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Minority Opportunity News



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VOLUME 7, NO. 9 September 5, 1998



West Goes South



State Senator

Royce West wants a state-supported, full-service university to be built in Dallas—south of the Trinity.

**Rev. Al Sharpton
Brings Message Of
Economic Parity**

**'Stella' Groves
And
'Blade' Slices**

**Personal Finances:
Discover Central
Asset Accounts**



From
The Editor
Chris Pryer

Editorial

Twice MONthly

Some of you may not notice—ostensibly, it's a small thing. But really it isn't. At the bottom of each page of *MON* is what is called a footer. It is a recurring, uniform inscription that tells the reader the name of our publication, the specific page number and the date. That's it! The date! It doesn't just say the month—it gives a specific day.

So what, you say? Well, for all of its publishing life—going on seven years now—*MON* has been a monthly publication. Therefore, we never had to specify a particular time of the month. So why now? Because we are proud to announce we will be publishing **TWICE MONTHLY!** (I had to say it at least once.) Our publishing dates now will be on the 5th and 20th of each and every month.

Over the next six months or so, we plan to initiate even more changes—in the content of the paper as well as the physical presentation. These alterations will be subtle in some cases, the kind of things that may cause you to enjoy *MON* more but without knowing exactly why. Other changes will be more obvious. All of them, we hope, will be to better serve you, our reader.

We admit that we have our work cut out for us; publishing twice as often on a regular basis will be a challenge to everyone involved with composing this newspaper. And we are committed to maintaining the qualities that we think make our publication a standout among those of our kind: plenty of original writing; in-depth features that stimulate thought as well as providing information; circumspective and sophisticated analyses of what is going on in the city and how it affects the communities we serve; and an outstanding, aesthetically pleasing physical presentation that makes *MON* an exceptionally worthwhile and pleasurable read.

However, we are only one side of the newspaper-reader equation. You, the reader, are our most important asset. After all, if we are not continually providing all of the qualities I just listed above, we expect you to let us know, loud and clear. So, as we commence to giving your favorite newspaper a facelift—and more opportunities to show it off—we hope you will give us feedback on how you think we are progressing.

We are excited about the changes that will help us better serve you. Let us know how we are doing.

MON

Speaking of labor, and other things

With the approaching Labor Day holiday, *Minority Opportunity News* extends its best wishes to America's working men and women. None of us should forget that the annual observance pays tribute to those who many times toil in jobs they don't particularly like—but absolutely need.

As America's working men and women enjoy a day of rest and relaxation, children and students celebrate for another reason: Labor Day signals summer's end. As children return to school, family attention shifts once more to the rigors of classrooms, homework and exams.

At gatherings where parents relax, children play, and everyone enjoys one last barbeque for a while, politicians are plotting their next move. Labor Day is traditionally the start of fall political campaigns.

With the seemingly endless saga of President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky, special prosecutor Ken Starr will soon forward a report to Congress. Bill Clinton's political problems do not deserve to be our nation's top story in months to come.

Voters should take note of the issues that are far larger and more consequential than that of marital infidelity. In the meantime, candidates, referenda and agendas are being advanced.

Each vote and every citizen counts. Exactly how everyone is to be counted is at stake in Census 2000. Perhaps it is because people of color have never been accurately counted that our strength and clout have never been fully realized.

The Congress we elect in November will set the stage and the rules for the next census. These critical decisions will affect the entire nation through the next decade. When congressional redistricting begins, people who are fair and inclusive should be in the majority.

Hence, whom we support is just as important as voting itself. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal got America out of the Great Depres-

sion and the huge majority of African Americans into the pockets of Democrats. Despite our consistent, and many times pivotal, support of the Democratic Party, we have yet to become players at the tables or even in the rooms where decisions are made. Forget about being the spook who sat by the door; African-Americans are most often uninvited to the house.

And no, *MON* is not forgetting the late Ron Brown, the first African American to chair the Democratic National Committee. At a time when the job of

candidate, U.S. Senator Bob Dole opposed Lyndon Johnson's Great Society programs like Head Start and Model Cities. Ronald Reagan ceased appointing significant numbers of minorities to the federal bench, as Jimmy Carter so boldly did. And in a presidential campaign against Michael Dukakis, the father of Texas' current governor ran the infamous Willie Horton television ad. In those brief seconds, George Herbert Walker Bush—whether intentional or not—sent a strong political message to White America's worst fears on race and crime.

So as a people of color, do we have viable political options between the two major parties?

Do we wait yet again for Democrats to face and embrace the fact that yesterday's minorities are today's majorities? This November, do we vote a straight Democratic ticket when our electoral strength has been ignored and taken for granted?

Or do we turn to a party whose policies consistently favor people with money?

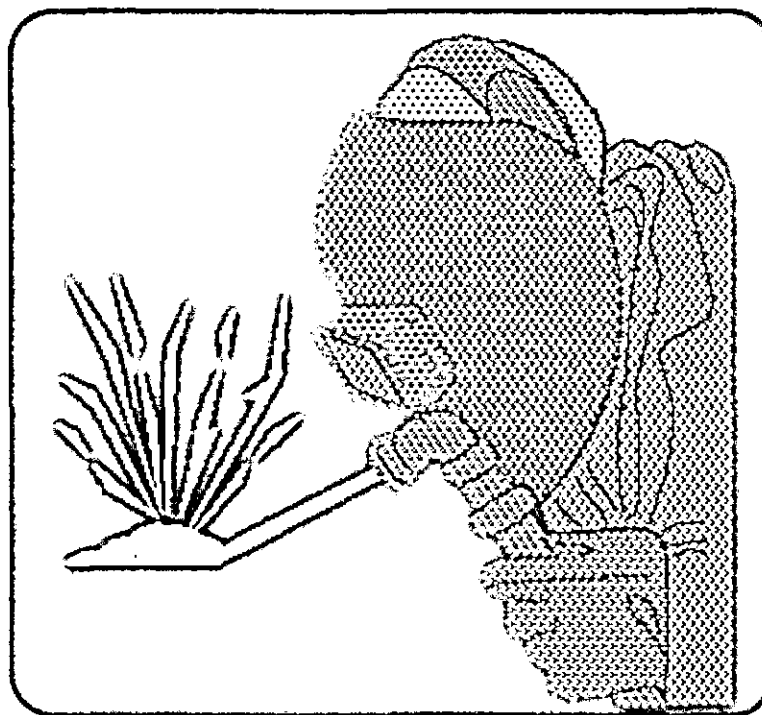
If the question to the Democrats is "What have

you done for me lately?" then the question to Republicans is "What has your party done since Abe Lincoln freed the slaves?" Trickle down economics may have worked for others, but not a drop of prosperity reached those at the bottom rung of the economic ladder. Trickle down economics brought bulging welfare rolls and widening income gaps to the nation.

The greatest good is never accomplished by giving to those who already have a great deal.

What about the rest of us—like the working man and woman celebrating a day off this Labor Day? Rather than a date on a calendar, give us something tangible to celebrate. Like in Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*, people of color are asking for—more appropriately, demanding—"more."

MON



electing Democrats drew few takers and even less interest from Whites, Brown's talents and insight returned a Democrat to the White House after a 12-year absence. And after that feat was accomplished by an African-American, White folk took over again.

While Democrats agonize over how to placate that elusive angry White male, Republicans offer African Americans little as a realistic alternative.

Before FDR, African Americans who could vote were oftentimes Republican. When FDR's policies and his First Lady, Eleanor, attracted our support, it is almost as if the Republican reaction was "good riddance." Instead, Republicans have heralded as their heroes people whose political philosophy would reverse progressive and inclusive policies.

Before he became a presidential

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C P V S

LETTERS...

Editor's Note: The following is a letter that, while not directed at Minority Opportunity News, is being published to direct attention to its subject and engender public discourse about it. Any and all opinions about the upcoming sitcom, *The Secret Life of Desmond Pfeiffer*, are encouraged.

UPN sitcom is more than offensive*

Recently my colleagues and I pre-viewed your new sitcom, *The Secret Diary of Desmond Pfeiffer*, due to air in September.

Needless to say, we were outraged by this sitcom's theme. The show's plot about an African American "butler" or "houseboy" to President Abraham Lincoln is not only extremely tasteless, but it also makes a mockery of a period in our history that is neither appropriate or funny.

The show's premise is insulting, degrading and inflammatory, given the tenuous state of race relations in the country. Of major concern is the fact that this period of American history is not taught thoroughly, accurately, nor well in most schools across the country. Therefore, we are concerned that our young people will have this show as their historical reference.

As Chief Executive Officer of the Dallas Urban League, I am writing to ask that you discontinue your plans to air *Desmond Pfeiffer* and rethink its entire format. I have every intention of encouraging friends and other members of my community to bypass viewing this show and to express their outrage and comments to its advertisers.

Dr. Beverly Mitchell-Brooks
 President & CEO, Dallas Urban League

*Originally written to Dean Valentine, president and CEO of United Paramount Networks (UPN), 11800 Wilshire Blvd., 3rd floor, Los Angeles, California 90025.

Letters Policy

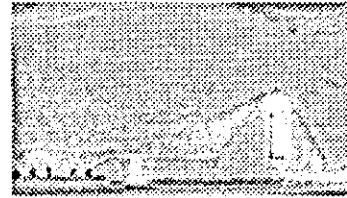
MON welcomes the letters of its readers. We reserve the right to edit all letters for the sake of clarity or space.

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

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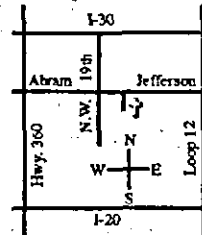
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Guest Viewpoint
Lee Alcorn

The Dallas/Fort Worth Airport has never had an African American prime construction contractor or an African American general contractor as a member of the Airport Development Team (ADT). The percentage of work awarded to African Americans is less than 3 percent. This is a gross economic disparity that is unacceptable to the Dallas NAACP and the African American community. A supposedly Hispanic construction firm (Thomas F. Burns) has been the construction prime contractor for the last three years and was awarded work totaling more than 200 million dollars.

COBI Investors Conference brings Wall Street to Main Street

The Coalition of Black Investors (COBI) invites African Americans to seize the power of investing—from stocks, bonds and mutual funds to private companies, real estate and art—at the first Black Investors Conference, September 18-19, in Washington, D.C. The agenda includes workshops, financial analysis, portfolio managers and networking opportunities.

"Get in the black, enjoy the good life and leave your children a legacy of wealth. With planning, African Americans can attain these goals," says Duane Davis, founder of COBI. "But we must save and invest more aggressively, get smart about stocks, bonds and mutual funds and begin now to build our nest eggs."

Rev. Jesse Jackson, president of Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, will keynote the conference's September 18 luncheon. Rev. Jackson established the Wall Street Project in 1997 to urge corporations to expand economic opportunities for minorities and women.

Other speakers include Dennis Kimbro, author of *Think And Grow Rich: A Black Choice*; Cheryl Broussard, author and investment adviser; Alfred Edmond, executive editor of *Black Enterprise* magazine; Debra Lee, president of BET Holdings Inc.; Nathan Chapman Jr. of The Chapman Company; Lou Holland of Holland Capital Management;

Dallas/Fort Worth Airport: We want our "Fare Share"

Last week, the Dallas NAACP led a delegation of African American general construction contractors to speak before the DFW Airport Board, alerting them that this disparity can no longer be tolerated and that we are requesting immediate attention to rectify this economic injustice. As a result, we are currently involved in meetings that will hopefully resolve our concerns regarding the non-selection of African American prime construction contractors and the historical fact that no African American general contractor has ever served on the ADT team.

The Dallas NAACP is in ongoing

negotiations with the goal of resolving this issue before the next prime construction contractor is selected to do work for the next three years—work that

TCBM/Boss XI '98 convenes in Austin September 16 - 19

Texas Publishers Assn. Wire Service

Today's market is generating an increasing number of partnerships and alliances, often among companies that compete with each other, in an effort to improve products and services. That is what the Business Opportunity Symposium Series (BOSS XI '98), partnered with the Texas Conference of Black Mayors (TCBM), is all about—building bridges and partnerships and laying the foundations for the future.

Held this year, September 16-19 at the Austin Convention Center, Austin, Texas, BOSS has been, for the past ten years, one of the most exciting expo shows in the nation. With workshops on successful small business management, partnering, networking opportunities and electronic commerce, TCMB/BOSS XI '98 provides a forum for small and minority-owned businesses to secure contracts with public and private entities and to network with elected and public officials.

New this year, "on-the-spot" purchasing opportunities will be plentiful and profitable. Historically underutilized businesses will have the opportunity to

will exceed more than one billion dollars. We are asking the community to support our efforts on this issue. We must begin to get our "fare share" of all economic opportunities that involve public dollars.

MON

Lee Alcorn is president of the Dallas chapter of the NAACP.

leave with contracts from State and Federal agencies, as well as private enterprises.

Other highlights of the conference include:

- Nationally known keynote speakers on management and leadership
- Dawn to dusk workshops featuring the most advanced and up-to-date information how-to sessions
- Internet and Web site training
- Opportunities for contract award at Expo Show
- TCBM/BOSS XI '98 Compaq Millennium Technology Center
- Golf Tournament

Admission to conference workshops, the Expo Trade Fair and the technology center is free, but workshops only will hold a maximum of 20-30 people on a first come, first serve basis. Registration associated with food events is \$300 (late registration) from August 1-September 11. Exhibit space is also available. For more information, call 800-322-0447 or 512-332-0177.

TPA Wire Service represents the African American press of Texas.

Duane Davis, COBI founder; and Barbara Bowles of The Kenwood Group. All will share investment tips and economic perspectives.

COBI will award \$1,000 to the Investment Club of the Year and will recognize the Investment Adviser of the Year. Submit your nominations today.

Financial service firms will exhibit in the conference exhibit hall. Representatives from publicly traded companies will be on hand to share investment information about their companies. In the COBI Marketplace, recruiters will review resumes and talk to prospective applicants.

The Coalition of Black Investors is a unique economic network that aims to increase Black participation in the capital markets, enhance financial literacy, link African American investors and promote the formation of investment clubs. COBI's membership includes individual investors, investment professionals, investment clubs and publicly traded corporations.

Early registration for the two-day conference is \$95.00. To register, call 336-922-6240 or 888-411-2624. You can also visit the COBI website at www.cobinvest.com or write COBI, P.O. Box 30553, Winston-Salem, NC 27130.

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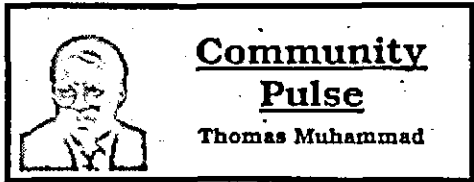
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You need to cut off those long fingernails!

Don't you sit there scratching your head as if you haven't thought about saying the same thing to some of these young women as you stood waiting while they fumbled in cash drawers with nails as long as your Cadillac to give you change back after your purchase. Well damit I have, and I get pissed off each time it happens! Especially when I'm in a hurry! There you are standing there as homegirl con-

tinues to drop coin after coin because her nails are so long and warped that she can't get the coins to balance in her hand long enough to get a grip. So, there you are as she drops them once, twice, three times a lady and you're getting later and later for your appointment. You want to scream. You want to shout. You want to go postal!

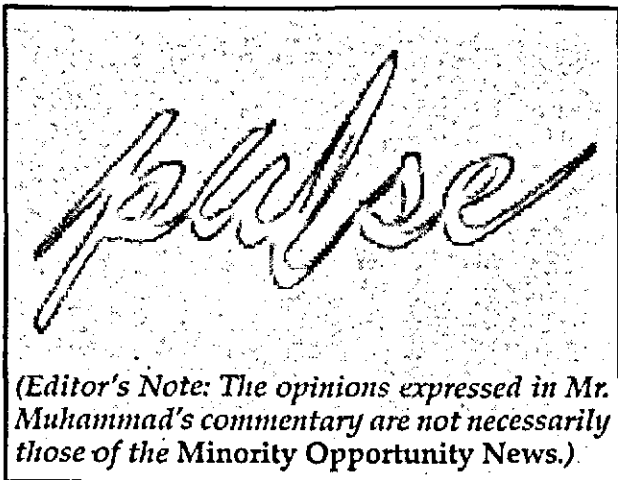
African American. So as you stand there silently pissed off as hell, you can only say to yourself "you wouldn't be having this problem if you would cut off them damn nails!" But you don't say it because she reminds you of your sister, cousin, niece or in some cases (heaven forbid) your mother.

In fact my own sister while visiting me several months ago asked me to stop at a Wal-Mart so she could pick up some batteries for her camera. Well after entering the store she decided that she needed to use the telephone. After depositing a coin into the phone slot, I noticed my sister punching the phone keys with her knuckles. I was floored! I screamed at her and said "why are you using your knuckles to dial a phone number." And many of you who know my sister knows that she is the quiet, laid-back type who does not do a lot of talking. She just gives you that

look. So, I fell silent, but man I thought about that most of the day. (Yes I'm afraid of my sister).

That experience however, brought home to me this fad that has completely handicapped our women. Everywhere I go, I see women with these long damn nails. Some of them are curled into two, three and four loops. And they come in all kinds of colors like bright passion red, Harlem night blue, midnight black and hazel nut brown/green. Many also have silver and gold sparkles sprinkled on these nails.

Imagine for a moment a woman with nails that are as long as your leg and who is sporting earrings that are larger than your hand and a hair weave down to her waist. I already hear you and yes I can feel you sister readers working your necks saying, "well she can wear whatever she wants to as long as she paid for it. It ain't none of your damn business!" And you would be right. But should she be dressed like this while working at



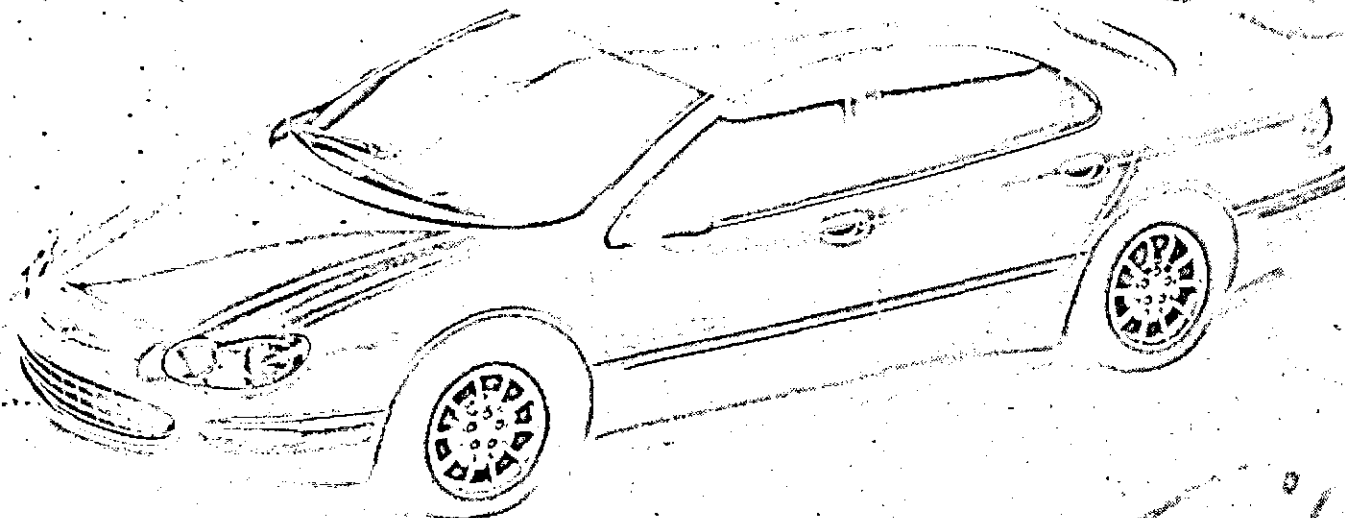
(Editor's Note: The opinions expressed in Mr. Muhammad's commentary are not necessarily those of the Minority Opportunity News.)

But you can't, because she's also

See **PULSE**, page 7

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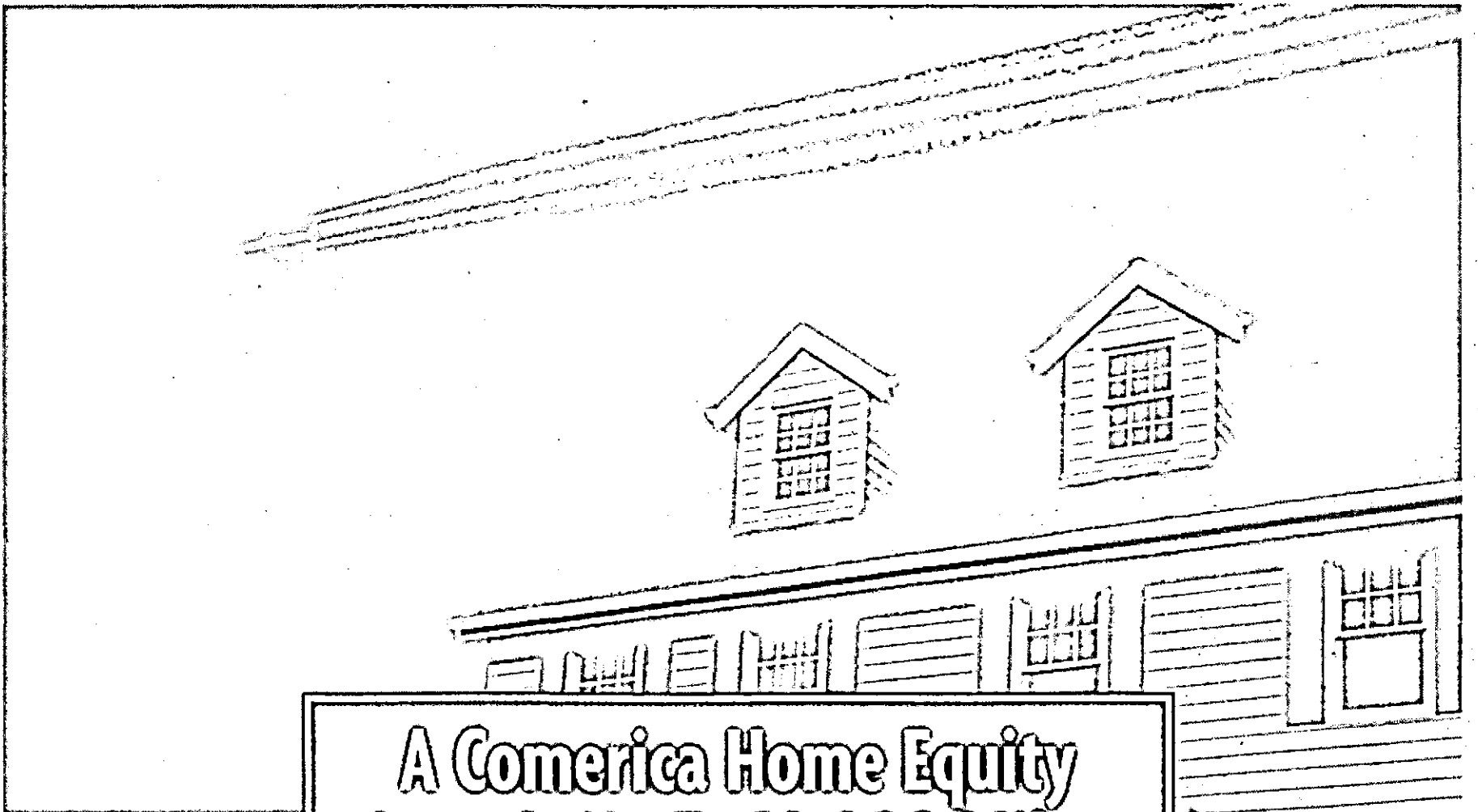
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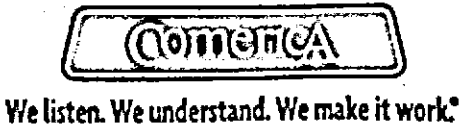
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Pen On Fire

Cheryl Smith

Nearly a decade ago, the representatives of the four national journalism groups of color — African American, Asian, Hispanic and Native American — gathered and formed a quad-lateral group, Unity, Inc. In 1994, instead of a separate national conventions being held for each group, the Unity conference was held in Atlanta. The groups were to gather next in 1999.

About three years ago, I was quite disappointed to hear that the Unity Convention would not be coming to Dallas, as I had hoped, but would convene in Seattle, Wash., instead.

I thought we had it in the bag. At the time, the Dallas-Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators was one of the National Association of Black Journalists' (NABJ) most influential chapters: Tracy Tong, of KERA-FM, was a national board member for the Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA); Gilbert Bailon, of *The Dallas Morning News*, was the president of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ); Karen Miche, also of *The Dallas Morning News*, was a board member for the Native American Journalists Association (NAJA); WFAA-TV's Vince Johnson was a board member of NABJ; and Anna Martinez was the president of one of NAHJ's most influential chapters.

With such clout, I just knew we would have enough votes to have the conference of journalists of color held here in our great city. We had just elected the first African American mayor and people of color were making significant strides in a number of arenas, including education, business, medicine, law enforcement and, of course, the media.

But representatives of Unity '99, as it is being called, did not respond favorably to the presentation from the Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau. It seems that the Bureau did not realize the significance of this convention — bringing together the United States' four largest journalist groups of color. Unity '99 representatives said the lackluster presentation helped them decide to go to Seattle instead.

That same lackluster presentation helped Dallas to lose the Dallas Urban League's Convention for 1999.

Well, as we move closer to the convention, set for the summer of 1999, many are beginning to speak out about holding the Unity convention in Seattle because

If they don't do the right thing, let's not go to Seattle

of the state of Washington's stance on affirmative action. I first received an e-mail from a member of the Asian Journalists Association. Then more members began expressing their dissatisfaction with the Unity board's reluctance to reconsider patronizing a state that is considering anti-affirmative action legislation. After all, we're talking about at least \$20 million being pumped into a racist economy as a result of the convention being held there. Many African American journalists are saying that they will not go to Seattle.

As "minority" journalists living in America, clearly we have many of the same issues. So you would think we all would feel the same way about affirmative action.

Hell, if it weren't for affirmative action, many of the Asian, Hispanic, Native American and African American journalists in this country would be

unemployed — and unemployable.

Instead, the debate continues among journalists and others about Seattle as a site for vacations, conventions, etc.

How could the member organizations, of Unity, justify such a decision? Why weren't more journalists of color speaking out and demanding a venue change?

Well, there are politics, signed contracts, publicity and a number of other factors to consider. Many journalists feel their organizations, having already committed substantial funds towards meeting in Seattle, will surely face bankruptcy should the convention site be moved at this late date.

Even before NABJ held its 1998 convention in Washington, D.C., in late July, the topic was of concern.

DFW/ABC was one of the first NABJ chapters to publicly and officially go on record opposing NABJ's participation in anything going on in Seattle.

After all, do we stand up or continue accepting any type of treatment from people intent on oppressing others?

Some chapters have opposed a change of venue; others are still discussing the ramifications of such an action.

We have to keep all options open; however. There is an election in November. Hopefully by that time, they will have their act together in Washington.

Washington needs to support affir-

mative action, or suffer tremendously.

At least members of NABJ and other groups are showing some type of common sense and initiative. They are speaking out and hoping to make an impact by challenging others to do the same.

Some NABJ members are probably reeling from the fact that they see a resurgence in activism and consciousness exhibited by our board, under the leadership of national president, Vanessa Williams, of *The Washington Post*.

Since we understand that we are not merely a social organization, it is imperative that a level of consciousness is displayed in all of our actions.

Since we realize that some very strong warriors were present in each of our organizations, fighting for our future, we must take the same stance as we look in the eyes of aspiring journalists.

If NABJ, or any of the other ethnic journalist groups, makes a move toward Seattle without so much as a whimper, people of color around this country and throughout the world should publicly ridicule the m.

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.

PULSE, from page 5

"Who Did It Fried Chicken," "Jerry Scavenger's Catfish Hut" or "Harry's Poison Pork Chop?" Place. Come to think of it, if she's working in places with names like these, who can blame her for her dress? But my point is, wherever she's working, this is not appropriate dress!

I still remember very well a story that ran in Dallas' only daily as it talked about a woman who had nails that were so long that she could not get a job. Her nails had grown so long that she could hardly cook, change her clothes or feed herself. The reason she gave for allowing her nails to grow so long was that she was hoping to break the Guinness book of records and claim a cash prize and notoriety for having the world's longest nails. I believe the story finally ended with the woman having her nails cut off so that she could seek employment. Oh, by the way, she had to see a doctor to have the nails professionally removed because of fear of germs or infections.

I must admit that when I was a youngster, I too sported some weird and strange dress. And I too probably provoked some of the outrage that today's youngsters have provoked in me. I can only hope that they too will grow out of it as I did. However, in the mean time, I will continue to say (to myself of course) "cut them damn long nails off."

Until then, the struggle continues...

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Duty Bound

Royce West works for the interest of all of his constituents

By Cheryl L. Williams

Duty is a very personal thing. For Texas state Senator Royce West, it comes from recognizing the need to take action and not just the need to urge others to do something.

Installed as State Senator for District 23 in January 1993, West has taken an active role in the reform of Texas' education, tort, welfare and juvenile justice laws. He is also credited with enhancing penalties for hate crimes, increasing penalties for violent crimes, such as gang-related violence and crimes against women and children, and creating laws that prohibit the public consumption of alcohol within 600 feet of a public school. A third-term senator, his agenda throughout his legislative career continues to be school safety, economic development, crime prevention, health and human services and education.

Among his early accomplishments, West became the first African American student body president at the University of Texas at Arlington and the first African American chief felony prosecutor in Dallas county. His colleagues call him a ground-breaker for his willingness to work within the system and for his analytical style. West, also an attorney, worked as a Dallas prosecutor from 1979 to 1984 before running for the state senate.

Senator West is an ardent coalition builder, believing that coalitions should be built on interest and not color. To encourage coalition building, West implemented several annual programs including the Dr. Emmett J. Conrad Leadership Program. The Conrad Program, which has provided professional jobs for more than 500 college students in District 23, has also awarded over \$58,000 in scholarships. Other community programs implemented by West include Accessing Economic Opportunities-Texas Style Contracts Fair Benefiting Historically Underutilized Businesses, One Community-One Child Parental Involvement Program and the Super Bone Domino Tournament benefiting the Visiting Nurse's Association's Meals on Wheels Program.

Because West believes his constituency should have access to the basic necessities of life, he works tirelessly for improved transportation and educational services in southern Dallas County. Currently, his efforts are focused on bringing a full-service, state-supported university to Dallas' southern sector.

MON talked with Senator West about, among other things, his political genesis. The following is an excerpt from that interview.

When did you know you wanted to go into politics?

In the seventh grade, I guess I got the itch. I ran for student body president at Pearl C. Anderson Junior High School (in Dallas). I lost. I got the itch to become a lawyer and also to be involved in politics. It wasn't until I got into col-



lege that I actually got involved in politics and became student body president at the University of Texas at Arlington. I've always had an interest in politics.

Has your political career been rewarding?

Without a doubt. If I could be a state senator 24-7 and make a decent living being a state senator so I could take care of my family, I'd rather do this. When you see the fruits of your work and take a concept and make it reality, you're talking about an exhilarating experience. It's real awesome to see an effort that you've been a part of come to fruition. What I would consider the project that gives me the greatest satisfaction is our Conrad program. [Recently] a young man walked up to me (he had been in the program for about three years), and said, 'Senator West, you know I'm working for TU (TuElectric) now in Customer Service.' That makes me feel good. When you have a hundred students come into the program—some of them shy and introverted—and they get leadership roles as officers and you see them develop and come out of their shells, that really makes me feel good.

Who has been your mentor?

I've had several. [Congresswoman] Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Texas). Even though I don't talk to Eddie Bernice all

the time, she was the first politician that I ever met I respected. John Wiley [Price]. I wouldn't say he was a mentor, but he's a person I talk to all the time. When I need sage advice, I talk to Zan Holmes (pastor of St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church, Dallas) or C.A.W. Clark (pastor of Good Street Baptist Church, Dallas). My soul mate is my wife Carol, when I really need to bounce something off someone.

How would you describe your political style?

I'm a pretty moderate democrat. Moderate means that I'm fiscally conservative. I don't believe in government intervention. I believe in limited government intervention in our lives. I believe in affirmative action and affirmative access. Some people would say believing in affirmative action makes you liberal; being strong on issues of finance makes you conservative. I guess you balance it somewhere in the middle.

How do you balance the expectations of your minority (African American) constituents and your white constituents?

With the issues, if it's something for which I have a predisposed position based on principles I have, then I'm going to vote that way and whoever is with me is with me and whoever is against me is against me. What I attempt to do is find out what the pulse of the district is on certain issues. I use that in terms of deliberating on what I know the facts are. Then I make a decision.

What is the source of your principles?

Obviously, the Bible. [Also], the experiences that I've had in the 45 years I've been on earth and basically, interaction with other people. Based on all that, you develop a certain set of principles

that guide you through this maze we call life.

What pressures do you deal with as a politician?

[I deal with] the pressures that are normally associated with being a state senator. You've got to be focused because everybody has a different issue but you've got to establish priorities just like anything else. You've got to keep your staff focused on [the issues] also. Then you've got to balance your senate life with your family life. People tend to want you to be every place and you just can't do that if you're talking personal responsibility and fathers trying to be fathers to their children. I've got to set an example and spend time with my family and my children.

Do you consider yourself to be a career politician or are there other opportunities you want to pursue?

I'll be involved in politics as long as it's fun and as long as I can see that I can make a contribution. If you ask me if I have my sights set on another office right now, I can't say that I do. I'm enjoying being a state senator. I've been blessed with the opportunity to serve four more years. It depends upon how I feel towards the end of this next term.

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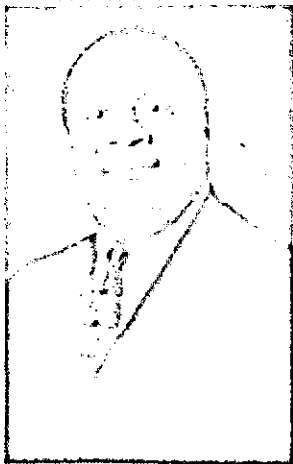
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Robinson named chairman of Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau

Malcolm Robinson, co-founder and partner in the law firm of Robinson, West & Gooden in Dallas, Texas has been named the 1998-2000 chairman of the Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau, announced Dave Whitney, Bureau president and CEO. Robinson, who will become the first African American chairman of the Dallas CVB board will follow Winfield Padgett, co-owner and chairman of Dallas' Padgett Printing Corporation.



Malcolm Robinson

Robinson will oversee a 34-member board of directors of the bureau. Dallas is one of the leading convention cities in America, as well as the number one visitors' destination in Texas, based on studies by the Texas Department of Economic Development Tourism office in Austin, Texas.

Robinson served on the Dallas CVB board from 1993 through 1996 and returned to the board last year. His leadership extends into the Dallas community with his involvement with the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce where he serves on the board of directors as general counsel. He is president-elect of the Greater Dallas Crime Commission, member of the board of trustees of the State Bar of Texas Insurance Trust and co-chair of the Southern Sector Initiative of the Dallas Together Forum. For more information, call Greg Elam at 214-571-1070.

Drake to head new Criminal Justice Associate Degree

Bill Drake has been appointed faculty/administrator in charge of the new Criminal Justice Associate Degree Program being offered at Mountain View College this fall. Drake will be responsible for the overall planning, staffing, budgeting and supervision of the full- and part-time personnel assigned to the criminal justice program.

Drake previously served as the coordinator for Special Services for Mountain View College where he directed the college's vocational rehabilitation programs for disabled and disadvantaged students and worked with campus administration to ensure full accessibility to disabled students.

He brings an extensive criminal justice background to the position. He served as associate director of the Criminal Justice Department at a four-year college and as a court probation inves-

tigator for the Dallas County Juvenile Department. Drake holds a Master of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from Sam Houston State University and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology from Bishop College. For more information on Mountain View College's Criminal Justice Associate in Applied Science Degree, call the Workforce Development Department at 214-860-8656 or the Public Information Office at 214-860-8680.



City of Dallas Event Services/Cultural Affairs welcomes Boyd as new director

Wilhemina "Mina" Boyd has been appointed Director of Event Services and Cultural Affairs for the City of Dallas.

She will be responsible for various venues, including the Dallas Convention Center, Reunion Arena, Farmer's Market, WRR municipal classical radio station and Union Station. In addition,

she will oversee the office of Cultural Affairs which includes the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, Majestic Theater, and several other cultural centers. Prior to coming to Dallas, she was the Director of the Tampa Convention Facility from 1993-1998. For more information, call Cheryl Lewis at 214-571-1071.

Allstate Foundation awards "The Bridge into the 21st Century"

Some school-aged youth will receive a "tour guide" into the workforce courtesy of the Allstate Foundation, which granted \$1,000 to help support the non-profit organization, "The Bridge into the 21st Century."

Since 1996, the organization has undertaken issues such as race relations, homelessness and education. The grant will provide funding for a multicultural training and mentoring program for children.

Stephanie's Collections to give art to area non-profit organizations

Stephanie's Collections, an independently-owned art gallery, is presenting a monthly art giveaway for nonprofit organizations that serve the local community and promotes family values. Stephanie's Collection created the art distribution to applaud the work of nonprofit organizations in the area and help create a more pleasant environment by providing a "bit of beauty" says owner Stephanie Ward.

To qualify for the giveaway, the nonprofit must send a letter to

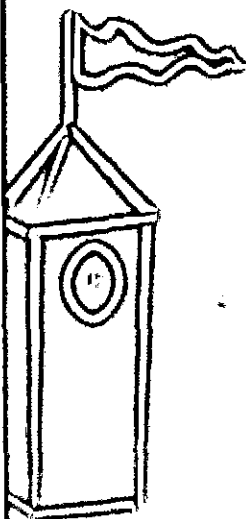
Allstate supports programs like "Bridge into the 21st Century" through its public service program, "Making Texas Safer. . . One Neighborhood at a Time." The program aims to heighten public awareness and understanding of youth issues across Texas.

The Allstate Foundation will donate more than \$250,000 this year to non-profit organizations in Texas. For more information, call Kim Whitaker at 972-871-6656.

Stephanie's Collection describing what it does, how long it has been in business, what the target population is and why it should receive the art. The nonprofit organization will also be required to provide a letter from a person or group that the organization has helped.


Organizations can fax letters to Stephanie's Collection at 214-396-4438 or mail them to 6955 Greenville Ave., Dallas, Texas 75231. For more information, call 214-369-4438.

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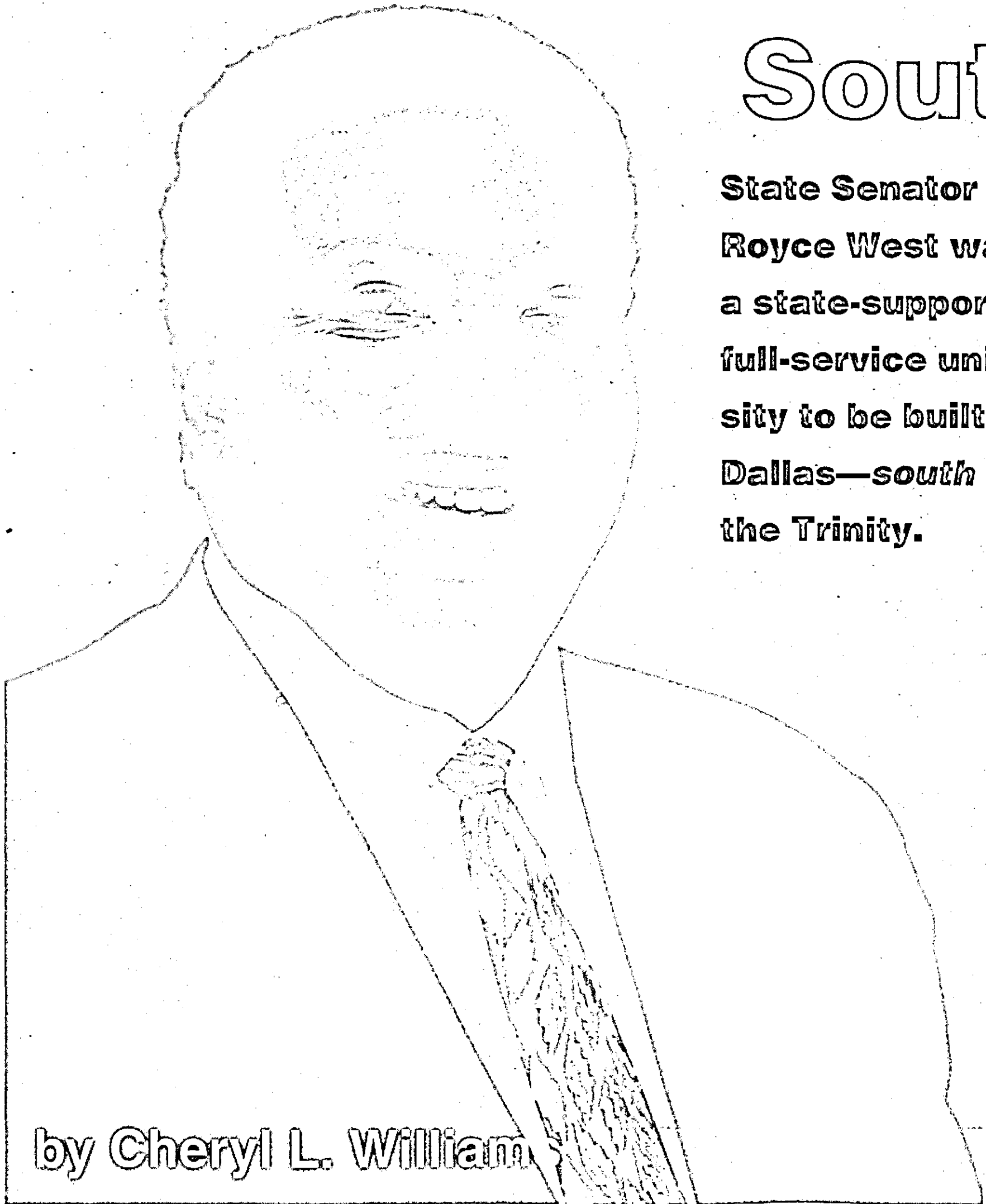
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West Goes South

**State Senator
Royce West wants
a state-supported,
full-service univer-
sity to be built in
Dallas—south of
the Trinity.**



by Cheryl L. Williams

Some people will defend the need for an underclass—individuals less educated, less ambitious, less likely to take advantage of opportunity, those who appear destined (willing or not) to do the jobs their more educated brethren find undesirable. But some people will tell you that a mind is a terrible thing to waste.

State Senator Royce West is planted firmly in the latter group. He believes Texas, and Dallas in particular, is on the verge of a growth in population and a change in demographics that will necessitate the creation of a full-service university in southern Dallas, an area residents feel has been neglected because of its high concentration of ethnic minorities.

Unlike Houston or San Antonio, Dallas continues to be the most populated city in Texas without a state-supported university within its city limits. The University of Texas at Dallas, which has a specialized focus on science and technology, is in Richardson. UT Arlington serves Dallas' western suburbs. The University of North Texas and Texas Woman's University are both in Denton, some 40 miles or more away from southern Dallas residents. Southern Methodist University, Paul Quinn College and Dallas Baptist University, are within city limits, West said, but are private schools with different missions. Supporters of a four-year university located in the southern sector envision a university with a broad-based curriculum—an accessible institution that will educate an underseved population and consequently draw industry and economic development to the area.

West says that southern Dallas County and northern Ellis County are ripe for growth and development and that Texas should prepare for the inevitable.

"I think that if you look at the demographics of the area and what demographers are telling us that we should expect in the next decade, that is an increase in the population of Texas and the greatest increase will be coming in urban areas, we'd better begin to prepare for educating those young minds that we are going to be expecting in the future," West warns.

"Demographers also tell us that the explosion of population will be in ethnic groups. When you look at the southern sector of Dallas, you look at an area that's naturally integrated. You look at an area where we have numerous high schools in both the city of Dallas and in the surrounding suburbs. So it's a perfect area as far as I'm concerned to put in an institution of higher education."

Perfect, maybe, but by no means simple.

In the spring of 1997, West introduced into Texas' 75th Legislative Session the idea for a feasibility study to research the need for a state-supported university in southern Dallas County. That measure passed the senate but, because of a scheduling technicality, died in the house of representatives, along with hundreds of other bills. The measure, resurrected as SCR 75, later eased through the house and the senate, only to be vetoed by Governor George Bush. Bush maintained that the feasibility study should be conducted by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), saying that the organization is "already charged with studying and balancing the higher education needs of the entire state."

But like a boy scout, Senator West stayed prepared. A back-up plan placed \$50,000 in an Appropriations Bill for the THECB to do the feasibility study, and a community task force began meeting that summer. The task force made a formal request for the coordinating board to conduct the study and on October 7, 1997, the commissioner of THECB appointed a special committee to coordinate the feasibility study.

The THECB and the special committee, which consists of four Whites, one Black and one Hispanic, purports to represent the interest of all Texans. The staff of the THECB has the responsibility of making an unbiased study and a recommendation to the THECB for a course of action. What is in question, says West, is the source of the staff's information. West says that the information probably is being gathered from "a multitude of sources, some supportive of the university and some not so supportive."

"I think [THECB] would be doing a Texas a disservice if they decided that there is no feasibility. Given the access to opportunity that has been cut off by Hopwood and Hopwood-type decisions, I think they've got to be creative in making sure that young people have an opportunity to get an education."

Cheryl Hopwood vs. State of Texas is the anti-affirmative action case known for its lead plaintiff who, along with 3 other White students, sued the University of Texas for being rejected by the law school, claiming they were victims of reverse discrimination. Because of the suit, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in March 1996 that Texas universi-

ties could no longer use race as a factor in admissions. Since the ruling, Texas universities have adopted race-neutral policies in programs ranging from admissions to financial aid at the recommendation of Attorney General Dan Morales. Consequently, the number of minorities in many state law and medical schools dropped dramatically as schools relied mainly on test scores and grades to select incoming students.

West believes a state-supported university in southern Dallas will counter the effects of the Hopwood case. "[The



"I want mortar and brick. I want a college campus with a sense of community, where the community surrounding it can adopt it, embrace it, nurture it, send their children to that school. Everything that other Texans have an opportunity to do in similar type areas, I want to see happen in this area."

university will be] in an area where you have numerous schools that have a significant minority population, be it African American or Hispanic," says West. "Given that a lot of people want to stay home and go to school, it would attract those individuals to the university. And race doesn't have to be a factor. The fact that it's in the community and accessible, students wanting to stay close to home would automatically be encouraged to apply to that particular school."

Although the proposed university would serve residents of southern Dallas and northern Ellis counties, detractors fear the school would cater primarily to Blacks. However, the effort garnered diverse approval, receiving the support of Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk as well as the blessings of the cities of Dallas, Duncanville, Lancaster, Waxahachie, Seagoville, various chambers of commerce, several independent school districts, and a host of individuals and other legislators including Helen Giddings, Yvonne Davis, Jesse Jones and David Cain. The university also received a powerful endorsement from *The Dallas Morning News* (April 2, 1998), which cited a "strong mix of prospective students" in the service area as evidence of the diverse enrollment anticipated. West stressed

that African Americans are only one of several ethnic groups that reside in Dallas' southern sector.

"Any time you say the southern sector, the first thing that people normally think of is Black, which just baffles me," said West. "But education, no matter where it takes place, is not a 'Black thing.' This school should be a racially balanced school. It should be a school that's located in a naturally integrated area. The student body, the faculty, the administration and the procurement opportunities will be reflective of the community in which it sits."

Procurement opportunities and economic development of Dallas' southern sector has weighed heavily in Senator West's struggle to bring a school to the area. "I look at, historically, what some of the schools around here, such as UT Arlington, have meant to the development of the city of Arlington. I look at [University of] North Texas and TWU [Texas Woman's University] and what it's meant to the city of Denton. If we get a first-class institution of higher education in the southern sector of Dallas, it will serve as a catalyst for the development of the southern sector of Dallas."

Dallas mayor Ron Kirk agrees. He and other mayors were called upon by West to contact individuals on the various coordinating boards and express their support. During a THECB hearing held at Dallas' Townview Magnet Center last spring, Kirk testified in support of the university, saying, "Dallas will not continue to grow...if we don't have an educated workforce." More than 100 students, community leaders, politicians and others attended the hearing in support of increased higher education services in Dallas.

Despite the strong turnout, detractors suggest that existing facilities in the metropolitan area, such as the downtown Dallas Education Center, will be sufficient to service the needs of the southern Dallas residents. However, according to West, the Dallas Education Center does not provide the desired campus or community atmosphere he hopes to achieve.

"I'm supportive of [The Dallas Education Center's] limited purpose," West explains, "but it cannot be the answer to what we're attempting to do in the southern sector. I've made it very clear that the Downtown Education Center is supposed to be serving the business workers downtown. To try to expand it beyond something like that will meet with legislative opposition."

Ultimately, what West and other supporters desire is more than involvement in the process. They want commitment.

"I want mortar and brick," West says. "I want a college campus with a

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

sense of community, where the community surrounding it can adopt it, embrace it, nurture it, send their children to that school. Everything that other Texans have an opportunity to do in similar type areas, I want to see happen in this area."

Still, a full-service university complete with requisite campus would not preclude a mutually beneficial relationship with Paul Quinn College or the two area community colleges, Mountain View in southwest Dallas and Cedar Valley in Lancaster. West calls for continued support of Paul Quinn's existence and

expansion. Opportunities for collaboration with the historically black college could prove enormous, and coordinating curriculum with the two community colleges could provide transfer students to the new university.

Currently, the field of contenders hoping to locate a branch university in southern Dallas has been narrowed to the Texas A&M University System (TAMUS) and the University of North Texas (UNT). In a report offered this summer to the Ad Hoc Review Committee of the Southern Dallas County Higher Education Feasibility Study Task Force, Texas A&M Chancellor Barry B. Thompson proposed

the establishment of a university center with the eventual addition of master's and doctorate programs in high-demand areas. When full-time enrollment reaches the threshold level, TAMUS would request the legislature to reclassify the center as an upper-level general academic institution.

Similarly, UNT presented a proposal for "The University of Southern Dallas," which would offer undergraduate and master's degree programs and support the full university experience at a southern Dallas campus. In the short term, both schools plan to increase off-campus offerings in southern Dallas.

Texas Tech, an earlier contender, was dropped from the competition, possibly because of its strong emphasis on providing courses via distance learning technologies (i.e. telecourses). This concept, while practical and convenient, did not conform to the full-service educational community West and committee members envisioned.

Still exploring options and recommendations for presentation to THECB, West and the ad hoc committee are poised for a battle. West says that historically, the board recommends against the creation of universities, and he doesn't expect THECB to conclude there is feasibility.

"Even though they're responsible for dealing with the Hopwood problem (and

establishing a university here would represent a good opportunity to try to zero out the impact of the Hopwood decision), I don't expect them to come up with a positive recommendation. But, ... we're going to continue to try to show them that it is feasible to put a university [in southern Dallas]."

"This may very well be a long fight. I'll still file legislation to attempt to create the university. My number one priority is this university. My number two priority is this university. My third priority is to make sure I do my number one and number two priorities. It may not be the next legislative session, but during my term of office, we will get there."

MON

If you didn't get a chance to testify before the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in support of a southern sector university, it is not too late to express your views. Regardless of the results of the feasibility study, the measure will be introduced by Senator Royce West into the next legislative session in 1999. Following is a list of key individuals that should be contacted by letter, telephone or fax to voice your support of a four-year, state-supported university in southern Dallas.

The Honorable George Bush
Governor
State of Texas
State Capitol, Room 2s.1
Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711
512-463-2000/FAX 512-463-1849

The Honorable James "Pete" Laney
Speaker of the House
State Capitol, Room 2W.13
P. O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768-2910
512-463-3000/FAX 512-463-0675

The Honorable Teel Bivins
Chairman -Senate Education Committee
P.O. Box 9155
Amarillo, TX 79105
806-374-8994/Fax 806-374-4607

The Honorable Irma Rangel
Chairwoman-House Higher Education Committee
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78711-2910
512-463-0666/Fax 512-463-1765

The Honorable Bob Bullock
Lieutenant Governor
The Capitol, Second Floor East
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, TX 78711-2068
512-463-0001/Fax 512-463-0039

The Honorable Bill Ratliff
Chairman-Senate Finance Committee
P.O. Box 1218
Mt. Pleasant, TX 75456

903-572-1887/Fax 903-577-1412

The Honorable Robert "Bob" Junell
Chairman-House Appropriations Committee
P.O. Box 3362
San Angelo, TX 76902
915-657-0197/Fax 915-653-4788

Dr. Don Brown
Commissioner
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
P.O. Box 12788
Austin, TX 78711-2788
512-483-6101/Fax 512-483-6127

THECB members on the Special Committee on Higher Education in Southern Dallas County

Mr. Leo Rauch
Chairman of the THECB
c/o Compass Bank
P.O. Box 4444
Houston, TX 77210-4444
713-831-5539 phone 713-831-5541 Fax



Ms. Pamela Willeford
Vice Chair of THECB
2511 McCullough
Austin, Texas 78701
512-473-8887/Fax 512-477-6130

Dr. Delores Hutto Carruth, M.D.
2510 Skyline Drive
Irving, Texas 75038
972-252-5808/Fax 972-252-2771

Mr. Robert Fernandez
1200 Summitt Avenue, Suite 422
Fort Worth, Texas 76102
817-877-3911/Fax 817-877-3723

Mr. Jodie Jiles
5 Post Oak Park, Suite 1560
Houston, TX 77027
713-960-1179 713-960-1180 Fax


Mr. Joseph Krier
P.O. Box 1628
San Antonio, Texas 78296
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Around Town

September 1

Jeffries Street Learning Center, 3001 Grand Ave., Dallas, is offering free afterschool programs for students of all ages. For dates and times, call the center at 214-426-1834.

The YWCA of Metropolitan Dallas is seeking nominations for the 1999 Family of the Year Award. The selected family will be honored at the 12th annual award luncheon on February 4, 1999. All nominations must be submitted to the YWCA no later than September 14 at 5:00 p.m. For a nomination form, call 214-826-9922, ext. 2320.

The monthly meeting of the Dallas-Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators will be held 6:30 p.m. at the African American Museum, Fair Park, Dallas. For more information, visit the DFW/ABC website at www.dfwabc.org.

Southwestern Bell is calling local pep bands, dance squads and drill teams to perform at the Southwestern Bell Cotton Bowl Football Fest during the State Fair of Texas, September 25-October 18. The Football Fest is a free interactive venue that gives State Fair visitors an opportunity to test their skills at football-related games. To obtain application forms for groups and for additional information, call Miguel Cortez at 214-665-1325.

Volunteers are needed at the Family Outreach of Southern Dallas. Make a difference by volunteering office assistance, fundraising expertise, community education, mentoring client families and more. Training begins in September. For more information, call 214-371-0582.

The South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 South Fitzhugh, Dallas, offers classes in photography, drumming, capoeira, printmaking, bookmaking and clay art for adults and children. Call 214-939-2787 for enrollment information and cost.

September 2

Obtain an edge in doing business at DFW Airport at the 1998 Airport Business Com-

munity Trade Fair, 5:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., at the DFW Hyatt Regency Hotel-East Tower. The event will feature workshops explaining the procedures to apply for contracts with the DFW Airport Board and major tenants such as American Airlines, DFW Hyatt Regency, Avis and AT&T. Admission is free. For more information, call 972-574-6702.

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

The University of Texas at Arlington's Automation and Robotics Research Institute (ARRI) sponsors the Enterprise Excellence Workshop Series, free of charge, September 2, 9, 16 and 23. The breakfast meetings will be held 7:00 a.m. at ARRI, 7300 Jack Newell Blvd., Fort Worth. For more information, call 817-272-2761.

The Irving Black Art Council will hold their opening reception at the Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur, Irving. For more information, call 214-933-8444.

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

September 3

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.

Make plans to attend the Hispanic Media Fair from 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. at the Center for Community Cooperation, 2900 Live Oak Street in Dallas. Admission is \$5 and includes the 1998 Media Guide consisting of Spanish-language and English-language media lists, deadline dates and helpful information about

local media. To register for the event, call 214-821-0911, ext. 270.

Bill Hill, Republican candidate for Dallas County District Attorney, will be the featured speaker at the Southwest Pachyderm Club's monthly meeting. The event starts at 6:30 p.m. with a buffet dinner and social, followed by the meeting, 7:00 p.m. at Luby's Cafeteria, 5600 S. Hampton Road, Dallas. For more information call Joseph Sams at 214-421-6250.

September 4

The Million Youth Movement will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, September 4-7. Youth are challenging each city to assist them in implementing a "Ten-year Action Plan," to be developed with input from young people. For more information regarding the movement and details such as transportation needs, hotels and programming, call Janie Johnson at 972-883-6103.

September 5

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.

F.U.T.U.R.E. Productions is seeking amateur and professional male rap artists (all ages) for upcoming performances and tours with a local rap group, the D-Crew, along with E-Mack and M.C. Freeze. For more information, call 214-439-2771.

September 6

Camp Fire Boys and Girls, the primary co-ed youth agency in the Dallas area, is seeking volunteers for leader and assistant leader positions for the 1998-99 school year. Professional support, training, and activity plans are provided. For more information, call Danielle Shaw at 214-824-1122.

September 7

Become empowered to be the parent God wants you to be. Today is the deadline to reg-

ister for "Growing Kid's God's Way," a Biblically-Based Parenting Program, hosted by Concord Missionary Baptist Church, 6808 Boulder Drive, Dallas. The workshop will be held September 25-26. For more information, call 214-372-4543.

September 8

The Regional Minority Enterprise Development Week Committee kicks off its celebration September 8-9 with a conference, "Creating a Competitive Advantage in a Changing Business Environment," at the Fairmont Hotel, Dallas. The celebration will include a reception, trade fair, seminars, roundtable discussion and an awards luncheon. For more information, call 214-767-8001.

The Southern Dallas Development Corporation, 1402 Corinth Street, Suite 1150, Dallas, is holding a free loan application workshop, 8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m. For more information call 214-428-7332. Call the Small Business Development Center at 214-860-5859 for a complete schedule of small business workshops and free business counseling.

September 9

Attorneys with the Dallas Bar Association will field questions from the public from 5:15 p.m.-8:00 p.m. September 9 and September 16 through the DBA's LegalLine, a community service program which provides volunteer attorneys who answer legal-related questions over the phone for free. LegalLine is provided every second and third Wednesday of the month. To ask a question call the LegalLine at 214-969-7066.

Would you like to purchase a home of your own? Learn how at the Texas Federation of Home Counselors first-time home buyer seminar September 9 at 6:30 p.m. or September 12 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.

A \$1,000 grand prize is being offered in a religious poetry contest sponsored by New Jer-

Around Town cont'd

sey Rainbow Poets. To enter, send one poem only of 21 lines or less to: Free Poetry Contest, 103 N. Wood Ave., Suite 70, Linden, NJ 07036. The entry deadline is September 9. Winners will be notified by March 1999.

September 10

Southern Methodist University, Edwin L. Cox School of Business, will present the seminar, "Marketing for Marketing Professionals," September 10-11. To register or for more information, call 214-768-3890 or 800-768-6699.

September 11

MLT Productions, 2301 N. Akard Street, Suite 400A, Dallas, announces the opening of a special production of *The Glass Menagerie*. The opening Gala at the Black Academy of Arts and Letters, 650 S. Griffin Street, Dallas, will raise money for scholarships for qualifying Arts majors in North Texas. Show dates and times are September 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 and 26 at 8:00 p.m. and September 13, 20, and 27 at 3:00 p.m. For more information, call MLT Productions at 214-720-0692.

September 12

The AIDS Resource Center of Dallas is providing another educational program in its "Living Well With HIV Series," which is dedicated to providing valuable information to people living with HIV and their families, friends and supporters. A free seminar called "Considering a Return to Work" will be held 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the AIDS Resource Center of Dallas, 2701 Reagan Street, Dallas. Lunch will be provided and pre-registration is required. For more information, call 214-521-5124.

The Fourth Annual Ramona Logan Tennis Classic benefiting the Genesis Women's Shelter will be held today at the Keist Tennis Center in Dallas. The doubles tournament is open to players of all levels. Registration deadline is September 4. For registration forms and more information, call 214-559-2050.

The First Baptist Church of Hamilton Park is kicking off its 1998 Annual Women's Conference (September 25-27) with the "Strictly First" banquet affair, September 12, at the Embassy Suites Hotel, LBJ and Coit Road in Dallas. The cost is 25.00. For more informa-

tion, call Tujana Green at 972-729-1588.

The International Museum of Cultures, 7500 West Camp Wisdom Road, Dallas, will host the Maurine F. Bailey Concert Choir of Lincoln High School at 2:00 p.m. The choir's mixed repertoire will include theater, dance and sign language. Guest also are invited to visit the museum's "Worlds of Music" exhibit. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 972-708-7406.

Russ Freeman and the Rippingtons, a six piece contemporary jazz band, will perform 8:00 p.m. in the Brookhaven College Performance Hall, 3939 Valley View Lane, Farmers Branch. Tickets are \$7-\$15. For ticket information call the Brookhaven College Box Office at 972-860-4118. The Rippingtons will also present a workshop/clinic September 12 at Brookhaven College. For more information about the clinic, call 972-860-4730.

"Writers of African Descent Reading, Discussion and Action Group" meets 4:45 p.m. at 8315 Grovecrest Drive, Dallas (in Pleasant Grove). For more information, contact Reginald Rufus at 214-391-1451.

The Dallas Museum of Natural History, Fair Park, Dallas, presents "Outdoor Adventures." Learn about the skills it takes to explore the outdoors with demonstrations of camping, rappelling and more. Admission is free for kids 12 and under who bring a picture of their favorite outdoor activity. For more information, call 214-421-DINO.

September 14

INROADS Dallas/Ft. Worth Alumni Association presents The Fourth Annual INROADS Scholarship Golf Tournament at the Riverchase Golf Club in Coppell. For more information, call Vickie Smith at 972-583-0558.

September 15

More than 600 full- and part-time positions offered by 60 employers will be available at Brookhaven College's Fall Career Fair, from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in the Student Services Center lobby of the college located at 3939 Valley View Lane, Farmers Branch. For more information, call Lisa Meltzer at 972-860-4894.

September 16

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

September 17

The George Moseley exhibit opens 6:00 p.m. at the South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 South Fitzhugh, Dallas. The exhibition marks the homecoming of painting "Remembrance and Contemplation of Days Gone By," which was commissioned for the Cultural Center in 1989. Moseley will also exhibit his recent paintings. Visitors can meet George Moseley, October 1 at 6:00 p.m. For more information, call 214-939-ARTS.

September 18

The Love Clinic® On Tour 1998 presents "Taming the Tempest of Teen Pregnancy," 7:00 p.m. at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, 3516 Munger Ave., Dallas, featuring Dr. Henry Foster, President Clinton's Senior Advisor on Teen Pregnancy Prevention. Admission is free and child care is provided. The Love Clinic® is an outreach ministry of Jubilee United Methodist Church, 301 Frank Keasler Blvd., Duncanville. For more information, call 972-283-2265 or visit The Love Clinic® website at www.theloveclinic.com.

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. The featured film is *Dakan*, the first feature film on homosexuality from sub-Saharan Africa. The event is open to the public. For more information, call 214-939-ARTS.

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. For more information, call 214-939-ARTS.

J & j Group will present their special style of musical theater at the South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 South Fitzhugh, Dallas. The group will perform *Cuts of Cope*, an adaptation of the Broadway musical, *Don't Bother*

Me I Can't Cope. For more information call 214-939-ARTS.

September 19

The Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce will host a Convention & Tourism Hospitality Industry Seminar, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the Dallas Horticultural Center (Garden Center) at Fair Park, 3610 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Dallas. Pre-registration of \$10 and on-site registration of \$15 includes lunch and workshop materials. Registration deadline is September 11. For more information, call Dvorah A. Evans at 214-421-5200.

The South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 South Fitzhugh, Dallas, sponsors Composer's Showcase which features African American artists in a myriad of musical genres. This month's featured artist is Jah Seeds Reggae Band. Interested composers should submit a demo tape, description of the program and a brief biography to Steven Meeks, c/o South Dallas Cultural Center. For more information, call 214-939-ARTS.

The North Texas Speakers Association (NTSA) is sponsoring the program "Your Topic's Not Diversity-But Your Audience Is," 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the CityPlace Conference Center in Dallas. Tracy Brown, president of Person To Person Consulting, will be the featured speaker. The cost is \$35.00 for guests of NTSA members and the meetings are open to the public. The NTSA meets the third Saturday of each month. For more information, call 972-931-NTSA.

Dr. Beverly Mitchell-Brooks, President and CEO of the Dallas Urban League, will give the keynote address at the Technology/Science Program for Women 1998-1999, which will be held at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. For more information, call 214-428-5555.

ATTENTION:

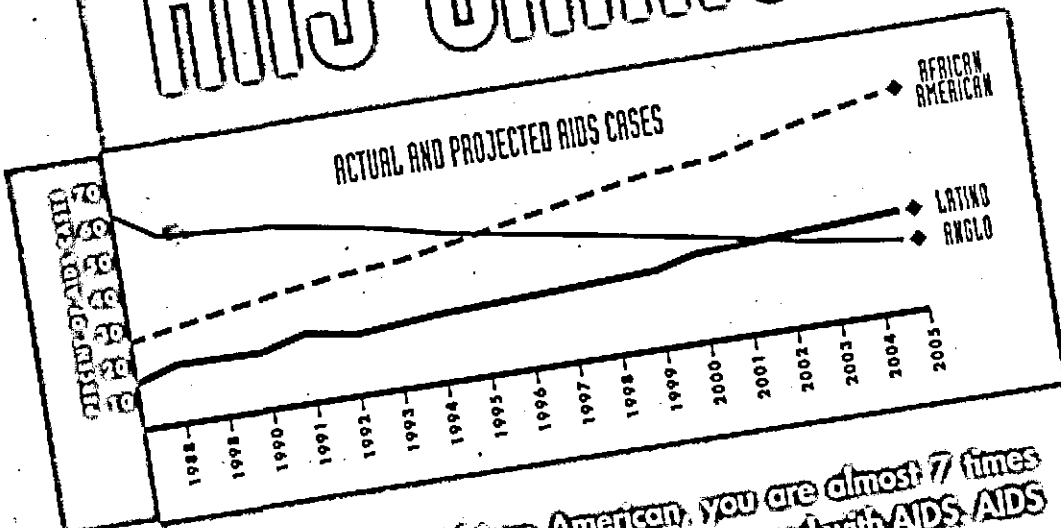
If you're interested in placing your event in our events calendar, send it to us by mail or fax no later than 45 days before the month of publication to:

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Sharpton expands the National Action Network to Texas

By Gina Weldon

There was an old-time camp meeting in town a two weeks. Noted New York civil rights activist Rev. Al Sharpton brought a message of economic empowerment being the next frontier to St. Luke Community Methodist Church. Hosted by heavy hitters Rev. Zan Holmes and Pro-Line Corp. CEO Comer Cottrell, those in attendance were thrilled and filled as Sharpton reminded them of where they came from and who it was that brought them over.

The combination organizational meeting/church service/civil rights rally was moderated by the Rev. James Dixon the dynamic young pastor of the Northwest Community Church in Houston. Dixon, who serves as Sharpton's Texas and southwest region coordinator, has been a pioneer in the area of community economic development (*Minority Opportunity News* cover story, April 1995). Noting that a man can be judged by the associates who surround him, he highlighted that Sharpton was hosted in Texas by Cottrell and Holmes, both stellar community figures in their own right.

Cottrell told the five-hundred-plus crowd that "no community is any better than its people and its economic base. That's the difference between Dallas and some small town in Arkansas—its economic base." Cottrell recalled meeting Sharpton in New York recently and being

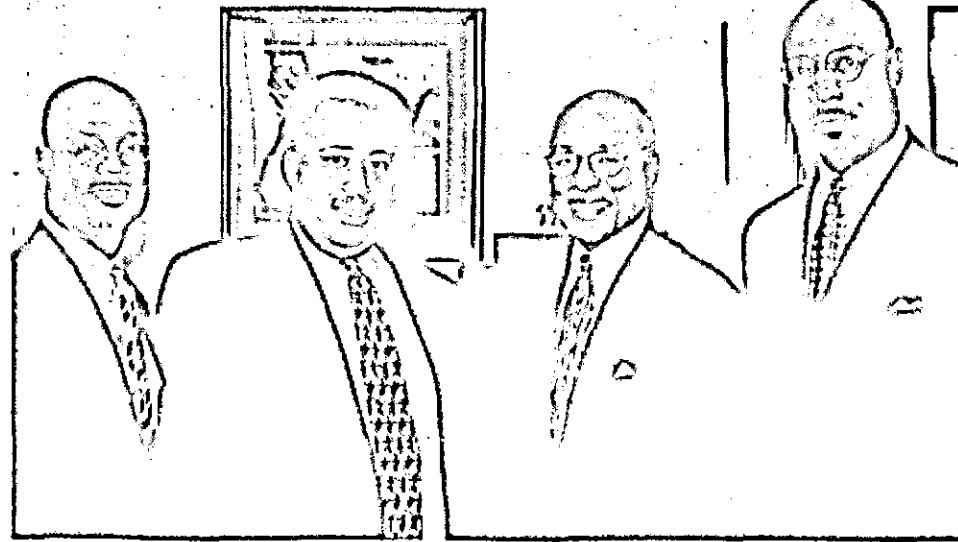
"Presently, we are taken for granted... we're not looking for handouts, but economic parity. We're gonna see an economic empowerment renaissance being built by a coalition of Black churches, Black businesses, and Black elected officials."

—Rev. James Dixon

impressed with his current campaign against Madison Avenue to ensure that minority media receive a commensurate share of the nation's advertising dollars.

Traveling as a part of Sharpton's delegation were New York state senator Efrain Gonzalez, president of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators, and Grammy Award-winning songwriter, singer, and producer James Mtume. Citing the need for Blacks and Hispanics to coalesce on economic issues, Gonzalez remarked that he and Sharpton were "joined at the hip" in that cause. Mtume, who has had numerous hits and did the music for Fox Network's *New York Undercover*, highlighted the amount of money

that is available to minorities in advertising. "It's unbelievable that with all the money being spent on Madison Avenue, that no black musicians or singers are getting work. In two years of working in advertising, I've made more money than in 15 years of recording. For most Black artists, as soon as they're no longer making radio hits, they're out. No contracts, no deals, no nothing. Rev. Sharpton and



From left to right: Rev. James Dixon, pastor, Northwest Community Church of Houston; Rev. Al Sharpton, founder, National Action Network; Rev. Zan Holmes, president, African American Pastors Coalition; Thurman Jones, president, Texas Publishers Association.

the National Action Network are addressing this sad issue."

In introducing Sharpton, Dixon commented how inexcusable it was that with the wealth of the Black community, we don't share in America's real wealth or ownership. "We need a movement," Dixon said, "and that movement must surround a personality. We must repudiate our tendency to follow dead leaders." He then introduced Sharpton, who is founder, president, and CEO of the National Action Network, headquartered on Madison Avenue in New York.

The Reverend Sharpton, looking all the part of statesman, began his oratory by reminding the audience that they were saved to serve and that they should appreciate leaders like Rev. Holmes while they are still alive. "There were pulpits that Rev. (Martin Luther) King was not welcome in... He was ousted from his own convention. But soon as he was dead... those same churches started hanging his picture in their foyers and began hosting Martin Luther King Day annual church programs."

Sharpton then got down to the business of why he was bringing the National Action Network to Texas and the Southwest. "There can be no political power without economic power. He who holds the wealth is truly in charge. Until we

become economically self sufficient, we cannot really say we're in the promised land. We've got to get past the point where we have titles and positions but someone else is holding the purse strings."

Sharpton recalled the memo circulated in March of this year by Katz Advertising which instructed its clients to refrain from buying time on Black- or Hispanic-oriented stations. The memo stated that "you (the client) want prospects, not suspects." This trend is evident as statistics continue to show that White-owned stations get more advertising dollars than minority-owned stations with more lis-

Italian businesses; in our neighborhood, everybody except us is in business."

Rev. Sharpton stated that self-hate is a sin. And to remedy that situation, we must serve each other—to go to church, not for the activity itself, but to learn to go out and do the work of the church. "When God sends you on a mission, He's not worried about your limitations; He ain't depending on you anyway. He's not waiting on your abilities.... He's waiting on your obedience. Our children haven't been given any stones (see Joshua 4:1)... They don't know how we got here or why we're where we are. They think it's from being hip and slick.... they don't know we only got here from God hearing the prayers of uneducated grandmas; of God hearing the cries of those folks being bit by dogs; didn't nobody cut no deals; those four little girls in Birmingham shed blood!"

As Sharpton closed to a standing ovation, audience members pledged their support to continue (or begin) community activism. The service ended on a high note.

Rev. Dixon then informed those at St. Luke that the National Action Network would be having a larger, Dallas-wide rally later this year under the leadership of Rev. Holmes. Dixon stated that the vision for Texas and the Southwest was to build an organization that would be respected and would create an even playing field in the economic realm. "Presently, we are taken for granted... we're not looking for handouts, but economic parity. We're gonna see an economic empowerment renaissance being built by a coalition of Black churches, Black businesses, and Black elected officials."

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The National Action Network, Inc. is a civil rights organization working for economic justice, political empowerment and a fair criminal justice system. For more information, call Rev. James Dixon at 713-688-2900.

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Nat Turner: Firebrand Revolutionary

By Russell D. Shockley, BS.Ed.

Anyone who has ever studied the annals of Black people in these United States will agree that one of the most influential and powerful men this country has ever known was Nat Turner. Little is known about Nat Turner and the small portion that is known has been tainted with the bias and prejudices of those who opposed Nat Turner and his Liberation Campaign, the Chattel Slave Owners of Southampton County Virginia.

It was also these same men that chose not to make record, any of those factors that motivated Nat Turner, a spiritually-oriented man, to terminate the lives of some 55 men, women and children on the day of August 21, 1831.

It is also quite notable that these same men decided to destroy all of Turner's own written accounts of his life, ideals and information about the very campaign that would strike his name into the history books of this country for all time.

Documents about Nat Turner's life, as mentioned earlier, have all been destroyed. However, there is one account that was made by a caucasian male named Thomas R. Gray. Gray's account was written between October 31 and November 11, 1831, while Turner was in jail.

For more than the better part of two centuries, Nat Turner's confessions have been a source for anyone wanting to know more about the history of the resistance of Black people to American oppression.

Nat Turner was capable of motivating and then leading some 100 African American men on a course of "direct action," during one of the most heinous periods in human history, the enslavement of African people in the United States of America.

Understand that slave owners utilized practically any means, without limits, to maintain the captivity of these African people that they clearly perceived as "chattel property." So, how then was Nat Turner able to plan his campaign so well? (By all accounts, the plan was very well thought out and executed.)

"It (the revolt) was not instigated by the motives of revenge or sudden anger, but was the result of long deliberation and a settled purpose of mind."—Nat Turner 1831.

When Nat Turner became old enough to labor, he began to reflect on things that would present themselves as images within his imagination. Whenever

an opportunity occurred to increase his awareness of things around him, Turner would make use of the moment.

Eventually, almost all of the time not spent in service to the master, was utilized either in prayer or in the casting of different things in molds, in an attempt to produce paper, gunpowder and other substances. Although not totally perfect-



Nat Turner

ed, Turner was convinced of the practicality of these items. Turner, when questioned about making these different objects, was found to be quite informed on the subjects.

Not being subject in his youth to stealing (nor ever been known to steal), Turner enjoyed a confidence from the other neighborhood Blacks, so much so that they would often take him along on a rougery or to their plan-making sessions.

Their (neighbors) opinions were that the judgement abilities that made Nat Turner stand out were granted to him by "divine inspiration."

These gifts, as Nat grew older, became the subject of numerous remarks made by both Blacks and Whites and caused him to avoid mixing well with the surrounding society. Instead, he wrapped himself in mystery, devoting most of his time to fasting and prayer.

By the time he was brought to his owners estate, and upon hearing the holy scripture being commented upon at a meeting, Turner was impressed by a particular passage, "Seek ye the kingdom of Heaven and all things shall be added unto you." Turner reflected upon these words and prayed for more revelation upon the subject.

While plowing the field one day, a voice spoke to him saying, "Seek ye the kingdom of Heaven and all things will be added unto you." When questioned

about this spirit voice, Turner responded by stating, "[It was] the same spirit that spoke to the prophets in former days." Greatly astonished by this occurrence, Turner, for two years, prayed continuously (whenever his duties would permit), for a sign. Shortly after this, Turner had another revelation that confirmed his conviction that he was ordained for some great purpose in the hands of the "Almighty." Several years passed during which many events occurred to strengthen Turner's beliefs. At about the same time Turner reverted to a point within his early childhood and reflected upon remarks that were made about him. There was also another vision. In it Turner saw both Black and White spirits engaged in a battle. The sun was darkened and the thunder roared in the heavens. Turner heard a voice state, "Such is your luck; such you are called to see. Let it come, smooth or rough, You must surely bear it." Turner disassociated himself even more, with the specific purpose of strictly serving the spirit.

On May 12, 1828, Turner again heard another voice and another spirit appeared to him and said, "The serpent was loosened and Christ had laid down the yoke He had borne for the sins of man and that Turner should take it and fight against the serpent, for the time was fast approaching when the first should be the

last and the last shall be the first."

Almost immediately, after this sign appeared in the heavens, Turner communicated the great works that had been laid out for him to complete.

On August 21 and 22, 1831, the "Nat Turner Insurrection" took place. It had been said that Turner was ignorant and cowardly and that his object was to murder and rob for the purpose of obtaining money and then to make his escape. It also was known that Turner never was known to have owned a dollar in his life, to have sworn or to ever have consumed a drop of spirits (alcohol).

As to his ignorance, Nat Turner never enjoyed the fruits of a good education, but he could both read and write (taught by his parents). He held within himself a natural intelligence along with a quickness of comprehension surpassed by few men of his time.

"I was ordained for some great purpose in the hands of the 'Almighty'... now finding that I had arrived at man's estate and was a slave. Many revelations were being made known to me. I began to direct my attentions to this great purpose for which I felt sure I was intended."—Nat Turner, 1831.

MON

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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Texas Department of Health reissues heat precautions

In light of continuing record-breaking high temperatures throughout the state, the Texas Department of Health has reissued a list of precautions people can take to reduce the risk of heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

- Never leave anyone in a closed,

parked vehicle during hot weather.

- Drink plenty of fluids; avoid beverages that contain alcohol, caffeine or large amounts of sugar.

- Plan strenuous outdoor activities for early or late in the day when it is cooler; then gradually build up tolerance for warmer conditions.

- Stay indoors and in an air-conditioned environment as much as possible unless your heat tolerance is well established. If air-conditioning is not available, pull shades over windows and use fans to cool rooms. Open windows on opposite sides of a room for

cross-ventilation.

- Take frequent breaks when working outdoors.

- Eat more frequently, but make sure meals are well-balanced and light.

- Consult with a physician to determine the effects of sun and heat exposure while taking prescription medications such as diuretics, antihistamines or mood altering or antispasmodic drugs.

- Avoid bundling babies in heavy blankets or heavy clothing.

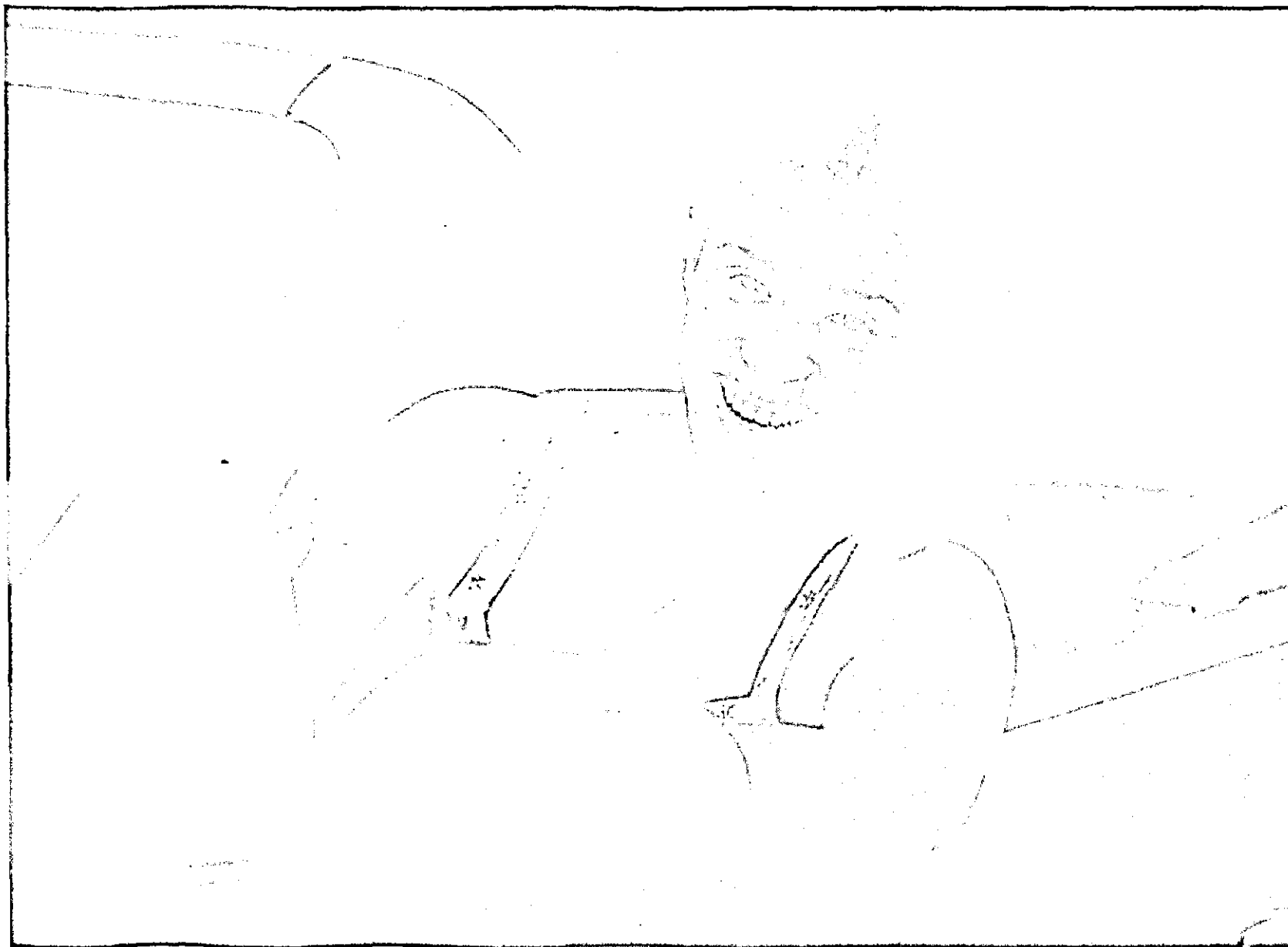
- Check frequently on elderly or ill friends, relatives and neighbors who

may need help.

- At first signs of heat illness (dizziness, nausea, headaches, muscle cramps), move to a cooler location, rest for a few minutes and slowly drink a cool beverage. Seek medical attention immediately if conditions do not improve.

- Wear sun block to protect skin from the sun's harmful rays.

For more information, contact Doug McBride, TDH Public Information Officer at 512-458-7524.



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Making an Impact



As a former teacher, it's no surprise Lozelle De Luz, Ph.D., helps prepare neighborhood students for college. Although she owns three McDonald's in Wilmington, Delaware, she also finds time to get involved in the community on a state and national level. Lozelle mentors minority student athletes for college and helps to feed the homeless through annual programs she helped establish as External Vice President of the National Black McDonald's Operators Association. Her faith in the potential of every person makes a difference in the lives of everyone Lozelle touches.

Reggie Webb makes a world of difference in people's lives everyday. As President of the National Black McDonald's Operators Association, he helps get minority vendors into the McDonald's system, helping African-American businesses to succeed. Owning five McDonald's in southern California keeps Reggie busy, too; but he's never too busy to help someone else achieve their dream of success.

did somebody say ?

Blade

A blood-chilling tale about modern-day vampires unlike any previously encountered, *Blade* is an action-packed thriller. The story of the ultimate vampire hunter, Blade (Wesley Snipes) is an immortal warrior who possesses the superhuman strength and evil cunning of



Snipes gets his blood fix in *Blade*

a vampire but shares none of their weaknesses.

Able to walk by day and stalk by night, Blade must confront his ultimate adversary, the omnipotent vampire overlord Deacon Frost (Stephen Dorff) intent on leading a secret nation to conquer mankind. Blade must use his awesome powers and razor-sharp weaponry like never before to prevent the annihilation of the human race.

A futuristic action thriller, *Blade* begins as a fetus awakened in the womb of his young mother, his consciousness aroused by the torrent of vampire blood searing through her veins. Suffering from a plague inflicted by the virulent bite of a vampire, the woman's pain reaches her unborn son through their shared bloodstream. By the time the boy is delivered into the world, his mother's body is lifeless. Born with powers greater than any man or vampire, the child is to become the mythical avenger known as Blade.

Blade's destiny is a paradox. He is sworn to defend humanity, yet he is not entirely human. It is Blade's blood-cursed heritage that empowers him to understand and conquer his enemy — an underground legion of vampires.

Unknown to the human population, the vampire elite operates in all levels of society: big business, government, law enforcement, and the international financial marketplace. Together, Blade and Abraham Whistler (Kris Kristofferson) engage in a bloody crusade to vanquish the vampires and their powerful grip on the city. With Whistler's help, Blade unearths the diabolical secret behind their most worthy adversary — Deacon Frost.

An invincible vampire, Frost has been preparing for the day when he will ascend to reign over all the vampires and lead their terrifying assault on humanity. Frost's thirst for dominion over the world's vampires is rivaled only by his

unquenchable taste for blood. In a power struggle to become overlord of the vampires, he slays the incumbent ruler and seizes control of the House of Erebus, the governing council of this secret society of deadly warriors. Now, as their vicious new leader, Frost prepares to destroy humankind, but first he must destroy the

How Stella Got Her Groove Back

Sometimes you have to break the rules to free your heart.

Stella Payne (Angela Bassett), at age 40, seems to have it all: a great job as a high-powered, high-salaried stock broker, a beautiful home overlooking San Francisco, and a bright, loving young son. She is a dedicated single mother, and a devoted sister and friend.

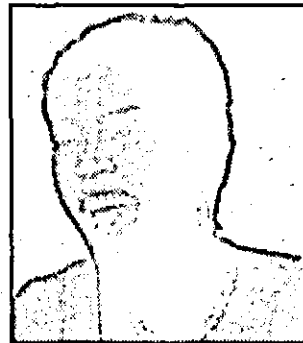
But she's lost her groove. For what seems like forever, Stella has forgotten to have fun ... to take chances. But Stella's vivacious friend, Delilah (Whoopi Goldberg), has the antidote for Stella's rut - a vacation to the golden, sun-kissed beaches of Jamaica, where the over-worked, enjoyment-deprived Stella can forget about her job, her high-maintenance sisters and

one man who can stop him — Blade. The New Line Cinema production of *Blade* opens August 21 at theaters everywhere. It has an MPAA rating of 'R' for strong language, including descriptions of violent and sexual behavior

MON

being the perfect mother. It's time, says Delilah, for something - someone - to rock Stella's world.

The lush surroundings eventually work their magic. Stella meets, and is immediately attracted to, a Jamaican named Winston (Taye Diggs). He's handsome, intelligent, sexy, attentive, charming — and crazy about Stella. What begins as a vacation fling begins to deepen. Stella is as captivated by this young man as he is of her. There's only one problem, and to her (and almost everyone around her) it's a big one: He's only twenty years old.



Bassett

How Stella Got Her Groove Back also features Regina King as Vanessa, Suzanne Douglas as Angela and Michael J. Pagan as Quincy. The 20th Century Fox production opened August 14 and is rated 'R' for language and some sexuality.

MON

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Book Review

Angela
Washington-Blair,
Ph.D.

By Roland L. Freeman
Rutledge Hill Press, 136 p., \$14.95

Imagine, if you will, traveling wearily by foot and mule team across several states to our nation's capitol. Imagine also, that the time is not in the late 1800's but in 1968, long after the advent of the automobile. Why would you knowingly submit yourself to the harsh rigors of this primitive type of transportation, you ask?

To make a statement. To garner attention about your situation.

And just what is that situation?

Poverty.

In December of 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. announced the "Poor People's Campaign" in which 1,500 people would travel from all over America to Washington, D.C. The objective: to petition the government for an "economic bill of rights."

The story of over one hundred people—men, women and children, from babies to senior citizens—is retold in extraordinary style in a book entitled: *The Mule Train: A Journey of Hope Remembered* (136 pp., Rutledge Hill Press, 1998, \$14.95). Originating from Marks, Miss., on May 13, 1968, the 29-mule and 14-wagon train headed to Washington.

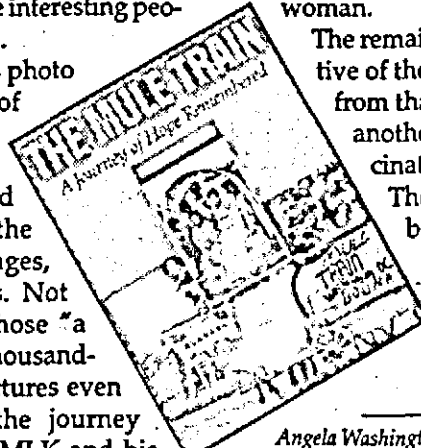
This story was so fascinating to me because, quite honestly, I had not heard of the mule train. What also makes the book stand out are the photos. The same brilliant photojournalist who brought us last month's selection about quilts (*A Communion of the Spirits*) is also the author of this month's book. In case your memory needs refreshing, his name is Roland L. Freeman. As a young man, he was assigned to photograph the mule train as it journeyed along.

This magazine-sized paperback is filled with haunting images of an era that was rife with racial hatred, poverty and lack of opportunity. The participants in the poor-people's mule train wanted to help change that. It was not without great personal sacrifice. Most of the participants were indigent. The rest were staffers of the SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Conference.) The trip was tough for the humans and tough for the mules. Yes, the journey was grueling—the mules traveling about 500 miles a day, their feet shod with shoes for which they were not accustomed. The roads were rough. There was rain. The wagons fell over. The caravan faced confrontations with authorities. By mid-June, SCLC staffers realized that the train was behind schedule. Two days later, everyone and everything—mules, cargo and all—were boarded on a train in Alexandria, Va., for the remainder of the journey.

The Mule Train: A Journey of Hope Remembered

Read the story of this incredible odyssey for yourself to find out more and to "meet" some of the interesting people who participated.

Captured in this photo essay are the faces of many who wanted to make a difference for themselves and others. Part one of the book, roughly 85 pages, consists of pictures. Not mere photos, but those "a picture-is-worth-a-thousand-words" pictures. Pictures even of events before the journey began—pictures of MLK and his wife, pictures of MLK in death, pic-



tures of Marian Wright Edelman (civil rights and children's advocate) as a young woman.

The remainder of the book is a narrative of the journey and news articles from that time. This book adds yet another chapter to America's fascinating history—our history.

The author says that the work begun by the Mule Train is still unfinished some 30 years later. Wouldn't you agree?

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.

LightChurch



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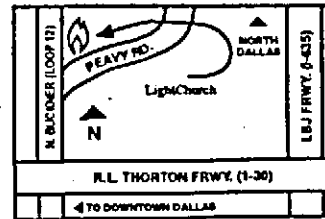
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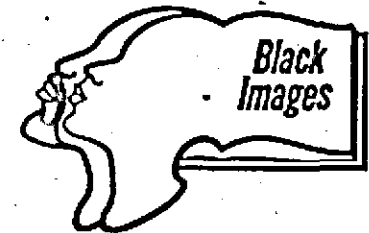
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SUMMER FORECASTS 1998

Tuesday, September 8 • 6-8 pm
Albert French presents his third novel *I Can't Wait on God* (\$22.95 Archer Books).
Mr French's earlier works were *Billy and Holly*.

Annual Toni Y. Joseph Memorial Observance. Ms. Joseph was a staff writer for *The Dallas Morning News*. She won the Pulitzer Prize in 1984 posthumously for an article.

—

Thursday, September 10 • 6-8 pm
Rafel Johnson discusses and autographs *The Best That I Can Be: An Autobiography*.

—

Monday, September 21 • 6-8 pm
Julia Boyd returns with *Can I Get A Witness* (\$19.95 Penguin). Ms. Boyd wrote the best seller *In The Company of My Sisterfriends*.

—

Tuesday, September 22 • 6-8 pm
J. California Cooper reads from and autographs *The Wake of the Wind* (\$22.95 Doubleday).

—

Monday, September 28 • 6-8 pm
Fran Harris discusses and autographs *In The Black: African American Parent's Guide to Raising Financially Responsible Children* (\$11 Simon&Schuster). Ms. Harris was a forward on the WNBA's first championship team, the Houston Comets. She is now with the Utah Stars.

—

Wednesday, October 14 • 6-8 pm
Lorraine Johnson Coleman shares her talent of storytelling in *Just Plain Folks* (\$22.00 Little Brown).

—

Saturday, October 17 • 2-4 pm
Elaine Lee broadens our horizons with *Go Girl! Black Woman's Book of Travel and Adventure* (\$17.95). Ms. Lee's signing will be hosted by the Round the Table Book Club.

Books in the Key of Life

By Whitney Larkins

Toni Morrison, Muhammed Ali and Patti LaBell recently were spotted in Lancaster, Texas. Well, sort of. Actually, R.A. Mack, co-owner and operator of Keys of Life Books, Etc., carries a vast selection of books — tomes on the aforementioned celebrities included — that feature various aspects of African American life from A to Z.

A minister's sermon one Sunday morning inspired Mack to open a store where African Americans could buy Afrocentric literature and other products such as gospel music cassettes, party favors for children and incense.

"My interest came because I heard a minister on the radio one Sunday morning, Mack recalls. "He was talking about the condition of Black people in particular, and why we don't trust each other, [how] we would rather go and spend a little money [elsewhere] than to 'spend a lot of money with your own'."

Various paintings that depict the African American religious experience are scattered throughout the store. Mack's strong devotion to spiritual development is one reason why he chooses to carry a wide selection of books.

"When you look at spirituality, it's not dealing with one subject area of a

human being. You need to be well educated spiritually, as well as physically," Mack says. "We try to carry books that [also] deal with nutrition."

Although Keys of Life Books, Etc. has only been open since last November, Mack has a vision for the bookstore. "I would like to have additional things for the community [and] open the back part [of the bookstore] and have a barber shop and sell hair products and have an information center," says Mack.

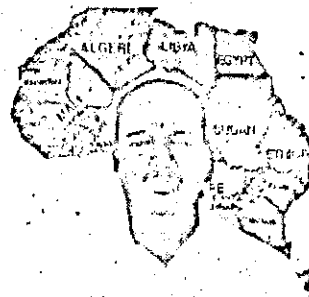
Mack highly encourages spiritual development, and various books addressing religion are featured in the store. Although he is not a member of a church or a particular denomination, Mack studies the Bible and, to a certain extent, the Koran. "I visit different churches, and the main reason for that is because (otherwise) you are labeled. I seek spirituality and truth. When I go to different places, I go for my spiritual elevation. I don't go and stay in one place; I feel you shouldn't limit yourself and you should have an open mind," he says.

From children's Bibles to party favors, Keys of Life Books, Etc. carries several items geared toward the cultural enrichment of African American children. According to Mack, children should be taught the truth about African American history and have self-pride.

Name: R.A. Mack
 Birthplace: San Antonio, Tx
 Favorite Food: Chinese and Mexican
 Last Book Read: Wall Street by J.J. Wilson
 My friends don't know that: "They really don't understand my sincerity in ... trying to educate us ... about our history."

Advice to would-be entrepreneurs:

"First, it involves getting educated about your history, and to know the truth about it. Find out who you are and who your God is, because once you find that out, then you will be guided on the right path."



Keys of Life Books, Etc.
 1318 N. Dallas Ave.
 Lancaster, TX 75134
 972-218-1906

He also believes that the negative effects of the media can be erased from children's minds with a little hard work from their parents.

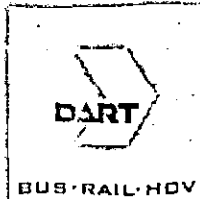
For individuals who are interested in owning and operating a bookstore, Mack offers some advice. "This isn't all about making money; it's about helping our people because of the condition that we are in, and it's no secret that we're the only people in America who don't

stick together."


Mack also believes African Americans should increase their awareness of their culture and heritage. "We as Black people really need to study our past, that's where all the answers are. You'll find out how precious we are..."

MON

Whitney Larkins is a sophomore at the University of North Texas.



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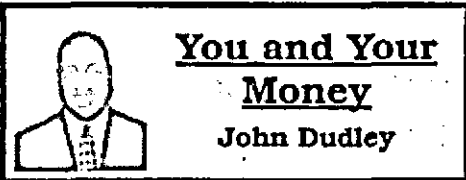
444 Adds midday service to Cockrell Hill. Or on 444, to be more specific. It's mid-day service on weekdays operates between Cockrell Hill and Illinois Station only. Service to Ledbetter Station during these hours is provided by the new 701 Lancaster trolley-bus.

51 Connects you to downtown. To improve our service, this route has been adjusted to connect people in Northwest Dallas, along Lemmon Avenue, and people in West Dallas to downtown Dallas, and everything it has to offer. So get connected. Catch Route 51.

E-Pass Get your company to buy your pass. E-Pass is the most complete transportation benefit offered anywhere. Once your company enrolls in the program, you'll get one full year of unlimited, seven-days-a-week transportation on all regular DART services. It gives you the same value as 12 premium monthly passes. That's a \$720 saving.

366 Low stress transit for high tech employees. Route 366 is the easy way up and down the Telecom Corridor. From the Richardson Transit Center, the route operates Monday-Friday serving Alcatel, Ericsson, Southwestern Bell, The Campbell Creek Business Park, Rockwell, Boeing and Fujitsu. You can relax now.

155 155 adds trips. You can get to downtown Dallas on Route 155P, from Paul Quinn College, and 155B, from Bonny View residential area. And, to improve our service, this route has three additional trips in the afternoon to serve South Lamar between Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and the CBD West Transfer Center.



You and Your Money
John Dudley

One of the most useful innovations in recent years for people who don't have enough time to manage their money is the central asset account. This is a single account at a brokerage firm that lets you write checks, shop with a credit or debit card, borrow money, invest in a wide range of securities, and manage your financial affairs more efficiently and profitably.

Each firm that offers such an account calls it by a different name; however, note that each account may also differ in terms of the services, minimum initial investment, annual fees and type of credit/debit card provided, as well as other specifics.

One of the most attractive features of these accounts is that they "sweep" uninvested available cash in your account (such as recently distributed dividends and interest payments) into a money-market fund to keep all of your money working. Some sweep on a daily basis; others may only be weekly or

Central Asset Accounts put all your funds to work

monthly.

Typically, you can choose from several types of money-market funds and switch from one to another as economic conditions or your financial goals change. Whether the sweep occurs daily or weekly depends on each firm's rules for its central asset accounts, as does the amount that is swept. Amounts swept could be every dollar, over \$100 or over \$1,000.

A central asset account also simplifies the management of your money. If, for example, you want to take money out of a mutual fund to buy a stock, all it takes is one call to your financial advisor. If you have several different accounts with different institutions, transferring funds would require several phone calls and transactions, as well as considerable paperwork to monitor.

Most central asset accounts provide comprehensive monthly statements with a wealth of information on your investment portfolio, including your cash and cash equivalents, a complete

listing of your securities positions, the current market value of your investments, a detailed summary of all account transactions (including checking and credit/debit card activity) and a reminder of your open orders for securities purchases.

Central asset accounts require initial investments of \$5,000 to \$25,000 (in any combination of cash and securities). Fees range from \$25 to \$100 a year, although the fee often can be offset by the earnings on cash that would otherwise sit idle, as well as the absence of check charges and annual credit card fees:

Usually considered applicable just to personal finances, central asset accounts also can be useful for small businesses and trust and estate management.

If you're not sure whether you qualify for a central asset account, do some calculating. Add up the amounts you currently have in checking and savings accounts, money-market funds, other mutual funds and brokerage accounts at various firms. You may find that you do have sufficient assets if you pool them into one account.

If you do, you also may discover that a central asset account can simplify your life.

MON

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

Where "Everything" is Black

By Carla Roberson

Yes, you read that right. I said everything is black. Is that possible? You can bet your mouse it is. @www.everythingblack.com you can find anything and everything black on the Net. At least that's their motto, you can be the judge. Several areas of interest at this website include: history and culture, travel, events, sports, entertainment, news, business, organizations, and education. Everythingblack.com also has a side-bar named "Our Picks." In this area it lists sites such as the Negro Baseball League, Teacher's Lounge, and the Urban League Convention. Be One of a Million by participating in a survey at that site.

You'll find incredible links for the book and movie "How Stella Got Her Groove Back" by Terry McMillan. There are sound bites of interviews with Terry McMillan, Angela Bassett, Whoopi Goldberg, Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, and Taye Diggs (Stella's 20-year old love interest in the movie). In case you didn't know, Stella is 40 in the movie. HELLO!

If you have already seen the movie and have an opinion about the movie, you can leave your comments by pointing and clicking on HERE. It's just that simple. Now who said cyberspace was-

n't user friendly. Haven't read the book? Don't worry, you can purchase the book right there on-line. Isn't technology marvelous? If you are not sure if you want to purchase the book, there is a brief summary about the book that can help you determine whether or not you would like to buy it.

A link for the Official How Stella Got Her Groove Back Website is yours for the clicking with a screensaver you can download. Everythingblack doesn't just boast about having anything and everything black, it delivers. Be one of a Million—check it out today.

MON

Carla Roberson is a local computer consultant who loves surfing the Web. She can be reached c/o MON.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Cedar Hill, DeSoto, and Duncanville School Districts jointly announce their intent to purchase the following categories of personal property and services during the coming twelve months. The districts are soliciting the names, address, telephone and fax numbers of vendors interested in being included in their respective vendor list for potential sealed bids, requests for proposals, written and/or telephone quotations for any of the following items. Interested vendors should submit separate information to each district at the following addresses:

Cedar Hill ISD Purchasing Office, P.O. Box 248, Cedar Hill, Tx 75106
DeSoto ISD Purchasing Office, 200 W. Parkerville Rd., DeSoto, Tx 75115
Duncanville ISD Purchasing Office, 307 Crankshaft Dr., Duncanville, Tx 75116
Lancaster ISD Purchasing Office, 1105 S. Westridge, Lancaster, Tx 75146

AC/Parts, Supplies, Equipment, Services; Laundry Equipment, Athletic Supplies, Equipment; Athletic Uniforms, A/V Supplies, Equipment; Auto Parts, Supplies, Equipment, Services; Award Items; Band Instruments, Supplies, Repairs; Band and Choral Music; Band and Choral Uniforms; Building Material and Supplies; Classroom Instructional Equipment, Supplies, Furniture; Computer Equipment, Software Supplies, Furniture, Repair Parts, Service; Concrete; Fencing; Roofing; Dry Wall; Paving; Irrigation; Portable Buildings; Fire Alarms; Intercom Systems; Turf; Custodial Equipment; Supplies; Electrical Parts, Supplies, Equipment, Services; Floor Care Equipment; Floor Coverings, HVAC Parts, Supplies; Equipment, Service, Industrial Supplies, Tools and Equipment; Library Books, Supplies, Equipment, Services; Furniture; Locks; Magazines; Maps and Globes; Mechanical Repair Parts, Supplies, Services; Medical Equipment, Supplies; Office Equipment, Supplies, Furniture, Services; Painting Supplies, Equipment, Services; Paperback Books; Pest Control Supplies, Services; Plumbing Parts, Supplies, Services; Printing Services; Printed Services; Printed Business Forms; Security System Equipment, Services; Sound System Parts, Equipment, Services; Telephone Equipment, Services; Uniforms (Custodial, Maintenance); Vehicles; Wall Coverings; Yard Equipment, Parts, Supplies; Consultant Services; Asbestos.

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Edward Harris





Health & Fitness

Tyrone Caldwell

Water: How important is it?

It is said, that the adult body weight is sixty percent water. Every metabolic reaction in our bodies involves water, and that includes burning body FAT. We can live only a short time without water, three days at the most. When we don't get enough water in our bodies, all our body functions suffer. This includes your stamina and the bodies ability to burn excess body FAT. So if your trying to lose weight and your not drinking enough water, guess what? Your not going to lose weight. About the only thing you will lose is your patients.

How Much is Enough? The average full grown adult uses six to twelve cups of water daily to take care of essential tasks such as removing waste products, transporting nutrients and oxygen throughout the body, and maintaining normal body temperature. You lose water through urine, breath, sweat and stools. Those who exercise lose even more water. Also living in a place as hot as Texas causes you to lose even more water. Well how do we replace all this lost water? The best way is to start with drinking at less eight cups of

water a day. If you exercise a gallon a day may do, and the larger you are the more you need. By the way coffee, sodas, and milk don't count as water.

Finally, you know your getting enough water if: you take frequent trips to the bathroom, and your urine is clear, except for first thing in the morning.


Helpful Tip: Try drinking eight ounces of water

every thirty minutes for four hours or eight ounces of water every hour for eight hour of the day.

MON

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

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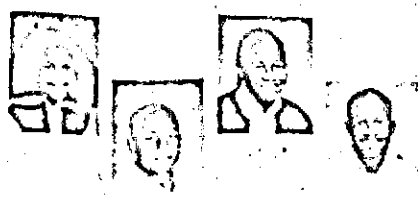


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You and God

Ron Shaw

I Still Believe

Mark 5:36

Every now and then I'll run into people who knew me back when I first entered the ministry. I'm amazed because some of them ask me the same question they've been asking for the past 25 years. They'll ask, "are you still preaching?"

The reason I'm amazed is because they seem to have the idea that ministry is just a career that you choose and if you don't like it, you choose another. There have been a lot of changes over the past 25 years. Forget the last 25, just in the past five years there have been a lot of changes taking place in society and in the church. How about in your life? What has happened to you over the past five years. Some of you have experienced a great deal of trouble or have been through crisis or some sort of traumatic experience. In spite of all you've been through, can you say without hesitation that your faith is as strong or that you are as firmly rooted in what you believe about God as the day

you first believed? Some of you have been through not one, but several bad relationships. Some of you have experienced the death of those close to you. Some of you have gone or are going through a transitional period in your life. In spite of it all, do you still believe?

I talked to a very close friend recently. We talked about things that have happened in our lives since we met. We reflected on the times we were hot for God and energetic and aggressive about what we believed. Suddenly, the statement was made, "hey, what are we talking about, we still believe!" I still believe in a God who works miracles. I still believe that my prayers, when prayed in faith, make a difference in my life and the lives of those I pray for. I still believe that God will continue to prosper my way and give me good success in all I do. I still believe that what I do for the Lord matters. I still believe in the power of the spoken Word coming out of my mouth and it's ability to change my situation. I still believe in the power of positive confession. As I reread the life of Apostle Paul and all he suffered (2 Corinthians 11), it is encouraging to me to hear him say that through it all he kept the faith (2 Timothy 4).

Consider our text. Jesus is approached by one Jairus and asked to come to his house and heal his sick daughter. On the way to Jairus' house, a woman who had a blood disorder stops him. Jesus takes time

to speak and minister to her. In the meantime, someone comes from Jairus' and tells him it's too late his daughter is already dead. Jesus turns to him and says "don't be afraid, keep on believing."

Isn't it amazing how although we are faced with situations that seem hopeless we can still believe? The mark of great faith is not whether you believe when everything is going your way, but what do you do when it all looks like it's falling apart? When nothing you do seems to work, do you still believe?

There are many people who started believing God when everything looked hopeful. I just talked with a gorgeous lady who told me she had believed God that she would be married by the time she was 30. She's now 40 and Mr. Goodbar hasn't shown up yet. In spite of that, she said to me, "Ron, I still believe." What a great witness and testimony to God to say that no matter what has or hasn't happened, your faith in Him hasn't been shaken.

Like Jairus, you might be tempted to fear or be afraid that what you have believed will never come to pass. Hear the words of Jesus. "Don't be afraid!" "Keep on believing!"

Perhaps you believed you would have met your financial goals by now or that your business or church would have taken off by now. Perhaps you believed that your family would be better situated by now or that your health would have

improved by now. Whatever the situation is, don't be afraid, keep on believing. I still believe in what the Lord said about not giving up. "In due season you shall reap if you don't quit." I still believe that what He said about those who believe in Him shall not be put to shame, and that the righteous have never been forsaken.

I've not seen all my mountains moved. Some of them have been worn down to molehills though. There are several things I have not seen yet, but I still believe that what He said about confessing with my mouth and believing with my heart works. Although sometimes my bank account runs low, I keep giving because I still believe what He said about giving and being given unto me is true.

Although we have seen the escalation of gangs and drugs and the break up of homes and families, and the disintegration of community life and people saying the church is not relevant, I still believe God is and will win. I still believe that faith in Him will cause me to win. If I didn't still believe, there's no way I'd continue to preach, teach, share personally, and write about His goodness. The question you must ask yourself is, "with all that has happened to me and all that I've been through and the challenges that may lie ahead, do I still believe?" I DO!

MON

Ron Shaw is the pastor of Light Church and can be reached at 214-320-5744.

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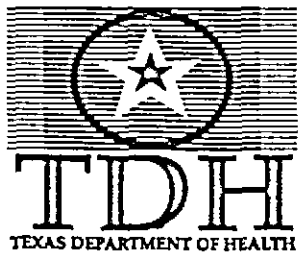


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CITY ATTORNEY

City of Dallas

The City of Dallas is extending the search for the position of City Attorney. This individual will serve as chief legal counselor for the City of Dallas, providing a full range of legal support as provided by the City Charter to include providing legal opinions and representation on all matters concerning City government, advising the Mayor and Council, and City Manager of all proposed legislation affecting the City from state and federal sources. Qualified applicants must be licensed to practice law in the State of Texas (within ten months after appointment), lower federal courts and United States Supreme Court and have a minimum of 10 years experience. Public sector practice is preferred, but not required. The starting salary will be commensurate with experience and determined by the City Council. Applicants must submit a letter of introduction, resume, and salary history to the following address by Friday, October 30, 1998:

City of Dallas
Human Resources
1500 Marilla, Room 6AN
Dallas, TX 75201
Fax 214/670-3764
EOE/M/F/D



ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

City of Dallas

Bachelor's degree in Public Administration, Business Administration or a related field. Master's degree is preferred. Must have ten (10) years of municipal management experience with authority for program direction and budget administration including: the demonstrated ability to manage large, complex operations of multiple departments with highly structured organization; development /administration of a complex budget averaging \$100 million. Responsibilities include managing multiple departments through subordinate department directors to ensure the completion of performance objectives established by the City Manager; compliance with operating and capital budgets, and resolution of employee grievance issues. The starting salary will be commensurate with experience and determined by the City Manager. Applicants must submit a letter of introduction, resume, and salary history to the following address by Friday, October 16, 1998:

City of Dallas
Human Resources
1500 Marilla, Room 6AN
Dallas, TX 75201
Fax 214/670-3764
EOE/M/F/D

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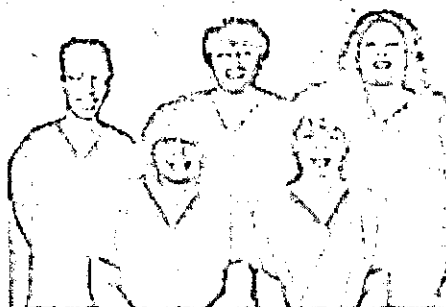
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