The Caper of Choice

Complimentary to churches and community groups

Minority Opportunity News

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

VOLUME 6, NO. 7 July 1997



MISIO

Radio station
K104 may face
an uphill battle
getting a
license renewal
from the FCC.

University of Texas
Fosters
Dallas-Africa
Trade

ACORN Brings
Clout to LowIncome
Communities

Enter MON's "Why Juneteenth?" \$1,000 Drawing



From The Editor

Chris Pryer

Raising the South

Every large city has one. A section of the city that represents underachievement, disfranchisement and neglect. North Philadelphia. The 5th Ward in Houston. Harlem. Liberty City in Miami. Here, it is South Dallas, or, in political parlance, the South Sector. Of course, these problem sections aren't the only parts of their respective cities that hover on the outskirts of economic prosperity. But they serve as the "poster child" for the underprivileged.

Mayor Ron Kirk appears committed to improving the plight of the sprawling, mostly minority-inhabited area of Dallas south of the Trinity River. He realizes the importance of enticing corporate relocations, and the jobs that come with them, to the south sector. To that end, the city has made available ten-year tax abatements of up to 90 percent for those corporations willing to stake their futures in the south zone. He also understands that there must be an infrastructure already in place to attract the most significant and well-heeled corporate players to the area. This includes effective corridors of transportation, as well as the construction of attractive, state-of-the-art business space.

The abovementioned initiatives notwithstanding, Mayor Kirk's mantra for the revitalization of the south sector has been the utilization and maximizing of the pre-existing resources of that area: Redbird Mall and the Dallas Zoo come readily to mind. Zoo traffic alone represents an incredible source of revenue for existing and future business immediately surrounding it. One of the challenges to bringing this scenario to reality is giving the Dallas Zoo area a cosmetic facelift that would make it more appealing as a retail environment for zoo patrons, many of whom don't live in the area.

Redbird mall is also key to the economic renaissance of the south sector. Mayor Kirk insist that there is enough buying power in south Dallas to support major retailers that sell a complete line of quality, upscale merchandise. (Major retailers in that mall usually don't carry the same selection and quality of merchandise as they do in other of their locations north of the Trinity and in the suburbs.)

The best opportunity for the southern part of the city to experience the economic prosperity that other sections (the darling north?) enjoy seems to be now. The Dallas Plan has prioritized it. The Mayor is focused on it. City council appears to be unified and behind it. With so much going for it, the South should rise. We'll be watching.

MON

Belitorial

Teaching work ethics and ettiquette

Recently, Minority Opportunity News spoke with an old business associate regarding issues he was having filling positions with his company located in Oak Cliff. While the business associate is White, he does have, nonetheless, a very good track record of hiring young African Americans men to work at his plant facility. He believes, in a very fundamental sense, that the ultimate salvation for the southern sector of our community lies in its ability to provide quality, well-paying jobs.

Interestingly, he shared a dilemma he has been experiencing over the last couple of years with many of the African American employees that he has hired. MON expected to hear complaints about problems involving the criminal justice system or limited education and skills but ironically, this was not the case. Instead, the issue focused on the poor attitudes of African American employees in regard to their work. The traits that he

noted most often were tardiness, inappropriate language and/or dress, reluctance to follow rules, disrespect for authority figures, little regard to producing quality work and a general disregard for the rights and well-being of their fellow employees.

Although some readers may bristle at the thought of a white person suggesting that some of our young African American men have questionable work ethics, we ask your closer attention to these issues. We must critically examine the "truths" present in his findings if we are to improve the overall employment conditions in our community. Realistically, stronger emphasis and training in the skills and demeanor needed for the workplace would improve both the employability and future of these young men. Many of our current job training programs are adequate at teaching the basic skills needed to perform a job but lack the additional instruction needed to

really succeed in the workforce. One without the other ultimately leads to a series of short term employment options and a frustrated employee.

It would help if those involved in job training and preparation programs for our youth also emphasize the importance of instruction in these "soft" skill areas, e.g. attitude, timeliness, courtesy, etc. This approach would work well with existing job training programs such as the Private Industry Council and many of the efforts supported by the City of Dallas and other local governmental agencies.

MON hopes that the Mayor and other leaders in the community will use their influence and resources to encourage these training programs to more closely incorporate employment etiquette in their programs. Clearly, in the short and long run we would get a much larger bang for our training buck and a more employable work force.

MON

Let's all be responsible

It should come as no shock that so many of our youth flock to the music stores to purchase the latest CD. Local radio stations excell at bombarding young consumers with the songs of various artists and all the paraphernalia that goes with it.

For the sake of CD sales and ratings (which in turn means more money), producers and artists make music that appeals most to our kids. These kids spend hundreds of millions of dollars each year in this industry.

The industry is so massive, the marketing so intense and the dollars so astronomical, that most of us feel ill-equipped to bring any meaningful change to the system. This frustration is especially apparent when we grapple with the controversial and often profane lyrics and lifestyles encouraged by many of the current musical hits. In fact, it has gotten so bad that CDs are rated just as movies, cautioning parents who care to limit their children's access to the music contained on the disc. While many of us bemoan how tragic this development might be, we often do very little to address the situation.

Fortunately, we now have a window of opportunity to make a real difference

in this issue. Local urban contemporary radio station K104 is currently applying for renewal of its license to broadcast. For re-application, K104 must solicit public opinion regarding the quality of programming that it has provided. Now is the time to let the station and the Federal Communications Commission hear your thoughts about the one station that seems to play more of the explicit music than any other station. By simply writing and voicing your displeasure, we can get the attention from those who might otherwise be disinterested. This is a time to believe that a difference can be made.

MON encourages you to write individually and collectively to request that these lyrics be removed from the public airwaves. As well, encourage your pastors and church leaders to embrace this cause as one that takes little effort but can yield very positive results. All comments should be mailed no later thar August 1, 1997 and addressed to: Federal Communications Commission, Mass Media Bureau, Enforcement Division, Atm: Charles Kelley, 1919 M Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20554. You car also contact the FCC by telephone at 202-418-1410.

Take a moment to make a difference for our kids and their future.

MON



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Chairman Emeritus Jim Bochum

Publisher Thurman R. Jones Contributing Editor Jason Webster

Editorial Department (972) 606-3890

Sales/Marketing Department (972) 606-7351

Editor	
Assignments Editor	Cheryl L. Williams
Contributing Writer	
Columnist	
Columnist	
Intern	
Account Rep	
Account Rep	
Account Rep.	
Production.	
Photographer	
Vol. Community Publicist	
Vol. Community Publicist	
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LETTERS...

More Islam

The articles on Islam and the Nation of Islam (MON March 1997) were most informative and well-written. True Muslims knew it was a matter of time before the Nation of Islam organization turned on you. However, they cannot dispute the facts concerning Islam and what they believe. If they would pick up the Qur'an, they would understand what Islam is all about. But they must first get permission from Minister Farrakhan before they can think; independent thinking is lost in the Nation of Islam.

Brother Muhammad was very light on the NOI and they should be thankful. I realize that this will put a strain on your (Thomas Muhammad's) relationship with Minister Jeffery Muhammad and Mosque #48. However, you must continue to remain true to Islam. You must continue to expose this new group with intelligent articles. But all Muslims must increase the effort against them and other groups who aim to maim our religion.

I wish you much peace, brother. Maybe the NOI will join their brothers in the Islamic Mosques around the area in order to understand Islam. Maybe they will debate you on the issue in a public forum.

KOSG Dallas

Financial advice

Your column in [a previous] edition of the Minority Opportunity News was just what I have been looking for. Some information on the "how to" and "what happens when" for people who have always been interested in learning and playing the stock market but do not have the formal training or background.

I wonder if I could get some information on your February column because I am a new reader of the Minority Opportunity News and am very interested in getting those low price stocks.

Eric Winston Balch Springs

Letters Policy

MON welcomes the letters of its readers. We reserve the right to edit all letters for the sake of clarity or space.

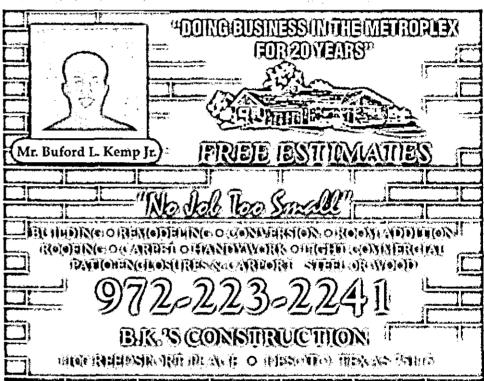
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Letters should contain full name and address and daytime phone number so we can reach you for clarification or confirmation. Shorter letters have a better chance of being published.

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Guest Viewpoint Judge Ralph Ferguson

When the 74th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 1 in 1995 creating disciplinary schools, it forced the rethinking of educating by educators. The legislation provided a means to remove disruptive students to a strict environment. The Alternative Education Centers created by statute had to manage the most challenged students in one facility. Educators scrambled to organize an effective program for students with the greatest needs.

It is important for parents to observe and participate in the development of the Alternative Education Center in their community. In the Garland model, the parents walk their child to the classroom. At the close of the school day, the teacher visits with the parent when he/she returns to pick up the child. They then have an opportunity to discuss how the student is achieving every day.

Because many students are not high academic achievers, the Alternative Education Center benefits their study skills. The classes are small and the teachers have more time to spend on subject areas to assure comprehension. Where you have bright students at the disciplinary school, the classroom instruction for the majority is not sufficient for the few high achievers. To fill the need, teachers in an Alternative Education Center must instruct to push the brightest forward and improve the skills of students performing at a lesser level.

To maximize learning, the students tutor their fellow students when appropriate. Tutoring may take place in a class or with upper grade levels helping lower grade level students in reading, comprehension and math. The teachers have to be creative in developing resources that may encourage greater interest in education. The Alternative Education Center student, generally, sees school as a nuisance.

Content mastery teachers are the busiest instructors on the Alternative Education Campus. They support what the classroom teacher is trying to do with the students. It is a joint effort to bring defiant and hostile students to an academic level where they may find success in school for the first time. The achievers complete their assignment to the Alternative Education Center, then return to the normalcy of the traditional classroom. For other students, the Alternative Education Center is a life raft, insulating them from violence, drugs and gang active at their home campus.

The fear in this mix of students is the adoption of negative behavior by stu-

Why Senate Bill 1 can be effective legislation-Pt. 2

dents sent to the disciplinary campus for a school rule infraction. Because there are significantly less freedoms at an Alternative Education facility, students may adopt institutionalize behavior to survive. In the Garland Alternative Education Center, 20 percent of the population enter due to felony charges or judgments.

Eighty percent of the students attend the disciplinary campus due to rule violations at their home campus. The program manages students from sixth to twelfth grade. Though the staff can control mingling during classes, they are powerless to impact communications before and after classes. The impressionable students in this population may hero worship or affiliate off-campus with other students who perceive themselves as gangsters. Part of what the staff does is spend time debunking the myth of the gangster life style and encouraging parents to be involved.

In looking at the Garland program, students assigned to the Alternative Education Center for more than 30 to 40 days have a tough time not slipping into institutionalize behavior. Students conclude within that time frame that the disciplinary campus is just another school with stringent rules. Understanding that this occurs, the staff tries to modify activities to prevent derailment from task, which is to have the students successfully complete their assignment to Alternative Education Center.

The campus committee that sentence students to the Alternative Education Center contributes to the success of the student and the disciplinary program. If a student with an excellent record is caught using drugs or alcohol, the campus committee may place the student in disciplinary school for less than thirty days. In addition, it may order therapy through a public agency to address the problem of drug and alcohol abuse in its sentencing. A student with an abuse problem may set-up for failure with a long assignment to the disciplinary campus. A smart campus committee knows punishment is not a remedy.

Is it important for ethnic parents to monitor the sentencing of students to their Alternative Education Center? It is important every parent monitor disciplinary schools and sentencing. The Alternative Education Center delivers a vital service to the community and education. The benefit of its service can be loss if feeder schools dump their special education, continuous misbehavior and other challenged students into the disciplinary facility. The length of sentencing and why

students are assigned are two variables that should always be under close scrutiny.

Every infraction may not require sentencing to the disciplinary facility; the options may be assignments to community service, therapy or a combination of actions to encourage modification of behavior. Unequivocally, it is possible to do more harm than good in the sentencing process. The campus committee looks at each case on its merit to decide, to the best of its ability, what is the appropriate sentence for the infraction. Parental observation and participation is pivotal before the committee convenes and during the assessment of the infraction.

The opportunity to address and start the correction of family and/or mental health problems is available in this process. If everyone comes to the table to solve a problem, positive intervention will save many of these students. Here may be the only chance to discuss one-on-one the ethics and values ignored by the student that placed him/her before a campus committee for sentencing. This may be the most important role of the committee and the Alternative Education Center, having a positive, ongoing dialog about ethics and values.

The Alternative Education Center is not a panacea. Though it does not require additional tax dollars to operate, a redistribution of funds will maximize the impact of the Alternative Education Center and provide the myriad of services the attending students need. The key to its success is augmenting with niche service agencies and referring the student

and/or family to them. The staff at the disciplinary school can prepare the path for those who want help to get it. Success is no guarantee, but goes up exponentially due to isolation of the issues that promote bad conduct. This is a tremendous leap forward from communities policing, midnight basketball and other programs that use a shotgun approach to address juvenile behavior.

The program mix in Garland is successful. Of the more than 400 students served by the disciplinary school, the Alternative Education Center reports less than five percent recidivism. This indicates it is tough enough that no student wants to return. Yet it provides sufficient service with self-discipline and academic training that a majority of students return to their home campus better able to cope. The low recidivism does not mean Garland has solved the discipline problem, but it is a positive indicator the administrators, teachers, and staff are doing something right.

As school districts mature in the application of Senate Bill 1, the variety of services will expand to benefit more students. It is our responsibility as professionals and parents to monitor the direction disciplinary schools take. If they become warehouses for disposal students, districts are missing the mark with the application of the legislation. But to use the legislation as an innovative means to reach out to students, promote family inclusion and benefit the community, Senate Bill1 is an opportunity to define how education may effectively serve challenged students.

MON

Judge Ralph Ferguson is a teacher in the Garland Alternative Schools. His first installment on this important subject was in our April 1997 issue. Sandra Stevens and Richard Heikes contributed to this article.

Enter MON/Texas Commerce Bank's "Should Juneteenth be a national holiday?" write-in drawing and win \$1,000 cash!

Minority Opportunity News wants to know what you, the readers, think about the movement to observe Juneteenth as a nationally recognized holiday:

- Are you satisfied with Juneteenth being a celebration that only Texans can appreciate?
- Is Juneteenth worthy of national recognition?
- Will people from other states feel as strongly about Juneteenth?

MON, along with Texas Commerce Bank, welcomes your written responses and will enter each one into a drawing. (Please, one response per person.) The winner will receive \$1,000 cash and a complimentary overnight stay at the Holiday Inn Select at Stemmons Frwy (I-35) and Mockingbird. Send responses c/o MON CONTEST, 2730 Stemmons Frwy, Suite 1202, Dallas, TX 75207. All entries must be received by July 21, 1997. The winner will be announced in our August issue.



Community Pulse

by
Thomas Muhammad

Before going on with this months subject, I wish to make a very special announcement for a very special person and her family. I want to express my deepest and heartfelt sympathy for Dr. Betty Shabazz and her family.

As you probably are aware by now, Dr. Shabazz was badly burned in a fire at her Younkers apartment in New York state. We wish her well and pray that

almighty
God (Allah)
will continue to bless
her with life
and strength
to overcome
this latest
trauma just
as God has
done for she
and her family for many
years in the
past.

We know that without

"Sister Betty" (as she is affectionately called by many in the African American community) brother Malcolm would not have been the great liberator of African people throughout the world that he came to be.

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

Muhammad's commentary are not necessarily

those of the Minority Opportunity News.)

So, we say rest well sister Betty and return to us. We need you to continue to be for us that source of strength you were to Malcolm "our shining Black Prince." Continue to be for us our mother, sister, wife, nurse, comforter and that image of patience that will provide for us that fortitude that will see us through.

For those of you who wish to send donations to assist Dr. Shabazz with medical expenses can send them to:

Dr. Betty Shabazz #501234728 Medical & Rehabilitation Fund C/O Carver Federal Savings Bank 725 West New York, N.Y. 10027

And lastly, I need to send a great shout-out to attorneys Johnny Cochrane and Rick Hemline for their great victory on behalf of comrade and Black Panther leader Elmer "Geronimo" Pratt. Geronimo was released on a \$25,000 bond while he awaits a new trial for a murder charge of which he was falsely convicted nearly 28 years ago. To brother Geronimo and his family, as well as to Dallas' New Black Panther Party, who continued to keep Geronimo's plight before us, we say "All Power To The People."

Uncle Ron proves Sell-Outs are getting younger

And now, let's deal with Uncle Ron Price. Just ask anyone the question, "What would you consider the worst form of betrayal?" and I'm sure that regardless of color, gender, or ethnicity they would say being betrayed by a friend or fellow soldier is the worst. Most would say that nothing could make a person feel more violated than to sud-

denly wake up one day to find a once sworn confidant sleeping with the enemy.

The idea of a once confidant providing ones enemies with vital secrets is such a horrible

such a horrible
thought that it has been met throughout history by swift and concise aggressive actions. In fact, many countries, including America today, will either hang, shoot, kill and/or imprison such a per-

So, why is it that when a "Sambo" violates the African American community, we tend to sit around twiddling our thumbs as if we are confused about what to do. We should heed Commissioner John Wiley Price's admonishment that "there be a penalty for Negroes who violate our communities." I support him a hundred percent. And make no mistake about it, "Uncle Ron" violated us badly.

son for such a vile and treacherous act.

But before I address how he violated us, I first must address what seems to be some very confused Negroes in the community. Ron Price's running against School Board Trustee Kathlyn Gilliam is his right and duty if in fact he feels that he can win and that he has the money and time needed to serve. That's his constitutional right.

My problem (and many others in our community who were closer to this issue) is how he ran! Listening to Uncle Ron and reading commentaries by many Negroes in our community, I felt it my duty to expose for you, dear reader, "the rest of the story."

First of all, I mentored Uncle Ron (and I'm pretty sure that now that we are on opposite sides, he will deny that today) so I know Uncle Ron very well. I met Uncle Ron nearly six years or so ago,

when he was a teacher's aid (Uncle Ron has never been a teacher. To call Uncle Ron a teacher is an insult to the profession) at Pearl C. Anderson Middle School.

I was one of many speakers that Uncle Ron would invite to speak to a group of boys and girls that he was "paid" to watch. I highlighted the word paid because I felt it important to show that during the time that Uncle Ron organized the "Pearl Guards" he was being paid to do so.

Having said that, one could assume that had it not been for the fact that he was paid, he probably would not have spent so much time with these youngsters. I damn sure don't believe he would have volunteered to do so.

One day Uncle Ron approached me about assisting him in doing something about the many liquor stores in and around the school. I gave him a little history on the liquor issue. I told him about former Councilperson Diane Ragsdale's efforts and that she could be a great source for him.

He contacted Ms. Ragsdale and soon Uncle Ron was in front of City Hall with a few children protesting the liquor stores. The youth protest went over well with the media and before long they were invited to speak to some children at Highland Park High school.

Soon after, Uncle Ron told me that he had been approached by Ross Perot to run for office and that Perot would provide all the needed resources. I cautioned

This system can seduce God. Yes it has that seductive power—the power of dollarism. You can cuss out colonialism, communism, imperialism and all kinds of 'isms.' But you can't cuss that dollarism. Cause when they lay those dollars on you, your soul goes."

——Malcolm 1

him and told him to be careful. With a promise of financial support, Uncle Ron flirted privately with the thought of running for many offices. He once thought about running against former State Representative Sam Hudson, and others.

Finally, one day about two years ago, I approached him about a possible run for Kathlyn Gilliam's seat. Ms. Gilliam had been trying to retire for years. However, it had been very difficult to find someone that the community could support who had worked with her on educational issues who would do the right thing and didn't mind serving free.

Uncle Ron's answer was a firm no!

He said that he wanted to run for city council and about eight months ago Uncle Ron called me and Ms. Ragsdale to a luncheon meeting with him and his campaign manager to discuss his possible run for office. He informed us that he had been asked by some "white" members of the school board to run against Charlotte Mayes.

He said that he had secured both Rev. Freddie Haynes and Rev. Derrick Harkins as his campaign co-treasurers. (When the pastors found out that Uncle Ron had lied and deceived them and was running for Ms. Gilliam board seat instead of Ms. Mayes' council seat, they dropped from his campaign.)

Two months later Uncle Ron was profiled in the Dallas Weekly announcing that he would challenge Ms. Mayes. Then, about two and a half months later, he was profiled in the same paper announcing that he would challenge Ms.

I called Ms. Gilliam to find out if she was going to run and if she knew that Uncle Ron had announced seeking her position. Ms. Gilliam said that as far as she knew she would be running because no one had come forward.

I then called Uncle Ron for an explanation?

He was adamant, repeating that "it was time for a change" (a slogan normally used by white racist when they can not control our elected officials). I finally gave up because I've learned from history that using a little money, white folks can fool these Negroes so well that there is nothing you or I can do to stop them from destroying themselves and their communities. As brother Malcolm once put it, "This system can seduce God. Yes it has that seductive power—the power of dollarism. You can cuss out colonialism, communism, imperialism and all kinds of isms. But you can't cuss that dollarism. Cause when they lay those dollars on you, your soul goes." Malcolm had you right, Uncle Ron..

Until then the struggle continues...

MON

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Pen On Fire
by
Cheryl Smith

Don't forget to give back

At the Dallas/ Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators 16th annual Future Journalists Banquet, members of the industry paid tribute to outstanding aspiring communicators and awarded over \$30,000 in scholarships.

The theme, "The Future is Now: From Scholarship to Professional Men-

torship," is very significant and worthy of elaboration.

As nearly 20 more students joined the list of past scholarship recipients, it was also a time to reflect on those who have shared that same spotlight at one time for some and as many as four times for others.

Where are those past recipients? Do

many of them drop notes of thanks or periodic updates as they continue on through school and ultimately take their places in the workforce? Are they working with a professional chapter in their place of residence or have they forgotten the efforts of those who, no matter how small the effort, assisted them in their growth and development?

Sad to say, the organization hasn't been able to keep up with every recipient. It doesn't seem like too much to ask for those recipients to keep in touch with the organization and to forge an everlasting relationship with the members.

But this has not been the case!

But then again, there are those who have not forgotten the hometraining they received. They are the ones who write and call. They are helping others. They are the ones who make the hard work that goes into mentoring worthwhile.

When members are up working way into the wee hours of the night to make programs work, it is clearly a labor of love for many. It has to be.

I applaud those who are working to help others.

Many of the recipients are working professionals, working not just on their jobs, but with aspiring journalists. And that is good. Some have since chosen other professions. And that is okay. While we would have rather they helped to increase the ranks in our profession, we do understand when life's experi-

ences take a person down another path, but hopefully someone feels an obligation to reach back to help others, as has been the case with DFW/ABC.

Those in my age group can remember a time when there were very few professionals of color in the media. We looked long and hard to find someone to serve as a mentor and scholarships were few and far between. Oftentimes it took years to find someone who would work with you, advise you on your career choices and help you get through the many obstacles that would arise. It was not uncommon to find one or maybe two in a newsroom of hundreds.

But things have changed.

And then too, the more things change, the more they stay the same. That is why it is so important to have mentors.

The many members of DFW/ABC who have continued to serve as mentors to aspiring journalists, media professionals and children in the community should be applauded for their efforts.

They haven't forgotten from whence they came.

DFW/ABC

gives back in a number of ways. There is the Urban Journalism High School Workshop that provides practical experience to high school and first year college students. The combined scholarship presentations annually from the workshop and the scholarship banquet amount to nearly \$40,000. The members participate in numerous school and community programs and work closely with many students. And still they find time to address issues involving the hiring, firing and retention of African Americans in this industry, as well as insuring fair and accurate coverage by the media.

It is imperative that the spirit by which the members of DFW/ABC give of themselves is emulated by those they mentor.

I challenge the recipients to remember DFW/ABC and don't let tonight be the last time we hear from you. We care about you and your growth and development. Everyone, regardless of your profession, must show appreciation for those who came before you by helping those who will ultimately follow you.

It is imperative that we lift as we climb!

And don't forget to give thanks, because no one owes you a thing!

MON

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

PEN NOTES:

Welcome to Good Morning Texas' new co-host, Paula McClure, Paula is no stranger to WFAA-TV or Dallas. Born in Texas and raised in Dallas, Ms. McClure is a veteran TV personality, appearing as a host on Channel 8 in the early '70s before traveling to California and then Florida. Unofficial word circulated that it was hands-down when Paula walked through the door. She's a pro. She looks good, speaks well, laughs pleasantly and knows how to carry on a decent conversation. What a match! Especially when you consider that her co-host, Todd Whitthorne is really smooth and good at what he does...Speaking of WFAA, last month I mentioned Dale Hansen and his comments on "Dale Hansen Unplugged." Dale addressed the issue of affirmative action. Dale, if I may paraphrase, said "...the playing field has to be leveled...you can't discount the many elements that have placed African Americans at a disadvantage." In a letter to Mr. Hansen, Dallas County Commissioner Johns Wiley Price wrote, "The fact that you would place in perspective, from your lifetime's experiences, the ravages of racism in this society is to be commended. Far too few Americans. black or white, have the courage to look inequality, injustice and racism in the eye and challenge their presence and validity."...Welcome to Dallas, Angela Davis, the newest addition to the WFAA news team Got any spare time on Sundays at noon? Well, tune in to No Cover on KTVT-TV (Channel 11), with host and producer, Kim Dunn...James "Buff" Parham, formerly of KDFW-TV is enjoying a little free time right now. Time to spend with his beautiful daughter, Casey, and oh yeah, his wife Rene'! Casey is learning how to walk; she can read, she's constantly on the Internet and she's just doing some of everything!!! Well, the summer should bring some changes. We know quite a few folk in the business will be doing some serious job hunting at the National Association of Black Journalists Convention in Chicago, July 16-20...Can you believe someone asked a question and I didn't know the answer? Maybe you know the answer, "Why, when KXAS-TV (Channel 5) has four African American anchors, are there none portrayed on any of the station's billboards?" I'd like to hear from anyone who has a logical explanation...Congratulations to the 1997 Dallas/Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators scholarship recipients: Jaime Alfredo Castro, Stefani Danielle Carter, Claudia Galindo, Shanna Gautier, Katherine Holtry, Meyla Taryn Hooker, Jade Jackson, Whitney Larkins, Angela Renee Mar-

tin, Asheley Katherine Odom, Sharonza M. Penson, Heather Pinckney, Angela Springs, Jamal Story, Shauna Lynn White, Crystal Williams, Donna Renee Winston and Peyton DeAnne Woodson. Hopefully they will make a difference in the journalism industry. We sure could use more conscientious, conscious journalists. Sponsors of scholarships were: AT&T, Dallas Southwest Osteopathic Physicians, Miller Brewing, Minority Opportunity News, Fort Worth Star-Telegram, The Dallas Morning News, Holy Land Foundation, John and Robin Yearwood, Bank of America, KXAS-TV, KTVT-TV, Buff Parham and Rene' Syler, and Don't Believe the Hype Foundation...DFW/ABC will meet again on July 1, 1997 at 6:30 p.m. at The Dallas Morning News. New officers will be elected at that time... In coming issues, we're going to deal with the media's blatant disregard for fairness and equality, namely the coverage of grandson of Dr. Betty Shabazz...The Black Press is really making some strides. Look for some exciting features and coverage in the future. Although the Dallas Weekly's Jim Washington was unsuccessful in his quest for president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, he has established himself as a force to be reckoned with on a national level. Also, congratulations to the Dallas Weekly on winning the A. Philip Randolph Messenger Award for excellence in the category of civil rights reporting...Look for some exciting things in the future from the new radio station KJOY (104.9). It's a gospel station with a different sound. Tune in and tell me what you think!!!..The DFW/ABC's 16th annual scholarship banquet featured Rev. Michael Eric Dyson with a wonderful presentation on the media and African people. It was particularly noticeable that out of the four major networks-ABC, NBC, CBS and FOX—only the top executives from the CBS affiliate were in attendance, including KTVT-TV General Manager Brian Jones. News Director Jim Holland, Community Relations Director Christy Kelly and a host of others from the station also showed their support and commitment to community involvement. Fort Worth Star-Telegram Editor Jim Witt was in attendance, but others were noticeably absent. KEGL's Kimberly Jackson, Texas Publisher's Association president and Minority Opportunity News publisher Thurman Jones, The Como Announcer, The Dallas Weekly, The Gospel Times and other members of the media realized the significance of their presence. Did the no-shows realize the significance of their absence?

CS

MON talks with Billy J. Ratcliff

By Tiffany White

Billy Ratcliff is chairman of the Dallas Area Rapid Transit's Board of Director, where he's served since 1993. He also participates in the Audit Committee (alternate), Ad Hoc Committee (alternate) and the Legislative Ad Hoc for DART.

A firm believer in community involvement, Mr. Ratcliff volunteers for many different organizations including, I Have A Dream, Park South YMCA Sustaining Campaign and Boy Scouts of America Circle Ten Council. He is also a member of North Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Health and Welfare Subcommittee-City of Dallas and chairs the Skyline High School Advisory Committee and Skyline High School Centered Education Committee.

Mr. Ratcliff, who holds a degree in mathematics and MBA in business and management, is an alumnus of Amber University and the University of North Texas. He is also the national Grand Marshall of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity.

The following is an excerpt of an interview with Mr. Ratcliff.

Q: How did you get elected chairman of the DART board of directors and how long can you serve as DART chairman? A: The board is made up of fifteen members and they elect their own officers; so when the chair came up this time, I had the opportunity to talk with some people, gain their support, then subsequently was elected for the position. You can serve up to a one year term, but you can also serve two terms. This is my second one year term and my term expires in September.

Q: How can a person become chairman of the board of such a huge organization as DART?

A: Hard work I guess; willingness to work and availability. In fact, it's an honor to me to have the opportunity to serve as chairman, especially during this time when we open up this whole [rail] system. I have enjoyed very much being a part of the opening of this line.

Q: So where do you plan on going from here?

A: I'll be back on the board most likely and serve as a member and continue to work for DART.

Q: You're a member of many different organizations and you're no stranger to volunteering. How do you find time for these activities?

A: Well, I really don't, but when you start

volunteering it's hard to get it out of your system. This is something my parents instilled in me and my brothers and sisters. It's an obligation that I feel I should do. I try to do as much as my schedule allows but finding time does get difficult.

Q: I see that you are a member of the United Methodist Board of Church Extension and you also serve as chair-



man on that board as well.

A: Yes. We have the responsibility of helping start new churches, and I also hold a chair on that board too.

Q: How do you start a new church?
A: We help by either making the purchase on the land or help them get started with the facilities or we help them find already existing facilities according to which is best for the congregation.

Q: With all the media-hype festering around other organizations, how do you maintain such a low profile being the chairman of DART?

A: We don't do anything special to try and keep [media attention] away, but what we do is try to handle things here as fairly and equitably as possible and to continue the work that was done by Demetrius Sampson, James Belt, Robert Price and others. They made special efforts to ensure that African Americans were included in the rail system that was being implemented and that the bus system continues to be an ideal part of the African American community. Our job is to ensure that people have a way around the metroplex with our service through bus lines and rail lines. We have a board that works well together to achieve those goals so everybody can get to all parts of the city. We work cooperatively; we work to make it happen as well as to ensure people in the suburbs that are members of DART also have the opportunity to utilize our services. We started putting buses in some of the suburban

cities and our rail line is going to continue out to Plano, into Richardson and into Garland in our next step of implemention.

Q: So you plan on connecting Dallas to Ft. Worth with the rail.

A: Our task is providing the commuter rail service between Dallas and Ft. Worth going through Irving, and as you already know, we have the rail to Irving right now and we're in the process of working with Ft. Worth to complete getting that all the way in Ft. Worth so that people can ride the train back and forth.

Q: By the year 2000, DART's rail will run from Dallas to Ft. Worth. What are the plans for suburbs like Duncanville, De-Soto, Mesquite, Lancaster and others?

A: They chose not to be a member of DART, and because they chose that we won't be doing anything in those cities. Should they happen to change their minds, then we will consider making

Q: If these cities changed their mind in the near future and wanted to utilize the DART system, how would they request your services?

them a part of our system.

A: They have to make a request of us and then we can figure out what it takes to get them into the agency with us. We've done a lot of things with the members that are already here. We have obligations to complete for those cities and we're in the process of doing that. Each city will have to do their fair share as they come into the agency, and we haven't defined what that fair share is because we haven't had anyone ask to come into the agency since the original members.

Q: How did you find and purchase the land for the rail?

A: We bought the land and had contractors that actually built and laid the tracks and all of those pieces that go with building a railroad.

Q: In finding and purchasing the land did you encounter any neighborhoods where people lived?

A: We've had to buy some property as we put the line in place, but because we own so much rail line and preexisting rail line we haven't had as nearly as much of that as we would if we were just starting from scratch and didn't have the rail lines to

Q: Has DART's proposed rail project been on schedule throughout each phase?

A: Yes. We've managed to be on time with our commitments and stay within our budget.

Q: Does DART plan to build an underground subway system in the future?

A: No. The light rail system that we put in place was designed to be above ground, because being above ground saves time in implementing the system and saves a lot of money because it's not as expensive as putting it underground. We do have three miles of underground tunnel that goes from downtown to Mockingbird Lane, but that's the only plan we have for underground service. Well, let me back up, we also have a commitment to the city of Dallas that if we get a certain amount of traffic on our service then we will consider putting service underground downtown.

Q: How has the rail system influenced the economic development of Oak Cliff? A: Some of the businesses had problems and we worked to resolve as much of that as we could with the objective of helping those businesses already [along the DART line] to survive and grow. Now that we're [in Oak Cliff], if you ride the train through that area you'll see there is some economic development. We like to believe we're the reason for some of that happening, like the bank and the new grocery store that's there and some other things that will be developing as we go along.

Q: Do you feel that they built the new bank and the new grocery store because of the rail's development through that area?

A: Well, I won't say that absolutely but I promise you it was a plus in the decision.

Q: What about businesses that could not survive the construction and development of the rail?

A: There were some businesses that did not remain open as we came through. I don't know which ones they are, but that doesn't necessarily mean that we were the reason they closed. I'm sure there were a combination of circumstances that caused that to happen.

Q: Were these businesses compensated that you know of, because they could not survive DART's development of the rail' A: I'd have to refer you to some of the real estate people, but anytime we do construction in a neighborhood that causes people to be displaced, we compensate them in some fashion. I don't know if or how many people qualified. I do know a couple of places that were compensated We did have to use some of the space ir front of some of the buildings, so we purchased some of the property. We caused them not to have parking places or caused their front door to be right on the street, which meant they couldn't be effective in what they were trying to do.

Q: Does DART have any connection with the construction that's going on on Central Expressway? A: No. In fact, our rail line goes underneath Central. We're about a couple hundred feet underneath Central but we're not doing any of the construction that you see. That's being done by the Department of Transportation. Our rail line runs right alongside Central as you get past Mockingbird Lane. Our construction is completed there and we're moving on.

Q: How is Dallas benefiting from the rail system?

A: We go places and move people and when you move people there's potential for economic growth in areas where people are transposed to and gives an opportunity for people to have some business situations. One company is looking at renovating the old Sears building for an apartment/loft kind of residence. There are a couple of other [developments] like that going on in the downtown area, West End district. We move a lot of people down there and help make it more viable.

We just started a program with the Dallas County Community College (DCCD). When students at the school get their school ID, they will have access to our rail and bus system. We stop near El Centro and they have implemented that program at that school.

Q: So will all community colleges be included in this development?

A: El Centro is the only one that has implemented it so far, but the same offer was made to the other schools.

Q: I know that there are a few community colleges outside the Dallas perimeter. Do you plan on including them in your services?

A: A couple of them are outside our service area like Eastfield. Eastfield is in Mesquite and Mesquite is not in our service area, so we don't provide service to that school. Cedar Valley has that same problem. It's in Lancaster so it's not in our service area either.

One of the things that we are getting ready to do is to identify and locate a transit center in South Dallas to serve the bus and rail customers in that area. I'm excited about the center in South Dallas! There have been several meetings of community leaders. Diane Ragsdale, Kathlyn Gilliam and other community leaders have been meeting to give input to selecting where to put the center. It's exciting to see that level of interest and participation.

Q: In the South Dallas area, how do you plan on finding the location?

A: We're identifying what's the best location for the center to go and the best location for the train to go; and then the board is responsible to approve those locations. They approve [the locations] on the input from the community as well as the input

from the staff.

Q: What about the safety of the passengers on the rail system?

A: Safety was one of the highest priorities that we had when we put the system in place and we had a lot of dialog about that. We now have our own transit police force. They ride the trains; they ride the buses; they ride in their cars, motorcycles, bicycles and they have a lot of presence on our rail system. As anyone would say, including me, if it's not safe, I don't want to ride it.-

Q: Do the transit police the same clout as the Dallas police?

A: They are certified police officers.

Q: How has DART planned for accidents and the safety issues of its passengers? A: We haven't had very many accidents, but the ones that we've had, we've taken special measures to try to prevent from having that kind of situation again. We notify people; we have all different safety measures on the system, so that people will know the train is coming. We have the horn that we blow when we approach the intersection, so people know we're coming.

It's something that's new to the area, especially where we had the accident with the tractor a couple of weeks ago. People have to get used to the fact that the train is there. They also have to remember that it is dangerous and take the sane precautions as if a bus or car were coming through. We're always looking at all of our systems to see if we are as safe as we need to be or can be. After those accidents we're still looking to see if there are some more safety things that we need to do. We will keep looking until we feel as safe as possible and will continue to look.

Q: It is DART's policy to encourage and maximize participation of small and disadvantaged businesses in all DART's contracts and programs. How is DART honoring these policies?

A: Martin Burrell is our minority program officer. He has put together a real strong program to work with minority venders so they can participate in the projects that DART is doing. We have an objective of achieving 30 percent participation of minorities in our contracts. So far we've been very fortunate to achieve that in most of the contracts that we have.

Q: Has minority participation gone up since you started the development of the

A: Not as much as I would like to see it based on what the percentage was, but it has remained consistent through time and that's through the women, disadvantaged and minority program.

Q: You hold seminars for the minority/women business enterprise workshop. What do you offer in these workshops?

A: What we do is we offer seminars for people to come into our agency and learn how to do business and how to do business with our prime contractors. If you are not capable, for whatever reason, of being a prime contractor, then you could participate as a subcontractor in some of our programs. We help [business owners] understand how we do business so that they can participate in our program.

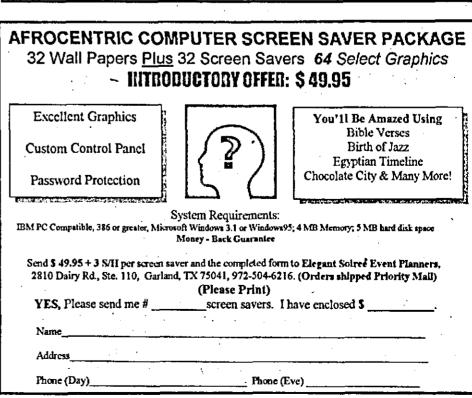
Q: Are there many jobs becoming available as each phase of the rail matures?

A: We have a program that we implemented at the urging of councilman Don Hicks. When we go into an area to do some work, we look at the zipcodes in that area and request our contractors to consider hiring people out of those areas where the construction is going on. We did that on the Oak Cliff line on Lancaster Road and got quite a few people hired in that community to work on that line.

MON







McClure joins Good Morning Texas

Paula McClure returns to Dallas as the new co-host of WFAA-TV's top-rated morning show, "Good Morning Texas."

For the past year, McClure worked as the host of the syndicated cable pro-



Paula McClure

gram, "America's Health Network," based in Orlando, Florida. During mid-1980s, McClure hosted Tuning in with Paula McClure" on Dallas' KDAF-TV. She later

accepted a posi-

tion as celebrity correspondent for "Entertainment Tonight" but it was her six year association with ABC-TV as the fashion and beauty reporter for "The Home Show" that gave McClure more widespread national recognition. McClure has also co-hosted "AM Los Angeles," "The Best of L.A." and has also news-anchored in Phoenix, Arizona.

Born in Midland, Texas and raised in Dallas, McClure began her career at age eight as a regular on WFAA-TV's locally produced children's show "Gunnysack." She has also been seen on the big screen in the motion picture "Total Recall" and in the television programs "Murphy Brown" and "The Gary Shandling Show."

Paula began co-hosting "Good Morning Texas" with Todd Whitthorne June 10. For more information call Alva Goodall at 214-977-6235.

McPherson receives Doctorate of Pharmacology Degree

On May 17, 1997, Charles E. McPherson III became the first African American male to receive a Doctorate of Pharmacology degree in an accelerated program at the University of Texas at Austin.



Charles E. McPherson III (right) accepts Pharm.D. degree from Dr. James T. Dolulsio, Ph.D. of the University of Texas College of Pharmacy.

As the president of his graduating class, he gave the commencement remarks and challenged the class of 1997 not to be like thermometers on a wall, oscillating with each change of the political and social climate. Instead, he encouraged graduating classmates to be thermostats within the medical community by taking a proactive stance on pharmacy-related thereby inducing change.

received several awards er-Kelst Library. including one for service to

the college and the profession, another for Pharmacy Practice Outstanding Student and another for serving as president of the University of Texas' Longhorn Pharmacy Association.

McPherson completed his residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Texas. Although McPherson has received his Pharmacology degree, he plans to continue his education with an additional year of residency at the University of Illinois Health Science Center in Chicago beginning June 1. While there, he will do rotations in medical specialties such as infectious diseases, pediatrics, cardiology, bone marrow transplant, neurology and drug information.

The twenty-six year old McPherson graduated from the High School for Health Professions in Dallas, Texas. He is the son of Elendia McPherson of Dallas (formerly of Marshall). McPherson is engaged to Vanessa Wright, daughter of Fred V. Wright and Alva Rand McCoy, both of Jefferson, Texas.

Lancaster-Keist library branch honored for Homework Center

Bank of America and the Dallas Public Library held a celebration honoring the Lancaster-Keist Branch Library Homework Center. The Homework Center opened in 1994 to benefit the students of the Oak Cliff community. At the Homework Center, students have access to computers to study and receive tutorial assistance in subjects like English, Math, Social Studies and Science.

The Homework Center was made possible through the continuing partnership between Dallas Public Library, Dallas Independent School District and Bank of America. Pictured above are Frank Beverly, Branch Manager of the Bank of



Bank of America, DISD, and Library officials gath-During the ceremony he er in support of the Homework Center at Lancast-

America/Lancaster-Keist Branch; Ramiro Salazar, Director of Dallas Public Library; Dr. Frederick Todd, District Superintendent for Dallas Independent School District; Cynthia Fisher, Vice President of Community/Education Partnership for Bank of America; Peter Agbafe, Branch Manager for Lancaster-Keist Library; and Kay Campbell, Senior Vice President of the Bank of America. Bank of America presented Lancaster-Keist Library a \$4,000 donation as part of their support as the funding partner.

The Homework Center needs volunteers from the community to assist in tutoring students. If you can volunteer, please call the Lancaster-Keist Library at

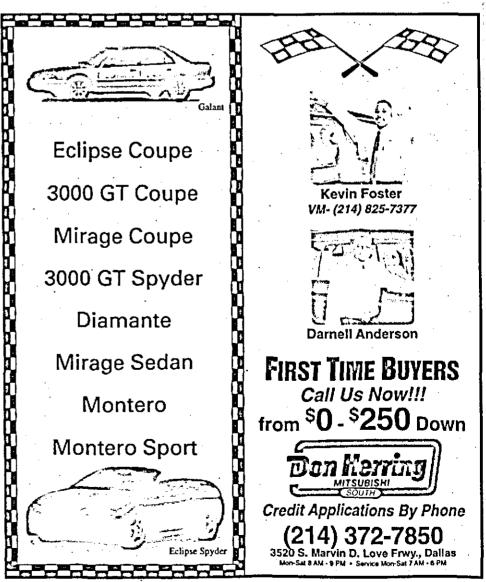
214-670-1952.

BSEAT finalizes plans for Westcliff Plaza

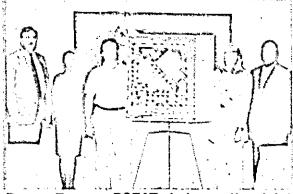
Officials announced recently that demolition of the Rosa Parks Mall in Oak Cliff could start as early as July 30 to make way for a new shopping complex.

The Black State Employees Association of Texas (BSEAT) Community Development Corporation, purchased the auctioned property in March for \$470,000 and plans to spend \$8-\$10 million dollars to rebuild the shopping mall. The anchor tenant, a major grocer, is expected to attract 10-12 other businesses to the development.

To fund pre-construction costs, Wells Fargo Bank offered a \$100,000 challenge grant that BSEAT chairman and CEO, Darren Reagan says is one of the largest made by Wells Fargo Bank in the state of Texas. Already, additional financial institutions have contributed, including \$35,000 from Home Savings of America and \$15,000 from Guaranty Federal Bank. Bank of America has guaranteed support in an unspecified amount, though tentatively the figure is \$50,000. Other institutions including Northern Trust Bank of Texas, Texas Commerce Bank, Bank Unit-



In The News More



Darren Reagan, BSEAT chairman (far right) unveils architect's rendering for Westcliff have the recent meeting held in Plaza development.

ed, Compass Bank and Associates Corp. of North America have committed to support the mall development.

Reagan says that the effort of BSEAT Community Development Corp. to gain the support of so many financial institutions is historical.

"This is the largest commercial real estate transaction to take place by an African American community-based or nationally-based organization in the history of this country," said Reagan. "We now own ten acres of prime commercial real estate. It's a testament of our ability to work and bring together the number of financial institutions that have committed to help finance the project."

Pre-leasing has begun for locations at the shopping complex which will be called Westcliff Plaza. For more information call Darren Reagan at 214-371-7710 or Allen McGill, BSEAT Community Development Corporation president, at 214-331-9903.

National NAACP meeting held locally

Directors of the national board of the NAACP held their quarterly board meeting in the Dallas/Fort Worth area for the first visit to the metroplex in many years.

Cong. Martin Frost briefly joined the



(I-r) Myrile Evers-Williams, chair of NAACP board Black MBA Association, and of directors, Cong. Martin Frost and Kweisi has served as president of the Miume, president and CEO of the national NAACP Public Relations Society of

in Arlington, visiting with friend former congressman, Kweise Mfume who is now president and CEO of the national NAACP; and with Ms. Myrlie Evers-Williams, chairperson of NAACP board of directors.

Quarterly board sessions have been held in east coast areas for many years but the Fort Worth and Arlington NAACP branches successfully lobbied to Tarrant County. This offered NAACP members from around

the north Texas area the opportunity to attend.

Holmes joins FINA

FINA, Inc. recently announced that Carla Holmes has joined the company as General Manager of Corporate Communications and Public Affairs.

Commenting on Ms. Holmes' addi-

tion to FINA's executive team. President and Chief Executive Officer Ron W. Haddock said, "The Company feels it could not have found a better individual to lead its Corporate Communications and Public Affairs



Department. Carla is an outstanding person, with an extensive track record of success. We all look forward to her insight and contributions to the Company."

Ms. Holmes graduated from the University of Missouri with a degree in Journalism, and received her Masters Degree from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri in International Affairs. She has served as Public Rela-

tions Manager with Southwestern Bell Telephone in St. Louis, and most recently as Vice President of Fleishman-Hillard International Communications, a large public relations firm in St. Louis.

She is an Accredited Public Relations (APR) professional, active in a number of professional and civic organizations, including the United Way, YWCA, National America, St. Louis Chapter.

participants at their meeting site. For more information call Jeanne Cullers at 214-750-2584.

Gholston named OmniAmerican's AVP-Polytechnic Heights office

LaRonda Gholston has been named Assistant Vice President-Polytechnic

> Heights Office at Omni American

Federal Credit Union. Gholston will be responsible for all office operations. including and lending functions, new

accounts -LaRonda Ghoiston member assistance.

since

OmniAmerican ... June 1991.

Omni American Federal Credit Union is a \$506 million credit union providing innovative financial services to over 135,000 members nationwide. OmniAmerican is one of the nation's largest credit unions. For more ext 4651.

Gholston has worked for



ilies, toys for the children at the Center and Apartments, parties, transportation

and pick up of donations, child care for

Family Gateway children, and opportu-

nities to speak to groups. They also

adopted an apartment - did make ready

and furnished - at Gateway Apartments,

and participated in Friends of the Fami-

and partnership with Family Gateway

has been ongoing for several years.

Located at Hatcher and Marder, the con-

gregation continues to actively support

Family Gateway through board of direc-

tors membership as well as volunteer

activities and food, clothing and other

the religious community, private sector

and governmental entities, provides

comprehensive services to families with

children who are in crisis, including tem-

porary shelter, job search and placement

Family Gateway, in cooperation with

New Mount Moriah's involvement

information call Sherry (I-r) Jan Mitura, Family Gateway; Carolyn Goodjoint Callahan at 817-246-011, and Rev. Gerald Britt, New Mt. Moriah Church; and Dan O'Brlen, Family Gateway.

Family Gateway honors New Mount Moriah Church

Family Gateway announced that New Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church received the Congregation of the Year Award. Reverend G.L. Britt, Jr., Pastor, accepted the award on behalf of the congregation.

The award was announced by Dan O'Brien, Chair of the Congregation and Community Committee of Family Gateway's Board of Directors at the Annual Lunch and Learn Event. Jan Mitura, Executive Director of Family Gateway, presented the award.

Mr. O'Brien cited the many reasons for recognizing New Mount Moriah including, "Commitment by all, youth and adults, in 1996: drives and collections of clothing and household goods for famand community transition services. The program offers training and counseling which are intended to restore dignity, stability and self-sufficiency to the family

All programs and environments are designated to create an atmosphere of emotional, social and economic empowerment. For more information call Mary Schoeffel at 214-741-6515.

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The people shall rule

Dallas' ACORN brings clout to low-income communities

By Cheryl L. Williams

Years ago, manicured lawns graced the rows of frame houses in Geraldine Brown's South Dallas neighborhood. But as the neighborhood and its residents aged, houses deteriorated from neglect, weeds overtook fragrant flowers and fear of crime force residents into their homes.

Serving as the neighborhood's block captain, Brown achieved small victories for her community, like forcing city officials to mow the lawns around vacant homes. However, there were always bigger problems to tackle—problems that as an individual, she lacked the power to resolve. Just next door to her home of 52 years, an abandoned residence virtually had become a boarding house for criminals and vagrants who regularly moved in until police responded to incessant calls from Brown.

But two years ago, Brown, who is also a licensed evangelist with her church, received an invitation to join a volunteer-driven organization called ACORN, the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now. The group's goal, to win a greater share of political and social power and a more prominent voice for low to moderate income residents, echoed Brown's own mission and sealed her involvement. Just six months ago, she accepted the appointment to serve as chairman of the South Dallas Neighborhood ACORN (SDNA).

ACORN, a grassroots organization made up of community groups of low to moderate income families, began in 1970 primarily as an organization of welfare mothers in Little Rock, Arkansas but soon broadened to include the poor and working class. In Dallas, ACORN currently has about 3,300 members organized in 13 neighborhoods that include neighborhood associations in South Dallas, East Dallas, Oak Cliff, Pleasant Grove and tenants associations in apartment complexes and housing projects.

To assist in its growth and effectiveness, ACORN employs a staff of professional organizers who do not vote on any boards. They do, however, help members organize new neighborhood groups, plan actions and campaigns, assist with fundraising projects, research issues and help make ACORN grow. Nationwide, ACORN has grown to a membership of over 90,000 families in over 26 states and the District of Columbia.

Dallas' ACORN groups have won significant battles for its members in housing, banking, employment, voter participation, energy, schools, and toxins. The Pleasant Grove ACORN fought successfully to close a privately-owned illegal dump, an eyesore at its Jim Miller road location. The owner of the dump, says ACORN organizer Cledall Kemp, actually engaged a lookout at the city dump, steering potential customers away by offering bargain rates for his own site. As a result of pickets and persistent follow-through, ACORN eventually convinced the state and the city attorney's office to work together to close the dump. ACORN members also initiated the use of ID badges and metal detectors in the Dallas Independent School District.

ACORN deals with gaining power for its members and not simply winning issues, be they economic, environmental or consumer. Instead, ACORN's tactics are a manifestation of a

more fundamental issue: the distribution of power. ACORN members understand that their strength lies in numbers and the numbers inevitably determine who has the power to control what happens in their neighborhoods. Traditionally, it has not been the poor, but ACORN plans to change that.

With the advent of welfare reform, ACORN groups have turned their focus on gaining

the rights of "workfare" workers, welfare recipients who will be required to work 20 hours a week (either for pay or without pay(in exchange for welfare benefits.

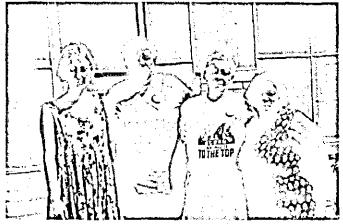
Outraged by Republican plans to pass legislation the would exempt "workfare" workers from minimum wage laws, ACORN members in Dallas and more than 20 other cities across the country took "action" last month holding demonstrations, press conferences, public hearings and lobby visits to say no to poverty wages and fight for living wages.

"I feel that it's a punishment to make somebody work when they are trying to go to school and take care of their children," said Mrs. Brown. "We have 16 and 17 year old girls who have got two or three babies, but that's done. What we're trying to do is get them set up where they can go to school and we're trying to get the government to have nurseries for these young people." Real welfare reform, says ACORN members, would

mean helping people find work that pays enough to support themselves and their families.

Kimberly Olsen, an ACORN organizer who helped establish the South Dallas Neighborhood ACORN says part of the problem with Welfare Reform is that nobody really knows what's going on. "Some of the things that are happening is that they are saying to people, get a job, any job," said Olsen. "So they're pushing people who have no job skills out into the workforce into low-paying jobs or even into job training programs that just set them up for low-paying jobs.

"We went to [Senator] Phil Graham's office (R-Dallas) and to [Dallas Mayor] Ron Kirk and asked them to support ACORN's effort to include "workfare" workers under the "Fair Labor Safety Act" which is what we all get to work under. They voted on this [in June] and both Phil Gramm and Ron Kirk refused to talk to us about it and refused to fight it."



ACORN members (from left to right) Kimberly Olsen Luvetta Hunter, Geraldine Brown and Eloise Shields.

Even though the group's actions did not immediately garner the desired results, they did get the attention of local politicians after ACORN members staged a sit-in at Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk's office that same day. Initially, they were denied an audience with the Mayor although the group had made an appointment four months in advance.

"The only reason he met with us is because ACORN members sat out in the lobby," said Olsen. We found out [the Mayor] was there and we banged on the glass until he came out."

ACORN succeeds primarily because of members persistence and insistence on using direct action as a tactic. A key component in all ACORN campaigns, direct action(demonstrations, sit-ins, pickets, squatting, street blockings, etc. (usually leads to negotiations on the members' demands. When they win the action, all ACORN members know that they are responsible for the victory. With so many issues to tackle, ACORN members almost assuredly have a personal cause to champion.

In housing, the SDNA scored a victory in their effort to control Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds administered by the city of Dallas for home repairs in their communities. Residents insisted on gaining seats on the Community Planning Action Committee (CPAC) which makes decisions on how to spend the tax dollars. SDNA disrupted a CPAC meeting and demanded that all future meetings be open to the public and that information on how residents can become members of the voting CPAC board be made available.

"The city [of Dallas] held these citizens meetings, but when you went to the meetings they weren't there really to get citizen input," said Olsen. They were there to convince citizens that the plan they had brought up was what was going to happen."

"We had being going to these meetings, we had asked to sit on the board, we had asked over and over to be part of the decision making and had gotten a copy of the rules," Olsen continued. "We knew we were within the rules and they still refused to let us sit on the board and be decision makers."

Although ACORN members have yet to receive an appointment to the planning committee, they remain optimistic that soon future "actions" will get them what they want.

While neighborhood ACORN groups individually identify issues to address, the groups work together through a citywide executive board composed of the elected chairs of each group. The board meets monthly to plan actions and campaigns, oversee the finances of the organization and set ACORN policy.

Ultimately, Dallas ACORN groups want someone involved with ACORN on the Dallas city council to ensure the underprivileged have a voice in decisions now being made for them.

As for the abandoned house that sits next to hers, Brown wants it demolished. With the help of ACORN, she discovered that the house, built in 1908, was protected by historical preservation laws and could not be demolished until an estimated six month documentation process was completed by officials in Austin. For Brown's protection, the city erected a barbed-wired fence around the structure but not before an unidentified contractor pilfered the antiques posts, crumbling a portion of the roof. The documentation period is over and now Brown demands action from the city or the city can face 'action" from ACORN.

With its membership growing stronger every day, ACORN supporters are convinced that eventually, as their motto states, "The People Shall Rule."

MON

For more information about ACORN, 4415 San Jacineto, Dallas, Texas 75204, call 214-823-4580.

Race: The History of an Idea

Part 3 of 4

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

On the subject of race in the nineteenth century, the leading exponents of various schools of thought on the subject came more and more to believe that blacks were inferior to whites, and that neither education nor environment could do much to improve that fact. Under similar scrutiny, other nonwhite races fared scarcely better in the white man's assessment of them.

In this installment of our study of race, we will look at the developing scientific underpinnings of racial thought and how it dominated the social land-

The Science of Racism

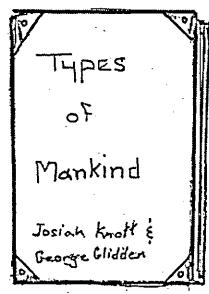
In the United States, the idea that blacks might be a separate species made a more determined last stand and, for a time, nearly dominated the thinking of scientific men on the subject. The leader of the polygenist school of thought in this country was not, as we might suppose, an apologist for slavery. He was Dr. Samuel George Morton (1799-1851), a lifelong resident of Philadelphia, famous both as a physician and as a researcher in natural history.

The key to the separate origin of races, argued Morton, was to be found in hybrids or mulattos. The test of species in natural history had been the ability of two organisms to produce fertile offspring. Among human races, he admitted that mulattos were fertile, but his own research into crosses between whites and blacks indicated that mulatto women bear children only with great difficulty. If these women mated only with other mulattos, Morton argued, the descendants of this union would be even less fertile and the progeny would eventually die out. Morton was led to the conclusion that whites and blacks are not varieties of a single race but entirely different species.

Morton went on to reflect on the innate mental and temperamental differences between races. Indians were "adverse to cultivation, and slow in acquiring knowledge; restless revengeful, and fond of war, and wholly destitute of maritime adventure." Blacks were "joyous, flexible, and indolent," representing the "lowest grade" of the races. With the death of Morton, advance of the polygenic origin theory was left to two of his disciples—Josiah Clark Nott and George Robin Glidden.

Nott and Glidden collaborated on a

voluminous study of 800 pages entitled Types of Mankind. Published in 1854, this book added little that was new to the argument over separate origin. At the price of \$7.50, the first printing sold out immediately, and before the end of the century the book had gone through at least nine editions. The idea which appears over and over again was that nonwhite races were incapable of taking the first steps toward civilization when they are of unmixed blood. It was an



Types of Mankind, written by Josiah Nott and George Glidden, was published in 1854 and cost \$7.50 a copy.

invariable rule, asserted Nott, that no black or Indian or other nonwhite man could show evidence of high intelligence unless he had at least one white ancestor. One contributor in the book described Indians as "colored vermin." To anyone who has had experience with Indians, says Nott, "it is in vain to talk of civilizing them. The blacks were closer to the chimpanzee and the orangutan than he was to the Caucasian. Even among the white races, there were some who were doomed by nature to barbarism. The instability of the French government, says Nott, was due to the turbulent dark men in the nation. The government of France would be wise "simply to chop off the head of every demagogue who was not a blond white man...Dark-skinned races, history attests, are only fit for military governments. It is unique to their physical nature; they are unhappy with-

If the South had been willing to contend that blacks should be slaves because they are a separate species from the whites, it would have found itself a powerful partner in the science of the time. Frederick Douglass, the black slave who gained his freedom and became famous as an abolitionist orator, questioned the political motivation of Nott and Glidden.

In 1854, the fire-eating "Richmond Enquirer" declared that some might accept the "infidel" doctrine of diversity because it seemed to be an excellent defense of slavery, but they would be wrong. George Fitzhugh, one of the most rabid defenders of slavery and of the innate inferiority of blacks, nonetheless considered blacks to be the same species as the white man. William Stanton, the modern authority on the race theory of this period, has pointed out that "when the issue was clearly drawn, the South turned its back on the only intellectually respectable defense of slavery it could have taken up."

What ended the monogenist-polygenist controversy was, of course, Charles Darwin's theory of evolution.

In Darwin's The Origin of the Species, he refuted "the hypothesis of a multiplicity of human species." It was now scientifically respectable to maintain that the species is one for "the very first step backwards" into the evolutionary past "makes the black and Hottentot our blood-relations." Nott himself eventually came around to an acceptance of the evolutionary thesis, though hardly for humanitarian reasons.

Darwin changed the basis of race theory, but he did not change the argument that some races are superior to others. Even before "The Origins of Species" was published, the direction which the new racism would take had been indicated. In 1843, Robert Chambers, an Edinburgh publisher and an amateur scientist, had anonymously published Vestiges of Creation, a book which advanced an evolutionary hypothesis. Chambers was not a trained student in natural history, and he made some glaring errors. His idea of evolution as applied to race was exactly what millions of people continued on next page

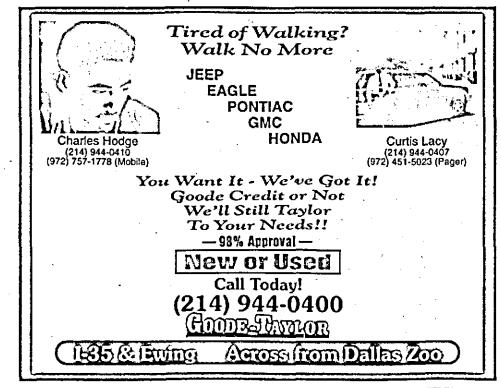
would come to believe when evolution became respectable. Chambers argued that "man began as a black", passed through Malay, Indian, and Mongolian phases, and finally emerged as a Caucasian. "The leading characters...of the various races of mankind are simply representations of the development of the highest, or Caucasian type.

Darwin is much more cautious than Chambers in describing how the evolution of human races came about. He does not attempt to place each race in its proper position on the evolutionary scale nor does he assume that the direction of evolution is clearly toward the superior Caucasian. He believed that changes came about through "sexual selection." Men or women who were more vigorous or attractive would have an advantage in mating and in propagating themselves. Slight changes of body conformation might be advantageous in attracting a mate. In this way, he believed new races had eventually been created. Darwin did believe that human races differ a good deal from one another both outwardly and inwardly and that many of these differences could be measured. "There is...no doubt that the various races, when carefully compared and measured, differ much from each other, as in the texture of the hair, and the relative proportions of all parts of the body. Darwin never got around to a thorough study of the ways in which human races differ.

A striking feature of the literature of racism in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries is the patient way in which the racists explain "scientific fact" to their opponents.

Racism and Society

When a modern reader comes across the extreme racism of Southern political



continued from previous page

leaders of sixty years ago, he is likely to equate their statements with those of the more extreme White Citizens Councils of

The idea which appears (in the book Types of Mankindover and over again was that nonwhite races were incapable of taking the first steps toward civilization when they are of unmixed blood.

today. Men such as Pitchfork Ben Tillman of South Carolina, Tom Watson of Georgia, and James K. Vardaman of Mississippi, frequently expressed themselves in terms of coarse brutality. In 1905, Tom Watson closed an editorial attacking Booker T. Washington as follows:

"What does civilization owe to the Negro? Nothing! Nothing!!!"

James K. Vardaman, who cam-

paigned for governor of Mississippi in 1900 in an eight-wheeled lumber wagon drawn by eight yokes of oxen, said, "We would be justified in slaughtering every Ethiop on the earth to preserve unsullied the honor of one Caucasian home." He believed blacks were lazy, lying, lustful animals which "no conceivable amount of training can transform into a tolerable citizen. One didn't inquire into the justice of killing predatory animals. We do not stop when we see a wolf," he reasoned, "to find if it will kill sheep before disposing of it, but assume that it will." Vardaman admitted the cruelty of this logic, but said, "I am...writing...to present the cold truth however cruel it may be."

Pitchfork Ben Tillman declared in 1913 that from "forty to a hundred southern maidens were annually offered as a sacrifice to the African Minotaur, and no Theseus had arisen to rid the land of this terror." He said he had taken the oath as governor of South Carolina "to support the law and enforce it," but added that he "would lead a mob to lynch any man, black or white, who ravished a woman, black or white." Tom Watson of Georgia said that the black simply has "no comprehension of virtue, honesty, truth, gratitude and principle." Watson believed the South had "to lynch him occasionally, and flog him now and then to keep him from blaspheming the Almighty, by his conduct, on account of his smell and his color.

Only a year after the Plessey vs Ferguson decision of 1896, we find James K. Vardaman on a campaign against black education in Mississippi. The state, he

complained, was spending half a million dollars a year to prepare blacks for "the higher duties of citizenship." Everybody knew that blacks would not be allowed to be citizens. Black votes would either be "cast aside or Sambo will vote as directed by the white folks." Money spent on education of blacks was a "positive unkind-ness to him. It rendered him unfit for the work which the white man has prescribed, and which he will be forced to perform."

Vardaman objected just as much to money sent by northern philanthropists for private black colleges in the South. "What the North is sending south is not money but dynamite," he exclaimed. "This education is ruining our blacks."

Henry W. Grady, the leader of the New South movement and editor of the Atlanta Constitution, was a popular orator in all sections of the country in the 1880s. Calling for an end to sectional animosities, Grady still maintained that blacks must be controlled by whites. "The supremacy of the white race of the South," he said in a speech in Dallas, Texas, in 1887, "must be maintained forever, and the domination of the Negro race resisted at all points and at all hazards because the white race is the superior race. This is the declaration of no new truth. It has abided forever in the marrow of our bones, and shall run forever with the blood that feeds Anglo-Saxon hearts."

The possibilities of segregation as a tool in the denial of rights to blacks were almost unlimited. Public services which existed for whites were sometimes wholly nonexistent for blacks. In many communities, library facilities, for example, were supported by public funds but wholly limited to white patrons. Usually, separate facilities were available for blacks but they were vastly unequal. As late as 1936, the state of Mississippi was paying its white elementary public school teachers an average of three times as much as it paid its black teachers. The rest of the South was not this bad, but white teachers in the region were paid an average of over 60 percent more than black teachers. White schools were frequently of sound construction, whereas black schools were frequently ramshackle affairs. John Dollard tells how a southern community as late as the 1930s built only the shell of a building for a black high school, and then the black members of the community were obliged to donate their time and money to build the interior of the building and to pay for the coal to heat it.

In the South, segregation laws were also a means of denying blacks the right to certain types of occupations. Ordinances like that of Atlanta which forbade barbers to shave or cut hair of both whites and blacks; they were obliged to choose one race or the other. This was a competing with whites for the white trade. In 1915, South Carolina passed a law forbidding factories and other places of business to employ blacks to work alongside whites except as janitors or scrubwomen or in other menial positions. The law was aimed at preventing the state's industries, the growth of which was partly the result of the war in Europe, from taking advantage of blacks' willingness to work at wages lower than those of whites.

There were, of course, men with different views in both the South and the North. But what is noticeable is that American thoughts of the period between 1880 and 1920 generally lacks any perception of blacks as human beings with potentialities for improvement. Most of the people who wrote about blacks were firmly in the grip of the idea that intelligence and tempera-

method of preventing black barbers from ment are racially determined and unalterable. They concluded, therefore, that failures of Reconstruction, the low educational status of blacks, his high statistics of crime, disease, and poverty, were simply the inevitable results of his heredity. The defenders of blacks were thus cast in the roll of sickly humanitarians who refused to face facts. What was most nceded at this time was a direct challenge to the intellectual bankruptcy of racist theory. Without such a challenge, one which would make sense to the hardboiled disciplines of biology, anthropology, sociology, and psychology, the battle to improve the status of blacks was a thankless and almost hopeless task.

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

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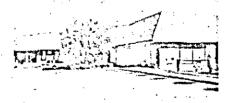


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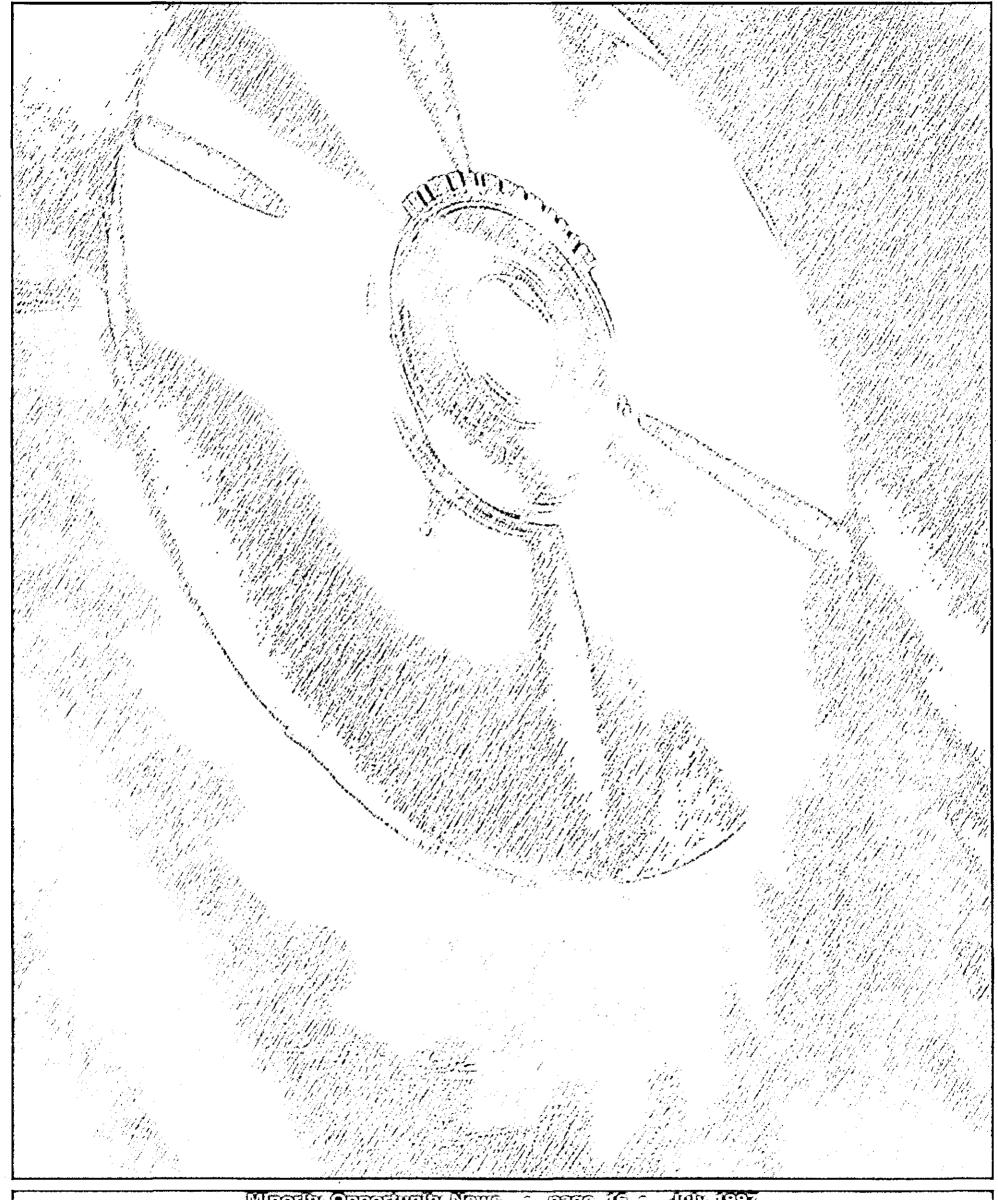


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Minority Opportunity News 1 page 16 1 July 1997

Mar Music

K104 may face uphill battle to renew its license

By K.L. Shields

on't you please take me..."—blared loudly over a local radio station as the female car driver's head bobbed up and down to the beat of the toxic words of the rapper as she rapped in unison along with him. It is a very familiar sight to see young drivers, both male and female, stopped at a stoplight listening to the rhythmic sounds of a rapper that ignite feelings of sexual desire, power, and euphoria to its listeners.

Although, the young attractive driver appeared to be somewhere between 20 and 25 years old, this mimicking can also be seen on the playgrounds and in the streets where young children are in tune with the words of the rapper. Many children can repeat the rapper's song better than they can read their own classroom reading book. Rev. Keenan Broadas, Youth Minister of Mount Olive Baptist Church in Fort Worth, says, "Many of the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students at south Arlington and south Fort Worth schools that I have spoken to can deliver the rapper's words just as well as the rapper. Their role models are Too Short, Biggie Small, and TuPac. Rap music has a far bigger impact than we think. The rappers are meeting the needs of the kids through the lyrics, music, and the videos. If parents, churches, and the community do not reconnect to our children, we will lose them."

As Hymen Childs and his radio stations face license renewals, the national outcry is to outlaw the playing of certain types of rap music over the airwaves. Radio stations KKDA-AM, K104-FM, and new sister station KRNB-FM are 57 percent owned by Mr. Childs, who took over majority ownership of the stations in 1970. (The minority owner is Mr. Boyd Kelley who is 84 years old and living in Wichita Falls.) Under this private ownership, K-104 in particular is enjoying huge success in its endeavor to market music to African Americans in the metroplex.

On August 1, all radio stations' licenses in the state of Texas will be up for renewal. Every eight years the radio stations are required to apply for a license renewal. Radio broadcasters throughout the state had to submit their renewal applications by May 31, 1997. Moreover, any individual or group can challenge and block the renewing of a license of a particular radio station by making their written comments to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC, Mass Media Bureau, Enforcement Division, ATTN: Charles Kelley, 1919 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20554) before the August 1 deadline. You may also contact the FCC by telephone (202-418-2780), fax (202-418-1410) or e-mail (enf@fcc.gov). They also have a web site (http:/www.ftp.gov/). Legal advisors at the commission request you record any sexually explicit or profane music and list the radio station's name, call number, location, date, and the time the music was played. You must send the tape along with your written complaint voicing concern about the renewing of the license for that station. The FCC will review and investigate the complaint that is filed against the station before the license is renewed. There are FCC regulations and guidelines that govern the type of music that can be played over the air. Other formal complaints that can be made are the station's equal opportunity employment practices, promotional proce-

dures, music programming format, or any FCC violation. The records at any radio station are available for review by the public. These files are composed of letters of commendation and complaints from the listening audience concerning the activities at the station, and their employment practices. A complaint to the FCC may be made against a station any time there is a violation.

During a recent examination of the public files at KKDA, K104, and KRBN, I read many letters of appreciation directed to the disc jockeys for their support of community activities. There were also many letters of disapproval for the firing of Yvonne St. John last year. Ms. St. John had worked over 20 years with the station. There were a few letters that cited poor music programming.

Have we as a society put our moral values in the hands of the radio stations and record companies, who are only concerned about their profits and ratings? If so, then whose responsibility is it to prevent our children and young adults from being fed those lyrical enticements of crime, hate, adultery, fornication, robbery, murder, drugs, and alcohol through the potent words of the rapper? Are we and our children victims of a deception that draws us in as instruments for the monetary gains of a multi-million dollar industry that keeps the majority of the profits in the hands of the record companies and radio stations? The answers to all of the questions are an emphatic yes. We will probe the world of rap music and the responsibility of local radio station K104-FM and its management, parents, churches, and the community.

Recently, the intensity of rap music has been labeled as a poisonous venom. This has caused many community and church organizations across the country to voice strong opposition against the playing of rap music on the radio and the sale of it to minors. C. DeLores Tucker, chair of the National Political Congress of Black Women, led the crusade to prohibit the broadcasting of rap music with explicit lyrics. She was instrumental in pressuring entertainment and communications giant Time Warner, which also was under heavy protest from various protest groups nationwide to sell off its 50 percent interest in Interscope, one of the largest rap labels.

Gangsta rap music has become such a big money-making business that hundreds of small music recording studios have sprung up to cash in on the profits. Many high-profiled rapper's deaths have been attributed to the war of competition with rap singers and their companies during the past few years. The huge profits of rap music are primarily in the hands of the large record companies who have led the way to exploitation of African American rappers.

Hymen Childs expressed his concern about rap and the many musicians who he felt were getting into a very tough industry. Although K104 does not promote or play gangsta rap, their music format is dictated by the listening audience. Still, the station plays some sexually explicit rap and in many cases, the nasty words are bleeped out.

See MUSIC page 18

MUSIC from page 17

If the child likes the artist, words, and the beat, he has the option to go out and buy the music. Thus, the station has met the record company's objective of promotion and increased sales. K104-FM unequivocally feels that they have given back to the community financially through sponsorship of many community activities. Certainly, many deejays, due in part to their celebrity status, go out and do promotional work to market the station

African American Heroes Banquet. Top management also believes that many of its employees who have a long tenure with the radio station are happy with the station and music format that is being played.

The most prominent argument against the rap music genre is the conscious and sub-conscious influence its detractors think it has on its listeners. A prison inmate expressed these thoughts on the suggestive power of rap. "I

thought I was totally rehabilitated until I heard some rap music. I had accomplished some educational goals by completing my associate and Bachelor of Science degrees. I was very much in touch with my spiritual and physical emotions. As I listened to the words and message of the rapper, I became quite caught up in the sensations of mystification and erotica that I actually wanted to go out and do what the rapper was saying."

Dr. Cornell'Thomas, an author, Texas Christian University professor and expert in the field of educational diversity, is a frequent national lecturer and

presenter at conferences and workshops. Dr. Thomas has prior experience as a classroom teacher and principal and thinks that within the context of many

rap songs subliminal messages are being conveyed to the listener. "Many of those messages cause young people to think in negative and excessively aggressive ways. The music reinforces violence, drug use, and negative stereotypes so prevalent in this society about African Americans. Rap glamorizes incarceration, pimping, multi-partner sex, premarital sex, and the list goes on and on!" added Dr. Thomas. In his most recent book, It's All In The Way You Look At Things, he delves into identity as it relates to self-esteem, behavior, and learning patterns in the classroom. He is also the author of You Are Only As Great As You Think You Are, and Edu cational Equality and Excellence.

Parents have also been vocal concerning the fact that responsibility and respect for what is good and bad, right and wrong, starts in the home. Several parents said that they monitor their children's radio music stations and do not allow sexually provocative and vile music to be played in their homes. Parents, in general, thought it was their responsibility to educate and guide their children on what types of music to listen to. Additionally, most of the parents agreed that the radio station had an obligation to play clean music.

In a lengthy discussion with Rev. Roger W. F. Skepple, Associate Pastor of Christian Education at Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas. He directs the Fellowship Christian Academy and has



Dr. Cornell Thomas thinks rap conveys damaging subliminal messages: "Many of [the] messages cause young people to think in negative and excessively aggressive ways.

300 students, ranging from preschool to the 6th grade. Rev. Skepple discussed the responsibilities of radio, church, parents and the community in relation to rap music. "Music is something God has given to mankind, it's a fulfillment as part of God's life in heaven. Music can have a beautiful and happy side but it can also have a dark side. One must not evaluate the music type but the message that is being given out to the people."

Rev. Skepple goes on: "Rap music

Continued on next page



Radio stations like K104 can be held accountable for broadcast content by citizens' opposition to license renewal.

within the community. Nevertheless, are they really doing anything that impacts and educates the community in a positive manner? The station annually sponsors its Christmas adoption party and the

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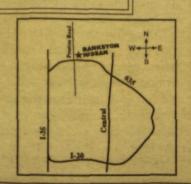
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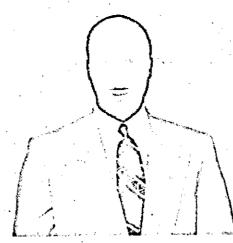
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must be looked at from a cultural and spiritual view point. Culturally, it is the immoral and illicit words that express acts of sex that confuse our children. The laws have made it difficult for minors to purchase X-rated movies and written pornographic materials but it is very easy for those same minors to purchase illicit music. From a spiritual angle, sexuality should be carried out in the bounds of marriage given by God. Children at a very young age are impressionable and have a tendency to act out words from rap music and the videos. They truly are too young to evaluate what all this implies. Parents must be aware of the symptoms and regulate the behavior of the child. As that child grows up, he or she may have serious problems with lust, sexual deviations, and pornography. To combat this problem, we need to get involved with our churches, community, and talk with our government representatives. Laws have to be changed and we must take back control of our culture." In conclusion, Rev. Skepple stated, "The radio station's (culture) responsibility is to regulate itself for the morality of the community".

Dallas NAACP President Lee Alcorn addressed the rap music issue by saying, "There is a message in some of the rap music that is being conveyed to us. We must listen to the concerns and conditions of the rapper." Mr. Alcorn went on to say that the K104 programming format is dictated by what the audience wants



Rev. Roger Skepple advocates combating negative rap our churches, communities and government representatives.

to hear. "Until we as the public express a dislike for the music, it will continue to be played. I don't approve of the sexual overtones, profanity, and belittling of women."

Rev. Michael E. Dyson, Ph.D. is a nationally recognized intellectual and observer of popular culture, particularly the rap genre. He is the author of numerous books, including Race Rules: Navigating the Color Line, Between God and Gangsta Rap: Bearing Witness to Black Culture, and Making Malcolm: The Myth and Meaning of Malcolm X.

Rev. Dyson opposes the media's indictment that rap is all bad. He conclusively feels that there is a strong message in rap from its sender and we, as a society, need to pay attention to what is being communicated.

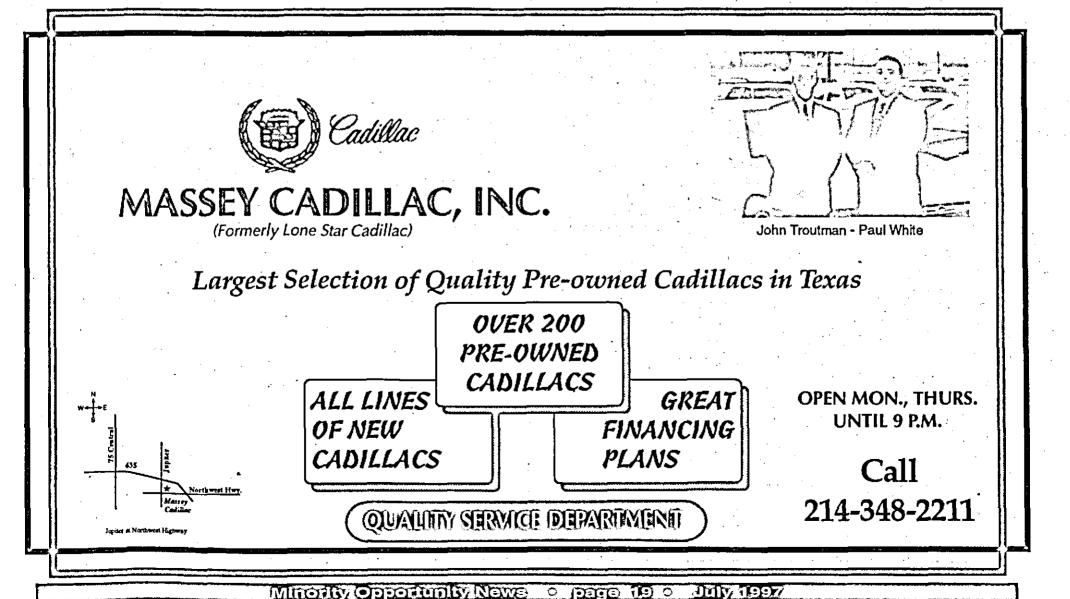
Do we then have any moral recourse as parents and community to demand that the owners of K104, or any radio station, discriminately screen their rap music? Yes, it is the direct moral duty of the K104 owners, station management and the disc jockeys to provide music that is uplifting and positive for their listening audience. Indeed, some rap is positive but are our children listening and searching for the truth through the words of negatively morally degrading rap? Is it the rightful purpose of parents to determine their children's listening habits? Parents must instill those ideological and ethical values into their children in order for them to develop into decent men and women. The community leaders, churches, parents, and the radio stations must all work together for the improvement of our culture so that our children can prosper spiritually, educationally, physically, and mentally. Perhaps an educational program could be formulated by K104, community organizations, churches, and parents for the instructional purposes of disseminating critical information on the dangers of certain types of rap music. This program could assist in opening up the doors of

communication with the radio owners, station management, and disc jockeys who may feel they have no moral commitment to the listening audience. Numerous raps songs depict sexually implied and open relationships. Aids is destroying the African American community at an explosive rate. As the radio stations play this strong music, then they must be held partially accountable to develop programs that educate about aids and promote safe sex.

If we are to succeed in solving the problem of negative rap, we must first look at several options. First, we must explore our own individual moral values and how they impact our personal life style. Secondly, we must reach throughout the community and be willing to take the appropriate action to meet this challenge head-on by expressing our concerns to our legislative representatives and the FCC. Thirdly, major companies spend millions of dollars on radio advertisement yearly. As consumers with millions of dollars of purchasing power, we have the leverage to place consistent demands on those businesses to spend their advertising dollars on broadcast stations that do not promote the deterioration and deprivation of a wholesome life for our children.

Together as a culture, all entities must work harmoniously and laboriously for the well-being of our future generations—our children!

MON





July 1

The Dedra Lynn Woods Theatre, 2801 Peabody Street, Dallas, presents the drama The Park Bench, that tackles the painful and sometimes misunderstood AIDS controversy. Tickets to the play, which runs through July19, are \$6.00 for children and senior citizens and \$10.00 for adults. For more information call 214-371-4644 (days) or 214-565-1710 (evenings).

* * * * *

Brighter Tommorrows Women's Resource Center and Emergency Shelter sponsors a support group for survivors of sexual assualt and sexual abuse Tuesthe Women's Resource Center, 1417 Densman, Grand Prairie. Group meetings this month are sheduled for July 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29. A separate group for male ter's 24-hour hotline call 972-262-8383. For further information call 972-263-0506.

Theatre on the Hill presents 6 RMS RIV VU, at the Corner Theater in Town Center at Hampton and Pleasant Run Roads in DeSoto, Texas. Performances of the comedy, about two people who meet while looking at an apartment and get locked in, runs through July 12. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$8.00 for senior citizens and children under 12. For reser- July 3 vations call 972-291-6383.

Park, Dallas, presents Three Generations A Study in Paradox, July 1-August 17. For more information call 214-565-9026

July 2

New Image Business Associates, Inc. invites you to their weekly Small Busi- Jackie Ockleberry at 972-407-6895.

Around Town

day from 12:00 noon-1:00 p.m. For more help tutor area school children. Center ACORN at 214-823-4580. information call Lawrence Cooper at 214-

A FREE Theater Arts Camps is being offered by the Junior Players, Mondays-Fridays, July 7-18 at 30 recreation centers throughout Dallas. The camps are a perfect introduction to theater and present a unique opportunity to interact with professional theater directors/teachers. For July 5 more information call 214-526-4076.

day evenings from 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at HELP WANTED. Life Resource Connection Academy Preparatory School (LRCA), a non-profit "open enrollment" school, that is an alternative high school for pregnant teens and young mothers, is survivors is available. To reach the Cen- currently in need of donated or inexpensive building space in Dallas County. In addition, the organization needs donations of school and office supplies, computers, student desks and chairs. LRCA is also looking for volunteers, mentors, tutors and sponsors. If you can help call Jorea at 972-256-3309. For further information on LRCA please call Jave at 972-

The National Black Data Processing Associates (BDPA) announces its Mem-The African American Museum, Fair bership Drive during July 1997. The mission of BDPA is to facilitate the minority of African American Women Sculptors: professional's participation in local and national activities and to keep abreast of and contribute to the developments and trends in the information processing industry. Membership in BDPA is open to all persons, regardless of race, sex, or national origin. For more information call

hours are 3:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays and 12 noon-4:00 p.m. Saturdays. Candidates with backgrounds in math, science, reading, writing and the social studies are encouraged to volunteer. To help call the volunteer coordinator at 214-670-1789 or the Lancaster-Keist

Branch Library at 214-670-1952.

A \$1,000 prize is being offered in a free poetry contest sponsored by the International Library of Famous Poets. Poems may be written on any subject, using any style. The deadline is July 30 and winners will be notified in October. To enter, send one poem of 21 lines or less to: Free Poetry Contest, 421 N. Rodeo Dr., Suite 15-544, Beverly Hills, CA 90210.

Experience the diversity in contemporary gospel music at the Y.O.U.T.H. Multicultural Gospel Music Seminar, 7:00 p.m., July 7, 9 and 11, at New Life Spiritual Baptist Church, 6516 S. Bonnieview Rd., Dallas. Youth can participate in a live concert recording! For more information call Adrean White or Freda Reese at 972-228-4593.

Hoop Hunter Basketball presents a Girls The Black State Employees Association Summer Basketball Camp for grades 4-8, July 7-11 at the Argyle Middle School Gym (near Denton, TX) from 9:00 a.m.- July 12 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at East-4:00 p.m. The cost is \$155.00. To register call 972-317-7245.

the neighborhood? If so, come to the duction Workshop, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.,

ness Luncheon at the Bill Priest Institute VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. Volunteers are South Dallas Neighborhood ACORN of Economic Development, 1402 Corinth, needed at the Lancaster-Keist Branch meeting, 7:00 p.m. at Exline Park in South Room 202 A & B, Dallas, every Wednes- Library, 3039 South Lancaster Road to Dallas. For more information call

Be sure to listen to KNON 89.3 F.M. July 10 from 8-9 a.m for the South Dallas Community Radio Hour. Your call during the program are welcomed. For more information call KNON at 214-823-8930.

July 11

Iyanla Vanzant, author of Acts of Faith will make an appearance at Kroger, 200 W. Camp Wisdom Road, Duncanville, July 11 from 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. For more formation call Ketchum Public Relations 404-877-1800.

Dallas Children's Theater presents the production of Rumplestilskin, a popular children's fairy tale about a rascally rogue spinning straw into gold. For show times and more information call 214-978-

July 12

Ivanla Vanzant, author of Acts of Faith will make an appearance at Minyard's food store, 3230 Martin Luther King Blvd., Dallas, July 12 from 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. For more information call Ketchum Public Relations 404-877-1800.

of Texas, Inc. is hosting an Employment Discrimination Workshop and Seminar, gate Baptist Church, 6960 South Polk Street, Dallas. For more information call Euna Robinson at 214-371-7710, ext. 7.

Do you think the city needs to improve KERA 90.1 is sponsoring a Radio Pro-

Hround Town cont'd

July 12-August 1 at the Irving Arts Center Riverside Golf Course, Grand Prairie, and KERA Studios. Become a reporter for Texas. Proceeds from the event benefit St. KERA 90.1 FM and produce a radio news Philip's School and Community Center. story. Each participant will research, To register as a sponsor or individual write, edit and produce a radio segment in this very "hands-on" project. For more information call 972-252-ARTS.

July 14

Hoop Hunter Basketball presents a Boys Summer Basketball Camp for grades 4-8, July 14-18 at the Argyle Middle School Gym (near Denton, TX) from 9:00 a.m.- newood Village, Dallas. For more infor-4:00 p.m. The cost is \$155.00. To register mation call 214-943-0142. call 972-317-7245.

July 15

The Dallas Public Library Teen Center, 1515 Young St., downtown Dallas, presents Derrick Sledge - Rap Music, a contemporary modern concert communicating positive and edifying messages to audiences via rap music. For performance times and more information call 214-670-1400.

July 18

The Central H.B. Pemberton High School 1997 Mass Class Reunion, "Celebrating Our Heritage," will be held July 18-20 at the Radisson Hotel, 1893 West Mockingbird Lane, Dallas. On-site registration is \$125.00. To pre-register at a reduced price and for more information call Mayme Brooks at 214-376-5881.

The Old West wasn't an easy place for a black man to earn a living. Isom Dart found out it wasn't an easy place to make a dishonest one either. The Ballard of Isom Dart written by Joe Rogers and Mark Caywod, directed by Rudy Eastman runs July 18-August 17 with special previews July 11-13 at Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Ft. Worth, Texas. For more information call 817-338-4411.

Dikita Enterprises of Texas, Inc. presents Zoo admission will be just \$1.00 all day. its First Annual Golf Tournament at the For more information call 214-670-5656.

golfer call 214-634-8844.

July 19

Author Sam B. Pearson, III will discuss and autograph his book The Color of Racism: Inderstanding & Overcoming Discrimination, 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., July 19 at Black Images Bookstore, 230 Wyn-

Soccer teams and fans can enjoy an indoor tournament complete with games, food, live entertainment and prozes at the SNICKERS Street Soccer Festival, 10:00 a.m. today in the Fair Park Automobile and Centennial Buildings. All metroplex youth soccer teams can participate. Team entry fee is \$50. For more information call 214-670-0577.

Come hear music of the Middle East as Jamal Mohanmed and three additional musicians perform traditional music from Egypt, North Africa and the Middle East at the International Museum of Cultures, 7500 W. Camp Wisdom Road, Dallas. For more information call 972-

July 22

The Martin Luther King Library, 2922 MLK Blvd., Dallas, presents Market Place - A Mural Project. The Mural Project introduces participants to ideas, sounds and feelings of a Hatian Market. With supervision from artists, students will pair off and paint a full color Hatian mural. For times and more information call 214-670-0344.

Dollar Day at the Dallas Zoo. The Dallas

July 23

'Visions in Black" Art Instruction Workshop will be held 10:30 a.m. at The Martin Luther King Library, 2922 MLK Blvd., Dallas. Students will learn how to use watercolor, inks and tempera paints to show how fabrics and textures can be used to create art. For more information call 214-670-0344.

July 26

The Dallas Metroplex Council of Black Alumni Associations will hold its monthly meeting today, 12:00 noon, at the Holiday Inn Select on West Mockingbird Lane. All alumni and supporters of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) are invited to attend. For more information call 972-395-3369.

The Dallas Museum of History, Fair Park, Dallas, invites young and old to join entomologist Gail Manning for the Family Creek Crawl today from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Children and adults will look for insects, snails, animal footprints and amphibians during a trek around a local creek. A light snack will be provided. For more information call 214-421-DINO.

Hoop Hunter Basketball presents a Girls Summer Mini-Camp for grades 9-12, July 28-August 1 at the Argyle Middle School Gym (near Denton, TX) from 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. The cost is \$100.00. To register call (972) 317-7245.

July 29

Junior Players summer production of William Shakespeare's comedy The Two Gentlemen of Verona will feature 21 youth ages 15-18 from 14 Dallas-area high schools. The production, which runs through August 3, opens 8:15 p.m. on July 29 at Samuel Grand Park, 6200 East Grand Avenue, Dallas. For more information call 214-526-4076.

July 31

Ken Carter's "Unique Cards," 2646 Parkside Drive, Grand Prairie, Texas 75052-4613 is seeking 50-100 area students for employment opportunities from September 15 -November 15, 1997. Please send inquiries to the address above.

August 1

The African American Museum, Fair Park, Dallas, presents the 18th Southwest Black Art Exhibition which opens to the public on August 1 and will run through Octber 31, 1997. For more information call 214-565-9026.

The University of Texas at Arlington is hosting MAV CAMP 97, August 1-3, an on campus summer retreat, that gives the ideal jump-start to UTA's incoming freshman class. Registration is \$35 which includes a T-shirt. Call 817-272-5126 for more information.

August 4

The Wells Fargo Community Support Campaign presents the Second Annual Community Golf Tournament, August 4 at the Oak Cliff Country Club, 2200 W. Redbird Lane, Dallas, For more information call Mark D. Cooks at 214-339-9311.

Hoop Hunter Basketball presents a Boys Summer Mini-Camp for grades 9-12, August 4-8 at Argyle Middle School Gym (near Denton, TX) from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. The cost is \$100.00. To register call (972) 317-7245.

ATTENTION:

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

> Minority Opportunity News 2730 Stemmons Frwy 202 Tower West Dallas, TX 75207 (214) 905-0949 Fax

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From Welfare to Work Force

By Yolanda Edwards

Over the past year we have been overwhelmed with welfare reform issues. Congress wants to change the welfare system, kick off everyone after a designated period of time, and encourage everyone to get a job and become a self-sufficient contributor to society.

We talk about welfare reform as though it will be a easy process to reach by the year 2000. That's only three years away. We want to cure an illness that has taken us over 50 years to create.

We are talking about a way of life to some and a family business to others. We not only have to reform the program we have to take an active stand to reform the recipients.

Welfare at one point and time was used as a survival tool for women whose husbands were away at war. It started out as rations and has turned full bloom into rationales.

It is rational to accept the child care benefits for your child when you are attending school to better yourself.

It is rational to utilize Medicaid benefits, if you have an ill child and you can-

not afford to pay your clinic and hospital bills.

It is rational to accept \$133 a month in welfare benefits, if you have other means of income and it is rational to have subsidized housing if you cannot afford a place for you and your children to live.

Our congressional discussions about welfare reform has not included the major corporations that accept billions of dollars to keep their businesses thriving during hard times. Would you turn down a government contract that could make you rich? It's still welfare.

The United Negro College Fund used a slogan some years ago "We're not looking for a handout-just a hand." Welfare recipients are not soliciting our pity. Some are hardworking individuals that have encountered some hard times and just need a program that will help when times are hard. Our system does not work!!! It's evident that changes must be made, but not at the expense of tax payers and people that honestly need a little assistance.

Some will ask how I can speak on this subject. Well at one point in time in my life I was a welfare recipient. I was married at 16 years old and had two children and a divorce by the time I was 18. I had my share of hard times and challenges.

I chose to use the welfare system to elevate myself, I did not chose it as a career or a way of life. Welfare will work if you create a plan, use it, and not abuse the system.

My hopes for this article is to establish a plan of action for those individuals that want to make a change in their life. You can move from welfare to the work force and here are a few suggestions to get you started.

- 1. Create a plan of action, write it down and discuss it with your caseworker.
- 2. Enroll in any program available to get the necessary skills to help you

succeed.

- 3. Take an active roll in the education of your children. Get your child care benefits.
- 4. Start a support group in your area of people that want to change their lives and talk on a weekly basis.

Using welfare as a stepping stone and not a stumbling block is not an easy decision. But at this point and time the choice is yours. You must move and we must help you find ways to succeed. So today take the first step and make every effort to move from welfare to the work

MON

Yolanda Edwards is a single parent, president of Night shift, Inc., public speaker and former welfare recipient. For speaking engagement information call 214-565-1309.

Second Annual Community Golf Tournament

Benefiting This Year's Recipients: "I AM THAT I AM TRAINING CENTER and SOUTHERN SECTOR NON-PROFIT ALLIANCE."
Coordinated By Wells Fargo Community Support Campaign

Monday, August 4, 1997 Oak Cliff Country Club 2200 W. Redbird Lane

Tee Time: 9:00 a.m. \$125.00 entry fee, lunch included

Registration Deadline: Monday, July 28, 1997 Format: Florida Scramble

You may sign up and play as a Foursome or enter as a Single, Twosome, or Threesome and the pro will assign you to a team. Max 30 individual handical

(40% of A, 30% of B, 20% of C, and 10% of D players handicap.)

Prizes will be awarded on every hole.

- WIN a Mitsubishi Eclipse, Donated by Don Herring Mitsubishi with a Hole-in-One on #3!
- Prizes... Prizes... Prizes

For more information call Mark D. Cooks at (214) 339-9311.

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*Paid over 20 years.

"187"

Samuel L. Jackson stars in this dramatic thriller about a teacher who is the victim of a brutal assault and returns to the classroom as a drastically changed man.

In cities all across America, our schools have been transformed into war zones, where the pursuit of education is trivialized by a more desperate battle just to stay alive. With ever-increasing regu-



Samuel L. Jackson is a teacher who is the victim of a brutal assault who returns to the classroom a drastically changed man.

larity, the national media is rife with accounts of institutional violence—both student against student and pupil against teacher. With children packing firearms, educators find themselves functioning in a state of extreme emergency, where every turn to the blackboard exposes them vulnerably. The system now merely stumbles along ineffectively, serving neither students nor teachers as they face each other as enemies on the front lines instead of allies in education.

The gripping thriller 187 unfolds in this contemporary urban battleground and follows the lengths to which one man goes to fight back in a world where fear and intimidation reign. Trevor Garfield(Samuel L. Jackson), a committed Brooklyn high-school science teacher, struggled within this siege state to inspire the few hopeful cases in a classroom full of amorality and apathy. But his dedication was overwhelmed by the brute nihilism of some of his gangbanger students who had no regard for education and who answered any adversity with violence. When Trevor refused to pass one of these hardened pupils, the student retaliated by plunging a knife into Trevor's back, leaving him on the brink of death.

With his will shaken but his body restored, Trevor returns to teach in Los Angeles a year later. Though his wounds have long since scarred over, the incident has changed him in ways he himself

doesn't fully perceive or understand. Once again facing down a roomful of young, grandstanding strangers, Trevor discovers that he will no longer tolerate being victimized. He connects with some misguided pupils and inspires them with personal, innovative instruction. But when some of the others dare to confront him, they are surprised to find such a powerful opponent in this unusual educator.

Trevor emerges as a reluctant hero to the other faculty when his prior attack is publicized by a cynical, burnt-out teacher, Dave Childress (John Heard), worn down by years of fighting with a system that has grown increasingly ineffective. Meanwhile, a young, energetic instructor, Ellen Henry (Kelly Rowan), builds a relationship with Trevor that becomes laced with apprehension as she witnesses the measures he takes both to reach his walled-off students and combat his hopeless ones.

187 opens July 30 at theaters everywhere.

Conspiracy Theory

Jerry Fletcher (Mel Gibson) is a New York cabdriver who sees evidence of sinister plots in even the most ordinary



Mel Gibson and Julia Roberts star as two people who are the object of a conspiracy.

places. He's convinced that every event, object, coincidence, no matter how benign it seems, warns of a conspiracy—and that he's the target.

Alice Sutton (Julia Roberts) is a bright, skeptical Justice Department attorney to whom Jerry has been reporting his far-flung theories. Alice thinks Jerry is a nut, but kind of sweet — until he tells her that she, too, is the target of deadly conspiracy. And then she suddenly finds out he's absolutely right.

Pursued by the enigmatic Dr. Jones (Patrick Stewart), Alice and Jerry are suddenly thrown together in a run for their lives — and an extraordinary search for the truth.

Warner Bros.' offbeat romantic thriller Conspiracy Theory stars Mel Gibson, Julia Roberts and Patrick Stewart for producer/director Richard Donner and producer Joel Silver. Cylk Cozart also stars

Mel Gibson, Joel Silver and Richard Donner previously collaborated on the worldwide blockbuster trilogy of Lethal Weapon films. In 1995, Gibson produced, directed and starred in the Academy Award-winning Best Picture, Braveheart, which also earned him the Best Director Oscar.

His career began with George Miller's Mad Max, which catapulted him to international stardom. Gibson made his American film debut with The River, followed by Mrs. Soffel. His other film credits include Tequila Sunrise, Bird on a Wire, Air America, Franco Zeffirelli's Hamlet (which marked the first project from Icon Productions), Forever Young, The Bounty, The Year of the Living Dangerously, The Road Warrior and Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome. Gibson made his directing debut with The Man Without a Face, in which he also starred.

Visit the Conspiracy Theory website at www.conspiracytheory.com. The movie opens July 25 in theaters through the metroplex.

Contact

She's believed it since she was a young girl, when her father would sit her at his shortwave radio, magically connecting her with voices from across unfathomable distances. She's known it since college, when she chose the search for intelligent extraterrestrial messages as her discipline, despite the scorn of the scientific community. She's fought for it since she bargained for just hours a week of satellite time to sweep the heavens for evidence. And every time she stares at the countless stars dappling the infinite night sky, she dreams of it: Something is out there.

Two-time Oscar winner Jodie Foster and Matthew McConaughey lead an all-star cast in this drama of discovery based on Carl Sagan's novel about humankind's first encounter with extraterrestrial intelligence, directed by another Oscar winner, Robert Zemeckis.

After a lifetime of waiting, Dr. Eleanor "Ellie" Arroway (Jodie Foster) is finally being proven right. From a distant star Vega, a message comes to Earth and is discovered by Ellie. As the countries of the world unite in an effort to decode the

transmission, the planet faces the mystery with equal parts hope and fear. Conforted for the first time with proof of intellectual life from afar, speculation ranges from the drawing of either a new era in evolution or certain Armmageddon. And invited for the first time to visit an extraterrestrial culture, the world must make a momentous decision: who will go?

Amid the ensuring tumult, Ellie finds herself a lighting rod of controversy. Fighting for her rightful place as leader of the scientific investigation, she



Jodie Foster stars in this sci-fi thriller about man's first encounter with extraterrestrial intelligence.

turns to her one ally among those jockeying for influence on the world stage: Palmer Joss (Matthew McConaughey), a respected spiritual scholar and top-level government advisor who has followed Ellie's career and believes in her instinct and drive. As events propel them through the highest corridors of power, Ellie and Palmer establish a relationship and shared reverence for the potential of the message. As humanity warily approaches the brink of a new millennium, Ellie wrestles with the reconciliation of science and faith, of mystery and certainty, as she prepares to explore the secrets of the unknown extraterrestrial source... and become the first person to make contact.

Among the ensemble cast portraying the kaleidoscopic range of figures involved in the international drama are such notable talents as John Hurt, James Woods, Tom Skerritt, David Morse, William Fictner, Rob Lowe and Angela Bassett.

Contact is produced by Robert Zemeckis, who won the Best Director Oscar for Forrest Gump, and Steve Starkley, also an Oscar winner for Forrest Gump. The screenplay is by Michael Goldenberg based on the novel by Carl Sagan and the story by Sagan and Ann Druyan. Sagan and Druyan also serve as co-producers.

Visit the Contact website at www.contact-themovie.com. Contact opens July 11 at theaters everywhere.

MON



"Today my son and I opened up another gallery in a new location...the Internet. We created our own Web site. Now we can share the art of our people with the world."

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Book Review by Angela Washington-Blair

Andre Talks Hair!

By Andre Walker Simon & Schuster/\$23.50

There are many things we obsess over(money and how much we weigh might easily vie for the top two positions. Put another way, our appearance, or how we look, occupies a lot of our waking moments. A big part of that preoccupation concerns our hair—or lack thereof.

Since it's summertime, many of us get new hairdos as the warm weather makes its steamy assault (or we plop on a scarf or hat on those "bad hair days"). Since some of us also become more active, what with swimming and biking and camping and all, I thought it fitting for this month's review to be a book about our "crowning glory."

Andre Talks Hair! (1997, Simon & Schuster, \$23.50) is written by the stylist who does famous talk show host Oprah Winfrey's hair daily, Andre Walker. It makes for fascinating reading. I read it cover to cover, then re-read certain sections as I looked at the plenteous photographs. Oh, before I proceed further, let me tell you that the target audience for this book is women of all ages and races.

The forward by Oprah tells how she, after two horrific relaxer sessions caused her hair to fall out in chunks, was "gunshy" and refused to let anyone do her hair. Along came Andre, After he did her hair a few times, she was smitten. Her hair grew back healthier and bouncier under his careful ministrations.

Five time Emmy winner (yes, they give Emmys to hairstylists) Andre tells us that there are only four basic hair types(no matter your ethnic group, your hair will fall into one of these four types: straight, wavy, curly, kinky. Notice, there is no "good" or "bad" hair. Andre considers all hair good if it is clean, healthy, conditioned and properly cut. Certain hair types are more fragile and require more care. Within those types there are sub-types, depending on whether the hair is fine or coarse and the pattern of the wave or kink.

Andre's hair philosophy is to have fun with your hair, don't take it so seriously, but do as little chemical or heat processing so as not to damage the hair. He doesn't have a problem with short hair on a woman(you'll see a number of models in the book with short hair, including short afros. He likes gray hair and give suggestions for keeping it sparkling:

Andre dislikes dirty hair; henna; no-

lye relaxers; electric rollers; curly perm; products that purport to end frizzing; and long, long witch-like frizzy gray hair. He believes that "type 4" kinky hair should be washed at least once a week,

that water is a moisturizer but oil is not, and that, while blond hair on darker brown persons can be fun, it really works best on a younger person. He doesn't really discuss the press and curl method that much; blow drying and relaxers seem to receive the most emphasis. Another omission here is chlorine and swimming pool water. I guess we just should instinctively know to wash it out

or wear a swimming cap. If you are having hair problems, such as hair loss or female pattern baldness, there are suggestions for treatments that can be made by a physician. Hair loss caused by hormonal fluctuations after pregnancy, or due to immune disorders are discussed.

> Although replete with color and black and white photos, this book is not a style guide. This book focuses primarily on how to take care of the hair. Andre talks about washing and conditioning (including what ingredients to look for in a shampoo and conditioner), coloring, weaving, braiding, and styling. He offers suggestions for choosing a stylist.

You may or may not learn anything new after reading this book. Before I read the book I knew I had kinky hair, and after I read it, I still have (type 4) kinky hair. But it still was a fun

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my name is . 1 9 Rick Jordan.

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been on offering alternatives to the rising cost of funerals. I specialize in helping customers:

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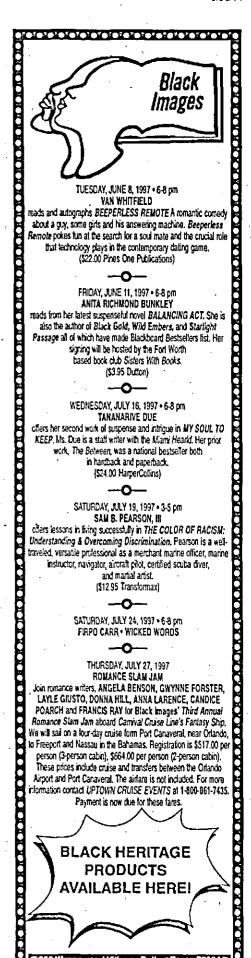
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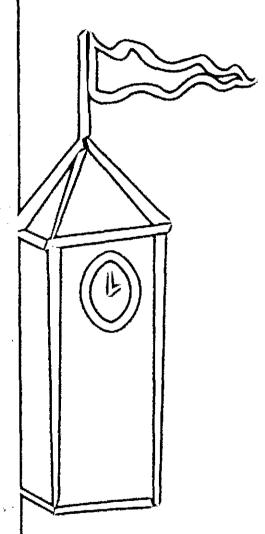
read, and I recommend every beautician/hair stylist get a copy for their salon. Even my reluctant reader teen-aged daughter wants to read it. Go for it! Better to learn about hair and its care while you're young.

If history is any indication, the 'Oprah touch" should make Andre's book destined to become a best-seller.



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Family Life Fairy Street Mama

It seems that families do not have enough time together anymore. Families now days hardly eat together, play together, read together, or even stay together. We seem to have forgotten how to be a family and how to keep our families together. Traditional families are almost a thing of the past.

I ask a few families what positive things they do together. This is what James and Felicia Brown (they have five children), had to say.

JAMES: "We try to spend special time with the children. Since we have four boys and one girl, and they have different needs and personalities, we try to do different things with each of them as well as doing things together such as playing ball, going to movies, and playing spelling games....They also enjoy riding around the lake and watching nature, which gives us the opportunity to show and teach them about their surroundings. The times that I spend with my kids is very special and I make sure that they know that I am always there for them and they can always come to me if they need anything."

Employer:

Signature:

Time on the Job:

What does your family do together?

FELICIA: "Being a mother, I tend to "baby" my children more than my husband by reading bedtime stories and playing games that I played when I was a child. [Games] like "Red Lght" and "Simon Says." I also feel that it is impor-



James and Felicia Brown

tant to pass down family traditions to kids...Since we have a three-month-old daughter, we have also tried to teach the boys to respect, love and protect their sister....We try to go to the park at least once a week and we do family exercises in the living room to music every chance we get

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Minority Opportunity News

is the greatest thing that has ever happened to me and my husband and I

wouldn't trade it for the world."

Children are a precious treasure. We should appreciate our kids and show them the same respect that we show adults. We need to remember that doing things with your families teaches them the significance of togetherness, the value

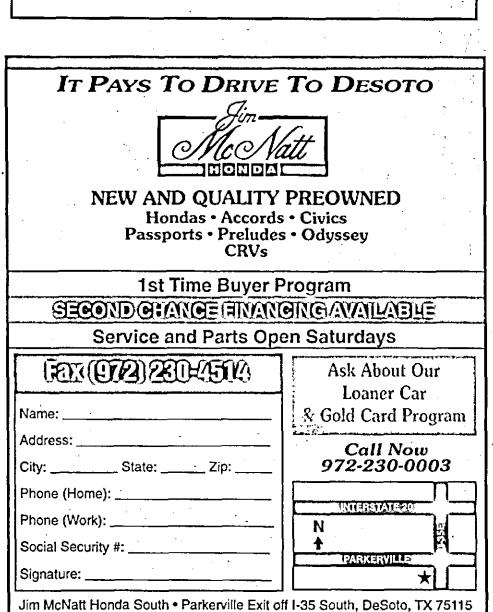
to...Having a family of life and the importance of a strong family unit. Even something as small as reading to a child as often as you can will enrich their lives tremendously. Quality time with our families is as important as life itself.

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



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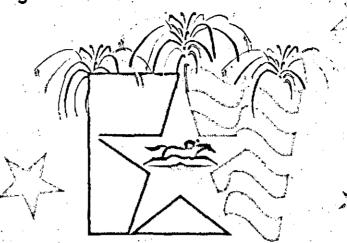
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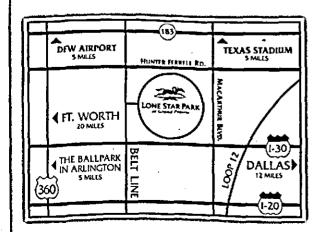
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The man in the middle

Commercial real estate agent motivated to succeed

By Whitney Larkins

As president of Austin Company Commercial Real Estate, James Austin says that "everyday is different." As a commercial real estate agent, Austin is responsible for negotiating sales and lease contracts for commercial establishments. Following his days as a member of Kappa Alpha

Psi fraternity at Howard University, Austin decided to move

on in corporate America. "I got training from American Express as a district sales manager. After spending five years in corporate America, I sprung out on my own," he says.

Austin says that one of the most difficult aspects of the real estate business is negotiating with more than one negotiator. "I have to stay focused and believe I can get it done if I stay focused on the prize," he says. .

Austin's experience and focus has paid off. In March, he negotiated a \$10 million buy with Minyard's Food Store. In the deal, he bought 25 properties from 22 different families that owned property. The new 52,000 square foot Minyard's grocery store will be located in the southeast Fort Worth area.

Austin has been inspired by his Uncle Bernard, who currently resides in North Carolina. "My uncle was a farmer, real estate agent, and self-employed. Everyone says I'm like my uncle. I've always wanted to be in business for myself," he says.

As a real estate agent, there is never a daily routine at the office for Austin. "I don't get to go to the office because there's so much to be done outside the office," he reveals. Austin offers valuable advice for those who are interested in entering the real estate business. "It's a great field, it's rewarding. [People] should go to work for a corporation to get additional training [after college]," head-

With the growing number of African Americans who own their homes, Austin



feels that more African Americans should get involve in the real estate field. There's a need for African Americans to be in business. There is opportunity," he'

Austin is involved with several community activities around the area. He serves on the board of directors of the Women's Haven, is co-founder of the Renaissance Cultural Center, and also TODE SECURIETY works with the Boys and Girls Club of

America. Austin is also a member a Morning Side United Methodist Church. During his spare time, he enjoys bike

riding, tennis and going to the movies.

Says Austin: "Thope to get one of my kids involved in the business. I hope by 55. I'll be retiring. It's a great living, it's a great industry to be in if you work hard at

Whitney Larkins is a graduate of Duncanville High School and was recently awarded a scholarship from the Dallas/Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators. She plans to attend the University of North Texas in the fall and major in broadcast journalism.





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Name:	James Austin
Birthplace:	Wilmington, NC
Favorite Food:	Lobster
Last Book Read:	"Millionaire Next Door" by Thomas J. Stanley
My friends don't know	that: "I very open and sensitive."

Advice to would-be entrepreneurs:

"Be motivated to your purpose and be sincere."



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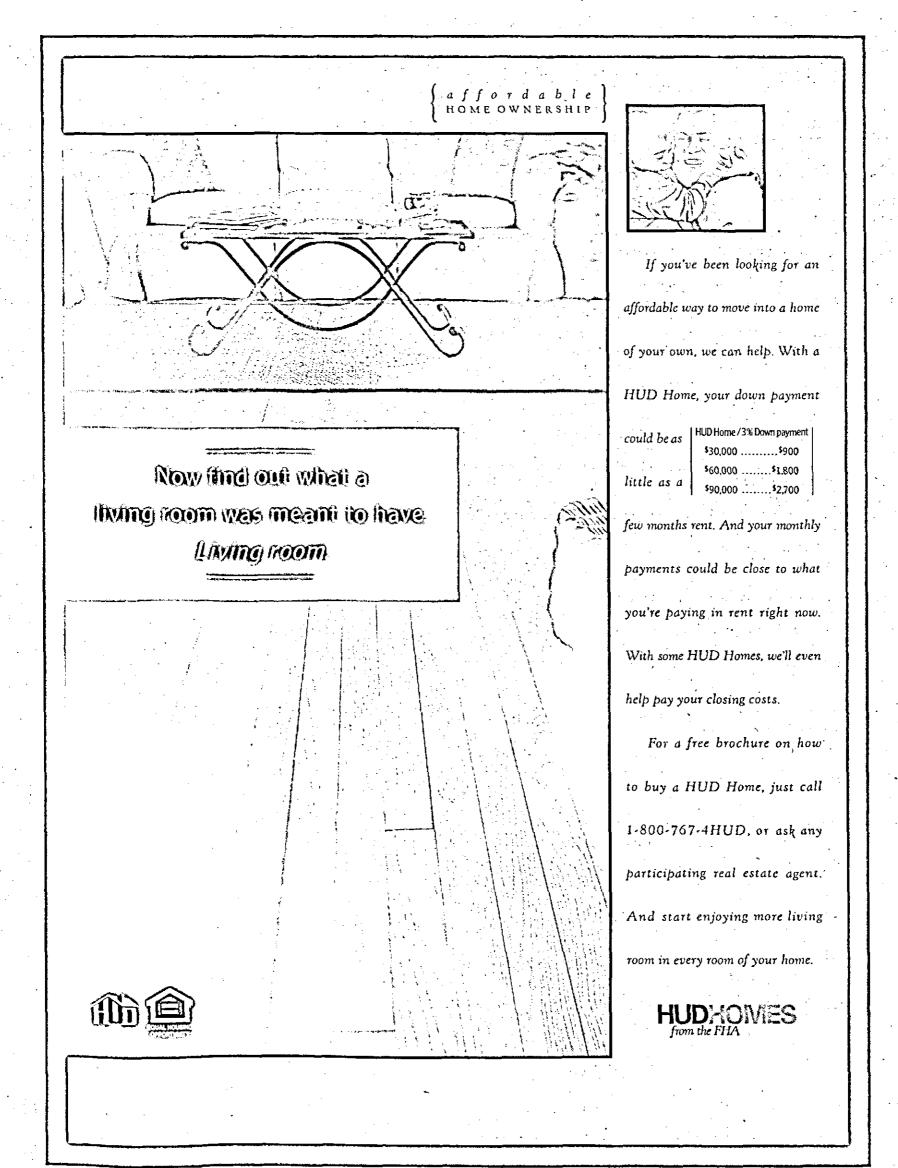
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Letting you know by Herb Beckford

Free Advice

Oh boy. The day of the computer. The age of technology. Well it's here to stay. Not too long ago I was extolling the virtues of each and clamoring for same. How, in the hands of each reader, the PC would bring us closer, and thus make the job easier of passing on and exchanging information.

Just recently it struck home to yours truly. In street terms (not Wall Street), I found myself up a creek without a paddle. To simplify the above gibberish, picture yourself without the sudden an immediate use of a telephone; the instrument you heavily rely on and just plain take for granted.

The computer went down; it needed additional memory and another hard drive. Not really complicated or difficult to fix but when many others are in a similar situation and seek the corrective solution from the same doctor, you have a problem; a day's work expands to two, three, etc.

During the interim that guy, the "full-service" broker from next door, snuck in with his smooth and convincing preyed style and on your eagerness/weakness to make some of that big green, the almighty dollar. He accomplished a few things. He made a dollar (that word again) for himself in the form of exorbitant commissions, got you STUCK, repeat, STUCK where it is going to be exceedingly difficult to ride out the storm. He has basically soured you against investing, or in the use of another vernacular; playing the stock market.

In one sense you can't be blamed, but then in another you have to be faulted. You were so eager to make those \$\$\$ that you overlooked earlier suggestions. Suggestions and advice that were virtually free. Free to the extent that you only had to pick up this paper and read.

No one knows who you are except the individual that took advantage of you. And me, to whom you came for restoration. This is being published to ALERT others to remember it takes time, time and more time to achieve financial well-being.

One thing (a no, no). You BOR-ROWED a considerable amount (\$4,000) figuring you'd make it back in a few weeks. You don't borrow money to invest in the stock market. The particular stock went down and you bought an additional amount; obviously further coached into this commitment. The situation was compounded with a \$3,000 purchase of another nebulous stock. In panic you made a needless and losing sale. With your overall \$13,000 transactions, you paid a commission of \$490, wherein the MOST you would have paid using a discount broker would have been \$87.

With a towel in my hand for your tears, I suggest, as previously, to transfer your account to a certain discount broker where the commission is lower; cut your losses and position yourself for the arduous up-hill climb.

Hopefully, others will look into this and take heed. Be wary of "that guy" next door.

To those with computers, e-mail me—its free.

MON

Herb Beckford is a successful personal investor. To contact him for investment advice, send a SASE c/o MON or email him at herb15@juno.com

UTA's Institute for African Affairs promotes Texas-Africa trade

By Shish Massey

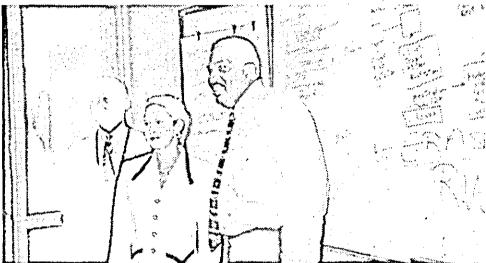
Planning has already began to broaden a program that will give Texas firms an opportunity to form partnerships with businesses in Africa.

The Institute for African Affairs, a business organization started at the University of Texas at Arlington, will develop links to promote economic relationships between firms in Texas and Africa, said Dr. Nadine Jenkins, vice provost for administration at UT-Arlington. One of the major features of the institute will be a database that will profile the needs and

The institute will focus on United States agencies that will give money to joint ventures outside the nation, said Dr. Darko, a former official of Ghana.

Dr. Darko, along with Dr. Jenkins, met with leaders of area chambers of commerce to gain support for the institute. African American and minority-owned businesses are among those who are expected to benefit from the program. Entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to provide services and merchandise to African firms.

Some concern is centered around the misconception that Africa is a poor place. Dr. Jenkins said that some entrepreneurs



(I-r) Dr. Nana Ohene Darko, Dr. Nadine Jenkins and State Senator Royce West

opportunities of firms from various African countries.

Dr. Jenkins, who will direct the center, said that the institute will locate Texas firms that are willing to do joint ventures with African companies. The database will match Texas firms with those in Africa according to their trade compatibility.

The institute began two years ago as part of the university's Africa program. The program initially focused on educational enrichment. Additional goals will now be geared toward economic trade and development.

Before business partnerships are formed, the institute will help increase awareness about Africa's culture and language. The institute provide seminars and educational programming to help Texas firms effectively conduct business in Africa.

"African American and minority businesses will need education on how to do business abroad," said Dr. Nana Ohene Darko, president and CEO of the World Africa Chamber of Commerce. WACC, an United Nations affiliate, is an independent trade association that promotes trade, communication, agriculture and investment in Africa.

will have to overcome thoughts that Africa does not have economic opportunities. "There is a lot of potential and wealth there," Dr. Jenkins said.

Dr. Jenkins said that they realize that UTA cannot meet all the needs in Africa. The Institute plans to solicit help from other universities. "Hopefully, UTA can be a conduit to help all the universities in Texas reap opportunities in Africa," she

"This program is the first of its kind in the state of Texas," said Dr. Darko. It is the only African program that is statefunded. The institute is already aiming at expanding geographically.

Local politicians and representatives from universities and business will have input on the UT-Arlington's Institute of African Affairs during its planning stages. Interested business owners may contact Dr. Jenkins at 817-272-5302.

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Shish Massey is a senior journalism student at the University of Texas at Austin.



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What is the Internet?

By Detrick DeBurr

You hear all the talk about the Internet and how every body should get on board or be left behind. However, you are still trying to figure out the difference between RAM, ROM, megs, Pentium and all of that other techno-babble. Before you have to plop down \$2,000 to \$3,000 for a personal computer, you want to know what all this stuff means. That sounds fair enough. In this article we will try to answer the question," What is the Internet?" from a black perspective.

Since the Internet is just really coming into its own as a commodity, no one entity has, as of yet, become the dominant player in the Internet industry. Many entities are actively going after the title of "Masters of the World Wide Web." That's interesting. Until now, "white folks" subdued everything under the sun. They controlled most people, places, and things. As of this writing, the Internet has managed to escape their control. Not that they haven't tried; it's just that the Web is simply evolving too fast. Anyone with vision can see that this is a golden opportunity for African-Americans to stake a claim in all of this Internet "hoopla." For a small investment in a computer and some training, we ("black folk") can utilize the Internet to build an infrastructure to support our lacking economy. The "Net" can enable us to turn the dollar over in our own community, sell products and services to each other, gain or increase our marketable skills, and share valuable resources.

Most African Americans view anything new as "that's for white folks." In many instances this is the excuse for not being involved. However, you can not claim this with the Internet. Although at its inception in 1969 world governments funded the Internet, no one owns or controls it. To take advantage of a medium that is not controlled by any government, organization or agency is the ultimate freedom opportunity we have been looking for. Anyone, rich or poor, black or white, Corporate or Mom and Pop, can communicate on the Internet with the same effectiveness.

Justice and equality have been the cry of African Americans for the last 400 years. Justice is depicted as a woman blind folded. This is to imply that justice applies to all regardless of what you look like...what hypocrisy! For the first time in history, we may finally have a chance to actually see what that is like. I recall a conversation with a friend of mine about a young lady he met on-line and had recently gone to visit. At first I thought, how could he go visit and spend time with someone he had never seen before? Then it dawned on me...when communicating over the Internet, people actually have to judge you on the thoughts and ideas you convey, instead of what you look like. Is that justice or what?

Who better to optimize the information Super Highway than African Americans, a people whose very nature is the cooperative effort of the many parts to help the whole. That's exactly what the Internet is; a cooperative effort of computer networks tied together to share information and resources. This concept has been an African American survival strategy for years. Therefore the Internet should be second nature to us.

African Americans have an interesting responsibility to the rest of the world regarding technology. Access to technology has played a huge part in our being some of the most educated black people on the planet. Unlike others, history has shown that we have the spirituality necessary to use these technological advances for the good of humanity. Spiritually based people can use technology to make the world a better place.

The Internet is a network of computers tied together to share information and resources. For African Americans, bonding together to share information and resources is at the root of our cultural identity. We are the only group of people who possess the innate humility and spiritual qualities to justly govern and show others how to use such an entity.

What is the Internet? It is black America's means of helping the world to be a better place.

MON

Detrick DeBurr is a local computer consultant, You can correspond with him c/o MON.

AIM-IRS kicks off annual meeting in Dallas

ident Dr. Carol Surles will speak at the Association for the Improvement of Minorities in Internal Revenue Service (AIM-IRS) 28th Annual Business Meet-

Texas Woman's University Pres- ing and Training Seminar. "Stepping Up...Moving Forward" is the theme for the week-long event that kicks off on August 4 at the Wyndham Anatole Hotel, 2201 Stemmons Freeway.

Surles will give the keynote address at the opening day session on August 5. She is the first African American to serve as president at TWU and former Vice President for Administration and Business Affairs at California State Universi-

In addition to the nearly 25 educational and career-oriented workshops, other activities will include a social mixer, a luncheon, a Saturday night ball and a hospitality suite. Employees at the GS-5 level and below can attend the workshops free. However, if they attend other functions, a fee is charged for each.

The registration fee for AIM members who register before July 5 is \$180. On-site registration is \$205. Non-members registration fee is \$225. Janet Gray, registration chairperson, said an estimated 600 IRS employees from Maine to California and from Washington to Florida are expected to attend.

AIM-IRS' purpose is to educate and develop its members to their fullest career and personal potential and install the highest degree of confidence in a manner free from negative influence and discriminatory policies and practices.

For more information, contact Ed Houston, Sherry Adams, LaPaula Davis or Eddie Smith at 1-800-976-6385 or Janet Gray (214) 767-4491.

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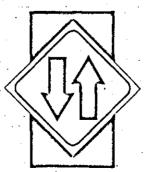
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Curtis Yates

Loan to value calculations

As always, I continue to try and give you an overall view into the spectrum of home-buying from both you, the borrower, and the lender. Today I'll try to shed light on the lender's perspective in determining the loan amount (FHA insured) to be issued to the borrower. The amount of an FHA insured loan is limited to a percentage of the value of the property to be pledged as collateral. A modification was made in the way of normal calculation back on October 7. 1992, that repealed previous law which limited the addition of closing costs to 57 percent of the Good Faith Estimate. The new law allows 100 percent of acceptable closing costs to be added to the property value to determine the value for calculating the loan amount.

Nevertheless, two calculations are still required to determine the correct percentage amount for the insured commitment from the underwriter who actually issues the funds. In one of the calculations, 100 percent of the closing costs is added to the property's value. The other method eliminates closing costs in the calculation. The lesser of the two becomes the FHA Insured Commitment, which will be the actual loan amount. Insured commitments are rounded down to the nearest \$50 increment.

The new calculations apply to mortgages insured under the following Sections: 203(b); 203(i) (Outlying areas); 203(n) (Cooperatives Units); 222 (Service

members); 223(e) (Miscellaneous Housing Insurance); 234(c) (Condominiums; 238(c) (Military Impact Areas; 240(Fee Simple Purchase); 244 (Coinsurance); 245 (GPM/GEM); 251 (Adjustable Rate); and 809 (Armed Services Housing-Civilian Employees.I don't expect many of you to understand these programs, but try to become familiar with the program names.

two terms. "Property value" is defined as the lesser of the appraised value or the purchase price. "Closing costs" are those listed in the Good Faith Estimate but cannot exceed certain FHA limits. In addition, different percentage limitations apply to houses priced at \$50,000 or less. Below I've listed a brief explanation of the two methods of calculation:

1. First Calculation — Allows closing costs to be added to property value. It applies the percentages that FHA has long since used to determine an insured commitment: 97 percent of the first \$25,000 of value, 95 percent of that over \$25,000, and a new limit -90 percent of anything over \$125,000. A distinction is made for houses priced at \$50,000 and less: the insured commitment is a flat 97 percent of value which includes closing costs.

2. Second Calculation — Eliminates closing costs and limits the maximum insured mortgage for a house priced higher than \$50,000 at 97.75 percent of property value. For a house priced at \$50,000 or less, the limit is 98.75 percent of the value, not including closing costs. Again, the lesser of the first or the second method of calculation becomes the insured commitment. This second calculation will become more important as a limit in areas become subject to higher closing costs.

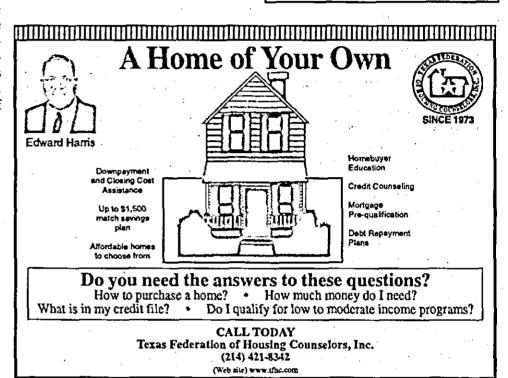
Let me now give the definitions of

One important change is that previous rules made no exception in the amount of the insured commitment should a seller pay any part of the closing costs. Present rules require any seller paid closing costs to be deducted from the value of the property before the above calculations are made. This would then decrease the loan amount to the borrower. Different rules apply to closing costs

paid from a grant or by the lender

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Ron Shaw

Perfect Fit

1 Corinthians 12:18

One of the most requested of our Leadership instructional series is the program "Playing To Your Strengths." I get more calls from people desiring to find their place and where their gifts and talents are than any other requests. As I travel, it's a question that many pastors ask. I believe if a person finds the one or two things they do well and major on those, then they will prosper and do well. I also believe that God has hand crafted us and so shaped and formed us for a specific place.

One of my favorite Bible passages is Ephesians 2:10, which says we are God's product. That suggest that He made us in such a way that we fit perfectly into a specific slot or place. The frustration for many people is that they never find that place. Some never even began looking for it. I believe it's when we find the place where God has shaped us to fit that true fulfillment in life is realized.

Here's a thought for you to consider: You've heard people say, "When God made you, he broke the mold." Actually, there was no mold used at all to make you. You were hand carved or crafted from the image God had in mind when He thought of you. That means you are truly unique. You're so unique that there's not another person on earth with

There really is a place where God has prepared for you to fit in perfectly.

your fingerprint or genetic code. Surely by now you can see that if God fashioned you with such uniqueness, He has made you to fit into a specific place in life. I contend that you will never realize complete fulfillment until you move toward that

Do you remember the story of Cinderella and how only her foot would fit the glass slipper? That sort of describes us. We are a perfect fit for where God has made us to fit. For Christians, it should be a lot simpler to find that place since we have a direct connection with God. Nevertheless, so many run from meeting to meeting, from church to church, from preacher to preacher, from job to job, and

from mate to mate, trying to find their place. I can say one positive thing about that. At least you're looking, if in fact that's what you're doing.

Consider our text. It says God has set us in the body as it pleased Him. It's for His pleasure that's the key to discovering where you fit in. The mistake often made by people is that they want God to accept where they want to fit in and make everything around them conform to their wishes. Often it's an economic issue. We normally equate notoriety and popularity with money. Our society has convinced us that there are certain positions that make for success and wealth. Therefore, our mindset is one that wants to tell God where we should be instead of asking Him where He has made us to fit. I guarantee you, wherever God has made you to fit is a much better place for you than where you had in mind.

The following verses of our fext warns us against labeling people with respect to what we consider as important. Just because you're not a visible part of the body doesn't sanction you to a life of obscurity and poverty. One of my favorite pastimes is driving around our city looking at houses. There are some incredible palatial estates in Dallas. A lot of times I get out and go in and check out houses just before or just after the builders are finished. What's interesting is that most of these spacious homes and the so called upscale neighborhoods are filled with people nobody even heard of. In other words, you don't know their names, their background, their employment status, and yet they live in what seems like an abundance. I simple want to illustrate for you that nobody has to know who you are in order for you to enjoy the blessings of prosperity in the place where God has fashioned you to fit. As long as you know you are where He has fitted you, you will enjoy life to its

Never forget, even if you've been fired from several jobs, or flunked out of several schools, or failed at several projects, it's never because you were the wrong person. You were just in the wrong place. There have been several kids I know labeled as slow learners, not because they were really slow, but because they were hooked up with the wrong teacher or teaching approach. Whoever you are, and no matter how disappointed you may be at this stage in your life, remember, YOU ARE STILL A PERFECT FIT.

Now go out and find your place. If I can help, please call my office. I'd like to meet you. There really is a place where God has prepared for you to fit in per-

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

LightChurch



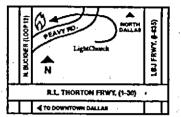
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to be dispatched to Police & Fire Depts. HS Grad/ GED. Type 40 WPM comp/data entry knowledge 1 yr. mln, customer service exp., phone skills, \$1875 p/mo. \$60 p/mo Increase with EMT & EMD certifi-cation. Increase to \$2085 p/mo w/completion of Specialist training. Outstanding benefits.

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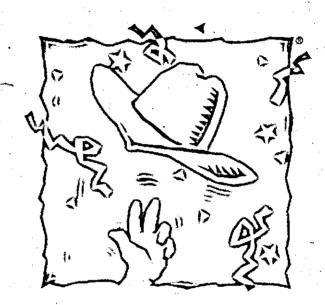
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DALLAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

- ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

 Sealed bids addressed to the Board of Education of the Daltas Independent School District, Daltas County, Texas, for renovation and remodeling of Judius Dorsey Elementary School, 133 M. St. Augustino, Daltas, Texas 75217, John Q. Adams Elementary School, 8739 Lake June Rd., Daltas, Texas 75217, B. H. Macon Elementary School, 650 Holcomb Rd., Daltas, Texas 75217, John W. Rumyon Elementary School, 10750 Cradierock Drive, Daltas, Texas 75217 for the Daltas Independent School District, hereinafter tailed "District" in accordance with plans, specifications and Contract Documents adopted by the District, prepared by Aguirre Corporation will be received in the Purchasing Office, 3700 San Jacinto, Daltas, Texas until 2:00 PM, July 22, 1937. At that time, the bids will be publicly opened and read about and tabelation will be made to present to the Board of Education at the next resident measurement. of Education at the next regular meeting for consideration in awarding the Contract. Any bid received after the closing time will be returned unogened.
- There will be a Pre-Bid Conference on Thursday, July 10, 1997 at 2:00 PM at DISO Facilities Bond Program, 3510 S. Beckley Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75224, for the purpose of
 answering questions and walking the site. Bidders are invited and urged to be present.
- The Contractor stall identity their bid on the outside of the envelope by writing the name of the project on which they are bidding. The name of the project is "Dadas Public School, 1992 Bond Program, Bid Package No. 338, Renovation and Remodeling of Dorsey/Adams Wacon/Punyon School."
- Plans and specifications may be examined in the office of Aquirre Corporation, 12700 Park Central Dr., Floor 15, Dallas, Texas 75251 (972) 789-2555 and are on the at-

McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. 1341 W. Mockingbird Lane, Suite 1101-E Dallas, Texas 75247-4943 (214) 630-6111 Attr: Nancy Ebarti

F.W. Dodge Plan Room - Fort Worth 1300 Summit Ave., Suite 740 Fort Worth, Texas 76 102 (817) 338-4783

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AGC/CMD Dallas Plan Room 11111 Stemmons Freeway Dallas, Texas 75229 (214) 484-2030 Atm: Jayme Tomlinson

Association of Gen. Contractors Plan Room 417 Fullon Street Fort Worth, Texas 76104 (817) 332-9265 Attr. Jackie Lazo

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Texas Contractor Plan Room 2510 National Drive Garland, Texas 75041 (214) 271-2693 Attn: Linda Gant

- Plans and specifications may be examined and obtained from the office of Design Associates International, Inc., 3027 Routh Street, Dallas, Texas 75201 upon deposit of a separate refundable check (payable to Design Associates International, Inc.) in the amount of \$100.00 per set. Checks will be returned upon delivery of the plans in good condition to the Architect within fourteen (14) days after hid opening.
- A cashier's check payable to the Dallas Independent School District, in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the bid submitted must accompany the bid, or/an acceptable Bid Bond in the same amount.
- 7. It is the goal of the District that at least 30% of the work performed under the Contract will be done by minority or woman owned business enterprises.
- The District reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to waive any formalities.
- 9. The District is committed to ideals of equal opportunity in all its business endeavors.



DALLAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

- Sealed bids addressed to the Board of Education of the Dallas Independent School District, Dallas County, Texas, for removation and remodeling to Multiple Careers Magnet Center, 4528 Rusk Ave., Dallas, Texas 75204; Ignacio Zaragoza Elementary School, 4550 Worth, Dallas, Texas 75246; Obadian Knight Elementary School, 2615 Anson Rd., Dallas, Texas 75235; and Bell Millam Elementary School, 4200 McKinney, Dallas, Texas 75205 for the Dallas Independent School District, hereinafter collect "Oristrict" in accordance with plans, specifications and Contract Documents adopted by the District, prepared by Gary Gene Dip Architects will be received in the Purchasing Office, 3700 San Jacinto, Dallas, Texas until 2:00 PM, July 15, 1997. At that time, the bids will be publicly opened and read about and tabulation will be made to present to the Board of Education at the next regular meeting for consideration in awarding the Contract. Any bid received after the closing time will be returned unopened.
- There will be a Pre-Bid Conference on Thursday, July 3, 1997 at 2:00 PM at DISD Facilities Bond Program, 35:10 S. Beckley Avenue, Daltas, Texas 75:224, for the purpose of answering questions and walking the site. Bidders are invited and urged to be present.
- The Contractor shall identify their bid on the outside of the envelope by writing the name of the project on which they are bidding. The name of the project is "Dallas Public School, 1932 Bond Program, Bid Package No. 345, Renovation and Remodeling of Multiple Careers/Zaragoza/Knight/Malam School."
- i. Plans and specifications may be examined in the office of Gary Gene Olp Architects, 718 North Buctors Blvd., Suite 316, Dalas, Texas 75218 (214) 328-9291 and are on file at

McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. McGraverum Companies, Inc. F.W. Dodge Division 1341 W. McGüngbird Lane, Suite 1101-E Dafas, Texas 75247-4543 (214) 630-6111 Atm: Nancy Ebarb

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AGC/CMD Dallas Plan Room 11111 Stemmons Freeway Daflas, Texas 75229 (214) 484-2030 Attn: Jayme Tomlinson

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Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce 2838 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Dallas, Texas 75215 (214) 421-5200 Attn. Carmen Humble

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Texas Contractor Plan Room 2510 National Drive Garland, Texas 75041 (214) 271-2693 Atm. Linda Gant

Plans and specifications may be examined and obtained from the office of Gary Gene Olo Archdects, 718 North Buckner Bird., Suite 316, Dallas, Texas 75218 (214) 328-9391. Bidders may obtain complete sets of Bidding Documents upon deposit of a separate relundable check (payable to Gary Gene Dip Architects) in the amount of \$100.00 per set, Checks will be returned upon delivery of the plans in good condition to the Architect within fourteen (14) days after bid opening.

- 6. A cashier's check payable to the Dalks Independent School District, in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the bid submitted must accompany the bid, orfar
- 7. It is the goal of the District that at least 30% of the work performed under the Contract will be done by minority or woman gwined business enterprises.
- 8. The District reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to waive any formalities.
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The T will present a proposed plan for Service & Route Restructuring, and ask for the public's comments at any of these locations:

TUESDAY, JULY 8 Riverside Community Center 201 S. Sylvania -5:30 PM

THURSDAY, JULY 10 Eastside YMCA 1500 Sandy Lane -6:30 PM

MONDAY, JULY 14 Como Multipurpose Center 4900 Horne -6:00 PM

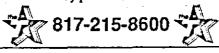
TUESDAY, JULY 15 Near Southside Neighborhood Assoc. 959 E. Rosedale. -6:30 PM

THURSDAY, JULY 17 **NationsBank** 3100 S. University Dr. -5:15 PM

TUESDAY, JULY 22 Breckenridge Apt. Complex 4500 Campus Dr. -6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23 Westside YMCA 8201 Calmont St. -6:30 PM

Recorded comments can also be taken by phone at 817-215-8669





Seaside Retreats By Kathleen Goolsby

Gone are the thick hedges of pineapple plants, with their sharp, spiked leaves, that the Carib Indians planted around their island villages long ago to keep out strangers. The Caribs are gone too. But their islands' lush vegetation, volcanic mountains, colorful coral reefs and turquoise waters outlined by sundrenched beaches remain . . . now welcoming visitors. The islands are perfect for nature lovers, sports enthusiasts, shoppers, and those who enjoy fine dining and lavish entertainment.

Nature shows off her best at Curacao, St. John's and Anguilla, with beautiful, colorful coral reefs to delight snorkelers. Dominica, Grenada and Jamaica feature mountainous rain forests, cascading waterfalls and hot mineral streams. Birds congregate at the sanctuary on Bonaire, which is covered with desert vegetation. Trinidad is also a haven for birds, as well as butterflies and orchids. White, black and gold sand sparkles on the worldrenowned beaches.

Sports enthusiasts can go windsurfing at Aruba; game fishing or sailing at the Bahamas; scuba diving in an underwater park at St. Thomas; or enjoy some

continued on next page



- DALLAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

 1. Sealed bids addressed to the Board of Education of the Dallas Independent School District, Dallas County, Texas, for RENOVATIONS of Arthur Kramer Elementary School, Herbert Marcus Elementary School and David 6. Burnet Elementary School, Dallas, Texas for the Dallas Independent School District, hereinafter called "District" in accordance with plans, specifications and Contract Documents adopted by the District, prepared by Design Associates International, Inc. will be received in the Purchasing Office, 3700 San Jacinto, Dallas, Texas until 2:00 PM, July 24, 1997. At that time, the bids will be publicly opened and read about and tabulation will be made to present to the Board of Education at the next regular meeting for consideration in awarding the Contract. Any bid received after the closing time will be returned unopened.
- t. There will be a Pre-Bid Conference on Tuesday, July 15, 1997, at 2:30 PM at David G. Burnet Elementary School, 3200 Kinkaid, Dallas, Texas 75220, for the purpose of answering questions and walking the site. Bidders are imited and urged to be present.
- The Contractor shall identify their bid on the outside of the emelope by writing the name of the project on which they are bidding. The name of the project is "Renovations to Kramer Marcus Burnet."
- . Plans and specifications may be examined in the office of Design Associates International, Inc., 3027 Routh Street, Dallas, Texas 75201 and are on file on June 30, 1997, at:

McGraw+till Companies, Inc. EW Dodge Division 1341 W. Mockingbard Lane, Suite 1101-E Callas, Texas 75247-4543 (214) 630-6111 Att Nancy Etarb

F.W. Dodge Plan Room - Fort Worth 1300 Summit Ave., Suite 740 Fort Worth, Teress 76102 (817) 338-4723 Attra Jenniter Grav

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce 4622 Maple Avenue, Suite 207 Dafas, Texas 75219 (214) 521-6307 Am: Patrica Hernandez

ABC Americas Company 4020 N. Bastine Rd., Sie. A102 Inving. Texas 75038 (214) 256-2219 Attr. Terry McAdams

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ASCOLO Dalas Pan Room 11111 Semmons Frency Dalas Texas 75229 Attr. Jayme TomErson

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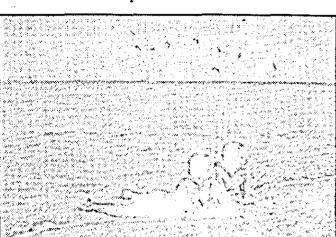
FL Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce 3607 E. Rosedak Ft. Worth, Texas 76105 (817) 531-8510 (817) 534-9274 FAX Atm. Bernadue Thomas

Texas Contractor Plan Room 2510 National Drive Garland, Texas 75041 (214) 271-2693

- 5. Plans and specifications may be examined and obtained from the office of Design Associates International, Inc., 3027 Routh Street, Dallas, Texas 75201 upon deposit of a separate refundable check (payable to Design Associates International, Inc.) in the amount of \$100.00 per set. Checks will be returned upon delivery of the plans in good condition to the Architect within fourteen (14) days after bid opening.
- 6. A cashier's check payable to the Daffas Independent School District, in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the bid submitted must accompany the bid, or/an acceptable Bid Bond in the same amount.
- 7. It is the goal of the District that at least 30% of the work performed under the Contract will be done by minority or woman owned business enterprises.
- 8. The District reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to waive any formalities.
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continued from previous page

of the world's finest golf courses and tennis courts on Bermuda and St. Kitts/Nevis. Centuries-old sugar plantations, which can be toured on St. Croix, were once the mainstay of the economy of these islands. (Thousands of black African slaves were imported in the 18th



century to work the plantations, and their offspring now comprise two-thirds of the population on most of the islands.) A cruise on a tall sailing ship will take you to Buccaneer's Cove on Antigua, or you might prefer visiting the windmills of Aruba or the art galleries and museums of Puerto Rico. Hand-made straw goods from Donimica, or Martinique's Parisian fashions and exquisite crystal and jewel-

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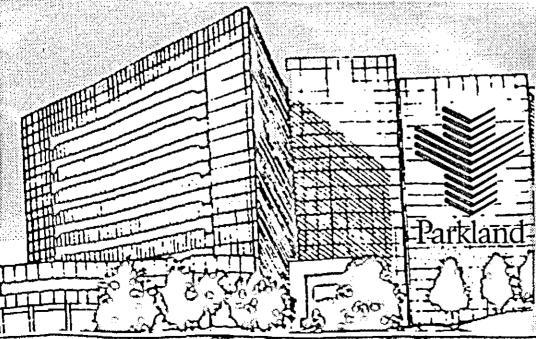
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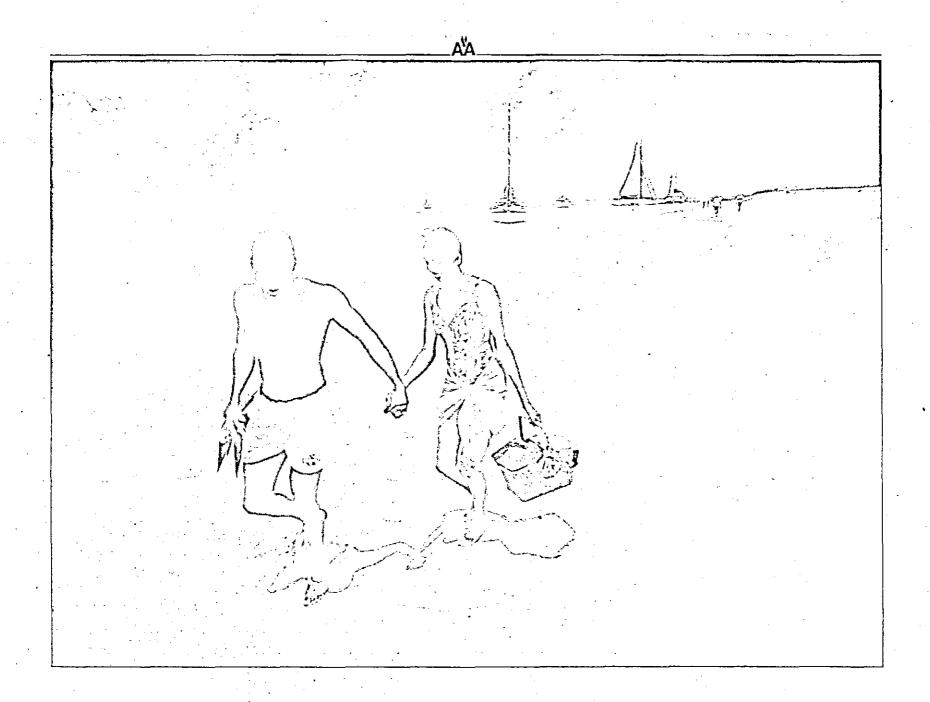
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