Contributing Writer

"There is a saying among some athletes that after you have stared long enough into the dragon's eyes, there is nothing left to do but slay the dragon.

"For each of us, that dragon is the thing closest to the center of our lives. It is our core, our ambition, and our joy. For me, it is the perfect race."

These words from Olympic gold medalist Michael Johnson echo the title of his book "Slaying the Dragon: How to Turn Your Small Steps to Great Feats."

The book is not your typical autobiography. While it has some information about his younger years spent right here in Dallas, the book's main objective is to offer readers valuable insight into the goal-setting process and how to achieve their dreams. It covers many areas, including self-discipline, sacrifice, how to acquire and maintain the proper perspective and the importance of humility.

In the book, Johnson reveals in step-by-step fashion how he made his dream come true—winning the gold medal in the 200 and 400 meter sprints at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta—and how readers can make their dreams come true too, conquering their fears and slaying their own dragons.

Johnson's book also devotes time to the issue of athletes as role models. Though he shuns the role, he did take time during his recent book tour to visit with about 20 students from Thomas A. Edison Middle School. The students sat in on KERA-FM's (90.1) "The Glenn Mitchell Show" and asked the famous track star questions. Afterward they were each presented with an autographed copy of Johnson's book.

Although the book is titled "Slaying the Dragon," Johnson says chasing the dragon is what it's really all about.

"Chasing the dragon is more important because there is always a battle to anything you want to achieve and that's how I came up with the title," he said.

"Everyone has a dream or a vision or a goal or something that they want to achieve and it's never easy. It's always a battle to getting there."

Johnson says the last 10 years of his career (since graduating in 1986 from Dallas' Skyline High School) has been a constant battle for him to get to the top.

"There have been a lot of things I

have had to face enroute to getting there (the top) - the pressures of having to compete, having to try and stay on top, the need to be focused, the need to make sacrifices to achieve what I wanted to, the failures and the obstacles - all of those things make up achieving something, whatever it may be," Johnson says.

"The subtitle of the book is 'How to

middle of eating at the time.) I happen to disagree with our culture's habit of creating instant role models out of athletes. And yet I am honored to be in that position. I come from a family of teachers and I have learned a great deal from others; from my family, from my coaches, from other athletes, and from a few heroes of my own, people like Jesse Owens and Muhammad Ali, who have inspired me through their example, through incredible victories and terrifying losses, through lives that were even more brilliant in their fullness than they were in their individual achievements.

"To me that's the ultimate responsibility and challenge of being a role model - not to sign autographs in a timely fashion



Michael Johnson exalts after running the 200-meter sprint in a record-shattering 19.32 seconds at the 100th Olympiad in Atlanta.

Turn Your Small Steps to Great Feats' and that is the most important part of the title. Anything worth achieving will have its ups and downs and you have to go through all of those things to get there."

Johnson says the people that know him do not treat him differently since he has become "famous."

"I've surrounded myself with friends and I am very close to my family," he says. "So I don't have a lot of people that I become close to 'just because.' My family has been very instrumental in supporting me throughout my career."

One person he is close to is former college buddy (Baylor University in Waco) Ray Crockett of the Denver Broncos.

"We are very good friends and supportive of each other's careers and I know he will be there whether I win or lose."

Johnson offers readers his thoughts on a myriad of topics:

On being a role model: "I've heard a lot recently about my being a role model, from the media, from my friends, and once from a woman who was put out when I asked her to wait a few minutes for an autograph. (He was right in the

ion or to live a stainless life, but to offer up a life or a philosophy, flaws and all, to help other people negotiate their own way. That's what I hope to do in this book."

On his current goals: "I just finished the Olympic Games in Atlanta and the last four years of my life have been geared toward that. Now I will reassess as I do every year and think about what I want to do next season." Johnson is a minority owner of the Dallas Mavericks and plans to establish himself in the business field.

On his sports heroes: "When I am asked about my greatest Olympic highlight, I don't hesitate. It was meeting Ali." His is the only autograph Johnson says he has ever asked for.

On goal setting: "To improve incrementally, you must plan incrementally. And the best way to do that, to think it all through, to make sure you've missed nothing, is to write it down. A written goal is a contract with yourself and a constant reminder of all you still have to do. Having a record is vital; it's the first step in learning to put yourself on the hook, to being responsible to yourself.

"Your ambition may be [to get] an education. It may be getting your body in shape, losing weight, falling in love, battling cancer. It may be sculpture, poetry, or the 200-meter run. No matter what it is, you owe it to yourself to figure out what you are chasing. And how you might catch it."

On people's perception of him: "I've been described as confident or cocky or arrogant. I'll take the first one. My confidence is in knowing that I have probably trained harder than anyone I am going to run against. And that is because of self-discipline. If you meet me in a business setting, you will find the same man that you would find on the track; competitive, eager to learn, and committed to doing my best."

On the importance of mentors: "To succeed as a well-rounded person, you will need to rely on an array of experts. But of all the experts you surround yourself with, the most important and the most rare is your mentor, the person whose experiences and wisdom you draw upon in your personal quest. Not all of us are good judges of character, but one reliable test is to ask, 'is that person consistent?'"

On having the proper perspective: "It is important that in the middle of your chase you take time to look around at the rest of your life, take stock, make sure you aren't ignoring your family or your friends or yourself because of your devotion to your goals. Being successful will be empty if you arrive there alone, and your success will be short-lived if you haven't managed to keep your balance."

On what he will leave behind: "Maybe my legacy will be that I was someone who broke world records and won gold medals and ran faster than anyone had up to that point. Those are things I've always wanted. But I also hope that when other people face their own dragons, they can draw on the lesson and examples that I've left behind. I feel like an explorer who has charted some incredible region and leaves his map for anyone who wants to go to the same places I have tried to go."

MON



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TLC back on track

From the Electronic Urban Report

TLC has reached a deal that would pay off their debts and end their bankruptcy lawsuit. Under the deal the group would set up an escrow account to cover

their approximately \$1 million in debts. Group member Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes will pay \$527,000 out of the account to Lloyd's of London as reimbursement to the insurance company. Lloyd's paid out the money after Lopes burned down her boyfriend Andre Rison's home.

The group will also be released from



their contract with Pebbitone Inc. (Pebble's company), and will sign with LaFace Records. Pending everything being approved by a judge, the group will have an album out next year.

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Electronic Urban Report can be received daily on the Web at <http://www.eurweb.com>.

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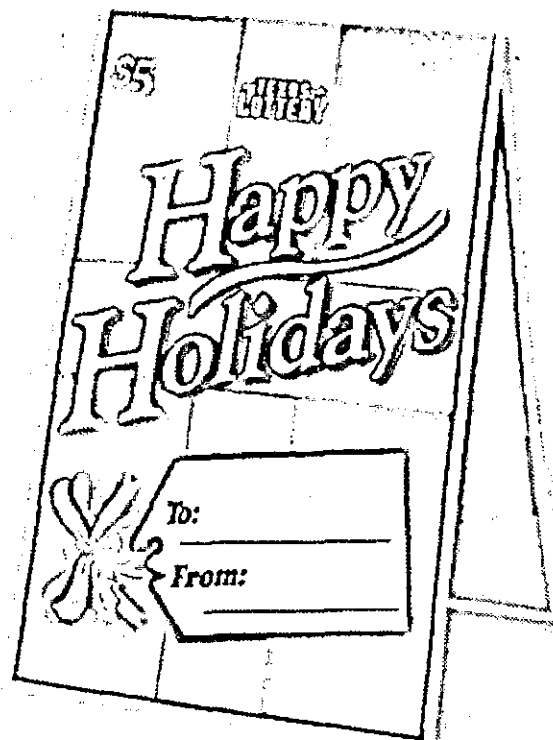
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Fairy Street
Mama

Christmas: What does it mean to be a good kid?

Seasons Greetings kids!!! I'm sure that by now you all have made your lists of expected gifts for Christmas. Hopefully you have saved enough to be able to get gifts for the special people in your lives as well. Of course the big question is... "Have you been naughty or nice?"

In our world today, we see kids caught up in doing things that they should never do. Kids are using and sell-



Tarynn Wescott 5; Marsaius Britton, 10, RISD Academy

ing drugs, stealing, and increasingly becoming more involved in criminal behavior. I decided to ask kids this holiday month... What does it mean to be a good kid?

I found three youngsters that have definite thoughts about what it means to be a good kid.

MARSAIUS: "I like [the] Christmas holiday season because I get to see relatives that I haven't seen in a long time.... I think that being a good kid means that you should have fun.... I really like being a kid when my parents let me eat junk food like ice cream!.... When you are a kid, you get to do a lot of things because parents want you to have fun being a kid.... I don't think that kids should do what grown-ups do.... I'm glad that I don't have to do things like pay rent and other bills.... I'm just a kid and I know that I have to get an education.... Right now I like going to school.... I like to meet new

people and I like to go to different places.... Some kids get too lazy when they get older.... I think that parents should teach kids to respect their elders. I plan to to play games with my kids when I grow up and show them it's neat to be a kid, especially at Christmas."

TARYNN: "I want to get a doll for Christmas.... I don't like to get into trouble.... I try to be good all the time."

COREY: "I think that kids should always try to be good and get an education.... I think that they should also try to have fun but show respect to other people.... You should always have good manners.... I wouldn't want anyone to be rude to me.... When I see kids being disrespectful to adults, I get angry.... There is this guy that I knew last year in school and he used to talk back to our teacher and the teacher would send him to the principal's office.... I think that if he keeps on being bad like that, he could really mess up his life."

FAIRY:

Hopefully, this year's holiday season will bring joy and happiness for all of you kids, and parents as well. Remember, to different people Christmas has many different



Corey Booker, 11, Hamilton Park, 6th grade

meanings but one of the most important meanings of Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Christ. Also, remember that at this time of the year, it is always better to give than to receive. Don't let a disappointment of not being able to get what you wanted for Christmas ruin your holiday cheer.

Not only is the season a time for you to get to visit relatives and friends, but you and your family should also take the time to enjoy each other as a family.

Be safe with any new toys, games or equipment that you might get as presents and always make sure you have permission.

Enjoy your Holidays and I'll see you all next year!

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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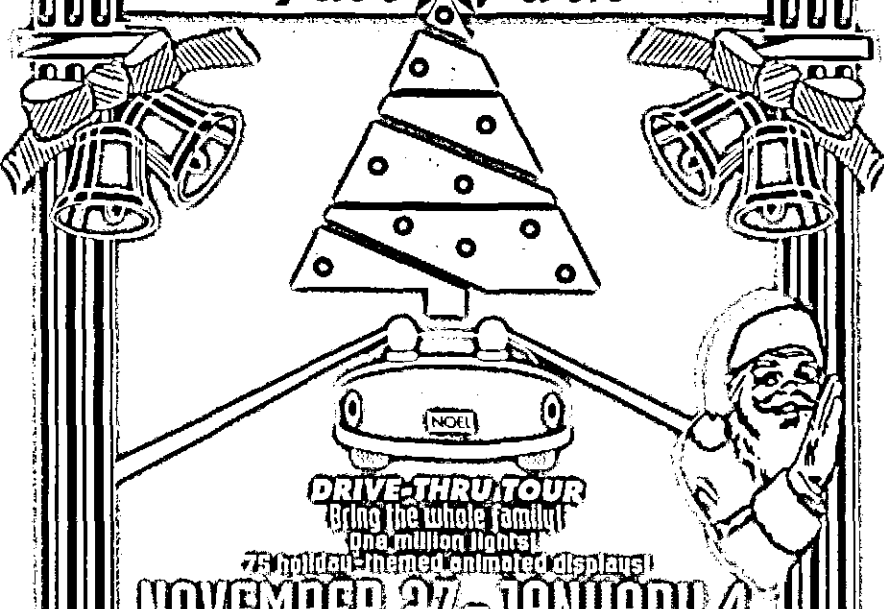
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Ron Shaw

Where is the fire?

Psalms 47:1

While checking out the music on a new radio station here in the Dallas area, something began to happen in me. It was a secular station that was playing all the golden oldies that I played when I was dating. The songs that guys (or gals) played when they wanted to ignite a flame of passion and fire (if you know what I mean). Luther Vandross, Peabo Bryson, Earth, Wind and Fire, the Isleys and on and on. My mind and emotions drifted back to the days of yesteryear and pictures and memories and emotions of how it was with that certain young lady came back to me. All of this seemed to be ignited by certain songs this station played.

Suddenly it hit me. A question sprang up in my mind concerning my relationship with the Lord. The question was, "Where is the fire?" As in any relationship, there is the fire aspect of it. The

When I consider all of His goodness and mercy toward me, I'm embarrassed to admit that sometimes that fire isn't there like it should be. What's more embarrassing is the fact that God has that fire for me.

passion for the other person, whether it be a good friend or a lover. Do you remember how it was when you met a new friend and began to develop the friendship? You did things together, shared things, went places! There may not have been any romance, but a friendship was established that you were fond of and passionate about. You enjoyed being with your friend(s) and spending time just hanging out and sharing crazy moments together.

Then there were the romantic relationships. Those boyfriend / girlfriend relationships where you just hung on the phone for hours even if you weren't saying anything. Remember the passion and the fire you had for one another? You

couldn't wait to be with them. You could spend hours just driving around visiting relatives and friends. You couldn't wait to see or just talk to her or him again. I think you know by now where I'm going with this.

Do you have the passion, the fire for God that you had before? Have you ever had it? Consider our text. David has it bad for God. He says he longs after God like a deer longs after the waterbrook. As we used to say, His nose was wide open. I wonder how many of you have that kind of passion and fire for God these days?

Our lives are so filled with desire and covetousness for other things. We have a drive for success, a drive to acquire wealth, a drive for the opposite sex. Isn't it about time that we, like David, develop a fire for the one who makes life possible? When I consider all of His goodness and mercy toward me, I'm embarrassed to admit that sometimes that fire isn't there like it should be. What's more embarrassing is the fact that God has that fire for me. Have you ever liked someone who didn't like you back? The apostle Paul had that kind of fire for God. He was willing to consider everything he had accomplished, his fame, his prestige, his notoriety, his education, and his position as dung for the cause of Christ. He admitted that he was in hot pursuit of the purpose for which Christ had apprehended him. Those that do great things for God have great passion and fire for Him. If you don't have the fire for Him, then what do you burn for?

I ask myself that question every day. Where is the fire? Do you burn with an intense passion for God and His righteousness? Jesus said it's only when that happens that we get satisfied. When you stop to take inventory of your ambitions, goals, and desires, remember the thing for which you burn is the thing that consumes your attention and imagination. It's the thing you dream of most often. There are things we can do to encourage that fire. I'll share more next month but until then ask yourself, "Where is the fire?"

MON

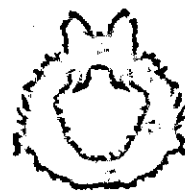
Ron Shaw is the pastor of LightChurch and can be reached at (214) 320-5744.

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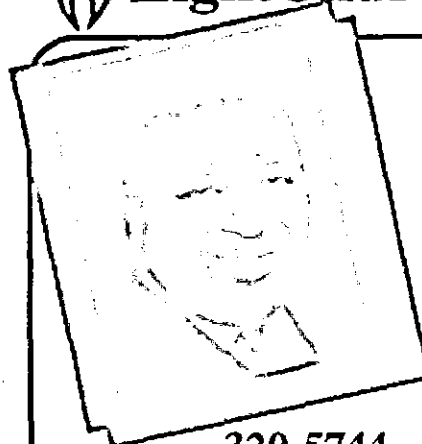
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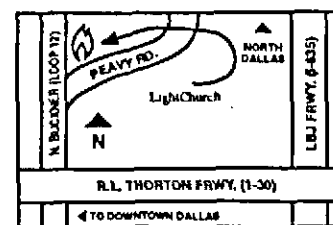
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Curtis Yates

Most prospective homebuyers are generally uncomfortable with mortgage financing other than 30-year fixed-rate mortgages. Perhaps it is because they've never understood an alternative, called an Adjustable Rate Mortgage (ARM). From questions I've received from many of you about the fluctuating interest rate of ARMs, I take it this area is basically unclear.

This month we'll talk on the specifics of cap rates for an FHA ARM along with other important aspects of this type of mortgage financing. The FHA ARM, being a government insured mortgage, is a bit more complicated than the conventional ARM due to the government regulations and guidelines.

First, let me say that one of the reasons you might even want to consider an ARM is because of the low beginning interest rate, which allows the prospective borrower to better qualify for the loan. Many borrowers miss homebuying opportunities because they are ignorant to the real advantages of an ARM.

On an FHA ARM, interest rate caps are 1 percent per year and 5 percent over the life of the loan. For example, if the beginning rate is 6 percent, the highest

The FHA Adjustable Rate Mortgage

(And important loan aspects)

the rate can go on the loan the second year is 7 percent. Now, the rate of interest over the life of a, let's say a 30-year loan cannot exceed 11 percent. Let's say the market's fixed-rate loans are currently at 8.5 percent and you, the borrower, cannot qualify at such a rate. By applying an ARM, you could easily qualify. Remember, the borrower may qualify at the beginning rate using income to debt ratios of 29 percent for housing to include principle, interest, taxes, hazard and mortgage insurance (PITI) on existing homes. FHA allows 31 percent on new construction, and when private and public financing are involved, some lenders even add additional adjustments. Also, an ARM can be converted into a fixed-rate mortgage during any given year. So you see, you could put the strength of an ARM to use to buy your new home.

Another important aspect of an FHA ARM is that the borrower is allowed to get 100 percent of the down payment, closing costs, and prepaid expenses for taxes and insurance as a gift from an immediate family member for funds to

close. For this to happen, make sure that the real estate agent you are working with is an experience contract writer, because if it is not written properly, the contract could be dis-
pelled from underwriting.

Also, in dealing with seller contribution, a seller may pay up to 6 percent of the borrower's closing costs. (The seller cannot pay for the borrower's down payment or prepaids.) Or the lender may pay the borrower's closing costs or prepaids from premium pricing. Premium pricing is an above-market interest rate charged by the lender and designed to assist the borrower with his closing expenses.

However, a word of caution: Many homebuyers become victims of premium pricing in favor of the lender. Always insist that the lender tell you whether or not premium pricing is involved with your loan and, if so, whether that amount be used for the reduction of your loan or closing cost expenses, regardless of loan type.

MON

Curtis Yates is the owner/operator of REAL ESTATE STATUS QUO; 8131 LBJ Fwy; Ste. 800; Dallas, Tx 75251. E-mail cya755@airmail.net.

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Housing Authority of the City of Dallas, Texas (DHA) will receive bids for the New Construction of 225 Units at Edgar Ward Place II, until 2:00 P.M., on Friday, December 20, 1996, at DHA's Central Office, Development and Planning Department, 3939 N. Hampton Rd., Suite 350, Dallas, Texas 75212, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. A pre-bid Conference shall be held at 2:00 P.M., on Wednesday, December 4, 1996 at DHA's Central Office, Development and Planning Department, Suite 350. Bid documents, including Plans and Specifications, may be acquired at DHA's Central Office, Development and Planning Department, 3939 N. Hampton Rd., Suite 350, Dallas, Texas 75212. A \$150 non-refundable fee is required for each set of documents.

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

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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.

Bids will be accepted until 9:00 A.M. Monday, December 2, 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.

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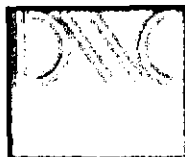
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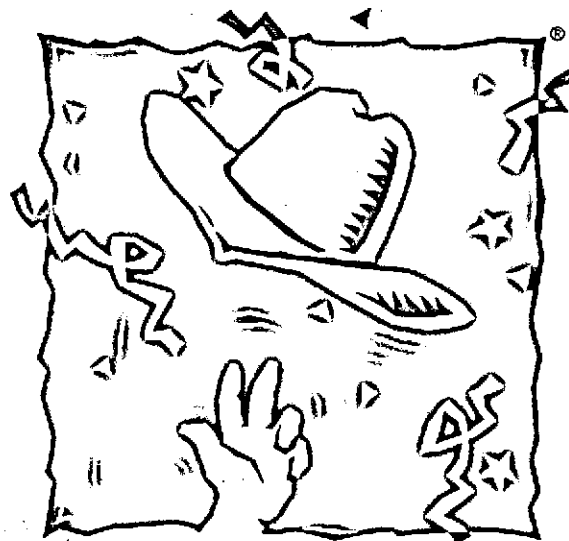
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Dallas, TX 75231
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The Town of Flower Mound is
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Applications will be accepted
until January 10, 1997, by 5 p.m.
To apply in person contact
Human Resources Dept., 2121
Cross Timbers Rd., Flower
Mound, Tx. 75208, or for further
information please call (972)
539-7378 Ext. 212. EOE.



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NOTICE OF ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

City of Lancaster will administer Civil Service
Entrance Examination for Police Officers on Sat-
urday, January 25, 1997.

Applications and study guides may be acquired at the Police/Fire
Department at 1501 N. Dallas Avenue. (972-227-1813).

Examination Eligibility:

1. Certified by the State of Texas.
2. Must possess a current valid drivers license.
3. Must be at least 21 years of age and meet all eligibility
requirements of Section 143.023 of the Texas Fire and
Police Civil Service Law.
4. Must meet all physical requirements.

Examination will be administered from 9:00A.M. to 10:15A.M.* at:

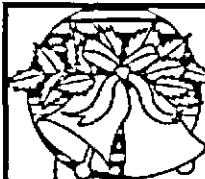
Cedar Valley Community College
3030 N. Dallas Avenue
Lancaster, Texas 75134

(972-372-8118) in Building C, Room 005 (downstairs).

*A second exam schedule, if needed, is set for 11:00A.M.

Proper identification will be required in order to be admitted to the Examination.

Return applications to the Police/Fire Department, 1501 N. Dallas Avenue, Lancast-
er, Texas 75134, by 4:00 P.M. on Friday, January 17, 1997 in order to be included for
the Examination.



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The Irving dealership, which has been in business for 35 years, has 75 experienced and knowledgeable salespersons to guide you in making the right car or truck choice. Customers can make their selection of Pontiacs, Buicks, Hondas, Suzukis, GMC Trucks and more from an inventory of more than 1,000 new and pre-owned vehicles.

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David McDavid offers special financing options for first-time buyers and buyers who have had credit problems in the past. New graduates can even establish credit at the same time they purchase their first car.

Short-term financing through lease options gives discriminating buyers the opportunity to avoid long financial obligations.

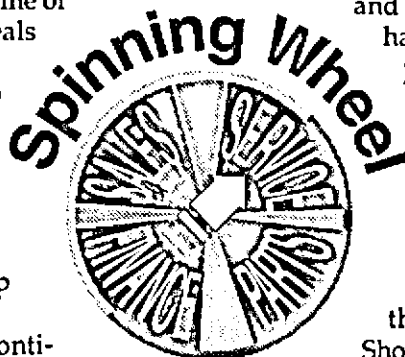
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Texas. Showroom hours are 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The Service and Parts department is open 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Monday - Friday and 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, call (972) 790-6000.

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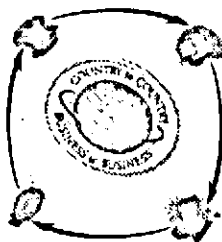
The Department of Psychiatry at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas is conducting research sponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health on the treatment of depression. Treatment is free. The symptoms of depression include:

- Depressed or sad mood
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- Difficulty concentrating

If you have experienced these symptoms more than once in your life, are drug free and not currently in psychiatric treatment, please call the Psychosocial Research and Depression Clinic at 214-648-5351.

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Elementary school has eye on the prize

The halls of the school were conspicuously quiet but roars of excitement rang from the auditorium. On stage, seventeen cheerleaders stylishly dressed in white sweats and red pon-poms, directed an inspiring cheer.

"We got hope, we got hope, we got hope!" they shouted. "We got hope, we got hope, we got hope!" the students echoed back.

However, they weren't referring to scoring a winning touchdown or beating a rival team. Instead, the Umphrey Lee Elementary school students were pledging to make better grades and ultimately improve their performance on standardized assessment tests given by the Dallas Independent School District.

The special assembly recognized students who had passed the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) test given in the spring to the school's third through sixth graders. As children were called to receive an award for TAAS mastery, they marched orderly onto bleachers set up on the stage.

First up were students who had passed either the math or reading portion of the assessment test, then students who had passed both portions. By the time students who had passed TAAS with distinction were called, the once empty stage was filled to capacity. Three years ago, a teacher noted, only one to two sets of bleachers were filled. But on that day, the crowded stage was evidence of the phenomenal improvement of a school determined to guide its students toward the path of excellence.

For their TAAS scores improvement, Umphrey Lee was one of forty-four schools that earned the distinction of being a "Silver Star" school. At least 70% of students must pass the assessment before a school is given the honor.

"We improved significantly and

exceeded the district's prediction of how well our students would do," said principal Herbert Newsome about the "Silver Star" status. "The distinction is given to those schools that go beyond what is expected."

And Umphrey Lee Elementary School continually strives to go beyond

ing the seemingly larger-than-life-sized airplanes held a particular fascination for the curious students. Impressed by the complicated mechanisms of the machines that many had never seen up-close, the boys starting thinking about their own future careers. Later, a quick survey was conducted and five out of six boys agreed—they wanted to become pilots when they grew up. The lone dissenter, enthralled by the plane's on-board computer, directed his career aspirations toward computer programming.

During the tour, Air Force personnel

focus was to provide a male mentoring program for boys who were primarily raised in single parent families," said fifth grade teacher Rhonda Howard. "Boys who didn't have (for one reason or another) male role models, we looked at those kids first to participate in the program. But our goal is to get all of the [fifth and sixth grade] boys to interact with the officers. Some of the boys don't go to the mentoring program on a weekly basis but are selected for field trips and outings because of their super attitudes," she added.

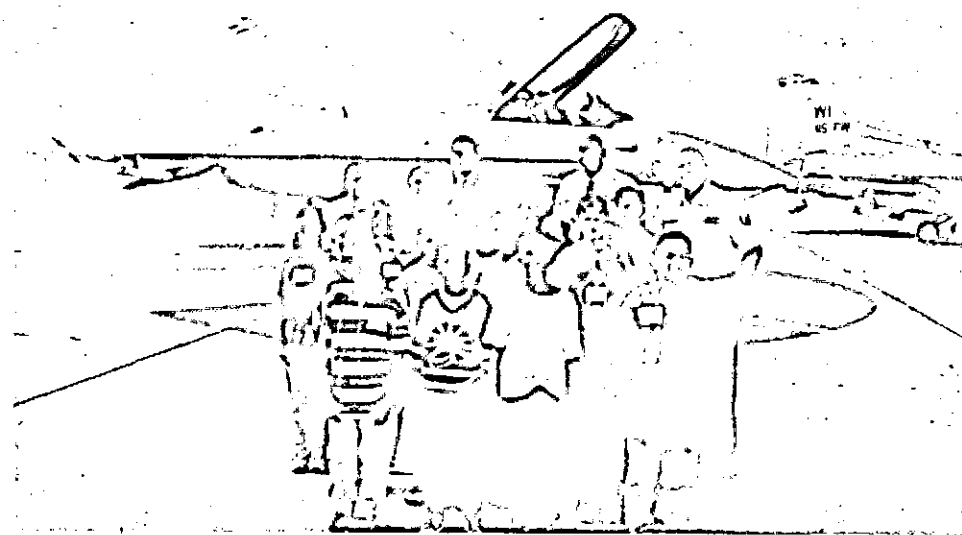
"They know that if they don't have the [school] work done they're not going to be able to spend that extra time with the officers," said Jenell Hicks, another fifth grade teacher whose students also participate in the mentoring program. "[Students] have been more conscientious in bringing in home work and a little more eager to cooperate," she noted.

Although measurable improvement in grades of students participating in the program has not yet been achieved, other desired results such as improvement in behavior, attentiveness and study habits have been noticed. "The grades are going to go up because [the students] are doing more of what they're supposed to be doing," Ms. Hicks said.

However, Ms. Howard stressed, every boy involved in the program does not have discipline or academic problems. "A lot of the kids that go for mentoring or on outings are excellent students," she said. "But one thing we know is that a female teacher can't teach a young man how to be a man. You need another man to sit a boy down and talk about male sort of things which is something I can't do as a woman."

Still, all eyes at Umphrey Lee Elementary School are on the prize. The faculty does not hesitate to enlist others who can bring them closer to it. The mentoring program is just a start but a significant start, to reaching it—the prize of creating self-disciplined, well-educated and well-rounded future citizens.

MON



Umphrey Lee Elementary School students pose in front of jet during a recent tour of Carswell Air Force Base.

what is expected. When the school initiated a weekly mentoring program with the United States Air Force in September, Newsome's eye and the eyes of dedicated faculty members were already on the prize—improved student/teachers relations, decreased incidences of inappropriate student behavior, improved social behavior of students and of course, better grades.

Recently, 16 fifth grade boys from Umphrey Lee toured Carswell Air Force Base during a visit arranged by volunteer tutors, Staff Sergeant Greg Ceaser and Staff Sergeant Gregory Brown. Examin-

emphasized the importance of excellence in math and reading as prerequisites to success in the types of careers that interested the boys. None of the students backed away from the challenge. "I want to fly my own plane," said one shy youngster. "I know I have to make good grades and do a lot of math and read a lot."

Inclusion in the mentoring program now has become an incentive for boys eager to model the distinguished Air Force officers and participate in the activities and field trips planned. "Initially, when we sat down with the officers, the

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