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# From The Editor Chris Pryer

# Was Spree legit?

Spree went off. He'd had enough. The All-Star guard for the as-bad-as-the-Mavericks Golden State Warriors was fed up with his abrasive, demanding, dictatorial coach, P.J. Carlesimo. So when Coach Carlesimo offered some constructive (if somewhat indelicate). criticism of his passing technique, something along the lines of "put a little mus-tard on those passes," Latrell Sprewell took righteous exception to this bit of coaching and countered with, "I don't want to hear it today." As his coach approached him, understandably to discuss this little breech of insubordination, Sprewell threatened to kill Carlesimo, then wrapped his hands around his neck and began choking him. It took several players 10 to 15 seconds to restrain him.

Sprewell was subsequently ordered to leave the floor. But about 20 minutes later, he reappeared and again assaulted Carlesimo. Again, he had to be restrained by teammates. The Golden State Warriors, in retaliation, fired Sprewell and voided his \$32 million contract. (The NBA later suspended him for one year.)

On one of the local radio sports talk shows, the brothren were calling in with the typical knee-jerk defense for any Black athlete who exhibits any antisocial behavior: He's a victim of the jealous, racist, white establishment. Like Charles Barkley, Derrick Coleman, Mike Tyson, Allen Iverson, Rod Strickland, Nick Van Exel, Dennis Rodman, Bam Morris and Lawrence Phillips, to name a few. And I haven't even gotten to baseball, yet.

Is Spree just another making-beaucoups-of-money Black professional athlete being mishandled by a racist authority figure and a racist mass media? I can't argue against it unequivocally. Racism is sewn so tightly into the fabric of our society that it wouldn't be paranoia at all to at least consider the possibility. But given the circumstances of the Sprewell-Carlisemo incident, I am hard put to defend the brother.

Upon first inspection, you must ask the obvious question: What kind of guy is Carlesimo? Is there a history of him specifically antagonizing Sprewell? Did he instigate the attack? To get a slant on the type of person Carlesimo is, I spoke with Rodney Baker, a friend of mine who is an assistant men's basketball coach at the University of Cincinnati. According to Baker, who served as an assistant to Carlesimo when he was

see EDITOR, page 5

# Dalitorial

# Is Pastors Coalition standing firmly on, and behind, Common Ground?

Over the last year, Minority Opportunity News has continued to followup on the new coalition of African American clergy that convened at St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church last January." "On January 20, 1997, the African American Pastors Coalition, under the leadership of the Reverend Zan W. Holmes, will again sponsor their annual Martin Luther King. Jr. Day service." If these two quotes seem particularly familiar, it is probably because you remember them from our coverage of the activities of the association of Dallas area ministers over the last three years.

Believe it or not, it is now time for yet another edition of this series, as we welcome 1998 and what will, hopefully, be a new year of opportunities and efforts by this

' As you may recall, this organization was started to provide leadership, from the perspective of the African American clergy, for many of the social and political issues facing our community. During its brief history, the mon Ground Credit crash the new Concord? Union, serving as a

common voice on the array of concerns at the Dallas Independent School District and working behind the scenes to coordinate a sound response to the issues and troubles that arise throughout the year. We applaud these reposes by the group and wish them continued success in the

Our concerns at this point tend to center more on where this group goes from this point. More often than not, the challenge facing any organization of this type is not the response to the very public and vocal issues that arise from time to time. Rather, the larger test of the worthiness of the association is shown in its ability to follow through on the detailed and laborious work that is required to

make many of their stated project goals a reality. It is generally not difficult to get people motivated when the camera lights are lit and the emotions are running high. When all of that is said and done, we find that the effort needed to insure the long-term success of the shortterm fight often goes lacking and without the army of volunteers to do the dirty and less public work that is required.

Likewise, while we applaud the good works of this group, we must raise the question of what their 1998 workplan includes. As we know, there is much sense to the old adage, "Plan your work,

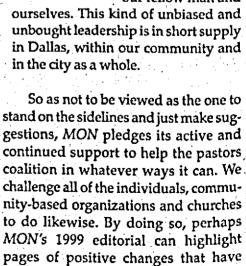
look around the table of members, they find that some have not contributed more than verbal support. • Do a visible, tangible project that will

reflect the fact that African American churches can work together, especially when the pooling of their monies is involved. Whether it is the redevelopment of an old strip shopping center or the creation of a small housing facility, it would be wonderful if the group could show that there is merit and reality to the notion that our churches can pool resources. We really do not have many examples of this now, and it

Photo by Wallace Faggett would be both beneficial and inspirational if we did.

· Provide the necessary coordination to establish a leadership training program for present and future leaders. Time and time again, we find that one of the biggest hindrances to the future development of our community is the real lack of leadership from within. Who better to help train and develop those interested in service, without earthly pay, to help our fellow man and

in the city as a whole.



resulted.

group has taken on Rev. E.K. Balley, pastor of Concord Missionary Baptist Church, is flanked by community service projects such as the Dallas' Black "power preachers" during the inaugural African American Pas-than those who ownership and revi- tors Coalition service held at St. Luke "Community United Methodist Church should be lifting up talization of the Com- In January 1995. The 1998 service will be held at Rev. Balley's church. Do we

then work your plan." Perhaps their plan for the new year already exists. Should this not be the case and, if there is a window of opportunity to add to the list, we would like to suggest the following three points for their consideration and adoption:

· Have all member churches in the association make, as a congregation and as individual members, a significant investment in the Common Ground Credit Union. Let's not make the work with Common Ground an example of "Do what I say, not what I do." In all good conscience, the pastors group can take little solace in its good works for the credit union if, when they

MON

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THE STREET STREET

# LETTERS...

Carpe Diem

Seize the day, I always say. If people in the African American community really want to "seize" a history making moment, then I suggest we embrace Linden and Jacqueline Thompson and their babies. Who? You know, the couple from Washington, D.C., and the parents of the first African American sextuplets born in the United States of America.

Now don't get them confused with Bobby and Kenny McCaughey from Carlisle, IA., parents of the recently birthed sextuplets, who have received help from corporate America. In fact, I believe it's a "blessing" that the family is getting the much needed help, unlike the Thompsons. Not only did the McCaugheys receive promises to get a 15-seat van to transport their seven adorable little ones, a 16-year supply of apple juice and applesauce, power for heating and cooling, car seats and strollers for the babies and several companies working to build the McCaugheys a house, but the President of the United States gave them a call

I guess if the media had given Linden and Jacqueline Thompson "equal" media coverage, then, perhaps, the family and their five surviving babies would have received some of the assistance the McCaugheys are receiving. At least one would hope so anyway.

But I write not to beg for media coverage on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, or handouts from corporate America, or even a phone call from the President of the United States. These things should happen as naturally as they did for the McCaugheys. It doesn't matter if over looking the family was a mix-up or intentional, it should have not happened.

But you know what? The day isn't over yet! I submit to the African American community that we can "seize the day" and come to the rescue of the Thompson family. How do we do that? African American-owned companies,

#### see LETTERS, page 4

#### Letters Policy

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

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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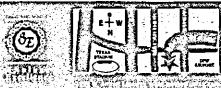
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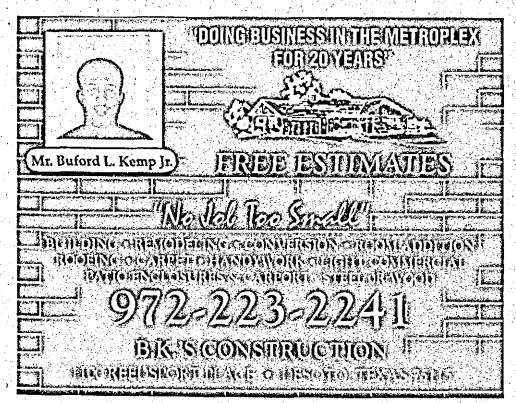


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Minority Opportunity News

page 32 Set January 1998

# Salute to Martin Luther King, Jr.

# MON takes a look at some of the outstanding accomplishments of an American hero

symbolizing the beginning of a new year and the requisite resolutions, includes the Mrs. Rosa Parks refused to give up her birthday celebration of Dr. Martin Luther seat to a white person.

King, Jr., an extraordinary man whose work and dedication to the civil rights. movement inspired a generation and will continue to inspire generations to come. Minority Opportunity News salutes the memory of Dr. King and encourages everyone to reflect on the sacrifices he and his colleagues made to ensure freedom and justice for every person, regardless of

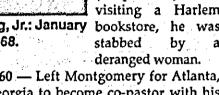
race, creed or color.

temic Theology.

The month of January, in addition to 1955 — Elected president of the Montgomery Improvement Association after

1956 - Arrested for the first time on the charge of driving 30 miles an hour in a 25 mile zone.

1957 — Leaders from ten southern states met at Ebenezer Baptist Church to form the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. King was elected president. 1958 - Published his first book, Strive Freedom Toward (Harper 1958). While visiting a Harlem by



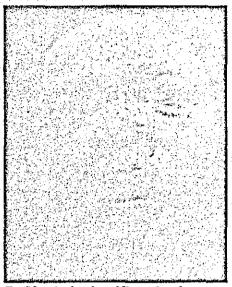
Atlanta, Ga. to Rev. Martin Luther King, 1960 — Left Montgomery for Atlanta, Georgia to become co-pastor with his father at Ebenezer Baptist Church.

1963 — Leads the March on Washington in Washington D.C. Delivers his "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

1964 - Won the Nobel Peace Prize at age

1968 — Delivers his last sermon, "I See the Promised Land" at the Memphis Masonic Temple. Shot and mortally wounded the next day at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn.

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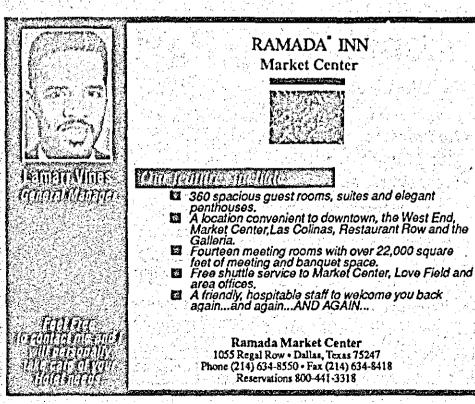
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: January bookstore, he was 15, 1929 - April 4, 1968.

1929 - Born in

Sr. and Alberta Christine Williams King. 1944 — Entered Moorehouse College, Atlanta, GA.

1947 — Ordained a minister at Ebenezer Baptist Church and became assistant pastor to his father.

1948 — Graduated from Moorehouse College with a B.A. degree in sociology. 1954 — Accepted a post as pastor of the 400-member Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. 1955 - Awarded a Ph.D. degree in Sys-



## LETTERS...continued

businesses, talk show hosts, media organizations, movie stars, entertainers, magazine publishers, television stations, etc. should embrace this family and give them the much needed help they deserve. Isn't that the least we can do? If we all work on a unified front, this can happen at a minimal cost to all involved.

If the current president won't acknowledge the family, then perhaps we should contact former President Jimmy Carter and Habitat for Humanity. After all, isn't it humanity that we are talking about here anyway?

> George A. Milton Fort Worth



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Take In the Stars and Mavericks on DART Rail. Hockey and basketball seasons are in full swing, and to make sure you don't miss a single face-off or slam dunk looking for a place to park, take DART Light Rail or the Trinity Railway Express to Reunion Arena. It's only a few steps from Union Station stop and a two-minute Red or Blue Line train ride away from the exciting West End Entertainment District. Light Rail operates until midnight and the final Trinity train will be held until the conclusion of any weeknight game.

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#### Community Pulse

Thomas Muhammad

As Brother Malcolm X once prophesied, the continent of Africa is quickly becoming a central figure for America's next place of conquest. If you have a hard time conceiving such a thought, consider these two points: Early last year First Lady Hillary Rodham-Clinton traveled to seven African countries. And Secretary of State Madeline Albright (the snake lady, as she's called by many in the

African and Arab world) traveled to eight African countries last month, including the Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire) and South Africa. Bill Clinton will travel to the same coun-

tries this year,

becoming the first sitting U.S. President to visit Africa since Jimmy Carter. And now that White folks have said it's okay, Negroes will probably start making plans to visit "their mother land." And maybe that's not a bad thing. However, most of us have not been sitting around waiting on "Whitey."

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

Muliammad's commentary are not necessarily

those of the Minority Opportunity News.)

For the last several years many African scholars have come to the Dallas area carrying one central theme. Whether it was Dr. Asa Hilliard or Dr. Malauna Karenga (with Brother Geronimo Pratt in between), they all have expressed that "Africans in America must see Africa as their base!" As Dr. Hilliard has said "... everyone here, whether it's the Japanese, Germans, British or Russians. If any of them ever felt that they had been insulted by the U.S. government, they could take everything they own and go back home. If African Americans wanted to do the same, what home do they return to?"

And of course, as you might well have guessed, I agree! Such a move won't be viewed too favorably by White racists here in America, nor by racist Europeans abroad (particularly White racist Jews in the United South Africa, who control the wealthy diamond and gold industry). Many of us have come to believe that White folks will never support any independent African movement, especially one that would lead us from their evil racist clutches.

There has always been, and continues to be, a "love-hate relationship" between Africans and Anglos. They love

# Like America, Africa's struggle for independence was brutal

us because we can be some of the best singing/sports entertainers in the world; yet they hate us because they realize that many generations of us will never forget their racist brutal treatment of our people. Most White racists feel that deep down inside many of us, there's a "Rev. Nat Turner" or the Kenyan "Mau Mau" lurking about. That scares the hell out of them and has cost them many a sleepless night.

Should they be afraid? You damn skippy!

Now
for those of
you who
seem to be
confused
about
whether or
not what I'm
expressing is
true, I offer
the example
of Ms. Win-

nie Madikizela-Mandela as evidence. Racist Americans and Europeans are afraid that Ms. Madikizela-Mandela could be the next Deputy President of South Africa, a very, very powerful position. She has always maintained that "All Europeans should leave South Africa and return the Africans' land and resources back to the Africans." So, at this very moment, Ms. Winnie Madikizela-Mandela is testifying before the South African (sellout) Truth and Reconciliation Commission about her supposed role in the killings of African informants during the justified armed struggle against the White racist apartheid. regime. Many Africans believe that if such individuals were, in fact, informants, killing them was the right thing to do. It is no different than when our own Harriet Tubman pulled a gun on a male "Negro" who became afraid and wanted to turn around and go back to slavery during one of Ms. Tubman's many underground escapes to freedom. She told him, "Either you gon go with us or I gon kill you right here, cause I ain't gon let you go back and tell massa whare we

During the struggle for liberation in South Africa, as a number of sellouts were burned to death in what came to be known as South African "neckties" (auto tires placed around individuals up to their necks and set a fire for collaborating with the enemy), I cheered, as did many African Americans in the U.S. Bishop

Tutu's truth commission offered to hold the meeting with Ms. Madikizela-Mandela in secret, but she said hell no! She demanded that the hearings be done in an open, public forum, because she knew that this commission is nothing but a White racist-inspired group created to undermine her and hundreds of thousands of Africans who refuse to forgive and forget the atrocities perpetrated on them by the racist South African regime. That includes the United States of America. I strongly support Sister Winnie's dream of Africa for the Africans, do or die! And we refuse to let "Peace Negroes" sing us out of our rightful her-

Until then, the struggle continues...

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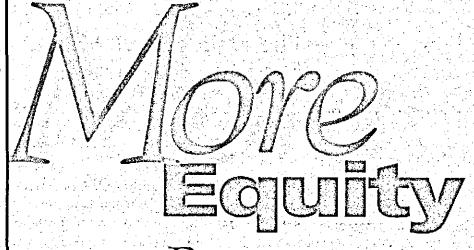
#### EDITOR, from page 2

head coach at Seton Hall University in New Jersey, Carlesimo doesn't have a "belligerent bone in his body." Baker did allow that Carlesimo was pretty much a one-dimensional person, someone who has no interest in the media and consequently has "no sense of [what may be] P.C."

Like everyone but the actual eyewitnesses of the event, I am getting the "facts" of this case second hand. But outside of the worst-case scenario of selfdefense, I can't defend the actions of Latrell Sprewell. In any type of coachteam situation, respect for authority has to be maintained. If there is abuse of that authority, there are available channels to combat it and, if necessary, remove it. It's been done before.

Sorry, Spree. Can't back you on this one, Bro.

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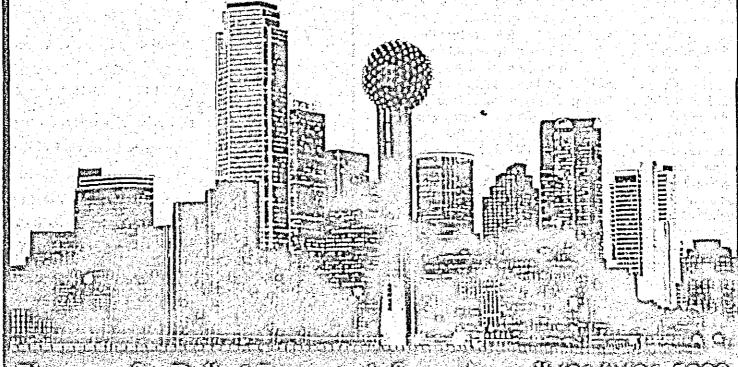
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Pen On Fire by Cheryl Smith

# Tom Joyner does p.r. job for Black colleges

By Cheryl Smith

When Tom Joyner took his syndicated radio show on the road, the crowd was bound to follow. You were guaranteed a fun-filled, entertainment-laden four hours of excitement with live per-

formances and plenty of give-a-ways. When he decided to take that same morning show onto the campuses of historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), the whole concept took on an different entirely meaning.

In the 90s, HBCUs have experienced an increase in enrollment

and quite a bit of positive press. Florida A&M University was named "1997 Colof the Year" by Time Florida

A&M, located in Tallahassee, Fla., was also recognized because, among numerous other reasons including its prestigious school of business, the 110-year-old institution graduates more African Americans annually than any other college or university in these United States.

With the release of the movie "The Tuskegee Airmen" and the recognition of wrong-doings to the men of Tuskegee, Ala., attention has also focused on that wonderful institution where George Washington Carver worked tirelessly in the laboratory refining uses for the peanut, yams and working on numerous other great inventions.

Most recently, several HBCUs have been the recipients of large endowments. What does all of this have to do with Tom Joyner, the hardest working man in radio? Well, through his efforts, awareness about historically Black colleges and universities has been greatly enhanced.

You see, there was a time when black colleges did not need a public relations campaign. No one had to sell black people on attending black colleges, shopping in black stores, or living in the black communities of America. It was a given, a nobrainer. You knew about all the great things coming from your people, so you

had no problem with taking care of all your business with people who looked like you. In fact, it was a healthier way of life during some of the more turbulent times in the history of this country. Black businesses flourished. Black schools were popping up throughout the South and along the east coast. Black people were the proprietors, the establishment owners, the landlords, the motel owners, the bank owners.

We had it going on! Then things changed. Drastically!

Doors that had been closed for so long were now opened to Black people. So, why would folk want to shop in their neighborhoods, go to the colleges their parents attended, stay in the familyowned inn or buy ice from the corner

store? Why indeed, when you could now shop uptown, downtown or any other town?

And so began the rapid demise of almost everything sustaining Black communities, except for the Black church. (Somehow, we have managed to hold on to the majority of African people; how-

ever, the church just doesn't seem to command the respect or exhibit the leadership that is necessary for a people to remain strong and vibrant.) For some, it was of no interest what a college or university had to offer. What was more important was the fact that it was a white institution and there had to be something special or superior about the quality of education there.

Oh, the forbidden fruit!

Never you mind that when the doors were chained to keep Blacks out, there stood those proud, black colleges beckoning to students eager to learn, despite the oftentimes limited resources. Still, some of the brightest minds of the last century received their education from a black college. Some of the best athletes practiced on the fields of black colleges. Some of the most proficient educators taught at black colleges.

While for some it was a matter of choice, for others, the topic was not an issue. That seems to be where we are headed now as we rapidly approach the year 2000. People of all colors are realizing the treasure that exists in the Black

Because of skeptics, however, it helps to have someone like Tom Joyner on your side. A graduate of a black college with deep roots in the black college and children who attended black colleges, Tom clearly understands the rich

#### PEN NOTES:

The Dallas-Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, January 6, at The Dallas Morning News, 6:30 p.m. Scholarship applications are also available by contacting Ramona Logue at KXAS-TV. The Journalism Workshop begins on January 17 at Lincoln High School . . . Welcome to Carmen Ainsworth and Gwen Talburt. Cormen is the new weekend coanchor at WFAA-TV, and Gwen is the marning weather anchor at KTVI-TV ... Still waiting for KDFW-TV to hire a news director ... Anybody looking for a dynamic consultant? Hortense Farley, formerly of AT&T, is branching out on her own . . . Say "Happy Birthday" to Rose Galford of Events Logistics. She celebrates a big one in January. And Ira Hadnot of The Dallas Marning News celebrated a big one in December! Congratulations to April Washington of The Arlington Marning Kews, April will be attending the Poynter Institute in 1998. Congratulations to the Dallos Weekly, which is now the The Weekly Free Press and you can pick it up at 7-11 Stores. Condolences to James Washington on the passing of his mother in December ... Congratulations to the staff of Onyx Magazine. The publication made its debut recently and a reception was held in Cityplace. Deborah Duncan talks about her aneurysm and subsequent recovery in a cover story featuring her and husband, Roland Martin, in *Our Texas* Magazine ... I visited the inmates at the Federal Corrections Prison in Seagoville, and it was amazing how sharp many of the brothers were. While I enjoyed visiting with the brothers, I would rather have visited them in the general populace, doing things to uplif themselves and their peaple. Many of the brothers wanted to find out how they could get a pen pal. If you're interested in writing to one of the brothers, let me know. Contact me at the paper and I will share the information with you so you can write ... Word has it that Kaylois Henry is no longer with the Dallas Observer. We're going to have to find out the deal and let you know ... A message to "minority" contractors — don't do a substandard job just because you know the company you are working for has to have a certain amount of "minority" participation. Word does get around about your incompetence. Excellence is the key... Ramona Richardson of GTE celebrated her birthday on December 29 and Agron Michaels of KKDA will celebrate his birthday on

CS

heritage and pride that exudes from the soil upon which Black colleges rest. The impact that Tom's radio show has is no laughing matter, This brother, and his cast of regulars (sidekick Sybil Wilkes, comedians Myra J and J. Anthony Brown, political and social commentator Tavis Smiley and fitness expert Donna Richardson) are heard by millions in nearly 100 markets.

It is pleasing to note that Tom realizes the significance of where he is and what he is doing. Too often, those who can help fail to do anything of substance; but not Tom. Those airwaves are so precious and it is refreshing to listen to someone who provides entertainment, but who also pricks the core of society's ills, serving as a voice for the voiceless. Clearly Tom should be saluted for using the airwaves responsibly and furthering the cause of Black colleges.

Too often, people will use the airwaves just for fun and games, trying to get the next laugh, never saying anything substantive or worthy of repeating. When someone, especially someone in a position of power or influence, uses the airwaves to show a level of consciousness and conscientiousness, they should be commended.

Maybe others will follow Tom Joyner's lead. Just maybe!

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



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# Levi Davis: The man who helps the city manager manage

By Cheryl L. Williams

Levi Hamilton Davis' 20-year career with the city of Dallas, beginning in 1973, has spanned at least eight mayors, four city managers and over a hundred city council members. He has spent more than a dozen years as Assistant City Manager. One of five Assistant City Managers, Mr. Davis' management responsibilities have included the overall administration and financing of the Police and Fire Departments, Court Services, Municipal Courts, Judiciary, Emergency Preparedness Office, Convention and Area Operations, Water Utilities, Housing Programs, Cultural and Arts Programs, Community Development Programs, Street and Sanitation Operations, Public Utilities Regulation, Public Health and Human Services, Municipal Fleet Operations, and management of more than 500 city facilities. He also has corporate responsibility for youth and homeless programs.

Although he typically works exhausting 12-hour days, Davis' energetic and upbeat management style keeps him in control and prepared for a variety of situations—from monitoring police car chases to flood control. Responsible for the implementation of the nation's first totally integrated 911/311 telecommunications system, his efforts on this project came to fruition in December 1997. The innovative 311 system replaces all telephone numbers formerly needed to access non-emergency requests for city services.

From 1986 to 1990, Davis took a hiatus from city management to work as a vice president at Rauscher Pierce Refsnes, Inc. on the firm's public finance team, managing the overall corporate efforts of the region encompassing Texas to California. He later formed the Hamilton Financial Group, serving as owner and chief financial officer of the investment banking firm.

MON talked with Mr. Davis about his motivation, his successes and the elements necessary to maintain success. This is an excerpt from that interview.

How do you help direct, plan and implement goals for the city's municipal departments?

The departments [heads], the Police Chief, the Fire Chief and the Municipal Chief Administrative Judge and the Municiple Courts Director—all of them except the judge report directly to me. I work with them in setting their goals for the year and their objectives for the year. I am a liaison for the judges so, although the goals and directives are shared with me, the judge actually reports directly to the [city] council. Every year we will

set the goals and objectives for each one of the departments and I'll review their budgets and monitor their progress toward their goals throughout the year.

You were responsible for the implementation of the Neighborhood Community Policing Program. How effective has it been?

[It has been] very effective, not only here but around the country. Chief [Ben]



Click has made it citywide. It helped to do a lot four or five years ago. Police officers were pretty much in their vehicles going through neighborhoods not taking the chance to get to know the community or know the neighborhood or know the people or know the problems. They didn't know who the strangers were and who lived there. We got the officers out of the vehicles into the community, getting to know people, going to community meetings, getting to know what the problems were, being able to recognize the changes in the community so we could address those. Citizens have become more used to their officers. They call them. They share information with them. That has helped us. I think, become even more effective in our gang enforcement program, whereas we really built up a relationship with mostly youth in certain areas of the community. When there is a problem, we're able to identify or go to certain individuals who can help us out and identify the problem areas. Community policing is a way of life in Dallas. We just don't want to police and enforce, we want to prevent. [We try ] to prevent [crime] by listening to the community and developing programs for the community. If we can couple that with the Park and Recreation program, then we can prevent a lot of crime.

How did your education prepare you for the job you're doing now?

I went to college on an art scholarship initially and won several art competitions. Believe it or not, in high school I was one of the top three Black artists in the city at the time. Art made me more attentive, more sensitive. Having a liberal arts background gives you a different perspective. You're more introspective. You're sensitive to your employees, you're sensitive to situations, you're sensitive to the needs of the police officers and the firefighters. It made me a lot more aware and observant and sensitive to the needs of others, the interests of others.

Finance is an avocation, so I'm very involved in financial areas. Otherwise, I think it's just the management [aspect]. It isn't so much the management skills as taking the management issues and being able to apply them to whatever area [Dallas City Manager ] John Ware or I work with. They asked me to come back to the city because of my work with the community and my skills in working with neighborhood and community groups. I am very familiar with the community. That transitioned into working with the Police Department. When I first came back, they had me working in the Human Services Department, Housing, Health Department, Employment Training Programs and South Dallas Trust Fund, because [I formed] a lot of relationships in the community. I know the community very well. I'm not a desk-sort of manager. I manage by walking around. I'm going to get out there and see you and meet the employees.

What are the traits of a good city manager?

There are different styles, but I think every style has to have a little bit of patience. You have to have a critical and analytical mind so you can look through issues and really get to the bottom line. You definitely have to have both written and verbal communication skills. You have to be focused. When I say that, I mean you have to have your bearings as far as your foundationyour family, your spirituality, as well as your physical [well-being]. You have to have all those in mind. But you have to be sure that you're pretty well grounded. This job can really become very intense and overwhelming, so you have to have a good foundation.

Is the position of Assistant City Manager your ideal career?

For the moment. I change. There are

other things that I may do, but I'm not tied to this particular job. I'll do whatever the next challenge is.

Is there anything in your background that might have hindered your success?

People may tend to think that coming from a poverty background or being a minority or coming from a large family are disadvantages. But they also can be assets, because they prepare you better than if you'd had a silver spoon and everything was given to you. I don't think you'd be quite prepared for this job or even a lot of challenges [otherwise]. In my case, coming up with a large family, being on welfare, not having a father around and being raised by my aunt, those sorts of things gave me a stronger background to deal with people situations and to be more empathetic. I think there are some teachers in my youth that instilled in me that you can do whatever you want to do if you want to do it bad enough and you work hard enough to make it happen. I still sort of believe that. I don't even evaluate I those times] as trying times. It was just part of my youth. We didn't have a car and we didn't have the traditional things. We had bunk beds and four or five of us in one room. Those were the things that made me the person I am today. I'm not disappointed in the things I have been able to accomplish. I'm not even half done, so I have a lot of things that I have yet to do.

What do you believe is the difference between you and your background and individuals that use adversity as an excuse not to suceed?

Sometimes people will be beaten down so often, or the doors shut in their faces so often that they give up. I cannot criticize them for that, because maybe I didn't have that door shut in my face as often as that other individual. I have a responsibility when I work with an individual to give that opportunity or that hope or open the door or whatever. Someone may just come along and open the door that's been slammed in their faces all their lives and they might say, 'hey there may be a possibility. We're not given all of the opportunities that others receive. Sometimes people say 'I make my own opportunities,' but nobody does anything by themselves. It takes other people to help them. It takes a strong faith and belief in God. It takes hope. But they don't do it alone. Nobody does it alone. A lot of people have opened doors for us that

see DAVIS, page 13



# In The News

# Roy C. Brooks awarded "Outstanding Man of the Year"

Roy C. Brooks has been awarded Outstanding Man of the Year by the Fort Worth District-North Texas Conference of the American Methodist Episcopal Church. The award, presented by the pre-

siding Bishop,
John R.
Bryant, was
given in
recognition of
Brooks' leadership in the
African
American
community.

Mr.



Brooks serves as the board president of the AIDS Out-

the AIDS Out- Roy C. Brooks

reach Center and president of the Fort Worth Minority Leaders and Citizens Council. He is the president-elect of the National Association of Black County Officials and serves on the Downtown Fort Worth, Inc.'s Housing Sub-Committee, Partnership for Education, Multi-Cultural Arts Alliance, the Advisory Committee of Tarrant County United Negro College Fund Campaign, the Tarrant County Youth Collaboration, the Steering Committee for Our City Our Children Campaign, the Steering Committee for the Fort Worth Neighborhood Policing Districts and the board of director of the North Downtown Tax Increment Financing District:

For more information call Dr. B.L. McCormick at 817-336-5326 or 817-924-2118

# Senator West Announces Availability of 1998 Internship Program Applications

Senator Royce West announced today that applications are available for the Dr. Emmett J. Conrad Leadership Program that has employed 541 students since its Inception in 1993. The program was initiated in May 1993 in honor of renowned Dallas African American physician, civic leader and community activist, Dr. Emmett J. Conrad, who died in April 1993. He served as the first African American board of trustee member of the Dallas Independent School District and served on the Texas State Board of Education until his death.

Criterion for consideration in the program is current enrollment in a four-year college or university at the undergraduate or graduate level, successful

completion of at least one year of study, reside in District 23 (which includes some areas of Dallas and Tarrant counties), completion of a typed application, two letters of recommendation, an official transcript, resume', 2.25 GPA, documentation of community service and submission of a 250 word typed essay.

In addition to employment opportunities, students are eligible for scholarship assistance. The deadline for submission of the application and supporting documents is January 16, 1998. Applications are available at Senator West's District Office located at 5787 S. Hampton Road, Suite 385, Dallas. For more information contact La Juana Barton at 214-467-0124.

# Dr. Thalia Matherson named United Methodist South Central Jurisdiction executive

Dr. Thalia F. Matherson, A Dallas Public Schools educator and administrator, has been named executive director of Mission and Administration for the Dallas-

based Mission Council of the eight-state region South Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church. She succeeds Rev. Ray Branton who announced his retirement after six years in the posi-



Dr. Thalia Matherson

A member of Warren United Methodist Church in Dallas, Dr. Matherson is the principal of the Middle School "Magnet" in the Dallas Independent School District and former executive director of the Principal's Training Program for the Dallas Public Schools. She currently chairs the North Texas Conference Board of Church and Society, is a member of the United Methodist Publishing House executive committee and has twice led the North Texas Conference lay delegation to General Conference.

Dr. Matherson earned a Bachelor of Arts (Cum Laude) at Huston-Tillotson College, Austin; Master of Liberal Arts at Southern Methodist University, Dallas; and Doctor of Education in Education Administration at East Texas State University, Commerce. For more information call Robert L. Robertson at 972-490-3438.

# DFW/ABC accepting scholarship applications

The Dallas Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators is accepting applications for scholarships. Students are eligible to apply if they are high school seniors or college students majoring in journalism, photojournalism, advertising public relations or graphic arts.

The deadline for submitting the application is February 1, 1998. For more information or an application call 817-654-6315.

# McDonald's sponsors annual "Black History Makers" essay contest

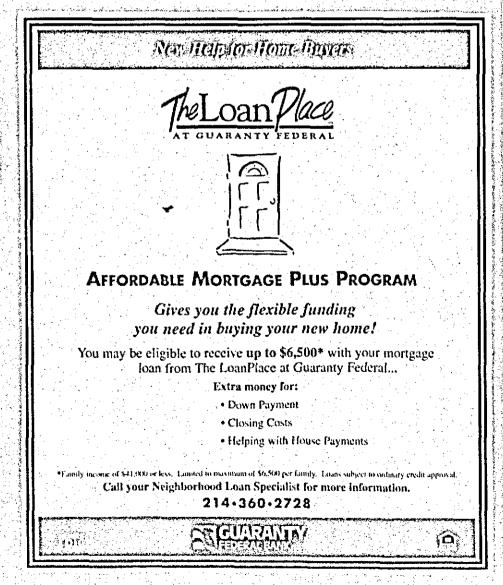
McDonald's of Greater North Texas is looking for college-bound high school seniors who demonstrate leadership, scholarship, character and community service for the 1998 "McDonald's "Black History Makers of Tomorrow" program presented in conjunction with the Dallas Urban League. Now entering its 11th year, the program recognizes high school seniors who demonstrate exceptional work in their classrooms and communities

Interested students can enter the "Black History Makers of Tomorrow" scholarship essay contest by submitting an application and a 500-word essay entitled "How I Plan to Make an Impact on Black History." Ten \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded. Winning essayists will also receive special recognition at the Dallas Urban League's annual banquet in February.

The deadline for entering the scholarship essay contest is January 16, 1998. To receive an application, contact your high school counselor or call Terry Allen at the Dallas Urban League at 214-528-8038.

# Theodis Ware named chairman of Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners

Theodis "T" Ware of Fort Worth was recently elected chairman of the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners. He is the first African American to be elected as presiding officer of the board. The Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, created in 1971 by the 62nd Legislature as an independent state agency, regulates the practice of physical therapy in Texas to safeguard the health



#### More In The News

and welfare of the public.

Appointed to the board in 1993 by then Governor Ann Richards, Ware was elected board secretary two years later. He also serves on the board's Investigation Committee and Applications and Review Committee. He was also recently selected as the board's representative to the National Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy. Before starting his own physical therapy practice, Ware was director of rehabilitation services for the Cook-Fort Worth Children's Medical Center, which collaborated with Harris Methodist Fort Worth on its physical therapy services.

Ware is co-facilitator of the collaborative Leadership Council of Fort Worth, a board of local policy makers who work together across institutional boundaries to improve Tarrant County in areas such as public housing, health care and education. He is president of the Citizens Crime Commission of Tarrant County and is a board member of Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Inc. For more information call Amy Keen at 817-451-

# KHVN names teen co-host for youth gospel show

Angela Crittendon, an 18-year-old senior from South Grand Prairie High School, was selected to fill the co-host slot on Heaven 97 KHVN's popular youth-oriented gospel music show, "The Saturday Night Praise Party." Ms. Crittendon beat out a field of 36 candidates for the posi-

The show, which is produced and hosted by Christian young people, rather than radio professionals, features uptempo, uplifting contemporary gospel music for the young and young at heart. It airs Saturdays from 6:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. Ms. Crittendon will join Minister DeMarcus Hornsby, who has hosted the show since its inception in June 1996.



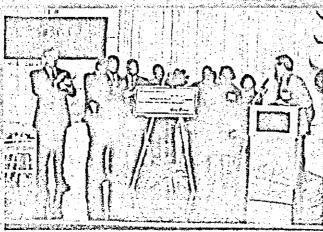
Angela Crittendon and DeMarcus Hornsby

Church in Carrollton where her father is ICDC at 214-428-5481: the pastor, Ms. Crittendon is involved in

the choir and the Sunday School. At South Grand Prairie High School she is a member of the choir, drill team, drama club, Black Student Organization and the elementary school student mentoring program. For more information call Drew Dawson at 214-583-2546.

# \$4.5 Million neighborhood program to benefit thousands

Thousands of South Dallas/Fair Park and Fort Worth urban residents will benefit from a Neighborhood Partnership Program (NPP) between Allstate Insurance Co. and local community groups. The Allstate Neighborhood Partnership Program addresses the broad challenges that communities face such as youth activity, crime prevention, fire safety, and the conversion of abandoned houses to liveable homes.



From left to right: Al Olson, Alistate; Art Wedding- Alliance for his work with ton, ICDC; Thomas Muhammd, ICDC; Calvin Carter, the alliance. In addition, ICDC; Robert Foster, ICDC; Anthony Hopkins, Junior Achievement named ICDC; Dlane Ragsdale, ICDC; Wanda Huckaby, him Volunteer Consultant ICDC; Klm Whitaker, Allstate and Gary Briggs, All- of the Year for his work with

The \$4.5 million commitment includes a \$1.25 million grant to the South Dallas/Fair Park Innercity Development Corporation to finance projects

over the next five years, a \$2.5 million deposit to a Dallas-area bank for lowinterest home improvement loans, a \$500,000 investment in the Neighborhood Housing Service of America to supporthome loans for lowincome residents of Fort Worth and establishment of an NPP and Insurance Sales Center in Fort Worth at a cost of \$250,000.

For more information call Sharon Cooper, All-

A member of Sims Chapel AME state at 972-6479 or Art Weddington,

# Tyrus Sanders named consumer banking regional executive for NationsBank

NationsBank announced recently that Tyrus Y. Sanders, senior vice president,

has been named consumer banking regional executive responsible for banking centers in central and southern Dallas County. Sanders previously was regional manager for the Community Investment Group for NationsBank Southwest.

Sanders began his career at NationsBank in 1989 as a management associate. He has held several positions within the bank, including vault services supervisor, systems analyst, contract negotiator, Texas

coordinator for Minority, Business

Development and Dallas Community Investment Coordinator.

A graduate of Sam Houston State University with a B.A. degree in finance, Sanders was recognized by Minority Business News USA in 1993 as one of the Outstanding Men in Minority Business and by the West Dallas Ministerial middle school youth. In 1995, he was presented the

Helping Hands Award for his support and development of Minority Business Enterprise in America.

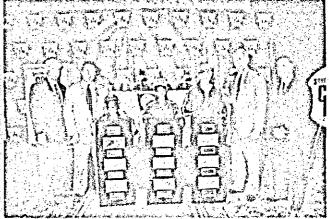
Sanders and his wife Latonja attend St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church. They have a two-year old son, Cooper. For more information contact Pam McQuity at 214-508-0645.

# The Southwestern Bell Cotton Bowl Athletic Association Announces Art Contest Winners

The head football coaches in the 1998 Southwestern Bell Cotton Bowl Classic recently announced the Cotton Bowl Art Contest winners. UCLA Coach Bob Toledo and Texas A&M Coach R.C. Slocum met with winners of the inaugural Southwestern Bell Art Contest, whose draw-

ings will be placed along with thousands of other creative drawings, in hotel rooms throughout Dallas on New Year's Eve.

The winners included in Grades K-3. 1st Place-Jazmyn Williams, Dunbar Learning Center; 2nd Place-Jessica Salinas, L.P. Cowart; 3rd Place-TerRhome Armstrong, Dunbar Learning Center; in



From left to right: Tom Morgan, Southwestern Bell; Bob Toledo, UCLA; Jazmyn Williams; Chonelvin Boyd; Alfredo Rodriguez; R.C. Slocum, Texas A&M; Mike Baggett, Cotton Bowl Athletic Association

Grades 4-6: 1st Place-Chonelvin Boyd, Colonial Learning Center; 2nd Place-Qualisa Cooper, Dunbar Learning Center; 3rd Place-LaShonda Tate, Colonial Learning Center; in Grades 7-8: 1st Place-Alfredo Rodriquez, W.E. Greiner; 2nd Place-Miguel Sotelo, W.E. Greiner, 3rd Place-Juan Rodriguez, W.E. Greiner. More than \$4,000 in prizes were awarded to students and their schools.

The Southwestern Bell Cotton Bowl Art Contest is one of several new events developed by Southwestern Bell and the Cotton Bowl Athletic Association to extend the Cotton Bowl into the community. Other events include the Southwestern Bell Cotton Bowl Hall of Fame, the Southwestern Bell Cotton Bowl Football Fest and the Southwestern Bell Women's Basketball Classic.

In September 1996, Southwestern Bell became the title sponsor of the Southwestern Bell Cotton Bowl Classic, The company's current sponsorship runs through the New Year's game in 2000, For more information call Audrey Keymer at 214-665-1328.

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# The legal status of the African American

Who is the Negro?

Part 1 of 4

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

The average person in the United States today would have little difficulty identifying members of certain racial groups. The characteristics attributed to a particular race are based, at least to a certain extent, on the proportionate numbers of that race in a given locality, on social distance, and on the amount of economic contact and competition.

Ever since the exposure of European Americans to Africans via the slave trade, attempts to definitively qualify who was "Black" created a multitude of vexing sociological problems. An examination of the legal definitions in numerous state statutes and court decisions reveals rampant dissimilarities; the definitions themselves seem to reflect the various methods the states developed to meet the problems of codifying racial distinctions.

There seems to be no uniform answer to the question of just how much African blood a person of mixed lineage must have to be officially considered Black. Some states have defined the term by a general statute, while others have defined it only with respect to particular subjects, such as marriage or education. In a few states, the definition of the term varies according to the subject under consideration. Thus, an individual of mixed blood may be legally classified as a white person as far as marriage is concerned, yet be considered Black with respect to the public school system. In states where no statutory definition had been attempted, the courts were faced with the difficulty of answering the question as best they could. In some instances where there was no statute covering a particular subject, an act covering another field of law may have been used as a pointer to show the general meaning of the term in that jurisdiction. However, this course was not always followed.

Before the Civil War there seemed to have been a general rule in the slave states that a Black was presumed to be a slave. In fact the South Carolina Court held that the word "Negro" had a fixed meaning of "a slave."

In the years following the war, it became increasingly clear that the exigencies of the situation in the South demanded that there be some attempt at

a legal definition of the word "Negro." Over the generations, there had been a good deal of racial intermixture. The laws of the southern states still made race a criterion in certain legal relationships and, hence, it was necessary that there should be some definition within its meaning. In some instances, statutes were enacted defining the word "Negro" in some particular relationship; in others, the courts were permitted to adopt their own definitions as the problems

The general definitive statute "Who is the Negro" (African American) is, in most instances, a comparatively modern development.

In the North and West there had been many legal disabilities for Blacks prior to the adoption of the postwar amendments (13,14,15) to the Federal Constitution. A few cases arose in which racial identity was an important issue. In Michigan, for example, it was held that persons in whose veins white blood predominated, were white within the then effective state constitutional provision (restricting the voting franchise to white male citizens). The Ohio Court adopted the "preponderance" theory in interpreting laws involving the right of persons of mixed blood to vote, to have educational privileges, and to testify in court. This continued to be the rule in Ohio until the year 1867, three years before the Fifteenth Amendment was ratified. In another case which arose in 1859, it was said that the words "white" and "colored," as used in the Ohio separate school law of 1853, "were employed" in their popular and ordinary sense. Hence, it was held that children who were threeeighths Black and five-eighths white and distinctly colored in appearance were to be regarded as "colored children" and therefore not eligible to be admitted to the white schools.

In 1852, the Maine Court held that a person having only one-sixteenth or perhaps one-eighth African blood was not a Black, within the meaning of a statute prohibiting intermarriage between whites and Blacks. There was also an ante-bellum statute in Massachusetts, which proscribed the marriage of white persons with Blacks or mulattos. This act was held not to prohibit the marriage of a white person and a person who was the child of a union between a mulatto and one who was wholly white.

An Indiana statute of pre-Civil War days concerning the competency of witnesses prohibited persons who had oneeighth or more Black blood from testifyring against white persons.

Race distinctions have now practically disappeared from the written codes of the states north of the Mason and Dixon line and east of the Mississippi

West of the Mississippi, many of the states in the West had laws which prohibited marriages between whites and Blacks. Some of them indicated the proportion of African blood that would make a person legally Black within the statute. The Arizona and Montana acts seemed to "interdict" the marriage of white persons with all persons of Black blood, however remote the strain. In Nebraska and North Dakota, marriages of whites with persons of one-eighth or more Black blood were proscribed, while in Oregon, the legal proportion was onefourth or more.

The Louisiana Court determined that "colored" applied to all persons who were not of the white race and, in 1910, held that anyone who had an appreciable amount of Black blood was a member of the colored race, per Jim Crow laws.

Concerning the issue of a Black and a mulatto, the term "mulatto" indicated an individual who is too dusky to be white and too light-colored to be totally Black. The court also declared that a quadroon was of a lighter color than a mulatto.

In Virginia, the terms "Negro" and "colored person" were synonymous, and a former general statute defines the latter term as including all persons in whom there is ascertainable any quantum whatever of Black blood. The statute excepts individuals having one-fourth or more Indian blood and less than one-sixteenth Black blood. In 1930, the Virginia Legislature enacted a race registration act requiring every person in the state to supply information concerning the racial composition of his or her ancestors insofar as it is known. If there was any Black blood in the veins of the registrant, he or she had to give the generation, if known, of the intermixture. Another Virginia provision stated that an intentionally falsified registration constituted a felony.

Until 1927, the state of Georgia classified as Black only those persons who had one-eighth or more Black blood in their veins. Also, in 1927, the law was changed to read that all persons with any ascertainable trace of Black blood must be classified as persons of color. Georgia also instituted a race registration act

which required all persons to give information concerning their racial antecedents.

Alabama had a general statute classifying all persons with any Black blood as "colored." The marriage law similarly provided that all unions between whites and persons descended from Blacks were void. Before this act was changed in 1927, it only prohibited marriages of whites with persons of Black blood to the third generation inclusive. (Change was effected in order to make the criminal statute conform to the state's constitutional provision.) Before the change was made, a marriage of a white person with one of Black blood beyond the third generation was void, but the perpetrator could not be punished criminally.

Texas presents an interesting parallel to the situation. A Texas school law provided that the terms "colored race" and "colored children" shall include all persons of mixed blood who are descended from Black ancestry. An old Texas "separate coach" law evidently referred to this when it stated that the term "Negro" included persons of African descent as defined by the state statutes. The Texas statute that forbade intermarriage between members of the two races stated that any union between a Caucasian and a descendant of an African was null and void. However, the penal statute punishing miscegenation defines the term "Negro" as including only those persons who are of Black blood to the third generation inclusive.

Another state that had a strict definition of the term "Negro" was Oklahoma. It defined "Negro," or "colored," as meaning any person of African descent; and the intermarriage, separate school, and separate coach laws were to the same effect. In Tennessee, two statutes defined the term "Negro," or "person of color," as including every person who had any Black blood in his or her veins. The constitutional provision and statute which forbid interracial marriages only prohibited the union of whites and persons who have Black blood to the third generation inclusive.

In Arkansas, a concubinage statute prohibiting cohabitation between the white and Black races defined the term "Negro" as including any person who had any Black blood whatever in his or her veins. A separate coach law expressly applied to "persons in whom there was a visible and distinct admixture of African blood." North Carolina prohibited the union of whites with persons of Black descent to the third generation

Florida had two statutes that see LEGAL STATUS, noxt page

# Texas Publishers Association adopts ethics code

Members change view, renew commitment to quality

Texas Publishers Assn. Wire Service

HOUSTON — During its quarterly conference held in November, the Texas Publishers Association (TPA) formally adopted its Code of Professional Ethics and Standards. This acceptance is the culmination of over a year's work by the Executive Committee of the TPA to establish a common base of professional standards that all members could accept and embrace. "As is the case with any growing organization, it is important that we establish, in writing, those principles and ethical directives that we espouse," stated Thurman R. Jones, President of the TPA.

Ms. Sonceria Messiah-Jiles, Publisher of the Houston Defender and chairperson of the committee that authored the document stated, "The success of this organization will depend a great deal on our ability to be professionals and set high standards for ourselves to ensure our progress as an organization

and as individual business people."
The document stipulates the terms and



(I-r) Pluria Marshall, J. Frank Hernandez, Ms. Soncerla Messiah-Jiles and Dr. Richard Nwachukwu

conditions of membership in the TPA, organizational processes, advertising approach and conditions, evaluation and accountability standards for each publication. It also provides a framework for new publications desiring to

raise the level of professionalism within their business.

Members of the TPA expressed their broad support of this new platform and encouraged the African American communities of Texas to make note of this development. "We firmly believe that our readers can rest

assured that the TPA, both as an organization and as individual members, will continue to operate by the highest possible standards of ethics and integrity. This also reaffirms our commitment to those who advertise in our publications that their support and business is well placed," commented Dr. Theodore -Lee, publisher of The Dallas Post Tribune.

The TPA is an association of newspaper publishers from across the state whose principal readership is the African American communities in Texas.

Legal status from previous page

defined the word "Negro" in such a manner that only those who had oneeighth or more Black blood would be within the term. In Maryland, the act prohibited unions between whites and persons of Black descent to the third generation inclusive. A Missouri statute prohibiting the intermarriage of whites and Blacks made one-eighth or more Black blood the criterion, and the same was true of Mississippi and South Carolina. (The South Carolina Supreme Court held that the definition contained in the marriage law would govern in this situation.) Kentucky had no statutory definition of the word "Negro"; however, in one instance, it was held that a child having one-sixteenth Black blood could not attend a white school.

In all this discussion of the statutes and judicial decisions governing the question of racial identity, one fact stands out: There was an increasing desire on the part of the lawmakers of the South and West to discourage and stamp out miscegenation (race-mixing).

MON

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

#### DAVIS, from page 8

got trampled on in marches. The only difference between me and others who may not believe they have the opportunity is that somebody provided me the opportunity. And somebody may be able to provide them that opportunity. I am blessed that I wake up every day. I'm blessed when I go to sleep every night. If I look at these situations as blessings, then I'll look at them more favorably. Like they say—is the glass half empty or half full? In my case it's half full.

# What motivates you to excel in your position?

I'm sort of a people person. I'm geared toward helping people and helping situations. I love solving problems and I love challenges. The things that people say you can't do, I love to tackle those sort of problems. I've been doing that for years. I guess the most recent challenge was the [implementation of the] 311 system. But that's just my nature. I also believe that there are many things to do and many people to assist. There is always a new challenge.

As the former owner of a sucessful investment banking firm, what advice would you give to entrepreneurs and

#### those considering entrepreneurship?

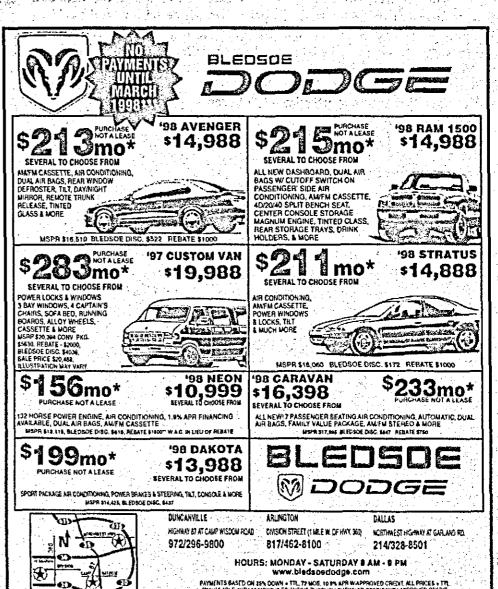
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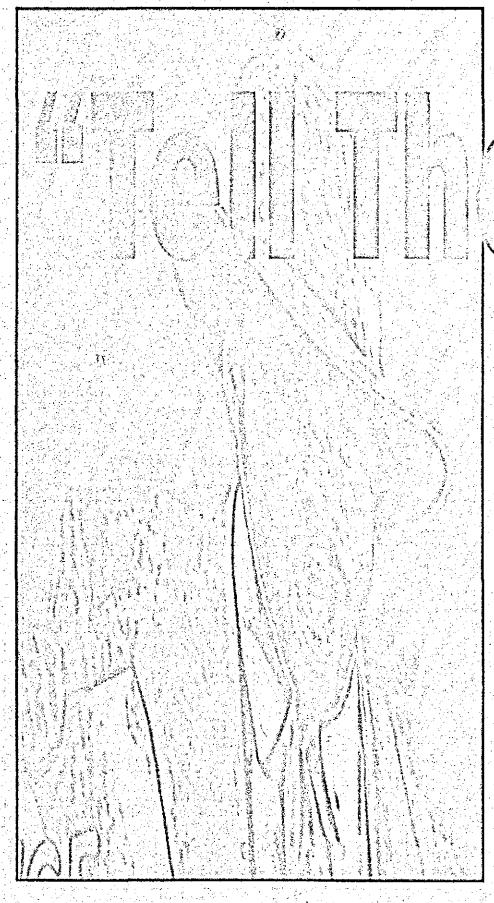
Sometimes it's difficult, but you've got to believe in yourself. You've got to believe what the old minister says: 'If God is on your side, who can be against you?' There is nothing that you cannot accomplish if you believe in yourself and believe in your God. In other words, adversity may come, but you can persevere through it. That's what I believe.

#### What words of wisdom do you live by?

There are two old cliches that I read through all the time. One is 'walk a mile in that man's shoes.' When I deal with people, I have to look from their perspective. My chief told me once when things are really down and out and things are really bad that old cliche 'and this too shall pass' is applicable. I remember once a man told me that if I had a heart attack and died, he might be able to make my funeral. It depended on what on the [city] council's agenda was that day. You've got to keep perspective of what you're doing. Whatever the adversity, this too shall pass. Everything does not revolve around what you think is important.

MON





By Allen Gray and J.L. Larson

John Wiley Price — the distinctive and bold bass voice fills the corridors at the Dallas County Commissioners Court. He's deep in conversation, chewing on the mouthpiece of a cellular phone to advise "the city doesn't run on its own," to whomever is on the other end of the line. He deftly scoops up a three-inch wad of phone message slips from his receptionist to be added to the stacks already crowding his desk — and with the wave of his free hand signals the start of the interview, the end of his

cell phone call and another apology for being late.

The office phone rings — someone wants a favor from Price, the Commissioner of Precinct Number 3. It's granted, and the topic flashes forward to the school board debacle. "She came in too arrogant — had her head too high," he I-told-you-so'ed his listener.

Just arrived from a radio taping of a debate discussing Black/Latino relations and the DISD school board, Price is still hyped; briefed that the interview will be about protest and picket, he is ready to talk.

"There are very few protests that we have ever begun that I have not been satisfied with the outcome," he begins, quick to outline his strategies — how he researches an entity's ethnic employment percentages before sitting down at the table to negotiate an issue.

"When they become unreasonable in their position, we resort to publicly protesting — bring light to the issue."

Never one to mince words, Price cuts straight to the chase — the rift that led to the protest at Mayor Ron Kirk's house.

"There are plenty of problems facing the City of Dallas...so for the mayor to step over and intervene into the school district, we thought was inappropriate."

Price readily admits that, in fact, at one point he did ask the mayor to become involved in the school board issue, but adds that the mayor declined — that is, until "someone else" asked the mayor to do so.

Price said Kirk has gone essentially "unchecked."

"When [Kirk] said we [protesters at the Dallas school board meetings] should be arrested, we felt he had gone beyond the scope of his office. The police chief does not need him nor any other Black man to say they need to arrest Black folk."

Members of the New Black Panther group were subsequently arrested — and later acquitted.

Although he describes the DISD incident as "nothing," Price chose the mayor's home as the spot for a demonstration, showing up in picketing form at Mrs. Kirk's birthday celebration — strong behavior from one of His Honor's more vehement supporters during the mayoral election. Kirk and Price even attend the same church — St. Luke "Community." United Methodist.

Brothers, maybe — but not bosom buddies.

"Well, at least associates and one-time friends," Price says. "I don't know if he still counts me as one of his friends."

He espouses lifelong loyalty to commitments for which he is willing to stand in a picket line in 12-degree wind chill but, at 47 years of age, Price voices reluctance on the topics of alliances and loyalties.

"My position is there are no permanent friends and no permanent enemies — just issues. And the issue is we are not going to be disrespectful as brothers and sisters who put their life and liberty on the line for an issue — and for Kirk to take his posture, we felt, was a personal affront to us."

Kirk isn't the only Black politico from Dallas County to draw Price's ire; he dismissively calls Dallas Independent School District Trustee Ron Price "Half-Price Books"

#### The burr under the saddle

To trace the incessant burr under Price's saddle — to see what agitated the agitator — takes looking at the circumstances that effectively groomed him.

Price the Picketeer wasn't a planned thing; John Wiley Price didn't start out cranky.

Born in San Augustine and reared in the rural cotton town of Forney, as the son of a truck driver and a maid, young John Wiley Price could look forward to a future of slaving away in the dusty furrows of someone else's cotton crop with the sun cremating the back of his neck. He could make his body withstand nature's elements, but his mind wasn't akin to it.

Price envied fellow Forneyan Lawrence Crutcher, who found a "good job" at Sanger Harris in Big Town, and urged Price to interview there as well; Sanger was looking to hire one more janitor and John Wiley Price wanted to work in an air conditioned environment. His aspirations were mostly about temperature as he thought about Crutcher "working inside — in the cool."

Price leaned back in his swivel chair at the county, grinning at the remembrance of the hick from Forney, a blank slate without even a suit of clothes to his name, ready to interview for a plum janitorial spot and darn glad for it.

Through a twist of fate, instead of interviewing with the regular personnel director, Price met with store manager Jack Rose, and by the end of the day Price was on his way to a one-week crash course in salesmanship and persuasion, skills he would later chisel to a fine point. He was the first Black man in Big Ticket Items, ready to sell in a blue H.I.S. brand, three-piece polyester suit, with checkered pants and a reversible vest. From then on, there would always be a Jack Rose to recognize the Price talent and



John Wiley Price, doing what he does best — driving home a point.

John Wiley Price on the picket line, pressing the Issue.

for its management and staff.

place a hand on his shoulder, opening the door to opportunity for John Wiley Price.

Another guy touches his shoulder, and Price is one of the first Black reporters for Channel 8, where he learns the capacity for visibility — and to talk in terms of "visuals."

"Channel 8's relationship with Commissioner Price goes back many years," recalls John Irvin, the station's executive director of administration. "In fact, in the late 70s, Mr. Price was an intern here. His picketing of WFAA in the early 90s resulted from a viewer's phone complaint to the station [that] was not handled well. As a result of that incident Channel 8 undertook, and continues to utilize, sensitivity and diversity training

"We have a positive and constructive relationship with Commissioner Price," continues Irvin, "and Channel 8 remains committed to presenting its newscasts in a fair, balanced manner [that] is sensitive to the diverse community we serve."

Touched again, he's got his own radio show; appropriately entitled Speak Out.

Along the way, he attends El Centro College and the University of Texas at Arlington.

Now, he's president of the Progressive Voters League — and a metamorphosis has taken place. Price is enunciating more clearly, dressing better and living larger than his Forney days could have foretold — and demonstrating a knack for politics. He has gained such honors as the Juanita Craft NAACP Award in Politics, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Dallas/Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators and the NAACP Medgar Evers Award.

"It was just an evolution; I like people. Apparently, the only way any of us grow is that we share what we have — and I understood that. So I prided myself on reading, being in the know in terms of what was going on," he says.

# A Series of clashes

"What's going on" meant searing images of the turmoil of the mid-70s — like the time young Santos Rodriguez was shot and killed while hand-cuffed in the back of a DPD squad car. Blacks and Hispanics took to the streets in protest.

Or the mock funeral Price and others held to protest the gunning down of a couple of young Black men. With a mock casket, the group headed toward downtown from South Dallas. At the intersection of Gano and Harwood in downtown Dallas, orange trash trucks backed out of the alley and blocked their path; Dallas police poured out of the alley — this was the "real deal."

He had the Fear of City Hall in him that day.

"I'll never forget it — God knows I was scared to death. I had never seen anything like it."

It was a fear he would overcome; Price is known more for his anger than for his fear — and has stepped over the line, notably in a series of legal clashes. His arrests were for whitewashing billboards in protest of alcohol and tobacco ads in minority neighborhoods and damaging the windshield wipers of a van driven by a Plano homemaker; he did "time" for his shonanigans.

Price was also indicted for rape — an alleged attack on a female county employee in April 1990; the case was dismissed because "it fell apart" — there was no case, Price says.

#### Validation in numbers

It was anger that gave his evolving awareness a single focus, fueling the fire for John Wiley Price. However, the political in him continued to emerge, well-taught and mostly self-taught in the mathematics of winning. His own aptitude for a soldier's discipline began to control and hone the anger in the 90s.

"It's the person in the kitchen or the person with the mop — as far as I'm concerned, Ross Perot's got one vote and they've got one vote," Price says, proudly producing his voter's registration card. "Since I turned 18, I have never missed an election. This is the proudest thing I own."

His supporters embrace the same ideal. Price opponents who have staged entire platforms on their opposition to his frequently abrasive factics for change have experienced sound defeats from the ballots of Price enthusiasts. His power at the polls has left some savvy metroplex politicos wary of offending his machine.

Critics who balk at Price's confrontational style are balking up the wrong tree; the statistics he's seen have sold him on his method. Whether or not the improvements

See PRICE next page

#### PRICE from page 15

seen over ten years validate his work or are just a sign of more enlightened times, is not a debate John Wiley Price buys into, because he knows that in the ratio between demonstrations and change in Dallas — as in his steady rise — he has been in the right place at the right time.

In 1984, county business awarded to minority entrepreneurs was stymied at only \$50,000. On January 1, 1985, he became the first African American County Commissioner for District 3 in southeast Dallas County, including the cities of Seagoville, Balch Springs, Hutchins, and a portion of Dallas and Mesquite.

The Price bio cites four issues driving Warrior demonstrations of organizations, businesses and media outlets": poor hiring practices; a lack of African Americans in decision-making positions; physical and mental abuse; and poor, unbalanced, inaccurate coverage of the Anglo communities."

By 1996, twelve protest years later, total business awarded to minority entrepreneurs had skyrocketed to \$32 million. While revenue growth for African-American firms was at 11 percent nationwide and 54 percent in Texas, in Dallas revenue growth for African American firms catapulted by 180 percent.

The number of Blacks at the executive level in the Dallas Police Department went from 4.1 percent in 1988 to 20 percent in 1993, and the number of Black supervisors rose from 5.1 percent to 12

percent. The number of rank and file officers increased from 14.6 percent to 21 percent.

Prior to the Warrior picket line on the DPD, there was one minority chief at Dallas' six police stations. Eighteen months later, there were two African Americans, two Mexican Americans and two Anglos.

Over 10 years, the department has grown by 14 percent, while minority representation on the force has almost doubled — from 310 African Americans in 1987 to 597 in 1997. Mexican American officers saw their figures more than double, from 146 to 350, while the numbers of female officers rose from 308 to 457.

These are validating numbers, Price maintains. "There was one reality before we began picketing, and another after," he said

In 1993, Dallas adopted its current affirmative action plan—a direction Dallas Police Chief Ben Click hails as a common link with the goals of John Wiley Price.

"It was to overcome the long-standing problem of a white male police department — we were never going to develop the relationship we needed with the minority community. That [relationship] has improved dramatically," he says.

"We did make major changes in terms of hiring practices — that is, the [city] council made those decisions. There's no question John has had a major impact in terms of our hiring minorities," Click said, crediting Price's consistent push for the changes.

"I'm not sure if that would have happened if that pressure would not have been there and had it not been that continuous," Click adds. "Literally, a whole community's awareness level has been raised in terms of how important this issue is...Everyone sees why this is so important...and it's because John has not allowed it to die. It's because of his tenacity — that sense of integrity to the issue — that he believes in, and he's not going to compromise.

#### Spread them "blues" around

Price claims the numbers support the havoc the Warriors' efforts play. One survey showed that Price's 1991 protest cost the city \$60,000 in overtime pay for police over a ten-week period. Price claims an over \$400,000 cost for the Northwest substation protest, where the Warriors picketed seven days a week. Times that over 18 months at Dallas police substations, 24 months of TV station campaigns, 14 months at Parkland hospital, 24 months at Townview High school. Money — and the loss thereof — is what makes Price's picketing world go round.

"There are three shifts a day. There are only 3,000 police officers. Of the 3,000 police officers, they do about 55 officers per shift, per station. So if you're out there with a couple hundred people on Northwest Highway (in front of the Northeast Substation) you tie up all of

your officers at that area. That means now (officers) from southeast substation have got to try and cover. If you go out there and stay two or three hours, you'll kill a police department," Price explains.

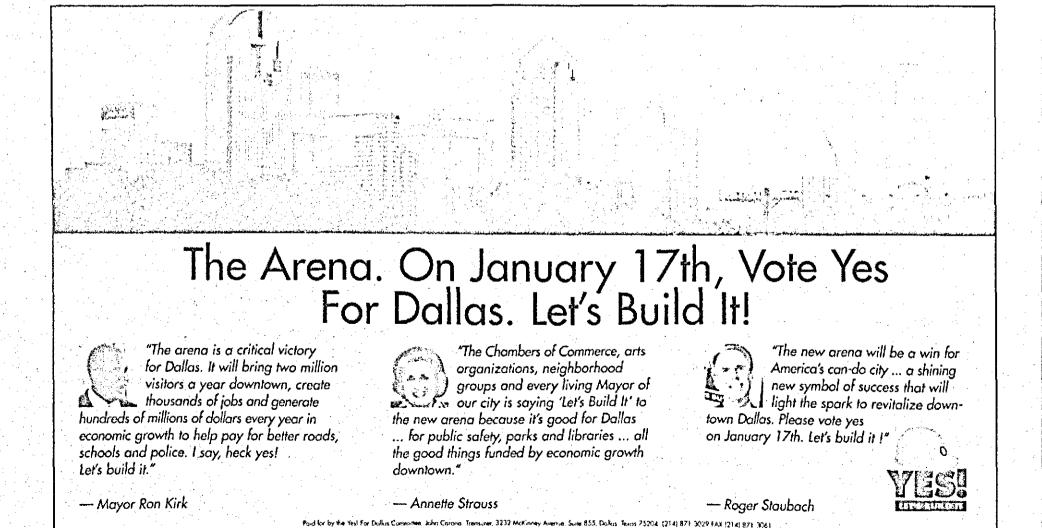
With the same smooth stroke, Price and the Warriors evoke the ire of motorists on their way about the business of the Metroplex by creeping across the street — and earn their unwitting buy-in to the Cause of the Day.

"That's what you've got to work on. Hey, why don't you guys protest on the sidewalk," Price mimics an infuriated motorist

"Who gives a damn? We could die on the sidewalk. You think they care if we walk up and down the sidewalk? In that heat? In that cold? They don't give a damn... It's only when you spread them "blues" (police officers) around — only when you inconvenience somebody else. Because then they become enlisted in our group, because they're going to pick up the phone and call somebody."

The Townview Center magnet schools have been the recent subject of Price's attention. He claims victory in a sharp new band hall built over a summer — something his group had lobbied for — and he continues to demand improvements in the areas of technology and teacher certification.

The demonstrations usually take place first thing in the morning when the staff are coming to school and are pretty much wrapped up by the time the stu-



dents arrive, around 8:30, according to the Townview executive principal.

Dr. H.B. Bell has met with Price but said he has resigned himself to remaining focused on the business of meeting instructional needs of the schools and their students.

"The best I can do is to try to make the school the best it can be," Bell said.

Of the group's right to demonstrate, Bell said he is tolerant.

"I don't ever want to take away anybody's freedom to express themselves. We come in and take care of the kids and leave [the demonstrating] to John and his Warriors," Bell said.

#### "Tell them I am at war"

The Price model for change exploits a heroic military motif throughout. On sale for \$5 at the KwanzaaFest information booth, the full-color poster of an almost reverent, larger-than-life close-up of John Wiley Price's pensive face bears the slogan Price originated to answer the critics who say he is crazy: "Tell them I am at war."

If the art of winning battles is achieving a posture of confrontation, Price is a five-star general - and this is no fair-weather fight.

We don't just picket because we don't have anything else to do. We picket because we've seen the results of our labors," Price said.

"Some people come by and tell us to

picketing is both a life and a job," said Price with a chuckle, quick to add that he and the Warriors picket on their own time. He has a reputation for putting in a full day's work for a full day's wage at his full-time gig at his \$90,000 a year post as county commissioner. ~

His official bio cites achievements including the purchase and reclamation of Joppa Preserve and the establishment of clinics in south Dallas. At the County, despite the controversy that he wears like a prominent tattoo, Price has earned the sometimes grudging, sometimes wholehearted respect of a more moderate peer.

'I'd say that he does his homework - he's well informed on the issues, and he's articulate in expressing his viewpoint," said Precinct 2 Commissioner Mike Cantrell, who hastens to add that "there are definitely issues we don't see eye-to-eye on."

"At times he gets pretty aggressive in his beliefs - I normally don't go to that extreme," Cantrell added.

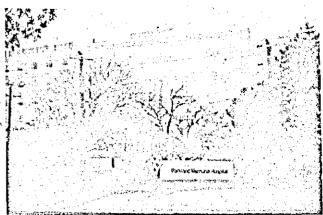
A bulldog-like stick-to-itiveness, day-in-day-out, wear-you-down hold on an issue is everything to Price and his

'We are consistent. If we come after you, you had better pack your lunch because we're coming strong. That's the only thing they understand. Because then they know you're serious," Price says.

Like the mail that must go through, come snow, sleet or hail, Price's efforts

and politics - his warriors stomping to keep warm, chanting and agitating to keep up spirits.

We're there to kick your butt," he reverberates in a demonstrator's rap. "The longer we stay, the more you pay. You think it's funny, it's costing you money. If we make you mad, well, that's too bad - 'cause we're kicking your butt till time is up," Price says,



reciting one of the many Parkland Hospital was the object of a protracted "rhymes" of the Warriors. protest assault by the commissioner and his picke-

"It's never been about me"

Price is careful to expend energy on more peaceful and proactive awareness raisers as well. The December 13 Kwanzaafest 1997 showed signs of his involvement at every turn. Price could be seen pushing a vacuum cleaner as far as its cord would take it along the 100-footlong-plus red carpet he insisted was for all the people, not just festival VIPS.

Media savvy from his TV days and his KKDA radio broadcasts, he is quick to see the opportunity for a soundbite. Price notes dryly that the city fathers, anxious for a new stadium, haven't offered to sink \$175 million into the Kwanzaafest building aces me nospitanty room, announcing a lengthy welcome over his headset mike and ad-libbing the recognition of a long list of sponsors while keeping an eye on his busy twoyear-old son, Nicholas. (A second son is

Like the time spent on the picket line, he deems the festival worth his full attention - and he hastens to give credit to the Warriors who give it theirs.

"It's never been about me — it's all about community, and what kind of commitment we have in the community. We think all our people deserve the 'red carpet' treatment," Price says during a fiveminute respite between handshakes, phone calls and the cause of the day

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# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

the fiscal years 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1996. DIC is a nonprofit American Indian Organization dedicated to improving the health and socio-economic status of American Indians living in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. DIC was established in 1971 by a group of American Indians and non-Indians. The purpose of DIC is to provide support to American Indians relocating to the Dallas/Ft. Worth metroplex area. Emphasis is placed on helping them with their transition from rural/reservation life to urban living. Governed by an urban-Indian controlled Board of Directors, the center is funded through grants and contracts with the federal government, the State of Texas and

DIC received the following contracts, grants and awards for fiscal years 1993, 1994,

1995 and 1996: Urban Medical and Dental (Indian Health Service - Contract) Alcohol/Substance Abuse (Indian Health Service - Grant)
Urban Mental Health (Indian Health Service - Grant) Immunization (Indian Health Service - Grant)

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (Indian Health Service - Grant)
Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (State of Texas CSGB Grant)

Job Training Partnership Act (Department of Labor Grant)
Women, Infants and Children (State of Texas Grant) Indian Child Welfare Act (Bureau of Indian Affairs Grant) Federal Emergency and Management Act (United Way Award)

Time/Working/Reporting Requirements: The audits for fiscal years 1993, 1994, 1995 need to be completed at a rapid pace due to a lack of time. The audits for 1993 and 1994 need to be completed simultaneously. The audits for 1995 and 1996 need to be completed simultaneously as well. The fiscal year end is June 30. The audit must comply with the Government Accounting Standards, Government Auditing Standards, Circular A-133 ("Audits of Institutions of Higher Education and other Nonprofit Entities"), Circular A-122 ("Cost Principles for Nonprofit Organizations"), Single Audit Act and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

> For more information contact: Dallas Inter-Tribal Center Accounting Director - Michael J. Tydiaska, CPA 209 East Jefferson Dallas, Texas 75203



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## January 1

The Dallas Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators is accepting applications for scholarships. Students are eligible to apply if they are high school seniors or college students majoring in journalism, photojournalism, advertising public relations or graphic arts. The deadline for submitting the application is February 1, 1998. For more information or an application call 817-654-6315.

The African American Museum, Fair Park, Dallas, presents "A Folk Fantasy" (carvings, blues and paintings) on dis-play through February 28, 1998, featur-ing the "Bottle Tree Sculpture" created by the students of the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing Arts. Also on display through January 18, 1998 is "First I Look at Wood!": Animal Carvings by Isaac Smith, For more information call Liz Lawless at 214-565-9026, ext.

## January 2

The Irving Black Arts Council and the Irving Arts Center presents an exhibition celebrating African American History Month featuring works by Burl Washington, Eddie Dixon, Annette Lawrence, Lionel Lofton, Reggie Unisimba and ruru Esune via Miurando January 2-February 17 at the Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd, Irving. Call 972-252-7558 for more information.

Nominations are now being accepted for the Volunteer Center's 1998 Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Awards, presented for work done in Dallas County during 1997. Categories are adult individual, adult group, youth individual, youth group, large and small business, disabled, education, lifetime service and volunteer coordinator. Nominations are due by January 30. Call Judy Clapp or Jennifer Myers at 214-826-6767, ext. 242 for more information.

# January 5

Faith & Power Ministry Church, 2120 N. St. Augustine Road, #126 at Bruton Road, Dallas presents "Leadership Conference '98," January 5-9. Services will be held at 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. each day. Dr. Carolyn Collins of Philadelphia, PA is the guest speaker. For more information call Pastor James Turknett at 972-329-1358 or 972-289-7729.

## January 6

The National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW), Dallas Chapter will hold its next meeting in the Trinity Room of the Center for Community Cooperation, 2900 Live Oak Street, Dallas. There will be an opportunity to elect 1998 officers. For more information call Dawn Taylor at 214-388-8139 or Tangla Autry at 214-823-5700, ext. 239.

#### January 8

The general body meeting of the National Association of Health Service Executives (NAHSE) will be held at Children's Medical Center, 1935 Motor Street, Dallas. The speaker will be Lajuana Barton from the office of Texas State Senator 214-640-7629.

# January 9

The Malcolm X Community Council and the Malcolm X Advisory Committee cordially invite you to attend the street unveiling of Malcolm X Boulevard, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and Malcolm X Blvd. (formerly Oakland Avenue). Light refreshments will be served at the Martin Luther King Senior Citizen Bldg. following the unveiling. For more information call Carolyn Davis at 214-428-1917 or Marvin Crenshaw at 214-421-0529.

#### January 13

The Southern Dallas Development Corporation, 1402 Corinth Street, Suite 1150, Dallas presents a Loan Application Workshop from 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. For more information call 214-428-7332.

## January 14

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

Young Audiences, Dallas premier arts-ineducation agency, will hold its annual preliminary auditions January 14-15 at the Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas. This is an open call for actors, dancers, musicians, painters and sculptors who will be trained to present programs in schools, libraries, juvenile facilities and community centers. Call 214-520-9988 to request an information packet and audition information.

The Plano Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Task Force hosts its annual weekend of events this month. A Plano Independent School District Program, which begins at 7:00 p.m. at the Plano Centre, kicks off the celebration. For more information call Fred Moses at 972-422-0012 or Don McKnight at 972-422-5615.

The Nathan Kenion Exhibit entitled "Art Meets Technology" runs January 15-February 21 at the South Dallas Cultural Center 3400 South Fitzhugh, Dallas. The exhibit features beautifully executed computer generated images. For more information call 214-939-ARTS.

## January 16

Community and business leaders will join to honor Dallas Black Dance Theatre founder Ann Williams at the 2nd Annual Founder's Luncheon, "Living the Dream," today at 11:30 a.m. at the Adam's Mark Hotel, 400 N. Olive Street, Dallas. The public is invited. For ticket information call the Dallas Black Dance Theatre at 214-871-2390.

The African American Museum, 3536 Grand Avenue in Dallas' Fair Park is

sponsoring a 20-Something Mixer from 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. For more information call the museum at 214-565-9026.

The LOVE CLINIC, the inspiring, energetic and infomative Christian relationship seminar based out of Jubilee United Methodist Church, is going on tour in 1998, and its first stop is Friendship West Baptist Church, 616 W. Keist Blvd., Dallas. This month's topic, "Temptations of the Christian Man," will be examined during the Bible-based forum, which runs from 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Friendhip West's powerful men's ministry "Operation BLACC" will co-sponsor this special session. For more information contact Dr. Sheron Patterson, Senior Pastor of Jubilee United Methodist Church, 301 Frank Keasler Blvd, Duncanville, at 972-283-2264.

how a group of funders decide who will be selected for their support. The cost is \$35 for members and \$55 for non-members. For more information call 214-826-3470, ext. 200.

The South Dallas Cultural Center 3400 South Fitzhugh, Dallas, presents a monthly jam session, from midnight to 3:00 a.m., which gives professional musicians an opportunity to get together and "jam" in a non-club environment. The music is as diverse as the musicians attending. This event is free and open to all "night-owls." A drum set and piano

"Your Friendly Neighborhood Glo



are provided. For more information call 214-939-ARTS.

# January 17

The Plano Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Task Force is sponsoring a parade which begins 10:15 a.m. at the Williams High School and ends at Plano City Hall. An 11:00 a.m. program with guest speakers will be held at City Hall followed by a free lunch at 12:00 noon served at the Douglass Center on 111 Ave. On January 18, a program featuring a community choir will be held at Williams High School. To participate in the parade call Rusty Wallace at 972-403-1898. For more information call Fred Moses at 972-422-0012 or Don McKnight at 972-422-5615.

The South Dallas Cultural Center 3400 South Fitzhugh, Dallas, is sponsoring Composers Showcase, a venue supporting the efforts of African American composers in a myraiad of musical genres. This month's featured composer is Bhakti (Reginald Shaw), a vocalist who fuses Hip-Hop/Rap with spirituality and transcendental meditation. For more information call 214-939-ARTS. Composers interested in participating should submit a demo tape, brief biography and program description to Steven Meeks, C/O South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 South Fitzhugh, Dallas, TX 75210.

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

The Dallas Museum of History, 3535 Grand Ave., in Fair Park, Dallas, presents "ID Day Family Fun Festival," from 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Over 50 specialists in various areas of natural history will be on hand to identify your UNHOs (Unidentified Natural History Objects). Kids under 12 who bring in an object to be identified get in free. Call 214-421-DINO for more information.

The Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is celebrating its Founders Day observance, 12:00 noon today at the Adam's Mark Hotel, 400 N. Olive St., Dallas. For more information call the Delta Hotline at 214-428-7400.

#### January 18

The Black Academy of Arts and Letters, 650 South Griffin Street, Dallas, presents Black Music and the Civil Rights Movement Concert, 7:00 p.m. at the Morton H. Meyerson Center, Dallas. This event is the 15th Annual Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and will feature 400 youth from the Metroplex performing the music of the Civil Rights Era. For more information call 214-743-2440 or 214-426-1683.

The Black Academy of Arts and Letters, 650 South Griffin Street, Dallas, will hold an opening reception at 9:00 p.m. for the exhibition "Painting with a Pencil: The Art of Nathan Jones". This exhibit, which runs through May 2, 1998, reflects the triumphs and tragedies of African American people and includes paintings, manuscripts, and military memorabilia recording the history of the Buffalo Soldiers. For more information call 214-743-2440 or 214-426-1683.

## January 19

The Plano Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Task Force is planning a full day of events at the Collin County Community College, 2800 E. Spring Creek Park-Breakfast moderated by State Senator Florence Shapiro will be held, followed by a youth panel discussion at 10:00 a.m. A Multi-cultural Celebration and Arts festival will be held at 11:30 a.m. in the John Henry Theatre. Afterwards, a free lunch will be served in the conference center. For more information call Fred Moses at 972-422-0012 or Don McKnight at 972-422-5615.

## January 20

Liberty Christian High School, the secondary school that integrates education-

al excellence and technology with Biblical truth, invites you and your student to attend Open House, at 7:00 p.m. on the school's campus, 10310 North Central Expressway (southeast corner of Meadow and Central in the Fellowship Baptist Church facility). Liberty is enrolling grades seven through eleven for Fall 1998. Call 214-361-5599 for more information.

## January 22

The Center for Nonprofit Management, 2900 Live Oak St., Dallas, presents "A Dialogue with African American Media" from 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Meet some of the most well-known African American representatives of the Dallas media and hear how you can market with them. The cost is \$10 for members and \$20 for nonmembers. For more information call 214-826-3470, ext. 200.

## January 24

The Pegasus Charter School, a secondary public school for the serious learner, will hold an open house January 24 and January 31 from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. at the school, 2121 Main at Central Expressway, Dallas. Application for enrollment will begin February 1 for 7th, 8th, and 9th graders. For more information call 214-742-9100.

Artist Nathan Jones joins the Black Academy of Arts and Letters, 650 South Griffin Street, Dallas, for a hands-on workpainting with a pencil. The workshop, which begins at 1:00 p.m. is free. For more information call 214-743-2440 or 214-426-1683.

# January 27

The Original King Kids of America, led by teacher Charmion Johnson Polk, will perform at the George W. Hawkes Central Library, 101 E. Abram Street, Arlington. The group will lead a program of spirituals, anthems, and patriotic songs interspersed with excerpts from Dr. Martin Luther King's speeches. Please call

817-459-6907 for free tickets and more information.

## January 28

The Black Academy of Arts and Letters, 650 South Griffin Street, Dallas, presents the film, The Black West by St. Clair Bourne. Bourne presents the historical and contemporary role African American cowboys played in the development of North America. Admission to the 8:00 p.m. performance is \$2.00. For more information call 214-743-2440 or 214-426-1683.

## January 30

The Dallas Black Dance Theatre presents the Black Cultural Awareness Series, January 30-February 1 at the Majestic Theatre, 1925 Elm Street, Dallas. This year's program will feature two new works as well as Chuck Davis' Homage to the Source: 'AFRICA' with African rhythms and live drummers. Tickets are available at TicketMaster at 214-373-8000 or call 214-871-2390 for more information.

# February 1

Soul Rep Theater Company is currently accepting submissions for its 3rd Annual New Play Festival to be held July/August 1998. Playwrights are encouraged to submit a one act play, no longer than 30 minutes to Soul Rep by March 1, 1998. Please send scripts, in p. P.O. Box 15175, Dallas, 75201, Attention: Festival Coordinator. For more information call 214-565-0186.



bal Communications Company."

NEE GREEK

# Diamonds in the rough

# Dallas CAN! Academy gives much-needed second chance to young mothers

By Kathleen Goolsby

"Why is my life like this?" When respond to love." teen mothers ask Deborah Abernathy that question, she answers, "We all action between the mothers and their make bad choices in life. But we need to schildren. During study breaks, they be like ducks—they shake the water off visit their children upstairs, and they

and go on, and it doesn't stop them. There are lessons to be learned in life. And when you fall down, if you can look up, you can get up!"

Miss A, as she is affectionately known to the mothers, young teaches self-esteem and etiquette classpre-employment work maturity classes, and parenting classes, as

well as high school equivalency degree Miss A. preparation, to teenagers who are pregnant or who have one or more small young ladies learn something from each other at the Dallas CAN! Academy's Families For Learning Program. Teachers work with the young mothers on a one-on-one basis to help them earn a high school degree, while their young children are at the daycare upstairs, receiving early childhood education and help in behavioral and social skills.

The mothers are aged 16 - 21; two of the 19-year olds each have four children, and one of the 16-year olds has more than one child. Most of them are estranged from their children's fathers. Some were molested when young. Nearly half of them are from economically disadvantaged families. Most of them enter the program at a fourth grade reading level. Some have contemplated suicide, and many have had problems with drug and alcohol abuse. Understandably, these students are dubbed by society as being "at risk," and many people believe these youth have no probability for success. Yet, during the 1995-1996 program year, the Families For Learning Program resulted in GEDs, full-time employment, college, and other other positive outcomes for 90.2% of these "at-risk" students! What makes the difference toward success? "Love!" says Abernathy. "Love

makes things grow. Dallas CAN! Academy really cares. 'At-risk' doesn't mean 'bad.' Any animal or any person will

The unique program features inter-

can eat lunch together. Wednesdays, they have PAC (parent and child) Activity Classes and, on Fridays, when Dallas CAN! Academy presents its students with awards for their achievements during the previous week, the mothers and children are together for the ceremony. "We're really a big family here," says



They are taught the importance of ang chen tekinaren de atanyi sa ene ikaan: ers can avoid absenses from the workplace. They are taught how to dress and carry themselves in a ladylike manner. UT-Southwestern teaches them about sexually transmitted diseases, and Miss A uses magazines to expose them to different things in life outside their current worlds (may have never even been to North Dallas or to a nice restaurant). Behavior modification techniques include a foul language piggybank. It may seem elementary but, Miss A explains, "just like their babies, they've got to crawl first." They are taught the importance of a career, rather than just a job; and, since AFDC will be cut in five years, these mothers are being taught alternatives. They even learn by interacting with and listening to the senior citizens upstairs at the YMCA.

"A change in you is a change in the world," Miss A tells the teens. And, before long, as the positive changes come about, some of the young mothers volunteer to go to area middle schools and talk to students about avoiding the same mistakes they made. Although they recognize their past mistakes, Miss A has also built their self esteem, teaching them that "everything in life has a season and a reason."

And everything in life has its place.

The Families for Learning Program is located at the Park South YMCA, 2500 Romine. Dallas CAN! Academy selected the site for its accessibility to the young mothers. The DART bus stops right at the front door, and Miss A and others often help the teen and their children off the bus.

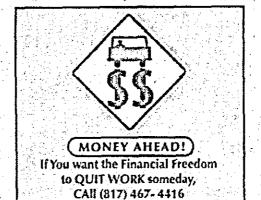
By building personal, loving relationships with the teens, the Dallas CAN! Academy teachers, counselors and aides help the young mothers to progress in education and become successful. But there are other challenges to be met. The program currently needs positive role models to speak to the young mothers. Their greatest need is for funds for child care after they graduate from the program; they are often hired at entry-level salaries and cannot afford daycare while they work.

Every day in the program puts these young mothers further along on the road to success, but every day is also a great challenge. When they become discouraged, from time to time, Miss A reminds the teens that "the Lord is looking down on you, and He'll pick you up. Remember: God didn't make no junk. You girls are diamonds in the rough and someday you'll be shining!"

MON

For more information, or to enroll, contact Debra Abernathy at 214-426-2243.

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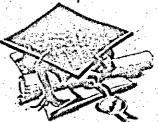
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# Chartering the way out of crisis

By Marie Sassaman

Doing things the way they've always been done has evolved into a crisis situation for our children in many public school systems. "Education should prepare kids for the future, and all children don't learn in the same way," explains Anitra Patterson, a board member of Dallas' Pegasus Charter School. "Some school districts have lost sight of the children's education and are embroiled in political controversies. The kids deserve better! Charter schools offer the freedom to explore and improve the way things are done; they're free from bureaucracy and can be innovative." Even though they do not have children who would be attending the school, yet believing that "education should be exciting, and the kids are worth it," Patterson and others concerned with the quality of education, made application for a Texas charter school and formed a non-profit organization as the school's governing body.

Albert Curlin, an African American seventh grade student at Pegasus Charter School, "was successful in school — he was a "B" student," explains his mother. "But," she adds, "he was shy and timid. Now he is making A's, and he is coming out of his shyness. At Pegasus, he is maturing and learning to make decisions. They do fun projects there — for instance, he built a model of a log cabin; usually he would have asked for help, but he is learning responsibility there, and he did it all himself. In that school, they don't just teach by the books," she explains. 'And they're teaching him Latin, and Karate, and other subjects not taught in other schools." Albert says, "I like to go to school now; we go on great field trips, and we do fun projects." His mother is pleased that Albert is excited about school and comes home and talks to her about what he is learning. His parents enrolled him when Pegasus opened in the Fall of 1997, not only because they felt it would provide a safer and more wholesome atmosphere for their son, but also because of the vast resources available to this particular school, due to its downlocation.

Every charter school in Texas has a different focus. "For Pegasus, it is liberal arts and the sciences, through an interdisciplinary approach and the use of Downtown Dallas resources," explains Virginia Lanen, chairman of the board. The approach allows them to learn skills, not just facts. The students take a math/science block in the mornings, followed by a humanities/literature/English block. They use the Dallas Public Library, the Dallas Museum of Art, the pottery lab at Cedar Valley College and other available resources; and Dallas police and DART personnel have worked with the students - Downtown Dallas is a huge "lab" for Pegasus students. Lanen says this "allows them to learn in different environments; and after all, learning occurs wherever you are, and we're developing life-long learners. It also teaches them to function in a grown-up world and in the public eye and to be good neighbors and good citizens." The board makes curriculum decisions and plans the corresponding special projects. As the kids studied history, they built model log cabins; they also built model steamships and then raced them in the pond at City Hall.

The name of the school was selected to reflect downtown; the flying horse of mythology, Pegasus, has long been a landmark and symbol of the heart of Dallas. Pegasus represents the arts and is a symbol of soaring and achieving heights. The downtown location was chosen partly because the board wanted the school's student population to reflect the diversity of the city. Lanen explains, "We want children of all races and backgrounds to attend. Diversity is very important; they need to learn and benefit from each other. These children are our future, and they need to be naturally involved with each other." The current 101 students do reflect diversity; 30.7 percent are Hispanic, 23.3 percent are African American, 1 percent are Native American, and 45 percent are Anglo American.

Jesse Oliver, one of three African Americans on the eight-member Pegasus board, encourages parents of Dallas children to take advantage of all that Pegasus offers. He says, "There are misperceptions about charter schools. They are not intended to drain public dollars from existing public schools, nor are they an effort to move quality education away from accessibility to inner-city youth. These schools can meet students' needs in a different way. Ignoring their existence will make them become what people misperceive they are. Parents should look into what the school offers."

Is Pegasus Charter School the answer for every student? Lanen admits there has been some attrition during the first semester. "It's a different environment. There are no organized sports events, and there are not yet a lot of elective subjects. Although the school held a holiday party/dance in December, there are currently very few extracurricular activities; the kids are there to learn.

Pegasus is designed for the serious student, and attitude and dedication are very important. Parents should look at the program and decide if it is a good 'fit' for their children." There is a good mix of new and experienced teachers, as well as individuals from the professional world. Classes are not self-paced, and they are small enough for teachers to take a proactive role with the kids and the parents. The school currently serves seventh through ninth grade and will add a grade (through the twelfth) each year. The students and parents already exposed to Pegasus are excited about the possibilities. In an increasingly complex world, the children attending Pegasus Charter School will receive a meaningful education to adequately prepare them for all that it will offer.

For information about The Pegasus Charter School, call

"Fun with Family & Friends Drawing Contest" (Aug-Dec, 1997)

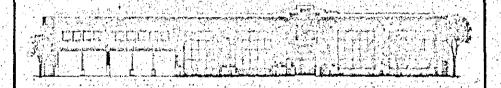
#### WINNERS LIST

There were no contest winners, no entries were received.

A special thanks to MON and all interested parties. This contest was an honest fund-raising effort conducted by Janice Deans, a private citizen.

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"Helping students learn how to learn, to think critically and logically about that learning, to develop well-reasoned thoughts, to effectively express those thoughts both orally and in writing, to accept personal responsibility for indi-vidual work and learning to work collaboratively with others on complex problems, and to inte-grate the learning from school with everyday

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# A time for giving

Business owners, community leaders honored at New Image Business Associates' 4th Annual Akinkanju Awards ceremony

New Image Business Associates (NIBA) held its Fourth Annual Akinkanju Awards last month honoring seventeen individuals for their selfless contributions to the community. Presented by keynote speaker Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson and Sanmi Akinmulero, president and founder of NIBA, the Akinkanju Awards represent "bravery and courage worthy of true community warriors." The awardees (listed below) were honored for Community Service, Entrepreneur of the Year, Corporate Support, Advocacy and Service Beyond Self and were described by their peers as pacesetters, community builders, unselfish givers and goodwill ambas-

In addition to the presentation of the Akinkanju Awards, nine entrepreneurs were recognized for the successful completion of "MOST IV," a ten-week comprehensive small business training program targeted for ethnic minorities. The Minority Opportunity Success Training

(MOST) serves as an educational tool for small business entrepreneurs who are posturing their busi-

nesses for sustained economic growth, profitability and advance-

Keynote speaker



Representative

Yvonne Davis.

State Representative Yvonne Davis and John P. Lester of Dynamic Staffing Services extended warm congratulations to

playing a vital role in the economic development of the city of Dallas. Akinmulero stressed that it is the community's obligation to help the MOST graduates reach their goals by giving them unconditional support and patronage. "The road to success is always under construction," he said. "Let's help them fulfill their mission

Those in attendance were also treated to a stellar performance by Gospel artist Carnell Murrell and Murrell & Company. Proceeds from the program, hosted by Scott West of V100/KRBV and Ketrana Bryant-Dawson of KHVN/Heaven 97, and chaired by Isabell Cottrell, benefited St. Anthony School, Our Brother's Keeper-NDUGU and the PTA of S.S. Conner Elementary School.

#### Akinkanju Awardees:

U.S. Congresswoman Community Service Award: Lee Eddie Bernice John- Alcorn, NAACP; Hollis Brashear, son (left) and State District 6 Dallas Public Schools Board Trustee; T.D. and Serita Jakes, The Potter's House, Joycelyn Johnson, KKDA/K104, KRNB

> Entrepreneur of the Year: Karl Butler, ICC Energy; Lyria Howland, Howland

the graduates and commended them for PR; Susan Lee, ALL-TEMPS Personnel Services; Joseph Scott, LLANO Con-

> Corporate Support: Linda Bell, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center; Martin Burrell, Dallas Area Rapid Transit; Ramona Carpenter, Bank of America; Clifton Miller, GTE; Byron Reed, Wells Fargo Bank

> Advocacy: Reginald Gates, Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce: Thurman Jones, Minority Opportunity News; Lee McKinney, Southern Dallas Development Corporation •

Service Beyond Self: Gerald Borders, Texas Instruments; Libbie Terrell Lee, Project 75216

#### **MOST IV Awardees:**

Margaret Moji Adeyemi, Moji Enterprises; Olly Timothy Aro, The Arrot Group; Rico Brown, T. Kayoe Designs and Screenprinting: Latrice Collins, Empowerment Press; Abdul Karriem, 1st United Mortgage; Rick Lucero, Hungry Horse Enterprises, Limited; Michael W. Runnels, Mailroom Services and Facility Management, Inc.; Mary Ukeni, M.U. Business Services and Ferelle Woodhouse, THINC Communications, Inc.

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Registration & vehicle inspection 8 - 9 a.m.





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# Family Life Fairy Street Mama

Not long ago, we discussed with two brothers how they got along and

what types of punishments they receive from their parents when they get into trouble. This month, I decided to ask two sisters from Garland what positive things do they do together, besides arguing, which is bound to happen in most families. Here is what they had to say.



#### KARVASHEA HAI-

LEY: "... Sometimes my sister gets .. but I'm not a baby either ... I play on my nerves and I have to put her

# Positive things siblings can do together

good I try to be nice to her and do the

things that she likes to do. Sometimes I even watch the dumb kids shows with her so she won't have to watch them by herself. But when I'm on the phone with one of my friends I don't want her around . . . but I usually make it up to her later because I do love her ... it just that she's still a little girl ... I know I'm not grown.

video games with her too . . . She's only six, but she knows how to write

out of my room, but when she is letters; and I help her with her homework, which is really

positive because it won't be so hard when she gets older...

#### RENEISHA

HAILEY: "I like to play dolls with my sister . . .sometimes she won't let me into her room and that makes me mad ... I like to watch TV in Renelsha, 6 years old her room and she lets

me . . . We make cookies sometimes and that's fun ... I like having a big sister...Sometimes."

Rivalry will always crop up

between sisters and brother — but kids, you have to realize that as long as you're all going to be in the same house together, you may as well try to get along. You will always need your family. There are many things

> that siblings can do together. You could play board games like Monopoly or Checkers and sporttype games outside in your yard or at a local park or school. Doing positive things with your brothers and sisters will teach you to get along with other when you, too, are adults.

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.

# Businessman focuses on opportunities, not obstacles

Stays positive despite loss of both legs

By Chris Pryer

"There was no doubt about me coming back. It was how I was coming back." Thus speaks James E. Pennick, living testimony to the adage that "you can't keep a good man down."

As an independent insurance agent who sells a variety of products

like universal life. TODID SIECHELI'S disability and health insur-Pennick is in a business that not only requires mobility demands it. Success in the insurance field depends on one's ability to network and prospect consistently. And James Pennick had always been committed to doing just that. "I was the best advertiser of myself. I was in everybody's restaurant and juke joint. You've got to sell yourself when you're in busi-

But two years ago Pennick's ability to get around and "advertise" was literally cut off when, after weeks of com-

plaining of pain in his feet, his doctor diagnosed gangrene in both of his legs. An acknowledged "borderline" diabetic, Pennick had been monitoring his condition (with the help of his wife Harriet, a former pediatrician and current director with Mary Kay Cosmetics) as best he could, but it was not enough. Both of his legs had to be amputated just below the knee.

"It has been very devastating for the most part," says Pennick, whose only son, J.K., was a junior in high school at the time of the amputation

and is now a freshman at Texas Southern University. Pennick was forced to close his business, at

least temporarily. Also

a licensed mortician - Pennick worked as a funeral director in East Texas when he first arrived from Philadelphia in 1983 before establishing his own insurance agency - he could no longer occasionally offer his expertise to a local funeral home as he had from time to time.

Now, after time to adjust to manipulating a wheelchair and learning how to use his prostheses, Pennick is primed and ready to tend to the business at hand — increasing his insurance clientele. He has opened an office in Richardson and is ready to service existing clients as well as procure new business.

Pennick relies on word-of-mouth advertising as well as running ads in Black newspapers. "With customers I've built in the past, some of them

know I'm back in business. Some don't. I'm still putting the word out."

Pennick, who plans to outfit his automobile so he can drive, does not spend time feeling sorry for himself. Wife Harriet says, "I'm amazed ... how he has bounced back. He is more positive than ever." Pennick holds no bitterness about his current condition and is determined to rebuild his business. "As long as I can get up in the morning, I can go make a dollar."

Name:	James E. Pennick
Birthplace:	Philadelphia, PA.
Favorite Food:	Soul Food
Last Book Read:	Secrets of Executive

My friends don't know that: "I'm a funeral director"

Advice to would-be entrepreneurs:

"Do what you say. Be honest. Never let uour customers she you sweat."



J.E. Pennick and Associates 2802 Foxboro Rd. Richardson, TX 75082 972-918-9646

# Violin virtuoso performs; small gymnast wins big

Six years of disciplined practice paid off for 12-year-old violin virtuoso James "Alex" Beebe. On December 18, 1997, James made his debut performance at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas' downtown arts district as part of The New Conservatory of Dallas, Symphony of Toys. Admission to the benefit performance was a new, unwrapped Christmas toy.



James Beebe

A recognized student of the Suzuki Violin program, James plays with a Dallas Public School orchestra, the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra Young Performers and the New Conservatory of Dallas. The critically-acclaimed, highquality music instruction of the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra Young Performers and the New Conservatory of Dallas programs is designed to instill in youth an excitement about music and cultivate music education throughout

the community. Both programs incorporate music theory and

James, a sixth grader at Sydney Lanier Elementary School in Dallas, is also an accomplished visual artist with artwork displayed in the Dallas Children's Museum and the Lyons' Club Foundation. He will return to the Meyerson Symphony Center, May 3, 1998 with the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestras, Young Performers Orchestra. Questions regarding James Beebe's Dallas performance schedule can be directed to his manager at 214-357-7053.

Olympic gymnast Dominque Dawes may have a few years (and a few more awards and medals) on Jennifer Taylor, but seven-year-old Jennifer is a strong competitor in her own right. A member of the Arlington Gymnastics Club, she took first place in the District II (which operates in the Dallas Fort Worth metroplex) "All-Around" gymnastics competition in November 1997 and earned the title 1997-98 District II Cham-



Jennifer Taylor

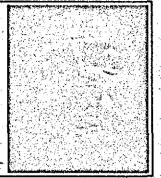
Her win enabled her to advance to the Semi-State finals held in Tyler, Texas where she placed seventh all around out of a field of 46 competitors. Later at the State Gymnastics Championship competi-

tion in Houston, Texas she placed eighth among 47 partici-

Jennifer, who has competed two years with the Arlington Gymnastics Club, began participating in team competition when she was only four and one-half years old. Although she practices up to 24 hours a week, the second grader is an "A" student at Fair Meadows Elementary School in Duncanville. Her three siblings, Treneise, Marian and David, and her parents, Trent and Marilyn Taylor, enthusiastically support her hobby and her ultimate goal — to become an Olympic gymnast.

# MON II Is Coming!!!

February "Black History Month"



# **Education For Today's Youth**

Article 1: TAAS Preparation

students attending public concentration. schools are required to pass ..... What can students ing on the reading and writ- Here are a few ideas: ing portions of the TAAS, shares information that can help students and their parents prepare for this important milestone in their academic program.

First, let's review, for reasons other than just the TAAS, why these capabilities are so essential. Reading is an important activity • because it allows you to experience the world "beyond your fingertips." It links you to people and places that may not be a part of your everyday life. It introduces you to new ideas and ways of communicating in writing. Similarly, good writers communicate their ideas in such a way that they are easily understood by a

There are many steps reader. To be a good writer, on the road to graduating you need to organize your from high school. In Texas, ideas clearly, logically, and one of these critical require- thoroughly; have consistent ments is the Texas Assess- control of the written lanment of Academic Skills, also guage; and be able to write referred to as the TAAS test. for a specific audience. Good The TAAS is designed to reading and writing skills are measure skills in three sub- closely related and both are ject areas: mathematics, developed through effort, reading, and writing. All practice, and a high level of

the TAAS before they can and parents do to improve receive a Texas high school performance on the TAAS diploma. This column, focus-reading and writing tests?

- Contact your local high school for information on preparing for the TAAS. There are several very helpful brochures and study guides, with sample questions, that are available through the schools.
- Encourage the reading of magazine and newspapers articles. In general, these are written at about the same reading level as the TAAS. Once finished, discuss the details and important

Journals can help students become comfortable with writing what they think. The daily routine of having to reflect and write about experiences and thoughts develops the ability to summarize important events and ideas.

- Parents should review examples of writing, including their own, with children. This provides a chance for parents to talk about writing with purpose, clarity, and proper grammar. Parents can also emphasizes reading and writing as essential lifelong skills.
- Participate in TAAS tutoring classes. Tutoring classes are conducted at a number of local high schools. These classes cover all areas of the TAAS and can also provide helpful test taking hints. Check with your school counselor for information on these ses-

Although students points to ensure that you will not take the exit level have a good and accurate test until they are in the tenth understanding of what grade, their chances of success are increased by starting Write in a daily journal. preparations now.

Presented by:



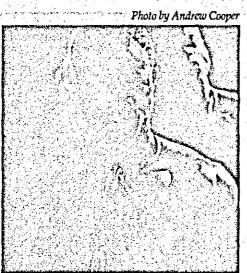
February

Suggestions for the Mathematics portion of the TAAS

# Amistad

Freedom is not given. It is our right, at birth. But there are moments in time when it must be taken.

In the summer of 1839, on a stormy night off the coast of Cuba, 53 Africans held captive in the cramped cargo holds of the Spanish slave ship La Amistad break free of their shackles. Led by Cinque (Djimon Hounsou), they



Djimon Hounsou as Cinque

arm themselves, take control of the ship and reclaim their freedom. They have one goal—to return to Africa.

Without the navigational skills to guide them home, the Africans are forced to rely on the two surviving members of the crew. But they are tricked.

After two months on a ragged course up the Eastern seaboard, the Amistad is captured by an American naval ship off the coast of Connecticut, and the Africans are charged with murder and piracy.

In the beginning, the Africans are championed by abolitionists Theodore Joadson (Morgan Freeman) and Lewis Tappan (Stellan Skarsgard), and a young real estate attorney named Roger Baldwin (Matthew McConaughey). However, as the case becomes the symbol of a nation divided, two great Americans lock horns in the debate. Pro-slavery President Martin Van Buren (Nigel-Hawthorne), seeking re-election, is willing to sacrifice the Africans to appease the South, as well as Queen Isabella of Spain (Anna Paquin). But his will is challenged by former President John Quincy Adams (Anthony Hopkins), who comes out of retirement to fight the Africans' cause in the United States Supreme Court.

It is a case that challenges the very foundation of our legal system; but for the African captives on trial, this is not a clash of politics or ideologies. This is a fight for the basic right of all mankind... freedom.

Amistad, directed by Steven Spielberg, is rated "R" for some scenes of strong brutal violence and some related nudity. The movie opened December 12, 1997 at theaters everywhere.

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**Book Review** Angela

Washington-Blair, Ph.D.

By Lorraine Monroe Times Books/\$23

If you're an educator frustrated with mediocrity in your classroom, or if you are in any type of leadership position, then you must read this month's book review selection. In fact, instead of pep rallies, all Dallas Public School employees and board members should read this book. This book is about making a difference in young people's lives. It will provide wisdom and give readers impetus for change. School board members, administrators, principals, teachers, and any other adults who impact students' education should have that as their primary goal.

Written by Dr. Lorraine Monroe, an educator, Nothing's Impossible provides lively and literate lessons on leadership; working from the heart; attitude; perseverance; being an idealist in a less-than-ideal world; teaching and learning; pursuing excellence; making things new; the human touch; inner strength; and what Dr. Monroe calls the heart of the matter.

Dr. Monroe, if you remember, was featured in a 60 Minutes segment that profiled the school she founded in New York City's Harlem, Frederick Douglass Academy. This public, inner-city school has not only attained academic excellence among its students, but the school itself is still going strong. Its graduates have excelled, even at Ivy League colleges. Much of that success is owed to Dr. Monroe, who has over thirty years of experience as a teacher and administrator in the New York City Public Schools.

If anyone says poor inner-city children cannot become successes—if anyone says that African American children are at the bottom of the Bell curve, then Dr. Monroe's story will quickly dispel those myths. Monroe herself grew up in Harlem's oft-mean streets. From her father she inherited energy, joy and daring, but that was a mixed blessing. That's because her father was violent and abusive. Her parents separated, and Lorraine's courageous mother diligently worked to support the family. From her mother she inherited rhythm, predictability, ritual, and endurance. All of this combined to make her the leader she would grow to

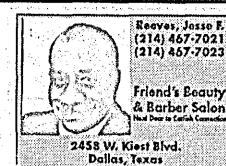
# Nothing's Impossible Leadership Lessons from Inside and Outside

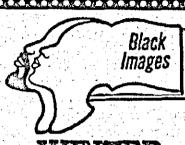
the Classroom

Dr. Monroe enrolled at Hunter Colcaused her to succeed at every school to lege, in New York City, to study premedicine. At the urging of a counselor, who brought to her attention her failing grades in some crucial science courses, changed her major to education. I must confess that I was a little taken aback by this after reading about her spunkiness and determination. I was surprised that she opted to change instead of working harder at the science classes. But, then again, realizing one's strengths and weaknesses is important in choosing a career. Dr. Monroe, as we now know, did the world of education a great favor by choosing to obtain her teaching cre-

Dr. Monroe's ability to hire staff who would, like her, transform the lives of poor, disadvantaged, "at-risk" children is one of the elements that which she was assigned. In Leadership Lessons, Dr. Monroe not only provides a stirring testimony to how she encouraged nothing but the best from her staff and students, but she also gives us insight into what she aptly calls "The Monroe Doctrine." For instance, she says, "A good leader knows that it's time to move on long before her followers." This is a

bit of advice she's followed - she's no longer principal of that model Academy but is now director of the School Leadership Academy, "a new program to teach strategies for innovation and excellence to principals and school administrators." Couldn't Dallas' school leaders use something like this to infuse some new life into the school district? Couldn't hurt.





# WINTER **FORECASTS**

Terry McMillan will autograph her bestselling book, How Stella Got Her Groove Back.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17 • 3-5 pm Josh Stroud, a local fitness trainer, will share fitness tips.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24 • 3-5 pm ocal author, A. Faye Boykin, will discuss and autograph her book, No Testimony Without A Test. The book moves one from hurting to healing and transforms life's pain into power.

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 25 • 3-5 pm Kente Cloth: Southwest Voices -African Diaspora various authors will share their essays and poetry.

MONDAY, JANUARY 26 • 6-8 pm George Fraser, author of Success Runs in Our Race, will discuss and sign his latest book, Race for Success.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3 • 6-8 pm Franklin White, a new author, will discus and autograph his first novel, Fed Up With The Fanny.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6 • 6-8 pm Diane McKinney-Whitstone, author of the bestselling novel, Tumbling, will read from and autograph her latest book. Tempest Rising.

Attention book clubs, organizations and individuals: If your group or family would like to host an author or plan an event, please call Black Images at: 214-043-0142 or 800-272-5027.

Black Images extends wishes for a happy and prosperous 1998 to all MON readers

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# You and Your Money John Dudley

To the novice investor, the increasing number of investment choices available can seem confusing. Most financial advisors agree that you should follow a few basic steps when getting started in investing:

1. DETERMINE YOUR FINANCIAL OBJECTIVES. There are many reasons for investing. Some of the most common include: earning more current income; building your net worth; saving for a home, college education for children or your retirement; and reducing your tax burden.

Each of these objectives suggests different investment strategies and different types of investments. For example, if you want more current income, you might do better with a fixed income investment, such as a bond, rather than a growth company stock.

2. UNDERSTAND YOUR CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION. Calculate your net worth by adding up all of your assets (value of your home, personal property, investments, bank accounts,

# Investing: How to get started

pension/profit-sharing plans, etc.) and then subtract your liabilities (money you owe for such things as mortgages, car loans, credit card debt and other bills).

If most of your assets are in real estate (which is true for many people), you may need to convert your investments to cash in an emergency. Therefore, you may not want to invest in long-term instruments. However, if you have assets that can be converted easily to cash (e.g., money market funds or stocks), you might want to invest longer-term for a higher return.

Similarly, you should calculate an annual household budget by adding up all of your income for the year (salary, interest and dividends on investments, distributions by pension/profit-sharing plans, alimony) and then subtracting your regular, essential expenses (mortgage or rent payments, food, utilities, clothing, etc.) The balance is the amount you have to spend on personal uses, such as vacations and gifts, or to invest.

3. UNDERSTAND YOUR TOLER-ANCE FOR RISK. Most investments have some measure of inherent risk. If you have sufficient assets and income, you might be willing to accept greater risk in exchange for a potentially larger gain. However, if you cannot afford to lose your investment principal, you probably should consider low-risk investments which, while relatively safe, usually do not earn a high return.

4. UNDERSTAND YOUR INVEST-MENT. Before you invest, you should understand how the investment works. If, for example, you want to buy the common stock of a company, take the time to learn about the company and the industry (or industries) in which it operates by reading the company's annual report or an analyst's research report about the company.

Likewise, a mutual fund may seem to be a simple investment because your money will be managed by professionals. However, you should know such things as the fund's performance over the short- and long-term compared with that of other funds, the investment objectives and strategy (what the fund invests in stocks, government bonds, municipal bonds, etc.), and what your costs will be to invest or withdraw your money. These questions usually are answered in the fund's PROSPECTUS.

5. SEEK PROFESSIONAL ADVICE. As briefly outlined above, there are many things you should know before you invest. An experienced financial advisor can help you at every step—from helping you set financial goals, to explaining various investments, to helping you monitor the success of your account.

As with your investments, be sure you understand how a financial advisor will charge for his or her services, and select an advisor who is comfortable with your objectives. Some advisors will work only with aggressive, high-risk investors, while other advisors are well suited to long-term, security-conscious individuals.

If you take the time to understand your financial situation, set reasonable goals, and work with a qualified financial advisor, your initial experience with investing should be successful.

MON

John Dudley is a financial advisor with Prudential Securities. He can be contacted at 214-761-5142.



<u>Health &</u>
<u>Fitness</u>
Tyrone Caldwell

# The benefits of exercise

Let's take a look at the problem most of us have with weight control. A person,s body weight is determined by what he or she eat (calories consumed), versus how much food (calories) his or her body burns up. So, the more food you eat, the more calories you consume. But all foods are not created equal. For example, fats have more calories than carbohydrates and proteins.

The number of calories a person burns up during the day depends on that person's metabolism and physical activity. Metabolism is simply the rate by which food is broken down in the body to maintain basic physiological processes, such as thinking, breathing, heart rate, digestion and body (muscle) activity at rest. Everyone's metabolism rate is different but, under normal conditions, one's metabolic rate can be maintained with very low caloric intake.

For calories to be burned up during the day, you must expend physical activity. Therefore, if your caloric intake is greater than your physical activity, you will gain weight; but if your physical activity is greater than the calories consumed, you will lose weight. Now, problems begin with the many foods we eat that are high in calories and very low in nutritional value. Many people have a hard time maintaining an ideal body weight because of their low amount of day-to-day physical activity. The result is an increase in body weight (fat). Obese people have a tendency to participate less in social events and physical activity. Regular exercise increases the amount of calories expended and helps decrease excess body weight.

We now know that regular exercise helps to reduce the chance of cardiovascular (heart) disease. Cardiovascular fitness is usually low in individuals who lead a sedentary lifestyle. Cardiovascular fitness means "the ability to carry out daily tasks with vigor and alertness without undue fatigue and with ample energy to engage in leisure-time pursuits, and to meet the above-average physical stress encountered in emergency situations." Exercise will train the heart to respond to stress conditions by increasing cardiac output (amount of

blood the heart pumps per minute), and lowering the heart rate. The hearts of individuals who exercise regularly pump more blood per stroke at a slower rate than their sedentary counterparts. This saves the heart from being overworked unnecessarily, actually adding years to your life and life to your years.

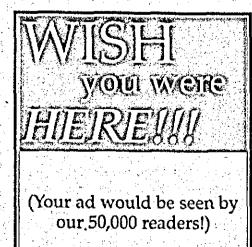
There has been a great deal of research done on the correlation between obesity and cardiovascular disease. Your chances for having diabetes, strokes and cancers are increased when you are overweight. By increasing your physical activity, the probability of developing such diseases is greatly decreased. Another important benefit of regular exercise is the increased energy level one receives. Exercise will have an effect on the mind as well as the body; this goes a long way in helping one's outlook on life.

Finally, exercise on a regular basis is an excellent way to meet positive people — people who have a common interest of developing a healthy mind and body, people who have a common respect for each other, since they realize that they are all trying to achieve a similar goal of improving their health. After all, those who care enough to take care of themselves are concerned individu-

als. If they are disciplined enough to participate in exercise on a regular basis, then they are disciplined enough to take on responsibilities. This may be a person who could become a life-long friend, or a business partner. The message is clear. We need physical exercise to maintain a healthy life. Your heart, lungs, muscles, bones, joints, and psyche will all benefit.

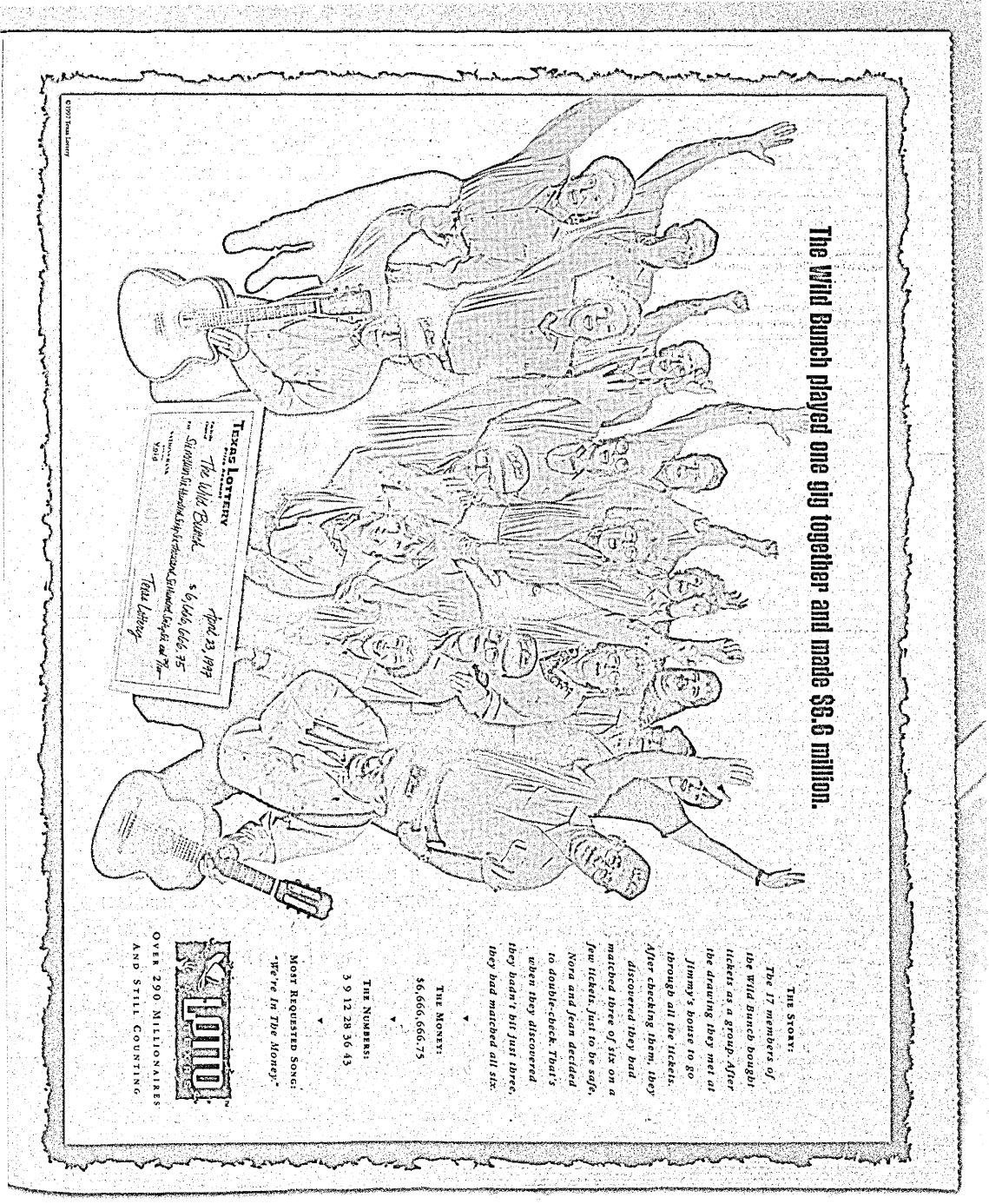
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Tyrone Caldwell is a certified personal trainer in the Dallas/Fort Worth area and the founder of Bodies in Motion, which provides one-on-one and group personal training. For more information call 817-457-1537.



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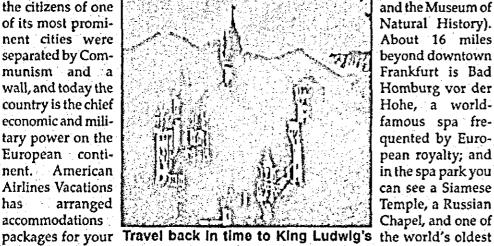
for information



# Germany: Not just a place to drink beer

To set foot on Germany's soil is to be where a great many of history's significant people and events were centered. It is the country that started World War II and later surrendered to end the war. It the yellow-green Danube River. was the site of Martin Luther's reformation of the Catholic church; it was the birthplace of Goethe, home to the fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm; and Adolf Hitler established his dictatorship there.

For a generation, the citizens of one of its most prominent cities were separated by Communism and a wall, and today the country is the chief economic and military power on the European conti-American nent. Airlines Vacations arranged accommodations four of Germany's



pleasure in visiting Neuschwanstein Castle.

famous cities. American's "City Sprees" include in Munich, Berlin, Frankfurt, and Dusseldorf; buffet breakfasts are included in several of the packages, and several of the hotels offer a free fourth or sixth

At the edge of the Alps and surrounded by lakes, sits the capital of Bavaria, Munich. Sporting activities abound in Munich, (and the Olympic Park remains), but the city is especially known for its art and culture. Its museums are world famous. The National Museum of Bavaria offers a walk through the history of European art. The Deutsches Museum is the largest museum of science and technology in the world. Inside, you can see a fossil of an ichthyosaur, Wernher von Braun's first rocket, the first Benz motor vehicle, a coal mine and a planetarium, and even an alpha particle in a cloud chamber. Don't miss Munich's richly decorated churches hundreds of years old; the open-air market with international produce; the 900acre English Garden; nor the 13th century Wittelsbach residence, which is the first palace of the Bavarian dukes. Munich is a leading center for education in Germany, has one of the largest libraries in the world, has more publishing houses and television/movie studios than any other European country, and is home to BMW; yet, it has the atmosphere of a quaint village. Visitors enjoy strolling on warm days among the icecream parlors, pizzerias, cafes and discos, seeing and being seen along the fabled artists' district. Or you may consider taking side trips for a day in the Alps, the Bavarian forest, or a boat down

Attractions in Frankfurt include the Zoo, the Main River Promenade, a botanical garden, eight side-by-side museums (including the German Film Museum, the Architecture Museum, the Museum

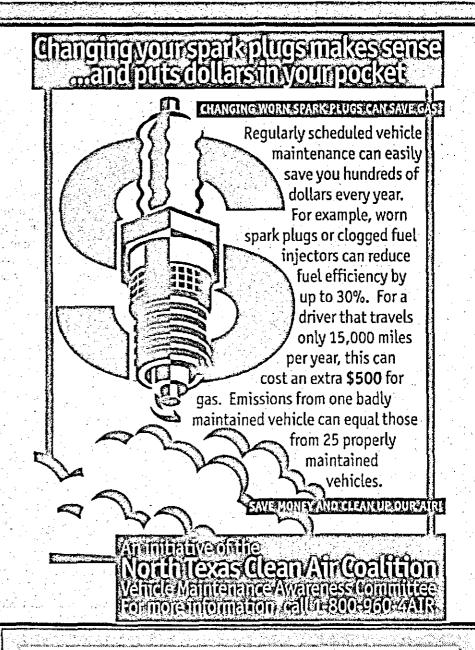
of Arts and Crafts, and the Museum of Natural History). About 16 miles beyond downtown Frankfurt is Bad Homburg vor der Hohe, a worldfamous spa frequented by European royalty; and in the spa park you can see a Siamese Temple, a Russian Chapel, and one of gambling casinos. Kronberg, a town

half an hour from downtown Frankfurt, is home to a completely furnished castle dating from 1230; much of the town's medieval character is preserved.

If you enjoy shopping, you'll love Duesseldorf's Koenigsalle (the "Ko") and KaDeWe, the shopping center in Berlin.

It would take weeks to see all of the treasures in Berlin, but casual vacationers will certainly want to see Charlottenburg Schloss (an 18th century castle, with its collections of paintings and china; the Egyptian Museum (with 1,500 objects from ancient Egyptian dynasties); the Brandenburg Gate (modeled after a gate on the Acropolis); the Funkturm (a radio tower resembling the Eiffel tower); and the Teufelsbert (built on the rubble of demolished buildings after World War II. Berlin is a 24-hour city and has over 4,000 restaurants and pubs which never close. Lovers of music and theatre are drawn to Berlin; its cultural life includes the worldfamous Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, as well as Berlin Jazz Days, and the International Film Festival.

American Airlines Vacations has selected hotels in the heart of these cities to fit your budget and needs and, as an American Airlines Vacations Customer, you will enjoy a high standard of customer service and comfort. Call your travel agent or American Airlines at 1-800-321-2121 for more details and reservations to Germany.



# On Our Sixth Anniversary

We at Minority Opportunity Acms want to thank Midway Press for excellent service and quality in printing Minority Opportunity News from the premiere issue to this issue! We are looking forward to working together in the future!

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# Center assists small manufacturing firms

#### By Glenda Williams Goodson

What comes to mind when you think of manufacturing? Widgets and sprockets, industry giants such as General Motors? Surprisingly, I found that manufacturing is anything that adds value to products. An Internet search of area manufacturers identified a diverse manufacturing community: ADI (Dallas), a manufacturer of D-subminiature connectors; Davis Apparel (Dallas), a 100% minority woman-owned business entering its 32nd year producing industrial and corporate apparel; Double Seal Ring Co. (Ft. Worth), that processes piston rings for engines and compressors; General Electrodynamics Corporation (Arlington), a complete manufacturer of electromechanical devices such as portable vehicle scales, electronic equipment; and Lewis Label Products (Fort Worth), a commercial printer for companies such as Decker Foods, Mattel Toys and AGC Cars.

The Labor Department says that the U.S. added 404,000 nonfarm jobs in November, driving the overall jobless rate down to 4.6%, the lowest level since October 1973. Manufacturing jobs are one engine driving unemployment rates down, and Dallas/Fort Worth boasts a thriving home to plenty of manufacturing jobs. There are 6,900 identified small manufacturing companies in Texas (anything from a one-person shop to a company with as many as, but no more than, 500 employees). Sixty-five percent of those jobs are located in the region defined as the Metroplex (18 counties surrounding, and including the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth) Manufacturing jobs have an annual payroll of \$3.5 billion and account for 21.40% of wages paid in 1996. Statewide, 1992 figures show that the average manufacturing job pays \$522.91 per week.

With the creation of a new state agency, manufacturing companies now have a friend and advocate to assist them in further growth. The Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center (TMAC) began operations 18 months ago, and its mission is to provide affordable technical assistance tailored for small manufacturers. It is an initiative of the Texas Commerce Department, affiliate of the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The main beneficiaries could well be minorityowned businesses.

Two characteristics distinguish Drew Casani, TMAC's Regional Director, from other agency heads: his passion for getting more small businesses up and running and an activist's zeal for helping companies realize increased profitability. He is a senior executive with 30 years.

experience in general management, strategic planning, business development, total quality and program management. He states that "the manufacturing industry has one of the highest growth rates in the country, and we want to make small manufacturing companies globally competitive." Casani is optimistic that companies will take the opportunity to increase costs, decrease lead time, integrate technology, customize training and plan for growth.

The folks at TMAC think that manufacturing longevity and success depends on growth and improvement. With assistance from TMAC, small manufacturers have the resources not only to strengthen existing operations, but also to expand market share. For instance, one company currently taking advantage of what TMAC has to offer is Witten Manufacturing of Grand Prairie, Texas. With 22 employees and a growing plant, Witten Manufacturing is a growing force in the cable supply industry. After opening their doors in 1987, the African American female-owned company is out to prove itself with an ambitious plan to become a major supplier of flight cables. At the center of their expansion is TMAC, which is helping them in their quest and keeping these jobs in the U.S. by providing quality services to their customers. A spokesman for Witten states that they look forward to working with TMAC as they continue to

TMAC has helped plants with cost budgeting, process management, improvement, vendor search, facility reducing, down time and cost reduction. "We've just started at Witten," says Jamie Johnson, a TMAC field engineer, "and the first step we will take to make their plant more efficient is to streamline their layout." Johnson, a former TI manufacturing engineer, first looks at the actual process with a view toward a reduction in cycle time. "The simple effort of how something moves through the factory can enhance productivity and reduce costs," says Johnson. An African American, Johnson feels that more minority-owned businesses should take advantage of the resources available to them.

With a 3.5% industry growth rate, Casani and the TMAC team feel that more people should give a nod to manufacturing careers. "We need to stress that our youth constantly and continually get an education. They need to know basic math, how to write . . . Manufacturers needs persons with technical education, industrial course work, individuals with degrees in engineering, "Johnson agrees. For example, we are currently experiencing a communications boon. Manufac-

turers needs individuals at all levels to keep those jobs here in the U.S."

TMAC is currently working to create more awareness of the assistance it can offer. The Dallas office is located in the Bill J. Priest Center on Corinth (phone 214-860-5757). Field Manager Johnson says that "We want small companies to know how to access whatever assistance is available to them. To be competitive, they will have to take opportunities provided to them free of charge." For example, while TMAC does not provide direct loans, when a company enters its system, a staff of financial consultants walks them through creating business plans and financial sheets for recommendation to banks and other financial institutions. Johnson further states that "there are SMART Funds available to small companies for training purposes." These funds are not based on need, and many larger companies have received up to \$100,000 for training their employees when they relocate to the state of Texas. "Most small companies are not aware that the money is available to them also. They need to take advantage of it." TMAC will tell you where you can access these funds. The

agency aided a small manufacturer of oil field measurement tools in receiving \$80,930 in training money after they received an outsourcing control from Sperry-Sun Industries.

You may be a print shop owner who needs a hand at stopping your profit drain, a company with a need for a training program, or maybe you're getting ready to build a new plant. If you are considering ways to increase your revenue stream, it would do you well to get to know the folks at TMAC. The Metroplex Regional Office serves the following counties: Collin, Cooke, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Earth, Grayson, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Palo Pinto, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, Tarrant and Wise. The office is located at the University of Texas at Arlington, Automation & Robotics Research Institute, 7300 Jack Newell Boulevard, South, Ft. Worth, Texas 76118. Their phone number is 817-272-5922 and e-mail address is: metroplextmac@tmac.org. You may also visit TMAC's web site http://www.tmac.org.

MON

# Interfirst Sales and Leasing offers comfort and easy financing

If you think car ownership is an up with just the ones that are the easiest to impossible dream due to credit problems or moderate income, Interfirst Sales and Leasing has a deal for you. Offering an excellent selection of 1994 or newer cars still under factory warranty, Interfirst sells vehicles by Honda, Nissan, Toyota, Mazda, Lexus, Infiniti and Acura from its indoor show-

"We have financing options to meet practically every need—good credit, bad credit, no credit," says finance manager R. Paul Curtis who merged his business, AutoFinders, with Interfirst approximate-

ly one year ago. "We work hard and know all the tricks of the trade."

Unlike franchise auto dealers, Interfirst Sales and Leasing welcomes customers who have had little success with traditional car financing. "Franchise dealerships sometimes have a hundred loan applications in a week," says Curtis. "They will look through them and come

work with. But we're a special financing department. We probably have a 70% approval rate."

Although applicants should have a job and a three-year work history, Curtis says Interfirst Sales and Leasing can work with just about anybody. With a reputation for success, the company even has a formal

arrangement with salespeople at seven different dealerships. When these dealerships can't get approval through their financing resources, applicants are referred to interfirst.

In addition, satisfied customers or others who refer car buyers to Interfirst are eligible for a \$100 referral bonus when a car is purchased.

While Interfirst does not provide an on-premise service department, it makes service and warranty referrals to Dallas Roadster on North Central Expressway at Spring Valley Road in Dallas, where Interfirst customers are given the red-carpet treatment.

To get on the road to car ownership, call R. Paul Curtis at 972-716-0828. Interfirst Sales and Leasing, located at 4254 Spring Valley Road, Dallas, TX 75244, is open 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Saturdays, and by appointment on Sundays.



## On Real Estate **Curtis Yates**

Many of us will go through the year of 1998 without accomplishing our home-buying dreams, especially not having had assistance from such a program as Enterprise Foundation. Enterprise Foundation is a nonprofit organization that administers funds (via the City of Dallas ) used to assist low- to moderateincome, first-time homebuyers to acquire housing. For most of the year, there weren't any funds to be administered by Enterprise Foundation because a new allotment of funds had not been made available to the organization. Recently more funds were allocated by the City of Dallas, to be administered by Enterprise Foundation to be used for down payment, as well as closing costs assistance for qualified home buyers. There are, of course, certain guidelines that prospective borrowers must adhere to (see

However, these programs are limited to first-time homebuyers earning 80 percent or less of the Dallas area median income adjusted by family size. The amount of second-lien funds that can be received is based on the financial need of the borrower. Need is determined by total household income of adults over the age of 18 (unless a full-time student between the ages of 18-22) and amount of savings after closing. Adult dependents must have supporting documenta-

Borrowers earning 80 percent or less of the Dallas area median income can obtain up to a 20 percent second-lien loan. You can use the following income guidelines below to determine income qualification. These income guidelines have been adjusted by family size. Bor-

# Enterprise Foundation

# A Nonprofit Organization for potential homebuyers

rowers' dependents who will not be living in the house being purchased may not be counted toward family size. Bor-

during such years, worked primarily without pay to care for the home and family and is unemployed or underem-

MAXIMUM INCOME LIMIT TABLE  (80 percent of Median Income for up to 20 percent second lien loan)
Family Size 2 3 4
Annual Income \$29,288 \$33,472 \$37,656 \$41,840
Family Size 5 6 7 8
Annual Income \$45,187 \$48,534 \$51,882 \$55,229 Income Figures as published by HUD in December 1996

rowers' combined annual income per household must be at or below these amounts in order to quality for secondlien funds.

Eligible homebuyers must satisfy the following criteria:

·be first-time homebuyers with an income at, or below, 80 percent of area median income

\*household income may not exceed the applicable income guidelines.

·may not currently own a house and may not have owned a house for the last three (3) years prior to making application

•be a single parent, defined as an individual who is unmarried or legally separated form a spouse and has one or more minor children for whom the individual has custody or joint custody, or who is pregnant at the time of application

•be a displaced homemaker, defined as an adult individual who has not worked full-time (full year in the labor force for a number of years), but has,

ployed and is experiencing difficulty in obtaining or upgrading employment

· an individual or family whose principal residence during the three (3) year period prior to the purchase of a home using Enterprise assistance is not affixed to a permanent foundation in accordance with local or other applicable codes and regulations

·an individual or family whose residence is not in compliance with local building codes or other applicable codes, and cannot be brought into compliance for less than the cost of constructing a permanent structure; meet the DAHP Lender's underwriting

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You and God Ron Shaw

# What Is Your God-Level?

Ephesians 3:19-20

I was reading a book recently that was compiled by a woman who was director of youth and children's ministry at her church. In the book, she asked kids from her church several questions about God, family, country and life. The answers they gave were not only quite amusing, but also thought provoking.

I remember one question in particular: Why do Christians get in trouble? One six-year-old boy said, "Because their God-level gets low and they don't have enough of God to do right." As I read his response, I was amused, and yet reflective, of times in my life as a Christian when I had missed the mark. The short answer to why I did it was because, at that specific moment in my life, my God-level was low. Stop and think about it a minute.

When we are not filled with God's fullness, we are impotent and weak against the wiles of the devil, and are most likely filled with something that renders us incapable of performing up to the level of God's expectation. I think we were created to run on God, just as a car was created to run on gas. A car will not run successfully on any other type of fuel unless there is some type of alteration made in the fuel-burning system that allows it to perform with an alternative fuel. The truth is, we were created for God's glory. Nothing else will come close to being a suitable substitute for that.

To get to the destination you have been marked for, you must have the fuel to get there. The Bible says we are

God's product (Eph. 2:10). We have been made to operate a certain way. When we sense our ineptness and inability to perform according to the "manufacturer's" standards, it indicates a lack of energy.

Did you sense a weariness towards the end of 1997? Perhaps you felt as if you were burned out. The inspiration you started 1997 with probably waned as the year rolled on. The reason is that, at the beginning of the year, we make fresh, new commitments to God. We even set out pursuing them. We shore up our prayer life. We recommit to churches. We make new efforts to read our Bibles daily. We re-focus on God's direction for our life. We ask, seek and knock. We take no thought for tomorrow, but trust Him for today's bread. In short, our God-level is higher at the beginning of the year than any other time of the year. We feel we can run through a hoop and leap over a wall.

As the year rolls on, somehow we do not keep our God-level up. Therefore, we lose a little "umph" along the way. The things that are required of us from God require His fullness being maintained in our lives. We cannot, nor are we supposed to, live this life on our own strength. If we were supposed to do that, then what's the use in submitting our lives to Him? As Christians, we are alive through His strength. I'm convinced that most of us haven't mastered that yet. That's why we fail and fall short so many times. We keep trying to run on fuel that doesn't lend itself to our need. Only God can fill us with what we need to live the way He desires us

Only when our God-level is up can we love like He tells us to. Only when our God-level is up can we accomplish what He says we're to accomplish in life. Only when our God-level is up can we experience the love relationship with Him and others.

Stop a minute and think about your present God-level. Would you say it was high, low, or empty? Our text says and may you be able to feel and under-

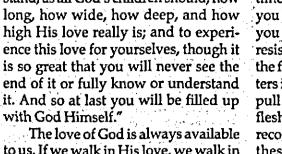
stand, as all God's children should, how

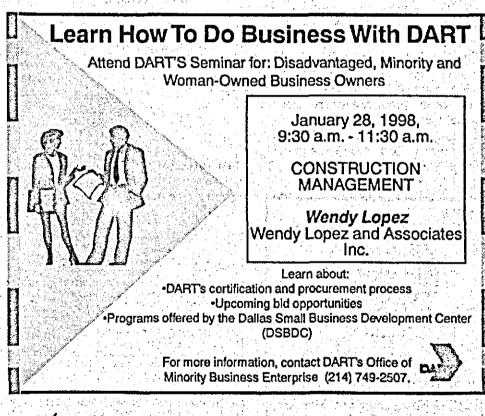
to us. If we walk in His love, we walk in Him and He fills us with Himself — so, much so that we literally become invincible, unstoppable, incapable of failure, too hard for the devil to handle. We become Christians (little anointed ones), chips off the old block (Christ). I'm learning more and more that just as I check the fuel level in my automobile, I should check the God-level in my

There are ways to tell if your Godlevel is low. Are you having a greater time with temptations of the flesh? Are you having a difficult time loving those you don't like? Do you sense a greater resistance to prayer? Are you shunning the fellowship of other brothers and sisters in Christ? Are you sensing a greater pull toward satisfying the desires of the flesh? Are you craving more and more recognition and praise from men? All of these are some indicators that your God-level is low.

As you set sail on a new year, whatever your destination is, you will need a high God-level to arrive there safely and successfully. Get full of God now at the start of this year. Seek constant filling. Determine to keep your God-level high, and you will make it with energy to spare.

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













Career **Opportunity** Kathleen Goolsby

# I didn't wanna do it

I haven't wanted to write about this topic for the last several months. It's an unpleasant topic, one that some of us don't like to face, because we feel guilty about it. And it's such a common occurrence that it's difficult to write something "interesting" about it. I might not be able to do it justice ... and I really dislike failure. So I have kept delaying it - next month I'll be able to do a better job, I've told myself. But those months came — and passed — with more good reasons why the article needed to wait until this month. Now I'm up against a deadline, and there's really not enough time to do a good job. I might even need to shorten the number of words since I have so little time left to complete it by the deadline ... or maybe I'll keep the length of the article as planned, but I won't take the time to go back and proofread for errors or edit and make the words and sentences more interesting for you readers. And it's really putting me in a bad mood to be under so much pressure to meet the deadline; I'm

getting a headache."

How in the world did this happen? Very simply. I procrastinated. Webster defines it as "habitually and intentionally postponing or putting off" an action. In reality, though, things are not just postponed - they simply are not done. It's not that people who procrastinate have made plans as to how to accomplish a task and then postponed it until a better time. They are actually hoping the task will just disappear if postponed long enough. If this trouble-making habit rears its ugly head in the workplace, one could even lose a job. An employer views a procrastinator as someone who lacks diligence and time-management skills, or who is careless. In addition, procrastination often leads to a last-minute job of sloppy quality. Furthermore, it deprives us of one of life's "rewards" --- a sense of accomplishment.

What keeps a procrastinator from plunging in and accomplishing a task? More often than not, it is an attempt to avoid the risk of failure, or it happens because we have set goals that are unrealistic to meet. Procrastination is a negative behavior pattern, but the good news is that it can be changed. Try the following nine techniques to help you break the habit.

- 1. Set a specific date and specific time for completion of a specific task, even if it is only for part of the overall project.
- 2. Plan your work, and then work
  - 3. Stop telling yourself that you

4. Know how your moods affect your productivity. 5. Live five minutes at a time, refusing to procrastinate anything during the five minutes.

> 6. Eliminate "maybe" and "wish" from your vocabulary ("Maybe I can get to that task this afternoon." "I wish I could get that done this week.")

job;" just do it.

7. Write down your fears of what

should put it off until you can do "the best could go wrong (if you did the task now instead of putting it off), and then find a solution to those fears. Remember, if you

> are not sometimes failing, you are not growing.

8. 9

Oh no!! I'm out of time. Deadline here. Gotta' skip the last two points. Shouln't have procrastinated!

MON





#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR DRUG PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION EDUCATION AND ASSESSMENTS

The Housing Authority of the City of Dallos. Texas ("DHA") hereby requests Proposals from responsive and responsible firms and individuals qualified to provide drug prevention and Intervention education and assessments for program participants. The DHA's goal is to promote resident initiatives through drug prevention and intervention education and assessments. PROPOSED SCHEDULE:

December 21-January 2, 1998 — Advertise Request for Proposals ("RFP").

December 24, 1997 — Request for Proposals ready for pick-up or mailing. January 12, 1998 — Written Proposals are due by 3:00PM C.S.T.

January 15, 1998 — Review of written Proposals by a Selection Committee. The Committee will utilize a point sys-lem that will assign values based on a Proposer's ability to demonstrate its capability of providing the requested services. The elements will be evaluated and the points assigned to each are set forth in the Request for Proposals. January 19-21, 1998 — if necessary, interviews will be held with Proposers whose Proposals have received the highest scores from the Selection Committee.

January 23, 1998—If necessary, Best and Final Offers will be due by 3:00PM C.S.T. from those Proposers who have been determined to be best capable of providing the requested services.

January 26, 1998—Recommendation of Selection Committee regarding the contract will be finalized.

Juriusity 20, 1970—Recommendation of Selection Committee regarding the contract will be finalized.

If you are interested in submitting a Proposal, please call (214) 951-8398 Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30AM and 4:00PM C.S.T. Alternatively, you may fax your name, address and felephone number to (214) 951-8344 with a request for a copy of the Request for Proposals for Drug Prevention and Intervention Education and Assessments to Promote Resident initiatives and one will be mailed to you no later than the next business day. Finally, you may pick up a copy of the Request for Proposals at 3939 North Hampton Road, Suite 110, Dallas, Texas 75212 during the same days and times.



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# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR YOUTH AND FAMILY COUNSELING

The Housing Authority of the City of Dallas. Texas ("DHA") hereby requests Proposals from responsive and responsible firms and individuals qualified to provide youth and family counseling for program participants. The DHA's goal is to promote resident initiatives through youth and family counseling. PROPOSED SCHEDULE:

December 21-January 2, 1998 — Advertise Request for Proposals ("RFP").

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



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  12 semester hours in English, 6 hours of which must be in composition.
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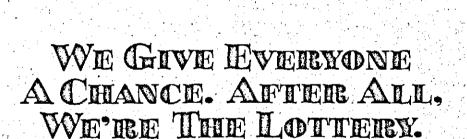


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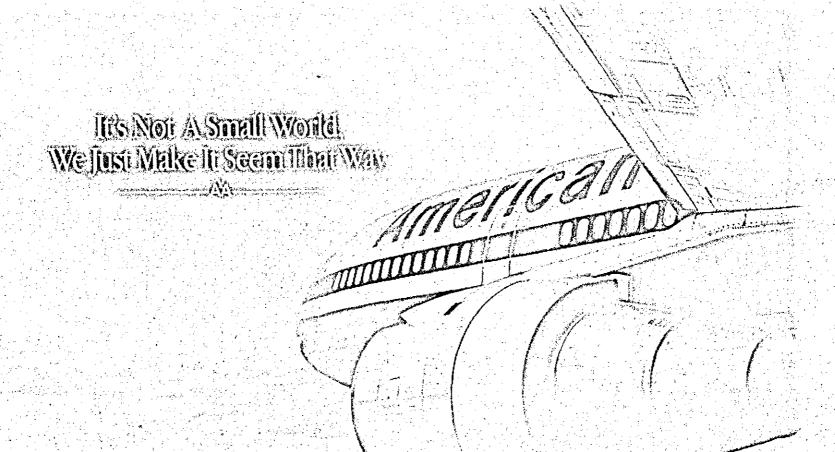
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