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Minority Opportunity News



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VOLUME 6, NO. 6 June 1997



Liar Liar

Roderick Fisher found himself in a fiery nightmare when the Dallas Fire Department accused him of setting fire to his own house—*after* it had already attributed the fire to a faulty water heater.

**MON talks with
Mrs. Juanita
Abernathy**

**SBA has
money for
your business**

**Umphrey Lee
elementary
honors volunteers**



From The Editor

Chris Pryer

photo by Derrick Walters

Graduation not a sporting event

I hadn't been to one in quite some time, if my increasingly suspect memory serves me correctly. And now, all of a sudden, I've attended three of them within the last two weeks. Whatever time had elapsed before these last three, either my memory has sustained more erosion than even my wife claims to have witnessed or times have really changed. And not for the better!

In case you're wondering, I'm speaking of that sacred rite of June. No, not weddings. I'm talking about graduation ceremonies. Closing exercises. Commencement. Education's equivalent to jumping the broom. You know, "Only the beginning," as the old Chicago song proclaimed. (They don't call it commencement for nothing.)

Two of the graduations I attended were high school affairs and concerned my son and one of his close friends who is quite dear to my wife and me. The other was an advanced degree exercise for a friend of mine.

As mentioned before, though my memory has suffered the rigors of time, I do recall that the whole graduation scene had some semblance of dignity and solemnity. Judging by past experience (my high school and college graduations) and observation, the audiences were respectful, if bored, and appeared to have a sense that it was an important milestone in the lives of the graduates.

Boy, have things changed. But why am I acting so surprised? Everything has changed—why not graduation decorum? My son's graduation—and later in the week, his friend's—was held at SMU's Moody Coliseum. By all of the lusty and raucous cheering and "shouting out" going on during the roll call and passing out of diplomas, I'm sure God had a flashback of the Christians being fed to the lions. You could barely hear the names of the students being called. People definitely did not dress "up" for the occasion. It was like being at an SMU basketball game.

Of course my son's ceremony had to be hurried along as several other high schools were having their closing exercises in the same place; they were lined up like 747s at D/FW Airport waiting for take-off. Yes, assembly-line graduation. Or McCommencement.

My son graduates high school and all I can say is I'm glad it didn't last longer. God only knows what my younger son's graduation will be like.

MON

Editorial

Ron Price won election because the community wanted change

"The political process has worked and the people have spoken." This well-worn phrase truly does summarize both the dialogue and the angst surrounding the Kathleen Gilliam and Ron Price Dallas school board race. The election, which had strong detractors and supporters on both sides, reflected the complexities of political debates and the finality of the electoral process.

As for Ms. Gilliam and her re-election efforts, she is to be commended for her years of service to the students, families and staff of the Dallas Public Schools (DPS). Under her watchful attention, many, if not most, of the strides made for children of color were shaped and guided. No one has ever argued that she was not a staunch and vocal advocate for the needs and rights of these students. She is a walking history book of the public and closed-door sessions of the board and the district for over the last twenty years as well. In many ways, her voice will be missed as a member of the policy-making body for the Dallas Public Schools and as a voice for students and their families.

But let's look at the dynamics of Ron Price running against Ms. Gilliam for a school board seat. At the crux of the heated debate surrounding this election was the assertion that the white business community selected and supported Mr. Price in his efforts to unseat Ms. Gilliam. Given that Mr. Price was also an employee of the District at the time he announced his candidacy and would not be able to retain this position should he be elected, there were also concerns expressed as to which of these supporters would directly or indirectly provide funds and/or a future job. It was further implied that, given their unprecedented level of financial and political support, these businessmen would also be able to control the vote and direction of Mr. Price after he won a place on the board. The bottom line of these arguments was that Mr. Price would be controlled by the powers that be.

Well, now that the election is over, a different picture of the factors at work in the election becomes obvious. When one examines the voting record, by precincts, an interesting pattern becomes apparent. Mr. Price received almost 43% of the vote in the precinct where Ms. Gilliam lives, an area that had historically been a

stronghold of her political support. The \$17,000 of election campaign support Mr. Price received notwithstanding, it is a clear fact that Ms. Gilliam lacked significant votes from those in her own neighborhood. In the 1992 election against competitor Ken Davis, Ms. Gilliam garnered 72 percent of the votes in this precinct. This year, against Mr. Price, she only received 57 percent. Given the fact that the election was only lost by thirty-three votes, it could be argued that Ms. Gilliam lost the election in her own backyard.

In response to the concerns regarding the undue influence from those outside her district, the Coalition of African American Pastors, lead by the Reverend Zan W. Holmes, Jr., convened a press conference to both support Ms. Gilliam and express their outrage at the intervention of these influences from outside the community. Interestingly, the black media in the city was not invited to this press conference and it received little to no review in the white press. As a result, the net effect of their endorsement was marginal at best.

Unless we are to believe that the citizens of the precinct are not able to discern the candidate who best reflects their interests and concerns, to suggest that they were controlled and lead by the white establishment is bordering on insult. The citizens spoke and they said that they wanted change. The fact that Mr. Price was supported largely by folks outside his voting district, while interesting, is inconsequential. While we will never know for sure, there is a possibility that Mr. Price would have been elected even if he had only received nominal contributions from outside. Right or wrong, he has won and that debate is history.

As for whether or not Mr. Price will be subject to undue influence and control by the white business community, time will tell. As for the community though, we are as responsible as is Mr. Price if we do not remain actively interested involved in the activities of the school board and, accordingly, hold Mr. Price accountable. Either way, the real work of supporting our kids has just begun.

MON

Things That Make You Go Hmm...

Courtesy from the Final Call

by Tim Jackson

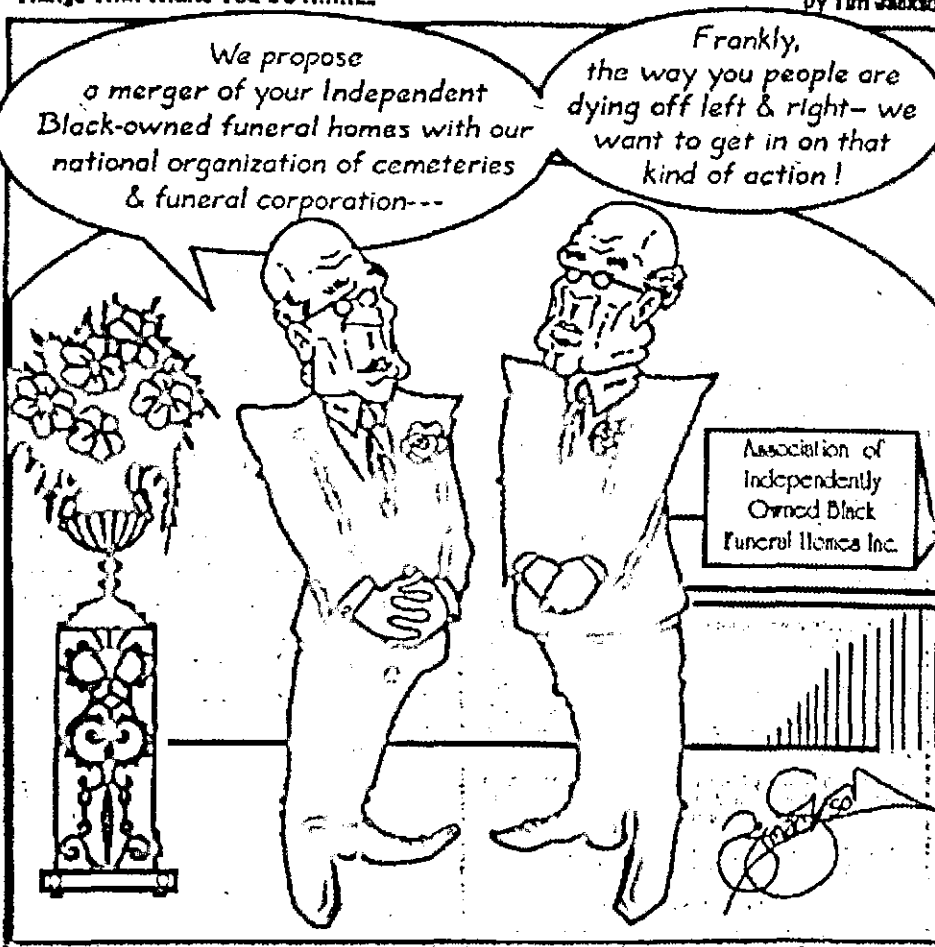


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Minority Opportunity News
 1801 East 11th Street, Suite 100
 Dallas, Texas 75210
 (214) 905-0946 FAX: (214) 905-0949

Chairman Emeritus
 Jim Bochum

Publisher
 Thurman R. Jones

Contributing Editor
 Jason Webster

Editorial Department
 (972) 606-3890

Sales/Marketing Department
 (972) 606-7351

EditorChris Pryer
 Assignments EditorCheryl L. Williams
 Contributing WriterGlenda Goodson
 Contributing WriterTai Jones
 Contributing WriterGina Weldon
 Contributing WriterWhitney Larkins
 ColumnistThomas Muhammad
 ColumnistCheryl Smith
 Administrative Assistant to publisherDarryl Ewing
 Account Rep.Marshall Sims
 Account Rep.Linda Whitehead
 ProductionKevin Pinell
 PhotographerWallace Faggett
 Vol. Community PublicistCharlotte Berry
 Vol. Community PublicistRita White

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C P N S

LETTERS...

Just a Thank you

Thank you for your review of [the book] *ColorSearch*. Your review highlighted some potential markets for *ColorSearch*, and was very insightful and thorough.

We are anticipating great things from *ColorSearch* and your support is a key element. Our goal is to provide *ColorSearch* to African American youth across America by combining book giveaways, contests, and speeches.

We will keep you up to date on our progress.

Please forward to us, in the self-addressed stamped envelope, the authorization to use and copy your editorial in the marketing of *ColorSearch*.

Again, thank you for your time and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Angela W. Harper
 McClinton E. Neal
 Carrollton

Muhammad Speaks

I thought [Thomas Muhammad's] article on Islam (March 1997) was very good. I am glad MON had the courage to do this article within this part of the "Bible Belt." Most other black complimentary papers are so scared to print the truth about anything concerning the black community.

In [Mr. Muhammad's] May 1997 column, he called on brothers and sisters in the [Nation of Islam] to put down their bibles and pick up their Qur'ans only. I call on [Mr. Muhammad] to stop this "divide and conquer" tactic within the Bible Belt and get out there himself and do something positive instead of taking sides negatively.

The problem with black folks now is that they keep the "negativeness" going. Like [Thomas Muhammad] said during the May 6, 1997 NAACP meeting at Thurgood Marshall Recreation Center, there are so many other problems to solve. I agree with this. Instead of arguing from within, we should remember that faith without works is dead. Everyone has faith but some have no works, no achievements, no toil, no labor, no product, no effort...

We need solutions, solutions, solutions—not more divide and conquer tactics.

Lynne
 Dallas, TX

continued on page 4

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Guest Viewpoint
by
Kevin Williams

Filling in the cracks: Students at risk

Many educators debate whether teaching is an art or a science. We all can agree that teaching is a lot of hard work. As the great debate unfolds, some students continue to fall through the cracks of public education.

As a Texas public educator, I am dedicated to helping fill in the cracks. And what are these cracks in which we speak so diligently? Have they ever been identified? And why do we as educators continue to allow students to fall through the cracks?

I have been a public educator for three years now and have worked extensively with children from low socioeconomic environments. The student populations varied from mixed ethnic communities to predominately African American communities. It is in these type communities in which research supports low levels of academic/extracurricular interest/participation and high levels of student dropout ratios. In my opinion, these are the "crack kids" (students at risk) who slip through the hands of pub-

lic education.

As an educator, I believe in setting high academic standards and I instill social behavioral ethics in the mind and hearts of my students. However, I do realize that I am working with children and I expect them to make mistakes. Mistakes can be corrected and some mistakes have consequences, whether appropriate or inappropriate. Even the apostle Paul understood this concept. The scriptures reveal in I Corinthians 13:11, "When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as child, I thought as a child; but when I became man, I put away childish things...."

Many "crack kids" are those who have done all they know to do and still have not found an appropriate avenue of support from parents, teachers, friends, community, etc. There may always be students who "fall through the crack" for even Jesus, the greatest teacher, said, "The poor you have with you always." Nevertheless, as educators, we should follow policies of inclusion which allows

students to be mainstreamed into society rather than excluded from society, especially when we have students who are exemplary citizens. When students continue to work hard, show improvement, and maintain good conduct, they should be rewarded for their effort and supported in areas of weakness.

This is the message students should be getting. "If and when you do your part, I as an educator, will do all that I can to show you that I believe in you and appreciate your endeavors as a student. In my short time in public education, the thing that I have celebrated most is my faith in my students."

The greatest service educators can do for their community and country is to provide children with a quality education. In providing a quality education, a support network must be maintained between teachers, parents and administrators. Thus, students who are at the heart of this network are free to participate in a safe, risk-free environment. Malcolm Forbes once said, "The purpose of education is to replace an empty mind with an open one." As an African American educator, the words of Epictetus ring clear in my mind, "Only the educated are free."

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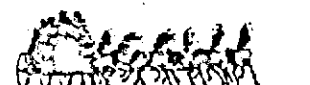
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Community Pulse

by
Thomas Muhammad

As President Bill Clinton convenes volunteer summits with past presidents George Bush, Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter (using retired Army General Colin Powell as his point person), the foremost volunteer of Dallas' African American community comes to mind. That person is former Dallas Independent School Board member Kathlyn Gilliam. I mean, we would be hard-pressed to find any-

one who has served for over twenty three years as an elected official and didn't receive one red cent. (city council members make \$50 a meeting.) I think former Deputy Mayor Pro-Tem City Council mem-

ber Diane Ragsdale's council pay probably added up to maybe \$5,000 for the eight years she served on the council. How many house notes and grocery bills do you think you could have paid in an eight year period? Unless it was a shack, I would assume not too many. Well, school board members make nothing at all. Still, because of her love for children and her community, Ms. Gilliam was able to accomplish quite a bit. I feel it quite fitting to note many of those accomplishments so that you and I will understand what a fine "jewel" she was during her great volunteering tenure.

Kathlyn Gilliam was elected to the DISD board of education under its first single-member district election in 1973. Her election happened at about the same time that a very racist Dallas city council took her and my aunt's home (and many other senior citizen's homes in the Fair Park area) in a failed attempt to keep the Dallas Cowboys in the city of Dallas. An angry Ms. Gilliam paid them back in spades and I will tell you how at the end of this column. For now, let's move on.

Many have recognized Ms. Gilliam's strong leadership for a great number of years. She was elected the first African American school board president of the DISD. She led the effort for creation and development of DISD learning centers throughout the school district. And that includes those that are currently in the Hispanic communities. She was responsible for bringing a combined \$287 million into the African American commu-

Tribute to Kathlyn Gilliam: A "Volunteer Giant"

nities for increased funding of instructional programs and for new construction and school renovations. The results of this work can be seen at such facilities as Lincoln High, Colonial Elementary, James Madison High, John Henry Brown and others. It also helped to build state-of-the-art athletic facilities like P.C. Cobb Complex and the Joe Louis Field House. These dollars were also used to re-equip

and restore all existing facilities in our communities. Most have probably forgotten that it was Ms. Gilliam who led the effort to bring the Humanities/Communications Magnet to Lincoln

High School in South Dallas. She also led the effort to expand the Honors and TAG programs for our children. And she successfully fought to fund full-day kindergartens for the school district. By making sure that African and Mexican American children, teachers and school principals had a great work environment. Ms. Gilliam was able to lead efforts that increased student test scores by 91 percent. She also led efforts that lowered drop-out rates by 97 percent. And she led an effort that increased students' reading, science and math scores by 89 percent. Recognizing that the school communities of South Dallas/Fair Park had some very unique problems because of the over proliferation of alcohol-related businesses. While Ms. Ragsdale was making history on the city council by leading the fight against such businesses, Ms. Gilliam was leading the fight at the DISD board level. She led the fight to abolish alcohol-related businesses and conspicuous alcohol consumption around schools. She also led the effort to create Drug Free Zones on and around campuses by getting increased funding for anti-drug and anti-gang programs. She even used the Clean South Dallas, Inc. organization to sponsor community rallies for the "Stop The Violence, Keep The Peace" green ribbon program. Speaking of Clean South Dallas, about eight or ten years ago, Clean Dallas, Inc. came to South Dallas with the intentions of using African American community leaders and groups to raise funds for their organization. You're

familiar with the story aren't you? White folks come to your neighborhoods and try and recruit you to volunteer to help them for some supposed noble venture. And you work with them only to find out that they are using you as statistical data to raise money to pay white staff members. Realizing this, Ms. Gilliam told them good bye and set out to create "Clean South Dallas, Inc." It wasn't hard since South Dallas was the only community where regular clean ups were taking place thanks to Ms. Gilliam and other African American leaders. Keep America Beautiful, which funded Clean Dallas, Inc. Once again, Ms. Gilliam proved that white folks don't always have to take the lead for African Americans, and that African Americans can lead themselves given the same tools that Anglos have. She also founded District 9 On the Move to recruit parents and community leaders as an organ to inform the community about school issues. Ms. Gilliam created the Selena Butler Parental Training Institute to assist in training parents on how to effectively advocate educational issues. Realizing that the school and community is of one body, Ms. Gilliam led the effort to create a program that hired paid "community liaisons" for each school in the district. These community liaisons have been very instrumental in creating a lot of the events at their schools and have made it possible for more parents to become involved with their schools. And as more parents have become involved at schools they have met and created a relationship with school principals, teachers and staff. The

recipient of many awards, Ms. Gilliam, by no means, has become puffed up with pride or arrogance. She can always be seen at small community events that are being sponsored by her or some other community organization. She proudly tells many that she would much rather be at fish or hot dog dinners in her community than go out to the \$100 a plate dinners that are thrown on the other side of town, even though for her it would be free (one of the few privileges elected officials get). Such an attitude has not endeared her to the white business community. Add that to her taking the lead for the full implementation of the Federal Court Desegregation Order and it's easy to see why she will be remembered as a "major thorn" in their butts. Ms. Gilliam has been the recipient of awards too numerous to name at this time. But maybe, in future columns, we will name those as well.

Now, as for the big payback Ms. Gilliam gave the city for taking African American people's land near Fair Park. You've seen the Daniel "Chappie" James school, right? Well, Ms. Gilliam held that land for nearly twenty years until she found the money to build a new school on it. Daniel Chappie James became the first DISD school ever built and named for an African American.

Damn, the lady was tough!

Until then, the struggle continues.....

MON

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

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Pen On Fire

by

Cheryl Smith

Can journalists be advocates?

Recently there was a meeting of affiliate chapter presidents of the National Association of Black Journalists held in Chicago and the discussion turned to a subject that is of particular interest to me.

Advocacy.

Some of us wondered, Why don't we hear more from organizations, our historically black organizations, regarding issues that are high on the list of priorities for black people?

One chapter president said he felt NABJ leaders should speak out on issues. Affirmative action, welfare reform and the death penalty were a few of the subjects of interest to members.

While there are avenues for journalists to speak out on those issues, there is an even stronger need for

many who have crossed the line.

And while there are those who would say that the line should never be crossed, there are clear instances when the journalist can and will become the lead story. There are also some instances when the journalist MUST become the subject.

So we're back to the question that leads to that lengthy discussion: Should journalists speak out on issues?

Without a doubt!

Just as police must police their own, doctors must scrutinize their own, teachers must monitor their own, so should journalists critique their own.

To allow as powerful an institution as the media to function without scrutiny would be a travesty and a disservice to all.

The NABJ constitution reads:

"We, the members of the National Association of Black Journalists, believing that Black journalists nationwide should bind themselves together in an effort to increase Black employment in the media, to increase the number of Blacks in

management positions, to encourage and educate young Blacks interested in pursuing a journalism career, and to monitor and sensitize all media to institutional racism, do enact and establish this constitution for the governance of its members."

The purpose of the NABJ is "to expand and balance the media's coverage of the black community and [the] black experience; to encourage students to identify careers in journalism; to actively seek out and identify job opportunities for black journalists and to serve as a clearinghouse for such opportunities; to assist black journalists in upgrading their skills for upward mobility toward managerial and supervisory positions; to strengthen ties between blacks who work in majority-owned media and blacks who work in the black-owned media; to sensitize the majority-owned media to institutionalized racism; to award scholarships and internships to black students; to be an exemplary group of professionals that honors excellence and outstanding achievement among black journalists; to encourage journalism schools to appoint black professors; and to work with high schools to identify potential black journalists."

Now, you tell me. Isn't it clear what we should be doing? After reading the purpose of NABJ, should anyone be confused as to what we should be focusing our efforts on?

PEN NOTES:

Congratulations to Deborah Duncan. Deborah is moving to New York and had her last day as the host of WFAA-TV's *Good Morning Texas*. Deborah's husband, KKDA-AM's Roland Martin, will join Ms. Duncan in New York later this year. Also, coming to WFAA will be Assistant News Director Connie Howard. Word has it another African American female will be reporting out of Fort Worth also. We're hearing some really good things about KTVT-TV (Ch. 11). In fact, there is a possibility that there will be a really BIG announcement coming from the station in the near future as a new reporter and weekend anchor will arrive on the scene. Last month I told you that someone was no longer there. Well, although his picture still graces the Channel 11 billboards, veteran journalist Larry Mullins is no longer working at the station. Haven't talked to Larry recently, but reports indicate that an agreement between him and management led to the change. We wish Larry the best, wherever his career takes him. Also, congratulations to Channel 11 General Manager Brian and Lauren Jones on the birth of their third son, Brock Peter. Well, the bowlers are lining up for the third annual "Don't Believe the Hype" Celebrity Bowl-athon on Saturday, June 28, 1997 at Don Carter's West. Returning once again, Dick Gregory, Senator Royce West, State Rep. Helen Giddings, Betty Culbreath, Pastor Freddie Haynes, Malik Farrakhan, BabyFase, Paul Turner, Sage, Dr. Brenda Wall, Carmen Pagano, Skip Cheatham, Skip Murphy, Wendy, Schofield, Nanelle Lee, Gorby, Gina Redmond, John McCaa, Ramona Logan, Bob Ray Sanders, Cliff Caldwell, and a host of others. They will be joined by a host of newcomers, including: Cleo Glenn-Johnson, Billy Ratcliff, Cousin Linnie, Steve Woods, Mark McCrae, "Throwdown" Sam, Reggie D., Dr. Beverly Mitchell-Brooks and Chief Ben Click. The event is sponsored by: KKDA/K104/KRNB, Black United Fund of Texas, McDonald's, Eller Media, Mesa National, Kroger Foods, AT&T, Dickey's Barbecue-DFW, ALP Printing, and American Airlines. Black United Fund will host a VIP pre-party on Friday, June 27. Stay tuned for more information. To register yourself, or your team, call 972-263-9911 to receive an entry form. We're going to have a good time, with plenty of food and entertainment and a special sur-

In 1975, a weekend meeting was held in Washington, D.C. Over 40 journalism professionals from around the country joined together to discuss why there should be an organization such as NABJ.

prise at 10 p.m. REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY!!! Beneficiaries from this year's event include: The Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center's Summer Youth Program; Girl's Inc.; I Am That I Am Training Center; DFW/ABC and the Girls and Boys Club-Turnkey Branch. To bad you can't tune in to ABC Radio. Dr. Brenda Wall of KKDA's *Call Dr. Wall* is doing double duty. The Dallas/Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators annual scholarship banquet is almost sold out. You'd better get your tickets for Friday, June 20 at the Fort Worth Radisson, featuring keynote speaker the Rev. Michael Eric Dyson. Tickets are \$40. Call 214-330-8396 or 817-275-2897. KKDA's Willis Johnson will be honored when he receives DFW/ABC's Lifetime Achievement Award. Other honorees are: Dr. Marion Brooks and LaBerta Miller Phillips. Dallas Weekly publisher James Washington has thrown his hat into the ring as he goes for the top spot in the National Newspaper Publishers Association. NNPA is comprised of publishers from over 100 black weekly newspapers. Do you know what radio talk show host will have a little one in just three months? I'll let you know in September!!! Don't forget to tune in to D/FW Close-up with V-100's Sandra Daniels on Sunday nights on Channel 33. There's also a big nod to *On the Record* with Sam Baker, Regina Montoya, Bob Ray Sanders and Rob Allyn. Tune in on Friday at 9 p.m. and Sundays at 5 p.m. on KDTN-TV (Ch 2) and 11 a.m. on Sundays on KERA-TV (Ch 13). Welcome to Antonya English at *The Dallas Morning News*. Speaking of Channel 13, we're hoping Dorothy Gentry will receive that much-deserved promotion in the very near future. Do you know which newspaper columnist is getting married before this year comes to a close??? KTVT has hired another African American woman. Look for Ginger Gadsden to anchor the weekend newscasts starting July 5. In the past year, *The Fort Worth Star-Telegram* has made numerous changes. Management wants you to know that the *Star-Telegram* is a progressive place to work and that people of color will get opportunities to advance there. So, get out those resume and trek over to Cowtown. Did you hear WFAA-TV's Dale Hansen Unplugged? Well, you missed a good one. I'll tell you about it next month!!!

CS

Dallas Morning News veteran Norma Adams-Wade remembered that historical meeting: "The issues were so strong and crucial back then. Many of the jour-

continued on page 9

journalists to examine and critique the coverage of those issues.

As a professional journalists organization, the NABJ should consider this a subject worthy of debate. Some raised objections to stepping out on issues, or taking the role of being the defender of the very issues (and people) that at some point they may have to write about.

So, do journalists, who have an abundance of sources and information, need to be out in the forefront sharing their opinions? Do journalists now take on the role of actually being the news versus covering the news?

Well, it's clear in 1997 that there are

So, do journalists, who have an abundance of sources and information, need to be out in the forefront sharing their opinions? Do journalists now take on the role of actually being the news versus covering the news?

Dallas Public Schools: Knowing Your "Proper Place"

By Syd Sinclair

When you control a man's thinking...you do not have to worry about his actions. You do not have to tell him not to stand here and go yonder. He will find his "proper place," and stay in it. You do not need to send him to the back door. He will go without being told. In fact, if there is no back door, he will cut one for his special benefit. His education makes it necessary.

Carter G. Woodson

Carter G. Woodson was a historian, author and educator whose prolific words over 64 years ago still resonate throughout Dallas Public Schools. Those of you who are literature buffs might compare our "conditioning" to a 20th century "Brave New World," where epsilon semi-morons are bred to agree with whatever they tell us.

During the most recent meeting of the Dallas Public School Board (let us remember, it's no longer D-I-S-D), the auditorium was filled with suited brown

hues of "the District's finest," all arrayed in cordless head-gear to serve and protect as the meeting was called to order by the newly-elected Board President Kathleen Leos. Her opening address warned the "standers," aka members of the New Black Panther Party, that the only persons allowed to stand were security, media and translators. Of course, every officer did his "job," and be-lined to the one Panther standing in the back. As the tension mounted within the room, I could feel my heart strings tug at the thought of being on the 10 o'clock news with my mouth open again, wondering what the hell happened...Fortunately, after 16 minutes of "...take him out and tell him not to come back" euphoria from a plain clothes leader, the problem was solved.

With all due respect to the Board and those persons assigned to secure the environment of Board meetings, let us be mindful that throughout the meeting numerous district employees, who were not identified as security, media or translators, stood behind the Board and addi-

tional persons met one-on-one in the back of the room, yards away from the very spot where the New Black Panther Party member was removed. The difference is not one of the security members made an attempt to administer a warning or a "don't come back" to any of these persons.

I submit to you that the lack of such was based upon one's "conditioning" or "controlled thinking." To my beautiful brown brothers and their fearless plain clothes leaders, I give you more wisdom from Carter G. Woodson:

History shows that it does not matter who is in power...those who have not learned to do for themselves and have to depend solely on others never obtain any more rights or privileges in the end than they had in the beginning.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Recently, the Dallas Public School Board voted to have school board meetings every fourth Thursday at the Administration Building at 6 p.m. The next meeting will be June 26, 1997.

Congratulations to newly-elected officers of Southeast Oak Cliff/West Dallas Citizens Advisory Council: Pat Hawkins, Chair; Reverend Rose Taylor, Co-Chair; Kathryn Mitchell, Treasurer; Pamela Craddock, Secretary; Eula Williams, Parliamentarian; T.S. Pepple, Historian.

MON

Unitary Status: Defining the history of "oneness" for Dallas Public Schools

Part 1 of 3

By Syd Sinclair

Robert Price, Collaborator

For over 43 years, the Dallas School System Desegregation case has been fought within the court system. To fully understand the struggles of these now retired educators and plaintiffs, we must trace their steps to achieve unitary status.

Prior to 1955, the Dallas system was operated on a dual system of "separate and unequal," in every facet of the district's operation. Racial discrimination existed throughout the district, especially with regard to staff members, facilities, pupil assignment, transportation, textbooks, furnishings, equipment and extracurricular activities. African American students often received hand-me-down books, materials and equipment, frequently going without important educational tools.

With the ruling of Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka, Kan. in 1954, the United States Supreme Court ruled unanimously that segregated schools deprive African American students of

equal educational opportunities. Although this decree was a violation of 14th Amendment rights and concluded to have "...no place in public education," it continued throughout the South without enforcement by any authorities. During the 1957-58 school year, the DISD Superintendent directed schools to remain the same. An election conducted in August 1960 concluded that Dallas was vehemently opposed to changes in the segregation law and a counter suit was filed against the State Superintendent stating Dallas schools would remain segregated. In 1960, the district was still making slow progress to comply with the court order. After a few African American students were admitted to the first grade in 1961, the fifth circuit court ordered the district to accelerate the desegregation process in 1965. Despite the "deliberate delay," 1970 brought forth schools comprised of all one race, 90 percent white, or 90 percent African American and Hispanic students. The early 70s brought protests from white parents who disagreed with African American and Hispanic students attending the newly



Photo by Syd Sinclair

l-r: Newly elected Dallas City Council of PTAs President, Ruth Houston; DPS Board Trustee Dr. Yvonne Ewell; Spring Retreat Keynote Speaker Barbara Lacy; and Newly elected Southeast Oak Cliff Advisory Co-Chair Reverend Rose Taylor share a moment during the District V Spring Retreat, entitled "The Annual Yvonne Ewell Advocacy Institute."

constructed Skyline High School.

Significantly, October 1970 saw the Dallas Legal Services Project filing suit, contending that Dallas was still operating a segregated school system. Eight parents and 21 students accused DISD of practicing segregation and discrimination in the assignment of students and teachers. In August of 1971, Judge William Mack Taylor ordered the school district to begin bussing about 15,000 junior and senior students, an order that would be later modified to include 7,000 students. The white flight increased; they began to attend new private schools and many moved to the suburbs. By 1973, white students were the minority within the district.

Judge Taylor created, as part of his order, a "tri-ethnic," committee composed of African American, brown and white members to overlook the desegregation progress. The April 1976 court order by Judge William Taylor was a desegregation plan of the educational

task force of the Dallas Alliance. Dallas Schools were ordered to implement the most extensive plan. This plan did the following: divided the district into six sub-districts; ordered grade level divisions with the inclusion of Vanguard schools, K-3 early childhood education centers, 4-8 intermediate and middle school centers, 9-12 magnets; special programs; majority to minority transfers; minority to majority transfers; curriculum transfers; transportation; changes in the attendance zones; discipline and due process; facilities; personnel, recruitment & employment; accountability system, and auditor; tri-ethnic committee and retention of jurisdiction.

The actions of both Judge William Taylor and Barefoot Sanders demonstrated inclusion of multiculturalism.

Upon review in 1982, Judge Barefoot Sanders attempted to highlight the differences in the changes of the 1976 order.

continued on next page

DISD

Continued from previous page

Those changes, to be initiated by the start of the 1984-85 school year, were: realign to 3 districts; 8 school closings and 4 feeder pattern changes; majority to minority transfer changes; majority to minority incentives; majority to minority transportation; majority to minority publicity; curriculum transfer changes; magnet schools, implementation of science and engineering program, talented and gifted programs, etc.; regular elementary, intermediate; middle and high schools (inclusive of bilingual education); programmatic remedies for minority schools; curriculum transfer changes; magnet schools; facility improvements; personnel recruiting, employment and training changes; reporting and monitoring.

MON

Part 2 continues next month with the 1987 Court Order vs. 1994 Order.

Pen on Fire

Continued from page 7

nalists in attendance were the 'only ones' in their respective newsreels and there was a need to address many issues and share experiences. It was clear that we must organize, we must stay together."

How has the membership changed over the years? Why doesn't the focus seem to be the same?

"There doesn't seem to be the same sense of urgency," explained Ms. Adams-Wade. "Back then there was a feeling of life and death. Now, people are on individual plains."

"Now it's more of a situation of what can this group do for me, and not what can I do to help further what this group is trying to do."

And that's where we have to get back on track. It's clear that we must defocus and bring back the spirit that led those noble men and women to gather in the nation's capital.

It's clear that we must get back to the basics. We must bring back the spirit of those who took a chance when there were so few of us to lean on for support.

There is no time to hesitate or vacillate. It's time to advocate, like we never have before.

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

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COMMUNITY



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Being the owners of five San Diego McDonald's, Harold and Tina Lewis have been part of the community for over 10 years. In addition to supporting local causes such as UNCF, Black Law Enforcement Network, and a drug abuse education program, the couple started the McDonald's AVAIL (African-American Visionary And Inspirational Leaders) Scholarship Program, awarding over \$125,000 in scholarships in 1996 alone to local high school seniors.



Theda Rudd's love of children and education, combined with being a successful owner of six McDonald's, keep her a busy member of the Lansing community. Not only is Theda chairing a board to open an area Ronald McDonald House, but she also volunteers time reading to and speaking with school children of all ages. Each year, she even offers three of her McDonald's employees scholarships to her alma mater, Michigan State University.

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Local teacher to attend Supreme Court Summer Institute

Gina Gisele Weldon, teacher of law at the School of Law and Criminal Justice, Townview Magnet Center in Dallas and a contributing writer for Minority Opportunity News was selected in a highly competitive process to attend a Summer Institute on the U.S. Supreme Court.



Gina G. Weldon

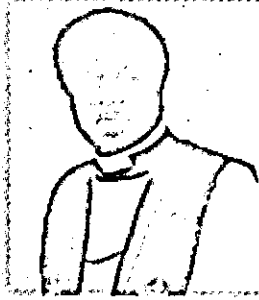
This institute, co-sponsored by the National Institute for Citizen Education in the Law (NICEL) and the Supreme Court Historical Society, is offered only to teachers who have demonstrated outstanding ability in the field of law-related education. The Institute will offer Ms. Weldon the opportunity to study recent Supreme Court Cases in depth and experience innovative teaching methodology for conveying this information to students.

Other highlights of the Institute

include: substantive sessions on Supreme Court issues with noted scholars and NICEL staff, a VIP tour of the U.S. Supreme Court, and a reception hosted by Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Upon retraining to Dallas, Ms. Weldon will be available to present workshops on the material studied this summer.

Bishop Celebrates 20 years with Church of God in Christ

Bishop J. Neaul Haynes celebrates 20 years this month as Jurisdictional Prelate of the Church of God in Christ (C.O.G.I.C.), Texas Northeast Jurisdiction.



Bishop J. Neaul Haynes

Invited guests to the June 26, 1997 celebration at Saintsville C.O.G.I.C., located at 2200 S. Marsalis Ave., Dallas, include Mayor Ron Kirk, Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, Commissioner John Wiley Price, and

other regional and national luminaries. The celebration is part of the Texas Northeast 43rd Annual Holy Convocation, June 23-29.

Bishop Haynes rose through the ecclesiastical ranks, first as one of twelve moderate to conservative members of the international predidium and later with his appointment in early 1997 as the Vice President of the 8.5 million member international church with headquarters in Memphis Tennessee.

Ultimately, he would like to the churches he oversees to continue to expand into inner-city and urban areas. These areas are largely forgotten by the mainstream, he says, and the church will continue to make a positive difference in the lives of African Americans, Hispanics and all in need of spiritual awakening.

Bishop Haynes is married to Vivian King Haynes, has two daughters, Vrai Haynes Morris and Pia Haynes Williams, and four grandchildren. For more information call Glenda Williams Goodson at 214-374-4105.

Registration for golf tournament begins

The Dallas Metroplex Council of Black Alumni Associations will host the Third Annual Jimmy Walker Memorial Golf Tournament August 9, 1997 at the Cedar Crest Golf Course.

Registration is \$60.00 per golfer and \$240.00 per team. Please register before July 8, 1997. For more information call 972-395-3369.

DFW/ABC holds Banquet

The Dallas/Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators will host its 16th Annual Future Journalists Scholarship Banquet 7:00 p.m. June 20, 1997 at the Radisson Plaza Hotel, 815 Main St, Ft. Worth, Texas.

The keynote speaker, Rev. Michael Eric Dyson, Ph.D., is Professor of Communications Studies at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Author of several books including Between God and Gangsta Rap: Bearing Witness to Black Culture and Making Malcolm: The Myth and Meaning of Malcolm X, his latest is Race Rules: Navigating the Color Line.

As banquet co-hosts, V100 FM personality Keith Solis will team with a former DFW/ABC scholarship recipient who is now a working journalist. Honored at the event will be a deserving Ft. Worth citizen and a veteran Dallas/Ft. Worth media personality.

Last year, DFW/ABC awarded nearly \$33,000 in scholarships to aspiring journalists. In the 16 years since DFW/ABC was founded in 1981, they have award more than \$300,000 in scholarships.

Tickets to the banquet are \$40.00. To inquire about tickets, corporate sponsorship, or advertising space in the souvenir booklet call 817-275-2897 or 214-331-8396.

Center for Housing Resources Helps Elderly

The Center for Housing Resources held a home repair day last month in the South Dallas County community of Sandbranch. The home repairs benefitted a 70 year old grandmother raising 12 grandchildren.

Volunteers worked diligently to make the home airtight and safe for the family. Rats and snakes had been a threat



Volunteers from St. Luke Community U.M.C. repair Sandbranch home.

to the family but with the help of volunteers from CHR, St. Luke Community United Methodist Church, the Dallas County Sheriff Department, southwest Bath Specialists and a plumber employed by the City of Arlington, the family can rest a lot easier at night.

The project was made possible through contributions of building materials from South

Jennings Wins SBA Award

Devoyd Jennings, president of the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce was recently selected as the Minority Small Business Advocate of the year for 1997.

The U.S. Small Business Administration and its partners will honor Jennings and other small business award winners, the SCORE Chapter of the Year and the Small Business Development Center of the Year at the "Building Tomorrow's Economy Today," breakfast, June 3 at the



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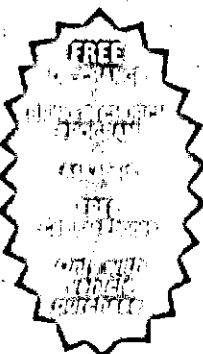
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More In The News . . .

Arlington Hilton Hotel, Arlington, Texas. Registration for the breakfast begins at 7:00 a.m.

The breakfast helps kick off the SBA's celebration of Small Business Week, June 1-7, 1997. For more information call Diane Cheshier at 817-885-6504 or Bill Medina at 817-885-6517.

New Residential Development Opens

Southern Dallas' low and moderate income residents have just been offered a new place to call home. The Villas of Sorrento, a 220 unit apartment complex featuring a variety of amenities normally associated with far more expensive locations, celebrated its grand opening May 17. Located next to A. Maceo Smith High School, the development is the first new housing project in the area in over 30 years.

The Villas of Sorrento, located at 3130 Stag Road, Dallas, offers area residents one to three bedroom apartments with state of the art facilities. Those facilities include on-site child care, a computer learning center with a library, a fitness room, an on-site park, a basketball court, and softball and soccer field.

All residents signed a 12 month lease agreement that also required a minimum of 40 hours annually devoted to community service on the complex grounds. Those community service hours can include attending crime watch meetings, tutoring and mentoring children, cleaning the site, serving as building captains, among many more.

The buildings of the multi-family development are designed to have a more residential feel than that of the typical apartment. The architecture of the buildings, which consists of only four units per building, takes on a classic "villa" or "mansion" look. For more information call Ken Carter at 214-630-3210.

Minority Business Development Council hosts ACCESS '97

The Dallas Ft. Worth Minority Business Development Council is holding its Annual Trade Fair and Professional Services Forum June 2-3, 1997 at the Arlington Convention Center, 1200 Ballpark Way, Arlington, Texas.

The primary focus of the Council, a non-profit organization founded in 1973, is to promote and facilitate the develop-



Ron Haddock

ment of business relationships between private and public sector entities and minority-owned businesses. The D/FW MBDC is one of 43 affiliate member councils of the National Minority Supplier Development Council network. The network is comprised of 3,500 corporate members and over 16,000 certified minority-owned businesses nationally.

Ron W. Haddock, CEO of FINA, Inc. is the featured speaker at the June 3rd luncheon. The luncheon provides minority business owners and representatives the opportunity to further network with

the buyer representative of their choice. To register for ACCESS '97 contact Karen S. Jones or Debbie Ricks at 214-750-4100.

the buyer representative of their choice. To register for ACCESS '97 contact Karen S. Jones or Debbie Ricks at 214-750-4100.

Public invited to celebrity Bowl-a-thon

Join Cheryl Smith of KKDA AM for the Third Annual "Don't Believe the Hype Celebrity Bowl-a-thon, June 28, 1997 at Don Carter's West, 10920 Composite Drive, Dallas.

Over 50 celebrities including State Senator Royce West; State Rep. Helen Giddings; D/FW Airport board chair Betty Culbreath; Joyce Ann Brown; Public Enemy's Malik Farrakhan; DART Board President Billy Ratcliff, Comedian Dick Gregory; The Dallas Morning News' Norma Adams and many other

local television and radio personalities and local celebrities will compete for fun and prizes.

A VIP reception kicks off the activities at 6:00 p.m. and bowling will begin at 8:00 p.m. All bowlers must check in no later than 7:30 p.m. Each team will bowl three games and prizes will be awarded to the high-scoring bowlers.

In the past two years, bowlers have helped raise nearly \$20,000 that has been awarded to organizations that provide programming for youth.

The registration fee is \$10 per bowler and each bowler must collect \$50 in donations by 6:00 p.m. June 28. Bowlers can come alone or with a team. To choose a celebrity captain, a team must raise at least \$500. To register or for more information call 972-263-9911.

MON

DART in the City Your Transit Agency in Action

SUPER DAY FOR SOUTH OAK CLIFF DART completed its 20-mile light rail starter system with a "Super Saturday" celebration on May 31, 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. at Ledbetter Station, corner Loop 12 and Lancaster Road. Free service over the entire DART rail system was provided until revenue service began Monday, June 9. A number of bus routing changes to serve the new stations — Kiest and VA Medical Center in addition to Ledbetter — also went into effect June 9 in addition to other service improvements. DART Customer Assistance representatives can provide details at 214/979-1111.

DISCOUNT CARDS ARE HERE Paratransit Services' new Frequent Rider Discount Cards are now on sale, allowing paratransit customers to purchase 10 trips for \$15, a savings of \$5 (or 25 percent). These are available at the DART Retail Sales Center, Elm & Ervay in downtown Dallas, and at participating pass outlets.

TO D-FW AIRPORT Also new this summer is AirDART, economical express shuttle service to and from D-FW Airport, designed for both travelers and the thousands of airport employees who commute daily. Service is scheduled to originate in East Plano and in downtown Dallas and have stops in Richardson and Irving for the low one-way fare of \$8. Call 214/979-1111 for departure locations and schedule information.



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SBA looks to increase loans to area entrepreneurs

By Gina Weldon

On June 13, the Dallas/Ft. Worth District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration will sponsor a Minority Lender's Fair at the Wynnewood Village Shopping Center at Illinois and Zang Avenues here in Dallas from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The fair is designed to give small, minority and woman-owned firms an opportunity to procure business loans. Larry Miller, Deputy District Director of the SBA's Dallas/Ft. Worth District Office, is committed to increasing the SBA's market penetration in the district, which is comprised of 72 counties surrounding the DFW Metroplex hub. Also present at the Lender's Fair will be credit bureau representatives to give on-the-spot credit information, business counselors to work with people who "just have an idea" about businesses they want to start and pre-approval consultants, who are trained to put together loan packages for businesses.

The SBA has a number of programs developed to "change the face" of America's entrepreneurs. The small/minority/woman-owned business has historically been part of an under-served market. Miller, previously an assistant regional administrator for finance and investments over a five-state region, helped develop marketing initiatives for the Dallas district. "Lenders have traditionally not made the kind of inroads they need to make in this market," says Miller. "The usual process of lending involves the bank reviewing the application, and if the customer doesn't fit into the bank's 'box' because of certain factors, such as terms, maturity dates, credit factors or so forth, the bank will use an SBA program. The bank would rather do large loans than small ones, because the income stream is larger on large deals, and it takes the same amount of time and effort to do a large deal as to do a small deal. Loans to minority businesses are usually small (under \$100,000), and many times, the lenders have been unsure if the SBA will back the deal."

The Minority Pre-Approval Processing Program should result in increased lending activity in the small/minority/woman market. It reviews a customer's loan application package before it goes to the banks. Says Miller, "We look at the paper first, and if we can approve it, we give the applicant a letter which

says we'll back the loan. The applicant takes that letter...to the bank. By giving the pre-approval letter, the lender can be sure that the SBA is in the deal." Miller added that the SBA has a number of outside consultants who have been trained



Larry Miller, Deputy District Director for the Small Business Administration, works the phone.

by the agency to package these deals. Many will be at the June Fair. "Basically, all we need is about four or five underwriting documents to tell us what's happening with these businesses and what their plans are. Since 95 percent of the lenders in this area are signed up to do business with us, there's a great possibility of the deal going through."

Miller outlined the SBA's three-pronged attack on increasing minority business in the U.S. 1) Guarantees loans for small businesses. 2) Non-financial programs, such as the Small Business Development Centers, the Business Assistance Centers, and the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), which give business advice and counseling to small businesses. 3) Running an 8(a) contracting division, where it finds contractors identified as socially or economically disadvantaged. If the SBA can certify that the contractor can perform, it will procure the contract for the business. These contracts are usually within the set-aside programs for minority contractors on contracts with the federal government.

The SBA's Revolving Loan Program further assist businesses with contracts they already have by underwriting performance expenses such as buying materials or paying for extra labor. These loans are line-of-credit loans, where an entrepreneur might need short-term financial help. "The good thing about these loans," says Miller, "is that we can factor in growth. Most lenders that have a line of credit product usually have to be paid off in a year. If you needed more money next year, you'd have to pay the fees associat-

ed with a new loan, and that can get expensive. We've been able to develop a product where we can commit for up to five years. If you need \$100,00 this year, but have predicted you'll need \$500,000 in five years, we can make you a five-year loan factoring in that growth."

When asked about advice for small businesses who need capital, Miller is quick to respond. "They need to have a business plan, even if they're already in business. They need to have a forecast of what they think the business is going to look like (financially) in the next year, or even the next two to three years. They also need to have financial data to show the history of the company; tax returns are always good for that. Lenders can look at their business plans, their forecast and their financial data and see where the business wants to go and how much money it will take to get there. It's important to see the business through the businessperson's eyes, but you need supporting documentation to show where you've been, where you want to go, and whether you can get there if the money shows up."

Miller stresses that the SBA has an approval rate of over 85 percent, suggesting that in order to get more market penetration in the minority community, more loan applications need to be made. The Dallas District has a business base of 155,000 and the SBA made more than

1,600 loans last year, just over one percent market penetration and better than the national average. However, on minority loans, especially African American and Hispanic loans, the district is getting less than one-half percent. Miller believes that the SBA is responsible for getting the word out that capital is available. "It's not due to any special treatment; the quality of our applicants is equal to the quality of all other approved applicants. We just need to make the opportunity known. That's the main purpose of the Lender's Fair in June. I see getting the word out as a partnership relationship between the SBA, the various chambers of commerce, and other economic development organizations, including those in churches. We need to let the small/minority/woman-owned businessperson know that there is access to capital, that there is a way for small businesses to get loans."

Miller adds, "The U.S. Small Business Administration is a credit-enhancing tool and represents the best avenue for minorities to have access to capital...and contract with the federal government, the largest contractor in the world. Without SBA assistance, minorities would have a difficult time in securing these contracts, and certainly in securing loans."

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Thirty Years From Selma:

Juanita J. Abernathy shares her perspective about civil rights, black women and family

By Charlotte D. Berry

The Civil Rights movement of the 60s is still an unfolding reality for some and for others stories told of what once was. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Ralph David Abernathy were two men who helped bring our realities and stories home. However, there are two unsung heroines of the 60s Civil Rights movement. Through the legacies of their husbands, Juanita J. Abernathy and Coretta Scott King push forward as sojourners for equality.

On March 21, 1965 Martin and Coretta Scott King, along with Ralph and Juanita J. Abernathy, with locked arms, led a five-day march of blacks and Whites from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., in protest of blacks being refused the right to vote. Juanita Abernathy has not missed a beat in working to either help educate or bring about some positive change for people of color and women throughout the years.

Mrs. Abernathy, in town recently to help celebrate the 21st anniversary of Millionaire National Sales Director Mattie Dozier of Mary Kay Cosmetics, conversed with *MON* about black women; equal rights; family; thirty years later, progress or not; black people pulling it together, keeping it together; and Mary Kay Cosmetics.

MON: Your thoughts on Black and White women rights—improved?

JA: First of all, black women are survivors and purveyors of the race. Rights for black women are not the same as they are for white women. The premise is different from the start, white women were born free in this country and educated to be wives and house mames for their families. Black women, on the other hand, were mothers to their own children, wives to their husband, mistress to the master, maiden to the mistress and bearer of the mulatto babies. The two groups' goals are somewhat different in that White women have been controlled by their husbands and are looking for individual freedom and black women are looking for racial barrier freedom as well as equal access and opportunity to success. There is a difference in the work and family ethics. Black women were taught at a very young age to work through hard labor and pursue an education in order to succeed, spawned from different life experiences than White women. So, therefore the process has been slow and

bogged down for Black women since it is not an equal playing ground within corporate America's glass ceilings and quotas.

MON: The Black Family.

JA: Society has created rivalry between Black men and women. The term "divide and conquer" is not worn out for the black family. Our men are being told by



statistics that we are out-employing, becoming more educated, and progressing faster than they are. This brings unstableness in our homes and relationships. Our babies are having babies at an alarming rate of any other groups in this country. We were taught to "reach one, teach one" in the black family. Our memories need to be jogged and lives reclaimed.

MON: In your opinion have we progressed or regressed in thirty years?

JA: Actually, Ralph and I started out on December 5, 1955 in this movement of social change. We have made some strides in thirty years, but actually we have regressed as a whole. We have arrived and most of us don't know from where and receiving benefits that are perceived as given rights instead of blood labored gifts. We are still celebrating "firsts" as though we just gained our freedom. We are three years from the next millennium and still having the first in corporate board rooms, hotels and (other) organizations. We wanted freedom but instead got drugs in our communities and became confused. Our hopes and aspirations got mischanneled and deferred. Generations have either not learned or have chosen to forget the sacrifices that were given in order to have the quality of life we now are blessed to have. We are traveling backwards instead

of linking arms together in communities moving forward.

MON: How do you suggest we as a race pull and keep it together?

JA: Stay focused and goal oriented. Always remember that we came to this country as slaves, not to be doctors, lawyers, teachers, humanitarians, and scientists. The family is still the mainstay of the race. We must teach our children their history, keep family values and communication open. Racism is alive and doing very well in every facet of American society and we must always remember that. He who forgets his past is doomed to repeat it. Understand what is being said to you directly and indirectly, what you read and hear through the media. We as a race are not the people that society's perception has said we are. Our children are precious commodities and should be educated to understand the world. We have to get rid of the mind set, "God bless me, myself and I" and be a blessing to someone else.

MON: What is so special about your trip to Dallas and the Mary Kay Cosmetics connection?

JA: My dear friend, National Sales Director Mattie Dozier, is celebrating 21 years

in Mary Kay Cosmetics. I personally was a Sales Director in MK for 20 years and this is a special time to share with the Dozier Dynasty Area. It is a fabulous company with one of the most comprehensive training programs and compensation packages and profit margins in the private sector of cosmetics. You can imagine [that] 20 years ago, to find a company that would recruit and train black women to excel in business was a rarity. It is one of a few companies that provide women of all races (especially Black women) an opportunity to make six-figure incomes without a glass ceiling or race quotas.

Understanding who we are, our role in history and our contributions as a race in this next millennium are issues that should wake the conscious in each one of us. Juanita J. Abernathy has lived history making change as the wife of Ralph David Abernathy, civil rights activist, and as a black woman in a time most of us heard or read about. Theirs, as well as the contributions of others, made for a better quality of life for us and should not be taken for granted.

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Charlotte D. Berry is the community publicist for *MON*.



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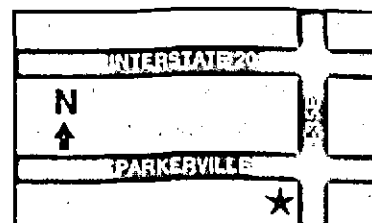
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Race: The History of an Idea

Part 2 of 4

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

The contact of the English with Indians, and soon afterward with blacks, in the New World led to the formation of institutions and relationships which were later justified by appeals to race theories.

Like the Spaniards, the Englishmen frequently professed that conversion of the Indians and blacks was one of their chief aims. However, they did not succeed so well in assimilating Indians and blacks into their own society.

The charter of the Massachusetts Bay Colony stated that it was the principal aim of the plantation to "winn and incite the natives of the country to the knowledge and obedience of the onlie true God and Savior of Mankinde, and the Christian Faythe" (sic). The seal of the colony bore a figure of an Indian with the words inscribed, "Come over and help us."

King James I objected to the marriage of John Rolfe and Pocahontas, it was not for a reason which would give much comfort to anyone looking for early racist theories. His objection apparently came from his feeling that Rolfe, a commoner, was giving himself airs by marrying an Indian princess. Although liaisons between English men and Indian women were not uncommon, "marriages were rare."

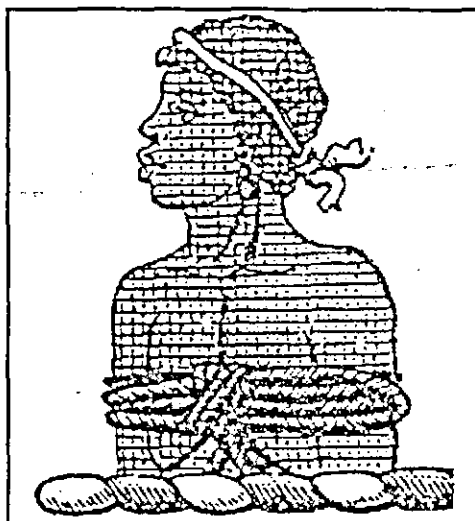
In 1619, Sir Edwin Sandys, treasurer of the Virginia Company, urged that a college be founded which would accept both Indian and whites, and plans were also made for a preparatory school. The Indian massacre of 1622, however, checked any further attempts at Indian education in Virginia until the opening of William and Mary College in 1688. In New England, Roger Williams began to study the language of an Indian tribe and to engage in missionary work. In 1636, the Plymouth Colony enacted laws to provide for the preaching of the gospel among the Indians. In 1646, the General Court of Massachusetts directed the ministers to select two of their number to serve as Indian missionaries each year.

After the massacre of 1622, the Virginia colonists sent a report to London which seemed to imply that the "principle end" of the colony was no longer to convert the Indians. The report expressed some satisfaction that the rebellious incident had occurred: "...our hands, which before were tied with gentleness and fair usage, are now set at liberty by the treacherous violence of the savages, the way of conquering them is much more easy than of civilizing them."

In New England, the Indian outbreak known as "King Philip's War" (1675-1676), squelched most mis-

sionary activities staged on behalf of the Indians. Afterward, the idea of Indians as potential Christians was received among the colonists with considerable skepticism.

The conviction that the Indians were, and presumably always would be, blood-thirsty savages deepened after King Philip's War. By 1648, John Cotton, a writer and religious activist, had tended to discourage the hope that the Indians would be converted, except for a scattered few. With the ending of missionary enterprises, the conviction that "the only good Indian was a dead Indian" was free



The Coat-of-Arms of Sir John Hawkins (1532-1595), father of the modern slave trade, was a bound African.

to grow.

One explanation of the differences between Spanish and English opinions of Indians is to be found in the different characters of the Indians that the two nations encountered. The Indians of Mexico, the Caribbean islands and South America, with some exceptions, tended to be agriculturists rather than hunters, settled into stable villages and towns, and were generally less proficient in warfare. They were easier to subdue and did not represent the danger on the frontier that the northern Indians frequently did. Among the Spanish, Indians were frequently characterized as gentle people.

From the standpoint of future race theory, the most important characteristic of the English colonists was probably the fact that, unlike the French and the Spanish, they did not intermarry in significant numbers with the Indians, although they frequently did interbreed with them. (American historians often regarded this reluctance of their forefathers to marry Indians as the proud self-consciousness of a superior Anglo-Saxon race. Other explanations, however seem more prob-

able.)

Arnold Toynbee, a writer and historian, theorizes that the emphasis upon the Old Testament among the English colonists encouraged the idea of a Chosen People divinely commissioned to exterminate the infidel. Among the Puritans the idea was particularly strong. The synod of 1679 declared that:

"The ways of God toward this His people are in many respects like unto his dealings of old. It was a great and high undertaking of our fathers when they ventured themselves and their little ones upon the rude waves of the vast ocean, that so they might follow the Lord into this land."

More important than any of these explanations is the fact that the English were colonists and often brought their families with them, while the Spanish and French came more often as traders and left their families at home. Those Englishmen who left the settlements in order to become traders in Indian territory showed little tendency to maintain the idea of racial exclusiveness.

William Byrd, the redoubtable old aristocrat and planter of colonial Virginia, criticized Englishmen in America for not having intermarried with the Indians.

It was the white man's relationship with the Negro, rather than his relationship with the Indian, that was eventually rationalized into the most powerful racist doctrine this country has ever known.

The institution of slavery spread after 1680 because not enough English bond-servants could be secured, English and Dutch slave traders redoubled their activities, and competition among tobacco farmers intensified the search for cheap labor.

The importance of black slavery in generating race theories in this country can hardly be overestimated; it must be remembered that there was a minimum of theory at the time the institution was established. The theory of any political or social institution is likely to develop only when it comes under attack, and the time for opposition to slavery was still far in the future.

The labor system in the colonies tended to work to the advantage of the white bond-servant. In order to combat the publicity given to harsh treatment of servants in the colonies, the term of indentured service was shortened, first for the Englishmen and later for Irishmen and other aliens. The blacks, on the other hand, did not have to be placated in this way because there was no need to encourage more blacks to come to the colonies or to combat adverse opinion in Africa. As the term of service for white bond-servants was decreasing, the demand for labor was increasing. In these

circumstances, the number of blacks imported greatly increased. In the 1660s, the status of blacks was finally recognized as different from that of other servants. The Maryland legislature enacted a bill which stated, "All blacks and other

The importance of black slavery in generating race theories in this country can hardly be overestimated; it must be remembered that there was a minimum of theory at the time the institution was established.

slaves shall serve Burante Vita (For Life)." Virginia law was at first more indirect. In an act to impose penalties on runaways in 1661, it was recognized that some blacks were to be "slaves for life." It was not until 1670 that Virginia law specified that "all servants not being Christians" who were brought into the colony by sea were to be "slaves for life."

Slavery, it has sometimes been argued, was first considered in the colonies as an interim institution designed to convert both blacks and Indians to Christianity. There is evidence, however, that there was a caste barrier between whites and blacks before the institution of slavery legally came into being.

In 1710, a religious activist and writer named Cotton Mather founded a school for slaves. While admitting that the slave trade was "a spectacle that shocks humanity," he wondered whether the blacks coming to this country might not represent the obscure workings of Providence.

When the institution of slavery in the South came under heavy attack in the nineteenth century, a principal justification offered for it was that it was a means of "converting the heathen." However, in the eighteenth century, when slavery was virtually unchallenged in the South, we find little evidence to support this particular argument. Bishop David Berkeley, a political activist, testified in 1731 that American slaveholders had "an irrational contempt of blacks as creatures of another species who had no right to be instructed or admitted to the sacraments."

MON

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

Liar Liar

Roderick Fisher was burned once—he isn't about to let it happen again



By Allen R. Gray

If Roderick Fisher could live five times the 32 years he's spent on this earth, he would still never forget what happened on Saturday night, October 3, 1992. That's the night the life of this single father changed completely, sending him from a new house—which he had purchased just two years before and had painstakingly renovated—straight to the poor house. One might even say it is a night that's burned into his memory.

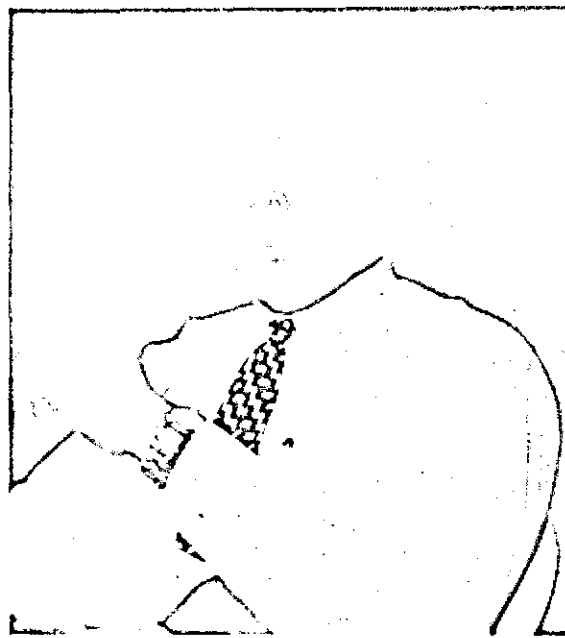
In a world of hostile takeovers, red tape, and every man for himself, Fisher is an oddity. "All I want to do is what's right," is what Fisher, an all around good-hearted fellow, has taken to be his life's credo. But perhaps that philosophy is his downfall, because in a lot of ways his naivete has left him vulnerable to anyone willing to run a game or quick hustle. He is a man seeking only to do what's right in a brutal world that's mainly seeking to do what's wrong.

On that fateful weekend almost five years ago, Fisher was serving in the role of scoutmaster for Circle 10 of the Boy Scouts of America at a Boy Scout camporee. Unbeknownst to Fisher, as he and fellow staffer Tim Fuller were making their rounds to make sure that their troop was bedded down and that their campfires were out, a raging inferno was busy gutting his home in Dallas' Singing Hills neighborhood.

Life up to that point had been pretty good to Fisher. After graduating from South Oak Cliff High School in Dallas, Fisher went on to the University of Oklahoma. There he played football for perfectionist Jimmy Johnson. (Johnson later coached the University of Miami to national football prominence before steering the Dallas Cowboys to two consecutive world titles. He is currently head coach of the Miami Dolphins.) Fisher went on to play with the Los Angeles Rams of the National Football League as a defensive back.

But when he stepped out of his car to the charred remains of his home that evening, Roderick Renoir Fisher could not know how exceedingly difficult his life was about to become. If not for a great amount of intestinal fortitude—the same fortitude that enabled him to fight his way back from an injury that threatened his football career—parental support and religious convictions, Fisher may have folded under the pressure and gone the way of so many other destitute ex-jocks before him.

Lynita Fisher is the doting mother who has stood by her only son through this entire matter. "Roderick



Roderick Fisher was a paid-up home insurance policyholder of good standing with State Farm. When his house burned down, he suddenly became a bad guy, suspected of setting the fire himself.

"Madame X," had made several calls to the fire department concerning Fisher's case. Now here she was in the flesh, which, Ms. Harlan recalls, she showed a lot of. She was wearing a mini-skirt wrapped tight at the hips. Top that off with blonde hair and a pair of blue eyes, and "Madame X" was armed with everything an "enterprising" woman needs to make a prurient male do just about anything.

"Madame X" paraded conspicuously into the office and settled onto the sofa, crossing her legs. Instantly, several men made themselves available to assist her, including Chief Charles "C.D." Langran.

With the formal introduction of "Madame X" to the three fire department officials began what is

home), number of claims, age of home, location of home, occupation or employment status, lifestyle, credit, and marital status. And there was Fisher, with his home located on the wrong side of the Trinity River.

Ms. Harlan is prepared to testify that this wasn't the first time that State Farm had been in cahoots with the Dallas Fire Dept. to change a fire report so that the insurance company could avoid paying a claim. In the short two-month period that she worked for the fire investigations division, she had been ordered to change the "cause of fire" report on countless reports soon after an impromptu meeting was held between an insurance agent and a city fire official.

The Dallas Fire Dept. has clear and specific rules of procedure when it comes to changing the cause of fire on one of its reports. Ms. Harlan had witnessed those procedures being violated time and time again.

She knew the procedures well...as did Chief C.D. Langran. And she knew full well when that procedure was being violated. In the beginning, Ms. Harlan was able to rationalize away any guilt associated with her part in the corruption by convincing herself she was only following orders, that she was just doing her job. But each time (and she says there were many in her two months there) it became increasingly difficult. Her guilt, she assures, had nothing to do with the fact that most (but not all) of the victims were black. What was happening was wrong, and that was a hard pill for her to swallow.

How the plot unfolded

It was determined by Dallas fire investigators that the fire that destroyed Fisher's home started around 1:00 a.m. that Sunday morning of October 4th. That was approximately the same time that Fisher and co-worker Tim Fuller were making their rounds at the Boy Scout camporee somewhere in the Dallas suburb of Duncanville, just off of Camp Wisdom Road.

The question this entire dilemma hinges on is: What exactly was the cause of the fire?

Fisher thought he had that question answered when he first saw the charred remains of his home. A neighbor came running and told Fisher what had happened. The neighbor said that the firemen told him Fisher's home had been the victim of a faulty hot water heater.

Buttressing his neighbor's report, the firemen who doused the flames at Fisher's house listed unequivocally on their "run sheet"—the document a fireman prepares immediately at the site of a fire—that the cause of the fire was without doubt a faulty hot water heater.

On Monday, October 5, things seemed rather academic. Fisher's casualty insurance was provided by State Farm Insurance, one of the largest in the business. They acted quickly. A representative from the company was out the next day, and approximately \$5,000 in emergency funds were issued to Fisher, who in the meantime had moved in with his parents.

The following day, fire department investigator Capt. Wade entered the picture for the first time. He walked through the gutted remains of Fisher's house for about 30 to 40 minutes, then called Fisher and his mother in and gave his summation.

"What happened here is that the hot water heater exploded," the Fishers said Capt. Wade told them con-

Inchoate offense—when two or more parties conspire to commit an illegal or immoral act against another.

acted like he was in a state of shock—[I mean] shock," Mrs. Fisher said of her son's emotions in the days following his mishap. "He wasn't saying much at all...[he was] numb."

Mrs. Fisher said that when Capt. Glen Wade, the fire investigator from the Dallas Fire Dept., met with them (Roderick, her and her husband) at the burned-out home on Tuesday, October 6, he was emphatic in pointing out that the fire had started in the garage, around the hot water heater. Mrs. Fisher said Capt. Wade would have explained even more if not for her husband Eldridge telling her, "Baby, get on out of here and let the man (Wade) do his job."

Den of deception

Denise Harlan was just an office temp with the Dallas Fire Department back in 1992. She was there for only two months and does not recall the names of everybody. But from her ringside seat at the receptionist's desk, you had better believe she saw plenty.

Ms. Harlan doesn't recall the name, but remembers all too well the day the female State Farm insurance representative walked into the office. This woman,

described in legal parlance as an inchoate offense.

The ensuing conversation Ms. Harlan heard from behind a closed door was enough to make the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. turn over in his grave. There were negative comments made on the way Fisher dressed (Italian-cut suit and alligator shoes), on his speech and attitude (Fisher is confident, honest, and well-spoken) and on his race.

Still amazed some two years later, Ms. Harlan remarked, "I don't think they even cared enough to wonder if I even cared what they were talking about." Finally, Ms. Harlan heard someone say that Fisher would be "brought down." She was sure they meant in a subservient manner.

This wasn't the first time a mega-bucks insurance company had conspired to give one of its minority insureds the shaft. In 1992—a year when Texas insurance companies sold \$1.7 billion in aggregate homeowners coverage—a review by the Office of Public Insurance Counsel (OPIC) of homeowners insurance underwriting guidelines used in Texas showed severe cases of redlining to be common practice. The review showed that homeowners insurance coverage was discriminately based on minimum coverage (value of the

See OFFENSE page 18

clusively.

Fire investigators have definite clues they look for when reviewing fire scenes, and he gladly pointed them out to the Fishers. He showed them where the flames had licked their way up the wall, heavier damage at the bottom and lighter towards the top. He pointed out the opening in the ceiling above where the hot water heater was located. Gas fumes were still escaping from the pipes that supplied fuel to the hot water heater.

"We need to get out of here before you have another explosion," Wade had warned Fisher and his mother.

Once outside, Capt. Wade again told Fisher in no uncertain terms, "Without a doubt it was your hot water heater that blew up. The evidence is all here.

"If I were you I'd sue the makers of the hot water heater, and I'd sue the people that sold me the hot water heater..." Wade advised Fisher.

Fisher said he cut Wade off at that point. "Capt. Wade, at this point I'm not interested in all of that. All I'm concerned about is getting my house back together."

Capt. Wade, who Fisher found helpful and friendly up to this point, said he understood and left. But a couple of days later Harlan received a call from Fisher asking to speak with Wade. Wade took the call at Harlan's desk. Harlan says she remembers the captain sitting on her

desktop while speaking to Fisher, still advising him to sue the makers of the hot water heater.

Fisher still wasn't interested in suing. All he wanted was for State Farm to settle the claim. The State Farm agent (a male) Fisher spoke with told him he concurred with Wade's assessment of the origin of the fire but that he was waiting for the city to issue an official report before finalizing the claim.

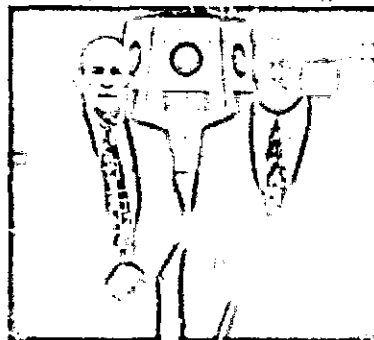
However, the next time Fisher met with a State Farm agent, it wasn't a man they sent. Instead, he was greeted with "Hi, my name is Jennifer Noel and I'm here to help you recoup the things you lost in the fire."

Small talk that secured Fisher's confidence followed, then Noel handed him a stack of documents she wanted him to sign. Ms. Noel explained that, once signed, the documents would permit her to assess and review Fisher's bank account, tax statements, and permit her to come to his job and question his employer.

That puzzled Fisher greatly. "Ms. Noel, why do you need all of this because of a fire?"

According to Fisher, Noel stayed in character. "If you don't sign these papers, it will impede the process of you getting back into your house," she replied.

Fisher described Noel as an unusually pale-skinned, stringy-haired and stout. An almost "butchy" woman who later turned highly aggressive and insult-



Roderick Fisher, Jr., with his attorney.

ingly arrogant. One week after the fire, Ms. Noel even got into an argument with the Circle 10 Boy Scouts (Fisher's employer) when she came there demanding that they divulge Fisher's salary. When Tim Fuller, who was at the campsite with Fisher, and his boss, Pete Johnson, vouched for Fisher's whereabouts during the fire, Ms. Noel questioned their veracity.

"It didn't bother me, because if that's part of her investigation, it didn't matter to me," Fisher said of Ms. Noel checking on his whereabouts. He remained trusting of the system. "...because I know where I was and I know I had done nothing wrong."

Little was he aware, however, that he was being investigated in an

accusatory manner. In fact, Fisher was still having trouble seeing things clearly. He was still disoriented and regretful at his loss, and he had to worry about he and his son finding a more permanent place to live. Besides, the cause of the fire had already been determined. Or so he thought. Fisher had laid the matter to rest in his heart and mind.

The people on Fisher's job weren't the only ones Ms. Noel had been talking to. At one point, Fisher said she had approached one of his neighbors, Mr. Vine, and said to him point-blank that it was Fisher who had set his own house on fire. This despite Tim Fuller and Pete Peterson (and about 600 campers) placing him at the campsite when the fire occurred. Most damaging of all, and unsuspected by Fisher, Ms. Noel had also been talking to officials in the fire investigations division on numerous occasions.

"After [Noel] did that, Capt. Wade had a major change of attitude whenever he talked to me," said Fisher, who was now beginning to smell the coffee. "He stopped giving me advice on the lawsuit thing. His conversation was as if I had set the fire."

Someone to watch over me

It was two weeks after the fire when Fisher received a most disturbing phone call.

"Mr. Fisher, I know you don't know

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me, and I don't know you," a furtive, soft-spoken female voice told him. "But State Farm has been coming down here talking to Capt. Wade and the other officers. I see this all the time. They do this to blacks all the time."

It was Denise Harlan. And she had had enough. She had stood by on numerous other occasions as fire investigators were cajoled into changing reports by over-zealous insurance adjusters. Harlan was normally the person who planted the final pellet of poison in that it was her job to enter the information into the computer. One time in particular involved an elderly black man Harlan says no doubt was wronged by the system. Now, with the Fisher matter, her conscious was beginning to bother her greatly. Fisher's case was the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back.

Fisher says the news Ms. Harlan had given him left him with his mouth hung open. All he could say was, "Huh!?"

"You better come down here and get a copy of this (first) report," Harlan warned him before abruptly hanging up the phone.

Harlan told Fisher one time, and one time only, "They're getting ready to screw you. They're going to change your report."

Despite Ms. Noel's investigations and accusations, Capt. Wade had, in fact, filed an initial report that listed the cause of fire as a "faulty hot water heater exploding."

Even with Harlan's stern warning, Fisher was still in denial. He knew he had done nothing wrong. "All I wanted to do (in life) was what was right."

Fisher is, without a doubt, a model citizen—a Class A role model. Currently, as a Nations Bank liaison to Madison High School in Dallas, Fisher has helped principal Leon Hamilton turn that school's future around. Three years ago, when Dallas native Jeffrey Lynn Blanks was allegedly killed by Texas Department of Corrections officers, Fisher spearheaded a drive to see that the guards were made to answer for that injustice.

Regardless of his past and current accomplishments, State Farm and its allies in the fire investigations divisions were bound and determined to bring Fisher "down"—by hook and by crook.

Harlan was tipped off to their plans to do so when, while at her desk in the front office, she overheard "Madame X," Chief Langran, Capt. Wade and others discussing Fisher's fate.

"I never meant to hear any of this," Harlan swears. "I didn't want to. Because I'm not the kind of person to want to get involved." And the things Harlan heard were a lot less than professional and a whole lot less than kind. One might label them racist—in its purest form.

Towards the end of the behind-closed-door meeting, Harlan heard an angry and committed male voice pledge, "I'm going to get a confession out of that nigger today...I'm going to bring that nig-

ger down."

In spite of the heavy number of African Americans whose reports were changed, and the blackened color of the behind-the-door language she was hearing, Ms. Harlan sees money—insurance companies not wanting to pay claims—rather than race, as the major factor.

"I don't know if it was all that racial," she says, ignoring what some might consider the obvious. "What they were doing was just plain ole wrong. They didn't follow their own procedure."

As Ms. Harlan explained in her April 29, 1996, sworn affidavit:

"A report once issued by the City could be changed by the person who conducted the investigation, and then only after a re-visit to the site of the fire for purposes of gaining additional evidence which supported the change of the cause of the fire...the previous report would be destroyed and no records maintained of that report, and the new report would contain the name of the person assigned to the investigation, and the new cause of the fire would be placed on (the) report without any reference to the prior findings."

Furthermore:

"[In] the event that the person assigned to investigate a fire loss had any reason to suspect arson, which

our department defined as incendiary, but was unable to definitely conclude that arson had been committed, that based upon the handwritten report prepared at the site of the fire by the investigator which would instruct me to place the cause of fire to that property as 'inconclusive...'"

"There are a lot of decent people who work for the fire department," Ms. Harlan is pleased to say. "But they just don't happen to be in power."

Shortly after Capt. Wade filed his initial report on the fire at Fisher's home, he went on vacation. It was during Wade's absence that Chief Langran handed Ms. Harlan a second report on the Fisher fire and ordered her to enter it into the computer. That second report listed the cause of the fire as "incendiary." Also, the second report had on it Capt. Wade's signature, although the signature was different than the Wade signature on the first report.

"At the time I changed the report from accident to arson, no one went out there (to Fisher's home for a second inspection)," Ms. Harlan is prepared to testify in court if need be. "I know that. And they know that."

Up until the Fisher matter, Ms. Harlan said she "liked Capt. Wade. He was one of the few people that treated me human." But she guarantees, "Chief Lan-

Continued on page 22



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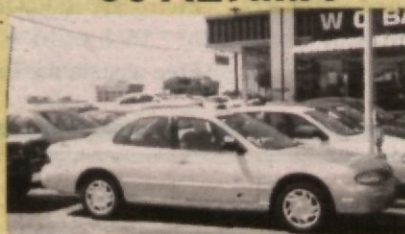
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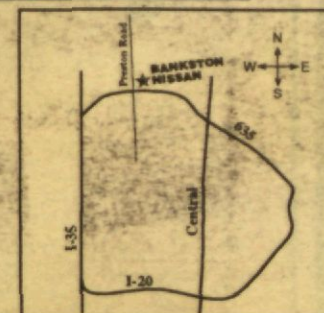


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Around Town

June 1

The St. Anthony Community Center, 3714 Metropolitan Street, Dallas, is currently enrolling children for its first Summer Enrichment Program. The program runs 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., June 9-August 1. To register call Ms. Mornes at 214-421-2324.

The 22 community swimming pools operated by Dallas Park and Recreation Department are officially open for the summer. Admission is fifty cents for ages eleven and under; \$1 for ages 12 and up; and \$3 for families. The days and hours of operation vary at each pool. To request a free brochure that lists pool locations, days of operation and other information call 214-670-4100.

H.B. Pemberton High School, Marshall, Texas, will hold its 1997 Mass Class Reunion Steering Committee meetings, 4:00 p.m., June 1 and June 29 at the Radisson Hotel, 1893 West Mockingbird Lane, Dallas. Alumni and former students of classes of 1940, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1953, 1954 and 1955 are asked to attend. For more information call Mrs. Mayme Brooks at 214-376-5881.

June 2

The Dallas/Ft. Worth Minority Business Development Council will hold its Annual Trade Fair and Professional Services Forum, ACCESS '97, June 2-3 at the Arlington Convention Center, 1220 Ballpark Way, Arlington, Texas. ACCESS '97 is designed to link minority-owned businesses with corporate and public sector buyers. For more information call Margo J. Posey at (214) 630-0747.

Summer employment opportunities and fundraisers for local churches available. Work from your home. For more information contact Ken Carter's Unique Cards, 2646 Parkside Drive, Grand Prairie, Texas 75052.

June 3

The Dallas/Ft. Worth Association of Black Communicators will hold its monthly meeting 6:30 p.m. today at the Fort Worth Star Telegram. For more information call 214-331-8396.

The U.S. Small Business Administration and its partners are hosting a "Building Tomorrow's Economy Today," breakfast beginning with registration at 7:00 a.m. at the Arlington Hilton Hotel, Arlington, Texas. For more information call Diane Cheshier at 817-885-6504 or Bill Medina at 817-885-6517.

The University of Texas at Arlington division of continuing education will offer diverse computer classes from June 3 to August 6 at UTA. For more information visit UTA's website at <http://www.mesh.net/~utaced> or call metro 817-272-2581.

June 6

The 1997 Southwest Black Arts Festival will be held June 6-8 at Artist Square in the heart of downtown Dallas. Scheduled guests are national recording acts Lakeside and Joe McBride and activities include dance, drama, poetry and a marketplace. For more information contact Yvonne Gilliam at 817-424-2680 or the Southwest Black Arts Festival at 214-827-7110.

UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas presents an innovative conference June 6-7, that assesses the new era of managed care and its affect on the African American community. African American community leaders are invited to participate in the conference. For more information and to register call UT Southwestern's Office of Continuing Education at 214-648-2166 or 800-688-8678.

June 7

The Black State Employees Association of Texas, Inc. in conjunction with Red Bird Mall is hosting the 7th Annual Summer Career Fair today at Red Bird Mall Center Court, 3662 West Camp Wisdom Road, Dallas, Texas. This event is free and open to the public. Please bring copies of your current resume. For more information call 972-296-1491 or 214-371-7710, ext. 5.

All presidents and interested alumni of United Negro College Fund (UNCF) Schools (Dallas area Inter-Alumni Council) are invited to meet 10:00 a.m., June 7 at Paul Quinn College, Science Building auditorium. For more information call Rubia Iles at 214-374-7128.

Elroy Roberts Productions, which produces local live entertainment, is holding auditions on June 7 from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. for the "John P. Kee and New Life Community Choir" Back to Church Gospel Concert Festival. Auditions for singers, comedians, instrumentalists and more will be held at Elroy Roberts Productions, 5001 Brentwood Stair, #119, Ft. Worth Texas. For more information call metro 817-429-3116 or 817-654-9075.

Free assistance in filing Forms 940, 941,

and 945 is available through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program for employers with less than 10 employees. The Business VITA, sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service and the Dallas Small Business Development Center, will be held at the Bill Priest Institute for Economic Development, Room 202A, 1402 Corinth, Dallas, from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon.

June 9

Applications are now being accepted for the Paul Quinn Young Art Institute for students in grades 6-12. The Institute provides cultural enrichment and increased artistic proficiency in visual and performing arts. Classes begin June 9 and enrollment is limited to 15 students. To obtain an application and for more information call 214-302-3610 or 214-302-3557.

June 11

People with legal-related questions can call the Dallas Bar Association Legalline June 11 and June 18 from 5:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. and get free advice from volunteer attorneys over the phone. Call Legalline at 214-696-7066.

June 12

Dallas-area lawyers, judges, legal assistants and secretaries bring Bar None XII, "101 Damn Motions," an annual song and dance follies show to the Greer Garson Theater on the campus of Dallas' Southern Methodist University, June 12-14. Proceeds benefit the Sarah T. Hughes Diversity Law Fellowship for minority students at SMU School of Law. Admission is \$15 and is open to the public. For

Around Town cont'd

more information call 214-220-7400 or 214-672-2300.

June 13

Allstate presents African American Women on Tour 1997, June 13-15 at the Fairmont Hotel, 1717 N. Akard, Dallas. The conference, which is geared toward women of color who need to recharge and take charge, features keynote presenters entertainer Gladys Knight and Essence magazine Editor-in-chief, Susan Taylor. For more information or to register call 1-800-560-AAWT.

The Tri-City Branch of the NAACP in conjunction with Yanique Productions will present a "Miss Star of Juneteenth Pageant" from 5:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at Red Bird Mall Center Court. 3662 W. Camp Wisdom Road, Dallas. The entry fee for contestants is \$25.00. Competition is open to young ladies ages 7-26. Registration deadline is June 6, 1997. For more information call Marianne at 972-709-7039 or Velma at 972-224-7842.

June 14

The Tri-City Branch of the NAACP and its Corporate Partners are sponsoring the Third Annual Juneteenth Celebration today from 2:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at Armstrong Park, located at Wheatland and Main in Duncanville. A 1:00 p.m. parade kicks off the celebration. For more information call Marianne at 972-709-7039 or Velma at 972-224-7842.

Theta Alpha Foundation and the Dallas office of the American Cancer Society will sponsor a Prostate Cancer Awareness Program at the Park South YMCA, 2500 Romine Ave., Dallas from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. For more information call the YMCA at 214-421-4301 or the American Cancer Society at 214-631-3850.

Allstate Insurance company presents its "Play it Safe" workshop during the African American Women on Tour 1997 Conference. The workshop, which addresses issues for women such as well-being, domestic violence, personal safety and cancer prevention, will be held from 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., June 14 at the Fairmont Hotel, 1717 N. Akard, Dallas. For more information call Michael James at 202-242-3305.

June 16

A new support group for stroke survivors begins 11:30 a.m. today in Building B at the C.C. Young Retirement Community, 4829 West Lawther, Dallas. A light lunch will be served at no charge but space is limited. For more information call Linda Rodgers at 214-827-8080 ext. 3099.

June 17

A free Alzheimer's Care Givers Support Group begins 7:00 p.m. today in Building B at the C.C. Young Retirement Community, 4829 West Lawther, Dallas. Space is limited. For more information call Linda Rodgers at 214-827-8080 ext. 3099.

Jubilee Pride and Joy Theater, 506 Main Street, Ft. Worth, presents a Western celebration in honor of Isom Dart, subject of a the upcoming play The Ballard of Isom Dart (opening July 18), about a fast-talking black cattle rustler trying to stay one step ahead of the law in the Old West. The festivities begin with a reception at 6:00 p.m. To RSVP or for more information call 817-338-4411.

June 18

The Dallas Urban League is sponsoring its 18th Annual Career Fair from 8:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. at the Dallas Market Hall,

2200 Market Center at Stemmons Frwy., Dallas. Over 100 companies are expected to participate this year. For more information call 214-528-8038.

June 19

The Dallas Chapter of N'COBRA (National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America) will host its Second Annual Juneteenth Town Hall Meeting from 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. at the Bill J. Priest Institute, 1402 Corinth St., Dallas. Speakers include Nana Kwame M. Atta, Chief of Fihankra International and Dallas County Commissioner, John Wiley Price. For more information call 972-285-7753.

June 20

The Dallas/Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators will host its 16th Annual Future Journalists Scholarship Banquet 7:00 p.m. today at the Radisson Plaza Hotel, 815 Main St., downtown Ft. Worth. The keynote speaker is Rev. Michael Eric Dyson, Ph.D. For more information call 817-275-2897 or 214-331-8396.

The LOVE CLINIC tackles the topic of marriage this month and focuses on what Christians should know before they marry. Rev. Terrance Autry, associate pastor at Friendship West Baptist Church will serve as a pre-marital expert. The Love Clinic is an outreach ministry of Jubilee United Methodist Church, located at 301 Frank Keasler Blvd., Duncanville, Texas. For more information call Dr. Sheron C. Patterson at 972-283-2264.

The Dallas Museum of Natural History, Fair Park, Dallas, presents "Six Legs Over Texas, Part Two: The Infestation Continues." An expansion of last year's popular insect zoo exhibit returns to bug us again June 20-30. For more information call

214-421-DINO.

June 22

St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church, 5710 E. R.L. Thornton Frwy, Dallas, hosts "Expect a Miracle," the 4th Annual Sacred Dance Choir featuring performances by the Sacred Dance Chorus of St. Luke U.M.C., Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, Jazz Mastiques, Reuben Asberry and many others. For more information call Jacquelyn at 214-887-3908.

June 28

The public is invited to attend the Third Annual "Don't Believe the Hype Celebrity Bowl-a-thon" today at Don Carter's West, 10920 Composite Drive, Dallas. Over 50 celebrities including State Senator Royce West, Comedian Dick Gregory, K104's Skip Murphy and many others will be present for an evening of fun and fellowship benefiting organizations that provide programming for youth. For more information call 972-263-9911.

Sole Proprietors can learn the basic tax requirements affecting their business at the 1997 Small Business Workshops presented by the Internal Revenue Service and the Dallas Small Business Development Center. The workshop will be held at the Bill Priest Institute for Economic Development, Room 202A, 1402 Corinth, Dallas, from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon.

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

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2730 Stemmons Frwy
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From page 19

gran is as dirty as they come."

When Chief Langran was asked if Capt. Wade was, in fact, out of town when the second report was filed, all he could say was, "I kinda doubt that Capt. Wade was out of town," then added that he really couldn't comment and referred me to City Attorney Janice Moss. Ms. Moss could not be reached for comment.

When Capt. Wade was asked whether he had filed a second report, he said, "I don't remember that (second report)...I don't know anything about that."

But Denise Harlan knew all about it. "If (Capt. Wade) was in town he certainly wasn't at work," she answered.

Shortly after her phone call to Fisher—and the end of her employment at the fire investigations division—Denise Harlan dropped from the scene and was nowhere to be found for two years. At least not by anyone in Fisher's camp. (Ms. Harlan did say she was contacted by State Farm attorney Armando Di Diego and agent Jennifer Noel, both of whom, according to Fisher and his attorney, later lied about having done so.)

With her reluctance to get involved obvious, Ms. Harlan was asked why she chose a case of this magnitude—Fisher eventually sought legal recourse against State Farm, the Dallas Fire Department and his mortgage holder, Knutson Mort-

gage, for illegal foreclosure—to speak up on. She simply said, "I didn't know that it would be this big."

State Farm spokesperson Lars Rosene was contacted concerning his company's involvement in this matter, but he declined comment due to pending litigation.

Face-to-face confrontation

The night of the fire was a few weeks past when there came another alarming phone call, which Fisher received early one morning as he prepared to leave for work. This time it was Capt. Wade asking Fisher to come down for a brief interview. Fisher agreed and was at Wade's office in downtown Dallas bright and early the next morning. What he was wearing didn't help matters any. Fisher was on his way to work at his new job with Nations Bank and had on a Versace suit and a shiny pair of alligator shoes.

As soon as he arrived, Fisher was ushered into a padded interrogation room and plopped down in a chair. Capt. Wade sat twelve inches from Fisher's nose and stared him dead in the eye.

"Mr. Fisher, we know you set that house on fire."

"Pardon me?!" Fisher retorted, being both puzzled and insulted.

"I know you set that house on fire," Wade repeated. "And you can make it light on yourself right now by just telling me that you did. Now I can't promise you

that I can help you as far as you being prosecuted, but we know you did it." Wade then went about explaining to him the department's new theory on how his house caught fire.

Roderick Fisher had learned from his father that even if a man is deaf and dumb, if he sits there quietly, no one will ever know it. So, Fisher heeded that advice and remained silent until Capt. Wade finished talking. Then he turned the tables to his advantage.

"Capt. Wade, let me ask you this," Fisher said. "Have you been back out to my house?"

"No," he blandly replied. "The only time I've been to your house was the time I met you and your mother." That placed Wade in clear violation of the city procedure Ms. Harlan had relayed to Fisher.

"Okay," Fisher said. "Has anyone else from the city been to my house?"

"No," Wade answered.

"Have you met with any State Farm officials?" Fisher then wanted to know.

Fisher says Wade admitted to having done so.

"Well if you haven't been back to my house why are you changing the fire report?" Fisher asked him.

Fisher said all Wade could say was, "I'm going on the evidence State Farm experts provided to me."

Then Fisher asked to see that evidence, but Wade couldn't produce any, because he said that State Farm had all of it.

So Fisher said he told Capt. Wade, Chief Langran, State Farm and everyone else involved to "Go to HELL!" And those were the exact words Fisher says he wrote on the typed confession Wade had shoved under his nose. Fisher then kindly requested a copy of the document.

After that Fisher asked, "Capt. Wade, are you through with me? Because I've got to go to work."

"You either put me under arrest, or you can bring somebody in here to do something to me," and with that, Fisher abruptly left for work.

In all, their meeting had lasted only thirty minutes, but that was enough time for Fisher to make an indelible impression.

In the words of Denise Harlan, "After they talked to Mr. Fisher, he (Fisher) pissed them off."

Roderick Fisher has since filed a civil lawsuit in the 101st Judicial District Court of Dallas County against Knutson Mortgage Corporation—for an illegal foreclosure—along with State Farm Insurance Company and the City of Dallas, separately and jointly.

This case is now in appeal because Fisher said his case was dismissed when his attorney, William Bailey, mysteriously ordered both he and key witness Denise Harlan not to appear at trial. The matter has yet to be settled.

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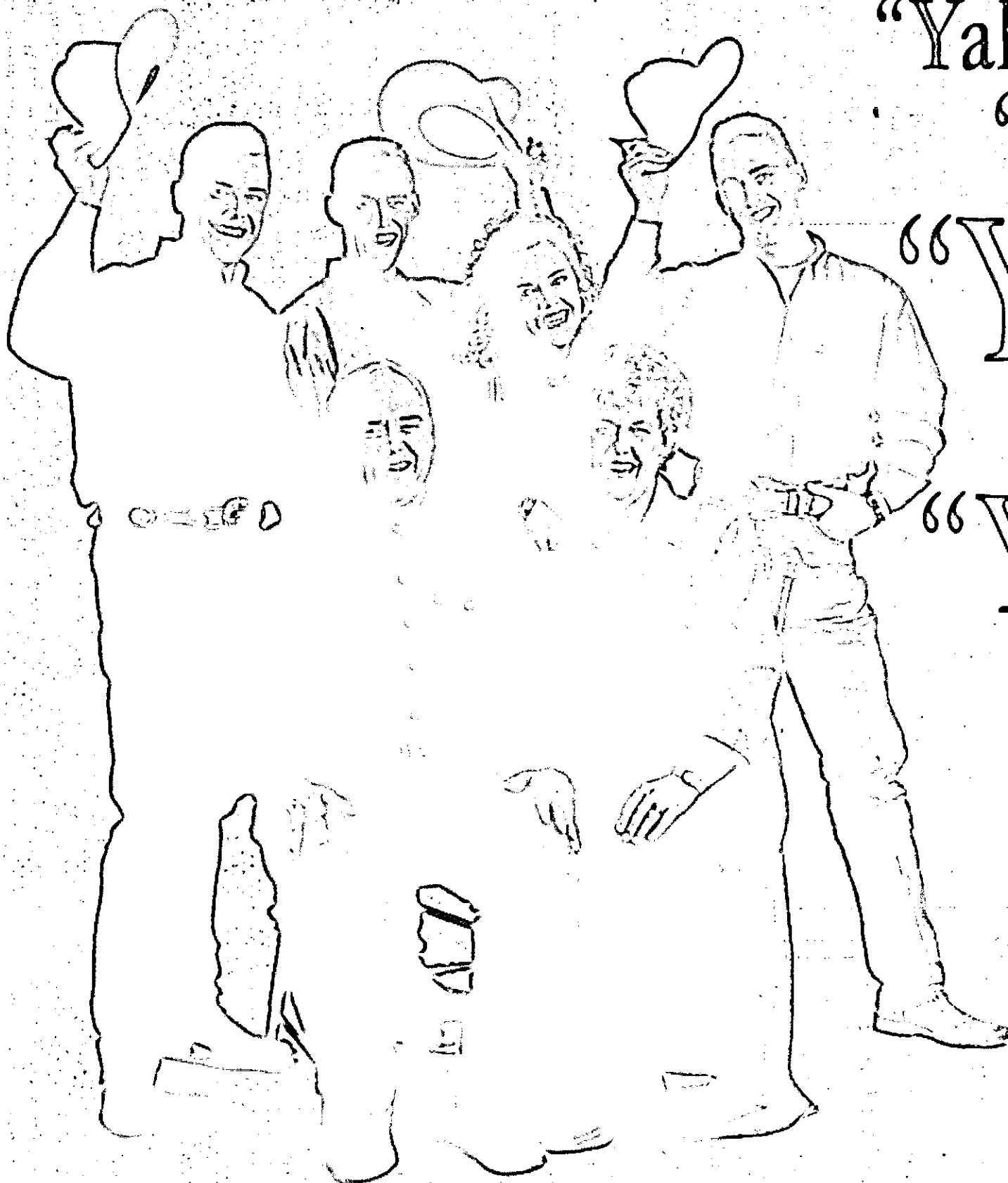
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The fourth installment in the phenomenally successful "Batman" saga continues the crimefighting exploits of Batman and Robin on the night time streets of Gotham City. Arnold Schwarzenegger, George Clooney, Chris O'Donnell, Uma Thurman and Alicia Silverstone star in this all-new epic adventure.



George Clooney (Batman) and Chris O'Donnell.

There's a chill over Gotham City. A new nemesis has unleashed a cold front of crime on the beleaguered metropolis and once again, the citizenry turns to its one hope, its lone nocturnal guardian, to free it from the icy grip of crime. Summoned by the glowing moon of the Bat-Signal hovering against the night sky, Batman (George Clooney) roars from the reconstructed Batcave in a sleek, remodeled Batmobile towards the city.

Only now, he doesn't travel alone—his daredevil partner, Robin (Chris O'Donnell), speeds alongside him on his turbo-charged motorcycle, the Redbird—a united team standing against a new reign of villainy, conceived with the cold-blooded design by a simmering, terrifying figure of destruction, Mr. Freeze (Arnold Schwarzenegger).

Also loose on the streets is the flower-power femme fatale Poison Ivy (Uma Thurman), a vine-entwined beauty who can kill with her kiss...and plans world domination for her floral kindred.

When these two villains strike a partnership, it will take a powerhouse team to stop them. Armed with innovative gadgets, redesigned vehicles and an all-new awesome arsenal, the crimefighting duo of Batman and Robin reveal a new secret weapon—a tough, limber and courageous new partner named Batgirl (Alicia Silverstone)—who completes a triumphant trio fighting to save Gotham City from its most deadly threat yet!

Director Joel Schumacher, whose

"Batman Forever" was 1995's highest-grossing film and who scored another major hit in summer 1996 with "A Time to Kill," once again brings audiences his colorful, energetic and action-packed vision of America's legendary hero in Warner Bros. all-new "Batman and Robin," the fourth installment in the enormously successful series of epic adventures.

"Batman and Robin," distributed by Warner Bros., opens June 20 at a theater near you.

Wild America

starring Devon Sawa,
Jonathan Taylor Thomas,
and Scott Bairstow

In the summer of 1967, three brothers left their home in Ft. Smith, Arkansas, on an adventure that would change their lives forever.

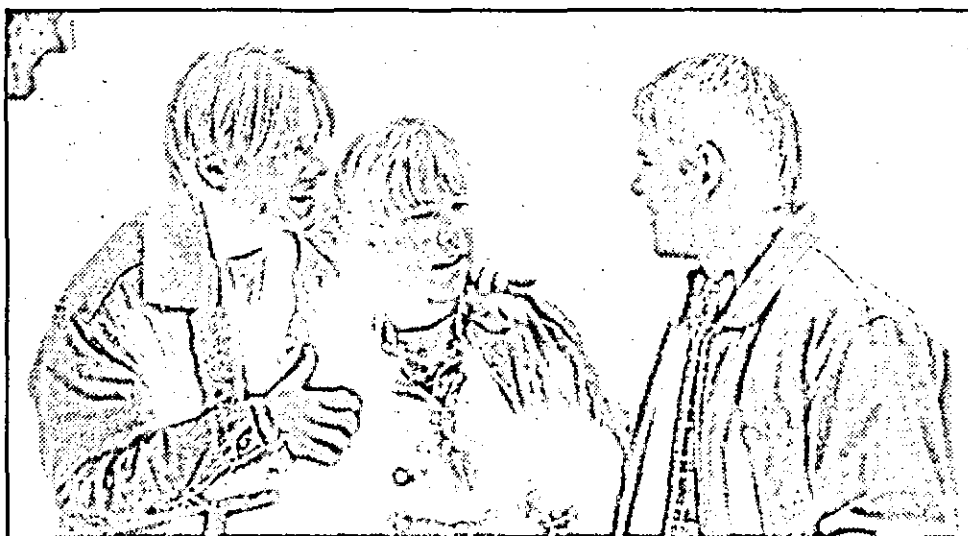
Confronting nature in the wild, the three brothers come to trust and depend on each other and discover their true calling to photograph America's wildlife in the face of many dangerous encounters. *Wild America* is inspired by the true story

hailed behind cars and enduring any number of other embarrassing torments. However, all of that is about to change.

When their father, Marty Sr. (Jamey Sheridan), and their mom, Agnes (Frances Fisher), buy the older boys a used, professional-caliber 16 mm camera, their eyes are opened to subjects beyond the taunting of Marshall. In the woods around their home, some extraordinary things come into focus in the boys' lens: animals existing in their natural habitat, where they reveal their inexpressible grace and unbelievable power. Unexpectedly moved by their discovery, the Stouffer boys hear a calling to document the vanishing wildlife of America.

Marty and Mark hit the open road with their camera to search out the dwindling populations of some of America's most awesome creatures. The boys soon discover that they have an unexpected stowaway—Marshall, who couldn't let his big brothers leave him at home while they embarked on such an adventure. The older boys reluctantly agree to take Marshall along. Marshall's fearlessness, learned over the years of being picked on, will prove to be an invaluable addition to the summer's travails.

Over the summer, the three Stouffer boys have a remarkable series of encounters with magnificent, dangerous animals and bizarre, colorful humans. The boys narrowly survive some of the confrontations in the wild, but they manage to



Left to right: Devon Sawa, Jonathan Taylor and Scott Bairstow.

of the daredevil Stouffer brothers, whose own documentary series of the same name has revealed the mystery and majesty of some of nature's most elusive and endangered creatures to audiences around the world.

Over the years, 12-year-old Marshall Stouffer (Jonathan Taylor Thomas) had become accustomed to playing the victim to imaginative and spirited bullying at the hands of his big brothers, Mark (Devon Sawa) and Marty (Scott Bairstow). Mark and Marty made countless films for the delight of their friends that featured Marshall being dropped into pools of water, yanked up into trees,

keep the camera rolling throughout their adventure. As Marshall is caught in the antlers of an enraged moose, as Mark comes close to being devoured by a vicious alligator and as the boys accidentally wake a caveful of hibernating grizzly bears, the Stouffers capture their life-endangering odyssey with images no one had produced before.

Wild America, a Morgan Creek Production directed by William Dear and produced by James G. Robinson, Irby Smith and Mark Stouffer, opens July 2 at theaters throughout the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex.

MON



A.L.W. ENTERTAINMENT
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112
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The Isley Brothers
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Book Review

by
Angela
Washington-Blair

Training a Tiger

By Earl Woods with Pete McDaniel
HarperCollins Press/\$18.00

He's a twenty-one year-old wunderkind who's just won two major golf tournaments back to back. He's now the proud owner of a coveted green blazer signifying his smooth win at the Masters Golf Tournament at the Augusta National Golf Club. He's shown graciousness in accepting Fuzzy Zoeller's apology and has found time to hold golf clinics for youths, including one at the L.B. Houston public golf course. And if that weren't enough, he played a lean, mean game of golf at the GTE/Byron Nelson Golf Tournament at the Four Seasons Resort in Las Colinas in May, to emerge the victor.

Tiger Woods, has captured media attention far and wide. Not without controversy—for some are not too happy that he doesn't call himself African American. That he is a hybrid is true enough. But there's more to this seemingly very well-grounded and mature young man than meets the eye.

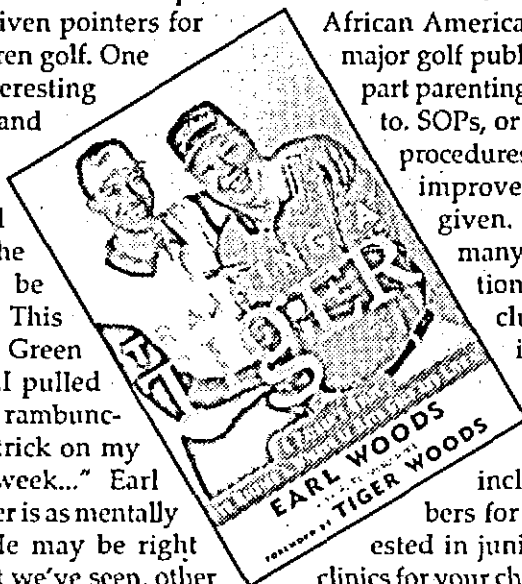
His 64-year-old father accompanies the Tiger as he makes his way through the jungles of life and golf. It is his book, *Training a Tiger: A Father's Guide to Raising a Winner in Both Golf and Life*, that is the subject of this month's book review. Earl Woods, Tiger's father—or "Pop" as Tiger so fondly calls him—credits his own life's successes on the counseling of his mother, Maude Ellen Carter Woods, who admonished him to "...never judge others...get your education...you have to be better than others to get an equal opportunity...share and care...always be a good person."

In his book, Earl Woods gives us a brief biographical sketch of his life, his promising start as a baseball player in college, his two stints in Vietnam as a Green Beret, his being an instructor and attaining the rank of Colonel in the Army, his first failed marriage, and his second marriage to Tida and the birth and upbringing of his youngest child, Tiger.

Earl Woods credits God with entrusting his precocious child to him. He suggests to us that golf is an excellent vehicle for building closer ties with our children and for teaching them to reach their potentials. Golf is "a microcosm" of society where business deals are forged and people from all walks of life are on equal footing, according to Woods.

His book gives us parenting tips on

building a relationship with our children and helping them reach their full potential. We are also given pointers for teaching our children golf. One of the most interesting parts of the book (and maybe controversial) was the part in which Earl describes how he taught Tiger to be mentally tough. This goes back to the Green Beret training. "...I pulled every nasty, dirty, rambunctious, obnoxious trick on my son week after week..." Earl claims that no golfer is as mentally tough as Tiger. He may be right because from what we've seen, other golfers, creeks, noise, difficult courses seem like nothing when Tiger takes a club.



This book is a breeze to read. Co-written with Pete McDaniel, the only African American golf writer for a major golf publication, this book is part parenting and part golf how-to. SOPs, or standard operating procedures that can be used to improve a golf game are given. Also included are many photos and illustrations on holding a golf club, putting, swinging—you know, the basics and fundamentals of the game. Woods has included phone numbers for those of you interested in junior golf camps and clinics for your children. The slim volume includes an index to help you quickly refer to pointers again and again. Even novice golfers without children will find

that this book will be useful to their game.

Oh, and by the way, Earl Woods did not begin playing golf until he was 42. That's when he was learning and improving his game and the toddler Tiger observed and wanted to try. Hmmm, 42. I haven't quite reached that age, so there's hope for me yet!

MON

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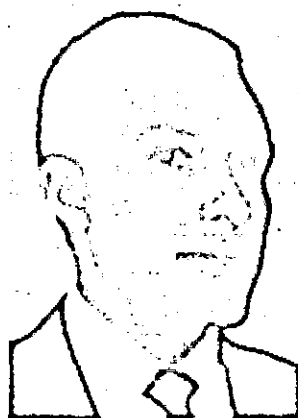


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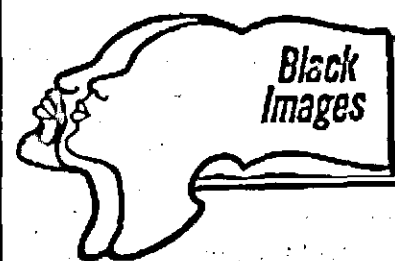


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Ms. Berry is a sociologist, comedian and talk show host who co-authored the book with Joan Coker, M.D.

Ms. Berry has also written a memoir *Bertice: The World According to Me*.

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Partners in Education

Volunteers help elementary school make the grade

By Cheryl L. Williams

Photos by Mary Elizabeth Beck

It was a day to honor volunteers and a day to honor the students who benefited from their help. As Umphrey Lee Elementary School's drill team opened the Volunteer Appreciation program to the theme music of "Mission Impossible," all present—teachers, students, parents, new and old volunteers—knew the mission had been accomplished. Throughout the school year, over 70 volunteers had logged an incredible 4,000 hours of service to the Oak Cliff school and now it was time to sing their praise.

Herbert Newsome, principal of Umphrey Lee School lauded the efforts of the volunteers who he says have been more faithful and numerous than ever before. "This year the volunteer program was especially successful because we had volunteers that were consistent. In the past we have had people that volunteered and once the novelty wore off, they just stopped coming," said Newsome. "This year, the volunteers came regularly, they interacted with the children well and the children gained a great deal from their involvement. We were all very appreciative of their help."

At the Volunteer Appreciation program, a diverse blend of individuals and groups received awards in honor of loyal service to the school and its students. Members of the Dallas Police Department, who have a long-standing relationship with Umphrey Lee, faithfully visited the school each week to mentor, tutor and teach the children about personal safety.

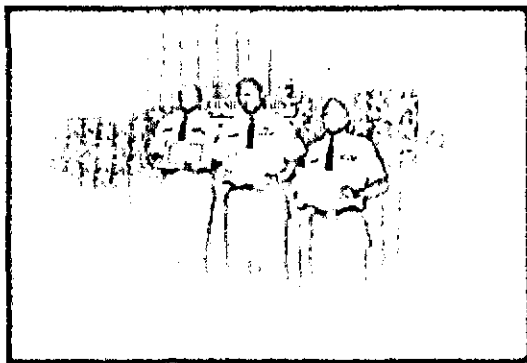
New to the volunteer program, personnel from the U.S. Air Force also visited weekly taking 5th and 6th grade boys on exciting field trips, tutoring, mentoring and serving as role models when the need arose. "Hopefully, we've given somebody the opportunity to see into the future and to see that they can do more with their futures than just play a sport or hang out with friends," said USAF Captain Leland Stanford. "The opportunity to talk with, teach and hopefully pass on some knowledge to some young men is a chance to make a difference in that age group where it's really important for

them to have a positive role model in their lives. Hopefully, [Air Force volunteers] have been that."

Another USAF volunteer, Sergeant Gregory Caesar, agreed. "One student, Bruce Loyde, came over and said 'we know you guys take a lot of time to come out here and we really appreciate it.' To hear a 12-year-old say that is really rewarding," said Sgt. Caesar. "[Sixth grade teacher] Ms. Watson says one of the other boys who was shaky to begin with has improved his grades and behavior. It's worth the effort, even if we've reached just those two young men."

Partnering with both Umphrey Lee and the Air Force, *Minority Opportunity News* garnered support for the school by regularly publicizing school events, holding writing workshops and monitoring

U.S. Air Force Sgts. Greg Ceaser, Rodney Williams and Gregory Brown receive recognition (right) while group of volunteers bask in spotlight (below).



the progress of children being mentored and tutored.

Although as of this writing, standardized test scores were not available, faculty and parents noticed an improvement in the behavior and grades of students who received individualized attention from volunteers.

"Our volunteers are extremely important," Newsome explained. "We have found that student achievement goes up because students get more attention. If every child had a one-on-one tutor, children would learn a great deal more."

Although the state of Texas limits student enrollment in kindergarten through fourth grade to 24 in one section, 5th and 6th grade enrollment can soar as high as 32 children in a class. But based on the availability of personnel and other circumstances, Newsome says, class sizes

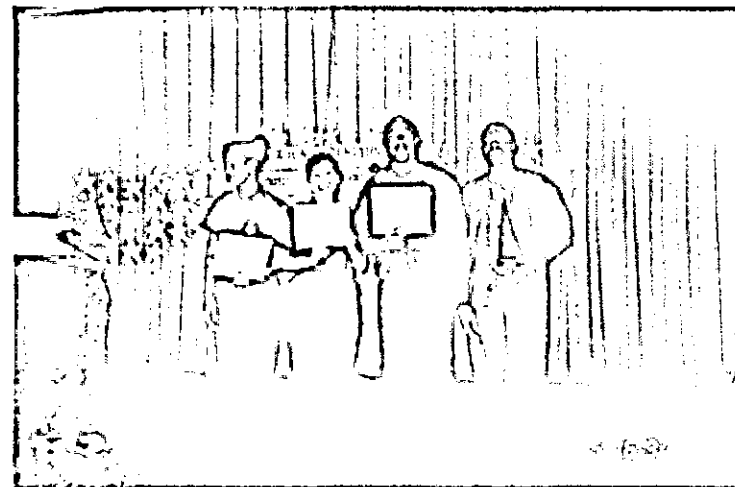
may climb even higher. He feels that even 22 students strains a teacher's ability to be effective. "You have a teacher in the classroom with 20-30 students and that's too many students for one person to try to teach," he continued. "They can't give the individual attention that can occur when you have volunteers come in and work with 4 or 5 students at a time. Even a low ratio like 10-1 would make a big improvement but there is no way any large school district can supply a [regular] class size that low."

Fortunately, volunteers were abundant. Rev. Marvin Hawkins and others from UNICON, a men's group from Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship Church in Dallas, came weekly and on some Saturdays to tutor children in need. Ross Jeter and employer CMW provided bicycles for students with improved TAAS scores and cash incentives for outstanding teachers. The City of Dallas provided professionals from many city agencies to act as mentors. During a special program, K104 FM disc jockey, Skip Murphy, discouraged students from turning to drugs. Hattie McCowan, a retired educator whose children attended Umphrey Lee, delighted students with hand-

made gifts and other treats. Volunteers from a chapter of the Links tutored regularly and the Umphrey Lee PTA tutored students, chaperoned events, supplied awards and food baskets and provided needed financial support.

Once volunteers and representatives had their received awards and recognition, it was time for the students to have their day. MON secured local comedian Ron "Romo" Moore to add even more spice to an already jubilant celebration. Romo, who will be featured this summer on Home Box Office's comedy showcase, "Def Comedy Jam," told the children that although he has a degree in Business Administration, he chose a career in comedy because he had the opportunity to

make a choice. Squeezed between wisecracks about NBA player Dennis Rodman and golfer Tiger Woods lesser known brother "Lost-in-the Woods,"



Volunteer police officers (L-R): Donna Rockmore, Beatrice Pena, Prentice Carson, Dwight Dequire

Romo also spouted messages touting the importance of a good education, respect for adults and avoidance of drugs.

After all was said and done, 125 fourth, fifth and sixth grade students were treated to a delicious hot meal compliments of Wanda and Clifton Johnson, owners of three area McDonald's restaurants. And Umphrey Lee faculty and staff treated all volunteers to a well-deserved buffet luncheon.

Said Pearl Young, Umphrey Lee teacher and the school's volunteer coordinator for over a decade, "Our volunteers say they enjoy what they do because the students are eager to learn and they need the one-on-one interaction. Besides, the kids make them feel good and they make the kids feel good."

Luckily, most of the Umphrey Lee's volunteers for the 1996-97 school year, including the Air Force, MON, and the Dallas Police Department, plan to return when school begins in the fall. "It's not the cut of a man's coat, nor the manner of his dress," George Washington Carver once said. "It's service that measures success." No doubt, Umphrey Lee's volunteers are a special breed who, in their success as mentors and role models, look upon their service to the community not as conferring favors, but as paying debts.

MON

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Making children successful

By Froswa Booker-Drew

The slogan "Save the Children" is prominent in our society. As we continue providing rhetoric that only coats the misery, the answer lies in the family unit. We must begin to save the family.

Vital U.S. Statistics and Facts, an 88 page document lists phenomenal information that will provide insight on helping our families. As of August, 1996:

- One out of every five parents work two jobs.
- Median incomes for whites increased 2.2 percent to \$35,766 and blacks 3.6 percent to \$22,393.
- 15.4 percent of people in U.S. have no health insurance.
- 36.4 million people in the U.S. live below the poverty line.

The statistics for children are just as grim:

- There are 1,436 gangs in the U.S.; 54.6 percent are African American and 32.6 percent are Hispanic. There are members of the Bloods and Crips gangs in 123 cities in 33 states, ranging in age from eight to 22 years old.
- Teenagers commit one of three violent crimes.
- Firearms are used by three-quarters of all juvenile homicide offenders and one-third of all reported violent offenders are less than 21 years old.
- 61 percent of juveniles arrested for homicide in 1994 were African Americans; 52 percent of their victims were African Americans.
- In 1991, emergency room visits in Dallas involving crack were 99 and in 1994, the number of visits rose to 155. 75 percent of all gunshot victims are under the age of 30.

Yet, in all the numbers lie millions of success stories. Successful parents often produce successful children. The word success must be defined because it is often based on material acquisitions. Success, in my opinion, is a formula:

- S-self-determination
- U-utilizing resources
- C-creating opportunities
- C-command of actions and self, accountable to self and others
- E-enthusiastic despite the interference
- S-spiritual seeker of God, seeker of truth and knowledge
- S-sower of good in self and those around her or him

As we have seen in the statistics, children face an enormous amount of obstacles such as drug usage, gangs, teen pregnancy, violence, and lack of academic motivation leading to economic deprivation. Yet, parents who are grounded in righteousness and not the philosophy of

do as I say and not as I do, will reap a harvest. Children and parents alike make mistakes. The test is not allowing the mistake to dictate or control your life or become a lifestyle. Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu in his book, *Developing Positive Self-Images and Discipline in Black Children*, gives us clues of what not to do as parents:

- Begin with infancy to give the child everything he wants. In this way he will grow up to believe the world owes him a living.
- When he picks up bad words, laugh at him. This will make him think he's cute. It will also encourage him to pick up "cuter" phrases which will blow off the top of your head later.
- Never give any spiritual training. Wait until he is 21 and then let him "decide for himself."
- Avoid the use of the word "wrong." It may develop a guilt complex. This will condition him to believe later, when he is arrested for stealing a car, that society is against him, and he is being persecuted.
- Take his part against neighbors, teachers, policemen. They are all prejudiced against your child.
- When he gets into real trouble, apologize for yourself by saying, "I never could do anything with him."

Here is a list of suggestions you can do as a parent to help your child succeed:

- Stay Informed. Listen to their music, know their friends, be familiar with their habits. Many parents are not aware of the demeaning music or television shows their children listen to or watch. Children are sponges. The principle of garbage in, the garbage out is true. Monitor lovingly.
- Create structure and discipline. Set boundaries and expectations. I remember as a teen one of my friends telling me that my mother loved me. Why? She said, "You can't do everything you want." At 16, this person could do whatever she wanted, including having no curfew. Fortunately, she grew up fine. Oddly enough, her little sister didn't do so well. She's in jail. Children need schedules and immediate consequences for unacceptable behavior. Consistency is the key! You are their guide; friendship comes later. This world cares nothing about them. Don't further handicap them.
- Build a relationship with your child. My mom asked me about everything when I was a kid. Because of her demeanor, I felt she wasn't being nosy but interested in my life. It's no surprise that at age 26, she is my dearest friend because I know she's there and will listen.

• Open communication with the school and your child. Talking and listening are the key. Their responses may not be what you would like but always leave the door open. I am amazed when parents say, "I didn't know you felt this way." The child usually responds, "I tried to tell you, but you don't listen to me." Make sure you are a positive presence at the school. Be involved. When you come in the door, the staff should know you are so and so's mom. Children whose parents/guardians do not attend PTA meetings, conferences, etc., are being neglected. If you don't care, why should the school staff, or even your child, care?

• Develop a well-balanced child that has character and morals. If your child is materialistic, they have contracted that value from somewhere. Make sure you didn't transmit it. Your values will determine what is important to your child. Children must know God. They must recognize God's presence by seeing Him in your life and actions. It is more than attending church every Sunday. Satan also knows the Word. What differentiates you?

• Be an example as your child learns. I remember being a guest on Dr. Brenda Wall's (radio) show and a caller complained how she could not understand her daughter's anger. The mom had watched the movie *Booby Call* but had made her daughter view another movie she felt more appropriate. My mother would have never said to me, "I'm grown. I can do what I want." My mother always said if we weren't allowed to see [something], she and my father weren't either. They may have seen several forbidden things, but we never knew. It was easier to respect them when they

lived their beliefs. Many kids tell me they want to be adults immediately so they can tell people what to do. Adulthood means more than making decisions. It's about being responsible and accountable.

• Watch what your child is exposed to—the role of television.

Kids watch 8,000 killings and 100,000 other acts of violence on television before junior high school. Enough said.

• Be concerned what your child eats—The role of nutrition. I find that a number of children are hypoglycemic (low blood sugar) which can often mimic Attention Deficit Disorder. If they have healthy breakfasts and balanced meals, they are more apt to do well in school.

• Give praise as well as constructive criticism. Positive talk helps to build a child. Negative feedback such as name-calling, degrading, insulting, humiliating, embarrassing, put-downs, sarcasm, double standards, comparisons, accusations, and generalizations ("All of your Dad's family is stupid!") does not work. It only destroys a child's confidence. It is then that they find gangs and other unacceptable behaviors that do not accentuate their failures. They are accepted and receive approval from their fellow gang members. Children yearn attention whether positive or negative. Don't dwell on the negative.

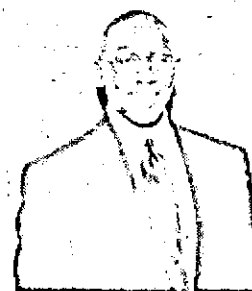
You *do* have the power to make your child an even better person. Don't depend on the schools to do your job!! And remember, with God, all things are possible!

MON

Froswa Booker-Drew is the owner/operator of Soulstice, an educational consultancy.

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Local youths attend Tiger Woods golf clinic

The excitement experienced this past month by local youths lucky enough to attend Tiger Woods Youth Golf Clinic is still as fresh as ever for participants Jackie Whitmore and Kenneth Parker. The two young golfers were each nominated by their parents through a special promotion made possible by Coca-Cola Bottling Company of North Texas. Both were chosen to receive the only two participant invitations available outside of those provided through the Dallas Parks and Recreation Department.

The opportunity to participate in the golf clinic, co-sponsored by the local Coca-Cola bottler, was offered to metro-area youths through a nomination program. Jackie and Kenneth joined other inner-city youth and their parents for an afternoon of fun that included a clinic and exhibition with Tiger Woods.

Jackie Whitmore and Kenneth Parker, both age 10, were nominated for their interest and ability in the game of golf and their good work in school and their community. Says Jackie's mother who nominated her, "Jackie especially deserved to attend Tiger Woods' Youth Golf Clinic because after she received her own clubs last year, she has practiced diligently, she has con-

tinued to be an 'A' student and looks up to Tiger Woods as he is the best golfer ever."

Jackie is in the fifth grade gifted and talented program at W.T. Hanes Elementary School in Irving, Texas. When asked what it was like to receive direction from Tiger himself, she replied, "I'll always remember to bring my club back enough because of what Tiger Woods told me. I'm going to practice what he taught me." Jackie and her family live in Irving where



Irving resident Jackie Whitmore, 10, receives instruction from Tiger Woods at the Tigers Woods Youth Golf Clinic held at the L.B. Houston Golf Course.

she will be practicing the useful tips in her usual place—her own backyard.

Kenneth Parker, a student at South Davis Elementary School in Arlington, Texas, is the only child of a single parent. "Kenneth loves sports and I encourage him as much as possible to participate," his mom says. "His instructors say he has a lot of potential and being chosen to attend the Tiger Woods Youth Golf Clinic is something he will remember forever." Kenneth describes his experience at the clinic as the most special day of his life. He says, "Meeting Tiger and seeing him hit the ball so close is something I'll never forget." Kenneth reads books about golf and will play in his first tournament this summer.

For Jackie, Kenneth and the many other participants, not only did they enjoy the once in a lifetime experience of learning with the best, Tiger Woods, but because of the funds raised by Coca-Cola, other local youngsters will have an opportunity to learn more this summer in the City of Dallas' junior golf program.

Says George Woody, Vice-President/General Manager of Coca-Cola Bottling Company of North Texas, "We are pleased to have provided these slots for area youths and to have supported the Tiger Woods Golf Clinic. The clinic was a giant success for everyone—especially for Jackie Whitmore and Kenneth Parker and their families."

MON

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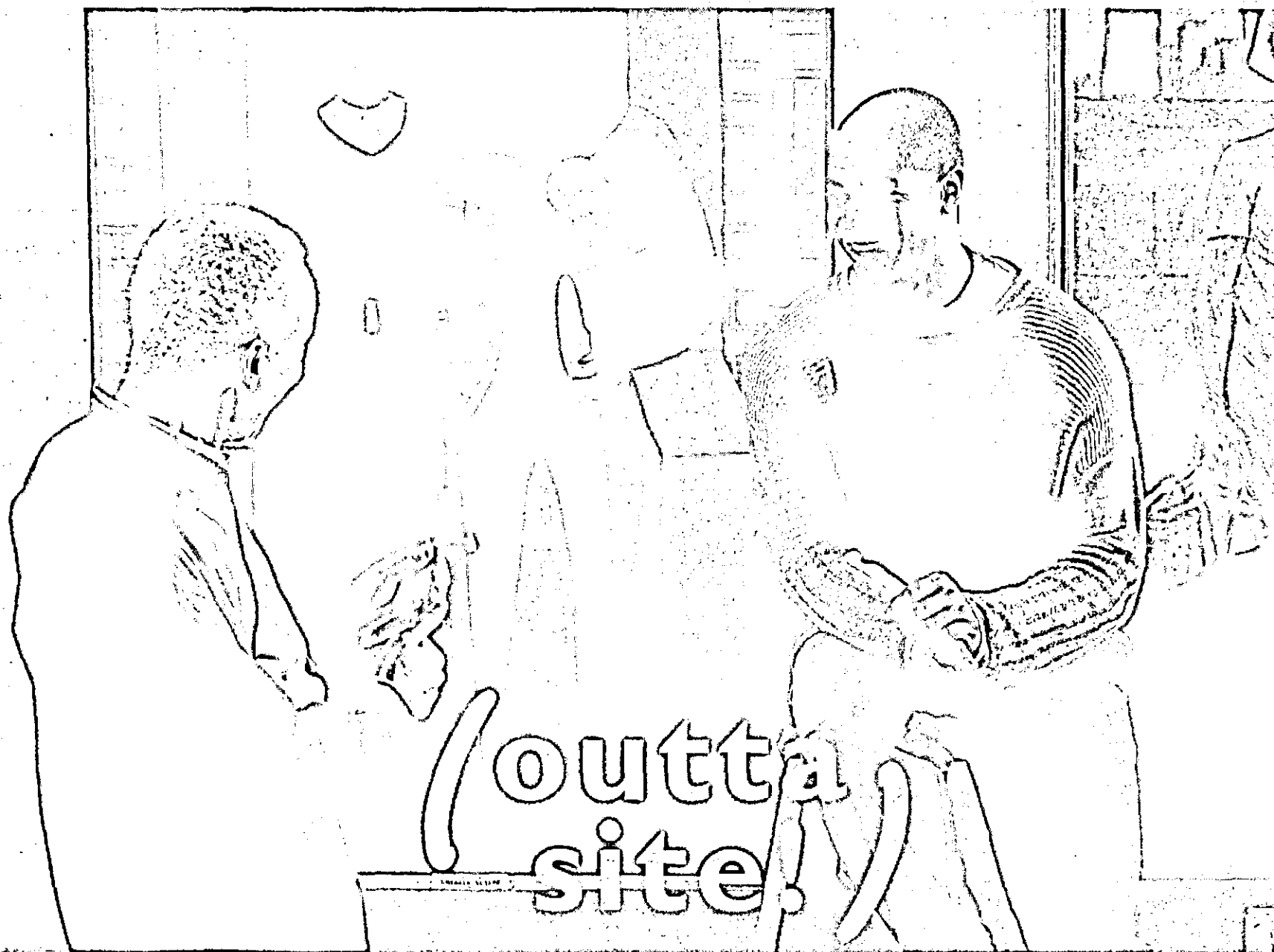
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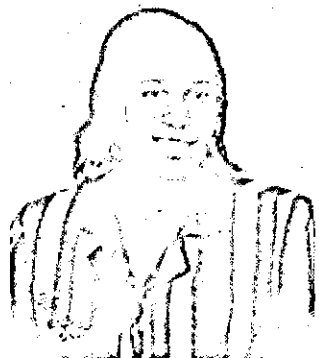
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Family Life
by
Fairy Street Mama

The community has always been the "backbone" of our society. Through the community, children learn the importance of commitment, respect and loyalty to one's self and others. While out around Dallas, I spoke with twins Anderia and Arthur Jones, who have some ideas about how we can come together as a community.

ANDERIA: "I think that if the community comes together and talk our world



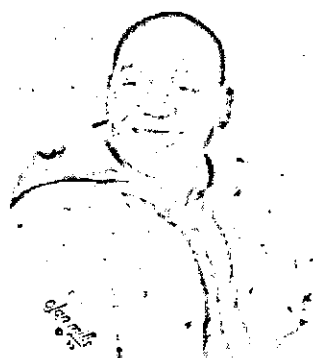
Anderia Jones, 18

would be a better place...We also need to get the drugs off the street...We need to stop fighting and try to be happy with each other...There are other ways to settle differences besides fighting...I think that the laws should be stricter for criminals...I know kids who skip class and don't try to get their grades up...They don't respect the teacher...When kids drop out of school, sometimes they begin to hang out with the wrong kids and get into trouble...I feel that if you stay in school, you'll get more education and experience to help you deal with life when you become an adult."

ARTHUR: "I would like to see more par-

What ways can we come together as a community?

ents and kids getting along better...It is important that they keep good communication with each other...I think that it is



Arthur Jones, 18

also important that neighbors get to know each other and get involved with the other neighbors around them and not judge others by the color of their skin or by what type of clothes they wear...Some people judge other people by "first glance" and never really get to know them...If we learn to love each other no matter what, I think that the world will be a better place for all of us."

Remember, before we come together as a community, we have to come together as a family. We need to teach our children the value of life, the value of family and community and the value of themselves.

Let's Take That First Step Together

*Take my hand and you'll see,
I'm just like you and deep down you're a lot like me
Feel my love, hold my heart,
We don't have forever to make a new start.*

*Put your hate aside,
We can't erase all the wrong but we must give peace a try
Come along, let's start anew.
Let's take that first step together-Just me and just you.*

*And if you think about what's happened
What have we really got to lose.
There are drugs on our street
People don't have enough to eat*

*And children are dying everywhere.
And if you think about what's happened
There's not another road to chose.
We must come together now*

Red, yellow, white, black and brown
Let's make a difference and show that we care.

MON

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



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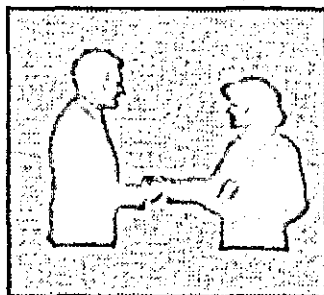
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A "Virtual Art Gallery"

By Whitney Larkins

By simply reading *Ebony* magazine in 1980, Valder Beebe made a career move that would change the rest of her life. "Dallas was listed as one of the booming cities for African Americans at the time. That was the deciding factor (of my move)." Valder Beebe was a former California resident who attended Coleman Business College in San Diego. Com-

puters, not art, was on her mind.

As an art broker, Beebe is the go-between for the artist and the art buyer. "We take work to the public gallery shows. The broker takes work out to the public," she said. Although she greatly enjoys her work, Ms. Beebe does have some pet peeves in some aspects of dealing with the public. "People put limitations on you when they say 'Do you sell Black art,' or 'Are you a Black artist?' I run into that a lot."

Ms. Beebe has been married for 12 years and has four children. Two of her children are in the art business. Her husband, James Beebe, is also an artist. The family ties to the art industry have inspired Valder to stay in the business for the duration of her life. "There are not a lot of black art representatives. I have to advocate to help them (artists) sell their work."

Ms. Beebe currently maintains an art

gallery in Dr. Michelle Morgan's dental office in DeSoto, where potential customers can see works that she has brought in for display. According to Ms. Beebe, the African American art industry is rapidly becoming popular. "Prints are a hot item for African Americans...Art is a very strong career field for a lot (of people). We as African Americans want to see us reflected in the work," she said.

Ms. Beebe recalls the most interesting moment in her career as an art broker. "I sold a piece of Frank Frazier's artwork that was worth \$6,500. It was very exciting, all the money is spent now."

As a member of the Hamilton Park United Methodist Church, Beebe's spir-

itual life has a top priority. "God is my number one focus in life. All the rest falls under that," she said. When she has spare time, Beebe enjoys gardening and cooking.

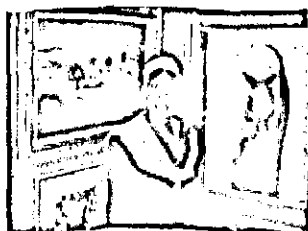
Ms. Beebe hopes to see the art business boom even more. "I would like to see African Americans be more supportive of the art," she said, "They can make the change. We as African Americans can demand more art by African Americans. More people would seek the artist to do more work that we as consumers actually buy the product that we want."

MON

Whitney Larkins is a recent graduate of Duncanville High School and plans to attend the University of North Texas in the fall.

TOP SECRET!

Name: Valder Beebe
Birthplace: New Orleans, La.
Favorite Food: Red beans and rice
Last Book Read: "What Happens When Women Pray" by Evelyn Christianson
My friends don't know that: "I think I can cook."
Advice to would-be entrepreneurs: "Pray and follow God's answers."



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Letting you know

by
Herb Beckford

Mail call

Gee, how I wish that all of our readers were owners or in possession of a computer. In this way, conversing or exchanging of ideas would be made easier. Thirty days could pass without the creation of a vacuum. All one would have to do would be to sit down at the computer and dash off an e-mail objecting or agreeing to some things I had written.

Unfortunately, at the moment, that scenario is not a reality. Soooo, we'll play with the cards dealt.

Originally, I proffered the idea of starting with a \$500 investment to purchase stocks. Nothing wrong with it, but it does, in some instances, present a picture of INSTANT riches. At that time I mentioned, in order to make it worthwhile, stock selections would have to be in the nine dollar category and below. The response was heavy but the follow through waned like a quick-ending electrical storm. Yes, a lot were at a fever pitch but when it came time for action, all the wind left the sails. That group was placed in the folder labeled "could have/should have and see you later."

Sometimes they speak to the guy next door who is less equipped to give advice but the negative message flows through so smoothly, you don't question its validity.

You first have to test the water. You and you alone will make that final decision; but above all, at LEAST test the water. Don't talk about it. Place yourself in the position to take advantage of an

arising situation. To do that you must take the first step and that is, open an account with a discount broker. It costs you nothing.

Thanks to the reader who took the time to write and stated he definitely wanted to pursue investing in the stock market; he just wanted to get started. "Can you tell me the least expensive way to get started? I do not have a great deal to start with right now. Where can I look to find the lowest brokerage fees and such?" Obviously, this reader came aboard a month later, for it could not have been made any clearer as presented in the February issue. Hopefully he took that first step and did not run to the guy next door. MAYBE a computer would have closed the communication gap??

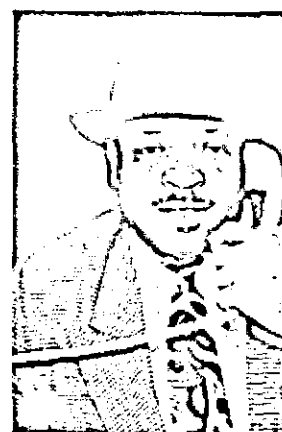
Yet, on the flip side, there was a reader who possessed a computer. He made a smart move by obtaining a trial subscription to a very informative business daily. He found some of the language, to him, foreign but expectedly he didn't cast aside the publication. The accompanying tape is quite explanatory but DOES require repeated play backs in order to bring clarity closer.

Remember, this business does not operate on a 9-5 schedule. One has to fully apply themselves.

Some of the letters made inquiries about investment clubs. I believe I scantily covered this subject. I find, on the surface, nothing wrong with them. They are romantic but just not my cup of tea. Someone more attuned to investment club ideology is the one to pursue. After all, you don't seek a criminal attorney to address real estate matters.

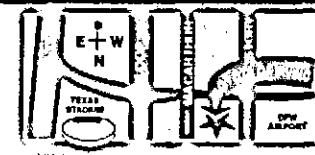
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Herb Beckford is a successful personal investor. To contact him for investment advice, send a SASE c/o MON or email him at herb@evergreen.com



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Poor man's guide to buying a PC

By Detrick DeBurr

The computer bug has bitten you. You decide you must get your hands on a computer. You must get one for the house. You go down to your local computer discount store to pick up one. You don't have the foggiest idea of what you need, but feel confident the store clerk can set you up real nice. To your dismay you look and look for the starter computer named "The Ideal Starter Computer." You need something to clearly distinguish it from the high priced, more advanced level, billion megabytes, super-fast Pentium rocket computer. You find that the starter system you were hoping for cost no less than \$2,000, a little bit more than you had planned to spend. So you walk out the store feeling dejected because you know you need to get a computer but due to finances, you may have to pass this one up.

You must keep in mind that advertisements are just that, advertisements. Therefore they don't carry a lot of weight. Maybe this may ease your mind. A basic computer system does not cost nearly as much as those advertised dream machines.

Here's the scoop. With a little bit of guerrilla shopping, you can get a good computer for under \$1,000. You may be saying to yourself, "But I wanted all of the extras, like a modem, CD-rom, etc." I think all of these things are worth having, but if the money is not available, get what you can afford. The beauty of personal computers is that, with minimal hassle, all of those extras can be added later.

If you call your local computer retail operation, they will suggest that you buy the most powerful and fastest machine that they sell. Don't believe the hype! (They are not trying to rip you off, though. This advice is absolutely correct. Unfortunately, that usually means investing almost \$4,000 in your computer purchase, more than many would like to spend, especially novice users.) Let the truth be told. Almost all of the most popular software packages can run on three generations of computers. (The micro-chips, or "brains," of personal computers have been developed in "generations." The majority of IBM or IBM-compatible personal computers now being used are either series "386, 486 or Pentium.") Many people would not dare go out and attempt to purchase a 386 because they are considered almost obsolete. However, if you can get your hands on one for little or nothing, it would be an excellent

computer on which to get started. Certainly, get as much as you can afford and do it as soon as possible.

Many people who have used computers for a few years and know the performance difference between the Pentium and non-Pentium-based computers would possibly disagree with me about purchasing a less-than-Pentium computer. But I offer this suggestion based on three premises: 1) A slow computer is better than no computer. 2) You can upgrade any PC, assuming that you have a non-proprietary system. 3) Price. Many people who currently own 386 and 486 computers are definitely looking to upgrade to a Pentium-based machine. They will have little use for their older computer and would most likely take little or nothing for it. Any computer retail outlet can give you an idea of what it would take to convert that 386 computer to a 486, and even a 586 (Pentium). You can add a modem (a device that allows your computer to communicate with other computers via telephone lines) very easily, allowing you to take advantage of the Internet and the World Wide Web. If this is all you want to do, then this could easily be a cost-effective way to do so. Barring the possibility that your computer is a proprietary machine (making it incompatible to upgrading accessories), you can always upgrade to your dream machine once you really get into the world of computers.

An excellent option is to look into the small computer retail shops. They are usually very willing to work with you. They have money tied up in every computer on their showroom floor and may be willing to bargain over the price to move the system. Most are able to build custom computer systems. This allows you the convenience to pay only for what you need and want. With a larger retail operation you take what they throw into the package. You will use some of it, but quite a bit you won't. However, you will pay for it just the same. Since smaller shops build their computers onsite, you can put just what you want in and take out what you don't. This ensures that the system is more likely to meet your exact needs. My personal feeling is that custom built systems are always a better buy.

In the case of serving their customers, smaller computer shops usually beat the larger stores by far. They don't have the hustle and bustle of a large retail operation. Therefore, they are able to provide better customer service. The personnel are also generally much more knowledgeable in the smaller operations.

They don't have 50 or 60 customers in their store at a time, therefore they can take the time necessary to guarantee that they meet their customer's needs. Since the smaller shops are in direct competition with the big boys, they try to win over their market. Customer service is usually the way they try to do it.

Sadly, with the purchase of a new PC there can be problems. These problems have nothing to do with how big the operation is. They lie in the short cuts taken by manufacturers of the computer components. It is not uncommon to get a new PC that is "Dead On Arrival" due to a bad hard drive, memory, or main board. However, you don't necessarily avoid these problems by simply going to a big retail store to make your purchase. Their computers contain the same components as the mom and pop operation. This is just a fact of life in the computer world. Correcting these problems is where you may find a difference. The smaller shops can usually check the system out and, many times, fix it with little hassle. With a large retailer, there may be a lot of red tape to go through or you may have to leave it with their repair department. This could take as long as two weeks. So when shopping around for that new PC, don't overlook the corner computer store. They could very well be exactly what you are looking for.

Maybe, after doing some shopping, you find that a new PC is simply out of your price range. As I stated earlier, a used system could be an option. Give your local computer shop a call to see if they sell used systems. Many of them do. If not, ask if they would keep you in mind the next time a customer comes to them wanting to sell or trade their older PC in for a newer one. The classified section is always a good place to look for a used computer. Also, be on the lookout for

computer swap meets and sidewalk sales. Many larger cities have them; you simply have to look.

Another good place to look for used PCs is your employer. Many companies have invested in new computers over the past few years. They need to do something with the older ones that they no longer use. Many would be more than willing to sell you, an employee, one for little or nothing. Check with friends that work at larger companies especially. Companies do this all the time.

If none of the options mentioned above work for you, try mail order. Mail order is an excellent way to find a good computer at a good price. These mail order companies don't have the overhead involved in running a retail operation and can therefore pass on the savings to the consumer. *Computer Shopper* is an excellent catalog that specializes in selling computers via mail. If you are skeptical about buying from a company you can't see, make sure that you pay by credit card and be very picky about the warranty. Although you may have to wait a few days to get your merchandise, it is generally worth the wait.

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Detrick DeBurr is a local computer consultant.

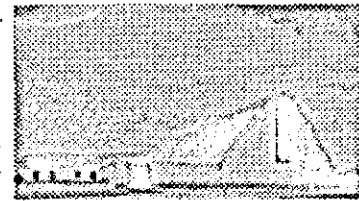
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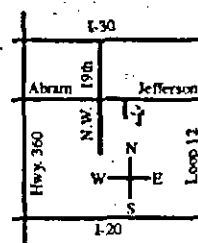
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Understanding home equity

Part 1: Freedom of choice

Texas Publishers Assn. Wire Service

Editor's Note: To better inform our readers about pending legislation on home equity, the Texas Publishers Association Wire Service will provide a series of analyses on home equity.

Why not Texas? Louisiana has it. Oklahoma has it. So does Arkansas, as well as every other state in the U.S. But not Texas. What we are talking about is a homeowner's option to utilize home equity. What we are talking about is freedom of choice.

What's so complicated about home equity that only Texans can't have it? Are there more rip-off artists in Texas than all other states combined? Are low and moderate income homeowners more vulnerable in Texas? Will our senior citizen homeowners be easy prey? Will African American homeowners and other minorities be targeted by shady loan hawks?

That should not be a concern. Texas' constitution provides effective safeguards to protect homeowners. Currently, Texans can borrow to improve their homes, pay taxes, and, under court mandated provisions, borrow to separate property during a divorce. Texans cannot borrow against the equity in their homes for any other reasons.

The key issue is freedom of choice, and Texans don't have it.

But alas, there is hope. You don't have to know a lot about home equity loans to see that it will eventually come to Texas in some form. This Texas Publishers Association analysis is the first in a series of articles designed to better inform the public about developments in home equity becoming available in Texas.

What exactly is home equity?

Home equity is the percentage of the total loan amount—called the principle—that a home buyer has paid back to the loaning institution for the purchase of their home. In other words, the portion of the home that he or she actually owns. For example, a \$60,000 home with a \$30,000 mortgage (balance owed) means the owner has \$30,000 in equity.

What safeguards are provided by the Texas homestead law? Will those safeguards change when home equity lending comes to Texas?

The Texas homestead law protects your home from being taken from you if you become bankrupt or if a court hits you with a judgment for anything other

than delinquent taxes. (There is no escape from not paying taxes; you will lose your home if you don't pay them.)

The issue is not whether home equity is coming to Texas. The issue is when. And when it comes, there will be only one other way you could lose your home—not paying back your home equity loan. The traditional homestead protections will still be there.

Who will benefit from home equity lending in Texas?

Homeowners and lenders. According to Texas State Comptroller John Sharp, Texans will save \$225 million a year in interest payments because home equity loans are more secure than other loans and therefore they have lower interest rates.

The Texas Bankers Association is leading the effort to bring home equity lending to Texas because they see an opportunity to make better loans. Better loans are the ones that are paid off on schedule and in accordance with the loan terms. According to a 1996 National Delinquency Survey, one percent of home loans nationwide were in foreclosure.

That means 99 percent of home loans, whether in Texas or the other 49 states, were quality, performing loans. And the lower the risk, the lower the interest rate, which translates into better terms for the borrower.

What is the next step in bringing home equity to Texas?

In March, the Texas senate passed a bill that will give Texans essentially the same rights as residents of every other state. A bill will probably clear the house this May. Once that happens, the option of home equity lending will be put before voters, probably in November.

Ultimately, Texas voters will decide whether home equity lending is good enough for Texas. Voters have an admirable history of showing up and speaking up when it comes to pocket-book issues at the polls. Texans are sophisticated enough to decide whether home equity should be a choice. The odds are it will be.

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Curtis Yates

Where is the housing assistance money?

Where is the money? Good question! What you'll learn from this column is that Guaranty Federal Savings and Loan is somewhat holding down the fort through their Affordable Mortgage Plus Program. The program presents a flexible funding scenario for low-to-moderate income families needing financial assistance in order to purchase a home. Upon approval, the funds may be used toward closing costs, loan principal reduction (points buy down), or applied toward the down payment.

Funding could be as high as \$6,500 per family or 10 percent of the property's

without Guaranty Federal's Affordable Mortgage Plus Program assistance (conventional financing).

As you can see, the Affordable Mortgage Plus Program's assistance would help support a qualified first-time home buyer by reducing the amount of out-of-pocket money needed to purchase a home.

Some of the program requirements are as follows:

- Family Income cannot exceed 80 percent of area median income (approximately \$41,000).

- Borrower would need to contribute at least 3 percent of the sales price
- First-time home buyer may not have owned a home within the last 3 years
- Credit-worthiness
- Employment verification

There are also other programs that could be used in conjunction with this program, such as UCAP (Up-front Closing cost Assistance Program). You could reduce your total cost on the purchase of a home combining different subsidized lending programs to a mere 3 percent of the sales price. In the case of the above home, this would be a mere total of \$1,950 which could be arranged to include prepaids. Another source of subsidy funds would be through Enterprise Foundation who acts as an administrator for the City of Dallas. Currently, there are no funds available through the Enterprise Foundation, but perhaps some funds may become available by year's end.

Qualifying front and back ratios, which lenders generally look at when pre-qualifying borrowers, are adjusted a bit higher than normal with this program

allowing prospective borrowers to have better income-to-debt pre-qualifying ratios. So, if you're contemplating buying a home, you might want to consider looking into the Affordable Mortgage Plus Program now being offered through Guaranty Federal. Up-front closing costs are often the reason that many people are not successful getting into a home. This program will remedy that. Even if you're not sure about your credit status or would like to ask some general questions pertaining to the Affordable Mortgage Plus Program you may call this number for Dallas and surrounding areas.

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Curtis Yates is the owner/operator of REAL ESTATE STATUS QUO; 8131 LBJ Fwy; Ste. 800; Dallas, Tx 75251. E-mail: cyn755@airmail.net.; Promotion site: <http://www.flash.net/~statusqu/>.

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* less down payment		

contract purchase amount. Also, because the program is sponsored by Guaranty Federal, the loan would have to originate at Guaranty Federal. The box illustrates a hypothetical home purchase with and

- Funding up to \$6,500 per family or 10 percent of contract purchase amount of the home.
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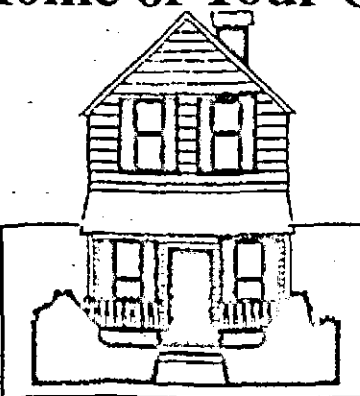


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You and God

by
Ron Shaw

Deliverance or Discipline?

John 5:13

During the last few months, it seems almost weird how many people have requested conferences with me about issues in their lives that they think can be resolved through the prayers of others. As a pastor, I do realize and acknowledge the importance of prayer. However, we must be students of the Word and not just thrill seekers. I must admit I am amazed at how many people take literally the portion of the scripture where Jesus said "take no thought." Some things are really "no brainers." That is, they really don't require a great deal of consultation to figure out. As one friend puts it, "you don't have to be a rocket scientist to figure it out." I simply mean there are some issues (maybe most issues) that we face in life that don't require us to set an appointment with a counselor or spend money on group therapy if we just think a bit. However, there are issues that may require you to seek assistance in thinking through.

Let's look at a few. How many of us, at some time or another, have sought prayer for financial deliverance or miracles? The truth is that we probably don't need a financial miracle as much as we need some financial discipline. If you spend money on what you want and then "spend" prayer for what you need, a miracle is not going to help you. I was recently asked by a young lady to pray for her because she had some physical challenges. After asking a few questions,

I am convinced that the more I talk with people, it's discipline, not deliverance, that is needed in a great number of situations.

I was led to share with her some information on proper health care. Then there are those who desire to receive deliverance from addictions of all sorts. After deliverance comes discipline lest, as Jesus puts it, "a worse thing come unto thee." Actually, a lot of times (if we're honest) we just want to take the short cut to our

answer. Most of the time, the deliverance Christians seek is a consequence of a lack of discipline. I am convinced that the more I talk with people, it's discipline, not deliverance, that is needed in a great number of situations. The Bible says that God has delivered us from the power of darkness once we receive Jesus as Savior. Making him Lord is the act of those who discipline themselves and in so doing become His disciples (followers).

In our text, we have the account of a man who was waiting for an answer to his problem. He was found at the pool of Bethesda with many waiting for (as myths had it) an angel to trouble the water and whoever was the first to get in would get healed. When Jesus arrived, he found the man not only waiting for the water to be "troubled," but waiting on someone to put him in. Jesus asked him if he desired to be healed. The man replied that he did. Then he gives Jesus this lame excuse about why he couldn't get an answer to his problem. Jesus knew that he had been there a long time. As is the case with so many, we've been seeking short cuts for a long time. Jesus told him to get up, pick up his bed and walk. Later, Jesus finds him in the temple and tells him not to sin anymore lest something worse happens to him.

It was obvious from what Jesus said that the reason he was in the condition to start with was because of something he had done. Isn't it interesting that in spite of that fact, Jesus was still willing to help? The interesting fact comes after his deliverance. Jesus finds him in the temple and tells him the key to keeping his deliverance is in his being disciplined. That's not only true for him but it's true for us. If we don't seek to discipline ourselves, we are doomed to repeat the mistakes of the past. The only difference is the next time the consequences could be greater.

If you are a businessperson and the Lord has pulled your business out of the fire, the key to keeping it out of the fire is not to seek somebody else to get you delivered or rescue you, but rather to begin a program of discipline when it comes to your business practices. If you are married and the Lord has pulled your marriage out of what could have been divorce, the key to keeping it healthy is to develop a disciplined lifestyle when it comes to your spouse. If you are unmarried and you've sought deliverance from lust challenges, you don't need any more deliverance. You need to develop discipline. When it comes to areas of your life where there are challenges, ask yourself the question, "Am I needing someone to pray for me to get delivered, or do I need to go plant myself where I can develop discipline?"

MON

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

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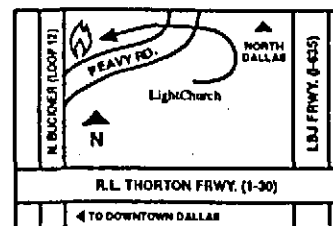
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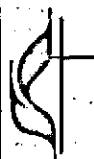


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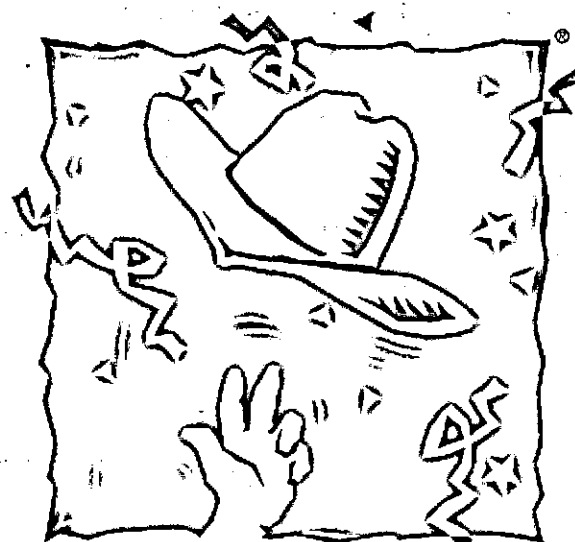
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