

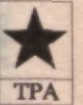
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Minority Opportunity News



2730 STEMMONS FRWY. STE. 1202 TOWER WEST, DALLAS, TEXAS 75207
VOLUME 6, NO. 2 February 1997



Moment of Hate

Melvin Scruggs would appear to be a victim of hate-crime. He doesn't sound like one.



**Cheryl Smith chides
journalists about
supporting NABJ**

**Pastors Coalition
honors Martin
Luther King, Jr.**

**Banking regulators
attempt to stunt
OmniAmerican
growth**



From The Editor

Chris Pryer

photo by Derrick Walters

More than a photo

As I headed towards the residence of Melvin Scruggs, the subject of this issue's cover story, I mulled over how I would behave. The reason for my visit was to pick up a picture of him for the article. (I was supposed to meet Orion Richardson there—he was in the car with Mr. Scruggs when he was shot while traveling along I-635 almost 2 years ago—to get his picture as well, but he had to cancel.) Do I pretend to totally ignore the fact that Scruggs is paralyzed from the neck down? You know. Be blasé so as not to exude pity? Do I discuss it with him head-on, asking him to once again regurgitate the most awful moment in his life? Or maybe I should just blow in, mouth a few obligatory pleasantries, get the photo, and book?

After being greeted by his wife and children, I was directed into Melvin's bedroom. He lie on his back, shifted slightly towards the left, a good position to watch television if he so desired. The normal greeting between two people meeting for the first time, the shaking of hands, was conspicuous by its absence. Other than that one moment, my previous apprehensions about how I should conduct myself flew out the window. I did ask him about how he was feeling. Because I wanted to know. We talked about his job. We talked about where he was from. And where I was from. He talked about his family. I talked about my family. We talked about Dallas, our impressions about it when we first located here. We reminisced about the 70s, about our old neighborhoods, about the old-fashioned way we were brought up. We talked like two guys who had just met, were getting to know each other, and who decided they liked each other. Yes, a friendship was born.

Melvin and I discussed his emotions concerning the men who attacked him. As you will see when you read the story, he is not bitter. He told me he did not want to exert energy that could be used on his quest to recover as much as he can hating the men responsible for his condition. He is a man of strong character who still feels the duties of providing for his family. The past few weeks he has been on bed rest by order of the doctor, but he hopes to be back in his wheel chair soon. Then he will be able to go back to work. No, you can't keep a good man down.

When I left the house of Melvin Scruggs, I had more than just a photo. Much more.

Editorial

The Challenge of the New World Order

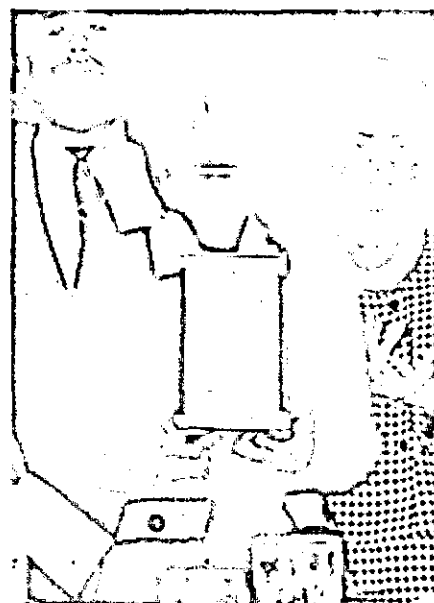
By Michelle M. Martin

Editor's Note: Minority Opportunity News normally reserves this space to expound its own views on the issues of the day. This month will be somewhat of an exception. The sentiments are ours but the words are those of Michelle M. Martin, a senior student at Mesquite High School. Her eloquence captures the heart and thought of the African American community at large. Read her words.

America has met, with limited success, the challenge of appropriately responding to the summons of the Civil Rights Movement. The Civil Rights Movement called for an end to the systematization of assigning second-class citizenship status to African Americans and other minority groups through the practice of segregation and discrimination. In his address entitled, "Facing the Challenge of a New Age," Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. asserted that the reversal of second-class citizenship would best be achieved through "legalism and Legislation." In "Next Stop: the North," the idea of using non-violent direct action to exert and achieve economic power was presented as an effective method to successfully end discrimination. In many respects, America has responded appropriately, however this success is limited by the fact that the legislation and protests cannot alter or govern a man's morals and internal feelings. It is this inability or unwillingness to give equal value to all people that will prohibit this country from truly realizing its fullest potential.

Legalism and legislation have been effective mechanisms for reversing second class citizenship status for African American people. Significant Civil Right gains can be traced as far back as the Reconstruction Era (beginning in 1865) with the adoption of the 13th, 14th, & 15th Amendments to the United States Constitution. These amendments abolished slavery, granted U.S. citizenship to former slaves, and awarded suffrage to all races. Subsequent legislative accomplishments include: the 1883 ruling preventing racial discrimination by private individuals; the 1954 Brown V. Board of Education of Topeka ordering the integration of all school systems; the 1957 Civil Rights Act creating the commission on Civil Rights; the 1960 Civil Rights Act protecting blacks' right to vote; the popular 1964 Civil Rights Act requiring all businesses that serve the general public to serve and employ all people; and the

1968 Civil Rights Act ending discrimination in housing. Early legislation focused on the rights of the individual; however in the 1970's, legislative emphasis changed to group rights in the form of affirmative action. Thus, this early legislation has also paved the way for many African Americans to excel in their various field of endeavor. Notable achievers include the likes of Colin Powell, Mae Jemison, Bill Cosby, Maxine Waters, and Ron Brown, whose talents and abilities were undergirded by the enforcement of laws created to protect the rights of those persons to pursue their dreams. These examples provide evidence that this nation has begun to respond successfully



Michelle M. Martin

to the summons for which the movement has been called.

Through the mass non-violent direct action approach, protesting and the withdrawal of economic support have proven to be successful measures for bring about change, as well. Rosa Parks' act of quiet courage transformed the course of history. On December 1, 1955, Ms. Parks' refusal to surrender her seat to a Caucasian man, resulted in her arrest and sparked the Montgomery, Alabama bus Boycott. This boycott, which lasted 381 days, threatened to bring down the Montgomery Bus system because of the negative impact it had on its financial results. In recent time, African Americans have used negative encounters with the Denny's restaurant chain to achieve positive results. After numerous instances of substandard treatment toward black patrons and employees of this restaurant chain, African Americans used boycotts

and a class-action lawsuit to make their voices heard. As a result, the offended parties were awarded a multi-million dollar settlement, a fast track management training program was implemented, and franchise ownership and financing opportunities for African Americans were expanded. These actions have been successful partly because offending parties have been embarrassed into giving some form of public display of apology and compensation and because of fear of the negative financial impact such actions could have. However, a great deal of the success can be attributed to the fact that African Americans staged a unified front in their approach to righting the wrongs of society. Dr. King warned that looting and rioting, as had been previously adopted by some African Americans in the north, did little to invoke a sympathetic ear from observers around the world and was highly destructive. It further promoted the stereotypes that racists held—that African Americans could only use violent, physical means of dealing with problems because they were not smart enough to effect change on an intellectual basis. The path of non-violent direct action was a path that proved successful during Dr. King's era and remains an effective tool today.

Although great progress has been made towards raising African Americans from second-class citizenship through legislation and non-violent direct action, this progress has been hindered by the fact that these measures have not successfully altered the morals and internal feelings of certain racists in this country. Despite the fact that affirmative action has been in place for more than 20 years, African American employees have been the victims of discrimination at Texaco Corporation. These employees sued on the basis that they were denied promotions and advancement opportunities. To add further insult, executive level meetings held with the intention of concealing incriminating evidence resulted in African Americans being referred to as "niggers" and "black jelly beans." In another example, Marge Schott has made millions of dollars off the backs of many talented African American baseball players. Her suspension as owner of the Cincinnati Reds is evidence she remains racist and insensitive towards the African American and Jewish communities. Dr. King stresses the importance of learning to live together.

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Minority Opportunity News
2805 Stemmons Freeway, Ste. 1202
Tower West Dallas, Texas 75207
(214) 905-0946 Fax (214) 905-0946

Chairman Emeritus
Jim Bochum

Publisher
Thurman R. Jones
Contributing Editor
Jason Webster

Editorial Department
(214) 606-3890

Sales/Marketing Department
(214) 606-7351

Editor Chris Pryer
Assignments Editor Cheryl L. Williams
Contributing Writer Dorothy Gentry
Contributing Writer Gina Weldon
Contributing Writer Sula Felder
Columnist Thomas Muhammad
Columnist Cheryl Smith
Administrative Assistant to publisher Darryl Ewing
Account Rep. Marshall Sims
Account Rep. Linda Whitehead
Production Kevin Pinell
Photographer Wallace Faggett
Vol. Community Publicist Charlotte Berry
Vol. Community Publicist Rita White

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C I P V S

LETTERS...

Ethnic Notes Kudos

Please be advised that I read your monthly newspaper regularly. A certain writer for your newspaper has caught my attention over the past three years.

Mr. Russell Shockley (Ethnic Notes) has impressed me with his in-depth writing talent. His research and insight is reflected in the literature that he has developed over the past few years. This writer continues to connect with his readers in describing the history of black people and their contribution to the development of this great nation. My strong support for Mr Shockley and his contributions to your newspaper is closely followed by many readers

Burley E. Denton
Dallas

Racial Harmony?

W.E.B. DuBois, noted among the founding fathers of the NAACP, once predicted, "that the problem of the 20th century would be the color line." His words were prophetic, his vision accurate, and if he were living today, his example would be Dallas. So when the announcement was made that Dallas was to receive the racial harmony award, presented by Turner Broadcasting, it was a secondary shock only to the word that our illustrious mayor would entertain the thought of accepting it.

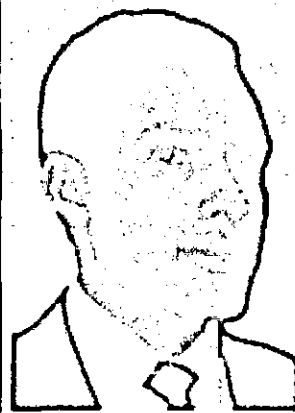
Big D is known for many things: Stetson hats, rich oil men, the assassination, the Cowboys. But racial harmony is certainly not one of them. The mere fact that African American men and women are not welcome at the decision-making table for the collective futures of children in our city has been heralded by the newswire from the nation's capitol, to the city that never sleeps, all the way to the home of Oranthal James Simpson. Dallas has become a pictorial from the annals of Jim Crow; current and colorized.

If America has a race problem, then indeed Dallas is the crucible for our nation's intolerance and blatant hatred. Save the few native Americans and Asians, blacks, whites, and browns are pitted against each other time after time, for the purpose of maintaining the status-quo. Worse yet, this community could be healed, if it would ever be honest enough to admit its shortcomings and forfeit the comfort of its arrogant self-denial.

For sure, Dallas has many wonderful qualities, and more potential than any urban area in this country. Most of us rarely see it for what it is, rather than what it can be. That is the hope that sustains us. But when it comes to the color line, that's where we draw the line. By the way, this is still the 20th century, isn't it?

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Dallas

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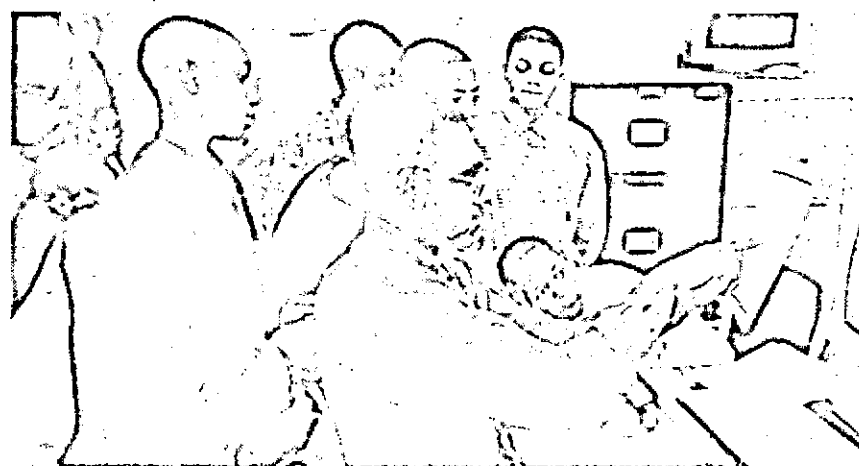
As 36 fifth and sixth grade boys crowded into the office of Minority Opportunity News with three Air Force sergeants, a teacher and three parents in tow, MON editor, Chris Pryer quickly prepared for the task at hand—teach the children well.

Accompanied by teacher Rhonda Howard, parents Ricky Phillips, Reginald Baker and Harold Warren, and Air Force Sergeants Greg Ceaser, Gregory Brown and Rodney Williams, the Umphrey Lee Elementary School students got a first-hand look at the guts of MON. Later they toured the *Dallas Post Tribune*, and learned what it takes to run the independently-owned black publications.

While at MON, the students watched intensely as Pryer demonstrated how a newspaper page goes from an idea to print. "How are the pictures put in?" several students wondered. "How do you change the size of the letters? Where does the writing go when you add more pictures and words?" Displaying a completed computer-generated page of the publication, Pryer meticulously guided the inquisitive students through the production steps and fielded their frequent but pertinent questions.

Later, Thurman Jones, MON's publisher, explained to the group the four basic elements of running the publication. Jones stressed that distribution, community involvement, editorial, and advertising/marketing are the nuts and

bolts of the newspaper business and each element is dependent on the other. But above all, Jones told the students, he believes that a newspaper ought to reflect



Chris Pryer, MON editor, explains electronic past-up to Umphrey Lee Elementary School students.

the community it serves. "An African American newspaper is in the position to mislead the community, so it's important to take community service seriously, to report issues affecting the community and to give credit and accolades to those who deserves it," said Jones.

After satisfying their curiosity at MON, the students hastily departed for the *Dallas Post Tribune* where they were warmly greeted by publisher and president Dr. T.R. Lee and his staff. At the *Dallas Post Tribune*, the boys naturally seemed drawn to sports editor, Greg Grovey as he demonstrated the manual layout of the sports pages. While at the

newspaper office, the students were encouraged by Lee to be the best they could be no matter what career path they chose, even if they decided not to become journalists.

Reginald Baker, one of three fathers present, took a vacation day to accompany son Oshay Williams on the tour. He expressed gratitude for the opportunity his son and the other children have to regularly interact with leaders in the community. "It's a great opportunity for them to visit the newspaper office even if they don't want to be writers," said Baker. "The men from the Air Force and the staff of the newspapers are providing good leadership examples for the students to follow."

The tours of the two newspapers were the culmination of a writer's workshop conducted by MON and held at Umphrey Lee Elementary School just a week earlier. During the workshop session, Pryer led the students through a series of writing exercises designed to stimulate creativity and promote clear thinking. And



Umphrey Lee students at the *Dallas Post Tribune*.

then he challenged them to write. At school, at home, wherever and whenever the urge hit.

"I was pleasantly surprised and gratified at the eager response of the students. There is a natural curiosity—an information vacuum—that we are obligated to fill. Children demand our attentiveness," Pryer observed.

As further incentive to foster their creative writing abilities, the students were challenged to enter an essay contest sponsored by MON, complete with cash prizes and photo recognition for the winner and runner-ups. The winning essays will be published in MON's March issue.

Running another workshop concurrently with the creative writing session, MON assignment editor Cheryl Williams and Umphrey Lee computer teacher Connie Kearns introduced the students to rudimentary desktop publishing techniques. Given a simple unfinished story to edit, the students explored the computer and employed software to discover and correct common mistakes. Then they crafted an ending and title to the story, experimenting with different typefaces, type sizes and even color in their documents. Kearns hopes the workshop will spark more interest, especially among boys, in the computer club she directs each week.

Although Jones does not expect all the students that participated in the workshop to become journalists or writers, he anticipates that something said or done will positively impact the students later in life. "You never know which child you may have reached," Jones said. "It could be one who was looking out of the window. But children are likely to live up to what you believe of them. At MON, we believe that

all children have potential to do whatever they want. We're just grateful for the opportunity to help."

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Thomas
Muhammad

Trail of Peavy leads to Gonzalez-Lyles

Dallas school board president Bill Keever and (the less qualified) superintendent Yvonne Gonzalez-Lyles have proven that they both have no true interest in educating children in the Dallas Independent School District (DISD), particularly African American children. Their actions suggest that the only interest they have is moving up into more prominent positions at the expense of anyone and everything. Keever is that last piece of the "slam dunk" racist machinery created by former DISD school board president Sandy Kress and appropriately named by former school board member Dan Peavy.

You do remember Kress and Peavy, don't you? Peavy is the one who was caught on tape using foul racist language to describe African American children, fellow school board members and administrators. Kress is the white Jew who wanted the school board to keep silent about Peavy's remarks. Makes you wonder what his reaction would have been if Peavy would have said the same things about white Jews? Oh, that's right, you dear readers didn't know that Kress tried to keep the issue quiet, did you? Of course you definitely knew that you could depend on yours truly to pull your coat to the inside scoop, right? (aaww come on now, say you knew it).

Ok, let's start with what you do know. You know, of course, that Peavy's neighbor, Charles Harman (God bless him), taped Peavy's racist conversations and that copies were sent to Rev. Derrick Harkins the Senior Pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, Commissioner John Wiley Price and DISD's board members Dr. Yvonne Ewell, Jose Plata and Kathlyn Gilliam. And you know that every elected, appointed and/or anointed leader white, black, brown and otherwise called on Peavy to resign his school board position, right? And finally, you knew that Dallas' only daily wrote a stinging editorial calling on Peavy to remove himself because of the shame his racist remarks and his pending case involving insurance fraud had brought on Dallas. Aaahh yes.

Dallas. Better known as the city of "peace and harmony."

However, you should have known that all of these things didn't just pop up out of thin air, right? Well, here's what you didn't know. After receiving their copies (of the tapes), Ms. Gilliam and Dr. Ewell decided to see what was on them, so they had one of their staff members to transcribe Dr. Ewell's. Ms. Gilliam did not open hers. Upon seeing the horrible words in the transcript, they both decided that the board needed to see it as well and hopefully would move to some strong actions against

Peavy

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

Peavy. Well, needless to say, Kress (the white Jewish friend of the Negroes who can sing *We Shall Overcome* with you during Martin Luther King holidays and condone someone calling your innocent children niggers at the same time) tried to convince the board that this issue must be handled in-house and that no one should take it outside the board of education. Word has it that everybody (Peavy wasn't there) was in agreement with that position except board member

...though Peavy is no longer on the
(school) board, the mentality he
exhibited still is.

Gilliam. Ms. Gilliam told Kress in no uncertain terms that she was going to read the transcript at the board meeting and that she was not going to sit next to a person who had that type of mentality about African American children. She said that she felt the whole city needed to know exactly what he had said. Well, word has it that Kress called the racist Bubba and told him not to come to the board meeting because all hell was going to break that night. He told him that Ms. Gilliam was going to read the transcript at the board meeting.

That night Ms. Gilliam did just that and the rest, as they say, is history. Had Ms. Gilliam not read that transcript at the board meeting, Peavy would probably still be on the school board. Once again Ms. Gilliam proved that our community many years ago truly made the right choice when it chose her to look after our interests in the school district. The next day news people were everywhere trying to get copies of the tape. Meanwhile, Dallas' only daily ran an editorial calling for "term limits" at the school board as the answer to Peavy's shameful actions. In other words, they faulted Ms. Gilliam, who has served on the school board for over 22 years, for exposing Peavy! (Which makes you kind of wonder what really goes on in some of those "white men only" meetings at Dallas' only daily when they are working on their editorials?)

It is my belief that if someone could sneak a tape recorder into one of those meetings we would probably hear some things that would put even Texaco to shame! You think about it! Here's a school board member sitting up there calling African American children little niggers and Dr. Ewell as well conspiring to rid the school district of ALL African American administrators. And the only thing Dallas' only daily can do is blame the victims and call for term limits! And though Peavy is no longer on the board, the mentality he exhibited still is. Bill Keever is just a miniature Peavy and most believe that racist Sandy Kress is controlling the board through Keever. Which reminds me, we have yet to find out who the other voices were on those famous tapes. Kress and Keever maybe? We do know that African American school administrators caught pure hell when Kress was on the board, so if his name showed up on the tapes, it damn sure wouldn't surprise me! I guess we'll never know!

Now, as for Yvonne Lyles. (Yeah, that's her legal name. She uses Gonzalez when she wants Hispanic support. After school hours, she returns to her Anglo part, blond hair and all.) Since a number of people have asked why I oppose her becoming the permanent superintendent, I'll try to answer that and other questions now. First of all, she doesn't have the qualifications to be superintendent of such a large metropolitan school district. She's only been superintendent in Santa Fe, N.M., a school district with under 29,000 students. DISD, by comparison, has 155,000 students and growing (most of the other superintendent appli-

cants have worked at school districts comparable to Dallas' size.) Lyles was only an interim superintendent in the Houston ISD for about two months. Houston, which has the fifth largest school district in America, passed over Lyles and chose a former school board member as the permanent superintendent. If she was such a great superintendent why didn't Houston keep her?

Second, she has yet to respond to why she hired her husband (who is white) to a non-posted security job that pays more than \$50,000 a year. Word has it that when pressed for an answer, she said she didn't know that her husband had been hired. So I guess that means they don't speak to each other at home. Yeah right!

Third, she has not explained why she fired a number of African American security officers (many who were ordered to arrest the New Black Panther Party members at that now nationally infamous school board meeting) and built a special elite security force (primarily made up of whites and Hispanics) to guard her and white school board members. This while deadly shootings and fights are weekly occurrences at most school campuses where more security is needed. Hell, if she needs security so much, she should hire Keever. Like Deputy Barney Fife on the "Andy Griffin Show," his gun may never be loaded but at least he could protect her at most ATM machines.

Fourth, she has been nothing but a wedge between Hispanics and African Americans in Dallas as she played her political games to get the superintendent job. And finally, Oakland Hispanic school superintendant Joe Coto, we're told, scored higher than Lyles and should have been chosen superintendent of DISD.

Based on these and other issues, Lyles should not be the superintendent. At this very moment I'm painting my protest sign. It reads, "KEEVER and LYLES must go!" Where's yours?

Until then, the struggle continues....

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continued from page 2

Having lived in four states and two countries, I have personally witnessed children of all cultures learning together, people of all races worshipping together, people from all backgrounds working together, and people of all colors abiding together in the same communities. This leads me to believe that civil rights legislation and non-violent direct action work; that we are learning the importance of living together. But I am saddened that I cannot conclusively declare it successful, as I still cannot go to a restroom in my school without seeing racial slurs on the walls, or neighbors in my own integrated community seeking out others of their own race for companionship and interaction. But why does second class citizenship beget a first class crisis for this country? It is because segregation and discrimination have led to a sense of hopelessness; and this hopelessness manifests itself in the creation of slums and destructive behavior for our children. When our children lack hope and incentive to build and uplift each other, not only do African Americans suffer, but all Americans suffer. We live in fear of each other instead of reverence of each other. Hard earned tax dollars then become channeled to finance punishment over education and enlightenment. But most tragically, this all becomes a vicious cycle, with the oppressors despising and resenting how the oppressed have responded to the oppression. Coupled with the fact that racism, in and of itself, is morally wrong, the reluctance to change moral and internal feelings regarding race have already proven to be tremendous roadblocks to making this nation as great as it can become.

Promised Land or Prohibitive Land? That is the question!!! I would conclude that what we have is a prohibitive promised land. Through legalism and legislation, "African Americans have progressed. Through the mass non-violent direct action approach, African Americans have progresses. But until we convert the racists to humanists, we, as a nation will not prosper or excel. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke of a nation that was free from racism and sought to

obtain justice and freedom for all people. There are still cases of segregation and discrimination, but thanks to our forefathers, we have come a long way from our pre-civil rights days. Through our combined efforts to take up each other's cause, we have approached the apex of the pyramid where school segregation is no longer a crisis; and where lynchings are virtually nonexistent. But we have not yet embraced all sectors of our society—sectors whose value can be shown when we allow everyone's light to shine. This land is prohibitive because we aren't where we ought to be. But this land is full of promise, because thanks to our civil rights leadership and efforts, we aren't where we used to be.

MON

Michelle M. Martin is a senior at Mesquite High School. Her essay that won first prize at the Ninth Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Breakfast and School Awards Competition.

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Housing Authority of the City of Dallas, Texas (DHA) will receive bids for the Building Demolition Associated with the Lakewood Multipurpose Facility, Dallas, Texas 75212, until 1:30 P.M., on Monday, February 10, 1997 at 3939 N. Hampton Road, Suite 350, Dallas, Texas 75212, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for Monday, February 3, 1997 at 1:30 P.M. at the Project Location on Shaw Street.

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

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



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



INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Housing Authority of the City of Dallas, Texas (DHA) will receive bids for the New Construction of 225 Units of Edgar Ward Place II, until 3:30 P.M., on Tuesday, February 18, 1997 at DHA's Central Office, Development and Planning Department, 3939 N. Hampton Rd., Suite 350, Dallas, Texas 75212, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. A pre-bid Conference shall be held at 10:00 A.M., Tuesday, February 4, 1997 at DHA's Central Office, Development and Planning Department, Suite 350.

Bid documents, including Plans and Specifications, may be acquired at DHA's Central Office, Development and Planning Department, 3939 N. Hampton Rd., Suite 350, Dallas, Texas 75212, beginning on Tuesday, January 28, 1997. A \$150 non-refundable fee is required for each set of documents.

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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.



INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Housing Authority of the City of Dallas, Texas (DHA) will receive bids for the construction of the Cedar Springs Multi-Purpose Center, until 10:00 A.M., on Tuesday, February 18, 1997 at 3939 N. Hampton Road, Suite 350, Dallas, Texas 75212, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Friday, February 7, 1997 at 10:00 A.M., at the Cedar Springs Place Administration Office, 2733 Lucas Dr., Dallas, Texas 75219.

Bid Documents, including Plans and Specifications, may be acquired at DHA's Central Office, 3939 N. Hampton Road, Suite 350, Dallas, Texas 75212. A \$100.00 non-refundable fee is required for each set of plans and specifications.

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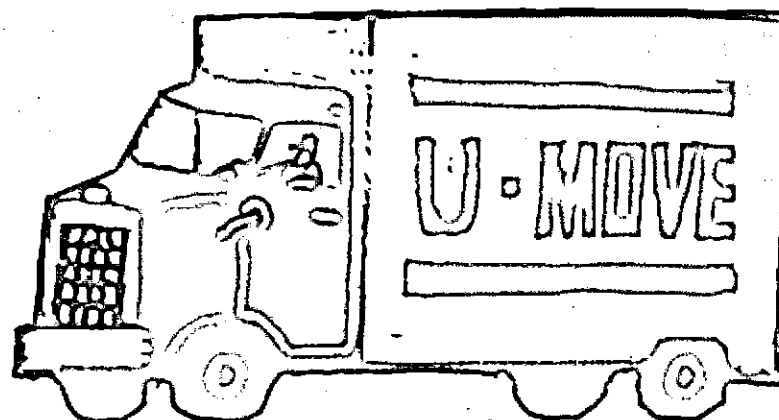
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Cheryl Smith

Any Black journalist worth their ... will be there

On March 20-23, 1997, the National Association of Black Journalists will host its Region VII Conference in Dallas, Texas.

Journalists, communicators and educators from Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas will gather to discuss issues, examine and critique the media, pursue employment opportunities, greet old friends, relax, network and glean information.

Some (members of the "general press" perhaps?) may say "so what?" The debate may arise regarding the value of the National Association of Black Journalists and its need to gather to discuss anything. Sadly, this question may not only be raised by "others." African Americans may ask the same question. And the answer is so clear, it should be an insult to the reader to have it spelled out on this page.

Surely you know there is a time and place for everything. Everything has its place and time. Some have seen their time come and go. But this is not the case for the many African American institutions that specifically address the issues of Black people.

Oops! There goes another debate. Is the National Association of Black Journalists really addressing the concerns of Black people? Have the members become lethargic and afraid to address real issues for fear of alienating their benefactors? For those holding positions of "power" within the organization, is this all about prestige, or do they really plan to make a difference?

Well, the debate can go on and on. And with each passing query, there will be those who are thinking on a higher plane. There are those journalists who entered the "business" to give a voice to a people who, for far too long, went without much of a voice, if any at all.

There are those journalists who entered the business because they felt someone needed to tell the whole story of Black people. Someone needs to add balance to the coverage. Still others saw the history books and realized the blatant lies that continue to be passed down from generation to generation.

And so we entered the business, as did those of other ethnic groups. Followed by social groups, political groups, gender-based groups, religious groups and others, the realization surfaced that in order to make a difference and bring about balance, your face needed to be in the place.

Now once you were in the place, you

noticed professional organizations. Once again, you met disparity. Even in 1996, some of those same professional organizations are just recognizing their "first" African American, Latino, Asian or Indian executive or board member.

So came the historically ethnic institutions. Not just journalism and communications organizations. I'm talking about your colleges, churches, businesses and other trade organizations. Surely others would not begrudge anyone from having their own institutions to deal with their own goals and objectives. After all, when there was only ONE, the intent of that ONE was to be exclusive.

And this mindset still exists today. To dispute this claim would be a clear exhibition of cluelessness!

So, as NABJers prepare to come to the regional conference at the Harvey Hotel-Brookhollow in March, I'm sure an



Every African American communicator should make it a priority to at least stop by and see what's going on.

invitation will be extended to all communicators of any color, sex, age or religious preference.

Every African American communicator should make it a priority to at least stop by and see what's going on. After all, if you don't find out what's going on, how can you continue offering criticism of and dissertations on things the organization is or is not doing.

In fact, maybe if you stop by, you will also feel so inclined to get involved and make a difference.

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Just think. If you're a Black communicator/journalist/educator/etc., and the National Association of Black Journalists is weak, what does that say about you?!!

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



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Pastors Coalition sponsors Dr. King commemoration service

By Gina Weldon

Contributing writer

On Monday, January 20, 1997, the Reverend John Bryant, the 106th Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, delivered a rousing and timely challenge to the African American church and community at large, during a celebration of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Reminiscing about the first time he heard Dr. King speak, Bryant recollected the excellence and relevance of Dr. King's message for that time in history.

Speaking to a nearly standing-room-only gathering at Golden Gate Baptist Church, Bishop Bryant fondly remembered how someone listening to Dr. King's sermon kept urging Dr. King to "Tell It!" Bryant's message to Dallas on this year's Martin Luther King holiday incorporated that theme into a fuller explanation of what it meant to "Tell It!" Whatever "word" was told, Bryant explained, had to be accompanied by action and a willingness to do whatever is necessary. The ecumenical service, whose attendance cut across all denominational lines, was sponsored by the African American Pastors Coalition, a nondenominational organization which recently, in line with Bishop Bryant's holiday message, assumed control and sponsorship of the Common Ground Federal Credit Union.

With an unusual rhythm, Bishop Bryant hammered home the necessity for the heavily burdened and those in need to know that they are supported and affirmed by community institutions such as the church. Rev. Barry Jackson, pastor of the Munger Avenue Baptist Church, reiterated Bryant's statement in that regard. "The Coalition assumed a sponsorship role with the credit union in order to give a financial edge to those who otherwise would not have certain financial and economic options." Jackson continued by saying, "The African American Pastors Coalition has a history of making sure that people who traditionally have had no voice will be heard. To that end, we have instituted a number of programs designed to assist the minority community [in achieving] economic growth and financial parity."

In identifying the message that

would have force and effectiveness in today's world, Bryant was quick to point out that the message of Dr. King was relevant for King's day and time. Dr. King's message should not, according to Bryant, be eternalized, or judged by the standards of the 90s. "Considering that we have a whole generation of children who don't speak our language, who don't darken our doors, and who think we're irrelevant, we've got to go out there where they are, even if it means risking something....you've got to meet them head to head, toe to toe, heart to heart.



The message must be relevant to the situations of the 90s and address the issues that face our community today."

Jubilee United Methodist Church's Senior Pastor, Dr. Sheron Patterson, echoed that same sentiment in outlining the Coalition's current slate of programs. "The Coalition has a broad range of commitment, covering the waterfront, so to speak. It includes not only the traditional realms of coverage, such as economics and politics, but embraces a host of non-traditional, contemporary outpourings, such as family, singleness, and relationships."

Patterson went on to say that the Coalition has achieved the magnificent feat of pulling in a diverse clergy to work towards common goals. Restoring the Common Ground Credit Union is a manifestation of the Coalition's unified efforts. "We are basically giving the credit union a second life by supporting it financially, paying its salaries, and making the community aware of its existence. We want to wake up the churches and the people to the necessity for us to come together on this major economic project."

The Bishop was adamant in pointing out where the greatness lay in Dr. King. According to Bryant, it was not that King was morally perfect or original in every thought or idea he spoke. Biographers of King who have analyzed his work have identified that his thought was influ-

enced by Gandhi, Rousseau, Benjamin Mayes, and others. "But the gut and the meat of Dr. King's message was God-inspired and was a word that brought good news to the poor; it was God's word in that point in history."

Bryant admonished the crowd to spread the "word" even if "the folks downtown don't like it, the news cameras don't show up, and the congregation doesn't like it." Dr. King's greatness lay, said Bryant, in his having enough sense to say "Yes!" when God told him what to do and what to say.

Bryant concluded by telling the celebrants that their job in 1997 was not to attempt to resurrect Martin Luther King, Jr. Their job was to realize that there is work to do and God wants a few good

men and women to do it. Munger Avenue's Reverend Jackson stated that the African American Pastors Coalition is an existing model of that challenge: a unified body pulling together all its resources to achieve social, economic, and political advancement for the African American community of Dallas.

Said Jubilee's Reverend Patterson, "Real unity could be achieved if black Dallas would wake up and see the importance of crossing denominational lines and attending an ecumenical gathering such as the one where Bishop Bryant spoke. The sad reality is that it usually takes a crisis for us to join forces and come together towards a common goal."

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TUELECTRIC

Blacks in television

The new medium gave false hope of dignified black portrayals as only negative stereotypes showed the greatest success (Part 2 of 3)

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

If the history of blacks in early television suggests that shows stressing authentic images failed to establish lasting success, the same cannot be said of those series and programs presenting Afro-Americans in caricatures drawn from a tradition of prejudice. The television-viewing audience, and consequently sponsors and stations, looked more approvingly on the mummies, coons, and Uncle Toms of the past than they did on blacks seeking approval through non-stereotyped depictions.

The mammy figure—usually portrayed as a black maid in a white household—was a familiar stereotype. In early television the black maid was a highly popular character. Between 1953 and 1964, Lillian Randolph played Louise, a maid for the Williams family on *Make Room for Daddy* (later called the *Danny Thomas Show*). She also appeared in the mid-1950s as Birdie Lee Coggins, the maid on the syndicated *Great Gildersleeve*—a role she reprised from the radio series of the same name more than a decade before.

The television program *Beulah* spotlighted the trials and tribulations of a black maid of the same name for the white Henderson household. As portrayed by Ethel Waters and Louise Beavers between 1950 and 1953, *Beulah* was surrounded by familiar characters. Her dim-witted friend was Oriole, the black maid of the white family next door. When played by Butterfly McQueen, Oriole was a flighty woman of minimal intelligence. When Ruby Dandridge assumed the role, she added a heavy dose of her recognizable high-pitched giggles to Oriole's personality. *Beulah* also had a boyfriend named Bill Jackson. As played by Percy Harris, Dooley Wilson and Ernest Whitman, he may have been the owner of a fix-it shop, but Jackson was oafish, perpetually hungry and definitely unromantic.

As for the central character herself, *Beulah* was a portly, conscientious and lovable stereotype of the black domestic. She might berate her black friends, but around her boss, Mr. Harry, and his wife, Ms. Alice, *Beulah* was always respectful.

Black men were also successful in stereotyped characterizations. Eddie Anderson had little difficulty moving his Rochester character from radio to television on the Jack Benny program. As

Benny's valet, confidant and "conscience," Rochester had been a strategic part of the broadcasting success of the program since 1937. He contributed substantially to its television popularity once Benny moved his show to video in the 1950s. Although Jack Benny and his writers had toned down considerably the minstrel-show quality originally possessed by Rochester on the radio, Anderson's character was still a stereotype. (Usually the only black in the telecast, Rochester was a chauffeur and general handyman for his white boss.)

If Eddie Anderson failed to enhance the image of blacks in television, Willie



Eddie "Rochester" Anderson

Best was absolutely detrimental to that image. Best was also the most prolifically employed black actor in early television. Best entered movies in the 1930s where, as a younger version of Stepin' Fetchit, he was nicknamed Sleep n' Eat. On *My Little Margie* he was Charlie, an elevator operator.

There were many types of programming devoid of honest and realistic portrayals of blacks. *The Two Black Crows in Africa* was a stereotypical comedy from the 1920s featuring blackface vaudevillians Charlie Mack and George Moran. More popular were the Charlie Chan films, a series of theatrical motion pictures featuring various white actors portraying Earl Derr Biggers' famous Oriental detective—and often featuring Stepin' Fetchit or Mantan Moreland in "coon" comedy roles. The *Our Gang* comedy shorts (later syndicated as the *Little Rascals*) introduced a new generation of children to those famous pickaninnies of the 1920s and 1930s, Farina, Buckwheat and Stymie. And the *Eastside Kids* movie series from the early 1940s continued to spotlight Sunshine Sammy Morrison in the role of Scruno, the lone black member of the comedic youth gang who uttered

memorable phrases such as, "Who dat say 'Who dat?' when I say 'Who dat?'"

Particularly demeaning to black Americans were the many exotic jungle documentaries prevalent in early television. In these motion pictures, the image of "uncivilized" blacks dancing themselves into a frenzy or acting out "savage" social rituals suggested that Afro-Americans had family roots deep in barbarism.

The African documentaries pictured the ancestral home of Afro-Americans as a strange place filled with crocodiles, warthogs, lions and baboons. In describing one scene, Martin Johnson went so far as to credit the wild beasts with more intelligence than the human natives:

"I had always contended that the baboon was the most intelligent of the monkey family, and a lot smarter than some of the savages I had met."

Moreover, while no television station or network at the time would have considered airing the frontal nudity of a white woman, films of pre-industrial Africa freely showed pictures of bare-breasted black women of all ages. The racist implications of such a double standard were obvious.

One of the most, if not the most, degrading programs to air on early television was none other than *Amos n' Andy*. Andy, whose full name was Andrew Hogg Brown (played by Spenser Williams, Jr.), was an easy-going dimwit who always had an eye for a pretty girl and never ceased to be duped by his supposed friends. In George "Kingfish" Stevens (portrayed by Tim Moore), the show presented the stereotypical scheming "coon" character whose chicanery left his pals distrustful and the audience laughing. Added to the three mainstays were Kingfish's shrewish wife, Sapphire (Ernestine Wade), and domineering mother-in-law, Mama (Amanda Randolph); a feeble-minded janitor, Lightning (Horace Nicodemus Stewart); and a thoroughly disreputable lawyer, Algonquin J. Calhoun (Johnny Lee).

Even as the series premiered in June 1951, the NAACP was in federal court seeking an injunction to prevent CBS from televising it. *Amos n' Andy* was an affront to social achievement. The Michigan Federation of Teachers condemned the television series, calling it "a gross and vulgar caricature of the fifteen million Negro citizens of our country."

The reaction in 1951 of actor James Edwards, an outspoken proponent of dignified roles for Afro-American actors, assailed the irresponsibility of the series:

"...for the sake of 142 jobs which blacks hold down with the *Amos n' Andy* show, 15 million more blacks are being pushed back 25 years by perpetuating this stereotype on television. The money involved (and there's a great deal) can't hope to

undo the harm the continuation of *Amos n' Andy* will effect. We don't have to take it."

Although the series was produced for only two seasons, 1951-1953, *Amos n' Andy* continued in syndication. Not until 1966, after years of litigation, did CBS agree to withdraw the program from the air.

In the early years of television, the relationship between Afro-Americans and the medium was contradictory. Trapped between the traditions of racial stereotyping and the promise of color-blind programming, talented blacks found only limited opportunity in television.

This ambivalence was compounded by the fact that respectable dramatic parts for black actors were practically nonexistent. During the 1950s, as dramatic productions flowered in the new medium, television theater remained lily white.

Despite the inundation of live and filmed dramas that marked the first decade of popular television, black actors seldom commanded anything other than minor supporting roles. And they were fortunate to obtain these parts. Frederick O'Neal, who in the 1940s founded the American Negro Theater, speculated that black actors in 1952 accounted for only 4/10 of one percent of all performances on television. He argued that of the 6,620 actors used during an average week on television, only 31 were black. According to O'Neal, of all mass media, television was the worst in its treatment of Afro-American talent.

Early video also honored the long-established color line in its dramatic presentations. A traditional component of motion pictures, the color line resulted in

"...for the sake of 142 jobs which blacks hold down with the *Amos n' Andy* Show, 15 million more blacks are being pushed back 25 years by perpetuating this stereotype on television."

—Actor James Edwards (1951)

black actors being employed only when a script specifically called for black characters. When an "extra" or incidental character was cast, invariably he or she was white. *Ebony* magazine, in 1955, decried this practice when it related the story of Abbie Shuford. An aspiring young actress, Shuford had worked for three

unsuccessful years in New York City, hoping to break the color line in television.

Much more difficult to combat was the pre-production censorship that



Ethel Waters starred as a maid in the 1950s television series *Beulah*.

occurred behind the scenes. It was difficult, for example, to deal with the establishment by some producers of discriminatory racial quotas. The use of quotas meant that no more than a few black performers could ever appear on the television screen at one time. It also meant that stories treating racial controversy were rarely produced. Even the use of black extras was affected by racial quotas. In situations where more than a few black actors might be expected to appear—in urban street scenes, on public transportation, on public school campuses, or in hospital waiting rooms—they were severely restricted.

By the close of television's first decade, the original promise of unbiased treatment for Afro-Americans remained unfulfilled. Certainly, there were black faces on the small screen. But they continued to appear in familiar or stereotyped situations: dancers, vocalists, and comedians on variety shows; supporting characters in a few dramas; occasional contestants on audience participation and quiz shows; and impersonal competitors in some sports.

Equally striking were the television niches into which no blacks fit. In early television there were no black newscasters or correspondents. No black Western stars, no black staff announcers, no black detectives or undercover agents. Likewise, Afro-Americans were minimally represented, if at all, in television producing, directing, writing, network and station management and in related work with sponsors or advertising agencies.

As television emerged and adapted to the values and tastes of its audience, there developed certain parameters clearly marking the borders of black expression in the medium. It was quickly established that racial resentment and frustration—especially as articulated by militant black spokesmen—was unacceptable on network and local television. Television also showed itself chronically

inhospitable to sponsored national programming hosted by black entertainers.

Hostility toward Afro-American militancy and nonsupport for black-hosted network series at first seem unrelated postures. But their implications and relationship were clearly demonstrated in two events during television's first decade—the banning of Paul Robeson (the great actor, singer, scholar and ath-

lete who was an avowed communist) from network and local television, and the cancellation by NBC of the *Nat King Cole Show*.

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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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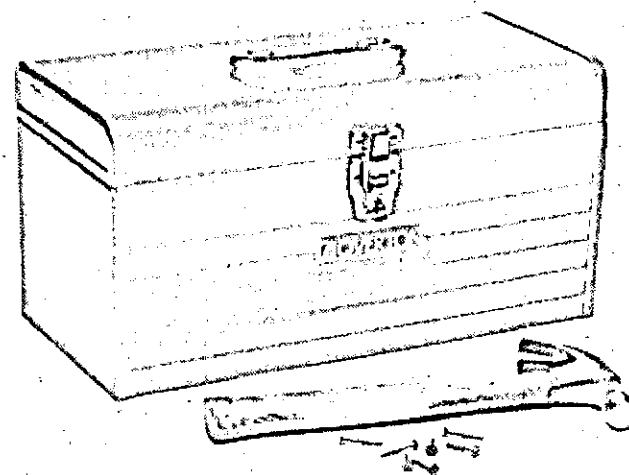
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Urban League fetes fathers

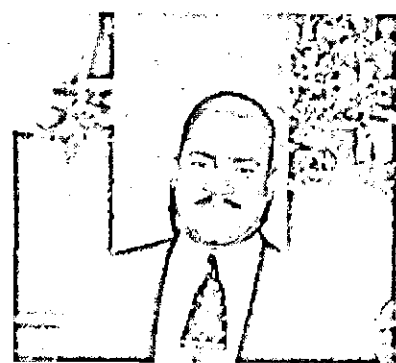
WFAA anchor and news manager, John McCaa, will give his thoughts on fatherhood at the Dallas Urban League's Annual Meeting, Wednesday, February 19, 1997, 11:30 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel as part of the organization's salute to fathers.

Three years ago, the Dallas Urban League recognized fathers and received an overwhelming response from friends, relatives, co-workers, church members and students who were interested in saluting some of the great men in the African American community.

The following men were recognized in 1994 for their efforts to keep the black family strong:

Derrin T. Bennett is the father of three daughters: Sakidra, Jamica and Schemica. At the time he was honored, Mr. Bennett had been a single-parent for eight years.

Howard University graduate Jerry Bradford is the father of two sons, who are now 9 and 12 years of age. His time is



dedicated to assisting the boys with homework, preparing home-cooked meals, doing household chores and all the while managing a law firm.

Derryl Coleman was a single parent, raising his 15 year-old daughter, three years ago. A devout Christian and active member of St. John Missionary Baptist Church, Mr. Coleman's ultimate goal is to practice law.

Woodie Culton was nominated by his daughter, Jacqueline, who said her father instilled in her a sense of purpose, pride, self-respect, good morals and high self-esteem. A City of Dallas employee for over 30 years, Mr. Culton, who is almost blind, passed on his teachings to his young grandson, instilling in him good values and morals.

Dr. Louis Deere was nominated by Dr. Pamela Jeffrey, who had nothing but high praises for Dr. Deere. According to Dr. Jeffrey, Dr. Deere demonstrates love for his family and others. He teaches peace and encourages his family, friends and patients to seek peace, embrace peace and learn how to accept greater

peace in life. Dr. Deere hosts a talk show on KKDA-AM.

Dr. Dralves Edwards, who has children of his own, was recognized by his sister, Serita, who said he functioned as a father in the absence of their deceased father, during the development of her teen and adult life. She said he provided the same support to their mother, sisters, nieces and nephews, as well as his own children. Dr. Edwards specializes in sports and family medicine.

Donald Evans was nominated by several family members. An employee of Southwestern Bell, he attends Good Street Baptist Church and has been a single parent to his three daughters for over a decade.

Lisa Evans nominated her father, Leo. She describes her father as kind and loving, dedicated to his family and business, but also concerned about his community. "My father did believe in discipline. He was very strict in a good way. He believed in a good education, going to church and doing the right thing for yourself," she wrote of the owner of Evans Engraving.

Jim Freeney is the father of nine, grandfather of over 30 and great grandfather to several. He's been a foster parent to many and adopted the last three that he fostered. His granddaughter, Tincy, says he is a true Christian and loves the Lord. He attends Antioch Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, where he is a very respected member.

William P. Gray was nominated by his sister, Wana Alwalee. He grew up in an impoverished, single, female-headed household where education was not valued. Times were difficult and hunger was a constant companion, said his sister. She says he is always there for his children and teaches them values and self-respect. Although he has no formal education, he is a thriving entrepreneur.

Steve Hammonds provided a role model for his own children, for community children and the extended family in the community, says the many who nominated him. Known to kids as "Coach Steve," he is a father, husband, a

provider, friend and sports fanatic.

Billy Lawson is the epitome of fatherhood, says his daughter, Dr. Keely N. Lawson. "He has been the best man in my life, all of my life. My daddy would work two and three jobs to make ends meet and try to give us all he possibly could. He gave us all the things in life that he never had and love, love, love."

Caston McDowell is affectionately known as "C.J." His daughter said he should be honored because he is a man of God. The father of four and grandfather of 10, C.J. is a deacon and president of the Adult Usher Board at Mount Hebron Baptist Church.

William V. McShack was nominated by his sister, Jerri Davis. He is the father of five children. A member of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Mr. Meshack, according to his sister, is the "glue that holds everyone together. He is honest, loyal, true, an

excellent father and a good friend."

Michelle Richard nominated her stepfather, Lafayette Miles, because he took on the responsibility of "raising another man's children and he did it without complaining." A member of the Community First Baptist Church, Mr. Miles is a volunteer for the Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation of Dallas and the South Dallas Cowboys.

Ricky D. Moore's face lights up when anyone mentions his daughter, Angelle, says nominator Arlene Reynolds. According to his sister-in-law, Ricky has been the mother and father for Angelle since her mother died when Angelle was an infant. Mr. Moore is an engineer, author, minister and member of Greater Harvest Church of God in Christ.

Rev. Donald Parish, Sr. is the pastor of True Lee Missionary Baptist Church. Married and the father of two, in 1992,

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Rev. Parish and his wife took into their household a niece and nephew, who are now a part of the family, along with an exchange student from Germany who was welcomed into their home.

Charles Prosper was nominated by several members of True Light Baptist Church. He was described as a loyal husband and a full time father to three boys and two stepsons. "He is a great father image in every respect and has great respect for his wife," said Rev. J. L. Hunter.

Roy Lee Sands is the father of five children. He was nominated by Wilber Williams, principal of Pearl C. Anderson Middle School, where Mr. Sands volunteers. Mr. Williams describes Mr. Sands as a unique individual who, with his wife, is a friend to many.

A number of people also nominated Augustus Taylor. His daughter wrote, "Whether the relationship is a biological one or one of honorary status is not evident because my father Augustus Taylor, Sr., has the same impact on the lives of most people."

Zachary Thompson was nominated by his friend, Vincent Hall. Mr. Hall describes a young man who was touted as the "Drug Czar of West Dallas" in a feature story in the Dallas Morning News. He was also a familiar face on television newscasts as he and Mr. Hall joined Commissioner John Wiley Price in a billboard whitewashing campaign that focused on alcohol and tobacco advertising.

Claudie Vernon was the oldest honoree at 108! He was nominated by his daughter Shontina, who wrote, "What makes my father exceptionally great is the fact that he adopted me at age 90. That was more than 20 years after adopting my sister. In addition to sharing the importance of an education, my father instilled in me a strong belief in God."

Edward Wesley is a traditional father, said his son Derrick. "My dad is 6'4" tall and stands tall in a crowd, but he stands tallest for my brother and me. He is dedicated to the kids he works with everyday (as a teacher and coach) but he is devoted to us. All of our lives he has been there for my brother and me, providing a strong image of an African American father."

Daughter Kenza Wesley says, "I believe that John Wesley should receive the honor of being recognized as an outstanding traditional, father and grandfather." Son Kamel says, "My father is trying to keep me in a good school. Even though he's very busy, he comes to my games and helps me with my homework."

Linda Williams feels blessed to have her husband, John. She says, "He is a good father because he stepped into the lives of my children and myself at a criti-

cal time and was the father figure and the force that my children needed to grow with. My husband worked hard for our children and he is the most important man in our children's lives."

The final father honored in 1994 was Lonnie Ray Wills, who was nominated

by his wife, Cynthia. "Lonnie believes in the family unit and never shirks his responsibility as a male parent. Lonnie spends his free time with other children where he enjoys counseling young boys who don't have a father in the home," said Mrs. Wills.

On February 19, several other men will be honored for distinguishing themselves in the Black Community.

The McDonald's "History Makers of Tomorrow" Essay Contest winner will also be honored.

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to keep its promise of "...liberty and justice for all...", and millions echoed his call. It's been some 60 years since his birth, over 20 since his tragic death, and certainly there is still much work to be done. But today we honor Dr. King for consistently, eloquently, and bravely reminding us of our better selves. And ultimately, bringing the country that much closer to becoming a

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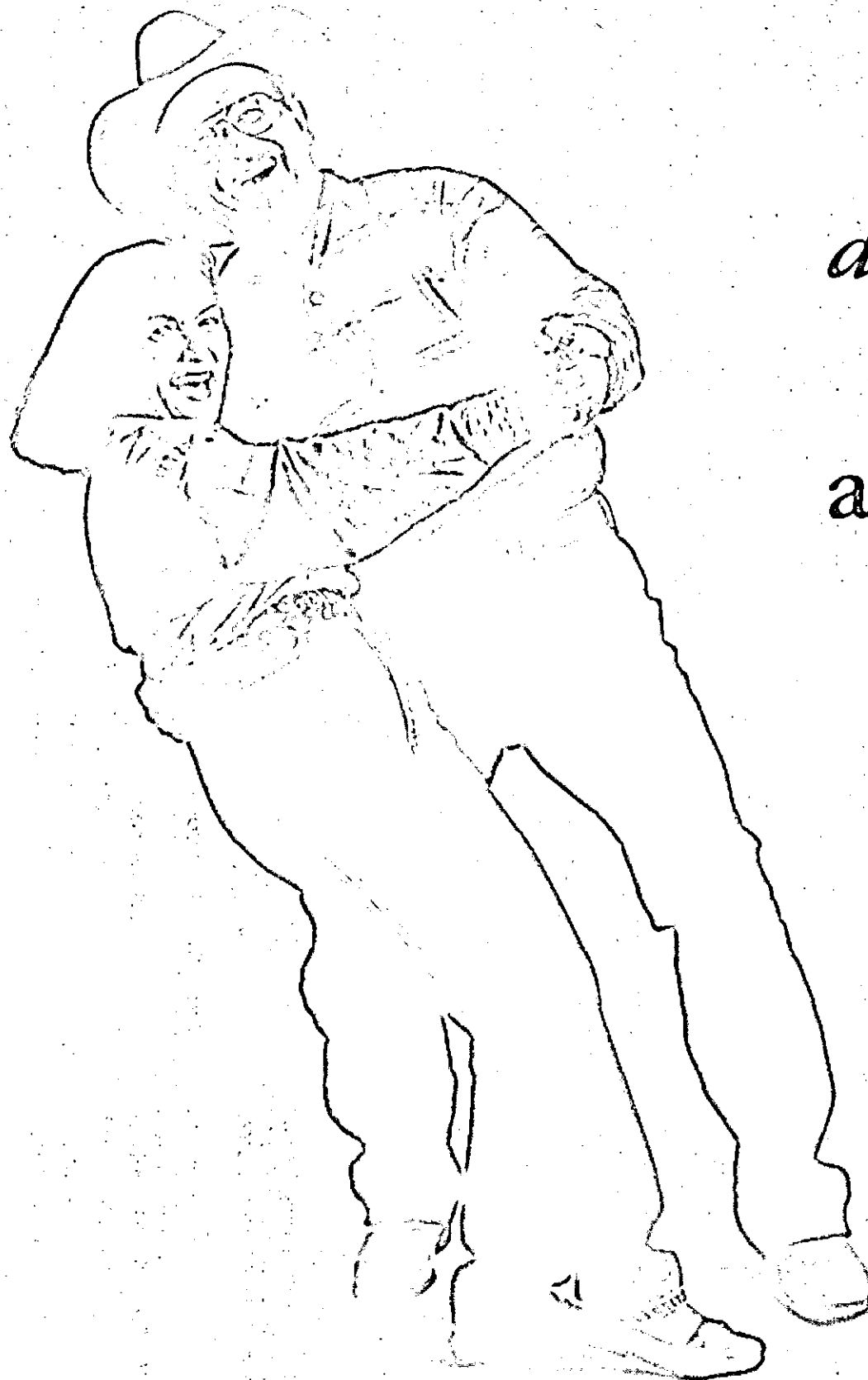
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It Must Be Jamm! got its start a year ago as a way for two friends to celebrate Kwanzaa. Co-owners, Jacqueline Bell and Gloria Fobbs, say that they were just in the right place at the right time.

"I wanted to celebrate Kwanzaa and knew that we would need hand crafted gifts," said Fobbs. "Jacquie and I thought of several ideas before we finally decided on making preserves." The two budding entrepreneurs asked family members and came up with their grandmothers' recipes for peach, berry and pear preserves.

"We had never made preserves, but we both remembered our grandmother and aunts peeling pears and peaches for canning and making preserves so we decided to give it a go," said Bell. The two say that the response was both surprising and inspirational. "We couldn't

believe it, people raved. They were bringing back their empty jars and offering to pay us to make more," said Bell.

The two decided that if their product was good enough to meet the approval of their critical family and friends, their preserves must be good. After months of research, the two formed It Must Be Jamm!

Bell and Fobbs met while attending Southern Methodist University. The friends and sorority sisters (Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.) became business partners

because they shared a common goal—economic self-sufficiency. They both believe in economic empowerment within the African American community and

hope their company will someday create new jobs in the metroplex' southern sector.

Currently, their delicious preserves, which come in Sumptuous Strawberry, Perfect Peach, and Pleasing Pear, are available by mail order. For more information and to place orders call It Must Be Jamm! at (972) 504-6680 or fax your order to (972) 298-3881.

MON

TOP SECRET!

Name:	Jacqueline Bell
Birthplace:	Dallas, Tx.
Favorite Food:	Prime rib & baked potato
Last Book Read:	The Value in the Valley by Iyanla Vanzant
My friends don't know that:	"I'm a classically-trained pianist and I studied for 16 years."
Advice to would-be entrepreneurs:	Plan your work and work your plan.

Name:	Gloria Fobbs
Birthplace:	Dallas, Tx.
Favorite Food:	Fried chicken
Last Book Read:	The Hand I Fan With by Tina McElroy Ansa
My friends don't know that:	"I talk to myself."
Advice to would-be entrepreneurs:	Step out on faith. Decide what you want to do. Pray on it and do it. Work smarter, not harder.



Jacqueline Bellan



Gloria Fobbs

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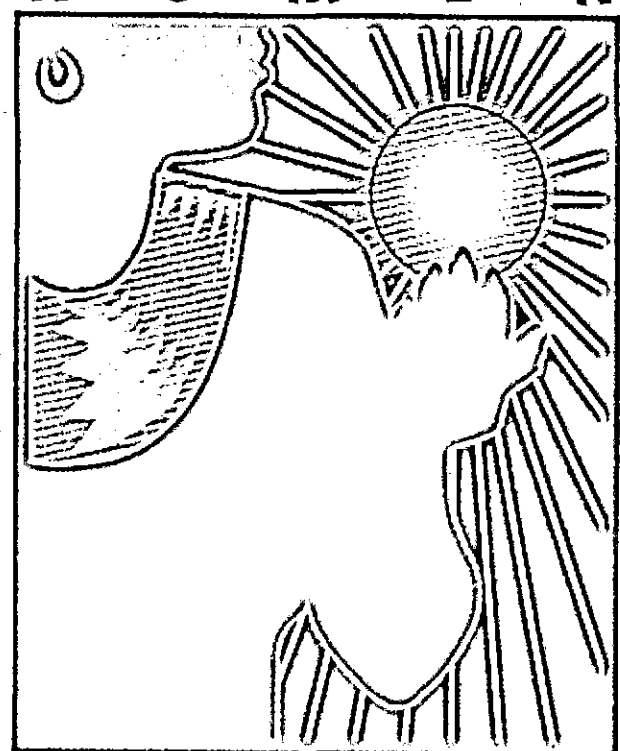
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OF TRIUMPH

In The News . . .

Boswell Promoted to Executive VP and COO of KERA/KDTN

Donald K. Boswell has been promoted to executive vice president and chief operating officer of KERA Channel 13, KERA 90.1 and KDTN Channel 2, the public television and public radio stations operated by North Texas Public Broadcasting Inc.

Boswell, 45, served as acting president and CEO of KERA/KDTN from Sept. 1, 1996 - January 6, 1997. He joined the Dal-



Donald K. Boswell

las/Ft. Worth stations in 1982 as vice president of development. In 1986, he became vice president of marketing and corporate development, overseeing national and local underwriting, new ventures, special events and foundation grants.

A member of the National Association of Minority Media Executives, Boswell is active in several community organizations and currently serves on the boards of Lakehill Preparatory School and CONTACT 214 in Dallas.

Originally from Pittsburgh, Boswell holds a B.S. degree in Community Development and a M.Ed. in Education from Pennsylvania State University. For more information contact Jonnie England at (214) 740-9213.

OmniAmerican Opens Membership for a Limited Time

The U.S. Court of Appeals ruled on December 24, 1996 that credit unions could now enroll new members until the Supreme Court rules on February 18, 1997. This decision overruled a lower

court ruling of October 25, 1996 that said credit unions had overstepped the bounds of their "common employment" charters and could not enroll new members. The October decision came a week before OmniAmerican Federal Credit Union formally opened its new office at Rosedale and MLK Freeway in the Poly area of Southeast Ft. Worth.

According to Brent Sheffield, OmniAmerican's Asst. Vice President of Marketing, OmniAmerican will waive the usual \$5.00 membership fee and give two books of checks with each new account opened. The OmniAmerican office is open from 10:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on Saturday. The office is located in the remodeled Clover Restaurant at 2330 East Rosedale, Ft. Worth, Texas.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Opens Life Development Center

The Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. recently dedicated their new facility, the Fredrica Chase Dodd Life Development Center, by donating artwork from the Delta Sigma Theta Legacy Collection. The Center, located at 1401 S. Akard St., Dallas, was named in honor of Ms. Fredrica Chase Dodd, one of the 13 founders of the public service sorority.

According to Eula Woodberry, president of the Dallas Alumnae Chapter, the Center will be used to operate the sorority's five point public service programs which include Program Planning and

Development, Physical and Mental Health, International Awareness, Political Involvement and Awareness and Scholarship and Educational Support. For more information, contact Eula Woodberry at (972) 575-5132.

Willis Johnson to Host the Love Clinic

Willis Johnson, KKDA radio personality, will moderate a timely and controversial segment of the Love Clinic, "There is Hope for the Hoochie (Makeovers in the Name of the Lord)," 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.,



Willis Johnson

February 21 at Jubilee United Methodist Church.

Church women out of control, often referred to as "Holy Hoochies," are characterized by brazen behavior (promiscuity, men chasing) and inappropriate dress. A Christian psychologist will also lead a discussion into the issues that lead



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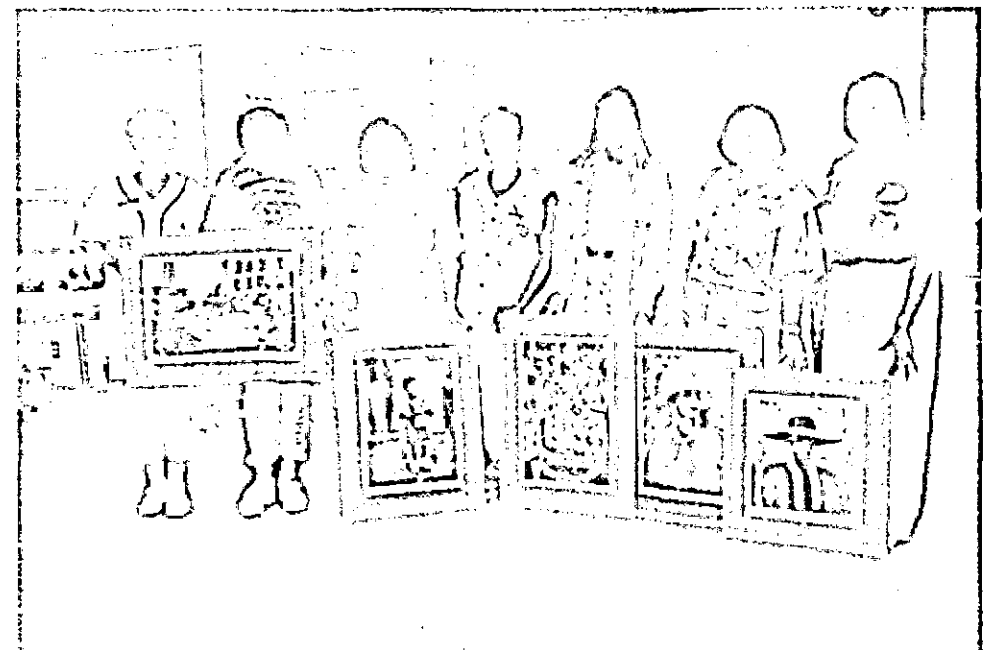
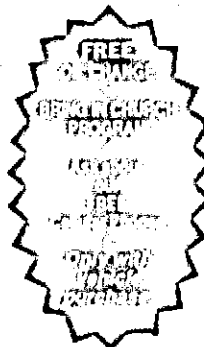
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(l-r) Lynn Nash, Elnora Stokes, Reno Thomas, Ella Goodo Johnson, Sharon Blackman, Eula Woodberry and Sandra Malone display donated artwork.

More In The News . . .

church women into this behavior.

The Love Clinic is a free, monthly project of Jubilee United Methodist Church that seeks to heal the hurts of the African American community through dialogue, diagnosis and prayer. The February issue of Emerge magazine places a national spotlight on the ministry highlighting the community needs that are being met by this ecumenical attraction.

The church and the Love Clinic are located at 301 Frank Keasler Blvd., Duncanville, Texas. Free child care is provided. For more information call Dr. Sheron C. Patterson, Senior Pastor of Jubilee Church at (972) 283-2264.

Dedra Lynn Woods Theater To Hold Grand Opening Cele- bration

The Dedra Lynn Woods Theater will hold a grand opening celebration, February 8 at its new location, 2801 Peabody St., Dallas. The celebration corresponds with the theater's opening season performance of the play, "A Woman Called Mae."

A reception, which begins at 6:00 p.m., will feature art work by local artist J.D. Evans and jazz performed by the John Lewis Trio, Charles Winslow, Robert Sanders, and other artists. The play begins at 8:15 p.m. that evening.

"A Woman Called Mae," the story of ten slaves who plan an escape from their plantation, is written and directed by Robert Helm. The play runs from February 8-March 7 and admission is \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children and senior citizens. For more information or to RSVP call (214) 428-6440, (214) 565-1710, or (214) 371-4644.

Soul Rep and the African American Museum Form Partnership

Soul Rep and the African American Museum of Art and Culture began the year with a newly formed partnership. Beginning in 1997, Soul Rep will be the theater company in residence at the Museum located in Dallas' Fair Park. The artistic partnership marks the first time an African American museum and theater company have embraced one

another in an effort to better serve the community.

Soul Rep's residency will include teaching and developing theater classes and workshops for children and adults, as well as writing and performing plays in conjunction with museum exhibits and

Soul Rep's '97 season.

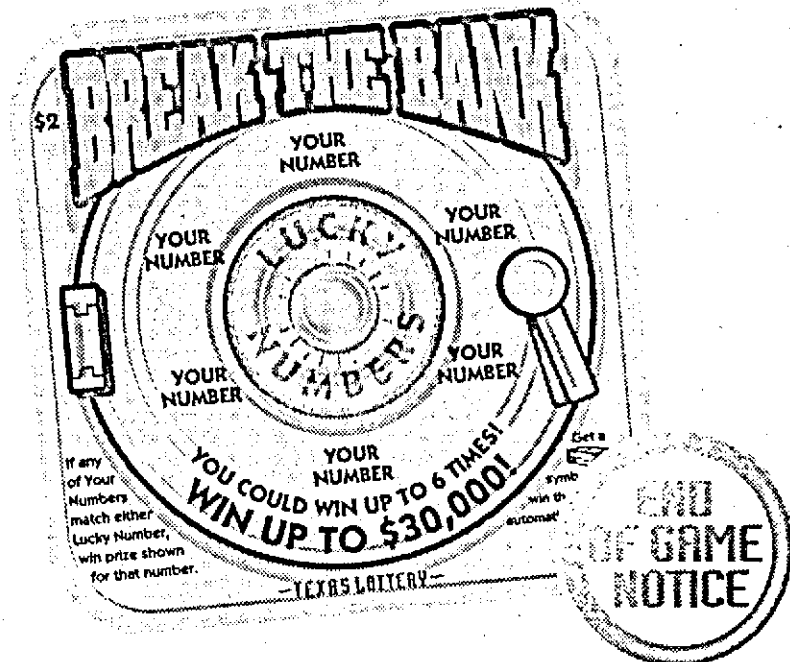
Both Dr. Harry Robinson, curator of the museum and Guinea Bennett, Soul Rep's Artistic Director, are extremely excited about the partnership since both organizations serve the same mission of a commitment to bring clarity and pro-

gression to the African American experience.

For more information call Soul Rep at (214) 565-0186 or the museum at (214) 565-9026.

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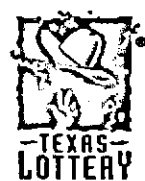
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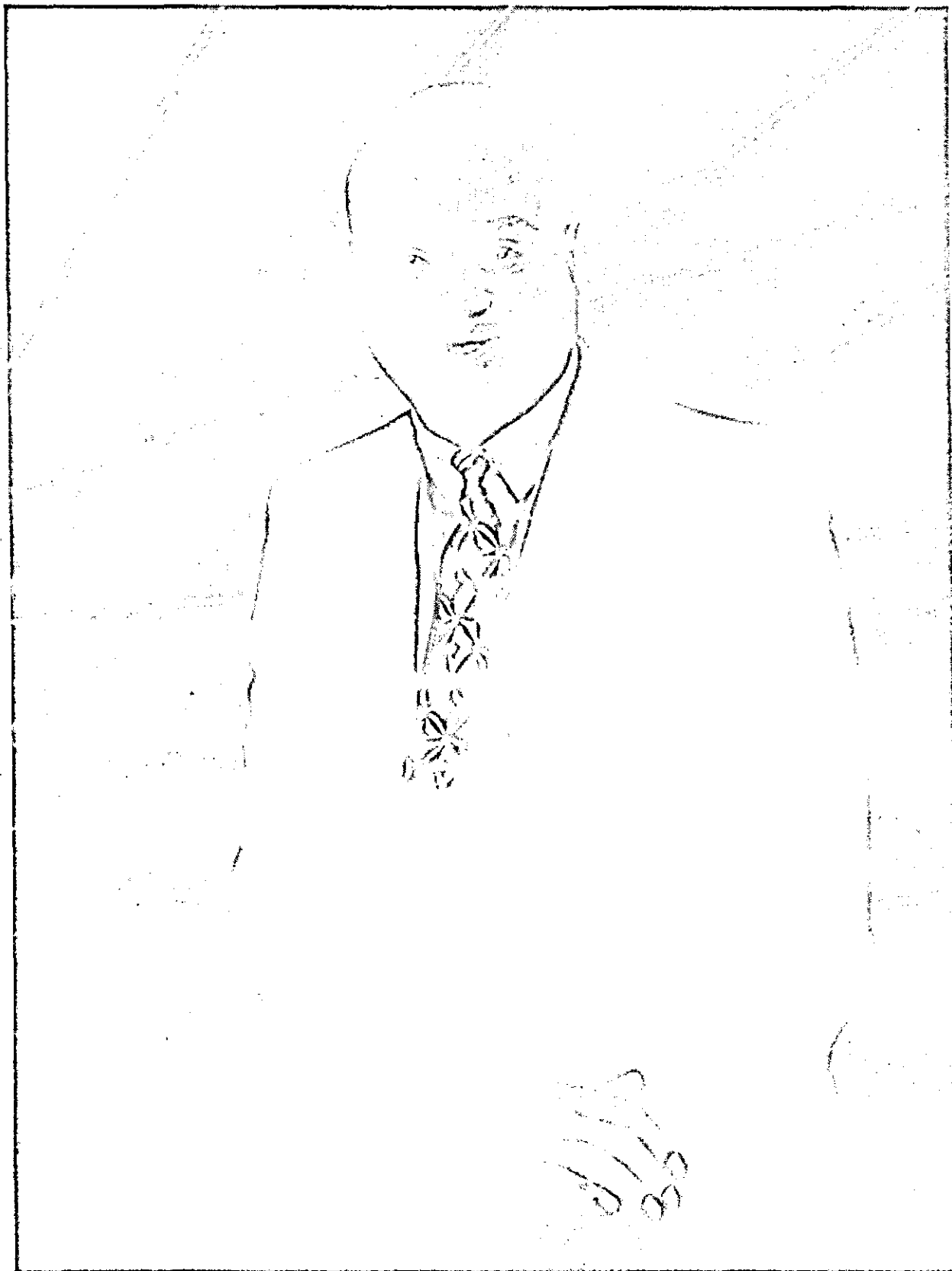
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A Profile in Courage

By Felicia Venters

In 1995, Melvin Scruggs' star was rapidly rising. He'd landed a lucrative managerial job at a flourishing office supply company in North Dallas. His wife of less than a year had given birth to twin girls in April. The Scruggs family also had bought their first home, a 2-story continental structure located in a quiet Mesquite enclave.

At age 32, Melvin Scruggs seemed a paragon of upward mobility. But, in an instant, his world was tossed into a virtual abyss of pain and confusion.



Melvin Scruggs

It was about 9p.m. on Memorial Day, 1995, and Scruggs was driving home from Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport where he had dropped off a friend who'd visited for the holiday weekend. As Scruggs and his passenger, Orion Richardson, traveled eastbound on Interstate 635, they noticed a red pickup truck trailing close behind.

The driver pulled alongside the right of Scruggs' Nissan Sentra and motioned as if he wanted to drag race. Inside what later was identified as a Ford Ranger were three white males and a white female. The occupants taunted Scruggs and Richardson for several miles; the driver alternately rushing them from behind, cutting in front of them and then veering from the driver's side to the passenger side.

"At first I thought nothing of it and, when they pulled up on my side, I told them that we didn't have

time to play games," Richardson says. "But they started hollering, 'You niggers, you m—— f—— niggers,' and they were throwing hand signs ... flipping us off."

Realizing the peril he now faced, Scruggs decided to exit the freeway at Josey Lane. As he descended the rampway with his window rolled down, he glanced to his left as someone in the pickup shrieked, "White power!"

"The next thing I remember was seeing a flash," Scruggs says from his office at Monarch Business Equipment Inc.

Gunfire had erupted from the passenger side of

See **COURAGE** next page

COURAGE from page 15

the truck; a single bullet tore through Scruggs' chin and lodged in his spine, where it remains. The once-athletic Southfield, Mich., native is now a quadriplegic. Paralyzed from the neck down. Commissioned to life in a wheelchair.

The shooter was 25-year-old Michael Boyd, an avowed member of a local Skinhead faction known as the Confederate Hammerskins. Boyd is serving a life sentence for the assault on Scruggs and won't be eligible for parole until the year 2025.

On March 31 of this year, one of Boyd's three accomplices will have his day in court. Angelo Farrer, 25, is charged with second-degree aggravated assault—a felony. If convicted, he could serve from 2 to 20 years in prison. Farrer's case will be heard in the 291st District Court by Judge Gerry Meier, who also presided over the Boyd litigation. Farrer is represented by defense attorney Donna Winfield.

Prosecutor Kim Judin says she is seeking to upgrade the charge against Farrer to first-degree aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, which carries a prison term of 5 to 99 years.

Says Judin, "What happened to Mr. Scruggs was atrocious. His life has been forever changed. It was a heinous crime."

Upon being shot, Scruggs says he immediately felt stinging pressure across his lower jaw and throat, pressure that rendered him speechless. Gripping

numbness then crept over his extremities. His foot slipped from the accelerator. His arms fell limp at his side.

Orion Richardson, his passenger, describes the scene with maddening deliberation.

"Melvin was just staring at me like he was in space somewhere, and blood was spurting all over the windshield," he says, voice trembling and eyes welling with tears. "Then, he slumped over on me. I've never been so terrified in my life."

With steely resolve, Richardson composed himself long enough to maneuver around Scruggs' rigid body and guide the car off the freeway to the shoulder of the service road. After hailing passing motorists for several minutes, a carload of four Hispanic men stopped to render aid.

"In the midst of everything that was happening, I had flashbacks of my friendship with Melvin," Richardson says, noting that the two men met nine years earlier while working at Inwood Business Systems in Dallas. "I thought, 'He's been like a brother to me. I can't lose him.'"

By the time police and paramedics arrived, Scruggs was drifting in-and-out of consciousness. As he lay on the ambulance gurney, he says, surreal images of his wife and children swirled through his mind. He reflected on one of his twin daughters, Monique, who died 10 days after being born three months prema-

ture—an eerie preamble to the tragedy at hand. He wondered if the surviving twin, Monica—just two days home from the hospital—would continue to thrive. He also had another daughter, a toddler. What about her? Then there was his wife, Shelia, still in mourning over the death of their daughter Monique.

"I kept seeing their faces and hearing their voices. I thought to myself, 'I can't leave them; they need me,'" Scruggs recalls.

Scruggs was rushed to Parkland Memorial Hospital, where he would remain under intensive care for three weeks. Doctors determined that the bullet imbedded in his spine could not be removed without substantial risk of death. The prognosis: If he lived, Scruggs would remain on a respirator indefinitely.

"I couldn't accept that, because I've always been an optimist—a survivor. I wanted doctors who believed as strongly as I did that I could get better," Scruggs says.

Shelia Scruggs, following the advice of her husband's employer and friend, consulted a respiratory specialist at HealthSouth Medical Center in Dallas. The specialist visited Scruggs at Parkland and, after examining him, concluded that his quality of life could improve with aggressive treatment. Days later, Scruggs was transferred from Parkland to HealthSouth. Within a

week, he was off the respirator and breathing freely on his own.

"I believed in my doctors at HealthSouth, and they believed in me. I knew, though, that I still had a long way to go," says Scruggs. "Once I accepted what happened, I had to go on."

As Scruggs readied himself for the eight months of grueling therapies and exploratory procedures that awaited, his wife feverishly appealed to Dallas media and the general public for help in identifying and apprehending her husband's attackers. She appeared on radio talk shows, interviewed with newspaper reporters and held a news conference broadcast on network television.

Within a month, the Dallas Police Department released composite sketches of two male suspects. Soon, Michael Boyd was brought in for questioning.

"I was determined not to give up," Mrs. Scruggs says, adding that she resigned her position at a local aerospace company to devote more time to her family and their quest for justice. "I am committed to ensuring that the perpetrators—all of them—pay for what they did to Melvin. Whatever sacrifices I have to make to do so, I'm willing to take on for the sake of my family. We've got one (assailant) down, but there are others to go."

Testimony during the Boyd trial revealed that Skinhead groups such as the Confederate Hammerskins are gaining momentum in America and abroad,

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as symbolized by increasing reports of random violence against ethnic minorities.

According to Marjorie Poche, an agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Texas law enforcement agencies began monitoring hate crimes in 1992 under mandate by the 1990 Hate Crimes Statistics Act. The legislation requires the federal government to maintain data on reported acts of violence motivated by racial, ethnic or religious reasons.

Texas had the second-highest number of reported hate crimes nationwide last year, FBI statistics show.

Detective Truly Holmes, a 30-year veteran of the Dallas Police Department, was among the prosecution witnesses in the trial of Michael Boyd. He says hundreds of alleged hate crimes are reported to the DPD each month. Holmes, who has specialized in hate crimes investigations since the mid-1980s, forwards local findings to the Austin-based Uniform Crime Reporting division of the Department of Public Safety.

"Many members of hate groups, especially the Skinheads, have distinguishing characteristics that they don't almost like a badge of honor," Holmes explains. "Crew cuts, military gear and cryptic markings on the body are common."

During his trial, Boyd showed jurors a tattoo on the inside of his lower lip that read, "Skinhead 88". A police gang expert testified that the motto's German translation

is "Heil, Hitler," the infamous Nazi salute.

"There was no remorse shown by him," says Richardson of Boyd's demeanor in court. "He smirked and profiled, but he refused to look at me and Melvin. He just sat there ... the man who took away a big part of me."

Witnesses also identified Boyd as one of several Skinheads who crashed an interracial party in 1991 and beat African American guests with table legs and baseball bats. As a result, court records reveal, Boyd was placed on probation for three counts of aggravated assault.

"Racist attacks like that which Scruggs suffered are becoming more apparent with the growth of hate groups," says Holmes. "Most of the reported incidents that I see involve race."

In 1995, the FBI documented 7,947 hate crimes reported by 9,584 law enforcement agencies nationwide. Sixty-one percent of the incidents were motivated by racial animus; 16 percent by religious bias; 13 percent by homophobia; and 10 percent by ethnicity and national origin intolerance.

Says Richardson, co-owner of OK Copier & Fax Services, "What happened to me and Melvin that night piqued my interest in hate groups like the Skinheads. I've done some research since then, and I am disturbed by what I've learned."

The recruitment efforts of hate groups are becoming increasingly sophisticated. Since 1983, some groups

have established communications networks via computer to extend their reach and influence. Incubators for these white-supremacist messaging systems are located in Texas, California, Idaho, Illinois, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Skinheads originated in Great Britain, where they garnered 8,000 to 10,000 members by the late 1980s. The first U.S. Skinheads faction, Romantic Violence, appeared in 1984 in Chicago.

During the early 1980s, there were an estimated 3,000 Skinheads in 34 states. Similar groups

now exist in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, South Africa, Scandinavia, and Latin America.

In response to burgeoning reports of violent acts motivated by racial and religious bias, the Anti-Defamation League has called for expanded bipartisan efforts among state and federal authorities.

ADL National Chairman David Strasser and Abraham Foxman, ADL National Director, issued the following statement in response to the FBI's latest report:

"The FBI's 1995 hate crimes statistics are sobering and disturbing. The total of almost 8,000 separate crimes of vandalism sets an unwelcome standard of bigotry and intolerance that must be addressed and reduced."

Asked his opinion about efforts to combat racially motivated crimes, Richardson says, "It's good to know groups are coming together on this, but is

doesn't lessen the hurt that I feel ... I'm already a victim. I still cry at night; I'll have to deal with that for the rest of my life."


Despite his ordeal, Scruggs says he is not bitter. Nor does he yield to his limitations; rather, he tries to carve out paths around them. When the Scruggs family had to relinquish their split-level dream home to accommodate Melvin's physical handicaps, they simply found another dwelling—a more modest dwelling in a comfortable East Dallas community.

Thanks to an understanding employer and obliging co-workers, Scruggs still holds down the fort as service manager at Monarch Business Equipment. His responsibilities include training new service technicians and troubleshooting for field representatives. A personal assistant performs any physical tasks that need to be done.

Although doctors at Parkland predicted that Scruggs would never regain mobility, he says he has gained minimal movement in his shoulders and legs since he began therapy at HealthSouth.

"I'm still hopeful. I don't think that God allows negative things to happen, so I don't blame Him. It's just that people who commit crimes allow something negative into their spirit. I did come out of it alive and still able to function mentally ... God may have something different planned for me. I'll go on that hope for my guidance."

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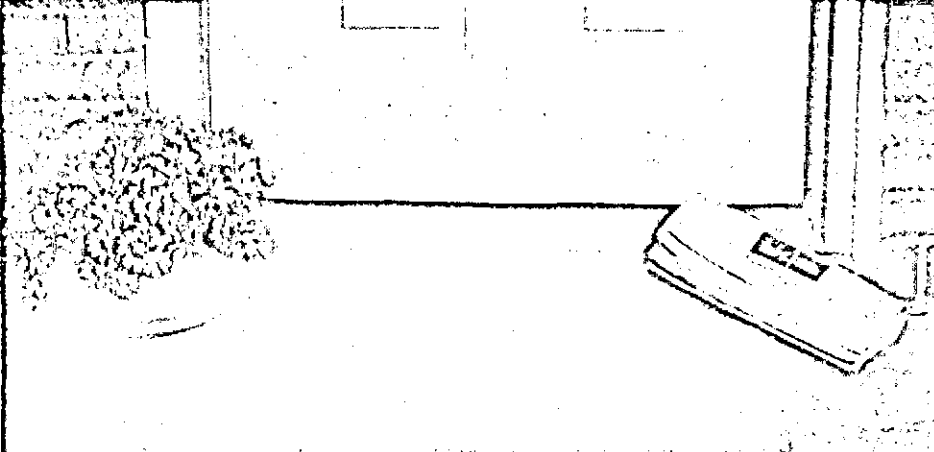
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Around Town

February 1

People of Color Coming Together presents "A Community Forum of Inter-Ethnic Open Dialogue on Race Issues" with co-moderators Bob Ray Sanders and France Alonzo at New Hope Baptist Church, 5002 S. Central Expressway, Dallas, Texas from 2:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. For more information call New Hope Baptist Church at (214) 421-5296. Spanish speakers may also call (214) 330-7947. *****

Mothers Against Teen Violence (MATV) has moved and is now located on the 2nd floor of the Warren United Methodist Church, 3028 S. Oakland Ave., Dallas, TX 75215. MATV meets the first Saturday of every month at 2:00 p.m. For more information call (214) 565-0422. *****

The Volunteer Center of Dallas County is seeking friendly, out-going volunteer telephone counselors to help match other volunteers to nonprofit agencies using a computer database. Call Judy Jacks at (214) 826-6767, ext. 226 for more information.

February 4

The West Dallas Neighborhood Development Corporation and Savings of America, FSB presents "How to Buy Your Own Home," Tuesdays and Thursdays, Feb. 4-25, 1997, from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at 2907 North Hampton Rd., Dallas, Texas. For more information call (972) 256-2496. *****

The Irving Black Arts Council invites you to attend "Treasures of Our Lives," a visual arts exhibition featuring the works of James Beebee, Willis Davis, Beatrice S. Lebreton, David Newton and Johnice L. Parker at the Irving Arts Center, Main Gallery, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd., Irving,

Texas from 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. The exhibition runs through Feb. 23. Call (972) 993-8444 for more information. *****

February 6

Woman-To-Woman, a support group offered by Sisters on the Move, designed to encourage, empower and uplift women, meets 7:30 p.m. every first and third Thursday. Child care is provided. For more information call (972) 709-1180. *****

The National Black Chamber of Commerce, Inc. (NBCC) will hold its quarterly conference in Dallas, Texas at the Ramada Inn, 1101 Akard St., February 6-9. For more information on the NBCC and how to form a chapter call (202) 416-1622. *****

The National Association of Health Services Executives (NAHSE) Dallas/Ft. Worth Chapter invites you to attend their African American Heritage Month Program, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center Faculty Club, 5323 Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas. For more information call (214) 590-8914. *****

February 7

The 13th Annual Quest for Success Awards Luncheon will be held at the Dallas Convention Center today at noon. The program begins with an optional workshop from 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. entitled "Minority Vendor Protocol - Getting Your Foot in the Door." For more information call the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce at (214) 421-5200. *****

AT&T joins the African American Museum in presenting an unprecedented new exhibit, 3 Generations of African Ameri-

can Women Sculptors: A Study in Paradox., which will open February 7 and run through April 20 at the African American Museum, Fair Park, Dallas. For more information call Kandace Barnett at (214) 565-9026, Ext. 304. *****

February 8

The Plano Community Forum presents its 10th Annual Sweetheart's Ball, 7:30 p.m. at the Harvey Hotel in Plano, Texas. The event is black tie optional and includes dinner, dancing, a silent auction and live music featuring Nelda Washington. For more information call Sammy McPherson at (972) 424-2840. *****

The 1987 graduating class of Lincoln Humanities/Communications Magnet High School will hold a planning meeting for its 10 year class reunion, 12:00 noon at the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce, 2838 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Dallas, Texas. Call Dvorah Evans at (214) 421-5200 for more information. *****

The Junior Black Academy of Arts and Letters presents the Seraphim Dance Theater in a production of "The River Niger," 8:00 p.m., 650 S. Griffin Street, Dallas, Texas. Call (214) 658-7144 for more information. *****

The Black State Employees Association of Texas, Inc. presents a Job Readiness Seminar from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon at East Gate Baptist Church, 6960 South Polk Street, Dallas Texas. Call (214) 371-7710, ext. 5 for more information. *****

The Junior Black Academy of Arts and Letters hosts the Writer's Showcase with A. Peter Bailey, journalist, lecturer and author of Revelations: The Autobiogra-

phy of Alvin Ailey at 2:30 p.m., 650 S. Griffin Street, Dallas, Texas. Mr. Bailey will read and share anecdotes about the Texas born dancer, Alvin Ailey. Call (214) 658-7144 for more information. *****

Ms. Peggy Jones, owner of "A Poet With a Vision," along with other young poets will read their original poems for children at "Tea Cake Kids" Boutique, 207C E. Camp Wisdom Rd., Duncanville, Texas, from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. For more information call (972) 296-2253. *****

February 9

The Purple Tangerine Dance Theatre is sponsoring a studio recital and party with an eclectic, upbeat line-up of modern and jazz dance pieces and a special performance by Dallas Reggae singer, Leroy Shakespeare. The event will be held 2:00 p.m. at the "I Dance 2 Studio," 5706 E. Mockingbird Lane, Suite 250. For more information call (214) 824-4269. *****

The Caravan of Dreams, 312 Houston St., Ft. Worth, TX presents "An Evening With The Branford Marsalis Trio," 8:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Tickets are \$21. Call (817) 877-3000 for more information. *****

February 12

The North Dallas Suburban Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and Bray and Greer Staffing Consultants will sponsor a free job fair and employment exposition from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at the Richardson Civic Center, located at the southwest corner of Arapaho and Central Expressway. For more information call James Bray at (214) 421-2120. *****

Around Town cont'd

February 13

The Dallas National Black Women's Health Project meets 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at 2922 Martin Luther King Blvd. For more information call Chinwe at metro (817) 243-1389 (new number) or Jamila at (214) 372-3637. *****

The Dallas Black Dance Theatre presents its "Black Cultural Awareness Series," 8:15 p.m., February 13-15 at the Majestic Theatre, 1925 Elm Street, Downtown Dallas. Tickets are \$7-\$50. For tickets call Ticketmaster at (214) 373-8000. For more information call (214) 871-2390. *****

February 14

Soul Rep brings the award winning children's author, Virginia Hamilton's critically acclaimed Black folktale book, *Histoires*, to life February 14-16 and February 21-23 at the African American Museum, Fair Park Dallas. Tickets are \$10.00. For more information call Soul Rep at (214) 565-0186 or the museum at (214) 565-9026. *****

S.I.S.T.A. Inc. is sponsoring a talent showcase for local Singers, Dancers, Actors, Poets, Lyricists and Instrumentalists at the Dalworth Recreation Center, 2012 Spike Street, Feb. 14 from 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. and Feb. 15, from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. A \$10 entry fee is required. Call (972) 264-7670 or (817) 860-6075 for more information. *****

February 15

Dr. Mary Shy Scott will be the guest speaker at the Annual Founders' Day Observance of the Alpha Xi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., 12:00 noon at the Wyndham Lowes Anatole Hotel in Dallas. Tickets are \$30.00. Call (214) 374-1809 for tickets and more information. *****

Black Images Books, 230 Wynnewood Village, Dallas, will host a book signing by Evelyn Palfrey, author of the romantic adventure story, *Three Perfect Men*, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Ms. Palfrey and husband, attorney Darwin McKee, will speak at the Lancaster-Keist Branch Library from 1:00-3:00 p.m. that same day on African Americans and Civil Rights: A Reappraisal. For more information call Black Images Books at (214) 943-0142 or Evelyn Palfrey at Moon Child Books, (512) 452-0042. *****

February 16

AACC-Afro-American Cultural Center presents its 1st Annual Afrocentric Hair and Fashion Show, 12:00 noon-7:00 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel, 1893 W. Mockingbird, Dallas. Male and female models ages 5 and up are needed. Tickets are \$10.00 and licensed child care is available for \$5.00. For more information call Ms. A. Paul at (972) 907-8503. *****

February 18

Find out how you can make a difference in our community. The Volunteer Center of Dallas is hosting a community meeting where you can visit with representatives from nonprofit organizations and browse a database of over 7,000 volunteer opportunities. The free community event will be held today at the Dallas Visual Art Center, 2917 Swiss Ave. from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Call (214) 826-6767, ext. 330 for more information. *****

February 19

The Junior Black Academy of Arts and Letters presents the production of *Queens of the Nile, Now*, 8:00 p.m., 650 S. Griffin Street. Journey through 4,000 years of history into the lives of Great Queens and Kings of Ancient Africa through dance

and drama. Call (214) 658-7144 for more information. *****

Tales of the Sun runs Feb. 19-21 at Booker T. Washington High School of Performing and Visual Arts, 7:30 p.m. in the Leach Theater, 2501 Flora, Dallas, Texas. This student production features adaptations of African and African American folktales. For more information call (214) 720-7300. *****

The play, *Six Degrees of Separation*, will be presented at Southern Methodist University, Greer Garson Theatre, February 19-23. Call (214) 768-ARTS for more information. *****

February 22

The Black State Employees Association of Texas, Inc. presents its Fourth Annual Youth and Young Adult Job Fair from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon at the Red Bird Mall Center Court, 3662 West Camp Wisdom Road, Dallas, Texas. Call (214) 371-7710, ext. 5 for more information. *****

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Omicron Mu Omega Chapter hosts its 11th Annual Image Award Luncheon, noon today at the Westin Galleria Hotel, Dallas, Texas. For ticket information call (972) 684-8939. *****

The dynamic 100 voice Lillie E. Berry Youth Choir of St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church will present a dual Benefit Concert, 6:00 p.m. today at the church, 5710 R.L. Thornton Freeway. The concert benefits the United Methodist Breadbasket and the youth choir so bring a non-perishable item or canned good. For more information call Jacquelyn Byers at (214) 887-3908. *****

February 23

The Alpha Alpha Chapter of the Alpha Chi Pi Omega Sorority & Fraternity, Inc.

presents its 37th Annual Hair & Fashion Show and Exhibitor Show, 4:00 p.m., at the Harvey Hotel, Dallas, Texas. For more information call Betty Walker Goatley at (972) 296-0820, (214) 709-9601 or (214) 224-8222. *****

February 27

Celebrate the legendary genius of soul, Ray Charles, as he shines during one triumphant performance of his unique style at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, Dallas, Texas. Call (214) 692-0203 for more information. *****

February 28

The Black Data Processing Associates, Dallas Chapter is seeking high school seniors to apply for college scholarships to be awarded at the BDPA Ninth Annual Scholarship Banquet, April 26, 1997. The application deadline is March 15, 1997. To obtain an application, call Marilyn Neal at (972) 407-6895. *****

University of Texas Alumnus, Col. Everette E. Gray, a retired military officer and U.S. agency acting director who was UTA's first black engineering graduate, is the featured speaker at the Annual African American Alumni Reception, 7-9 p.m. in the E.H. Hereford University Center, 301 W. Second St., Arlington, Texas. For more information call UTA Alumni Association Director Dawn Prejean at (817) 272-2594. *****


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OmniAmerican Credit Union allowed to continue enrollment

By Sula Felder

Contributing writer

FORT WORTH—The OmniAmerican Credit Union was to be a vital link in the economic development of this city's southeast side, part of a new birth about to take place in an area long neglected.

But within days of its grand opening in late October, a federal court judge banned the credit union from accepting new members.

Since then, officials say, OmniAmerican has had to all but shut its doors at its Polytechnic Heights branch on East Rosedale. Its hours have been scaled back and some of its staff has been reallocated.

"For the court to take this opportunity away because of the greed of banks is unconscionable," the Rev. Burnice Smith, pastor of the Bethel Progressive Primitive Baptist Church, said after the ruling. "Why deny us the opportunity to have a thriving community? They're saying, 'We don't care and we don't won't anyone else to care.'"

Under the 1934 federal law governing credit unions, membership was limited to those who shared a bond, such as employment, at the same company.

OmniAmerican was created for the employees and families of what is now Naval Air Station Fort Worth. But credit union regulators have been granting exceptions to the law since 1982, allowing some institutions to expand into underserved areas like southeast Fort Worth.

The only other financial institution in the low-income community is a Bank One branch at Ramey Ave. and Loop 820.

But banking groups have argued that credit union expansions are illegal and foster unfair competition. Despite having signed up 200 members, the ruling put a decidedly somber spin on Omni's grand opening festivities and threw the branch's future into jeopardy.

Credit union regulators, threatening to take the matter to the Supreme Court, chose the Polytechnic Heights branch as a national example to encourage a fight against the ruling.

A month later, an appeals court in Washington paved the way for OmniAmerican and another credit union in nearby Arlington to temporarily resume enrolling members until the Supreme Court takes action on a related lawsuit.

The high court is expected to decide sometime in February whether to hear a case involving AT&T Family Federal Credit Union and a group of North Car-

olina Banks.

In the event the courts rule against them, Smith and other residents of southeast Fort Worth are putting their hopes in a proposed amendment to the Federal Credit Union Act.

The amendment, by Rep. Martin Frost, D-Dallas, would allow credit unions to open branches in areas underserved by banks, even if members don't fit the traditional common bond requirement.

"This is not a time to put a lot of faith in the court," said Rev. Smith. "Even with the recent Texaco ruling, it doesn't look good for us in terms of support for economic issues. It's a battle between the credit unions and the banks and we're caught in the middle because they're fighting over markets."

Unlike Dallas' Common Ground Credit Union, managed by the African

the complaining and cut-down-each-other stage. This will pass but it's going to be a rough time."

The African American Pastors Coalition in Dallas believes Tarrant County leadership might be able to learn from its members. The coalition, according to its president, the Rev. Zan Holmes, pastor of St. Luke United Methodist Church, represents about 50 of the Dallas area's largest and fastest growing congregations. Among them are Concord Baptist, Friendship West, Hamilton Park United Methodist, Hamilton Park Baptist, Kirkwood Christian Methodist Episcopal, St. Luke Community United Methodist Church, Munger Avenue Baptist, Golden Gate Baptist, Rice Chapel African Methodist Episcopal, Christian Chapel CME and Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church.

In addition to recruiting members for Common Ground, Holmes said that the coalition subsidizes the salary of the credit union manager and is underwriting the cost of the building that houses the agency.

"We're trying to help it become self-

building that houses the credit union, and from Guaranty Bank, which is about to deposit \$100,000 in the credit union.

"This is part of [the bank's] commitment to the community," Holmes said. "Banks and credit unions can co-exist. We're serving people who are not being served by banks."

Joe Goynes, vice chairman of Comerica, said that the bank "has been involved with and supportive of Common Ground Credit Union from the day it began."

"They are serving a real need and doing a good job, and we're just happy to provide our banking services," he said. "Anything that we can do to help make them successful we will continue to do."

Common Ground was formed in 1987 by a grassroots housing corporation called the Common Ground Economic Development Corporation, an advocacy group for low-income housing, said its manager, Patsy Gaston.

Located the past five years at the corner of Atlanta and Romine streets in a predominately African American community in South Dallas, the credit union was initially run by volunteers from the Common Ground Economic Development Corp. In July 1996, because of a drop in volunteers, the corporation sought a new sponsor in the African American Pastors Coalition, Gaston said.

With a new sponsor in place, she said, Common Ground was not only able to expand its membership base, but hire a full-time manager.

As of December 31, the credit union had more than 2,800 members with a potential for as many as 60,000 members. It offers savings accounts, loans, free check cashing and money orders.

Gaston attributes its success to member loyalty, a minimum account balance of \$5 and no monthly maintenance fees.

But even Common Ground, officials say, has had some troubled spots.

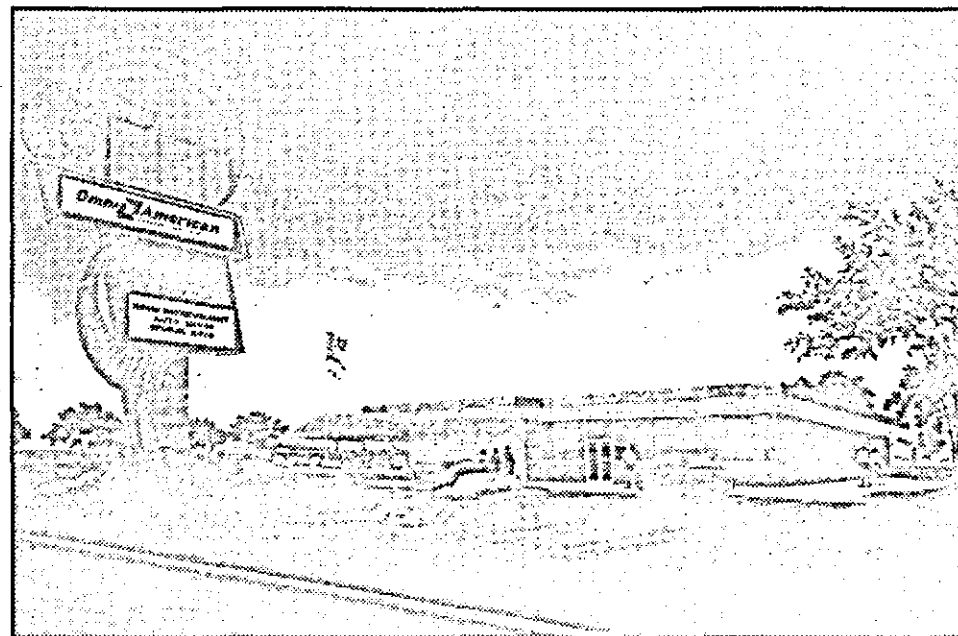
"The first seven, eight years were very successful," said Gaston. "Now we're in a transition period, trying to learn how to market to members in order to stimulate growth, which has been stagnant over the last year."

Because of federal guidelines, Gaston said that some of the coalition church members can't join because the churches are not in Common Ground's target area, which includes South, East and West Dallas and parts of Oak Cliff.

"That's just money out there that could be coming back into the community," she said.

But instead of turning people away, Gaston said, the agency has been accepting people as non-members, meaning they are eligible for all services at the credit union except they can not obtain a loan.

"We don't want to be sued, so we'll



American Pastors Coalition, OmniAmerican has not enjoyed the support of the local banking industry.

Smith said that when members of the African American Ministerial Alliance of Tarrant County sought support from major banks only one—First Interstate which is now Wells Fargo—was receptive to helping the community sustain a credit union.

"So far, Wells Fargo's response has been positive," he said. "They have agreed to develop a credit and other educational programs for families."

Officials at Wells Fargo could not be reached for comment.

In addition to a lack of support from other financial institutions, Smith said that Omni has been faced with infighting among African American community leaders.

"We're divided," he said. "We are at

supportive," said Holmes. "We do many other things as well as in the area of education."

The key, Holmes said, has been a spirit of cooperation. "These churches individually could have their own credit union," he said. "But rather than do that we decided to unite, to undergird this one because we wanted to develop a model cooperative development in the African American community. We felt this was the greatest need to pool our resources."

Still, neither the coalition or Common Ground has been alone in building their model. In addition to a vast amount of community and church support, Holmes said that the two have benefited from both the banking and corporate industry. For instance, he said, they have had some support from Comerica Bank-Texas, which holds the mortgage on the

proceed carefully," Gaston said.

While optimistic, officials are also proceeding carefully at Polytechnic Heights' OmniAmerican branch. "We're optimistic about the future of credit unions and that translates into our optimism for OmniAmerican," said Larry Duckworth, the credit union's chief executive. "I think there will be a long-term resolution that will satisfy all of us."

But with its future uncertain, Brent Sheffield, Omni's assistant vice president of marketing, said the agency has had to make some adjustments.

"We haven't let anyone go, but we have re-allocated some of the staff," said Sheffield. "We've had to change our focus and reposition ourselves."

The credit union's hours have also been cut, said Sheffield, from nearly 12 hours a day to eight hours Monday through Friday, and from six to four hours on Saturdays.

"We're still offering all of the services we offered in past—loans, checking accounts—but with limited hours and staff," he said.

Asked why Omni has not received the same kind of support from the banking industry as Common Ground, Duckworth said: "Why banks selectively support some credit unions and not others, I don't know. I believe the actions of the bank's lawsuit against the credit union industry speaks for itself."

Goyne said that he isn't "real familiar with Omni...our relationship with Common Ground is very good and it works good for both of us."

But Virginia McGuire, a spokeswoman for the American Bankers Association, said, "Credit unions like Omni really have two faces."

"The image that they have is that of serving the blue-collar worker," she said. "In reality, they serve mostly people with higher than average incomes who are better educated and who are not the lower-income people that you or I think of."

Despite a lack of support from the banking industry, OmniAmerican's presence is already being felt in the community, said the Rev. Julius Jackson, pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church.

"They have loaned money for car purchases, established checking and savings accounts, issued credit cards," said Jackson. "This is the reason we sought to get Omni to deal in our community. We always felt it would be much easier for the community to deal with them than a bank because our understanding was that credit unions weren't as restrictive as a bank."

For now, however, Jackson said the community's only hope is for the court and legislation to extend the guidelines even further so residents can enroll from any place in the community.

"The community is 100 percent behind this effort," said Jackson. "Once this court case is behind us and it can continue its education of the community, it will become even more popular and began to enjoy even more support."

But for that to happen, Sheffield said, "something has to happen, either judicially or legislatively, for us to serve this community."

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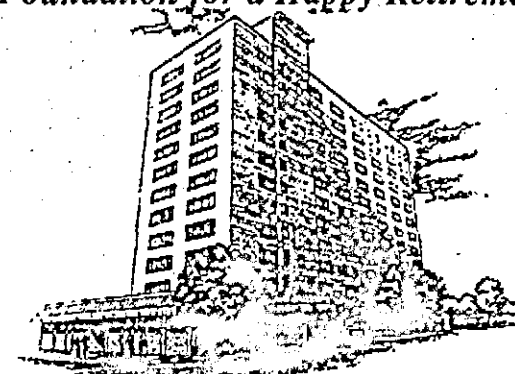
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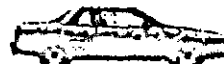
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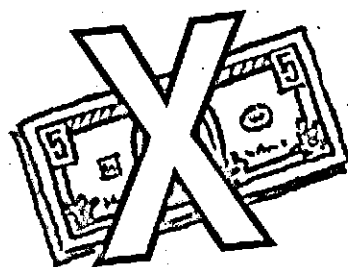
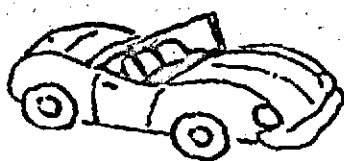
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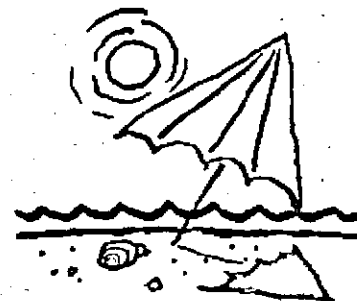
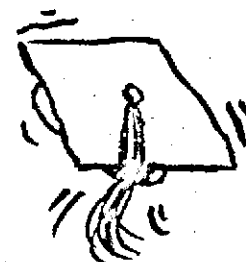
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Cosby back at work

NEW YORK—Less than two weeks after his only son was gunned down on a deserted Los Angeles roadside, Bill Cosby went back to work Monday. He says he won't let his son's death change who he is.

Security was beefed up at the Kaufman Astoria Studios, where Cosby entered by a back door this morning to resume production of his show *Cosby*.



Bill Cosby and wife Camille

said Liz Josephson, a CBS spokeswoman. He was at work on the show Jan. 16 when he heard that his son, Ennis, had been killed.

"I think it's time for me to tell the people that we have to laugh - we've got to laugh," Cosby told CBS on Sunday. "But I just want the people to know - those who watch me, those who are with me—it's over for looking at me to do anything but go back to that which I am."

Ennis Cosby, 27, was shot in an apparent robbery attempt while changing a flat tire. Police say they have good leads, but there have been no arrests.

Security was increased in and around the studio, a sprawling complex located in the same Queens neighborhood as Cosby's fictional character lives. Police barricades were set up at the front entrance and police cars periodically circling the building.

Josephson said Cosby "would not be making any statements to the media" aside from the interview he gave his own network. *Cosby* show producers asked "the media to exercise restraint and respect for Mr. Cosby and his co-workers."

In his first interview since Ennis Cosby was slain, Cosby told CBS that his wife, Camille, can't accept that her son's killer hasn't been found.

"She wants him now. She refuses to accept the fact that this 'thing' is still out there," Cosby said in the interview, portions of which were broadcast Monday on CBS' *This Morning*. "She doesn't accept the fact that nobody comes for-

ward to help with the truth."

Meanwhile, Los Angeles police were fielding hundreds of tips in the killing.

Authorities piecing together the events of Cosby's last night say he worked out for a few hours at a health club before presumably driving to his family's house in the Pacific Palisades. He then left the house for a late-night meeting with a woman he met at a party the week before, police believe.

He drove off the freeway with a flat tire as he neared his friend's Sherman Oaks home, then called his friend on a cellular phone and asked her to come help him light the dark area.

The woman arrived, but fled when she saw an unfamiliar man through her car window, police say.

Police have many unanswered questions—nothing was missing from the car, yet the only immediate motive appeared to be robbery. And the suspect was believed to be on foot, unusual for an area that attracts sightseers drawn by the expansive views of the city.

"We still have good leads and (are) following them up," police Cmdr. Tim McBride said. "Officers are working day and night."

HOLLYWOOD—Singer Whitney Houston is putting on her filmmaker's hat by producing a romantic comedy called *How to Marry a Black Man*, about the friendship between two professional women and their experiences with love.



Whitney Houston

The film will be based on *How to Marry a Black Man: The Real Deal*, a how-to guide written by Monique Jellerette deJongh and Cassandra Marshall Cato-Louis and published by Doubleday last year.

The comedy hopes to capitalize on the success of "Waiting to Exhale" and the growing popularity of how-to books such as *The Rules* and *Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus*—both of which have been optioned for film as well.

Houston's Disney-based company, Houston Productions, optioned the book as well as the authors' life stories last February. Kimberly Greene and Camille Tucker have signed on to write the script.

Rapper Chuck D has young white suburban men flocking to the stores. For what you may ask? They're buying up

jackets, jeans, sweaters and other "urban-styled" garments designed by the rapper for his Rapp Style clothing line. Once skittish retailers like Macy's and Foot Locker are even clamoring to sell the high priced merchandise (some jackets go for as much as \$600) in their stores. (What out Tommy Hilfiger!)

Gladys Knight has received about \$850,000 for a book to be titled, *Between Each Line of Pain and Glory* (that's a line from her number one 1974 single *Best Thing That Ever Happened To Me*). The book will trace Knight's life from her childhood days on the "chitlin circuit" to her days at Motown. Expect it to hit shelves next fall.

Heavy D. recently wrapped work on a single for his upcoming album, *Waterbed Hev* which features The Fugees. The CD is slated for released March 25.

Rolanda Watts may be out of a job soon. Reports say her low rated talk show, *Rolanda* is scheduled for the chopping block along with *The Gordon Elliot Show*.

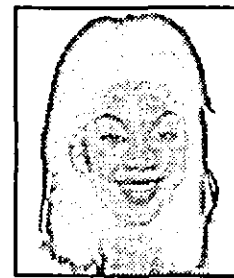
Quincy Jones says his new *Vibe* television show has cleared more than 50 percent of the country as well as the top ten markets. The late night hour-long magazine show will be hosted by comedian Chris Spencer and Jones will serve as executive producer.

The penalty for Dennis Rodman's fool-move last week (kicking a photographer in the "family" area): a minimum 11 game suspension and a \$25,000 fine. He's also going to have to see a psychiatrist appointed by the NBA (He should have been doing that in the first place).

Gale Pearson, attorney for cameraman Eugene Amos, says Amos plans to sue Rodman for assault. "He wants to say that it's not OK for (Rodman) to do that," says Pearson. "If we were on the streets it would not be OK. You've got to call it what it is, and that's an assault."

The NBA is investigating the matter further.

Moesha star Brandy begins her freshman year at Pepperdine University this week. But she's not the only star on the Malibu campus. *Sister Sister* stars Tia and Tamara Brandy Mowry also attend the college.



Brandy

Michael Jackson is house-hunting again. This time in Scotland. Reports have it that the pop star is looking at one property in particular, the \$925,000 14-acre Glenmayne House, near the town of Galashiels.

Heavy D. recently wrapped work on a single for his upcoming album, "Waterbed Hev" which features The Fugees. The CD is slated for released March 25.

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The Oasis celebrates a decade of smooth jazz

Station jumps to No. 2 in the Metroplex

By Dorothy Gentry

Contributing Writer

Walk up to any two people on the street, in the grocery store or at the mall and chances are they will all have at least one thing in common—Smooth Jazz 107.5, The Oasis.

The station, whose call letters are KOAI-FM, has been on a steady, yet rapid, pace of growth since signing on the air 10 years ago—Sept. 30, 1987—as 106.1, The Oasis.

And now, as they embark upon a year-long celebration of their decade in existence, The Oasis has achieved a solid foundation, an amazing popularity status and a growing base of loyal listeners - listeners who pushed the station from No. 11 to No. 2 among adults age 25-49 in the latest Fall Arbitron ratings released in January.

"We were very pleased with the No. 2 rating. We have worked really hard," says Mike Fischer, The Oasis program director.

Diane McKenna, The Oasis promotion director, says one reason they are immensely popular is because they are a "lifestyle station."

"Many of our listeners use this station in various ways. We have a strong at-work listening audience because we play lots of instrumental and light jazz music," she says. "The music is very stress-free so we have those who listen on the drive home from work or at night to unwind from work."

"People have a real need for this type of music in their life," McKenna continues. "They use the station as an addition to their life."

Fischer, who has been The Oasis' program director for only eight months, also credits the station's success to its broad appeal, brought about by its name-brand style of music—smooth jazz.

"With our style of music we bring different people together. Our music appeals to a wide variety of people," he says. "It evokes a lot of emotions in people; young, old, white and black."

The Oasis just may be the only radio format in the Metroplex that crosses that ever-present color line. "Instrumental music is open to personal interpretation," Fischer says, "and that is why our music reaches everyone. You can't find an audience that is as mixed as ours."

Other reasons for the station's success are the legendary "invitation only"

free concerts they put on four or five times throughout the year. Kirk Whalum, Everett Harp, Alex Bugnon, Rick Braun and Bobby Caldwell are just a few of the national and international jazz musicians who have played to thousands of Oasis listeners for free.

The station even makes an adventurous game of their free concerts, planting thousands of invitations at various outlets throughout the Metroplex and then announcing the locations for listeners to pick them up. The result? Every concert ends up "sold out."

The Oasis Bistro is another popular promotion of the station. Listeners call into the Oasis Line (214-988-1075) and record their three favorite songs. During the noon hour, if their trio of songs is selected, they win the prize of the week, which includes lunch for four at an area restaurant.

The Oasis is also known for its traditional Fourth of July Concert and Fireworks Display.

Besides the fact that they play music for everyone, Fischer says the station has succeeded because they have staff and personnel so committed to the music and who are part of the fabric of the Metroplex, including popular on-air personalities Tempie Lindsey, Trevor Ley and Rick Vanderslice.

Future plans for The Oasis includes more free concerts, more great music and of course, another 10 years.

Says Fischer: "The station's success over the past 10 years is because we have a loyal base of listeners who are very committed and very passionate. We have been lucky."

Radio Ins and Outs... KKDA-FM (K104) held on to its No. 1 ranking in the Fall Arbitron ratings for the period of Sept. 19 through Dec. 11. The urban contemporary/rap/hip hop station remained No. 1 in the Metroplex among listeners age 12-24 during that time period...The Oasis (Smooth Jazz 107.5) tied for 10th place (with Mix 102.9) in this age group, but—as mentioned above—ranked No. 2 in the category advertisers love the most, the 25-49 age group...KRBV-FM (V100) slipped slightly from the top 10 and tied for 12th place (with KLUV-FM 98.7) in the 12-24 age group. But the "R&B hits and oldies" station stayed steady with their target audience by ranking No. 3 in stations popular

among the 25-49 age group...Urban newcomer KRNB-FM (105 dot 7) ranked 22nd in the fall Arbitron ratings. They signed on the air Sept. 16, 1996, but spent several weeks dealing with technical problems that prevented most potential listeners from enjoying the new station on a consistent basis. Those problems have since been fixed, says program director Jo-Jo Davis. "I am fairly satisfied with our showing in the ratings; however, we are not totally satisfied," he says. "We are looking forward to being a better radio station and hopefully, more popular with people in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex who like soul and classic R&B music presented in a classy way." Davis says all things considered, "it was a good showing but clearly we are not satisfied and I am not satisfied." Davis says the competition and variety of stations in the D/FW Metroplex is a good thing. "It benefits the consumer who has many choices. It is good to have as many stations as possible and let the consumer, who is the listener, and the economic determinants decide who should dominate...we just urge people to listen because we will do what they tell us to do." ...Last month we

told you to watch out for up and coming radio personality Eva Gray. Well, she now has her own shift on KRNB, Saturdays from 5 a.m. to 10 a.m. Check her out!...Who says radio personalities only play music? Not V100. The station has begun a new roundtable format discussion called "V100 Sunday Summit." The roundtable, which debuted on Sunday, Jan. 12, features news director Sandra Daniels and on-air personalities Keith Solis (9 to noon), Yvonne St. John (noon to 3 p.m.) and Scott West (3 to 7 p.m.) discussing issues and topics of interest from that week's newspapers or TV news. "The issues are those that are of concern to us and others in the community," Daniels says. "From time to time we will have a guest, but it will mainly be the radio personalities." Daniels said station officials decided "it was an opportunity for our listening audience to hear how we feel about certain issues. I get to briefly say some things in the mornings but I don't have a lot of time to really explore issues and also to interact with others," she says. "I thought this was a good way to expand our public affairs programming and our commitment to the community by bringing issues to the forefront and discussing them in-depth—something music stations don't always get a chance to do." V100 Summit Meeting airs 7 to 8 a.m. Sundays...V100 has set up a fund for Cowboys booster "Crazy" Ray Wilford Jones, who recently had his leg amputated because of circulatory problems. Checks or money orders can be made payable to The Crazy Ray Fund in care of KRBV-FM, 7901 Carpenter Freeway, Dallas, 75247-4832...KKDA-AM (Soul 73) will host its annual "African Ameri-

can Heroes Banquet," Saturday, Feb. 22 at the St. John Family Life Center in Dallas. Tickets are \$30 and tables are \$300. Rev. Zan Holmes, pastor of the St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church, is the guest speaker. "The Bishop Five," a group of five local preachers who all graduated from Bishop College, will be inducted into the KKDA Hall of Honor. Call 214/263-9911, ext. 600, for more details...In honor of Black History Month, V100 has produced and is sending via the mail a 15-page guide to any and all activities for the month throughout the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. The guide, which should show up in your mail box soon, includes music and cultural events, speakers, art and exhibits, movies and films and more. The guide is co-sponsored by KHVN-AM (Heaven 97). Also in celebration of Black History Month, V100 will again hold its annual "Black Film Festival." The festival, now in its fifth year, will be held every Sunday in February at 2 p.m. and features a screening of a black film at the Sony CityPlace Theater. Listen to V100 for more details on the movies to be screened. That's all for this month!

MON

Valerie Moore out at KRNB

By Dorothy Gentry

Contributing Writer

Valerie Moore, a member of the "Breakfast Bunch," the 5 a.m. to 10 a.m. weekday morning show on KRNB-FM (105 dot 7), is no longer employed by the station.

Moore was told her contract with the 5-month old station would not be renewed. She has been off the air since Tuesday, Jan. 21.

Moore said being told her contract would not be renewed was "a total shock. It came without warning," she said. "If I don't fit in (with the new station) I guess I'll just have to find some place else...I have paid my dues and I have been in this business a long time."

Ken Dowe, director of broadcast services for Service Broadcasting Corporation (owner of KRNB, KKDA-AM and KKDA-FM) said the chemistry among the morning show on-air personalities did not work.

"Valerie is, I think, a very talented person and we have spent a lot of time working together and trying to get things right on the morning show," he said. "It was the consensus of management that it (the show) was not going the right way. The chemistry just was not there."

KRNB's morning show will continue

with Steve Woods as the host and Johnathon Hayes as the new anchor.

Moore was moved over to the "Breakfast Bunch" from KRNB sister station KKDA-FM (K104) in August of last year. She was part of the "Skip Murphy & Co." morning show, one of the highest-rated morning shows in the Metroplex.

Moore said since she has left KRNB, she has received an outpouring of support. "I have received a number of calls and I want to thank everyone for being supportive of me, including the Morning Team"

Cheryl Smith, president of the Dallas/Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators, said, "It is always disturbing when a member of our profession loses their job—especially someone of Valerie's caliber.

Moore's departure from KRNB leaves the station with two female on-air personalities; Eva Gray and Wendy Scofield. KRBV-FM (V100) has one female on-air personality and a female news director. KKDA-AM (Soul 73) and K104 have none.

The small number of women on the air in radio "is a void and a concern that we have discussed with management," said Smith.

"This is just one issue that we will present to the National Association of Black Journalists and we call upon the Association of Women Journalists, Women in Communications and other groups that see disparity in our profession to speak up and speak out."

MON

Pen Notes

By Cheryl Smith

Congratulations to KDFW-TV's Kevin and Dolores Bell. The proud parents brought a little Bell into this world on January 11, 1997...KDFW-TV's Karla Winfrey is back at work and we're glad she's doing well. However, I've been receiving calls regarding the possible cancellation of *Insights*, the award-winning public affairs program that used to focus solely on African Americans, before the format was altered to appease Latinos. The cancellation of *Insights* is not good at all...Was it too much to expect of Dallas' only daily to write an editorial denouncing Dallas County Assistant District Attorney Norm Kinne for calling Darlie Kee, the mother of murder defendant Darlie Routier, "Trailer Trash?" We saw editorial comments regarding "coconut" and "handkerchief head," but what about "Trailer Trash?" Shouldn't Kinne be held accountable for his actions???...The media was asked to cover allegations of sexual assault with the same level of intensity once the truth came out. Has this been the case. Has

Nina Shahravan been subjected to the same humiliation and degradation as the accused, Michael Irvin and Erik Williams???...Journalist Valerie Moore has been fired from KRNB (100 dot 7). Many remember Valerie from her days as part of Skip Murphy and Company. Hopefully someone in this market will realize the value of Valerie Moore and we'll hear her on somebody's airwaves in the very near future...A call from a colleague alerted me to an interesting fact about KRNB. Now there are no full-time women on the air, which is sad to hear. Since returning from a class reunion in New Jersey, where I nearly overdosed on the music from several New York radio stations, I found myself really enjoying KRNB and its top 500. It was such a pleasure to not hear Anita Baker, Teddy Pendergrass and Luther Vandross every 30 minutes!!!...CALLING ALL COMMUNICATORS: The National Association of Black Journalists will be meeting in Dallas, March 20-23, 1997. You'd better register today. For more information on registering, call (214) 852-0588. This conference is sponsored by American Airlines and there will be a job fair with several companies represented, including: The Arlington Morning News, KEGL, KHVN/V100/Oasis, The Dallas Morning News and the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Speakers include: *Emerge Magazine* Editor George Curry; WNBC-New York News Director Paula Walker; Public relations guru Charles Pizzo; Rev. Frederick Douglass Haynes III; Dr. Brenda Wall; KXAS-TV's Ramona Logan; KDFW-TV's James "Buff" Parham, Karla Winfrey and Dalton Lee; KTVT-TV's Rene Syler; The Dallas Weekly's James Washington; Fort Worth Star-Telegram's Gracie Bonds Staples, D.J. Hill, Ken Parish Perkins and Bob Ray Sanders; The Dallas Morning News' Norma Adams-Wade, Vernon Smith, James Ragland, Ellen Sweets and Gilbert Bailon; The Arlington Morning News' Lawrence Young and Valerie Fields; Attorney Kenneth Walker, CPA James Talley of Talley and Associates; WFAA's Cliff Williams, John McCaa, Vince Johnson, Anna Martinez and Drew Berry; Southwest Airlines' Ed Stewart; JCPenney's Robert Krause; Our Texas' Gerneral Berry; The Dallas Urban League's Beverly Mitchell-Brooks; Dallas NAACP's Lee Alcorn; KERA's Sam Baker; KRLD's Ted Nichols-Payne; Lyria Howland of Howland PR; Rose Gafford of Events Logistics by Rose; V100's Sandra Daniels and Thomas Bacote; UNT's Meta Carstarphen; ABC Radio's Cindi B and Dewayne Dancer; LaneGormanTrubitt's Valorie Burton; American Heart Association's Sandra Samuel; KRNB's JoJo Davis; Westcott Communications' Shawn Whalen-Shinn and a host of others from around the country, along with some of the best sports reporters and photographers in the business. Veteran

journalist Iola Johnson of KKDA-AM will host the awards program. Call for more info (214)852-0588. Conference attendees will party at Deion Sanders Prime Time 21 nightclub. Be there!...Also, there's a high school essay contest going on for seniors to receive scholarship funds. The deadline to apply is February 22, 1997...Applications for the MAAT Awards Program, saluting excellence in journalism, can be obtained by calling Kaylois Henry at the Dallas Observer (214) 757-9000. That deadline is February 7, 1997. Better hurry up and get your application. You don't want to miss this opportunity to compete with some of the best in the Southwest!!!...Dr. Michael Eric Dyson has been confirmed as the speaker for the Dallas/Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators Annual Scholarship Banquet on June 20, 1997 at the Radisson in Fort Worth. Scholarship recipients will receive over \$35,000 in scholarships and one lucky winner will receive a computer from AT&T! Stay tuned for information from scholarship chair, Norma Adams-Wade...The Fort Worth Star-Telegram is up for sale...Thank you Slammin' Sammy Makaveli.

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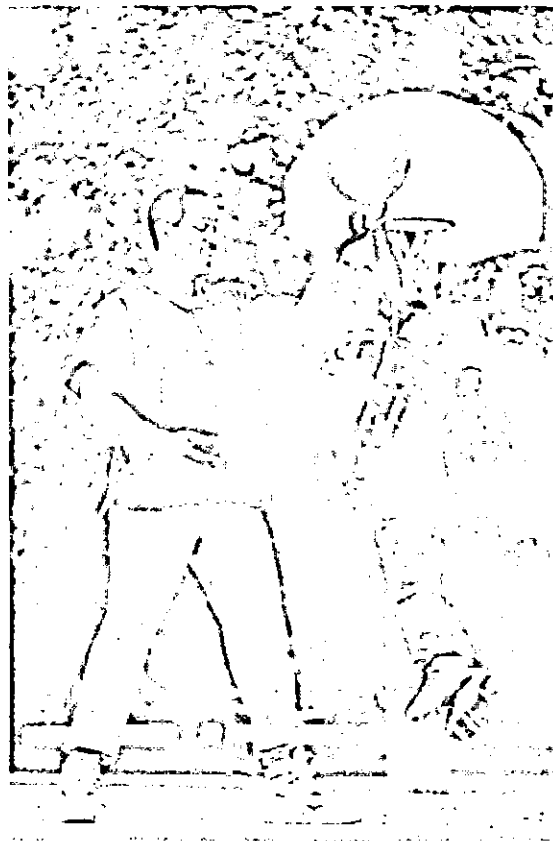
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You see, competition is good when the rules are fair. But competition is never good when the rules help one side and hurt the other.

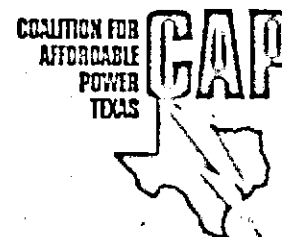
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That's not fair competition.

We're the Coalition for Affordable Power. We're working to keep electricity reliable and affordable for residential customers and small businesses across Texas. We'll make sure the special interests don't change the rules of the game in their favor.





Fairy Street
Mama

Ethnically diverse day care centers

It has come time for me to comment on how I feel about ethnically diverse day care centers, so my commentary will be simple with very few hard punches.

I will begin by saying that multi-cultural day care centers are essential to the healthy development of our children. Among other attributes, having a child enrolled in a diverse day care center teaches them how to be objective, open-minded and sensitive to others.

I didn't interview a racist for this monolith, but unfortunately, I do know some. However, all the questions that I would want to ask a racist have been answered on almost any talk show at one time or another. Since talk shows begin at 9:00 a.m. and are sometimes on until midnight, it's kind of hard for me not to hear two or three.

Among the subjects (which vary from interesting to disgusting to the ultimate in disgusting) that are discussed on these talk shows is the subject of hate groups. I have noticed that there are teens and adults that are talked (or brain-washed) into becoming members of the skinheads, KKK or some other hate group. But there are some parents that go even further than their pledge to these demeaning organizations. They push their evil beliefs and worthless values of hatred in our world and disrespect of others onto their young, innocent, impressionable children.

It is a sad, but true, fact that there are mothers and fathers willing to risk their children's future and moral reasoning by allowing them to be subjected to hatred, the love of violence and inhumane feelings and beliefs. Don't our children see

enough hatred and disrespect in this world? Adults are the cause and source of most of the hatred in our world. Do we really expect our kids to learn correct behavior if we continue to show so much disdain towards our fellow man?

Ms. Ouida Walls (former owner of a predominantly black day care center) says that she gets calls all the time from white American mothers who are referred to her by agencies or other parents. "They ask a few questions but never make the interview," said Walls. "It is very easy to tell that they are hesitant about leaving their child in a black day care center."

She further states that although there are only black children in her care at the present time, she has had Caucasian kids in her care from time to time. "The kids really don't seem to notice each other's skin color," she said. "They play well together and will even eat candy or cookies after each other. It's usually the parents that have a problem."

We learn from watching children at a very young age that they have to be taught to hate others. They generally like people of all races without deliberation or reservations. Anyway, how can we learn to live with each other if we do not teach our children to live and get along with others? Their understanding of others should begin with their peers.

Minister Derrick Geter, a local minister and community leader, says, "The Bible says that God has no respect of color. He created everything that was made and his purpose was for us to have a challenge to learn from each other. It is not what is on the outside of a person, but

what is on the inside. When we decide to live together without racism, then our children will."

Not only should our children begin learning about and being around kids that are of different races, but they should also be exposed to those kids that may have special needs and those that may be mentally or physically challenged. If they learn positive behavior now, when they are older they won't stare at those individuals that may seem or look different.

We should be more concerned about the type of day care our children are attending rather than the ethnicity of other children. We should worry more about the quality of our kid's learning curriculum or the craftsmanship and safety of the playground equipment that is used by our precious offspring. One would think that the nutritional value in the meals that our children are getting while in a day care center would be far more important than the heritage of the other kids who have a constitutional right to be in that same facility.

I'm sure that most of you are familiar with the saying.... "Our children are our future." If you believe this statement is true, then I must believe you want the best for your child's future which must include a course in realism. Realistically speaking, in this year of 1997, surely you know that a day care center is not the only place that your child will see people of other nationalities. Therefore, we must begin teaching our children that the world is diverse. We have a choice to think and act positively and try to be humane and help pull our world closer together or we could think and act nega-

tively and insensitively and do everything to push our world and our kids and their future generations further apart.

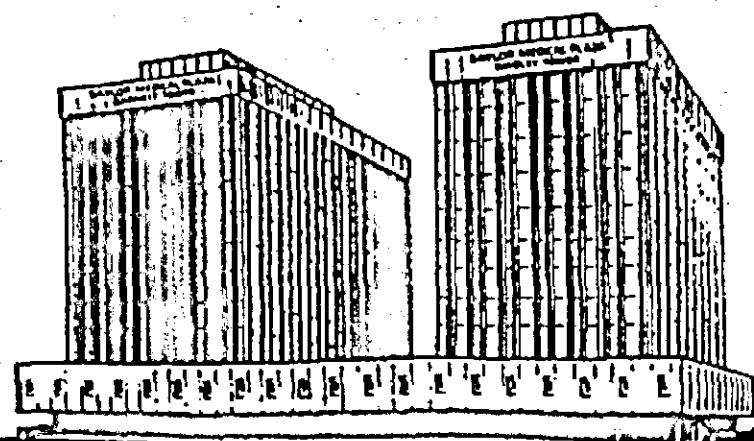
I must declare that it is important to teach our children about their heritage. Our young black children must learn of the struggle and sacrifice of our people. They must read and learn that there were many African Americans and other minorities that were killed because of prejudice and racism. However, this useful information must come first from us as custodians of our children. We must set the example. We must supply the needed information for them to survive, learn and grow in not only today's society but in the world of tomorrow. How can you know where you are going if you don't know where you've been?

Being a racist is usually an adult behavior. We must not let racism continue to exist. Why push this harmful belief on kids? Have we forgotten that it is the parents that are the role models for our kids? Children need us as parents and grandparents to help guide them in the right direction of life which includes teaching them that every human has value and everyone should be respected—from the little girl that wears different clothes to the little boy that speaks differently. People are people and kids should be kids. Especially in day care centers!

MON

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

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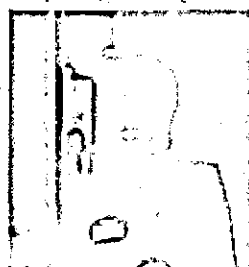
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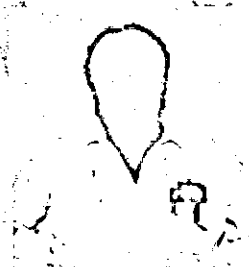
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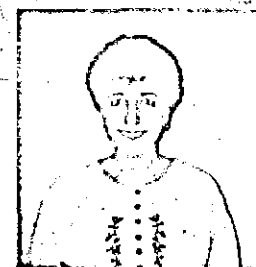
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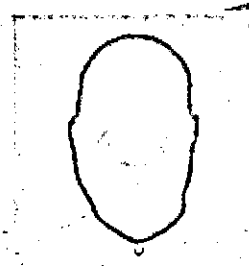
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Ronald E. Jones II

*Assistant City
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**Angela
Washington-Blair**

Sister CEO: The Black Woman's Guide to Starting Your Own Business

By Cheryl D. Broussard
(Viking Penquinn, 1997; \$21.95)

There are so many books out there—both old and new—by and about African Americans that I sometimes have a difficult time deciding which one to choose. With only twelve books to be reviewed per year, there is limited space for my opinions; yet, this doesn't mean that any books not included within the confines of this review column are second-rate. Some may wonder why all of my reviews seem glowing and sterling. It's because I purposely select books I like and that I think will be useful to MON's readers. Since we are not primarily a book review source, why waste precious ink and limited space on poorly written, useless books?

As I perused the shelves of my local book store the other day, I noticed, no, was grabbed by the cover of a book: *Sister CEO: The Black Woman's Guide to Starting Your Own Business*, by Cheryl D. Broussard. Ms. Broussard is owner of a money management firm in Palo Alto, Calif.

Once I opened the pages to the treasures lying within, I found myself thinking, "What a good book, what a useful book." If you've ever found yourself thinking, "I sure would like to have my own business," or "What do I do to gain funding for my business?" or "How do I get my product on the shelves?" or "How can I keep someone from stealing my idea?" then this book is for you. While geared primarily toward the black female, anyone looking to start a business venture in the future will be benefited by this book.

This book covers the basic concepts of money management, saving, getting out of debt, planning for retirement, and finding lenders for a small business venture. There's information on joining an

investment club, filling out budget ledgers and writing a press release. Topics also include marketing and franchising. You will also find out how to register the name of your company. What I especially enjoyed were the success stories of sister CEOs. These vignettes give highlights of business their ventures that work, startup costs, how long it took them to reach profitability and what the "sistuh" did to make it work.

If you need ideas for starting a business, Broussard gives lists of potential service or product-oriented businesses. She also discusses advantages and disadvantages of each type. If you want to work at home, she honestly lets readers know of the pitfalls as well as the pleasures of such a business.

Broussard, herself a successful "Sister CEO," makes sure readers don't put their priorities in the wrong place—she wants them to put families and relationships in their rightful place.

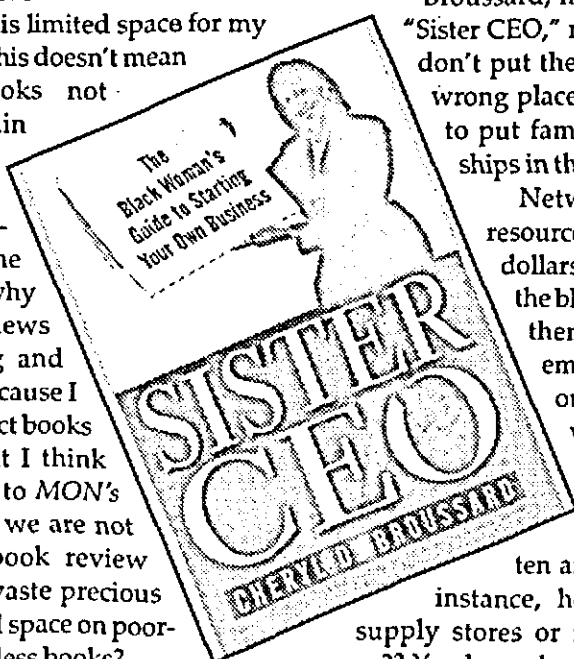
Networking, sharing resources and keeping our dollars circulating within the black community are themes consistently emphasized throughout this lively, clearly written book. Maybe if we hear and read them enough, we'll listen and take action. For

instance, how many beauty supply stores or nail salons do we own?? You know how much money we spend on nails and hair. But who do we give our money to?? And if you have a business, what's wrong with a little healthy competition; why not help some-

one else who wants a similar business? Give them some pointers and truthful advice. Sharing and mentoring are frequently emphasized in this book. (Something we "sistuh" need to practice a little more often.)

Finally, Broussard's book gives industry trends, a directory of resources, and a bibliography for further reading. Let this be your year to impact our community and yourself with a business venture. Check this book out!

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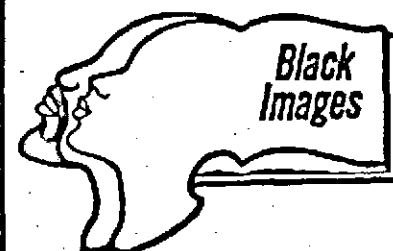
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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1997 • 3-5 pm

Dallas romance writer,

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presents her sixth work

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1997 • 3-5 pm

Author of

Coffee Will Make You Black reads
and discusses her new release *Ain't
Gonna Be The Same Fool Twice*.

(12.00 Avon Books)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1997 • 6-8 pm

JULIA BOYD

presents her third book

EMBRACING THE FIRE:

Sisters Talk About Sex

(19.95 Dutton). Ms. Boyd is the author of
the Blackboard bestseller *In The Company
of My Sisters* and *Girlfriend to Girlfriend*.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1997 • 6-8 pm

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discusses and autographs **HARD**

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SERMONS & SPEECHES

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received her law degree and masters in
divinity from Emory University. She is the
assistant pastor at Greater Rising Star
Baptist Church in Atlanta, where she
oversees the youth and women's ministries.
Reverend King is a frequent speaker on the
national lecture circuit.

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Angela Robinson

Using your computer to make money at home

With the increasing capabilities of technology, many opportunities are emerging for individuals to take advantage of money-making opportunities using their personal computers. Throughout my 10 years of examining many of these so-called home-based income opportunities, I have found that many are filled mostly with hype and have little substance. I advise anyone who chooses to purchase a home-based opportunity to do their homework. Research the company that is offering the opportunity or product. If you are unsure about a particular opportunity, contact the attorney general in the state in which the company does business. Call the Better Business Bureau to find out how many complaints, if any, have been lodged against the company. And never, ever, part with your money without knowing the full scope of the opportunity in which you are investing your hard earned cash.

Whatever your undertaking, know the facts before you take the entrepreneurial plunge. Understand that many of these business ventures involve some cash outlay. Here is a list of some of the

more profitable home-based income opportunities using your personal computer that you can undertake with minimal cash outlay.

1. Desktop Publishing: You could design flyers, letterhead, personalized greeting cards, brochures and more for individuals and businesses at a fraction of what it would cost to have it done at a printer. For those gotta-have-it-today people, express business cards is also a hot item that people are willing to pay for.

2. Medical Recovery Services: The verdict is still out on the income potential of this business. However, its popularity is growing amongst entrepreneur's looking for money making opportunities using their computers. This opportunity would allow you to audit the medical bills of individuals to detect any over billing made by hospitals, insurance providers, doctors and other medical facilities. How you would get paid is similar to collecting on a bad debt. You would audit an individual's medical bills and should you detect an overpayment, you would then submit the documents necessary to gain a refund; your profit of

50% of the amount recovered would not be paid until refund is issued to the patient. In order to obtain the necessary training and manuals needed to start your business, it will cost about \$10,000, paid to Medical Recovery Services Inc.

3. Personalized Children's Books: You would purchase a software program and all printing materials from the publishing company or its distributor for a fee. Using your computer and a printer, you would be licensed to print personalized pages of Disney and other named titles using the child's name throughout the book. This can be a very profitable home-based business as business opportunities aimed at the children's market appears to be in hot demand. Startup cost can be anywhere between \$1,500 and \$5,000.

4. Medical Transcriptionist: You would transcribe doctor's taped notes into finished medical reports via your word processor and a transcription machine. Technology has also allowed for taped notes to be delivered via the telephone. A couple of people whom I have had conversations with in this business claim to average between \$20- \$25

per hour and pull in between \$1,000 and \$3,000 per month in extra income. Pursuit of this business would require a willingness to learn medical terminology.

Well, I hope that this list has provided you with a foundation on which to build. There are literally thousands of options from which to choose your home-based business, however the intended purpose was to list those businesses that I know are easy to start and can provide almost immediate income.

If you would like a list of additional possibilities or information on a specific business, please send your inquiry along with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Dal-Tex Computer Learning Center and I will send it to you.

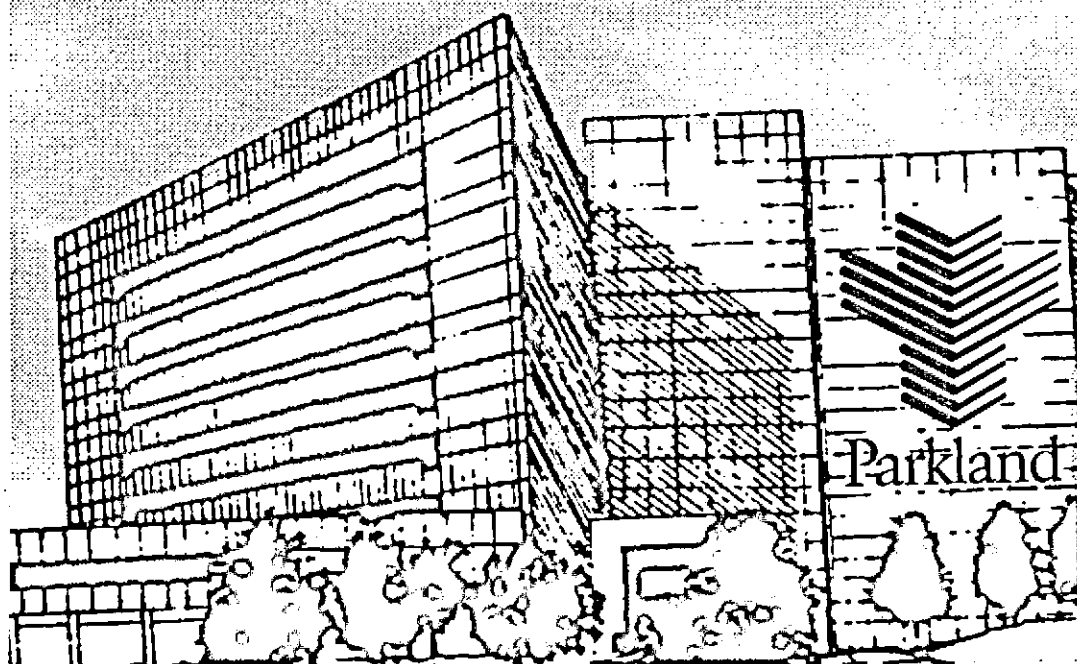
MON

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

Chronology of Home Businesses

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|---------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| November..... | Before You Start | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| January..... | 10 Easy Start-ups | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| February..... | Making Money | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| March..... | Money on the Internet | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| April..... | Mail Order Businesses | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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Herb Beckford

Buying stock: How to get started

The adage of "killing two birds with one stone" probably applies here. I'm going to answer a question put forth by *Black On Black Communications* (a biweekly electronic news publication available on the internet) reader that will also address one of the common decisions facing investors, whether they are experienced or just starting out. The reader asked, "Can you tell me the least expensive way to get started? I do not have a great deal to start with right now. Where can I look to find the lowest brokerage fees and such?"

The main focus of this column is putting money in your pocket. Obviously, the less you spend to execute your stock, bond, option or commodity trades, the greater your net profit will be. Brokerage houses traditionally have charged their clients on the basis of how many shares they want to buy or sell and what the price of those shares are. However, some brokerages will give the customer a sizable discount depending on volume.

Full service brokers charge the most, followed by limited service brokerages. The least expensive way to trade stocks and other financial instruments is to use a discount broker. Pacific Brokerage Services (on the internet at <http://www.tradepbs.com> or (800) 421-8395) is a good example. A conventional order to purchase or sell 5,000 shares of stock at \$50 per share would cost you \$29 (\$25 + \$4 in administrative and insurance costs). Compare this with the fee to trade a much smaller lot of shares, say 200, at

the same \$50 price through some other brokerages like Schwab, Fidelity, Quick & Reilly or Merrill Lynch. Instead of \$29,

The least expensive way to trade stocks and other financial instruments is to use a discount broker.

your costs would be \$110, \$109, \$84 and \$201 respectively.

For computer users, the charges are even lower. Orders entered via the World Wide Web are \$15 each; entered via a "telnet" session, the total cost is \$19. These prices are for what are known as "market orders"; the trades will be executed at whatever price the security has when the order reaches the exchange. (Limit orders are \$29.)

Operations like Pacific Brokerage Services typically require that you have \$1,000 in cash or equivalent securities on deposit with them to trade by computer. So if you want to trade online, \$1,000 is probably your minimum investment. However, \$500 is a sufficient initial investment—if you make your own decisions about your investments. Starting with \$500 and subtracting \$29 leaves you with \$471 to make your first purchase. I recommend that you buy at least 50 shares of stock your first time. That means we need to find companies whose shares are selling for around \$9.

Next time, I'll highlight some companies whose stock is selling in this range and we will talk about how to begin to make your selections. We're going to use much of the same information, available in the Standard & Poors stock report, as a broker at the full service firm. By choosing your brokerage house wisely, you can be almost \$100 ahead of the game.

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Herb Beckford is a successful personal investor. Write him c/o MON or e-mail to Herb15@juno.com

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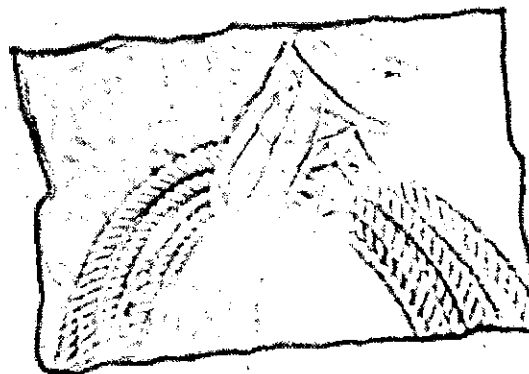
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(1870-1932)

Some people say that Willie "Bill" Pickett's pony was about to be gored by a bull when on impulse, Pickett jumped off the pony, grabbed the bull by its horns and hit into the animal's upper lip. Some say that Pickett was around 10 years old when he noticed a bulldog holding a cow motionless by biting into his upper lip. Whatever the story, Bill Pickett became a legend for this method of subduing bulls, known as "bulldogging."

One of 13 children, Pickett's family moved to Taylor, Texas in 1888. The first African American to be inducted into the National Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame, Pickett traveled throughout America, thrilling audiences with his "bulldogging." He was so popular that he was featured in a silent film, "The Bulldogger."

It is estimated that Pickett bulldogged over 5,000 head of cattle in his lifetime. Now commemorated on a U.S. postage stamp, his feats have earned him a place as a Texas Trailblazer.



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Curtis Yates

VA Fore-closures— No Money Down

Many dreams for buying a home went unfulfilled during 1996, but its time to revive those home buying dreams for 1997. To enhance your focus on current closing costs on a typical \$60,000 home, we're going to compare some estimated costs using FHA (Federal Housing Authority), VA (Veterans Administration) and conventional methods of financing. Now, keep in mind that we will use no subsidy financing assistance with our hypothetical example, just standard basic financing and current market rates as of this writing.

Example A

Financing: FHA
Sales Price: \$60,000
Rate: 8.00%
Term: 30 yrs.
Down Payment: \$1,350
Est. Closing Costs: \$3,342
Est. Monthly Pymt. \$614/month
Gross Income Required: \$2,995/month
Est. Maximum Expense: \$600/month
(not including Rent using above income)

Example B

Financing: VA
Sales Price: \$60,000
Rate: 8.00%
Term: 30 yrs.
Down Payment: \$0
Est. Closing Costs: \$2,311
Est. Monthly Pymt. \$508/month
Gross Income Required: \$2,995/month
Est. Maximum Expense: \$600/month
(not including Rent using above income)

Example C

Financing: Conventional
Sales Price: \$60,000
Rate: 7.885%
Term: 30 yrs.
Down Payment: \$1,800
Est. Closing Costs: \$4,401
Est. Monthly Pymt. \$607/month
Gross Income Required: \$3,700/month
Est. Maximum Expense: \$600/month
(not including Rent using above income)

As shown above, the purchase of a VA foreclosed property isn't such a bad

choice! Also, let me clear up what I believe to be a gray area: You need not be a veteran in order to purchase these properties. These properties were once owned by veterans who, for one reason or another, could no longer afford to keep their homes. You can buy most of these homes with no money down and minimal cash to close the transaction.

Before you lease another year of your life away without having anything to show for all of your hard-earned dollars, consider VA foreclosures. They may put you on the road to home ownership in 1997. Recently, I had the opportunity to sell one of these properties to a young mother of three children who, prior to purchasing her new home, was shelling out \$525 a month for a two-bedroom apartment. Just imagine! That's \$6,300 a year that can now be applied toward a home that will benefit her and her kids in the future.

I hope to see the fulfillment of many homebuying dreams for you and your family. My goals have always been to try and present to you some of the least expensive routes for acquiring home-ownership. In the near future I plan to devise a financial plan involving ways of reducing monthly mortgage payments you can use with your current financial strategies.

VA foreclosures are released on Tuesday of each week. Contact our office concerning these properties. We have no way of knowing each week which areas and what size home will become available until we receive the list from via computer, but do feel free to call our office. Beginning in February, we will publish some of these homes on our website at <http://web2.airmail.net/cya755/>.

I would like to personally thank all of you for your many responses and comments during the year of 1996, and I will do my best to continue to bring you the most reliable information surrounding residential real estate that may be a benefit to you and your family.

MON

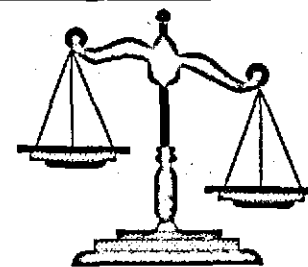
Curtis Yates is the owner/operator of REAL ESTATE STATUS QUO; 8131 LBJ Fwy; Ste. 800; Dallas, Tx 75251. E-mail cya755@airmail.net. Website: <http://www.flash.net/~statusqu/>.

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Ron Shaw

Exposure

Psalms 139:23, 24

I was interviewing a local celebrity recently and after concluding the interview, we continued a discussion on local politics and recent current events. As we talked, our conversation began to take on a different twist. I was asked the question, "How do you know what is really in your heart?"

Actually, we were talking about success and what it does to people. Money, fame and power all can corrupt if the heart is filled with foolishness. I remarked that all of the aforementioned cannot determine what is in your heart but rather expose what is already there. Many people feel that more stuff is the answer to all their problems. Some couples think a bigger house is the answer to their relationship problems. Perhaps more money or a new car would do the trick. However, might I remind you that if you are a fool with a little money, more money will only make you more of a fool. If you are cheap and stingy with little, a lot will not make you generous.

In our relationships there are obviously challenges that we must deal with. Nevertheless, it is the responsibility of each person to deal straight up with the contents of their heart. That's not something that can be passed on for someone else to handle. Last year I'm sure there were events that took place in your life that exposed some things you probably never knew or perhaps denied were in your heart.

Consider the words of our text. It is clear the psalmist desires God to expose what is really in his heart. He says, "Search me, O God, and know my heart..." (NIV). The Bible tells us God led Israel through the wilderness to find out what was in their hearts. According to the New Testament, He deposits His word in our hearts.

As Christians, our primary desire should be to have a heart that is pure. Many find out that they lack purity, stamina and character only when it's too late. Perhaps the adversity you have gone through has exposed some things you didn't know were in you. Perhaps having to deal with certain people have brought about a certain degree of exposure. I hear people talk about themselves often. Very few times are we willing to admit our shortcomings, flaws and weaknesses. You see, it's easy to say you're not racially prejudiced if your son

or daughter never brings home a person of another ethnic group. It's easy to say you love unconditionally when there are no unfavorable conditions.

God has exposed Himself to us. He has demonstrated repeatedly a love toward us when we were unlovable. Jesus said if you let a person talk long enough they will expose themselves to you. Have you ever really been exposed? Do you really know what is in your heart? Do you possess stamina and character in the face of any and all opposition? How can you know? Ask Him to

...it is the responsibility of each person to deal straight up with the contents of their heart.

show you. Like the psalmist, ask Him to search and expose what is really there. Then be willing to change what is unfavorable.

As we face what are inevitably more challenges in this computer age—this age of indifference and insensitivity where you can be employed one day and unemployed the next, healthy in the morning and attacked by physical challenges before nightfall—it will become more and more important to know that you have more than enough to meet the challenges and win.

In conclusion, one sure way to know what is abundantly in your heart is to put abundantly what you want in there. If you put His word in your heart in abundance, His word will come out in abundance when you meet challenges. As God exposes the content of our hearts, face it head on. All too often, when we are shown ourselves, we retreat to a denial of the facts. Remember, if God is to do a work in you, you must deal in truth with Him. As he searches you and tries you, do whatever it takes to come forth as a vessel that is fit for His use in a variety of areas. Be a golden vessel for His service!

MON

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

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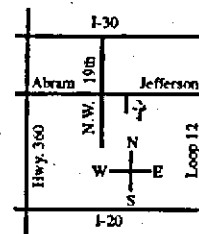
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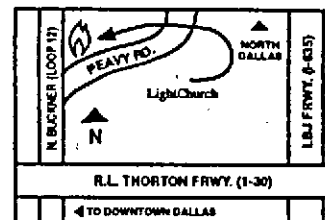
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Conduct comprehensive planning in a growing city. Requires a B.A. in Urban Planning or related field + 3 yrs. experience or Master's + 2 yrs. Salary range \$33,624 - \$42,900, DOQ. City of Cedar Hill, HR Dept., P.O. Box 96, Cedar Hill, TX 75106. EOE.



City of Plano, Texas
For information on Jobs opportunities, Call
Career Line
(972) 461-7116
AA/EOE/ADA



LMSW-ACP or LPC WANTED.
Fax resume to Child and Family
Guidance Centers, ATTN: Dr.
Aldridge at (214) 352-0871. EOE.

SOUTHWESTERN

DIRECTOR

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas has an opportunity for a Director. Position will organize and manage the overall operation of the Dean's office.

Requires a Master's degree in Business Administration or related field with 7 years business experience in an academic, medical, scientific environment or Bachelor's degree with 9 years as stated above. Must also have skills in operational management, systems and procedures, the grant application process, supervision and management of staff, good verbal and written communication skills and strategic planning.

Please mail or fax resume to: Manager of Employment, P.O. Box #45310, Dallas, Texas 75245, fax (214) 648-9874.

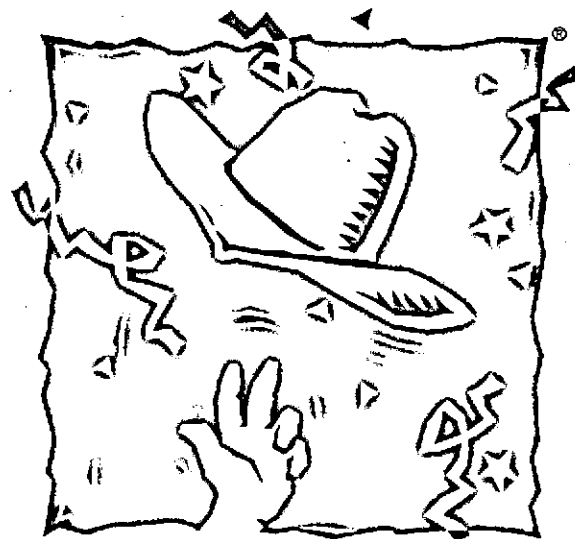
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER
AT DALLAS

Equal Opportunity Employer

MON'S CAREERMONTHLY

phone 214-606-73

fax 214-905-0949



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

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

FILM PRODUCTION

Shooting film for television spots. Submit directors' demo reels on 3/4" cassette format which show television spots previously shot. Prices must be competitive.

MUSIC PRODUCTION

Composers and arrangers who have experience in television and radio music production. Please submit a demo reel which demonstrates your capabilities and past experience and a description of the equipment available in your studio. Prices must be competitive.

CASTING/TALENT SERVICES

Looking for companies that represent experienced talent from multiple ethnic and age groups. Voice talent for radio and television. Need voice audition recording capabilities. Demo tapes accepted for the files.

EDITORIAL

Must be able to creatively edit film and television commercials. Please submit a demo reel (on 3/4" cassette) of previous television commercials edited and a description of equipment used for off-line editing. Prices must be competitive.

Please respond in writing to: Melissa Villaseñor-Dye
Retailer and Minority Development Supervisor, Texas Lottery-CBP
P.O. Box 16630, Austin, TX 78761-6630.

**-TEXAS-
LOTTERY**

©1997 Texas Lottery



**FARMERS
BRANCH**

**CITY OF FARMERS BRANCH
POLICE OFFICER (Dallas area).**
Must be at least 21 years old with a High School Diploma and clear criminal history. Starting pay depends on qualifications (\$2829-\$3502/mo.) Closing date: February 7, 1997. Application packets available only at 13000 Wm. Dodson Pkwy., Farmers Branch, Tx. 75234. (972) 919-2556.



Dallas Public Schools

Imaginative teachers with high expectations are needed for the Dallas Public Schools. If your background, certification, or degree qualify you to teach in a Pluralistic Urban Setting... We Want You!

Minority applicants are especially encouraged to apply.

Now accepting applications for teaching positions in Math, Bilingual, Special Education and Fine Arts for the 1996-1997 school year and projected vacancies for 1997-1998

ALL CERTIFICATION AREAS

Salary range: \$25,250 - \$45,720
Bilingual Stipend \$3,000 + \$1,000 Signing Bonus
Advanced Study Program
Attractive Benefits Program
Cellular Telephone Program

Write or Call: Applicant Records
Dallas Public Schools • Personnel Services
3807 Ross Avenue
214/989-5500 • 800-443-6181

Hi, my name is Rick Jordan.

Over the years, we have served the Dallas-Fort Worth community with a company called Tri-4 (T-4) Insurance, which specializes in meeting your complete insurance needs.

In recent years, my focus has been on offering alternatives to the rising cost of funerals. I specialize in helping customers:

- Freeze the cost of a future funeral at today's prices with a plan fully transferable anywhere.

- Make their own selections and retain full control over all aspects of the arrangements.
- Take advantage of low monthly rates, with complete payment in three, five or 10 years.



To my many friends and customers over the years, I can be reached at: 214/372-5761 or (pager) 214/933-2200. Call for the most competitive prices.

Freelance Writers Needed

MON is looking for experienced and competent freelance writers. In addition to offering regular story assignments, our editors welcome story ideas and proposals from writers.

We offer a writer's pay scale with competitive rates paid for cover stories, feature stories, general news stories and photographs accompanying stories.

Please send portfolio/resume with clips to MON Editorial Dept. at:

Minority Opportunity News
2730 Stemmons Freeway 1202 Tower West
Dallas, Texas 75207
Fax: (214) 905-0949

For more information call MON's Community Access Line at (214) 606-3890.

Immediate Openings

A leading full service communications provider in Dallas is seeking professionals for the following positions:

Administrative Assistants
\$12-\$14.00/Hr.

Requirements:

- Proficiency in Microsoft Word/Excel/Powerpoint
- Ability to work in fast paced environment
- Administrative experience a plus

Accounting Positions

- Payroll Supervisor
- Payroll Analysts
- General Accounting Supervisor
- Accountant I & II

Let us know that you've seen this ad and we will pay you \$25.00 after you've completed 80 hours with Talent Tree. For immediate consideration, please fax resumes to (214) 365-3620



Join our winning teams!

Teamwork for Excellence



PLANO
Independent School District

Plano Independent
School District
Blue Ribbon
Team

972-461-8288

City of Plano
All-American
Team

972-461-7135



Working together for a quality community

Dallas Urban League

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The Dallas Urban League has a full-time job opportunity for immediate employment.

POSITION: EMPLOYMENT/SKILLS BANK COORDINATOR

OPENING DATE: Tuesday, January 21, 1997

CLOSING DATE: Monday, February 10, 1997

DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES:

Performs company, group and individual assessments and evaluations. Facilitate, plan and implement job training and employment opportunities for Workforce 2000 initiatives. Conducts job readiness, school to work and interviewing techniques sessions. Responsible for agency job development and job placement activities. Serves as lead staff for implementing and coordinating the agency's annual job fair and single source job recruitment. Supports employment component of the Family Circle. Organize and facilitate meetings of agency and community volunteers. Assist in developing and securing other funding resources and creating new program initiatives. Develop focus groups to gain relevant community information.

Position requires a Bachelors degree and a minimum of three years progressive experience in employment programs and/or community development arena.

HOW TO APPLY:

Application must be received in the office of the Dallas Urban League, incorporated on or before 5:00 pm on the closing date shown. Applicants who are invited to interview will also be required to complete an employment application. Information contained in resumes, letters of application, and applications are subject to verification by the Dallas Urban League.

Send resumes and letters of application to:

Personnel/ESC • Dallas Urban League, Incorporated
3625 North Hall Street, Suite 700 • Dallas, Texas 75219-5106

Call (214) 528-8038 for more information.

An Equal Employment Opportunity Employer

Community Newspaper need part-time office help. Must be familiar with software packages, Word Perfect, Micro-Softword and general knowledge of computers. Must do light collection work. Type at least 50 wpm. Good composition (writing skills). Hours are flexible. Ideal for housewife with children or student. Fax resume to 214-905-0949. leave message @ (214) 606-3891.

Minority Opportunity News



See What's Happening in Garland, Texas!

Vendor Open House^{4th Annual}

February 28, 1997

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

City of Garland
Performing Arts Center
300 North Fifth Street
Garland, Texas 75040

- ✓ Learn to do business with the City of Garland and GISD
- ✓ Meet with buyers and purchasing staff
- ✓ Get on bid lists for your specific commodities
- ✓ Learn the requirements for HUB certification

sponsored by the City of Garland
and the Garland Independent School District

MON'S CAREER MONTHLY

phone
214-606-7351

fax
214-905-0949

CBS Radio

CBS Radio is looking for a Local Sales Manager for one of the nations top markets - Dallas, Texas. If you have a proven track record and have at least 2 years radio management experience, we're waiting to hear from you. Fax resume to (214) 520-7959 or write KTXQ Dept "A" 4131 N. Central Exp. Ste 1200, Dallas, Texas 75204, Attn: John Hufnagel. KTXQ is an equal opportunity employer.

SECURITY OFFICERS

GOOD • HONEST • PEOPLE

13 POSITIONS
N. DALLAS - RICHARDSON

WAGES UP TO \$8.25/HR.
BENEFITS



APPLY IN PERSON AT:

5944 Luther Ln., Ste 301, Dallas, Texas
(NW Hwy @ Tollway)
Call: (214) 692-7844 or
Metro: (214) 263-9496
EOE/MALE/FEMALE

We're looking for PART-TIME TELLERS with attitudes



We are seeking candidates with superior customer service skills. Cash handling experience a plus. We currently have opportunities with various schedules available—morning, mid-morning and after noon.

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

Please call our Teller Line at (214) 290-3188.

BANK ONE

Whatever it takes.

Bank One, Texas, NA
Member FDIC

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



Utility/Street Inspector

Seeking inspector one year assignment to inspect water, sewer, streets and drainage construction. Read and interpret engineering plans and designs. Two to five years experience as inspector or related position. \$14.50/hr.

Public Service Librarian

Manage children's programs. Requires Master of Library Science Degree. \$22,000/ann. Benefits.

Park Maintenance Worker

Clean/maintain parks, recreational facilities. \$7.30/hr. Benefits.

Positions are opened until filled. Apply Personnel Office, 211 N. Henry St. Lancaster, TX., Mon-Fri. 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Jobline (972) 218-1140. EOE/MFD



SALUTES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Guaranty Federal Bank

8333 Douglas Avenue

Dallas, TX 75225

(214) 360-4894 (Fax)

Call our job line for career opportunities

(214) 360-2750



NOTICE OF ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

The City of Lancaster will administer Civil Service Entrance Examinations for Fire Fighters on Monday, March 17, 1997.

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

Examination Eligibility

1. Certifiable by the Texas Fire Commission as a Basic Fire Fighter.
2. Must be Certified or Certifiable with the Texas Department of Health as an Emergency Medical Technician.
3. Must possess a current valid drivers license.
4. Must be at least 19 years of age and meet all eligibility requirements of Section 143.023 of the Texas Fire and Police Civil Service Law.
5. Must meet all physical requirements.

Examination will be administered from 9:00 A.M. to 10:15 A.M.* at:
Cedar Valley Community College
3030 N. Dallas Avenue
Lancaster, Texas 75134
(972-372-8118) in Building C, Room 005 (downstairs)

*A second exam will be scheduled, if needed, is set for 11:00 A.M.

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

Return application to the Police/Fire Department, 1501 N. Dallas Avenue, Lancaster, Texas 75134, by 4:00 P.M. on Friday, March 7, 1997 in order to be included for the Examination.

P.O. Box 940 • Lancaster, Texas 75146-0940 • (214) 227-2111 • FAX (214) 227-4032
"Dedicated to Those We Serve"



DALLAS



POLICE DEPARTMENT

EARN \$27,141 - \$28,341

QUALIFICATIONS

Forty Five (45) Hours of College with a "C" Average

Twenty-One (21) Years of Age

United States Citizen

Honorable Discharge from Military Service, if applicable

Valid Driver's License

No Felony Convictions

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

EXPERIENCE THE PRIDE AND TRADITION

Contact Recruiters At:

DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Recruiting Unit

2014 Main Street, Room 201

Dallas, Texas 75201

214-670-4407 or 1-800-527-2948

An Equal Opportunity Employer

MON'S CAREER MONTHLY

phone
214-606-7351

fax
214-905-0949

Claims and Field Adjusters Entry-level and Experienced

We currently have openings available in Dallas, Austin, and Houston. Working as a Claims Adjuster or Field Adjuster, the selected individuals will work with insureds and agents helping to solve their claims problems and settle their claims as quickly as possible. These individuals will also interact extensively with attorneys, physicians, and police departments to determine liability and provide the best settlements possible for the insured.

The entry-level positions require a Bachelor's degree or equivalent work background. The experienced positions require 2+ years' claims adjusting experience. Bilingual language skills a plus.

Become part of this financial services leader by forwarding your resume with salary history, indicating position (s) and location (s) of interest to:

Personnel
Safeco Insurance Companies
500 N. Central Expressway S-300
Plano, TX 75074

or
Fax (214) 516-8661

Jobline (214) 516-9757

SAFECO®

Customer Service Unit

Equal Opportunity Employer Committed To Employing A Diverse Workforce.



SEEKING A NEW CAREER? TEACHING IS IN A CLASS BY ITSELF!

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

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL POSITIONS:

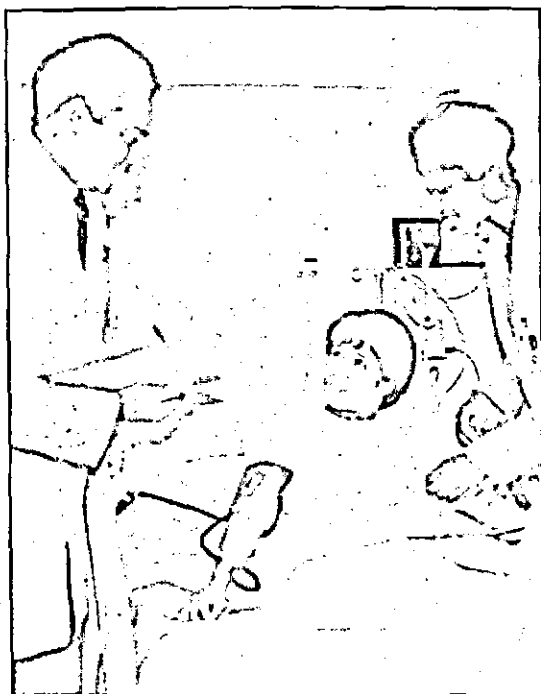
Four-year college degree from an accredited university. 2.5 overall grade point average on a 4.0 system. Submission of completed application form/all requested items.

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

1. Special Education (Pre K-12) Bilingual Education (Pre K-6), General Elementary Education (Pre K-6)
24 semester hours in a combination of courses. 3 in each of the following: English, math, social studies, natural science, and the remaining 12 hours in a combination of the above areas. Bilingual applicants must read, speak, write English and Spanish fluently.
2. English as a Second Language (Pre K-12)
18 semester hours in English (8 hours must be upper division).
3. Secondary Mathematics (7-12)
24 semester hours in math (12 hours must be upper division).
4. Secondary Reading (7-12)
12 semester hours in English (6 hours must be composition).
5. Composite Science (7-12)
48 semester hours in a combination of science courses which must include biology, zoology, chemistry, geology, and physics/physical science, with 24 hours in one of the above areas (12 hours must be upper division). A minimum of 6 semester hours should be completed in each of the remaining areas.
6. Life/Earth Science (7-8)
24 semester hours in life/earth science. Life science may include biology, zoology, and botany. Earth science must include geology/earth science and may include work in oceanography, meteorology or astronomy. Hours must include, but are not limited to, six semester hours in each area (i.e., life or earth science) with a minimum of six hours of upper division courses.

FOR AN APPLICATION, PLEASE CALL:
(214) 302-2433 - leave name/address for application packet
APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 21, 1997, 4:30 p.m.
(Two official transcripts reflecting all coursework must accompany application)
IF SELECTED, YOU MUST BE AVAILABLE TO BEGIN
May 22, 1997, 8:00 a.m.
DALLAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER M/F/H

Making great health care even better...



As a professional at **Parkland Health & Hospital System**, you have the opportunity to work with other professionals as an integral part of our healthcare team.

This top-ranked institution offers an environment designed to challenge, teach and inspire, while advancing your career goals.

Join us at **Parkland Health & Hospital System**, where our culturally-competent staff is committed to provide our patients with the highest quality healthcare.

We are actively recruiting for these positions:

Registered Nurses
Physical Therapists
Dietitians

Nurse Practitioners
Occupational Therapists
Social Workers
Information Systems

Pharmacists
Respiratory Therapists
Accounting & Finance

Contact Human Resources, 214-590-8063 or Nurse Recruitment, 214-590-8992.

Parkland Health & Hospital System

5201 Harry Hines Boulevard, Dallas, TX 75235.

**Parkland Health
& Hospital System**

**Jobline
1-800-348-0712**

Currently Recruiting:
Pharmacists
Patient Care Assistants
Information Systems
Environmental Services
Social Workers



City of DeSoto

JOBLINE

(972) 230-9698

TO BE INCLUDED ON
VENDOR BID LIST CALL
JOHNNY SUTTON AT
(972) 230-9685

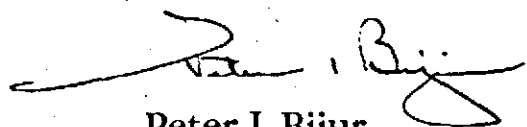
Moving Forward

Texaco recently announced significant new initiatives to ensure fairness and economic opportunity for all its employees and business partners. This comprehensive plan builds on and accelerates a number of strong programs already in place and covers every aspect of employee recruitment, hiring, retention and promotion, and workplace environment. It also expands our minority business partnering efforts.

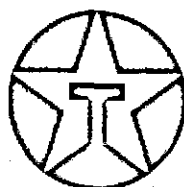
We are pleased that numerous minority and religious leaders have expressed their support for this plan.

This plan is the right thing to do - and is simply good business for the entire Texaco family...for our customers, employees, stockholders, suppliers and business partners.

Everyone here at Texaco - every man, every woman - is committed to this plan and to its success.



Peter I. Bijur
Chairman & CEO



TEXACO