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Minority Opportunity News



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

VOLUME 7, NO. 3 March 1998



Dallas' Tale of Two Cities

Redbird Airport, site of proposed "Black-owned" Marriot Hotel, could play a major role in the southern sector taking off.

Talking With
Mavericks President
Terdema Ussery

Reconciliation Outreach:
In the business of
human redemption

Guest Viewpoint:
Joyce Strickland speaks
about Karla Faye Tucker



**From
The Editor
Chris Pryer**

Editorial

Is the Arena a good deal?

All of the hoopla is over now. No more of the slightly irritating whine of Sharon Boyd, treasurer and leading spokesperson for the It's A Bad Deal! campaign, babbling incessantly about why the building of a new sports arena downtown would be a bad deal. No more smooth, glib, slick-as-Willie Sutton television appeals from Mayor Ron Kirk about how good a deal a new arena would be for Dallas. The vote was cast and the pro-arena forces, outspending the anti-arena crowd by about 25 to 1, won by a sliver.

During the campaign, one of the strongest appeals that Mayor Kirk made was the claim of the creation of 10,000 jobs. (Or was it 10 million jobs? Whatever the amount, watch out for an influx of immigrants who would be best served by voting yes, this one stood out the most.

The goal of most kinds of economically-based municipal endeavors is to create jobs. The number of people gainfully employed is most certainly a prime indicator of economic well-being. So the city of Dallas is willing to contribute \$125 million for 10,000 jobs. But will it really be worth it?

Derrick Jackson, a columnist for the *Boston Globe*, cites in his Feb. 23 column some intriguing figures from a book published by the august Brookings Institution on sports stadium economics. The book, *Sports, Jobs and Taxes*, looks at the expense incurred by cities building new sports arenas and the resultant number of jobs they hope to realize. Then, using simple math, it comes up with a cost per job.

Baltimore's Camden Yards provided jobs at a cost of between \$127,000 and \$331,000 each. In Arizona, they built their major league baseball team, the Diamondbacks, a new stadium. The cost per job was about \$700,000. A proposed new stadium in Manhattan for the New York Yankees would provide the local economy with 440 new jobs — at \$1.8 million per gig!

Let's see. The cost of a new arena here will be approximately \$230 million, meaning those 10,000 jobs will cost about \$23,000 each. Relatively cheap, by big city standards, wouldn't you say? But what are we buying? Not a bunch of \$6.50 an hour vending jobs, I hope. Can't raise a family on that, Mayor Kirk.

MON

Support referendum for "A Patient's Bill of Rights" on Democratic Primary Ballot

As managed health care continues to grow and evolve, public outcry over the cold, business-like way it is administered is increasing. Initially touted as a more sensible and less expensive way to provide physician care for everyone — by paying a little each month, provider members are assured inexpensive health "maintenance," thereby decreasing the chances of falling into "bad" health and the commensurate cost — managed care has metamorphosed into an industry that seems more concerned with keeping down cost than providing the best medical care for its members.

this problem by promoting a "doctor choice" referendum on the March 10 Democratic Primary ballot. Party Chair Bill White, State Senate candidate Greg Underwood, State House candidate Sam Thorpe and Grayson County Democrats recently unveiled their plan for "A Patient's Bill of Rights," a series of proposals designed to improve health care options for Texas families. The referendum gives member families of health care maintenance programs the right to choose their own doctors.

"Texas Democrats believe that every family deserves health care they can count on and a health care system that puts family health first," said White. "We want to ensure that Texas families have the right to choose their own doctors and that medical decisions are made by physicians, not insurance industry

accountants."

The Texas Medical Association reports that 3.5 million Texans currently participate in managed care plans and the number will exceed 5 million by the year 2000.

"The Patient's Bill of Rights will help ensure that Texas families have the right to choose the doctor they want for the care they need; that medical decisions are made by medical doctors, not insurance company accountants; and that families have the right to know all of their medical options, not just the cheapest," said White. "Our goal is simple — every Texan deserves quality health care." components:

- Right to choose your own doctor
- Access to comprehensive cancer care facilities
- Assurance that physicians are making medical decisions

• Full disclosure to all medical options, not just the cheapest

While health care maintenance organizations deny that they are driven by the bottom line, close attention to that very bottom line would seem to explain the lengthy and arduous procedure most enrollees must endure to get approval of a referral from an attending physician to see a specialist. Of course, getting a referral in the first place isn't always easy, either.

MON is not advocating that health maintenance organizations have no apparatus in place to ensure health care to its members. But there should be laws on the books that give the public alternatives and independence in their interface with their health care provider. Voting "yes" for A Patient's Bill of Rights is a good first step towards achieving that goal.



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LETTERS...

Hotel Atrocities

I would like to comment on Ms. (Cheryl) Smith's December 1997 column, "Local Hyatt Hotel insults media group." Ms. Smith states that "it has always been [her] contention that in the absence of ownership by African Americans, black people must find institutions that are clearly interested in developing relationships and supporting their community."

As members of a national black professional organization (National Association of Black Journalists), it is this writer's contention that we, African Americans, must provide these institutions ourselves; for too long we've looked to other groups to support our community. I can't count the number of times someone in a Black organization has shared their atrocities with me about hotel treatment.

If every Black organization in the country would forgo one annual convention, the millions saved would be enough to build an African American hotel. According to Ms. Smith, the Dallas/Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators and the National Association of Black Journalists have spent over a million dollars with Hyatt hotels. The only Black hotel in the country, Howard University Hotel in Washington, D.C., closed in 1996.

Even if there were only one Black hotel in the country, every Black organization in the country should hold its convention there. Until Black folks own their own hotels, Black organizations will continue to share hotel atrocities with each other.

Willie Pryor, Jr.
Dallas

Letters Policy

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

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

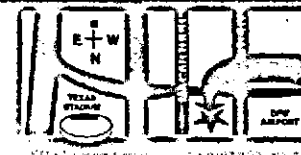
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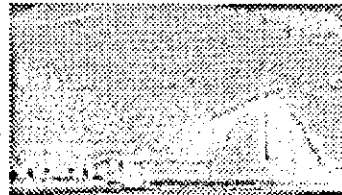
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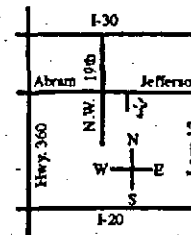
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Guest Viewpoint
Joyce Strickland

The Case of Karla Faye Tucker

The carnival in Huntsville, Texas has ended. On February 4, 1998, Karla Faye Tucker became the first woman executed in the state since the Civil War. Ms. Tucker admitted that she and an accomplice killed two Houston residents with a pickax in 1983. Although she claimed to be a born-again Christian, her attorneys' last minute legal maneuvers proved futile.

The debate over capital punishment, however, is far from over. This is an emotional subject that strikes at the very heart of our moral and religious values. In Ms. Tucker's case, even some proponents of capital punishment came out in favor of a commuted sentence, citing her rehabilitation and the need to forgive.

I believe that when a jury finds a defendant guilty of murder and sentences that person to death, the justice system makes a pact with the survivors and with the public. The system agrees that if all appeals are exhausted to no avail, the convicted person will be executed. When there is no question of guilt, the survivors and the public have every right to expect that their pact with the system will be honored.

Rehabilitation is critical for those prisoners who receive lesser sentences and can expect to be released. Although recidivism rates are high, it is still important to make every attempt at rehabilitation for reasons of public safety and to help reduce the prison population. However, if a claim of rehabilitation is allowed to change the outcome for a death row inmate, the pact is broken.

Forgiveness is an important tenet of my faith. As a survivor (of a victim) of a horrible crime, I know that forgiveness is an indispensable step in the process of healing. Without it, the injured party becomes steeped in hatred, guilt or other burdensome emotions and is incapable of moving forward. Yet forgiveness does not remove consequences. I see no contradiction in forgiving a murderer and holding her accountable.

Like most African Americans, I am keenly aware of the racial disparity that has historically been a part of the justice system. I am also disturbed by the apparent inequities based on economic status. It is precisely because of this disparity that many oppose capital punishment. Does anyone doubt that O.J. Simpson would have been convicted of murder were it not for his wealth? It must also be said that the deference shown by Boulder, Colorado police to John and Patsy Ramsey is truly remarkable since average Americans have no hope of receiving such treatment from a law enforcement agency.

Discrimination and special treatment undermine the integrity of the system. To diminish disparity, accountability must be the mantra of individuals and organizations working for a positive change. All citizens have a right to expect and receive equitable treatment. However, abolishing the death penalty because disparity exists would be tantamount to throwing out the baby with the bath water. I would shudder to think that for the most egregious criminal acts committed against a society, a jury would not have capital punishment as an option. This would be an extreme injustice to victims.

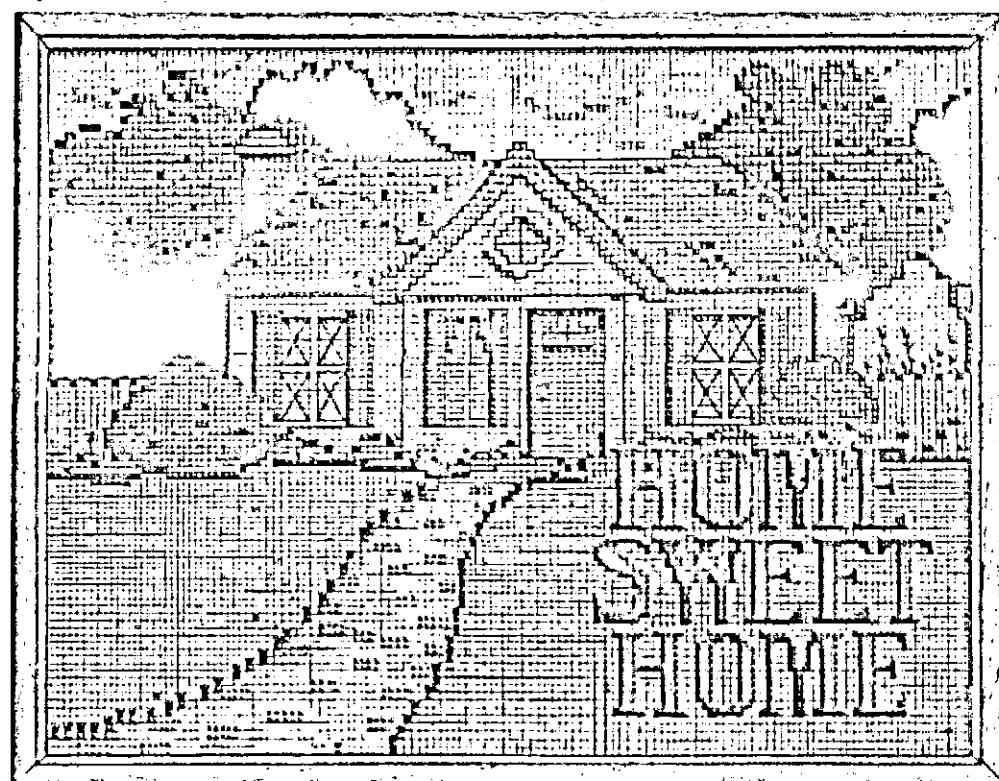
No matter how many are rehabilitated during their time on death row, and even though the system is imperfect, justice demands that the punishment fit the crime.

MON

Joyce Strickland is the executive director of Mothers Against Teen Violence, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit that provides support and advocacy to victims of violence and their families.

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**Community
Pulse**
Thomas Muhammad

I was walking out of a community bookstore recently when an angry "Negro" came up to me screaming how upset he was at my constant "negative" reports of issues in Our community. The Negro lamented over the fact that I never offer any solutions to our problems, that the only thing I'm good for is just pointing out said problems.

Many of you who have been reading my columns throughout the years are probably aware that this is not the first time I have written about the small handful of individuals who, wherever they see me, believe that they must tell me how out of touch I am with "mainstream Blacks" in America. Sometimes I am not too surprised by their responses; however, it's really amazing to me how these Negroes can look me dead in the eye and deny the importance of African history for our people. And many times it seems that they do it in an attempt to try to appease their White friends, as if by denying their historic significance, Anglos will appreciate them more.

Obviously they were not watching ABC's *Nightline* when anchor Ted Koppel interviewed one of the five hot-air balloonists attempting to win the distinction of being the first balloonist to travel around the world. There was one particular statement by one of the balloonists that caught my attention, which I wish to share with you. It proves my point about the importance of history. When asked why he was attempting to make the dangerous trip, and why it was so important to him, he replied, "Getting credit for doing it is the only thing in the world that counts!"

Many footnotes in American and European history appear to go out of the way to intentionally leave out Africa's contributions. That is one of the main reasons why Dr. Carter G. Woodson created Negro History Week, which eventually became Black History Month. Case in point. Many of us will readily acknowledge that Dr. Benjamin Banneker mapped out much of Washington, D.C. and helped build the White House, but you would be hard-pressed to find any-

What is needed is a true account of our history

thing about this fact in public/private schoolbooks. And then there's the famous inventors of the stop light; the first blood transfusion; the first heart transplant; the making of the light bulb; the import of bananas, watermelons, greens, squash; and a long list of products, inventions and foodstuffs too many to list here. In each case, Africans were the inventors or the key helpers to make the product possible.

You never hear of individuals like Jebel Ul Tariq, who conquered Spain with seven hundred African Muslims, which led to the great period of "enlightenment" and the ultimate discovery of

this place called "America." The story of General Tariq is very well known throughout the Muslim world. Many are familiar with how the General crossed the ocean from North Africa to Spain and, once on shore, ordered his army to stand with their backs against a huge great rock. As a result of the enemy not being able to sneak up behind them, the Muslims were able to march forward until they made their conquest. The Spaniards named the great rock for the General. You've heard of the "Rock of Gibraltar," haven't you?

But we don't have to look that far back to find that failure to speak out will mean that we will be left out. Just look at Linden and Jackie Thompson. The Thompsons were the first American couple to give birth to sextuplets. Notice I said "first American couple." Of course we all know that — now that they have received attention because of news accounts of the (white) McCaughey septuplets of Iowa being America's first couple; the Thompsons will more than likely be listed in most history books as the first "Black American" couple to have sextuplets. For the record, the Thompson had their babies during May of 1997 and the McCaugheys' during the month of December of the same year.

There was one other famous happening that gives us cause to reflect on how Africans are forgotten in their role in issues that help shaped American history. How many of you remember the

name Frank Willis? Frank was the security guard who caught the burglars in the Watergate Hotel in 1972. It was this famous burglary that brought about the downfall of the popular President Richard Nixon. Many of us remember how Frank was vilified, put in jail on trumped up charges and eventually run out of town for catching the thieves. However, everybody from the two famous "white" Washington Post reporters to ex-convict G. Gordon Liddy became heroes and made millions as a direct result of Frank's actions.

Now do you Negroes still believe that a true account of our history is not important?

Until then, the struggle continues...

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Pen On Fire

Cheryl Smith

Making journalism respectable again

If ever there were a time for the Black press to shine, now is that time.

This is the time when the so-called "mainstream media" has just gone haywire, or a more appropriate phrase would be "buck-wild." Investigative reporters seem to be few and far between. Reporters are becoming just as newsworthy as their subjects.

The relationship between reporters, sources and stories has become so incestuous that it is often hard to believe what you read in newspapers and magazines, see on television and hear on the radio. And now with the Internet rapidly making a mark on the industry, here comes another source.

As journalists and news organizations compete to get the story first, oftentimes there are mistakes. These mistakes are becoming more and more frequent, resulting in the news industry, once noble and widely respected, becoming ignoble and increasingly disrespected.

Clearly, incidents in recent history have only added to the negative image that has embraced the media. Whether it is the paparazzi in the case of the late Princess Diana, the recent fiasco involving the President and Monica Lewinsky, or closer to home with the love affair between the media and former Dallas Schools Superintendent (and now federal prisoner) Yvonne Gonzalez, the image of journalists has been severely tarnished.

So, where do you turn for accurate, in-depth, fair reporting?

While everyone else is using whatever means necessary or available, somewhere must rise to the top.

Now we're back to the Black press. One National Newspaper Publishers Association member recently said the Black press must do more. It must get back to its original mission. That same member recalls a time when African Americans were very supportive of Black newspapers. If they wanted to find out what was going on in the African American community (as well as around the country and world), they could just pick up one of the many Black newspapers

available and get a perspective unlike any found in the so-called mainstream newspapers.

Many of the publications were "for sale" then—these days, most Black newspapers are free—and there were paper boys and girls who were able to supplement their families' incomes by selling the newspapers in their neighborhoods. Black elected officials, entertainers, religious leaders and community organizations wanted their pictures taken and stories told in the pages of these publications.

Black people were able to read more about their people than just the arrests, robberies, murders and rapes. Biting, thought-provoking editorials; society pages; in-depth stories; and flattering photos were major components of the Black newspapers.

Then a time came when the pressure to diversify and integrate had its impact on the mainstream. More and more Black faces began to surface on the pages of these newspapers, as well as in their newsrooms.

Lo and behold, the inevitable hap-

pened!

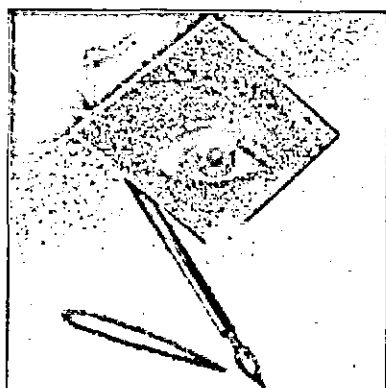
Now that the mainstream press was covering more than the mere dregs of the Black community, mainstream publications began to usurp the Black press as its main source of information. Ironically, like almost every other commercial enterprise in the Black community, the Black press began to suffer as segregation slowly receded.

Although some publications managed to keep their sources intact and uphold the standards that were the key attractions of the Black press, many faltered due to a lack of support. There was a decline in not only subscriptions and street purchases, but also a noticeable decline in advertising.

The mainstream media flourished. But in more recent years, with the rising costs of newsprint (paper) and fierce competition, many mainstream newspaper executives found themselves facing extinction. Many newspapers shut down; cable television began making its mark on the industry.

Well, now those very publications and media outlets are dealing with a dilemma that will take years to solve.

African Americans and other ethnic groups have long chastised the mainstream press for its unfair and stereotypical reporting. Now the hue and cry is louder and all inclusive. The media, as powerful as it is, has an image problem. So who will rise to the top? Who will dis-



PEN NOTES:

Congratulations to JoJo Davis, program director for KRNB-FM (105.7). JoJo recently received a letter from Michael Shelly of the Department for Communication at Illinois State University, announcing that JoJo has been chosen to receive its outstanding graduate in communications award. Wrote Shelly: "One person is chosen each year to be honored in this category. You were selected this year because your continuing career success brings credit to our department and to Illinois State." JoJo will be honored during Communication Week 1998, March 23 through 27. Students in the Dallas-Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators Urban Journalism Workshop will be attending the National Association of Black Journalists Region VII Conference in Houston, March 19-22. Several conference attendees will attend the Black United Fund of Texas' Media Luncheon on March 19. BUFT CEO Cleo Glenn Johnson says there will be a dynamic speaker at this year's luncheon. Bishop John Hurst Adams of the the Seventh Episcopal District of the AME Church in South Carolina, will be the keynote speaker at the BUFT's Media/Corporate/Business Community-Faith Leadership Luncheon in Houston (whew!). Other activities for the NABJ Conference include luncheons with National President Vanessa Williams and Houston Mayor Lee Brown. There will be a boat ride, courtesy of The Port of Houston Authority. Dorris Ellis is president of the Houston Association of Black Journalists, the conference host chapter. Dorris is a former president of the Texas Publishers Association and the Houston Press Club. KTVT-TV has announced that Brian Custer, former president of the Columbus (Ohio) Association of Black Journalists, has been selected to co-anchor the weekend newscast, beginning on February 28. Former weekend anchor, Ginger Gadsden, has been promoted to weekday co-anchor. Dallas Morning News education reporter Duchesne Paul Drew and his wife, WFAA-TV reporter Angela Davis, are now settling into their new home. Hopefully, they'll get to spend quite a bit of time there; word has it that media execs around the country are looking at Angela, and they like what they see. It seems that, in a very short time, they will be swooping down and we'll be seeing her on national television. The Southwestern Athletic Confer-

tance themselves from the pack? It will be interesting to see.

It is clear that African American publishers must, if they are not already doing so, find the resources to hire journalists who have the experience, knowledge and vision to lead their publications into the next millennium, giving homage to those valiant men and women who blazed the trail.

When everyone and everything is falling apart around you, that is when things and people of substance will become more noticeable.

Black press, here's your chance to assume your rightful place!

MON

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

ence will converge on the metroplex for the SWAC Basketball Tournament, featuring athletes from Southern, Texas Southern, Prairie View A&M, Grambling, Alcorn, Alabama State, Jackson State, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and Mississippi Valley State Universities. We all know that media outlets have not given the same coverage to historically Black colleges and universities. It is imperative that the demand for fairness be heard and acted upon. High school sports receive more coverage than our HBCU's. This has to change!!! Condolences to Katina Revels of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, on the loss of her grandfather, and Mario Shane, former DFW/ABC scholarship recipient, on the death of his father. Valerie Fields of The Arlington Morning News has recovered from an illness that had her sidelined for about a week. She recovered just in enough time to attend the Mardi Gras!!! Clarence Hill, sportswriter of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, departed from the wild world of sports to babysit Alayna and Annya. Clarence will never be the same!!! It's almost time to start getting your teams together for the "Don't Believe the Hype" Celebrity Bowl-a-thon on June 27, 1998, at Don Carter's West. Already confirmed celebrity captains include: Dick Gregory; Judge Lee Jackson; Mayor Ron Kirk and wife, Matrice; Paula McClure; Paul Turner; Baby-Fase; Dr. Beverly Mitchell-Brooks; Betty Culbreath; Joyce Ann Brown; Shelli Lockhart; Brenda Teele; Dallas Police Chief Ben Click; Rep. Helen Giddings; James A. Washington; Valerie Ballard; Rene Syler; Euff Parham; Marquez Reed; Assistant Police Chief Terrell Bolton; Dr. Brenda Wall; Dr. Monica Anderson; Wendy Schofield; Brian Custer; Calvin Hughes; Senator Royce West and wife, Carol; Ron Price; Councilman Don Hicks; Yvonne St. John; Norm Lyons; Pastor Frederick D. Haynes and wife, Debra; Cheryl Wattley; Starlene Stringer; Reginald Gates; Roger B. Brown; Judge Thomas G. Jones; Rep. Yvonne Davis; Clarice Tinsley; Dwayne Dancer and Steve Crocker. Several sponsors have already signed on: Eller Media; Mesa National; Creative Events; Kroger Foods; Texas Rangers; M&F Home Health Care; KKDA/K104/KRNB; Southwest Center Mall; and American Airlines. Stay tuned for more information.

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Fastbreak to success

Mavericks president and CEO Terdema Ussery looks to create winning formula

By Cheryl L. Williams

On the surface, one may believe that Terdema Ussery, the 39-year-old president and CEO of the Dallas Mavericks, was born with a silver spoon in his mouth. He earned a bachelor's degree from Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs in 1981 and a master's degree in 1984 from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He received a law degree in 1987 from the University of California at Berkeley where he attained the coveted position of executive editor of the California Law Review.

After evaluating numerous job offers, Ussery accepted a position at the Los Angeles office of the prestigious San Francisco-based law firm, Morrison and Foerster, practicing business and entertainment law. He joined the Continental Basketball Association (a 'farm' league with teams in cities without a National Basketball Association franchise) as its deputy commissioner and general counsel in 1990 and became CBA Commissioner in April 1991. Ussery's work with the CBA brought unprecedented recognition and success to the league as he negotiated lucrative media contracts and an agreement with the NBA that would have the two leagues working closely together. Ultimately, his accomplishments with the CBA brought him to the attention of sports marketing giant Nike. He served as president of Nike Sports Management from 1993, until he came to the Dallas Mavericks in April 1997 to complete the organization's leadership structure.

As with most successful persons, Ussery paved his path with diligence, perseverance and faith. Growing up in a neighborhood bordering the Compton and Watts sections of Los Angeles, he developed a competitive view of life that did not allow him to accept failure. Affirming that hard work and persistence can overcome practically any obstacle toward the fulfillment of one's goals, Ussery talked with MON about his career.

You've attended some of the best schools in the country. What prepared you and what were you unprepared for?

I've always been a pretty good student. I think the big change, though, the

thing that kind of propelled me from being someone who would follow the traditional path to following the untraditional was the fact that at the end of my junior high school years, there was a woman named Mrs. Harris who we all kind of respected. She came to me and said she knew of a high school that offered scholarships to promising minor-



ity students. She had sent a student about five years before me to this school who went on to Harvard, and she thought I had that kind of potential. I ended up going to this school called the Thatcher School, which is about 90 miles east of L.A. I was kind of the best and brightest out of Watts but I got there, and I was not even really average, frankly. There were a lot of kids who had been in private schools all their lives who were just better students, better prepared than I was. I tried to catch up as best I could and finally caught up with them and surpassed some of them, and that's when I started thinking about Ivy League schools. To sum it up, I worked really hard.

The thing that was most difficult when I got to Princeton was that everybody was very smart. I was going through that process again—being around kids who were very bright and hard-working—so I had to figure out another way to excel at Princeton. That was easily the toughest academic experience I ever had in terms of the rigor of the curriculum. After Princeton everything was easy.

As a minority student at exclusive, predominantly white schools did you have any problems?

In high school, the socialization part was really tough. I grew up on the border between Compton and Watts. All my partners were just starting to go out with

girls and just starting to do the kinds of things you do when you get to that 13, 14, 15-year-old age. I was going to be thrust into an environment where there were no girls. It was an all male [boarding] school, and I couldn't come home to visit people. I was one of two black students in my class. It was tough not only because there were no minorities there, but probably of more or equal importance was the economic disparity. These kids just had a lot of money. Their parents had real nice cars, they came from great neighborhoods; they had stereos that had three or four components; they had horses, and that was just very difficult because I didn't have.

Originally, you began your career in entertainment and business law. When did you decide to go into sports management?

When I started practicing law, I was doing a lot of corporate banking actually. I started easing into the entertainment zone and the sports zone partly because I had an interest in music. I had a lot of friends who were musicians, so just naturally when I was spending time with them, they started looking to me to help them out. It was the same way in sports. I had a lot of friends in sports, so I just gravitated to that area. While I was practicing entertainment law and banking law, I started doing sports on the side for professional athletes who needed help. But I had no desire to be an agent. I never did, never will, don't and won't do it. My interests were more on the business side of it until individuals came and asked me for help. I'd helped them but I had no desire to represent them.

Ross Perot Jr. said that you possess the background, character and vision to lead the Mavericks organization into the future. There is no disputing your background, but what character do you bring?

I'm as imperfect as the next person, so when you talk about character it's all kind of relative. I'm a child of God; I'm a Christian. I try to live by those principles as best I can; but I think by definition when you accept your Christianity, you also accept your humanity. In terms of the business character, I taught graduate courses in business ethics. I think ownership can take comfort in knowing that I'd be watching the money and that I'd be running a business in a way that would not embarrass ownership but would make them feel proud to be affiliated and have an ownership interest in the club.

Some people say that African Americans must be over-qualified to get the same opportunities as their Anglo coun-

terparts. Did you find this to be your experience?

That's a tough question for me to answer, because I was raised in a household where I was taught to be the best that I can be at whatever it was I was doing. To the extent that I went to good schools (and I made Law Review and I clerked and all that stuff), I was doing it because, in law school, the crown jewel is Law Review. So for me it was just competing against my peers in law school. It was just the way to distinguish myself at the time. When I started practicing law, it was with a very large law firm. My experience was that most of the people at the law firm had gone to schools like I and had distinguished themselves too. I never felt like I was a super person in an environment with lesser people.

[African Americans] almost have to be pristine with regard to our resume and things of that nature. In my case, God has blessed me. I've been put into situations that would allow me to excel. But what I have run into are situations where, despite my qualifications, I've not gotten opportunities. I just think that they weren't looking to hire people like me regardless of what I had on my resume or who I was.

As president and CEO of the Dallas Mavericks, what goals do you have?

We're about a \$65-70 million business. By the time of the new millennium, we'll be a \$100 million business. From a purely business perspective, I'd like to operate a very healthy, efficient operation. I want to make money for ownership. On a day-to-day basis, that entails everything from the way we market ourselves to the way we design our licensed merchandise. And then the important thing, clearly, is keeping the basketball piece in place; because at the end of the day, our core product is basketball. The vision is that we will hopefully own the metropolplex one day; that we'll have fans in every segment of the community; that people in certain segments of the community won't feel as though we've ignored them or that they aren't important to us; that kids will identify with us and that their parents will let them and want them to identify with us because of the values we represent as a company; and that ultimately, we'll bring championship basketball to Dallas.

How the Mavericks perform must influence the way you do your job. Poor performance could affect marketability. How is what you do integrated with what (Dallas Mavericks general manager) Don Nelson does?

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We pay him a lot of money to put a winning team on the floor and to scout talent. The pressure is on him, from a basketball perspective, to see to it that ultimately we have a winning product on the court. The challenge for us is to stay consistent and to make sure the consumer has a consistent experience. We push family entertainment; we push those values, and they stay consistent. So whether or not we win or lose, the people who are out there performing—the dancers, the mascot and everybody behind the scenes—have an obligation to perform to the highest level every time. So in that sense [the Maverick's performance] doesn't impact us. What it does is that over a season, if we see an erosion of the ticket base because we're losing and people stop coming to the game, that's actual revenue you can track. The challenge for me then is to find other revenue streams to make up for that lack of revenue.

Unlike the Dallas Cowboys, the Mavericks have kept a clean reputation. Is it your job to ensure the Mavericks portray a wholesome image?

It is our job. It starts with ownership. I happen to work for an owner who is very concerned about that issue. The way you deal with that is before you bring guys into your organization, you do the requisite background checks. I believe that all of us are imperfect in our own ways so it's not the idea that we're finding saints. But we're finding guys who accept the responsibility of being a professional athlete. They appreciate what they have in life. They, as a result, conduct themselves in a way that won't embarrass them personally and won't embarrass the organization.

When we draft, when we sign some-

body, we ask questions. Not only of them but of their teammates, the coaches, the community, to see what kind of person it is. Remember, we're a brand, just like Coca-Cola or McDonald's is a brand. We have a lot of extensions to our brand. We have a dance team, we have a mascot, we have myself, we have ownership, we have our employees and, probably the most important representation of the brand is our athletes. When they go out into the community, what they represent is what people are going to perceive of our organization. What we want them to represent is good character—solid individuals and all the things that go along with that.

You were the Continental Basketball Association (CBA) commissioner for a little more than two years and the organization flourished while you were there. Considering that, why did you leave?

When you have success, people start to notice and you start to get offers that make your existence seem kind of paltry by comparison. I was working extremely long and hard hours to turn around a league that I believed in very strongly. Nike presented me with challenges that CBA couldn't and presented me with opportunities that the CBA couldn't. So I felt that organizationally, I had done my part with the CBA. Ownership had given me a chance, and I had given them back what I thought was a very good organization that had enormous potential. So I felt that I could walk away with a clean conscience.

Twice you were listed by the Sporting News as one of the top 100 most powerful people in sports. In your opinion, are you one of the most powerful people in sports?

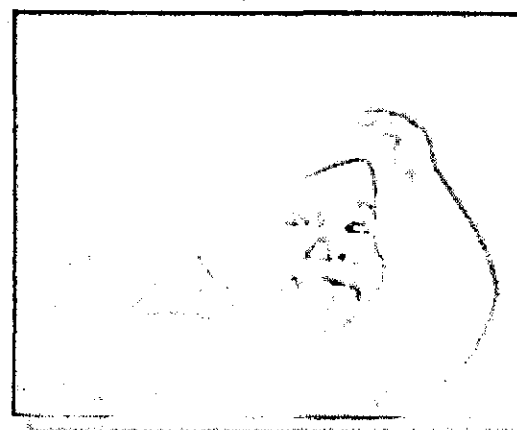
I think those listings were driven largely by the fact that I was with Nike, which is clearly the most powerful company in sports. Nike should get the credit for my having gotten those accolades. Do I feel like I have power in sports? Yeah, I do. I think I know most people in sports of consequence. I think if I pick up the phone and call those people, they'd return my phone call. To be honest with you, from that perspective, that can cut two ways. My father always told me, the higher up you go, the bigger the bullseye on your back. I'm the kind of guy who probably would never aspire to sit in the White House, but I'd love to have the direct number.

What advice do you have for others who want to break into sports management or any type of high-level management

position?

I think sports, especially, and entertainment are extremely difficult to get into. I think they're perceived as sexy, and everybody wants to do it but they really don't know why they want to do it. I'm running a company and my assets happen to be human beings; but at the end of the day, I'm still running a company. Having said that and knowing that there still is some appeal to being in sports, you just have to be—especially in this business—extremely persistent to get in, in the first place. And then to get in and move up, you have to be focused like a laser on what you want to do. You have to demonstrate that you really do have some special skills and you would bring something very different to the table.

MON



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American Cancer Society South Dallas Outreach Cen- ter named for Mabel Meshach White

The American Cancer Society recently opened its first outreach center in South Dallas. The Center was named the "Mabel Meshach White American Cancer Society South Dallas Outreach Center" by Jason and Kelly Elliot, who provided the seed money through their fund at Communities Foundation. Mrs. White has been a longtime volunteer with the American Cancer Society and began her crusade to educate the South Dallas Community some 30 years ago.



Mabel Meshach White

The Center is the result of hard work, dedication and commitment of a group of volunteers led by Mrs. White, who is a longtime business leader in South Dallas as owner of Blair White Realty. Throughout the years, she has continued her work with the Cancer Society and served as the first African American chairman of the board from 1993-95. She currently serves on the local board and is an active member of the Black American Community Connection.

The new center will provide a variety of services including information on prevention and detection of cancer, services for cancer patients and their families, one-on-one visitation and free educational materials. For more information call 214-421-1680.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Library opens Community Development Depository

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, in collaboration with the Connectional Alliance and Foundation for Community Empowerment, recently celebrated the opening of its Community Development Depository. The Depository contains books, videos and materials related to community development issues. In addition, the depository also carries materials on fundraising and grant writing, including the 1997 Foundation Directory.

Carolyn Davis, president of the Connectional Alliance, a south Dallas/Fair Park coalition of neighborhood associations, and Candace Gray of the Foundation for Community Empowerment (FCE) worked together on the initiative and presented the idea to Eula Oliphant, manager of the Martin Luther King Jr. Library. Ms. Oliphant believed the Depository would greatly enhance the offerings of the library and fit its mission to serve the South Dallas/Fair Park community.

Many of the materials to be included in the Depository contain information specific to urban community initiatives and are not located in any of the other Dallas Public Libraries. The Depository is open to the public, and donations of community development materials are welcomed. For more information call Candace Gray at 214-777-5571.

Gamble joins Guaranty Federal Bank's Real Estate Lending Group

Wendell Gambell has been named Assistant Vice President of the Residential Real Estate Lending Group for Guaranty Federal Bank, F.S.B. He will be responsible for residential real estate lending to homebuilders in the Chicago, Orlando and Atlanta markets.

Most recently, Wendell served as vice-president and CRS officer for Texas Bank and Trust-Dallas, where he was responsible for new business development and loan processing for the bank's commercial lending and affordable mortgage loan programs. Previously, he served as National Bank Examiner for the U.S. Treasury Department/Comptroller of the Currency. He began his banking career with Texas Department of Banking in Arlington.



Wendell Gambell

"Wendell's extensive background and dedication to the residential lending industry will enable his clients to achieve great success," said chief Lending Officer John T. Stuart. "He is a true asset to Guaranty's team of professionals."

For more information contact Dawson/Duncan Communications at 214-520-7550.

Peyton and Mabel Bruce celebrate 50th wedding anniversary



Mabel and Peyton Bruce

Peyton and Mabel Bruce celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary January 24 at the Sky Lobby in the Texas Commerce Tower, downtown Dallas. In the company of approximately 100 family members and close friends, the Reverend Zan Holmes, pastor of St. Luke Community

United Methodist Church, officiated as the Bruces renewed their wedding vows. During the ceremony, community activist Bernice Washington read a "prose of love" to the couple celebrating their blessed union.

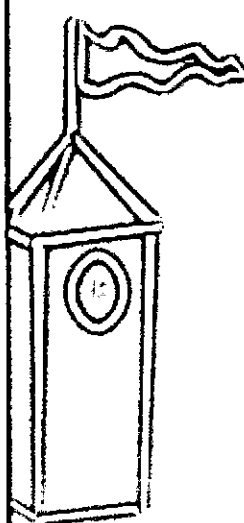
Peyton Bruce, currently a distribution manager for Minority Opportunity News, retired from in 1993 from America Bank (formerly Sunbelt Bank). Mabel Bruce, who earned bachelor's degrees from Southern Methodist University and the University of Texas and a master's degree from Texas Women's University, is semi-retired and works as a nurse at Parkland Hospital.

During their 50 years of marriage the Bruces, who reside in Dallas, raised nine children, eight of whom were adopted. They now have eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren. For more information call 214-905-0946.

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More In The News . . .

children, eight of whom were adopted. They now have eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren. For more information call 214-905-0946.

South Dallas Health Access Founder Named to National Minority AIDS Council Board

Mythe Kirven, executive director and founder of South Dallas Health Access, Inc., has been named to the national board of directors of the National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC). The ten-year-old council is the voice of more than 3,000



Mythe Kirven

front-line organizations across the nation that represent and serve hundreds of thousands of people in the diverse communities of color affected by the HIV virus or AIDS disease. The organization's most critical goal is to bring new expertise and strength to all communities of color.

As contract administrator with the city of Dallas' Department of Health and Human Services, Ms. Kirven began developing services to provide respite care to HIV/AIDS impacted persons in the late 1980s. Through her efforts, South Dallas Health Access, which provides medical treatment for persons carrying the HIV virus and those living with AIDS, was established in 1993. Kirven opened the Grace Outreach Center in 1997, providing AIDS education and street outreach counseling and testing.

Because of Kirven's efforts, the National Minority AIDS Council will hold its annual convention in Dallas in October 1998 for the first time in its 10-year existence.

For more information call the South Dallas Health Access, 1906 Peabody Street, Dallas, at 214-421-7848.

Applications being accepted for Transportation Fellowship Program

The North Texas Council of Governments is accepting applications for admission into its Transportation Fellowship Program. Established in 1993, the Transportation Fellowship Program

was created to provide scholarships and field experience to ethnic minorities, women and persons who are economically disadvantaged to obtain undergraduate and graduate degrees in transportation-related fields.

The program, which is open to undergraduates with junior standing and to graduate students, requires that the student earn a bachelor's or master's degree within two years of entering the Fellowship. In addition to providing full tuition and a paid internship, the program also provides \$1,000 per year for books, conferences and memberships in professional organizations. The program accepts a limited number of part-time students as well.

Application deadline is 5:00 p.m. March 13, 1998. The application is available online at <http://www.nctcog.dst.tx.us/trans/index> or call Jacqueline Bell at metro 817-608-2329 for more information.

Elder Edward Calloway Honored at Lighthouse C.O.G.I.C.

Lighthouse Church of God in Christ (C.O.G.I.C.) will pay tribute to Superintendent

Edward Calloway, 2:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m., March 28 at the church, 2127 S. Corinth St., Dallas. Elder Calloway has led Lighthouse Church of God in Christ for more than 40



Supt. Edward Calloway

years and has been instrumental in the establishment of over ten metroplex and Kerrville churches.

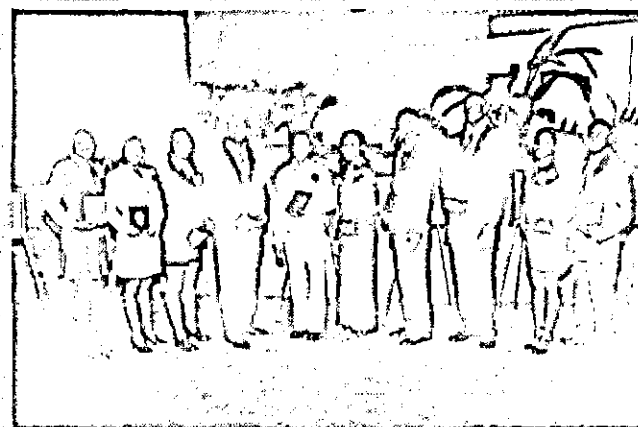
Pastor Calloway began his ministry as an evangelist. He conducted revivals in many East Texas cities including Tyler, Greenville, and Sulphur Springs and also spent time traveling and singing in a gospel quartet. In 1954 he became pastor of his first church, Mt. Olive C.O.G.I.C. In 1963 the congregation moved to a new building and dedicated the church Lighthouse C.O.G.I.C.

The church operates the Lighthouse Christian School and Day Care and in 1993 opened Pine Street Ministries (formerly the Neighborhood Outreach Ministries), an outreach and extension of the Lighthouse C.O.G.I.C. into the South Dallas Area. For more information call the church at 214-371-2421.

McDonald's Black History Makers of Tomorrow scholarship winners honored

McDonald's of Greater North Texas and the Dallas Urban League honored the 1998 "McDonald's Black History Makers of Tomorrow" February 11 during the Urban League's annual meeting.

Ten area high school students were awarded a \$1,000 scholarship for their academic achievement and essays titled, "How I Plan to Make an Impact on Black History."



McDonald's Black History Makers of Tomorrow scholarship winners

The contest winners, pictured above, are from left to right: Yulise Reaves, First Baptist Academy; Ebony Hill, Lincoln High School; Leslie Diane Moore, Coppell Senior High School; Danyahel Norris, James Martin High School; Asha-Monique White, Brewer High School; Debra Shanelle Wright, Garland High School; Quentarius Wade, Brewer High School; Le-Crae Moore, Plano East Senior High School; Rian Johnson, Lincoln High School and Marcus Brown, Skyline High School.

For more information call 214-520-5682.

J. McDonald Williams to address SDDC Gala

J. McDonald Williams, chairman of the Trammel Crow Company and principal "architect" of the Dallas Together Forum's Southern Sector Initiative, will be the keynote speaker at the Southern Dallas Development Corporation's (SDDC) Annual Gala.

The gala will be held, 7:00 p.m., March 26, 1998 at the Great Hall of the International Apparel Mart, 2300 Stemmons Freeway, Dallas. The theme of the gala is "Target 2000: 10,000 Jobs in 2 Years," which paraphrases Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk's November 1997 challenge at the Citizen's Council Meeting. The Mis-

tress of Ceremonies will be Channel 4 anchorwoman, Clarice Tinsley.

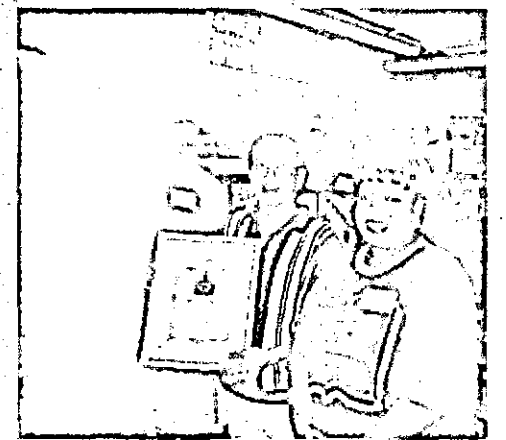
During the event, SDDC will recognize board volunteers and honor bankers who have made the most referrals to SDDC. Also receiving recognition will be SDDC's clients who were among the winners of the Dallas Top 100 Awards and SDDC's 1997 Corporate Contributors.

Southern Dallas Development Corporation's goal is to assist southern Dallas businesses in creating at least 1,000 jobs during the next two years or 10 per cent of Mayor Kirk's goals. For ticket and table purchases or for more information call 214-428-7332.

Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church presents Community Service Award

Mr. Lee Hua, owner of Lone Star Store located at 4926 Spring Avenue, Dallas was awarded a "Community Service Award" by the Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church for his support towards its evangelism ministry.

For years, Mr. Hua and his employees have allowed the Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church to evangelize on a monthly basis in front of his store and pass out materials to his employees and



Mr. Lee Hua with Evangelism Team

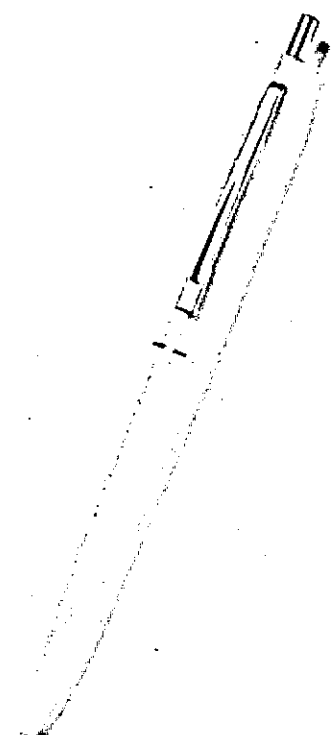
store patrons. On numerous occasions, the group was refused the opportunity to evangelize near other locations.

The church, located at 5144 Dolphin Road, Dallas, where the Reverend Tommie Earl Brown, Sr. is pastor, also operates a jail and prison ministry, a program to feed the hungry and a street ministry. For more information call 214-823-1018.

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Making strides toward excellence

Texas Publishers Association convenes in San Antonio

by Kathleen Goolsby

Texas Publishers Assn. Wire Service

"If the daily [white] papers covered all the different facets of Black society the way they do white society, there wouldn't be a Black paper in existence," wrote Thomas C. Fleming, co-founder of the *Sun Reporter* (San Francisco's African American weekly) in his book about his life. There is a great need — indeed, an ache — for the Black press in America. There is also a need for the Black press to be the best it can be. Toward that goal, the members of the Texas Publishers Association, representing over 35 Black Texas newspapers read by over 3 million people in this state, will meet in San Antonio March 13-15 for their 12th Annual Con-

vention.

Acting on TPA's commitment to strive for excellence and to provide professional development, Thurman R. Jones, President, has set an agenda around workshops on such topics as standards and ethics, marketing, desk top publishing, accounting. Winners of the 1997 newspaper contest will also be announced at the convention.

Special comments by State Senators Royce West and Rodney Ellis will preface Friday's luncheon. Keynote luncheon speaker will be Horace Wilkins, Jr., Southwestern Bell Telephone's Regional President-Network Operations. A Fort Worth native, Wilkins is a member of the National Boy Scout Committee and the Urban Emphasis Committee; additionally, he serves on the boards of American Water

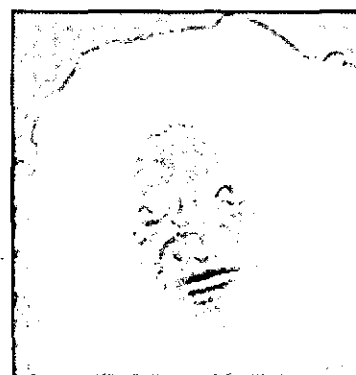
Works Company, Inc., Frost Bank, Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, Junior Achievement and the San Antonio Economic Development Foundation.

Ron Kirk, Mayor of Dallas, and Lee Brown, Mayor of Houston, will be featured in the TPA's Salute to Distinguished Black Texas Mayors at Saturday's luncheon. Both mayors have distinguished themselves, not only for their excellence in leadership, but also for being African Americans who were elected and are supported by people of other races.

Saturday's prayer breakfast speaker will be Dr. Jonathan Ellis, Pastor of Greater Lincoln Park Temple Institutional Church of San Antonio.

Social events at the convention include a reception hosted by the San Antonio Conventions Bureau, and the Publisher's Ball with entertainment provided by dynamic performer, Beverly Houston, and her band, Breezin'. With a

style all her own, and a wide musical range, Houston has been a popular vocalist at army/air force bases, hotels, conventions, and with national recording artists. "You're My Life," a CD/cassette single written and produced by Houston,



Beverly Houston

was released in 1996. She holds six music awards, produced and performed musical tunes of 1950 - 1990 for Black History Month for the University of Texas at San Antonio, and performed the National Anthem at the July 4th Salute to Freedom for the Texas Legislators and the U.S. Postmaster General.

San Antonio, and its Camberly Gunter Hotel, were selected as the site of the 12th Annual Convention because of the diverse city's warm reception to the Texas Publishers Association at its August 1997 business meeting.

For more information about the convention, contact Chairperson Zarinah Shakir at 210-212-6397.

Politics and media panel spark lively debate

By Roxanne Evans

Texas Publishers Assn. Wire Service

AUSTIN — A panel on politics and the media sparked two hours of lively debate at the Saturday morning session of the 3rd Annual African American Legislative Summit. About 25 audience members, including members of the Texas Publishers Association (TPA) and at least one elected official, kept the exchange going with thought-provoking and often controversial questions.

Co-moderated by Thurman Jones, president of the TPA, and Roxanne Evans, president of Evans Communication, the panelists had an interesting mix of media, political and public relations experience.

Roscoe Harrison, associate director of special projects at Scott & White Hospital, started his professional career as a journalist for *JET* magazine. He later worked in Central Texas as a daily newspaper reporter and a television reporter. Because Harrison also worked in the press office of former Attorney General Hon Hill, he has media experience at three levels.

Sonceria Messiah, publisher of the *Houston Defender*, has extensive media experience. Her newspaper covers a variety of issues, including politics and candidates.

Austin business woman Teresa Doggett, who ran unsuccessfully for Texas Comptroller and the U.S. Senate, offered a

candidate's perspective in dealing with mainstream media and the African American press.

The panel was rounded out by James Belt, co-publisher of the *Dallas Examiner* and Jim Washington, publisher of the *Weekly Free Press* (formerly the *Dallas Weekly*).

One of the areas that sparked the most debate was the role of the Internet and the Black press. Although some members of the audience wanted to portray the Internet as a new form of media, panelists vigorously disagreed, saying that the Internet is only a way to disseminate information.

Messiah expressed concern about the cost of maintaining pages for the Black press, which has limited resources and noted that the white media isn't making much money from it.

When the discussion turned to politics, Doggett expressed her frustration, as a candidate, in getting her message out to potential voters. Because of the hostility to her candidacy at the hands of the *Austin American-Statesman*, Doggett began to purchase ad spaces and write her own stories. Thus, her ads looked like newstories.

Doggett also offered some useful tips to potential candidates on how to deal with the media.

Belt talked about the importance of voting and discussed his paper's controversial decision to print the voting records of prominent people in Dallas.

Messiah was asked to explain her

paper's decision not to endorse candidates.

In conclusion, the panelists talked about the future of the Black press in a highly technologically advanced age. Panelist Roscoe Harrison drew applause when he ended his remarks by saying that there will always be a role for the Black press.

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The Legal Status of the African American

How the states addressed education

Part 3 of 4

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

The problems arising from the legal aspects of Black education are many and varied. In the first place one must face the fact that blacks had migrated into the northern, middle western, and even the western states in great numbers and had become a considerable portion of the population in quite a few of them. This produced friction between the races in these jurisdictions and made the school problem national instead of sectional in scope. There had been a considerable group of persons in these states who had opposed the instruction of the children of the white and colored races in the same school. Most of the states east of the Mississippi River and north of the Mason and Dixon Line enacted legislation which sought to prevent any effort at a policy which might be construed as an attempt to discriminate against or discredit the blacks in any manner whatsoever; this was also true of a number of the western states as well.

In the South, where segregation was deemed mandatory, the problems which arose were chiefly those dealing with the equality or inequality of educational facilities. The question of equal housing and teaching force, and the problems growing out of the inequality of legislative appropriations for the white and colored schools, seems to have received little or no attention in the southern courts. Furthermore, the policy of racial segregation in public schools was not confined to the South. In Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia, all public schools were segregated, and pupils of the white and Black races were not permitted to attend the same school.

In Arizona, the legislature authorized two distinct methods of segregation for the segregation of Black pupils in the grammar grades or primary schools. The state court also decided that segregation was mandatory.

In Kansas, several boards of education in first-class cities were given authority by statute to establish and maintain separate primary schools for Black children. In Maryland, the law declared it to be the duty of the county board of education to establish one or more separate

schools for blacks in the county, provided that the colored population of any such district shall, in the board's judgment, warrant such an establishment of colored educational facilities.

Indiana, New Mexico, New York, and Wyoming allowed the establishment of separate schools for blacks if the authorities believed that such separation was necessary or proper. A law of Wyoming provided that this should be done only when there were fifteen or more colored children in the particular district desiring such segregation. An Indiana act provided that any colored student was entitled to enter the regular public schools if a separate school was not provided or, even if such a school were provided, if the particular pupil in question was entitled to enter a grade which was of higher rank than any grade provided by the separate school. New Mexico authorized separate schools for blacks wherever the local governing bodies approved and the consent of the State Board of Education was obtained, but the facilities offered in these schools had to be equal to those in the white schools.

Separation of the races was once possible in Massachusetts, but the legislature abolished the practice before the Civil War. An early Nevada act stipulated that Blacks, Mongolians, and Indians were not permitted to attend the public schools in that state. It provided for their education in separate units if the authorities so desired. An ante-bellum Pennsylvania statute permitted the school directors to establish separate schools for Black children if such a school could be located in a place where it would provide accommodations for twenty or more Black students. Separate schools were also legalized in Ohio for quite a while, but the statute authorizing their establishment was repealed in 1887. California, for a short time after the Civil War provided separate Black schools; but the authorization was soon removed. Other states which once had separate schools for Black children and which abandoned the policy were Illinois, Iowa, Montana, and New Jersey.

The Black race was not the only one for which separate schools were provided. In the 1880's, a child of Chinese parentage was refused admittance to a school in California, and it was held that the teacher could justify his action on the ground that the board of education had authorized it. As a result of this decision,

the state legislature immediately gave the authorities the right to establish separate schools for Mongolian children. The separate school for Mongolian children continued on into the twentieth century. The same act included authority to establish separate schools for Indian children.

North Carolina authorized separate educational facilities for the Cherokee Indians. The act specifically denied the privileges of such schools to all persons with Black blood to the fourth generation.

In Mississippi, trouble arose over the assigning of certain Chinese pupils to Black schools. This action of the school authorities was upheld by the state court, the reasoning being that all persons who are not "white" were "colored" and that a "Chinaman" was not white. The Federal Supreme Court upheld this view, declaring that "a state is not required to establish separate schools for all races just because it has done so in the case of a particular race." The courts had also given their approval of the practice invoked by certain schools in Texas of teaching Mexican children in separate schools in the elementary grades because they had their own peculiarities and customs and were not familiar with the English language.

Statutes and decisions definitely showed that there would be a movement or tendency to segregate any racial group which had customs differing from those of the dominant racial group in any given community.

In South Carolina at one time, schools were established for mulattoes, which were independent of both the white and Black schools, thus creating a third class of separate educational units in certain portions of that state.

Separate school laws had been held not to violate the provisions of the Fourteenth Amendment. In states where separation was constitutionally provided

for, laws which were silent on the subject of just what schools they were meant to include were not rendered invalid because of the possibility of discrimination.

In 1899, the Federal Supreme Court approved a decision by the Georgia Court upholding the action of a county board of education in abandoning a certain Black high school while it contributed to the support of a high school for whites and also left in operation a similar high school for white girls. The court was evidently of the opinion that it was far better for the interests of the community as a whole.

In the past few decades, most of the states in the northern tier of the territory which had separate school systems had enacted the so-called scholarship laws. These statutes provided funds to enable advanced Black students to obtain the desired courses in out-of-state institutions. The Morrill Act concerned land-grant educational facilities. Under the terms of the state statute, the part of the funds rightfully belonging to the blacks would be apportioned to them. There was little or no effort at northern institutions of higher learning or technical schools to segregate persons of the Black race.

The statutory provisions governing the University of Nevada contained a clause stating that there should be no discrimination in the admission of students on account of race or color. The Kansas Civil Rights Act threatened to punish the trustees or regents of any state university, college, or other school of public instruction for making any distinction on account of race or color or previous condition of servitude.

The New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania Civil Rights Acts included places of public accommodation to which continued on next page

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such acts apply: kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, high schools, academies, colleges, universities, and all other educational institutions under the supervision of the state regents or other similar authority. "These statutes" expressly state that they are not to be applied to private "institutions".

Private schools and colleges, even though they are located in northern states cannot be forced to admit Black students, for the Fourteenth Amendment applies only to institutions of a "public character".

Segregation of the races in the public schools was expressly prohibited in Colorado, Idaho, Michigan, and Minnesota, either by statute or constitutional provision. Minnesota provided that any school district so classifying pupils according to race or color would lose its apportionment of the public school funds for the period over which such segregation continued. In a Colorado school, to segregate the Black pupils as far as swimming facilities and scholastic social functions were concerned was held to be discriminatory and unauthorized.

Minnesota and New Jersey punished a member of a board of education who was responsible for such an act of discrimination.

As Black blood became mixed with the white throughout the nation, by "legal or illegal unions," it became increasingly important to have some criterion set up as the dividing line between white and persons of color. This is nowhere better illustrated than in the public schools where questions concerning the race of certain pupils frequently occur.

The laws of Oklahoma, Texas, and North Carolina employed language particularly applicable to schools, which excluded from white schools all children who had the least modicum of Black blood, however remote the strain might be.

In Mississippi, the court of that state declared that all persons having an appreciable amount of Black blood were considered Black within the meaning of the school law. California had found it necessary to ban all textbooks or other means of instruction containing any matter reflecting upon citizens because of their race or color. Kentucky had enacted a statute providing that when free textbooks have first been distributed to children of one race, they may not at a later date be distributed to the other.

The first Morrill Act adopted in 1862, made no provision for a fair division of the funds obtained under the statute between the white and Black institutions in states having the dual system. The result of this omission was that most of

the money was expended for the white colleges. Because of the failure of most of the states to be fair to the blacks in this respect, a second Morrill Act was enacted in 1890. It provided that no state with the dual system could come under the terms of the statute unless it agreed to a just and equitable division of the fund between the technical schools for each race. All of these states had accepted this condition within a few years.

There was very little opportunity for a southern BLACK who had limited financial resources to do graduate work or obtain professional training. In 1932, the only southern schools of medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy open to blacks were located at Howard University in Washington, D.C. and Meharry College at Nashville, Tennessee, neither of which is a state institution. There were law schools at Howard and at two Baptist institutions, Simmons University in Louisville and Virginia Union University in Richmond. Any Black who desired professional training was forced to attend one of these schools or to go to a northern institution where the graduate courses were open to all persons, regardless of color.

The legal guarantee of equal educational facilities for persons of color was not carried out in practice. Black schools were certainly inferior and very little was

done to remedy the situation. As a final remark on the subject, it may be said that a school law which obviously would not supply equal facilities for both races should be declared unconstitutional. (*Brown vs Board of Education*, Topeka, Kansas 1954) In one Oklahoma case, it was shown that a state school law would not provide an equal educational system for blacks except in certain districts

where there were quite a number of children of that race. The state court held that the entire act was discriminatory and declared it invalid.

MON

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

DART NEWS



■ DART Adds Bus Service

Beginning March 30, DART rolls out major bus route improvements, including more service to employment centers. Highlights include Route 202 (new 7-day service) to the DFW International Airport North Shuttle Lot, Route 409 (new Sunday service) to the DFW South Shuttle Lot and new Saturday service to the Freeport area via Route 310 (6-day service). New weekend service from downtown Dallas includes expanded service to the Midway and Beltline corridors via Route 31 (7-day service), to the Preston and Plano Parkway corridors via Route 36 (weekend service), and to the Stemmons area via Route 49 (new Saturday service). Other improvements include direct service to the Baylor Medical area via Route 44 (7-day service) and 6-day service to the South Garland Transit Center via Route 466, (currently Route 66). In Oak Cliff, Route 548 will be extended to the Stonebridge Business Park on weekdays.

■ DART By Numbers

Starting March 30, bus routes will be identified by a number-only system instead of a number and a route name. For example, the old 42-Elmwood will be identified solely by the number 42. And the number stays the same — no matter which way the bus is traveling. Signs on the front of buses will display the route number and the final destination of the bus — just the way DART trains do now. For example, riders of the former 1-Live Oak/Matilda route will now look for the bus with the sign reading: 1 Mockingbird Station via Matilda — a Route 1 bus traveling to Mockingbird Station. This new system is used by most transit agencies around the world.

■ New DART Marketing Program Targets Employers

A new program offers big benefits for employees who commute on mass transit. With low prices and more ways to get people to work, DART is working to increase public transit usage before the summer pollution season arrives. Transit options that save money and take single-occupancy vehicles off the road include E-pass (DART's new annual pass for bus and rail services), vanpooling, carpooling, high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes and bicycling. Talk to your company today about enrolling in a program or call (214) 747-RIDE for a brochure.

■ New Buses Arrive This Spring

New buses begin arriving this spring, including many that use clean-burning liquefied natural gas (LNG). DART is also putting 20 old-fashioned trolley buses into service on selected circulator routes. They'll charm riders with wood interiors and a snappy new paint scheme. All of the new buses will have wheelchair lifts and larger destination signs.

■ The DART Store at Akard Station Opens In Downtown Dallas

DART passes can be purchased on the rail line when The DART Store opens its second location at DART's Akard Station (1401 Pacific at Akard) March 23. Passes will continue to be available at The DART Store at Elm and Ervay, as well as at all Albertson's and Minyard food stores in the DART Service Area. Besides selling monthly passes, the new store will carry DART apparel, pass holders and novelties. Hours for the new store are 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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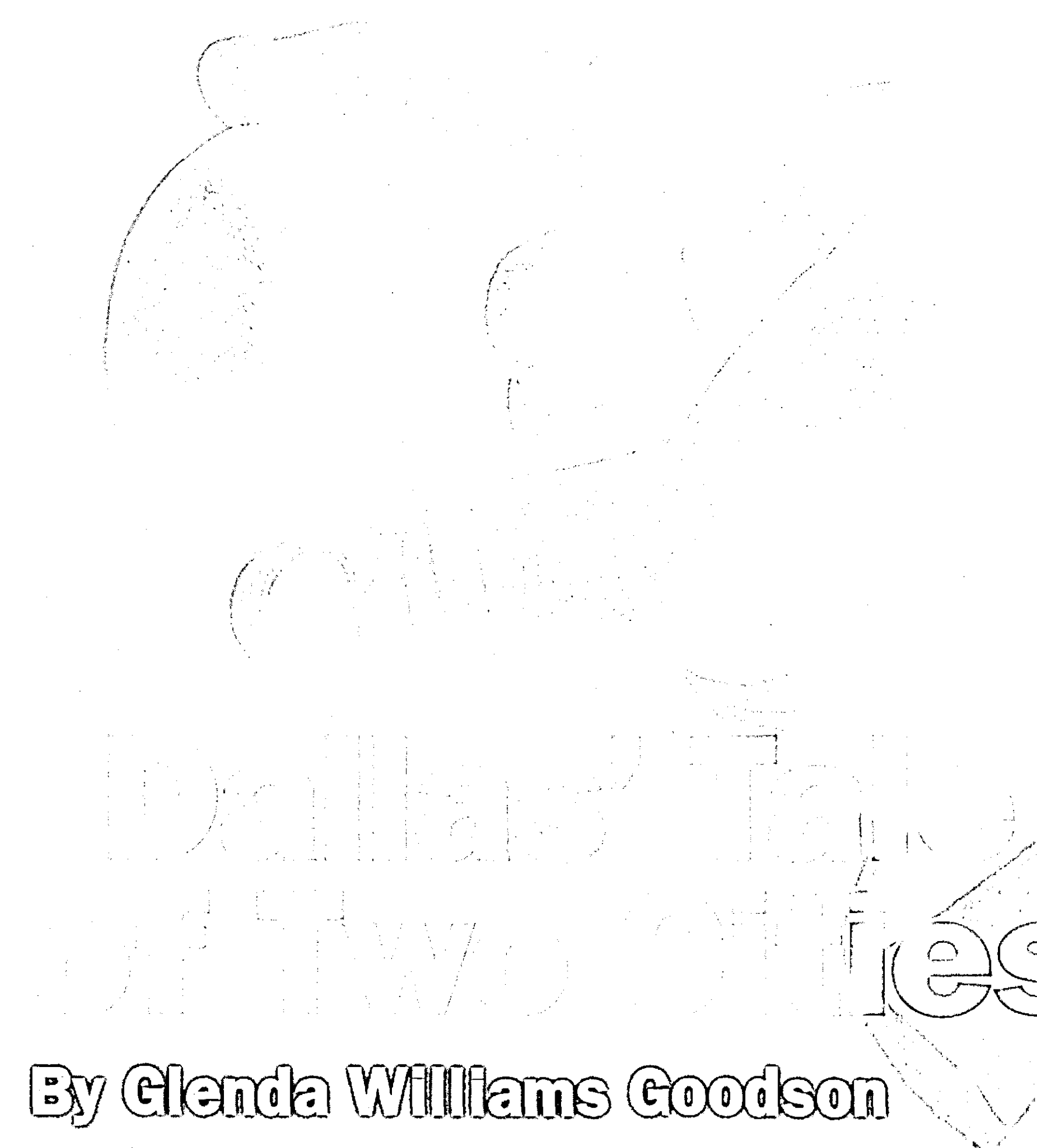
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Walking Tall OF TWO CITIES

By Glenda Williams Goodson

To: Mr. Charles Dickens, author of *A Tale of Two Cities*

Dear Mr. Dickens,

In your classic book, you depicted 18th century London and Paris and the people caught up in the revolution in a very imaginative way. I wonder, could your tale of injustice, cruelty, madness, heroism, self-sacrifice and self-discovery in any way give the Dallas, Texas USA leadership a paradigm on bridging the dichotomy called "North Dallas" and "South Dallas?" Please answer soon so that our city will not implode in the very near future.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,
Glenda Goodson

Sometimes, when I am tired or become so frustrated that I cannot articulate my needs, I fall into quoting the dead. Little things like, when a man holds the elevator door for one woman, then enters it before me, I co-opt Sojourner Truth's famous line and ask myself, 'Ain't I A Woman?'

That's how I came to think about the Dickensian classic. I was driving east on the old DFW turnpike coming from Fort Worth back into Dallas. Okay, I was tired from a maddeningly long day of non-stop activity. The surrealistic downtown skyline was a Dali masterpiece. I passed the Main Post Office. To my left, downtown lights twinkled a welcome to the treats of the North. I could go to the West End to grab a bite or farther North down to the Arts District and wander in the quiet calm of the Dallas Museum of Art. I could continue up Central and drive over to Richardson to eat at Razzoo's or Papisito's. There were acres and acres of promise just waiting for me to the North.

Then I looked to my right. I saw the red Oak Farm sign and the Methodist Medical Center's blue halo. That was it. There were no side streets paved with restaurants, quaint boutiques, major bookstore chains, or retail strips. The bleak darkness was only broken by street lights strewn down the I-35E freeway.

What has happened during decades of Southern Dallas neglect is the story of injustice, cruelty and economic madness. Consider the following: Southern Dallas has 41 percent of the city's population, a whopping 47 percent of its land mass and, yet, is scandalously underdeveloped. Is this simply a lack of vision on the part of the city fathers? Where are the pro-Dallas boosters' such as former Mavericks owner Don Carter, who recently took a risk on RTC property and netted a tidy \$50 million?

The neglected side of Dallas' Trinity River is home to some 460,000 citizens. Will there ever be a core Black and/or brown coalition able to see past the divisiveness of ethnic politics and galvanize forces to demand economic parity? Up and down the area's streets, skeptics warn that we may as well face the fact that the city of Dallas historically has shown no loyalty to its southern sector. Whether the state of South Dallas is the result of the economic violence caused by racism or classism, many in the can-do city are tired of asking, "How long, Lord, how long?"

Since I am a native Dallasite (South Oak Cliff) and have seen the area's long decline I, too, wanted to know if the South would rise in a positive way. I interviewed key players involved in a movement to revitalize Dallas' most neglected sector.

The southern sector covers some 180 square miles of Dallas, encompassing the communities in South Dallas/Fair Park, Oak Cliff, West Dallas and Mountain Creek. Because city leaders have sent a message to the tune of \$300 million to the area surrounding Redbird Airport, the following mainly focuses on economic development there.

To understand the tremendous untapped power of the South Dallas consumer, I read every page of the 119-page Southern Sector Initiative created by the Dallas Together Forum. These statistics jumped out at me:

- The largely Hispanic and African American area spends about \$3.1 billion for retail goods and services every year.

- Approximately \$1 billion is spent annually for meals at home or for eating out.
- There are 5,700 retail stores in Northern Dallas and only 1,400 in Southern Dallas.

Southern sector money goes north to keep North Dallas businesses rich and prospering. The graph below helps illustrate how spotty business success is in the southern sector:

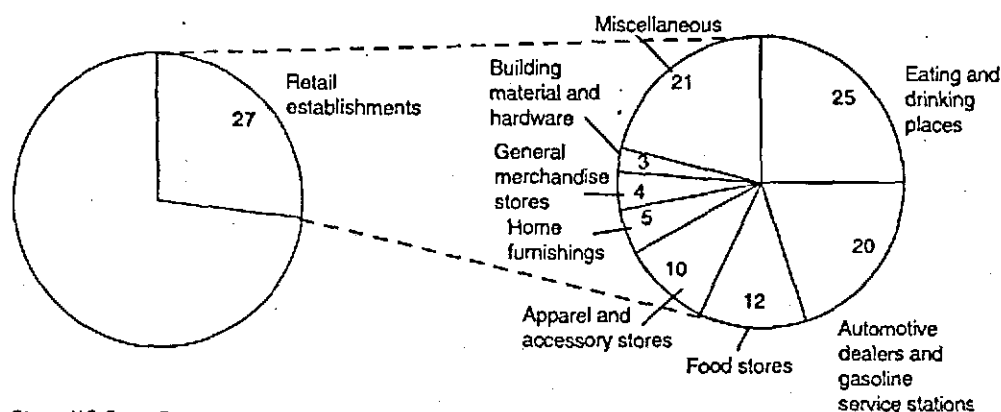
But this may be changing. Mayor Ron Kirk has called for 10,000 new jobs in this area by the year 1999. The city offers a variety of tax incentives to companies investing capital in and/or creating jobs within southern Dallas, and both the city and county governments participate in these programs. The area has many resources, including quick access to major traffic arteries like I-30, I-45, I-20 and I-35E. There is also a young, available labor force. However, one of the major resources of the area is its ubiquitously underdeveloped land. Some can be purchased at fire-sale prices; most sell for less than one-third the price of acreage in North Dallas.

An abundance of opportunities await wise investors and business persons will-

RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS IN SOUTHERN SECTOR

Total establishments
100% = 5,225

Retail establishments
100% = 1,397



Source: U.S. Census Bureau - Zip Code Business Patterns 1994

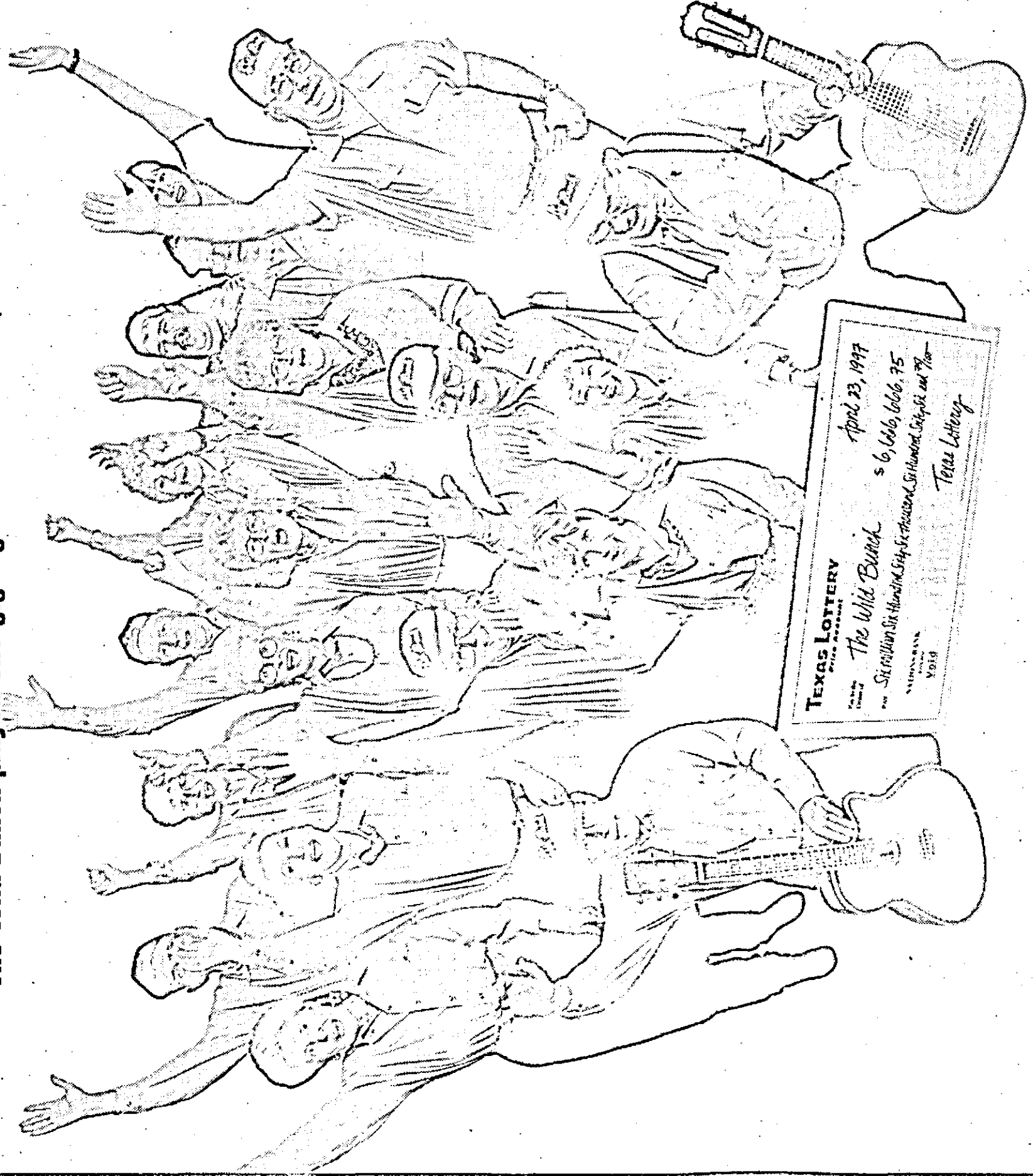
ing to mine the gold field that is the southern sector.

Three individuals who have discovered the wealth to be built in the area and have launched a fight to improve the tax base and bring down the high unemployment rates are Tennell Atkins, President, Redbird Development Corporation; Bob Moss, who heads the Dallas Initiative; and Bonnie Johnson, Dallas restaurateur/entrepreneur.

Tennell Atkins has lobbied for economic development in the southern sector for many years. In 1978, he became the first African American in Ford Motor Company's marketing department. He rose to become marketing manager before shifting

see CITIES on page 23

The Wild Bunch played one gig together and made \$6.6 million.



THE STORY:

The 17 members of the Wild Bunch bought tickets as a group. After the drawing they met at Jimmy's house to go through all the tickets. After checking them, they discovered they had matched three of six on a few tickets. Just to be safe, Nora and Jean decided to double-check. That's when they discovered they hadn't hit just three, they had matched all six.

THE MONEY:

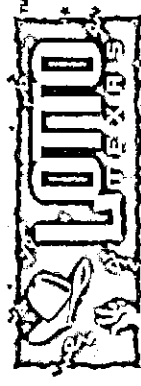
\$6,666,666.75

THE NUMBERS:

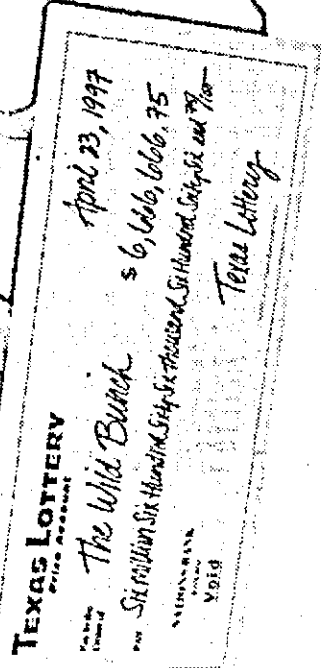
3 9 12 28 36 43

MOST REQUESTED SONG:

"We're In The Money."



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March 1

The Student Relations Committee of the Southern University Alumni Federation - Dallas Chapter announces the availability of a freshman academic scholarship via the organization. The scholarship will be issued to a graduating senior from a Dallas metroplex high school who is admitted to Southern University's Baton Rouge campus. For more information call 972-480-JAGS and leave a message under Option 1 (Student Relations).

The Mothers Against Teen Violence (MATV) support group meets the first Saturday of each month at 2:00 p.m. For more information call 214-565-0422.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) offers free tax help to people who cannot afford a tax preparer. Both programs also give free tax help to disadvantaged people and to those who cannot speak English. To find the nearest free tax help site and hours of operation, call the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance at 214-767-1428 or the Tax Counseling for the Elderly program at 1-888-367-2277.

The Eastfield College continuing education department is offering free computerized courses for people 22 years or older who meet guidelines. The program incorporates computer training, employment skills, job placement assistance and other support services. Classes begin April 20. For more information call Cynthia at 972-860-8354.

March 2

Looking for volunteer opportunities? The Volunteer Center of Dallas, 1215 Skiles Street, Dallas, can connect you with hundreds of community organizations in need of your time and special skills. For more information call 214-826-6767.

March 5

New Image Business Associates, Inc. invites you to its Small Business Luncheon held every Wednesday from noon-1:00 p.m. at the

Bill J. Priest Institute of Economic Development, 1402 Corinth, Room 202 A&B, Dallas. Lunch is \$5.00. For more information call 214-350-9590.

Evelyn Terry, nationally acclaimed Milwaukee artist, presents "The 13 Marys" which opens March 5 and runs through April 4 at the South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 South Fitzhugh, Dallas. For more information call 214-939-ARTS.

Sisters on The Move, Inc., a support group that "provides people with a new sense of community," meets every first and third Thursday of each month. For more information call 972-709-1180.

The eleventh annual Dallas Video Festival, March 5-8 at the Dallas Theater Center, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd., Dallas, will feature a variety of programs including several works that document and reflect the African American community. For program listings and more information call 214-651-8600 or visit the webpage of the Video Association of Dallas at <http://www.videofest.org>.

The NAACP Southwestern Region VI Leadership Conference is being held in Little Rock, AR at the Excelsior Hotel. For more information call the Irving Branch of the NAACP at 972-253-1632.

March 6

The Quad C Theatre at the Collin County Community College, 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway, Plano presents *To Be Young, Gifted and Black* at 8:00 p.m. The performance is an autobiographical drama written by Lorraine Hansberry and produced by Texas A&M University, Prairieview. For more information call 972-881-5809.

The West Dallas Neighborhood Development Corporation, 2907 N. Hampton Road, Dallas is hosting an awards presentation, site inspection and reception from 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. For more information call 214-688-0499.

To welcome the Southwest Athletic Conference basketball tournament back to Dallas,

the Dallas Metroplex Council of Black Alumni Associations will host SWAC Jam '98, 9:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m. at the Dallas Grand Hotel, 1914 Commerce Street, Dallas. Admission is \$10.00. For more information call 972-395-3369.

The HOOP-IT-UP, Winter Warm-up tournament will be held March 6-7 at Fair Park, Dallas. The 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament is in preparation for HOOP-IT-UP in June. For more information contact Street Ball Partners at 972-392-5750 or the West End Association Events Hotline at 214-720-7717.

The TI Founders IMAX Theater at the Science Place, Fair Park, Dallas, presents *Thrill Ride: The Science of Fun* from March 6-31. Get ready for the ride of your life as IMAX takes you inside the mathematical minds of rollercoaster and motion simulator ride designers. For more information call 214-428-5555.

March 7

The Dallas Chapter of Continental Societies, Inc., presents its Mardi Gras Masked Ball, 8:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m. at the Harvey Hotel in Addison. The King and Queen of the Ball will be KKDA AM radio celebrities, Roland Martin and Deborah Duncan. For ticket information call Hortense Ransom at 972-350-8477, Helen Watkins at 214-464-7990 or Lela Thompson at 972-230-8281.

The Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, 1500 Montgomery Street, Fort Worth, presents *Meet Bessie Coleman: The Inspiration*, a theater presentation that will introduce visitors to the first African American to earn a pilot's license. This special exhibit honoring women in flight is part of the museum's larger exhibit *Flight: Where Adventures Take Off*, which runs through September 7. For more information call 817-732-1631.

The Fort Worth Water Department presents a free gardening seminar 9:00 a.m. at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Center's Lecture Hall. Landscape design, perennials and beneficial insects are the topics covered in this event which is open to the public. Registration begins at 8:15 a.m. and the seminar should conclude by 12:30 p.m. For more information

call 817-871-8220.

The first annual Ron Price "Spring Sing-a-sation" will be held 7:00 p.m. at Lincoln High School, 2826 Hatcher, Dallas. The choirs of Lincoln High School, Madison High School, Umphrey Lee Elementary School and Dunbar Elementary School will be featured as well as the Universal Voices of Joy and Tammy Adtkins. Proceeds benefit the participating choirs. Tickets are \$10.00. For more information call 972-497-1438.

The internationally acclaimed University of Texas at Arlington Jazz Orchestra will host 30 high school jazz bands from around the state in a competitive jazz festival. The high school bands will be performing free concerts throughout the day in Texas Hall (and in Irons Recital hall until noon). A concert and awards ceremony begins at 7:00 p.m. and there is a \$5.00 general admission charge. For more information call Mike Bogle at 817-272-2437.

March 8

The KanKouran West African Dance Company, an 18-member dance troupe, will perform 8:00 p.m. at The Black Academy of Arts and Letters, 650 South Griffin Street, Dallas. Admission is \$10.00. If you love dancing or drumming, join founder/director Assane Konte from 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. for the opportunity to increase your skills. For more information call 214-743-2440.

The Dallas Chapter of the Links, Incorporated will sponsor the 40th Ebony Fashion Fair, 5:00 p.m. at the Music Hall in Fair Park, Dallas. Tickets to the event are \$20.00 and patrons get to see the best and the newest American and European fashion and a subscription to *Ebony* or *Jet*. For more information call Mattie August at 214-388-7626.

March 9

Put on your shouting shoes and get on board the gospel train for a spectacular musical journey. The Black Academy of Arts and Letters, 650 South Griffin Street, Dallas, presents GutBucket Gospel, March 9-15. Performance times are 8:00 p.m. Monday-Friday, 3:00 p.m.

Community Calendar Sponsored by Southwestern Bell Telephone

Continued on page 22

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Even Home Depot® Is Checking Out Our Low Prices

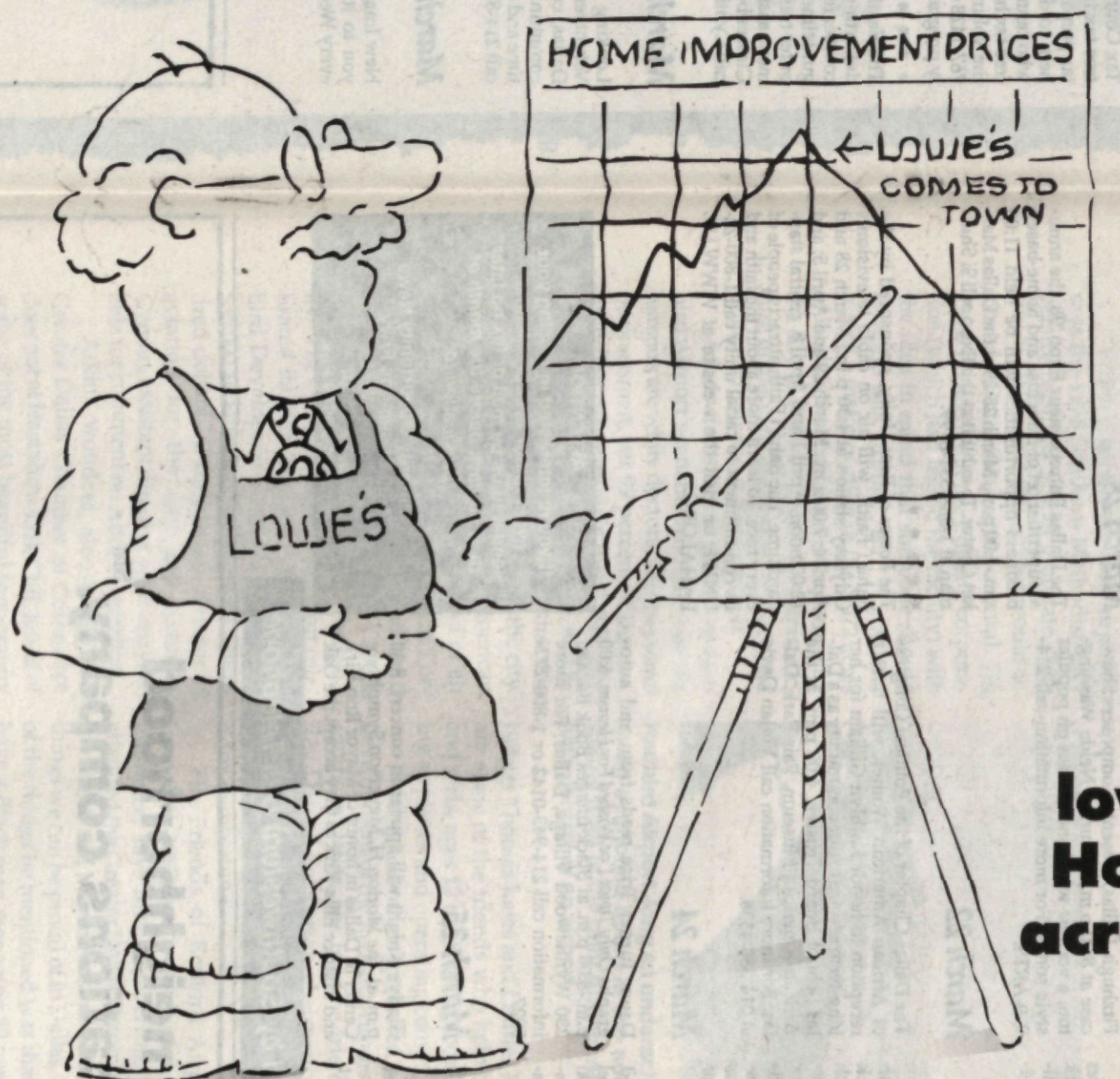
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Inwood Rd. & Forest Lane
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Lowe's Of Arlington
1000 W. Arbrook Rd.
Exit 450 Off I-20
(817) 419-9755

Lowe's Of Plano
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Exit 31 Off U.S. Hwy. 75
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March 10

The Dallas/Fort Worth Minority Business Development Council will host its annual HardHat '98 contract and vendor forum at The Ranch, 944 South Lamar, Dallas. The theme of this year's event is "Bridge to 2000." The forum is designed to link minority-owned construction businesses with corporate and public sector buyers, identify and explore opportunities, develop relationships and consummate business. For more information call Margo Posey or Bill Hunter at 214-630-0747 or 214-637-2241.

March 11

Would you like to purchase a home of your own? Learn how at the Texas Federation of Home Counselors first-time homebuyer seminar March 11 at 6:30 p.m. or March 14 at 9:00 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. Registration includes a confidential review, with a certified counselor, of the potential homebuyer's credit file. To register or for more information call Ed Harris at 214-421-8342.

People with legal-related questions are invited to call the Dallas Bar Association LegalLine at 214-969-7006, March 11 and March 18, from 5:15 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Volunteer attorneys can answer legal questions, give general legal advice and make referrals to local legal or social services agencies.

March 13

The City of Dallas Senior Affairs Commission is sponsoring "Understanding Medicare Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs)," 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel, 1793 W. Mockingbird Lane, Dallas. This free event is an educational symposium for older adults to address concerns and questions. A complimentary lunch will be provided. To secure a reservation call the City of Dallas Office of Senior Affairs at 214-670-4894 or 670-5709 by March 9, 1998.

N.M. Productions Theater Company of DeSoto, Texas presents William Shakespeare's *Othello* at the Corner Theatre in the DeSoto Town Center (northeast corner of Pleasant Run and Hampton Road), March 13-29.

Reservations are strongly recommended. Call 972-680-4466 for tickets and performance times.

The Dallas Children's Theater, 2215 Cedar Springs, Dallas, presents *The Miracle Worker*, the inspiring story of Helen Keller and her determined teacher Annie Sullivan, March 13-April 26. For tickets and more information call 214-978-0110.

March 15

The Alpha Alpha Chapter of Alpha Chi Pi Sorority and Fraternity, Inc. will host its 38th Annual Hair and Fashion Show, 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at the Adams Mark Hotel, 400 N. Olive Street, Dallas. Proceeds from the event will go toward maintaining the organization's national project at Bethune Cookman College. For more information call Betty Walker at 214-375-9103.

March 19

Edward Ball discusses and autographs *Slaves in the Family*, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at Black Images Book Bazaar, 230 Wynnewood Village, Dallas. For more information call 214-943-0142 or 1-800-272-5027.

March 20

The South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 South Fitzhugh, Dallas showcases films by Black independent filmmakers during its Black Cinematique series at 7:00 p.m. today. Featured films are *Marcus Garvey: Toward Black Nationhood* and *Our Man Downtown*, a political forum featuring Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price and former Dallas City Councilwoman Elsie Faye Heggins. For more information call 214-939-ARTS.

Victoria Murray Christopher reads from and autographs *Temptation*, a contemporary novel with a Christian spin, from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at Black Images Book Bazaar, 230 Wynnewood Village, Dallas. For more information call 214-943-0142 or 1-800-272-5027.

The South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 South Fitzhugh, Dallas presents "Jammin' at the Center" a free monthly jam session that gives professional musicians an opportunity to get together and "jam" in a non-club environment, from midnight to 3:00 a.m. A drum set

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

March 21

The Tax Assistance Program is offering free income tax preparation for families with incomes below \$26,000 at Holy Cross Church/St. John XXIII School, 4910 Bonnie View Road, Dallas, from 9:00 a.m.-noon, March 21 and April 4. The Tax Assistance Program is a nonprofit service offered by skilled professional volunteers. For more information call 214-365-3282.

Join the Smith Bennett Foundation's Watoto Shule as it welcomes Kine' Mitchel and Tari-ta Bennett of Southern Univ. from their three-month visit to South Africa. The pair will share their experiences of the Motherland from 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. at the South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 South Fitzhugh, Dallas. For more information call 214-320-1035.

The South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 South Fitzhugh, Dallas, presents Composers Showcase at 8:00 p.m., featuring Nelda Washington, a vocalist who concentrates on popular style songs. For more information call 214-939-ARTS.

March 22

The Dallas Chapter of the Political Congress of African American Women will host a reception to honor Kathryn Gilliam for her long-term service to our community as a Dallas School Board Trustee, 4:00 p.m. at the African American Museum, Fair Park, Dallas. For more information call Vivian Davis at 214-388-4536.

March 24

Dawn Turner Trice reads from and autographs *Only Twice I've Wished For Heaven*, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at Black Images Book Bazaar, 230 Wynnewood Village, Dallas. For more information call 214-943-0142 or 1-800-272-5027.

March 25

Gladys Knight will appear in concert, 8:30 p.m. at The Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas in honor of Mayor Ron Kirk and Matrice Ellis-Kirk as they accept the Oak

Lawn Community Services (OLCS) Ambassador Award. Tickets are on sale at all Dillard's ticket outlets. For more information call Allison Lowe at 214-520-8108.

March 26

Bebe Moore Campbell reads from and autographs *Singing in the Comeback Choir*, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at Black Images Book Bazaar, 230 Wynnewood Village, Dallas. For more information call 214-943-0142 or 1-800-272-5027.

March 27

The Black Academy of Arts and Letters, 650 South Griffin Street, Dallas, presents *Boochie*, 8:00 p.m., March 27-28, featuring Pamela Pointer in a one-woman drama that portrays the human condition and the need for love. Admission is \$10.00. For more information call 214-743-2440.

March 28

The Dallas Entrepreneur Expo '98, the annual supermarket of franchise and home-based business opportunities will be held 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., March 28-29 at the Dallas Market Center. To exhibit at the Expo call Si Shulman at 1-888-531-6799.

The Power of Race Unity, sponsored by the Bahá'í Faith, will air on cable television's Odyssey station at 4:30 p.m., March 28 and April 4; 7:00 a.m., March 29 and April 5; and 12:00 noon, April 1 and April 8, central standard time. The Bahá'í Faith attracts people of every race. To learn more about the faith and its commitment to racial unity call 1-800-22-UNITE or visit the website at WWW.US.BAHAI.ORG.

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Cities

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careers and becoming an agent for National Football League players, such as Terry Metcalf of the old St. Louis Cardinals and Mark Nichols of the Detroit Lions. In the early 80s, Atkins was positioned to become the first African American in the State of Texas authorized to pick up and deliver frozen food, competing with industry giants such as FFE.

To state that Atkins knows about business is like saying Tom Landry knows about football. He got into the airport business in 1993 and his company became the first minority contractor to be awarded a contract at Redbird Airport, taking on the responsibility for airport maintenance.

"When I took over this airport," says the 1978 Southern Methodist University Business School graduate, "the city of Dallas said this airport would be closed." But Atkins saw potential. "In 1994, I bought out the existing corporation (which had leased the facility) with the idea in mind that someone should develop this airport." By 1995, Atkins leased a major portion of the 1,072 acres of land in the southern sector owned by the city of Dallas with all the infrastructure in place, recalling that "the city had done nothing about developing it."

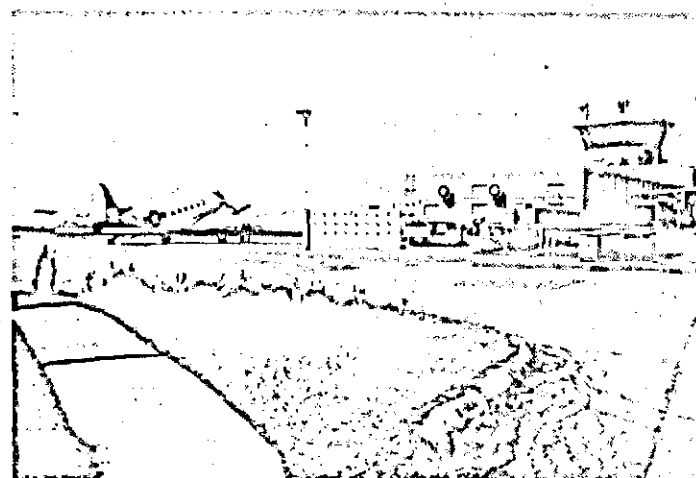
Atkins states that 99 percent of Redbird Airport's tenants who sublease the hangars are white doctors, attorneys and businessmen, yet 99 percent of the surrounding community is Black. The city has owned the airport since 1948, and he feels that "something is wrong" that this area has not been developed by the city.

Atkins is the only African American in the United States with control of an airport. His Redbird Development Corporation has a lease on the land until 2019, and Atkins claims that he's spent thousands of dollars improving the facility. "For example, when the airport celebrated its 50th-year anniversary, Redbird Development Corporation spent \$35,000 and the city did not spend a hundred dollars." Danny Bruce, director of aviation for the city and Kenneth Gwynn, assistant director, were unavailable for comment on Atkins' assertion.

Atkins wonders aloud why the Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce does not at least show Oak Cliff, home of some of the most beautiful topography in Dallas, to major companies considering moving to the city. Atkins feels that "the city of Dallas should be the engine driving the growth" of this part of the city.

Redbird Development Corporation is involved in helping the community and is the site for the Civil Air Patrol, a

part of the United States Air Force, led by Commander Joseph Greene. Rev. E.K. Bailey of Concord Missionary Baptist Church, Rev. Frederick Haynes of Friendship West Baptist Church, and



Redbird Airport, long an underachiever, could be the key to an economic boom in the southern sector. Tennell Atkins (top) is the only African American in the country with control of an airport.

Judges Thomas Jones and Charles Rose are some of the friends who help boys and girls, ages 12 to 18, learn about flying airplanes and operating computers.

Atkins, and others interested in the development of the Redbird Airport and southern Dallas, has found a friend in Rev. Darnell Pemberton, chairperson of the Friends of Redbird Airport, and his wife, well-known community activist Edna Pemberton.

The Friends of Redbird Airport, formed in 1997, was a result of divine guidance, says Mrs. Pemberton. "We attended the Greater Dallas Community Breakfast, and Mayor Kirk talked about things we can be proud of in Dallas. One of the things he mentioned was that we have a Black man managing 80 percent of the Redbird Airport."

Edna Pemberton had never heard of Tennell Atkins but, drawing upon her long-time commitment to the community, she became involved in learning about the airport. "I always knew that, as I drove down Highway 67, there should be more development, but Ten-

nell began to teach me about the jobs that can be created, some paying \$17 per hour." At the time, she did not know the importance of aviation to the community, but asked what her network of volunteers could do to help.

Mrs. Pemberton's self-sacrifice on behalf of her community is widely known. In 1987 she, along with Urban League President Dr. Beverly Mitchell-Brooks (then with DART), drafted and pushed for the Loop 66 route. "Dr. Mitchell (Brooks) shared with us how to get a bus route with a petition so that we did not have to ride all the way downtown when we just wanted to go across town."

Building upon the successful implementation of that project in 1990, the volunteers formed the Oak Cliff Concerned Citizens Against Crime. "Council member

Al Lipscomb and then council member Diane Ragsdale showed us how to do things." Contrary to popular opinion, Pemberton knows that Black people can work together for the good of the community. "In 1990, when Rochester Park flooded, affecting 62,000 people, our group collected food and clothing to help the flood victims."

The Pembertons have been married for 30 years, but they know all families have not been as fortunate. When they saw a need to step in on children staying out all times of the night, they got together to establish a curfew. "It was challenged in court for three days by the ACLU but they could not find any violation of any one's rights," Mrs. Pemberton remembers. In fact, when other cities look for a model for teen curfew, they turn to Pemberton's group for guidance.

Mrs. Pemberton also volunteers at the Pylon Salesmanship Club. For her work, she was named Hometown Hero by FOX 4's Clarice Tinsley. The Arizona Chamber has called for assistance in organizing grass roots participation.

An outgrowth of the activity has been the addition of a resource center. "We have formed a 501(c)(3) for the development of the airport. This project is a \$249 million project. Our group meets every third Tuesday, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., in our office at Redbird Airport to be exactly what we say we are, to be Friends of Redbird Airport."

The group has also established a

resource office. "We have approximately 100 tenants, and people are looking for employees. We call Workforce 2000 to let them know about job availability." They also field calls for individuals looking to cash in on the development of the area. "There is a gentleman from Chicago talking about building a bowling center nearby with a movie theater adjoining."

Edna Pemberton's organization is in place to help anyone interested in developing the area. They are now working with Tennell Atkins and Bonnie Johnson, (who, with others, is building the Marriot Courtyard Hotel).

Of all the Pemberton's volunteerism, the parents of four say they are blessed to work with individuals who have learned to work together. "We have sung that song so long that we have begun to believe it ourselves, the one that says we cannot work together. That kind of thinking is a barrier to progress and we have to get rid of those barriers. Our community is very responsive. When we see that, once we get together things happen, we will begin to see more progress."

One individual who has boosted the efforts of groups such as Redbird Development Corporation and the Friends of Fair Park is Bob Moss, president of The Dallas Initiative. Moss, a naturalized Texan, came to Dallas to work for Ray Nasher in the early 1970s. He completed a stint with Tecon Realty (a subsidiary of Clint Murchison Real Estate) and managed the development of CityPlace for the Southland Corporation. After CityPlace was sold, Moss formed his own development company, Moss and Associates, which specializes in public/private partnerships.

Moss sees heading The Dallas Initiative, created in 1996, as a natural step in his career. Its board of directors consists of Mayor Ron Kirk; council members Mary Poss and Don Hicks; Forrest Smith, a partner at Bell & Nunnally and chairman of the board; James Dennell, former president of NationsBank-Oak Cliff and Oak Cliff Savings; Prentiss Gary, a leading apartment developer; Barry Nelson; Sam Brown; and Christine Rubealcaba.

Moss touts the new thrust from the city and says that now is the time to get serious about South Dallas. Along with a multi-disciplined consulting team, the board looked at 22 different projects for the area. At the February '97 retreat, four projects scored highest to begin development:

- Redbird Airport
- Dallas Southport Center (Bonnie View at I-20; Phase 1 consists of 87

continued on next page

continued from previous page

acres)

- Pinnacle Park (I-30 at Loop 12) and
- Hampton Road Corridor



Edna Pemberton: "I always knew... there should be more development..."

Claiming that the board has been accepted by the South Dallas community, Moss states, "Our mission is to engage the southern Dallas Community to participate" in every facet of the project.

Ever the businessman, Moss disclosed that the renewed focus on southern sector growth could possibly be lucrative for his business. The city granted the company an option to lease 562 acres. Moss pledges that Moss and Associates will practice good corporate citizenship as it develops projects in the area. They have a 50 percent interest in the land and claim that they will ensure high quality development and bring jobs to the airport. "We are presently working with a major industrial user, a hotel development group, potential aviation and retailers to present proposals."

For the Dallas Southport project, they will be the principal on leased land. "We don't want, for example, to turn the Dallas Southport property into a barrage of truck stops."

They will act as consultants on the \$5.9 million Hampton Road project and act as an advocate for property owners at Pinnacle Park.

The Dallas Initiative will showcase proposals received in an open conference in the spring of 1998 and welcomes community input.

Moss, envisioning a boom in the southern sector, says "Major brokerage firms are requesting that we give presentations to brokers. There is now acknowledgment among the brokerage community that (this area) is the prime opportunity in the Dallas real estate community."

Some may question whether area residents will benefit from the widely anticipated boom. Bonnie Johnson thinks so and has put together a group of women who could become the owners of the only African American-female-run hotel in the city.

Ester Davis is the marketing specialist representing the corporation currently in final negotiations for the Marriot Courtyard and Conference Center to be built in the Redbird Airport area. She came on board in September 1997 and says she is thrilled that Ms. Johnson could make this dream a reality. Although naysayers said four Black women (Bonnie Johnson, Ann Taylor, Ester Davis and another prominent professional all own JP Development Corporation) were incapable of working together, Davis reports that it is, in fact, happening in a professional, proactive



Bob Moss, president of The Dallas Initiative.

environment.

Davis is a former marketing professional with Kokak Corporation and says that the women have marshaled their efforts to exploit the market potential of the area. "Marriot initially wanted to build its new property in North Dallas. We convinced them that this area was ripe for development."

They sold the idea of a franchise to the powers that be at Marriot and began educating the community. The company's need for investment and support found them targeting area religious leaders. Says Davis, "There are a large percentage of national officers in the Dallas area. Our group met with Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson and 35 ministers from around the metroplex on December 11, 1998." The demand for such a facility was not surprising, and the response was very positive. "For example, Dr. Sherman Allen of the

Church of God in Christ in Fort Worth, was one of the first (to make a sizable investment)."

The property will have 150 rooms and an adjoining conference center with fifteen state-of-the-art meeting rooms. Interest in the facility is growing. A second investment dinner attracted business persons and other professionals, raising an additional \$75,000 toward the \$1 million franchise fee Marriot requires. The Dallas Initiative's Moss is working closely with the group to bring the hotel to southern Dallas. The groundbreaking date is tentatively scheduled for spring, 1998, and the projected construction time is 14 to 18 months.

The CPA for the project is John Dodd; the corporation's attorney is H. Ron White; and Steven Kallagher's Lodging Development is the Marriot contact.

JP partner Ann Taylor says the churches and businesses that bring in conferences and meetings can help by writing letters of intent to Bonnie Johnson, JP Development Group, 5552 S. Hampton Rd., Dallas, TX 75232. The letter should simply state that the church, company or group intends to schedule future functions such as seminars, conferences or banquets at the Marriot Franchise located at Redbird Airport through JP Development Corporation. Include line items spent on prior year hotel bud-

gets and an estimate of 1998-99 expenditures.

Ah, yes. What can we safely say about the convergence of Dallas' two cities? One, there is no intrinsic reason for African Americans not to learn lessons in coalescing long enough to work the system for their benefit. Two, that there are small pockets of development is a tribute to the long, hard work of the area's stakeholders, its residents, and businesses of good will. Three, Dallas can become one city, celebrating the diversity of all its citizens. For its sake. For its pride. For its future. Marriot franchisee Johnson sees it this way: "Our children need a focal point for self-discovery in Dallas. Let's take ownership of our own future."

MON

If you want more information on these business enterprises, contact the following:

Redbird Development Corporation
Tennell Atkins, President 214-467-8057

Dallas Initiative
Robert Moss, President 214-943-6400

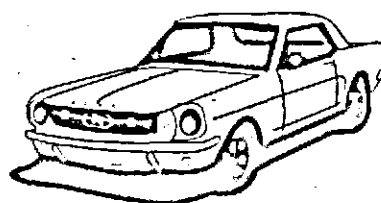
Friends of Redbird Airport
Edna Pemberton 214-339-9655

JP Development Corporation (Marriot Franchise)
Ester Davis, Marketing Director 214-376-9000.

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Nothing is Impossible

Hard work is as familiar to Bonnie Johnson's lifestyle as the East Texas sand she played in as a child.

The businesswoman, with her husband Joseph, helped to build Dallas' Mama Jo's into a wildly successful restaurant that catered to the ordinary consumer, as well as the rich and famous looking for good home cooking.

Sitting in her tastefully decorated home, Johnson reminisces over hundreds of photographs from the restaurant's heyday. Celebrities and non-celebrities alike enjoyed the fine dining and ambiance of Mama Jo's, including Isaac Hayes; the entire roster of the NBA San Antonio Spurs; many Dallas Cowboys; Kalil Muhammad; a visiting African ruler; and couples like the one who told the Johnsons they were celebrating the special occasion of their daughter's sixteenth birthday and wanted to share the moment at an upscale African American-owned restaurant.



Bonnie Johnson and her husband, Joseph.

The husband-and-wife team's strengths complement each other. Joseph had been in the hospitality business for many years and knew it inside out. Bonnie lent her years of networking and style on the management end but says, "I got in the kitchen with the help and did whatever it took to make it work."

While Mama Jo's (it was named after the aunt who raised her) was high profile and on its way to building a presence throughout the region, it never had the consistent traffic to keep it in the Black. The restaurant eventually closed and many counted the couple out, according to people familiar with the matter. But Bonnie says, "God was preparing me for the next level in developing a business. Owning a hotel has been a ten-year dream of mine."

Moreover, in her travels across the country, Bonnie always favored staying at Marriot properties. She, along with three other women who, Bonnie says, "have common ground and interests," partnered to develop JP Development Corporation and approached Marriot for a hotel in the Redbird area. "These sisters are all strong women but I have never seen so much respect. Even though we have our differences, we still look at things objectively." The team combined that strength, rolled up its sleeves and went to work. Negotiations with Marriot involved hours of preparation, and Bonnie had to make sure that every "i" was dotted and every "t" crossed. "It is just the grace of God that this project is happening," she says, as she proudly shows the letter from the Marriot stating that she has been awarded the franchise.

The group says that Black people can make this project work and has already begun taking bookings for 1999.

"Despite failure and disappointments, business people have to plan and be determined to make their plans work. Black folk have been known to do the impossible for ages," she says.

She counts on friends "like Darnell and Edna Pemberton and the Friends of Redbird Airport, who keep our name out in front of the community."

"The city of Dallas, especially Blacks must see that we are not putting up a Mickey Mouse hotel, but one that all citizens can be proud of."

Ms. Johnson says that her humble beginnings in Pittsburg, Texas, has made her appreciate just how far she's come. "I know this sounds like a cliché, but we were very poor but we didn't know it. Mama Jo raised kids and didn't have one biological child. What she did have was a love for people. She taught us to work hard and always respect ourselves and others."

Johnson says that, with a good management team in place and the help of the community, the 150-room Marriot property will prosper and be part of a revitalization of South Dallas.

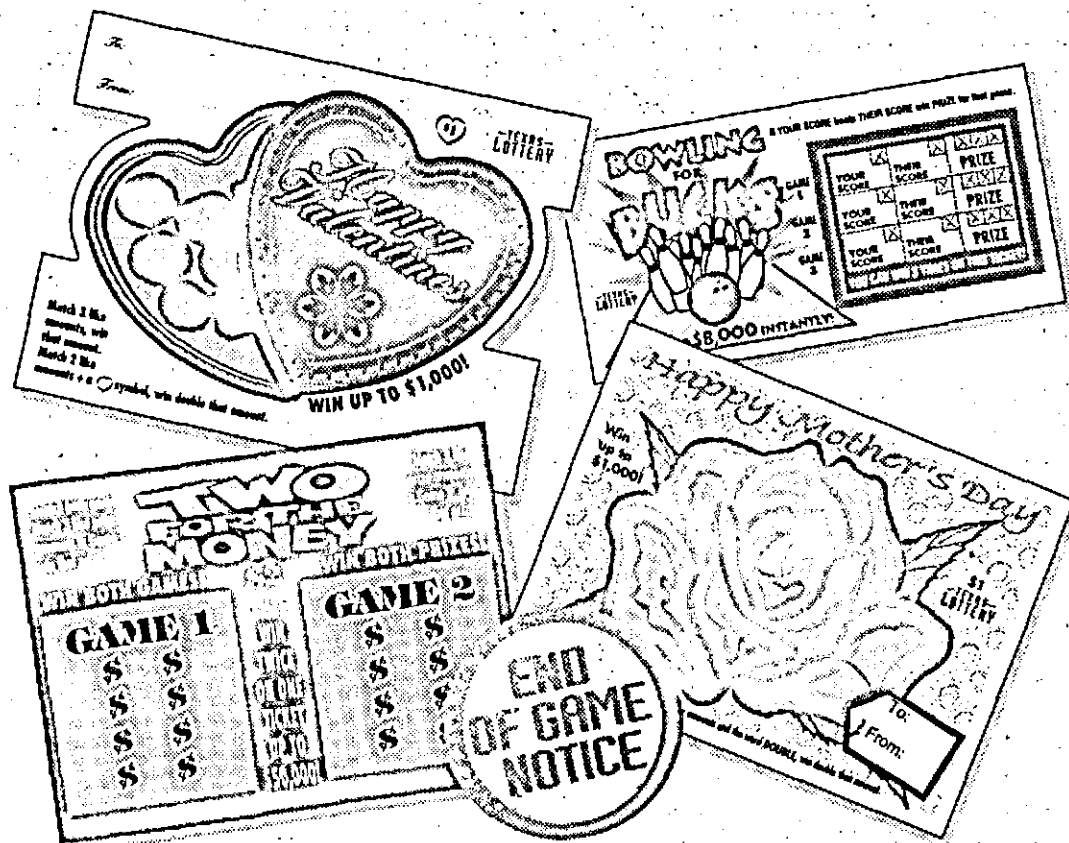
Johnson and the JP Development group urge Dallas not to allow anyone to shape or dictate their agenda to the community. "We spend the money, let's support one another and create an atmosphere for our collective success." Johnson thinks the hotel and conference center will symbolize a new paradigm for younger Blacks coming along.

Glenda Williams Goodson

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Overall odds of winning Two For The Money, 1 in 4.61. Overall odds of winning Bowling For Bucks, 1 in 4.92. Overall odds of winning Happy Valentines, 1 in 4.97. Overall odds of winning Happy Mother's Day, 1 in 4.44. Must be 18 years or older to play. ©1998 Texas Lottery

Reconciliation Outreach

Ministry believes in recovery and redemption

By Tonya L. Johnson

There is an old proverb about feeding a man for a day or teaching him to feed himself for a lifetime. Reconciliation Outreach is one Christian-based organization in East Dallas that specializes in teaching people the art of survival through strengthening their faith through Christ.

After meeting Pastor Robert Cook, it is clear that he practices what he preaches to those who have come to the ministry seeking food, clothing, shelter and spiritual guidance.

The outreach ministry itself is located in a huge brick building in a somewhat deteriorating part of the city. It is amazing that such a dreary location peppered with bars, mom and pop restaurants and small neighborhood homes could be the bright spot for many people who come looking for something many of them haven't had in a long time — hope.

Reconciliation Outreach was founded in September 1997 by Rev. Dorothy Moore, a long-time advocate of the homeless, as an agency dedicated to helping needy families.

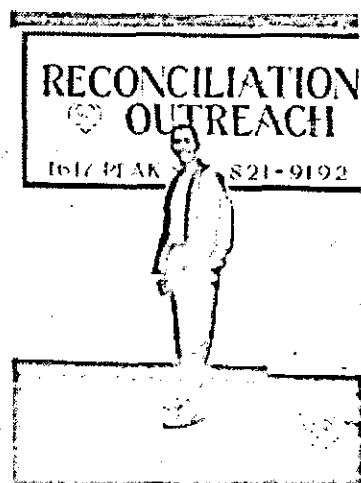
As we sat in his office, the sound of voices raised in praise wafted through the building. Pastor Cook, who serves as vice president of Reconciliation Outreach Ministries as well as president of its in-house employment agency, Samaritan Staffing Services, can certainly be described as a man of strong convictions and affable manner. It is also clear that improving the lives of those around him is his life's ambition.

Cook explains that what makes his organization unique is its emphasis on Christianity and preaching the Gospel to those who have come to seek shelter. "Our job as a ministry is to introduce them to Jesus because he is the only answer," he says. "What is the answer to a man like me — 23 years as an alcoholic, seven years on drugs. It wasn't AA, I've never been in a program ... and I found out it would take too long to get me into a VA program."

Listening to Pastor Cook, it is evident that he knows of what he speaks. Cook divulges that he, too, was once homeless, as a result of his addiction to drugs and alcohol. He was living in Memphis at the time and not particularly eager to change his lifestyle until he had a chance encounter with a man on the street. Only then did his life take another path.

"One day I was walking down the street and a young Caucasian man

walked up to me and asked, 'Do you know Jesus?' It was during that time, Cook explains, that he started looking for a recovery program that would help him get off drugs and alcohol. He was told he



Pastor Robert Cook

would have to wait.

"So, the next day I went back to where the young man was and he directed me to this building. I really went in to get a drink of water, but it was then that I saw my blood brother, my crack brother." Cook says his blood brother told him he and another man were fasting and praying for him.

That encounter was what he needed to turn his life around. Cook eventually became president of that ministry, now known as Mission Corps International, and helped to start several similar organizations across the United States.

It was in his role as guest speaker for The Men's Ministry here in Dallas that Cook met Rev. Moore. Shortly thereafter, Cook came to Dallas to oversee the ministry and get the employment agency on its feet.

Cook says the love of the Lord is what guides him

and the ministry, and that emphasis on Jesus is what sets his organization apart. "Some of these places (shelters) are not doing the right thing. They are not being realistic with these people," the opinionated pastor states. "This is not one of those hot-as-a-cot or forced-labor type places."

Being employed is one of the requirements for the ministry's residents. "Even if it's on the grounds," Cook says. "You don't have a choice [but] to work. You have to give something back to the ministry."

Teaching the residents to give something back to the ministry, as well as each man helping each man to get through or around obstacles without succumbing to their demons, are the primary goals of Reconciliation Outreach.

The program is unusual in that the all of its clients reside at nearby housing facilities throughout the neighborhood.

"We want to help the community at large. Our desire is to connect the suburban city to the inner city," he explains of the program. "We have to learn that we are all connected. We cannot live on this earth by ourselves."

And helping the East Dallas community they are. Cook says the ministry is currently serving more than 100 men, women and children through its various programs.

Samaritan Staffing Services is a temporary employment agency that provides its clients with job training and transportation to and from jobs. Cook says the staffing agency has a twofold function: to train its clients to be responsible, and to enable the outreach center to offset some of its operating costs.

The programs that fall under the Reconciliation Outreach umbrella include Crusaders and Jr. Crusaders. These are teen and preteen oriented programs that have a combined enrollment of over 100 children. Through the Crusaders, children get an opportunity to enjoy camping trips, cook-outs and develop a camaraderie with their peers.

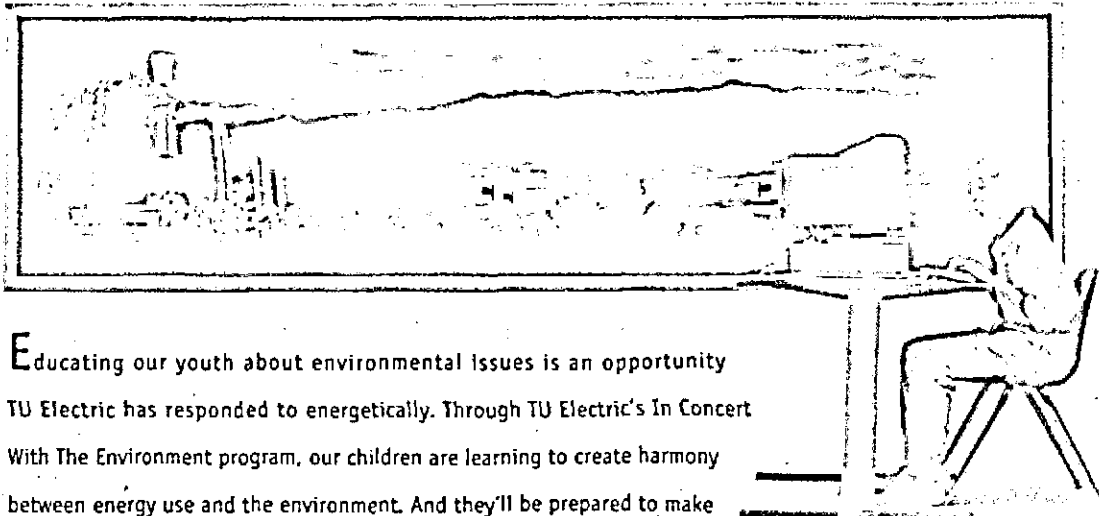
The Men's Ministry works toward building men's self esteem, Cook explains. The ministry centers around a 12-step Overcome Program and one-on-one counseling.

Another component of the ministry, Refuge Women's Shelter, provides homeless and/or abused women with shelter and spiritual guidance. All of the women are enrolled in a discipleship program to build their lives upon the foundation of Jesus Christ.

Cook says there are several rooms in the housing unit open for "adoption." He says the adoption process involves furnishing and remodeling the room for the

continued on next page

Window of Opportunity



Educating our youth about environmental issues is an opportunity TU Electric has responded to energetically. Through TU Electric's In Concert With The Environment program, our children are learning to create harmony between energy use and the environment. And they'll be prepared to make a world of difference in the future. But that's not all. Programs such as McGruff Truck and Louie the Lightning Bug also add to the education our children are receiving in school. Enlightening these young minds to the possibilities of a brighter future is one more way TU Electric is responding to your needs.



continued from previous page

family there.

In addition to the various programs, the outreach center also provides its clients with health care and day care services through its Angels in the Hood program, English as a second language classes, and drug and alcohol counseling through Overcomers Anonymous (a Christian 12-step program). Cook says the center makes a point of networking with Christian-based and secular organizations to ensure that their clients have all of the assistance that is available to them throughout the metroplex. Cook believes that anyone who thinks agencies like his act as enablers for the homeless are wrong, but rather, that they fill a void.

"If you have a child with a disability in learning ... get that child to a point where they can function. So we have handicapped people here. It doesn't mean we give them everything; there's a different philosophy. We teach them to fish — the next responsibility is to get them out there and functioning."

He maintains that the primary goal of any ministry such as his is to help raise people up toward a better life and helping the needy requires the work of Christians and non-Christians alike. Most homeless inner-city people have been working except for the last two or three years. There is a stereotype of [the men in the program] hopping from train to train," says Cook.

Cook says that, in his experience, the people who end up homeless quite often have lost their jobs. They get disgruntled and discouraged and lose their faith — if they even had any — to see them through the difficult times.

According to Cook, a majority of his clients fall into four groups: "Many of these people have been hurt by the church and end up in a whirlwind. They lose sight of faith. The second group are those who were sent to church but [developed] no faith. The third group never went to church," he explains. "The toughest group is the intellectual group, who think their intelligence should take them where they want to go. This group doesn't realize they need more."

One man who realized he needed more is 41-year-old Willie Thomas. Thomas has been a resident at the center for a little over two months. The former crack addict says he realized that his body was craving more than drugs. "There was something missing. There was a void there. I was always trying to fill it with drugs, running from place to place."

Thomas came to the outreach center after a friend recommended he go there for assistance. He says that, while his addiction didn't prevent him from holding a job and having a place of his own, it did prevent him from being the type of man he wanted to be. "It's not like I never knew God. I went astray as I got older," he says. "There had been a lot of tragedies in my life. I had gone to prison, my wife had passed...I was trying to forget the past by all the crazy stuff I was doing. I believe that God has a way of getting our attention."

Thomas says that, in addition to growing spiritually, he is learning the basics of sound financial management, how to be productive on the job and the importance of building up instead of tearing down his fellow man. He says he will move on when God says, "You're ready to go."

Cook explains that some residents stay with the ministry for a week, and some stay for a lifetime. As for Thomas, he says he is not sure when he will be ready to fly on his own; for now, he is content to take one day at a time with his fellow seekers. "I just want to be a part of the work God is bringing to this ministry."

Cook says they don't have a time limit because they want the clients to leave when they feel confident enough to stand on their own two feet. So, as Reconciliation prepares to open its latest venture, The Blue Plate Diner, to raise aware-

ness and funds for the center, he remains grateful for the opportunity to minister to men and women who are looking for guidance.

"It's been a blessing to labor and serve these brothers...to talk to people, to share not necessarily their heartaches, but their reconciliations with God."

MON

Reconciliation Outreach is located at 1617 Peak St. in Dallas. For more information, call 214-821-9192.

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Education For Today's Youth

Article 3: Senior Year

Your senior year in high school arguably will be the busiest time of your lives.

Between making those final plans for college, graduation arrangements, summer internships or work, and maintaining good grades in the current classes, high school seniors are barraged with a number of decisions that will literally affect them for years to come. The importance of the choices that you, as a high school senior, will have to make is not a reason for fear and anxiety; rather, with planning, it can be good preparation for the many life decisions you will make as you go forward.

In the midst of all of your work and planning, here are a few tips that may prove to be helpful.

- Be sure to keep a written workplan of those things you need to accomplish and the dates by which they should be completed. This can simply be a calendar on which you can note important decisions and/or activities. With so much on your mind, it is always wise to write

down the points you need to remember.

- Stay in close contact with your high school guidance counselors. As the date of your graduation approaches, high schools will typically provide a checklist of activities and important dates for seniors. Your counselor can be a vital resource, not only for clearing you for graduation, but for assistance with many college related issues that may arise.

- Beware of "senioritis." Senioritis is the name given to the state of mind of some near-graduates that causes them to take certain "liberties" because they are so close to graduation. Whether it is not pushing yourself to do your best in class or deciding that it is appropriate to miss a few days of school, these decisions can prove detrimental to your graduation plans. Stay focused on your objective of being a graduating senior in good standing.

- Senior year should also

be a time for you to enjoy the many friendships and acquaintances you have made over the years. As your fellow classmates leave for colleges or military service around the world, take this time to secure addresses and telephone numbers.

- Many senior year activities, such as class pictures, college visits, and cap and gown fees, all total, can be fairly expensive. It is important that you try to save your money for those activities and events that you consider to be most important. Also, try give your parents as much advanced notice as possible if you need to ask them for money for these expenses.

An additional recommendation: seek the counsel of a friend who has successfully completed his or her first year of college. Inevitably, this person will have a number of suggestions and good ideas about how to make the transition from high school to college a smooth one.

Presented by:



April

What to do this summer

Helping you get the most for your money

By Kamron L. Barton

Not only does C.P.A. stand for Certified Public Accountant, but also Calvin's Public Assistance.

Mr. Calvin Brown of C.D. Brown, C.P.A. set his foundation for business at the University of Arkansas. He earned a B.S.B.A. degree in accounting and graduated during the summer of 1992.

He then went to work for a local Dallas C.P.A. firm and later worked in the telecommunications field. After three years he "decided corporate America wasn't for me. Entrepreneurship was my true calling. I had no personal savings, no clients, and didn't have the slightest idea where the first would come from. However, I was determined to make it work."

Regarding Mr. Brown's business services, he says, "We basically prepare individual and business tax returns and offer tax planning and tax consulting services. We advise business owners and offer financial planning and investment management ser-

vices to individuals. C.D. Brown, C.P.A. is different from the vast majority of firms, both C.P.A. and non-C.P.A., in that we satisfy our clients' total needs. That is what gives us an edge on the competition."

Brown has been in business for three years; full-time about fourteen months. He says, "It has been a struggle from day one and I have not been able to get any outside financial support from banks and other lenders for unknown reasons. But it's working, and will continue to work, because of my sheer determination."

His motivation is "setting goals and accomplishing what I set out to do." Among his goals for the business are "C.D. Brown, C.P.A. will be a national C.P.A. practice someday. I will not stop until that dream is achieved. I want to be THE premier C.P.A. firm in Dallas, specifically serving the African American community."

Mr. Brown's hobbies are "watching professional sports and just relaxing with friends and family." What he likes most about his job is "helping people."

TOP SECRET!

Name:	Calvin Brown
Birthplace:	Chicago, IL
Favorite Food:	Lasagne
Last Book Read:	"Positioning: The Battle For Your Mind"
My friends don't know that:	"I used to be a baseball player"

Advice to would-be entrepreneurs:

"Whatever you do, make sure it is something you enjoy doing; if your business skills aren't really sharp, don't hesitate to seek professional help."



C.D. Brown, C.P.A.
5552 S. Hampton Road at Highway 67
Dallas, TX 75232
Phone: 214-331-0796
Fax: 214-467-9805

"We help our clients maximize their wealth. Period." is stated in the C.D. Brown, C.P.A. pamphlet. To get the most for your money, see C.D. Brown.

Kamron L. Barton is a senior at Carter High School in Dallas. She will be a regular contributor to this column.

MON

Church Life. Family Style.

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

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

Shouldn't going to church be one of them?

Church life. Be a part of it.
The United Methodist Church



Dallas Area African American United Methodist Churches

Camp Wisdom, 1300 Camp Wisdom Rd., Dallas 75232 • 972-224-4556
Crest Moore King, 4501 Marsalis Ave., Dallas 75216 • 214-372-0522
God's Kingdom, 701 Short St., Ferris 75125
Hamilton Park, 11881 Schroeder Rd., Dallas 75243 • 214-235-4633
Highland Hills, 6006 Flagstaff Dr., Dallas 75241 • 214-225-1096
Jubilee Fellowship, 301 Frank Keasler Blvd., Duncanville 75116 • 972-283-2264

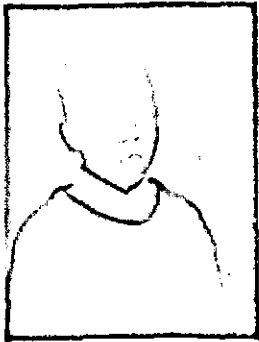
Lambuth, 4350 Bonnie View Rd., Dallas 75216 • 214-375-4261
Pleasant Grove Fellowship, 8301 Bruton Rd., Dallas 75217 • 214-225-5223
St. Luke's "Community," 5710 E. RL Thornton Frwy., Dallas 75223 • 214-821-2970
St. Paul, 1816 Routh St., Dallas 75201 • 214-922-0000
Warren, 2801 Peabody Ave., Dallas 75215 • 214-428-6240
Warren Chapel, 810 South Adelaide St., Terrell 75160 • 214-563-7392



Family Life

Fairy Street Mama

All kids who go to school have their own definition of school and what it means to them. I decided to ask a couple of young brothers what they do at school and what



Samuel Bob III, 7 yrs. old, Hamilton Park Elem., 2nd grade

they like most to do. Although are very young, they also have their own definition of school and what it means to them. They both said that they love school and that they love being there and that they have a lot of friends and they really like their teachers.

I know that to most of you kids, school is

What do you like most about school?

Courtland Bob, 5 yrs old, Hamilton Park Elem. Pre-School



not really that much fun. It is important that you remember that school is important to your whole being. It is important for your future.

MON

Fairy Street Mama can be seen on cable Channel 23b on Tuesday at 4 p.m., Thursday at 5 p.m. and Saturday at 10 p.m. Also, viewers can see her live or call every 4th Wednesday from 8-9 p.m. For more information, call 972-907-9532.

Young orators lift voices of hope

By Louise Gordon

"Believe in yourself and you will achieve," the motto of Frederick Douglass Elementary School in Dallas, was aptly demonstrated by 12 young students judged as winners of the school's Ninth Annual Oratorical Contest on February 26. Each speaker was rated on pronunciation, how comfortable they were on stage, how well they captured the audience's attention, voice expression and pitch, and how well they remembered their memorized selections. Proud winners of the oratorical contest are:

- Kindergarten, First Place: Amy Hernandez
- Kindergarten, Second Place: Jessica Garner
- Kindergarten, Third Place: Alexandria Story
- First Grade, First Place: Zakiyya Willis
- First Grade, Second Place: Angie Catalan
- First Grade, Third Place: Cordia Cornelious
- Second Grade, First Place: Courtney Washington
- Second Grade, Second Place: Ryesha Holmes

- Second Grade, Third Place: Wesley Cruces
- Third Grade, First Place: Debonair Williams
- Third Grade, Second Place: Sharrita Gardner
- Third Grade, Third Place: Octavia Hollie

Amidst the excitement of the contestants' families and friends supporting them in the audience, the young students spoke on the serious theme of "African Americans in Business: The Path Towards Empowerment." They were presented with trophies, and medallions were placed around their necks. Ellen Perry, Principal, and Danette Weaver, Chairperson of the contest committee, deserve recognition for their work with the students, culminating in such fine performances.

Community business leaders Vanessa Dobbins, Tim Gassaway, Kenneth Guinn, Thurman Jones, Emma Rodgers, and Berna Dean Steptoe judged the oratory contest.

Frederick Douglass, whose oratory skills were instrumental in the success of the abolitionist movement, focused his post-Civil War energies on how to help African Americans to grow and develop. The annual oratory contest is only one of many challenging learning experiences that promote higher order thinking skills at Dallas' Frederick Douglass Elementary School.

FAIRY'S MORALITY TRIVIA

Fill in the blanks

KIDS-TRUTHFUL-STRANGER-EDUCATION-ALWAYS

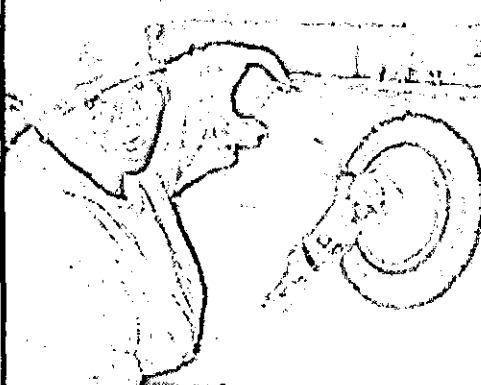
Use these words to help you fill in the blanks in the sentences below:

1. Children should _____ be respectful.
2. School is a place of learning. It is where you get an _____.
3. Kids should never do what other _____ do to be popular.
4. A _____ is anyone you don't know.
5. Being honest and _____ builds character.

Fairy's fill-in answers:

1. always 2. education 3. kids 4. stranger 5. truthful

She's Making History.



Meet Evelyn Ross... a single mother from Bryan. She's a motivated, hard-working woman who is making a way for her family.

She's taken a hobby and turned it into a career... And she's making history.

She's the first black female graduate of Auto Collision & Management Technology at Texas State Technical College in Waco. After two years of intense, hands-on instruction in the art of collision repair, Evelyn earned an Associate of Applied Science degree...and a place in history. "The whole experience has been very exciting, and I wouldn't trade it for anything."

TSTC congratulates Evelyn—and all women—in celebration of Women's History Month.

You, too, can make history—and a solid future for yourself!

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Book Review
Angela
Washington-Blair,
Ph.D.

Edited by Archie Givens
W.W. Norton, \$11

Every once in a while a book comes along that I consider a definite keeper. This month's selection is such a book. *Spirited Minds: African American Books for Our Sons and Our Brothers*, edited by Archie Givens, provides a unique guide for parents, educators, and others looking for suggested books for their sons, grandsons, students, nephews to read.

But before I discuss the particulars of this book, let me say that a pet peeve of mine concerns children who say that they are bored. Please! I have a mop and a bucket for you. The other excuse also causes me to cringe. It's when they say that they hate to read. Hate to read!? Our ancestors died for our right to read! Now we don't want to? The culprit? Television and computer games, most likely; or not seeing people read in the home; or not having any books that are interesting or have value.

Our children, especially our boys and young men, need literature that will inspire, inform, provide heroes, provoke creativity, foster pride, and open up new vistas by providing the key to success. Givens, director of the Givens Foundation for African American Literature, has selected over 100 pieces of literature that he considers to be outstanding works.

Gordon Parks, renowned author and movie director, provides the introduction and eloquently states that "Now, looking back on what helped me most, I see the answer in one word—reading. Without it I would have remained in darkness—without a solid approach to photography, motion pictures, poetry, painting, or music." So true. Reading is the key. No matter what profession you ultimately choose, reading will surely take you there.

Spirited Minds is divided into sections: autobiographies and biographies; drama; novels and short stories; history; and poetry. Within each section are vivid descriptions of the books, giving a page count, year of publication and, even more helpful, a reading level. The reading categories are: picture books, grades 1-3, grades 4-6, grades 7-9, and grades 10 to adult. Original scratchboard illustrations highlight some entries.

Let's say I wanted a novel for my eight-year old son, William. By using the reading level index, I select *Justin and the Best Biscuits in the World*, by Mildred Pitts Walter. It is about a ten-year-old boy who thinks that cooking and cleaning are just for women, until his rancher Grandpa teaches him how to make a bed and make biscuits. Or, for my 15-year-old nephew,

Spirited Minds: African American Books for Our Sons and Our Brothers

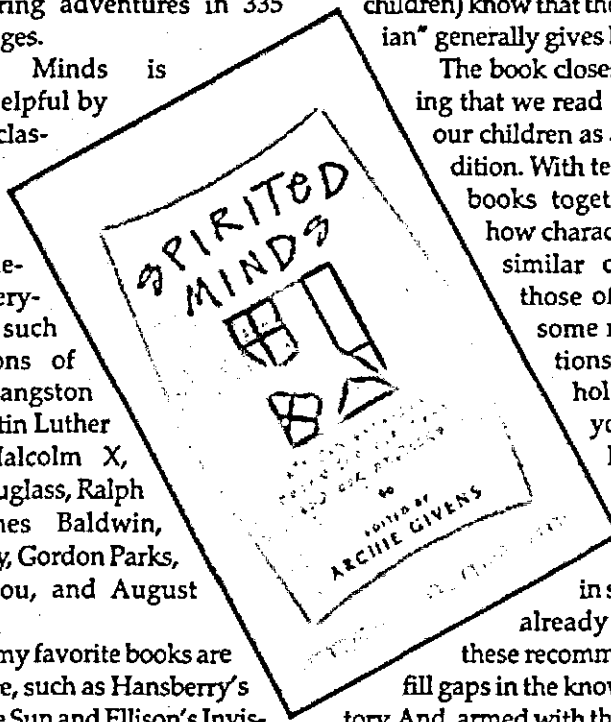
Chris, I could select an autobiography: *The Big Sea* by Langston Hughes, which tells of his seafaring adventures in 335 whopping pages.

Spirited Minds is immensely helpful by mixing old classics with newer releases. There's something for everyone in here, such as annotations of works by Langston Hughes, Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Frederick Douglass, Ralph Ellison, James Baldwin, Walter Mosely, Gordon Parks, Maya Angelou, and August Wilson.

Some of my favorite books are described here, such as Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun* and Ellison's *Invisible Man*. But there are many more I was not familiar with—that's what made this book such a treat to me. I plan to take it

with me to the bookstore and to the library. My nieces and nephews (and my own children) know that their "Aunty Librarian" generally gives books as gifts.

The book closes by recommending that we read and tell stories to our children as a worthwhile tradition. With teens, we can select books together and discuss how characters in books face similar circumstances to those of our teens. Start some read-aloud traditions in your household. We need our youth to become lifelong readers; otherwise we will see our people regress in so many areas. It's already happening. But these recommended books will fill gaps in the knowledge of our history. And, armed with that history, we can, indeed, move forward.

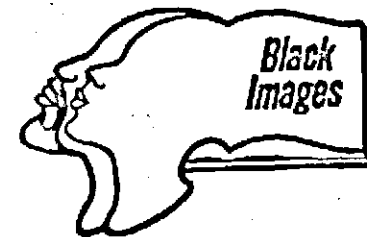


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WINTER FORECASTS 1998

THURSDAY, MARCH 12 • 6-8 pm
Timothy McCann reads from and autographs *Until* (\$14.99 N Tyme Publishing).

THURSDAY, MARCH 19 • 6-8 pm
Edward Ball discusses and autographs *Slaves in the Family* (\$30.00 Farrar, Straus and Giroux). *Black Dallas Remembered* will host Mr. Ball's book signing.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20 • 6-8 pm
Victoria Murray Christopher reads from and autographs *Temptation* (\$12.99 Professional Consultants). A contemporary novel with a Christian spin.

TUESDAY, MARCH 24 • 6-8 pm
Dawn Turner Trice reads from and autographs *Only Twice I've Wished for Heaven* (\$12.00 Ballentine).

THURSDAY, MARCH 26 • 6-8 pm
BEBE MOORE CAMPBELL reads from and autographs *Singing in the Comeback Choir* (\$24.95 Putnam). *The Sistah's Reading Group* will host Bebe's reading.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22 • 6-8 pm
Margaret Cuthbert, M.D. reads from and autographs *The Silent Cradle* (\$23.00 Pocket). It is the first medical thriller ever to feature an African-American heroine. Dr. Cuthbert's signing will be hosted by *Sista Knowledge*.

2200 Greenwood Village • Dallas, Texas 75224
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DALLAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

1. Sealed bids addressed to the Board of Education of the Dallas Independent School District, Dallas County, Texas, for the addition of approximately 280 ft of reinforced concrete landscaping wall at Cesar Chavez Learning Center School, Dallas, Texas for the Dallas Independent School District, hereinafter called "District" in accordance with plans, specifications and contract documents adopted by the District, prepared by Hastings, Trevino & Trevino, Inc., will be received in the Purchasing Office, 3700 San Jacinto, Dallas, Texas until 2:00 PM, Tuesday, March 17, 1998. At that time, the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud and tabulation will be made to present to the Board of Education at their next regular meeting for consideration in awarding the Contract. Any bid received after the closing time will be returned unopened.

2. There will be a Pre-Bid Conference on Thursday, March 5, 1998, at 1:00 PM at Cesar Chavez Learning Center, 1710 Carroll Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75204, for the purpose of answering questions and walking the site. Bidders are invited and urged to be present.

3. The Contractor shall identify their bid on the outside of the envelope by writing the name of the project on which they are bidding. The name of the project is "BP #116-C03-Cesar Chavez, Concrete Landscaping Wall."

4. Plans and specifications may be examined in the office of Hastings, Trevino & Trevino, Inc., 5050 Quorum Drive, Suite 130, Dallas, Texas 75240, and are on file on February 22, 1998, at:

Dodge Plazoom
8828 Stemmons Freeway, Suite 550
Dallas, TX 75247
(214) 241-3411
Attn: Nancy Elarb

ABC Americas Company
4320 N. Ball Lane Rd., Ste. A102
Irving, Texas 75038
(214) 256-2219
Attn: Terry McAdams

Association of Gen. Contractors
Plan Room
417 Fulton Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76104
(817) 332-9265
Attn: Kim Roberts

Dallas Ft. Worth Minority Business
Development Center
2729 Stemmons Freeway
1000 Stemmons Tower South
Dallas, Texas 75207-2212
(214) 630-0747
Attn: Bill Hunter

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
4622 Maple Avenue, Suite 207
Dallas, Texas 75219
(214) 521-6007

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

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

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

5. One complimentary, complete set of Bidding Documents, plans and specifications may be obtained from the office of Hastings, Trevino & Trevino, Inc., 5050 Quorum Drive, Suite 130, Dallas, Texas 75240.

6. A cashier's check payable to the Dallas Independent School District, in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the bid submitted must accompany the bid, or an acceptable bid bond in the same amount.

7. It is the goal of the District that at least 30% of the work performed under the Contract will be done by minority or woman owned business enterprises.

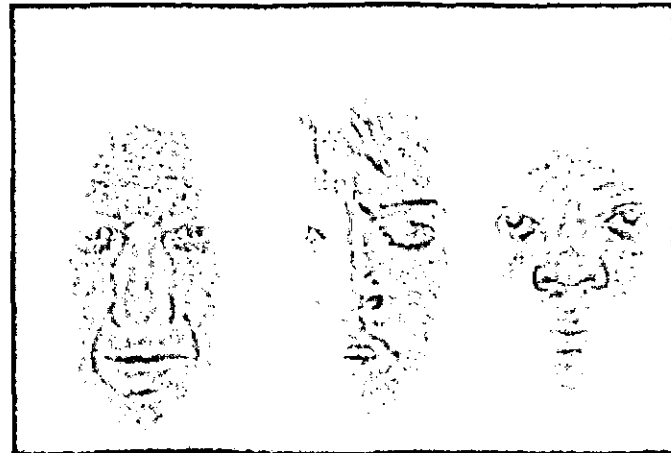
8. The District reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to waive any formalities.

9. The District is committed to the ideals of equal opportunity in all its business endeavors.

Sphere

One thousand feet beneath the sea lies a spacecraft... a spacecraft over four hundred years old. A thousand feet beneath the sea, the blackest holes are in the mind... Scientists have discovered an alien intelligence under the sea waiting to kill us all. Terror can fill any space.

A thousand feet beneath the ocean surface in the middle of the Pacific, something has been discovered. Its origin, its structure, its malevolent energy are baffling.



Dustin Hoffman, Sharon Stone and Samuel L. Jackson star in *Sphere*.

fling. But whatever it is, it can reach into your mind. It knows your worst fears. And now it's starting to make those fears come true.

Academy Award-winning director Barry Levinson directs Warner Bros.' terrifyingly suspenseful science fiction thriller, *Sphere*, based on the bestseller by Michael Crichton. Its all-star cast is led by two-time Oscar-winner Dustin Hoffman, Sharon Stone, Samuel L. Jackson and also includes Peter Coyote and Liev Schreiber.

Hoffman stars as Dr. Norman Goodman, a psychologist who is unexpectedly summoned by the government to a spot in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

There, he joins a cadre of specialists supervised by a mysterious team leader named Barnes (Coyote). Also joining them is Stone as Beth Halperin, a biochemist who shares a past with Goodman; and Jackson as Harry Adams, a skeptical mathematician. The hastily assembled project team is asked to embark on a mission to explore a massive spacecraft that appears to have been submerged, untouched, for almost 300 years on the ocean floor. The team quickly travels undersea and takes up residence in a high-tech deep-water habitat while investigating the strange craft. In examining the submerged spacecraft, the team uncovers a remarkable sphere inside it. The sphere's purpose and design are enigmatic but it somehow seems to have intelligence—and is inexplicably seductive.

As the team tries to unravel the meaning and function of the sphere, they become cut off from surface contact, their world limited to the claustrophobic habitat, the submerged craft, its baffling sphere—and each other. And then a series of horrifying incidents begins to unfold around them. One by one, the crew's subconscious terrors become real as each person's worst fears become physically manifested. With time and oxygen running out, the team members begin to turn on each other in a frantic search for who—or what—is creating this terror.

Sphere, a Warner Bros. production, opened February 13, 1998 at theaters everywhere. It has an MPAA rating of 'PG-13' for sci-fi action including some startling images

MON

Othello comes to The Corner Theatre

Othello, Shakespeare's famous play about jealousy, betrayal and the downfall of a born soldier, comes to The Corner Theatre, 211 E. Pleasant Run Road, DeSoto, March 13-29. The classic play, which stars Marcus M. Mauldin as Othello, Erin McGrew as Desdemona and Michael Wehrli as Iago, offers beautiful soliloquies, rich characters and one of the most remorseless villains in history. The production is the second of four classics of the DeSoto Classics series produced by N.M. Productions' Theater Company. Othello is directed by Michael Wehrli and Jason Rice is the associate director.

Performance can be seen Thursdays,

Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 3:00 p.m. On March 21, performances will be held at 3:00 p.m. (understudy performance) and 8:00 p.m. Sold-out houses are expected so reservations are strongly recommended.



Ticket prices are \$12, general admission and \$10 for seniors, teens and KERA or STAGE members. Group rates are available. Call 972-680-4466 for reservations or more information.

U.S. Marshals

In 1993 audiences everywhere held their breaths as the unstoppable U.S. Marshal Sam Gerard (Tommy Lee Jones) inexorably closed in on the one-armed man. Now, in a reprise of his Oscar-winning performance as U.S. Marshal Sam Gerard, Tommy Lee Jones is back in another chase. A ruthless and mysterious assassin is on the run from the law while trying to discover who implicated him in two murders.

While investigating a routine traffic accident, Chicago police obtain fingerprints of the injured driver that show he is wanted for the murders of two men in New York City. Their suspect, Roberts (Wesley Snipes), is quickly located at the hospital, arrested and extradited to New York.

The prisoner transport plane from Chicago includes over a dozen other convicts, two of whom are being escorted by Chief Deputy U.S. Marshall Samuel Grand. After the jet is airborne, one of the prisoners, having smuggled a gun on board, tries to kill Roberts. Missing its target, the bullet shatters a window and the plane decompresses and plunges into the Ohio River, killing many onboard. But the final tally of bodies reveals one missing—Roberts.

Gerard leads the chase back to Chicago, then to New York City, where he uncovers Roberts' true identity—that of an ex-Marine Special Forces, ex-C.I.A. operative named Sheridan (Wesley Snipes) who most recently worked as an undercover hired gun, a government

'kite,' without official federal ties.

Sheridan is being sought in the homicides of two diplomatic Secret Service attaches who were tracking a Chinese spy ring within U.S. government circles. With Gerard on his trail, the cunning fugitive finds himself trapped between a corrupt political conspiracy involving the Chinese and the United Nations and the dispassionate, masterful and relentless



Lt. Samuel Gerard (Tommy Lee Jones) stops Mark Sheridan (Wesley Snipes) at the edge of a rooftop.

U.S. Marshal.

This time, Gerard's team includes the boyish diplomatic agent John Royce (Robert Downey, Jr.), assigned by federal authorities to run the investigation. Royce's expertise in navigating serpentine government operations may be useful to the manhunt, but Gerard is still leery about adding an unknown member to his tight-knit team.

With his seasoned crew, and its new addition hoping to prove his worth, Gerard tackles one of the greatest challenges of his career, a life-and-death pursuit with twists and turns that even he cannot anticipate.

U.S. Marshals, a Warner Bros. production, opens March 6, 1998 at theaters everywhere. It has an MPAA rating of 'R.'

MON

COME ON NOW!!!

Join Thousands-- Sunday, April 19, 1998
at the "Lone Star Derby" at
Lone Star Park
in Grand Prairie, Texas

"A World Class Major League
Thoroughbred Horse Racetrack"

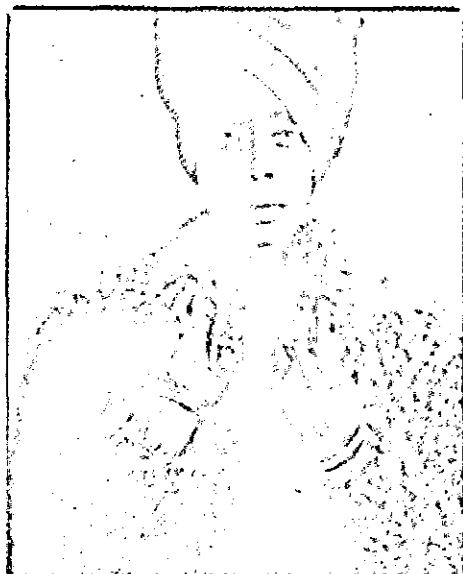
A New Texas Tradition

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Electronic Urban Reports special 1998 Image Awards Wrap-up

Soul Food swept the 29th annual NAACP Image Awards, held Saturday night (at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium), with five wins. The drama, about the trials and tribulations of a black middle class family living in Chicago, won for best movie, while Vanessa Williams and Irma P. Hall won for best actress and best supporting actress, respectively. Brandon Hammond won



Erykah Badu: "...It's a full-time job to be a good and peaceful person and not to compromise myself in any way."

for best youth actor and the film brought home a trophy for best album. Backstage cast member Vivica Fox was ecstatic about the awards.

"It's taken Hollywood a long time to realize that the African American family isn't just one note," says Fox. "We go through changes. And what was important about *Soul Food* sweeping the whole evening is that the NAACP honored the right image, which is the African American family. And I'm honored to be a part of the sweep tonight."

While *Soul Food* made out like gangbusters at the Awards, it received zero Oscar nominations, not even in the soundtrack category.

Babyface, who produced the soundtrack and co-produced the movie, says the Oscar shut-out really doesn't phase him.

"The fact that (the movie didn't get any Oscar nominations) doesn't make this (film) work any less," says Babyface. "Everything about this film was great. So I'm not hurt at all. We won tonight and this was the most impor-

tant award (to win)."

Other NAACP film winners include Djimon Hounsou and Morgan Freeman for their roles in *Amistad*. In the television category, *Touched By An Angel* took home the most trophies — also with four wins. It won for best drama and it's star, Della Reese, won for best actress in a drama. Lynn Whitfield and Louis Gossett, Jr., who guest-starred in an episode, won for best supporting actress and supporting actor in a drama, respectively. The canceled sitcom *Living Single* also didn't too bad. It won for best comedy, while the show's co-star, Erika Alexander, won for best actress in a comedy series. Alexander, who says she was glad to win an Image Award for the second time, adds she's not angry about her show being canceled.

"I made my peace with that time a long time ago," says Alexander. "I'm actually very ready to move on. I thought the show was well received and did what it was supposed to do. And all the things that happened towards its demise had nothing to do with the show, me or the characters. I couldn't be angry about anything."

In music, Boyz II Men and Erykah Badu earned the most wins by walking away with two trophies each. Boyz II Men's *Evolution* won for best album and their tune *A Song For Mama* won for best song. Badu's CD, *Baduizm*, helped her win for best new artist and best female artist. When Badu accepted her awards, she made it a point to let people know she's "right and exact."

Backstage she elaborated on what she meant. "When people see an image of me, they see the head-wrap, jewelry, incense and they see calmness and peace," says Badu. "And every day, that's what I'm striving to be...It's a full-time job to be a good and peaceful person and not to compromise myself in any way."

Show Highlights

Because we were backstage working, we didn't always have a chance to see what was going on out in the audience during the taping. However, we did get a chance to catch funnyman Steve Harvey do his thing. As you might expect, he was hilarious. One of the quips he got off was directed to

Boyz II Men; he thanked them for not "bringing any white girls to the show." As he ad-libbed afterwards, you may or may not see that when the show airs. He also did a name-that-tune skit based upon the Isley Brothers great hits, where he tried the celebs to identify an Isley song in 3 seconds.

The highlight for us was when he approached Roger Ebert of Siskel and Ebert and found out to his surprise (and most of the audience's) that Ebert's wife is Black! You should have seen the look on Steve's face. Thinking quickly, he gave Ebert the two-thumbs-up sign and the audience fell out and gave him and the Eberts a standing ovation.

EUR Newsbits

*Forest Whitaker is executive producing and directing the TV pilot *Black Jaq* about a black superspy. In this case "Jaq" is Jacqueline, a good-looking sista who speaks a variety of languages and, of course, is a martial arts Whitaker expert.



*Kevin Kline and Kenneth Branagh will join Will Smith in the film version of the 60s TV show, *Wild, Wild West*. Branagh will be James West's (Smith) ever conniving nemesis Dr. Arliss Loveless. In the film, which sounds a lot like one of the TV episodes, Dr. Loveless is plotting to assassinate President Ulysses S. Grant. Naturally West and his cohort, Artemus Gordon (Kline), will thwart Dr. Loveless' plan.

*President Bill Clinton's homeboy Vernon Jordan is branching out. The high-powered lawyer is showcasing his acting skills in the film *The Gingerbread Man*. He'll be seen next playing a judge in *Rounders* with Matt Damon.

*Michael Jackson is planning an Oct. 10 benefit concert in Seoul, North Korea, to raise money for starving children in that country. The concert will be broadcast to 120 nations and other acts are expected to perform.

*Paula Cole, nominated for seven

Anyway, after the laughter died down, it was Ebert's turn. Well guess what? Ebert was able to identify the song as *For The Love of You*. (That's because his wife whispered the answer in his ear...another funny moment.)

Again, we want to congratulate Roberta Taylor of Seattle. She was in the house after winning a trip to the Image Awards and \$200 spending money from EUR. Big props to the NAACP's Margo Wade for hooking that up and ("Cowboy") Hugh Mitchell of Triad P.R. for taking care of the press arrangements.

You can check out the NAACP Image Award telecast on Fox TV, March 5 at 8 p.m Eastern and Pacific time.

MON

Write to the EUR at their e-mail address: EURfeedback@eurweb.com.

Grammys (*Where Have All the Cowboys Gone*), says she's more Black than White. According to AP, the 29-year-old singer says she grew up in one of the whitest cultures you could pick (Rockport, Mass.), but she's always felt more African. She says she's drawn to Black culture, music, art and, apparently, people. Her boyfriend is a Nigerian musician and filmmaker named Seyi Sonuga.

*Coolio is asking Kenny Rogers for permission to record a new version of *The Gambler*. The deal isn't done yet, but it looks like Rogers will agree and will take part in the new version called *Gambler 98*.

*Jaleel White, Urkle on TV's *Family Matters*, will do the lead voices for the upcoming syndicated TV series, *Sonic Underground*. The cartoon is an adaptation of a popular video game.

*Apparently New York Knicks center Patrick Ewing is a busy man. Not only does he have a wife (estranged), but cheerleader girlfriends, too. According to *New York Daily News* gossip columnists Rush and Molloy, when the Knicks played the Cavaliers, Ewing kept his back turned during the numbers by the Knicks dance squad. The player was linked to Knicks cheerleader Heather Errico, who has resigned from the squad. And he is reportedly "best friends" with another of the dancers. However, his wife, Rita, has said the are no "significant" others. (How about insignificant?)

*Get ready for the book *Have Gun Will Travel: The Spectacular Rise and Fall of Death Row Records*. The book, soon to be in stores, was written by journalist Ronin Ro and details all the dirt behind Death Row.



Health & Fitness

Tyrone Caldwell

Most people seem to think that only professional athletes, bodybuilders, movie stars, and models hire personal trainers. But all kinds of people hire personal trainers to help them improve in some area of their exercise routine. A good personal trainer should be able to assess the client, help set goals, motivate, and customize a program for you. Consider hiring a personal trainer if you can answer yes to any of the following questions:

- Are you totally out of shape and overweight?
- Do you need assistance in updating your routine?
- Are you new to exercising?
- Do you need help setting realistic goals?
- Are you recovering from an injury?
- Do you need constant motivation?

A certified personal trainer is trained to conform to a wide range of people: the exercise beginner, the overweight, the elderly, children, and weekend warrior athletes.

Why hire a personal trainer?

The Beginner

A beginner can benefit from a personal trainer in many ways. A qualified fitness trainer can get you going on a routine that will get you the results you want by showing you safe and proper techniques. Most beginners overdo it when it comes to working out but a personal trainer can advise you about frequency and duration of training.

The Overweight

There are many different types of exercises to choose from. Some are unsafe and a waste of time for people who are overweight. Some exercises burn more calories than others. For example, lifting weights tones your muscles, while cardiovascular exercises burn more fat. The proper combination of both creates a nice balance. Your fitness trainer should be able to prescribe the right combination of both weight and cardiovascular exercise.

The Elderly

Muscle atrophy starts setting in as you age. A quality resistance training program will improve your muscle strength and endurance. Strength training

will also improve blood circulation, increase bone density, and increase reaction time. A certified professional fitness trainer will understand this need of elderly people and will design programs especially for them.

Children

You are never too young to learn. This is a good time to teach children the importance of proper and regular exercise. Our society is getting faster and faster; young people need to understand the discipline it takes to achieve their goals. Most of all, it is important that a young person learn safety first with regard to exercise. A personal trainer can educate and get children on track to a healthy life.

Weekend athlete

A personal trainer can develop a program of specific exercises that can help improve your game. There are all sorts of personal trainers for a variety of sports: tennis, golf, pro trainers, track, swimming, martial arts, and strength and conditioning, just to mention a few. Whatever your sport, I'm sure there is a personal trainer who has a program for you.

I could go on and on about the benefits of hiring a personal trainer, but that's not needed; I'm sure you get the message. Fitness trainers are for people from all walks of life and, no matter what your fitness level, you can benefit from a personal trainer's experience. As a society, we spend billion of dollars a year on fad diets and exercise equipment we never use. You will get more for your money by hiring a fitness trainer and letting him or her develop a simple program for you — one that you can do at home, and one that gets you results.

Things to know when hiring a personal trainer:

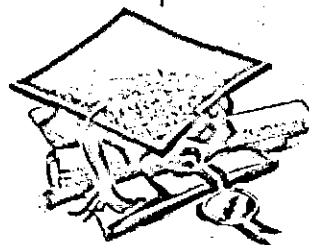
- Interview the personal trainer on the phone first.
- Schedule a face-to-face interview.
- Ask for credentials.
- Make sure he or she is certified by a reputable organization.
- Ask for proof of liability insurance.
- Ask for brochure or booklet on price list and different exercise programs offered.
- Make decision to hire or not during interview, or call the trainer at a later time.

MON

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

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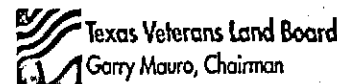
FORFEITED LAND SALE

The Texas Veterans Land Board will conduct a sealed bid sale on 198 forfeited tracts of state land at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28, 1998.

- ★ Only qualified Texas military veterans who have never purchased land through the VLB are eligible to participate. The VLB will finance the full amount of winning bids with no down payment at 7.64% interest.
- ★ 30-year assumable, fixed rate financing is available on all winning bids. Tracts will be awarded to the highest bidder.
- ★ Located in 90 counties (with the majority in East, Central and North Texas), tracts range in size from 5 to 200 acres.
- ★ This is quality land suitable for a home site or as an investment.

For more information on tracts available, bid procedures or how to apply for land, housing or home improvement loans, please call

1-800-252-VETS





You and Your Money

John Dudley

A 3-step way to get investing underway

Experts agree that the sooner you get serious about investing, the longer lasting your financial success is likely to be. But as countless young families and individuals have discovered, the most difficult part about investment planning is getting started.

If you need help with plans that will put your financial house in order, consider the following three-step program. It's designed to show you that where there's a will, there's a way to become affluent.

Step 1. Put a price tag on the future

The first step in a sound investment program should be to identify your financial objectives—then determine how much of your present assets will have to grow in order to achieve them.

Step 2. Do your homework

Once you have focused on your financial objectives, the question you should ask is "How do I develop an investment program that will meet my unique needs, at a level of risk I'm willing to assume?" The great number of available investment options can be confusing, even intimidating to the new investor. That's the reason why many people turn to full-service financial advisors for guidance in making their investment decisions.

Many brokerage firms maintain research efforts that closely monitor hundreds of companies in numerous industries. This enables brokerage analysts to spot trends, form timely opinions, and offer valuable recommendations—all in an effort to help investors spot emerging opportunities and maximize their nest eggs.

Step 3. Keep investments "on track" with your financial advisor

Your requirements for success will change over time, yet always remain as individual as you are. Since successful investing is a long-term undertaking, it's a good idea to stay in regular communication with your financial advisor.

He or she will review your portfolio, assess new investment opportunities and

reevaluate your strategy as your objectives and market conditions change.

Now Is The Best Time To Plan For Your Future

Why should you invest for financial success? Because economic security can help you meet future challenges head-on, whether you're sending a son or daughter to college, planning for your own retirement, helping your parents after they retire, buying a summer home or starting a business.

The key to your future financial health is a sensible investment plan. That's why it's important to start planning today for tomorrow's needs. No matter how much you currently have to invest, your financial advisor can help you select the investments that are best suited to your investment style, risk tolerance and goals, and can provide you with the information you'll need to make a prudent decision.

MON

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

Do You Know

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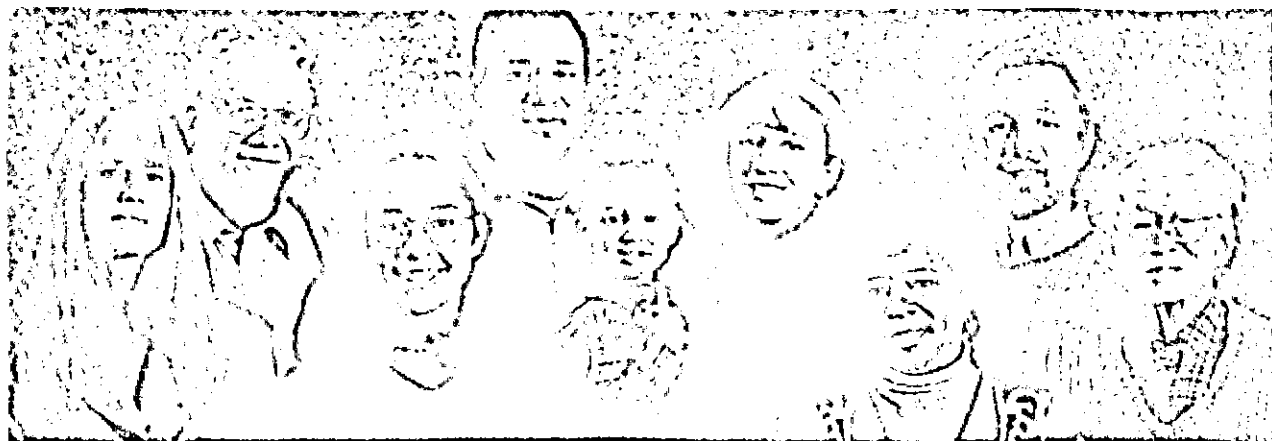
(214) 648-7847 or

(214) 265-2148

Kidney disease is a serious condition that can lead to dialysis, the need for kidney transplant and even death. Ten to 40% of people with type 2 diabetes develop kidney disease and African Americans, Native Americans and Hispanics are at even greater risk. Scientists have found that high blood pressure increases the risk that a person with diabetes will progress to kidney disease. For more details about preventing, detecting and controlling kidney disease, please see your doctor.

"Human brotherhood is...as clear and evident as the sun for all servants of one God"

Help America Bridge the Racial Divide



The Bahá'í Faith attracts people from every race and nationality who believe that, truly, there is only one race, the human race. Humanity cannot continue to harbor racial prejudice. The will to work towards race unity with firm resolve is more important than ever before.

The power to make the vision of race unity a reality is within our grasp. Join the conversation.

Watch "The Power of Race Unity" on the Odyssey station (channel 41B Dallas/Mesquite, 18B Richardson/Plano, 11 Arlington, 66 Denton, 47 Fort Worth and 57 Park Cities) on the following dates and times:

Sat., March 28th, 4:30PM

Sun., March 29th, 7:00AM

Wed., April 1st, 12:00 noon

Sat., April 4th, 4:30PM

Sun., April 5th, 7:00AM

Wed., April 8th, 12:00 noon

To learn more about the Bahá'í Faith and its commitment to racial unity, contact the Dallas Bahá'í Center, 4235 West Northwest Highway, Dallas, Texas, 214-352-0318. Open House Saturday 7 to 9 p.m.; Devotional Service Sunday 10:30 a.m.

THE BAHÁ'Í FAITH

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On Real Estate

Curtis Yates

You've got a good paying job, but somehow your credit is too bad to mention. You'd probably say, "There's just no way on earth I'll have a chance to own a home now." But I'd say to you, "Where there's a will, there's a way." In fact, there is a way to buy a home without having to qualify for a new home loan. In order for me to explain, I must first give you some insight about FHA and VA loans.

VA loans are secured by the Veterans Administration to insure banks from defaults by any prospective borrower. Most banks require some form of collateral from the borrower when they lend money. When a veteran qualifies to purchase a home, he does not get the loan directly from the Veterans Administration, but from a bank or lending institution. The Veterans Administration only offers security to banks or lending institutions in cases where defaults occur on veterans' loans.

The lender or lending institution is in a favorable position because there is less risk when the loan is being insured by the Veterans Administration. This is one of the reasons the lender is willing to issue the veteran a loan.

Now let's turn to FHA loans. These are loans secured by the Federal Housing Administration to insure banks from defaults. FHA was established in 1934 to encourage lenders to invest their money in the mortgage market. The Federal Housing Administration has been known to lend money directly to qualified homebuyers on occasion, but its primary purpose is to insure loans rather than make them. FHA/VA loans will underscore the outline of our topic, "How To Buy A Home Without Qualifying."

Let's now assume that an FHA or VA

No qualifying

Helpful tips to get y into a home of your own

loan has been approved and a home purchased. For our purpose, it is very important to remember that loans insured by FHA/VA can automatically be assumed with no bank approval, no credit check, and no interest rate escalation.

On all VA loans purchased since March 1, 1988, lenders require prior credit approval from the persons assuming the loan. FHA loans can still be assumed without qualifying if the loan has existed for at least one year. Some of the older FHA loans have not been affected by the new changes.

Still, the information I've provided will not mean anything unless you actually know what steps to take and what form to use when acquiring one of these non-qualifying loans.

Let's get busy and find out how you can handle the steps and get the form you will need. First, let's look below at some actual ads found in *The Dallas Morning News*:

Date: Sunday, January 07, 1998

Source: *Dallas Morning News*

Advertisement: Duncanville, Assume non-qual 3/2/2: fenced, \$6,000 equity. 709-8658.

Advertisement: DeSoto, Non-Qual Assume, 4/2/1.5/2, \$7,500 total move-in, \$868.32/month. Owner, 960-0338.

All the steps you would need to know and forms you would need (sales contract) can be acquired from your local title company's office. The costs you would incur when assuming one of these loans are owner's equity plus closing costs. You would also be concerned with whether or not you could afford the monthly loan payments. The closing

should always be handled through a title company. If you choose, you can purchase a general sales contract on your own from most office supply stores.

You'll need to present the sales contract to the seller with all terms stated therein. You can also have the title company assist you with the entire transaction. Title companies have their own attorneys who could help draft the sales contract and assist with legal aspects involving the sale, for a minimal fee. You can't go wrong using a title company.

As you see, you can buy a home without having to qualify for a new loan.

MON

Curtis Yates is the owner/operator of REAL ESTATE

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Edward Harris



You and God

Ron Shaw

Surviving your success

Mark 10:20-30

A few months ago, a very dear friend of mine and I were having lunch together. He pastors a very large and successful church out in Plano. I've always looked to him for godly wisdom and counsel when it comes to church development. As we were talking, he said something that still burns in my mind. He said, "Ron, when I was younger, I used to want to succeed. Now that I'm wiser, I want to endure." I thought about that all that day. Truthfully, I haven't been able to get that out of my head. For years, we've all pushed to succeed. What a shame it would be for us to pay the price to succeed and not survive our success. The truth of the matter is that it will take greater effort to survive than just to succeed. As a pastor, I have all kinds of opportunities to be a basket case (emotionally speaking). Just in the last month, I've seen a close friend walk out on his family just after having his third child and buying a new home; cancer attack a member of my family (not immediate family); a friend's son sent to prison; a friend get involved with a guy who turned out to be a psycho; and congregation members whose parents have passed. And the beat goes on. It's enough to make you crazy.

Each one of the people I've just mentioned struggled to become successful. Now, they are on the verge of being taken out by it. First, let me say that, for every Christian, success is not found in the amount of money you have or the size house you live in or the kind of clothes you wear or even the kind of car you can afford. The goal in life should be to know God. That's really why we are here. If we move closer to that goal, success can be found and enjoyed. Next, the Bible makes a distinction between success and good success. According to what God told Joshua, if he got to know Him and His word, he would have "good" success. How many families have been destroyed in the process of the husband or the wife becoming "successful?" How many kids are the casualties of parents' success?

A few months ago, one young lady who had just had her third child asked me what I thought of her staying home with her children. She knew her husband could support them if she made some material sacrifices. Of course you know what I told her. The kids come first, not our whims and fantasies. So she gave up a vehicle that they could afford only if she worked. A

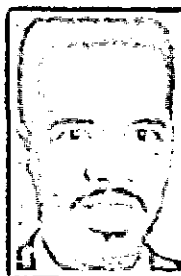
wise man once told me that success only makes you more of what you are. More money only makes you more of what you already are. A bigger house only exposes more of what is already present in the home.

Our text suggests the certainty of persecutions coming along with the hundred-fold increase that we all expect from God. Notice that "persecutions" is in plural form. Increase is the direct result of a godly lifestyle. However, the principle of sowing and reaping works for those who are ungodly as well. In John 15:16, Jesus says He wants our fruit to last. In other words, He doesn't just want us to have overnight success, here today and gone tomorrow, with only the memory of how we had it all and blew it.

I realized early in life what success was for me. I also have realized what it will take for me to survive it. Success can be a dangerous thing for most of us. Let me suggest that you start now identifying those areas of your life that could take you out. Then own up to them before God and ask for His help in facing them and dealing with them. One young lady told me she knew she had a sex problem, so there were things she absolutely would not do in order to stay straight. One pastor told me he had a problem with money, so he absolutely would not touch the money of his church. God is faithful to provide us with help if we are honest with Him. Next, make yourself accountable to people God has placed in your life. Husband, make yourself accountable to your wife, your children, and at least one other godly man. There have been times in my life when I've had to apologize to my children because they called me out on some things. Wives, make yourselves accountable to your husbands and your children and at least one other godly woman. Young people, make yourselves accountable to your parents and friends who are godly. If you're unmarried, have God show you the people in your life to whom you should be accountable — maybe your pastor or pastor's wife, a brother or sister in your church. Don't just have people who will go along with you, but people who will challenge you and keep you straight. I have no doubt that many of you will become more successful (by this world's standards) than you've ever thought. God is pulling out all the stops. But then again, so is Satan. All that you have been believing and sowing towards and standing for is about to break loose. There's never been a question about whether the principles of God would work. The questions for most of us have always been: When will my husband finally show up? When will I have my needs met? When will I get married? Well, the time is at hand. The question of the hour is, will you survive your success?

MON

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



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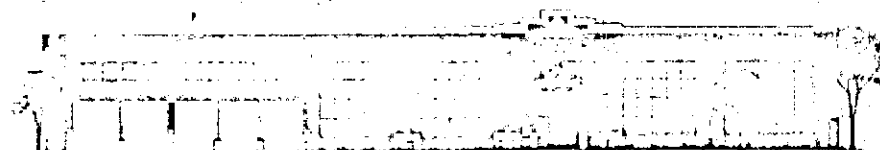


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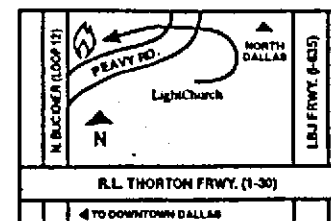
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Lend Me Your Ear

Although each of us is born with a certain amount of intelligence, the way we think and act is often a result of such factors as our social upbringing, our moods and emotions, our fears and our impulsiveness, our perceptions and even our economic position. What is meant to be a clever, witty comment can be mistaken by someone else as an abrasive comment. A spoken compliment can be perceived by the recipient as part of an ulterior motive. Spoken instructions can be misunderstood. Your lingo may not be the same as mine. Communication differences can create drastic problems in the workplace.

One of the best — and easiest — ways to prevent communication problems is to be a good listener. Listening skills are also at the core of several other skills employers seek in employees to be promoted: trouble rsuading. Written communications can be read over and over until they are understood, but what has been heard or comprehended incorrectly can only lead to troubles.

Evaluate your listening skills and apply the following suggestions to your listening process.

1. Concentrate on what is being said, even if you are not interested or if the speaker's viewpoint differs from yours (it may not seem so but, if it is important enough for the speaker to mention, there is a good reason for

you to listen).

2. Don't assume you know what the speaker is going to say.

3. Listen for facts, as well as main ideas.

4. Know which words and phrases tend to make you emotional and thereby block your ability to listen from that point on.

5. Permit the speaker to vent negative (and, hopefully) constructive criticism toward you without becoming defensive while it is being said. (Analyze what was said and plan to discuss it later.)

6. Take notes, if you need to, to help you remember.

7. Listen to what the speaker is saying, without judging him or her.

8. Restate instructions and messages to be sure you understood correctly.

9. Don't assume at the beginning of the conversation that you know what the speaker is feeling.

10. Look at the person who is speaking.

11. Don't form a rebuttal in your head while the speaker is talking.

12. Find out what words mean when they are not familiar to you or when you suspect a word or phrase may signify something different to the speaker than to you.

13. Think about what you, as well as the speaker, want to accomplish through a particular communication (this will help you to stay or get back on track).

14. Don't allow yourself to be distracted by other sounds around you.

15. Learn to listen on two levels: what is being said, and what is not being said.

If you follow these suggestions, you can often avoid negative conclusions in your communications process.

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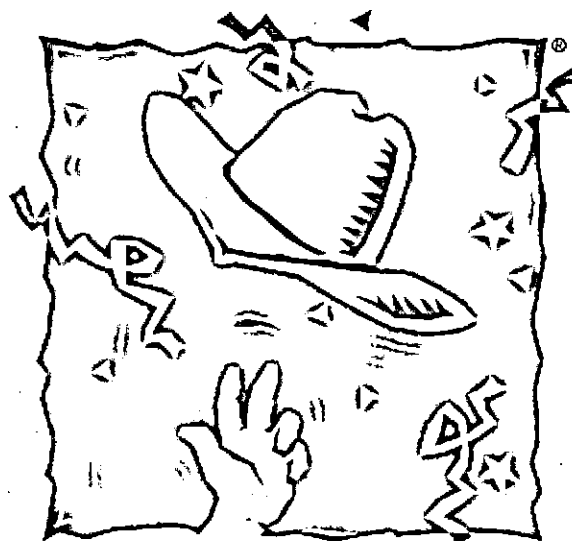
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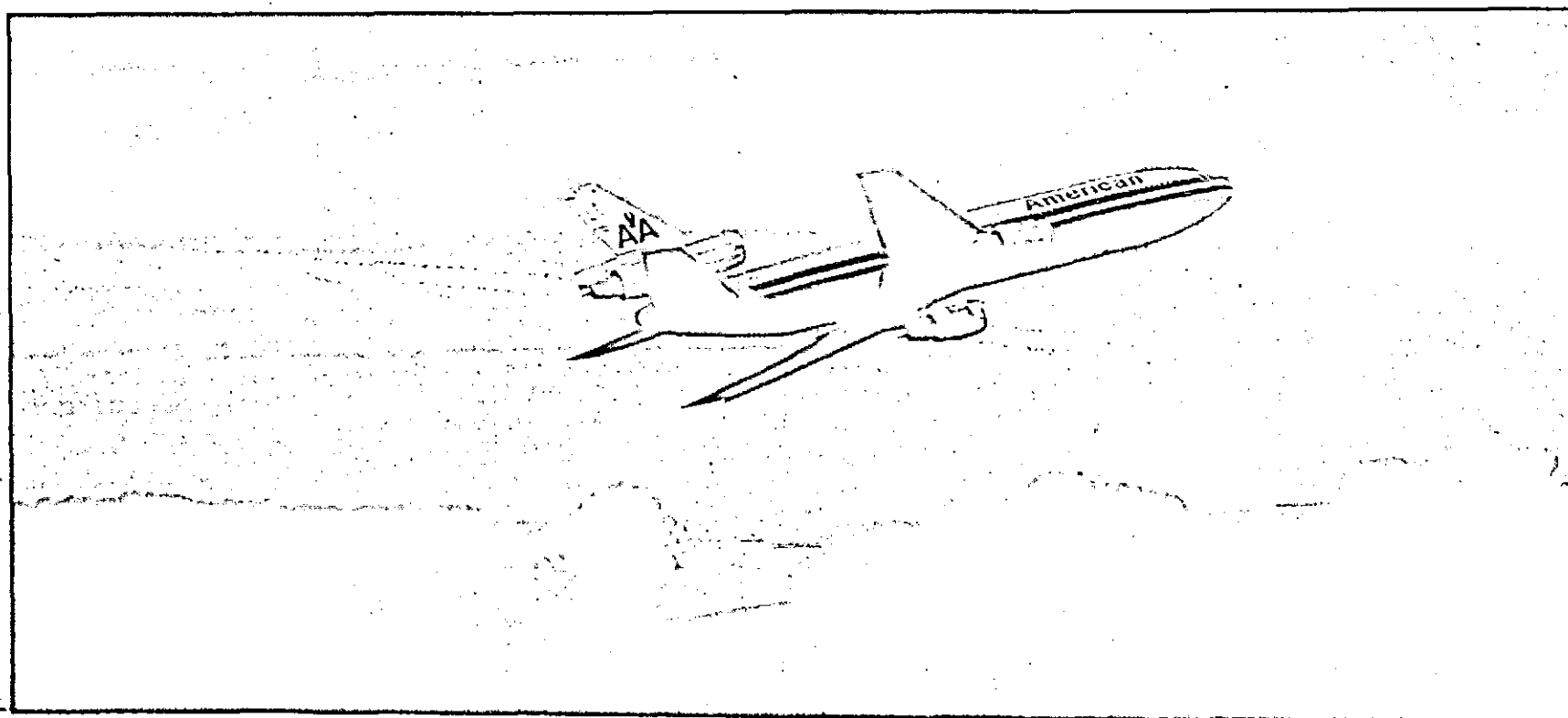
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