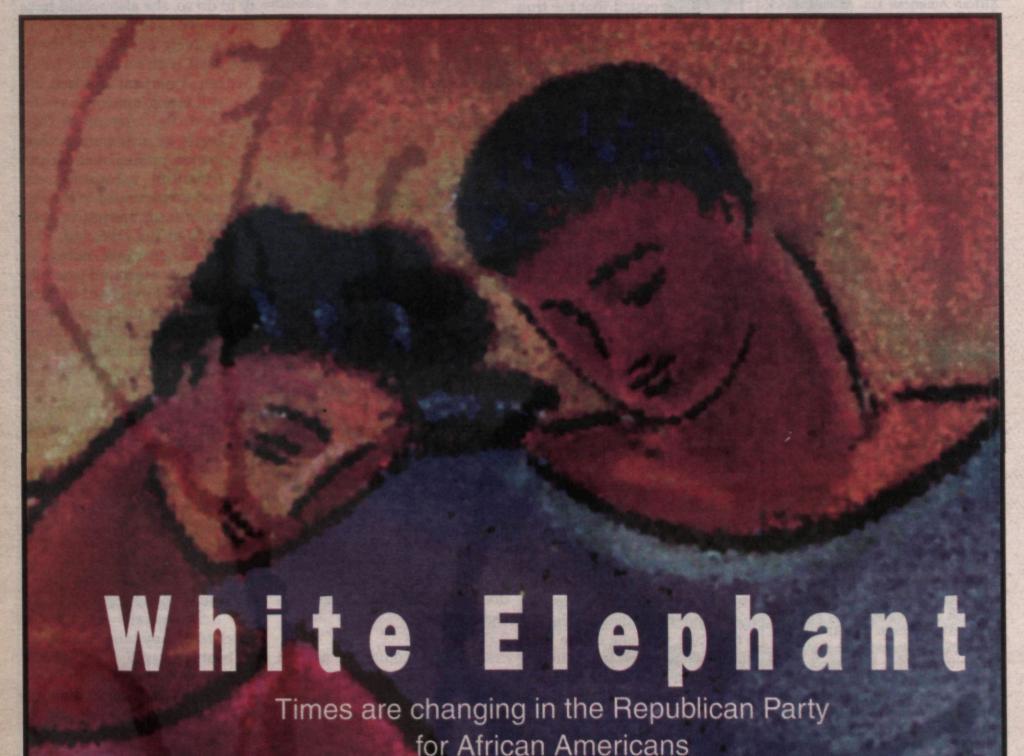
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Minority Opportunity News

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Hollis Brashear Discusses DISD

Check Out MON's Net Surfer Reach Out For A
College
Education



From The Editor Chris Pryer

Going over to the "other side"

Black Republicans. It kind of rolls off the disdainful tongues of their Democrat African American kin. At best, Black Republicanism is an oxymoron; at worst, it's an act of high treason. Black Americans who embrace the Republican ethos are perceived as having distanced themselves from the "struggle." They are Black brothers and sisters who have been hoodwinked by the White establishment into thinking they have been accepted as equals. After all, are they not successfully negotiating the hazard-filled paths to professional and economic prosperity? Is not their middle- and upper-middle-class status a testament to their "equal access" to all that America has to offer? For the Black Republican, one of James Brown's songs says it best: "I don't want nobody to give me nothing; open up the door, and I'll get it myself."

But is it that difficult to understand the appeal the Republican Party could have for a growing number of African Americans? Can the two-party system of the United States adequately express and exercise all of the opinions of its citizens about how their government should be

For many Black Americans, traditionally Democrats since the electing of Franklin Roosevelt, the Democratic Party is seen as less and less a champion of the economically less fortunate. Even President Bill Clinton's "Democratism" is less defined than many Black Americans would like; indeed, he almost appears to be a "liberal Republican." And in spite of the relatively extreme swell of liberalism that this country experienced in the late 1960s and 1970s, the economic plight of African Americans in general does not seem to have improved appreciably.

While the knee-jerk response of many Black folks is that the federal government needs to further invest in the uplifting of its economically deprived citizens, most notably through a greater commitment to affirmative action, a small but growing faction of Black Americans is adopting the Republican credo of "pick yourself up by your bootstraps." They recognize that there is still racism and discrimination but believe that the best remedy for economic stability is to take advantage of and maximize each and every opportunity that now exists.

MON's cover story takes a look at some local Black Republicans and inspects their reasons for "going over to the other side."

ditorial

Dr. Yvonne Ewell will be sorely missed

any philosophers have Agency. suggested that the true value of a person's life be measured by the legacy that they leave. Contrary to the notion that society would lead us to believe, it is not the acquisition of property, wealth,

fame or corporate position that matters. Rather, when all is said and done, the only relevant question is "Did you make a difference, for the better, in someone's life?"

On Monday, April 27, Dallas — indeed the nation lost one who could answer a resounding "Yes!" to this question. As many of you now know, Dr. Yvonne Ewell, renowned educator and member of the Board of the Dallas Public Schools, passed on that day. With her untimely death, the African American community is taking another opportunity to reflect on the void that will remain.

We could write volumes about her significant accomplishments and contributions. Here are a few: She was one of the first Black women in Texas to be named to a high administrative position when she was appointed associate superintendent for the East Oak Cliff district of DISD; she served as a teacher, high school principal, coordinator for ethnic studies and assistant to the superintendent for desegregation monitoring; she was a planner at Townview Magnet School and a DISD school board member; after leaving the school district, she was appointed to Dallas Park Board and the board of the Dallas County _ Community Action

Dr. Ewell, who earned a bachelor's degree from Prairie View A&M University and a master's degree from the University of



Colorado, received an honorary doctorate of law from Bishop Col-

Volumes could be written about the significant accomplishments and contributions Dr. Ewell made to improve the lot of students and educators throughout the state and nation. There is no doubt that, among professional educators and the general public as well, she clearly was a powerful voice for equal opportunity, quality and unwavering commitment to excellence. Literally, there are thousands of persons who are living testimonials to the value and gifts of her life.

If she had had the opportunity to do so, she also would have challenged us to move forward to aggressively address the issues she dealt with on a daily basis. African American children are

> still facing numerous obstacles in the classroom. In their levels of academic performance, professional African American educators are underrepresented in the significant administrative positions at the DPS and, in a broad sense, the notion of excellence is found woefully lacking throughout the district. Even these conditions do not reflect the tremendous dearth of leadership that will be left at the school board.

The skills of the other board members need not be reviewed to show what we will miss in Dr. Ewell's passing. As an educator for many years, she brought both knowledge and wisdom to the discussions regarding instruction. In a very funda-

mental way, her political savvy and ability to eloquently articulate her concerns cannot be matched by any who remain on the board. As well, and perhaps most importantly, the board will miss her passion for excellence and the determined focus to expect nothing less than the best from the children, their parents, the staff and board of the district.

Knowledge, wisdom, passion and commitment — they all offer an accurate description of the life and contributions of Dr. Yvonne Ewell. May our efforts from this point forward serve as a tribute to all that she helped us to become.

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C P V S

LETTERS...

Outstanding Coverage

We, the members of the Dallas-Prairie View Alumni, would like to thank you for the article appearing in the Minority Opportunity News that advertised our musical production held March 22, 1998, entitled, Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope.

Because of your article, the event's attendance far exceeded our expectations. Many in the community turned out for an evening of splendid music, singing and dancing. Your article was very impressive and effective and created a positive image for Prairie View A&M University.

We are hearing within the community nothing but the utmost praise for an outstanding performance.

We, the Prairie View A&M University family, as well as the rest of the Dallas community, look forward to continued inspiring and informative articles appearing in the *Minority Opportunity News*. It is with profound gratitude that we express our sincere appreciation to you for such outstanding coverage.

Clever Dean Lewis, President Dallas-Prairie View A&M University Alumni Association

Keep up the Good Work

My name is Tom Battle, and I'm a resident of Ft. Worth, TX. I'm writing to say thank you and to let you know how much I enjoy your newspaper.

I really enjoy the paper and look forward to each issue. Thank you for providing a paper that deals with Black people and issues involving Black people.

Keep up the good work you guys are doing.

Tom F. Battle, Jr. Fort Worth

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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Guest Viewpoint Joyce Strickland

For the third time in six months, Americans have been shocked, saddened, and incensed by a juvenile mass murder. Kentucky and Mississippi were the prior venues where juveniles went on killing rampages. Now in Arkansas, two boys, ages 11 and 13, have gunned down fifteen persons on an elementary school campus. Five of the victims were killed. The rifles used by the two boys are designed to bring down a 280-pound deer from a quarter-mile away.

President Clinton has proposed that our government look into the causes of this tragedy to see if there is something that can be done to prevent a recurrence. I would suggest that the President begin his quest by examining the plight of children in this country and the violence to which they are exposed.

Through Project 2001, the violence prevention project at Mothers Against Teen Violence, we see first-hand evidence of the incredible realities some of our children face daily. It breaks my heart that children are losing their innocence so early in life and are being deprived of the opportunity to be children. I was horrified, when I began speaking to school chil-

The Tragedy in Jonesboro

dren five years ago, that so many of them actually knew someone who had been murdered. And, regrettably, every student in Jonesboro, Arkansas can now attest to that same experience.

If, as is often said, a nation is judged by the way it treats its most vulnerable citizens, then Americans have cause for grave concern. Our children suffer in unprecedented numbers from inferior public schools and substandard living conditions. They are targeted by the onslaught of violence in everything from TV and action movies to video games. But, worst of all, parents, priests, and others charged with their nurture and love are neglecting, sexually abusing and murdering them.

Yet when a juvenile imitates the behavior modeled for him in real life, views hundreds, perhaps thousands, of times in the form of entertainment, we seem mystified by their actions. "We never thought this would happen here" is a predictable reaction.

It was [author] James Baldwin who said, "Children may seldom do what they are told to do, but they always do what they see adults doing." We continue to allow the abuse and neglect of our children, and expose them to non-stop violence. We need to prepare ourselves for

the grave implications of such treatment, because children are such masterful imi-

It seems unlikely that dressing up in combat gear and arming themselves was anything new for Mitchell Johnson and Andrew Golden. But, angered by Mitchell's failed relationship, the two boys made what could be viewed in the confused mind of a child as a reasonable adjustment in their routine. Instead of going hunting for deer, they went to school to kill their classmates.

Andrew, 11, was armed with a .30-caliber rifle, two .38-caliber pistols, a .357-caliber revolver and at least 222 rounds of ammunition. Mitchell was armed with a .30-06-caliber rifle, two .30-caliber handguns, a 2-shot Derringer, a .380-caliber semiautomatic, and at least 115 rounds of

ammunition

These two children will pay for their crimes, whether or not they possess the cognitive abilities to understand the full gravity of their acts. However, if we believe children as young as 11 must be held accountable, then how much more accountability rests with the adults in their lives? How much responsibility should be placed squarely on the shoulders of this violence-crazed culture?

Considering the resourceful nature of children, it is hard to understand why anyone would even keep a firearm, let alone an arsenal of weapons, in a place that children can access. It is almost as though some Americans love their guns more than they love their children.

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



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Community Pulse

Thomas Muhammad

Before beginning this month's column, I wish to give kudos to Minister Louis Farrakhan and Coretta Scott King for calling for new investigations of the deaths of Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I say that it is time to let the chips fall where they may. As many of you are aware, May 19th was the day that brother Malcolm X was born. And as we reflected on the great contributions of his legacy, I felt

the need to your call attention to very some special issues that Malcolm promoted during his short time with These issues helped to affirm what many of us grass roots, as well as

bourgeoisie, African Americans learned to appreciate about (as actor Ossie Davis called Malcolm during his famous eulogy speech) our "shining Black Prince."

A fitting name indeed for an individual who forsook all for his love of family and community. Malcolm taught us so much in such a short span. Things like love for culture, history, leadership, education, self-love, self-respect and, last but not least, self-determination. He taught us how to stand up for truth no matter who brings it. He taught us to support people that the "man" didn't

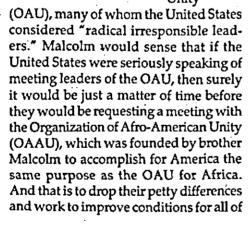
If Malcolm were alive, this birthday month would be special

like, because many times that meant that they were the right ones for the job.

He taught young men that making babies doesn't make you a man, but raising babies does. He forced men to see women as equals and that sometimes the best advice could come from a woman.

May 1998 would have found brother Malcolm beaming with joy as he witnessed the entire continent of Africa gain full independence for the first time in

nearly five centuries. He would have taken heart in the fact that the U.S. government was finally openly talking of sitting down face to face with African leaders of the Organization of African Unity



their people. He would have been proud to see the number of Afro-Americans making that trek to Africa with an American president.

But the most important thing that would have given Malcolm cause to celebrate would have been hearing South African President Nelson Mandela as he addressed Bill Clinton during a speech at Robben Island where Mandela spent 18 of his 27 years behind bars. During that. speech, he said: "Our moral authority dictates that we should not abandon those who helped us in the darkest hour in the history of this country. Not only did they support us with rhetoric, they gave us the resources to conduct the struggle and to win. No, Mr. President, Muammar Ghadafi is my brother. I do love him and respect his commitment and courage. The Libyan leader and his. people were with us when you were against us, aiding our oppressors who slaughtered our people and massacred them like flies. No, Mr. President! I have spent 27 years in incarceration; 18 of those were behind bars in this little cell, at this ugly prison surrounded by this fortified wall. Life was hell there! Those were the best years of my life. Today, when my hair has turned to white, you cannot ask me to bite the hand that gave us aid and comfort, when we most needed help. You should not demand that I oppose, be hostile to, and condemn those who assisted us when we begged you for help and you failed us. You should not expect me to abandon my comrades in the struggle for justice, freedom and equality when you provided the White supremacy regime in power with the necessary tools to sup-

press us! No, Mr. President! I am not the one who turns his back to those who sincerely and unselfishly extended their hands and opened their hearts to us in our darkes; hours. We do not reward good with e.il. That has not been our character in the past and will not be our trait for the future. No, Mr. President! America came too late! You joined the rest of the world that was solidly behind us in our struggle only after you realized that we were winning, and that apartheid was coming to an end and would soon be buried! Had you applied morality, and not your greedy interests, as a principle, you could have saved us years of unnecessary pain, death and destruction."

And after hearing that speech, brother Malcolm would have given him that great big giant Malcolm hug and smile and said: "By any means necessary."

Until then, the struggle continues....

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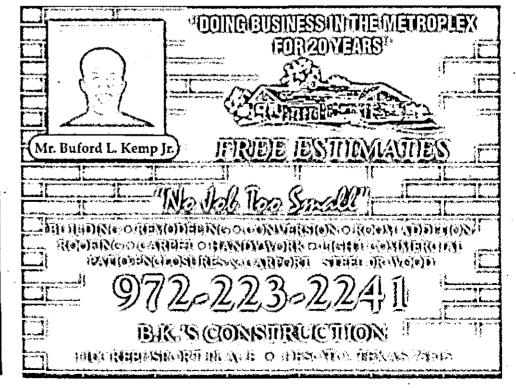


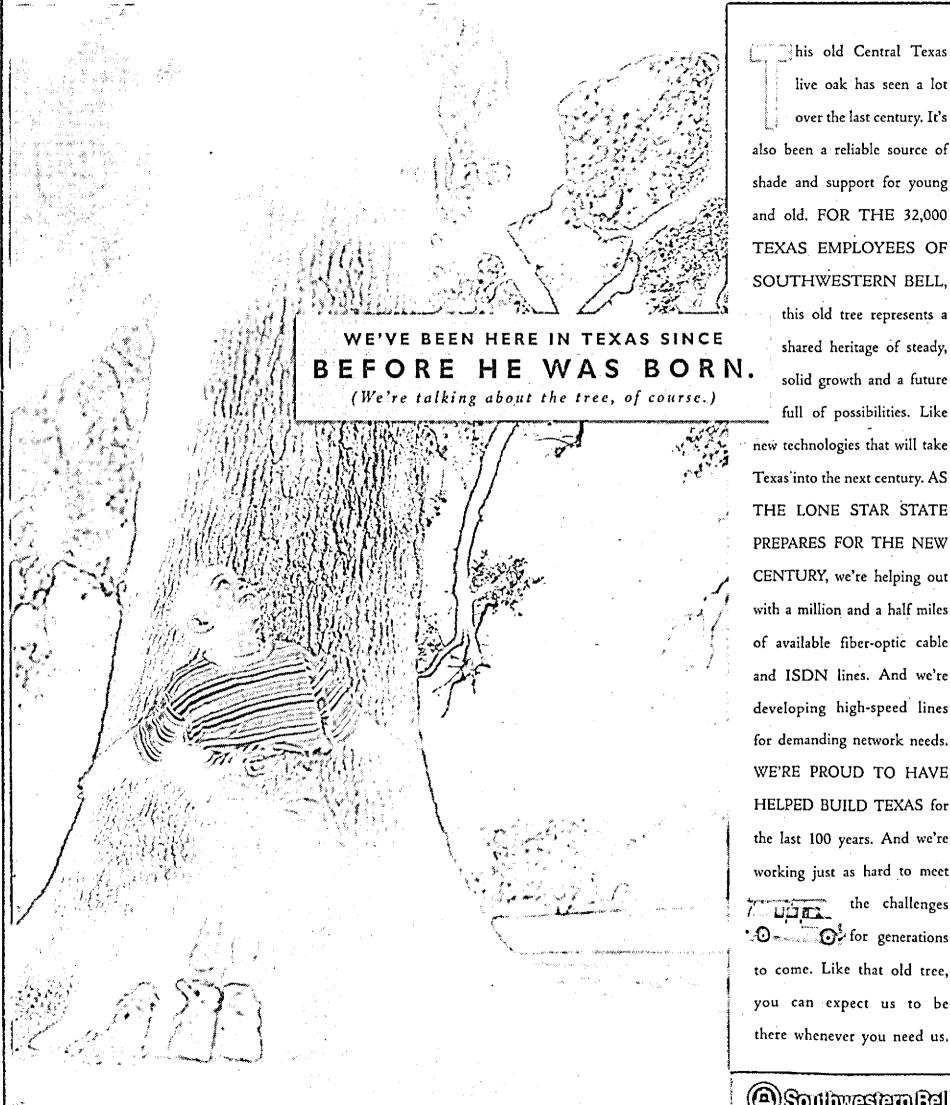
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(Editor's Note: The opinions expressed in Mr.

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Pen On Fire Cheryl Smith

lunteerism

Years ago I used to observe the level of volunteerism among journalists/communicators. I was especially impressed by the likes of Ramona Logan of Channel 5 and Bob Ray Sanders, now of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Even though they both worked very demanding jobs, they still found time to visit schools and participate in a variety of community events.

Oftentimes, while working the

weekend . shift. Ramona was up early in the morning on Saturdays, running around, doing something for young people before making her way to the station.

At times, Bob Ray worked three jobs simultaneously. Still he received the calls. And still he came.

It was clear that they had a view of the

bigger picture. Some people don't have that view. If they aren't getting paid, some won't do a darned thing.

And that is a travesty.

While there are media folk who realize the significance of their existence, we still have the clueless. These are the ones who, if they aren't getting paid, won't do anything for anybody.

Now, I realize everyone is busy. "Busy" has been the buzz word for the 90s. "Busy" is the excuse used to get so many out of doing the very things they should have an innate desire and sense of morality to do.

Let's think about those valiant men and women who came before us. They did more than work and go home. They had a social consciousness unheralded and virtually unheard of in today's society. They had to do more. Their community needed their activism, and they rose to the occasion.

That is what is so special about the many members of the Dallas-Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators. Time and time again occasions arise when the presence of those members is necessary and of great significance.

And those who give of their time should be highlighted. These are the men and women who, after working all day

and night, make time in their very busy schedules to give of themselves.

Many of these folks take time away from their families. They have to make special arrangements, pay to get their hair done or cut, purchase new outfits, check their transportation, and so much more.

very critical at that time.

Just imagine that you are one of those who always says "no." Well, who is going to be there for you when the going gets rough? Who is going to speak up for you if you seemed to never have time to give of yourself?

Clearly the answer is simple.

On the other hand, there are many who have witnessed and continue to receive widespread community support,. because they have a view of the bigger picture.

Even though sometimes the host barely says "thank you for coming," these individuals keep on coming because what they do, they do because it is the right thing to do.

I applaud those men and women who oftentimes come into new cities and

immediately become involved. These are the ones who are deserving of community support.

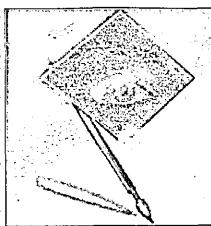
Fortunately there are so many journalists/communicators in this market who are making a difference.

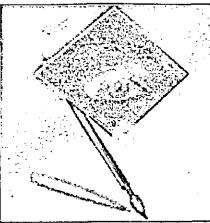
It would take an entire page to name all the outstanding folk who are willing to donate their time and support various programs.

I just hope that those who call on them will show their appreciation.

It's the right thing to do.

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





And still we have those who feel no sense of commitment or obligation whatsoever. But, hopefully in the future, that bigger picture will become clearer to everyone.

A rude awakening has come for some when they have found themselves about to be handed a pink slip - when they have found find themselves constantly overlooked for coveted positions and promotions.

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The Quiet Man

DISD School Board President Hollis Brashear's actions are speaking loud and clear

By Cheryl L. Williams

In light of the notoriety and bad press that plagued Kathleen Leos, Bill Keever and Sandy Kress, the last three board chairs of the Dallas Public Schools (DPS), Hollis Brashear seems privileged to be accused only of having long and boring meetings. Just five months into his reign as DPS school board chair, the retired army Lieutenant Colonel keeps order on the previously embattled board the old-fashioned way—by garnering respect among his peers and staying close to a prescribed agenda.

After graduating from Lincoln High School in South Dallas in the 50s, Brashear worked his way through college, eventually joining the military. After a successful career as an engineer for the United States Army Corps of Engineers, he returned to Dallas in 1980, earning positions as the Director of Building Services for the City of Dallas and Regional Director and Manager of the engineering firm of Williams, Russell and Johnson.

Gradually, Brashear began to observe that the school system which had once produced motivated, well-prepared graduates was beginning to fail others. Prompted by urgings of persons from his community as well as his desire to give back to the system that he was a product of, Brashear overcame ambivalence and, in 1992, made a winning bid for a seat on the school board.

In a special election in December 1997, Brashear, 62, defeated Leos by a 5-2 vote to win the DPS presidency. He is the third Black president in the board's history. Brashear's supporters asserted that Leos didn't respond fast enough to requests for information and criticized her for her alleged involvement in school district personnel issues

Now as board president, Brashear is expected to mend the rifts that, in the past, have torn the board apart. As Brashear works to "prove that this board can govern" and searches for a new superintendent, all eyes are upon this determined leader in anticipation of his success...or failure.

MON talked with Brashear about his vision for the Dallas Public Schools and his efforts to create a unified board. The following is an excerpt from that interview.

Some say that the board president must be able to create cooperation among board members. Have you been able to create unity and cooperation?

I hear the major media using that as

a yardstick. They say the board president must bring harmony and cooperation. I view the job of a board president as keeping the board focused on its mission and their responsibilities, which is to provide oversight to the school district, represent the community, and be advocates for public education, making sure we get the resources that we need



for our schools. The board president is the person who coordinates those activities and the board. I don't think that the board president is charged with making everyone on the board happy, making sure they all cooperate or making sure that they're all pleasant to one another. That would be ideal, but the board president has to ensure that, at the public meetings, the sense of cooperation is manifested as the board deliberates and moves forward. During the times we're meeting. I have to maintain control and leadership as we stay focused on the agenda. I think, over the past few months, I've been successful in doing so.

Do you believe all of the current board members have the mission of the school board at heart?

Yes. I don't think there is anyone on that board who is not there to improve and enhance the education of children, because you give up too much to be there for any other purpose. At least they haven't shown that they're there for their own personal good. On previous boards, that's not been true. I've seen board members who have thought of the school board as a stepping stone to some other political office. In doing so, oftentimes that was not for the betterment of the kids. I don't see that on this board. The members are committed to public education. Obviously there are times when board members try to make

"sound bites" so that their listening audience can hear and their community can hear. But I would say we have a board that's committed to children.

What should be the relationship between board members, the president and the superintendent?

The superintendent is like the chief executive officer for a big corporation. The board hires that person and provides guidance and direction. The board can define, within state law and policy, the functions and responsibilities of the superintendent. And the board has oversight of the entire district. All the policies that the school district operates under are either state policy or have been further amplified by the school district. The superintendent is expected to carry out and implement policies. The board president is the representative of the board and has more frequent contact with the superintendent than the other board members. It's easier for a superintendent to talk to one person than to talk to nine. However, all nine can call the superintendent and say there is an issue. If there is dialog between the superintendent and board president that may lead to a decision by the board, the board should be apprised of that. That's something I do regularly either by voice mail or by writing memos. So the relationship should be one of trust and mutual interest.

What progress are you making in the search for a new superintendent?

James Huey is acting superintendent, but he is fulfilling all the responsibilities of the superintendent. I can assure you that we will probably have community involvement in the form of participation from the community in helping us put together a criteria, a profile for the kind of person we want. For example, we want someone who's been the head of a diverse urban school and has a proven track record of advancing the students. We also want someone with a background in dealing with the multi-ethnic population that we have. We want a person who has a knowledge of business practices. We wouldn't expect the person to be an expert on curriculum, teaching methods, personnel, financing and facility management. But the person ought to come from an environment where over the course of 20-25 years they've had those kinds of different jobs in other districts, and they have been rounded out to the point where they have a broad background.

Considering all the problems the Dallas school district has had, do you feel the job of superintendent is undesirable now?

Dallas is still considered a premiere urban school district because we get support for our budget. We get good support from our business community to pass bond programs. Our facilities are some of the best in the country. We're so close to the high tech industry in Richardson and surrounding areas. Dallas is pretty popular, and people desire to come here. When you compare Dallas with some of the other urban districts, Dallas is much more preferable than perhaps Los Angeles, Detroit or Chicago. Texas is a right-to-work state, so we don't have to deal with unions. In most districts they've got to bargain with the unions over teachers and janitors, and many superintendents get caught in a big conflict negotiating those types of things. In Dallas, it's up to the school board to bring the resources. Superintendents don't have to get out and bargain. It allows the head instructional leader for the district to be involved in education and not spend a lot of time on personnel and those kinds

Don Venable wants to delay the search for superintendent because he thinks the board president will change. Is one relevant to the other?

He has tried to link the board presidency with the selection of the superintendent, but there is no connection. I will be vying for the opportunity to serve another term as board president. I'm going to do it by doing what I have been doing—moving the agenda along, getting things done, bringing credibility and stability back to the district and getting us off the front page (of the newspaper). Our board meetings are very quiet. Those are the types of things that I'm going to concentrate on.

As far as the superintendent search, I'm going to renew that effort. This board has to move to do two things: select a firm to conduct the search and advise the board, and then develop a plan for getting input from the community in establishing a profile and the criteria for a superintendent. We just can't delay those things. The reason that we must have a superintendent at the beginning of the school year is that we need to get on with having one person with the understanding that he or she has a four or five-year contract. We need a person to develop a vision for implementing the board's goals and establishing community relationships on a long-term basis. If we can't do that by the start of the school year, or early into the school year, then I'm going to advise

the board to give Dr. Huey a contract to take us through the next school year. We must give him all the power and authority to make some structural changes. Right now, he is handicapped in making major appointments because he is acting superintendent. Either we give him the authority to do it or we bring in somebody who has who authority.

What is your vision for the board?

My vision is that we would develop a consensus among the board. It does not have to be unanimous, but it needs to be a basic core belief that we are all united under. I think it's so important that we unite under those things that we agree upon, as opposed to everybody having a specific agenda. I also would want to develop very high standards for all of our students. It's not good enough to have a few honors programs and a few at the TAG (Talented and Gifted) program; it's important that all of our children have a certain level of sufficiency and a high standard so that, when we give them their grades, it means something.

I also envision a working relationship with our business partners through the adopt-a-school program with tutoring and mentoring and giving us advice on financial matters. I want all of our schools to be known for encouraging parents to come to the schools to work as tutors and volunteers. Another vision is to expand our relationship with our local churches. Right now there are 30 churches — ten in my district, ten in Yvonne Ewell's district and ten in Ron Price's — that have partnered with a _The second part of that requires continlocal school. These churches provide tutoring, mentoring and funds to expand the horizons of the students.

My overall vision is in the improvement of reading. We have goals that we are shooting for in the year 2001. All children will be at grade level at the third grade, which means that we have to put in place training and teacher development plans so that our teachers will know how to teach reading. Teachers must be adept at how they move fromreading and spelling to integrating literature with that. The other big area along with reading is mathematics. As an engineer, I've continually stressed the importance of math. If you can't get past math, that leads to dropout. There's a tendency for people to say the children aren't learning. Well, kids can't learn what they aren't taught, so this whole area of improvement in math, science and reading has to be a component program of teacher development.

How will you govern differently than your predecessors?

I favor giving board members the opportunity to show their leadership by appointing board members to ad hoc committees to work on special projects that have a specific purpose and duration. I also believe in getting input from any board member who has input. I believe in open dialogue at the board table. I don't spend a lot of time trying to round up votes before a board meeting. It's slow and laborious doing it that way, but everybody gets a chance to hear what everybody else has to say and get a feel for what we need to do; and we move on. I encourage board members to follow the chain of command.

DPS has been plagued by mismanagement and criminal offenses. How do you plan to prevent future occur-

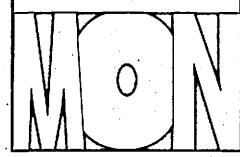
The board has demanded that staff put in place procedures to ensure financial accountability. We've gotten the results of our internal audit; on our external audit, all the measures that have to be put in place are being put in place. The superintendent has developed a handbook of financial procedures-everything from ordering to stocking to inventory to asset management. The procedure for doing this and also the consequences of not following orders is put in language that everyone involved can understand. A person can lose his or her job if there is just one really serious infraction or a couple of minor infractions. We're not waiting for the third strike; two strikes and you leave. ued training, as well as proper training of new employees, because new employees need to get proper orienta-

Is the position of board president what you expected?

I've been vice president in some form since 1994. I've shared in a lot of decisions. I've been through all of the wars we've had-demonstrations, the Townview Magnet, controversy—all of these things that have happened in the last few years. I come with a lot of my own experience, having been a former army colonel and a department head for the city; so I've dealt with finances and budgets, and I've dealt with a lot of people. I have strong biblical beliefs that really guide me in how I talk to people and how I treat people. I think that enables me to do the job; and I think we've met with a lot of success, in terms of credibility and in terms of decorum. We've had over 32 meetings since January - almost two per week - and

we're moving stuff. I knew it would be tough, but it's just as tough being vice president. Some of the predecessors had a difficult time managing the activities of the board. It's a difficult role for the other board members to try to work though that. If I'm going to be [on the school board], I'd rather have at least the ability to exert more influence, as opposed to fighting an uphill battle. It's more work and responsibility; but on the other hand, I feel that I have a lot to do with how my destiny is determined, which, in turn, is the destiny of the board. I have a responsibility that the board has laid upon me to chair the major committees, to appoint subcommittees and to set the agenda. I collaborate with the superintendent to make sure the items of importance are placed on the agenda and determine how much time we're going to spend on them and how to move the board along. It's a tough job.

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Kroger and Oak Cliff community pledge support

Kroger officials met with community leaders last month at the Thurgood Marshall Recreation Center in Oak Cliff to discuss Kroger's plans for its three Oak Cliff stores. This was an unprecedented meeting according to many of the attendees and another example of "how some-

thing positive can come about as the result of business and the community working together," according to Nick Benavidez, Kroger district manager of the

The future of the Kroger store at Ledbetter Drive and Hampton Road was in question until community groups and others pleaged their support firmed their commit-

ment to all three Oak Cliff stores and to review the stores' progress periodically.

"This has been an ongoing process that began with several meetings with elected officials, community groups, homeowners associations and, of course, our customers," said Jon Flora, executive vice president for the Kroger's North

Texas area. Kroger plans to work with community groups to get continual feedback and to ensure that their products and services are on target in the Oak Cliff

The meeting, which was hosted by The Black State Employees Association



for the store to remain Darren Reagan, Black State Employees Association of open. At the meeting, Texas president (seated) and Paul LittleJohn, manager Kroger officials recon- of Ledbetter Drive and Hampton Road Kroger store.

of Texas (BSEAT), was well-attended by ministers, members of the press, elected officials and community spokespersons including BSEAT president Darren Reagan, Senator Royce West and Dallas NAACP president Lee Alcorn. For more Information call Johnnie King, Jr. at 214-

ment/NationsBank, Advanced Technological Solutions and Dallas Public Schools. In addition to conducting business in the Dallas area, she expects to do business in Detroit and San Francisco.

A graduate of Eastern Michigan University, Ms. Peek-Haynes' sales career has spanned 14 years. She is a former City of Dallas Plan Commissioner and regularly speaks to youth about careers in commercial real estate. She spent the last six years with The Collins Company, where she was consistently one of the top-producing agents. For more information call Sheilah Tucker at 972-239-

First State Bank of Texas expands

Under the leadership of CEO B. Lamar Ball, Jr., First State Bank of Texas is expanding while continuing to position itself among the premier banking organizations in North Texas.

On April 23, Shady Oaks National Bank merged with First State Bank of Texas. The two banks have shared common ownership since March 1995 and will now operate under the same name, First State Bank of Texas. Now with loca-

tions in Arlington, Bedford, Burleson, The Colony, Denton, Fort Worth, Garland, Grand Prairie, Grapevine, Highland Village, Kaufman, Terrell and Watauga, First State Bank of Texas exceeds \$1.1 billion in total assets.

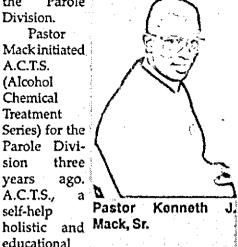
Shady Oaks National Bank has served the Lake Worth community of Fort Worth since 1984. President and CEO, Tony Ford, will continue to serve as the office president. Shady Oaks National Bank will sustain its board of directors for the Lake Worth banking center. The same friendly staff will continue to provide individualized service with new products such as on-line banking. Visa check cards and 24-hour account information. For more information call Kristin Gilpin, First Interstate Bank of Texas at 817-608-2439.

Local pastor recognized at Governor's Criminal Justice Award ceremony

Local pastor Kenneth James Mack, Sr. Pastor of Bethlehem Word Church in Dallas, was recognized for his volunteer efforts at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Governor's Volunteer Awards Ceremony held April 17. Pastor 🕆 Mack received the prestigious Gover-nor's Award for his outstanding volun-

teer service to the Parole Division.

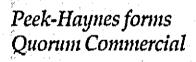
Pastor Mack initiated A.C.T.S. (Alcohol Chemical Treatment Series) for the Parole Divithree sion years ago. A.C.T.S., self-help holistic and Mack, Sr.



program, helps individuals and their families deal with substance abuse prob-

In addition to his leadership role within the church and his work with A.C.T.S., Pastor Mack also serves on a volunteer advisory board for the Division and as a secretary for the National Black Evangelism Ministry. He also does mission work as a part of the United Pentecostal Church International Foreign Missions Division.

Mack was one of 25 recipients out of over 1,500 volunteers recognized for having given their time to TDCJ. For more information call Jamie Hawkes at 214-330-0800.

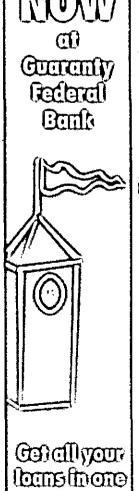


Commercial real estate agent Debra Peek-Haynes, who handled the sale of the old Crozier High Tech School for Dallas Public Schools, has formed her own firm Quorum

Commercial. The new com- Debra Peek-Haynes pany is locat-

ed at 6116 North Central Expressway, Suite 200, Dallas.

Building on the strength of her commercial real estate experience, Quorum Commercial is focusing its efforts on servicing major corporate clients and African American businesses. Some of her clients have included American Airlines, First Interstate Bank (now Wells Fargo) Southfair Community Develop-



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The In News More

Essence Magazine Columnist comes to the "Love Clinic on Tour 1998"

The Love Clinic, an outreach relationship ministry of Jubilee United Methodist Church, Duncanville, will feature Essence magazine relationship columnist, Dr. Gwen Goldsby Grant as moderator in May. Grant will bring her own style of energy, empowerment and enthusiasm to Dallas for this highly-celebrated Christian ministry, as she discusses "The Best Kind of Loving."

Dr. Grant's advice column for Essence magazine, "Between Us," is read by over five million readers. Her popularity increased due to her frequent appearances on national television talk shows such as Oprah!, Ricki Lake, Montel Williams and Sally Jessy Raplacel in addition to CBS News and CNN. A private consultant, media psychologist, public speaker and certified sex counselor, Dr. Grant will offer an encouraging message for men and women who are married or single.

This special edition of the Love Clinic on Tour 1998 will be held May 15, from 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. at Friendship West Baptist Church, 606 W. Keist Blvd., Dallas. There is a \$10.00 admission fee.



For more information contact Dr. Sheron C. Patterson, senior pastor at Jubilee United Methodist Church, 301 Frank Keasler Blvd., Duncanville, TX, 972-283-2264.

Dallas Together Forum announces Minority Business Mentoring Program

dock, PNI president and CEO Pettis Tetra Group and Joe Alcantar, presi-Norman, members of the Dallas dent, Alman Electric.

Together Forum and local business and civic leaders recently announced one of the first partnerships for the Dallas Together Forum's Advanced Mentoring Program.

The Dallas Together Forum's Minority Business Growth Committee (MBGC) established the Advanced Mentoring Program to create and foster cooperative relationships Ron Haddock (left) and Pettis Norman between corporations

and minority-owned businesses. Under the program, the MBGC identifies and recruits mentor corporations to assist smaller "mentoree" companies in optimizing financial and management activities and/or expanding business functions. The other MBGC co-chair-

FINA president and CEO, Ron Had-men are Hugh Robinson, president, The



As a mentor partner, FINA will work with PNI personnel in short- and longterm development planning, helping manage operations associated with new technologies and techniques and identifying and developing additional business opportunities. For more information contact Jay Barta at 214-880-0200.

Wells Fargo Bank South East Oak Cliff branch named Branch of the Year

The South East Oak Cliff branch of Assistance program. Ms. Darlington Wells Fargo Bank has been named represents Wells Fargo on the board of Branch of the Year for the Texas/Rocky

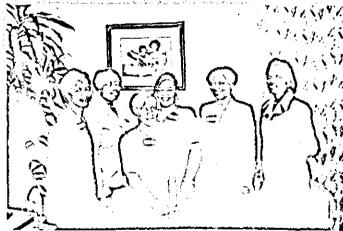
celebrates its second anniversary in May, was selected from more than 100 other branches in the region to receive the award.

Geanenita Darlington, vice president and branch manager of the Wells Fargo Bank South East Oak Cliff Branch since it opened in 1996, said the bank earned the and service to cus-

tomers. "Being a service-based organization is what set us apart," said Ms. Darlington. "I tell our customers that we're Branch of the Year strictly because of you."

In addition to providing superior customer service, the staff at the South East Oak Cliff branch is actively involved in the community, recently organizing and operating a free Tax

directors or advisory board of several Mountain Region. The branch, which broad-based community organiza-



recognition based on Staff of Wells Fargo Bank, South East Oak Cliff branch customer retention, Is (I-r) Geanenita Darlington, Nichol Peterson, deposit growth, pro- Stephanle Moore, Karen Carter, Deldra Wilkerson, Niki duction for the year Forward. (not pictured, Maria S. Medina.)

> tions including the Moorland YMCA and the Boys and Girls Club. The branch is also preparing for its Community Service Project '98, a community cleanup effort, May 9 from 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Wells Fargo Bank South East Oak Cliff branch is located at 2906 E. Ledbetter, Dallas. For more information call 214-372-1850.

Conference to examine cardiovascular disease in African Americans

UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas is uniting top African American physicians and local health care workers at The Continuing Medical Education (CME) conference "Management of Cardiovascular Risk Factors in African Americans," which begins 8:00 a.m., May 8 at UT Southwestern's North Campus, 6100 Harry Hines Blvd.

Dr. Elijah Saunders, chief of hypertension at the Univ. of Maryland School of Medicine; Dr. Luther Clark, chief of cardiovascular medicine at the State Univ. of New York Health Science Center; Dr. Charles Francis, director of medicine at Harlem Hospital Center; and Dr. Ann Taylor, vice chairwoman of the Women's Health Program at the Univ. Hospitals of Cleveland are scheduled to

Local speakers include Dr. Lauren McDonald, Dallas nephrologist and president of the medical staff at St. Paul Medical Center; Dr. Gerald Bulloch, clinical assistant professor of internal medicine at UT Southwestern and medical director of Physician's Association of Texas; Dr. Caron Houston, Baylor Senior Health Center-Fair Park; and Dr. James Race, immediate past president of the C.V. Roman Medical Society.

The event also kicks off a weekend of education efforts and public screenings in the African American community. For more information call 214-648-9201.

Southwestern Bell/Our Texas magazine sponsor essay contest

Southwestern Bell and Our Texas magazine are sponsoring a Young Essayist Contest for high school seniors in the state of Texas. Three scholarships in the amounts of \$800, \$1,200 and \$2,000 will be awarded. The awards will be rendered for admission to and attendance at any college or university.

To qualify, applicants must be Texas high school seniors and submit a 500-word essay (typed and doublespaced) dealing with the subject of African American history in Texas. Essays will be judged on creativity, continuity and grammar. Essays of more than 500 words will not be considered.

Applicants can obtain an entry form from high school counselors or by calling Cliff Hocker at 214-946-5315, or 1-800-766-7710. Entries must be mailed to Southwestern Bell/Our Texas magazine Young Essayist Contest, P.O. Box 4463, Dallas, TX 75208 and postmarked by May 31, 1998.

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Philippa Duke Schuyler: Musical Prodigy

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

Born August 2, 1931, of mixed parents, Philippa Duke Schuyler was not only one of America's foremost living child

prodigies, but was one of the most amazing geniuses in the history of music and the

It is said that Mozart had a good knowledge of music at the age of three, but Philippa, at the age of three, could not only play Shumann and Mozart, but was also a composer.

At four, her first musical composition was published. Also at four, she won her first prize in a New York competition of which she was the youngest. For the next six years, in succession, that is from the age of six to the age of ten, Philippa won the New York Philharmonics' First Prize, as well as Philharmonic prizes in eight additional competitions held at New York's Town Hall and at Carnegie Hall.

She also won (at four)

the highest honors of The National Piano Teachers Guild and won every year thereafter until the age of ten. At six, she won the Gold Medal of the City of New York for Junior Musicians. This was, again, against competitors of which she was the youngest. During these years, she also won other honors. At ages six and seven, she won the silver and then gold medals of the Music Education League of New York City. At eight, she won medals at the New York World's Fair at both the 1939 and 1940 fairs, and had a day at the fair named in her honor - "Miss Philippa Duke Schuyler Day.

The same year (1939), she was named as one of the 12 black women who had done the most in promoting better race

Ms. Schuyler gave recitals in some of the nation's leading concert halls in 30 states, since the age of five, and also had concert appearances in the auditoriums of the University of Cincinnati and the University of Pennsylvania. At these concerts she played Beethoven, Chopin, Mozart, Bach, and Tchaikovsky, as well as some of her own compositions which, at the age of 11, numbered more than 100 (nine of which have been published).

Her press notices from some of the nation's leading papers and magazines number in the thousands and fill ten large albums." Among those magazines that have carried articles about her are, Time,

Look, Coronet, New Yorker, Musical America, Musical Courier, and Musical Digest. For six years the New York Herald Tribune carried a story about her on her birthday.

In 1939, at the age of ten, she was



Philippa Duke Schuyler

selected to perform with the President of the National Piano Teachers Guild and his wife in honor of having the longest sustained record of superiority in her stud-

Also at ten, she became a member of The National Association of American Composers and Conductors, being the youngest ever to become a member. Her sponsor was Sigmund Spaeth, the President of the Association.

At the age of 11, Philippa won her eighth consecutive prize from the New York Philharmonic for Young People. Rudolph Ganz, conductor of the concerts in New York and President of Chicago Musical College, presented the prize to her at Carnegie Hall in New York, and stated, "Philippa has already won all we have, but her program was so good this year, we had to give her another prize."

In 1942, at the age of eleven, Philippa Duke Schuyler was barred from the New York Philharmonic competition, a competition usually open to kids up to the age of eighteen. As Philippa grew to adulthood, the acceptance of her youthful genius was replaced by America's preoccupation with the color of her skin. Eventually, this forced her to have to go abroad in order to find recognition as a musician, and to maintain her livelihood.

Adding a second career to her musical one, Philippa became a roving journalist, reporting on world events from the

many countries where she performed. From this point on Philippa was never without, what she determined to be her "twin keyboards" (typewriter, piano).

Doubleness pervaded Philippa's existence, from her two careers, to her wide acceptance overseas as an American musician, to her racial rejection at home. Behind the screen of awards, medals, travel and applause, lay the tragedy of numerous promises denied. Philippa's personal life was a mixture of accolade and heartbreak, an unending struggle for perfection, for recognition and acceptance. Being of mixed parentage, she seemed to search throughout her life for an identity, for a

On May 9, 1967, a helicopter assigned to the 282nd Aviation Company, Vietnam, crashed into the ocean, approximately ten miles north of Da Nang, Vietnam. The aircraft was returning from the Hue Citadel on a routine support mission to Da Nang's Marble Mountain Airfield, its home base.

Of the sixteen passengers on board, three perished: 23-year-old Pfc. Michael Emily, an only child from Potomac, Michigan; Doan Van Lien, a small Vietnamese boy being evacuated along with seven other orphans; and 35-year-old Philippa Duke Schuyler, a gifted musician and

While performing in Vietnam, Philippa had become involved in "missions of mercy," evacuating children from a Catholic orphanage in Hue to Da Nang, where they could continue their education in greater safety. She was ferrying the last group of eight boys when she died.

On May 17, 1967, dressed in her favorite gold concert gown, Philippa lay in state at St. Charles Borronneo Roman Catholic Church, in Harlem. John Lindsay, then the Mayor of New York, paid his respects, as did hundreds of other friends, neighbors and acquaintances. President Lyndon B. Johnson and his wife sent a basket of red and white roses.

Her funeral cortege, accompanied by 150 Roman Catholic nuns, children and friends, traveled to St. Patrick's Cathedral, where more than 2,000 persons were waiting to pay their respects. The Pontifical Requiem Mass, the highest Catholic tribute in death, was sung with His Eminence Cardinal Francis Spellman presiding.

Philippa's death was reported on the front page of the New York Times and was noted in other papers all over the world. Posthumously, she received some of the highest awards that this culture could bestow: the Harriet Cohen International Piano Medal, the Catholic War Veterans Award, Overseas Press Club Plaque, and the Distinguished American Award.

On the day of her death, Senator Karl Mundt of North Dakota, read an eloquent eulogy to Philippa D. Schuyler, which was recorded as a part of the Congressional Record.

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

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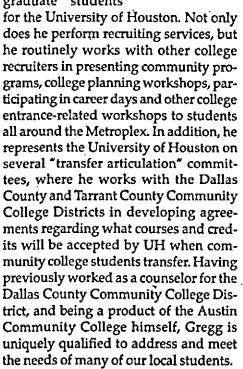
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A college education is a terrible thing to miss

By Gina Weldon

African American youth in particular, is unerringly related to their ability to access and utilize higher education for their benefit. Unfortunately, many students, parents, and education professionals are unaware of the myriad of opportunites that are available for students to attend college, even for those

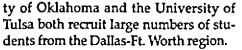
students with less than stellar test scores and academic grades. Arthur L. Gregg, an Admissions Outreach Counselor for the University of Houston (UH), is on a mission to correct this. Mr. Gregg, though officially connected with UH, says that his calling is "to sell education in general." Gregg services the Dallas-Ft. Worth recruiting prospective under- Arthur L. Gregg graduate students

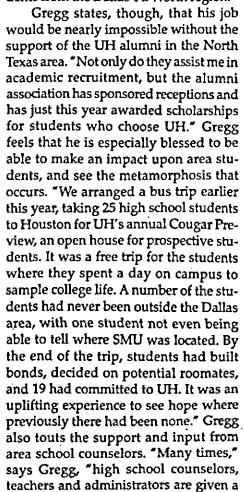


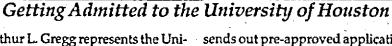
As an Admissions Outreach Counselor, Gregg offers a hands-on, service-oriented approach to working with students. He assists them not only in the application and financial aid process, but he will also accept transcripts and references and forward them to the University for the students. He visits schools, counselors, and students to ensure that their files are complete and that the students are fully knowledgable about the

process and their admissions status. Many times, Gregg meets with high school students at local community colleges. In those settings, the students get an actual taste of college atmosphere, are able to gather additional information, and sometimes actually sign up for summer courses. Gregg is not the only admissions counselor in the area from a non-local university. One of the hottest trends in higher education is for schools to

recruit outside their primary market. Here in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area, there are representatives for Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Stephen F. Austin (Nacogdoches), and Our Lady of the Lake (San Antonio). For UH, Dallas is one of its strongest secondary markets, with San Antonio being another. Even out-of-state schools are joining in the outreach movement. The Universi-







Arthur L. Gregg represents the University of Houston (UH) to prospective students in the Dallas-Ft. Worth metroplex. Working from a home office and, most often, from the trunk of his car, Gregg disseminates admissions materials to thousands of local students each year. UH is a research and teaching institution, housing over 40 research centers and sponsoring more than 300 partnerships with corporate, civic, and governmental entities. Offering over 100 undergraduate degree programs and over 170 graduate degree programs, the university stands as one of Texas' premier metropolitan universities. It has a diverse student body of over 30,000 students, with African Americans and Hispanics comprising nearly one-quarter of the entire population.

In light of the recent Hopwood case, where the courts determined that race could not be a determining factor in admissions, UH has seen an increase in its student population across the board. "The University of Houston was the only Texas school which vocally stood up against Hopwood," says Gregg."

Although the decision didn't affect UH, (because we never used race-based criteria), the University basically said 'We don't agree with it'." At UH, Gregg states that any student who is admissible by their criteria will be admitted. So discrimination, reverse or otherwise, has never been a factor.

"Our admissions criteria has always been based on the 'whole student'," says Gregg. In actuality, there are four ways a student can be admitted to UH. First, any student in the top 10 percent of his or her high school class is automatically accepted. In fact, for UH's main feeder schools, the admissions office usually

schools, the admissions office usually bad rap. But I have worked with counselors in a number of areas, and the Dallas-Ft. Worth area counselors are great. Counselors at Lincoln, Kimball, O. D. Wyatt (Ft. Worth), and Wilmer-Hutchins have shown extreme support of our program." Although Gregg's area of responsiblity stretches from Plano in the north to Cedar Hill in the south, and from Western Hills (west) to almost Commerce in the east, he has found more success with the larger, urban schools. As Gregg recruits all students, not just African American students, he is, however, happy to report that there has been a 72 percent increase in students at UH from the Dallas-Ft. Worth area since last year.

As there are other Texas universities recruiting in the Dallas area as well, Gregg is quick to highlight the interactive networking strategy they employ. Seeing each other at college fairs and career days, the recruiters generally become friends and refer students to each other

sends out pre-approved applications; all the student has to do is sign, and he or she is admitted. Secondly, the admissions office will look at a student's core courses (Math, English, Lab Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Languages). If a student has good grades there, yet has SAT or ACT scores that are not high, the office will consider that perhaps that student is not a good test-taker. Thirdly, if a student is in the top 25 percent of his or her class and has varying scores on their entrance tests, UH will take the highest score the student ever made. So, even if a student takes the SAT ten times, that fact will not be held against him or her; the highest score will taken into consideration for admissions purposes. The fourth way a student may be admitted to UH is through Special Admission, where the student has an opportunity to sell himself to the admissions committee. Information such as the student's socio-economic background, high school history, special skills or talents, community service, or extracurricular activities can really make a difference. Students are allowed to submit personal essays—this is an opportunity to tell their story. The problem here, Gregg says, is that "Sometimes, African American and Hispanic students have a hard time communicating about themselves, their families, and their lives. But this is exactly what must be done. This is the time to talk about obstacles, having to work or raise yourself, having children, or anything else, but being committed to obtaining an education." Gregg's view is that UH is attempting to create a more diverse campus, and not just one that is only ethnically diverse.

G.W.

when a student might be more suited for one university over another. "If a student" is interested in veterinary medicine, I would send him/her to Tomiko Lewis at Texas A&M. A prospective nursing student would be referred to Carl Tippen at UTA. Since UH has 32,000 students, if a student wanted to go to a small, liberal arts college, I would recommend Tracy Thomas or Misty Baker at SMU. We all work together to 'sell education.' That's what's most important. First, I sell education, then UH, and finally, my own experience. I wouldn't do anything I don't believe in. I can share my experience as an African American, as a student from a large, urban area, as an African American in a predominately white college setting, as a transferee from a community college, and as a high school student with low test scores."

Gregg is proud to point out that the Dallas-Ft.Worth area has some of the

strongest academically prepared students in the state. "While there is a lot of highlighting the negatives of public education today, people aren't aware of those students who are producing and going on to college. This area produces a number of National Achievement Scholars and National Hispanic Scholars who generally are not recognized. I'm particularly proud of UH for having belief in these area students, and placing such an emphasis on getting them to UH. If this weren't so, there wouldn't be schools like Wellesley, Wake Forest, and Oklahoma here recruiting." Gregg continues emphatically, "The public needs to know there are people here with the knowledge, time, energy, and drive to help and assist in making students' educational dreams become reality." As of the publishing of this article, there is still time for students to apply not only to UH, but to UTA, Texas A&M (transfer students only), and the local community colleges.

But what about those students who are not the highest academic achievers? What about those seniors who don't pass the TAAS and, thus, don't receive diplo-

mas? What are their options? Well, the good news is that they can still be admitted to community colleges. They will have to take a number of assessment tests and take appropriate coursework. They will still be encouraged to retake the TAAS and receive the diploma. And they can still continue their education. As a community college graduate, Gregg says that community college can be a stepping stone to higher education. He's done that. Been there. And he is a vocal proponent of the programs that are set in place for those students who may be labeled by some as "at-risk." "We are all at-risk, to a degree," he says. "Cedric Bailey at UTA runs the Educational Opportunity Center and Mildred Portia at Northlake College oversees the TRIO program. Both programs offer tutoring, writing labs, mentoring, and services for the learning disabled to help those who might need additional academic and life skills assistance." All of these programs work hand in hand to increase educational opportunities for all students. One organization, the Texas Association of Black Personnel in Higher Education (TABPHE) works

with educators and administrators to make sure that students from the elementary level up have access to opportunities in higher education.

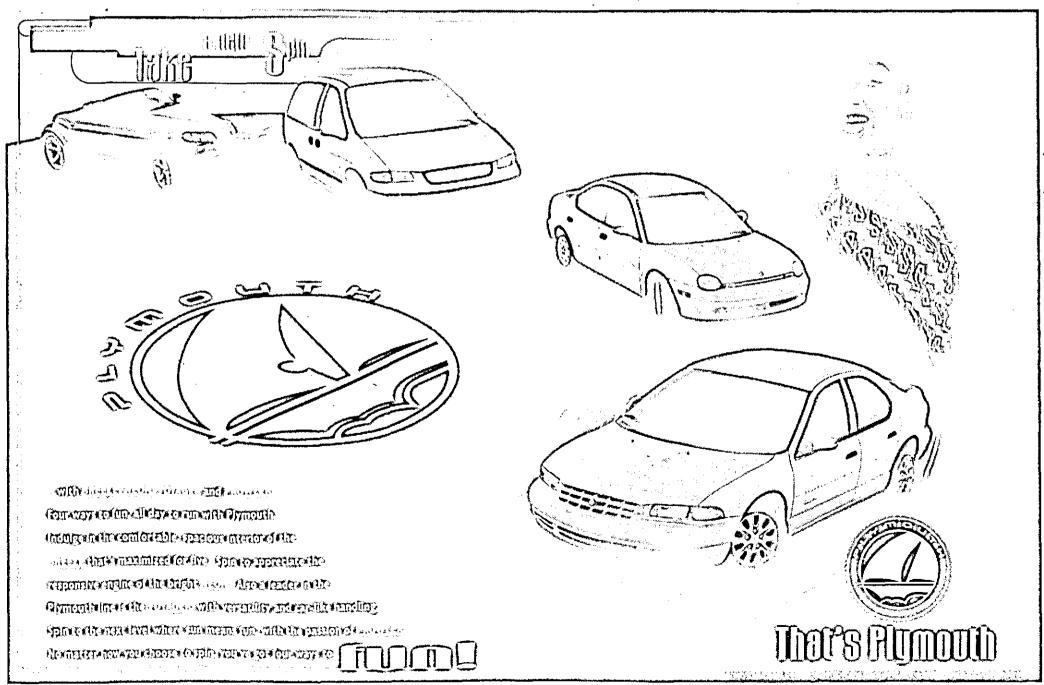
Gregg states that the most rewarding thing for him is to see kids, who might otherwise be counted out based on their circumstances, change, grow, develop and achieve. "To look in a kid's eyes and see nothing, and then to look, and see hope—it's the greatest feeling. To go into schools labeled "low-performing" and find diamonds—it can't be beat. It's important that we continue to tell our stories to students so they can see what we went through to get where we are. They need to know that you don't give up, no matter what your situation. It's my calling...my mission."

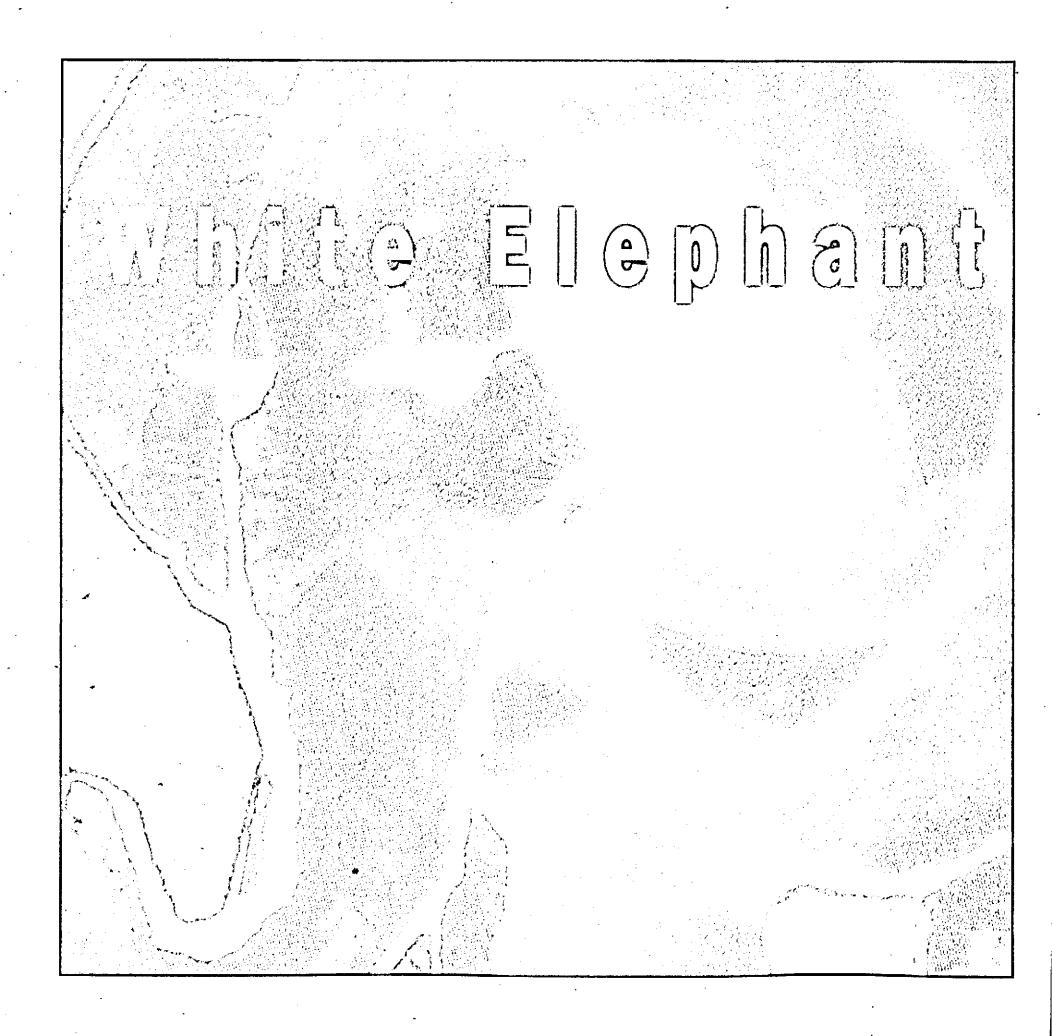
(Arthur Gregg can be reached at 214-349-4074 for information on University of Houston admissions.)

MON

Gina Weldon is owner and lead consultant for Weldon Communications, a company specializing in organizational consulting, EEO investigations, and professional writing and editing services. She can be contacted via MON.







By Jackie Larson

The Lonely Black Republican — A White Elephant?

The indifference of the Democratic Party is causing more African Americans to brave the Republican waters

By Jackie Larson

wimming upstream against the current tide of pro-Democratic thought in America's Black community, Black Republicans are quick to point out that, in the two major parties' histories, neither group has clean hands. Both have serious blots on the record of their relations to the Black community and as the new millennium rings out, both claim to hold the keys to a promising future for the Black community.

Black voters are caught in the middle, having to choose between the Grand Old Party of Lincoln that won Black freedom through the Emancipation Proclamation in 1862 but left deep scars from cutting racial wounds for the next century - or between the more recent hero, the Democratic Party of JFK and LBJ that gave birth a century later to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 after a long and painful labor and despite its own roots of

In some ways, the Black community is ripe for Republican pickings. A more. prosperous Black community today enjoys the fruits of the labors of sit-ins and demonstrations. Educated in the post-segregation mainstream of America's best universities, many hold jobs with top companies; they are baby boomers wearing white collars and driving in from formerly White-dominated suburbs - taxpayers looking for smaller government and lower taxes.

Three-fourths of Black families dwell above the poverty line, compared with the 1940s, when 87 percent of Black families lived in poverty. The Black college population has increased from 45,000 in 1940 to 1.4 million today.

However, demographic blessings have yet to translate into serious inroads into the Black community for the proprosperity Republican party. In 1996, only 60 of the 8,000 Black elected officials in the nation identified themselves as Republicans. Of the 550 Black state legislators, only 11 wear the GOP brand.

The stakes are high — the battle is one not just for philosophies but for the kind of voting bloc that can swing an entire election, a voting bloc that has been used powerfully for the Democratic cause for 35 years.

writer Juan Williams said in 1989 he could foresee a time when politics would

In the conservative Washington Post, be shaped more by social class than by

Joseph L. Sam (left),

president of the Pachyderm Club: "We don't want anyone to give us anything...." David Watts (below) is president of the Dallas County Black Republican Council.

"George Bush told me he doesn't believe in quotas, but he does believe in

The Pachyderm Club meets at

equal access...We don't want anyone to

give us anything — but we do want the opportunities to get business," Sam says.

Luby's at Highway 67 and Hampton

Road on the first Thursday of the month.

The Pachyderms have attracted a scat-

tering of followers from Southwest Dal-

las County, including Oak Cliff, Dun-

canville, De Soto, Arlington and Grand

Prairie. Their speakers have included

police chiefs from area cities and State

GOP Chair Susan Weddington - but

Photos by Wallace Faggett

race — what political scientist John Mollenkopf called America's "post Black-White

"The defining fear of the '90s [is] more likely to be economic than racial, with affluent Blacks, Whites and Browns fearing the poverty, violence, drugs and disease of impoverished the Blacks, Whites and Browns," Williams

This is the future in which Republicans hope to make inroads into the Black community. As political director for the Dallas County Republican Party, Suzanne DeWitt says her party has a lot of individual connections to make.

"We've got a lot of work to do and it will happen, one by one," De Witt

As a Black business owner and president of the Southwest Dallas County Pachyderm Club, Joseph L. Sam is one of this growing new minority — the Black Republican. Sam says he finds in the Republican Party the promise not of handouts but of economic development and that's good for the Black commuDallas County is a somewhat lonely proposition - a sort of social white elephant.

"It is unpopular...there's a lot of African Americans who are in the closet as Republicans and just don't come out publicly and talk about it, " Sam says, adding that as Black Republicans become more visible, he expects the Black community's interest to mush-

"We vote Democratic only because it seems to be the only organization we see a lot of our people in — but we're Republicans in terms of our values --working hard, good ethics, good family structure," he adds.

Conservative thinkers but liberal voters

It's an uphill battle for Sam and the Pachyderms. Research shows Black voters in America have shown a stubborn resistance to allying with Republicans even though their philosophies fall surprisingly close in with those the GOP. espouses now.

Avis Smoots, a Dallas-based Gospel music producer, says she's not political -but if she were, she'd be inclined to be a Republican.

'I like the platform the Republicans stand for. I like conservative issues - the 'pick-yourself-up-by-your-bootstraps' attitude. I like the idea of people achieving their goals - I love that.

"Abe Lincoln was a Republican, not a Democrat - and since he was the one who did all he could to unite this country, since he stood on the Republican platform, if I ever were to be politically active, I'd be Republican," Smoots says.

According to Black voting patterns over the years, Smoots is unusual, not in her conservative ideology but in her willingness to consider voting Republican. A 1996 survey by the Joint Center for Politics and Economics found that staunch Democratic voting patterns among African Americans held, notwithstanding the fact that 31 percent of Blacks identify themselves as liberal, while 32 claim moderate status and 30 percent define themselves as conservative - and the majority of those who said they were conservative defined themselves as Christian conservatives, a title typically reserved for Republicans.

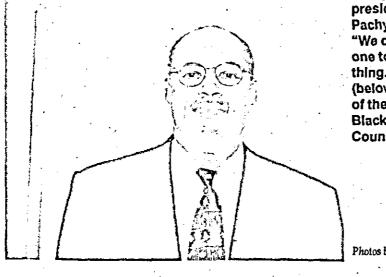
In 1995, a Gallup poll asked Blacks if the Republican Party was too conservative, too liberal or just right - and only 53 percent of the Black respondents said they felt the GOP was too conservative.

The 1996 poll found that 76 percent of Black respondents favored a constitutional amendment allowing prayer in public schools. Almost 50 percent wanted no increase in benefits for single mothers on welfare who had additional children. Almost 50 percent favored school vouchers, and almost three quarters favored tough three-strikes-you'reout rules that would put violent criminals in prison for life upon a third conviction.

But they're still not voting GOP. Despite these philosophical similarities, fewer than 20 percent of Black voters

Frustrated Black Republican leaders say the paradox may be because Black voters have a tradition to uphold - or because on other issues Blacks live up to their reputations as liberal Democrats. In

see REPUBLICANS, page 20





Southwestern Bell and Our Texas magazine is sponsoring a Young Essayist Contest for high school seniors in the state of Texas. Three scholarships ranging from \$800 to \$2,000 will be awarded to the winning 500-word essays. Entry deadline is May 31, 1998. For an application or more information contact Cliff Hocker at 214-946-5315, or call 1-800-766-

The Jeffries Street Learning Center, 3001 Grand Avenue, Dallas, is currently enrolling children ages 4-15 for its "Summer Enrichment - 1998 Program," which runs June 1-July 25 from 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Both academic and recreational actives are included. The cost is \$60.00 per week (which includes lunch and snacks), but some scholarships may be available. For more information call Mr. Rhodes at 214-426-1834.

The Dallas Education Center, 1901 Main Street, Dallas, is holding registration, 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m., May 26 for its Summer I session and July 7 for its Summer II session. Undergraduate and graduate education classes designed to supplement professional development will be offered. For a list of courses offered and more information call 214-744-6600

The Renaissance Cultural Center's monthly First Friday Business Network Mixer will be held 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at the Renaissance Center, 2100 Evans Avenue, Fort Worth, Business persons are encouraged to bring their business cards and brochures. For more information call 817-922-9999.

May 2

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.

Volunteers are needed to fight child abuse. The EXCAP Center (Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse in DFW. Inc.) is seeking volunteers (called Parent Aides) to work with families referred to

Around Town

EXCAP by the Texas Department of Protec- 9590. tive and Regulatory Services. Ten hours of training will be provided. Orientation to EXCAP's Parent Aide program will be held May 11 from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. For more information call 972-644-2098

The Southeast YMCA, 2801 Miller Avenue, Fort Worth, presents its first annual "Look Who's Cookin'!" Barbecue Cook-Off, from 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Entry fees are \$35 for amateur and \$225 for commercial cooking entries. Proceeds support YMCA programs. Register by calling the Southeast YMCA at 817-534-1591 or visit the YMCA at the address listed

Dallas Children's Theater, 2215 Cedar Springs, Dallas, presents "Playfest 98," from 9:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m., an annual family celebration showcasing area students who have participated in its After School Drama Club Program. Twenty-two drama clubs will perform. Admission is free. For more information call Holly Jenkins at 214-978-0110.

Sisters on the Move, Inc. presents a Salute to Mothers, 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., at Aunt Polly's Parlour Tea Room, 107 North Cedar Ridge, Duncanville Activities includes a fashion show, harp music, and gift giveaways. Tickets are \$20.00 and must be purchased in advance. Call Dominique Dor at 972-709-1180 for more information

Taylor's School of Music, Inc. presents its 4th annual recital, 4:00 p.m. at Jubilee United Methodist Church: 301 Frank Keasler Blvd. Duncanville. Students ages 3-60 will display their mastery of instruments that includes the piano, organ, saxaphone, clarinet, flute, violin, trumpet and voice. The public is invited to this free event. Call Tamara Taylor at 214-371-9781 or 972-572-1644 for more informa-

New Image Business Associates, Inc. invites you to its Small Business Luncheon held Wednesdays 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-

The Dallas Chapter of the National Conference of Black Lawyers will meet 7:00 p.m. at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center, 2922 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Dallas. For more information call 214-426-2755.

E.K. Bailey Ministries, Inc. is sponsoring a luncheon themed "Breaking The Barriers, Binding The Love," 12:00 noon in the Great Hall at Dallas' Apparel Mart. The focus of the luncheon will be to further a dialogue advocating biblical living and healing of the racial tension that engulfs Dallas. Call 214-374-1626 for more information

Is anxiety stressing you out? The University of Texas at Arlington is sponsoring free anxiety disorders screenings at 12:30 p.m. or 6:00 m at the UTA Office of Counseling and Career Development, Davis Hall, Room 216, northwest corner of Cooper and Nedderman Streets in Arlington, For more information contact Dr. Ken Farr at 817-272-2713 or Dr. Howard Mevers at 817-272-3671.

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

The Dallas Chapter of the National Association of Health Services Executives (NAHSE) is holding its general body meeting, 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at the Tri-City Hospital, 7525 evene Road, Dallas. For more information call 214-275-1492.

The City of Dallas' General Service Commission (GSC) and The Dallas/Fort Worth Arlington Minority Business Development Center (D/FW/A MBDC) invite all historically underutilized business and small businesses to attend the Economic Opportunity Forum, 2:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. at the International Apparel Mart, 6th Floor, 2100 Stemmons Freeway, Dallas. Admission is free. Detailed information on contracting with the State of Texas, the City of Dallas and the federal government will be provided. For more information call Tara Reed, D/FW/A MBDC at 214-688-1612; Shelia Robinson, City of Dallas at 214-670-5648; or Robert Hall, GSC at

May 8

The Continuing Medical Education (CME) conference "Management of Cardiovascular Risk Factors in African Americans," will begin 8:00 a.m., May 8 at UT Southwestern's North Campus, 6100 Harry Hines Blvd. The event kicks off a weekend of education efforts and public screening in the African American community including a Health Fair from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m at the Southwest Center Mall. Community leaders are invited to participate. For more information on the conference and credits offered call UT Southwestern's office of Continuing Education at 214-

Smooth Jazz, 107.5 FM, The Oasis, presents award-winning saxophonist Boney James for his only Texas appearance of the year, at the Dallas Arboretum, nestled in the shadows of White Rock Lake. The 3rd Annual Jazz Picnic is free and open to the public. For more information, listen to Smooth Jazz, 107.5 FM or call 214-630-3011 or metro 972-445-5525.

Performance Unlimited!, a children's theater company, presents the world premiere of It's Dr. Seuss, You Goose!, May 8-May 17 at the Corner Theater in the DeSoto Town Center, Hampton Road and Pleasant Run in DeSoto. Performances of the play are 8:00 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays and 3:00 p.m. Sundays. For ticket prices, reservations and more information call 972-680-4466.

Stephanie's Collection, 6955 Greenville Ave., Dallas, invites all poets and poetry lovers to a night of poetry and popcorn at 8:00 p.m. Amateur and professional poets are invited to participate. For more information call 214-

Join African Americans from all walks of life as they gather to talk about issues and problems facing the black family. The forum will

Around Town cont'd

be held from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at Paul Quinn College, 3837 Simpson Stuart Road, Dallas. Admission is free. Lunch and a snack will be provided. For more information call

The National Association of Letter Carriers. in conjunction with the U.S. Postal Serviceand the United Way, will be collecting nonperishable food items May 9 for distribution to the North Texas Food Bank. The public is asked to place donations by mailboxes on that date and the carriers will pick them up. For more information call 214-330-1396.

May 10

The Junior Players will hold auditions for its summer production of William Shakespeare's, The Taming of the Shrew, from 2:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. at the Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas. Students are asked to bring a photo and a resume and to have a Shakespearean monologue of 16 lines prepared. For more information call

May 12

The Southern Dallas Development Corporation, 1402 Corinth Street, Dallas will hold a free Loan Application Workshop, 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. For more information call 214-428-

May 13

Would you like to purchase a home of your own? Learn how at the Texas Federation of Home Counselors first-time home buyer seminars May 13 at 6:30 p.m. or May 16 at 9:00 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. Registration includes a confidential review, with a certified counselor, of the potential home buyer's credit file. To register or for more information call Ed Harris at 214-421-8342.

May 14

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is sponsoring Regional DBE/HUB Liaison Committee meetings throughout the state and in Dallas. These meetings provide information for conducting business with TxDOT in areas of construction, design, purchasing and maintenance. The meeting in Dallas will be held from 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. at al Awards Banquet, "Education! The Key to be held 6:30 p.m. at the Irving Central Library

the TxDOT District Office, 9700 East R.L. Thornton Freeway, Dallas. For more information call 214-320-4480. For meeting dates. locations and times in Abilene, Corpus Christi, El Paso, Houston and San Antonio call 512-463-6631

Essence magazine columnist, Dr. Gwen Goldsby Grant will be featured at The Love Clinic, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., at Friendship West Baptist Church, 606 W. Keist Blvd., Dallas. Admission is \$10.00. The Love Clinic is an outreach ministry of Jubilee United Methodist Church, 301 Frank Keasler Blvd., Duncanville. For more information call Dr. Sheron C. Patterson at 972-283-2264.

Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main Street, Fort Worth presents the 1982 Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Charles Fuller, A Soldier's Play, The performance previews May 15-17 and runs May 22-June 14. Tickets are only \$5.00 during the preview week. For tickets and more informa-

May 17

The Third Eye, a Dallas-based educational organization, reviews the book, Catch A Fire: The Life of Bob Marley, 3:00 p.m. at the Black Academy of Arts and Letters, 650 S. Griffin Street, Dallas. For more information call 214-

May 20

Thinking about adopting a child? Catholic Counseling Services, 3725 Blackburn, Dallas is sponsoring an Adoption Orientation, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. All racial and ethnic backgrounds and members of all Christian faiths are welcome to attend. For more information contact Linda T. Christianson at 214-526-2772

Clean South Dallas/Fair Park, Inc., 2809 Birmingham Street, Dallas will hold its Management Board meeting at 4:30 p.m. For more information call 214-421-1662.

May 22

Africa-Care Academy presents its Education-

Succeed," 7:00 p.m. at Friendship West Baptist Church, 616 West Keist Blvd., Dallas. The keynote speaker will be Frederick Douglass Haynes III, senior pastor of Friendship West. Talk show host Cheryl Smith and Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price will serve as co-moderators. Tickets are \$40.00. For more information call 214-941-1511.

The Dallas Black Dance Theatre presents its Choreographer's Choice Series, May 22-23 at the Bob Hope Theater on the campus of Southern Methodist University. Performance time each evening is 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at TicketMaster at 214-373-8000 or for more information call the Dallas Black Dance Theatre at 214-871-2390

The Black Academy of Arts and Letters, 650 South Griffin Street, Dallas, celebrates National Tap Dance Day, which is May 25, the birthday of Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, with a free reception at 5:00 p.m. For more information call 214-743-2440

May 23

The Ghana Leadership Society is sponsoring a fundraising dinner at the Radisson Hotel. LBI Freeway at Coit Road Dallas The them for the occasion is "The Global Public Healthcare Crisis: A Challenge Facing Africa," with George Avittey, professor, American University, Washington, D.C., as the keynote speaker. Proceeds benefit the Ghanacare Project which aids in shipping hospital equipment and supplies to hospitals in Ghana. For more information call 972-644-7042.

Ioin the Dallas Dance Council May 23-May 24, as they host "Let Your Feet Do the Talkin"! in celebration of National Tap Dance Day, On May 23 activities will include a free star-studded tap dancing 10:00 a.m., at the West End Marketplace and at 2:00 p.m. a competition showcase sponsored by the Dance Educators of America, Master dance classes will be held 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., May 24 for tap dancers age 9 and up. For information and reserva-tions call 972-713-2795.

May 28

Learn how to overcome stress at a "For Your Health" workshop sponsored by the City of Irving Public Health and Environmental Services Department. The workshop, which will Auditorium, 801 W. Irving Blvd., Irving, will feature tips on how to recognize the signals of stress and provide stress release tips. For more information call 972-721-3623.

Steps to Excellence is sponsoring its first annual Teen Mothers Upward Bound Workshop, 9:00 a.m., at the Black Academy of Arts and Letters, 650 South Griffin Street, Dallas. The "Taking the First Step" program is designed to reach teen mothers and teen girls who find life challenging, difficult, and sometimes overwhelming. The event will include motivational speakers, college information, workshops and a showcase of teen talent. For more information contact Sharon E. Harris at

Soul Conscious Productions, Inc. presents She's Not Our Sister, June 3-7 at the Majestic Theater, 1925 Elm Street, Dallas, The melodramatic production tells the story of three African American women who discover a dark secret about their father. Tickets prices start at \$14.00. For tickets call Ticket Master at 214-373-8000

June 7

St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church, 5710 R.L. Thornton Freeway, Dallas, will hold its Fifth Annual Sacred Dance Concert, 6:00 p.m. at the church. The concert will feature performances by the adult, men. youth, children and cherub sacred dance choirs. Guest performers include Good Street Baptist Church, Reuben Asberry Ir, Grand Prairie Boys and Girls Club and Windsor Village U.M.C. from Houston, Texas, For more information call Jacquelyn Bryars at 214-887-

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REPUBLICANS, from page 17

1995, 70 percent of the Black respondents to a poll said the federal government could do something to help African Americans with severe problems, and 74 percent of African Americans said too little was spent by the government to assist Blacks, compared to 16 percent of the Whites asked the same question.

On this ground, the Democrats may have the advantage if they continue to



Don Hicks: "I think [the Republican Party's] message of hope, opportunity and the American Dream can't do anything but make the Black community—every community—a better place."

demonstrate concern — and to spend — on issues Black voters care about. Addressing the Economic Club of Chicago after the 1996 election, Democrat Vernon Jordan said the Black community needs to continue to solidify its foothold in the search for parity.

"America can no longer cling to the illusion that the war for equal opportunity, justice and fairness has been won. It has not...And I say, as the twentieth century draws to a close, the greatest problem America faces as we enter a new century is the color line...Many Black Americans have made extraordinary progress over the past two decades, but Black citizens are not even within hailing distance of equality."

However, some former Democrats are turning that corner.

Don Hicks turns Republican

Dallas City Councilman Don Hicks was a die-hard Democrat, a so-called "yellow dog Democrat" who supported Democratic campaigns and candidates but eventually tired of supporting a party he said took him for granted.

"Overall, they had a kind of sorry

connection to the African American community — they tended to take us for granted," Hicks says, recalling being cut off at the mike at the 23rd Convention in Fort Worth four years ago when he was asking for support on single member districts.

Not that the Republicans have been receptive to the idea either — but they're more willing to listen, he says.

"There's something to be said for listening," he adds.

On the issues, Hicks is a mixed bag — he's still for affirmative action, and proudly points out that he drafted DISD's minority contract policy. However, he is not certified as a minority vendor — and prefers to think of himself as a lawyer.

"I don't believe I need to be certified — I believe I need to be competent," Hicks says, enunciating each syllable precisely. "Good business habits have nothing to do with race."

As the first Black to graduate from the University of Houston College of Business in finance, Hicks says anyone who wants to go to school can.

"I don't need affirmative action — I just need to compete," he says.

"I refuse to show up and say 'I'm Black' — they can see that. That's one of the most obvious things about me...I try to run my life not referring to race."

Hicks points to Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk as an example of the things that really make a businessperson successful — an abiding sense of confidence, the ability to compromise, values and personability — and he cites Kirk's election as proof that the savage effects of racism in Dallas are for the most part dead.

He thinks Black Democrats are beginning to see the light.

"We're starting to realize self-determination is the way to go...It just means becoming independent. A lot of Democrats have sat around and heard the message that big government is our friend, big government will help you — but they haven't seen the results. Now they're willing to give the Republican Party a second look," he says.

Hicks says he was wary of the GOP, and was a "reluctant Republican" for a long time. The party seems to be justifying his faith in it, he says.

"I think their message of hope, opportunity and the American Dream can't do anything but make the Black community — every community — a better place," Hicks says.

Judge John Creuzot's realigned allegiance

An appointee of Democratic Governor Ann Richards in 1991, 4th District Criminal Court Judge John Creuzot won in the 1992 election as a Democrat and then switched horses, winning in the 1996 election as a Republican. He never looked back.

"It went fine — you get some positive, some negative reaction...then you go on and do the same job you've been doing," Creuzot says, pointing to the leadership of Governor George Bush as a key factor in the GOP's new attraction for Blacks.

"He preaches and lives a message of inclusion," Creuzot says, pointing to minority appointments to judicial benches made by Bush, as well as Bush's willingness to campaign in traditional Black—and Democratic—strongholds.

Working on the blind spots

As Vice President of the Dallas County Black Republican Council, David Watts admits his party of choice still has its blind spots.

"The Republican Party has a long way to go. Some of them believe there are no prejudices left in the world—and there are. If they don't address those



District Court Judge John Creuzot won in the 1992 election as a Democrat, switched parties and, in 1996, won re-election as a Republican.

blind spots, the party is never going to have an opportunity to grow," Watts adds.

In college, he rebelled against the assumption of White friends who thought him a Democrat because of his skin color. "If you're Black, you're a Democrat—it's like an entitlement program," Watts says, adding that his decision to toe the GOP party line brought criticism from some in the Black community—some of which he deems irrational.

"If you're Republican, you're an Uncle Tom — Black Sambo. When you start talking about school choice, the

quality of education, self-determination, not depending on the government for everything—they can't argue with that, so they just start calling you names," Watts says.

He is irked by assertions that Black Republicans have forgotten their roots.

"You don't forget your roots. Every day you get up, you put on your clothes and go to work and you thank the people who put you in that position. But the good Lord also gave you a mind to use and to realize that 1964 and 1998 are a little different. I also have to look out for my family today — how I can best serve my community, serve my family," Watts adds.

The Cedar Hill resident teaches social studies and economics at a Dallasarea private school. He and his wife live comfortably on their two incomes, and are raising children in a significantly different world than the racially distorted one in which their grandparents grew up.

"I think to a point we have overcome. We haven't yet achieved, but we have overcome," Watts says, a cautious yet well-spoken voice for his Republican party.

In the Dr. Seuss story, "The Sneetches," author Theodore Giesel described two polarized groups of a species who, in a frantic effort to prove their superiority and be as good as or better than the other group, applied and removed their only distinguishing feature — a belly star—until no one could remember who was who.

The political lines between Black Democrats and Black Republicans may be blurring in a similar way.

Iva Stewart, a Dallas businesswoman and president of the Dallas County Black Republican Council, says Black voters owe themselves an opportunity to look over the Republican agenda now — and not to vote Democrat because their parents did.

"No one's born with a stamp on their butt that says 'Republican' or 'Democrat,'" Stewart says, adding that she associates the word "Democrat" with emotional tirades that accomplish little, and that she has developed a deep appreciation for the word "conservative."

"It brings comfort to the ear. Basically, it just says we're going to move slow, we're going to look at things. It invokes a feeling of security — and it's the mood of the country right now — no radical moves."

Locally, there are only seven Black Republican officials, all in the court system: Carolyn Wright, Justice, Court of Appeals; John Creuzot, 4th District Criminal Court; Faith Johnson, 363rd

see REPUBLICANS, page 22

Chronology of Black Republican and Democratic leanings

1858 — The famed Lincoln-Douglas debate - Stephen Douglas, a Democrat, advocates allowing states to decide whether or not to exclude slavery constitutionally; Lincoln, a Republican, advocates congressional prohibition of slavery and gradual abolition of slavery in the U.S.

1868 — P.B.S. Pinchback and James Harris are the first Black delegates at a Republican Party convention. They help nominate Ulysses S. Grant for president.

1868 — Louisiana Democrats return to power after KKK threatens terror to Republicans and Blacks who vote.

1868 - Republican Party platform omits demand for Black suffrage in northern states.

1870 — Blacks are elected to Congress, state posts.

1871 — Cong. Jefferson F. Long (R-GA) is the first Black person to deliver a speech before the U.S. House of Representatives.

1874 — In the absence of the Speaker of the House, Cong. Joseph H. Rianey (R-SC) is the first Black to preside over the U.S. House of Representatives.

1877 - In response to claims that it is the "Nigger Party," the Republican Party establishes the Black and Tan Republican Party, which is separate from the White Republican Party.

1884 - John R. Lynch, former U.S. Congressman, is the first Black person ever elected temporary chair of the Republican con-

1886 - Rev. Benjamin W. Arnett is elected to the Ohio legislature. He is the first Black elected representative to have a majority White constituency.

1913 - William Monroe Trotter accuses President Woodrow Wilson of responsibility for segregation in government cafeterias at the White House. Wilson rejects proposal for National Race Commission to study social and economic condition of Blacks.

1928 - 100 Black spectators at the Republican National Convention in Houston are segregated at the rear of the balcony, cordoned off by chicken wire.

1929 - Angry Whites condemn President Herbert Hoover for inviting the wife of a Black congressman to dinner.

1930 — Hoover nominates Judge John R. Parker of NC, a known racist, to the U.S. Supreme Court. NAACP leads successful campaign against his confirmation.

1932 - Franklin Delano Roosevelt elected president, promises New Deal for all.

1933 - Roosevelt hires many Black advisors, who form the unofficial Black Cabinet.

1934 - Arthur Mitchell, (D-IL), is the first Black Democrat elected to U.S. Congress, defeating Oscar DePriest, a Black Republi-

1936 - Roosevelt established Office of Minority Affairs. His re-election marks the first time in U.S. history that Blacks vote overwhelmingly for a Democratic president.

1944 - Cong. Wm Dawson, (D-IL), is first Black elected vice chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

1948 - Several southern White delegates walk out of the National Democratic Convention after a strong civil rights plank is adopted.

1960 - In the closest U.S. presidential election of the century, Sen. John F. Kennedy (D-MA) defeats Republican VP Richard Nixon. Kennedy had expressed sympathy and support for the Black cause. A strong Black voting bloc helps determine the outcome.

1964 — The Civil Rights Act of 1964 is passed by Congress.

1968 — Blacks are nominated for Democratic presidential and vice presidential slate.

1968 — Bi-racial coalition mounts challenge to the seating of Mississippi's predominantly White delegation to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, This coalition is recognized by the national party as the true delegation for Mississippi.

1970 - Black Cong. Charles Diggs Jr. (D-MIC) requests a meeting between the Congressional Black Caucus and Nixon to discuss the alienation of the country's Black population. Two months later, Nixon sends a rejection letter signed by a low level staffer. The CBC boycotts the president's State of the Union address.

1971 - Nixon agrees to meet with the Congressional Black Caucus. They deliver a list of 60 recommendations.

1972 — Angry over the racist political machine in Cook County, Illinois, Black voters pool support for Republican candidate for County Prosecutor, resulting in a major political upset.

1972 - Cong. Yvonne Braithwaite, a Black woman, co-chairs the Democratic National Convention.

1989 - Ron Brown becomes chair of the Democratic National Convention.

1990 - Black voters give Pres, George Bush the highest level of sustained approval of any Republican president in 30 years.

1990 - Cong. Gary Franks (R-CT) is elected to Congress.

SOURCE: The Timetables of African American History, A Chronology of the Most Important People and Events in African American History, by Sharon Harley, Simon & Schuster, 1995.



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REBUBLICANS, from page 20

District Criminal Court; Brenda Garrett Green, 256th District Family Court; Cheryl Lee Shannon, 305th District Juvenile Court; Victoria Welcome, County Court at Law #3; and Keith Anderson, County Criminal Court #9.

Democrats and Republicans—no clean hands on either side

Black votes are up for grabs now — but it wasn't always that way.

While Black Americans could not vote in the election of 1864, they played a major role in the election, campaigning heavily on a single issue: the post-war state of Blacks in America.

While it was Lincoln of the Grand Old Party who freed the slaves and garnered favor with northern anti-slavery activists, the Republicans took a major step backward in 1880. On the heels of conflicts between the Scalawags and the Carpetbaggers of Reconstruction era shenanigans, they adopted the Reconciliation strategy to win White Southerners by dropping the Black cause like a hot potato.

The first Black ever to receive a presidential nomination was Frederick Douglass. He received a single vote at the 1888 Republican convention in Chicago.

Democratic attempts to disenfranchise Blacks resulted in a bid for legal segregation in Maryland of the 1920s.

Blacks fell out of favor with the Republicans in the 1920s — and vice versa. President Herbert Hoover purged Black Republicans from leadership posts, and also nominated John J. Parker, a North Carolina judge with a racist past, to the Supreme Court. He also failed to condemn the segregation of a group of American mothers to visit the cemeteries of U.S. soldiers in France. Hoover's refusal to take a stand against the KKK at a time of anti-Black hysteria was perhaps the final nail in the coffin, and it paved the way for a mass departure of remaining Black Republicans to the Democrats.

Happy to pick up the good will, in 1936, an enterprising Franklin Delano Roosevelt used the Good Neighbor League Colored Committee to build a New Deal era coalition and, ever since, Blacks have played a vital role in Democratic campaigns.

By World War II, things had improved slightly for the Black business class, but it would be decades before the Black middle class would begin to approach the equality and economic momentum that seems to fuel Republican fires. In 1944 the only profession that saw proportionate representation was that of the undertaker—and that was because White undertakers were less likely to agree to handle Black corpses,

according to a landmark study by Gunnar Myrdal, who wrote of his findings in An American Dilemma (NY-Harper & Row).

Voter registration drives and increasingly politicized Blacks built voter participation and awareness throughout the sixties. Reform long fought for in the Black community became Kennedy's broad civil rights plank, which he carefully promoted as "moderate and pragmatic" to avoid stepping on too many toes. It laid the groundwork for Lyndon B. Johnson's groundbreaking civil rights legislation of 1964.

Cleveland became the first major city to elect a Black mayor in 1970 when voters brought in Carl Stokes.

In the 1970s the emphasis began to shift from civil rights to party politics.

Nixon invoked the wrath of Blacks on the eve of his 1968 State of the Union address by refusing an invitation to meet with Blacks to discuss Black issues.

In 1980, Republican National Committee leader Richard Brock brought in a campaign to make an appeal to Black voters and to clean up the GOP's image. There were setbacks, however, and Reaganomics was blamed by many Blacks as hostile to the Black cause, while Black unemployment rates soared over 21 percent.

Later, on the Democratic side, two lone Republican congressmen, Gary Franks of Connecticut and J.C. Watts of Oklahoma, were given the cold shoulder by Washington's Democrat-dominated Congressional Black Caucus.

Watts opted not to join the group, shrugging off their cool reception.

"I didn't come to Congress to be a Black leader or a White leader, but a leader," he said at the time.

Franks' support for Black Justice Clarence Thomas' Supreme Court nomination earned him the inflammatory title "a Negro Dr. Kevorkian" by one of his fellow Black congressmen.

Black voting patterns

Since the Voting Rights Act of 1965, Blacks have been politically mobilized; the Black population has increased by 56 percent, doubling the White growth rate. In the same time period, the number of Blacks on the voting rolls more than doubled, from six million in 1964 to 13 million in 1994. Less than ten percent of Blacks identify themselves as Republican; however, support of individual Republicans has gone higher. In 1990, 24 percent of African Americans cast their ballots in support of Republican Senator Phil Gramm.

While Black voter turnout runs low, Black voters will turn out at elections

where there is a heightened sense of danger or urgency. When White supremacist David Duke ran for governor of Louisiana in 1991, Black turnout hit a record 80 percent. In 1995, former Texas Secretary of State Ron Kirk garnered \$700,000 in campaign donations for his successful Dallas mayoral run — more than twice the amount pulled in by either of his opponents.

The successful Black candidate is almost invariably a Democrat—and frequently a liberal Democrat. Black candidates tend to be weak competitors in places where Republicans generally win.

America has 40 metropolitan areas with a population of a million or more; in 16 of those areas, Blacks hold the mayoral seat in the central city.

Blacks are America's most solid Democratic voting block; Democrats would have lost every single presidential election since 1968 if only Whites had been allowed to vote.

Jimmy Carter took just 47 percent of the White vote, but 83 percent of the Black voters stood behind him.

Clinton commanded a meager 39 percent of the White vote in 1992, and 43 percent of the White vote in 1996 — but received five out of six Black votes in both elections.

Perceived gains made by both parties continue to be subject to setbacks. In 1995, Democratic Mississippi Governor Fordice prompted an outcry when he announced it was time for White citizens to stop apologizing because 30 years had passed since Medgar Evers was gunned down and since federal intervention had been needed for African Americans to participate in state elections.

Earlier this year, Fordice vetoed a voter registration reform bill because it didn't contain Jim Crow-style I.D. requirements, according to *The Progressive* magazine's April 1998 edition.

Overall, things are looking up for Black political candidates and Black voters. In 1957, 63 percent of Whites surveyed said they would not vote for a well-qualified Black presidential candidate; by the 1995 presidential primary, General Colin Powell was the nation's most-sought-after political candidate. An exit poll taken after the 1996 election indicated that Powell would have beaten Clinton by 11 points.

Buoyed by growing wealth, education levels and an awareness of their own key place at the polls, Black voters are in demand by both Republicans and Democrats — a fact that leaders in the Black community are hoping will translate to a mighty political voice for the future.

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An equal opportunity institution

Denton councilman tackles issues: non-supporters change attitudes

By Velma Rae Gray

ouncilman Carl G. Young, of Denton, takes a stroll down a sidewalk on a cool sunny day, reminiscing on what southeast Denton park and facilities conditions were like before he was elected. He stands proudly in front of the Martin Luther King Center, confident and satisfied that he has accomplished results for several issues and concerns facing southeast Denton citizens.

I have been the voice and the ears for the people who placed me into office," says Councilman G. Young, now in his second term with the City of Denton City Council. Young represents citizens of District 1, which is known as the Golden Triangle of Denton. He is a United States veteran, having served in actual combat in Vietnam. Young is a native of Denton and has educated three of his children in the Denton Independent School District. Young represents the citizens in southeast Denton, a predominately black and Hispanic community. Two prior African American council members served in this district.

Since Young's election in 1996, he has tackled the majority of the issues that were at the forefront of his campaign, as he was elected to do. He has been instrumental in securing nearly \$150,000 in funds for renovation of a once, run-down American Legion Community Center, as well as park facilities and equipment. Crime has been the number one problem in southeast Denton in the past, "but since I have been in office," comments Young, "southeast Denton's crime level is at an all-time low. And that means a lot to me." He adds that the unemployment rate is at its lowest in Denton. "People are working and securing safer environments for their families," says Young.

Willie Hudspeth, a community activist, says, "Councilman Young has done more for southeast Denton while in office, especially on this side of the town, than what I have ever seen in the past. We needed equal representation on the council and improved parks, jobs and a safer environment. And Young has been instrumental in getting things done," says Hudspeth.

The success of one's campaign depends upon how well the candidate sells him or herself to the mass of people. "My success was my campaign strategy in being the voice of the people," explains Young. "Change was the key that opened new doors for me. My incumbent, Mark Chew, had lost contact with the citizens in the community, and they wanted a change. Change is what they got. The first accomplishment was proving wrong

the old saying, 'Blacks don't vote.' I set up a voters' registration headquarters in southeast Denton and made it possible to transport the elderly to and from the headquarters. More people turned out to vote in District 1 during my campaign than in any of the previous campaigns. Some people, in the beginning, were against me, but I was elected to do what I said I would do."

Community activist Hudspeth said, "I think the attitudes of some of Young's non-supporters have changed with the



Denton Councilman Carl G. Young: "I have been the voice and the ears for the people who placed me into office."

improvements he has made. I think most of them now are supporters of Young."

Betty Kimble, another community activist for southeast Denton explains, "At first I was a non-supporter, but now, seeing the positive changes Councilman Young has made throughout the community, such as to the drainage problems and park improvements, I have changed my mind toward him. I now know he has made tremendous changes. Young is a kind, caring, take-care-of-business councilman," said Kimble.

The City of Denton charter states council members can only serve two consecutive terms; if they desire a third term, they must sit out a term and then run in the next election. "If it were possible, I would re-elect him to serve a third term for southeast Denton," says Alma Clark. president of the Denton NAACP. "Councilman Young has been instrumental in securing funds to place sidewalks along E. Hickory and Wood streets; now the streets will be safe for joggers, bikers and walkers," Clark added.

When Young has debated sensitive issues at council meetings, he has been viewed by some of the other council members as coming on too hard and as being very vocal. Young is sometimes viewed by others as an angry man or a radical; but people need to be more understanding. Young is a good person, if one takes the time to get to know him,' says Kimble.

Mark Chew and Linnie McAdams, the previous two African American council members, were also instrumental in getting the job done. Chew kept a low profile and used a low-key approach, and McAdams was very vocal; being the first African American female on the council, she brought southeast Denton to others'

Councilman Young has left his mark throughout southeast Denton. Any child, from any area of Denton, would be proud now to play basketball, swing on the new swing sets or just listen to a community group perform on the new stage.

Issues Young plans to focus on for the remainder of his term include \$7.3 million dollars in C.I.P funds for District 1, (for long-range improvements); community block grant money for street improvements; and remodeling old houses into affordable housing for lowincome families. One hundred fifty-six thousand dollars will be spent for improvement for Phoenix Apartments for low-income families; playground equipment for smaller children will be added at Fred Moore Park; and a new senior citizens center in front of the MLK center may be built.

As more and more mothers are working at minimum-wage jobs, Young plans to secure funding and a building with qualified teachers for affordable daycare for teenage mothers.

Young's long-range plans include running for County Commissioner for Denton County; he would be the first African American to run for county commissioner in Denton. Young's wife Marjorie, is supportive of his goals and of their three children, Tanya, Latoshia, and Carl Jr. The Youngs believe that having a good job secures the family foundation for its purpose in life.

As councilman for southeast Denton, Young has faced some tough issues. Why are there no African American firefighters in the city of Denton? "Denton firemen are traditionalists," Young explains. "In former times, rules were set to make it nearly impossible for minorities to become firemen in Denton. Now those rules have been removed. Qualification now is based upon the highest test score." He adds, "The first African American now working in the fire station is a dispatcher."

Another issue involves minority placement in the police department. After forming the Racial Diversity Task Force, five police officers have been added to the force; four are in management positions. Judge White was replaced by Judge Murphee, an African American female. Young believes the most important issue was bringing work-

ing class employees' pay ranges up to current standards.

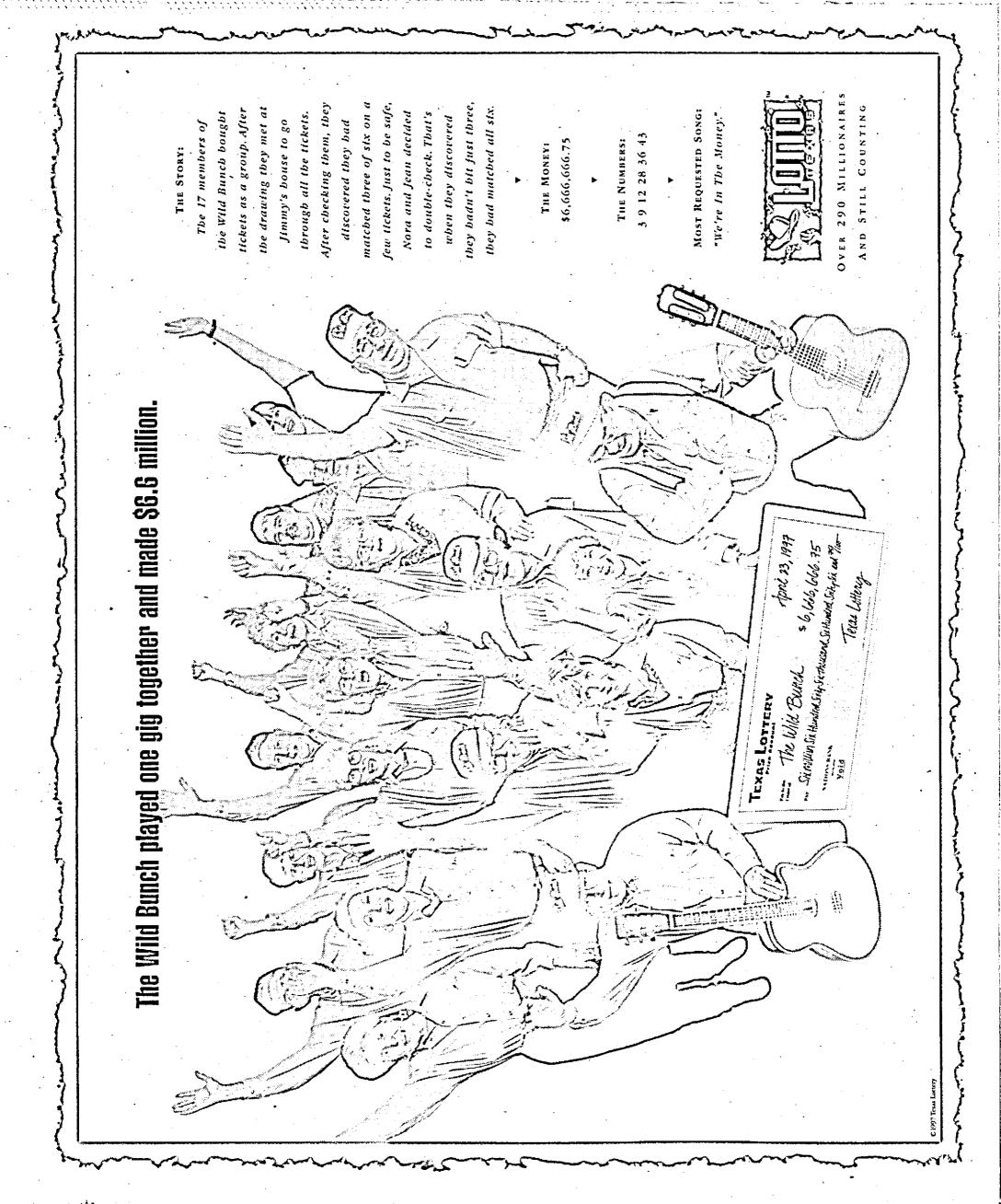
Young has formed alliances with ... businesses in Denton to help him improve these issues. He has received strong support from several Denton businesses, such as Ben E. Keith and Fulton Supply. He is a member of the Denton Black Chamber of Commerce, LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens), and has received good support from them.

Issues and focal points of Councilman Young's campaign included:

- · Redistricting the City to bring Denton city government in line with recent Federal Appeals Court decisions, bringing the Council closer to the people.
- · Holding the line on the current tax rate. (Higher city and school district taxes have lowered property values and decreased the likelihood of industry moving to Denton, which has resulted in sharply reduced economic growth and higher unemployment.)
- Reducing waste in the current city budget.
- Promoting economic growth through increased cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce.
- · Promoting private enterprise, which
- Creating a police review board with enough power to be effective and promote better cooperation between the police and the southeast Denton com-
- Increasing the awareness of the need for minority hiring and promotion in the city of Denton.

Councilman Young encourages citizens of southeast Denton to "grade" him on his performance regarding these issues. To contact Councilman Young, call (940) 566-8790.

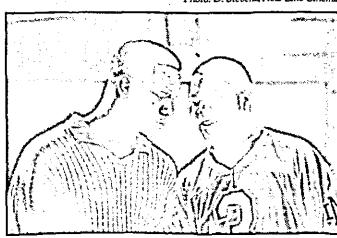
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The Players Club

Multi-talented film and recording star Ice Cube makes his writing-directing debut with *The Players Club*, a daring and surprisingly humorous drama about the malevolent figures who populate a thriving gentlemen's club and one woman's

Photo: D. Stevens/New Line Cinema



Jamie Foxx (left) and director Ice Cube on the set of New Line Cinema's drama, *The Players Club*.

struggle to escape from its explosive and unstable environment.

When she's not raising her young son and trying to make ends meet, Diana Armstrong (LisaRaye) dreams of becoming a broadcast journalist. Determined to survive and get a college degree, Diana takes a job as a stripper at The Players Club, a notorious strip joint run by a two-bit hustler named Dollar Bill (Bernie Mac).

Under the stage name Diamond, Diana becomes a playful seductress, teas-

Soul-Conscious Productions debuts She's Not Our Sister

Some secrets never die.

Three attractive African American sisters, Vivian, Cynthia and Deniece Walker, uncover a dark family secret after their father's death—one that threatens to rip apart the very fabric of their lives. But will blood prove thicker than water...or color?

Soul-Conscious Productions, Inc. presents the theatrical debut of She's Not Our Sister, June 3-7. The dramatic production written by Johnnie C. Johnson, Jr. and directed by Charles Hillman, also incorporates soulful music and song with light humor and wit.

Johnson, the founder and president of Soul-Conscious Productions, Inc. is a prolific writer who believes all of the endeavors of the production company should bring awareness to the community. In addition to promoting strong family values, Soul-Conscious Productions, Inc. has

ing and tempting the denizens of the dark for the crumpled dollar bills they toss onstage. Unlike the other dancers—Ronnie (Chrystale Wilson) and Tricks (Adele Givens), whose ambitions have slowly withered beneath the harsh strip club lights — Diamond is determined to get in, get the money and get out.

Working at the club at night and studying by day, Diamond quickly becomes wise to the ways of the club's underworld. She learns to keep her dis-

> tance, particularly from Dollar Bill and his loyal doorman, Li'l Man (A. J. Johnson), who are both living on borrowed time with a loan shark named St. Louis (Larry McCoy). The only person Diamond trusts at the club is Blue (Jamie Foxx), a young deejay who wants out as badly as she does. When Diamond's young and naive cousin Ebony (Monica Calhoun) moves in, she is easy prey for Ronnie and Tricks, who are always looking for new dancers

to do their dirty work. The cousins clash when Diamond tries to protect Ebony from the lure of this daunting and dangerous world. But ultimately, no one is safe from this oasis of perversion where flesh is sold, crimes are planned and lives are changed forever.

The New Line Cinema of The Players Club production opened at theaters everywhere April 8. It has an MPAA rating of 'R' for strong language, sexual content and violence.

MON



chosen to support the American Cancer Society, using the play to bring cancer awareness to people of color.

She's Not Our Sister runs June 3-7 at the Majestic Theatre, 1925 Elm Street, Dallas. Tickets are on sale now at all Ticketmaster outlets or by calling 214-373-8000. Ticket prices start at \$14.00. For more information call David Herman Jr. at 214-337-3692 or e-mail Soul-Conscious Productions, Inc. at soulcon@cyberramp.net.

City of Angels

Maggie Rice didn't believe in angels — until she fell in love with one.

How do angels spend their limitless days? Their job is to roam the Earth, listening to people's thoughts, celebrating their lives and deaths, and comforting those in need — but they can't interfere in

Photo by Murray Close



Andre Braugher stars in City of Angels.

their fates. Angels are not, and never have been, human beings. Though they care deeply for humankind, they perceive the events, sensations and emotions of people's lives with a certain compassionate wonder.

In City of Angels, a story of romance and desire starring Academy Award-winner Nicholas Cage and two-time Golden Globe-nominee Meg Ryan, two souls, one mortal and one celestial, must struggle with their willingness — and finally, their need — to sacrifice everything familiar for the sake of love.

Nicolas Cage plays Seth, a restless angel on duty in Los Angeles, who encounters Dr. Maggie Rice (Meg Ryan), a pragmatic heart surgeon whose sense of control is deeply shaken by losing a patient on her table for no apparent reason. Although Seth is there to aid the dying man, he is immediately drawn to Maggie and wants to help her overcome her crisis of confidence. In the process, he falls in love with her and longs for the sensory world he has observed but cannot experience. Finally, despite its risks, Seth takes the unusual step of becoming visible to Maggie, changing from an imperceptible spirit to a mysterious stranger. Maggie is intrigued and captivated by Seth, but as their passion for each other deepens, she questions the sanity of loving this perfect man with no past, a man who challenges her most closely held beliefs about

the place of faith in her life. Maggie becomes confused, frightened, angry and bewildered by her vulnerability to Seth—but beyond all of those emotions, she falls more deeply in love with him than she ever believed possible.

. Also starring Dennis Franz as Nathaniel Messinger and Andre Braugher as Cassiel, City of Angels, a Warner Bros. release, has an MPAA rating of 'PG—13' for sexuality, language and some nudity. It is currently in wide release.

MON

"Ladies in Red" competition

By Louise Gordon

Certain names are synonymous with their product — Hersheys and chocolate, Campbells and soup — and Hollywood means entertainment. Dallas' own Hollywood Enterprises (which stages standingroom-only events all over the United States and sponsors an annual International Star Search Tour) and CWC Entertainment have selected Club Faces in Arlington as the site for 20 exciting evenings of the Ladies in Red Competition.

"Tropical Sundays," replete with a lavish hot tropical buffet and frozen tropical drink specials, will be served as all attendees judge the ladies and cast their votes for the winners. The classic ladies in red chosen by the crowd will win their choice between a trip to New York, Hollywood, Washington, D.C., Miami, Orlando, Chicago, San Francisco, or \$500 in cash and prizes. In addition to the entertaining competition, special surprise VIP celebrity guests will be at Faces each Sunday. Past Hollywood Enterprises competitions have "discovered" several local stars and were instrumental in helping them see their dreams fulfilled.

The ladies will be judged on their appearance and poise, as well as their answers to one of five questions. Cover charge is \$7. Registration for the Ladies in Red Competion is necessary, but there is no fee to participate. Opening night, April 26, was a success, despite stormy weather; and all indications are that the next 19. Tropical Sundays will be the hottest spot in the metroplex.

Club Faces is the place to be again on Thursdays, for Men's Night, also sponsored by Hollywood Enterprises. There is no cover charge for men before 9:00 P.M., and fifty-cent well drinks will be served from 8:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M. Hollywood promises a special surprise each Thursday.

Faces is located at 809 N. Collins (not far from the Ballpark). For more information, or to register for the Ladies in Red Competition, call the hotline (metro 817-355-5004).

MON



Book_Review Angela Washington-Blair, Ph.D.

By LaRita Booth Pryor Princess Press, \$14; 198 pages

Hey, all you wordsmiths out there. Get out your pens and paper and get ready to become a published writer. The results may not be immediate but, with this month's book selection, you will be well on your way. This little self-published gem is entitled The African Ameri-Booth Pryor, it is just what a novice writer needs can Writer's Digest: How and Where to started. Even a published writer will find treasures here — more sources to sell or distribute their work! A slim volume of 195 pages, this book is comprised of 25 chapters, but

some are only a half-page long. This book's strength lies not with its format, but with its content. Format-wise, it would have been easier to read if the agency or company names had been bold faced and if the book titles listed within the book had been either underlined or italicized. An index would also have increased its reference value. Hopefully, the next edition will have those improvements.

The book provides over 1400 addresses and begins by listing African American colleges. The author includes them in case you want to contact them about creative writing classes, but she doesn't tell which ones offer such courses. Her disclaimer is that only Howard

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The African American Writer's Digest

University has a publishing house. She then moves on to give useful tax information for the writer. A sample query letter, letters of rejection, and a sample for formatting manuscripts are included. Valuable information on how to mail submissions and obtaining a copyright is also given. A chapter on self-publishing is included; but, instead of giving extensive

detail, she directs readers to other useful books on the topic. Then she gives a list of book distributors, should you decide to go that route. The 110+ descriptive listings of black-owned publishers is quite worthwhile, as are the chapters on other book publishers that publish books by or about "us." She lists the top 30 U.S. book publishing houses describes and some university presses. There

are chap-

ters on find-

Ya Gilo Balk Git ing a literary agent and negotiating agent fees; listings of blackowned newspapers and magazines — all of which are essential to know if you want word of your book to get out. But Pryor doesn't stop there. She gives markets for plays or television scripts and provides a lengthy list of African American filmmakers. Poetry markets, however, are not specifically listed. Readers can find out about obtain-

ing grants to support themselves as they

write. She includes a list of black-owned bookstores for selling your books (or even buying books).

This book is not a mere directory and resource guide, but does provide some "how-to" elements. Use this volume alongside your Writer's Market (Writer's Digest Books). Most of what is in Pryor's book is not in Writer's Market. The addresses and descriptions in her book are invaluable. The little snippets of advice that she gives at the beginning of each chapter are also useful. Writing in a warm, colloquial style, Pryor is candid as she shares some of her mistakes in the writing/publishing process. I recommend this book for all writer wannabe's.

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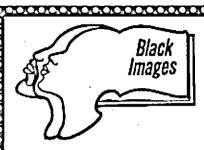
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Spring and Summer **Forecasts**

SUNDAY, MAY 3 • 3-5 pm
Romance writer, Anna Larence reads
from and autographs her third novel,
Love Everlasting and her novella The
Preacher's Wife in the Mother's Day
anthology Bouquet
(Arabesque \$4.99 each).
The Romance Noir Book Club
will host this signing.

-0-

TUESDAY, MAY 5 • 6-8 pm Robert Greer reads from and autographs *The Devil's Backbone*, (\$22.00 Mysterious Press). Dr. Greer's reading will be hosted by Marvin Jones & Friends.

THURSDAY, MAY 7 • 6-8 pm Barbara Neely reads from and autographs her third mystery *Blanche Cleans Up* (\$19.95 Viking), Ms. Neely's reading will be hosted by the *Literary Sisters Book Society*.

SATURDAY, MAY 9 • 3-5 pm Derrick Bell reads from and autographs Afrolantica Legacies - A Geneva Crenshaw Book (\$24.95 Third World Press).

<u>-0-</u>

MONDAY, MAY 11 • 6-8 pm Sheneska Jackson reads from and autographs *Blessings* (\$23.00 Simon & Schuster). Ms. Jackson is also the author of *Li'l Mama's Rules* and Caught Up in the Rapture. Sisters With Books will host this book event.

THURSDAY, MAY 14 • 6-8 pm
Earl Woods autographs Playing
Through: Straight Talk on Hard
Work, Big Dreams, and
Adventures with Tiger
(\$24.00 HarperCollins). The book is the
first extensively biographical
examination of Tiger Woods' life
beyond the camera's eye.

TUESDAY, MAY 19 • 6-8 pm Gloria Naylor reads from and signs
The Men of Brewster Place (\$22.95 Hyperion).

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20 • 6-8 pm Tony Brown discusses and autographs
Empower the People: 7 Steps to
Overthrow the Conspiracy that is
Stealing Your Money & Freedom
(\$24.00 William Morrow). 78161945-01423 (800) 272-5022

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Family Life Fairy Street Mama

hat are you doing this summer?

When I asked Draelyn Johnson, 10 years old, what he planned to do this summer, this is what he said:

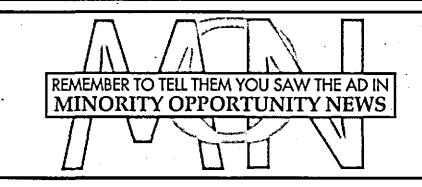
DRAELYN: "I plan to spend my summer going to "Six Flags-Water World." I want to go there because, when it's hot, the water will cool me off....I want to play water football and have swim races.....I think that it would proably be a lot of fun to splash each other ... I also plan to play sports when I'm at home to stay in shape ... My brothers and I got a basketball goal for Christmas and I'm going to have my friends over to just play and have a lot of fun."



Draelyn Johnson, Hamilton Park Elementary School, 4th grade

Kids!!! Regardless of what you do for the summer, remember to first get your parents' permission, be safe and above all-HAVE FUN AND JUST BE A KID!!!!

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





HOV

DART to work gets easier, even on weekends

New bus service to employment centers in the northern part of DART's Service Area makes it easier to enjoy the convenience and value of transit as a work ride.

Preston Road North. Route 351 from the North Central Transit Center now serves the Preston/Park corridor Saturdays and Route 36 operates seven days a week on Preston between downtown Dallas and Plano Parkway.

Richardson Telecom Corridor. Route 511 provides non-stop weekday service between the Park Lane Rail Station and the Richardson Transit Center, where Routes 365 and 366 connect to the Richardson Telecom Corridor. It's also easy to get to the Richardson Transit Center Saturdays on Route 577, which serves both Mockingbird and Park Lane

Addison Entertainment Corridor, Route 31 now runs seven days a week between downtown and Beltline at Midway.

DART to medical centers

DART has added bus service to many medical centers in the DART Service Area.

Baylor Hospital, Harry Hines medical corridor and RHD Medical Center. Local seven-day service on Route 44 includes Forest Avenue Community Hospital on Malcolm X. Baylor Hospital on Gaston, the medical facilities on Harry Hines and RHD Memorial Hospital on Webb Chapel. The Harry Hines complex is also served by Route 59 during weekday peak hours and Route 26 every day.

Trinity Medical Center. Route 331, which originates at the Farmers Branch Park & Ride, serves Josey Lane north to the Trinity Medical Center Monday-Saturday.

Baylor Medical Center at Irving and Columbia Healthcare. Weekdays. Route 303 serves Columbia Healthcare and Baylor Hospital/Irving from the North Irving Transit

Doctor's Hospital and Charlton Methodist. Route 466's seven-day service includes Charlton Methodist Hospital on Wheatland northeast to Doctor's Hospital at Buckner

Baylor/Garland. Route 372 from the South Garland Transit Center serves Baylor Medical Center in Garland Monday-Saturday.

Columbia Hospital/Plano. Route 351 from the North Central Transit Center serves Columbia Medical Center of Plano Monday-Saturday,

VA Medical Center. Route 444 operates seven days a week with service to the VA Medical Center from Clarendon and Jefferson.

DART introduces seven-day express service to D/FW International Airport

Now it's easier to take transit to D/FW International Airport. Seven days a week, Express Route 202 whisks you non-stop from downtown Dallas' West Transfer Center to the North Irving Transit Center, then on to Esters & Freeport and the D/FW North Shuttle Lot. Selected trips serve UPS and American Airlines Cargo. Local Route 409 from Dallas' Martin Luther King Recreation Center also serves the D/FW South Shuttle Lot every day.

• DART Store opens at Akard Station

The new DART Store at Akard Station in downtown Dallas makes it easier to buy monthly passes, information and other DART items. Money-saving passes are also available at the DART Store at Elm & Griffin and all Albertson's and Minyard stores in the DART Service Area.

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For upbeat service, go to Downbeat

Owner combines love for seafood and music

By Kamron L. Barton

The root of James Wilson's entrepreneurship is in his love for music.

Wilson earned a B.S. in Music Education at Tennessee State University and a Master's degree in the same field at Southern Methodist University. He later moved to Dallas in 1969 and became the band director at Boude Storey Middle School.

Following that job, he worked at South Oak Cliff High School as the band director and music coordina-

TIMANIA tor. During his brief retirement in 1975, he opened Downbeat Music Company at 127 West Illinois

The music company originated because Wilson recognized the "need to have a black business of that nature in the community. As a teacher, I wanted to provide students with an instrument rental service that wouldn't be so costly."

Due to his later desire to renovate his music store, Wilson opened Downbeat Seafood Restaurant on April 28, 1987. Wilson wanted to rebuild the music company "to give the Dallas communities a wonderful place to come and shop."

Among the many mouth-watering foods that Downbeat Seafood Restaurant sells Monday through Saturday are gumbo, shrimp, oysters, catfish, buffalo fish, whiting, and perch. The restaurant also caters seafood and barbecue.

One of Wilson's goals for the music company is to re-open it in the near future, offering music lessons on all instruments, repairing instruments and selling instru-

ments and small goods, such as reeds and other musical accessories. He would also like to "consolidate the music company and seafood restaurant under one roof, at one location: 127 West Illinois, the original location of the music store."

What makes Downbeat unique is that "we're centrally located off I-35 Freeway, and our prices are very competitive. We serve customers with a smile while they enjoy good jazz music," said Wilson.

In 1990, Wilson says "The Dallas Morning News gave us (Downbeat) a won-SIECIBIE'I'S derful full-page write-up." In addition, in 1992, the Dallas Observer

Downbeat Seafood Restaurant as having the best catfish in Dal-

las. Most recently, in February of 1998 at the Texas Music Educators Association convention in Austin, Wilson was recognized for contributions made in the field of music education.

When asked about what has motivated him, Wilson replies, "In my experience as a teacher, I have seen the great need to work with the youth in various communities in the state of Texas to inspire them to become successful in their various endeavors Our community needs to have this type of business in Dallas, especially in the music business." Wilson has 'two wonderful children, a wonderful marriage, and am now a granddad of three lovely children."

What Wilson likes most about his job is "being able to support our community." He not only does that through his business, but also by currently directing four Name: James Wilson Birthplace: Caldwell, TX. Favorite Food: Seafood

"Memos of Charlie Parker" Last Book Read: My friends don't know that: "There is very little that my

friends don't know about my plans for the future.'

Advice to would-be entrepreneurs:

"Be sure that you understand the scope of future business plans and business that you plan to undertake.



Downbeat Music Co. and Seafood Restaurant 115 W. Illinois (seafood restaurant 127 W. Illinois (music company) Dallas, TX 75224 214-941-1684

elementary school bands: at the T. L. Marsalis, B. F. Darrell, Harrell Budd, and Lisbon Elementary Schools. He apparently missed his "children" after going into business, so he now does both. Who says one can't have everything?

Although Wilson has an exhaustive schedule, he doesn't plan to retire. His hobbies are bowling and listening to and playing music.

Downbeat Seafood Restaurant's business hours are 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m., Friday and Saturday.

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

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You and Your Money John Dudley

If you know you should discuss money, financial planning and inheritances with your family, but shy away from having "the conversation"-you're not alone. A national study conducted for Prudential Securities found that, while an overwhelming majority (89 percent) of Americans feel that parents and their adult children should talk about money and inheritances, more than half (57 percent) say they find it difficult to raise such

The "Families & Money" study found that families fear discussions about money and the future because they raise difficult emotional issues such as aging and mortality. However, the study revealed that families who discuss these issues are better prepared for their financial futures. The best time to initiate a discussion of family money and inheritance is when parents and adult children are

Money and family: Discussing a sensitive subject

healthy and in good spirits.

Some suggestions to consider when introducing the topic to aging parents are:

1. Clear your thoughts of any resentment or expectations; you're opening the discussion because you care about your parents' future.

2. Put yourself in your parents' place. How would you like your children to approach the subject if you were in your parents' shoes?

3. Plan ahead. Think about what you want to say and how you'll say it.

4. Find a reason to introduce the topic. Articles such as this one can help you bring up the subject of retirement planning, health care and inheritance.

5. Offer a rationale for the conversation. Suggest that often, in the day-to-day rush, we don't always look ahead. Explain how careful planning will benefit the entire family.

6. Introduce possible scenarios. Present various situations to your parents, beginning with the least threatening view of the future. Discuss issues which may affect them in the coming years, such as the need to secure a financially solid and healthy retirement. You might ask your parents if their savings and pensions plans will provide adequate income for the next 20 or 30 years.

7. Remain neutral if controversial issues surface. If the conversation becomes too emotional, postpone it for a while or consider including a financial advisor. Sometimes, the presence of an unbiased or neutral "outsider" can keep the discussion objective and less emotional.

8. Make arrangements. Once you have discussed your parents' current financial arrangements, you will need to address the tougher issues that may

arise should one or both of your parents experience a period of ill health.

9. Complete four legal and financial tasks: A durable power of attorney; a legal will; a health care proxy statement and a list and location of assets. Taking care of these practical considerations can help ease concerns and fears.

Above all, remember that open and honest discussions about money and the future can ease parents' unspoken concerns about growing older and help prepare them adequately for their retirement years. Prudential Securities is not a legal or tax advisor. However, to help get the process started, Prudential Securities is offering a comprehensive booklet, Families & Money: Discussing a Sensitive Subject, that provides guidelines for talking about money with parents and adult children. The booklet is free and can be obtained by calling 1-800-213-0370.

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

Web site @ www.bookwire.com.qbr. Happy Surfing:)

MON

Carla Roberson is a local computer consultant.

Surfing the Net — African American style

By Carla Roberson

Surfing! Haven't tried it yet? It's the latest trend. I know you're thinking me - surfing. NO WAY! Well, what if I told you all you need is a computer, an on-line service, and a little bit of time? Surfing the Internet has become as popular as sitting down and turning on the T.V., and it's just as easy.

Cyberspace caters to everyone including African Americans. Our ebony brothers and sisters are making their presence known on numerous Web sites everyday. With just the click of a mouse you can read Ebony, Upscale, and Essence, without leaving your chair. Like sports? You can visit Michael Jordan's Web site and leave him a message or ask him a question. The Internet is chock full of Web sites for African Americans that will inform, entertain, and enlighten.

Enjoy traveling? Visit Atlanta, D.C., Hawaii, or Africa all within the span of about thirty minutes. All the information you need is right at your fingertips. Summer's coming - wouldn't it be nice to search for your destination on the net and know where you can go to stay, eat, and be entertained within a matter of hours?

When I began my journey into

cyberspace, my goal was to search for Web sites that were of interest to me, an African American. I thought: What does cyberspace have to offer? Soon I discovered a wealth of information that I just had to share. So come with me and let's visit our first Web site — NetNoir.

NetNoir — The Black Network is your home for Black interactive culture. It includes chatrooms, news, games, love advice, books, singles, astrology, business and politics, and shopping for the Black

consumer. You can also advertise your small Black business/product/service there. Accessing NetNoir can be done one of two ways: (1) Through an Interprovider, by typing Http://www.netnoir.com; or (2) via AOL (America On Line) by going to keyword and typing "netnoir," then clicking. Hey, while you're there, get some shopping done in the mall for Mother's Day, Father's Day, a birthday - any day!

In this column, I'll acquaint you with the many Web sites that are offered for African Americans. So to keep you motivated to surf until next time, why not visit the following Web sites:

Since Mother's Day is right around the corner, check out My Sistah's Room www.ourspace.com/sistah/; Essence@ www.essence.com; and Oprah Winfrey by going on America Online, keyword Oprah.

Also take a peep at The World African Network that Willis Johnson talks about on KKDA every morning@ www.worldafricannet.com. And find out about new African American books at the Quarterly Black Book Review

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For more information regarding specifications or to request to be mailed, please contact Patricia Lopez, Human Resources, Monday thru Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., City of Dallas, 1500 Marilla, Suite 6AN, Dallas, Texas 75201, (214) 670-7023. Fax (214) 670-4049.

Applications must be received no later than May 15, 1998. Applications after this date will not be considered.

EOE/MFH



Health & Fitness

Tyrone Caldwell

eight loss tips

The only way to lose fat is to take in fewer calories by eating less and to burn up more calories by physical activity. We should all know by now the fad and gimmick diets that promise quick weight loss do not work. In some cases, they may even damage health. Here are some weight-loss tips to help you reach your goals.

Don't try losing too much too fast.

A person should try to lose weight gradually; about one to two pounds a week is recommended. Any more than this will probably leave you feeling weak, tired, and irritable. To lose one pound a week, you must create a calorie deficit (burning up more calories than you take in). Exercising will help you create this deficit much easier than just by decreasing your food intake.

Choose a variety of foods. .

Try eating foods from all food groups: vegetables, beans, nuts, fruit, breads, cereal, rice, etc. Don't cut calories too low. Getting enough of the nutrients you need on a low-calorie diet is difficult. Low-calorie diets will also halt your weight loss sooner than you think.

Don't skip meals.

Your body operates better when it receives food in moderate amounts at regular intervals. It's a better idea to eat smaller, more frequent meals rather than stuffing yourself at one or two

Eat smaller portions.

Decreasing the amount of food you eat will help cut down calories and help prevent overeating.

Drink water.

Water is the most important catalyst in losing weight and keeping it off. Water suppresses the appetite naturally and helps the body burn stored fat. Drinking water before you eat will prevent you from overeating; although water has no calories, it takes up room in the stomach, causing you to get full even though eating less.

Eat less fats and sweets.

Foods such as sandwich spreads, oils, salad dressings, sodas, candy bars and potato chips add calories while supplying you with little or no vitamins and minerals. Also, foods high in fat are generally highest in calories. Fat provides nine calories per gram, while carbohydrates and protein provide only four calories per gram.

Eat slowly and chew your food well.

The mouth is the first level of digestion. Chewing your food thoroughly will improve your digestive process. Eating slower will give your body time to realize you've eaten enough so you. don't overeat.

Finally, the key to weight loss is regular exercise and a good eating plan. Remember, dieting alone does not work. Most people who go on diets which restrict calorie intake will gain the weight back as soon as they return to their normal eating pattern. To lose weight permanently, you must develop a plan to implement good eating habits. The best way to stick to a weightloss program is to prepare your food yourself and make out a

menu. You should know what you are going to eat each day; if you don't, more than likely you'll end up making a bad choice, like eating a burger and fries with a soda. Too many bad choices will probably cause you to become discouraged, and you may return to your old eating habits.

Here are some strategies for planning and preparing healthy menus:

- Look through cookbooks to select dishes. Select at least five meals for the week.
- Shop according to the recipes so you have every-

thing you need.

- · Prepare extra amounts of foods and eat the leftovers
- Get the family involved; let everyone select and help prepare different meals.
- · Finally, think before you eat; ask yourself if you are making the best possible choice.

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.

How to handle your money

Article 5: Financial Planning

As the season for high school and college graduations nears, many students will find themselves in need of skills in financial planning and management. money Regardless of how much money you make, it is important that you are able to get the most out of your financial resources.

There are certain fundamentals that are valuable guides for both beginner and experts when it comes to managing money. These are recommended by the Consumer Credit Counseling Service, a nonprofit organization that helps individuals improve their budgeting and financial management skills. Let's review four of their "Ten Commandments" financial planning.

Commandment #1:

writing. As the adage suggests, "If you don't know where you're going, any road will get you there." Likewise, if goals, you won't know if you ever achieve them.

Commandment #2: Understand the basics of money management. There are many books about what money and its proper management can do for you. Turn off the television and go to the library. Your local bookstores will likely have an exellent selection of resources or you may be able to identify advice. Don't keep payindividuals who have expertise in this area. Whichever means you choose, get a good understanding of how money managèment works.

Commandment #3:

Develop a budget and live by it. You don't have to wait until your first Establish your goals in million dollars to make time jobs can budget for in life. their needs and desires based, in part, on the

you don't know your money that they earn. College students and those away from home can also have budgets, although they may be somewhat more elaborate. They may include categories such as housing, food, transportation, utilities, clothing, personal care, insurance and savings.

Commandment #4:

Pay yourself first. This is the cornerstone of practically any financial ing all of your money to someone else — pay some of it to yourself! Establishing a routine savings plan can not only provide money for the "rainy" day but show the value, through increased savings, of a disciplined approach to money management.

All points considered, a budget. High school planning is the best path students who have part- to success - in money and

Presented by:



June

Career Planning



On Real Estate **Curtis Yates**

Below is an outline of the steps that a buyer would go through to obtain a 203K loan. As you can see, it is more involved than buying an intact home with a traditional mortgage. This should not discourage anyone, however, from buying a house this way, because the advantages of this type of loan can very easily outweigh the difficulties. But you need someone experienced with the 203K program to guide you through the process. Later in this column I'll explain more about a 203K

- 1. Homebuyer locates the property.
- 2. Sales contract is executed.
- 3. Preliminary feasibility analysis and work writeup. (This step includes determining the extent of the rehab work required, and a cost estimate for the work.)
- 4. Homebuyer selects mortgage lender and submits an application.
- 5. Application is processed when complete, a loan package is submitted to an underwriter for approval.
- 6. Appraiser performs the appraisal based on work writeup.
- 7. Lender reviews the application.
- 8. Lender issues approval.
- 9. Mortgage loan closing when all conditions are satisfied.
- 10. Rehabilitation construction begins.
- 11. Releases from rehabilitation escrow account.
- 12. Completion of work/final inspec-

Now, a 203k loan is an FHA 30/15-

The Steps in a 203K Loan

year permanent loan that enables the lender to include closing costs, rehabilitation costs and the purchase price of a property to determine the maximum loan amount. Also, the lender is able to use the appraised value after the property has been rehabilitated — as opposed to the home's current value --when establishing the loan amount. Any approved FHA lender could offer the program; however, lenders must go through a reevaluation to qualify. In Texas, there are several lenders offering

The qualifications requirements are the same as a typical FHA loan. The only additional item that the borrower needs is either enough cash reserved to pay for materials and labor until they are reimbursed through a draw, or a credit card with an adequate available balance. If there is to be a contractor involved, the contractor may choose to cover these costs.

The interest rate on a typical 203k loan is a little higher than a standard FHA or conventional 30/15-year fixedrate loan. The cash requirements are the same as an FHA loan, 4 percent to 6 percent, which is less than a typical conventional loan. There are a couple of additional fees which pertain to the construction aspects of the 203k loan..

There are restrictions on the type of repairs for which proceeds for the loan may be made. The restrictions are limited to luxury items and improvements that do not become part of the property. Some typical exclusions would include

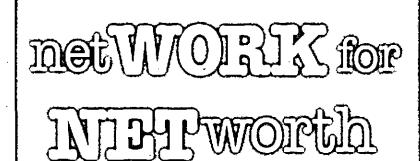
a barbecue pit; exterior hot tub, sauna, spa or whirlpool bath; new swimming pool; satellite dish; tennis court; gazebo or any alterations provided for commercial use.

Generally, the repairs should not begin until the loan is closed. Under certain circumstances you could start before then; however, repair costs would not be eligible for reimbursement if they were started prior to the completion of the appraisal.

Two appraisals are required for the loan; the first establishes an "as-is" value for the property, and a second determines what the value would be with the proposed repairs completed. The maximum loan amount is either the as-is value of the property plus rehabilitation costs or 110 percent of the expected market value of the property upon completion of the work.

If the appraisal comes in low, the seller can challenge it—and this happens often. If a property is well-exposed to the market, and both buyer and seller are making informed decisions, the selling price will be near or at the true market value of the property, which will be further established by the appraisal.

Curtis Yates is the owner/operator of REAL ESTATE STATUS QUO; 8111 LBJ Frwy, Sie. 787bb, Dallas, TX 75251-1333; Ph. 972-702-0151; Fax 972-934-2706; E-mail statusqu@flash.net; Promotion Web Site: http://www.flash.net/-statusqu/.



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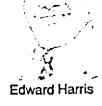
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You and God

Ron Shaw

T.A.G.

Romans 12:6

Most of you who have followed this column for any length of time know by now that my passion is helping others find their God-given gifts and also helping to develop them. I believe once we know what God has gifted us to do, then our success is predicated upon our development of those gifts. The Bible says that our gifts make room for us and bring us before kings. Many people spend their lives not realizing their gifts and end up frustrated because they lack satisfaction. You see, inner peace and satisfaction come from the knowledge, use and development of what God put inside us. It doesn't come from what others give us but what we give this world. It's my goal to personally help at least half a million people find their gifts.

The other day, a parent talked to me concerning their child. Apparently the child wasn't doing satisfactory work. I asked the parent to identify at least one area where the child seemed to excel or at least do better than in other areas. As we shared some things, I let it slip how I feel about these so-called Talented And Gifted (T.A.G.) schools. When I was in school. they called children who had different learning styles "slow" and sentenced them to special education. Think about it! If one or two schools are just for the talented and gifted, then what are the other schools for? The very thought suggests something that I think we all would rather not think about. To suggest that a child is not gifted or has no talent is harmful to both the child and society. A child who thinks he or she has nothing substantial to offer society becomes violently hopeless. The truth of the matter is that I've talked to kids who dealt drugs who were better at business than some business people. I believe the problem doesn't lie with the learner, but with the instructor. I don't mean to suggest that teachers are dumb - just unprepared to deal with those who have different learning styles.

As Christians, it is unscriptural to suggest that not everyone is gifted. Our text says that God has gifted all of us. We are not all gifted in the same areas, but we are all gifted. My children have knowledge of their gifts before they go to college. That way they don't have to waste time and resources in areas that don't help them develop their strengths. It doesn't matter what age you are, the

Bible says you are gifted. Others may have told you you were slow or without talent or not one of the gifted ones. It's not true. God says He didn't make a Christian without gifts. I have been told Lincoln doesn't make its Town Car model without certain options. Well, God doesn't make Christians without certain things, and gifts is one of them. One other fact that may surprise you is that God doesn't take back His gifts. As I was growing up, it was suggested that either you use your gifts or you lose them. That's another untruth. God's Word says He doesn't revoke our gifts. We will all stand in judgment for what we did with them, whether we used them or not... Before I leave this planet, it is my plan to help thousands discover and develop in the area of their gifting. Our gifts were given to us by God for our provision. Your gift(s) should be providing for you. You should be making a living and being a blessing to others by using your Godgiven gifts. Romans 12:6 says, "God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well...."

One of the greatest joys of my life was to help a grandmother go into the clothing business. She had the desire to make special clothes for children. No one had encouraged her or helped her discover the gift she had for making special clothes for kids. She did it and made

money at it. I tell you if you identify the gifts He has given you, and not be envious of the gifts of others, you, too, can experience the joy and satisfaction that comes from doing what God created you to do—and get paid for it too!

MON

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

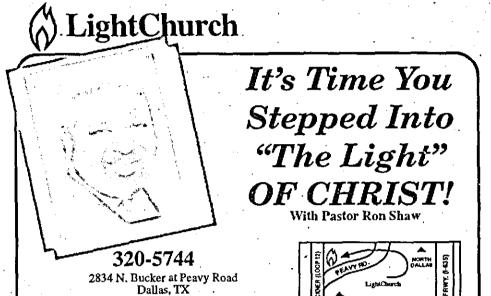
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<u>Career</u> <u>Opportunity</u> Kathleen Goolsby

Point yourself in the right direction

Are you one of those people who usually does the opposite of what the evidence suggests would be the wisest course of action? Or are you indecisive—essentially letting the chips fall where they may—afraid of not making the right decision?

It is a law of nature that actions have consequences; unfortunately, we sometimes make decisions that result in bad consequences. Certainly we often learn by our mistakes, but the process can be painful or expensive. In today's business world, full of entrepreneurs and speeding through cyberspace, the ability to make right decisions is a valuable skill.

The first step is to learn to view all potential outcomes of your decision as being neither right nor wrong (unless it is a moral or religious issue), better nor worse - but simply as different from another outcome. This will free you from fear of making a "wrong" decision. Get the big picture perspective. It goes something like this: if I decide to do "A," these are the more likely consequences . . . If I decide to do "B," the likely consequences are Neither "A" nor "B" is right nor wrong; they both have advantages and disadvantages; they are simply different from each other in the outcome. In the end, neither choice offers any guarantees as to the outcome. It is a matter of weighing which consequences you prefer.

In weighing the consequences, try to rely on past experience, rather than moods and emotions. Be sure to get input from others who will be affected by your decision. Avoid generalizing; if the decision involves money or other resources, be specific about the amount or items. If it puts you in discomfort for a period of time, or will be unpopular with others until they "see the light", be specific about the "price" you will have to pay for your decision and evaluate your willingness to pay it. Can you prove something is true, or false? Look at the events that led up to the situation causing the need for a decision to be made to see if something else could have been done. Remember also that, almost without fail, if something looks too good to be true, you probably haven't looked far or deep enough.

Making up your mind is something that only be done by you — doing so in a self-disciplined manner is one of the habits of highly successful people.

Recycle African

American Dollars

Only five percent of African Americans' income goes back into the Black community. With the spending capacity of African Americans approaching the \$450 billion mark, recycling those dollars and reinvesting them in Black businesses, educational institutions, college funds and social programs could make a tremendous impact on our inner cities and economy.

Beginning June 19, 1998, the National African American Community Network (NAACN) will provide a toll-free number to African American consumers throughout the United States to enable them to trade with African American businesses. If you want to purchase a particular item, such as a computer or refrigerator, for example; or if you would like information as to which doctors, lawyers, plumbers, etc. are African American, you will be able to call the 800 number and check the NAACN data base for African American businesses and organizations in your area.

If you are an African American businessperson, you are urged to participate

Business Name:

Business Address:

Type of Business:

E-Mail Address:

Contact Person:

Phone No.:

Fax No.:

I have included a company profile which will provide you with information as to the products and/or services offered by my company.

Please add my business/organization listing to your data base and publish my

Please research the availability of advertising funds for my business.

I am not a Black business owner but provide a commissionable service.

in this program by submitting your business listing to be included in the data base. Simply complete the form above and mail it to:

listing in the local Black newspaper.

The National African American Community Network 675 No. Nellis, Box 1901 Las Vegas, Nevada 89110

or call the NAACN at 702-641-6800 with information for inclusion in the data

base. YOU MUST SUBMIT THE INFOR-MATION BY NO LATER THAN MAY 15, 1998. There is no fee to participate in the data base listing, but donations are welcome, if you are so inclined. Submitting your business listing also qualifies you to be eligible to win prizes (television and radio advertising spots during July) in a drawing.

Watch for further information on the 800 line and the Recycle the African American Dollar project in upcoming issues of Minority Opportunity News.

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CEDAR HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Currently the Cedar Hill Independent School District is accepting applications for professional teaching positions for the 1998-99 school year. If you are degreed, possess teacher certification and/or have satisfied educational requirements for taking the Excet Test, CHISD would like to talk to you. We are looking for teachers in all certification areas. CHISD is located in scenic Southwest Dallas County and offers a full range of acclaimed and innovative academic student programs. If a small city environment along with strong parent and community involvement appeals to you, CHISD is the place for you. Our salary and benefit structure is competitive and offers excellent opportunities for growth.

Minority applicants are especially encouraged to apply.

Write or Call the Personnel Office Cedar Hill ISD 270 S. Hwy. 67 Cedar Hill, Texas 75104 (972) 297-1581 or call Ken Ervin at (972) 291-1581, Ext. 247

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Julius Graw, News Director, Texas State Networks 1080 Balipark Way Artington, TX 76011 (FAX) 871-543-5570 No phone calls please

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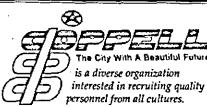
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VICE PRESIDENT For Development • Refer to Job #98-791AB

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ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

For Payroll • Refer to Job #98-1013AB

Position will be responsible for day-to-day operations of the payroll office and for implementation and administration of policies and procedures to ensure compliance with all applicable federal and state laws, regulations and University guidelines regarding payroll, benefits and records management

Oualified candidates will have a Bachelor's degree and 6-8 years of experience in managing a payroll office or a payroll system that includes multiple pay-rolls and a large payroll office (4500+) operation; accounting is desirable An MBA or CPA may be substituted for 1 year of experience.

Please forward your resume to: Annette Brannan. Employment Division, UT SOUTHWESTERN, 5323 Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas, TX 75235-9023, 214/648-9850 or fax resumes to 214/648-9874.

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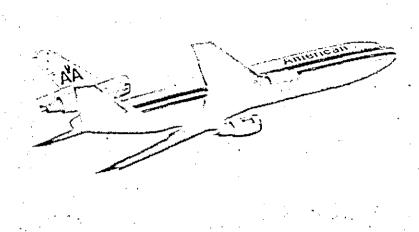
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