Minority Opportunity News



2730 STEMMONS FRWY. STE. 1202 TOWER WEST, DALLAS, TEXAS 75207 VOLUME 7, NO. 6 June 1998



Single Men ... with children

More and more fathers are getting custody following a divorce. MON shows you how three fathers fared.

Ethnic Notes Remembers Nikki Giovanni

How To Stalk
The Stock
Market

Talking
With
Lee Alcorn



From The Editor **Chris Pryer**

In honor of Fathers

Though much-maligned for their lack of performance in the family unit, and pretty much categorized as secondclass parents — Father's Day doesn't nearly get the hoopla and respect Mother's Day does, and is much less a retailer's delight — there exist a cadre of men out there who are committed to the task of child rearing. And African American men, traditionally portrayed and viewed as poster men for parental irresponsibility, are well represented in this group.

As members of today's society, we are becoming more and more accustomed to seeing the fatherless family. Unfortunately, within the African American community, the percentage of families that fit this description is much too high. Dare I say that many people would even consider the "typical Black family" to be one in which the father does not reside with his offspring and his relationship with him/her/them is intermittent, if there is any at all. (The "whys" of this social phenomenon is a vexing and complicated issue.)

This month, we look at three men who not only stand tall as loving, involved and proactive fathers, but are, or have been, single the custodial parent after an unfortunate break up of the family unit. (One of the three is no longer a single parent, having remarried.) At a time when the African American male's track record as a father continues to take a PR hit in the media, it is with pleasure that MON has the opportunity to give such a positive and enlightening depiction of African American fatherhood.

We hope these accounts of how three men dealt with sudden single parenthood will encourage and uplift all of our readers: from Evans Risher's love and allegiance to a child that is not biologically his own to Odis Ray's determination to learn what it takes to raise a teenage daughter alone to the Rev. Terry Gafford, who admits that he was almost "clueless" about raising children but was not about to relinquish custody of his

As we approach Father's Day, let us not brood over all of the bad examples of Black fatherhood; rather, we should celebrate the men, both single and married, who have demonstrated all the qualities of manhood and fatherhood that will hopefully stem the tide of broken families and bring on a new era of the strong Black family.

Bditorial

Purchasing power is in our handswe must use it wisely

told that race relations in America have improved ... that as a nation, the proverbial melting pot has finally done its job . . . thirty years of civil rights laws and affirmative action programs together have finally made us into what the Constitution promised, "... one nation, indivisible, with freedom and justice for all."

Unfortunately, there are some among us who swallow this pabulum, believing that the rightacting, correct-thinking folks among us are better off today than they ever were. They are convinced they did the right thing in the right wayand those very choices made all the difference between them "ussins."

However, there are events that rudely reveal that our struggle as a people is anything but over. Such Black folks, Latinos were singled occurrences are painful reminders that no matter where you work or itatively." live, there are others who see us as

one major problem to avoid.

One of the most recent and rude examples involves an advertising giant's attitudes about minorities. A memo, intended as an internal communiqué, got past the office doors and over to national news wire services. Amcasts, a division of the Katz Radio Group, gave its salespeople a kind of advertising guide. The sales staffs were told to persuade advertisers not to spend their precious dollars with ethnic radio stations. At the same time, advertisers were to be advertising to Blacks and other minorities.

In their view, more money on vote," we should equally support

As people of color, we are often ethnic stations would mean fewer dollars to reach the more important white population. Urban radio listeners were stereotyped as more likely to be "suspects" rather than "prospects." In other words, minorities were presented as the least likely to purchase goods and services and the most likely to rob a merchant. And lest we think Katz was only concerned about

"one dollar, one difference." Our money should be spent with those who measurably, visibly, and consistently seek our support.

And until we become a betterinformed consumer group, the aforementioned offensive attitudes will continue to lock us out of America's real opportunities. As a people, our conscience should tell us to support those who sup-

Whether we are Black or Brown, we can choose to listen to radio stations that play the music we want to hear. And not just the music. We also should hear and understand which businesses are saying they want our patronage.

As we attune ourselves to listen in a different way, we need to listen for what we do not hear. Do we hear commercials for the busi-

nesses that benefit from our consumer dollars? Our charge cards, our favorite malls and department stores, our banks - do they value our patronage enough to support the stations and newspapers dedicated to our own community? Or are they taking the advice of Amcast and Kazt, believing they can get our consumer dollar with-

out any effort? As individuals and as a people, it is not right; it is not fair to keep helping people who do not help our community. Our dollar does make a difference when we understand and remember the power we have in our hands. We must respect ourselves - and our

out as being "extremely poor qual-

For this advertising giant, the bottom line was that there was no need to advertise to Blacks and Browns. The hundreds of millions, the billions of dollars dedicated to advertising could reach all of us by some other medium.

Apparently, Amcasts and Katz have discounted our consumer purchasing power in much the same way that some political candidates treat our votes. Once again, the thinking is our dollars, just like our votes, are there for the taking - not the asking.

Until we become a betterreminded of the grievous error of informed consumer group, these offensive attitudes will continue. Just as we believe in "one man, one

purchasing power.

MON

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LETTERS.

Brashear provides capable leadership

Has anyone noticed that since December 1997, there has been no picketing or shouting matches between African American and Hispanic protesters at the Dallas School Board meetings; or that the parking lot of the Dallas Public Schools administration building is not causing a traffic jam with television remote trucks while reporters chase their lead stories for the evening news?

That type of action is a thing of the past, thanks to the focused and capable leadership of DISD Board of Trustees President Mr. Hollis Brashear.

I would be remiss not to say that this much-improved picture is solely because of Mr. Brashear's leadership, but certainly his respectful demeanor, outstanding character and commitment to educating all children, has made a significant impact on the refocusing of the board of education.

Mr. Brashear's leadership has proven that the Dallas schools board of trustees can, and are, willing to work together for the good of educating the children of Dallas. Board members are working together with the superintendent to restore trust, credibility and financial integrity to the district.

The district's highest priorityregaining trust-is what Mr. Brashear represents. Following a year of finger pointing and blame gaming, Mr. Brashear deserves the opportunity to continue building a team of community, business and staff who believe that the Dallas Public Schools can become a premiere and model public school sys-

The Dallas community should thank Mr. Brashear for getting this train on the proper track. We are now on our way to educating all children.

> Victor Smith Dallas

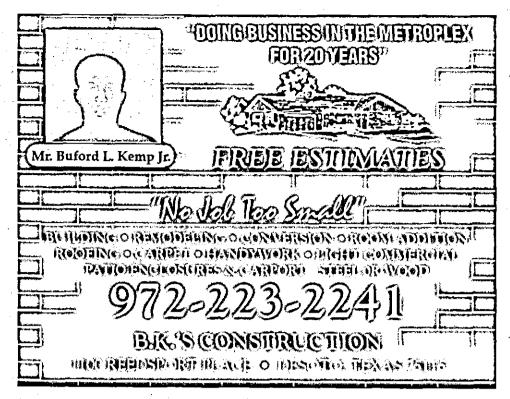
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Guest Viewpoint

Steven Jones

Volunteering to help our youth

Many people say that they are too busy to volunteer. Most people don't understand that you don't need to have a set program to volunteer. You can do it in your spare time, whenever the opportunity presents itself.

I am encouraging those who don't volunteer to do at least one hour each month. Encourage young people to put

Most people don't understand that you don't need to have a set program to volunteer. You can do it in your spare time, whenever the opportunity presents itself.

God first in their lives; have love, respect and self-discipline toward themselves and other people; to say no to the negative influences of life.

Our young people are worth saving. We must save them. More people volunteering will make a difference in the lives of troubled young people. Drug and violence are problems with all nationalities. We must not be in denial. We must care about our own children and those who are not our own. We must pray for the children of the world today. We must work together to solve the problems of

the world today by being a positive example of a human being and reaching out to help someone say "no."

God does not come down to earth in person, but He puts people in place to help those who are in need. Make a donation of your choice. Donate your time, money or good advice to help young people say no to the negative influences of life. Make volunteering to help young people part of your life.

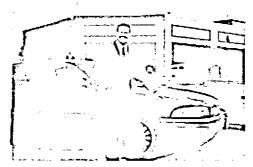
There is great fulfillment in volunteering to help young people. Volunteering doesn't help just those in need, it helps you to be a better person.

MON

Steven Jones is a motivational speaker and founder of Drug Talk, an organization dedicated to the renewal and commitment of individual responsibility and reason by helping youth put God first and saying "no" to drugs, gang violence, alcohol and disobedience.

Richard O. Davis named "Auto Dealer of Year"

Black Enterprise magazine recently named Richard O. Davis as its 1998 "Auto Dealer of the Year." One of the largest Buick dealerships in the state, Davis Buick-



Hyundai-GMC tripled its revenues and successfully reversed a downward trend in sales.

Davis bought Carl Sewell Buick-Hyundai-GMC, located at I-20 and Wheatland Rd. in southwest Dallas in 1996 for \$6 million. After a major renovation and expansion of the facility, it grew to become the fifth highest dealership nationally in sales of GMC Yukon.

Davis, a graduate of Central Michigan University, began his career as a Buick dealer in 1986 in Battle Creek, Michigan. In 1993, he moved operations to Bloomington, Indiana, where he still runs an Oldsmobile dealership.



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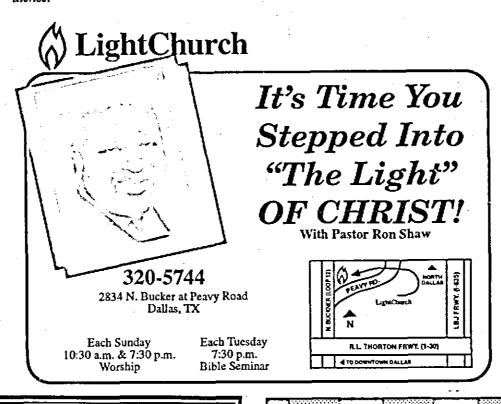
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7-



Community Pulse Thomas Muhammad

Recently, The Dallas Morning News ran a viewpoints article written by Trammel Crow's business bus boy Don Williams. In it, Williams highlighted individuals and organizations in the southern Dallas community to whom he was grateful. The huge viewpoints column came as Williams was about to receive the city's coveted Linz Award, an award many community leaders believe Williams

bought.
However, his
buying the
award is not
the subject
for this column, but his
sly, slick and
wicked character is.

Williams is not the first "white liberal racist" to come into the African

American community seeking to pull the wool over our eyes. We've witnessed the same BS with the likes of Sandy Kress, Stanley Marcus, Paul Fielding, and many others too numerous to mention in this short column, but I'm sure you get my point. Now back to slick Willy.

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

Muhammad's commentary are not necessarily

those of the Minority Opportunity News.)

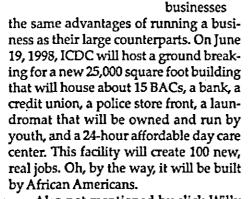
The viewpoints column was the entire text that Williams delivered after excepting the Linz Award. He listed several individuals and organizations that he claims to have worked with in their participation to lead and serve their communities. First of all, of the many people Williams singled out for praise, only one of them lived in South Dallas/Fair Park. But besides that, Don Williams has never pulled one branch to a trash barrel, mowed one lawn, planted one tree, nor painted or built one house in the whole time he has been carpetbagging in South Dallas/Fair Park period! And for him to claim that he's done some work simply because he gave a few financial crumbs to these folks is a damn insult.

But it wasn't the people or groups that Williams mentioned that pissed me off. Rather, it was the people/groups that he didn't mention that did. For instance, he failed to mention former Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Diane Ragsdale or the Innercity Community Development Corporation (ICDC). Founded by Ms. Ragsdale in 1986, ICDC has been the South Dallas/Fair Park community leader in creating and shaping policy for the community in housing (they've built/rehabbed houses for nearly 70 fam-

We must fight against all Carpetbaggers, Black and White

ilies). In economic development, ICDC purchased and rehabbed the Grand Plaza Shopping center. The center has operated in the black since it's purchase. ICDC filed the first Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) suit in 1989. CRA is the law banks are governed by that forces banks to lend in redlined communities. As a result of that lawsuit, NationsBank and Bank One came to the South Dallas/Fair Park community.

ICDC led the way in creating the South Dallas Fair Park Trust Fund. ICDC lead the way in creating the Business Assistance Center (BAC) concept. BACs were set up to give small



Also not mentioned by slick Willy was Mrs Kathlyn Gilliam. Mrs. Gilliam, co-chair of Clean South Dallas/Fair Park Inc., has managed to keep the community clean for nearly 12 years. Clean South Dallas was formed after Mrs. Gilliam and other African Americans realized that the "liberal white folks" were using them to get funding and recognition for Clean Dallas Inc. And obviously they were right, because to this day, only Clean South Dallas exists. Mrs. Gilliam and thousands of volunteers have not only kept the community aware of being clean, they have also rehabbed and restored three beautiful historical homes including the one that is used as the Clean South Dallas office. And just think all of this without the help of slick Willy and his purse strings.

Then there's Jackie Mixon, former president and founder of the Ideal Neighborhood Association. Mrs. Mixon led her organization in fighting drugs, abandoned houses/lots, the over saturation of liquor-related stores and community

apathy. She stepped down as the Ideal president to form the T.R. Hoover Community Development Corporation. T. R. Hoover was created to address the need for and the construction of affordable homes in the Ideal area. However, slick Willy, just like The Dallas Morning News sought to give this organization's hard-earned credit to the Rev. Gerald Britt, "the Black carpetbagger" of New Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church.

You heard me right! Gerald Britt has done nothing but allowed himself to be trotted out in front of the TV cameras on behalf of liberal white racists whose sole purpose is to take on "soft, safe issues" and pretend that they have an organiza-

tion. The challenge for Britt is to stop fronting for these liberals and to start respecting the South Dallas community leaders in that area. If he does not, then he will be treated just like "the real" South Dallas community leaders are about to publicly treat slick Don Williams. And that is to . . . (smile).

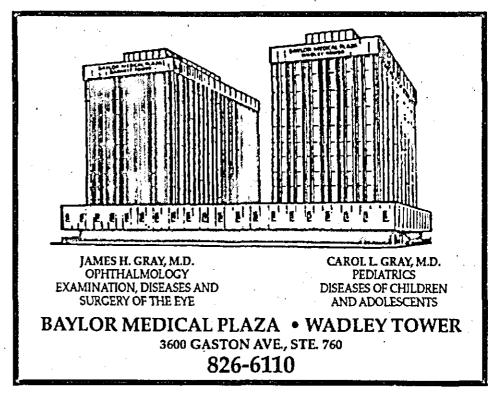
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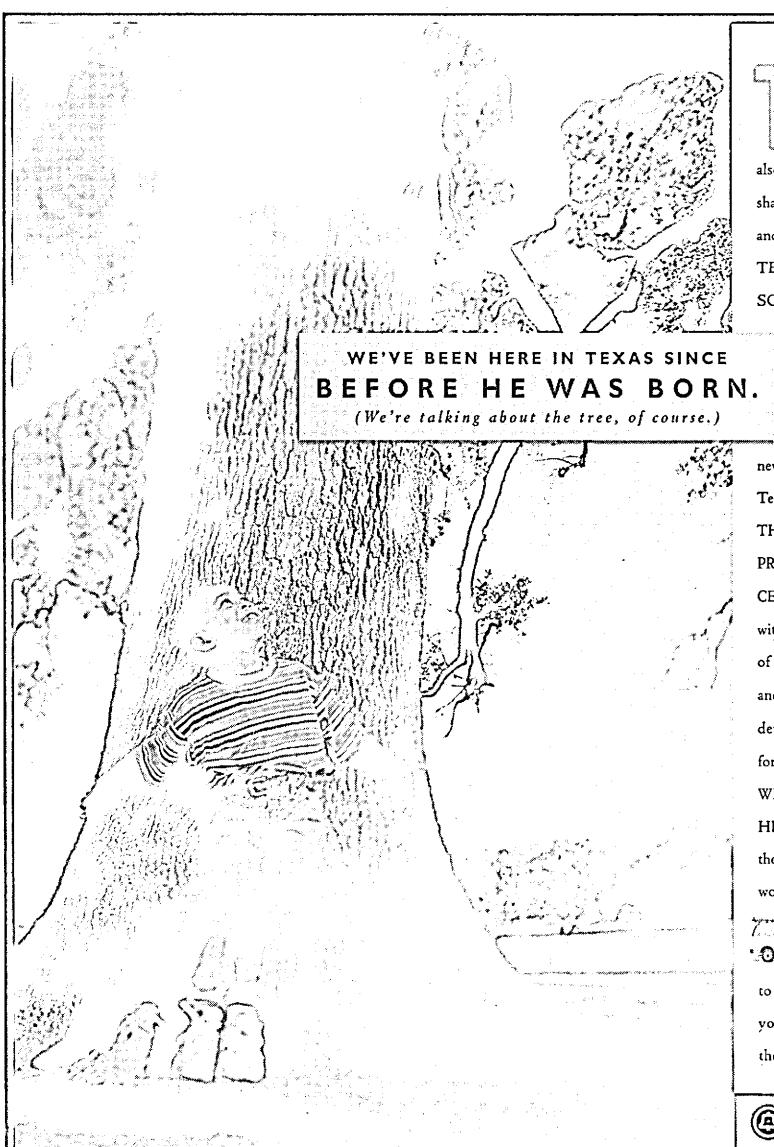
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Pen On Fire
Cheryl Smith

Benefitting from minority procurement

Recently, after referring to the quality of work produced by African American marketing/PR agencies with contracts to do work for major firms, I received a bevy of calls. Some came from entrepreneurs who were grateful that someone was speaking out about the substandard work of some businessmen/women.

"It's about time somebody said something about these people who do a shoddy job and make it bad for the rest of us," said one agency owner. "We want people to support Black business and then we do a bad job, but want to call a protest if they don't use us."

Other calls came

from business owners who thought that I may have been referring to them and they wanted to know what I knew and where I got my information. Surely there were other calls that worried contractors could have made. Instead of coming after the messenger, they could have called their staffs together and spent the day critiquing their product.

During the African American Retreat, held last month at Paul Quinn College, attendees were asked to make a

that the corporations must have someone in that slot so they do as little as possible because much is not expected. In fact, oftentimes, the money is very "easy." Too easy!

commitment to bettering our communities. While there were a number of issues raised, it was pointed out that if individuals made personal commitments in their daily lives, the impact could be felt throughout the entire community. One of the commitments I made during the retreat was to use my pen to further strengthen our community by calling attention to fallacies and incompetencies while also celebrating the great works produced by our people as we encourage folks to support Black businesses.

In larger corporations, oftentimes one or more contractors will be hired to handle certain "segments" of the community. These contractors (minority PR firms) are charged with helping the corporation build a relationship with a specific ethnic, age or gender group. The contractors advise the corporate executives on how to deal with problem areas and disgruntled "community leaders." They tell them where to spend the few dollars that are allotted for a select group and they try to get the biggest bang, in

terms of publicity, for their client's dollars.

As long as there are no uprisings, most corporations are happy. They feel that a quiet front is worth the money they pay these contractors, even though deep in their hearts, they realize they are receiving substandard work.

If anyone decides to launch an

organized protest against one of these corporations to bring attention to any perceived racial injustices, the first thing these corporations will do is trot out their "ace in the hole." By having this ace, the corporation is showing a good faith effort. Clearly, they are committed to whatever "community" raises a fuss. After all, they are paying someone whose sole responsibility is to address "your needs."

And we want to see those aces. But, it is important that those aces perform exemplary work. Many do. And they should be recognized and applauded.

But there are also those who realize that the corporations must have someone in that slot so they do as little as possible because much is not expected. In fact, oftentimes the money is very "easy." Too easy!

Then, too, there's nothing wrong with making easy money. But you must do good work and you must not attempt to sell out those you are paid to help.

And maybe that is where the problem really lies, because sometimes the work is sub-standard and there are those who will "sell-out" or do anything for a buck.

MON

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

PEN NOTES:

The next DFW/ABC meeting will be hold on Tuesday, June 2 at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram at 6:30 p.m. Hope to see you there!!!! Congratulations to George Corry, editor in chief of Emerge magazine. George was recently elected vice president of the American Society of Magazine Editors (ASME), That means in the year 2000, he will become the first African Amerkan president of the organization! Congratulations to Minority Opportunity News columnist Thomas Muhammad. He and Debora Ibetayo of Africa Care Academy were married on Saturday, May 2111 Congratulations to expectant mother Rene" Syler. She recently received the Association of Women in Radio and Television's (AWRT) Television Personality of the Year. The veteran anchor is expecting her second child in June ... Congratulations also to Paula McQure (Ch. B's Good Morning Texas) and Hugh Robinson on their pending marriage ... The Suburban Tribune has a new owner: Jim Wash-Ington, publisher of The (Dallas) Weekly, Calvin Carter, formerly of The Dallas Morning News, Dallas Examiner and The (Dallas) Weekly, is the managing editor of the publication. Calvin is looking for writers. The publication will serve southeast Dallas County. For more information, call 972-286-4000 or fax your resume to 972-286-8862 ... The DFW/ABC Urban Journalism Workshop graduation was held on April 26 and Myla Rogers, a junior at Paul Quinn College, was awarded top honors. She received \$500 and a voice-activated audio recorder. Other recipients recognized were: Amber Coleman. Townyiew: Angela Loston, (Garland) Lakeview Centennial High; Ryan Overall, South Grand Prairie High; DeHell Russell, UNT; Beletra Thomas, UTA; Jamie Webb, Townview; and Rodney Thrash, Townview. These students join the more than 100 recipients over the past nine years. Over \$30,000 in scholarships have been awarded to participants in the program during that time. Lawrence Young, managing editor of The Arlington Morning News, was the speaker this year. Guests included State Senator Royce West, Norma Adams-Wade, WFAA's Angela Davis and Evans Risher, Minority Opportunity News' Thomas Muhammad, KERA's Dorothy Gentry, Arlington Star-Telegram's Toya Stewart, Dallas Marning Kews' Matthew Pinkney, Arlington Marning Kows' Valerie Fields, Felicia Stills and April Washington, KRNB's Eva Gray, Weaselwork's Pat Clark Webb and Event Logistics'

Rose Gafford. The food was donated by Two Podners Barbecue, and guests praised the cake by BB's Cakeshop and Diner. A special thanks to those DFW/ABC members who donated their funds to insure the success of the graduation ceremony. The program is sponsored by The Dallas Morning News, Krager Foods and The Dallas Examiner... We'll have

copies of the paper at the meeting and the scholarship banquet Please extend condolences to Mr. and Mrs. Don Emmons on their recent loss. Don works at the Star-Telegram ... Councilmon Al Lipscomb. Cousin Linnie and Crazy Ray have all joined the long list of folks participating in the "Don't Believe the Hype" Celebrity Bowl-o-thon." The event will be held on Saturday, June 27, at Don Carter's West. Call (972) 263-9911 to register your tearn. There will be a VIP Reception featuring Dick Gregory and the after-party is a Motown/Charyl Smith/Ron Kirk Birthday Bashill Kudos to The Dallas Examiner and AT&T for a wonderful program, Future Speak. Eight area students are participating in the live week program, producing four newspapers. This is an ideal program for assiring journalists and the eight participants are really dynamic: Myla Rogers, of Paul Quinn College, Amber Coleman, Chris Varuchese, Jamie Webb and Rodney Throsh of Townview, Ka'Kea Artis of Texas Christian Academy, Ashley Clark of Skyline and Janeane Anderson of Grand Prairie High. Joe Shelby, the master designer at The Dallas Examiner, assisted the students and a beautiful work area has been designed for them . . . Tickets are on sale for the DFW/ABC Scholarship Banquet. The event will be held on Saturday, June 13, at the Adoms Mark Hotel and tickets are \$40. Call 214-376-9525. Former DFW/ABC President Rochelle Riley will be featured at the reception, where she will sign copies of her book, hot off the presses. The speaker for the banquet is noted journalist Barbara Reynolds ... Kightline's Michelle McQueen will be in town to give the keynote address of an event sponsored by attorneys serving the community. Tickets are \$55 and can be purchased by calling 214-954-8015 ... KTVT-TV's Positively Texas! has said adias to the live studio audience . . . Welcome to Dollast to WFAA weatherman Greg Fields and his wife (and my sorar) Robble Owens Fields. Robbie is a journalist also, Hopefully, one of the big four (Fox, WFAA, NBC 5 or KTVT) will pick her up!!! Walcome to Gary Carter, a new editor at WFAA-TY.

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Getting a fair slice of the pie

Dallas NAACP President Lee Alcorn is a champion for procuring civil, and "silver," rights

By Cheryl L. Williams

It's common to "shoot the messenger" simply because the message, no matter how truthful, is unpopular. Two-term Dallas NAACP President Lee Alcorn (along with most other civil rights leaders) can attest to that phenomenon.

Alcorn has come under fire, by both Whites and Blacks, for his confrontational style of leading the Dallas-based civil rights organization. Last year, he served a 45-day suspension imposed by the national NAACP office after several members of the Dallas branch complained that he staged unauthorized protests.

But however uncomfortable and unconventional, his leadership style yields results. Involved with the NAACP and the civil rights movement for 20 years, (he founded the Grand Prairie NAACP), Alcorn's supporters say he has "produced a new level of commitment to change and increased the visibility of the NAACP." During his tenure as president, he led the Dallas Public Schools fight to improve education for African American children and include elected officials in the decision-making process; partnered with the Dallas Urban League to help produce the largest voter turnout in the African American community in the history of the city; and helped lead the fight with the Dallas Cowboy organization for a Minority Inclusion Agreement that resulted in 15 percent of contracts going to African Americans.

Most recently, Alcorn and the Dallas NAACP were successful in getting the owners of the Dallas Mavericks and Dallas Stars to sign a "Fair Share Agreement" that will give ethnic minorities an opportunity to receive a 25 percent share of contracts generated by the new Arena construction. And while eliminating disparity and discrimination in all forms remains the mission of all NAACP branches, Alcorn insists there is a need to focus more on attaining economic parity for African Americans, saying that civil rights is meaningless without "silver" rights.

Economic parity will be the focus of the NAACP's 27th Annual Freedom Fund Banquet, on June 13 at the Dallas Grand Hotel. The organization's major fund-raising activity will feature Dr. Claud Anderson, author of Black Labor, White Wealth, as keynote speak-

Lee Alcorn spoke candidly with MON about the direction he believes the NAACP should head. The following is an excerpt from that interview.

Has the purpose of the NAACP changed since its inception?

Broadly, the NAACP was founded to deal with discrimination in all aspects.

That's essentially what we do today whether it's in housing, police brutality, schools or anywhere there is disparity based on race. The only change may be a new emphasis on trying to address economic deprivation. A lot of NAACP people feel that this should be inclusive of the NAACP mission. I don't think even today we can have civil rights without having



"silver" rights. We have to deal with the economic deprivation. If we don't do that, then civil rights is meaningless.

What issues will the Dallas NAACP focus on as you move into the 21st century?

Locally, we're dealing a lot more with the economic deprivation arm of the organization. I want to provide a means for us to get more economic parity on the kinds of things that are happening in the community. With the Arena deal, we made sure that we had what we call the "Fair Share Agreement" so we could economically benefit from major projects. The same thing was signed with [Dallas'] Trinity River project to make sure that African Americans benefited from theses major projects.

With the Arena deal, it was the first time to my knowledge that an African American organization had a written agreement dealing with economic parity. We were able to get both parties' (the owners of the Mavericks and the Stars) signatures on an agreement that would provide the kind of economic parity that we are looking for.

What is the Fair Share Agreement?

The Fair Share Agreement is an NAACP program that was founded 20 years ago and we just started giving a lot of emphasis to it. The Fair Share Agreement we dealt with [in Dallas] had to do with the fact that we asked for (and got) an African American to serve on the

Arena Coalition board, a minority affairs officer whose responsibility would be to seek out African Americans and Hispanics to come into this program and do business around the Arena deal. The other aspect was competitive bidding and partitioning of the bid so not only would you have competitive bidding, you would partition it so that small subcontractors could get contracts that they otherwise would not be able to get. I think the most important aspect of it was that we have 25 percent ethnic minority participation, not inclusive of white women.

How does the NAACP decide which local issues to support particularly when there are so many?

[We consider] how our community and people will benefit the most. That's why we were so involved with the Dallas Independent School District because I don't think anything is more important than the education of our children. We have a desegregation order that's in place that needs to be adhered to. Forty percent of the students in Dallas Independent School District are African American. We know that our kids are not getting necessarily a good education. When you look at all the educational indicators, we see that our children are on the bottom segment. These are the kinds of things that we look at.

Economic boycotts (like the 1955 Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott) have been the most effective in getting change. Do you think African Americans today can effectively use this strategy to bring about change?

I don't think so because times were quite different during the Montgomery boycott. African Americans weren't as mobile. They weren't making as much money. Now we have so-called middle

class Black people who are living better than they have ever lived before and feel there is no need for the NAACP; there is no need for protests and demonstrations or anything and they don't want to be inconvenienced. I recall when we were trying to deal with the Texaco issue. We were asking people not to buy Texaco gas and we almost literally got run over by Black people trying to get to Texaco



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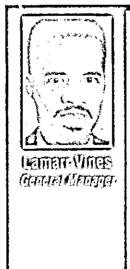
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pumps. They just didn't understand what we were trying to do. But that is something that Black people somehow are going to have to understand, the real leverage that we have economically and the fact that we don't get anything for it. What we're trying to do, not only locally but nationally, is to gain what we consider to be economic reciprocity. For instance, if we buy Dr Pepper soda, then Dr Pepper has an obligation to Black people. The Black community is saying, 'if we're buying your drinks, then you should provide employment opportunity, promotional opportunity, entrepreneurial opportunity and philanthropic contributions to go along with this.' We have to get something back from these corporations we spend our money with. This is a difficult task to get African Americans to focus as a people to the extent we can use the leverage that we have politically, economically or otherwise.

Is there a solution to this problem?

I continue to be optimistic because we have to be. But it's frustrating trying to do what we have to do because Black people don't seem to get interested in anything until it affects them personally. Some people call it the "middle passage" syndrome. When Blacks were stacked in. ships and put in small spaces being brought to America, things were so desperate and conditions were so bad until

they could only be concerned about themselves. The same thing is almost true today where Black people are not concerned about what happens to someone who looks like them to the extent that they will get together as a group to say what can we do about this? How can we have some impact on this issue?' I see it happening, for instance, all the time in corporations where there is racial discrimination. You have supervisors and managers treating Black people much like they did 40-50 years ago. But Blacks won't say anything about it as a people. They will let each Black get picked off one by one until they're all gone. The only time they come to the NAACP is when it happens to them, but they don't say anything while it is happening to their coworker. Somehow we've got to cultivate a sense of togetherness, a sense of pride like other

What was so unique about Martin Luther King, Jr. that when anyone talks about a great civil rights leader, we look 30 years in the past to find one?

What he had was an unselfish need to serve the people. He was a servant of the people and we don't have servants anymore. You have to be unselfish. You have to have leaders who have unconditional love for their people even in the face of the frustration that I've talked about already. Martin Luther King, Jr. wasn't trying to do anything but represent the people, and we don't have leaders like that now. Most of the leaders of today are trying to benefit themselves personally.

Your last NAACP presidential opponents, Ernest Walker and Victor Smith, wanted to make the NAACP more inclusive of other minorities. Even newly elected national chairman, Julian Bond talked about reaching out to other ethnic minorities and whites. What do you see happening in Dallas in terms of reaching out to other minorities or whites for membership?

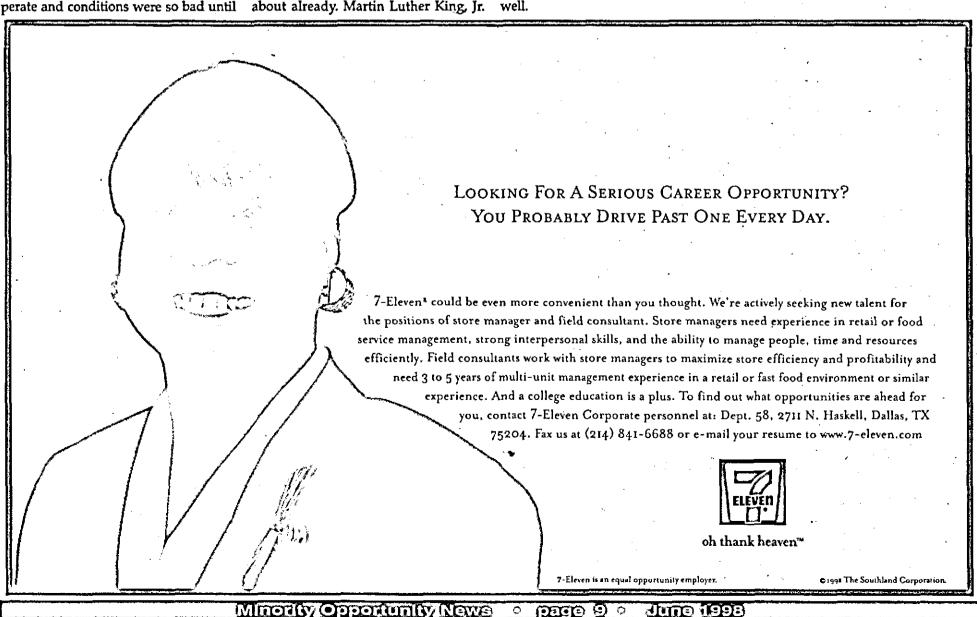
That is not a priority of mine. I think that we have to be selfish as a people and take care of our own needs first. My priority is not to involve Hispanics, whites and others to the extent that we detract from what we are trying to do to address our specific needs as African Americans. My first priority is toward African American concerns. If Hispanics or whites or others want to help me do this then that's fine, but I'm not going to have them leading the organization or have all my efforts spent trying to attract Hispanics or whites or Asians or others. I don't see Hispanics trying to get Blacks into LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens). They're very selfish about their interests and I think we have to be very selfish as

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How can the national leadership provide sufficient guidance to the local chapters?

Unless you are really involved in the NAACP, it would be difficult to try to explain it. What has happened with the NAACP on a national level is a disconnection between the rank and file (the branches) and the national organization. That is, those people who are involved more, the 64-member board, the president and CEO (Kweisi Mfume) and the chairman of the board (Julian Bond), have very little connection with the branches other than the fact that the branches are really the lifeblood of the organization. If it were not for the branches, there would be no national organization. We send 50 percent of our contributions and things that we do financially to the national office, but we get very little support from them. I think that we need to have leadership that would help the local branches address local issues. That is something that is very important to a viable growing organization.

To contact the Dallas NAACP, call 214-941-1207 or visit their office at 401 Wynnewood Professional Building, Dallas, Texas 75224.



Bank of America fosters faith-based community development

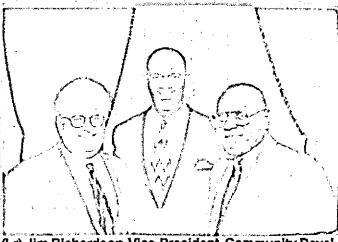
Bank of America Texas announced the business development. creation of a three-month classroom-style training academy for faith-based organizations interested in creating economic opportunities through community development initiatives. As a sponsor,

Bank of America will provide training materials and fund the costs associated with operating the three-month academy.

The Faith-Based Community Development Academy is open to all faith-based institutions in Dallas and Fort Worth. The day-and-ahalf sessions in June, July and August are designed to provide develop, manage and Church (Dallas). implement the financial

programs that will support communitybased efforts in the areas of affordable housing, community rehabilitation and

The preliminary Academy schedule is June 23-24, July 28-29 and August 25-26. Tuition is \$225 which includes a oneyear non-profit membership to the Washington D.C.-based National Congress for



religious leaders, board (I-r) Jim Richardson, Vice-President, Community Develmembers and staff of opment, Bank of America; Rev. Kirbyjohn Caldwell, faith-based organiza- Pastor, Windsor Village United Methodist Church tions with the skills to (Houston); Rev. S.C. Nash, Pastor, Mt. Tabor Baptist

Community Economic Development.

For more information, contact Darryl Ewing at 214-758-4800.

El Centro student named to Texas all-state academic

Kevin Eugene Thomas, a second-year student at El Centro College in Dallas has been recognized as one of the top stu-

dents from more than 60 community colleges statewide. The Texas All-State Academic Team celebration was held in Austin on April 22 and honored these Students.

team



The Texas Kevin E. Thomas All-State Aca-

demic Team is sponsored by the Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC) and Phi Theta Kappa International, a worldwide honor society for two-year college students. Senator Teel Bivins and Dr. Rey Garcia, TACC executive director, presented the Phi Theta Kappa medallions to the students. The students also received college scholarships.

Students are nominated by college

faculty or administrators and are ranked nationally based on their academic achievements and community service. The winners were featured in the April issue of USA Today newspaper.

Thomas is majoring in biology and concentrating in physical therapy. He plans to attend Texas Tech University next fall and enter the physical therapy program. Thomas is president of Phi Theta Kappa, parliamentarian of the Association of Black College Students, a senator in the Student Government Association and a member of the college's Student Leadership Institute. For more information, call Perla Sarabia at 214-860-2036.

Queens Refuge Foundation, Inc. receives \$10,000 grant

The Queen's Refuge Foundation, Inc. received a grant April 24, 1998 from the Levi Strauss & Co. Foundation to operate its year-round project for the South Dallas/Fair Park area, according to Ms. Sabra Wigfall, senior vice president of The Queen's Refuge Foundation, Inc.

The Queen's Refuge Foundation, Inc. made a request for the funds through one of the company's Community Involvement Teams (CIT). The CITs are made up of volunteer employees who gather information from the community on social and economic needs and try to match grants from the Levi Strauss Foundation to meet those needs.

The Levi Strauss Foundation was established by Levi Strauss & Co. as a separate entity to administer community development grants to non-profit agencies in the communities where the company operates manufacturing, finishing, sales or other type of business-related

A full two and one half percent of the pre-tax earnings of the company are earmarked for use by the foundation.

"The Queen's Refuge Foundation, Inc. is extremely grateful for this grant. It is just in time to sponsor, in part, our summer camp for children in the South Dallas/Fair Park community who are mentally challenged," said Mrs. Carolyn Edinbyrd, president of The Queen's Refuge Foundation, Inc.

For more information, call 214-565-

Inner-city youth basketball program expands

The Guaranty Basketball Association (GBA), a summer basketball program for inner-city, at-risk youth, began last month doubling its efforts to provide a greater number of adolescent youth with

alternatives to being on the streets. With sponsors Guaranty Federal Bank, the Dallas Police Department and Southern Methodist University, the GBA has increased the number of league sites around Dallas from four to eight. With additional sponsorship this year from the YWCA, the GBA will offer a girl's league.

Now in its third year, the GBA's athletic competition and mentoring program stresses the importance of staying in school and getting an education. It also develops positive role-model relationships with members of the Dallas Police Department and SMU varsity basketball players and coaches. In an effort to impact youth before they get into trouble, the GBA lowered its age range this year from high school age to target middle school and junior high youth ages 12-

The GBA league is made up of 42 boys' teams and six girls' teams with ten players each. The teams will be coached by a group of volunteers primarily from the Dallas Police Department, SMU and the YWCA. Play began May 21 and 22 at eight recreation centers throughout Dal-

For more information, contact Lowel Duncan, Dawson/Duncan Communications at 214-520-7550 or Ed Spencer, Dallas Police Department at 214-670-3692.



The News In More

MON Intern wins scholarships, graduates with honors

Kamron Barton, salutatorian of the May 1998 graduating class of Carter High School in Dallas and a writer for Minority Opportunity News received a full fouryear scholarship to Florida A& M University. She will major in English and minor in Spanish and Journalism.

Ms. Barton also recieved a \$1,500 scholarship from the Dallas Post Tribune for being the first place winner in the publication's essay contest and earned a \$1,500 Dru Strange Scholarship offered by Texas in Cable and Telecommunications.

Ms. Barton, who will serve as an intern at Minority Opportunity News this summer, maintained perfect attendance and "A" honor roll status during all four years at Carter High. She was a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, Youth Leadership Dallas, University Outreach and the Concert and Symphonic Bands. She also served as president and secretary of the Spanish Club, class vice-president and secretary

and captain and co-captain of various Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk cheerleading organizations.

An avid volunteer for several community service organizations, Kamron. also was involved in State Senator Royce West's Student Advisory Commit-

ten-year member of Dallas

Chapter of Jack & Jill of America, Inc., Kamron is currently the president.

Her long-range goal, after earning a doctorate degree, is to become the editor of a major newspaper. For more information call MON at 214-905-0946



Kamron L Barton

AT&T Superbone Domino Tournament is back

and Senator Royce West are ready to defend their AT&T Superbone Domino Tournament Trophy. They have issued a challenge to every domino player across the metroplex to compete in the AT&T Superbone Domino Tournament set for June 6, 1998 at the Southwest Center Mall (formerly Redbird Mall). Tournament sponsors are AT&T, Coca-Cola,

Southwest Center Mall, 7-Eleven stores and KKDA Soul 73.

Proceeds from the tournament will help the Visiting Nurses Association



Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk (left) and Senator Royce West

Meals on Wheels program which feeds hundreds of Dallas County senior citizens. For more information, call 214-467-

Creative Solutions Group gives Greyhound Lines, Inc. a new look

Creative Solutions Group (CSG), a minority-owned advertising and marketing agency based in the Dallas area, recently gave the 84-year old Greyhound Lines, Inc., a new look by

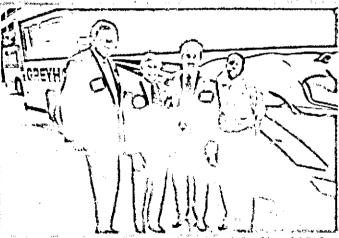
mark which puts the company's icon, the running dog, back into the foreground. The mark will make its first appearance on the side of Greyhound's fleet of buses. More than 700 employees and stockholders helped unveil the new logo May 15th at Greyhound's annual shareholders meeting at the Majestic Dallas.

service. In addition,

CSG signed a contract with Greyhound in late April to provide creative services on a national and regional level.

Since 1993, the agency has provided corporate and brand identities, print advertising, package design, corporate communications and internet

design and engineering. Scott D. Webb, creative director of Creative Solutions Group has over 20 years of advertising and marketing communications experience in a diverse set of redesigning the company's existing industries from business to business



Theater in downtown (I-r) Alfred E. Osborne Jr., Director of the Harold Price Center for Entrepreneurial Studies; A.A. Meitz, retired CSG also began senior VP at Booz Alien & Hamilton; Thomas G. Plasanother identity pro- kett, Chairman of the Board and former President and lect for Greyhound's CEO of Greyhound Lines, Inc.; and Scott Webb, Crefuture launch of a new ative Director of Creative Solutions Group.

and from business to retail. CSG's client list includes Ford Motor Company-Detroit, STB Systems, Olicom, Mobilware, 7th Level, and The Prestige Group. For more information, contact Valerie Ballard at 972-224-8405 or visit the website http://www.creativesolutionsgroup.com.

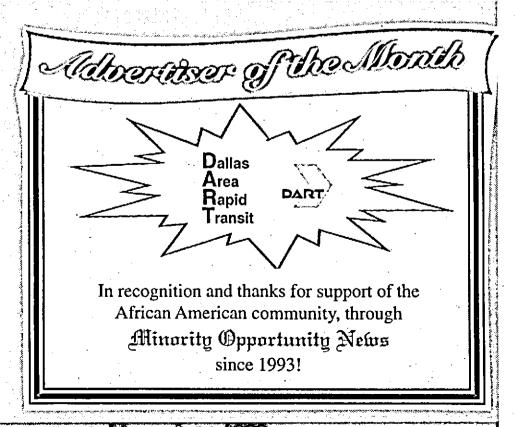
Black State Employees Association of Texas, Inc. awards scholarships

The Black State Employees Association of Texas, Inc. (B.S.E.A.T.) awarded \$40,000 in scholarship funds to 23 area high school graduates on May 8 during the organization's 7th Annual Scholarship Luncheon at the Harvey Hotel-Brookhollow, Dallas.

A crowd of about 400 attended the event, representing 15 area high schools and over 40 major corporations and small businesses that made substantial financial contributions. Hollis Brashear, president of the Dallas Public Schools board

of trustees, was the keynote speaker. In honor of the achievements of the late Dr. Yvonne Ewell, educator and long-time Dallas Public Schools trustee, the luncheon's theme was "The Challenges of Reforming Public Education."

Over the past six years, B.S.E.A.T. has awarded over \$163,000 to local high school graduates. For more information or to contribute future scholarship funds, call Darren Reagan at 214-339-7700.



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Nikki Giovanni: Poet for a revolution

By Russell D. Shockley, BIS.Ed.

The often controversial poet Nikki Giovanni has been both lauded and criticized for her works. Despite this controversy, her guiding force within her poetry, along with a willingness and ability to change, have aided her in her overall consistency.

Yolanda Cornelia "Nikki" Giovanni was born in Knoxville, Tennessee, on June 7, 1943, to James "Gus" Giovanni and Yolanda " Watson " Giovanni. At the age of 17, Nikki had entered Fisk University and eventually received her bachelors of arts degree (with honors) in history.

Giovanni also did graduate work at the University of Pennsylvania (1967) and went on to take additional studies at the Columbia University School of Fine Arts

An air of militancy characterized Giovanni's writings during the 1960s. In the '70s, she focused more on personal relationships; the '80s found her taking a more global outlook, expressing a greater concern for humanity at large.

Nikki Giovanni's' goal has always been to speak the "TRUTH," an approach grounded in her family's heritage. Her strong grandmother, Luvenia Terrel Watson, was terribly intolerant when it came to acts of discrimination. As a result of her outspokenness, Mrs. Watson was smuggled out of Albany, Georgia, under the cover of darkness, by her husband, John "Book" Watson and other members of her family. (There was good reason to believe that both Luvenia and her husband Johns' lives were in jeopardy.)

Luvenia and John Watson had dreamed of living in the north, but finally settled in Knoxville, Tennessee, "the first reasonably-sized city that happened along [our] trail." John Watson was a teacher, so he returned to Albany until the end of the school year, then rejoined his wife in Knoxville, which they made their home.

Nikki's mother, Yolande Watson, was the eldest of three daughters. Yolande met Jones "Gus" Giovanni at Knoxville College and, from their subsequent marriage, two daughters were born. Gus Giovanni's' roots were in Cincinnati, Ohio, where Nikki G. lived during most of her forma-

Concerning her family's surname, Giovanni states: "It just means that our slavemasters were Italian, instead of English or French." Giovanni has warned others against the reading of her poetry, or prose as strictly autobiographical. Even so, because she accesses life from a personal perspective, her own experiences become essential starting points and remain the central theme throughout her

writings

It was as a revolutionary poet during the 1960s that drew national attention to Giovanni. During this period, she became known as the "Princess of Black Poetry." The poetry in "Black Feelings, Black Talk" and "Black Judgment," captures the spirit of the times. Other poets who became prominent during the '60s era include Don L. Lee, Haki Madhubuti, Gil Scott-

Nikki Glovanni

Heron Sonia Sanchez. Like these contemporaries,

Giovanni found the traditional poetic techniques and themes to be inadequate for the times.

Throughout her work, Giovanni includes

extremely warm tributes to Black women, both famous and not so famous. "Poem for Aretha" (Aretha Franklin), "The Genie in the Jar" (for Nina Simone) and "For a Retired Lady of Leisure," are amongst these tributes. The poem "Ego-Tripping" also conveys Giovanni's' exuberant celebration of the Black woman: "For a birthday present I gave my son Hannibal an elephant; he gave me Rome for Mothers Day."

The titles of many of Giovanni's books and poetry published in the '70s, including "Recreation," "My House",
"The Women and the Men," and "Cotton Candy on a Rainy Day," demonstrate both focus and tremendous introspection.

Giovanni's interests in the exploration of the ideas of others is quite apparent within the transcriptions of her conversations with both James Baldwin (1972) and Margaret Walker (1974). Both of these dialogues demonstrate an air of mutual respect, even in the presence of clear generational differences.

Record albums have served as another effective medium of expression for Ms. Giovanni. "Truth is on the Way" (1972) helped launch her career and long-lasting popularity as a speaker and reader of her own poetry.

Giovanni has also received honorary degrees from; Wilberforce University, Ripon University, Worcester University, the College of Mount Saint Joseph's, and Fisk University. Her academic appointments include Assistant Professor of Black Studies, Queens College of the City of New York (1968); Associate Professor of English, Rutgers University; Visiting Professor of Creative Writing, Ohio State University (1984-1985); Professor of Creative Writing, Mount Saint Joseph's College on the Ohio (1985-1987); Visiting Professor of Creative Writing, Virginia Polytechnic Institute (1987); Professor of English, State University at Blackburg, Virginia (1987-1989); and Professor of English, Virginia Polytechnic Institute (1989).

Nikki Giovanni has been published in Encore magazine, Negro Digest, Black World, Catalyst, Ebony, Essence, the Journal of Black Poetry and Newsday. She has provided commentaries on National Public Radio and in numerous newspapers such as, U.S.A. Today and the Washington Post. Her National and International television appearances have included the Cable News Network (CNN), the Black Entertainment Network, and participation in "Worldwide," a United States Information Service that includes the use of satellite hook-ups to United States Embassies all around the world.

Ms. Giovanni was named one of the ten most admired women by the Amsterdam News in 1969. In 1970, Ebony magazine named her "Woman of the Year," and Mademoiselle gave her the same honor in 1971. In 1972, she was named Ladies Home Journal's "Woman of the Year." The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity recognized her for her "Outstanding contributions to arts and letters.

Nikki Giovanni has clearly earned a

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prominent place in the field of American letters. Despite being in great demand as a speaker, she is very generous with the time she gives to young people.

As a mother, Giovanni has provided even more impetus towards a positive image for Black children. She established her own publishing company, Niktom Limited, in 1970. This endeavor was an extension of work she had begun in the '60s to create literature that spoke directly to Black people and celebrated positive features of Black life.

n short, the concerns of the revolutionary poet were rechanneled rather than abandoned or lost.

Giovanni's son, Thomas Watson, was born in August of 1969 and the significance of family and family-oriented themes in her work deepened after this

Said Giovanni: "The more personal the themes are, the more relevant in that they suggest that these values are applicable towards making the world a better

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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NAACP's ACT-SO competition features local high school students

Program recognizes academic achievement

Building F of the Dallas County Community College District's Eastfield College could be any performance hall on the campus of any junior college anywhere. But on Saturday, May 2, 1998, it was transformed into a venue for showcasing high school students who participated in the NAACP's ACT-SO (Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological & Scientific Olympics) Texas State Competitions. These students, who are rewriting the rules on what to expect from the minds of our nation's African American youth, hailed from places such as San Marcos, Plano, Dallas, Cedar Hill, Terrell and Mesquite.

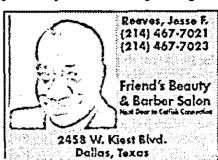
According to Linda Darden Lydia and Lyle Henderson (ACT-SO state coordinator and public relations officer, respectively), "the NAACP was [emphatic] that academic and artistic achievers

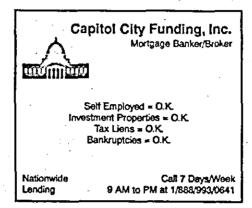
receive the same recognition as athletic heroes." The adrenaline was high as students like Djore Nance, a senior at Dallas' Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing Arts, performed. His rendition of La Donna é Mobile won first place in the vocal classics category and an all-expense paid trip to Atlanta to compete with contestants from across the country on July 10-13. (AT&T is the Texas corporate sponsor). The young Mr. Nance said, "... competition is really a good opportunity and [a] neat way to meet people... with similar interests."

A spirit of camaraderie was evident, and all the students were first-place winners in the hearts of ACT-SO judges, coaches, parents and volunteers. Ervin Chandler, a sophomore at Ennis High School (2nd place, guitar) said, "Being involved in competitions like this helps

me to stay out of trouble and keep me going."

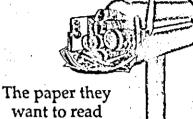
Mesquite High School sophomore Myesha Terrell (1st Place, Oratory) sums up the inspiration wafting through the





group: "We must not fail to live up to the dream."

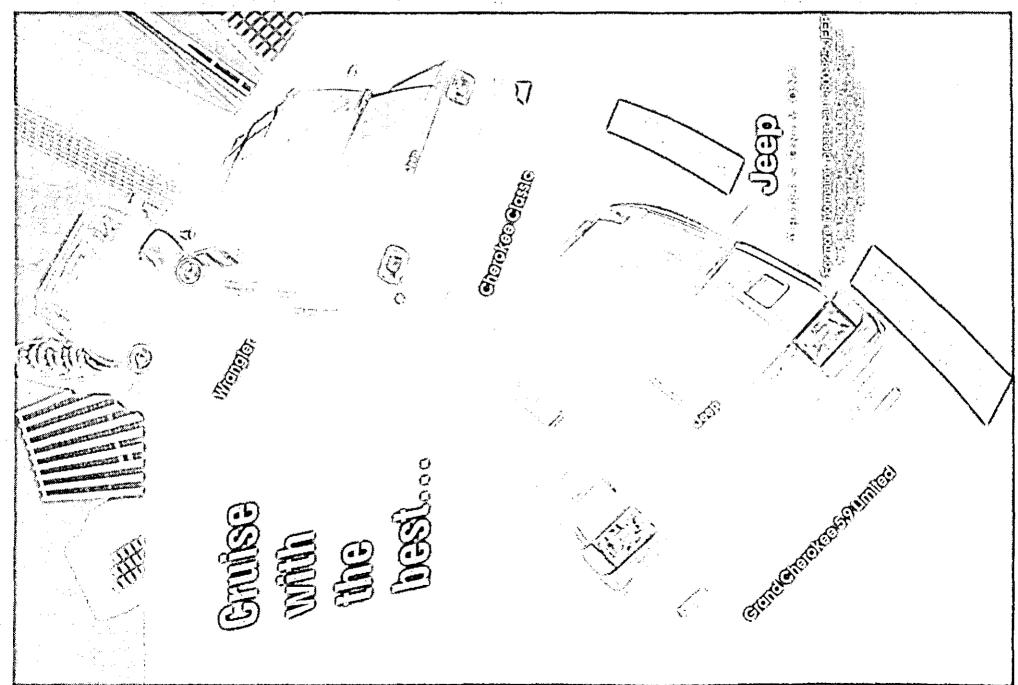
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Single Mino

By Garage Toolson

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Single men ... with children

More and more fathers are getting custody following a divorce. This is how three fathers fared.

The stakes are huge when it comes to raising children to be independent. balanced and productive citizens. As more and more men emerge as fulltime single parents, the question has been raised as to whether or not they can provide all the elements essential for maintaining a loving home. Single fathers (those who have accepted the responsibility of providing a primary custodial parenting role to their children) and custodial fathers (those fathers who have remarried but retain their primary custodial parent role) generally state that they can meet the

Popular culture is changing and men such as divorced dads are demanding that they be allowed to play a greater role in the lives of their children. According to Census Bureau statistics, the number of single dads has exploded, rising from 393,000 in 1970 to 1.86 million by 1996. While single-mother households are much more prevalent (9.86 million), the number of single-father families is increasing by an annual growth rate of ten percent.

Undoubtedly, the metroplex has its share of single men raising children alone. Here is an account of how three of them stood up to the challenge.

Evans Risher, acting bureau chief of Channel 8 News in Fort Worth, remembers a charmed childhood as the youngest of five children of a working class couple. The Gifford, South Carolina, native graduated from Fort Worth's Polytechnic High School and then enrolled in Ranger Junior College on a basic grant. He graduated from University of Texas at Arlington with a degree in Radio/Television in 1979. While in college, he met Dwayne Dancer of KNOK radio, who put him to work part-time giving news updates. In 1980, he landed his first television job with KTVT (Channel 11). The momentum continued as he fell in love, got married, and started his family. Two years after Risher and his bride moved into their dream home, they were divorced.

"I was blind-sided. It overwhelmed me." When the decision was made, the youthful-looking photographer passionately says "there was no question" he would be the primary caregiver of his children: Evan, 4, Kevin, 7 and stepson James, 12. "I petitioned the courts for custody of the boys. The children chose to stay with me because I provided more stability." The court order granted him sole custody and his ex-wife, who was ordered to pay child support, received limited visitation rights.

Risher explains that his highest priority, both then and now, is rearing his children. "For a long time, I didn't want a social life." Risher says being a single dad is not easy but he has a good support system that includes his neighbors, family

Other men who swim the uncharted waters of attempting to be both mother and father reach out to organizations such

break-up." His faith and the love of the I did that to my kids!" members of the Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church also have helped, along with the quiet strength of stepson James, who chose to live with Risher, rather than his biological mother or father.

"James was the strongest of the four of us. He had to submit an affidavit to the court saying that he wanted to stay with me The judge granted it and I could not have a better son." Sometimes the financial struggle was overwhelming. Risher quietly recalls how "the younger boys would get frustrated and say they wish they were with their mom, but James has [had] a steady spirit." Risher adds that James never got bent out of shape, although he "gave up a lot because he had to oversee the younger boys with their homework and chores." He states proudly that lames is now on a football scholarship at Texas Tech University.

Photo by Cheryl L. Williams



Evans Risher and his "blended" family (back row, i-r): Kevin Risher, Evan Risher, Alan Moss, Jasper Moss III; (front Row, I-r): James Easterling, Jessica Moss, Evans Risher, Brenda Moss Risher.

as the Single & Custodial Father's Network and the Single African American Fathers' Exchange (SAAFE). According to SAAFE - their web site address is http://www.saafe.com. — their organization takes the initiative in offering support to single dads, offering "ideas and [communicating] concerns that will benefit single fathers and future single father . . . SAAFE's mission is to provide single fathers with a resource guide to aid them in being the kinds of fathers that children and communities can be proud of."

Risher acknowledges that any support system a man can feel comfortable with after the heartache of a marriage break-up is beneficial. Many nights, after tucking his sons into bed, Risher questioned he and his ex-wife's decision to end

"I'm not ashamed to admit that I received professional counseling through my job's employee assistance program to deal with the hurts and emotion of the

Risher readily admits he makes mistakes and laughingly recalls the time he decided to enjoy some female companionship. "I finally decided that I was going to have a social life. I didn't like being alone and with the kids there, I couldn't have company overnight." (The divorce decree called for Risher's ex-wife to have the kids every other weekend.) "I had my weekend planned and I was ready, so when she didn't come and get them, I packed their overnight bags and took them to her job." In preparation for his date, Risher chilled the bubbly. Then he decided to cut his yard before he left to pick up his date. "I was cutting the yard before I got ready to go out. I looked up and the kids were coming into the back yard. I was so mad I took them right back. All the while they were saying, 'Why do we have to go through this?' I dropped them off and said I was going to have some fun. Needless to say, guilt whipped me the entire weekend and I had a miserable time. I still can't believe

Risher has since met someone. Three years ago, he remarried and now has a blended family of six children. "I don't know why I thought I could raise five teenagers," he laughs. There are many adjustments to be made, but Risher lists a litany of lessons he learned from being a single dad for five years. "I'm extremely patient and prepared to give a lot of time to the children. I now realize that families need to go out and do things together. It's important that you make spiritual growth a priority. Men need to teach their sons how to be gentlemen. You have to show them the diversity of life. For example, I own a production company, EMR Video Production, where I provide freelance photography and video production services to agencies such as the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce, corporations and governments agencies. I want my sons to pick it up and encourage them to do so. You have to understand that you have to make sacrifices...say that you have a cocktail party the same time there's an open house at your son's school. You have to make the choice."

Some females, while conceding that Risher may have raised his boys well without the help of a woman, balk at the courts and culture becoming more accommodating of paternal custody. According to these women, men who take on the role traditionally assumed by a mother do not fare well. One young professional woman wondered, "What will a man do, for example, when his girls go through puberty and he has to broach sensitive topics such as menstruation and body changes?"

Dads Against Discrimination, USA, another pro-father group, feels that kind of thinking needs to be abolished. (Their national headquarters is Oregon Pioneer Building, 5th Floor 320 SW Stark, Portland, OR 97204, 503/222-1111.) The 501(c)3 taxexempt organization encourages fathers to let their children know that they are loved by being proactively engaged in their lives. DADS feels that flawed governmental policies have given judges too much leeway to violate fathers' rights. They take a hard look at discrepancies in the legal system, with a view towards changing the laws. The organization actively identifies those judges who are not "father friendly," going so far as urging their members to file complaints against them.

Odis Ray is not a militant person. A graduate of Prairie View A&M University and one of the principals in Arlington's AIG Architectural Corporation, a growing architectural firm organized in 1981, he worked hard to build their business and his family. For years, the Rays presented to society the image of a solid and loving family, but in reality, it was just the opposite. "After years of seeking all kinds of help, including prayer," says the soft-spoken father of a 17-year-old daughter

see SINGLE on page 20



June 1

It's not too late to register for Cheryl Smith's "Don't Believe the Hype," Celebrity Bowlathon, June 27 at Don Carter's West. 10920 Composite Drive, Dallas, There will be a 6:00 p.m. VIP reception featuring Dick Gregory. Bowling begins at 8:00 p.m. Call 972-263-8811 for more information and to get a registration form.

New Image Business Associates, Inc. invites you to its Small Business Luncheon held every Wednesday from noon-1:00 p.m. at the Bill I. Priest Institute of Economic Development, 1402 Corinth, Room 202 A&B, Dallas, Lunch is \$5.00. For more information, call 214-350-9590

A Soldier's Play runs through June 14 at Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main Street, Fort Worth. The taut drama explores the tension that builds when a black officer comes to a Southern army camp in 1944 to investigate the murder of a widely disliked black sergeant. For more information, call 817-338-4411.

June 2

The Dallas/Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators meets the first Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be held 6:30 p.m. at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. For more information, visit the DFW/ABC website at www.dfwabc.org.

The Dallas Arboretum, 8525 Garland Road, Dallas, brings to life well-known stories from children's literature in the form of "Storybook Playhouses" through September 7. Admission to the Arboretum, which is open Monday-Thursday from 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. and Friday-Sunday from 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., is \$6.00 for adults, \$5.00 for seniors and \$3.00 for children ages 6-12. Parking is \$3.00. For more information, call 214-327-8263.

June 3

Soul-Conscious Productions, Inc. presents the melodrama, She's Not Our Sister, June 3-7 at the Majestic Theatre, 1925 Elm Street, Dallas. Ticket prices start at \$14.00 and can be

Around Town

purchased at Ticketmaster. For more information, call David Herman Ir, at 214-337-3692 or e-mail, soulcon@cvberramb.net.

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

The South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 South Fitzhugh, Dallas, presents Santo Negro, the critically-acclaimed performance work of playwright and composer Sterling Houston. une 4 at 9:00 p.m. and June 5 at 8:00 p.m. Space is limited so reservations are required. Call 214-939-ARTS for more information.

The Association of American Cultures (TAAC) will hold its 8th Open Dialogue conference June 4-7 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, downtown Dallas. Playwright August Wilson will be the keynote speaker at a luncheon June 5. For more information, call Saroya Anderson at the TAAC office at 214-855-5992.

The 1998 Minority Festival Concerts: African American Festival Concert will be held 8:00 p.m. at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, downtown Dallas. This free event highlights African American contributions to symphonic music. Pre-concert entertainment will be provided by local African American musicians, dancers and visual artists. For more information, call 214-871-4000.

Fair Park East Weed and Seed and the Sunny Acres and Rose Garden Associations are sponsoring a V.I.N. (vehicle identification number)/HEAT sticker registration, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at Hatcher and Second streets in South Dallas. Bring your cars and get registered free. For more information, call 214 421-4323, 214-426-8226 or 214-426-4876.

Join Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk and Senator

Royce West as they defend their domino trophy at the AT&T Superbone Domino Tournament at the Southwest Center Mall. All domino players are invited to compete. Proceeds benefit the Visiting Nurses Association Meals on Wheels program. For more information, call 214-467-0123.

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.

New Arts Six will perform a benefit production of Black Diva: the Story of Sissieretta Jones, for the Townview Wellness Center, 8:00 p.m. at the Townview Magnet Center Theater, 1201 E. Eighth Street, Dallas. Tickets are \$20.00 each. For more information, call the New Arts Six office at 214-521-1733 or Townview Wellness Center at 214-944-2138

lune 7

New Arts Six presents the spiritual comedy, Whosoever Will Prayer Band, 6:00 p.m. at the Victory Temple Worship Center, 2001 Oakland, Fort Worth. Admission is \$5.00. For tickets and more information, call 817-531-8546.

Youth ages 8-15 are invited to join the Summer Youth Arts Institute, June 8-14, for a week of dance training with Fabian Barnes, a principal solo dancer with the Dance Theater of Harlem. The institute is presented by the Black Academy of Arts and Letters, 650 S. Griffin, Dallas. For more information, call 214-658-7144.

June 10

Would you like to purchase a home of your own? Learn how at the Texas Federation of Home Counselors first-time home buyer seminar June 10 at 6:30 p.m. or June 13 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.

If you are a serious reader of African American literature, Just Sistah's Book Club is for you. The club meets the last Friday of each month. The June selection is Paradise by Toni Morrison. The club will host author Benilde Little at Black Images Bookstore, 230 Wynnewood Village, Dallas. Ms. Little will read from and autograph her second novel, The Itch. For more information on Just Sistah's Book Club, call Angela Warr at 972-205-7650.

Volunteer attorneys with the Dallas Bar Association will answer legal-related questions from the public from 5:15 p.m.-8:00 p.m., June 10 and June 17, through the DBA's free LegalLine service. Anyone interested in asking a legal question should call LegalLine at

Tune 11

Rochelle Riley, former editor at The Dallas Morning News, reads from and autographs From the Heart at Black Images Book Bazaar, 230 Wynnewood Village, Dallas, from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. From the Heart is a witty and spiring collection of selected columns from the Courier-Journal in Louisville, Kentucky where Ms. Riley is an associate editor. For more information, call 214-943-0142.

Iune 13

The Dallas Branch of the NAACP will hold its 27th Annual Freedom Fund Banquet, 8:00 p.m. at the Dallas Grand Hotel, 1914 Commerce Street, Dallas. The theme of this year's banquet is "The Force of Green Power." Dr. Claud Anderson, author of Black Labor, White Wealth will be the keynote speaker and Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price is the chairman of the event. Individual tickets are \$35.00 for adults and \$15.00 for youth. For more information, call 214-381-0644.

The Dallas Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators will hold its Annual Scholarship Banquet, 7:00 p.m. at the Adams Mark Hotel, 300 N. Olive Street, Dallas. For more information, call 214-852-0588.

Fair Park East Weed and Seed, Larry Johnson Recreation Center and the Sunny Acres and

Rose Garden Associations invite you to "Meet ica) will host its Third Annual Juneteenth the Heat" at its 1st Annual Community Partners Fair, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the Larry Johnson Recreation Center, 3700 Dixon Street, Dallas. Meet the Southeast Dallas beat officers, Deputy Chief Shirley Gray and Chief of police Ben Click. For more information, call 214-421-4323.

Jim Henson's Muppets will spend a summer at the Science Place in Fair Park, Dallas, June 13 - September 7. The exhibit hall at the Science Place is open daily Sunday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Friday & Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m. For more information, call 214-428-5555.

Meet the builders and "pilots" of model and remote-controlled aircraft at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, 1501 Montgomery St., Fort Worth. The Academy of Model Aeronautics will present a hands-on model construction program. For more information, call 817-732-1631 or metro 817-654-

June 15

The 14th Annual Access '98 Trade Fair sponsored by the Dallas/Fort Worth Minority Business Development Council will be held June 15-16 at the Arlington Convention Center, 1200 Ballpark Way, Arlington. The trade fair is designed to link minority-owned businesses with corporate and public sector buyers to develop relationships and consummate business transactions. For more information, call 214-630-0747.

Iune 16

The Minority and Economic Affairs Dept. at DFW International Airport is holding a Procurement Workshop, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. at the Administration Building's Board Room, 3200 Airfield Drive. The workshops are presented quarterly to better prepare M/WBEs to compete for airport contracts. Presentations will be made by the Minority and Economic Affairs Department and the Procurement & Materials Management Department. For more information or to RSVP, call Reginald E. Cleveland at 972-574-8150.

Iune 19

The Dallas chapter of N'COBRA (National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in Amer-

Town Hall Meeting from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at the Bill I. Priest Institute, 1402 Corinth, Dallas. The speakers are Dr. Imari A. Obadele. N'COBRA Emeritus, and Rev. Carlton White, N'COBRA Southwest Regional Representative. For more information, call 214-864-1505.

The South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 South Fitzhugh, Dallas, showcases films by Black independent filmmakers during its Black Cinematique series at 7:30 p.m. Featured films by film maker Ayoka Chenzira are Alma's Kainbow and Zajota and The Boogie Spirit. The event is open to the public. For more information, call 214-939-ARTS.

The Plano Community Forum (PCF) will hold its first benefit golf tournament at the Firewheel Golf Park in Garland, Texas. The entry fee is \$75.00 per person. Company sponsorships are also available. Proceeds from the event benefit the Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Fund. For more information on this and other events, call 972-260-4208.

The South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 South Fitzhugh, presents "Jammin' at the Center," a free monthly jam session that gives professional musicians an opportunity to get together and "jam" from midnight to 3:00 a.m. in a non-club environment. A drum set and piano are provided. For more information, call 214-939-ARTS.

The Kiest Tennis Center, 2324 W. Kiest, Dallas, will host its 11th Annual Juneteenth Tennis Classic. June 19-21. Tournament fees are \$18 for singles and \$30 for doubles. A free kids clinic will be held June 19 from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. To register or for more information, call 214-670-6718.

Shani Jones presents the OG League Basketball Tournament and Picnic in the Park, June 19-20 at Arden Park in Oak Cliff, Dallas. The event will feature music and live entertainment. Volunteer players, coaches, referees and entertainers are needed. For for more information, contact Nee at 214-327-8567.

The St. John Christian Theater Ministry is hosting its Youth Christian Theater Workshop, June 19-August 2. The workshop, which is open to youth ages 6-19, will prepare participants to be cast members in the drama Two by Two, the story of Noah's Ark. Registration will be held June 19 at the church, 2600 Marsalis Avenue, Dallas. The

cost is \$15.00. For more information, call 214-

June 20

The Economic Development Ministry of St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church, 5710 East R. L. Thornton Freeway, Dallas, is sponsoring an Economic Development Summit, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. There will also be a membership drive for the Common Ground Credit Union. For more information, call Rhonda Chase at 972-864-0393 or Al Martin at 972-240-5497.

Stephanie's Collection, 6955 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, presents "An Evening with Avis Brown," at 4:00 p.m. Avis Brown is a local author of the book My Friend, My Lover, My Husband, a true story of how she survived life with a crack-addicted husband. The public is invited. Please RSVP by calling 214-368-

Zambian Acapella, an internationally acclaimed singing group from Lusaka, Zambia, in south central Africa, will perform at the International Museum of Cultures from 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call 972-708-7406.

The Dallas Museum of Natural History, 3535 Grand Ave. in Fair Park, Dallas, presents "Bug Day" from 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Admission is free to kids 12 and under who wear antennae. For more information, call 214-421-

June 22

The Business Friends of South Dallas will hold a luncheon at noon today in the Great Hall of the International Apparel Mart, 2300 Stemmons Freeway, Dallas. Thomas O. Hicks, owner and chairman of the board of the Dallas Stars Hockey Team will be the guest speaker. Tickets are \$40.00. For for more information, call the Southern Dallas Development Corporation at 214-428-7332.

Future Horizon, 206 E. Redbird Lane, Duncanville, is sponsoring a Parenting Skills workshop from 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. The workshop is designed to assist working parents. Handouts and refreshments will be pro-

vided to participants. Childcare will be available. For more information, call 972-296-1547.

Lorene Carv reads from and autographs her novel Pride at Black Images Book Bazaar, 230 Wynnewood Village, Dallas, from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. For more information, call 214-943-

Iune 26

The Black Academy of Arts and Letters, 650 S. Griffin, Dallas, presents the crowd-pleasing R&B, blues, jazz and gospel sounds of Benita Arterberry, Alisa Peoples and Shelundia Cooks at 8:00 p.m. For more information, call 214-658-7144

The 1998 "McDonald's Gospelfest & Heaven 97 present Praise in the Park" will be held 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. in Artist Square, downtown Dallas Arts District. This free festival combines national and local gospel artists for a vibrant and inspirational celebration. For more information, call 214-953-1977.

Join all the organizations that operate yearround in Fair Park for "A Weekend in Fair Park," June 27-28. Visitors to the park will receive admission to all of the facilities for one low price. For more information, call the Dallas Historic Society at 214-670-8400.

June 28

Greater Mt. Hebron Baptist Church, 3421 Chihuahua, Dallas, will celebrate its 51st Church Anniversary and dedication of its new Family Life Center at 3:00 p.m. today. For more information, call 214-742-3825.

ATTENTION:

If you're interested in placing your event in our events calendar, send it to us by mail or fax no later than 45 days before the month of pub

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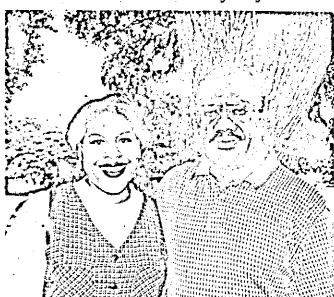


Single from page 17

named Kristen, "nothing worked and the only other option was divorce."

Researchers continue to explore families with only the father in the home and

Photo by Cheryl L. Williams



Odis Ray and his daughter, Kristen.

track trends and the development of their children. Ray concedes that women have historically had more experience in raising children but contends that sometimes it is in the best interest of the child to live with dad. Census Bureau statistics (1995) show that 58 percent of mother-only families live below the poverty line (\$19,500 for a family of four), while only 33 percent of father-only families do (Wall Street Journal, Oct. 10, 1997).

With the economy booming, the AIG Architect Corporation has added a stellar list of clients to their portfolio, including Pier 1, Michael's, Eckerd's, TGI Fridays, and the cities of Fort Worth and Arlington. They also have a steady stream of business from smaller retailers like Lil' Things and Golfsmith's. "I haven't experienced any financial hardships as a result of the divorce because my salary was always used to support the household."

Ray says that finances are not his main focus anyway. "I've sacrificed much to make sure my daughter stays on the right track." Kristen thinks his sacrifices have paid off and she is a happy teen totally involved in school and church activities. "She gives the praise to God and has testified before the church (Jubilee United Methodist Church) that she's thanking God for the sacrifices that I have made for her."

Ray wants Kristen to have balance in her life. He relies on his sisters and female friends and church members to answer questions a young woman would feel more comfortable asking another female. His voice smiles as he talks about their open communication. "We try to talk on all subjects... dealing with boys, we talk pretty openly, although I'm conservative.

We pretty much talk directly about sex. If she feels that she cannot talk to me, she has my 24-year-old niece who used to live with us. I feel that she can come to me with anything. I used to pick her friends up and carry them to the movies and other activities. I trust Kristen. And since she's gotten a car, she has a little more freedom."

Women have given Ray kudos for the fine job he's doing with Kristen. "They think it's very inspiring for a father to step forward. But raising a child alone is not easy. An individual has to be committed to the task."

The Rev. Terry Gafford believes in commitment. On PTA meeting nights, most of the attendees are female. If anyone were to ask why he is consistently the one at PTA meetings or parent conferences, it's because he is the caregiver for his three children.

After graduating from South Oak Cliff High School and landing a good

job, Gafford was ready to marry. He says after making his wedding vows, he put all his energies into making the marriage work, expecting to be with his wife forey-

Information and support for single fathers

BOOKS

Children of Divorce, Mitchell A. Baris and Carla B. Garrity

Divorce and Remarriage: Biblical Principles and Pastoral Practice, Andrew Cornes

Caught in the Middle, Protecting the Children of High-Conflict Divorce Win Your Custody War, C. Hardwick

Winning Your Divorce-A Man's Survival Guide, Timothy J. Horgan

Multi State Guide to Fathers' Rights, Ron

Just Let Me Be Dad, Michelle Lovato

Divorce and Custody for Men, Charles V. Metz

er. But eventually the couple's marriage began to unravel and by 1990, Gafford was raising Japheth, Jessica and Jelissa (now 14, 11 and 9 years old respectively) alone. The court granted him sole custody in 1995.

"The thing is," says the Saintsville Sanctuary Church of God in Christ associate elder, "I never believed in divorce, much less raising children alone. I was Questions From Dad, Dwight Twilley

EVENTS

The Washington State Father's Network (for fathers of children with chronic illness and disease), June 6, 1998 (425/747-4004, X218); Moving from Rhetoric to Action: National Summit on Fatherhood, June 15, 1998.

Partners and Fragile Families Three-Day Skill Building Workshop (for practitioners working with young fathers), New York, June 1-3; Chicago, June 17-19; Boston, July 13-15; Houston, November 4-6 (1-888-528-NCPL).

Smart Marriages/Happy Families Conference, July 9-12, Washington, DC; 202-362-3332.

raised by a single mom who did a great job but I always wanted my children to have both a mom and a dad in the home."

Rev. Gafford admits he was almost clueless about raising children; however, he was not about to relinquish custody of his own. He reached deep into his soul to answer tough questions his children raised about permanency in relationships. "At

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first it was really rough on them because they did not understand. For a year and a half or two years, it was pretty rough. They wanted to know about the vows. Was it really real? I explained as best as I could that if people could diminish their comknow..."

Rev. Gafford also says he was fortunate to have been befriended by a strong black male. "By not having a father in the home I did not know [about] some things that may have helped in my marriage.



The Gafford clan: (I-r) Japheth, Lelissa, Terry and Jessica.

mitment to God, they can also do so in a marriage or relationship," says Gafford.

Gafford set out to learn as much as he could about child rearing. And while he embraced a hands-on style of parenting, he acknowledges that "a father cannot take a mom's place. That lady stuff, they don't get. It's not the same. But I started reading books about rearing children... talked to several mothers and some guy friends. When [the split] first happened, I talked to a lot of women. I read the book, Men are from Mars; Women are from Venus. I even traveled to conferences on maximizing manhood. There are things that we haven't been taught. When you get a certain age, people think you just ought to

Nevertheless, I had three children to raise and I needed some answers." He urges men in this situation to have a strong faith base. It also helps to have someone to talk to that you can trust, he advises. "My pastor, Bishop J. Neaul Haynes, has helped me phenomenally. He's an important individual and very busy. But he took time to take me under his wing. I've never had anyone to do that. A man needs a man. We were young when we married and both of us had baggage and issues. A lot of things that went wrong maybe wouldn't have if I'd known..."

While America's divorce rate is half that of its marriages (with the rate of clergy filing increasing significantly), Rev.

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Gafford says the ideal is still a father and mother raising their children together. "My kids are happy. They see her on the weekends but they miss their mom. As they mature they'll be proud. [On] some things they think I'm kind of hard. We have round table discussions... because I want them to feel open and comfortable to talk about anything. [But] you don't have a balance when a woman isn't in the home. You don't try to take a lady's place. I guess because she carried them for nine months... there's a bond."

Dads Against Discrimination advises men like Rev. Gafford not to be afraid to seek help when they need it. "My daughter's time is coming and I've talked to mothers at the church. I've talked to her mother and my mother about her [beginning her menstrual cycle]. Sometimes, when her stomach hurts, I get her from school and while I don't know about the changes in her body, I tell her what I think. I asked her mom to talk to her. But I had to learn about what I need to buy during that time because I'm here."

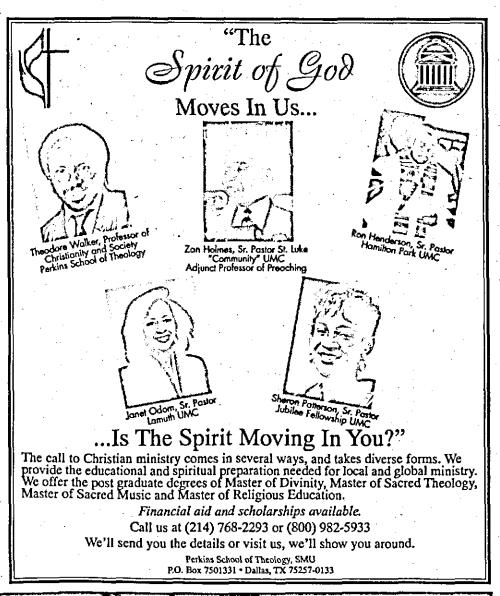
Bigger things lie ahead for the Gaffords and the future looks bright. While the children were younger, Rev. Gafford chose to forego training and management opportunities in the Memphis headquarters of Federal Express where he has been employed for thirteen years. "You can't be afraid to parent, and sometimes you have to make tough decisions. We haven't had everything we wanted but

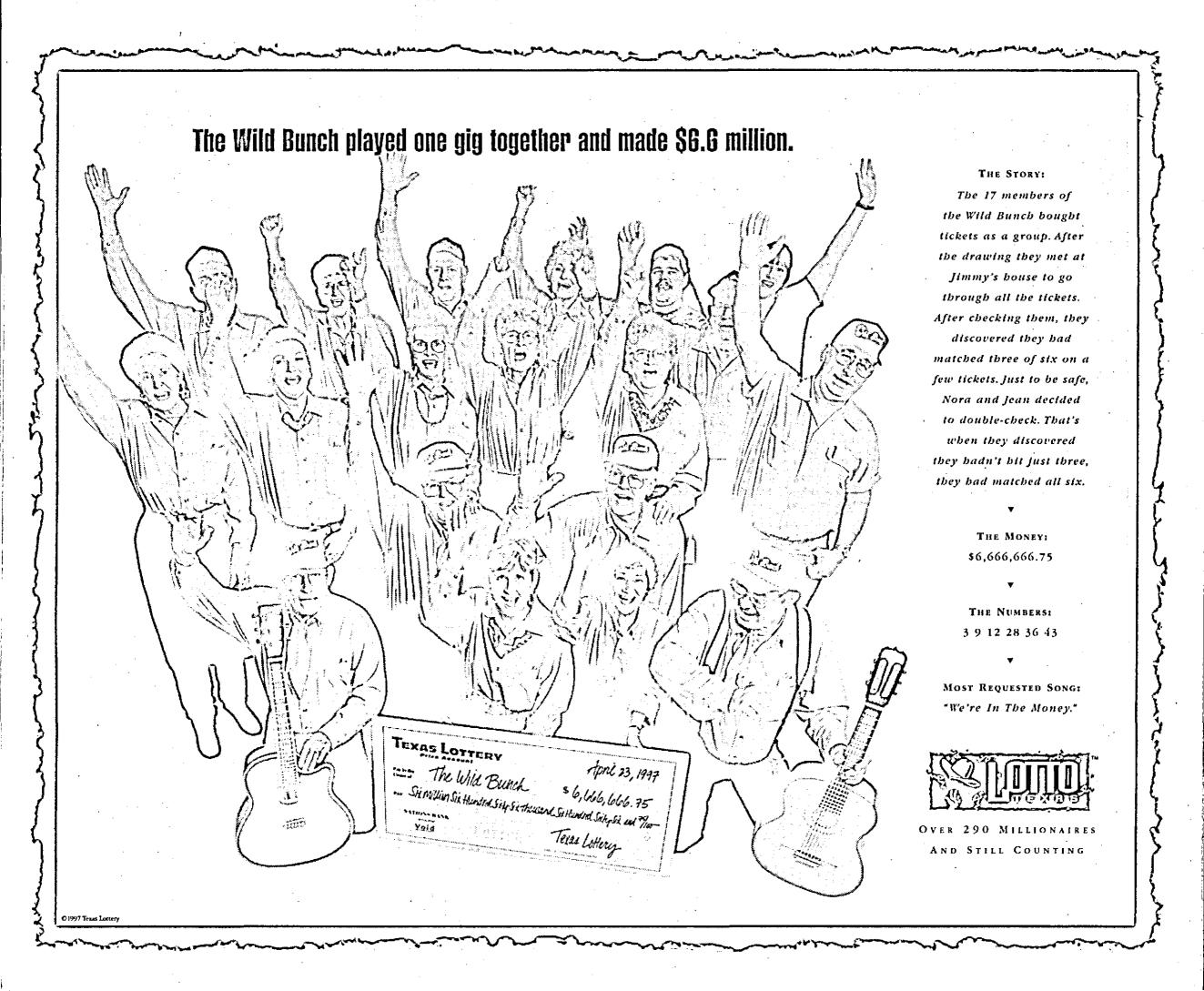
we've always had everything we've needed. Sometimes it hurts a father's heart when he cannot give the kids some of what they want. But I felt my priority was to be with my children doing homework, cooking and washing clothes or just hanging around and cutting up with them." Now, since his children are older, Rev. Gafford will begin to pursue his dream of entering advanced classes offered to take him to the next level of management.

Single dads, like their female counterparts, also struggle to balance their social life. Rev. Gafford says that he is now finding time for that aspect of his life. "I've met some ladies, but when you have plans then have go back and say you have to do something with the kids for the weekend, it puts a chill on the relationship. I've never wanted to leave my kids unsupervised at night, but they're older [now] and I can leave them for a few hours."

For men like Evans Risher, Odis Ray and Terry Gafford, raising kids without a live-in mother is a rewarding challenge. All admit that it has not been easy and they have stumbled along the way. They advise single dads to keep the lines of communication open, be direct, seek help when needed, pray, find someone to listen to you, have a strong support group, and keep your relationship with your children your highest priority.

MON





Getting you more for your money

by Kamron Barton

Mr. Kevin Drake's roots in business management helped to set the foundation for his current entrepreneurial ventures

Drake is a past manager of Barry's Manufacturing, a men's clothing business. While looking through invoices he thought, "We're making a killing." He then learned how to register with the Apparel Mart in Dallas and discovered that, by purchasing clothing wholesale through the Apparel Mart, he could cut costs in half for his clients. Through this technique, he found that he could successfully run his own business; he wouldn't "make a killing" but he would make a profit at reasonable prices.

In 1993, he began KD's Executive Buying Service. Drake's motto is "Just because you have a million dollars today doesn't mean you'll have a million dollars tomorrow. Save now by cutting your costs in half." KD's caters mainly to professional athletes; the rest of his clientele currently are corporate executives and employees of large businesses. But he doesn't want his clientele to be limited; Drake says he wants "to try to make all people aware of the differences between wholesale and retail."

KD's Executive Buying Service isn't limited to clothing at wholesale prices. When asked if the public has access to the World Trade Center and other wholesale markets, he replies, "No. To shop at the. World Trade Center, you must be registered with the Center." So Drake takes his clients to vendors, and his clients select the items they want. After the vendors assist them in finding their selections, Drake charges a certain percentage over the wholesale cost, but not nearly as much as the retail cost. Drake provides access for his clientele to be able to purchase all kinds of items, particularly furniture, jewelry and home accessories.

Drake believes his business is unique because he has no overhead, yet has the best showrooms in the world. "I try to show people how to shop and save money. Others have tried to conduct similar businesses, but I don't think anyone does exactly what we do," he says. What can be applauded is that KD's Executive Buying Service for five years has saved

his customers a lot of money.

His motivation is that he tries "to get minorities to understand that we should have more people on the selling end, not just the consuming end." Much to his dismay, he doesn't see many blacks in the wholesale industry. He wants to get information about wholesale opportuni-

`ties to the public, and his goal is "to teach more people how to get into the wholesale business." That certainly is unselfish!

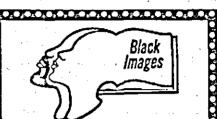
New Credit '98 is another of Drake's

efforts to assist others. The company was formed to disseminate information about how to re-establish a good credit record immediately after bankruptcy or other credit problems. Drake explains that it is not necessary to wait seven to ten years to clear bad credit records, but most people know little or nothing about the alternatives. New Credit '98 provides the information and explains the step-by-step

procedure to starting over successfully and immediately. What Drake likes most about his jobs

is helping people. He plans to travel after retiring, and his hobbies are listening to music and "trying to work with kids."

Kamron Barton is a recent graduate of Carter High School and is a summer intern at MON.



Summer 1998 Forecasts

FRIDAY, JUNE 5 • 10:00 am
Children's author Joyce Carol Thomas and illustrator Floyd Cooper
read and autograph I Have Heard of a Land (\$14.95 HarperCollins).
This picture book is set in Oklahoma in the late 1800's. African
Americans, newly freed from stavery, sought a new life in this
leridory. Pre-school and elementary school children, parents and
teachers will enjoy this work by award winners Thomas and Cooper
(at the Dallas Public Library Children's Center,
1515 Young, 2nd floor).

-0-

FRIDAY, JUNE 5 • 6-8 pm
William July B discusses Brothers, Lust and Love: Thoughts on
Manhood, Sex, and Romance (\$10.95 Doubleday). As an added
bonus, group discussion questions are included in this revised
edition. The Brutha Speak Book Club will book Mr. July's signing.

-0-SATURDAY, JUNE 6

SATUROAY, JUNE 6

Donna Richardson discusses, autographs and will probably demonstrate exercises from Let's Get Real! Exercise Your Right to a Health Body (\$16.00 Pocket). Donna is among the top movers and shakers in the Idness industry. Her award-winning Inness videos 4 Day Rotation Workout and Donnamite will also be available.

-0-

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10 • 6-8 pm Benilde Little reads from and signs The Rich (\$23.00 Simon & Schuster). Her first novel, Good Hair was a Blackboard Bestseller. -0-

THURSDAY, JUNE 11 • 5-8 pm

Rochelle Riley, former editor at The Dallas Morning News, reads from and autographs From the Heart (\$16.95 Dream & Little, Inc.)

From the Heart is a withy and inspiring collection of selected columns from the Couner-Journal, Ms. Riley is an associate editor at this Louisville, Kentucky newspaper.

--0-FRIDAY, JUNE 12 • 6-8 pm Camika Spencer reads from her debut novel, When All Hell Breaks Loose (\$12.00 Akmac). The Warren of Essence Book Club wilk host Ms. Spencer's signing.

-0-SATURDAY, JUNE 13 * 2-4 pm Joann Tolbert-Yancy autographs Romantic Secrets Men Should Know (\$12.00 Jotosto). The book is laced with tantalizing ways to enhance your romantic endeavors.

SUNDAY, JUNE 14 • 3 pm Second Annual Juneteenth Children's Poetry Stam hosted by Just Us Girls (Mother/Daughter) Book Club.

. -0-TUESDAY, JUNE 16 • 6-8 pm Haki R. Madhabuti reads from and autographs
HeartLove: Wedding, Love, and Extended Family Poems
(\$16.95 Third World Press).

-0-

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24 • 68 pm.

Lorene Cary reads from and autographs Pride a novel [\$23.95

Doubleday), Meet four accomplished, passionate, and thoroughly
down-to-earth women whose Belong friendship is about to take some unexpected turns.

-0-

FRIDAY, JUNE 26 + 6-8 pm Shandra Hill reviews her debut novel, Actions Speaks Louder (\$12.00 Pullen Press). Set in Hottarra.

-0-SATURDAY, JUNE 27 • 2 pm Nose Eke reads three works of his poetry.

now by place energies zhe annoan nomence soam dan di aboard Carnive's inspiration! Our saling dates are July 12-1 K eel be a seven day cruisa. Wa mil sal in Sunday, July 12, 19 I Juan, Puerlo Rico. Ports of call for the 1998 RSJC include

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Name: **Kevin Drake** Birthplace: Nagoya, Japan Favorite Food: Hamburgers

My friends don't know that: "I was born in Nagoya, Japan"

Advice to would-be entrepreneurs:

Last Book Read:

"Try to get as much information about what you're getting ready to get into. Research, and don't get discouraged."

The Partners



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Book Review Angela Washington-Blair, Ph.D.

In April we celebrated National Library Week. You missed it? Well, it's that once a year opportunity to pay homage to our favorite information centers.

Libraries have always connected us with faraway people and places through books and other print resources. But today you have a new tool—one that can connect you almost instantaneously to information resources around the world—the Internet.

Libraries have always been a great equalizer, providing books, magazines and other information resources to help people of all ages and backgrounds lead better lives. It is no coincidence that some of our library slogans have been "kids who read succeed," and "libraries change lives." Today, this role as equalizer is more important than ever.

While the ability to read is a crucial survival skill in an information-saturated society, it isn't enough. Our children must also know how to use computers to find the information they need. They must not only be "literate," they must also be "information literate." Statistics show that less than half of all American households own a computer. Approximately 20 percent are connected to the Internet. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, 60 percent of new jobs in the next century will require computing and information networking skills. Only 22 percent of workers have those skills today.

For both children and adults without computers at home, public and school libraries provide a valuable opportunity to learn these skills and take advantage of

Connect at the Library!

the vast global information resources available online. They need not be "information" poor.

Thanks to this new technology, even children in the poorest and most remote areas can now "chat" with children in other countries, watch a volcano erupt, or "visit" great museums around the world. Business people can research new markets for their products. Consumers can find good buys on products. Those seeking the latest information on allergies and other health problems can seek answers from leading health organizations.

Today's libraries give our communities global reach on a scale never before possible. Truly, they are the gateway to the world! But they also provide something more important — the human touch in the form of librarians who are expert at locating, organizing and evaluating information. Librarians make the Web a safer, more user friendly place for both children and adults. Librarians are the lamps that guide the way on the information superhighway.

An increasing number of libraries, including our own Dallas Public Library, provides Web pages with recommended sites, special training classes and other services designed to help the Web novice become an accomplished navigator. If you have not yet ventured into cyberspace, now is the time and the library is the place to go.

And what has become of books? Interestingly, many libraries report that circulation of books is higher than ever in the age of computerization. There will always be a need for books and the "free library" to house them. Indeed, the tools may change but the library's mission of

helping us connect with the information we need for our studies, work, health, recreation, and other needs remains the same.

What are you doing with your children this summer? Take them to the library. Let them surf the web. Then, I suggest signing them up for the summer reading program. This year's theme is

"Dallas Reads: Mayor Kirk's Summer Reading Program." It begins May 21 at the downtown Dallas Public Library and May 23rd at the branches. Children and teens are invited to read and keep track of minutes read. They receive incentives and compete for prizes. I also have set a goal for my children: read at least one book per week. It can be done

MON

Angela Washington-Blair holds a master's and a doctorate degree in library science and is a librarian at a private school in Dallas.

Rosa Parks: My Story by Rosa Parks

Suggested Reading For Children

African-American

The Secret of Gumbo Grove by Eleanora
Tate

Front Porch Stories at the One-Room School by Eleanore Tate

A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry

Up From Slavery by Booker T. Washington

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor

Classics

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery

Charlotte's Web by E.B. White
The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling
The Story of My Life by Helen Keller
Journey to the Center of the Earth by Jules
Vernes

Look who's coming to Barnes & Noble.

Benilde Little





Life was perfect for Abra: wealthy husband, flawless marriage, well-to-do friends. But misfortune can strike even the safest places, and Abra must hold tight when her life's calm waters get

rough. Meet Benilde Little, author of the acclaimed *Good Hair*, when she reads from, discusses, and signs copies of *The Itch*.

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Family Life Fairy Street Mama

What do you like to do to "Just be a kid?"

Being a KID means to have fun and to do the things that KIDS do rather than doing what adults do. Being a KID means to take life as easy as possible and not to let other KIDS who are negative influence you to do things that you know you should not do.

Right down the street from me lives Suzanne Taylor, who

seems to know exactly what being a KID means. While visiting her parents, I noticed that although she is quite young, she is very respectful, self assured and aware of how to have fun as a KID!!

Suzanne: "I like to play with my toys... My favorite movie is the "Magic School Bus"... I have a dog and I like to play with him too!... I like to play cooking..."



Suzanne Taylor, 5 yrs. old

KIDS!!! Remember, you should always try to have fun and live life as happily as you can. You have plenty of time before you become an adult!!! GET-THE MESSAGE-JUST BE A KID!!

How many times does the word "ICID" appear in this puzzle? Circle and count each one.

(Hint: The word "KID" appears fowards, backwards, up, down and diagonal!)

Total your answers at the bottom of the page.

____Total





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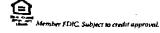


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Woo

With a flip of her hair and a twirl of her skirt, Darlene "Woo" Bates (Jada Pinkett Smith) is more than just a drop-dead beauty with a notorious knack for turning men into mush. She's the one woman who's not afraid to take what she wants. Dare to hang on to he skirt tails, and you've entered Woo's world.

Following a tip from her psychic friend, Woo is out to meet the man of her dreams, and nothing will stand in her way. The hilarious, character-driven comedy is about the sparks that fly



Jade Pinkett Smith and Tommy Davidson star in New Line Cinema's romantic comedy, Woo.

when Woo is set up on a blind date with Tim (Tommy Davidson), a shy, straight-laced law clerk who is Woo's polar opposite.

In a wildly unpredictable night to remember, this mismatched couple cuts a path of destruction and chaos through Manhattan, wreaking havoc wherever they go. Over the course of events, it looks as if Tim will either fall for Woo or fall apart. But as night turns to dawn, he discovers she has added something that was missing in his life, and they both realize that opposites do attract.

Also starring David Chappelle, Paula Jai Parker, LL Cool J, Darrel Heath, Michael Ralph, Duane Martin and Foxy Brown, Woo is written by David C. Johnson and produced by Beth and Michael Hubbard through Gotham Entertainment in association with New Deal Production. John Singleton and Howard Hobson are executive producers.

Woo has an MPAA rating of "R" and opened May 8 at theaters thoughout the metroplex.

The Truman Show

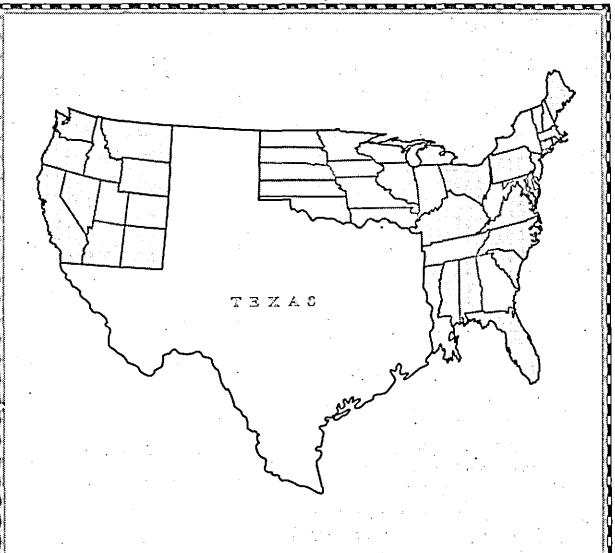
Truman Burbank (Jim Carrey) has the feeling that he's being watched. He doesn't know how right he is.

Every second of every day, from the moment he was born, for the last 30 years, Truman Burbank has been the Jim Carey as "Truman"



unwitting star of the longest running, most popular documentary-soap opera in history. The picture-perfect town of Seahaven that he calls home is actually a gigantic soundstage. Truman's friends and family—everyone he meets in fact—are actors. He lives every moment under the unblinking gaze of thousands of hidden cameras.

Truman's unsettling, darkly funny world is a kind of waking nightmare unlike anything ever previously created on film. This perverse mirror of millenium America speaks directly to our innermost fears and frustrations. Truman is not only preyed upon by a network of human and electronic spies, he is literally trapped in his own life, held down and



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penned in by the surreal existence in which he has been forced to spend every one of his 30 years.

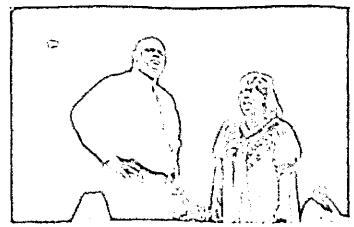
Realizing that he is caught like a butterfly in a jar, Truman determines that his single aim must now be to escape Seahaven, no matter what the cost. But he has not yet reckoned with the power of Cristof (ED Harris) who conceived the show and has produced, directed and supervised it throughout its entire run. Nor has he faced his greatest fears, which may be even more effective than the God-like Christof, in keeping him a prisoner in Seahaven.

Paramount Pictures' The Truman Show also stars Laura Linney, Noah Emmerich, Natascha McElhone and Holland Taylor. The movie has an MPAA rating of "PG" and opens June 5 at theaters thoughout the metroplex.

Hallelujah Anyhow!!

Vision Productions touring gospel play Hallelujah Anyhow!!, written by Reba Chapple-Woodson, is just what it purports to be—a rollicking festival of praise to the creator, peppered with many opportunities for the audience to let go... and let God.

Once a strong husband, father, and provider, William Spencer (played by Milton Dixson), must now face frustration and hardship in his previously comfortable lifestyle, as a result of losing his job. His wife Felicia (Bonita Arterberry) and 15-year-old daughter Ashley (Consuelo DuConge) call upon their strong Christian faith to convince William that God has not abandoned him or his family. But William's reluctance to be obedient to God's will eventual-



Milton Dixson and Bonita Arterberry as William and Felicia Spencer.

ly causes him to make a foolish choice—one that results in tragedy that dramatically changes his life and the lives of the people he loves.

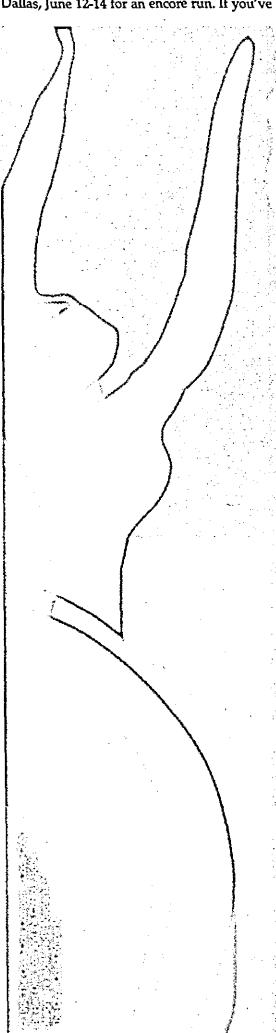
During the production, Felicia's "hoochie" best friend, Lynette (Phyllis Wallace), William's black-sheep brother Louis (Randall Michael) and the boisterous church gossiper Sister Pearlie (Rhonda Shepherd) provide comic relief that blends well with the play's more somber theme. But if you got the feeling that Oscar Johnson, who plays pastor Reeves, actually was called to minister, that's because off stage, he is a minister.

Throughout the play's comic barbs and drama twists, patrons are doused with stellar musical renditions of favorite gospel tunes performed by the Arterberry, Dixson and Aubrey D. Williams (Sister Turner), who gives a touching delivery as the "mother" of the church, awaiting her homegoing. Backed up by the St. Johns Missionary Baptist

Church Praise Choir and the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church Celebration Choir, the production is a solid portrayal of the power of Jesus Christ in the face of adversity.

The play returns to the Dallas Theater Center, Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Cedar Springs, Dallas, June 12-14 for an encore run. If you've forgotten what it means to "have church," take full advantage of this limited engagement. For tickets and more information, call Dave Ratcliff at 214-798-8720.

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You and Your Money John Dudley

Every year, investors spend countless hours trying to figure out ways to outsmart the stock market, particularly the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA). But in their zeal, investors may be overlooking one nearly effortless strategy that has outperformed the Dow in fifteen of the last twenty years. This strategy goes by many names, including the Top Ten Strategy, the Dow Dividend Strategy, the Hi-10, Dow 10, and the Select 10. It is also known as investing in the Dogs of the Dow.

Specifically, the "Dogs" strategy buys an equal amount of the ten stocks with the highest dividend yields among the thirty that make up the DJIA. The yield is the annual dividend rate divided by the stock price. When a stock has a high dividend yield, chances are the ratio rose as the stock price declined or underperformed its peers. A declining stock price indicates the company is out of favor with investors.

The next step is to hold these ten high dividend yielding stocks (the Dogs) for

The Dow goes to the Dogs

Strategy for out-performing the stock market

one year. After that year, an individual adjusts the portfolio by selling those Dogs no longer ranked among the ten highest yielding stocks, and by buying those stocks that now qualify as Dogs. Generally, only one or two stocks will need to be traded to accommodate any changes that occurred in the past year.

When followed carefully, the Dogs have proven to be powerful racers, but too much trading or efforts at market timing may even make greyhound performance limp. Over the twenty-year period ending December 29, 1995, the Dogs provided an average annual total return of 17.9 percent versus 14 percent for the DJIA. The best return achieved measured 55.7 percent in 1975 versus the DJIA's highest ever of 44.4 percent that same year. The Dogs worst results came in 1990 at -7.9 percent versus -0.6 percent for the DJIA. The DJIA worst was -23.1 percent in 1974.

What has made this simple strategy successful? The Dogs are blue-chip stocks with long successful histories. Though the

current high dividend yield is a sign that the Dogs may be temporarily out of favor, it is the hope that the performance may mean that potential "bad news" is already reflected in the stock price.

A variation of the Dogs of the Dow that has produced even stronger results is the Low Five or the Flying Five Strategy. Here, investors buy equal dollar amounts of the lowest-priced five stocks of the highest-yielding ten stocks in the DJIA. For the past twenty years (ending December 29, 1995), the Dow Five has maintained an average annual total return of 20.9 percent. The best return achieved measured 68.1 percent, back in 1975; the worst, -15.3 percent in 1990.

Of course, investors need to keep in mind this standard rule of caution: Past aperformance is no guarantee of future results! There also is no guarantee that the strategy will outperform the DJIA. For example, in the first quarter of 1996, the Dow Dogs gained 5.8 percent, falling well behind the overall DJIA which returned 9.8 percent. Since "time in the market" is more important than "timing the market," individuals should be ready to hold on during down times.

Some investors may feel uncomfort-

able investing the amount of capital needed to meet the minimum purchases of each of these blue chip stocks. That concern should not discourage them from participating in this successful strategy. Many brokerage firms offer investors the opportunity to purchase shares of a Top Ten or Low Five unit trust, for as little as \$1,000. The minimum investment for IRAs, Keogh plans and other tax-deferred retirement plans is just \$250.

Before selecting an investment strategy such as the "Dogs of the Dow," investors should talk to their financial advisors about the best option for their portfolio.

MON

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

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The "Web" offers something for everyone

By Carla Roberson

Do you remember the game show Family Feud? Remember how Richard Dawson use to say, "And the survey says!" Well, in a recent survey, it was found that Whites are more likely than Blacks to access the World Wide Web. The survey says that African Americans are being shut out of an industry that expects to hire 1.3 million new workers in the next decade. Now that you know — what are you going to do about it?

May I make a suggestion? (You knew that was coming, huh?) I say let's make our presence known. If you haven't gotten on the Super Information Highway yet, June would be a great month to start. The month of June is full of celebrations: Black Music Month; Juneteenth; Father's Day; and the beginning of summer.

To keep you well informed about this month's events, check out Black Voices, my showcase website of the month, at www.blackvoices.com. Barry Cooper launched BV on America Online in December 1995. It has been touted as "Black America's favorite web site." In addition to news, information, and interactive entertainment, BV makes you feel like you belong. It gives you that sense of "home."

Now for something for the Dad's

who are motoring on the information highway this month. Check out The Official Michael Jordan Web site at http://jordan.sportsline.com and the African American On Wheels car magazine at www.automag.com.

Juneteenth '98 is being celebrated in a big way on the web this year. There is a web site that lists all the Juneteenth celebrations throughout the country. Want to know how we are celebrating Juneteenth in Texas? Just click on the state of Texas on the map at www.juneteenth.com.

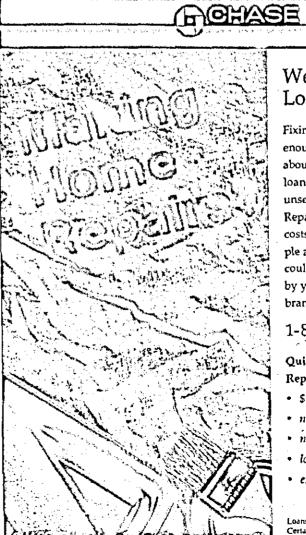
There are also some sites Music lovers might enjoy visiting. If you are a Maze fan, you can find out about them and other of your favorite "old school" groups at www.maze-inc.com. Wanna party like it's 1999? The Artist's (formerly known as Prince) web site address is www.love4oneanother.com. I've heard The Artist checks his web site frequently.

With your journey all mapped out for you, it's time to get on the entrance ramp and merge onto that information highway. Help stop that ugly rumor that African Americans are not a part of all that Internet traffic.

Happy Motoring:)

MON

Carla Roberson is a local computer consultant who loves surfing the Web.



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Health & Fitness

Tyrone Caldwell

Strength training

Not so long ago many people looked at strength or weight training negatively. They thought it made you muscle bound and inflexible. But today strength training is generally viewed as one of the best ways to improve body tone, definition, sports performance and resistance to injury.

Women have even come aboard for the benefits of strength training (a radical change from five years ago). Now strength training is even prescribed for the elderly - as we age, our muscle fibers atrophy at a faster rate. Strength training helps maintain and improve muscle size and ability in older adults.

Resistance training has become popular with people seeking more efficient ways to manage weight control. You see, as lean muscle mass increases, the body's metabolism rate increases. It is a proven fact that a lean muscled individual burns more calories at rest than most obese persons in motion. Also, weight training offers visible improvement in appearance within a relatively short time period, further encouraging individuals to keep training.

Designing your routine

Exercises. Choose from any number of exercises that target a particular muscle group. Beginners should always start with the basics to develop a solid foundation: Bench press, squat, deadlift, and overhead press. If you start with these exercises, you'll establish a solid foundation to build on.

Weights. During your first couple of weeks of training, you should take care not to use too much weight; you want to mainly evaluate what your capabilities are and acquire the proper form for lifting. Use weights with which you can manage 8 to 12 repetitions. Once you can do three sets of 8 to 12 repetitions, increase the weight. When you find a challenging weight, stick with it; soon you'll become stronger and be able to increase it.

Repetitions (Reps) A rep is a single execution of one exercise. For example, if you bench press a weight 12 times consecutively, that is 12 reps.

Sets. A set is a combination of any number of repetitions of a single exercise. For example, if you bench press 135 lbs. 12 times, that's one set.

Proper form. For the sake of safety, it is better to use lighter weight. This will better allow you to perform the movement correctly. Lifting heavy weights may impress others but will also increase your chances of injury.

Speed of movement. Use a smooth, controlled motion during all phases of the lift.

Breathing, Exhale as you push, and inhale at the top, or easiest, portion of the lift.

Rest between sets. Rest as long as it takes for you to feel you have recovered from your previous set. But do not fall into the trap of talking to other or daydreaming during your rest break.

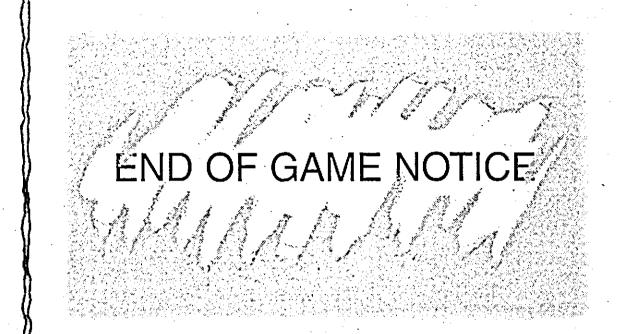
Training frequency. The body requires a minimum of 48 hours to recover from weight training, but if you are still sore after 48 hours, you need more rest.

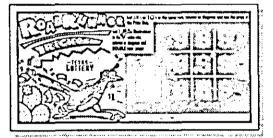
Duration. If you are training on weights for more than a hour, it becomes counterproductive.

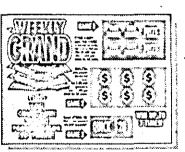
Training for strength will continue to increase in popularity once more people realize the benefits. To be fully effective in your training routine, you must become better educated in the basic physiology of strength. Once

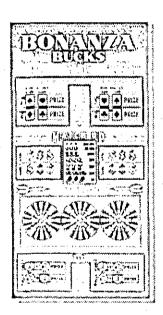
this is accomplished, you'll be able to determine your needs and apply a long-term program to meet them.

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.









Three of the Texas Lottery's instant games will close on May 31, 1998: Weekly Grand, Bonanza Bucks and Roadrunner Riches. You have until November 27, 1998, to redeem any winning tickets. You can win up to \$1,000 per week for 20 years playing Weekly Grand, up to \$50,000 playing Bonanza Bucks

and up to \$4,000 playing Roadrunner Riches. You can claim prizes of up to \$599 at any Texas Lottery retailer. Prizes of \$600 or more are redeemable at one of the 24 Texas Lottery claim centers or by mail. Questions? Just call the Texas

Lottery Customer Service Line at 1-800-37-LOTTO (1-800-375-6886).

Musa be 18 years or older to play. O1998 Texas Lottery



On Real Estate Curtis Yates

Opportunity for first-time home buyers

Keeping alive the dream of owning your own home can be a constant challenge for many people, especially those who may not be aware of the types of home-buying assistance available. Fortunately, that first home will be more than just a dream for thousands of low- to moderate-income Texans as a result of the nearly \$66 million in low interest rate mortgage loans made available recently by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. The Department's First Time Home Buyer Program has made the \$66 million available through some 28 participating lending institutions across the state at a 30-year fixed 6.75 percent interest rate. Combined with the September 1997 issuance of more than \$80 million, the state is currently making some \$146 million available for Texas residents through this program.

The First Time Home Buyer Program assists working families and individuals throughout Texas in realizing the American dream of homeownership. Together with their Down Payment Assistance Program, many eligible families currently paying \$500 - \$600 dollars a month in rent will now be able to buy a home.

The First Time Home Buyer Program helps individuals and families who earn sufficient income to make monthly mort-

gage payments but have difficulty qualifying for a mortgage loan at the market interest rate. To qualify as a first-time home buyer, individuals and families must not have owned a home within the past three years.

Qualifying income levels for the First Time Home Buyer Program vary according to geographic location and family size. Low to moderate income borrowers can earn no more than 115 percent of the area median family income (AMFI). The maximum home purchase price is 90 percent of the average a rea purchase price for new and existing homes.

Additionally, prospective home buyers can create for themselves a no money down transaction by combining first-time Home Buyer financing with the DPAP (Down Payment Assistance Program). This is an awesome opportunity for anyone seeking to purchase a home for the first time. Just think for a moment: low interest mortgage financing plus the possibility of qualifying for no money down for the home purchase.

Now, let me share with you a little bit about the Down Payment Assistance Program. The Down Payment Assistance Program assists very low- and lowincome families (80 percent AMFI or less) in purchasing a home by providing an interest free loan for down payment and allowable closing costs. From the program's inception in 1992 through August 31, 1997, the Down Payment Assistance Program has assisted 1,463 families with loans totaling \$4.5 million. When repaid, these loans will be recycled to help other needy families.

The assistance will be in the form of a non-interest-bearing second-lien mortgage, the term of which will run concurrent with the first lien loan. Monthly payments are not required. However, repayment of principal of the second lien loan will be required upon sale, lease, refi-

nance and/or payoff of the first lien loan. Keep in mind that this program provides up to \$5,000 to be used for the down payment and closing costs associated with a home purchase. I cannot encourage you enough to investigate this opportunity for acquiring your first home. For those of you reading this column, why not share it with a friend? Acquiring your

first home is still possible, no matter what anyone says!!!

Curtis Yates is the owner/operator of REAL ESTATE STATUS QUO; 8111 LBJ Frwy, Ste. 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/.

NRTHIANS?



RAIL HOV

 DART bus service improves access to northern employment market With the new bus service from downtown Dallas, you can now reach job locations throughout the northern portions of the DART Service Area, where many jobs are open. Route 36 from downtown travels on Preston to the West Plano Transit Center every day, serving all the shopping centers, office buildings and entertainment locations along the way. Route 31 from downtown travels Midway to Beltline on selected weekday trips and all weekend trips.

 DART adds northbound bus connections to Park Lane Station DART's new northbound bus service from Park Lane Station makes it easier to get to work in the northern portions of the DART Service Area. Route 511 (with non-stop weekday service) and Route 577 (on Saturday) connect to the Richardson Transit Center. From there, Routes 365 and 366 serve the Richardson Telecom Corridor weekdays, Route 358 travels north to Waterview, Independence and Legacy, while Route 361 travels to Arapaho and Route 362 operates along Campbell Monday-Saturday.

E-pass gains popularity as a low-cost employee benefit E-pass; DART's annual pass for unlimited bus and rail rides, is gaining ground as a low-cost benefit to attract employees in a tight labor market, according to Matt Raymond, DART marketing vice president. "Every company must work harder to attract and retain employees. Because DART provides E-passes at a deep discount, the value of the benefit is leveraged significantly," he says. Organizations including Hunt Oil, EDS, U.S. Indian Health Services, Bank of America and Whataburger have hopped onboard the E-pass program.

DART offers 50-cent rides on Ozone Action Days

DART bus and train fares are reduced to 50 cents on any Ozone Action Day. Employers may get on an Ozone Action Notification list and receive an Ozone Action kit by calling DART at (214) 747-RIDE.

 DART's vanpool program extends to Collin and Denton counties DART now offers DARTvan to any employee group in Dallas, Collin or Denton counties, since these all have been designated Ozone Nonattainment Areas by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. With a minimum of 10 participants, DART will provide a van, fuel, insurance and an emergency ride home, all for \$40/month per rider. The driver rides free. Companies or employees may call (214) 747-RIDE to learn more about this low-cost employee benefit.

· Sales of discounted monthly bus passes soar

Riders who appreciate the discount pricing and convenience of buying monthly DART passes have sent sales zooming. During the last year, bus pass sales in Minyard Food Stores alone have risen from \$8,000 a month to more than \$80,000 a month. Bus passes and ticket books are available in all Minyard and Albertson's stores within the 13-city DART Service Area, as well as in the two DART Stores located in downtown Dallas.

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You and God Ron Shaw

So What Have You Learned?

Philippians 4:11-12

I had lunch with a good friend the other day (I'm always having lunch with good friends) and they were telling me about their most recent troubles. We talked about their kids, their failed relationship, their failed business, and several other disappointments that I won't bore you with. While sharing these things with me, the friend began to cry. I could tell it was time for a humorous moment to help break the sorrow of the moment. (I'm good at humor although I usually don't try to be). After all, I didn't want their food to get soggy.

The friend explained how they had become homeless as a result of a failed relationship. I looked into those tearfilled eyes and said, "So what have we learned in all of this?" We looked at each other, then broke into laughter. And then it hit me. Ron, I thought, that seems like a dumb thing to say. After all, this person has just borne their soul to you and told you about their trials and hardships. It was time for some profound cliché or word of wisdom or comforting phrase and all you could come up with was, "So what have we learned in all of this?".

Later, we said our good-byes and, as I got into my car, the Lord started talking to me. I was reminded of this month's text, where Paul wrote about learning to be content in whatever state he found himself in.

During our conversation, my friend had asked me when would her troubles end. "It just never seems to end," she lamented. I reminded her that Jesus said that in this world we would have trouble. You don't have to believe it, pray for it, or have faith in it. He said it is guaranteed. So, I told my friend trouble here on earth would never end. I found out that God chooses what we go through. We choose how we go through it. Paul said he LEARNED, even in his troubles. A wise person once told me, that our trials and mistakes are only failures if we fail to learn from them. In your troubles, what have you learned? Like Joseph, I've been through some very hard and devastating situations, but like Paul, I've learned from each one of them. I came out better, not bitter. Let me share with you a few things I've learned in my trials: 1) Whether I have a lot or a little, God still expects me to get the job done because I have his help. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. The church I pastor is presently involved in a \$1.6 million project — a project we really don't have the money for. But I've learned how to do with, and how to do without; 2) God doesn't judge me on the basis of what I don't do with what I don't have, but on the basis of what I do with what I have. In other words, He doesn't say, "Ron couldn't do it because he didn't have the necessary resources." He says, "Ron did all he could with what he had; and 3) Whatever I'd done to get myself into a trial, for goodness sake, don't do it again!

So, through our past trials, or in our present ones, what have we learned? In our mistakes, what have we learned? Life is a continual learning process. For a lot of people, they stop learning and, thus, stop living. So before we go off on someone, or do something foolish, we should stop! Chill! Calm down! Dry our tears and ask ourselves, "So, what have I learned?"

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How to manage your life

Article 6: Career Planning

You are never too young to begin planning for the future. An important part of this planning involves the choice of what career you elect to pursue. We emphasize planning because there are clear and well-defined steps that can be followed to increase both your awareness of your career interests and the options available to you.

Let's review ten steps we recommend for planning your career:

- 1. Develop a career plan. Think about what you want to do and find out more about the kind of training, education, and skills you will need to achieve your career goal. There are four elements in developing a career plan:
- A. Develop a career plan to determine your interests and skills. Thinking about your skills and interests can help you find a satisfying career.
- B. Make a list of skills you have. Your skills may include training you have gained through parttime or full-time jobs.
- C. Find out about the types of careers available to you. If you don't research careers, you may not know about the best occupations to fit your interests and
- D. Do you need special training? Once you have determined what career path you want to follow, assess what you need to do to prepare for that career.
- 2. Assess your skills and inter-

Think hard about what you enjoy, what you are good at, what kind of personality you are, and the values you hold.

3. Research occupations. Find out more about the nature of

the jobs that interest you, such as educational requirements, salary, working conditions, future outlook, and anything else that can help you narrow your focus.

4. Compare your skills and interests with the occupations you've selected.

The career that matches your skills, interests, and personality the closest may be the career for you. Think about experiences you have enjoyed. What kind of school, religious, social, or sports activities do you like? Evaluate those interests. Think about what you liked about the activities. What challenges did the activities offer? What skills do you need to develop further to continue in those activities? Once you have found a career that matches your interests and skills, you are ready to set your career goal.

5. Choose your career goal.

Once you've decided what occupation matches up best with you, then you can begin developing a plan to reach your career goal. A career goal helps you focus on what you want to do for a living. A career goal can be a specific job you want to do - such as doctor or teacher — or a career goal can be particular field you want to work in, such as medicine or education. A career goal will also guide you into doing what you want with your life - rather than just drifting into a job.

6. Select a school that offers a gram that best meets your career lifelong success. goal and financial needs.

Familiarize yourself with the different types of schools, and find out what characteristics to look

for when selecting a school. Choose characteristics that are important to you. Gather information about schools. Make a short list of the schools that possess the characteristics you're looking for and that best meet your goals and needs.

7. Find out about financial aid to help support you in obtaining your career goal.

Financial aid covers the education costs that you can't pay for. In general, there are four types of financial aid - scholarships, grants, work-study and loans. To obtain more information on federal or state financial aid programs, or to apply for financial aid through any of these programs, contact the financial aid office at the school you plan to attend, talk to your high school guidance counselor or call the U.S. Department of Education at 800-4-FED-AID.

- 8. Learn about job hunting tips as you prepare to graduate or move into the job market.
- 9. Prepare your resume, and practice job-interviewing tech-
- Go to your career guidance center (at your middle school, high school, or college) or local library for additional information and help on career plan-

While there are no guarantees, college degree or training pro- a good career plan can contribute to

Presented by:



July Career Planning



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

Want A Promotion?

Just because you have seniority, and you're "in the right spot at the right time" when John Doe retires or moves on to other endeavors, does not guarantee that you will be selected to succeed him. Being promoted to a higher level of authority, challenges and responsibilities is a goal, however, that can be reached through a concerted, organized approach. Promotions, after all, are not "given" — they are earned.

The first step, certainly, is to master the position you now occupy. Then, improve it with creative ideas of your

Always keep your commitments; your superiors will not view you as a person who can take on new responsibilities if you can't master the current ones.

Be very careful if you lean toward "rugged individualism." Initiative is a characteristic that your company wants you to demonstrate; yet, you must keep it in check.

Talk in terms of what the company and your superiors want. Better yet, show them how to get it! Henry Ford wrote, "If there is any one secret of success, it lies in the ability to get the other person's point of view and see things from his angle as well as your own."

Recipes For Success

In a job interview, it is vital that you convey your personal attributes (especially your personality, attitude, ambition and work habits) in the best manner possible. These are as important to your overall impression as your appearance. Such attributes enable an employer to determine how effective you might be on the job.

Smile before you answer the phone. It will actually change your voice to a friendlier tone and will come across to the customer or client that you welcome his or her call.

In "real life," we all learn by our mis-

Learn to control your emotions on the job, especially anger and disappointment.

Develop such skills as organizing, negotiating, training, evaluating, managing time, reporting, trouble shooting, and implementing; even if you don't get the promotion, these skills are highly desirable and transferable to other jobs.

The person your company is looking to promote will most likely be a self-starter, honest, assertive, calm under pressure, able to meet deadlines, discrete, efficient, persistent, loyal, enthusiastic, resourceful, and orderly. Does this describe you? If not, there are self-help books and courses to teach you how to acquire these important traits.

Remember to get feedback and performance appraisals to find out if you are on target toward your goal.

Success is a pathway, not a destination. Never overlook the fact that people are your resources. You will need to demonstrate to employees and your superiors that you care about them, respect them, and acknowledge their contributions.

Once you reach your goal and are promoted, remember the wise advice of China's Lao Tse: "The reason why rivers and seas receive the homage of a hundred mountain streams is that they keep below them. Thus, they are able to reign over all the mountain streams. So the sage, wishing to be above men, putteth himself below them; wishing to be before them, he putteth himself behind them. Thus, though his place be above men, they do not feel his weight; though his place be before them, they do not count it an injury."

MON

takes; but an employer cannot afford to let you learn in this manner. Be sure that you fully and clearly understand instructions for a task before you begin it. Don't be afraid to ask for more detailed instructions; your employer will appreciate your due diligence and attitude showing concern that you complete the job correctly.

If you choose to list extracurricular activities and hobbies on your resume, be sure that they are ones that indicate evidence of qualities you possess that could be transferred to a job. List activities that show you have leadership skills, you are a team player, you have a high energy level, and you are interested in a variety of activities and learning experiences. Simply listing that you are a member of an organization does not impress the recruiter. Besure you do not list activities that indicate you are a loner.

MON

So you want to be an insurance adjuster?

It is not easy to get into the claims business today but listed below are some suggestions and skills needed for a career in claims adjusting:

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- Take a claims clerical job and work yourself up the ladder
- •Know someone in the industry to sponsor you

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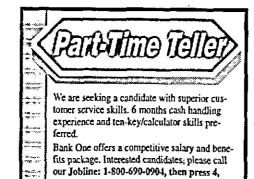
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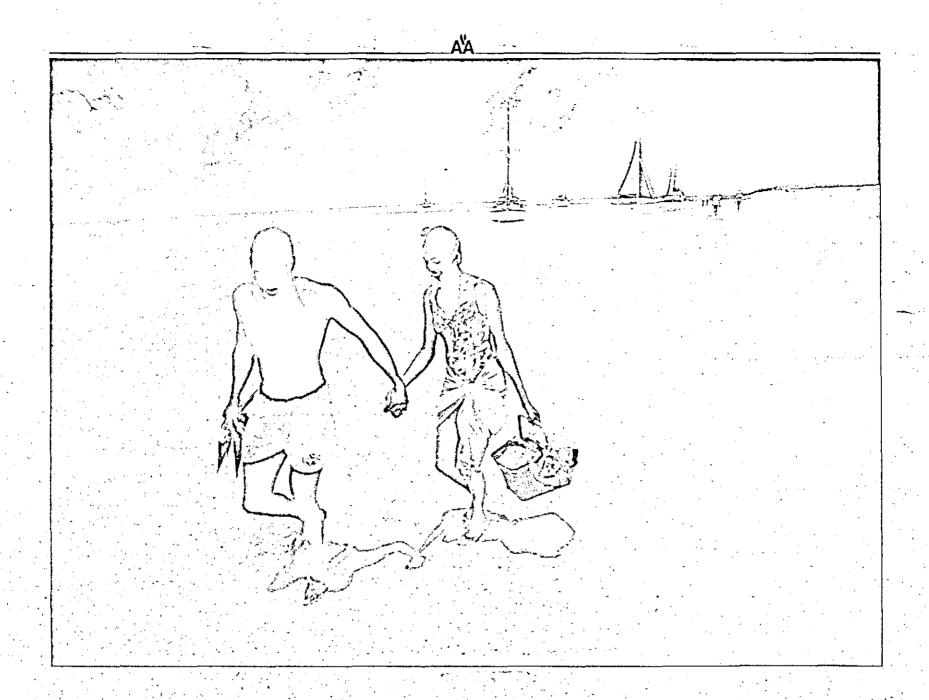
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