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# Minority Opportunity News

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

VOLUME 6, NO. 4 April 1997



# Welfalfalforin

Should the church share the burden?

TPA Conference to Bolster Black Press See What's Hot at the Movies

Local Radio Responds to B.I.G. Murder



# Can the black press survive?

Can you surrey, can you picnic? Whoa, whoa. Can you surrey, can you picnic?....

When the National Association of Black Journalists convened its region VII conference on March 20-23, it could have been likened to a "Stoned Soul Picnic." Journalism professionals from Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas made Dallas their Mecca as they gathered to exchange information, share experiences, interact with high school and college journalism students and recognize journalistic excellence.

The conference was replete with industry-pertinent workshops, a thought-provoking Town Hall meeting and food that was a step up from the usual "rubber chicken" fare. But best of all was the showcase of African American talent that was evidenced throughout the weekend. The workshop panels were manned (and wo-manned) by some of the most capable professionals in journalism. People whose competence is not properly recognized in their labors for the "general press."

Seeing and hearing so many accomplished but unappreciated professionals begs these questions: How can the black press take more and better advantage of black journalistic talent, especially in the newspaper medium? Why does it seem to be tacitly understood that working for black newspapers is only a stepping stone to bigger and better things with the general (white) press? Or that working for the black press is just a "hustle" for some extra income? Is it considered second-rate and, if so, why?

I had the privilege to participate on a panel discussion about the future of the black press. A high school student who had participated in the Dallas-Fort Worth/Assoc. of Black Communicators journalism workshop took the panel to task on the plethora of typos she and her mother (an English teacher) could readily pluck from the text of black newspapers. Her voice was filled with frustration and disgust as she demanded an explanation.

I replied that too many black papers operate with inadequate staffing; too many tasks are performed by too few people with too little time. And, the best and the brightest usually move on to "whiter" pastures.

The black press needs to be able to entice young talent to its ranks. Its future depends on it.

## Bditorial

### Mayor vs. Commissioner: A matter of style and substance?

Probably the safest bet in Dallas is that everyone has an opinion about the current dispute between Mayor Ron Kirk and County Commissioner John Wiley Price. In fact, their public "disagreement" helps recall the old tale about seven blind men being asked what does an elephant look like? The answer was "it depends on where you grab it."

Likewise, the focus of this debate needs to first be examined in light of its major components rather than the emotions involved. First, let's look at the men involved. Both are intelligent, articulate leaders who maintain fervent commitments to their beliefs: They are also both blessed (?) with egos as large as the great outdoors. Whether you agree with their focus is another matter. However, one must admire their stand on their beliefs. The issue here is style and substance.

On the side of style, the mayor prides himself as being one who seeks broad-based input from the perspective of the many constituencies he must serve as the chief elected official of our city. This creates the dilemma of how much attention and time can be provided for any one of the many groups that he must rep-

resent. On one hand, the Mayor feels that he is appropriately tending to the wishes and desires of the African American community. While on the other hand, Commissioner Price and his col-. leagues believe that the Mayor is primarily being directed by other groups whose commitment to the African American community is nominal at best. Undoubtedly it requires a masterful balancing act that represents a major challenge for any politician; it is not unique to this current situation and will continue long after the current debate subsides.

Another stylistic concern is obviously how the two men seek to engage each other in these discussions. The Mayor stands firm on the need to have logical and reasoned discus-

sions in the proper settings. More often than not, this requires conforming to his definition of what these conditions are. The 'Commissioner has historically sought very public and somewhat confrontational tactics to get greater attention placed on his concerns. The bottom line is that talking does not mean that. communication is taking place nor that a true understanding has been reached. For both men, there is a constant reference to needing to address the real "issues." The fact is, there is a limited understanding and willingness to delineate all of the "issues" involved in this debate. Issues such as:

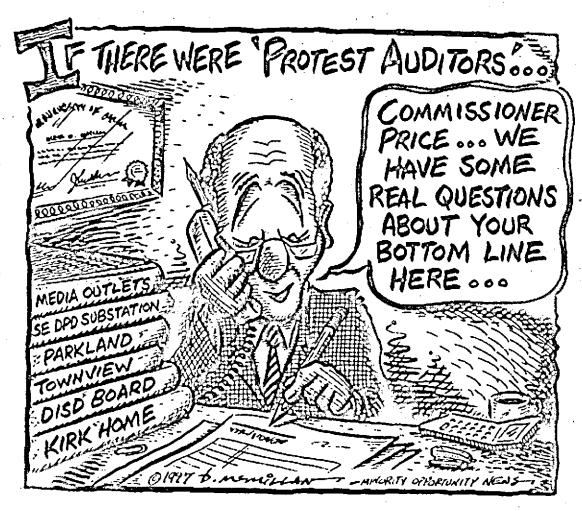
- the political futures of and constituent perceptions towards both of these leaders
- the fact that both men, at any given time, have seemed insensitive to their supporters
- •inherent in the present situation is a contest to see whose will and perspective will win out, with the leader claiming title of being the African American leader in Dallas
- addressing the educational and

leadership issues that exist within DISD

Both men have some ways to go in terms of political debate and negotiation, critical elements both men need in their roles as elected officials expected to provide leadership. Commissioner Price should seriously examine what, if any, real gains have resulted from his litany of public protests. Our analysis leaves more questions than answers. Likewise, the Mayor should remember that the reason God gave humans two ears and one mouth is for us to listen (and truly understand) twice as much as we speak. He could do much to help the current situation by living by this principle and valuing the perspective and opinions of those he sees as adversaries.

The real focus is on leadership—who will provide it and what will they accomplish. The answers may come from folks other than the Mayor or the Commissioner. Perhaps this will allow the "real" issues to move to the front burner and allow for a more intelligent debate and resolution.

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### LETTERS...

#### Miffed at Anonymous

I am a long time reader and critic of your paper. Rarely has my criticism about the paper to the community been of a negative context, but after reading the "Letters" section of your paper, I was shocked at the cheap shot the anonymous writer and yourself took at Ms. Cheryl Smith. I highly respect Ms. Smith as a writer, a radio personality, and her amazing commitment to the community and its young people.

It seemed pointless to me for you to have printed that letter. When I called Ms. Smith for information on the Regional Conference, I received my information immediately. Maybe Anonymous did not realize that in this community people do work, and live by a busy schedule. For one, I realized that Ms. Smith is not the only person affiliated with the conference. Before jumping to conclusions and attempting to throw an unsuccessful low blow, Anonymous should have collected all the facts.

Anonymous obviously knows nothing about Cheryl Smith or her commitment to the community and her many affiliations with area organizations. The buzz was not a good one in the community this weekend. You have many enemies now, because of our respect for Ms. Smith. Taking shots at this sister is not a very good idea. Don't forget, she wears a bullet-proof vest!! If you had the nerve to print an Anonymous' letter, here is mine. With my name! Know that I stand 100 percent in favor of Ms. Smith. For those of you who don't, it's your loss!!

Meyla Hooker Dallas

(Editor: The writer of the letter did sign his name.)

#### Is America a Dictatorship?

When states vote to use Hemp for medical purposes, but President Clinton threatens to "punish" the doctors who do prescribe it. The people really need to question the so-called power structure in this country.

The Bible says that in the last days, people would rather believe a LIE than the truth.

When will the people of the NATION of TEXAS wake up? The U.S. now is very similar to the Roman Empire before it fell. Leaders are so selfish and arrogant that they think that they can just shove anything down the people's throat and the people will just take it, but the growing MILITIA movements are

continued on page 4

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Guest Viewpoint Judge Ralph Ferguson

The 74th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 1 in 1995. The bill addressed a very serious problem: The exclusion of students expelled from public schools, if not economically able to enter a private school, from education for the term of their expulsion. This process solved no problems but created many. It contributed to delinquency. The old system of tossing students out railed against the values public education wanted to project. The expulsion system tainted education for students, and sent the wrong message about the value of education to the community.

Senate Bill 1 is not perfect, but it is the right thing to do. The Alternative Education Programs created by Senate Bill 1 serve as a vehicle in every community across the state to benefit students unable to perform in the traditional classroom due to behavior or a judgment. In the former system, these students would roam the streets of the community creating havoc. They now remain in school.

Alternative Education Programs bring an important model to public education. Where we have the opportunity to salvage students is when they are in schools. This 1995 legislation is right because it is preventive, and provides school districts the option of placing difficult students in a more structured academic environment. In the Alternative Education School, the students continue their studies in English, history, mathematics, science, and self-discipline.

The role of the court in the Alternative Education Legislation is vital. Municipal and Justice court judges know fines are not sufficient in modifying juvenile behavior. The restriction of rights and privileges by sentencing students to an Alternative Education facility sends a clear message to them and their peers. They understand that education is important and deviant behavior should not exclude them from involvement. The court gets the attention of the family. As a result, the opportunity to salvage students from crime and dropping out is greater.

Considering the cost of incarceration versus the cost of educating a student, the budgetary expense of Alternative Education facilities is a savings. Approximately 50% of the students in an Alternative Education School are at-risk. Using resources from other local agencies that have as their mission the prevention and reduction of crime help to defray school district cost. The programs are a tremendous success because they can serve the most challenged students from several school districts in one facility for reasonable value in the community.

### Why Senate Bill 1 can be effective legislation

The Garland middle personifies the features and benefits of Alternative Education Schools. It serves grades six through twelve; twelve middle schools and six high schools refer students. Enrollment in the school for the 96/97 academic year exceeds 369 students. Because of the cross-section of students and different levels of achievement, it is common for a teacher to conduct classes in three subject areas within the classroom. The structure of the program requires students to remain in the classroom 4-1/2 hours, four nights per week, to get mandatory contact study hours. The teachers rotate from classroom to classroom. The students receive restroom breaks, escorted by aides. At no point are students alone; adult supervision is always present.

The counselor for the school works with individuals as well as small groups. The small groups are usually same-sex. The structure of the program allows frequent contact with parents. Just as the Alternative Education School may be the last opportunity for the student to get a public school education, it may also be the last opportunity for the parent to parent. By being at the center of family issues, the counselor makes referrals to support agencies for family counseling and drug and alcohol addictions. Many that have fallen through the cracks get help at the Alternative Education School. Where they allege incest and/or child abuse, the school resource officer is immediately brought in to review these cases, investigate, and make appropriate contacts.

For too many students in the Alternative Education School, the only good day was yesterday. This means they have no plans for the future. The classes are small. The teachers have time to work closely with students at their skill level. Students find, for the first time in a long time, academic success. The absence of success in the classroom due to an undiagnosed medical condition like depression, hyperactivity or another disability sets students up for low self-esteem and puts them on the path of juvenile delinquency. In spite of the obstacles, the teachers teach and turn some students around.

Alternative Education Schools are values driven. As part of the curriculum, we provide discussion and information on integrity, work, use of common sense, learning skills, and decision making. Through our intake and follow-up assessment, the challenges for most students in the Garland program are these four important areas: 1) Study skills, 2) Communication skills, 3) Self-Esteem, 4)

Social skills. If students score beyond the norm on our intake instrument, we know we must take great care to reach these students. Along with instruction, our effort while a student attends the Alternative Education School, is to improve skills, abilities, and worth. This is a tall order, but the dynamics of the school allow great strides to be made. Because a student is in one classroom with academics as the only focus, grades improve for the students wanting to get it right.

If Alternative Education Schools do not become dumps for students traditional public schools chose not to manage, they will provide a meaningful service to the community. The professionals in Alternative Education solve problems and salvage many students. As it matures, Alternative Education will aid in putting families together, reducing delinquency, and dropping out of school.

When students cannot succeed at the local Alternative Education School, Senate Bill 1 includes the organization of a Juvenile Justice Alternative Education School that is more restrictive. The rungs in this legislation permit the people that know more about students the chance to modify behavior in several different environments. The actions of the students determine how restrictive their classroom will be in the Alternative Education System. The students learn to take personal responsibility for the outcome of their acting out in the classroom and community.

Senate Bill 1 sets us on a course to exert maximum effort to reach and effectively serve students across ethnic and economic lines that require different support in the learning environment. In Garland, computer technology is available to work groups of students at their level. As Alternative Education evolves, the use of technology may be the key to restoring the interest of students in learning while steering them away from deviant behavior. The legislation presents the feasibility of development of an alternative learning path, not discipline centered, for students unequipped to manage the traditional classroom.

Senate Bill 1 can be as positive as we want it to be. The model for its application is under construction. The commitment of school administrators, teachers, courts, police, community, and parents will determine how much greater benefit may be gained from this legislation.

MON

Judge Ron Ferguson is a teacher in Garland Alternative Schools. Sandra Stevens and Richard Heikes contributed to this article.

### LETTERS...

continued from page 3

spreading to the point that increasing dissatisfaction with the way the U.S. policies are being informed.

The Warrior Dallas

#### Thanks

A thank you for mailing me copies of MON per my request several month ago. Although I'm now an immobile senior citizen (on oxygen 24-7). I was quite active as part of the Martin Luther King Center staff for 18 years. Tony Davis (founder of the Dallas Weekly), used to say I'd get anything out of anybody for my children via "networking my resources." I still like to keep up with Dallas and you are helping to keep me informed while being 90% confined. As I told the young lady [who sent the papers], if I can help you informationally, don't hesitate to call. (I'm a 3rd generation Dallasite.)

Thanks again.

Francis Hill Burns Dallas

Hi, my name is Albert Bell, and I was recently in Dallas visiting and I really enjoyed Dallas. While I was visiting, I ran across a very interesting newspaper [called] Minority Opportunity News. The reason why I'm writing is to ask, Could you mail me your monthly publication?

I live in Missouri and I would love to read the publication monthly if possible. If you all can't do this, I'll understand.

Thank you so much for being such a wonderful source.

Albert Bell Cape Girardeau, MO

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#### Thomas Muhammad

Before beginning this month's column, I wish to express the greetings words of peace and the words of all the great prophets, from Adam to Abraham to Moses to Jesus to Muhammad. The greeting of "As-salaam-u-Aliakum (God's Peace be unto You) for our brother Minister Ben Chavis Muhammad. As most of you probably know by now, Brother Chavis joined the Nation of Islam

on February 22, 1997 in Chicago, Ill., during Savior's Day address Minister Louis Farrakhan. The address, and Minister Ben Muhammad's acceptance speech, was given before

astonishing crowd of nearly 30,000 people.

For those of you who do not understand the significance of this event, let me break it down to you in a language that I'm sure you will understand. The former Rev. Ben Chavis joining the Nation of Islam is like Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. joining the Nation of Islam when brother Malcolm X was alive. In other words you are about to witness on the national scene real "Black Power" for the many voiceless masses of people who heretofore have not been heard. Yes, it will invoke some jealousy among many Negro preachers. And yes, there will be hateful attacks, especially from white racist Jews. But white Jews have always been paternalistic to African Americans and have therefore challenged their every move towards independence. So, as far as I'm concerned, they can go to hell or wait to be sent there! As to the orthodox Muslim brothers and sisters, I would hope that you will give Brother Ben and the Nation time. After all, many of us (African Americans) found our way to the "true" way of Islam through the Nation, so we should not deny someone else that opportunity. We should open our hearts and accept our new brother. Now for the column.

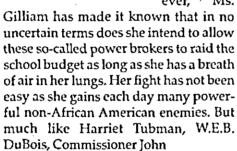
Perhaps no African American elected official has shown more stamina and tenacity in fighting for our issues and concerns at 3700 Ross Avenue than DISD board member Kathlyn Gilliam. Known as the "Dean of the Board of Education," Ms. Gilliam is loved by nearly all African

### Kathlyn Gilliam: An ageless jewel in our midst

American school teachers, principals and administrators. Just mentioning her name invokes smiles of joy and comfort that you would never get for any other person past or present at DISD. In fact, it is because of this love and respect for her that most African American school employees continuously come under attack by the many white racist dogs who work tirelessly behind closed doors to try

and control the district with its nearly \$1 billion budget,

It is common knowledge that many white racists see Ms. Gilliam as the only force standing in their way. However, Ms.



(Editor's Note: The opinions expressed by Mr.

Muhammad's commentary are not necessarily

those of the Minority Opportunity News.)

...Ms. Gilliam has made it known that in no uncertain terms does she intend to allow these so-called power brokers to raid the school budget as long as she has a breath of air in her lungs.

Wiley Price, Sojourner Truth, Malcolm X, Councilwoman Diane Ragsdale, Martin Luther King Jr., the Rev. Zan Wesley Holmes Jr. and Marcus Garvey, Ms. Gilliam has not hesitated in making the right decisions in the twenty two years she's served on the board.

Dallas' only daily, with help from a number of white racist as well as "Negro" weekly news publications, has sought to portray Ms. Gilliam as a tired old person who should be ousted, and

such an ouster would be easy because of her low voter turn out and because she has never run a "tough" race. I say bulls—t (you fill in the blanks). Kathlyn Gilliam has had nothing but tough races, beginning with her first race against a well-financed Al Lipscomb in 1972 to her reelection bid against a well-financed Ken Davis in 1991. White racists are upset because no matter what candidate they recruit to challenge her, the black community always overwhelmingly chooses Ms. Gilliam.

I remember Ms. Gilliam responding to questions from friends who would ask how could she be a member of and church secretary for People's Baptist Church in South Dallas under the late Rev. S.M. Wright Sr. for over twenty five years but still be so progressive and maintain such large support among grassroots organizers? Ms. Gilliam would proudly looked into their faces and say, "Dr. Wright is my pastor and his sermons satisfy my soul, but my politics are my own!" Well spoken, and many of us were damn pleased to know that.

Yes, Ms. Gilliam is a one of a kind; a warm, strong, great individual who can always be counted on to stand her ground and not flinch at controversial issues. She's been known to stare many a white racist in the face and say what is right and not make excuses for doing so. To coin an old Texas saying, "She's one to ride the river with." Or how about, "The woman's got sand!" You need only attend a school board meeting and watch whenever a new school board member, the superintendent or any administrator gets off the mark. It will be Ms. Gilliam who will call them to task. She can do so because of the historical data that's stored away in her head from the many years of work and time she's put in. And the astonishing thing about all of this is that she is very seldom wrong about any issue

Yes, one day Ms. Gilliam will have

to move on, and believe you me she wants badly to do so. However, she, like the rest of us, believes that once she leaves it would be helpful to know that the district is in the hands of an individual who at least understands that to serve in this capacity will take a whole lot of sacrificing and long hours away from home. It pays nothing, nada, zero, zilch, not one red penny. At least city council members get \$50 a meeting. One must also keep in mind that the job of an African American elected official is doubly tough, because constituents look to them to solve everything from pot holes, to teen curfews, to code enforcements, to building a road or bridge, to getting the police to respond to their calls, to helping them to get a home or business loan from a bank, to collecting their garbage, to helping to close down liquor stores and hot sheet motels. And after all of that, then maybe, just maybe, they will join a PTA, make sure their child is in school on time, teach their child politeness, make sure their child does their homework, get their child to school events on time, make visits to the schools and stay in touch with their child's teachers and principals. And you can tell the constituent time and time again that you are their school board representative and they'll possibly say, "Yea, that's what I thought and I like what you do for us down there, but I still need my trash picked up and these hoodlums gone away from around my house! If you can get that done for me then I will be able to attend city council meetings!"

I said all that to say this. Ms. Gilliam has made it possible for us to have great schools, good solid teachers and has established a great level of respect for our African American administrators. That makes for a better educational environment than the one that existed when she took office. The next person will have to educate the community on what a school board representative does and why they must get involved. But, it can not be accomplished by a token Negro who will take us back thirty years just to please white racists.

Until then, the struggle continues...

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Cheryl Smith

# Hidden camera investigations questioned

The judgement was in favor of Food Lion. Jurors were not pleased with ABC's actions that resulted in news coverage that hurt the food chain considerably.

And ABC would pay for its transgressions.

ABC reporters got wind of numerous practices that were considered not only unethical and dishonest. There were health concerns that needed to be investigated, verified and exposed.

But how?

Food Lion management was not going to just let cameramen waltz into their establishment and film at will.

ABC reporters knew they would have to come up with a way to substantiate the claims from insiders.

To conduct their investigation, employees of the television station falsified documents in order to gain employment at Food Lion. Once employed, the investigation began.

Reports were documented.

It was clear that Food Lion was in violation and hidden cameras captured many of those violations by Food Lion employees.

I was appalled as these violations were revealed over and over again. Millions of viewers and customers were also appalled. It was clear that some Food Lion employees had no regard whatsoever for mankind or public safety. It was also clear that many of the infractions were system-wide and condoned by more than just the hourly workers.

After gathering extensive footage, the report was made public.

This was a nightmare for Food Lion executives and a challenge for public relations professionals who are experts in crisis management.

Never once have I heard Food Lion admit to any wrong-doing. The focus of the lawsuit against ABC was the deceptive practices used to gain entry to Food Lion stores.

And therein lies the debate.

Had ABC gone in to Food Lion and not lied on employment applications and documents, the outcome could have been significantly different for the television station.

But this wasn't the case.

Although there are those who were incensed by Food Lion's behavior; the outrage leveled at ABC was severe. Their deceptive practices far outweighed Food Lion's despicable behavior.

So where do the hidden cameras go in the future.

Recently, (former) employees of Southwestern Bell Telephone told of surveillance techniques used by SWBT to determine if they were doing anything illegal or immoral. It seems corporate officials were concerned that some

> employees might be behaving in a manner unbecoming of SWBT employees.

So, the employees were followed. Not just during normal work hours, but after hours as well.

Should the employees feel violated?

And then there's the situation involving the

use of hidden cameras by Marty Griffin and his sidekick, Dennis Pedini.

KXAS-TV paid Dennis Pedini to wear a hidden camera to catch Dallas Cowboy Michael Irvin in illegal drug activity. Again, the public outcry was quick and loud.

Two wrongs don't make a right.

Is the public's right to know more important than the tactics used to gather the information?

Are we all not entitled to some form of privacy?

Should any of us be concerned about the rising increases of hidden cameras and tapes?

Or, should we just remain on guard, not trusting anyone, never speaking out against these shady practices?

We should consider speaking out about unethical behavior, regardless of whether or not it effects us or not, because just possibly, the cameras may be on us one day, ready to expose our every being to the world.

Now, are there any of us really living our lives in a fashion that we don't care whether or not the cameras and recorders are on at all times?

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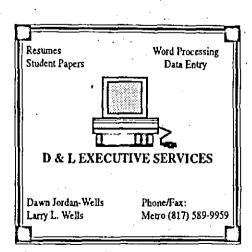
Cheryl Smith is the host of Reporters Roundtable on Superstation Soul 73. Tune in on Sunday mornings at 8.00, immediately following Minister Louis Farrakhan's

#### Pen Notes

Get well wishes are extended to WFAA's Deborah Duncan, who was hospitalized recently after suffering a brain aneurysm. She underwent surgery which doctors said, due to the location in the brain, was relatively simole. A full recovery is expected. Best wishes are also extended to Deborah as she moves on to newer horizons. Deborah will be the new host of Our Home on the cable channel Lifetime. Her husand, Roland Martin of KKDA, who also writes for the Dallas Examiner and teaches at UTA, plans to join her in New York...The NABJ Region VII Conference had several vendors looking for employees. Attendees had a chance to visit with KTVT-TV, WFAA-TV, KXAS-IV, KTBS-TV, KDFW-TV, The Dallas Observer, The Dallas Morning News, The Arlington Morning News, KEGL-FM, V100/KHVN/Oasis Radio Stations, Our Texas Magazine and Amoco Corporation...Minority Opportunity News won one MAAT (pronounced MY-OTT) Award for excellence in journalism. Others winning awards included Roland Martin, Gordon Jackson and the Dallas Weekly, the Amarillo Globe, KXAS-TV and Townview Magnet Center student Jamie Webb. The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to George Curry of Emerge Magazine. The onference was attended by nearly 300 registrants who heard from keynote speakers Paula Walker of WNBC-NY; ommissioner John Wiley Price; George Curry; K104's Chris Arnold; and Mayor Ron Kirk. Kudos to event planners Rose Gafford and p.r. guru Lyria Howland for putting on a successful conference...The DFW/ABC Jrban High School Journalism Workshop graduation was held on Sunday, March 23, at the Harvey Hotel-Brookhollow, Gray Hall of Keller High School and Meyla Hooker of South Grand Prairie High were named the top students and each received \$750 scholarships. Scholarships totaling \$4,400 were awarded to participants...It's almost time to register for the "Don't

thon. Call 972-263-9911 to get your registration form. This year's event is sponsored by American Airlines, AT&T, Eller Media, Mesa National and KKDA-K104...Congratulations to veteran journalist Valerie Moore, who never missed a beat when KRNB showed their love for her. Valerie is working at KRLD and Joy 104.9, where she is joined by Karen Harris Haynes (formerly of The Dallas Morning News and Mary Kay) and Kirk Hannah (formerly V100/KHVN)...Guess what? It was after my deadline, but the The Dallas Morning News did speak out against **Dallas County District Attorney Norm** Kinne's reference to murderer Darlie Routier's mother as "trailer trash." Did you write a letter to The Dallas Morning News in support of Norma Adams; if you didn't, next time you need someone to publicize your activity, maybe you shouldn't send that information to her...NABJ Vice President-Print Vanessa Williams and Chicago's Warner Saunders were in town for the NABJ Region VII Conference. Both are running for NABJ president. Roland Martin announced that he is seeking the office of parliamentarian. The conference will be held July 16-20, 1997 in Chicago...Guess some of us paid attention to the plea to join the Dallas/Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators. Membership is continuing to increase and the organization is continuing to address issues pertinent to the industry, our members and our communities...KDFW-TV's Marjorie Ford has recuperated from surgery and will be returning to the award winning public affairs show, Insights. Look for invitations soon, to the DFW/ABC Anuual Scholarship Banquet. This year's speaker will be the Rev. Michael Eric Dyson and the banquet will be in Fort Worth. Norma Adams-Wade is the chairperson..."Roger B." Brown, popular sports talk show host on KKDA recently suffered a heart seizure. Roger is expected to recover fully.

Believe the Hype" Celebrity Bowl-a-





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### The News

### New McDonald's franchise at D/FW Airport

For the first time in 20 years, D/FW Airport opened its gates to food chains and independent food operators. McDonald's/R.G. Parrish Foods, a McDonald's franchise owned by Roland G. Parrish, became one of 25 companies selected to



Roland G. Parrish

operate D/FW food and beverage concession.

After successful years with Exxon Corporation, Mr. Parrish left to start his own McDonald's franchise. He

became the 2,000th franchise in June

Today, Parrish is one of 10 African American franchises in the Dallas/Ft. Worth metroplex and with the addition of the two new locations at DFW Airport, he now owns four McDonald's franchis-

ing back to the community, he regularly supports students at Frederick Douglass Elementary School, Comstock Middle School, Spruce and Lincoln High Schools in Dallas and DeSoto High School.

A native of Hammond, Indiana, Parrish was an All-American High School track star in the 1970's earning a track scholarship to Purdue University where he earned his BS and MBA degrees. He attributes his business acumen to focus and training he gained from competing in athletics. "Being an athlete trained me to be competitive and hardworkingqualities I bring to my role as an opera-

For more information call Lue Calhoun at (972) 380-2319.

#### Ron Price to run for Dallas school board

Ron Price, community activist and founder of the Pearl Guards, a service organization for youth, recently announced his candidacy for the Dallas Public School Board. Price is seeking the seat currently held by Kathlyn Gilliam, who has represented District 9 for more than 20 years.

Though a political newcomer, Price Because he strongly believes in giv- is no stranger to Dallasites. His work

with The Pearl Guards, which has resulted in changing state laws regulating the location of liquor stores near schools, has garnered him local, regional and national attention.

Price has the support of several local leaders, including pastor Derrick Hawkins of New Hope Baptist Church who is also treasurer for the Ron Price for Dallas Public Schools, District 9 campaign. Price's campaign headquarters will be located at 4600 Second Avenue.

For more information call B.C. Foreman, campaign manager, at (214) 428-4387 or (214) 374-5823.

### Rep. Davis unveils scholarship fund

State Representative Yvonne Davis (D-Dallas) recently announced the availability of \$400,000 in college scholarships aimed at high school seniors from Dallas and eighteen other urban areas through-

The Urban Scholarship Program was created during the 74th Legislative with the cooperation of Southwestern Bell Telephone, GTE and Sprint/United and Centel Telephone-Texas, the three largest local phone companies in the state.

The 1997-98 Urban Scholarships will be awarded to Texas residents who are U.S. citizens, full-time undergraduates in good academic standing at any accredited public or private non-profit college, university or technical college. The applicants must also exhibit financial need and be graduates of high schools in the following metropolitan areas: Abilene, Amarillo, Arlington, Austin, Beaumont, Corpus Christi, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Garland, Houston, Irving, Laredo, Lubbock, Mesquite, Pasadena, Plano, San Antonio and Waco.

Students interested in applying for the scholarships should contact their high school guidance counselor, college financial aid officer or call the Texas Association of Developing Colleges at (214) 630-2511. The deadline to apply for the scholarship is June 2, 1997.

### John Powell Chevrolet-Geo Olds teams. up to help children

John Powell Chevrolet-Geo-Olds, the Frito-Lay Company and the SMU athletic, chemistry, music and biology depts. recently teamed up to conduct campus tours for students, parents and teachers complete with interactive science shows, music demonstrations, student athlete speakers, pizza, and basketball.

The sponsorship of John Powell Chevrolet-Geo-Olds and Frito-Lav enabled the university to accomadate over 4,000 program visitors with bus transportation, T-shirts and food.

According to Ed Wisneski, SMU assistant director of athletics, the "SMU At Your Service" programattracted twelve DISD schools as well as schools from Garland and Mesquite. In addition, groups from Dallas Housing Authority, Mi Escuelita, Girls Incorporated, Boys and Girls Club, and St. Philip's School and Community Center also visited the campus.

We have two major goals when young people come to our campus", said Wisneski. " We want the schools and organizations to look at SMU as a



SMU athletic director Jim Copland (right) presents personalized jersey to John Powell, Jr.

resource. But mostly, we want the kids to see that college is a reachable goal."

Since "SMU At Your Service" began in November 1995, more than 6,000 people representing 61 groups have made a total of 75 visits to the SMU campus. For more information call (214) 768-1650.

#### Rev. Smith retires

The Rev. Dr. CBT Smith, pastor of Golden Gate Missionary Baptist Church, 1101 Sabine Street, Dallas, is retiring after 45 years at the helm of Golden Gate and more than 50 years in the gospel ministry.

During his tenure, Dr. Smith was a staunch supporter of education and is well-known for his work on local, state and national levels.

Dr. Smith's friends and congregation will commerorate the historic occassion, with a 7:00 p.m. banquet on April 11, at the Fairmont Hotel, 1717 N. Akard Street in downtown Dallas. Events include a 6:30 p.m. reception with a video presentation and display of memorabilia from his more than 50 years in the ministry.

To ensure the success of the tribute,





Rev. Dr. C.B.T. Smith and wife.

organizers ask that all who wish to contribute do so prior to Sunday, April 13. Dr. Smith will deliver his retirement address, April 13 at Golden Gate during the 11:00 a.m. service.

For more information call the church at (214) 942-7474.

# Paul Quinn College partners new science education program

The Department of Psychiatry at UT Southwestern Medical Center and the Dallas Veterans Affairs Medical Center are joining hands with Paul Quinn College in a project seeking scientific information on the interaction between alcohol and depression.

The grant from the Department of Veteran Affairs is for special programs to promote African American and Hispanic science education. The project will allow the Dallas VA Medical Center and UT Southwestern researchers working there to share their expertise in medical research with students at Paul Quinn, historically a predominantly African American institution.

Funding will be provided for a postgraduate scientific internship for a recent Paul Quinn graduate, a faculty scholars program to enable Paul Quinn science faculty to receive training in scientific research, and an elective course in neuroscience available to science majors in their senior year.

For more information call UT Southwestern at (214) 648-3404 or the VA Medical Center at (214) 372-7000.

### TI awards minority businesses

During recent ceremonies, eighteen

minority and women owned businesses were recipeints of Dallas based Texas Instruments Suppliers Excellence Awards. Recipients were chosen for excellence in areas such as quality, delivery, price, service and the suppliers' wilingness to cooperate and be responstive to TI's needs. Some of the companies who received awards were All Temps Personnel Service, Inc., Century Electronics, Quality Solutions, Inc. and Smithford Products Company.

TI has taken a leaderhsip role in minority/women business development and vanguards with supplier/mentors relationships.

### Dr. Pepper names Sheryl Swoopes as spokesperson

Sheryl Swoopes, former first team basketball All America and captain from Texas Tech and Olympic Gold Medal winner, has been appointed by Dr. Pepper Co. as official spokesperson for the Pepper Challenge National Promotion.

The Pepper Challenge is a one day event based on the game of "HORSE" and will be staged in selected cities across the U.S. Youngsters will compete in their age group to spell "PEPPER." Winners



Sheryl Swoopes receives scholarship fund check from Helen Dorsey (left), manager-corporate affairs, Dr. Pepper/Seven Up and Alex Castle, v.p.-human resources, Dr. Pepper of Lubbock.

advance to the finals and receive prizes, including a year's aupply of Dr. Pepper and a basketball. A grand prize winner in each market wins an all-expense paid trip to an NBA All-Star game.

For more information contact Phillipa Dworkin, (214) 360-7691 or Gary Rollins, (214) 360-7817.

### Post Tribune sponsors essay contest

The Dallas Post Tribune will celebrate its 50th anniversary by sponsoring an essay contest for all high school juniors in the Metroplex with passing grades and plans to attend college.

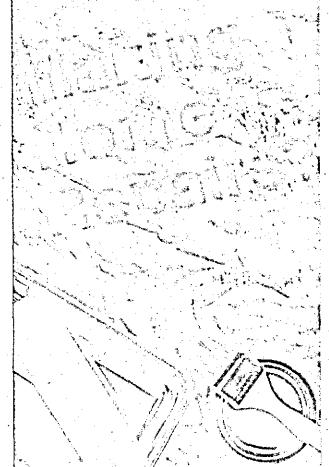
The essay subject is, "Why was the

black press born?" and "What is its value in 1997?" All essays should be typed, single-spaced, with a minimum length of 1-1/2 pages and a maximum of three pages.

Submit all entries to *The Dallas Post Tribune* by mail, fax or in person, attention Peggy Walker.

For more information, call (214) 946-





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# Why not a Black Jesus?

By Dr. Michael Bell

The Park Theatre of Union City, New Jersey did the historically correct thing in casting an African American to play Jesus in their Passion Play, which runs weekends through April 20. The decision to cast actor Desi Arnaz Giles as the Prince of Peace has generated considerable controversy. Some people have canceled their reservations. Death threats have been made. Why?

For umpteen years, no one has objected to the casting of African Americans in the roles of Judas or Beelzebub. We've said, "Yassah" when we were told that other than Judas, the only ebonyhued participant in Christ's passion was

Simon a Cyrenian, who helped the Lord carry his cross. Our grandmothers and grandfathers were made to believe that their skin was their sin, that because of something called the curse of Ham they were doomed remain at the bottom of the social, economic and political totem pole. Our ancestors were browbeaten by the out-

Noah's son Ham saw his drunken father's nakedness, he was cursed with dark skin. Thereby spawning an anathematized black race. Kenneth Waters Sr., pastor of Ver-

rageously racist fable that because

mont Square United Methodist Church in Los Angeles, deals with this in his book Afrocentric Sermons: The Beauty of Blackness in the Bible. Waters writes.

There is the story that everyone from Adam to Ham was white, but in the ninth chapter of Genesis, as the story goes, Noah allegedly cursed Ham and turned him black. Ham was already black. As a matter of fact, Noah was black. Ham's mother was black. And Ham's brothers Shem and Japheth, were also black. Everyone all the way to Adam and Eve was black. Instead of being a curse, being black is a blessing. It was God's will from the very beginning. Second, Noah's curse was not really upon Ham but upon Canaan, Ham's son. Although the Genesis text does not make this clear, Noah's

curse upon Canaan was for Canaan's disobedience (Genesis 9:25-27)... Still, some people have tried to make this Scripture explain why black people from Africa were made slaves in America. This Scripture has absolutely nothing to do with that. Black people in Africa became slaves in America because they were betrayed by white-skinned strangers who one day appeared on African shores.

I agree with Glenn Usry and Craig Keener, co-authors of the oftimes too tentative book, Black Man's Religion: Can Christianity Be Afrocentric, when they argue that it is "important for those who are alienated from white society to recognize that our first forebears in Christianity were not white Europeans... This is not to imply that anyone should think white Europeans are excluded from historic Christianity; it is rather to say that (in contrast to the view of some) Christianity did not start with and does not 'belong' to them." In other words,

Africans and people of African descent are not latecomers to Christianity. The truth is Jesus was African. Waters writes: "When I see Jesus, I see a dark-skinned Palestinian Jew of African descent. I see a black man."

Now I realize that this is a shock to some of you and I know what you are about to ask: "Dr. Bell, how do

know that Jesus was Black?" We have no problem with a blond, blue-eyed Aryanlooking Jesus but when the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth is told, it rocks our world. But, I will give you at least one piece of solid evidence that Jesus was a Black man. In Matthew 2 we read that Herod, the Butcher of Bethlehem, became hysterical when he heard of the birth of the Messiah. He ordered the wholesale murder of all children two and under. The bible says, "an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. 'Get up,' he said, 'take the child (Jesus) and his mother and escape to EGYPT.' So he (Joseph) got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for EGYPT" (Matthew 2:13-14, NIV). The angel of the Lord didn't give Joseph a trip-tick for Copenhagen, Berlin, London, or Rome. The instructions were clear "Escape to Egypt." Even Jerry Falwell and W.A. Criswell know that Egypt is in Africa. Most Egyptians could pass for Black by common U.S. definition, and many Egyptians are Black Africans by

anyone's definition. When Hollywood got ready to do the Anwar Sadat story they didn't cast Burt Lancaster or Charleton Heston in the lead, they cast Louis Gossett, Jr. Escape to Egypt! You can't hide in Egypt unless you look like the Egyptians.

A couple of years ago, an Anglo pastor of an Arlington, Texas church lamented to me that one of his buddies was despairing because he'd heard an African American theologian say that Jesus was Black. "They're taking away my Jesus," the man is purported to have moaned. Do you know how I responded? I picked up my coffee with my right hand, took a long sip, while looking across the table at my white pastor acquaintance, smiled and said nothing.

What if racist Jerry Falwell discovered that Jesus is Black? I just saw an ad for old videos of the Amos 'N' Andy show in the April 1997 edition of his

National Liberty Journal. Do you think the revelation of a Black Jesus would encourage Falwell's Christian commitment or spell grounds for spiritual divorce, and Jesus can keep the alimony? What would happen to all the pictures of a white Jesus in Black churches if we accepted the African identity of Christ?

Senator Robert Kennedy visited South Africa in 1966. Mandela was still in prison at the time. Apartheid ruled the day. On one occasion a white South African struck up a conversation with the senator and argued that the black person's inferior role was biblical. Kennedy then posed what must have been a numbing question. He asked: "What if we go to heaven and we, all our lives, have treated the Negro as an inferior, and God is there, and we look up and He is not white? What then is our response? Suppose God is Black!"

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### Publishers hold convention

### Gov. Bush, Rev. Davis keynote speakers

By Dorothy Gentry

Contributing Writer

Texas Publishers Association wire service

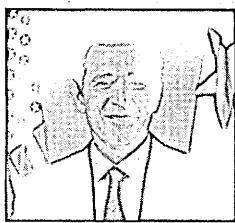
AUSTIN—Gov. George Bush and the Rev. Denny Davis, pastor of the St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Grand Prairie, Texas, are headlining the 11th annual convention of the Texas Publishers Association.

"The Black Press in Transition" is the theme of this year's convention, which will be held April 11-12 (Friday and Saturday) at the Doubletree Hotel in downtown Austin.

"We are pleased to have two very informative and intelligent speakers join the TPA in celebration of the black press," says TPA president Thurman Jones, publisher of Dallas' Minority Opportunity News. "Our participants are in for an energizing and enjoyable weekend."

Gov. Bush, in the third year of a fouryear term as governor of Texas, has earned a reputation as a principled conservative who shapes policy based on his beliefs in limited government, personal responsibility, strong families and local control. He is scheduled to speak at the Friday night opening reception

Rev. Davis is the dynamic young pastor of St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Grand Prairie, a suburb of Dallas. In the five years that Rev. Davis has



Gov. George Bush has earned the reputation as a conservative who believes in limited government, personal responsibility, strong families and local control. He has been instrumental in curbing lawsuit abuse, providing local control of schools, strengthening juvenile and criminal justice laws and reforming welfare. led St. John, membership has increased from a little over 200 to more than 4,000, and has more than 60 active church ministries. Rev. Davis is also director general of the Fellowship District Congress of Christian Workers and is corresponding secretary of the State Congress of Christian Workers, Missionary Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Rev. Davis is scheduled to give the Saturday morning Prayer Breakfast keynote speech.

Other speakers slated to appear throughout the weekend are Houston Rep. Ron Wilson and Dallas' Yvonne Davis and Helen Giddings.

The TPA is an organization that represents 22 of the 35 African American newspapers in Texas. It boasts a combined readership of more than 10 million African Americans throughout the state.

Member publications are The African Herald (Dallas); Austin Sun; Capital City Argus (Austin); Cherokee County Monthly Informer (Rusk); Dallas Examiner; Dallas Post Tribune; East Texas Ebony Journal; The Examiner (Corsicana); The Guardian (Texarkana); Houston Informer; Houston NewsPages; Houston Sun; LaVida News (Fort Worth); Minority Opportunity News (Dallas); Nakoa—The Observer (Austin); North Texas Journal (Wichita Falls); The San Antonio Observer; Smith County Herald (Tyler); SNAP News (San Antonio); South



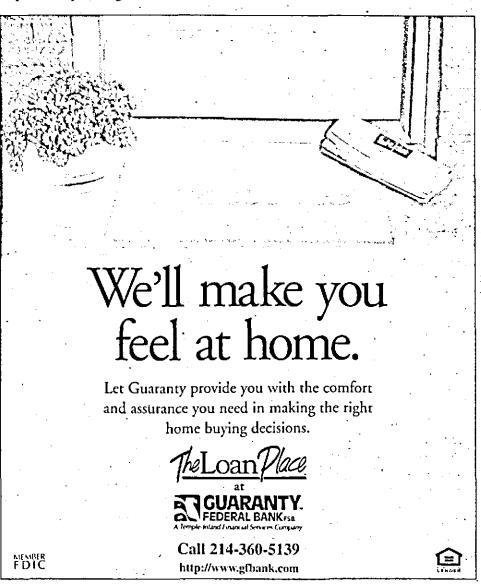
The Rev. Denny Davis is a young, dynamic pastor who has sparked remarkable growth at St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Grand Prairie.

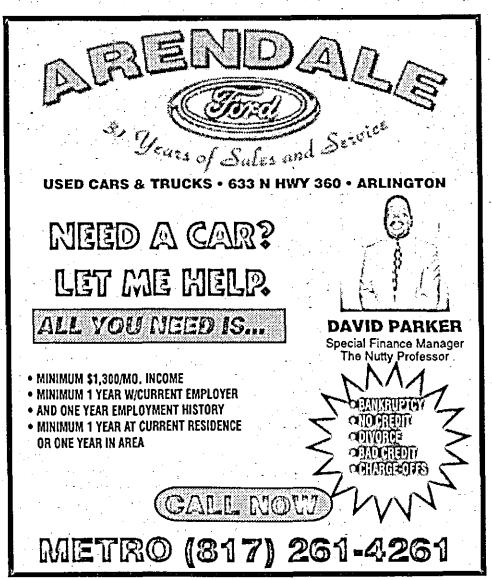
Texas Informer (Corpus Christi); The Tyler Leader & Record Magazine; and The Villager (Austin).

Officers of the TPA are Thurman Jones, president, MON; Francis Page, Sr., vice president, Houston NewsPages; Dr. Ted Lee, parliamentarian, Dallas Post Tribune; Mollie Belt, secretary, Dallas Examiner; and Rhonda Pruitt, treasurer, The Lavida News.

TPA has secured a grant from AT&T which will enable TPA member publications to upgrade their electronic systems and enable TPA to award scholarships.

For more information on the TPA convention, call Mr. Jim Bochum, event coordinator, at 214-606-3878 or 972-644-3465.





### The Wolasses Trade

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

After 1588, the events leading up to the rum and molasses trade were these:

England, with Sir John Hawkins (1532-1595), had taken the lead in the slave trade. Originally, the Royal African Company had the monopoly but it was unable to meet the demand. Parliament ordered the trade opened to all British ships "for the well-supplying of the plantations and colonies

with sufficient numbers of blacks at reasonable prices." New England Yankees. who had inherited the maritime spirit their

From sugar cane to molasses to rum to the slave tradethese were the ingredients that led to the American Revo-Island. lution.

entered

mother-

now

this trade with such zest, that they soon became rivals of the English merchants. The Yankees had discovered that molasses, the best article for making rum, was either being fed to the hogs or thrown away in the French sugar islands of the Caribbean, and therefore could be obtained very cheaply. (The molasses trade, in turn, gave impetus to other New England industries such as distilling, fishing, shipbuilding, lumber and horse and cattle rearing.)

In 1708, Governor Cranston, of Rhode Island reported that his colony had built 103 ships since 1698, to be engaged in the molasses, rum, and slave trade. In 1749, Boston had 469 ships tied to the slave trade. (\*G.F. Dow, has a special chapter on American ships engaged in the trade in his book, Slave Ships and Slaving.)

"The New England merchants," says Louis B. Wright (Colonial Civilization of North America), "had discovered two commodities which enriched them and their ports, rum and slaves."

New England became commercially dominant in the New World, even though she had very few slaves herself. The climate and agriculture did not make them profitable. In 1776, the six New England colonies had only 16,034 slaves as compared with nearly 300,000, in Virginia alone. Her type of industry catered to indentured white servants, who were semi-slaves and more profitable. In 1652, Rhode Island abolished black slavery, not

for humane reasons but because what she gained locally from it was trifling in comparison with what she made from the trade.

This was the procedure. New England ships with their cargo of rum would sail to West Africa, where they would exchange it for slaves, and such articles they could pick up as gold dust and ivory, then to the West Indies where they disposed of them at high profit, then return with molasses for more rum, then again to Africa. This was known as the Triangular (or Three-Cornered) Trade

> and there were no less than six different triangle trade routes co-existing at the same time. Distilling

became the chief home industry of New England, especially of Massachusetts and Rhode

There were

hundreds of distillers. Boston with her then small population alone had 63. Still they could not keep pace with the demand. Dow says, "Molasses was the all-important feature of the slaving trade, which required rum as a means of barter for slaves, for without molasses there could be no New England rum."

"Molasses" James Parton, states in his book, Life of Franklin, "was the basis on which a great part of the commerce of America rested.<sup>^</sup>

New England made better rum, sold it cheaper, and pushed it so energetically that it began to displace English rum and even French brandy.

Yankee success galled not only the slave-trading moguls of Bristol and Liverpool (in England), but the British government itself. Under the Assiento of 1713, England had the monopoly of supplying slaves to the Spanish colonies of the New World.

To make it still worse, the Americans, with their trade, were helping to develop the colonies of their great rival, France. The British West Indies planters who were especially angry, joined with the England opposition in demanding that Americans either be prohibited from using foreign molasses or from making rum. They presented a petition to Parliament urging an "Act for the better securing and encouraging the trade of His Majesty's Sugar Colonies in America."

In 1733, Parliament passed the Molasses Act, placing a duty of sixpence (about 30 cents) on each gallon of import-

ed molasses. This was not all. The molasses of the British West Indies was already twenty cents a gallon more than the French product. Then there was the export duty on the British molasses, making the cost of molasses to the Americans double what they had been paying. To make it still worse, the British islands were poorer and could buy more of the cheaper French goods than from New England. Moreover, the British islands did not produce enough to even come close to supplying the American

The Americans saw ruin ahead. They called the Molasses Act "atrocious discrimination." The Rhode Island Assembly sent a strong "remonstrance" to King George II of England. The colony, it said, had one hundred and fifty vessels engaged in the West India trade and imported "14,000 hogsheads of molasses whereof a quantity not exceeding 2,500 hogsheads" came from the British Islands.

Massachusetts was equally indignant. Most of her distilleries would have to be closed; seven hundred ships, including fishing ones, would have to be tied up, and some five thousand sailors thrown out of work. Most of New England's industry, including fishing, was tied to the slave trade. "The Act," said Woodrow Wilson (28th president of the

U.S.) in his history of the United States, "cut at the very heart of New England trade... For a vast majority of the merchants, the Act meant financial ruin." Governors of other states, including Colden of New York and Franklin of New Jersey joined in the protest.

F.W. Pittman, in his "Development of the British West Indies," (1917), states, "The West Indies Molasses Industry had established several substantial foundations in the realm of economic life for the great discontent which culminated in the American Revolution."

The entire molasses output of the British islands did not equal two-thirds of the quantity imported into Rhode Island alone, Moreover, the prices of the British planters were 25 to 40 percent higher than the foreign islands. This in addition to the heavy export duty, as was said.

"The terms of the Molasses Act were so drastic," says Albert Bushnell Hart, professor of history at Harvard and author of Commonwealth History of Massachusetts, that the evasion seemed justifiable."

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

### The Molasses Trade: The Other Acts

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

Smugglers operated in areas less frequented by the English patrols. And, of course, there was much collusion with the English revenue agents.

In 1764, The Peace of Paris had just ended Britain's long war with France and Spain and she was badly in need of revenue to pay her huge national debt. America, at peace, had been growing more and more prosperous. Visitors to America took back to Europe glowing tales of the wealth of its upper-class.

The English press and Parliament demanded that America be made to help bear the burden. The Molasses Act, now called the Sugar Act, was revived. Britain sent out 27 warships to patrol the New England coast and soldiers and revenue agents to enforce the Act.

American shipping and general commerce at once felt the effect. The cities of Providence and Medford, R.I., suffered heavily. So did other cities as far south as Charleston, S.C.

American defiance grew.

The Molasses and Sugar Acts had struck directly at the slave merchants and at the general population only indirectly. But the Stamp Act and the tax on tea affected all, especially the masses, and were thus much more effective issues for capturing general discontent. The underlying irritant, however, was still the rivalry between the slave moguls of New England and those of Bristol and Liverpool. Proof is that the cry for independence continued even after the repeal of the Stamp Act. (John Adams' statement that "molasses was an essential ingredient in American independence," was written 35 years after that event.) In his letter to John Tudor on August 11, 1818, he shows how economics, far more than pure patriotism, stirred Americans of his day.

Concerning the rides of Paul Revere and William Dawes, there was nothing in the plan of the patriots who sent them to cause immediate resistance to the British forces or to precipitate war. They were sent out quietly to warn John Hancock to flee and escape military arrest and also to tell the patriots in those towns to hide their military stores.

One item the Americans wished particularly to keep out of the hands of the British was rum. The British were seizing all they could of it, not only to hurt America's slave trade but also because rum was then an important item in the British

continued next page

#### Ethnic Hotes Contid

#### continued from previous page.

soldiers' rations. It is significant that Reveres' first stop was at the home of one of the biggest distillers, Isaac Hall, who was also captain of the Medford Minute Men. Frank W. Blair, (New York Times, May 2, 1925), thinks that Hall gave Revere a shot of rum that really sped him on his way. Justin Winsor, the foremost American historian of his time, says that the popular version of Revere's ride "paid little attention to the exactness of fact." Hall was what we would call a bootlegger.

"It was the profit from the sale of Africans and the wealth they produced that was the underlying cause of the Revolution."

Suppose the Americans hadn't discovered Africa and the Africans as a source of wealth and had remained a

poor colony? Would Britain have singled them out for such crushing taxation? And even if she did, would America have been financially strong enough to beat Britain?

The wealth of the New England families was founded on the slave trade. John Hancock, the great patriot, made his fortune as a slave smuggler. F. W. Taussig, in his book *Rum*, *Romance*, and *Rebellion*, names several of these families. Colonel Isaac Royall, who gave 2,000 acres of land to Harvard University, made his money that way, too.

The Americans did not rebel principally because of taxes, but from the arrogance and conceit bred into them from the enslavement of blacks. It seemed to be a way for them to compensate for their own lowly, despised origin, and had grown so overbearing, so quick to respond in anger and violence, that they could no longer submit to authority. Get those PROFITS — Moving!

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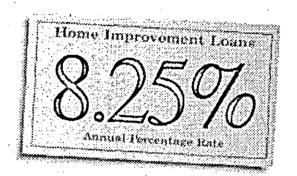
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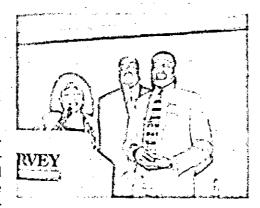
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### MON wins at NABJ Awards Banquet

Photos by Wallace Faggett

Somebody wise once said, "A picture is worth a thousand words." In keeping with that age-old adage, MON will let the pictures do the talking about some of the winners at the National Association of Black Journalists Region VII Conference awards banquet held on Saturday night, March 22, at the Harvey Hotel-Brookhollow here in Dallas.

Iola Johnson of radio station KKDA (Soul 73) and Steve Crocker of Fox-4 served as master and mistress of cere-



Jamle Webb, Townview Magnet Center, receives her MAAT for student news reporting. To her right are Steve Crocker and Iola Johnson.

nity College District; and Jesse Hornbuckle and Voncile Mayes, Our Texas.

And congratulations to all other winners and nominees.

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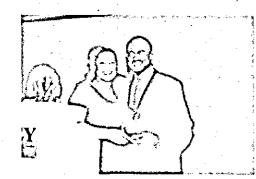
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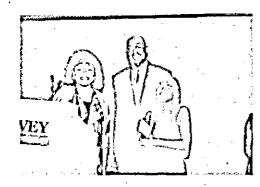


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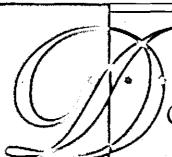




Editor Chris Pryer (top) accepts a MATT Award for MON's special November elections Issue. Cheryl Smith, who won a MAAT for her KKDA-AM radio talk show presents a lifetime achievement award to Emerge magazine editor George Curry.

monies for the evening.

While excited about its MAAT Award for special section publishing and our columnist Cheryl Smith's award for her radio talk show, MON would like to take this time to say congratulations to some of the other winners: Roland Martin, KKDA; Gemeral Berry, Our Texas magazine; Kevin Lyons, Fort Worth Star-Telegram; Jamie Webb, Townview Magnet Center; Dwain Price, Dallas Weekly; E. Lyle Henderson, Dallas County Commu-



### ON'T BE LEFT BEHIND.

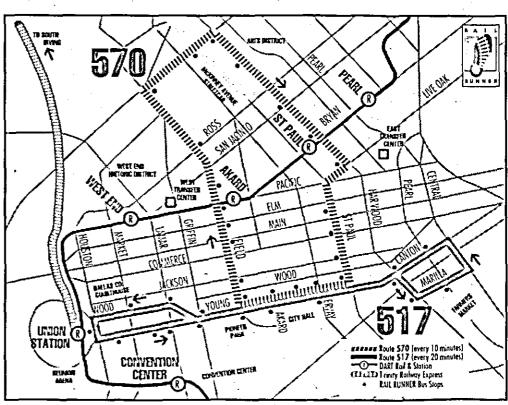
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Get around downtown Dallas aboard the new RAIL RUNNER bus service (Routes 517 and 570). Catch it at a close stop by Akard Station, St. Paul Station or Union Station. The schedules are timed to link directly with rail. Call (214) 979-1111 for details.

# 

By Glenda Williams Goodson

# Should the

# CINUIPCIN

pick

up the

Slack?

n August 22, 1996, President Clinton signed The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (P.L.104-193), hailed as a comprehensive bipartisan welfare reform plan that will dramatically change the nation's welfare system. Strict requirements for work in exchange for time limited assistance will usher in unprecedented transformation in the manner states disburse assistance. Have you every wondered how the Act might affect you or someone you know? Department of Health and Human Services figures show that the average monthly number of children receiving Aid for Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) benefits was 3.3 million in

The response of the public oscillates between feelings that a return to family values will make for a better America or that the Act is part of an insidious strategy to further encroach upon hard-won civil rights gains.

1965 and estimate that 12 million will receive AFDC

benefits within 10 years.

There are solid arguments on both side. In a shrinking global marketplace, all right-thinking individuals (no pun intended) agree that America needs a strong work ethic. A system for comprehensive child support enforcement would also be welcomed. What troubles many who champion the cause of the disenfranchised is that the spirit of the initiative remains questionable.

What are the churches doing to systematically assist those in need? The answer may lie in the Ghanian term "Sonkofa," which means "to return to the past and fortify yourself in order to go forward."

The African American church holds the highest allegiance of any institution in the community and its response to welfare reform is key. Rev. Zan Holmes, of St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church, says that "the government has a responsibility to those living on the margins...churches and other nonprofits will be overwhelmed..."

Nevertheless, the President and Congress have placed the ball back into the states' hands. Some churches and organizations have been quick to respond to those affected.

On one side widows uneasily contemplate the consequences of welfare reform legislation. Then there is the middle class arrogance of Republican leadership. In what is seen as bleary-eyed cynicism, leaders recently directed spin masters to conduct "Oprah-style" town hall meetings designed to parade selected welfare reform success stories.

Politicians have a history of legislative schizophrenia and both support and assail those in need of assistance. Federal officials are gearing up for the biggest change in social policy since the Social Security Act of 1935. The original implementation of entitlement programs provided for widows with children to receive

government assistance. As the entitlement program expanded the name was appropriately changed to Aid to Families with Dependents.

Government officials charged with the task of overseeing the program do not see the new law as having a particularly detrimental effect and see their role as promoting partnership between states to assist the transfer from welfare to work. In an interview with MON, Mae Saulter of the Region VI Administration for Children and Families explained, "The mission of the program will remain...to promote the economic and social well-being of families..."

Government officials insist that they do not anticipate that any individual needing assistance will fall through the cracks. The Act places the emphasis on temporary assistance with the caveat that recipients must work after two years, with few exceptions. States have until July 1 of this year to submit plans to the federal government's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families. States can match annual federal grants and provide funds up to a maximum of sixty months for the lifetime of the individual. According to one government official, "When that money is gone, it's gone."

Here's how the system would work. AID FOR FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN (AFDC) would be a state entitlement. A 17-year-old woman with a child would be entitled to monthly benefits for that child as long as program requirements were met. Conceivably, if she had more children, she could continue to receive benefits until the youngest child reaches the cut-off age. There is no individual guarantee of benefits. States cannot use federal funds to provide assistance to families who have received cash assistance for 5 cumulative years (or less at state's option). The woman now has a maximum lifetime assistance for only 60 months after which there are zero dollars

forthcoming.

The Teen Parent Provisions require unmarried minor parents to live with an adult or in an adultsupervised setting and participate in educational and

training activities in order to receive assistance

It is now up to the states to choose how much and for how long they wish to administer benefits up to a maximum of 60 months. For example, in Texas, persons with recent work expe-

rience plus a high school diploma or GED can only receive 12 months assistance. Persons with zero work experience and no high school diploma will receive only 36 months assistance.

The Region VI Administration for Children and Families, according to Mae Saulter, will "...assess (the states) procedures and provide technical support...if any problems arise" and adds that there are increased dollars for child care.

One of the most sweeping changes is that it establishes a Federal Case Registry and National Directory of New Hires to track delinquent parents across state lines. It also streamlines the legal process, making it easier and faster to establish paternities. Individuals who fail to cooperate with paternity establishment will have their monthly cash assistance reduced by at least 25 percent.4

Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson says, that bloody political wars notwithstanding, "Most individuals do not want to be on welfare" and pointedly observes that "the average persons stays on for two and one-half years." She

### "I looked at it [welfare reform] as very negative. Then I thought that it was one way organizations could step up to the call."

——Janet Ball Odom, pastor, Lambuth United Methodist Church

wants voters to look at this law and observe that two myths need to be destroyed: 1) The color of welfare is

See WELFARE next page

#### WELFARE from page 15"

black and brown (African Americans are the third population in America. Sandwiched between the coded language of politicians is "them versus us" rhetoric steeped in racism and classism) and 2) states will administer block grants equitably (Johnson sees a reversal in progress. Racism initially caused the federal govemment to take over the programs).

Johnson says that "we don't want 50 plantations" and feels that nothing has happened to change a historically racist atmosphere. "There is no market for persons (who do not utilize their rights to vote) but we can yet focus on training and education."

Section 104(a)(1) of the new Welfare Act provides that "A state may (A) administer and provide services under the programs described...through contracts with charitable, religious or private organizations. In a March 17, 1997, article in the Wall Street Journal entitled, "In God's Name," writer Dana Milbank reports that the state of Michigan has told welfare officials to start "reaching out to...faith-based organizations for help" in guiding people...back into the mainstream. By securing no bid contracts from the State, the Spring Lake Presbyterian Church's "Project Zero" has stepped in with mentoring/jobs training to welfare recipients in an effort to pare welfare rolls down to zero.

Some Dallas area churches and affiliated groups are a step ahead and have

creatively partnered with non-profit and commercial entities to offer support in effectuating change within the community.

When the City of Dallas hosted the World Soccer Cup officials told the Cliff View Church of Christ to stop feeding the I-30 homeless. Pastor Aaron Day and his congregation vowed not to be defeated.

"We wanted to obey God's command," says volunteers Martha Day and Brenda Mays. They contacted the North Texas Food Bank for guidance and the brothers renovated the garage into a bright new food clearinghouse.

"Genita Darlington, Branch Manager of Wells Fargo on Ledbetter noticed our efforts and they gave us a grant of \$2,000 and Comerica also gave \$200."

The food is purchased at 14 cents per pound from the food bank. Distribution is a team effort: volunteers sign up weekly to help make pick ups while others staff the store.

When MON visited the center on a recent wintry Saturday an eighty-two year old came because she had not been recertified for food stamps.

The 10 minute screening process required her to have a valid Texas driver's license or social security number and complete a household questionnaire. Volunteers then filled six bags with everything from sugar to canned vegetables to wheat bread.

James Mays is the pantry director pantry. The Mayses are owners of three

Williams Chicken stores and feel it is necessary to minister to the less fortunate.

When Pastor Janet Bell Odom of Lambuth United Methodist Church first heard about the Act, he said, "I looked at it as very negative. Then I thought that it was one way organizations could step up to the call."

Lambuth Methodist feels that the church is in the community to serve and has adopted families. Says Pastor Odom: "One of the houses across the street from the church was condemned...and they didn't want to leave. Lambuth found an agency...and a builder...who renovated the whole house and moved them in. Neighbors next door began to paint, the people across the street started cleaning up, etc."

The African American Pastors Coalition feels that financial ministry provides empowerment and are making headway in their press forward. At the recent Common Ground Credit Union press conference, Guardian Savings presented the CU with a \$100,000 deposit. State Representative Garnet Coleman, of Houston, and Guardian's Regional Manager Pamela Willams contacted Congresswoman Johnson for suggestions on where the institution could make a financial impact upon the community. Johnson was aware of AAPC's activities, thought that the South Dallas African American controlled CU could use a cash infusion and passed along Common Ground's name. Common Ground's board of directors boast an ecumenical mix of pastors and financial professions. Charles English, chairman of the board, and AAPC's President Rev. Zan Holmes believe "[the churches] have a mandate to provide leadership in every area of community service and economic development is one of the keystones that church leaders should look into..."

State Representative Coleman feels the move makes good business sense. "Why place a nickel in a bucket of millions when the \$100,000 could mean loans of up to \$300,000 for this community?...and Common Ground could refer persons with mortgage needs to Guardian Savings."

African American churches realize that God is the special Protector of the needy. Dallas' pastors and churches are reaching back and continuing in the traditions of our foreparents by taking steps to care for their own. Rev. Holmes urges other leaders to "Go thou and do likewise..."

MON

(1) HHS Fact Sheet, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 8/22/96

(2) Comparison of Prior Law and the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act Of 1996 (P.L. 104-193) U.S. DHHS

(3) Ibid



# Church Life. Family Style.

Family. It's a word that brings back lots of memories. Home movies.

Vacations. Sunday dinners.

And now that you have your own family, you're making memories too. Memories your children will cherish forever.

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#### Dallas Area African American United Methodist Churches

Camp Wisdom, 1300 Camp Wisdom Rd., Dallas 75232 • 972-224-4556 Crest Moore King, 4501 S. Marsalis Ave., Dallas 75216 • 214-372-0522 Glen Oaks, 4607 S. Polk St., Dallas 75232 • 214-376-6404 God's Kingdom, 701 Short St., Ferris 75125 Hamilton Park, 11881 Schroeder Rd., Dallas 75243 • 214-235-4633 Highland Hills, 6006 Flagstaff Dr., Dallas 75241 • 214-225-1096 Jubilce Fellowship, 301 Frank Keasler Bhd., Duncanville 75116 • 972-283-2264 Lambuth, 4350 Bonnie View Rd., Dallas 785216 • 214-375-4261
Pleasant Grove Fellowship, 8301 Bruton Rd., Dallas 75217 • 214-225-5223
St. Luke's "Community," 5710 E. RL Thornton Frwy., Dallas 75223 • 214-821-2970
St. Paul, 1816 Routh St., Dallas 75201 • 214-922-0000
Warren, 2801 Peabody Ave., Dallas 75215 • 214-128-6240
Warren Chapel, 810 South Adelaide St., Terrell 75160 • 214-563-7392

### April 1

The St. Anthony's Community Center, 3714 Metropolitan, Dallas, is currently enrolling children for its first Summer Enrichment Program. The program begins June 9-August 1 from 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Activities include academic classes, recreation and field trips. A 50% discount towards the registration fee is currently being offered. The registration rent resume and a list of 40 songs that you fee plus one week's tuition must be would play on the air to: DJ Applications, received by April 21. For more information call Isia Mornes at (214) 421-2324.

Applications are currently being accepted for The North Hills School, a tuitionfree public charter school for children a six week FREE Kids Series beginning entering grades 5-8 who are interested in April 4 through May 15. Admission to the academic excellence. Classes begin in August. Call (972) 650-7112 for applica- \$1.00 for adults accompanying kids. The tions or more information.

A U.S. Government Auction offering vehicles, office furniture, heavy machinery, food servicing equipment, tents, clothing and more will be held 9:30 a.m., pany at (214) 701-9434 or participating April 3 at the General Services Commission, 2826 North Beach St., Fort Worth, Texas. Items can be inspected April 1-2 from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and 8:00-9:00 April 5 a.m. the day of the sale. The sale is open to the public. For more information call (817) 978-2352.

### April 3

The Parole Division of the Texas Depart- Urban League, 3625 North Hall Street, April 7 ment of Criminal Justice will host its Sec- Suite 700. For more information call ond Annual Client Employment Oppor- Clarene Whitfield or Louise Wilson at tunity Fair at the Grand Place on the State (214) 528-8038. Fair of Texas grounds. For more information call Cornelius Moore or Don Hen- The North Hills School, Dallas' newest its 17th Annual Outstanding Volunteer of drix at (214) 428-8338.

graph her novel, So Good, today at Black O'Connor Blvd., Irving. Tour the Studios information call Julie Clapp at (214) 826-Images Book Bazaar, 230 Wynnewood at Las Colinas and see how movies are 6767, extension 242.

## **Around Town**

Village, Dallas, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. For made and participate in a silent auction more information call (214) 943-0142.

### April 4

Be a Volunteer DJ. The North Texas Music Foundation is looking for 80 volunteers to play music on the radio. No radio experience is necessary. Send a curc/o North Texas Music Foundation, PO Box 852648, Richardson, TX 75085-2648. For more information call (214) 651-7588.

Sony Theatres/Loews Theatres presents series is free for kids 12 and under and series will be held at the following theaters: Sony Chisholm Plano, Sony Lincoln Square, Sony Cityplace, Sony 20 & 287 and Loews Keystone Park. For more information call the GaylerSmith Com-

The Dallas Urban League unlocks the key to home ownership at a Home Buyer Seminar sponsored in conjunction with NationsBank. The seminar, which is free and open to the public, will be held today from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the Dallas

for exciting items. Tickets are \$25 and proceeds benefit the North Hills School. The Law Offices of Renee Higginbotham-For more information call Luisa Piette at

Don't miss the LGA Coed Celebrity Golf Tournament hosted by radio and television personalities, Willis Johnson and Sandra Daniels at the Sherrill Park Golf Course in Richardson, Texas. A \$55 entry fee includes green fees, cart, lunch and prizes. Tee times begin at 11:00 a.m. For more information call the LGA Hotline at (972) 271-6244.

A fitness competition and Olympic- The 34th National Black Evangelical styled "Senior Games" sponsored by the Dallas Parks and Recreation Department begins today. The "Senior Games" feature more than 25 leisure and fitness events for participants ages 50 and older from North Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. For more information call Carol Lucas at (214) 670-6626.

Attitudes and Attire and Pearl C. Anderson Middle Learning Center present Parent and Family Development Day, 'Spring Into Action," 10:00 a.m. at the school located at 3400 Garden Lane, Dallas. For more information call Tracy Horton at (214) 565-6835 or Lyn Berman at (214) 630-1667.

The Volunteer Center of Dallas will \*\*\*\*\* showcase the impact of community involvement by honoring volunteers at charter school, invites you to "A Galaxy the Year Awards Celebration, 12:00 noon, of Fun!" April 5 from 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. April 7, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Dal-Venise Berry will read from and auto- at the Studios at Las Colinas, 6301 N. las. To make reservations or for more

Brooks and the Arlington Chapter of the NAACP will co-sponsor a series of free legal clinics at the Central United Church of Christ, 1130 West Division in Arlington. In addition to a workshop held March 25, other workshops will be held April 8 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. and April 26 from 10:00-12:00 a.m. and address a wide range of legal issues. For more information call 1-800-498-0106 or (817) 334-0106.

### April 9

Association will hold its 1997 Convention, April 9-12 at the Dallas Grand Hotel located in downtown Dallas. The convention provides an interdenominational and diverse ministry setting that will explore provocative ministry innovations. All sessions are open to the public. For more information call (503) 288-8550.

### April 11

A group of holistic specialists will discuss alternative methods of health maintenance during a 90 minute seminar at Stephanie's Collection, 6955 Greenville from 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing to take advantage of free chair massages, yoga demonstrations, and one-on-one fitness sessions. The event is free and open to the public. Please RSVP by calling (214)

Soul Rep presents "Women in Exile," a new play adapted from Mahnaz Afkami's novel about international women in exile due to their political and feminist activism in their homeland. The play, which is suitable for adults only, will run April 11-13 and April 18-20 at the African American Museum, Fair Park Dallas.

#### Around Town cont'd

Tickets are \$10.00. For more information call Soul Rep at (214) 565-0186 or the museum at (214) 565-9026.

The Family Place and the Metrocrest Help Center presents the Metrofest Family Concert Series, 7:30 p.m., April 11 and 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., April 12 at the Plaza Theatre in Old Downtown Carrollton. Tickets can be purchased by calling (214) 443-7764. Proceeds from the event benefit the Metrocrest Help Center, an outreach program of the Family Place, a Dallas-based nonprofit organization serving victims of domestic violence. For more information call Carole Smith at (972) 716-1446.

### April 13

V-100 presents Erykah Badu in concert at the Caravan of Dreams. Tickets to the 8:00 p.m. performance are \$23.00. For more information call (817) 877-3000.

### April 14

The Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing Arts presents a Cultural Arts Maskout Exhibit, April 14-25 at the Dallas Museum of Art. For more information call (214) 720-7300.

### April 17

The Child Abuse Prevention Coalition of Dallas is sponsoring a training seminar, "Child Abuse: Everybody's Business," from 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Nolan Estes Plaza, 3434 South R.L. Thornton Freeway in Training Room 3. The seminar is designed for church leaders and other members of religious organizations, but anyone who is interested is welcome. To make a reservation or for more information call Martha Stowe at (214) 590-4461.

#### April 19

The Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is hosting its second annual "Teen Town Hall Meetschool related issues and youth employment opportunities. For more information call (972) 394-2598 or (214) 428-7400. Seating is limited.

Y.O.U.T.H. 2 Y.O.U.T.H. Inc. is holding a special appreciation service for Mr. Derrick Spillman, founder and director of EVOLUTIONS choir, (formerly Next Generations Youth Choir), 6:00 p.m. at the Greater Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, 1403 Morrell Ave., Dallas. For more information call (972) 228-4593.

The West Dallas Multipurpose Center invites you to its fourth annual "West Dallas Health and Fun Fair" today from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at the center, 2828 Fish Trap Road, Dallas. FREE health screenings are available for diabetes, blood pressure, vision/glaucoma, body fat level as well as breast and pap exams, immunizations and more. For more information call (214) 670-6340.

The U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is hosting a Homebuyer's Event from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at the Dallas Convention Center, downtown Dallas. The event is designed to help the community by educating them on the viability of home ownership.

### April 22

Born To Sing, a national touring theater production starring Shirley Ceasar and Stephanie Mills, will open in the Naomi Burton Main Theater, 650 S. Griffin St., Dallas. April 22-27, with performances at 8:00 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, Saturday and Sunday 3:00 p.m. matinee and Sunday night at 7:30 p.m. For tickets call the JBAAL Box Office at (214) 658-7147 or Ticketmasters (214) 373-8000.

#### April 25

The Southern Dallas Development Corporation (SDDC) is hosting its Annual Southern Southern Dallas Entrepreneuring," at Dallas City Hall from 9:00 a.m.- ial Institute (SDEI) April 25 from 5:00-12:00 noon. The event will focus on 7:00 p.m. and April 26 from 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. The SDEI focuses on increasing the level of business management and assistance available to minority entrepreneurs. The registration fee is \$50 before April 15 and \$75 afterwards. For more information call (214) 428-7332.

#### April 26

The Third Eye, 2503 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Dallas presents their Twelfth Annual Spring Rising, 6:00 p.m. at the Junior Black Academy of Arts & Letters, 650 S. Griffin, downtown Dallas. Dr. Asa G. Hilliard III will speak on "Cultural Genocide: The Miseducation of African Youth." For more information call (214)

Jeanette Robinson, author of The Plea- May 3 sure Program: The Lifestyle and Weight Management Guide for Busy People, will appear today at Black Images Book Bazaar, 230 Wynnewood Village, Dallas, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. For more information call (214) 943-0142.

#### April 27

The Central - H.B. Pemberton High School 1997 Mass Class Reunion Committee will hold their monthly meeting 4:00 p.m. today at Good Street Baptist Church, 3110 Bonnie View, Dallas. Reunion participants can register early for a discounted price. For more information call Mayme Brooks at (214) 376-5881 or Gloria Graham at (972) 223-9355.

### April 28

Susan Taylor and spouse Khephra Burns team up today at Black Images Book Bazaar, 230 Wynnewood Village, Dallas,

from 6:00-8:00 p.m. to sign their new book, Confirmation: The Spiritual Wisdom That Shaped Our Lives. For more information call (214) 943-0142.

#### April 29

A catalogue listing 109 tracts of forfeited state land reserved exclusively for bids from Texas veterans is now available from the Texas Veterans Land Board (VLB). Bids will be opened April 29, 1997 at 1:00 p.m. The catalogue, which contains bidding instructions and a detailed description of each tract can be ordered by calling 1-800-252-VETS. For more information call Ron Calhoun or Steve Speir at (512) 463-5339.

The Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing Arts presents its Senior Dance Show. For more information call (214) 720-7300.

The African American Museum, Fair Park, Dallas, presents its 13th Annual Ball and Auction, "Ode to Motown," at the Fairmont Hotel, 1717 N. Akard, Dallas. Cocktails and Silent Auction begin at 6:00 p.m. For ticket information call JoAnn Brown at the museum, (214) 565-9026, ext. 308.

Cinco De Mayo Celebration - Fair Park -Saturday, May 3 and Sunday, May 4. For more information call: Marcos Rincon at (214) 750-0670.

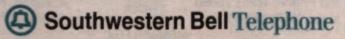
#### ATTENTION:

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

> Minority Opportunity News 2730 Stemmons Frwy 1202 Tower West Dallas, TX 75207 (214) 905-0949 Fax

# "Southwestern Bell is the one to call on in Texas."

Southwestern Bell Telephone is proud to serve our customers in Texas. We can also provide solutions to your communications needs. That's because our services make it easier to stay in touch throughout your busy day. At work ... or at home. So no matter what you need, there's only one call you need to make. We're the one to call on in Texas.





Angela Washington-Blair

### Color Search: African American History for Everyone

By Angela W. Harper and McClinton E. Neal (Morris Publishing/\$12.95)

This little gem of a book is packed with history. Not just trivia, but actual facts and figures. Color Search: African American History for Everyone is not merely a history book, but an activity book as well. Since we learn by doing as well as by reading, Color Search will provide an opportunity to do both.

This slim little volume written by two local authors and self-published, is jam-packed with information. At a mere 118 pages, this book doesn't waste an inch of space. There are 46 puzzles covering 34 broad topics (with 1200 different people, places, things)—some of the topics are covered in 2 or 3 puzzles. Each puzzle follows the same format: on the left page there are names, birth and death dates (or dates of establishment as in the case of a college), and descriptions. On the right page facing that is the puzzle and a list of terms or proper names. There are a few exceptions-some puzzles do not have the corresponding history. Topics include: Early African Ancestry, Baseball, Basketball, Business, Blues and Jazz Artists, Fashion and Beauty, Historical Black Colleges, Inventions, Law and Government, Plays, Religion, and Visual Arts, to name a few.. Celebrities and people who did not have descriptions were listed in their section under "honorable mention." At the end of the book are the solutions to the puzzles, as well as ordering information for multi-copies for a group. There is even a bibliography and an index.

In a recent interview, I asked one of the co-authors, McClinton E. Neal (who, by the way, participated in track events at the Olympics in Barcelona, Spain) to share what they hoped to achieve by publishing this book. Neal, articulate and enthusiastic, said that "we wanted to combine entertainment with learning. What we have here is just the tip of the iceberg. But it shows a diversity of African American contributions. All people, no matter the color, can learn and see the positive about our culture. Our book is not too overbearing, so young and old alike will be able to read it and work the puzzles."

Continuing on this topic, he stated need his or her own copy because of that "people expressed a need for condensed information. There are history books about us out there, but unless you're doing research, you proba-

bly won't read them. This book will entice them to learnyet they won't feel like they're learning." No one-man show, he gave praises to his co-author, Angela W. Harper for her substantial contributions to this work.

This book will make excellent school resource. Teachers can purchase multiple copies of this book for use in centers, or units on African American history. Each student would copyright protection. But \$12.95 is a small cost for a valuable addition to each stu-

dent's personal library. Because unlike other word search puzzles that end up in a recycling bin, this book is a keeper. There are not merely words in this book, but descriptions, identifications, and other factual data. In spite of that, even the small child-the new reader, will have fun as they look for the words. Summer travelers will find lots to keep themselves occupied with on long airplane or automobile excursions. Hospital bound or home-

bound patients will

have fascinating activities

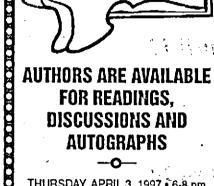
to stave off boredom. Home school-

ers will have a valuable resource to teach their children African American (read American) history.

So far, this book can be found at 11 area bookstores. The authors will be at the following locations for book signings: April 5th at Black Images; April 11th at Barnes & Noble (North Preston); April 12 at Barnes & Noble (Plano).

\*

Images



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# Radio stations respond to murder of Notorious B.I.G.

**Dorothy Gentry** 

Practically every radio, TV and newspaper outlet in the country—including those here in the Dallas/Fort Worth area—covered last month's shooting death of rap star Notorious B.I.G.

All the media outlets should be applauded for their coverage of the Biggie Smalls murder. However, in my mind, there were two stations that stood out among the rest here locally with their coverage of his death.

Two stations that went above and beyond everyone.

The two stations are KKDA-FM (K104), currently the No. 1 station in the Metroplex and KRBV-FM (V100), the popular R&B station that is No. 1 among African American adults.

Here is what they did.

#### K104

Those listening to K104 on Sunday, March 9—the day after Biggie was killed—could hear DJ Nippy Jones expressing his concern in a sincere tone quite the opposite of the one he uses during his weekday *Tight at Night* show.

"What can we do to stop all this madness? Will it take six or seven people to get killed before they realize how serious this is?" Jones asked his listeners. "I just hate it."

The next morning, Nanette Lee joined Roland Martin, KKDA-AM (Soul-73) news director on the air during his newscast and revealed to listeners what she and partner Skip Murphy saw. The two were in Los Angeles for the Soul Train Music Awards and were at the party Biggie was leaving when he was shot.

Back on K104, Nanette and Skip spent the morning recounting to listeners their versions of what happened. They also took many phone calls and let listeners voice their concerns and opinions.

The station also immediately produced and began airing public service announcements featuring snippets of Biggie's music in the background and a message that simply said, "Stop the Violence."

But it was the *Tight at Night* crew that put K104's coverage of Biggie's death over the top.

For the entire week following Big-

gie's death, the station somehow managed to bring in local and national rap stars to discuss the media-hyped East Coast/West Coast feud, the shootings of Biggie and Tupac, and the state of rap and hip hop in general. These included KRS One of Boogie Down Productions and MC Breed, a native of Plano.

Each night the stars (some of whom were live at the station, others via phone) shared their thoughts and took calls and questions from enthusiastic listeners.

"The

Coat/West Coast
thing is stupid. One
day we are going
to have to
wake up and
be more intelligent about
life. This is not
the totality of
the hip hop culture," said KRS
One, probably one
of the best known of
the "old school" rap-

whole

KRS One, who was live in K104's studio, told listeners how his best friend and former BDP member DJ Scott LaRock was killed in the same way as Biggie and Tupac. He also shared with them his own upbringing, how he grew up in Philadelphia and what

changed his life.

K104's interviews with KRS One and the other rappers throughout the week were informative and interesting. To have a rap star come on television and do a 30 second sound bite about a tragedy such as Biggie's death is more common.

But practically overnight, K104 managed to line up a number of rap stars, get many of them into the station, interview them and take calls from listeners. That is something this station and its legion of loyal listeners should be proud of.

And while K104's commitment to the African American community continues to be questioned by many, no one can deny that they served their listeners well with their coverage of Biggie's death.

#### V100

The coverage of Biggie's death by V100 was surprising to many because this "R&B hits and oldies" station plays no rap music at all. Yet they took things to another level by hosting a town hall meeting on gang violence the Wednesday after Biggie's death.

The meeting, moderated by V100's

Scott West and Sandra Daniels, was held at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center in South Dallas and was attended by about 200 people.

Panelists included record executive Michael Redwine; the rap group Jesus and the Hip Hop Gangsters; Dallas Urban League president Dr. Beverly Mitchell-Brooks; Lt. Victor Woodbury of the Dallas Police Department gang unit; and Constable Sam Allen.

Much of the audience consisted of local rappers and parents concerned with the growing violence surrounding their children's favorite form of music.

"I am accountable for not just my child but every child in my neighborhood," said one mother. "I listen to rap, but I monitor it in my home. We need to start taking care of business and being parents to every child we see," she said.

Lt. Woodbury of the Dallas Police gang unit created an eerie silence during the meeting when he rattled off the following statistics and then a prediction:

"For the last two Fridays there have been two gang killings in this city. Last year there were 27 gang-related murders in Dallas/Fort Worth. The youngest gang member we have is 8-years-old and the oldest is 38-years-old," he said.

"We are killing up ourselves and if it keeps going this way, in the next 200 years we will probably be extinct."

Lt. Woodbury said the problem with many kids is that they are confused.

"They have no idea what they want or where they are going. They are mad because they think someone let them down—and we did," he said.

"We did not stand up and take control for our kids lives."

For two hours panelists discussed issues of censorship, parental responsibility, rap music, media influence and single parenting.

One audience member predicted that "gangsta rap will never die because it's a done deal. It will always be around."

Dr. Mitchell-Brooks reminded audience members that peer pressure is a driving force in many children's lives.

"They will [eventually] hear the rap music, but there are choices. We haven't stood up to give our young people choices and alternatives to what they are hearing," she said.

"Their peers are their role models because we haven't given them any other role models. We have to show them choices if we want them to step up and take a different attitude."

Dr. Mitchell-Brooks wrapped up the meeting with an interesting thought:

"Rappers use their freedom of speech—we abdicate ours by not speaking up."

The town hall meeting was taped for replay during V100's Sunday Summit (Sundays at 7 p.m.) and station officials have said it won't be their last.

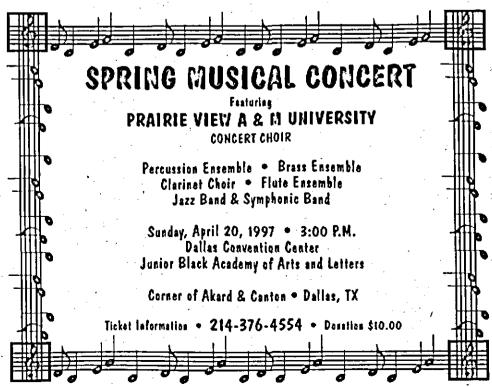
Throughout the week after Biggie's death, V100 took calls from listeners and the Monday after the shooting, callers to *The Tom Joyner Morning Show* were given the opportunity to "express themselves" on the subject.

By holding a summit meeting to discuss music that they don't even play, V100 showed that you can care about something in more ways than one.

Both stations should be commended for a job well done. But do not stop there. Your commitment to the African American community and their commitment to you—which has made both stations what they are today—is a 25-hour-a-day, 8day-a-week job.

But I'm sure you already know that.

MON



### Cats Don't Dance

Animated feature stars voices of Jasmine Guy and Natalie Cole

We all know that cartoons, like other entertainment genres, are didactic. Parents monitoring kid shows and cartoons have seen the shattering of glass ceilings

ent isn't everything — only humans get the really good parts. Animals can bark, moo or meow. But cats don't dance...Danny rallies the other animal actors and thinks he gets a break from conniving child star Darla Dimple (Ashley Peldon) who double crosses him.

Veteran actress Jasmine Guy (the vain Whitley, A Different World) does the voice of Sawyer, the lovely, worldly-wise cat who also yearns for stardom. In the midst of showing the naive idealist from Kokomo the ropes, she gets a real soft spot and eventually becomes Danny's

nomination, NAACP Image Award and Soul Train Award. In 1991 her Unforgettable With Love, tribute to her father's musical legacy sold more than 11 million copies, won an unprecedented seven Grammy Awards and earned two American Music Awards, three Soul Train Awards and two NAACP Image Awards. She has also appeared in I'll Fly Away and Touched by an Angel.

Cats Don't Dance gives movie-goers the message that everyone has a chance to be his or her best by pursuing what they truly love. Opens soon at a theater near you.

tures of The Saint for nearly seventy

years. Simon Templar, The Saint, is a gen-

tleman and a master thief who battles for

justice where the law cannot, or will not,

reach. Emma Russell is a young scientist

whose life is in terrible danger: she has

discovered the key to Russian billionaire Ivan Tretiak's overwhelming ambition -

to crown himself the first Czar of the new

Russian Empire and he will do anything to neutralize the danger that she repre-

sents. The rich, sophisticated and almost

supernaturally skilled Templar's cold

and cynical heart is softened when his

The Saint The Saint, starring Val Kilmer and Elisabeth Shue, opens April 4, 1997 and is rating PG-13 Readers and viewers have thrilled to British author Leslie Charter's adven-

Danny the cat meets his fellow animal acting hopefuls at the talent agency in Turner's animated musical feature, Cats Don't Dance, a Warner Bros. release.

creating barriers for blacks, women, or the disabled. The new Warner's release,

Cats Don't Dance, gives a rousing performance about species

barriers and is a metaphorical treat that you may want to use to open dialogue about diversi-

Jasmine Guy

Veteran animator Mark

Dindal (The Little Mermaid) and a star studded cast outline a tale of ambition and determination love (Legendary choreographer Gene Kelley consults on the dancing.)

In the 1930s Hollywood, it was almost impossible for anyone who looked different to get anything but typecast roles. Danny (Scott Bakula, Quantam Leap), is a cool cat with fast feet from Kokomo, Indiana and singing and dancing are what he loves best. Danny packs his bag and gets on the bus to Hollywood.

Upon arrival, Danny discovers that tal-

lady love. Born in Boston and raised in Atlanta, Guy began performing at Northside School of the Performing Arts and after graduation, moved to New York

with a scholarship from the Alvin Ailey Dance Company. She appeared in Broadway musicals Leader of the Pack and the revival of The Wiz. Her feature film credits include School Daze and Harlem Nights and she starred in the CBS miniseries Alex Hailey's Queen.

Lennie K. Graves, Directing Animator for Sawyer is one of the few blacks in the animation field. He explains that Sawyer was the film's "most difficult character, more subtle restrained and graceful" and worked to keep her from becoming a female stereotype.

Diva Natalie Cole's interpretation of the music brings both classic charm and romance to the singing voice of Sawyer. Cole made her professional debut at 11 with her father Nat King Cole. Her 1975 debut album, Inseparable, became an instant gold, wining Everlasting earned a Grammy acter in The Saint.



two Grammys. In 1987 her Val Kilmer stars as Simon Templar, the title char-

path crosses Emma.

The Saint was filmed in Moscow and the shooting in historic Red Square gave the film an authenticity unattainable any other way. If you're looking for an action thriller the whole family will enjoy, this movie is a must see.

# What's on

Home Box Office (HBO) has entered an agreement with Irving, Texas-based Warner-Nest Animation to air eighteen episodes from the Animated Hero Classics series, beginning in March. Great men and women who changed the world-inventors, explorers, presidents and pioneers -will come to life each Saturday and Sunday beginning in March.

Each thirty-minute story emphasizes a character value and features with a mixture of the rich language of color and original orchestration and music. The first two episodes are Harriet Tubman and Thomas Edison. While we know Harriet Tubman was a woman of courage who escaped slavery, the wider audience will come to understand just how this modern-day Moses, helped lead others to freedom. Thomas Edison personifies persistence, hard work and sacrifice which catapulted him to become one of the world's great inventors. Future episodes will include inspirational heroes and heroines such as Helen Keller, Benjamin Franklin, Joan of Arc and many others.

Nest's, which offers products such as The Animated Stories from the New Testament and The Animated Stories from the Bible, includes in their mission statement that they will help families share with children every the character values and Judeo-Christian morals through story-telling, featuring famous biblical and historical figures as role models.

### The Godfather

### Digitally enhanced version released

Has it really been twenty-five years since millions of women hoped that Michael Corleone would not join the family firm, then fell in love with the ruthless heir to the Mafia crime family

The Godfather is indisputably one of the masterpieces of the cinema, First released in March 1972, the Paramount



Michael Corleone (Al Pacino, left) confers with his father Vito (Marlon Brando) in the Academy Award winning film The Godfather.

Pictures presentation established Francis Ford Coppola as a major director and helped launch the careers of Al Pacino, James Caan, Robert Duval, Diane Keaton, Talia Shire and others. With Mar-Ion Brando in the title role, The Godfather became a true cultural phenomenon as well as the highest-grossing film up to that time (it was the first film to garner more than \$100 million in its initial release).

To mark the 25th Anniversary, Paramount is re-releasing a digitally enhanced soundtrack in stereo.

The movie is based on the non-stop page turner by Mario Puzo whose versimilitude makes it utterly fascinating. In light of the public outcry surrounding the murders of Tupac and the Notorious B.I.G., one finds it paradoxical that this bloody epic of the shadowy world of the New York Mafia remains so popular among viewers that it has never gone out of production.

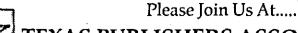
The Godfather opens March 21 in 20 markets in the U.S. and Canada and opens March 21 exclusively at GCC Northpark 1 & 2.

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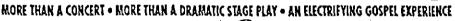
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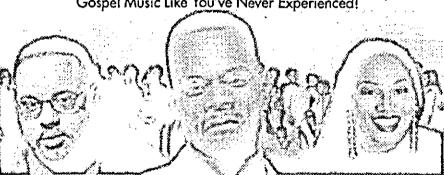
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• Fred Hammond & R.F.C.



### **Book smarts**

#### Students learn what it takes to become men

and sixth grade boys at Umphrey Lee Elementary School, Sgt. Rodney Williams of the United States Air Force (USAF) teaches by example what it means to be a man. Williams, part of a mentoring program established with the USAF and Umphrey Lee Elementary School, has guided the students since school started, coming each Wednesday to help with homework, give square advice, and lend a caring ear to boys who need a man's point of view.



Students examine set of "Black Heroes" books bought a set for ourdonated by the U.S. Air Force.

"When I ask you to be quiet and pay attention, I expect you to do so. I don't think that's a hard thing to do," Williams says after he ejects one disorderly student from the class room and quickly takes command of a room that can potentially become unruly. "I'll come to the school for just one of you if that's what it takes."

Although the boys know he means what he says, they cannot contain their curiosity. On this day, Sgt. Williams has brought a gift from the USAF—six sets of ten books that chronicle the accomplishments of heroic pioneering black men and women.

They purchased the books, published by Chicago-based Empak Publishing Company, using contributions from

Standing tall amid a group of fifth the 344th Air Force Recruiting Squadron in Arlington, Texas and the 835th Air Force ROTC Detachment at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas. Individual contributors include Capt. Leland G. Stanford, Capt. Melvin Alexander, Lt. Jennifer Lugo, Master Sgt. Edwin Caballero, Master Sgt. Paul Ransom, Master Sgt. Edward Vargas, Technical Sgt. Kathy Ann Mitchell, Technical Sgt. Modest Lamberth, Staff Sgt. Kevin Kranick, Staff Sgt. Gregory Brown, Staff Sgt. Dwight Kirvin, Staff Sgt. Gregory Ceaser,

Staff Sgt. James MacArthur and Staff Sgt. Rodney Williams.

"Each of those individuals gave out of their own pockets for these books," Williams says, emphasizing the dedication of the men and women to the students of Umphrey Lee. "These books were something we knew the students would appreciate. [The books] are interesting and easy to read. We liked

them so much that we selves."

Along with Williams, Capts. Stanford and Alexander, and Sgts. Brown, Ceasar and MacArthur regularly visit the school, taking the students under their wings.

However, Williams is alone this afternoon, in charge of sixteen open but impatient minds. Huddling around a table, the boys fidget as they take turns examining the volumes Williams has carefully placed before them.

"I would encourage you to read all these books," he instructs.

"Why?" snaps one boy.

"Because you're going to need them," Williams shoots back. "If you don't read about people who are successful, it's hard to be like them."

So the boys get busy, selecting from titles such as Historic Black Abolitionists, Blacks in the Federal Government, Historic Black Women, Black Scientists and Inventors and Historic Black Firsts. As easily as they digest the books' contents, they regurgitate responses to the books' review questions on both well-known and obscure black heros.

Ironically, after reading about black sports figures and heatedly discussing the best of the best, one boy unconsciously calls the athlete "that nigger ... " just as naturally as if it is the athlete's given name. However, Williams quickly interjects his disapproval. "We have done too much as a people to use that term so loosely," he says. "That's what the slave owner called us when he wanted us to believe we were worthless trash. Nothing has changed. It still means the same thing, whether we use it or somebody else does."

While the boys are reading, Williams reflects on how he hopes the books and his participation will make a difference. "When I was young, I didn't know that a black man invented the gas mask or the



Sgt. Williams stresses Importance of reading.

street light," he says.

"If I had this information as a kid, it would have given me more confidence as a male in a female dominated environment," continues Williams, who was raised in a single parent home by his mother. "There are certain things that



Staff Sgt. Rodney Williams lets Markeyus Lehman select book.

boys want to ask men that perhaps women can't understand. I've been there, when I didn't have many men in my life to reach back to. That's why I feel the need to interact with and instruct these boys."

As a youth, Williams says he participated in sports and encountered many adult males, but he strongly feels his participation should take the form of goalsetting and academic mentoring. Because he believes the books contain information that would have definitely made a difference in his academic drive and performance, Williams presents each fifth and sixth grade class with a set.

As he leaves, he directs the students to take the lead and seize opportunities. like the men and women about whom they have just read.

"The difference between success and failure is just desire," he tells them. "Whatever you want, whether it's money, fame, or to help other people, go after it. You can't take 'no' for an answer.



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**Fairy Street** Mama

### What does your family mean to vou?

It is said that "blood is thicker than water," which may well be true. But have you noticed just how many children and parents are taking each other to court over petty and sometimes un-important matters? Have you noticed that children are now asking to be "divorced" from their parents? How very, very sad.

The subject of families is so dear to me that I had to get the opinion from families

other around the Metroplex and this is what the family of Charles & Natalie Walker, and their 7-yearold son Casey, had to say.



"Family to me pride, means responsibility, happiness and

honesty. I feel that in this day, women do not respect their mates and vice versa. I also feel that love and respect should be taught and shown during the young years of a child's life so that they won't try to leave home.....If a family is strong, children will be strong and the family will stay together."

NATALIE: "The family is a unit that God has put together....We must go back to the basics of putting God first in our lives....We must also understand that most people are not taught how to be a mother, wife, husband or father and chil-

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dren learn from their parents....The only way to learn is if we allow God to teach us what He has called us to be ..... Back in our grandparents' day, all black people had was each other and their religion, which kept their family strong as a unit....Also back in the day, the community was considered your home as well as the house that you lived in.....Parents even allowed neighbors to discipline their children, which in turn taught kids to respect their community, church and their fellow man ..... As I said earlier, we need to get back to the basics....we need to get back to God."

Many times we forget the importance of a family and what it means to our society. We FORGET that "LOVE is what makes the world go round," But we also forget that LOVE begins in the family structure of our home.....our family.

We, as black people, should REMEMBER that our ancestors died trying to releasing our forefathers from slavery, but they also died with dreams of protecting and preserving our family and

> our American heritage.

It is especially important that children REMEM-BER that one's values, morals and habits (good and bad), are ingrained from our family surroundings, experiences and teach-

ings. Therefore, it is important that we teach our children to love their fellow man. We must REMEMBER to instill in our children the importance of loving and showing love to their parents as well as their siblings and we must teach and show them that "nothing is more important than a family."

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.



Casy, Natalie and Charles Walker.

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### Health care business relies on divine assistance

By Whitney Larkins

Contributing Writer

"My father said he knew I would be a doctor," said Eula Blair, the owner of Christian Health Services, Inc. When Blair was a small child, her family lived near an electric pole that

birds would hit and become injured. Blair recalls treating the birds and then releasing them.

"I would always cry when I let them go." she said.

Christian Health Services is located in Duncanville, Texas, and provides services to the disabled, elderly, and frail. They also provide home health care administered by certified physicians. It will be celebrating its three-year anniversary this upcoming August and, although the business is running smoothly for Blair, there have been some hard

"One of the hardest things is how to take the lead in business." she said. Blair said that she only is the lead when it comes to business. "I follow my husband's lead "outside of business."

Blair also says that her life and her 20 years of nursing experience have been a blessing. "I've been standing out on faith...God will make a way. Seeing God open doors for me and helped me make great decisions."

God has opened several doors for Christian Health Services, and Blair says she expects more to happen. "It's a growing business. I would like to see it divide into a Christian day care

TODID SECURIETY! for elderly," she said. Witnessing terminally ill and extremely sick people can be dif-

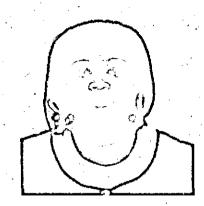
ficult for someone

working in health care, but Blair says she can cope with the losses and death. She also feels blessed from working with the

"Everyone that comes in touches my heart. Some of the most memorable patients are the sickest. I'm happy to see them get well."

As indicated by the company's title, Christian beliefs are important for Blair and the business. However, it is not a requirement. "We do have a ministry, but

Name: Eula Blair Birthplace: Jefferson, Texas Favorite Food: **Sweet Potatoes** Last Book Read: On Faith by Fred C. Prince My friends don't know that: "Nothing"



Advice to would-be

entrepreneurs:

Christian Health Services, Inc. 113 South Main Street Duncanville, TX 75116 (972) 709-0700

we don't force the ministry on anybody. If the patients want to get close to God, I don't mind praying for them. We have a chaplain and a social worker."

Blair attends the Allan Chapel Baptist Church, located in Dallas, where she serves as deaconess. She has attended the church for 26 years and she also sings in

the church choir.

Eula Blair feels all that she and the business has obtained is just the beginning. "I haven't seen everything I need to do. God says that if we are good with a few things, He will make us ruler over many."

"Hard work and perserver-

ence; realize that it's okay to fail."

MON

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Herb Beckford

We left you last month with \$500 and if one is to follow the instincts of human behavior, it's a good bet you're still sitting on it. Remember, that's 30 days past, minus a few for the short month of February.

Well, you've actually lost money. Sure, you have the \$500 but take a second look and think, then ask yourself, "Can I purchase the same item for the same low price this month as last?" In all probability, not.

Instead of putting that \$500 to work in a growth situation, you've squandered an opportunity by sitting on your haunches and doing nothing. Sooner, and definitely later, a practice such as that will erode that \$500 to zilch. Sounds way out, but it isn't. If you don't protect what you now have, there will be nothing to protect later.

In citing data from the Commerce Department, African American incomes and savings rates have increased in recent years but their net worth has been relatively at a standstill. Why? For one thing they've been *overly* conservative in investing.

Keep in mind, the primary goal of

# Some benefits of stock ownership

investing in the stock market is to turn a profit. The record speaks for itself. Over the long term, stocks have consistently outperformed a wide range of investment options. They have, on average, yielded annually more than ten percent for the past 70 years. That's not a typo. It's a fact; yes, 70 years.

However, there are other benefits that come with owning a part of a company. As an owner, you get to impact how your company is run. Yes. To do so, to effect change in management practices, you've got to be a shareholder. You get to comment on social or environmental issues that can adversely influence the value of your investment.

An example of shareholder activism was the Philadelphia Pension Board's divestiture of Texaco stock or the Rainbow Push Coalition's plan to purchase shares of R.R. Donnelley in order to draw attention and *correct* a bad situation. Repeating myself in trying to get this point across, as a shareholder, an investor can take action on how the company operates. Does it discriminate against people of color? Does it underpay its female employees. Is it anti-union,

among a litany of other complaints?

The problems that hit Texaco last year (where some executives were allegedly taped making biased remarks about blacks in the company) could happen to any company. If you had been an owner prior to the surfacing of the problems, you would have been in a position to say a change is needed. Perhaps the problems could have been averted. Since then, the company has put good policies in place.

A reader recently wrote and asked that a monitor be placed on the non-financial activities of companies. Practically speaking, it is not possible to monitor every aspect of a company's legal business dealings. This homework has to be done by you. Another reader asked that concentration be placed solely on African American-owned firms.

Unfortunately, the number of blackowned public firms is not yet so large that one can do that and still have a reasonable number of *sound* investments from which to choose.

For many years, Black Enterprise magazine has been publishing a list of the top 100 black-owned companies (bases

on sales) in the United States. Two prerequisites, among others, for gaining eligibility for that listing are that the business be fully operational for the previous calendar year and be at last 51 percent black-owned.

Granite Broadcasting Corp (GBTVK), BET Holdings Inc., (BTV) and Envirotest Systems Corp (ENVI) are ranked 9, 10 and 12 respectively on the Black Enterprise list. These three differ from the other 97 listed companies in one regard; they are publicly-owned. If you wanted, you could own a piece of these companies by purchasing shares of stock through a broker.

There are other publicly-traded black companies that do not make the Black Enterprise list but are available to those seeking part ownership. Three such companies are Caraco Pharmaceuticals (CARA), Carver Bancorp, Inc., (CARV) and United American Healthcare Corp (UAH). Mind you, the latter three do not rank with the former, but are published for a matter of information.

So you want to join an investment club, look for the pros and cons in our next issue.

MON

Herb Beckford is a successful personal investor. To contact him for investment advice, send a SASE c/o MON or email him at herb@evergreen.com



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### Bobby Scale Speaks

Black Panther Party co-founder expounds on Huey Newton, the New Black Panther Party and African Americans

By Dorothy Gentry

Contributing Writer

Did you know that Bobby Seale, cofounder, chairman and national organizer of the Black Panther Party from 1966 to 74, was born right here in Dallas?

How about the fact that the original Black Panther Party considered themselves a political and humanist organization, not a racist hate group with guns as they were so aptly portrayed by the media?

How many of you knew that Seale, Dr. Huey P. Newton (yes, he had a Ph.D), and several of the other original members founded the Black Panther Party while they were all in college and Huey was in law school?

If you're like me, you didn't. But that's okay. That's why Seale was in Dallas during Black History Month; educating and enlightening African Americans of today on the true legacy of the original Black Panther Party for Self Defense,

Seale, now 60, says despite what the media portrayed, the original Black Panther Party was "a positive social revolutionary accident. We popped up right in the middle of an on-going national civil rights protest movement," he says. "We grew up out of a young black intelligentsia in college. We didn't just pop up off of the streets."

Surprisingly, Seale has many Texas ties. He was born in Dallas on Oct. 22, 1936 and lived for a while in both San Antonio and Port Arthur, near Beaumont. His family moved to California when he was about six years old and it was while he was an engineering/design major at Merritt Junior College in Oakland that he gained his first extensive exposure to the growing civil-human rights struggle.

Scale says he was influenced by both the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela, but it was the life and death of Malcolm X that moved him to seek out his friend Newton and convince him to help get another grass roots organization going like Malcolm X's Afro-American Unity party.

With Malcolm X's death, Seale dedicated himself to "turning this backward racist world around, to make some human sense.'

Seale and Newton founded the Black Panther Party for Self Defense while Seale was a student at Merritt Iunior College in October 1966. "We advocated the right to self-defense, full employment, decent housing, true history education and an end to exploitation."

They also advocated free preventive medical care, constitutional democratic civil-human rights for all citizens and fairness in the courts. Their slogan: "All Power to All the People." Complete with a nationally circulated newspaper, The Black Panther, the members put their lives on the line against institutionalized racism and vicious police brutality common during the 60s and 70s.

The organization didn't have a name for their party or a logo. They came up with a Panther which, "when pushed into a corner, it can't go left or right, but sooner or later will come out and kick the ass of the person who put it there in the

A young and defiant Bobby Seale (left) and Huey Newton, co-founders of the Black Panther Party.

"I said (to Huey) that is just like black folks. We should name it the Black Panther Party for Self Defense."

Seale says they later dropped the "Self Defense" part because "we didn't want to be seen as some para-military organization. Our goal was to capture our people's imagination and liberate them."

Seale, whose conversation was often laced with profanity, also offered his thoughts on a number of subjects ranging from the New Black Panther Party to his friend and comrade Newton.

On the Melvin and Mario Van Peeble's May 1995 motion picture, Panther: "Let me say straight up and straight out that 90 percent of what was portrayed in the movie never happened, never occurred at all.

"That film tends to do the same stereotyping of what the original Black Panther Party was all about that the media did and does," he says. "I am not saying don't see it. I want you to go see it, then research and analyze things for

yourself. It was like we were some gang in a clubhouse."

On the media's portrayal of African American History: "I, like everyone else, had been raised on Tarzan movies. That dumb-ass shit from Hollywood. They taught everyone, not just blacks, so we were all brainwashed," Seale says. "I knew nothing about my people's struggles. I started to pick up books and read and found out that Tarzan really didn't run Africa. That blew my mind."

On the New Black Panther Party: "We (the original members) decided to patrol the police and we used guns to defend ourselves. But Huey did all the research on guns and the gun laws at that time. We researched this shit," he says. "This is what pisses me off. People today saying 'We got guns, we the New Black Panther Party,' Real power is manifested in the knowledge of our heads, not

> guns," he says. "Anybody

running around here saying 'kill all the white people' are not right, that is not the goal of the struggle," Seale says. "All power to all the people was our slogan, researched the law and knew we were legal with our weapons. We were very concerned about violating the law and we were a disciplined group.

"They don't tell you that today, they say we were a black, militant hate group. If you think the revolution is about a fight and a battle, you're wrong. Stop running around with all this racism, terroristic stupidity.

"We worked 16 hours a day to put social programs together and help our people. If you try to use the name of the Black Panther Party, then stick to the original true legacy of it; it was for all people.

"Don't get on the radio and start talking shit. This is not race-hate talk. Please brothers and sisters, you know you are better than that and we need to go to another level," he says. "We have to believe in a greater future. This is what the struggle is all about."

On friend Dr. Huey P. Newton: "I met Huey in September 1962. He put the Black Panther Party in motion. He was the Minister of Defense and the leader. It is impossible to talk about the Black Panther Party without first talking about Huey P. Newton because brother Huey put it all into motion."

Seale says Huey "always brought out basic, practical things; that's the way he talked to you. That's the way he explained things to you. He got to a point where you couldn't get around, so you had to face things.

"He was a large influence on the

whole campus. Everybody respected Huey's mind and also Huey's guts. He had something about him that he didn't drive over people, but he would never let anyone drive over him. Most important, Huey would defend his partners or whoever was with him," Seale says. "He was the kind of cat you always respect. He was a kindhearted person. You couldn't use his kindness, but he would give it

'So you would look at him and say,' What kind of cat is this? This brother here is something else.' Huey gave inspiration to a lot of brothers and sisters to do a lot of in-depth study and realize the need to have knowledge of themselves as black people,"

Huey, who earned a doctorate in plulosophy from the University of California in 1980, was brilliant but even he couldn't escape the path of self-destruction so many African Americans fell into then and still do today. He was shot dead in a drug-related argument in Oakland, Calif, August 22, 1989. He was 38.

"Huey had not fallen victim to the many police guns and bullets nor the prison death houses we both had faced. Huey had been killed by a young drug dealer," Seale says. "I am troubled by the question that if Huey P. Newton, who struggled against all odds in the 60s and 70s, could get caught up in the vicious cycle of Black community self-destruction, then where will this destruction end? Somebody has to deal with this; somebody has to deal with all of this selfdestruction."

On the future of African Americans: "At this time more than ever, we need activists who are motivated and dedicated to organizing people, raising consciousness and instilling self-respect and Black community love in African Ameri-

"We especially need creative Black youth who know our history and who understands that black unity is the catalyst to help humanize this racist world.".

Seale believes that African Americans need socially conscious activists 'who will work toward the ultimate goal of community control, as well as political and economic empowerment of our

"We need activists who cross all ethnic and religious backgrounds, and color lines who will establish civil and human rights for all, including the right to an ecologically balanced, pollution-free environment.

"We must create a world of decent human relationships where revolutionary humanism is grounded in democratic human rights for every person on earth. Those were the political revolutionary objectives of my old Black Panther Party. They must now belong to the youth of today."

MON



#### Angela Robinson

From home or office, the mail order business has always be an inexpensive and easy enterprise to start, with advantages that are not available in any other business opportunity. Running a mail order operation can be as simple as placing an ad in a newspaper, filling the orders as they come in and depositing the checks in the bank. But know what pitfalls to avoid-and look for the fastest, most efficient way to get your business off the ground.

Mail order is a great business for people who want to work at home, have flexible hours and who either want to take a go-slow approach to becoming an entrepreneur, or are geared for maximum growth-and maximum profits. Earnings in the neighborhood of \$60,000 are by no means impossible, and these 10 steps outline the best way to find mail order success.

1. Start with a single product. Whether it's a product you make yourself or buy from a domestic or foreign supplier and resell on your own, the safest, lowest investment route to starting a mail order business is to choose one product. The benefits to this course are many. For instance, with just one product to sell, you will have a more focused marketing message than if you had to sell a whole line of products. Tracking sales and inventory will be simpler and will allow you to fine-tune your system before adding more products. Also, you will be able to produce only a few ads and marketing materials, thus cutting down on start-up costs. Few companies will make a nullion dollars selling just a single product-and you may well be anxious to emulate the range of products offered by such mail order giants as the Sharper Image-but there is little argument that this is a safe, solid, low investment route into the business.

2. Set yourself apart, the product you pick should be either so unique or so low priced that a customer is forced to buy from you or go without the product. Similarly, your customer service, your knowledge of your product, the speed with which you ship your merchandise-all these factors influence your reputation. The need to set yourself apart is so important that you should even spend a great deal of time picking a unique and interesting name for your business. You want to be remembered. One tip: Although you want to be unique, consider picking a product that customers will buy againfor example, laser printer toner cartridges, which inevitably run out-rather

# 10 Steps to starting a mail order business

than a product that is more of a "once in a lifetime" purchase, such as a gimmicky, gift-type item. Such a move will help you build a client base, rather than having to spend a great deal of effort constantly looking for new customers. 3. Provide excellent customer service. A major part of distinguishing yourself from the pack is providing friendly, informed and fast customer service. If you are not able to monitor your phone line 24 hours a day (as will be the case for most start ups), buy a quality answering machine, or subscribe to an answering service. Check it often and respond to inquiries as soon as possible. Monitor your customer service representative closely. People use mail order because they believe it will be fast and convenient; don't undercut that perception by waiting a day or two to call them back. And even though ordertaking services can be cheaper, you may want to stick with hired help who you can more closely supervise and who are on your payroll, not someone else's. Similarly, establish a flexible return policy. You don't want to be taken to the cleaners because a box was nicked during slupping, but you also want to create an impression that you are in business to serve your customers, not just to make money.

4. Target your customers. Just as it is important to pick a product that sets you apart, you want to advertise to those people who are most apt to recognize the value and/or uniqueness of your offering. Obtain a media kit from publications in which you are considering placing ads. Consider direct mail. While somewhat more costly than newspaper advertising, many mail order professionals swear by its effectiveness. However only start with what you can afford and build from there.

5. Weigh growth against investment. Establish up front not only how much money you want to make, but how much you are willing to lose. Some mail order professionals who have eventually gone on to great success, planned to lose money the first few years they were in business. The losses came in part because of a calculated decision to focus more on sales and building a client base than on establishing a solid profit margin. The losses paid off as the larger client base fed word-of-mouth sales. Of course, not everyone is willing-or able to make a money-losing course. In fact, one of the best parts about mail order is the flexibility of your investment level; many people have started with under \$1,000 by simply establishing a line of credit with their supplier, taking out only a small ad in a target publication and filling the orders as they come in.

6. Offer Overnight Delivery. In a world where even whole computer systems can be sent overnight, you need to offer overnight delivery of your product. The services are costly, but you simply pass on the cost to the customer. Once you've reached a large volume of orders, you can negotiate discounted overnight service with a carrier in return for using the company exclusively. One option is to offer three levels of service; overnight, priority, and standard delivery. The difference is next day, 2-3 days or 3-5 days, in that order. Also, don't forget to charge for handling-a cost that can include such expenses as packaging and warehous-

7. Establish an 800 number and credit card system. Many businesses swear by the effectiveness of the 800 number, believing that a customer is fare more apt to place an order if he or she is making a free call. The benefits outweigh the extra expense.

With more and more people making virtually all of their purchases with a credit card, your mail order business needs to accept credit cards as soon as you are able to establish accounts with the major card companies, Visa, MasterCard and American Express. The problem: The companies aren't likely to give an account to a small, new business. Other than waiting until you have an established track record (which may simply be the only option), you can contract with a clearinghouse that is the middleman between you and the card company at which he charges you a monthly fee. You will also need to purchase or rent the equipment used to process the credit card purchase which is another expense but many who are avid users attest to its worthiness.

8. Monitor your shipping. Nothing will anger a mail order customer more than receiving damaged or the wrong goods. And what's worse is getting them well after the due date. Therefore, put your shipping to the test. Particularly if you are using an outside fulfillment service or having a product dent from the manufacturer. Measure how quickly the product is shipped, how long it takes to arrive and what condition the goods are in when they arrive. Have items sent to yourself and to at least three friends or family members in various regions of the country.

9. Expand the product line. As you refine your business-learning more about inventory, accounting, shipping

and most importantly, who your customers are and what they want-look to expand your product selection. Start by adding various models of the same product-for example: deluxe, limited, standard-then begin looking at other products that fit the needs of your existing customer base. You want to establish a name and reputation for your business within certain circles, broadening that circle as your business grows. At some point you may even want to consider issuing a catalog—even one that is three-four pages can be effective.

10. Experiment with prices. Offer various prices on the same product in different ads and, just as you tracked which publication pulled the most orders, tract which prices are working the best. Try offering bulk discounts that will mean lower profit margins for you but that will generate increased sales.

Similarly, as you expand your product line, offer specials on package deals that include multiple product. Also consider offering free gifts with purchases of certain items or with purchases that exceed a certain amount. Coupons can be another means of playing with prices in order to achieve your ultimate goal—generating more sales and more profits. And most of all, remember this: Without the customer, you have no business.

MON

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

### Chronology of Home Businesses

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**Curtis Yates** 

### Closing cost for the buyer

(Conventional Financing)

In this column we will look at the four expense categories of the HUD-1 settlement statement (statement used by title companies when calculating debits and credits for both the buyer and seller at the closing table). The HUD-1 settlement statement is used with FHA, VA, as well as conventional financing required by RESPA (Real Estate Settlement Procedure Act).

of month) and one-year hazard insurance. premium (paid in advance at time of clos-

Third, we have the reserves-deposit expense category. Theses are expenses such as two to three months of hazard insurance premiums, three months mortgage insurance premiums and three to four months school, city and county property taxes paid in advance at the closing table. Some refer to these reserve expense items as "prepaids." When these reserve deposits are made, they are made to the lender at the closing table.

Fourth, we have our expenses for title charges. This expense category has to do with items such as the closing title search, document preparation, issuance of the title insurance, and other fees involved with the actual closing of the transaction.

The table in figure one shows some examples of the type of title charges a borrower may incur.

These are basic title charges which vary with each individual closing transaction performed. I don't want the break-

Fig. 1

head to tail.

#### **Title Charges**

- Escrow Fee
- · Attorney's Fees
- Restrictions
- Abstract or Title Search
- Title Insurance
- Messenger Service
- Title Insurance Binder
- Survey

- Sales Tax
- · Lender's Coverage
- Document Preparation
- Tax Certificate Fee
- · Recording Fees
- Notary Fees
- Fax Expense

Before we continue, I would like to make one thing clear, and that is that down payment and closing costs are not the entire song and dance of expenses you will incur at the closing table. Let's look at the whole horse, so to speak, from

First, we have the loan expense the borrower incurs that's associated with the mortgage loan. Expenses such as credit report, underwriting fee, property inspection fee, appraisal fee, processing fee, tax service fee, flood certificate fee and such. These are expenses that the lender charges for originating and processing the loan. A lender may choose to waive all or some of these fees in order to secure business, creating marketing tools such as the marketing promotion of Bank of America to waive up-front loan expenses on some of their mortgage loan

Secondly, there is the lenders' advance expense items, which we discussed a while back in one of my earlier columns. Lenders' advance expense items are items such as mortgage loan interest (paid from day of closing to end

down of these expenses to alarm you, but I do want you to be informed in a more detailed manner about such expenses associated with the closing of a mortgage loan. In real estate transactions where the listing agent is the seller's representative, the buyer is without mercy if he or she intends to represent himself or herself, therefore, a buyer needs to be informed.

Hopefully, this overview of the borrower's expenses at the closing table will help enhance your negotiating skills as a prospective buyer. It is always good to be prepared for anything we attempt to do and buying a home is no exception to the rule. If you have questions pertaining to lender's fees, I recommend that you contact Mr. Willie Scott with Compass Bank at (972) 705-4372. Mr. Scott has shown both pride and great leadership abilities toward helping prospective home buyers in the community prepare for mortgage financing.

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

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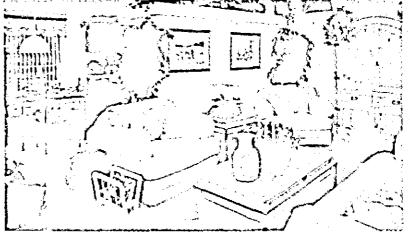
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### Criminal differences: It's black and white

A federal advisory committee in Virginia is investigating the issue of racial disparity in the criminal justice system. Last year, the Sentencing Project—a federally funded, bipartisan commission—recommended that criminal penalties for similar amounts of crack and powdered cocaine be equalized. Studies have show that powered cocaine is most often used by whites and has more lenient penalties for possession.

Congress voted against the commission's recommendations. Speaking before this committee, U.S. Representative Robert Scott (D) from Va., spoke out against the disparity. Said Scott, "Political expediency seems to have beaten out what should have been an overwhelming revulsion to an indefensible policy having grave racial consequences."

### Black Employment

The stock market is near its all-time high. The economy would seem to be strong and robust. Yet, in its monthly report, the Labor Department reported that the unemployment rate in February was 10.3 percent for black women, 9 per-

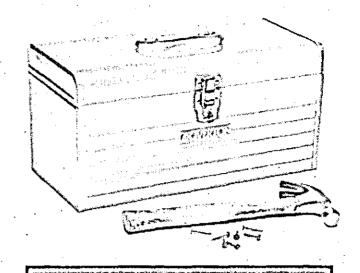
cent for black men and 34.3 percent for black teens. These rates are approximately 2.5 times that reported for whites in similar categories. For the entire country,

the unemployment rate was 5.4%. President Clinton recently announced that 600,000 new jobs have been created in 1997 thus far. This job growth occurred in computer-related fields, engineering and management services. Most of those jobs were not generated in the country's largest urban population centers.

#### Dad sues

Fed up with his children being denied a quality education, an African American father, William Nolan, has filed a lawsuit (along with 4 other parents) against the state of Pennsylvania. In their complaint, the plaintiffs charge that the state consistently under-funds the Philadelphia School District on a per pupil basis as compared to suburban areas. Because of Philadel-

phia's large black population, this has a disproportionate impact on the educational prospects of African American children. A report compiled for the Philadelphia Urban League shows that districts outside Philadelphia receive as much as 20 percent more per pupil than the city does.



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Ron Shaw

# Ome Thing! Phil 3:13,14

I was traveling to Shreveport, La., a few days ago to a meeting when it suddenly dawned on me there were several things I had left undone that were important. I began talking to the Lord about priorities in my life and how I needed Him to help me be more focused on the many things I thought were important and that I should accomplish. As we talked, it became very clear to me that perhaps many struggle with the same issue. I'm often asked by a variety of people from all walks of life, "Ron, how do you find time to do everything you have to do?" Actually, the answer is simple. You do those things that God says are important first, and then if there is time you do those things that you think are important. It's amazing how effective we become the day before vacation. We may have been efficient before, but the day before vacation we become effective. We find time to do the things that are absolutely necessary.

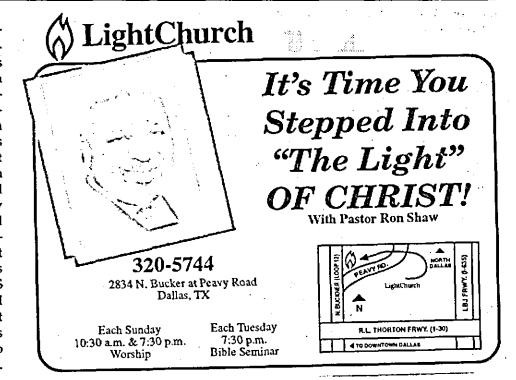
As we make out our list of issues to deal with, why not first allow God the opportunity to show us what is vital to our accomplishing what He wants us to get done? He said to me, "Ron, you don't have a lot of things to do. There's just one thing you absolutely have to do from my perspective." Well certainly by now the Lord had my attention. I thought of all the stuff I thought I needed to do. He seemed to reduce it all down to one. He

took me to our text.

It's obvious that Paul had other issues to consider, and he did. In the letter he wrote to the Corinthians, he says that his plate was full. However, here in our text he admits he had not accomplished them all. He says that he discovered the one thing that was absolutely a must. As he recounts his pedigree, it is obvious that he was probably in great demand by those who considered him an authority, and by those who considered him to be a threat. His zeal and energy for God kept him busy. Yet in the final analysis, he says all of his accomplishments and degrees and honors were not vital, nor were they paramount. He says the one thing he had to do was to "PRESS ON!" How often are we slowed, and even stopped, by our recounting how it was back in the day." How many times do we allow the present problems to stop our pursuit of God's will for our lives. One fellow said that many times we discover that today's problems have tomorrow's answers. If we just keep pressing, we will find the answer.

There are many solutions available today that answer the challenges and problems of yesterday. Sometimes you just have to outlast your problems. So, for all of you who may have grown a little weary along the way, I say, "press on." That's the one thing that you must do. Don't allow your problems to stop you. Don't allow the trouble and trauma that you have faced in the past, or may be facing today, to stop you from pressing on. Don't allow the difficulties you may be having with people to stop you or keep you from the one thing that's most important. That one thing is, You Must Press On! .

Now that we know what the one thing we have to do is, listen to how he (Paul) says we should do it. First, let go of the things behind. I've found that as God





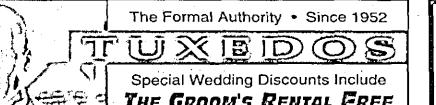
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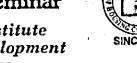


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takes us through life, there are always trade-offs. In order to get something better, we have to let go of what we have. In

[God] said to me, "...There's just one thing you absolutely have to do from my perspective."

order to have better relationships today, we have to let go of experiences from yesterday. This seems to be the thing that trips people up the most. They take all their baggage and belongings into tomorrow and wonder why tomorrow is producing yesterday's results.

Many churches are ineffective today because they will not let go of what they had or did yesterday. Never forget, if what you did yesterday looks big to you today, you are not growing. You have to let go or, as Paul says, forget the things of yesterday, even the good. How many couples have ruined their relationship trying to recapture their past. Life is a journey that has trade-offs. The key is to always trade up. You let go of yesterday for a better today.

Secondly, he says we must reach for those things that are before us. There's little or nothing you can do about what happened yesterday. Paul says he let go everything for the knowledge of Christ. I always say, "if you want to cross a bridge, you have to leave one side behind."

If you want to know the one thing you must do, I'll tell you. You have to press on. You say, but what about my problems? I say, press on. You say, but what about my situation? I say, press on. You say, but I've had disappointments. I say, press on. You say, I've had success. I say, press on. It's the one thing you MUST do

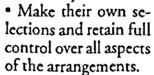
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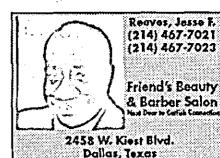
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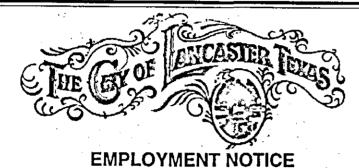
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