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Minority Opportunity News



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In the NAME of the Father

Was Father J.
Von Brown truly
convinced he
was a savior
sent by God?

SDDC:
**Microlending for
Maximum Growth**

Kathlyn Gilliam:
**Still A
Tireless
Champion**

**Understanding
The New
Tax Laws**



**From
The Editor
Chris Pryer**

Don't mess with Texas

The above-mentioned warning refers to Texas' attitude towards litter-bugs. And, apparently, people who commit murder; the state is executing them at a rate of about one every ten days.

This being a "bible belt" state, I find this somewhat paradoxical. Everything about *New Testament* Christianity argues against the "eye for an eye philosophy." The death penalty is a visceral response, a response that Scripture doesn't tolerate. Of course, proponents of the death penalty, Christians included, argue that the death penalty is "justice," not revenge.

Let's consider justice and revenge. Justice is defined as "the quality of being just, impartial or fair." Human beings are incapable of being totally impartial — that component of justice can be administered only by God's law. He alone is the only qualified and ultimate judge. Webster defines revenge as "inflicting injury in return for...; retaliating in kind or degree..." No mention, explicitly or implicitly, of correctness (being just) or impartiality. It has only to do with the desire to retaliate. Even criminals feel "justified" to get revenge against those who impede their pursuit of criminal activities.

Real justice is not without punishment; but, it uses punishment as a corrective measure. It should be based on a fundamental love of our fellow man. Without love, there is only revenge. This approach satisfies emotions but little else for either party—killer or victim. The wanton killer, particularly, will likely have no remorse; the victim's survivors will still be without their loved-one.

I am ambivalent about the death penalty: my head says it is not justice but revenge; my heart says that it is deserved. I don't believe it's a deterrent to murder: as a crime of passion, murder is not a rational act, ergo murderers don't connect their actions with consequences; as a crime of premeditation, perpetrators really believe they can get away with it, so punishment is not part of the equation. (Contrary to what the public wants to believe, a lot of murders go unsolved, enough for people who plan them to believe they can get away with it.)

A state's right to sentence a human being to death and then execute that human being will always be an angst-filled exercise. But here in Texas, we get over it. Again and again.

Don't mess with Texas

MON

Editorial

The virtue of civility

There is a recent best-selling book whose title suggests that all we really need to know to make it in life we learned in kindergarten. While it is probably not literally the case, it does stand to reason that there are some fundamental lessons of life that we learn at a very early age. Whether we abide by these principles or not depends, in large measure, on how we see ourselves and how much we invest ourselves in living up to these directives.

Recently a letter was written to Abigail (Dear Abby) Van Buren which might provide some guidance for each of us in our modern world. Now, please do not misunderstand this to be a suggestion that "Dear Abby" is or should be a source of information on how to live your life. Nonetheless, this particular letter offers a worthwhile message. Here goes.

"I have practiced law for 40 years as a trial lawyer and counselor, and have served as a mediator for more than 1,000 cases in the last seven years. In my role as a peacemaker and advocate of conflict avoidance, I have reached certain conclusions that might help your readers:

1. Learn to disagree without being disagreeable. It's all right to be assertive, but not aggressive, abusive or abrasive.
2. When someone says something with which you disagree, try not to be judgmental.

3. Maintain eye contact when greeting people, and shake their hands. (Touching is important.)
4. Be kind and courteous to everyone.
5. Remember that civility is a sign of strength, not weakness.
6. Speak softly. (People tune out loud, angry voices.)
7. Saving face is important. Give your opponent the opportunity to withdraw.
8. Your attitude is more important than your aptitude.
9. Mutual respect is the key to avoiding conflict.
10. Give the other person a chance to be heard without interrupting.
11. The shortest distance between two people is a smile.

Peter Chantilis, attorney/mediator
Dallas

Each day we have the problems and issues of the world presented to us on the front pages of papers across the country. Whether it is the growing rate of teenage violence, the number of political conflicts from around the globe, the dog-eat-dog perspectives we confront daily at work or the hurt we feel from having loved ones do less by us than we expect, the fact is that negotiating and mediating are important skills. Indeed, how often can

you remember your mother or father having to subject themselves to some level of humiliation in order to provide for their families? Their response in these situations could as easily have been to lash out, restate the fact that they were adults and storm away, content in their assertions but, yet, still without food or money. This is by no means to suggest that we should always lie down and be trampled upon. However, it is important that we remember that we can "win the battle and yet lose the war." This phrase suggests that we are to be mindful of what our end objective must be, know how much we are willing to sacrifice for it, and be willing to do whatever it takes to achieve that end.

As parents and adults, how often do we take time to remind our kids that it is not always the loudest or most boisterous who "wins." In many cases, it is the quiet, unassuming and hard-working person that realizes real success. This message has never had more relevance than today where a misspoken word can cost you your life before you have the chance to take the word back.

This time, Ms. Abby has brought us a message worthy of note. Perhaps we should call Mr. Chantilis and let him know how much we appreciate his thoughts. Besides, it's a local call.

MON



**Guest Viewpoint
Mike Greene,
Ph.D.**

Into the jaws of incubus? Race as qualification

In November of 1966, California passed the California Civil Rights initiative (CCRI), a piece of legislation which stipulated, among other things, that race should not be used as a factor in public employment, education, and contracting. Flushed with success in California, backers of the CCRI have established a national organization to support similar initiatives in at least six states un 1998. Like California, other states are moving to curtail, if not outrightly eliminate, the use of race in employment and college admission decisions. In Louisiana, for instance, Governor Mike Foster attached his signature to an executive order ending affirmative action programs in state government, while in Colorado, Attorney General Gale Norton has issued a ruling prohibiting the use of race in the awarding of state colleges for scholarships.

In the meantime, in a series of

increasingly emphatic decisions, the U.S. Supreme court has shown increasingly unwillingness to uphold policies which take account of race in employment and college admissions. The high court has severely restricted set-asides in federal contracting (*Adarand v. Peerna*), declined to review a Fourth Circuit decision (*Kirwin v. Podberesky*) striking down a University of Maryland scholarship program for African-Americans, and deferred review of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling (*Hopwood v. Texas*) against the use of race in admission decisions at the University of Texas Law School.

Lying behind these decisions is the belief that affirmative action in employment and education constitutes a violation of the "merit principle," an outright assault, that is, against the notion that the "prize" must always be awarded to the

"most qualified." Affirmative action in college admissions, so the story goes, awards people on the basis of who they are rather than on what they have done. It is seen, in other words, as a type of social engineering that sacrifices accomplishment (e.g., earning good grades and scoring high on standardized exams) at the altar of group characteristics (e.g., race, ethnicity, and gender). Such policies, we are told, are fundamentally unfair and, in the name of justice, must be immediately dismantled. To do otherwise, to refrain from eliminating such policies, would be to invite a social incubus — a shadowy and evil spirit — to dwell amongst us, wreaking havoc and racial discord. Much, we are told, is at stake.

Indeed, there is much at stake. But what is perhaps most at stake is rarely, if see VIEWPOINT on page 4

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VIEWPOINT from page 2

ever, seriously discussed by opponents of affirmative action. In particular, it is the very notion of "qualifications" that looms large here — that is, the idea that "qualification" is a simple rather than complex phenomenon. Those who believe that affirmative action is a social incubus, threatening to lull us to sleep and then cannibalize the "merit principle," predicate their arguments upon a simple and naive conception of "qualifications." In contrast, I argue below that assessing an individual's qualifications is always a complex and open-ended process. Moreover, I press the claim that (a) something need not be "earned" in order to be a "qualification" and (b) under certain circumstances, race can function as one qualification among many. At a more general level, I argue that opponents of affirmative action have an extraordinarily naive and misleading understanding of "merit" and "qualification." Thus, the popular argument that affirmative action in higher education constitutes a violation of the "merit principle" is itself an argument that lacks merit.

Before proceeding further, one additional comment is warranted: It is beyond the scope of a single essay to exhaustively treat all of the issues involved in the debate over affirmative action. Thus, my comments below are largely confined to the naive and misleading way in which affirmative action opponents define qualification and merit. In subsequent articles, I will examine the argument that affirmative action is injurious and demeaning to African-Americans, as well as the more recent contention that class (i.e., disadvantaged status) should replace race as a criterion in university admissions policies.

Understanding Qualifications

A commonly held principle of justice in our society is that positions and rewards should be distributed according to individual merit. The "merit principle" holds that positions, such as scarce seats in at the University of Texas Law School, should be awarded to the most "qualified" individuals, that is, to those who give evidence of having the greatest aptitude and skill for performing the tasks those positions require. The "prize," according to this argument, must always go the quick and the strong: to those who provide evidence that they are capable of cutting the mustard. To do otherwise, to award the trophy to the slow and weak, is said to constitute a moral, if not constitutional, violation. The message to the those deemed to be "slow of foot" is simple and direct: Should you desire to experience the thrill of victory rather than the agony of defeat, then you must stop

whining and pick up your speed.

But what constitutes "qualifications" and how can they be measured? While political philosophers may be confused about this question, people like Governor Pete Wilson of California, to hear them tell it, have got it all figured out: It's like the 100 yard dash and all one need to do is to employ an "objective" timing device. With regard to admissions to colleges and professional schools, the appropriate timing devices, not surprisingly, are deemed to be standardized exams. For opponents of affirmative action, then, it is relatively simple matter to insure that the nation's colleges and universities do not

violate the merit principle in their admission decisions: admissions committees must be cajoled, if not legally required, to look solely at an applicant's scores on these standardized exams. Only 100 openings for first year students in at a particular law or business school? The solution, we are told, is simple: Use the LSAT and the GMAT to separate the wheat from the chaff. Worried about having an "affirmative action physician" possibly perform surgery on you or your loved ones? Well, stop fretting and demand that the nation's medical schools rely solely on MCAT scores to identify who should be trusted with the future of the public's health. This, it is said, is the best and only way to win back the day from those whose actions and policies threaten to thwart justice by doing violence to the meritocracy.

Within this drama, affirmative action appears as the character who seeks to replace the principle of merit with the alleged terror of group representation. It is averred that affirmative action is morally repugnant because it seeks to treat something that

cannot be "earned" (race) as a qualification for admission into college and university. Those of us who support affirmative action are said to behave as if one becomes "black" by dint of hard work and sacrifice. Opponents chide us for allegedly attempting to place an "unearned" characteristic, race, on par with characteristics which are said to be derived by the sweat of one's brow, namely, good grades and high scores on standardized exams. Something which is "unearned," we are reminded, should never count as a "qualification." Their message to prospective African-American students is blunt: "You have done

nothing to earn your color. Therefore, it is unfair for it to be considered a 'plus factor' in employment and admissions decisions. I, on the other hand, have sacrificed to earn good grades and to perform admirably on the SAT. Justice demands that, in seeking admission to colleges and universities, only that which can be earned should be considered as a sign of qualification. You must stop your special pleading and let the chips fall where they may."

MON

Mike Greene, Ph.D., is an economist residing in Cedar Hill.

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**Community
Pulse**
Thomas Muhammad

First, I wish to send out my heartfelt sympathy to Judge Mary Ellen Hicks on the passing of her wise and wonderful mother. We know that heaven is a more beautiful place as a result of her great homecoming.

Now, before beginning my column, one of our many faithful readers has asked that I give a response to another issue that we've been following, but which is not the month's main subject.

They feel that by doing so, they can get some kind of closure. It seems that being a monthly newspaper keeps them in suspense too long. My guess is that by doing these little teasers, it provides

readers with two columns a month. Hey now there's an idea. A biweekly MON. Are you listening Thurman!

Here goes. After searching the archives, the one issue I felt definitely deserved attention was the news of former Dallas City Councilman Paul Fielding's recent entrance into a Beaumont, Texas, federal prison.

If you remember, Fielding pleaded guilty several months ago to two felony counts of fraud and conspiracy to commit extortion. Fielding was the most mean-spirited, selfish, greedy, nasty, crazy, and oh yes, racist White Jewish person to place his butt in a city council chair in a loooonggg time. As to my response to the news that he is now behind bars, that's easy! I say "RIGHT ON, YOU GO BOY. HIT THE ROAD JACK AND DON'T YOU COME BACK NO DAMN MORE."

Now to our column. As a person who's been involved in the Dallas Independent School District (DISD) issue for some time, I can truly say with no hesitation that it's my opinion the DISD mess was helped by three of Dallas' most underhanded and unethical reporters. They are *The Dallas Morning News* Hispanic reporters Nora Lopez and Alex Barrionuevo and White Channel 8 education reporter Brett Shipp. Now I will provide here for you, dear reader, some details as to how I came to my conclusion. Then you can write and tell me the conclusion you reached.

One of the first distorted stories to

DISD scandals are tied to Channel 8, Dallas Morning News

appear came in a DMN editorial that reported "African American protesters did not support a Hispanic superintendent!" Upon reading this I immediately called Rena Pederson, the editor of the editorial section for the DMN, and demanded a retraction and an apology. Pederson became very upset and insisted that the statement was true and that I was only "trying to spread hate."

She further stated that she had yet to

find anything that "we protesters" ever liked or supported! When asked where she got the information that "we" protesters were against a Hispanic superintendent, she could not

give me a clear answer. Later that same day while briefly huddling with St. Luke's Rev. Zan Holmes, NAACP President Lee Alcorn and County Commissioner John Wiley Price, Rev. Holmes became very upset by the editorial he had read that morning. He said, and I quote, "I have never heard any of us say that! This is wrong. It is not true. And the *Morning News* needs to hear from us and straighten that out!" Now mind you, this was before I said anything about the subject. We all agreed that Rev. Holmes would facilitate a meeting with the DMN. However, because of so many issues happening, it was dropped with an agreement that we would revisit the subject.

A few days later I asked Ms. Lopez, the DMN reporter, why she reported this lie to her paper's editors. She said that she had participated in a meeting between the school district and some community committees to discuss what they felt they needed in a new superintendent. She said that a member of the Dallas NAACP (not Alcorn) stated that he wanted an African American superintendent. I then asked Lopez how that one person's statement can be seen as the consensus of a whole community. She agreed that was not the position of the community and thereafter she reported that "some" African Americans were not supporting a Hispanic superintendent. However, it was too late. The lie was already entrenched into the minds of Negro elected officials and the public.

Ms. Lopez and Mr. Barrionuevo's

one-sided reporting was clear throughout the DISD issue. They continually interviewed radical "unknown" Hispanics about African American protesters. This was primarily done because a number of Hispanic leaders were not supportive of Yvonne Gonzalez-Lyles. Lopez did not want that part of the story out. The "unknown" Hispanics became the voice for the Hispanic community and therefore a real assessment of Gonzalez could not be done. Ms. Lopez and Mr. Barrionuevo had in effect turned the issue into a racial one.

Many of us told the DMN reporters that we were not against Gonzalez because she was Hispanic. In fact we told them that we were in support of Joseph Coto, the Hispanic superintendent from San Jose, Ca. Mr. Coto received the highest points among board members during the closed-door executive session. However, the White and Hispanic board members wanted Gonzalez all along. When White and Hispanic board members said that they were going to ignore African American votes and choose Gonzalez, the African American board members walked out of the vote. The DMN reporters would not tell the public why the Black board members walked out and therefore left an impression that the Blacks too were against a Hispanic superintendent.

The DMN reporters refused to go to Santa Fe, N.M., to inspect Gonzalez' past dealings, even though they did visit the other four superintendents' homes. The information they brought back on the other applicants was unflattering, to say the least. But none of them had anything worse in their past than Gonzalez. I will tell you more of the DMN's reporting in future columns.

As for Channel 8 reporter Brett Shipp, most of you probably remember when we reported in this column how former school board member Sandy Kress tipped Shipp on what school board members would be doing in San Francisco, Ca., while at a school board conference financed with taxpayer money.

Shipp was a Channel 4 reporter at the time and the story was a series entitled "Your tax dollars at rest." The story catapulted Shipp to the investigating news reporter's spotlight. Soon after, Channel 8 picked him up.

For his part in the DISD mess, Shipp reported a story where an exclusive interview was conducted with former school superintendent Linus Wright. In the interview, Wright supposedly lamented that, because of all of the Black protesting

noise "no one was interested in applying for the superintendent job." The reasoning for this story was to shape opinion in favor of Gonzalez, who so far had not applied for the job. And that if the district didn't quickly hire her for the permanent spot, she would probably be lured to a Washington, D.C., education post that was open. The word from Ms. Lopez and company was that Gonzalez was a "strong candidate" for the Washington post.

The truth of the matter is that Shipp interviewed Wright without consulting Dr. Ruth Love. Dr. Love, a well-respected African American woman and a member with Wright of the hired consultant team, was never called for Shipp's story. Had Shipp interviewed Love, he would've found out that she had the names of 24 applicants. The list included three Hispanics. Those close to the district believe that Shipp did not interview Love because that would have ruined the "spin" the DMN and Channel 8 needed to get Gonzalez confirmed. Sources say that when Love turned in her names, Gonzalez was not on it! Wright turned in only one name: Gonzalez.

Sources in Washington also said at the time that Gonzalez was never in serious consideration for the Washington post. They say her name was sent in from some very "influential person" from the Dallas area. And that because of this person's stature, the search committee had to include Gonzalez' name, but Gonzalez was a loooooonggg way from being appointed for the post. They say that her name was only accepted as a favor to this influential person.

After receiving the 25 names, the board asked consultants Wright and Love to choose ten of the strongest candidates from the list. Love choose nine names that included two Hispanics. Once again Wright offered only Gonzalez' name. The school board members shortened that list to five names—three Hispanics and two African Americans.

Ahh! What the hell, readers, it's time to drop this subject for now and go do something really constructive, like supporting the Million Woman March. Are you down for that?!!

Until then, the struggle continues...

MON

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 Heat Pump Compressors.

Bids will be accepted until 2:00PM Wednesday, November 12, 1997 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 between the hours of 9:00AM and 3:00PM to obtain bid documents, please call (214) 672-0226 for directions.

THE DHA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS.
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NORDSTROM



Pen On Fire

by
Cheryl Smith

Were Dallas journalists hoodwinked by Yvonne Gonzalez?

Even I was hopeful that the new school superintendent, Dr. Yvonne Gonzalez, would be good for the Dallas Public Schools System. After all, I am a journalist, but I'm also human. And, I do have children who attend Dallas schools.

So, as much as journalists want to tout that elusive word, objectivity, we all know that who we are and what we are is reflected in what we do.

Here, on one hand, you have Dr. Yvonne Gonzalez, who at the youthful age of 44, received the nod to lead the school district. She is joined by some school board members who had strong ties to Gonzalez and would overlook procedures,

as well as common decency. There is also a cadre of staff members who, for whatever reason, assisted Gonzalez in her efforts.

On the other hand, there were some school board members who did not want to overlook procedures and common decency. They are joined by members of the community, who from the very beginning of the superintendent selection process, decried the process and urged an investigation of the "super" superintendent.

Then, somewhere out in "lala land," you find the media.

Instead of investigating and reporting on the claims of circumventing the process and Dr. Gonzalez' questionable past, many journalists paid more attention to the stories coming from the district's spin doctor. Instead of asking the hard questions and using common sense, many journalists took the easy way out and reported the information that fell into their laps. Instead of putting a little extra effort into our daily work, many journalists opted for quick, dramatic, high intensity; and many journalists resorted to "he say, she say" reporting, never once investigating the claims, many of which have turned out to be accurate.

So what happens? Dr. Gonzalez pleads guilty to a felony charge of misapplying district funds. The Fed-

eral Bureau of Investigation (FBI) continues to investigate and many expect more district staffers to fall.

Some board members, who supported her then and still seem reluctant to recognize the obvious, are showing questionable leadership skills and will only act after a guilty plea is offered. Isn't that a story line to explore?

Then you have the district staffers who still hold jobs, some who participated in illegal acts and are trying to cover their butts in the 11th hour.

And, there are those board members and critics who can proudly say, "I told you so!"

Dr. Gonzalez' history leads one to believe that the woman had serious character flaws. Not only was her ego enormous. Dr. Gonzalez was in a very powerful position and she took advantage of not only those who appointed her to the position, but also the children she betrayed. And helped.

The media helped by continuing to portray her as the "Great Brown Hope."

Some are saying now that Robert Hinkle, and his staff are the real culprits. They romanced journalists, weaving tales that caused many to forget why they entered the business. The cameras loved Dr. Gonzalez and, despite very vocal critics, the media continued to portray her as a heroine, a reformer, a champion for the children.

Sad to say, the love affair would still be going on if it were not for the FBI. How ironic! There was a time when journalists were investigating the FBI. Today, it seems as though if it were not for the FBI, nothing would be going on.

In fact, the FBI seems to be the only way to get any action out of the school board and the media!

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 (DHA) is accepting bids for a one (1) year contract for the acquisition of Dot Matrix and Laser Printers.

Bids will be accepted until 3:00PM Thursday, November 13, 1997 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.

THE DHA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS.



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



PEN NOTES:

If you missed it, sorry. The DFW/ABC presented a Soul Food Extravaganza at the Black Academy of Arts and Letters featuring LaJoyce Brookshire, author of the book *Soul Food*, and the wonderfully talented God's Property, along with several soul food restaurants. Masia's Black Pot, BB's Cakeshop and Diner, Lisa's Cuisine, Lady Di's, Elaine's Kitchen, Christopher Edwards, Vern's Place, Best Que's Soul Food and Red's Barbecue. DFW/ABC will also publish a Soul Food Cook Book featuring recipes from many of the folks you see on television, hear on the radio and read in newspapers and magazines, as well as other celebrities and the owners of soul food restaurants. Ms. Vern of Vern's Place has already submitted her recipe for turnip greens. We really need her to tell us what she put in her yams. They were the bomb!!! The deadline is rapidly approaching for students interested in participating in the DFW/ABC journalism workshop at Lincoln High School. Contact Dorothy Gentry at KERA, 972-224-8260 for an application...Congratulations to past workshop recipient Symphony Parson. A Cedar Hill graduate, Symphony attends Florida A&M University, where she is on the staff of WAMF-FM. Her days at KKDA-AM and in the workshop have paid off. I must send a shout out to one of her mentors, KTVT-TV's Brenda Teele. According to Symphony, Brenda calls her weekly! You see, that's what it is all about. You've got to reach back and help someone...The next meeting of the Dallas/Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators will be held on Tuesday, November 11 at the Ballpark in Arlington. Ordinarily the meetings would be held on the first Tuesday, however, the first Tuesday is election day...Condolences to Steve Harvey on the loss of his mother last month...Another comedian, Shuckey Duckey, was in town recently. S-D has moved to Los Angeles, but he hasn't forgotten Dallas. We're expecting some BIG things in his future. Quack, Quack!!!...The following is a statement made to the members of DFW/ABC: "Several topics were discussed in a meeting, called by Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price, with WFAA-TV and other community leaders. In the invitation to attend the meeting, Mr. Price wrote: 'Several of us have decided to pull together a group of African Americans in leadership positions in this community to begin to devise strategies that will hold the various broadcast and print media in the Dallas Metroplex accountable.'" In the meeting, two points specifically addressed by DFW/ABC were the lack of African American producers and the specifics of the new "African American" show. A look at WFAA's workforce is very interesting. There are some very startling numbers, and we will share that

information with you in the very near future. It was refreshing, however, to hear about the mentoring program that was initiated by Assistant News Director Connie Howard. Please be advised that DFW/ABC meets with media outlets throughout the year to address issues. We will continue meeting and we will remain vigilant in our efforts to communicate with officials, expressing our praises, as well as our criticisms. At the last meeting, a discussion was held regarding recent changes at *The Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. The organization is pleased that the *Star-Telegram* has promoted Bob Ray Sanders to Associate Editor and Dr. Monica Anderson as a columnist. A letter was sent to Executive Editor Jim Witt. Should we encourage other African American organizations to boycott the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Dallas? Does DFW/ABC deserve a formal written apology? Should we inform the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce and Better Business Bureau of our dealings with the Hyatt? Recently the Hyatt was contacted regarding a potential fundraiser the organization was interested in having. We were informed by the representative that the Hyatt was very concerned about the image of the hotel and the organizations they enter into projects with. I was "confused" by the comments and asked for a clarification. The rep then explained that the Hyatt is really proud of its name and wants to do everything possible to protect their good image. I explained to this rep that we have done nothing to blemish the image of the Hyatt during our years of patronage and that I was offended by her inference. She apologized profusely, as did management. Following a meeting with some DFW/ABC members, we were told a proposal would be presented to us for our fundraiser. The proposal was in no way acceptable, and, in fact, was higher than the one presented initially! I wrote a letter to the General Manager. To date, there has been no response. We have served the hotel notice that we would not be holding our 1998 scholarship banquet at the hotel. As a media organization, what do you feel our role should be in informing the public on issues of this sort? What do you think??? Condolences to the family of Doris Taylor. She was the mother of *Dallas Morning News* sportswriter Jean-Jacques Taylor...Also, condolences to Roland Martin on the death of his great grandmother... Congratulations to Don Boswell as he moves from Dallas public radio station KERA to New York, where he will be the president at the public radio station in Buffalo... Word has it that Valerie Moore is doing very well at KRLL... Word is also floating around that some changes are about to go down at KRNB and KRBV. Could these impending changes have something to do with recent ratings??? CS



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A Champion for Justice

Former school board member Kathlyn Gilliam remains committed to social equality

By Cheryl L. Williams

Kathlyn Gilliam rose from being an outspoken parent of the Dallas Independent School District Board of Education. Amid controversy and racial division, she served as the District 9 DISD (now the Dallas Public Schools) board representative for 23 years, from 1974 to 1997. In 1980, Ms. Gilliam became the first African American school board president.

A former student of the school system herself, Ms. Gilliam, 67, fought tirelessly for the rights of all children, particularly ethnic minority children, gaining the reputation from critics as stubborn and divisive and from supporters as an uncompromising stalwart for the rights of minority students.

In May 1997, newcomer Ron Price narrowly defeated her for the District 9 seat, ending her tumultuous reign on the school board. However controversial, her tenure was marked by significant contributions to the African American community as well as the community at large. To promote improved student achievement, she established tougher goals and made available more resources to South and West Dallas "super" schools. She founded "District 9 on the Move," a national model in school/community relations. She founded the Selena Butler Leadership Development Institute to train parents and citizens to oversee the school system for the benefit of their children. And although current board majority has voted to return to daytime meetings she played an instrumental role in moving school board meetings from daytime to evening hours to give parents and other concerned citizens an opportunity to attend and participate in sessions.

Among other things, Ms. Gilliam is actively involved in the "Clean South Dallas/Fair Park" organization and is preparing for an annual fall clean-up on November 8 and 15 and a fundraising silent auction for the organization on November 7.

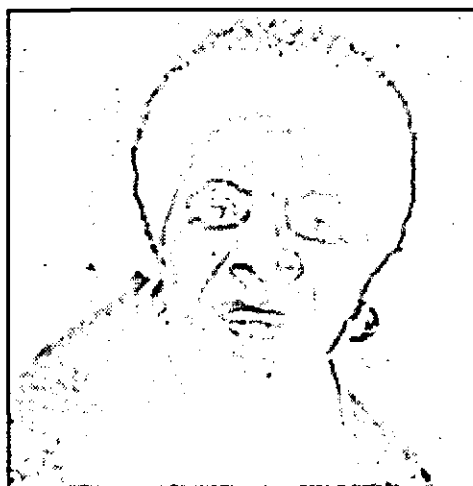
MON talked with Ms. Gilliam about her "career" as an advocate for education and her life after school board. The following is an excerpt from that interview.

How and why did you become involved with the Dallas school board?

When my youngsters were in public school, I started out with the regular PTA activities and I've been involved with public school education ever since. I have three children and they are all products of the Dallas Independent School District. I am a product of the Dallas Independent School District and so is my husband. We always felt like we had a vested interest in the district in that we were stakeholders in the district as taxpayers. We felt a

responsibility to become involved.

I always figured that if we were going to be successful, we had to have an educated citizenry. That had been instilled in me as a child by my parents and we saw that as a vehicle to get where we needed to be. Even though we started out with the PTA, the PTA at that time was segregated. We had two separate PTAs, not only in Dallas but on a national level. The two PTAs in Dallas came together in 1971 and the national group merged in 1970. I headed the Dallas



Council of Colored Parents and Teachers for the last four years of its existence as the president of that organization. By that time, we were entrenched in the PTA philosophy. Basically, it was to look after the welfare of children and youth. That's where I got started and that just lead to other things.

What is the function of the school board and how has the function changed over the years?

The school board really sets policy as a nine-member body elected by the citizenry in nine separate districts. I was elected for the first time in 1974 under the single member district concept. Before that, we had an at-large system of election where everybody in the entire district voted on all the nine members, and it was very difficult to get minorities elected with that type of arrangement. In 1974, due to then Rep. Paul Ragsdale's efforts in Austin, they changed the law and cut the district into nine separate districts. That way, minorities could gain access. After the single member district concept was initiated, it was guaranteed that we could have minority representation on the board. Right now we don't have enough because the student population in Dallas at this time is over 90% ethnic minority. By right, the board should reflect the makeup of the student population, but we still have just four

ethnic minorities on the board.

Do you find that board members who aren't minorities are not serving in the best interest of minority students?

They are not serving in the best interest of minority students; however, that's not to say that they cannot. I think you have to have the will and commitment to do what's right and, at this time, we don't have that segment of the population on the board committed to doing what's right for the ethnic minority students. In fact, they have been elected under a banner to work at all costs to maintain control and power of the school district. It boils down to the anglo sector on the board is more intent on keeping control of the billion dollar budget than they are about the education of the youngsters left here in the district. They probably have less than 10% anglo students in the district right now. You have to look at that situation and ask a critical question: Why would you want to be in control of this ethnic minority district when you don't have any youngsters here? There has to be some selfish reason.

So the board does determine the budget, who gets contracts and such policies as that?

The board acts in that relationship to recommendations from the administration. The administration brings the recommendations, but the board of education can certainly influence the recommendations that are coming out of administration, especially if they're all in cahoots with doing less for the young people.

It's been almost six months since the last school board election. What is your assessment of the current school board?

I think you have the same situation existing now on the school board that existed when I was on the board of education. We still have that "slam dunk" mentality on the part of the anglo sector on the board that gets together behind closed doors and makes decisions and comes to the table with their minds made up. You still have the situation where the African American board members are excluded from private conversations. Nothing has changed. I guess that saying about "the more things change, the more things remain the same" is true. The problem as it exists today has festered to the point where it has just been an embarrassment to the whole city; not only the city, but it has embarrassed the whole country. Now the district is the talk on the national scene. I feel embarrassed myself to think that I spent so much time as a volunteer board member and that it ends up the way it is, just a national disgrace.

There have been continued efforts to hire a minority superintendent. Do you think that an anglo can represent the district as well as a minority?

I basically think that [race] should not be the determining factor in terms of who will lead the district on the administrative level. It should boil down to who is the best person for the job, and that could or could not be an ethnic minority. We have to understand that anglos—professionals and in any other category—do not have a monopoly on intelligence. We have to be sure that the ethnic minorities have a fair shake in terms of leading districts, especially urban districts like Dallas that are overwhelmingly ethnic minority.

At the time (former DISD superintendent) Dr. [Yvonne] Gonzalez was hired, we interviewed some ethnic minority candidates who had excellent credentials. As you know, the search was aborted and we were not able to finish. We had conducted searches in the past and we always went to the neighborhoods and communities where these applicants resided and worked and got firsthand information. But we did not get the opportunity to do this with Dr. Gonzalez. Some of us thought from the beginning that this was a mistake. My personal bias was that Dr. Gonzalez was the weakest candidate we interviewed at that time.

Ron Price ran on a platform to end racial bickering on the school board, but decisions and views still appear to be drawn down racial lines. Did you expect that he would encounter the same problems and situations that you encountered?

I'm not surprised at all. I think you'd have to be blind, stupid and crazy to think that racism did not exist on the school board and in the school system or in any area that we undertake today. I think that a lot of the campaign jargon and rhetoric was just there. I understood that very well. I knew rhetoric from reality.

Since blacks are a minority on the board and can never attain a majority vote, did you see the racial division as counter-productive?

Not at all. You have to stand up for what you believe and what you believe is going to help the youngsters. We all know that the majority of our [Dallas Public Schools] youngsters at this time are ethnic minority. That is a large segment of the people that we are miseducating. We have too many people who are coming out of school, graduating, getting diplomas and, a lot of times, they can't even read a diploma. We are doing a dis-

continued on next page

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service to the young people when we try to hide our heads in the sand and pretend that things are going fine. That's more hypocritical. It's almost criminal to take that kind of position. When you go in to racist organizations like the Dallas school board, you go in understanding that you are not in a popularity contest. You have to pick and choose your friends and understand that it is not healthy to serve on a nine-member board of education and try to be personal friends and buddies with folks that you have to come to the table with and make critical decisions about what's going to happen to the young people.

While we could never get a majority to join us on critical issues, that's not to say that we were losing. If we didn't do anything but put the issue on the table for the general populous to hear and understand, it finally becomes an embarrassment to that "slam-dunk" mentality and people who elected them can try to at least prevail upon them to change their ways. I never saw the 6-3 votes as losing. I saw them as educational and informing the public wherein [the public] could make decisions based upon what was actually happening in the Dallas district. The people sitting around that table are more concerned with the billion dollar budget than they are about the education of our youngsters.

Ron Price is a novice board member. Do you have any advice for him?

I think that he has got to dig out facts. He has got to do some reading and be ensured that he has good information and not depend on somebody else telling him what to do. There's going to come a time when he's going to have to stand on his own two feet. The only way you can stand on your own two feet and be successful at that board is to be informed. He's got to read every line of the documents that come in the packets to him. He cannot just put that to the side, because people will lead him down the primrose path and he won't know what hit him. I guess the only advice I have for him is to start going through the information so he can be equipped to make informed and intelligent decisions. That old rhetoric and that old knee-jerk approach is going to run out.

Will you run again?

I don't know. I think I've given my pint of blood to the school district. I don't know what path I will take but I certainly haven't really missed being at the Dallas school board. I guess because I have been occupied for many years doing many things. [The Dallas school board] was just one of the things that I was involved in but it is certainly not the only

thing that I am involved in. I do the things that I do, I volunteer because I want to.

How much time did you spend weekly volunteering as a board member?

I probably spent sometimes 40 hours or more. It's like a job and, sometimes, it's more hours than that. And if you really want to be an effective board member, it's a full-time job. One thing that we as an ethnic minority community have not had are people that will step forward and run [for school board] because it was a volunteer job. We don't have a lot of people that can afford to do that so it keeps a lot of good people away who could be effective.

You were quoted as saying you could do more off the board than on the board. What are some of the things that you've been doing since you got off the board?

I've been working very diligently with the Selena Butler Leadership Development Institute. That's an institute where we are training parents across the district for leadership [positions] and obviously some board candidates will come out of that. Selena Butler was the organizer of the National Council of Colored Parents and Teachers. She organized the national movement when African Americans couldn't belong to the larger [PTA] body and we thought it would be fitting to name the leadership development institute after Ms. Butler because she spent her life helping to train African American parents to become involved in meaningful ways in their children's education. You'll find some of the institute's participants serving on various boards and commissions and advisory groups and school centered education councils and PTAs. We do two ten-week sessions a year, one in the fall and one in the spring. Right now, we are getting ready to do a national conference in August. We've trained four classes, 30 folk at a time, and we're going to pull all those folk together and basically they are going to put the conference together.

I've been selected president-elect of the Black Coalition to Maximize Education. That's the group of citizens that has legal standing in the court with the desegregation order. We've been working real feverishly with that court order and the attorney because the issue on the table is whether the district is going to come from under the court jurisdiction with unitary status.

We also have the Clean South Dallas beautification project for the South Dallas/Fair Park area. We have put together an array of volunteers and we are involved in many things to revitalize this community. So it's not that we have time to twiddle our thumbs.

When and how was the Clean South Dallas/Fair Park organization developed?

It was developed in 1983. It was part of the Keep America Beautiful/Keep Texas Beautiful Project that former first lady Ladybird Johnson organized. At that time, all over the country, chapters were being organized. In 1983, we were the second chapter organized in Dallas. We felt like the community could be restored to its original splendor if we could get citizens interested in going to bat to make it so. We started with a nine-member project team and today we have a mailing list of over 1,000 members and we meet every month. We set up committees and we do all kinds of activities and incentive programs from the "Yard of the Month" to the holiday decorations committee. We work with the schools with incentive programs and poster and essay contests. We have two cleanups a year, one in the fall and one in the spring, where we put together hundreds of volunteers and they go all over the community and do a comprehensive cleanup. We have a recycling effort with a recycling center on the corner (of the Clean South Dallas/Fair Park office) and it's open 24-hours a day. We have a service to pick up recyclables from our senior citizens. We do one major fundraiser a year and that's the silent auction that we're getting ready for. We've had a lot of help from corporations, sororities and fraternities, neighborhood organizations, churches in the area and individuals. We worked with Habitat for Humanity and NationsBank to revitalize a house across the street that we probably can sell to get another good neighbor in here. It's been a good experience involving a lot of people.

Do you have another project that you want to get off the ground?

I basically want to continue to train young people for leadership. I think that's one of the most responsible things that any of us can do.

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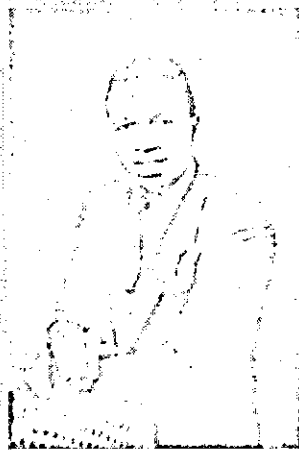
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Must be 18 or older and postmarked by December 16, 1997 to enter. Not responsible for late, lost and undelivered mail.

Carter D. Womack named VP of Human Resources at Viacom Retail Stores, Inc.

Carter D. Womack has been named Vice-President of Human Resources at Viacom Retail Stores, Inc., headquartered in Dallas, Texas. His responsibilities include human resources



Carter D. Womack

development, training, customer service initiatives and community affairs.

Prior to joining Viacom Retail Stores, Inc. as Director of Human Resources, Mr. Womack was Zone Human Resources Manager at Blockbuster. Earlier career experience includes Senior Vice President for *The Black Collegian* magazine, Director of Employee Relations for Ryder Truck Rental and Corporate Manager-Governmental Compliance and Diversity for Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. He was listed in *Ebony* magazine as one of the "100 Most Influential African Americans" in 1996-97. Mr. Womack is a graduate of Alabama A&M University.

Viacom Retail Stores, Inc. is a subsidiary of Viacom, Inc., one of the world's largest entertainment and publishing companies. For more information call Ruth Torres at 214-854-4664.

Pearlie M. Jones accepted into fellowship program

Pearlie M. Jones, professional social worker, author and playwright from Dallas has been accepted into the Women's Research and Education Institute's (WREI) Congressional Fellowship Program in Washington, D.C. Ms. Jones has been assigned to the office of the Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton, (Delegate-District of Columbia), who is co-chair of the Caucus. In this placement, which lasts nine months, Ms. Jones primarily will work on women's issues.

Ms. Jones is a self-published author of four books and is working towards a Ph.D. in women's studies from the Union Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio. She lived in Dallas for over 15 years where she enjoyed a varied professional background that included social work administration, criminal justice and community outreach and counseling. For more information call WREI at 202-628-0458.

Malonson named chairman of TAAACC

Roy Douglas Malonson was recently named chairman of the Texas Association of African American Chambers of Commerce (TAAACC). Malonson, a native of Houston and current chairman and CEO of the Acres Home Citizens Chamber of Commerce, was unanimously elected after having served as Vice-Chairman for the past two years.

Malonson plans to build on the partnerships established within the corporate community and to expand the technological capabilities of African

American Chambers of Commerce throughout the state via the Internet. The organization will also increase its activity in the political arena to address the issues affecting African American entrepreneurs.

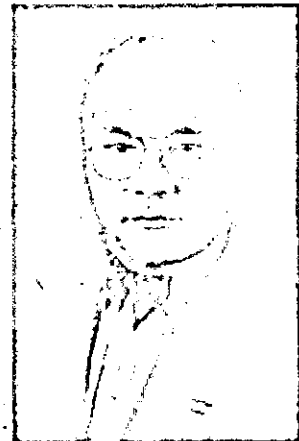
The TAAACC is headquartered in Austin, Texas. Over 20 African American Chambers of Commerce are members of the Association. For more information call the Association at 512-457-0370 or LaDawn Ashley at 713-692-7161.

Marcia Page honored with Women of Color Technology Award

Marcia Page, director of Worldwide Customer Support for Texas Instruments, was among 53 award winners of the "Women of Color Technology Awards" sponsored by the *US Black Engineer and Information Technology* magazine.

This award recognizes the accomplishments of women from around the world who have made significant contributions in technology. Ms. Page received her award in the "Business Innovation" category.

Currently, Ms. Page is responsible



Roy D. Malonson



Marcia Page

for the Product Information Centers and information fulfillment process in TI's North American, Asian Pacific, Japan and Europe regions. Since joining TI in 1995, she has helped to build cost effective, efficient and innovative business processes. She serves as a mentor and drives professional development activities throughout the community and organizations at TI.

Ms. Page received her bachelor of science degree in business administration from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 1980. She completed additional studies in Leadership Development and Quality, and participated in executive educational programs at both Harvard University and the University of Indiana. For more information call Anne Hendry at 972-995-3604.

Brannon-Cottrell opens full-service ad agency


The in-house ad agency for PRO-LINE Hair Products Corporation, formerly

known as Superlative Communications, is now a full service advertising agency known as The Brannon-Cottrell Group (BCG).

President & CEO Roy Brannon brings over 15 years of experience to the industry. During Mr. Brannon's tenure as Vice-President of Advertising for PRO-LINE Hair Products, he managed a \$10 million advertising budget and was responsible for some of the most innovative advertising campaigns in the ethnic industry. He received his BS degree in 1984 from Oklahoma State University with a major in Radio Television and Film and a minor in advertising. Brannon-Cottrell Group has an



Roy Brannon



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Dr. Sheron Patterson hosts Faith Focus

Dr. Sheron C. Patterson will once again serve as host for the long-running religious talk show, *Faith Focus*, which is broadcast 6:30 a.m., Sunday mornings on KXAS Channel 5.

Dr. Patterson, who is senior pastor of Jubilee United Methodist Church in Duncanville, Texas, is an award-winning journalist, newspaper columnist and author of three books.



Dr. Sheron Patterson

"For too long, Christianity has been dismissed as boring and old," she said. "I am ready to shake that old stereotype off."

For the past 14 years, *Faith Focus* has been an early Sunday morning fixture for some 35,000 households in eleven North Texas counties. *Faith Focus* is produced by the Greater Dallas Community of Churches and Channel 5 in a unique partnership that allows the religious community to showcase its events in a secular medium. For more information

call the Greater Dallas Community of Churches at 214-824-8680.

Rev. Barry J. Lyons to head St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Dallas

The St. John Missionary Baptist Church, one of the oldest African American congregations in Dallas, is pleased to announce the selection of a new pastor.

The Rev. Barry J. Lyons, pastor of Resurrection Baptist Church in West Philadelphia, PA, will be installed Sunday, November 9 at 4:00 p.m. at St. John Missionary Baptist Church, 2600 S. Marsalis Ave., Dallas.



Rev. Barry J. Lyons

Rev. Lyons, 29, will become the seventh pastor of the 121 year-old church. He succeeds Rev. Manuel Scott, Sr., who resigned in March 1995 after serving nearly 11 years. Dr. Wright Lassiter, who served as interim pastor, called Rev. Lyons "the answer to my prayers" during a recent Sunday morning worship service.

Contact MON's Advertising
214-606-7351

Rev. Lyons earned an Associate of Arts degree from Gloucester County College, Sewell New Jersey and also earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work from Stockton State College, Pomona, New Jersey. He is currently pursuing a Master of Science degree in Organizational Leadership at the Philadelphia College of Bible Graduate School.

A luncheon welcoming Rev. Lyons will be held 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., November 5 at St. John Missionary Baptist Church.

For more information call Paul Thomas, installation chairman, at 214-376-3859, Seritta Lattimore at 214-374-8846 or Marion Butts, publicity chairman, at 214-942-9303.

DART NEWS



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Black Indians

Native Americans of African descent have a distinguished heritage in the United States Part 2

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

In the early centuries of their life in the Americas, Black Indians often created a society that might have been a model for everyone. They demonstrated that there was a path through the wilderness other than the one hacked out by European lust for gold, land, and power. Their communities proved bigotry did not rise naturally from America's soil, plains and waters. Bigotry, and the appetite for it, was imported.

If they had been of a mind to, Europeans might have learned something from the dark people they selfishly used. Instead, they gathered these people's precious gifts and offered false promises in return. Africans and Indians followed a tradition that rarely required the recording of agreements, treaties and the like; they were bound by verbal promises. However, they encountered Europeans who entered into many, many written commitments but failed to keep many of them.

What followed in the New World was a titanic struggle for the control of dark people and natural resources by Europeans. Europe marched out its best soldiers to secure the American continent and subdue its people. The result was unending conquest and agonizing slavery. Enduring the pain were armed Black Indian communities named "Hide Me" and "The Woods Lament For Me." They were home for some of our earliest explorers and pioneers. Families brought up their young, constructed homes, planted and harvested crops and took care of their elderly. They traded with neighbors, instituted religion, government, justice, and planned a common defense against their enemies.

Before Patrick Henry shouted "Give me liberty or give me death!" Black Indian maroons acted on this notion. Before Thomas Jefferson wrote "... all men are created equal," Black Indians were turning that stirring phrase into hard reality. Before the Declaration of Independence eloquently argued for a peoples' revolution against unjust authority, thousands of dark-skinned Americans had been fighting tyrants and slave hunters on two continents.

To prevent Africans and Native Americans from uniting, Europeans played skillfully on racial differences and ethnic rivalries. They kept the pot of ani-

mosity boiling. Whites turned Indians into slave hunters and slave owners; Africans into "Indian-fighters"; light-skinned Africans against dark-skinned Africans; the free against the enslaved; Black Indians against "pure" Africans (or



With muskets and ammunition taken from the European invaders, red and black Seminoles fought for their right to live peacefully in Florida.

"pure") Indians. For example, it's been stressed that Europeans encountered Indians as distinct individuals and members of proud nations, and Africans as nameless slaves. Little mention is made of the enslavement of Native Americans and nothing is said about the cultural similarities between the two dark peoples. In 1984, scholar Theda Perdue said: "By emphasizing the actual, exaggerated and imagined differences between Africans and Indians, whites successfully masked the cultural similarities of the two races as well as their mutual exploitation by whites."

In 1774, patriot James Madison wrote about a slave revolt: "It is prudent such attempts should be concealed as well as suppressed."

These frontier omissions lie at the heart of our cherished national myth. The tale of the wilderness stands as the greatest American story ever told. It is the way we wish to see ourselves. "A frontier people," said President Woodrow Wilson, "is, so far, the central and determining fact of our national history."

In the wilderness, racial stereotypes long depicted nonwhites as cowardly or childlike. How could red or black men be shown creating a culture in the wilderness, bravely rescuing their families, and riding off into the sunset. There is another problem in introducing a set of dark frontier heroes. Their love of liberty thrust them against some sainted U.S. figures. Thomas Jefferson, speaking of Indians, said, "We would never stop pursuing them with war while one remained on the face of the earth." Andrew Jackson, the first great democrat to reach the White House, was first in a long line of candidates to win the presidency boasting of his Indian-fighting skills. He waged a cruel war against Indian men, women, and children. He staunchly defended slavery and, like Jefferson, owned slaves. To save their families, Black Indians had to fight off possies and armies launched by these national heroes.

Distorting racial history, as teachers know, injures dark children. They live with a muted heritage. Despite Black Indian contributions to this land, neither black nor Indian children nor their parents have an awareness of this legacy. Like whites, Native Americans learned in school that Africans were contented slaves and had no fighting traditions, certainly none that allied them with Indians.

African Americans may be aware of Indians in their family trees. But they probably assume that, like the whites lurking there, they are mere intruders. When Black Americans have pursued their genealogy, they have focused on their African roots and sought a meaningful black heritage. Children of the black awareness of the 1960s have rarely cared to mention an Indian ancestry because this might be seen as a denial of their African origins and the value of blackness. All this is part of the racial nightmare we have inherited.

The ancestors of Black Indians often created — or died in the attempt — an American sisterhood and brotherhood we have tried to attain. They did this under terrible circumstances and in the face of armed opposition. Had we paid proper attention to their unique model of friendship and loyalty, our common American history, from Hudson Bay to Cape Horn, might have been different. More peaceful. Our racial problems might have been more easily solved. Even at this late date we owe ourselves a rediscovering of this fascinating legacy. Perhaps we can still learn from it and act on its lessons.

MON

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



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Great Expectations

By Kathleen Goolsby

Texas Publishers Assn. Wire Service

That first shovel of dirt at the groundbreaking ceremony in Dallas for Kokelbug Petroleum Products, Inc.'s store represented a great deal more than the beginnings of a building. Owner Marcus Nelson recently "broke ground" as the first African American "jobber" in the State of Texas for Conoco Inc.; his store represents a hope for others in the black community, as well as a commitment toward minorities by Conoco.

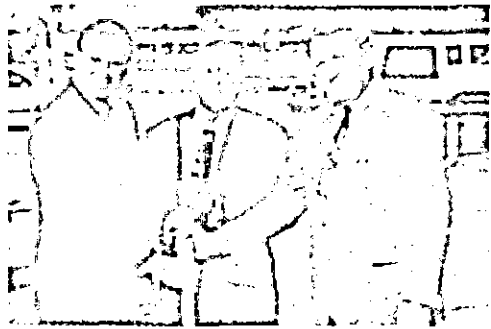
A "jobber" is a distributor, or marketer, of brand name refined petroleum products, such as motor fuel, diesel, aviation

fuel, oils, lubricants, solvents, antifreezes, etc. As a jobber, Kokelbug has been granted the right to use the Conoco logo and brand name and has the right to solicit customers, such as convenience store operators, commercial and government fleet operators, and service station dealers using the Conoco brand name. Nelson explains, "Since a distributorship is based on the volume of motor fuel sold, the easiest and most common way to become a jobber is to meet the brand's minimum volume requirements. The other way is to have customers that bring volume to the table, which helps you meet the minimum requirements. I happen to have a very good customer with multiple store locations."

Conoco first learned of Nelson when he saw store sites he wanted to buy and "cold called" Conoco see if they would sell them to him. Nelson agrees that it took a great deal of perseverance for a black man to remain positive as he pursued his goal. "Once I get focused, though, I zero in and don't walk away," he explains. "When I wanted to buy those sites, I looked up the properties in the county tax rolls to find out who the owner was. Then I kept calling Conoco — probably about 18 million times — until I got to the right person." At that time, Conoco was downsizing and had sold over fifty percent of its company-owned stores. "Then, two years ago," explains Curtis Franklin, Director of Customer Service and Business Development for Conoco's Gulf Coast Market,

"we decided on a strategy of how and where we wanted to grow. We decided to make Dallas one of our dominant markets. We try to be representative of the communities we're in, and we already knew Marcus. We want to make sure our jobbers will reflect Conoco well, and Marcus was very attractive to us in that regard."

Nelson, who is excited about the new venture, says, "We did it! It took perseverance, some very creative financing and a lot of prayer." Who is involved in "we" besides Nelson and Conoco? "God is my partner, and I'm very blessed," he answers. Nelson is a member of Antioch Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church in Dallas, and his pastor, Reverend Karry D. Wesley, attended the October 13 groundbreaking ceremony for the Kokelbug store.



(l-r) William Scott, Brand Marketing Manager for Conoco, Marcus Nelson, Conoco's Newest Jobber, and Ken Mullins, Account Manager for Conoco.

Franklin says that Conoco values a sense of community, and wants its jobbers to be involved with churches and charitable community organizations.

organizations.

"It helps, too, that I understand the business," Nelson adds. His father owned Nelson's Gulf Bait, Tackle and BBQ in Rusk County, Texas and, at age 12 and 13, Marcus was ordering supplies and handling inventory at his dad's convenience store. Franklin explains that Conoco "looked at all the intangibles about Marcus. He had entrepreneurial blood from his father and his mother (who has run her own business for 20 years). He also had the dream and vision, as well as an excellent marketing plan; he is a church member and works with Junior Achievement. All of that is what made him attractive to us."

Nelson believes anyone can accomplish dreams and goals "if they just start. It could be anything — even a popsicle stand. You'll never succeed until you start," he believes. "I like the Michael Jordan commercial where he talks about all the shots he missed — in order to make the shot, he had to take the shot. Although it's the easiest thing in the world to do, you just can't take 'no' for an answer. The more you bump your head against a wall, you'll know where not to walk, but you don't stop walking. This transaction is not the only one I pursued. But it's the one where I just didn't quit. Anybody can do this kind of thing... if they're persistent."

The Kokelbug store, to be built at 1059 W. Camp Wisdom Road at Polk Street in Dallas, will have a positive economic effect in the black community.

"We'll be developing and acquiring additional stores," Nelson explains, "and each store will employ eight to ten people. Plus, we're looking for wholesale distributors for oils and lubricants."

Conoco, headquartered in Houston, takes a strong, positive stand toward diversity. The company has a minority supplier and vendor program; mentorship and scholarship programs for African Americans; and performs community services, such as painting houses. Over ten years ago, even before it became

popular to do so, Conoco celebrated and presented for its employees plays about Martin Luther King, Jr. Franklin says Conoco's CEOs study the ideologies of King and of Malcolm X.

Nelson is excited about opportunities to give something back to the community. "In fact, one of my passions is volunteering with Junior Achievement," he says. In that program, volunteers at elementary, middle and high schools,

see EXPECTATIONS page 22

Cooper Institute seeks volunteers for physical activity

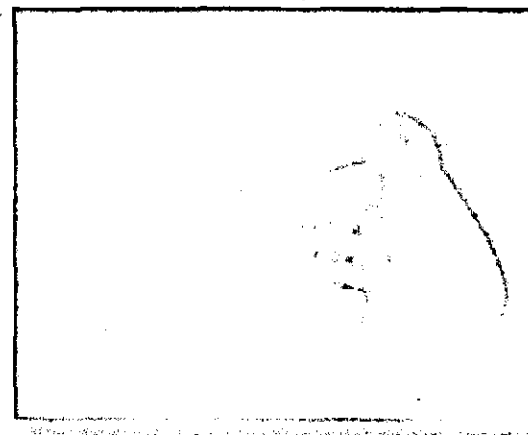
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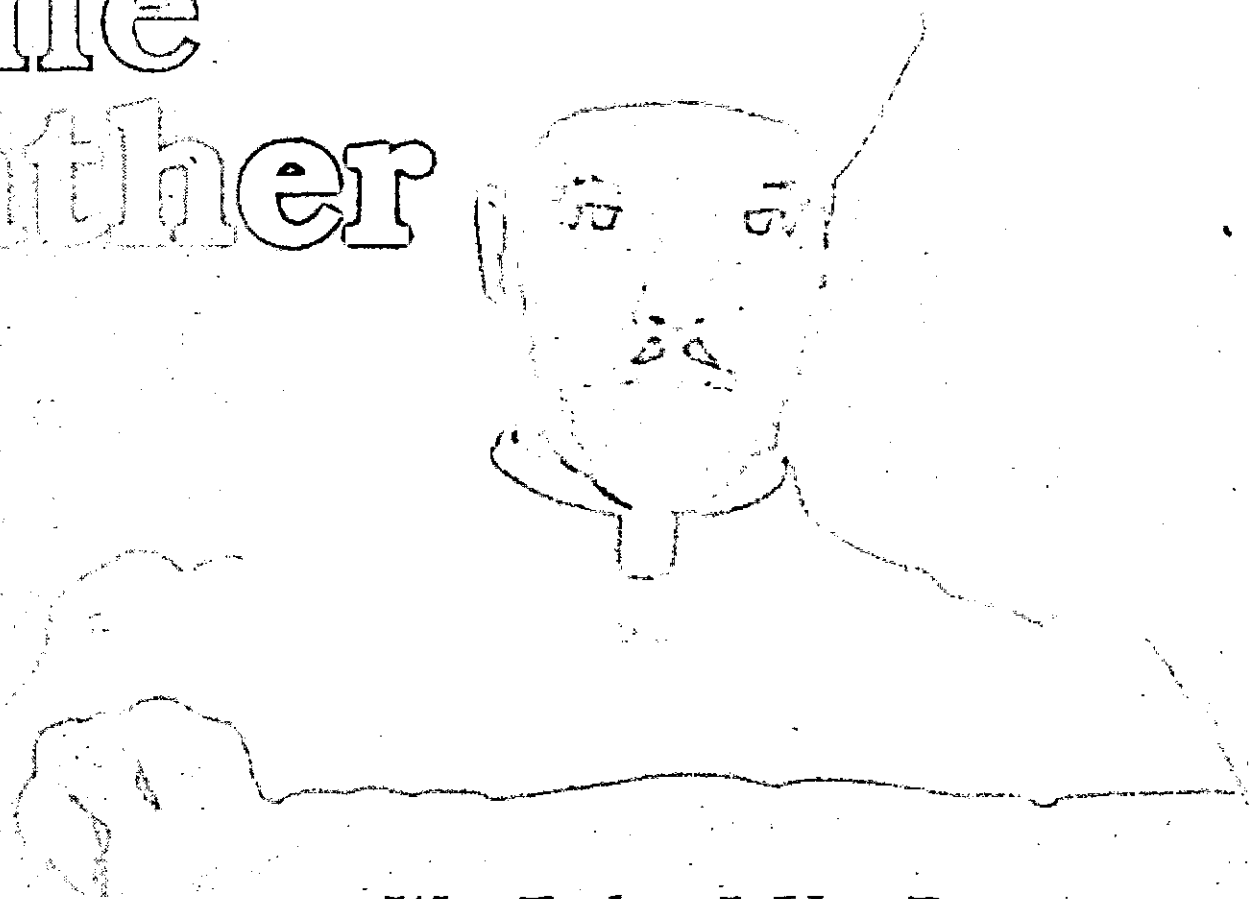
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In the Name of the Father



Was Father J. Von Brown
truly convinced he was a
savior sent by God?

By Vanessa Baker,

Photos by R. C. Hickman

No flowers — real or artificial — adorn its base. No tree provides it shade. Nothing but sparse grass and other headstones shadow this resting place. Facing east, three concrete gray-stoned tablets, a bit rusted with age, mark the grave of J. Von Brown, better known as Father Brown. The first tablet reads:

Mth. Z. Allen
Mth. E. Bratton
Sis V. Parker
Lighted Church of Prayer

(These people may possibly be the primary donors of this 26' x 39' erected monument.)

Carved beneath an etched, nine-point crown that overlays a cross, the middle tablet reads:

Father J.
Von Brown
Born
Oct. 24, 1925
Dismissed
Aug. 22, 1965

And finally, the third tablet, possibly revealing the doctrine of The Lighted Church Of Prayer:

This Is A Church With
A Heart, Where A
Stranger Meets A Friend,
A Sinner Meets
God, Where Christ Is
Preached As He Is To
Men As They Are.
His Holiness,
Father J. Von Brown

Father J. Von Brown dipped his hands in oil and rubbed them over the man's head chanting words similar to, "Thou anointeth my head with oil." He then walked to the pulpit. "Lay down your crutches and come to me."

"I can't," replied the man.

"Lay down your crutches and walk," insisted Father Brown.

"I can not walk!"

"Yes you can! You can walk! You are healed!"

The crutches were tossed to the side as the man made his way, unassisted, to the altar.

At the impressionable age of nine, Paula Ransom attended Father Brown's church. "Such [healings] were common," she recalls. Ms. Ransom then lived with her mother and an aunt. Her mother attended a Baptist church, but two of her aunts were members of The Lighted Church of Prayer.

"When I went to the Baptist church, I sat erect and listened to the sermon. Playing was not allowed. But going to Father Brown's church was like going to a party. Folk jumped up, beat on tambourines, danced, and shouted. And I pretended to shout. But best of all, I like watching Father heal people and raise the dead."

Paula Ransom is now 43 years old and a program analyst for the Treasury Department. She recalls her own aborted healing many years ago. "When I was a child, I had an eye problem. Each morning, my mother washed out my eyes with boric acid and water, or Witch Hazel. We couldn't afford a visit to the optometrist, so my aunts and some others came up with the perfect solution. 'We're going to let Father pray for your eyes.' They pooled seven dollars.

"I was in awe of him. Everywhere I went in that South Dallas community — in stores, in houses — posted signs praised his works: 'Father Brown blessed me.' 'Father Brown healed me.' 'Father Brown saved my life.' I thought, maybe he could heal me. I went to see Father, but he never got the chance to touch me."

Ms. Ransom describes her healing encounter with Father Brown: "My eyes wide with fear, I entered his dark, candle-lit office. With his arms laced in front of his chest, he leaned back in this huge leather chair behind a huge wooden desk. He wore a purplish red, puff sleeved shirt, gold cuff links and straight-leg jeans trimmed in gold. His black boots (like the ones the Beatles wore) were propped atop the desk. But what frightened me most was all that money around him. I hadn't ever seen that much money in one place.

"Father Brown and I stared at each other, his gaze



Father Brown sits among the crutches of those he "healed."

piercing my soul. We didn't say anything. We didn't move. Somehow, I managed to break my gaze. I threw down the money, and ran. His eerie baritone cackle followed me. I imagined this giant of a man bending over in hysterics. When I saw my aunts, they said, 'That was fast. Has Father prayed for you already?' I lied, 'Yes.' Father never told that he didn't pray for my eyes."

Dallas' famed photojournalist, R. C. Hickman, knew Brown personally. Brown would contact Hickman for photo sessions. Without either man realizing, Hickman was actually photo-chronicling Brown's life. For the pictures capturing the lame man walking, Hickman was paid fifty dollars. This was a lot of money for a black man during the 50s, especially when one of Hickman's photos usually sold for \$3.50 apiece. Hickman says that at the end of that [healing] service, three metal tubs filled with coins were pushed against a wall. "Help me pull out this tub and I will pay you," Brown said. Brown counted out fifty dollars in quarters. They were so heavy and plentiful that Hickman took off his hat and placed them inside in order to carry them. Hickman, whose book *Behold The People* is a pictorial essay of life in Dallas, has numerous pictures of Father Brown surrounded by sets of crutches and walking canes.

"Father sold this potion — a dollar a bottle — to make hair grow. A comb was attached to the end of this plastic bottle. As we squeezed the bottle, we combed through our hair. My mother had just pressed our hair, but when we got home, we all had afros. We were whopped, and our punishment was that we wore our puffed-up hair to school for one day before Mother would re-wash and press it," Ms. Ransom recalls.

Not much is known about Joseph Vaughn Brown's origins, except that he was from Palestine, Texas, where he resided with a white family. Withdrawn and deeply religious, Brown graduated with honors from Massey Lake High School in 1943, then moved to Dallas.

According to Brown, his destiny was preordained. He said that he had been a minister since he was six years old, and that he was a prophet. He attended Texas Southern University Law School, then a theological seminary in Philadelphia. Around 1950, Joseph Vaughn Brown became the Reverend J. Von Brown, changing the spelling of his middle name and using his first name initial only. He became head of a group

known as The American Spiritualist Association. This and other groups spearheaded by Rev. Brown, Texas Christian Episcopal Association; Lighted Church of Prayer; Way of the Cross Church; and his business enterprise, Joseph Printing Company, no longer exist.

During his rise to prominence, Brown resided at 2606 So. Blvd. and pastored The Lighted Church of Prayer. Its first location, at the corner of Warren Avenue and Myrtle Street, was a \$50,000 structure housing a 5,000-member congregation. Brown's services took place in a candle-laced sanctuary facing an altar manned by two boys. Clad in black clerical garb, he carried a staff, which symbolized divinity. The women in his congregation wore long, flowing, white satin robes, and were referred to as "Angels" or "Mothers" of the church. They, like all of Brown's members, viewed him as their prophet and divine healer who blessed their lives spiritually, physically and mentally.

"It was wonderful watching my aunt dress for church," Ms. says. "Of course, she wore no make-up. Father [Brown] didn't like make-up. She'd start with her bra, girdle, slip, and white hose. Next, she'd put on an attachment that went with the gown, then the white gown. She'd drape something around it to make a belt, then wrapped a long piece of white satin around her head. When finished, she looked angelic. Six Angels would pile into one car. With their elbows rested in windows, they looked as if they'd taken off on a heaven-bound flight."

Brown's messages were heard by thousands over the air waves. His unconventional modes of delivering the Word (sometimes from the satiny, cushioned space of a coffin), was witnessed by all who attended his services. And his magical prayer oils, hair tonics, icons and the laying on of hands were available to all who wanted to purchase his salvation. In return, his followers showered him with money.

"They always had two offerings. The first one was for the Lord. The second, for Father. They'd make it clear. 'We're not marching for the Lord. We're marching for Father,' and they literally marched when they collected Father's money," Ms. Ransom remembers.

By all accounts Father Brown was a handsome man who maintained an immaculate appearance. His

continued on page 16

clothes were always neat and clean, his mustache always freshly trimmed. He frequented the beauty shop, keeping his hair conked and neatly combed. And in keeping with his own impeccable appearance, as well as that of his "Angels," Father Brown kept the Lighted Church of Prayer immaculate. On the beige brick building, the letters read: -

The Lighted Church of Prayer
The Rev. J. Von Brown,
Director

Inside was a museum-like showcase. A heavily ornamented altar held several votive candles. Miscellaneous containers for prayer oil and numerous ceramic angels were scattered about. A stand next to a velvet kneeling bench secured a large opened Bible. Near the bench, a microphone stood. Statues of Jesus were peppered about. Potted flowers and plants took up the remaining space.

The back-drop for this elaborate setting was a set of velvet curtains. The curtains were parted displaying — larger than the angels, larger than all of the statues of Jesus — a portrait of Father J. Von Brown, in full clerical attire. His face is angled to the side, his piercing eyes tilted to the sky.

"Above Brown's head," says Ms. Ransom, "was a beautiful blue sky. A white celestial figure, his arms outstretched and angled at Brown, hovered over his head. The footnote quoted a portion of a verse in the Bible, Isaiah 9:6: 'For us a child is born, to us a son is given...' The perception that stuck with Ms. Ransom was that God had blessed the world with another Savior.

"I remember near the end of one service in particular. The organist grabbed his heart like the character, Fred Sanford, on the television show, Sanford and Son. He bent over then fell to the floor. Brown went to him and spread up his arms. The sleeves of his robe fanned like wings. No one could see what went on around them. Brown said words as the man's body gyrated. Soon, the organist was on his feet. The service concluded on the note that the organist had died, and that Father had brought him back to life. But even at nine years old, I knew that this was a lie. This scene repeated itself too frequently. All of Father's healings seemed staged to me," Ms. Ransom claims.

As an NAACP participant, Brown protested the citywide treatment of African Americans. He opposed the segregationist policy of the State Fair of Texas. The Fair allotted one day for African Americans to enjoy the Fair's full offerings — this day was called Negro Achievement Day. All other days, though African Americans could pay and enter, they could not ride the rides or purchase food. With the NAACP's Student Coun-

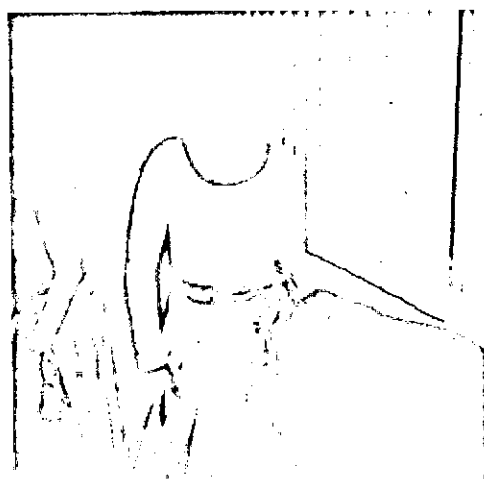
cil, led by Juanita Craft, Brown marched through the procession of the customary parade down Oakland Avenue to the Fair Park. The students signs said:

"IT IS NO ACHIEVEMENT
TO BE SEGREGATED
AT THE FAIR.
STAY OUT!"

Paula Ransom and R.C. Hickman substantiate Brown's community involvement. Hickman says that Brown also gave away Cadillacs, and got people out of jail. As a champion of peoples' rights, Brown reached his constituents even from his chauffeur-driven Cadillac from which two of "his boys" did his bidding from the automobile's jumper seats. He seemed untouchable, with admirers numbering in the thousands, until the late 1950s.

"This is Father J. Von Brown. You can't do that to me," (The E-Lite News).

In that same resonating voice Ms. Ransom heard when Father Brown laughed, he made the above statement when met with opposition. But the course of his life was spiraling in a downward direction. In January 1948, Brown was convicted and given a three-year prison term for mail fraud.



Paula Ransom recalls the charisma of Father J. Von Brown.

September 1957 marked his eviction from his So. Blvd. home due to falling behind in his loan payments. Brown was out of town when Dallas constables arrived. The house was stripped of his valuables: expensive furnishings; an array of household items; large, decorated crosses; and even the bronze coffin from which he was known to preach. Hickman took pictures as these items were dumped on the front sidewalk. Among Brown's possessions was a sign that read: ME AND THE BANK HAVE



Father Brown is surrounded by his "Angels."

MADE AN AGREEMENT. THEY WILL DO NO PREACHING OR GIVE SPIRITUAL ADVICE, AND I WILL MAKE NO LOANS.

The locks on the residence were changed, but when Brown returned, he, his members, and all of their possessions were mysteriously ensconced inside of the 14-room home.

In February 1958, a street brawl erupted in front of his church after Brown defied a court order to surrender his Cadillac. When sheriff's deputies came with an attorney to enforce the order, Brown reportedly hit a deputy sheriff in the left jaw, knocking him to the ground. This brawl attracted 150 of his people. Brown yelled to his followers, "Get your guns, get rocks, kill them!" An officer reported that Brown threatened, "I'm going to kill the next deputy that comes after me." Brown was disarmed of a loaded pistol, the Cadillac was repossessed, and he was handcuffed and taken to the County jail. He was convicted and sentenced to five years in prison but was later released on a writ of habeas corpus.

Brown attempted to run for the Dallas Board of Education in 1958, his prior conviction denied him this opportunity.

Not long after the street altercation, Brown was charged with possession of barbiturates. "Father only got drunk with the spirit," Ms. Ransom's aunt declared. This conviction and his five-year sentence for the fight were overturned on appeal.

In 1964, Brown was assessed a \$200 fine for cruelty to animals. Live stock on a Lancaster ranch leased to him were dying of starvation. "Not so," says Ms. Ransom's aunts. "Someone poisoned those animals, causing them to stop eating."

During those tumultuous times,

Brown went to trial to defend the validity of his organizations. The jury's decision was that all of the religious organizations founded by him "were his alter ego and should not be tax exempt." He was assessed a \$243,000 tax levy, and his property at eight locations was seized to satisfy this debt.

Brown's legal scrimmages began to take their toll. In 1965, he reported to a University of Texas. Southwestern Medical student that he'd had seizures for the past two years, but medical examinations and treatment were against his belief. Brown believed that God would heal him.

Brown's followers were loyal to him throughout his ordeals. "Angels" stood ready to fight, and they always accompanied him to his trials. Some were even jailed with him for contempt of court.

In the County jail as a federal prisoner charged with contempt of court and assault on federal officers (he had allegedly pointed a loaded rifle at U.S. deputy marshals), Father Brown experienced a seizure. He died on a Sunday morning shortly after 8 a.m., August 22, 1965. Parkland Hospital's pathology report indicated that he'd died of a stroke.

Before his death, Father Brown had made a pledge to his followers. He'd made the same pledge to Hickman. "I'm going to do just what Jesus did when He was on earth. He rose, didn't He? I'm going to do the same."

The McGowan Funeral Home was charged with his remains. As handsome in death as he was in life, in full clerical garb and wearing his ornate cross, Father J. Von Brown lay in his plush, characteristically ostentatious casket. The cover, which would seal his remains for eternity, displayed a picture of The Last Supper. He lay in state at McGowan's from

August 22, until August 28 when an affidavit was produced verifying that a Walter Brown from Bowstow, California was J. Von Brown's father. The elder Brown transferred his son's body to Friendly Funeral Home.

From August 22, until the time of his burial, an estimated two to four thousand people came to view his remains. "Angels" stood on guard tenderly fanning his body to keep him from perspiring. A court order was issued mandating an immediate burial, and on August 30, the funeral of Father J. Von Brown was held at the Texas Youth Foundation. He was interred at The Lincoln Memorial Cemetery.

The Wednesday following his death, officers found a case of gelatin dynamite and two boxes of detonating caps in a desk at The Lighted Church of Prayer. The gelatin had leaked out of the case, indicating the material had been kept there for some time. An investigation traced the dynamite to Strawn Merchandise Company. It had been purchased in December 1958.

Some believe that Father Brown rose. Hickman told me that while in his casket during one of the services, it was reported that he rose up, hovered over some members, then return to his cushioned resting place. Hickman said that he wasn't there during that service.

Paula Ransom doesn't recall her aunts saying that Brown rose. She does recall that one of her aunts devotedly

fanned him, awaiting his return.

Whether Father Brown rose, whether his followers were just remaining loyal to him by trying to convince the world that he was not a fraud, or whether they actually believed that they witnessed such a miraculous occurrence, is not as important as the fact that this flamboyant leader convince a large population that he was legitimate.

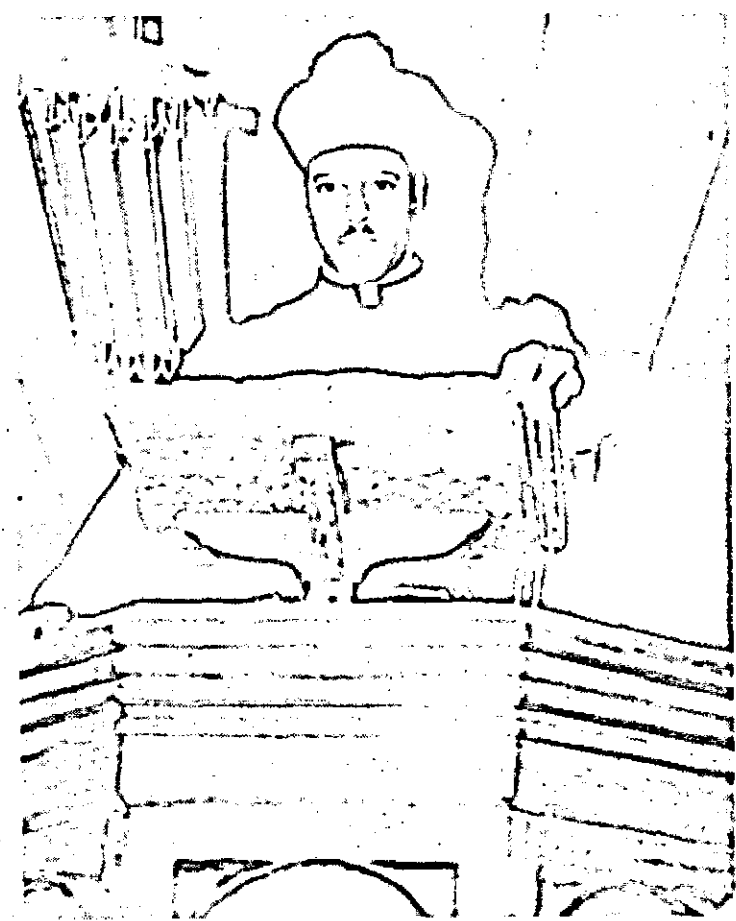
Presently, The Olivet Missionary Baptist Church, pastored by J. W. Sample at Warren and Myrtle, is in full operation. According to Sample, no records on Brown were maintained in a church archive. No picture hangs of him denoting a past connection. When Brown moved the church to his Texas Youth Foundation building at 1715 Forest Ave. (now MLK Blvd.) in the early 60s, the facility was purchased by H. M. Jackson, then Olivet's pastor. Shortly after the sale, the interior of the church burned.

There is one remaining semblance that connects this church with Brown. If one enters the building, immediately veers right, takes the red carpeted stair case to the second floor, passes through the pastor's office and enters his full bath facility, one will find aqua green tiles amid a floor of square white blocks. The green tiles spell out the initials: JVB. "There hasn't been a need to tear up the floor," Sample explains.

While Ms. Ransom remembers much of the theatrics of Father Brown, she says she doesn't recall a single ser-

mon preached by him. The aunt with whom she lived died in 1981. Before she died, she moved to California, where she once contemplated joining the Jim Jones cult. Ms. Ransom's other aunt left Brown's church before he died. "Brown was a good man," recalls the aunt, "but he never knew when to let things go." This aunt lives here in Dallas and attends a local Pentecostal church. She prefers that her name not be connected to the Father Brown movement.

I returned to the cemetery once more to say "good bye" to the J. Von Brown I came to know. After this extensive research, I thought it fitting. My visit saddened me. It's ironic that as flamboyant as he was in life; as decorated as he insisted on being; as surrounded with candles, oils, icons, flowers and plants, as he made sure he was; as hugely idolized as he



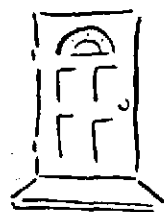
Father J. Von Brown from the pulpit

managed to become; this Father Brown — stripped of all adornment — seems so alone. I bowed my head, and in the name of Jesus I prayed to God for the soul of Father J. Von Brown.

MON

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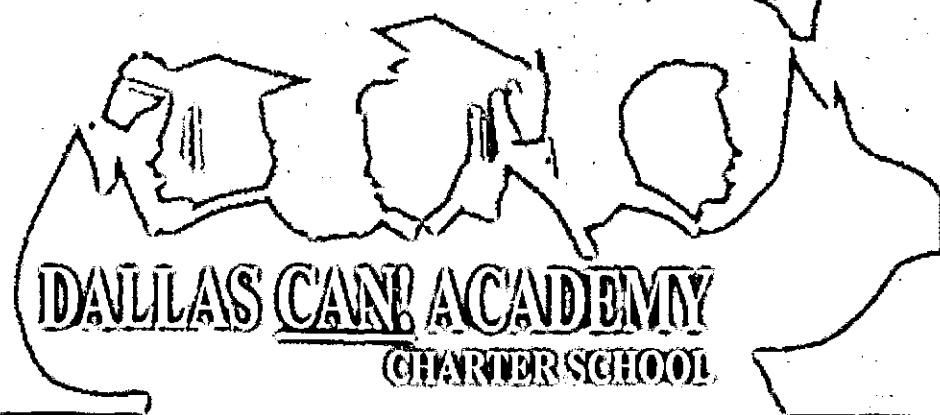


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Around Town

November 1

Submit your favorite recipe for a Soul Food cookbook being published by the Dallas/Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators for the Kwanzaa season. The deadline for submitting your recipe is November 15. For more information call Starlene Stringer at 214-697-3699.

The Theta Alpha Chapter in conjunction with the Alpha Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. invites you to its 62nd Achievement Program, 7:00 p.m. at the Dallas Grand Hotel, 1914 Commerce Street, Dallas. The guest speaker is Grand Basileus Dorsey C. Miller, Ed.D. For ticket information call Patrick Smith at 972-414-6941 or George Brown at 214-371-5872.

If you write poetry, prose and/or short stories but never share, present or publish your treasures, this invitation is for you. Women interested in becoming a link in creating a new culture of "Women and Their Words...Our Poetry and Prose," please call Tujana Green at 1-800-484-6619, Pin #7335, to get connected to a poetry society for women only.

The African American Museum, Fair Park, Dallas presents the exhibition Noah Purifoy: Outside and in the Open through November 30, 1997. This exhibition chronicles assemblage artist Noah Purifoy's life works. Admission to this special event is \$1.00 for children and \$2.00 for adults. For more information call 214-565-9026.

November 2

The United Nuwaubian Nation of Moors presents a series of question and answer lectures on the following subjects: Who are the Real Native Americans, What and Where is Atlantis and What is the New World or One World Order, November 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. at the Tabernacle Book Store & Things, 4415 S. Oakland, Dallas, Texas. For more information call 214-428-7673.

CRCA, the Gallery at UTA, 700 West Second St., Arlington, presents the exhibition, "Pervasive Impressions: Contemporary Political

Prints," featuring the works of Thom Shaw through November 22, 1997. For more information call 817-272-3143.

Art Phone, a comprehensive listing of arts and cultural events, can list your arts or cultural event through its 24 hour, 7 day a week, voice calendar of local activities. Events can also be listed on the Internet through ArtDot.Com. Send announcements to P.O. Box 721411, Dallas, TX 75372-1411 or page Cathy Ritchey at 214-836-1527.

November 3

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is currently accepting grant applications for the Community/Outdoor Outreach Program. The grant is available to nonprofit organizations. Applications will be accepted through December 1, 1997. For more information call Representative Yvonne Davis' office at 214-941-3895.

The AIDS Resource Center of Dallas, 2701 Reagan St., Dallas announces the formation of its HIV Information Helpline. People in need can call the Helpline for information on the myriad of services available in North Texas. To reach the HIV Information Helpline call 1-800-924-AIDS. For more information about the AIDS Resource Center call 214-521-5124.

November 5

New Image Business Associates, Inc. cordially invites you to its Small Business Luncheon held every Wednesday from noon-1:00 p.m. at the Bill J. Priest Institute of Economic Development, 1402 Corinth, Room 202 A&B, Dallas. Lunch is \$5.00. For more information call 214-350-9590.

November 6

The E.K. Bailey Ministries is holding its third annual African American Female Conference, November 6-8 at Concord Missionary Baptist Church, 6808 Boulder Street, Dallas. The goal of the conference is to spiritually and physically enrich the lives of women. For more information call 214-374-1626.

The Nova Dancing Company will present its Fall concert, *Body Language*, 8:00 p.m., November 6-8 at the South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 South Fitzhugh, Dallas. Reservations are recommended. For tickets call 214-559-3993. Discounts are available for seniors and students.

The Dallas/Ft. Worth Chapter of the National Association of Health Services Executives (NAHSE) will host its general body meeting, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at Methodist Hospital of Dallas, 1441 N. Beckley Avenue, Dallas. Members are encouraged to attend and bring guests. There is a fee of \$10.00 for non-members. For more information or to RSVP call 214-947-2514.

The University of Texas at Arlington Africa Program continues its lecture series to increase awareness about several African topics with the lecture "Nigeria: Black Gold Country," facilitated by Victor Emuakhabor, 6:30 p.m. at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center, 2922 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Dallas. For more information call the Africa Program at metro 817-272-5302.

November 7

Actor Akin Babsunde portrays legendary trumpeter, Louis Armstrong, in a one-man show *Louis Armstrong: Before the Second Set*, 8:00 p.m. at the Black Academy of Arts and Letters, Inc., 650 South Griffin Street, Dallas. Tickets are \$10.00. Call 214-743-2440 for more information.

Sisters Organized to Survive (S.O.S.) invites one and all to the Second Annual Singles Mixer and Auction, 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. at Stephanie's Collection, 6955 Greenville Avenue, Dallas. For more information call 214-369-4438.

November 8

Former Dallas Cowboy Charles Haley and his family are sponsoring the "Minorities for Marrow Donor Awareness" event, a blood and bone marrow drive, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at Texas Stadium in Irving. The drive is designed to help increase the number of African Americans registered with the

National Marrow Donor Program. Volunteer donors must be between the ages of 18 and 60. For more information call 972-498-8867.

The African American Museum, Fair Park, Dallas, presents its "Annual Fall Family Day" from 12:00 noon-5:00 p.m. For more information call 214-565-9026.

The Community Development Law Center of Legal Services of North Texas is sponsoring a FREE Legal Workshop on starting a nonprofit organization, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at the Beckley-Saner Recreation Center, 114 W. Hobson St., Dallas. Call 214-748-1234, Ext. 3223 for more information.

The Black Academy of Arts and Letters, Inc., 650 South Griffin Street, Dallas, presents the performance of Six Degrees of Freedom, six sizzlin' hot and very cool poets, drummers and dancers, at 1:00 p.m. Admission is free. Call 214-743-2440 for more information.

The Alpha Xi Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is sponsoring a Historically Black Colleges and Universities Fair from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center, 2922 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, Dallas. For more information call 972-790-5182.

The Dallas/Ft. Worth Chapter of the Jackson State University National Alumni Association is sponsoring an AIDS education workshop, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., November 8 at the Center for Community Cooperation, 2900 Live Oak Street, Dallas. For more information call John Brookins at 214-388-8115.

Clean South Dallas/Fair Park Inc. needs volunteers for its annual fall cleanup, November 8 and November 15, to help pick up litter and make minor repairs on the homes of senior citizens. For more information or to volunteer call Clean South Dallas at 214-421-1662.

November 9

Designer Larry Fraga will be at Mr. C. Collectible Center, 1014 S. Broadway, #102, Carrollton from 1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. to autograph his Old World Black Santa ornaments, part of

Around Town cont'd

his Dresden Dove Collection. There will be a drawing for a free ornament. For more information call 972-242-5100 or 1-800-221-4507.

November 12

Would you like to purchase a home of your own? Learn how at the Texas Federation of Home Counselors first-time home buyer seminars held November 12 and November 15. Registration includes a confidential review of the potential home buyer's credit file with a certified counselor. To register or for more information call Ed Harris at 214-421-8342.

November 13

The African American Museum, Fair Park, Dallas, presents the Texas Black Sports Hall of Fame banquet at 8:00 p.m. Proceeds from the banquet benefit the Texas Black Sports Hall of Fame Program at the museum. For more information call 214-565-9026.

Learn more about Welfare Reform at the Center for Nonprofit Management, 2900 Live Oak St., Dallas, from 9:00 a.m.-noon. The seminar will answer many of the most asked questions and give you a better idea of the impact of welfare reform on the Dallas area. For more information call 214-826-3470.

"Love Unifies," a free Christian Science Lecture by Evan Mehlenbacher, CSB will be presented 7:30 p.m. at the Fifth Church of Christ Scientist, 5655 W. Northwest Highway, Dallas. Also a 30 minute focus of gratitude for the textbook *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* will be held, 12:00 noon at Thanksgiving Tower, downtown Dallas. The public is invited to both events. For more information call 214-361-1625.

A Mother's Love, a gospel musical play written by Annette Dukes, runs November 13-15 at Lincoln High School, 2826 Hatcher, Dallas. Dallasite Tommye Young West will headline a cast of 15. Show times are 8:00 p.m., Thursday - Saturday with a matinee performance Saturday at 3:00 p.m. For tickets call ARTTIX at 214-871-ARTS.

November 14

The Division of Executive and Management Development at Southern Methodist Univer-

sity, Cox School of Business presents "Legal Essentials for the Small Business," November 14-15. The seminar will assist small businesses in a variety of legal issues including working with your own attorney and minimizing exposure to liability and litigation. For more information call 214-768-3335 or 800-768-6699.

November 15

Put your best foot forward at "An Evening With Olympic Champion Michael Johnson" benefiting St. Philip's School and Community Center in South Dallas. A Silent Auction begins at 6:00 p.m. and dinner and the program featuring Michael Johnson begins at 7:00 p.m. Individual tickets are \$50.00. For more information call 214-421-5221.

The Irving Branch of the NAACP will host its 3rd Annual Freedom Fund Banquet, 7:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Select South, 4440 W. Airport Freeway, Irving. The guest speaker is Dr. Brenda Wall. Tickets are \$30.00. For more information call 972-888-8822.

The scholarship committee of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Alpha Xi Omega chapter, is sponsoring its second annual AKA "Ivy Bowl-A-Thon, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at Don Carter's West All Star Lanes, 10920 Composite Drive, Dallas. To register or for more information call 972-855-8066.

It's Tommy Hilfiger weekend at Nordstrom, 5220 Alpha Road, Dallas, Nov. 15-16. There will be a trunk show on both days. For more information call Julie Ackerley at 972-455-2473.

The D/FW Green party is hosting an introductory meeting at River Legacy Park in Arlington from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. This will be a family event featuring entertainment and guest speakers. Come be a part of this alternative to politics as usual. For more information call Gene Akins at 972-934-3401.

November 18

Coretta Scott King will be the guest speaker at the 1997 YMCA Minority Achievers banquet, 7:00 p.m. at the Amon G. Carter Exhibits Hall Round-Up Inn, Ft. Worth. Tickets are \$55.00 per person. To reserve seating or for more information call the McDonald YMCA at 817-531-2738.

November 19

The University of Texas at Arlington Africa Program is sponsoring the lecture "The Ties That Bind: Linkages Between African and African American History," facilitated by Sheryl Osiene, 12:00 noon in the Concho Room, E.H. Hereford University Center, 301 W. Second Street, Arlington. For more information call metro 817-272-5302.

November 20

The Dallas Ft. Worth Minority Business Development Council will hold its 19th Annual Awards Banquet at the Fairmont Hotel in Dallas. A reception begins at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner and the program at 7:00 p.m. For more information contact Margo Posey at 214-630-0747.

The Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce Convention & Tourism Dept. is sponsoring "The 1st Annual African American Associations Networking Luncheon," 11:00 a.m. at the Dallas Horticulture Center in Fair Park. RSVP by November 18. For more information call Dvorah Evans at 214-421-5200.

November 21

The Black Academy of Arts and Letters, Inc., 650 South Griffin Street, Dallas, presents Word Warriors, a rich gumbo of poetry and gospel music at 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$5.00. Call 214-743-2440 for more information.

The African American Museum, Fair Park, Dallas is hosting a 20 Something Mixer, 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. For more information call 214-565-9026.

Dallas' Tenth Street Historic Community Development Corporation and its Board of Directors present its first annual fundraising gala, "History's Achievement Tomorrow's Promise," 7:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m. at the Dallas Grand Hotel, 1914 Commerce St., downtown Dallas. Special guests include Brenda Teele of *Positively Texas* and New Arts Six. Tickets are \$50.00 each. For more information call 972-329-5417.

November 22

The Smith Bennett Foundation will host an Umoja Karamu (unity feast) in memory of Dr.

Edward Sims Jr., 6:00 p.m. at the George Washington Carver Center, 210 E. Carver, Garland, Texas. Dr. Sims designed this ceremony in 1971 to bring black families together during Thanksgiving to reflect on the experiences of our ancestors. The event is free and open to the public. To RSVP and for more information call 972-487-0150.

The Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. invites you to its second annual "Black Dollar Day in the Community," from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Fredrica Chase Dodd Life Development Center, 1401 S. Akard Street, Dallas. This event provides an opportunity for local business owners and vendors to market their products. For more information call 214-428-7400.

Nordstrom, 5220 Alpha Road, Dallas, presents Dr. Seuss and Batman Accessories Trunk Show, Nov. 23-29. For more information call Julie Ackerley at 972-455-2473.

December 1

A \$1,000 award will be given to the best original story/essay selected for *Children of the Dream: Growing Up Black in America*, an anthology to be published by Pocket Books/Simon & Shuster as part of the Children of Conflict Series. See full details at <http://members@aol.com/laurelholl/index.html>. Or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Laurel Holliday, 4714 Ballard Ave., N.W., Suite 187, Seattle, WA, 98107-4850.

December 2

The Fifth Texas Minority Health Conference will be held December 2-4 at the Red Lion Hotel, 6121 North IH-35, Austin. For more information call 512-458-7629.

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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Microloans: Venture capital for the emerging small business

By Gina Weldon

You're working full-time at your usual occupation but devote the rest of your time to your own small business, working out of your home and offering a product or service that seems to have filled a market niche. You have business and management skills and your own small business appears to want to grow by leaps and bounds. You're considering early retirement or a share buyout so you can devote all your time to your enterprise. But even with this funding, you need additional capital for operations or equipment. You're not ready to borrow \$100,000; you just need a bit of expansion money, so your business can grow according to your research and market studies. What do you do? Who do you call? Possibly the Southern Dallas Development Corporation (SDDC), located at the Bill J. Priest Institute for Economic Development.

The SDDC has, for the past five years, administered SBA microloans. Microloans are designed to provide small businesses with working capital for operating expenses, inventory, machinery or equipment. Loans are available from \$5,000 to \$25,000 and are available to businesses with as little as six months operating history. Available to companies citywide, SDDC's microlending program has traditionally benefited ethnic minority- or woman-owned businesses. MON spoke with Charles English, chief operations officer of the SDDC, about microlending, its history, and exactly how the SDDC goes about its microlending process.

English says microlending developed out of a need to service young, emerging companies. These businesses are primarily service-related, one- to two-person-owned, and show good growth potential. English is quick to point out that microlending is not a new idea: "The concept of microlending is not SDDC's creation, but is one borne out as early as the turn of the century. Trade merchants would finance their goods through a concept of microlending. They would have an exchange of gold coins for certain types of products they were bringing from, say the east coast, and there were people (early microlenders) who would fund the purchase of these items as the merchants travelled West. There is also a concept of microlending in Bangladesh (Asia) that started out about 20 years ago, called peer-group financing, which puts groups of individuals, generally women, together in common industries, such as fabric manufacturing, apparel manufacturing, rugs, pottery, etc. The group [is]

given a loan to purchase its raw materials, its sewing machines, and then complete its particular product, take it to the marketplace, and sell it. What it made on the sale of its products would go towards its personal and business needs as well as make the necessary payments on its loans."

In the United States, the recent surge of microlending began over five years



Charles English, chief operating officer for Southern Dallas Development Corporation

ago. In 1992, the U.S. SBA launched an initiative called the SBA Microloan Program. This program was to be piloted nationally with a select group of community-based organizations like the SDDC. Organizations bid competitively to administer the program. Out of approximately 1,000 applications submitted, there were only 37 approved to pilot this program, with the SDDC being the only approved group in Texas. The SDDC was one of five in the entire country to get the maximum amount in the initial round of funding, approximately \$750,000 to lend, plus \$150,000 for administrative expenses. The first loan SDDC issued was in January of 1993. In 1995, the SDDC received another \$500,000 to lend to small businesses. To date, the SDDC has extended 80 percent of that amount, representing loans to approximately 80 businesses. These business loans range from \$5,000 to \$25,000, with the recipients running the gamut from retail to manufacturing concerns. Loan terms are as long as five years at a fixed rate of interest. These are not "guaranteed" loans; they are made from the SDDC's borrowed funds. It is incumbent upon the SDDC that there be a fair number of indicators of success for the business in order to make the microloan.

Those businesses that seek microloans are generally businesses that have just started out (maybe even in the

garage) on a part-time basis. Many of the owners may still work full-time in corporate America. They have developed their business skills, been successful salespeople, and their products or services have been pretty well received in the marketplace. English states that the SDDC often would see many of these owners using their own personal credit in the early stages to get the business off the ground. They are generally tapped out for credit in the private sector, and they would come to the SDDC.

English maintains that the advantages of coming to SDDC are twofold: (1) The SDDC is not just a lender. "We take a genuine interest in the success of the business. We have a very experienced staff of former bankers who use their expertise to assist in detecting those areas that might be weak in an applicant's business plan and shoring up those areas that are needed to establish a strong foundation for the company"; and (2) "Typically, banks are looking for business loans that are \$50,000 and up, rather than these smaller loans. So a loan for \$25,000 is not profitable for a bank unless they do them in large volume, like automobile financing. Only [through] large volume are banks able to get the type of profit they target, which would justify the type of time and documentation it takes to put a loan together. It takes as much paperwork to put a \$25,000 loan together as it does a \$50,000."

The SBA Microloan Program has offered SDDC one additional tool to address this growing industry of cottage-based businesses. English sees this trend being partially attributed to the downsizing of corporate America, where individuals are taking their substantial amount of earnings, early retirement packages, or severance packages, and making decisions about whether they want to work again for someone else or invest in their own businesses. Typically, these persons have already developed some level of business acumen, they understand what balance sheets and income statements should reflect, and have already somewhat proven themselves in business. However, English says, "There is a rude awakening. In corporate America, you have several safety nets, or support systems, to assist you in completing your tasks. When you go into business for yourself, it's all on you; you are literally chief cook and bottlewasher. That definition becomes extremely realistic once you step into the world of entrepreneurship. It means that you must make extra sacrifices. We look for individuals who have truly researched the marketplace and have found there is a growing need for their type of product or service. For instance, one person wanted to develop a business that was tied into defense contracting. However, research would have (and common knowledge

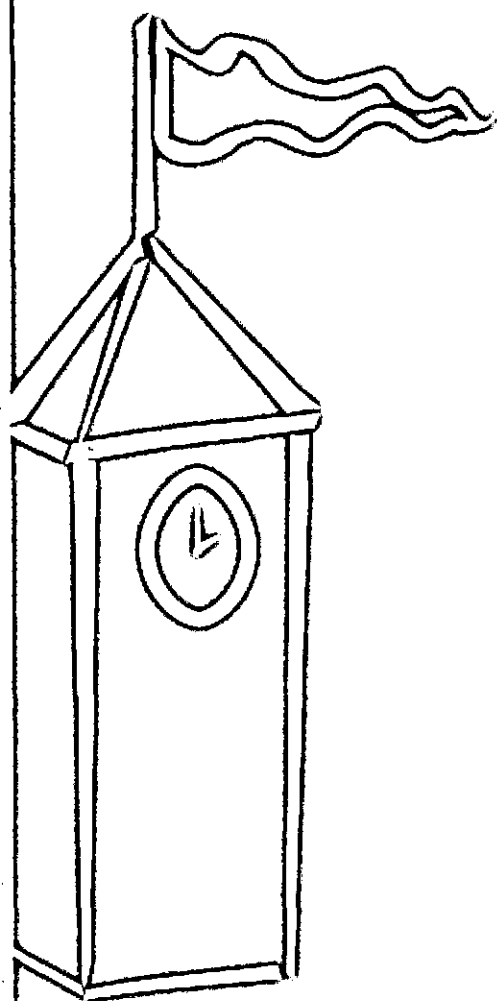
should have) indicated that this was a shrinking market due to the lessening number of dollars being poured into the defense industry. Typically, we are not able to assist those persons who, as in this case, are going against market trends. In another instance, an individual wanted to expand an African American bookstore. However, the store was located in an area which was rapidly becoming an Hispanic residential community. The bookstore owner could not understand why the store's sales would not increase; he was oblivious to demographic changes and the market he was targeting his sales toward."

Mr. English began with the SDDC in July 1989. Having over 17 years of experience in commercial banking, he wanted to do something to give the community the benefit of his knowledge and background. His research indicated a resurgence in inner-city financial development. He decided that this was an area that could use his expertise. To date, the SDDC has financed over \$19.6 million through its five programs to over 250 businesses and has leveraged over \$36 million from the private banking institutions. English is also part of a national association of development companies that is currently launching an outreach program to attract minority women to the development industry. In addition, he is the president of the Dallas Business Finance Corporation, which also makes business loans.

The SDDC Microlending Program has a number of success stories, businesses that have actually outgrown microloans and have moved into mainstream corporate America in terms of sales and success. Mr. English and SDDC are extremely pleased with the ability of the program to identify small, promising businesses that are targeting growing markets. Says English: "In providing venture capital, you are essentially making a decision to make a loan based on what you perceive to be a successful business plan. The environment that any microlending program operates in has to be taken in the context of making a venture capital loan. Typically, there is not enough financial history on the company to make a loan on, so you are basing it on the legitimacy or credibility or the details of the business plan. Then we look at the owner, who's going to carry out that business plan. You have to ask: 'Do they have what it takes? Do they have the training, the experience or other support systems in place? Do they have an accountant who does their books and makes sure their payroll taxes are paid? Do they have an attorney to make sure all their corporate documents are prepared and filed? Do they have the man-

see MICROLENDING page 22

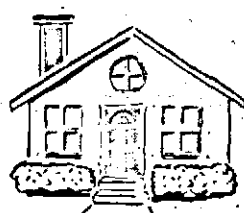
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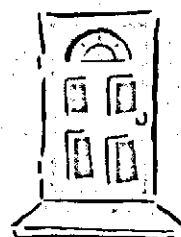
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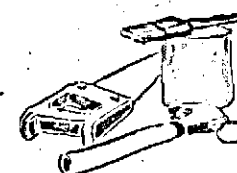
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Microlending

from page 20

agement skills that will allow them to hone in on their area of expertise as opposed to trying to do everything?" If we can come up with enough positive indicators that the business can fulfill the business plan objectives, then we will give serious consideration to going forward with a loan. It is as close to providing a personal loan in a business context as you can get. Any decision made for that business will be made by the owner, so we look at the two pretty closely."

Mr. English is emphatic in stating what qualities are needed for those who want to be successful entrepreneurs. "If you anticipate going into business for yourself, you need to envision where that business can be in a five-year period. Once you envision that, it will tell you what resources you will need at your disposal, i.e., access to capital, a trained labor force, facilities, equipment, and external support systems. You need to ask yourself if you are willing to put all your accumulated personal assets at risk (all loans must be personally guaranteed). Are you willing to make all the necessary personal sacrifices for the benefit of the business? Given the fact that 80 percent of all new businesses fail within the first three years, are you willing to take that chance? Is this going to be a business or a hobby?"

The SDDC has five lending programs developed to assist business owners in Dallas. Two are city-wide programs (including the SBA Microloan Program); the others require locations within Southern Dallas or the specified investment or enterprise zones. The SDDC can be contacted at (214) 428-7332 for further information.

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EXPECTATIONS from page 13

provide actual business knowledge and experience to support and supplement the classroom and textbook education. For the past five years, he has participated in the program for one and a half hours a week in a high school economics

class in Dallas.

The expectations of Nelson, Conoco, and community leaders are high. Will the Kokelbug enterprise succeed, grow, and present opportunities for other African Americans? Perhaps the name of the company answers it best. Nelson says that Kokelbug is a close phonetic

spelling of the name of a grassburr, or cocklebur, that grows in East Texas, where he grew up. "You know — those little things that stick to your socks and pant legs," he adds. "They don't go away!"

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Switch Back

It's a vicious game of cat and mouse: relentless FBI agent Frank LaCrosse (Dennis Quaid) steps outside his job to find the brilliant but nameless serial killer. Intelligent and elusive, the suspect in a baffling cross-country murder spree is known only as a man between the ages of 20 and 50.

Convinced that only one agent, Frank LaCrosse, has the wits and courage to capture him, the killer plays a clever trump card. He kidnaps LaCrosse's son, knowing the Bureau will remove the distraught father from the case. But Frank LaCrosse isn't about to go away. For over a year, he has been tracking the murderer across the country and, against orders from the Bureau, he continues his deadly manhunt.

When a series of murders occurs in his district, a seasoned Amarillo sheriff,



Danny Glover

Buck Olmstead (R. Lee Ermey), finds himself torn between winning re-election and helping LaCrosse stay on the trail of the killer. Overcoming their initial distrust, Olmstead and LaCrosse form an alliance that allows LaCrosse to continue his investigation and pursue the most intriguing clue he has in his possession: a suspected calendar date, 2/18, when the suspect may make his next move.

LaCrosse has two days to figure out where, when and how...

From a death-filled motel room in Amarillo, Texas, to a snow-choked train pass through the Rockies, LaCrosse follows the tracks of a former railroad man (Danny Glover) and a mysterious young hitchhiker (Jared Leto), one of whom may hold the secret of his search.

SwitchBack, a Paramount Pictures

and Rysher Entertainment presentation, marks the directorial debut of acclaimed screenwriter Jeb Stuart. The film, a crime thriller where the hunter is also the hunted, is written by Stuart and stars R. Lee Ermey, Danny Glover, Jared Leto, Ted Levine and Dennis Quaid.

The film, which is rated 'R', opened October 31 at theaters throughout the Dallas/Ft. Worth area.

Fairytale: A True Story

For almost a century, children and, secretly, many adults have answered Peter Pan's entreaty to save the fairy Tinkerbell with resounding applause. In the dark of a theater, in that one magical moment, it is a very powerful thing to believe.

But what happens when that belief is carried into the light of the real world? In the summer of 1917, in the midst of the

ing soldier father and her new life as a war orphan and into an exuberant world of innocence and hope.

Frances could not have known then that in a few short months she and her cousin Elsie would bring others hope as they stood at the center of one of the 20th century's most incredible controversies — a controversy that would have some of the greatest minds in the world, including Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Harry Houdini, wondering if they too should dare to believe in fairies.

An enchanting and enduring tale of mystery, *FairyTale: A True Story* is based on the remarkable true story of two young girls whose claim to have seen and photographed fairies living in a garden set in motion a chain of events neither they nor the great minds of their time could stop. When these two girls gave the people around them — parents, Mayfair society, Fleet Street journalists, photographic experts and spiritualists — a reason to believe in a world of magical wonder, their own world was forever changed.

Fairy Tale: A True Story opened October 24 at theaters everywhere. It is rated 'PG' for brief mild language.



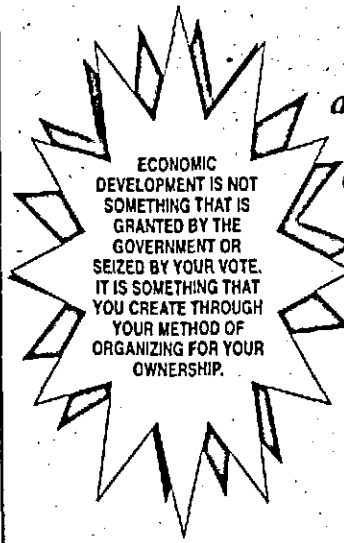
Elizabeth Earl stars as Frances Griffiths, one of two girls who claimed to have seen and photographed fairies.

Great War, ten year-old Frances Griffiths sat clapping furiously in her seat as Peter Pan flew across the stage of the Duke of York Theatre in London. Just for those wondrous few minutes, she was transported away from the reality of her miss-

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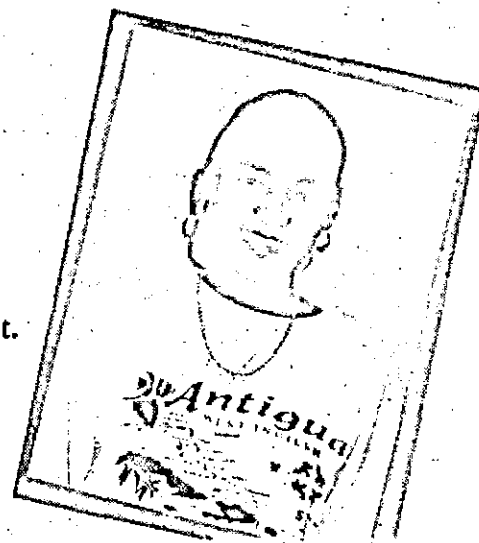
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Book Review
Angela
Washington-Blair,
Ph.D.

Make The Connection

By Bob Greene and Oprah Winfrey
Hyperion/\$18.95

Some of you are probably planning big Thanksgiving feasts, replete with calorie-laden, sugary, greasy, energy-sapping foods. It's often exciting to eat those delicious meals as we watch college football bowl games or repeats of *It's a Wonderful Life*. Then to top it off, we take naps after we've gorged ourselves. Yes, we're so thankful for food that we eat as if it's running away. Some of our parents and grandparents, having grown up during the Great Depression when there was barely enough food to get by, cook enough food to feed an army.

Yet, in the midst of this enjoyment, there lurks a monster. The monster of poor health that besets our community. The prevalence of obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes, and certain cancers should make us stand up and take notice. Ours is not necessarily a healthy community. Many of these ailments can be directly attributed to our nutritional patterns and sedentary lives.

I hadn't read this book until just recently, even though it came out last year. But I have to say that Oprah Winfrey and (her personal trainer) Bob Greene's book (Hyperion, \$18.95) is worth reading by anyone wanting to become healthier. What made me want to read the book was watching the newly released video called *Oprah: Make the Connection* (Buena Vista Home Video).

The video provides glimpses into Oprah's personal and painful obsession with food and her weight. It does not tell us why she ate so much. But Oprah and a group of women experiencing similar trials reveal how painfully embarrassed they were by their excess weight and what they did to lose the weight and keep it off. The video is at times very poignant as Oprah tearfully shares with us her shame at gaining weight, losing weight, then gaining it all back again, while the tabloids pasted her picture all over supermarkets everywhere. She tells of hearing women calling hers the biggest behind as she walked by. She shares how awful she felt at the Emmy's when her name was called as the winner, and she had to accept the award at her heaviest, 237 pounds!

How many of us can relate to that?

No, not weighing in at that weight, but being heavier than we need to be for optimal health, looking our best in clothes, or having a closet full of clothes that don't fit? While our society does focus on model-thinness as the standard of beauty, without taking into consideration body types, most of us can do things to improve and get to the best weight for our age and height.

Why do we eat more than we should? Because we equate food with fun, love, comfort, stress relief, family, and celebrations. On a spiritual level, we know that gluttony is a sin, but we still eat. (Just call me the "cookie monster!") Anyway, in Oprah's book, with large portions having been written by her personal trainer Bob Greene, the emotional side of eating is dealt with. We learn to become self-aware as we learn about the purpose of body fat and the physics of body weight. What is the connection? It "is a change in perception." It is about self-love and seeing overeating as a

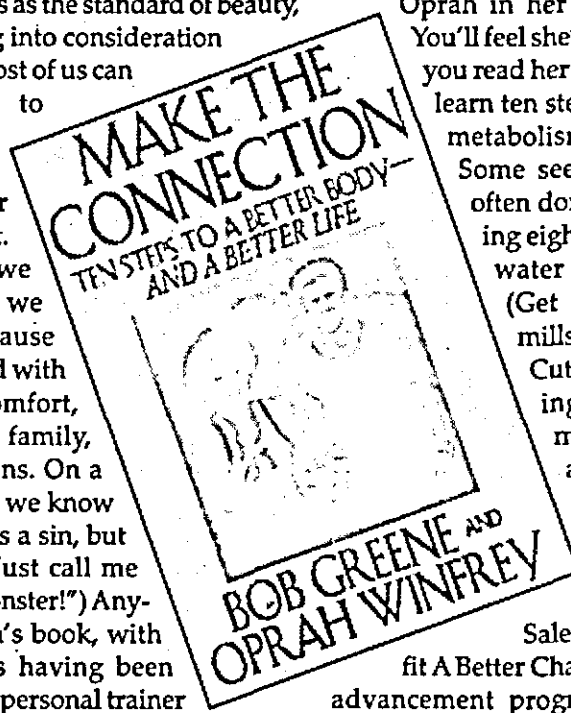
symptom of a larger problem.

If you can get past the psychobabble, you'll find lots of information and encouragement in both the book and the video. The book is filled with pictures of

Oprah in her weight-loss trials. You'll feel she's a kindred spirit as you read her diary entries. You'll learn ten steps to increase your metabolism and lose weight. Some seem logical, but we often don't do — like drinking eight or more glasses of water daily. Exercising. (Get out those treadmills!) Cutting back fat. Cutting out or eliminating alcohol (slows metabolism). There is also a companion journal in which to write your daily food intake and exercise levels.

Sales of the video benefit A Better Chance, an educational advancement program for disadvantaged students. After you've read the book and watched the video, it will change the way you look at food. And that's what the connection is about: change.

MON



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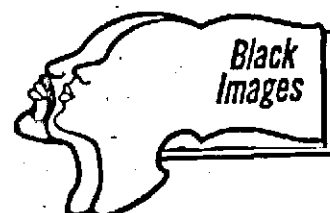
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ERIC JEROME DICKEY

reads from and autographs *FRIENDS AND LOVERS*. His first novel *Sister Sister* was a huge success. *Sisters With Books* will host Mr. Dickey's reading. November 4 is Election Day; please vote early and join us for an evening of funny with stand-up comic turned author Eric Jerome Dickey. (\$23.95 Dutton)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1997 • 6-8 pm
OMAR TYREE

reads from and autographs *DO RIGHT MAN*. His first novel *Fly Girl* was a national bestseller. Mr. Tyree's reading will be hosted by The Dallas Urban League's Young Adult Council (YAC). (\$23.00 Simon & Schuster)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1997 • 6-8 pm
NATHAN MCCALL

discusses and autographs *WHAT'S GOING ON: Personal Essays*. His memoir, *Makes Me Wanna Holler*, was a national bestseller for over two years. Journalist, McCall's signing will be hosted by The Sistah's Reading Group. (\$21.00 Random House)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1997 • 6-8 pm
SONIA CAULTON

reads from and autographs *THE MAN HUNT*, a contemporary novel with bite and humor about Jazzman Johnson's search for love and Mr. Right. *The Man Hunt* follows Jazzman from her days at Clark University, in Atlanta, to her climb up the corporate ladder as she discovers she needs a man, with assets, for more than entertainment but for love and pleasure. Ms. Calhoun's signing will be hosted by the Sista to Sista Book Club. (\$12.95 Sistah Publishing Co.)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1997 • 7-9 pm
OIL

ORDAINED IN LYRICS, a trio of performance poets will delight you with its unique delivery of the spoken word. The members of this dynamic trio are: Emotion Brown, GNO and Bro Jay. OIL will perform original pieces written by trio members.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1997 • 3-5 pm
CARMEN GREEN & FRANCIS RAY

romance writers, will autograph their works. Carmen Green, an Atlanta-based engineer has penned three works *NOW OR NEVER*, *SILKEN LOVE* and a novella *WHISPER TO ME* in *Silver Bells*. Francis Ray, a Dallas based RN, has penned seven works; the latest being *SILKEN BETRAYAL*. Each book is \$4.99 (Pinnacle). Ms. Green's and Ms. Ray's signing will be hosted by the Romance Noir Book Club.

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Family Life

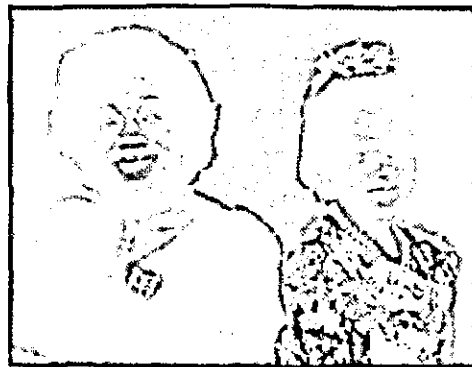
Fairy Street Mama

Many times, adults think that nothing can be learned from kids. We sometimes feel that children are to be "seen and not heard" and we do not take the necessary time to teach and show them what is right and will be expected of them when they become adults. While in the Pleasant Grove area, I spoke with a mother and her daughter; this is what they had to say.

KATHERINE: "I think that kids can learn good ethical values, self respect and morals from adults... They can learn ethical values through adults by having good role models for them in their lives... I feel that if a parent or another adult sets good examples for our kids, then the kids in turn adopt or inherit the values of that adult because they will have an example to go by... they will be able to make better decisions and judgments,

What positive things can adults learn from kids?

and once they have a good sense of judgment then they will also have self respect



Katherine Joseph and daughter Quiana, a 9-year-old student at Dorsey Elementary

and with self respect comes self esteem... Also positive role models will enable the children to set achievable goals and standards, which will have a positive impact

on their adult lives... At my daughter's school, for example, I have always been involved in the PTA and one time I was even the president... I also let my daughter stay involved in other community projects as well as consistent participation in church activities."

QUIANA: "... I learn not to be foolish or bad or selfish... My mother tells me before we go to visit someone to be nice and to watch my manners and show others respect... She also reminds me to keep my room clean and when I do visit others, I try to be neat at their house too... At school, I try very hard to make good grades... I don't play with kids who are bad or disrespectful to others... some kids try to boss other kids around, but I don't let them boss me around... I tell my teacher when I have a problem with other kids and they usually have some

kind of punishment like not being allowed to go to PE or Music class... I think that kids can learn a lot from adults if the adults are acting good too by not smoking, doing drugs, cursing and also having good manners."

Just as adults can learn from kids, I feel that kids can also learn from adults whether it is positive or negative... Kids learn from us by our mistakes and accomplishments; therefore, we must be mindful of what we do and how we do it. Not only should we be able to teach them morals and values, but we should teach them to have high regard for themselves so that they in turn will look at others with value and meaning. To each of us, our children are a joy, and I know that we want to make sure that we give them the best that life has to offer, now as a child... and later as an adult.

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.

Under construction

A hard hat is only one of the many hats Buford Kemp wears

By Kamron L. Barton

According to Buford Kemp, his success is credited to God.

Mr. Kemp graduated from El Centro College in 1970 with an architectural drafting degree.

His uncle, Arnet Smith, Jr., hired him at A.L. Smith Construction as general manager. Mr. Kemp worked there for five years and began his own business, B.K.'s Construction, in 1975.

"I always liked working with my hands. That's really what drew me to the business," said Mr. Kemp. His goal is "...to be as successful as I am. I'm content and want to maintain what I already have." One of the advantages to being an entrepreneur is "...being my own boss, though I'm not really my own boss. God is my boss," said Mr. Kemp.

Not only is Mr. Kemp an expert in construction, but he also prevents destruction. He steers people from fires inside and outside the church. Mr. Kemp has been a Dallas fireman for 21 years and is currently the driver of truck #49 at

station #49 on Hampton Road.

He has been in the ministry for five years, having been licensed on May 17, 1992 at True Lee Missionary Baptist Church. He was also ordained recently and serves as associate minister at True Lee.

When asked how he is able to juggle so many careers, Mr. Kemp responds, "The Lord...with the help of the Lord doors will open up for you."

During his free time, Mr. Kemp collects model

and antique cars. "Let me show you something," he said. He led the way to his garage where a navy blue and black 1934 Chevrolet sits. His first car was a 1953 Chevrolet. He has also owned 1955 and 1956 Chevrolets.

Mr. Kemp reflects on his grandfather's words of wisdom, "Hard work won't kill anybody." Hasn't he proven that?

MON

Kamron L. Barton is a senior at Carter High School. She will be a regular contributor to this column.

Name: Buford Kemp
Birthplace: Dallas, Texas.
Favorite Food: Beef tips and rice
Last Book Read: The Bible

My friends don't know that: "I am very kind-hearted. They just know the firm, business side."

Advice to would-be entrepreneurs:

"Seek the Lord and put him first. Let Him guide you. Prepare yourself well"



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IMPORTANT NOTICE

Beginning November 7, 1997

The Dallas Housing Authority (DHA) will be accepting applications from persons who qualify for assistance through the Section 8 Rental Voucher/Certificate program.

DHA will accept applications only on November 7, 1997. The applications will be taken from 7:00AM to 2:00PM or the first 500 applicants, whichever comes first. The applications process will be at 3901 Holystone (Edgar Ward Place) in Dallas, TX.

THE DHA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS IF SUCH ACTION IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND TO WAIVE ANY AND ALL INFORMALITIES AND MINOR IRREGULARITIES.



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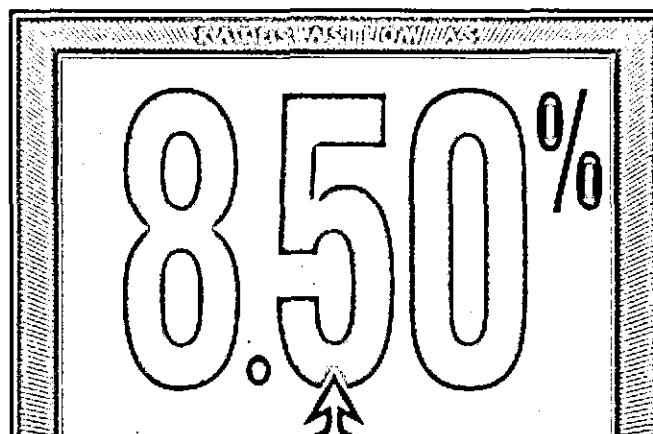
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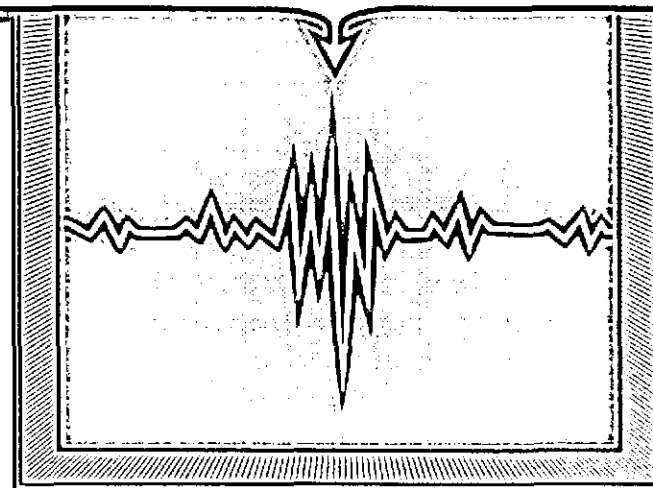
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You and Your Money

John Dudley

President Clinton and the Republican-led Congress reached an agreement in early August that promises to balance the budget within the next five years and provides the first significant tax cuts in 16 years. This signing of the Tax Payer Relief Act of 1997 brings with it some important changes in tax law that create added incentives to invest in stocks and other financial vehicles.

The new tax law is complicated, and anyone thinking of making changes to an investment portfolio based on this law should speak with a qualified tax adviser. Although some features of the new tax rules remain murky, the main points are clear.

Through an Education IRA (Individual Retirement Account), new tax credits ("HOPE Scholarship" and "Lifetime Learning") and an interest deduction for higher education, some \$125 billion in tax relief will be pumped back into the pockets of middle-class Americans. These provisions are available only to taxpayers with adjusted gross income (AGI) that does not exceed a specified amount. While these amounts vary with each new law provision, singles with AGI in excess of \$110,000 and married filing jointly with AGI of \$160,000 are not eligible for the benefits of any of these new rules.

In addition, by simplifying and liberalizing the rules affecting capital gains taxation on housing, the law makes it easier for homeowners to unlock the equity in their homes. This legislation has created a new Roth IRA, expanded the rules for traditional IRAs and reduced the maximum capital gains tax rate.

Capital Gains

The individual capital gains rates and holding periods were changed significantly by the new legislation. For assets held one year or less, the gains remain taxed at ordinary income rates. Assets held more than one year but not more than 18 months are taxed at a maximum of 28 percent. For assets held more than 18 months, the tax rate is 20 percent (10 percent for taxpayers in the 15 percent tax bracket).

If the assets were sold between May 7 and July 28, 1997, the 28 percent rate is reduced to 20 percent, (to 10 percent for taxpayers in the 15 percent tax bracket). Assets purchased after the year 2000 and held for at least five years will be taxed at a maximum rate of 18 percent (8 percent for the 15 percent bracket taxpayers).

Tax Break for Homeowners

The old rules concerning the rollover of gain on the sale of a principal res-

The new Tax Bill: What it means to investors

idence and the one-time gain exclusion for taxpayers over age 55 have both been repealed. Instead, for sales after May 6, 1997, a married taxpayer can exclude \$500,000 of gain (\$250,000 for single taxpayers) from the sale of their primary residence. This exclusion may be used many times during your lifetime; however, it may be used only once in a two-year period. A residence is your primary residence if you owned and used it as such for at least two of the five years before sale.

Estate and Gift Taxes

The effective estate and gift tax exemption for individuals will increase gradually from \$600,000 to \$1 million over the next ten years. Starting in 1998, the effective exemption amount is \$625,000. By the year 2002, the effective exemption amount will have increased to \$700,000 and, by the year 2006, the exemption will have reached \$1 million. Also beginning in 1998, qualified family-owned farms and businesses will benefit from the addition of \$1.3 million estate tax exclusion for the transfer of their assets to the next generation. However, amounts excluded under this provision reduce the amount of the effective estate tax exemption.

Tax Credits for Children

Starting in 1998, parents will receive a \$400 tax credit for each child under age 17. The credit will increase to \$500 per child in 1999 and thereafter. The credit is phased out for modified adjusted gross income (AGI) between \$75,000 and \$83,000 for single taxpayers and \$110,000 and \$118,000 for married taxpayers filing jointly.

Improved IRA Options/Traditional IRAs

In addition to expanding traditional IRAs, the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 created two new types of IRAs: the Roth IRA and the Education IRA. The Roth IRA allows for tax- and penalty-free withdrawals, while the Education IRA lets earnings accrue tax-free on funds set aside specifically for qualified higher education expenses. Certain eligibility requirements apply to both kinds of IRAs.

Starting in tax year 1998, you can make a fully-deductible contribution to a traditional IRA if you are not an active participant in an employer-sponsored retirement plan, even if your spouse is a participant. This provision is phased out if your combined AGI is between \$150,000 to \$160,000.

In addition, deductibility for contributions to traditional IRAs will phase out in increasing increments over the next 10 years, from \$25,000 to \$50,000 for single taxpayers, and from \$40,000 to \$80,000 for married couples filing jointly.

There are also two new exceptions to the 10 percent withdrawal penalty for first-time home purchases (up to \$10,000 lifetime) and qualified higher education expenses. However, distributions may be subject to income tax.

Roth IRA (Tax Year 1998)

Distributions from the Roth IRA are tax-free under certain circumstances:

- provided they are made more than five tax years after the initial contribution was made
- after you have reached age 59-1/2, on account of death or disability
- for a first-time home purchase (up to \$10,000)

Roth IRA contributions can still be made after you reach age 70-1/2, if you continue to have earned income. Contributions are never a deductible. Eligibility is subject to phaseouts between AGI levels of \$95,000 to \$110,000 for single taxpayers and \$150,000 to \$160,000 for married taxpayers filing jointly. A traditional IRA may be rolled over to a Roth IRA if AGI for a single or married taxpayer filing jointly does not exceed \$100,000. Qualified rollovers will not be subject to early distribution penalties. However, qualified rollovers may be sub-

ject to income tax.

Education IRAs

Education IRAs accrue tax-free income, and the designated beneficiary is not taxed nor subject to penalties on distributions, provided the funds are used to pay for qualified higher education expenses.

The distributions must be completed before the beneficiary's 30th birthday. Total contributions to all education IRAs are limited to \$500 per child per year, and the child must be under the age of 18.

Eligibility to make contributions is phased out at AGI between \$95,000 to \$110,000 for single taxpayers and \$150,000 to \$160,000 for married couples filing jointly.

Tax Relief for Higher Education

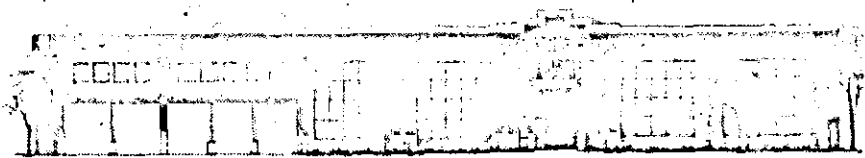
President Clinton supported the creation of the "Hope Scholarship," a \$1,500-a-year tax credit for the first two years of higher education. This credit applies to expenses paid during academic periods beginning after December 31, 1997. In addition, the "Lifetime Learning" tax credit can be used for any year of higher education following the first two years of higher education, and it allows for a 20 percent tax savings on up to \$5,000 of tuition and fees (for a total of \$1,000). This credit applies to expenses paid during the academic periods beginning after June 30, 1998. Phaseouts for these credits are between AGI levels of \$40,000 to \$50,000 for individuals and \$80,000 to \$100,000 for married couples filing jointly.

For more information about how the new federal tax legislation may affect you, call your tax adviser today.

MON

John Dudley is a financial advisor with Prudential Securities. He can be contacted at 214-761-5100 or 800-527-7814.

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On Real Estate

Curtis Yates

Home equity loans for Texans

Home equity loans for Texas homeowners have not been an option for many, many years. Because equity loans have not been available in Texas until now, tax-advantaged loans may be unfamiliar to many of us. I'd like to demonstrate how home equity loans work and how they can benefit you as a homeowner.

Let's say that a couple has lived in their home since 1989 and made several improvements over the years. Those additions, plus the increase in real estate values in their neighborhood, have put their home value at about \$175,000.

Since the proposed Texas law will allow homeowners to borrow up to 80% of their home's value, the couple can borrow up to \$140,000 against their property. This is the maximum total loan amount that would be allowed under the new law, including the balance on their first mortgage. Subtracting their first mortgage balance of \$112,000, the couple has \$28,000 in available equity.

But rather than opting for a traditional equity loan, the couple prefers to have just one first mortgage. Under the new loan, they will be able to do the following.

\$175,000 Fair Market Value
x .80 Loan to value rate
140,000 LTV amount
-112,000 Loan balance payoff
\$28,000 Cash equity

By refinancing their existing first mortgage at 80% of the new home value, the couple can finance \$140,000, pay the \$112,000 balance on their first mortgage, and take the remaining \$28,000 in cash. They end up with a new \$140,000 first mortgage and potential tax benefits on the entire amount. This option is known as a cash-out finance.

Borrowing against your hard-earned equity is a basic private property right in every state except Texas. If I am reliable enough to put a down payment on a home, maintain it in good shape and pay taxes and insurance, then I also should be responsible enough to know when I can borrow on its equity and repay a loan. A home equity borrowing program should be tailored to meet the needs of Texans. Safeguards should be included in any changes made to the law so that homeowners are not unduly pressured to borrow on their home equity.

Ultimately, changing the homestead

law would give many Texans access to lower-cost loans. Unlike other loans, interest on home equity borrowing is tax deductible from federal income taxes and, on average, the interest rates are lower than on other types of loans. If home equity borrowing were allowed, Texas consumers and businesses could save an estimated \$382 million annually in interest costs and tax savings, according to an April report by the Texas Comptroller's office. For example, annual savings on a four-year loan could be \$230 on a \$30,000 educational loan; \$383 a year on an auto loan and more than \$1,600 a year over financing on credit card debts.

A homeowner who feels that taking out a second mortgage on his home is too risky should simply not borrow against equity. While consumer protection provisions should be placed in the law, borrowing against a home's equity should be a choice that is up to each individual homeowner. Home equity loan applica-

tions will be accepted through REAL ESTATE STATUS QUO by mid November 1997 for those of you interested in applying for a home equity loan.

MON

Curtis Yates is the owner/operator of REAL ESTATE STATUS QUO; 8111 LBJ Frwy, Ste. 787bb, Dallas, TX 75251-1333; Ph. 972-702-0151; Fax 972-934-2706; E-mail statusquo@flash.net; Promotion Web Site: <http://www.flash.net/~statusquo/>.

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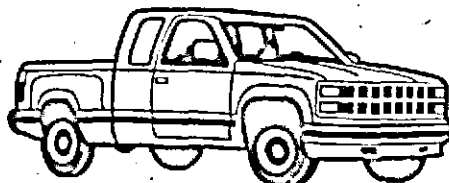
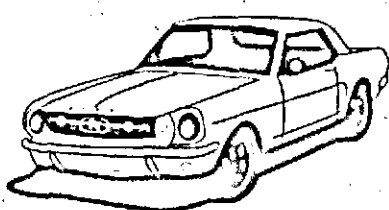
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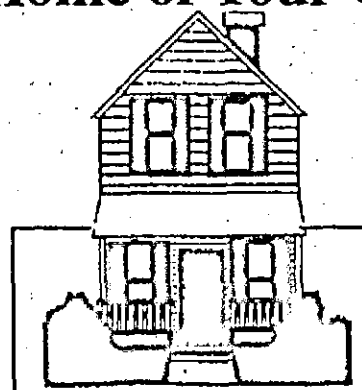
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You and God

Ron Shaw

Keys to finishing strong

1 Corinthians 9:25,26

As we wind down another year (we are less than 60 days away from '98), several people have called me or asked me face to face how to stay motivated to finish strong this year. One of the most difficult things to do in life is to finish the race we've begun. Several of you started some things this year and I'm sure you had your share of challenges keeping them going. It's not difficult for most people to start [things]. The difficult part is maintaining to the point where we finish them.

The goals you set for this year probably have been a challenge to you. Nevertheless, they were not and are not impossible dreams. To assist you in finishing strong in '97, allow me to suggest five "I"s.

First, keep your journey *inspiring*. Inspiration is the act or power of moving the intellect or emotions. The Bible says God inspired us to life. He breathed into us and we became a living soul. Through the Bible we can be moved or motivated, because it is has inspiration in it. Inspiration helps us in three ways. I like to say, inspiration gives us A.I.R. A-the ability to leap beyond our present abilities. I-it inflates us with life-giving energy for the journey, and R- rise. It enables us to soar to new heights. Stay close to those things and people that inspire you to greater heights. During these final 60 days keep the journey inspiring.

Second, keep the journey through '97 *informative*. You should always remain teachable. I was recently talking with a man who had already received his doctoral degree. In spite of that he said he still needed to keep learning because he didn't know nearly enough. I have determined to stay young all my life by being a continual learner. God bless the mothers and fathers who continue to learn no matter what age they are. Never forget, what you don't know to be successful, you can learn if you will learn.

Third, keep the journey toward accomplishing your '97 goals *interesting*. One of the most important aspects of taking a trip is the interest factor. If you are not interested, even enjoying Hawaii is a challenge. I've had several opportunities to travel to Israel at almost no cost to me. I don't have anything against it; I just don't have any interest in going at this point in my life. At lot of people don't

attend church because it's not interesting to them. In order to finish strong, you have to keep your race interesting and somewhat intriguing. Never let your life get completely boring or dull or lackluster.

Fourth, make sure your journey is *intense*. Always keep a certain degree of passion in your journey. A person without passion isn't worth his salt. Martin Luther King said, "if a man hasn't found something he is willing to die for, he isn't fit to live. Each person must find that fire in their belly for which cause they will fight to the death. Certainly, for Christians, that should be no problem, since our champion was willing to lay down His life for us. What a shame it is for men and women to lose their fire for the cause for which they have been born. The apostle Paul constantly reminded us that he was willing to die for the cause of Christ. God has such intense passion for us that the Bible says He so loved us that He gave His only begotten son to die for us.

Finally, keep the journey *in joy*. When we lose the joy in our lives, we lose the strength for the journey that God gave us. The Bible says the joy of the Lord is our strength. Whenever we fail to rejoice or stir up the joy in our lives, weakness and weariness isn't far behind. I'm sure a lot has happened to you this year. Some positive and some negative. However, be assured that all of us have suffered some unfortunate things in our lives. Nevertheless, the degree to which you can rejoice will determine the degree to which you can sustain your drive. The psalmist declared this is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it (Psa. 118:24). Notice all of these I's are things you are personally responsible for. No other person shoulders the responsibility for them in your life except you.

To summarize, stay turned on. Keep learning. Make things interesting for you. Stoke the fire in you constantly. Most of all, always, always, REJOICE!

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

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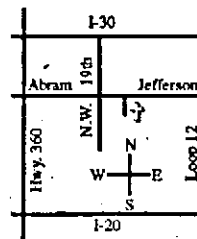
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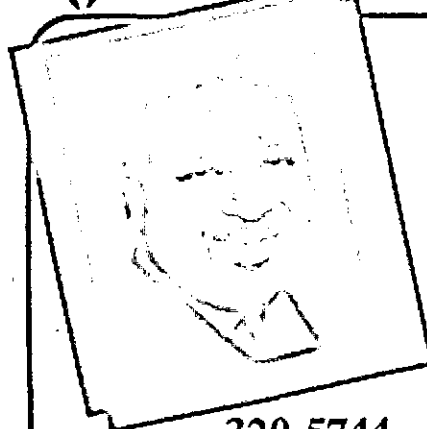


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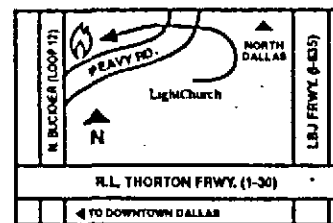
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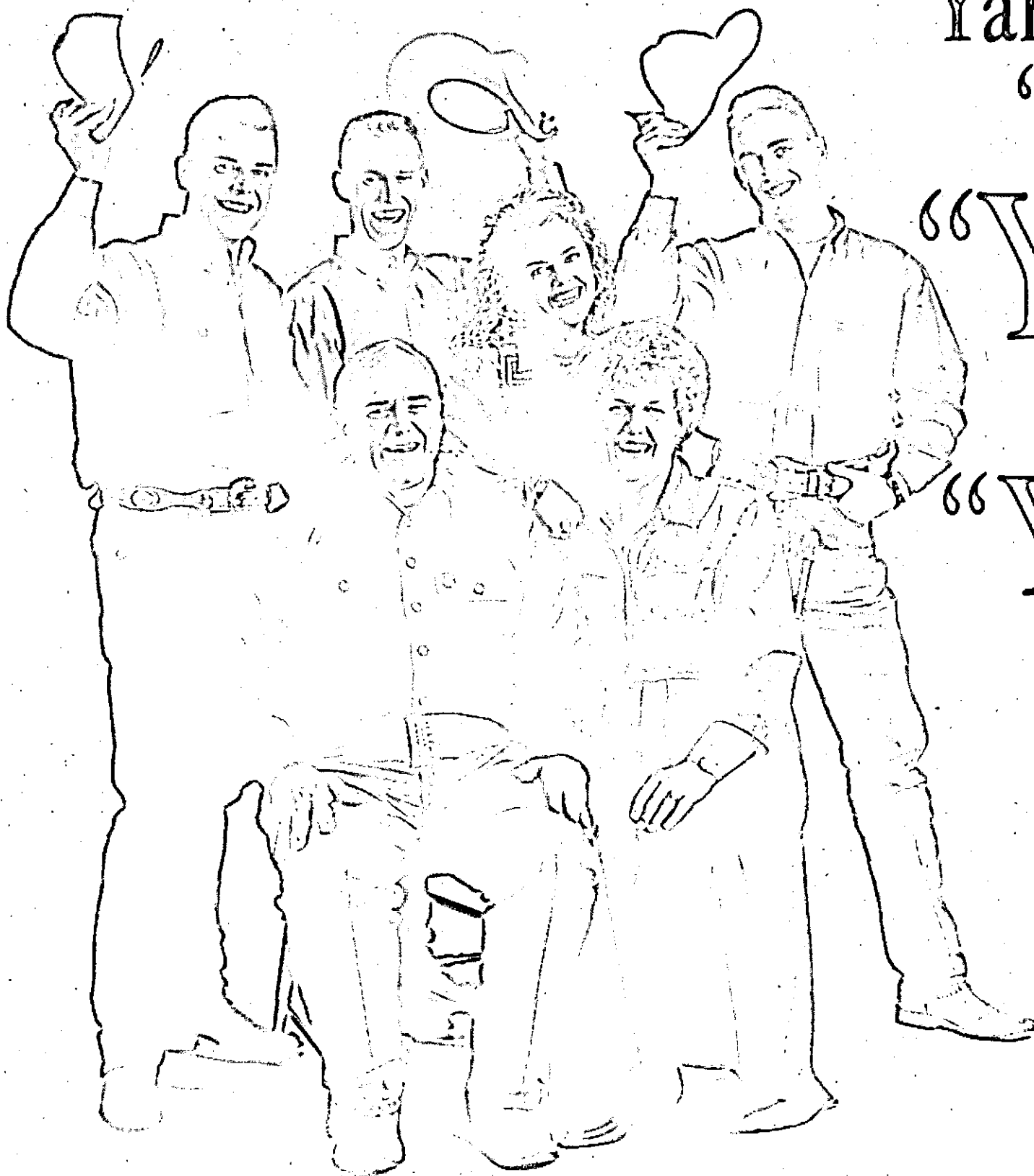
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David McDavid—A Texas tradition

By Mirshish Massey

When thinking of Texas traditions, the Dallas Cowboys, bluebonnets, the Texas Longhorns and, of course, David McDavid comes to mind. For over 60 years, this family-owned car dealership has been meeting the automotive needs of Texans. Its extensive inventory of new vehicles and late-model, low-mileage cars, trucks and vans, has contributed to its customers' phenomenal ownership experiences.

The dealership offers a wide selection of new Pontiacs, Buicks, Hondas, Suzukis, and GMC trucks; and an unlimited selection of pre-owned vehicles is also available to choose from.

David McDavid substantiates the notion that things are done in a big way in Texas. It's not surprising that the dealership sold more than 24,000 vehicles last year. Competitive prices are the key to repetitive business. Special financing is an option for customers with less than perfect credit. "For people with bad credit, we give a second opportunity to get it

straightened up," said James Brown, a 13-year veteran sales consultant. As an incentive to first-time buyers, special financing, rebates and a deferred payment plans are available.

Not only is owning a vehicle a cinch, but the service and maintenance of your car is just as easy. Trained technicians use state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment, and contracts are available that will cover parts and labor anywhere in the United States.

David McDavid is committed to the community and it is an environmentally-conscious auto group, recycling used oil, freon, tires, glass and scrap metal.

Maximum options for minimal prices are minutes away at David McDavid, located at 3700 W. Airport Freeway in Irving. The sales department is open from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday for your convenience. Contact James Brown at (972) 790-0070 for more information.

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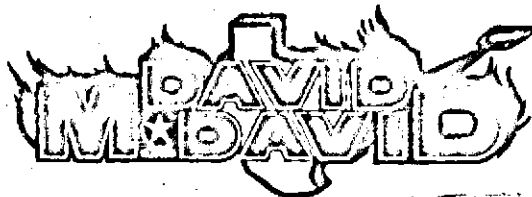


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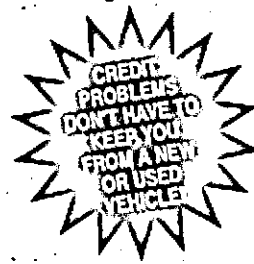
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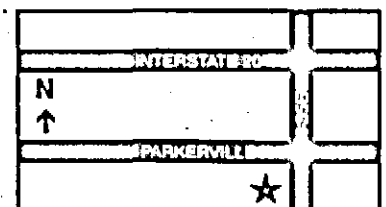
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How to save

"Do I have the money to buy that?" can be a complicated question because you can "spend" cash, checks, credit cards, investments and savings. Lack of control over spending can result in disaster.

The first step in financial planning is to monitor your spending. Design a plan that lists income, fixed and flexible expenses, "fun" expenses, and savings. Plan also to set up a "periodic expense fund" (for expenses like car insurance every four to six months, and higher utility bills).

Toward savings, allocate 5-20% of your after-tax income, as follows: 5% into an "emergency fund" (never to be used for impulse spending; and including three-to-six-months of living expenses in case of job loss); 10% into an IRA, money market, 401(k), or 403(b) for retirement; and 5% into a "specific goal" fund (for something like the purchase of a computer).

Consider the following ways to econo-

mize; practicing these habits will enable you to allot your dollars where they will do more good.

(1) Shop factory-outlet stores; swap outgrown clothing and maternity clothes with friends; buy clothing that can be mixed and matched and a design that will stay in style; avoid clothing that requires dry cleaning.

(2) Reduce long-distance calls; write letters; rent or share household equipment and tools; read magazines and books from the library; wash your own car; trim your children's hair between professional cuts.

(3) Make gifts or give a gift of your own personal services (baby sitting, etc.); buy decorations when a holiday has passed and they are on sale.

(4) Spend less on vacations and recreation; rent a videotape and pop your own popcorn; attend free community concerts; take advantage of church activities; museums, wildlife areas and parks.

(5) Keep your car in good running condi-

tion; form a car pool for work; increase deductibles on auto insurance; drop collision insurance when your car's value has dropped sufficiently.

(6) Buy cleaning products that can be used for more than one purpose; buy generic brands; don't grocery shop hungry, and use a list; double or triple recipes and freeze for later use (larger amounts of basic ingredients are more economical); cut down on eating out; watch your weight (it is costly to take

pounds off); use coupons; buy fresh produce when it's in season and less expensive.

During your lifetime, you could earn (and spend) about a million dollars. Managing your money is a skill that is learned; it doesn't just "happen." For more information on financial planning, contact Consumer Credit Counseling Service at (1-800-388-CCCS).

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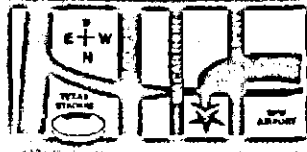
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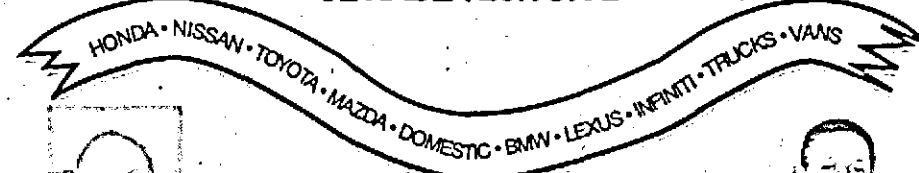
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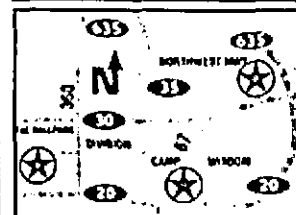
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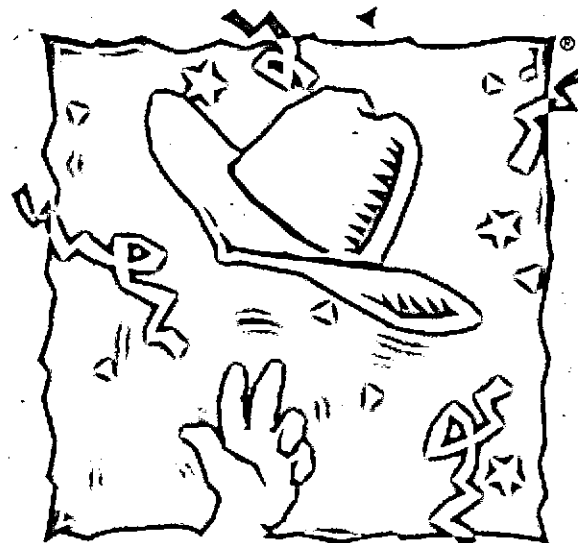
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By Kathleen Goolsby

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At Taos, New Mexico, the Southwestern flavor holds as much attraction as the mountains. The package includes discounts on lessons and equipment rentals; and the Taos Pueblo cultural center, craft shops, ice-skating and winter horseback riding are also popular features.

Eight miles from Grand Teton National Park, Jackson Hole/Snow King, Wyoming, offer such activities as a kids' ranch, wildlife safaris, ice climbing, dogsledding, snowmobiling, as well as helicopter and snowcat skiing. At Lake Tahoe, the 24-hour casinos and entertainment add gaming excitement to your skiing vacation.

Snowbird, a mecca for dry powder snow lovers, is one of the ski areas you may choose in Utah. Together with Park City, Deer Valley and Solitude, the Utah packages also feature hot-air balloon rides, ski lessons for the disabled, night skiing, ice-skating, and theatre performances.

American has arranged a vacation package at Whistler Resort in British Columbia, Canada, rated the #1 ski resort in North America by many skiing publications. This alpine adventure offers cross-country skiing, paragliding, snowmobiling, fishing, flightseeing, and sleigh rides.

The challenges of the Banff and Lake Louise ski areas in Alberta, Canada, are known to present some of the best skiing in the world. Wildlife, stunning scenery and a hot mineral springs pool are highlights of this trip to the Canadian Rockies.

Closer to home, vacation packages include eight ski areas in Colorado. Copper Mountain Resort features naturally separated terrains for beginners, intermediate and expert skiers. Crested Butte offers free skiing from November 21 - December 20 and from April 6 - 19, a ski school, sleigh rides, ice skating, ice fishing, snowmobiling, and a nursery and daycare. Keystone and Breckenridge have added snowshoeing, obstacle course races, theme parties, downhill tubing, dogsledding, snowboarding, snowcat skiing, and age 50+ skiing seminars.

The Vail and Beaver Creek resorts, ten miles apart, offer a World Cup downhill course, cross-country skiing, children/teen programs and sleigh ride dinners.

If a back-country experience is what interests you, choose Winter Park/Silver Creek in Colorado. Activities also include snowbiking, snowshoeing, ice and roller-skating, ice fishing; and they feature a ski and snowboard school and National Sports Center for the Disabled.

The Steamboat area has undergone a major expansion, lift upgrades and snowmaking programs. This area also includes a kids' vacation center, indoor tennis, gondola rides for nonskiers, hot

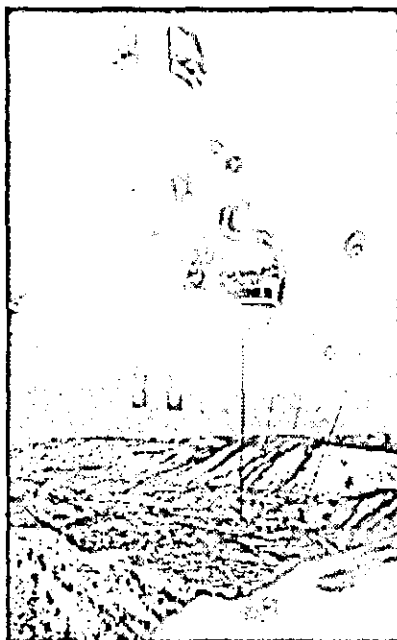
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Breathtaking views and 80 km cross-country ski trails await you at Aspen/Snowmass, where the atmosphere is both wild and sophisticated. Art galleries and museums, mine tours and historical sites are alternatives to the winter activities.

With incredible scenery, Purgatory, Colorado, is a popular destination. These resorts also feature tree skiing, gladed trails and skiing for the physically challenged. The Sky Ute Casino, nearby Durango (an Old West town) a scenic train ride and a hot springs soak and massage followed by a dinner sleigh ride add to this resort area.

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Requirements include Doctoral degree in clinical, counseling or school psychology from an accredited college or university. Licensed by the Texas Board of Examiners of Psychologist. Two (2) years of direct clinical experience, one of which is in a supervisory capacity. One (1) year of experience may have been gained in an accredited professional internship. Under certain circumstances Doctoral candidates who have completed all but dissertation may be considered if they have completed a doctoral internship and agree to complete the doctoral degree within two years of hire with subsequent licensure within two years of degree completion. Superior benefits. Monthly salary \$3,644. Submit State Application, transcript, and licensure to:

Gainesville State School, ATTN: Human Resources, 4701 E. FM 678, Gainesville, TX 76240.

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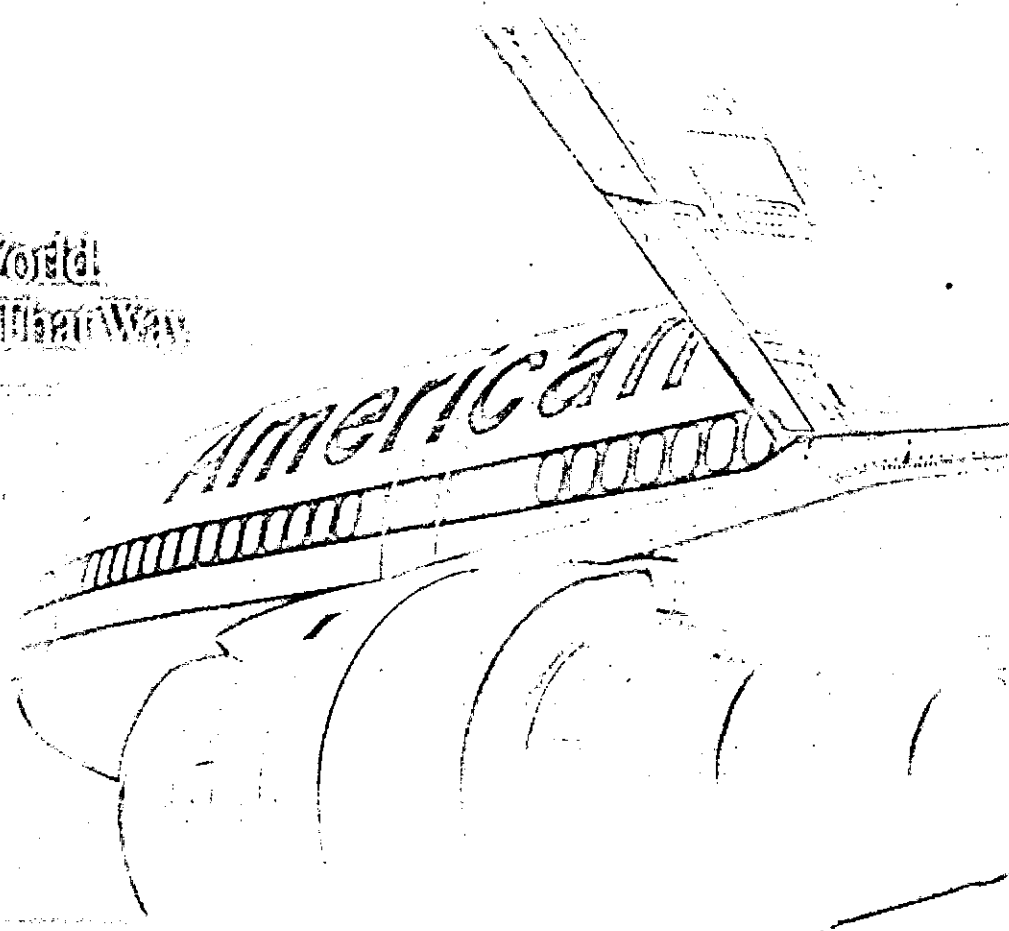
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