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Minority Opportunity News

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VOLUME 7, NO. 14 November 15-30, 1998



Harrison Miller son of Henry
(Son)
born Dec. 1888 died in Grand
field, Okla. date unk.
wife Beatrice C. Miller
b. unk. d. 1978 in Okla.

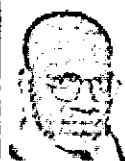
Looking At Genealogy

*How Donald Payton
found his roots*

**Black Friday:
How Black
Is It?**

**Ethnic Notes
Profiles the Harlem
Renaissance**

**Let A Financial
Advisor Plan Your
Estate**



**From
The Editor**
Chris Pryer

Magic Johnson's full Belly

Belly is here and Magic Johnson doesn't have the stomach for it. The newly released Hype Williams film seems to be the typical young-urban movie-goer fare: Baleful-looking Black men trying to hack out a living doing the only thing the "white man's America" will let them do. Sell drugs. I know its part of the "keepin' it real" genre of films. You know, straight, no chaser. Boy, we sure do need this movie; otherwise, we'd have no idea what "real" is, now would we?

But that's a whole other soapbox. What I want to address is all of the hoopla over Mr. Johnson's decision to *not* screen *Belly* at his theaters. His theaters, mind you. Seems as though the makers of the film think their Fifth Amendment rights are being violated—they are being denied freedom of speech. This complaint I just don't get. From what I can see, the movie is showing at the many, many theaters that are not owned by Mr. Johnson, so I think *Belly* is "speaking" with impunity in as many venues as it needs to effectively "speak."

It seems that everyone feels their right to free speech should supersede the rights of others to not be on the receiving end of that speech. I don't recall hearing about Hype Williams and company having any freedom of speech issues during the filming of *Belly*; nor can I remember hearing about him having difficulty getting the film distributed. (When I say difficulty, please understand I mean relatively speaking; Black films, I think, inherently, *always* have some difficulty.) Mr. Williams enjoyed the freedom of participating in a free economy, an economy that allows him to peddle his wares to those who can see an advantage in purchasing them. And Mr. Johnson, likewise, exercised his freedom to not purchase the commodity Mr. Williams is selling. Magic Johnson's decision to forgo the screening of *Belly* in no way impedes Hype Williams' ability to peddle his wares elsewhere. Mr. Johnson has not mounted any kind of concerted effort to stop the screening of the movie. There has been no moral outrage expressed by him over the content of the movie. (Yes, he has stated his concern about what he perceives as the incendiary content of the movie, but it has not been *moral outrage*.) It merely has been a man exercising *his* freedom of speech: He will not show *Belly* in his theaters.

Maybe Magic already has a belly full. Me too.

MON

Editorial

Black Friday

It's that time of year again. . . When friends and family come together in celebration. . . When goodwill and good cheer often go hand in hand with good food and good times. The holiday season beckons to one and all as a special time of year.

But before anyone hears Santa's "Ho, ho, ho," cash registers worldwide will be humming "ker-ching, ker-ching, ker-ching". The fourth quarter of the year makes or breaks many businesses, especially those in the retail sector of the economy. Consumer largess from October through December can offset otherwise lagging sales; dwindle overstocked inventories; and turn business bottom lines from red to black.

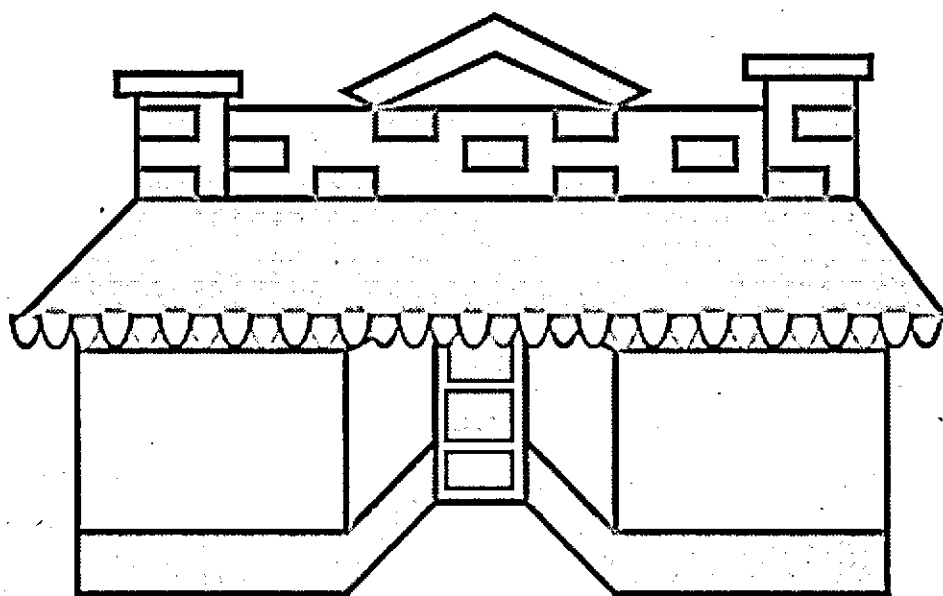
Little wonder, then, why the Friday following Thanksgiving — the busiest shopping day of the year — would come to be known as "Black Friday." Santa's suit may be red, but the sales generated on this single shopping day signify black ink — profit.

And what significance does Black Friday have for African Americans? As a people and as a community, why should we care if a few bucks are made by retailers?

Black Friday is a painful reminder that we are consumers first, and producers second. Black Friday is the most dramatic reminder of how brand-loyal shoppers, searching for the best and most expensive items, attempt to compensate for all that they miss out on on the other 364 days of the year. And lest anyone attempt to deny or diminish the truth in those words, perhaps a few salient statistics will help drive the point home. Data developed by the U.S.

Census Bureau found that Black households:

- Spend 41 percent more than average on personal care services for women and 24 percent more for men.
- Spend higher than average amounts on hosiery, women's accessories, jewelry and home electronic equipment.



- "Spend more to get the best" in every age category. Brand names scored highest among young consumers, aged 16-24; and older consumers, aged 50 and older.

- More likely patronize department and speciality retailers, rather than discount stores.

In other words, demographers and statisticians have studied Black buying tendencies and found measurable evidence that no matter what our lives may otherwise lack, as a people, there are some things we are going to have: Like gettin' the "doo" done, watch a big screen TV, and enjoy our music on a high-priced sound system. And when we step out, our attire is likely to have been

purchased from an upscale retailer.

Those consistent and discernible purchasing patterns are exactly why Black Friday should be understood by and underscored for people of color. Before we begin spending precious dollars in yet another holiday buying frenzy, NOW is the best time to remind ourselves of the power we have as a people. Black Friday is, in effect, our biggest Black Power Day.

Black buying power, now estimated to be \$469 billion nationally, is growing at a rate double that of inflation. Moreover, America's fastest growing minority markets are concentrated in three states: Texas, Georgia and Florida. In these states, total black buying power and the rate of growth are the strongest.

In Texas alone, from 1990 to 1997, Black consumer strength grew 64 percent, topping \$31 billion. Of Texas' 2 million Black consumers, approximately 800,000 reside in two cities: Houston and Dallas.

So when we read, hear or see holiday advertisements, believe and understand that many of those messages are targeted at seducing the hard-earned dollars from our pockets. And just as it makes sense to support candidates who respect our votes, we should also spend our dollars with businesses that respect our purchasing power.

This holiday season, remember that every dollar makes a difference. When you make wise consumer choices, that difference works for your benefit and that of your family.

And wouldn't that make for a really holiday season?

MON

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C E V S

Mavericks sponsor two scholarships

The Dallas Mavericks and the Dallas Morning News are providing worthy students with an opportunity for \$2,000 in scholarship money.

Four scholarships will be awarded annually. The scholarships are open to high school seniors from Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Rockwall and Tarrant counties.

All entries will be judged on academic achievements, including SAT or ACT scores, extracurricular activities and an essay on "What do you expect to gain from a college education?"

The deadline is Feb. 12, 1999. For more information, write to the Dallas Mavericks/The Dallas Morning News Scholarship, Reunion Arena, 777 Sports Street, Dallas, Texas 75207.

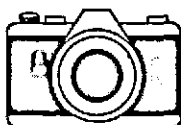
The Dallas Mavericks are also sponsoring the Mark Holtz Memorial Broadcast Journalism Scholarship.

One \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded annually. The scholarships are open to high school seniors who are interested in pursuing a career in broadcast journalism and who are from Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Rockwall and Tarrant counties.

All entries will be judged on academic achievements, including SAT or ACT scores, extracurricular activities, an essay on "What do you expect to gain from a college education?" and an optional "audition" tape.

The deadline is March 6, 1999. For more information, write to the Dallas Mavericks/Mark Holtz Scholarship, Reunion Arena, 777 Sports Street, Dallas, Texas 75207.

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

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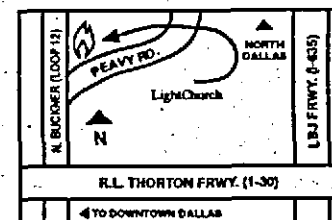
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Republicans take the State

AUSTIN—Republican Party of Texas Chairman Susan Weddington declared that the results of the Nov. 3 election has dramatically changed the course of Texas history. voters have elected Republicans to every statewide office for the first time since Reconstruction. "We are honored that the people of Texas have decided to put their trust in Republicans to lead our state into the next century. The voters have said loud and clear that they want Republican leadership and a conservative governing philosophy at the highest levels of state government," said Weddington. "With this election, Texans have effectively changed the course of Texas history."

On Nov. 3, Texas voters elected a Republican to every statewide seat including: Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, Land Commissioner, Land Commissioner, Agriculture Commissioner, Railroad Commissioner and all the Judicial seats. The Republican Party of Texas maintained the GOP majority in the Texas Senate and gained three additional seats in the Texas House of Representatives.

"From a national perspective, the Republican Party of Texas is the 'crown jewel' of Republican politics this election year. While republicans all over the country were losing races, the Texas GOP was moving forward and winning everything in sight," Weddington said. "After all the analysis is complete, we will see historic gains at the local and county level—the heart and soul of Texas politics."

"The Republican party of Texas had clear goals this election year and we achieved or made substantial progress toward all of them," said Weddington. "Republicans began this election cycle as the minority party and end it as the emerging majority party."

Democrats Conduct "60 Minutes" Probe

Following the Nov. 1 expose on the conduct of the Texas Supreme Court, the former Democratic Candidate for Attorney General Jim Mattox and Democratic candidates for Supreme Court David Van Os, Mike Westergreen and Jerry Scarbrough held a press conference to address the issue of judicial misconduct.

In light of the damning 60 Minutes investigation, the candidates asked for a special investigation by the Texas Legislature and a separate investigation by the Dept. of Justice into possible bribery of the Texas Supreme Court by the big corporate interest groups seeking and receiving favorable rulings.

The candidates will focus on the influence money has had on judicial decisions and the growing need for restoring balance to the court. The focus of the 60 Minutes broadcast was that the view among Texas lobbyists is that justice is for sale on the Texas Supreme Court; that insurance companies win 90 percent of their cases before the Republican court; that defendants (big insurance companies, big corporations and big polluters) win 70 percent of their cases and; the Texas Supreme Court rewards its highest donors.

Keep Justice Alive Week

In recognition and appreciation of the U.S. justice system, Nov. 15-21 has been proclaimed Keep Justice Alive Week in Texas by the governor, Supreme Court of Texas, Texas Court of Appeals,

and mayors and city councils throughout the state. Local bar associations statewide will sponsor events in their communities focusing on educating the public about the justice system.

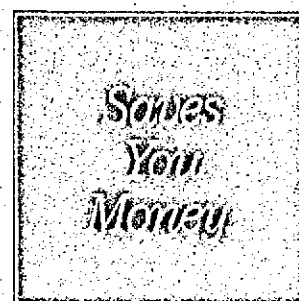
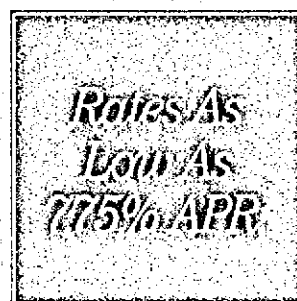
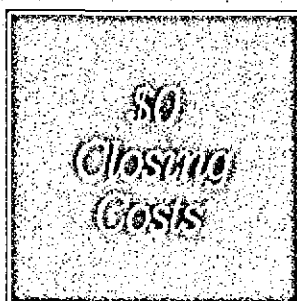
"It is important to take time during the week

See JUSTICE on page 10

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The Struggle Continues

Thomas Muhammad

You first notice the many colored lawnmowers and industrial sized weed trimmers neatly lining the driveway. You then step into the building and see the hundreds of volunteers armed to the teeth with their rakes, shovels, trash bags and smiles. You suddenly get the feeling that the targeted litter spots scattered throughout the community is in for one hell of a battle today. At that moment the thought dawns on you and you say to yourself "wouldn't it be great if the rest of Dallas could see this beautiful display of community empowerment?" But for the leadership and volunteers of this army that doesn't matter, their not doing it for the cameras. They do it because frankly, if they don't do it, it won't get done!

The place is the headquarters of Clean South Dallas/Fair Park Inc. And their war of choice can be found in their mission statement it reads "our mission is to empower area inner-city families, schools and businesses to participate in their community through various beautification and anti-litter campaigns." And for more than 15 years they have been doing just that! Clean South Dallas/Fair Park, Inc. are a non-profit 501-(c) (3) organization and a member of Keep Texas Beautiful. The goals of the organization are 1. To eliminate litter and improve the appearance of the target area. 2. To involve the people in taking responsibility

Clean South Dallas/Fair Park the Beautiful

ity for a Clean South Dallas. 3. To increase community pride in the target area. 4. To educate the citizens in the area and businesses serving the area concerning litter problems and litter control. 5. To focus on other social and economic development needs growing out of the Clean South Dallas program efforts.

To reach these goals the group has organized programs such as: annual fall and spring community-wide clean up campaigns. Sponsor a Yard Of The Month program, where each month a worthy home, business, school and church is awarded with a Clean South Dallas yard sign to display in their yard with pride. Many of you have probably witnessed the recycling bins for newspapers, glass and aluminum at the corner of Birmingham and Malcolm X Blvd. that Clean South Dallas sponsors (they also had a beautiful mural painted in the likeness of Malcolm on the wall near the bins). And they sponsor posters and essay contest for students to encourage environmental awareness.

It is clearly obvious that the Clean South Dallas/Fair Park programs have created a contagious feeling of love for a clean environment in the community. Several years ago a contest was conducted by the organization to find a slogan that would fit the mood the group was trying to spread throughout the area. The

winning slogan, many feel, does exactly that. How does this sound "Its Not Where You Live but How You Live." The donated building that houses the headquarters for the group is a beautiful historical prairie style home and acts as an office and community center. Another house donated to the group was renovated and sold to a family as a part of Clean South Dallas' efforts to attract good neighbors to the community.

The organization is funded by Community Development Block Grant funds, the City of Dallas General Operating funds and the South Dallas/Fair Park Trust Funds and donations from members of the community.

Many organizations participate in the groups annual clean ups. Volunteers come from area schools, community based organizations, area residents, the City of Dallas Mow-Clean department, the City of Dallas Sanitation department as well as the Community Policing Unit of the Southeast Division of the Dallas Police Department. The Clean South Dallas/Fair Park group works to educate the community of the negative impact of litter and improperly handled waste. They believe that an educated community can help shine the spotlight on the positive results that can be achieved when each citizen accepts responsibility and ownership for their community.

To educate the community the organization mails approximately 1,000 notices per month to announce their meetings held once a month at the headquarters.

- Develops and distributes twice yearly 6,500 Clean South Dallas newsletters to residents, community leaders and volunteers.
- Participates in the Annual Buckeye Walk along the Trinity River near Rochester Park.
- Participates in a Graffiti paint-out in South Dallas/Fair Park.
- Conducts a successful Night Out Against Crime each year with the Dallas Police Department.

Organizations who've used the Clean South Dallas/Fair Park building for their meetings are the Dallas Police Department Weed and Seed program, the Selena Butler Leadership Development Institute, the Political Congress of African American Women, the St. Luke Community United Methodist Church-Lenten Bible Study class, Positive Pathways a City of Dallas Parks and Recreation program for juveniles, the Dallas Urban League's Seniors In Community Service Training program and a host of others.

So, be warned Mr. Litter if you're out rolling around you should know. There's a new sheriff in town called Clean South Dallas/Fair Park, Inc. and their role in life is to "fight the litter powers that be!"

Until then, the struggle continues...

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BUS RAIL HOV

Some Things Are More Important Than Driving



This holiday season, give your spirits a lift.

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The 706 trolley-bus consists of three

separate loops through downtown. Dallas, with service to Bank One Tower, Dallas Education Center, Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas Public Library, the World Aquarium, Earl Cabell Federal Building, El Centro College, Nations Bank Building, Plaza of Americas, San Jacinto Tower, Southwestern Bell Plaza, Texas Commerce Tower, Thanksgiving Square, Trammel Crow Center, US Post Office and the YMCA. It's the easy way to get around town.



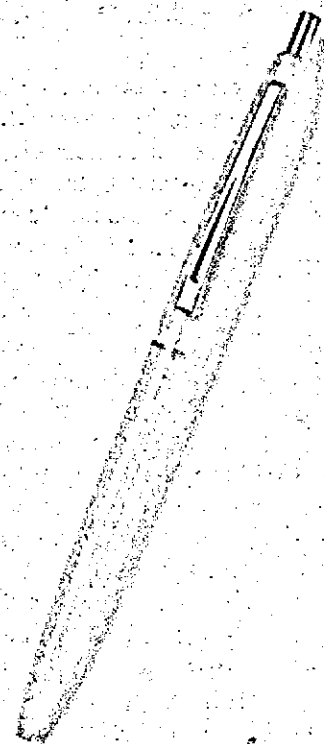
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Cheryl Smith

I tell you, this new radio station is making waves throughout the Metroplex. It's called "Magic 102" and the music is wonderful. Could that be the reason there have been so many changes in this marketplace recently? Last month, it was KKDA-AM making numerous changes, now V100 is making a move. One of the first moves was the dismissal of long-time radio personality Scott West. But Scott shouldn't be without work long. He's good and he's smart. So, stay tuned. I called over to the station and let the phone ring for close to five minutes and no one answered. This was a big switch from the pleasant voice I am used to hearing when I call. Yvonne St-John is still over there, however. She's doing well and looking good. Say a prayer for her father. He's been sick recently and she has been flying back and forth to the East Coast to see him ... Dorothy Gentry, formerly of KERA, has joined Public Relations giant Lyria Howland of Howland PR.

Richlynn Kaiser, a student at SMU is also interning with Lyria. I tell you, Lyria is one of the best in the business ... Speaking of best. Have you seen any of Larry Powell's work? While he is designing and creating some of the most dynamic brochures and pieces around, his wife Julie, a former Star-Telegram editor, is taking Mary Kay Cosmetics to a new level ... Well, Robin Fisher Yearwood has settled in at the Arlington Morning News, as an editor. The former Dallas-Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators board member has joined what is probably the most diverse news staff in the Metroplex. Thanks to Managing Editor Lawrence Young ... Journalists were shocked recently to hear of Terrance Harris' departure from the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Last I knew, he was the only African American senior writer and he was doing a darned good job. People are beginning to seriously question actions of those at the Star-Telegram. My sources say the problem is middle management!!! Elite News assistant publisher Jordan Blair is running for president of the Dallas Branch-NAACP. The election will be held on Nov. 21 and he faces businessman Dwaine Caraway and incumbent Lee Alcorn in his bid

to lead the award-winning branch ... There have been two more indictments handed down against former KKDA-AM radio personality Babyfase. He has a Nov. 16 court date and is expected to stand trial for rape. A defense fund has been established on his behalf. For more information, call 972-272-4067 ... The Dallas-Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators is accepting entries for its annual Griot Awards, recognizing journalistic excellence. The deadline has been extended, so call and get your entry form, 214-371-6671... It's a late welcome back, but welcome back to Dee Dee McGuire. Formerly with K104, Dee Dee, is back in the area, even though we can't hear her here. She works over at ABC radio where she is heard all over the country ... Been hearing quite a few good things about Deborah Duncan in Houston. Deb is hosting a television talk show. Many remember her from her days at WFAA-TV where she was a reporter and then host of *Good Morning Texas*...Speaking of *Good Morning Texas*, it seems they are close to picking a new host to replace Paula McClure, who replaced Deborah. Paula, now married, has opened her own spa in Dallas, Paula McClure's Mood Spa. Some say the front-runner to

replace Paula looks like Deborah. If you see Clarice Tinsley out and about, and I am sure you will, because she is all over the place, well, just give her a shout out and let her know you appreciate her. Oftentimes there are soldiers who quietly take care of business. Clarice, while a consummate broadcaster, does not broadcast her deeds and efforts. She just does what she feels is the right thing to do. And, that's more than a lot of us do. There will be a lot of movement in this market in the very near future. People are looking for jobs and jobs are looking for people ... Vanessa Holmes-Carr has accepted a position at the University of Dallas, where she will be advisor to the student publication and she will also teach a few classes ... The Society of Professional Journalists held a workshop on Ethics. Ethics is also the subject of pieces in the National Association of Black Journalists publication. And good thing. Some of us are crossing the line and we need to be called into check. After all, if you can't trust a journalist, what is this world coming to.

MON

Cheryl Smith is a freelance writer and president of the Dallas/Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators.

[illegible]

In The News . . .

Burrell to head Minority Affairs Office

The Arena Group has named Martin Burrell vice president of minority affairs. The Arena Group is the joint venture partnership consisting of the Dallas Mavericks and Dallas Stars which is charged with building the new sports arena approved by Dallas voters in January 1998 to raise hotel and car rental taxes to pay the city's \$125 million share of the \$230 million project.

Prior to the election, the Arena Group signed a fair-share agreement pledging to include an advocacy office as a part of its executive team.

"Martin (Burrell) has garnered a great amount of success in our community in his previous employment," said Brad Mayne, president and chief executive officer for the Arena Group. "I'm pleased that someone of his caliber has joined our executive staff here at the Arena Group."



Martin Burrell

Burrell recently served as assistant vice president for the Office of Minority Business for DART (Dallas Area Rapid Transit), where he directed the activities of the transit agency's minority and women business programs. In that capacity Burrell was responsible for the review and monitoring of women-owned businesses.

"The arena and related development will have a profound impact on the Dallas area," Burrell said. "It's exciting and challenging to be a part of such a comprehensive project in the heart of downtown Dallas. My role will be to help suppliers, potential employees and other underutilized resources contribute to this project." Active in public administration for almost 20 years, Burrell has served as district director for the Texas Department of Agriculture and assistant director of the City of Dallas' Department of Housing and Neighborhood Services.

Burrell earned a master of public administration from Southern Methodist University in 1980 and received his bachelor of science degree from Southern University in Baton Rouge, La., in 1977. He is active in national and regional organizations and speaks on procurement issues affecting minorities and women.

West to host Medicaid meetings

As of July 1, 1999, most Medicaid services in Dallas and the seven surrounding counties will move to a Medicaid Managed Care System. State Sen. Royce West (D-Dallas) has responded to this change by hosting a series of Medicaid Managed Care Informational Meetings to inform providers and the community about these changes. At the meeting, health care providers will hear presentations by the four Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) chosen by the Texas Department of Health as finalists to be included in the Medicaid Managed Care System.

The meeting will be held Nov. 17 from 6-8 p.m. in room 627 of the Dallas County Health and Human Services Building, 2377 N. Stemmons Freeway.

The four finalists are Americaid Texas Inc., AmeriHealth HMO of North Texas, Rio Grande HMO/HMO Blue and Parkland Community Health Plan. Representatives from each of the organizations will make presentations to the health service providers followed by a general question and answer session. Additionally, a Texas Department of Health representative will be present to inform providers about the Texas Health Network, a Primary Care Case Management (PCCM) model, which will be a fifth option administered by the state of Texas.



Royce West

West's intention for this meeting is to inform service providers of new procedures they will need to follow in order to provide services to Medicaid recipients. West is particular concerned about the inclusion of the Significant Traditional Providers, those professionals who have historically provided services to Medicaid recipients, in the switch to the Medicaid Managed Care System in the Dallas area.

"I have worked hard, along with my colleagues in the Legislature, to make certain that those providers who have stood by Medicaid recipients in the past are included in this change."

The sights and sounds of revitalization are beginning to take place in South Dallas.

Allstate Loan program

The sights and sounds of revitalization are beginning to take place in South Dallas.

The first of many homeowners are now putting to work money from a new, low-interest loan program. Sponsored by Allstate, Chase Bank of Texas and the Innercity Community Development Corporation, the Allstate Home Improvement Loan Program will provide \$2.5 million to low-to-moderate income families for needed home repairs.

Features of the loan program include no application fee, no equity requirements on loans up to \$25,000, and a low interest rate of 6.5 percent. The project is part of Allstate's Neighborhood Partnership Program, which helps address insurance affordability and availability in urban communities.

The Allstate Home Improvement Loan Program is part of Allstate's Neighborhood Partnership Program expansion. The NPP aims to build stronger, safer

communities with initiatives addressing neighborhood revitalization, insurance and community education, safety and

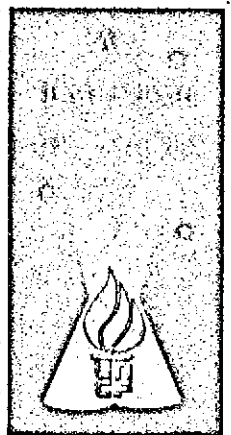


Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price (pictured far right) joined Innercity Community Development Corporation (ICDC) representatives in thanking Allstate for its \$2.5 million commitment to the Allstate Home Improvement Loan Program.

Chase Bank of Texas will offer a low-interest home improvement loan product to homeowners in the southern sector of the city of Dallas. For more information about the loan program contact Kim Whitaker of Allstate at 972-871-6656.

MON

Invest in the leaders of tomorrow
And you can appear on the
Local telecast of the
United Negro College Fund's
Television Special:



An Evening of Stars
A Celebration of Educational Excellence
which airs from 7pm - 11pm, January 9, 1999
KXTX-Channel 39.

Your donation will help provide students with a chance to attend college AND you will be able to make an on-air presentation at the local taping which takes place December 12.

MINIMUM DONATION:

Churches or Civic Organizations	\$500
Small Businesses	\$1,000

DEADLINE:

December 2

Call UNCF at (972) 234-1007 or (972) 263-4114 if you wish to make a donation.

The Harlem Renaissance

Part 1 of 2

By Russell D. Shockley, B.S. Ed

The fascination with Harlem gathered steam in the mid 1920s and peaked just before the Wall Street crash of 1929. Harlem's influence was felt not only downtown, where black revenue had become a staple throughout the 1920s, but also across the Atlantic, in France, where Ms. Josephine Baker was Paris' hottest sensation.

Harlem not only drew "Negrotarians" who earnestly supported the literary accomplishments of the Renaissance era, but also those who sniffed the winds of fashion, fame and fortune. Among the gliterati who traveled to Harlem were Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, Lady Mountbatten and Harold Lloyd.

The Harlem mix provided a modern Babel, mocking the gods with its cosmopolitan uniqueness. This fascination with Harlem was accompanied by the objectification of the Negro as an "exotic icon." As one participant expressed, "To America, the Negro is not a human being but a concept." In line with the 1920s fashion, the new stereotypes, (the derogatory qualities, previously attributed to Blacks) remained very much the same.

Harlemania was distinct from the literary contributions of the Renaissance, and the forefathers of the New Negro Movement looked upon it as merely a fad. The forgers of the Negro Movement valued high art (poetry, painting, classical music, etc.) over the popular culture (dancing, jazz, blues, etc.) that lured visitors to Harlem. They also disapproved of its drawing cards, alcohol, drugs and sex.

Interest in Black-performers also accelerated in 1921, with the opening of

the musical revue, *Shuffle Along*, written by the great Eubie Blake and Noble Sissle and performed by an all-Black cast that included the famous Florence Mills. "Shuffle Along's" success ensured the production of similar all-Black revues on Broadway.

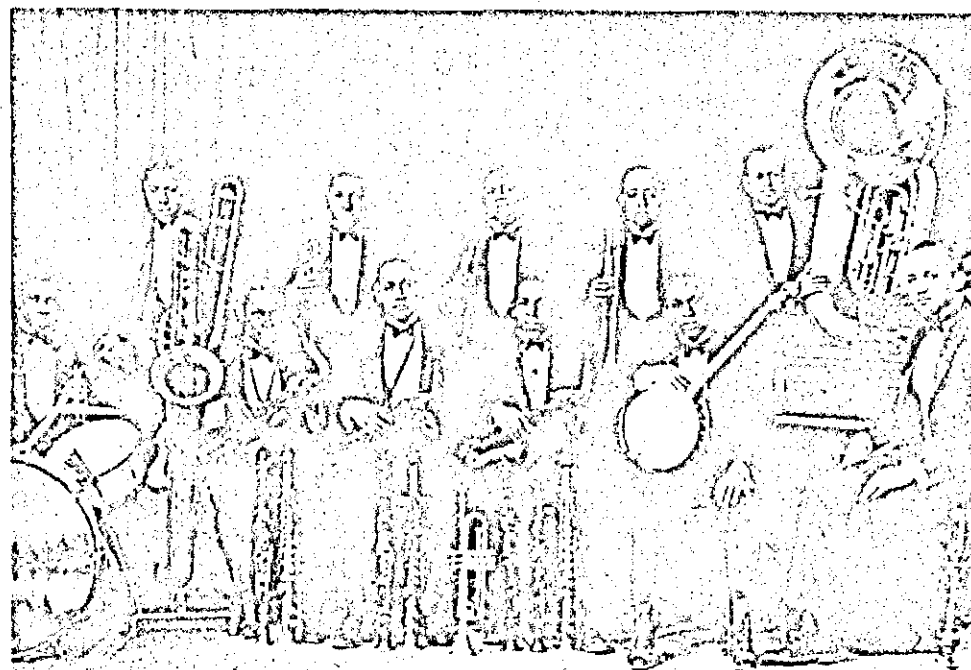
By the second half of the decade, Black cast revues on Broadway were being joined by other plays about Black life but written by white writers. Edward Sheldon and Charles Mac Arthur's "Lulu Belle" in 1926, DuBose and Dorothy Heyward's "Porgy" in 1927, (later to be the source for Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess" and Marc Connelly's *Green Pastures*) in 1930, were all created to emulate Black life through the eyes of white writers.

It wasn't until 1929, when Wallace Thurman and William Rapp's "Harlem" became a hit, that a Black authored play was successfully produced for Broadway's white audiences.

Black musicians, in the forms of blues, jazz, and spirituals reached a new pinnacle of popularity. The lineup of now legendary singers performing in Harlem's clubs included Bessie Smith, Ma Rainey, Adelaide Hall, Florence Mills and Ethel Waters.

Many of the now legendary jazz bands were found in expensive night-clubs, as well as, in the cheaper basement clubs. One could hear Louis Armstrong and his band accompanied by Zigfield-scale stage shows. Fatts Waller and Andy Razat revues such as *Shuffle Along* and *Hot Chocolates* could be seen at Connie's Inn.

For a quarter or slightly more, one could hear the pick-up combos at informal rent parties. There was also big band



Fletcher Henderson (at piano) and his band.

jazz by Duke Ellington. European modernists like Igor Stravinsky began to incorporate Black musical idioms into their own classical music. When European modernist Darius Milhaud first heard Harlem performers, he declared the experience, "different from anything I had ever heard before. It was a revelation to me."

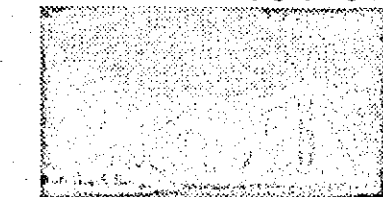
Dancing also provided the perfect compliment to Black music and Harlem boasted some 300 female and some 150

male dancers in clubs at any given moment. On the stage, such tap-dancing masters as Bill "Bojangles" Robinson could be seen, as well as the eccentric dancer Earl "Snakehips" Tucker.

It was not only professionals who gave riveting performances, anonymous work-a-day Harlemites also thronged to the dance floors of the clubs, developing elaborate Lindy-hop routines and dis-

Continued on page 10

ST. JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH



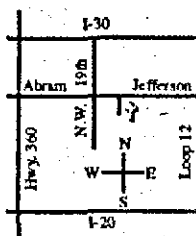
Denny D. Davis, Senior Pastor

1701 W. Jefferson St. • Grand Prairie, TX 75051
(972) 264-1483 - Office • (972) 263-5955 - Metro • (972) 264-9861 - Fax

Sunday Worships Schedule

First.....7:00 A.M.
Second.....9:00 A.M.
Third.....11:00 A.M.
Sunday School.....9:30 A.M.

Midweek Family Night (Wednesdays)
Prayer, Praise & Proclamation Service. 6:45 P.M.
Come and worship with us soon!



Chase values you as a customer. To prove it, we have created Relationship Banking, connecting you to better business opportunities. Here's how:

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Linking
you
to better
opportunities.

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Continued from page 9

tributing printed cards, advertising themselves as dance instructors. When choreographer Frederick Ashton needed dancers for *Four Saints in Three Acts*, the modernist soap opera by Gertrude Stein, Ashton headed quick, fast and in a hurry to the Savoy Ballroom. The Wall Street crash of October 1929 marked the close of an epoch. The era of the Charleston and speakeasies was replaced by overcrowding, insecurities and the Scottsboro Boys. The stock market crash ushered in a period in which white

Keep Justice Alive Week

continued from page 4

and learn about our justice system. To be a nation of laws is a great privilege that carries much responsibility," Richard Pena, president of the State Bar of Texas, said. "It is not only judges and lawyers who bear the weight of our justice system, but all of us have some accountability in our system of justice."

The judicial branch of government relies heavily on "an active and informed citizenry." As a citizen, our most important role in the justice system is jury service. Life-changing decisions are made daily by our peers who sit on juries in courtrooms across the country. As one of the great gifts our forefathers guaranteed us in our Constitution, it is a duty that should be embraced and we must be prepare ourselves to be good jurists, Pena said.

During Keep Justice Alive Week, lawyers and judges throughout the state will be taking time to visit with students and the public to explain the process. It is incumbent upon the profession to discuss the rule of law and why decisions are made. It is also important to explain the roles and the responsibilities of the key decision-makers in the process: lawyers, judges and juries.

Winters wins Del Mar College regents seat

CORPUS CHRISTI—Businesswoman Beverly Winters became the first African American elected to a seat on the Del Mar College Board of Regents for District 5 when she defeated dentist Haysam Dawod, 5,903 votes to 4,647, winning 56 percent of the vote.



Beverly Winters

Winters said she is excited to be the first African American regent on the board and plans to start working with other board members to learn the ropes.

"I love it," Winters was quoted as saying in another publication. "It's a new day in Corpus Christi. I just plan to start... working and learning."

During the campaign, candidates focused on funding, school facilities and remedial education. Winters said she would support a bond issue to improve Del Mar's buildings and said she also thinks an expanded tax base would help the school.

Ms. Winter's term of office will start Nov. 17. Terms last six years, and regents are not paid.

MON

patrons tended to more immediate pressing financial matters than the support of Black writers.

The impact on Harlem was devastating, although not immediate. Harlem night life continued to flourish until the 1933 repeal of the Volstead Act, which ended prohibition and, thus, finished off the Uptown nightclubs.

The demise of the Harlem Renaissance was not simply the result of a depressed economy and the dispersal of its key players. The New Negro

Movement was torn apart by internal contradictions: Politics versus art. The new Negroes mistook art for power. Years earlier W.E.B. Dubois, along with Alain Locke, had proclaimed the birth of the Harlem Renaissance; years later, they delivered its obituary.

MON

Russell D. Shockley is the director of *Ethnic Notes: Profiles of African American History*. For lecture or presentation information, call or write to *Ethnic Notes*, c/o MON.

Local Phone Competition:

Why It's Good For Our Community



If you've recently decided to switch local phone companies, odds are you'll have a tough time doing it.

Changing your long distance company is no problem of course. There are literary hundreds of companies (some of which have called asking you to switch, no doubt) offering long distance service.

But local phone companies like Southwestern Bell and GTE have a virtual stranglehold on their customers. If you want to switch, you have few real options.

That's particularly a problem here in Texas where Southwestern Bell is the largest local phone company. A recent JD Power and Associates survey showed that 41 percent of all Southwestern Bell customers said they would consider switching local phone companies if given the opportunity.

Choosing your local phone company is important to us in the African-American community because many African-Americans pay a higher percentage of their income for local phone service compared with other phone users. Furthermore, we tend to be especially loyal to brands we know. However, if that brand does not perform the way we'd like we need to have a choice. Today that choice is not available.

In order to allow customers to switch to another provider local phone companies like Southwestern Bell must develop fully automated systems that enable competing

companies to exchange information, process orders and handle repair requests.

Southwestern Bell has an incentive to do this. Under the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, Bell companies cannot offer long distance service in their areas until they meet this and other requirements.

But even with this incentive, would-be competing local phone companies have experienced difficulties in providing service to their potential customers.

The operations support systems that incumbent local companies like Southwestern Bell must develop are complex. They involve inordinately detailed software. So perhaps it's no surprise that the transition to a competitive local phone market has not occurred smoothly.

(Of course, local phone companies also are very lucrative and, despite their desire to enter the long distance market, they also have great incentive to hang on to their local phone customers and the enormous profits they generate.)

In Texas, it's up to the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to review Southwestern Bell's application to enter the long distance market. The PUC has the responsibility to make sure Southwestern Bell's systems for switching customers to competitors operate efficiently.

When those systems work the way they're supposed to, you'll be able to switch local phone companies as easily as you can switch long distance companies today. That's how competition works.

Darrick Eugene
AT&T Government Relations-Texas



This column is part of an ongoing series sponsored by AT&T to educate Texans on telecommunications issues.

Around Town

November 15

The Artist and Elaine Thornton Foundation for the Arts will be hosting auditions for two plays that require singers, actors and dancers. "A Black Nativity," a Christmas play, and "East Texas Hot Links," a play by Eugene Lee will be presented. Auditions will be held at the MLK Core Building, Nov. 15 at 2 and 4 p.m. Bring a prepared monologue and be prepared for a cold reading.

November 18

The Dallas Bar Association will respond to questions on bankruptcy and debtor/credit during this month's LegalLine, a community service program providing volunteer attorneys answering questions over the phone for free. LegalLine will be open to caller from 5:15-8 p.m. Nov. 18. Attorneys are also available to answer questions from virtually every area of the law including: family law, consumer matters, estate planning, traffic tickets and landlord/tenant issues. Anyone interested in asking a legal question should call LegalLine at 214-969-7066.

November 19

To commemorate the 22nd annual Great American Smokeout Nov. 19, the American Cancer Society has designed the Commit to Quit Wall of Life, a special wall that lists the names of successful quitters and kids who have pledged to remain tobacco-free for life. The wall will

be on display at NorthPark Center (Park Lane and Central Expressway), near the Dilliard's mall entrance. Smokers who want to quit can visit the wall and obtain valuable information from pharmacists and stop smoking counselors. Committed quitters who visit the wall can register to win a Caribbean vacation aboard the first smoke-free cruise liner.

November 20

Head Start of Greater Dallas is seeking donors to participate in the annual Adopt-A-Family campaign which is going on through Dec. 14. Head Start of Greater Dallas serves 3,700 children and families whose income falls beneath the poverty line. Many of these children will do without this holiday season because their parents are unable to provide them with the traditional holiday trappings. Adopter will receive a family profile that includes clothing sizes and special requests. For more information on how to adopt a family this holiday, call 214-634-8704 ext. 410.

A fashion show to benefit the non-profit children's organization Booker T. Spark School of Performing Arts in Fort Worth will take place Nov. 20 at The Gold Bar, 1900 Elm St. in Dallas at 9 p.m. The event's theme is "Some Where Over the Rainbow." For more information about the show, call 214-366-2412.

The Freedman's Foundation is sponsoring The Spirit of Thanksgiving Gospel

Fest, which will feature audio recordings of former slaves as well as a night of local gospel music. The concert is Nov. 20 at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, 1819 N. Washington Ave. All proceeds raised will go toward the Freedman's Memorial Project. The memorial, featuring life-size bronze figures, is being erected at Lemmon Avenue and Central Expressway. Fox 4 News Consumer Reporter and "Insights" co-host Karla Winfrey will host the evening. Tickets are \$10. For more information, call David Dunnigan at 214-769-6066.

November 21

The Theta Alpha and Alpha Iota Iota Chapters of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., will host their Annual Achievement Week Program on Nov. 21 at 12:30 p.m. The Achievement Week Luncheon will take place at the Adams Mark Hotel, 2117 Live Oak St., downtown Dallas. This year's theme is "Revisiting The Dream; Prospectus for the 21st Century." The ticket price is \$25.

The Scholarship Committee of the Alpha Xi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. will sponsor it's third annual AKA "Ivy" Bowl-A-Thon at Don Carter's West All Star Lanes, 10920 Composite Drive in Dallas, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Registration will begin at 11 a.m. and bowling is from 1-4 p.m. For additional information and registration material, call 972-519-5495.

The Dixon Avenue Group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Saturday from noon-1 p.m. at the Larry Johnson Recreation Center, 3700 Dixon Avenue, in Dallas. Presently the only AA meeting in South Dallas, the Dixon Avenue Group encourages those who might need help to attend. For more information or directions, call 670-8495.

The fifth annual Dave Lane Family First Day at the Dallas and Fort Worth Zoos will be held Nov. 21. Both zoos will offer a special half-price day for visitors to the zoological parks from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Each year WFAA-TV hosts the popular event in memory of David T. Lane, the late president and general manager for Channel 8. For more information, call the Dallas Zoo at 214-670-5656 and the Fort Worth Zoo at 817-871-7050.

November 22

The Hope Cottage Pregnancy and Adoption Center and Rev. Kenneth Spears, pastor of First St. John Baptist Church of Fort Worth, is sponsoring a free African American Open House for families who would like to learn more about adopting a bi-racial or African American infant. The open house will take place Nov. 22 from 3-5 p.m. at First St. John Baptist Church, 2401 E. Berry, in Fort Worth. For more information, call 214-526-8721.

November 23

Community Calendar Sponsored by Southwestern Bell Telephone

**Your friendly neighborhood
global communications company.SM**



Southwestern Bell

The Arena Survey: Give Us Your Expert Opinion.

Here's your chance to shape the future of our city ... by filling out and mailing back this Arena Survey. From the teams to the architects, everyone involved in designing the new arena wants the opinions of the real experts ... *you*. And as our way of *Generating Excitement!*, you'll automatically be entered into the Arena Survey Sweepstakes ... your chance to win two premium VIP tickets to sports, concerts and entertainment events throughout the inaugural year of the new arena!

We've provided you with yes-no, multiple choice and ranking questions to make it easier for you and to tabulate your opinions more accurately. Obviously, the arena design team will seek to meet many of the goals tested in the survey, but we'd like to know what's most important to you. Don't feel bound by the answer categories. We've also provided space in each section for you to write out your own ideas.

Looks

1. If you were designing the new arena, would you build it mostly of brick and stone, or glass and steel?

- ☐ Brick & Stone
☐ Glass & Steel

2. Is it important to you that the arena use native Texas materials when possible?

- ☐ Yes, Texas materials are important
☐ No, Texas materials are not important

3. Imagine yourself the arena architect. Would you design a structure more classical like The Ballpark At Arlington or Bass Performance Hall in Fort Worth ... or more modern like the Meyerson Symphony Center or Dallas City Hall?

- ☐ Classical/Ballpark
☐ Modern/Meyerson

4. The arena site is just north of downtown Dallas, between the West End to the south, Stemmons Freeway to the west and the Uptown/Crescent area to the north. If you were aligning the entry into the arena, would it be more important to connect

the complex to:

- ☐ The West End/South
☐ Stemmons Freeway/West
☐ Uptown & The Crescent/North

5. Should the architectural style of the new arena complex be in keeping with the surrounding neighborhood, or should the arena stand alone, beginning and ending within the building's structure?

- ☐ Consistent/Carried through surrounding neighborhood
☐ Stand Alone/Unique to building and kept within arena

6. The Ballpark At Arlington features friezes with scenes from Texas history cast in stone, and the Bass Performance Hall incorporates statues of angels with trumpets. Is it worthwhile to incorporate art into the design of public buildings like the new arena?

- ☐ Yes/Incorporate Art
☐ No/Don't Incorporate Art

7. The following are possible goals which may be valuable in the design of the new arena. In your opinion, which of the following concerns rank as the most important to you? (Rank answers in order 1-6, with 1 the most important and 6 the least.)

- ☐ An arena that is pedestrian-oriented, built with easy access on a human scale

☐ An arena that will stand as a major skyline monument, visible from miles away

☐ An arena that is cutting-edge architecture, acclaimed by critics and architectural experts

☐ An arena that will draw people even when no events are taking place

☐ An arena that brings people of diverse backgrounds together to enjoy public gatherings

☐ An arena that is a civic symbol of pride for Dallas in the 21st Century

8. Please give us your comments about any of the issues raised above. How do you think the arena should look? What should it do for Dallas? What advice would you give the design team?

Features

9. From a practical standpoint, what matters most to you about the design of the new arena complex? (Rank answers 1-5, with 1 the most important and 5 the least.)

- ☐ Ease of vehicle traffic flow
☐ Adequate parking close to the building
☐ More restrooms to avoid lines
☐ More concession stands
☐ Hallways, balconies and circulation areas appropriate for strolling and meeting people

10. Should the new arena feature designated smoking areas away from the seating?

- ☐ Yes/Allow designated smoking areas
☐ No/No smoking anywhere in arena complex

11. If the new arena offered covered parking, would you pay more for it?

- ☐ Yes/Covered parking worth paying for
☐ No/Don't need covered parking

12. Is access to DART rail, commuter rail, buses and mass transit important to you?

- ☐ Yes/Transit important
☐ No/Transit not important

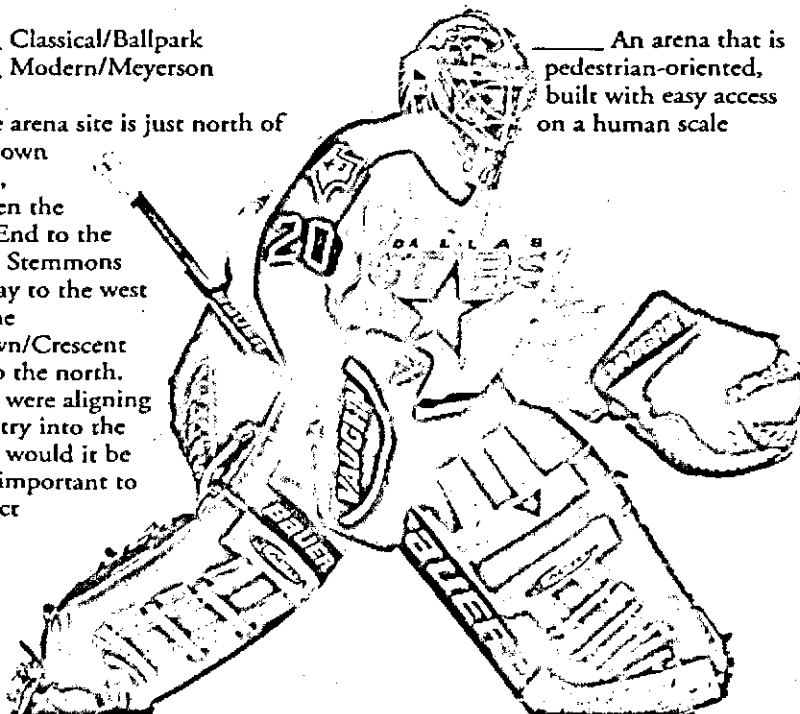
13. If mass transit access is important to you, check the areas you'd most like to see connected to the new arena via DART or other mass transit:

- ☐ South Dallas/Oak Cliff
☐ North Dallas/Park Cities
☐ West Dallas/Oak Lawn/Downtown/Uptown
☐ East Dallas/Garland/Eastern Suburbs
☐ Plano/Richardson/Northern Suburbs
☐ Farmers Branch/Carrollton/Northwest Suburbs
☐ Irving/Las Colinas/DFW Airport
☐ Arlington/Fort Worth/Tarrant County

Your new arena means minority business opportunity for Dallas. To build and operate the new arena, we are committed to meeting the city's Minority and Women's Business Enterprise requirements, bringing more jobs and economic growth to businesses across our city. The arena design team has assembled a top-notch team of women and minority-owned businesses.

14. Please check the three types of concession items you most like to see at the new arena.

- ☐ Traditional (Hot dogs, popcorn, peanuts)
☐ Pizza
☐ Bar-B-Que
☐ Healthy Fare (salads, fruit, cold sandwiches)
☐ Grilled Food (hamburgers,



- chicken, sausage)
☐ Seafood
☐ Mexican/Tex-Mex
☐ Ice Cream
☐ Beer/Wine/Liquor
☐ Restaurant-Style Dining
☐ Retail Shops
 Other/Comments:

15. Is it important to you that the new arena feature cupholders for each seat?

- ☐ Yes/Cupholders important
☐ No/Cupholders not important

If your answer is yes, where would you like the cupholders?

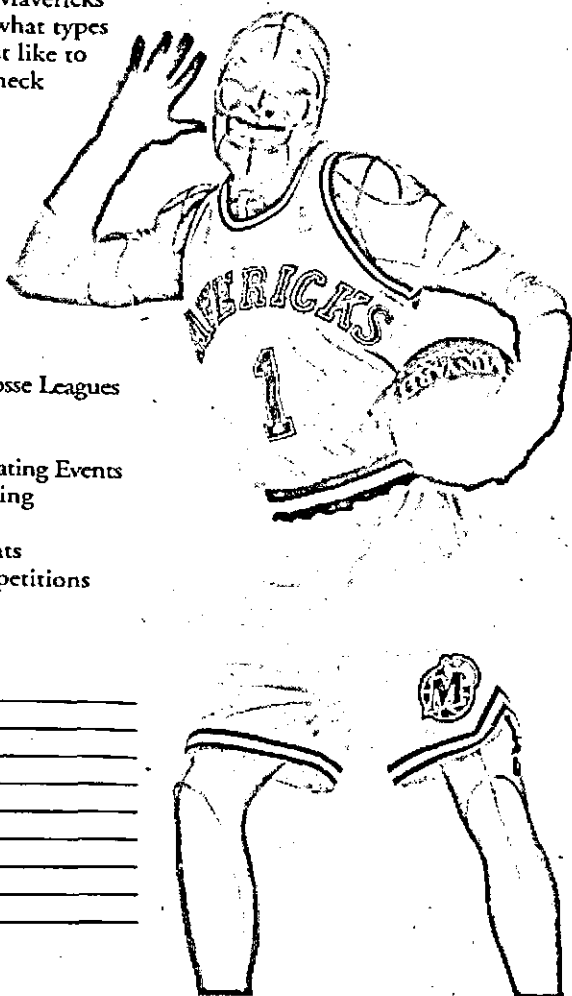
- ☐ On the armrest
☐ On the chair back of seat in front of you

16. Please give us your comments regarding the practical features that matter to you in regard to the new arena. What else would you like to see inside the arena? What are your pet peeves about public stadiums, arenas and concert halls? What are the best ideas you've seen in other facilities?

Events

7. In addition to Dallas Mavericks and Dallas Stars games, what types of events would you most like to see at the new arena? (Check favorites)

- ☐ Rock/Country/
Popular Music Concerts
☐ Other
☐ Music/Performing Arts
Events
☐ Circus/Children-
Oriented Events
☐ WNBA Basketball
☐ Indoor Rugby/Lacrosse Leagues
☐ Arena Football
☐ Indoor Soccer
☐ Ice shows/Figure Skating Events
☐ Professional Wrestling
☐ Tennis
☐ NCAA Tournaments
☐ High School Competitions
☐ Motor Sports
☐ Rodeo
 Other:



18. Should the new arena be designed with plazas that support activities outside the building, or should all arena activities be contained inside the structure?

- ☐ Plazas/Activities outside
☐ All arena activities contained inside

19. Is it important to you that the arena complex and parking areas be designed with landscaping and walkways that entertain, educate or involve the audience on the way in and out of the complex?

- ☐ Landscaping/Walkways important
☐ Landscaping/Walkways not important

20. Please share any final comments you have regarding the arena design, important features and the events you would like to see there. Put yourself in the architect's chair and describe your ideal blueprint. If you could pick one thing that's most important to you, what would it be?

Enter The Arena Survey Sweepstakes. Mail Back This Form To Win!

Thank you for joining the arena design team. By filling out the survey and mailing it back, you are eligible to win two premium tickets to exciting sports, concerts and entertainment events throughout the inaugural year of the new arena complex.

Please fill out the following entry blank:

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: (H) _____ (O) _____
 E-mail: _____

Optional. You do not need to fill out the following section to be eligible to win:

☐ I would be interested in knowing more about seating options at the new arena. Please send me information about:

- ☐ Dallas Mavericks Season Tickets
☐ Dallas Stars Season Tickets
☐ New Arena Club Seats
☐ New Arena Luxury Suites

Now remove this section of this paper.
Fold it up and mail in a stamped envelope addressed to:

The Arena Group
 P.O. Box 139089
 Dallas, Texas 75313

ATTN: ARENA DESIGN TEAM

Or you can complete the survey and enter the sweepstakes via our interactive website at www.newdallasarena.com. All entries must be received by Tuesday, November 24. Only one entry per person. The winner will be announced in The Dallas Morning News the week of Dec. 14-20, 1998. For questions, please call us toll-free at 1-877 ARENA 4 U.

GENERATING EXCITEMENT

No purchase necessary. Limit one prize. One winner will receive two (2) premium tickets to sports, concert and entertainment events throughout the new arena's inaugural year. Winner will be determined by a random drawing. Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received. Entries must be received by Friday, November 20, 1998 at noon. One entry per person please. Illegible entry forms will not be eligible for drawing. No mechanical reproductions of the entry are allowed. The contest is open to all residents of Texas, age 18 or older, with the exception of employees and their family members of A.H. Belo Corp., The Dallas Stars, The Dallas Mavericks, their subsidiaries, advertising agencies and other contest sponsors. For complete contest rules, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: The Dallas Morning News, Sales Promotions Manager, PO Box 655237 Dallas, TX 75265.

Creating newsletters, fliers, brochures, business cards and greeting cards will be the subject of a class being offered at UTA's Division of Continuing Education. In this hands-on class, students will learn how to use Microsoft Publisher's wizard, work with graphics, ClipArt and the drawing tools, fonts, text styles and frames. The class will meet 6-10 p.m. Nov. 23-25 in room 113 at the Swift Center, 1022 W. Border St. The fee is \$115. For more information, call metro 817-272-2581.

November 24

Former Kansas City Chief football player Marcus Allen will be the guest speaker at the Southwestern Bell - SMU Athletic Forum sports luncheon Nov. 24. For ticket and luncheon information, call the Southwestern Bell - SMU Athletic Forum office at 214-768-4314.

November 25

New Image Business Associates invites the public to its weekly small business luncheon every Wednesday at the Bill J. Priest Institute of Economic Development, 1402 Corinth, room 202 A&B, in Dallas, from noon-1 p.m. Lunch is \$5 per person. For more information, call 214-350-9590.

November 27

The Dallas Theater Center will present the Charles Dickens' classic, "A CHRISTMAS CAROL," Nov. 27-Dec. 27 at DTC's Arts District Theater, 2401 Flora St. at Fairmont. Opening night is Dec. 2. Tick-

et prices range from \$14.50 to \$35.50. Student "rush" tickets are available. To purchase tickets, call the Dallas Theater Center at 214-522-8499.

• • • •

Stage West Theatre's production of "The Mysteries: Part 1" will run Nov. 27-Dec. 27 at 3053-33 S. University Drive in Fort Worth. Single price tickets are \$14-18. The Mysteries are a collection of biblical tales that were originally produced for theatrical performance in medieval times. Through song, dance, magic and farce they tell of the Creation, Adam and Eve, Cain, Abel, Lucifer's fall from grace, the birth of Christ and much more. For more information, call 817-784-9378.

December 1

Sportsfest will take place Dec. 1 from 6-10 p.m. at the Bronco Bowl, 2600 Fort Worth Avenue, in Dallas. Sportsfest is a charitable fund-raiser/toy drive benefiting the Martin Luther L. King Jr. Community Center. The event features athletes, team executives and sports media personalities in a variety of sport activities such as bowling, billiards and arcade games geared toward family entertainment. Admission to Sportsfest is \$5 with a new, unwrapped toy and \$10 without a toy. The goal is to collect 2,000 toys and to raise \$20,000 to supplement the King Center's programs for at-risk youth. Michael Irvin will again serve as the official spokesman and State Sen. Royce West will serve as honorary chairman.

December 2

The Dallas chapter of the National Con-

ference of Black Lawyers will meet the first Wednesday of the month at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center, 2922 MLK Jr. Blvd., in Dallas. For more information, call 214-426-2755.

• • • •

The University of Texas at Arlington's Automation and Robotics Research Institute sponsors the Enterprise Excellence Workshop Series. The breakfast meetings start at 7 a.m. at ARRI, 7300 Jack Newell Blvd., in Fort Worth. The workshops are designed to help small business gain a competitive edge. The Dec. 2 meeting will be "Facilitation: Developing the Skill Everyone Needs." For more information, call 817-272-2761.

December 3

Sisters on the Move have been providing support to women in the Dallas area conducted by trained facilitators since 1993. Meeting every first and third Thursday of each month, the organization has been offering women a way out and re-defining community. The organization is offering two new support sessions beginning in February. For more information, call 972-709-1180.

December 4

The Dallas Children's Theater will present its production of the perennial favorite "THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER," Dec. 4-20 at El Center College, Main and Market streets in downtown Dallas near the West End. The play is about the Herdman family, known as "the worst kids in the whole

history of the world," who are rehearsing for a local church's Christmas pageant and the havoc they create as they and the congregation discover the true meaning of Christmas.

December 5

KRBV/KHVN (V100 and Heaven 97) will host the 5th Annual For Sisters Only '98 Dec. 5-6 at Dallas Market Hall. The annual event is the largest African American lifestyle event in the Southwest. The event features major R&B and gospel concerts, celebrity appearances, self improvement and financial seminars, a literary area, fashion shows, business expo and healthcare outreach pavilion sponsored by Parkland Hospital. Parkland will offer 40 healthcare screenings, including mammograms, diabetes testing, healthy cooking demonstrations and more, all free of charge to attendees.

• • • •

The city of Coppell will host its annual Christmas Parade at 3:30 p.m. This year's theme is "Christmas Around the World Parade." Event organizers plan to have the diverse metroplex communities represented in order to promote unity. There will be an open house at Town Center, 225 Parkway, following the parade.

ATTENTION:

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

Minority Opportunity News
2730 Stemmons Frwy
1202 Tower West
Dallas, TX 75207
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Book Review

Angela
Washington-Blair,
Ph.D.

My Brother

by Jamaica Kincaid
Noonday Press \$10

Jamaica Kincaid, author of several novels, shares with readers a touching memoir

of her grief over her brother's death from AIDS. Her brother, Devon, was only thirty-three years old when

he died in 1996. This is a memoir of her family, including life on the island of Antigua. It is brutally frank as Kincaid lays bare her innermost feelings and perceptions of death and dying. Anyone who has watched a loved one lose a battle to cancer or AIDS, will empathize and maybe even agonize a little as the process is described. One can only imagine the author crying as she wrote and hope

that the putting of pen to paper was cathartic for her.

Stand

by Sharon A. Floyd
Victory Tabernacle Outreach

Harassment in the workplace is an oft-discussed topic these

days. How to overcome harassment, how to get management on your side, and how to recover from traumatic experiences at work is

this book's focus. Floyd shares from her twenty-something years in corporate America some of the gross unfairness and some truly harrowing experiences meted out to her at the hands of bosses and fellow employees. When you've tired of reading about grit-

Winter Nights

by Francis Ray, Shirley Hailstock and Donna Hill
BET/Kensington, \$22

ty reality and the downtrodden in your novels, take a break from the harshness of

life with a little romance. (Yes, African-American women and men can have romance). If you like a fairy

tale-a happy-ever-after ending, then this anthology of three filled-with-cheer holiday tales is for you. Written by three prolific romance novelists of color, including local author Francis Ray, the stories of passion and love include a Christmas, Kwanzaa, and a New Year's setting. These are warm cozy, wonderful time of the year stories that make readers feel that often the unbelievable is possible. As in other books of this genre, be prepared for some explicit sex.

Paul R. Williams, Architech: A Legacy Of Style

by Karen E. Hudson
Rizzoli, \$50

Floyd, an evangelist, provides readers

with weapons to fight in this battle of not just workplace warfare, but spiritual warfare. Self-published, but a very polished slender volume, the book provides scriptural resources that enable workers to stand in the face of adversity.

This coffee-table edition written by Williams' granddaughter is filled with wonderful black and white and some color photos documenting the life and accomplishments of the now-deceased architect. Based in Los Angeles, Williams was the first African-American member and Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. While his name is not as common place as that of white

architect Frank Lloyd Wright, his body of creative work is no less impressive. Considered the architect to the

stars, he designed houses for Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz; Bill "Bojangles" Robinson; Tyrone Power; and Frank Sinatra. His design projects numbered over 3,000 in the decades from the 1920's to the 1960's, and included the Beverly Hills Hotel; making his life story truly inspirational and phenomenal.



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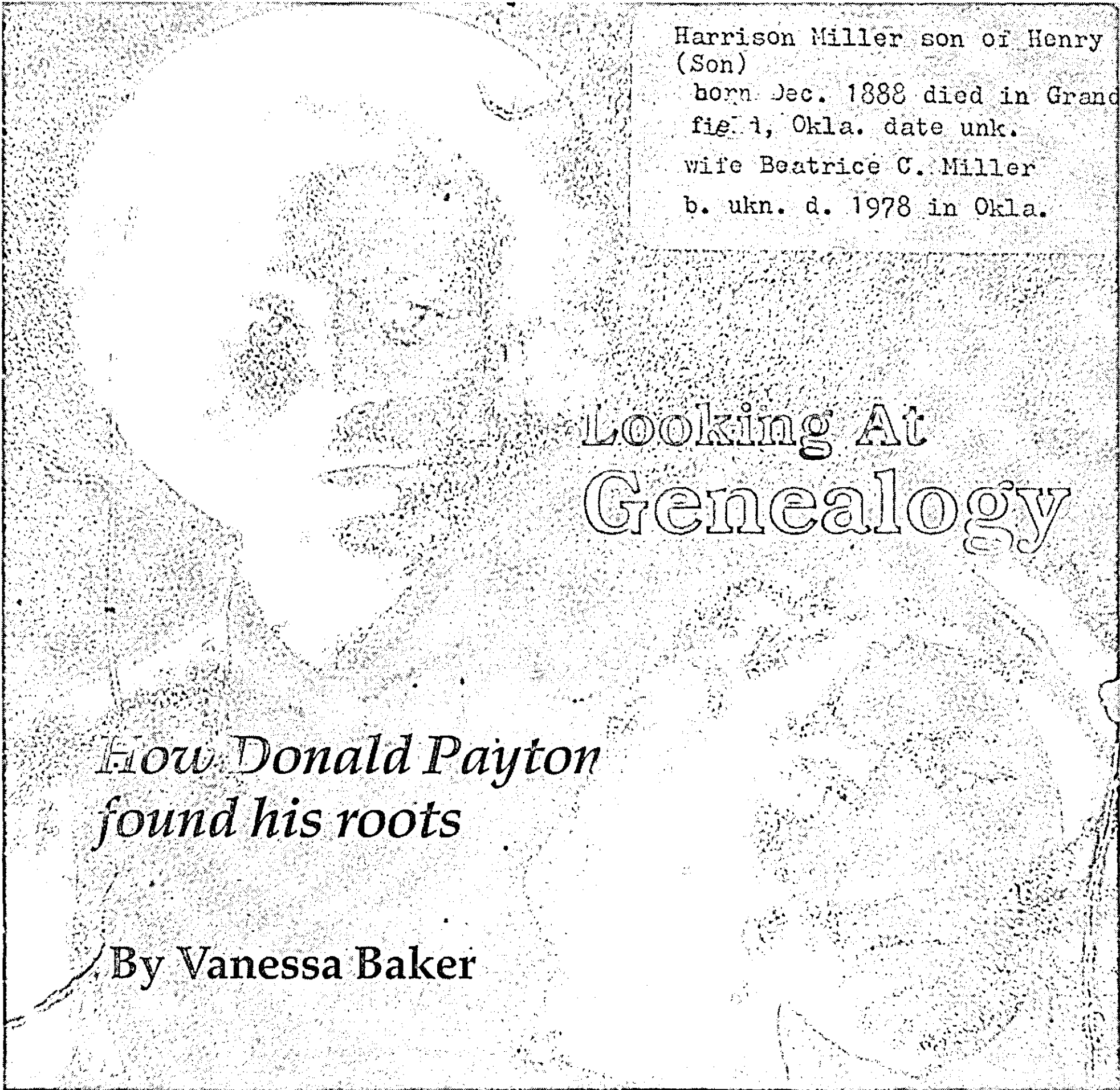
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Harrison Miller son of Henry
(Son)
born Dec. 1888 died in Grand
field, Okla. date unk.
wife Beatrice C. Miller
b. unk. d. 1978 in Okla.

Looking At Genealogy

How Donald Payton found his roots

By Vanessa Baker

When black people come together in unity, our ancestors smile. They look down and say, 'Look at my daughter, look at my son, y'all. Come here. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John. Look down there. That's my blood you're looking at. Look at that tree. Those are my roots.' People come from all over the world to look at a tree that produce good fruit. Good fruit comes when we know where we've been; where we've come from; and when we give credit where credit is due."

—Donald Payton

At his kitchen table, surrounded by African American memorabilia — mostly dolls from every imaginable era — the two of us sat. I watched tears well up in Donald Payton's eyes as he professed why it is imperative that Black Americans search out their genealogy. Payton, a historian and one of the founders of the African American Interest Group of the Dallas Genealogical Society (and a descendant of the William Brown Miller family),

said passionately, "Genealogy gives me direction. Gives me pride in my family." The tears that watered his cheeks added credence to his message as he stared into my eyes and continued. "That's why genealogy is important. It gives you your sense of identity in all of this. It gives you an opportunity to search out the roles your ancestors played. Connection," Payton adds. "That's what genealogy is."

For many, Alex Haley's *Roots* was an introduction to the world of genealogy. Its remarkable mixture of fact and fiction afforded front-row seating to observe the struggles of a family in transition, exploring a history that, for too many years, was thought best to be kept secret. The saga began with the theft of Haley's last African-born ancestor, Kunta Kinte, and ended with the author's search for that very same ancestor. It provided a historical glimpse at the homeland from which all Black Americans come. And *Roots* served another purpose. It planted the seed of curiosity in thousands of people. Almost overnight we all wanted to know who we were; from what African village we originated;

to what aspect of our existence can we attribute to the Mother Land. The television miniseries *Roots*, the genealogy of the Haley family, was reportedly viewed by over 130 million people, the largest television audience for a single program of all time.

Alex Haley's son, William, said that genealogy is both an art and a science. "Deep inside all of us is the urge to visit, to walk, to commune where our ancestors made their mark." Recording the genealogy of a family, William Haley adds, assures the passing on of values and concepts of hope and spirituality from generation to generation. It involves participation in a continual story, and it allows family members to identify and internalize their passport within that family. Payton concurs. The Family story continues because genealogy permits one to speak of the past in terms of the present. "That's my story — that's my history," it grants one permission to say.

Payton remembers that the history courses he took were always interesting. Problem was, they were always other people's histories. "I had good teachers who knew the subject backwards and forwards. They made my learning relevant." What Payton didn't realize, however, was that his genealogical seed of curiosity was being planted. "I relished sitting around those old women telling those old stories, talking about the jobs they used to do and how proud they were to work all day for their pay — twenty five cents. Quarters added up, and

after collecting so many, they were able to buy something for everybody." Payton feels he owes it to his family to search out their story. It's a tribute, he acknowledges. And as he shares his findings, Payton says that family members thank him for resurrecting the Miller clan. For the past couple of decades, the Millers have enjoyed annual family reunions started by Payton.

A pioneer of Dallas County, William Brown Miller was ranked as one of the foremost citizens of early Dallas. Poor health caused him to leave Independence, Missouri, in 1846, leading him to the much-publicized new state of Texas. This was only one year after Texas was admitted to the Union, and five years after the first settler, John Neely Bryan, pitched tent on the bank of the Trinity River where the city of Dallas was to start. Its open air was good

for the gentleman who suffered from a bronchial condition. Miller soon became a major landholder, buying hundreds of acres in the Oak Cliff area.

Payton's ancestors had been brought to America with the William Brown Miller family. When Miller returned to Missouri in 1847 to gather up his wife and children and take them to their new home in Dallas, three slave families accompanied him: Arch and Charlotte Miller; Clayton and Betty Miller; and John and Lucy Miller. Their arrival made these African Americans (Pay-

ton's paternal foreparents) among the original Black people to settle in Dallas County. Payton's great-great grandparents were John and Lucy Miller.

The slaves quickly became part of the structure. With their own hands, they built Millermore, the original big house occupied by the William Brown Miller family. (Now a historical landmark, this house sits on a lot in Old City Park.) As the number of African American families grew, the Black Millers helped to organize the first Black Baptist Church in the Oak Cliff area. They also assisted in setting up the first school for Blacks — Lisbon Colored School.

I asked Payton why he chose the Miller side of his family to research. He explained, "The Millers played an important part in the making of America. They left the best paper trail."

It's been documented that back in 1679 in Scotland, the Miller clan resisted the Church of England's mandate to sign a covenant to that church. They were subsequently taken prisoner. They later escaped to America, in effect banishing themselves to the Colonies. Payton says that not only was he able to document the Millers arrival in America, he found Bibles that recorded when the first slaves were born into the Miller family, in 1724. He uncovered the Miller involvement in the American Revolution, which freed the Thirteen Colonies from British control, thus forming the independent United States of America. Payton also found proof that the Millers were friends with the distinguished Revolutionary War statesman, Patrick Henry, who is noted for his words, "Give me liberty or give me death." Payton also located letters Daniel Boone, the most famous pioneer of colonial times, wrote, verifying that during his adventures he stayed with the Millers.

Payton uncovered deeds showing that his white ancestors founded Madison County, Ky. and Madison County, Ala. They lived in Tennessee and Missouri before finally settling in Texas. Said Payton, "Being wealthy, they had the ability to document their movements. I had access to receipts and tax records. I even found probated wills that bequeathed the Negro slaves to their wives, their children. Genealogy is not hard," he continued, "but it is time consuming."

"Be prepared," Payton warned. "In your search you'll find some of everything. You'll find the hardest working people that

day, July 10, 1860, when Miller slaves, along with two white Methodist ministers, McK-inney and Blount, supposedly concocted the plot to burn down the town. The perpetrators retreated to the wooded section of the Five Mile area, property owned by the Millers. The ministers, who were members of an abolitionist group, had been in Dallas stirring the people over the hot issue of slavery. "Uncle Pat, who died with his tobacco chew in his mouth, Uncle Sam, and Uncle Cato, a surrogate uncle, swung from trees." Payton's brow knitted as he spoke of visualizing the wagon being pulled from under them, leaving them suspended from a tree limb in a hangman's noose. A town committee was appointed for the purpose of punishing the entire Black population of Dallas County. "All the men, women, and children were whipped because of that fire. Because they needed to be reminded of their place."

As the explosive decade of the 1890s dawned, the face of the city began to change. Some of the top African American intellectuals took residence in Dallas, Payton said. Black lawyers and doctors moved to town. While this was taking place, a few of Payton's great-great uncles were making a name for themselves — as major contributors to a Dallas crime wave.

After being paid two silver dollars to "entertain" a white man's wife but refusing the man's request to let him watch, Payton's uncle, Henry Miller — a descendant of the slaves, Clayton and Betty — was charged with "having a criminal relationship with a respectable woman." Henry refused to go to the station with a rookie officer named Brandenburg when he arrived to arrest him at the saloon where Henry played banjo. Instead, Henry shot a part in the officer's hair. Brandenburg fled, and veteran officer C. O. Brewer later came to arrest Henry. More gunfire ensued and Brewer became Dallas' first white officer killed in the line of duty. A riot broke out on Elm Street and Henry was finally apprehended and taken to jail. In order to prevent a mob hanging, the county sheriff dressed Henry in women's clothing, and slipped him out of town. He was taken to Waco for safe keeping.

Payton's Uncle Commodore Miller — a descendant of Arch and Charlotte — was feisty as well. According to records, Commodore, known to be "quite a dandy" because he was a well-dressed Negro who could read and write, died twice. Extremely fair complexioned, it is told that he dressed in women's clothing and robbed trains, then was the first to mount a horse "to look for the thieving scoundrels" because he "lost money in those train robberies."


When Commodore learned that he was sought by authorities, he left Dallas and fled to Little Rock, Ark. Uncoincidentally, a crime spree broke out in Little Rock. Eventually Commodore got shot, and *The Dallas Morning News* reported that he was mortally wounded, thus his first death.

Continued on next page

FIRST EDITION
THE TIMES HERALD

Published at the Postoffice at Dallas, Texas, as Second-class Mail Matter.
DALLAS, TEXAS, FRIDAY EVENING, JULY 28, 1893.

SPECIAL
Sale of Men's
FURNISHINGS
ne Pants, Henry Miller
Executed.
INSIDE THE JAIL
To-Day for the Murder of C. O. Brewer.
HIS LAST WORDS ARE
That He Will Go Home to Heaven.
HISTORY OF THE
Statements from Payton's...
of the...
At the...
was...
in...



The (Dallas) Times Herald, July 28, 1893, gives account of the hanging of Henry Miller. (Note portion of graphic at bottom right.)

Continued from previous page

Commodore, who survived the wound, was arrested and put on a train to Dallas, where he had been sentenced to serve on a chain gang. As he and other prisoners built the original 'Pike' connecting Dallas to Fort Worth, (old Ft. Worth Avenue), Commodore picked up a large rock and bashed in a guard's head. Then he took his keys and released all of the prisoners. Commodore then headed for Kentucky. While there, he allegedly used a razor to cut two white teen-aged girls to death.

A Black man who claimed he was not Commodore Miller was captured, shot, burned, then hanged. "I don't know who that man was they killed in Kentucky," a relative of Commodore's was reported to say, "but it surely was not Commodore." Everyone knew that Commodore's choices of weapons were a Winchester and a pistol, never a razor. Although Commodore's family never thought that the dead man was actually Commodore, the alleged demise worked in his favor. After spreading the rumor that her husband was indeed dead, Commodore's wife left town to places unknown. Some felt she reunited with Commodore.

Henry wasn't so lucky. In 1893, after being denied a reprieve, he was hanged for the murder of Officer Brewer. Henry was interred in The Old Colored Cemetery (now the Freedman's Memorial Cemetery).

Since the release of *Roots*, interest in genealogy has been a growing phenomenon. Thousands of African Americans have embarked upon this journey, tracing bloodlines and resurrecting their beginnings. Unlike our white, brown, and red counterparts, the African American search is often met with a unique set of obstacles. We came to America stripped of our true identities, denied our native tongues, and separated from fellow family members. Our names changed as frequently as our owners. And because we were not considered whole individuals, record-keeping was not a priority. Regardless of these facts, we've survived as a people. And the fact that we've survived should be enough to pique our curiosity.

Alex Haley's search to fit together his genealogical puzzle took him back to Africa — to the very tribe from whence came his ancestors. But he had an advantage. When his ancestors came to America, they held on to their African surname. Haley managed to find living relatives who could remember essential information. He even found the slave trader and ship that transported the first of his people taken from Africa.

Donald Payton, who had the opportunity to meet Haley, was also lucky because the renown Miller family kept organized records that included those of their slaves. (Donald Payton is writing a book on his research titled, *The Millers: America's Family*.) Such luck rarely happens. According to experts who have written about genealogy, trying to trace one's ancestry, particularly back to Africa, may be the toughest challenge one will face. One may determine his

or her African ethnic group through physical characteristics, but the search usually stops there. Obstacles, however, should not prevent one from taking on the challenge.

Want to start your own search? Begin by recording everything you know about yourself and family members. Make a chart. Log information in a notebook. Tape-record your notes. List your name; birthdate; place of birth; dates and places of any religious rituals in which you've participated, e.g., baptisms; every place you've lived, making sure you catalogue street addresses; and all schools in which you were enrolled. Index, to the best of your knowledge, the same vital statistics on your parents and all known relatives, living and deceased. Go back as far as you can remember. Talk to as many relatives as possible so that they can help you fill in gaps. These gaps could be events that you lived through or witnessed, such as the death of a grandparent or the birth of a cousin. Or they could be bits of oral history that others have told you about.

Personal memories and stories may prove valuable. Don't concern yourself about exaggerations. Focus on those kernels of truth in each story. If possible, interview your parents. Ask for certificates of marriage. Register every place they've lived (addresses when possible) even before they knew each other. Don't be shy. Solicit. Send a polite letter to relatives you may not know so well. Tell them of your project and that you would be grateful if they would share their valuable memories with you. Make it easy on them. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope along with a list of questions such as:

1. Who is the earliest ancestor you know about? Approximately where and when did he or she live?
2. Give the following statistics about yourself, your spouse, and your children: name; place and date of birth; place and date of marriages; deaths; and burials; where you have lived and when.
3. Give as many of the above facts as you can for your parents and grandparents.
4. Do you have any personal or legal papers or any photographs relating to your family?
5. Do you know of any partial family history already researched or written by any of our relatives?

Whenever possible, interview relatives in person, getting permission to tape-record or videotape your conversation. Have your questions ready, but allow your relatives the opportunity to wander off the subject. Pertinent information can result from wandering, unsolicited recollections. Don't fear the subject of slavery. As painful as it was for our people, slavery is an integral part of our history. After completing the interview, type a transcript of it and send a copy of that information to the relative, along with a note of thanks for their valuable time and cooperation. They'll appreciate being a part of the project.

As information is received, devise a

system of organization. You may want to start with a three-ring binder with loose-leaf paper for note taking. Have on hand a bunch of file folders for organizing your notes. Get a box to keep the files in. Whatever system you incorporate, be consistent so that you are able to find what you need when you need it.

The Pedigree Chart and the Research Log (sometimes referred to as the Family Group Sheet) are two forms that are available for keeping track of information. These forms may be obtained from your local library. The Pedigree Chart is a linear history of all family groups, from yourself back to your earliest known ancestor. The Research Log records each nuclear family unit, i.e., a couple and their children. Do not get frustrated if these charts cannot be completed in totality. There are very few records on Blacks before the late nineteenth century.

I, too, have been smitten by the bug, and my search has begun. I am the daughter of Bertha L. Baker-Hilburn and James L. Baker and this is the make-up of one of the branches on my tree.

THE SIMS CLAN

Claiborne Parrish,
Haynesville, Louisiana

Although Jack Sims and Melissa Sims (my great-great grandparents) were born into slavery, they were fortunate to be born at the end of the slave era. Jack and Melissa had five children:

Harriet;
Elmira;
Benjamin; (I come from the line of Benjamin)
Howard;
Emma; and
Elbert.

Harriet had one son: Johnny.

Elmira had two daughters: Violet; and Virga Lee.

Benjamin (my great grandfather) had eleven children:

Ola (my grandmother, who died when my mother was two years old);
Lee Ola;
Mattie;
Rose;
John;
Wendell;
Ermon;
Ethel Mae; Aunt Sis
Suvella; Aunt Hon
Herbert; and
Eunice.

My mother, Bertha, was the only offspring of Ola, Ben's oldest child.

And this is my line:

From Melissa and Jack: Benjamin "Ben"
Benjamin married Agnes
(My great grandmother, Agnes, died in 1980. It is reported that she was between

If they are available, utilize wills, tax returns, military papers, school report cards and diplomas, medical records, bank statements, passports, employment contracts, estate records, plantation records, the census, directories, court records, and newspapers. Travel to graveyards (gravestones can take the place of missing burial certificates); sometimes they mention the names of spouses, children, or parents. Take hints from epitaphs. The verses may give clues to the time-frame in which your ancestors lived.

Go to the library and dig. Contact the Genealogical Society — usually you can do this through your branch library. Remember: Dallas has an African American Interest Group associated with the Genealogical Society. And, whatever you do, don't become impatient. Remember, you're in it for the long haul.

MON

112-116 years old.)

From Ben and Agnes: Ola

From Ola and Prentice Evans: Bertha
(Ola died from pneumonia when my mother, Bertha, was two.)

From Bertha and James L. Baker (my father passed in 1993):

Velorian Vonita Jones (passed in 1993);
Vetia C. Baker;
James Lynn Baker, Jr.;
VonCiel C. Hammers; and
Vanessa Denise Baker

Velorian had three children:
Veronique Chree Keeton;
Veronique, has one son: Reginal.
Valisha LaShun Keeton; and
Kytari Diamond Keeton.

Vetia has one son:
Francis Vaughn Baker

James has two children with Dorris A. Baker:

Vekeisha Lynn;
Jermaine Lamont;
Dorris' son, Jason Rosh, is ours as well.
And James also has daughters named
Jameetta Lynn Jones; Vontre Donnell;
and Jahmaad Baker.

VonCiel has one son:
McKinley Williams Knox, III.

Vanessa (I have no children.)

My search continues, and as Donald Payton has warned, I expect to discover an assortment of personalities, and uncover a myriad of tales. They are all significant. Every story contributes to the whole make up of "The Family." That's one of the beauties of genealogy. Today we look back at the good times as well as the painful times in our history, and we are proud they are our stories — our roots.

Vanessa Baker

Electronic Urban Report

News Bits

Magic Johnson created quite a stir when he refused to play Hype Williams' new film "Belly" in his theaters in Los Angeles, Atlanta and Houston. Some detractors say that Magic is violating Hype's Fifth Amendment Rights by refusing to show the film. Others feel that Magic yielded to pressure from his partners at Sony who were opposed to the film's content. But what does Magic have to say?

RadioScope host/founder and EUR publisher, Lee Bailey recently ran into Magic at Roscoe's Chicken and Waffles in Hollywood. After finishing their meals, the two stepped outside to discuss what some say was a controversial decision by Johnson.

"It's really not a controversial decision. I am responsible for the three million annual customers that come through the doors of my theater. I'm responsible for their comfort and their safety," Magic said. "Why this movie? Why this particular film?" inquired Bailey. Magic's answer alluded to his fear of gang violence at his theaters because of the film's content.

"I'm in gang territory already. You have to realize that. Right now everything is going great. I'm not saying the film would have caused problems, but I'm try-

ing to make sure it doesn't trigger any problems in our neighborhoods," he responded. Magic went on to speak about the Hollywood media's attitude toward his theaters and what their response would have been had the theaters erupted in violence.

"Hollywood told us our idea would not work, but we've been doing this for four years. Now when I make a decision like this it's made into a big news story. Theaters make decisions like this all the



Magic Johnson

time. But when I do it, it's a big deal. If violence would have broken out at my theater the story would have been front page." Bailey went on to question Magic about accusations from critics who feel his recent decision to "ban" the film counters his previous pro-Black business persona.

"I am one of the people that support

Black businesses. I'm the one that brings the Heart Foundation into our neighborhoods and I'm the one that sponsors the African American Film Festival so people who usually can't get their work shown can showcase their talents. So, I don't want to hear that. If someone else makes a film like that, I'll make the same decision," he said in an irritated tone. "But what about the people who say that you have given white-owned business theaters an excuse not to show other Black films?" asked Bailey.

"Well, I can't please everybody. There's going to be Black films I don't show and white films I don't show. We've turned down several white films already," he said. When asked whether he had spoken to Hype Williams he responded by saying "We've spoken through Puffy (Combs). I've just come back from Japan and so we haven't discussed it one-on-one. I told Puffy to tell him that this is only one film. It didn't work at our theater, but hopefully (his) next film will blow up for him."

"Judging from the movie's ticket sales (3.7 million this weekend) I get the feeling people are tired of this kind of film. Do you agree?" asked Bailey.

"That's what I'm trying to say. Whether or not I play the movie, the ticket sales will not lie. If the movie was going to make a whole lot of money it would have done so. Not that I'm going against him (Hype Williams) because I always want to see Black people succeed.

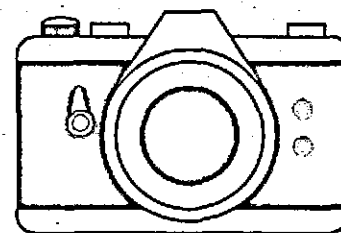
People should look at this situation as a good thing. Finally someone is looking out for our people. I could have played it for the money, but that's not the issue."

When questioned about rumors that he is a puppet for Sony, Magic sharply retorted, "Magic Johnson calls the shots, not Sony. They make the decisions at Sony theatres and I make the decisions for my theaters. Magic doesn't front for nobody."

MON

This is a partial reprint of the Electronic Urban Report, free, factual, online infotainment on the hottest celebrities, events and issues in urban/Black entertainment. Visit their website at <http://www.eurweb.com>.

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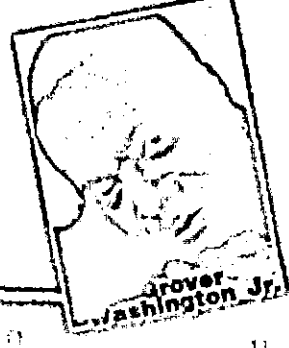
THE STARS COME OUT AT NIGHT...



Al Jarteru



Sade



Grover Washington Jr.



Luther Vandross



Saturday Nights
At 12:30
On Channel 11

SARATE Graphic provided by Sarah DeLoe 214-264-0850





You and Your Money

John Dudley

Planning Your Estate

Too many of us prefer to avoid thinking about what will happen to our assets after we're gone. However, personal qualms aside, this sort of "forward thinking," called estate planning, is invaluable—if not essential—for people with family responsibilities or business obligations.

Essentially, a sound estate plan is the key to ensuring that your wealth is passed on exactly as you intend. A well-conceived plan distributes much of what you've worked hard to accumulate, in the manner you've chosen, and with minimal delay and erosion by federal and state taxes.

There is a popular misconception that estate planning is only for the very rich. Actually, if your assets, including your home, investments, retirement accounts and projected life insurance proceeds, total more than \$600,000, you should seriously consider talking with your financial advisor about estate planning.

He or she will first ask you if you have

a will. If you do not, your financial advisor will recommend that you immediately consult your attorney to create a valid will to help ensure that your assets are distributed according to your wishes. Without such a document, your property may be distributed under the laws of the state in which you are a resident, and not necessarily in the manner you would have liked.

Another major consideration in estate planning is determining the degree to which the value of your assets will be taxed. Federal estate taxes can be as high as 55 percent. These numbers alone should provide the impetus for you to consider estate planning.

Under current legislation, anyone can leave an estate of up to \$600,000 free of federal estate tax. The federal estate tax credit that offsets the tax liability on an estate valued at up to \$600,000 is called the Unified Credit. In addition, married individuals qualify for an unlimited marital deduction which allows you to transfer any amount to your spouse or a qualified trust for his or her benefit, free of estate tax until the death of the surviving spouse.

Your financial advisor can recommend ways for you to protect your assets from taxes in a personal estate plan. For example, you can transfer up to \$10,000 annually to an individual, free of gift taxes. For married couples, gifts of \$20,000 (\$10,000 from each spouse) can be made annually to anyone without incurring gift taxes. Thus, a married couple with three

children may allot \$60,000 annually to their children without worrying about gift taxes. In essence, by making gifts, you've removed assets from your gross estate, thus avoiding estate taxation.

Another way to minimize estate taxes is to give away or gift assets that are expected to increase in value. In this way, you will remove all future appreciation of the property from your gross estate, thereby reducing future estate tax liability. Or you may choose to donate money to qualified charities during your life or at death, which has the effect of reducing your gross estate. Such gifts will be currently income tax-deductible if made now or estate tax-deductible if made at death.

Your financial advisor also may recommend that you consider establishing trusts as part of your estate planning. A trust is a legal arrangement in which you place all or part of your assets "in trust" for the benefit of others, or your beneficiaries.

Some of the more popular trusts used in conjunction with estate planning are:

REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST: Established, controlled and revocable by you, a living trust can substitute partially for a will when transferring assets. Assets in a living trust avoid probate, or judicial supervision of a will's instructions, thus accelerating transfer of assets to heirs. This type of trust also provides for asset manage-

ment in the event of your incapacity. Although they escape probate, the assets will be part of your gross estate for tax purposes.

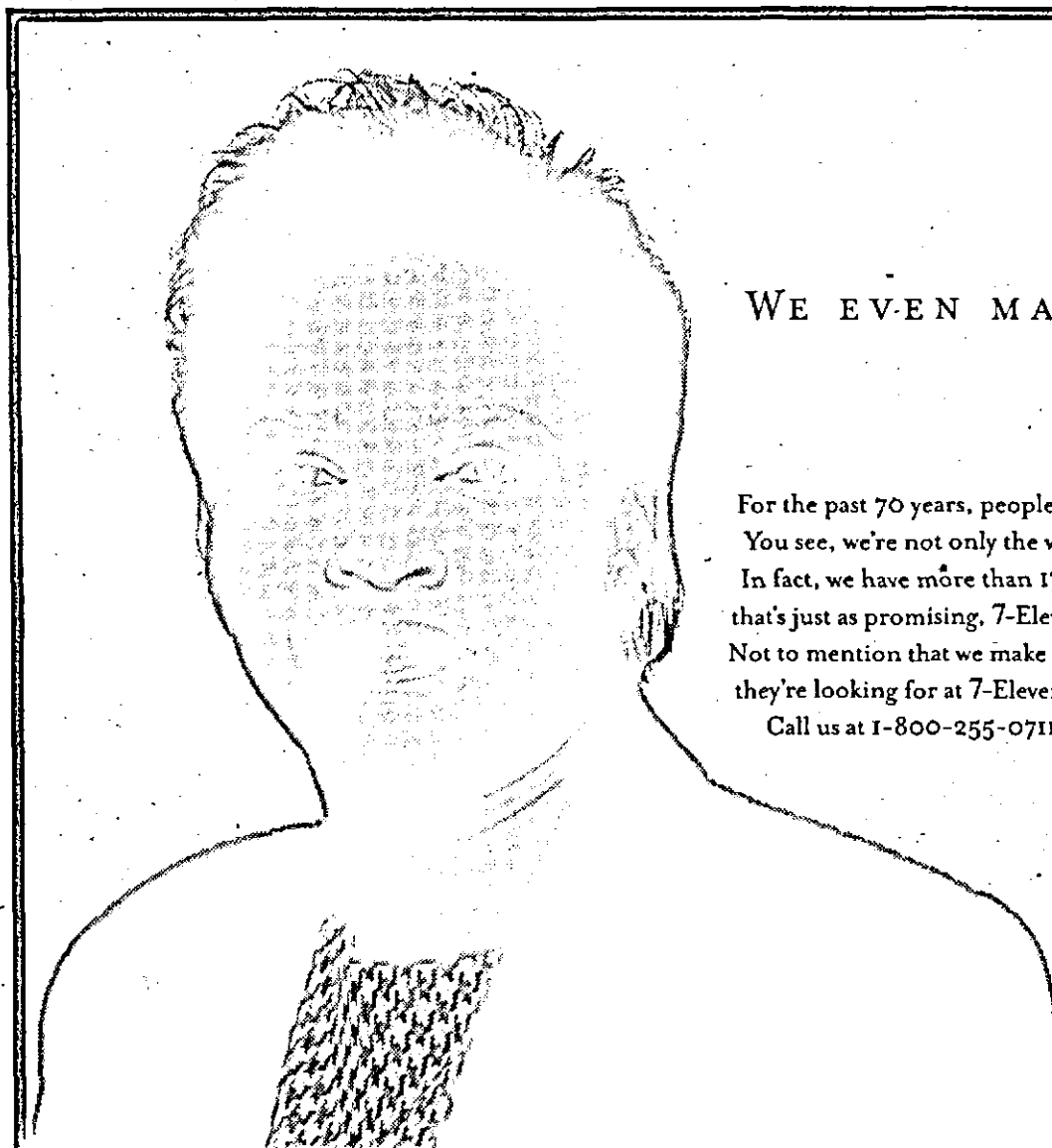
UNIFIED CREDIT TRUST (BY-PASS TRUST): This trust generally pays lifetime income to a surviving spouse, upon whose death the property passes to other individuals, such as the children.

CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST: A CRT provides a steady income to a living beneficiary, while transferring the remaining interest to a qualified charity upon the beneficiary's death. This can provide for a charitable tax deduction without giving up income generated by the trust's assets.

These are just a few of the strategies your financial advisor may recommend to you as part of an overall estate planning program. Clearly, you have numerous options available to help you conserve the bulk of your estate for your heirs. As one member of an estate planning team, which also must include your lawyer and accountant, your financial advisor can provide you with more information to help make decisions that are best suited to your needs and objectives.

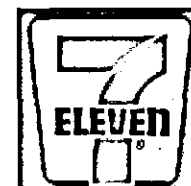
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John Dudley is a financial advisor with Prudential Securities. He can be contacted at 214-761-5142.



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Health & Fitness

Tyrone Caldwell

Why Are Our Kids So Fat?

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Our children have become couch potatoes, and video game addicts. We have a generation of kids that don't know what calisthenics are. They also think hamburger, fries, hot apple pie and soda is a nutritious meal. Convenience and technology have made us

consumers of high fat, high-calorie and overly processed foods. We no longer have to go out and work the earth for food. It comes conveniently cooked and wrapped in a microwavable package. This saves time, but it does nothing in the form of expending calories.

Today when kids come home from school, they are more apt to plop themselves down in front of the TV and play video games or get on a computer and surf the internet. Instead of going out and riding bikes or playing ball. This lack of activity increases your child chances of becoming fat. Compounding the problem is the fact that kids don't learn anything worthwhile in school about nutrition, health and fitness. If the kids could learn about nutrition in school. They would develop healthy attitudes and behavior patterns. These patterns would carry over into adulthood and serve them well in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Studies show that kids who are physically active are more motivated, have greater self-confidence, and develop a greater sense of physical empowerment and social recognition. So the next time you come home and your child is sitting and playing a video game. Have them get out the house and do some

physical activity. Better yet why don't you lead by example and they will follow.

Until next time, DON'T QUIT; GET FIT.

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Tyrone Caldwell is a certified personal trainer and founder of Bodies in Motion. Call him at 817-457-1537 or e-mail him at T-well@juno.com.

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THIS AD VALID WED., NOV. 11 THRU TUES., NOV. 17, 1998

Temping

By Jackie Larson

Used to be that temporary labor was reserved for homemakers subbing when the English teacher was sick and carpenters lending their skills to one new home construction at a time.

These days, temporary workers are the backbone of the tentatively booming North Dallas economy, professionals who make non-committal commutes to jobs they are reporting to on a short-term basis.

It's not a marriage, just a date.

Over 400 temporary staffing services have spring up to recruit, hire and place temp employees for harried human resource executives who are stymied in their efforts to fill low- to middle-range positions in the Metroplex, where with the unemployment rate hovering at a low, low percentage rate there are more spaces than able workers to fill them.

Generally, this is how staffing services work.

The employer gives the staffing service a job description and a candidate/skill profile, and a fee to find a candidate. The staffing service advertises, screens and interviews applicants and either places the candidate or sends them to the employer for the final interview and choice.

The staffing service then handles the payroll and benefit functions and cuts the checks. The employee pays nothing for being recruited, and usually has many of the same benefits a full-time worker enjoys—days off, sick time, even disability pay. The employer pays a finders fee and an hourly rate to the staffing service—and saves human resources manpower and advertising fees.

To some extent, that is great news for job seekers. They can pick the part of town—North Dallas, Downtown, Las Colinas, Addison, providing they have the skills. There are even some benefits available through the staffing agencies, and there is no fee to the employee for the service of finding work.

Erika was vocal about her love for her

temp work for a law firm.

"I'm getting to know what legal secretarial work is all about, and my wages are great. I may want to take a few months off when my baby is born, and I feel confident I could move back into a temp position easily," she said.

There can be a down side as well. Getting used to new positions and companies and workplaces can be a big adjustment for those who crave true 30-years-and-a-gold-watch stability.

"There is a real line here between those of us who are temps and those who are permanent," said Shirley, who is (mostly) enjoying her work as a marketing analyst for a high tech firm.

"When a permanent position opens up, there's a lot of competition. I hope to stay here," she added.

There can be lag times between assignments, although temp labor is in high demand right now in the Dallas area.

In addition to a flexible schedule and the ability to take time off when they want, Christine McNunn, Branch Manager at Staffing Solutions said taking a temp position gave the job seeker long-term decision-making advantages.

"That way, they have an ability to test the company in terms of the atmosphere...would it be a job they would enjoy doing, with people they enjoy working with?"

"They may want to experience different environments before making decisions about where they want to go," McNunn said.

The old phrase "love 'em and leave 'em" applies to temp work, too.

Regis took a temp job at a small firm, only to find out it wasn't a good fit. Now he's in accounting at a larger firm, and liking it.

In professional fields, the greatest demand is in the area of IT—information technology, people with software, hardware and computer networking skills.

Among clerical fields, receptionists have the highest turnover rate—in part because the average pay hovers in the \$9-\$10 an hour range, and because companies are usually looking for "polished, professional

appearance" in addition to a pleasant phone voice and excellent people greeting skills—all for a job that many ambitious workers see as too low paying to be a place they want to stay.

The requirements for clerical temp jobs go up in scale with the wages they bring in. The higher your typing rate and the greater your computer proficiency, the more money you can command in the temp workplace.

One such watershed is the presentation program, Powerpoint. While it is a fairly straightforward graphic design program, there is a big difference between general knowledge and the ability to produce a dynamic presentation on short notice; computerized tests given by many temp agencies quickly sort the expert from the novice.

The good news is that for many temp jobs, college is not an essential resume item.

"Very few of our applicants have any college. We're looking for basic computer skills—Word, Excel, Powerpoint—and there are a lot of positions—filing, copies, receptionist—where we can work with a pretty limited skill level," McNunn said.

Connie Dye is a recruiter for Art Squad, a company that fills only creative positions. They have over 300 active temps to call on on a regular basis for temp positions within the creative fields. Despite the specific arts niche, the project and staff specs varied so widely she preferred not to pigeon-hole a wage range.

"The ranges are based on their particular skillsets...and depending on what the client needs and what kind of budget they are working with," Dye said.

Here's a general guideline for what people make in some temp fields, courtesy of Kandice Romero at Westmoreland Personnel Service, Inc.

- Administrative Assistant—\$10 to \$14 an hour, depending on experience.
- Customer Service Representative / Receptionist—\$9 to \$10 an hour, depending on experience.
- Human Resources Generalist—\$40,000 + a year.
- Business/Management Consultant—\$20 to \$75 an hour.

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