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# Minority Opportunity News

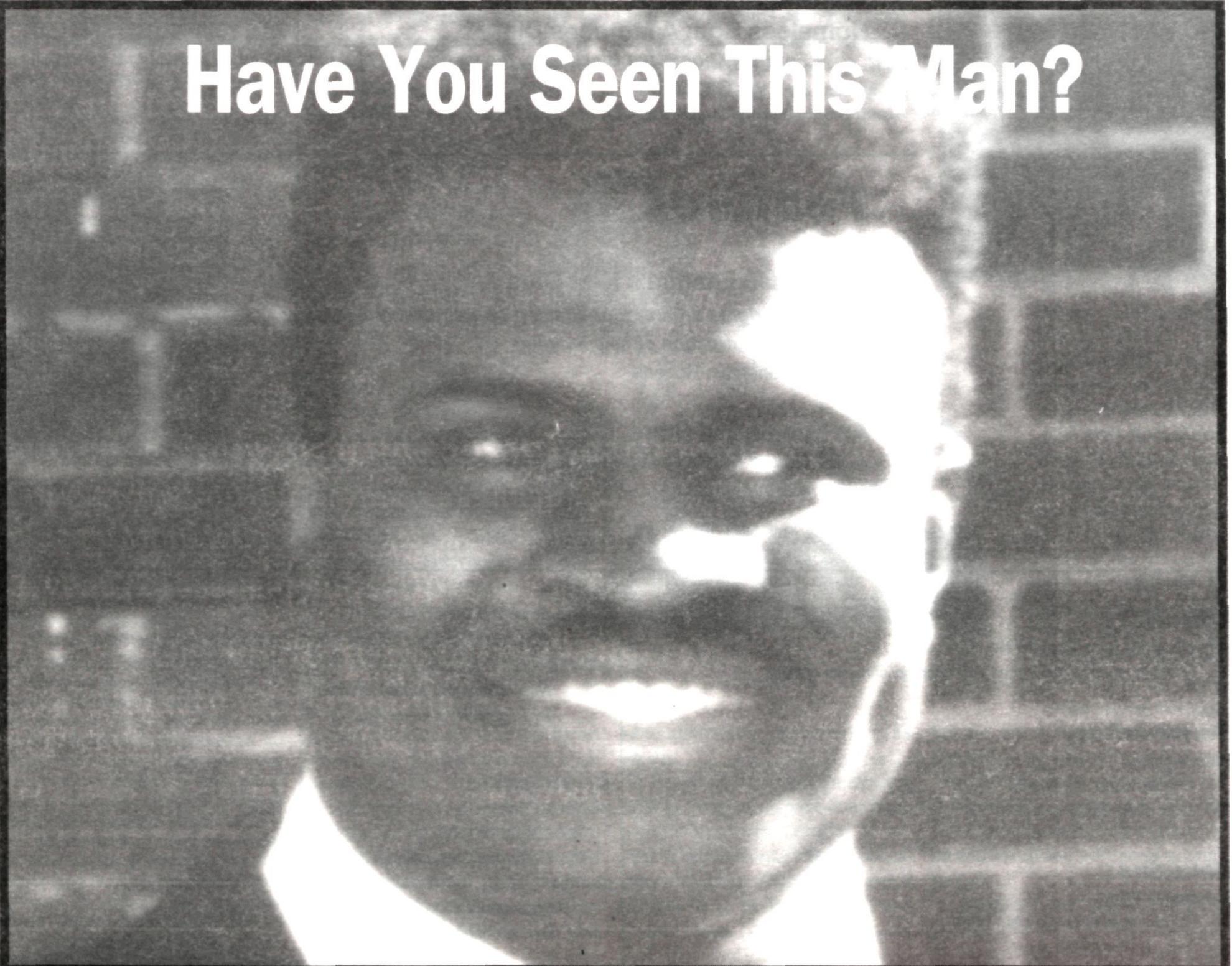
**MON**  
Opportunity News

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

VOLUME 8, NO. 1 January 1-15, 1999

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TPA

## Have You Seen This Man?



**United Negro  
College Fund  
Extravaganza**

**Ethnic Notes concludes  
Harlem Renaissance**

**Urban League  
Breaks Ground  
On New Building**

# Contents



8

## Cover Story

- Homeless Son: A Mother's Diary** .....8  
*For many homeless Black men, the issue is mental illness*  
 By Ester Sadler-Davis

## Features

- The Urban League's New Digs** .....4  
*Civil rights organization holds groundbreaking ceremony for construction of new building*  
 By Shereilyn Roberts
- An Evening of Stars** .....14  
*United Negro College Fund presents television extravaganza*



14

### Editorial

- Here's hoping for a Happier New Year** .....3  
*MON looks at the issues and accomplishments of 1998*

### Commentary

- Editor's Note** .....3  
*Affirmation of a Nation*  
 By Chris Pryer

### Columns

- Community Pulse** .....5  
*Homosexuality is a sin. Period!*  
 By Thomas Muhammad
- LifeStories** .....6  
*How I saved a woman from physical abuse—for the moment*  
 By Cheryl Smith

### Arts & Entertainment

- Ethnic Notes** .....13  
*The Harlem Renaissance, Parts 3&4*  
 By Russell D. Shockley

- Electronic Urban Report** .....15  
*How award-winning actress Alfre Woodard gained self esteem*
- MON Library** .....16  
*New fiction, and a book on faith*  
 By Angela Washington-Blair

### Lifestyles

- Health & Fitness** .....17  
*Fitness or Bust*  
 By Tyrone Caldwell
- Spiritual** .....18  
*Vessels, Part 2*  
 By Ron Shaw

### Departments

- City, State & Nation** .....4
- In The News** .....7
- SWB Calendar of Events** .....10,11
- Career Opportunity** .....19
- Emporium** .....19



**From  
The Editor  
Chris Pryer**

# Editorial

## Affirmation of a Nation

Webster may not know everything there is to know about the English language but we all pretty much trust him, especially when Merriam hooked up with him. According to my Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary, affirmative action is "an active effort to improve the employment and educational opportunities of members of minority groups and women."

(Ironically, on the same page as this definition is a picture of a Black man with a perfectly round, 1960s Afro, to help any reader to better understand the term as it is defined. I guess I should feel affirmed!)

The above definition is somewhat adequate as far as it goes. It doesn't mention quotas, though the majority populace usually interprets it that way. And actually, it doesn't even imply mandated diversity, though that is another misconception floating around among those lovers of the social and economic status quo. Yes, all in all, Merriam-Webster provides a pretty fair explanation of the term affirmative action.

But the definition is still wanting because it doesn't make mention of a very important point: that affirmative action is not merely an action, but a *reaction*. If minority groups and women really had equal access to all that this free society has to offer, would there be any need to mandate that that very same society make a concerted and good faith effort to ensure that access?

Despite its proud pronouncements, the members of this democratic society who enjoy privilege because they are the majority have shown time and time again that they are prone to discriminate against their fellow citizens based on race and gender. However good their intentions, however heightened their awareness, they have a tendency to underestimate the pervasiveness of racial and gender discrimination, to misread the improved status of minorities as a sign that we have finally achieved the plateau of equal opportunity so desperately sought by the traditionally disfranchised.

And as long as the definition of affirmative action is without the most essential element of its need for existence—to overcome a default attitude by the majority in this nation to expose *full* opportunity *only* to those that most look like them rather than to anyone who is qualified—it will never fulfill its role of eventually creating a society where all men and women are equal.

Long live affirmative reaction.

MON

## Here's hoping for a Happier New Year

With the passing of yet another year, now is a propitious time to recall 1998, its issues and its accomplishments. Perhaps a thoughtful review of the past year will help each of us in some measure to respect and appreciate a *New Year*.

In other words, if we can somehow better understand where we have been — individually and collectively — perhaps we will have a more certain path to where we are headed in the future.

Now, as the choruses of "Auld Lang Syne" begin, *Minority Opportunity News* recalls a few of 1998's top news stories:

When President Clinton brought his national dialogue on race to Houston, there were those who wondered aloud whether race was really an issue deserving of such prominence. The choice to bring such a discourse to Houston was also questioned. Less than a year before, the Bayou City not only voted to preserve affirmative action, but elected its first African American mayor, former police commissioner Lee Brown.

Shortly thereafter, the pundits and the nation got a dramatic wake up call. In clear and unquestionable terms, racial divide again became front page news. In the sleepy town of Jasper, Texas, a Black man was beaten, then tied to the back of a pick up truck and dragged to death, being decapitated in the process.

The heinous nature of the crime drew worldwide attention to Texas. In 1998, race was undeniably proven to still be a hot button issue.

While race relations took on a

heightened public debate, a 77-year old man decided to really get away from it all and took a second launch into outer space. When former Mercury astronaut and retiring Ohio senator John Glenn went into training, baby boomers stopped worrying about getting older. At an age when many are resting in retirement, a national hero remind-

sations with the distraught Monica Lewinsky. When the tapes became public Lewinsky, hoping to improve her personal image, claimed she was just like everybody else. In a self-defeating move, President Clinton adamantly denied a sexual relationship, then switched to confessing to an "improper relationship."

As if a steady stream of news leaks weren't enough, the full text of Starr's report to Congress told the world more than anyone ever wanted to know about Clinton and Lewinsky.

Shortly after the Senate convenes in January, an impeachment trial will unfold for only the second time in our nation's history. Constitutionally, a two-thirds majority vote in the U.S. Senate is required to remove the president from office.

While the likelihood of removal from office appears doubt-



ful, one thing is clear: the saga of the year-long scandal will forever change American politics. Every candidate for office ought well consider what personal skeletons may be rattled in the course of a campaign.

Despite the uncertainty in Washington power circles, however, life will go on. People will continue to live, pay their bills, bury their loved ones and hope for a better tomorrow. And in the spirit of hope that each New Year brings, *Minority Opportunity News* wishes all its readers a joyous New Year.

MON

# McDonald's Sponsors Scholarship Essay Contest

McDonald's of Greater North Texas is looking for high school seniors who demonstrate leadership, character and community service for the 1999 "McDonald's Black History Makers of Tomorrow" program presented in conjunction with the Dallas Urban League. Now entering its 12th year, the program recognizes college bound high school seniors who exemplify exceptional work in their classrooms and communities.

Interested students can enter the Black History Makers Of Tomorrow program by submitting an application and a 500-word essay titled "How I Plan to Make an Impact on Black History." Ten \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded. Winning essayists will also receive special recognition at the Dallas Urban League's annual banquet in February.

"McDonald's strives for unique programming that recognizes teens who are role models at school and in their community," states McDonald's owner/operator and public relations chairman Ruben Flores. "The McDonald's Black History Makers of Tomorrow program is designed to help those who intend to make positive contributions in the future." The Dallas Urban League, an organization set up to assist African Americans and others in

their achievement of social and economic equality through program services, advocacy, research and bridge building, is the local "Black History of Tomorrow" program partner. "The McDonald's Black History Makers of Tomorrow program identifies students who are striving to make a difference," states Dr. Beverly K. Mitchell-Brooks, president and CEO of the Dallas Urban League. "Through their commitment to education, McDonald's is giving some of our brightest youth an opportunity that they otherwise might not receive."

The deadline for entering the McDonald's Black History Makers of Tomorrow scholarship essay contest is January 8, 1999. To receive an application, contact your local high school counselor or call Michael Ross at 214-528-8038.

McDonald's is the largest and best-known food retailer in the world, with more than 24,000 restaurants in 111 countries. Approximately 85 percent of McDonald's U.S. restaurants are owned and operated by independent franchisees.

## Democratic Party Chair Blasts Rep. Tom DeLay, Republicans

State Democratic Chair Molly Beth Malcom sent a bitter, multi-paragraphed press release harranging Republican Congressman Tom DeLay and his party cohorts for their relentless attack on President Bill Clinton.

"Tom DeLay has once again shown himself to be a hypocrite who talks out of both sides of his mouth. He proved . . . that this matter is neither about sex nor lying, but rather about Republican hypocrisy.

"Earlier this year in a meeting with reporters, DeLay, who was among the first in line to criticize the president over sex, said, 'When you have a president who, in my opinion, has cheated on his wife he will cheat on American people' [Houston Chronicle, Dec.17, 1998].

"Now that Republican House Speaker-elect Bob Livingston has come forward with his own admissions to pre-empt planned news reports of his own affairs, DeLay was quick to come to Livingston's defense in a Republican Caucus meeting yesterday by explaining, '... there are many in this room who have sinned.'

"It's time for them to return to the business of the country . . . instead of continuing to obsess about matters that have nothing to do with the jobs of those accused."

# Dallas Urban League breaks ground for new Headquarters

By Sherelyn Roberts

The countdown to 1999 has begun for the Dallas Urban League (DUL) as it moves closer to completion of its first permanent facility. On Saturday, December 12, 1998 Al Lipscomb of the Dallas City Council, Hollis Brashear and John Dodd of the Dallas School Board, members of the community and corporate sponsors joined DUL at official groundbreaking ceremonies at 4315 S. Lancaster, the site of its new headquarters and training center.

Program has challenged youth throughout the community to participate in the 3 for 3 program.

The renovation of the facility, which was donated by Minyards Food Stores, Inc., is being designed by Wilbur Taylor, an architect with John S. Chase, FAIA Architects. It will be equipped with a technology center, multimedia training room, community meeting room, distance learning and video conferencing and library. Construction will be done by Austin Industries and H.C. Beck Construction Company. Bill Solomon of



Dallas Urban League groundbreaking ceremonies. Left to right: Dr. Beverly Mitchell Brooks, president & CEO, DUL; Gwen Yarborough, Minyard Food Stores Inc.; Jerry Cooper, H.C. Beck; Robert Keahey, DUL board; L.A. Bedford, DUL board; Al Lipscomb, Dallas City Council; Esther Martinez, DUL 100 Fellows Program; John Gafford, Austin Industries; John Albert, Nationwide Insurance; Wilbur Taylor, Architect John S. Chase FAIA Architects; John Dodd, Dallas School Board; Lily Whaley, Exxon; Dr. Wright Lassiter, chairman, DUL board.

"The League's new home will be a symbol of our community's commitment to solving some of its most pressing problems," said Dr. Beverly Mitchell-Brooks, president and CEO. As we move closer to our opening we urge the whole community to help us complete the journey and create a true center that works and is in the community."

To date, DUL has raised over \$3.5 million in its \$5 million campaign through the efforts of its Capital Campaign Steering Committee, corporations and area foundations. To raise the additional funds as a community effort, there are several ways to be a part of the campaign. Citizens can purchase a brick bearing their names; make a direct pledge; and the youth can raise \$3 for three decades (3 for 3). All donations can be mailed to the Dallas Urban League, 3625 N. Hall St., Suite 700, Dallas, Texas 75219. Esther Martinez of DUL's 100 Fellows

Austin Industries co-chairman of the League's building committee, and Jerry Cooper of H.C. Beck and a committee member have joined together on this project because of their longtime commitment to the Urban League and the community it serves. "We have got two great teams working together to get the job done," said Cooper.

DUL has also reached out to the community to join in their fundraising efforts. "By moving to the southern sector, the Dallas Urban League has joined key civic organizations in providing a vital link in the revitalization of the region. To be a part of our vision, our community must take the lead in helping us reach our final milestone," said Dr. Wright Lassiter, chairman of the DUL board of directors.

Nationwide Insurance Company was a sponsor of the groundbreaking event and distributed fire detectors to all attendees.



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Minority Opportunity News assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material and reserves the right to edit and make appropriate modifications.

Minority Opportunity News was Founded July 1991,  
 by Jim Bochum and Thurman R. Jones.  
 Circulation Audited By

C P V S



**Community  
Pulse**  
Thomas Muhammad

## Homosexuality is a Sin. Period!

Before beginning what is sure to be another one of my "controversial columns," I want to send shout outs to Lee Alcorn and give kudos to him and his executive team on their great win. The people spoke with one unified voice with their vote and said, "THE NAACP IS NOT FOR SALE." I agree. Now we can continue on with more progress. All right, Lee! Go for it! Get down! We're moving on up! Keep on trucking! Let's picket! Ain't no stopping us now! Let's protest! Lock and load! Or, in the famous words of Dr. Khalid Abdul Muhammad, "Let's Bum Rush 'em from town to town till we break the whole damn country down!"

And now to the column. For many, the homosexual lifestyle has been one of confusion—as it has been for centuries—and this column is likely to add to that confusion. However, after having a hot debate on the subject with a good friend, as usual, I felt it important to share my argument with you faithful readers and evoke your opinions on the matter.

First of all, I want to state up front that my view on homosexuality is one that is based on my belief in the Muslim holy book, the Qu'ran (Koran). Every verse on the subject of homosexuality in the Qu'ran condemns the lifestyle as a sin against God, against oneself and against society. My favorite verse on the subject speaks about how the lifestyle prevents procreation (meaning that homosexuals cannot produce children from the sexual union). And contrary to Western thought, sex was created for procreation alone, not for sexual gratification/exploitation).

The conversation concerning homosexuality came about as my friend and I discussed President Bill Clinton's announcement of a \$150 million initiative that will target ethnic minorities who have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. My friend became upset with me because I refused to buy into his government line that "the AIDS crisis is having a disproportionate affect on African Americans" and that [Blacks] are dying in large numbers. I assured my friend that I was not taking the disease for granted and that "ANY" life lost is one too many. And I believe that all of us must do something to

stop this deadly disease.

I wanted my friend to understand, however, that what I resented about this issue is the unrelenting lobbying of White homosexual groups to try and convince many of us that their homosexual lifestyle is normal. Nothing could be farther from the truth! Or in the words of the famous singer Little Richard, "God created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve." Again, the problem is that anyone who wants to help

stop the spread of AIDS gets rapidly bombarded with the idea that the homosexual lifestyle is just as normal as a heterosexual one. Therein lies the problem.

For some time, homosexuals

have sought to try and create a positive image of their lifestyle by redefining themselves. The word gay is the most popular description used to describe persons who practice a homosexual lifestyle. However, close examination reveals a contradiction, because the word gay means happy and most people know that homosexuals have the highest suicide rate in the human family. It could be very well argued that happy people do not commit suicide. White folks have a way of redefining words to fit their crimes when needed, so many of us are not surprised by this bait and switch game. For forever and amen, we have watched them redefine words to fit their sicknesses. Too often, for many of them, their shameful past has forced them to continuously redefine words to soften their sick image. In fact, this game of word recreation has taken place on more than one occasion in a valiant attempt to provide a level of comfort for their sinful sexual practices.

However, the lifestyle is still seen, even by those who practice it, as a great shame. Witness the fact that many who've chosen the lifestyle go to great lengths to try and keep it secret.

Creation of the word bisexual is another word homosexuals have used to try and hide their sin. My friend tried to convince me that a bisexual was not a homosexual, because a bisexual is a person who will have sex with both males and females. I asked him what would he call a man who married and fathered children and then left his wife to live in a homosexual relationship with a man? He said

the man was a homosexual. I then asked him to define a homosexual. He said a homosexual was a person who engaged in a sex act with a person of the same sex. I then asked him to then explain to me how he can call the man who left his wife a bisexual instead of a homosexual? He thought about that for a minute and confessed that he, too, was becoming confused.

We then began to discuss the AIDS disease and how it came into being. I shared with him my research on the subject. I told him about how in 1982 I started to become interested in the epidemic. How that after I heard that the disease could be in blood and that a doctor could not see it even under a microscope. I was floored! Think about it. For the first time that I could remember there was a disease or virus that can be right under your nose and go virtually undetected. I told him about my arguments with good friends who were doctors and nurses as I attempted to try my theory on them.

Here's my theory. Many of you probably remember how when the disease first surfaced, there were four high-risk groups: Haitians, hemophiliacs, intravenous drug users and homosexuals. Over a period of years all but one were eliminated with simple explanations. It was found that Haitians became infected through sexual contact with wealthy White homosexuals who frequented Haiti as tourists. Young, poor, Haitian page boys who worked the hotels were paid by these wealthy homosexuals to have sex with them. The young boys then took the disease back to their poverty-stricken villages and passed it on to their women.

Then there were the hemophiliacs who, because of their bleeding disorder, must undergo numerous transfusions, thus increasing their exposure to contam-

inated blood. Most hemophiliacs who contracted the disease—mainly in California—received it from infected blood from county blood banks. Intravenous drug users who contracted the disease were found to have been infected after sharing needles with already infected drug users.

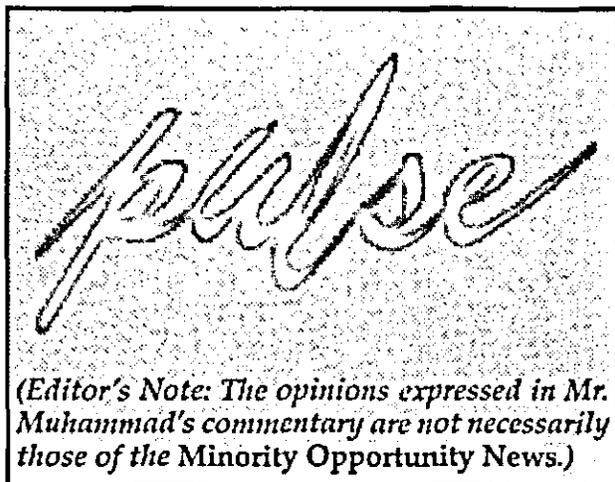
However, homosexuals who were infected with the disease did not fit any of the above categories. Take for instance the famed Hollywood actor Rock Hudson. Mr. Hudson did not use drugs, was not a hemophiliac, and he damn sure wasn't Haitian. Many of his fans were shocked to find out that for nearly 40 years his homosexual lifestyle was kept a secret. It became public only upon his death when his male lover admitted to fooling around behind Mr. Hudson's back and, after contracting the disease from someone else, passed it on to Hudson.

All of this proves my point, which is, we know how the Haitians, the hemophiliacs and intravenous drug users contracted the disease. But even today, it still seems to be a mystery why thousands of male homosexuals who've never been out of the country, never used drugs and are not hemophiliacs continue to contract this disease. Now I have my theory, but I will save it for another time. (And yes, it is far out there but don't prejudge it; wait until you hear and you may be convinced, too.)

In the meantime, let me leave this verse from the Qu'ran for members of the homosexual community to ponder. It just may force you to change your direction and help you to the right path. "And Lot's people came rushing towards him, and since aforetime they used to commit crimes of sodomy he said: 'O, my people! here are my daughters (i.e., the daughters of his nation). They are purer for you (if you marry them lawfully). So fear Allah and degrade me not as regards my guests! Is there not among you a single right-minded man?'" And my friend and I said, "Amen."

Until then, the struggle continues...

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

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**LifeStories**

Cheryl Smith

# I saved her a butt-kicking . . . at least for the moment

Even now, as I think about it, I shake my head in amazement.

That day, I sat in the car waiting for the red light to change to green. I was in my own little world, listening to the music, trying to keep in tune with whoever was belting out the latest hit.

Then I happened to glance over at the car along side mine. This man was beating the crap out of a woman and yelling until he was red in the face. He acted as though he was out of his mind.

I continued to stare until I caught his eye and then I pointed my finger at him. The man smiled sheepishly as his face transformed into one of mock sincerity and remorse.

Then, I stepped further into the twilight zone and let my window down.

I said to the man, "You know you are wrong."

He mouthed the words, "I'm sorry."

"You should be telling her you're sorry," I responded as I gestured to the woman sitting next to him.

She stared straight ahead, clearly attempting to regain her composure, brushing her long, blond hair back into some semblance of a hair-do.

As the traffic light changed to green, I was able to get in a last parting shot. "Do I need to take down your license tag? Do you feel proud of yourself, acting like O.J.? Instead of responding, he grabbed the woman and kissed her on the cheek.

As I drove off, I wondered if I had really done something big. Did I stop him from beating her altogether, or was it going to be a temporary thing?

Still, I felt good because I let him know that someone was watching him and did not approve of his behavior.

How many times have people walked by and refused to stop to render aid because they did not want to butt in someone else's business?

How often are these the same people who crowd in the break room or outside in the smoking area to spread gossip, getting knee deep in someone else's business?

But when confronted with adversity, when they could possibly save a person's life, they take the easy way out by turning their heads, closing their ears, shutting their eyes and covering their mouths.

This fear of getting involved is why so many female victims of domestic abuse have lost their lives, not to mention the pain and suffering endured by their children and other family members.

For years, we, the general public, have discussed and, in some cases, personally even witnessed domestic abuse. We freely give our opinions on abusive relationships—how to manage them and how to get out of them. It is so easy to talk about what we would do. That is, until we're actually faced with our own situation of abuse.

In *When Men Batter Women*, authors Neil S. Jacobson and John Gottman identify two categories that batterers fall into. I don't know whether the man in the car was in the so-called "pit bull" category of batterer or was in the "cobra" category. Drs. Jacobson and Gottman say that pit bulls are those men whose "emotions quickly boil over. They are driven by insecurity and an unhealthy dependence on their mates." They also tend to become stalkers. Cobras, however, are "cool and methodical as they inflict pain

and humiliation." According to the authors, cobras have often been physically or sexually abused themselves.

There are several havens in the Dallas area for abused women. Sadly, when an abused woman finally gets up enough courage to run or fight back, oftentimes existing children who are also suffering hamper her actions.

And this is a travesty.

I don't think I will ever forget that woman in the car. I also won't forget the look on that man's (and I use the word "man" loosely) face when he saw that I was watching. Did he wait until he got home and, behind closed doors, beat her senseless?

His behavior was despicable and I felt obligated to speak out against it. My intervention, however, probably served as only a brief respite for the woman; statistics show that four out of five women stay with the men who verbally and physically abuse them.

And yes, some of those abused wind up being murdered.

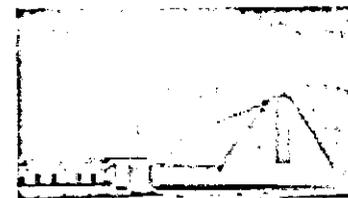
Hopefully my intervention struck a nerve with that guy. Hopefully he was embarrassed beyond belief and will not hit her again.

I saved her butt that one time. Hopefully it wasn't just a temporary reprieve.

MON

*Cheryl Smith is president of the Dallas/Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators and host of Reporters Roundtable on KKDA-AM (730). Tune in on Sunday mornings at 8:00, immediately following Minister Louis Farrakhan's address.*

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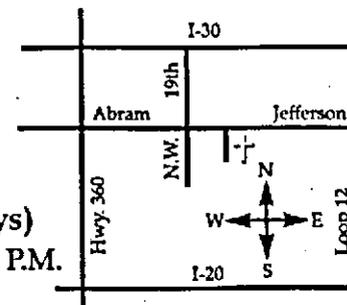
### Sunday Worship Schedule

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

**Midweek Family Night (Wednesdays)**

Prayer, Praise & Proclamation Service 6:45 P.M.

Come and worship with us soon!



## Where to Pick up MON?

**Dallas South**  
Grahams Barber Shop  
2612 MLK Blvd.

**Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce**  
2838 MLK Blvd.

**Common Ground Credit Union**  
3741 Atlanta @ Romine

**Two Podners**  
1441 Robert B. Cullum

**Oak Cliff**  
Friendship West Baptist Church  
616 W. Kiest Blvd.

**Nations Bank**  
400 Zang (Lobby)

**Black Images Book Store**  
230 Wynnewood Village Shopping Center

**Bank One**  
400 Wynnewood Village

**Jokae Bookstore**  
3917 Camp Wisdom #107

**Pleasant Grove**  
Inspiring Body of Christ  
820 S. Buckner

**Bank One**  
1838 S. Buckner

**Nations Bank**  
1820 Buckner

**St. James AME Temple**  
200 N. Jim Miller Road

**Jane B. Turner Rec. Ctr.**  
6424 Elam Rd.

**Duncanville**  
Ebony Fine Art Gallery  
631 E. Hwy. 67

**St. Luke Christian Ctr.**  
102 N. Main St.

**Dooney's**  
620 E. Camp Wisdom

**DeSoto**  
DeSoto Library  
211 E. Pleasant Run Rd.

**Lancaster**  
Keys of Life Books, Etc.  
1318 N. Dallas

**Cedar Valley Community College**  
330 N. Dallas

**Grand Prairie**  
St. John's Baptist Church  
1701 W. Jefferson

**First State Bank**  
2505 North Hwy. 360

**Denton**  
Denton Public Library  
502 Oakland  
M. L. King, Jr. Rec. Ctr.  
1300 Wilson

**Lewisville**  
Lewisville Library  
1197 W. Main

**Macedonia Baptist Church**

**Irving**  
Barnes & Nobles  
Irving Mall

**Le Chic Salon**  
1433 Beltline

**Carrollton**  
Keller Springs Baptist Church  
3227 Keller Springs

**Richardson**  
Barnes & Nobles  
Richardson Square Mall

**Cathy's Expert Cuts**  
818 S. Central Exp. #4

**Arlington**  
Afro-Awakenings  
2419 S. Collins/Arkansas Lane

**Barnes & Nobles**  
3909 S. Cooper/I-20

**Fort Worth**  
Bookstop  
4801 Hulen

**Omni American Credit Union**  
2330 Rosedale

**Black Bookworm**  
605 E. Berry St #114/I-35

**Black Chamber of Commerce**  
3607 Rosedale

**Bank One - Dunbar**  
6040 Ramey

**Garland**  
Big Man's Bar-B-Q  
240 E. Ave. B

**Arnicks Barber Shop**  
500 Clark Street

## Texas Central Bank Hires Veteran Banker Michael Wood to Expand Professional and Executive Lending Services

Longtime Dallas banker Michael Wood has been selected to originate, sell, and service professional and executive loans for Texas Central Bank, N.A. The



Texas Central Bank has named Mike Wood, vice president of its Professional and Executive Lending department.

new thrust represents the bank's expansion in professional and executive lending to better serve healthcare, business, legal and financial professionals.

Wood brings more than 30 years of banking experience to Texas Central

Bank, having worked most recently in the professional and executive department of the nation's largest bank as well as having serviced portfolios in several Dallas-area independent banks. Wood's responsibilities have ranged from management and growth of portfolios for physicians, attorneys, CPAs and business executives to overseeing commercial and consumer lending.

"Mike [Wood] brings a wealth of knowledge about the professional and executive lending market," stated Jim Veirs, president and chief executive officer of Texas Central Bank. "His banking experience is a welcomed asset to our efforts in growing our professional and executive lending department."

Texas Central Bank is a locally-owned, independent bank with assets of about \$100 million. The Dallas-based community bank also has operations in Plano and the Park Cities.

## State Senator Royce West to Receive MLK Justice Award

State Senator Royce West has developed a reputation in political and civic circles as a "coalition builder" of multi-ethnic groups addressing community issues. Since taking office as State Senator, District 23, January 1993, his legislative agenda has included enhancing school

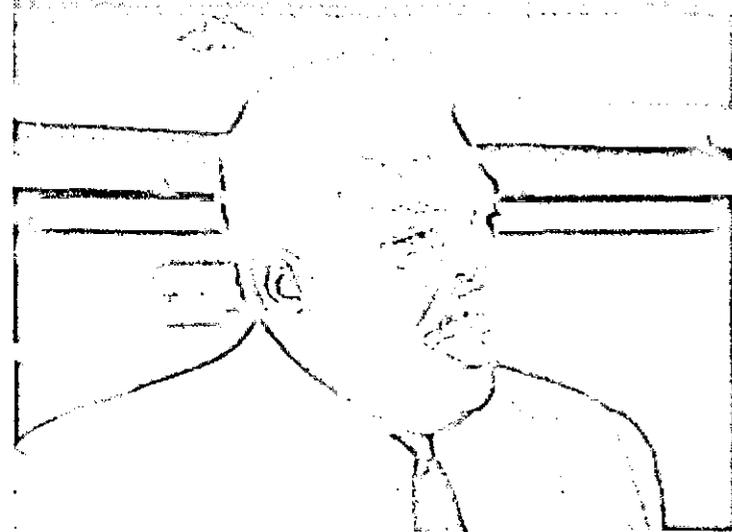
ters, 2101 Ross Avenue.

This prestigious award is given annually to an outstanding Dallas lawyer who best represents and carries out, both personally and professionally Dr. King's cause. Last year's MLK Justice award recipient was Mayor Ron Kirk. The event is sponsored jointly by the Dallas Bar Association, J.L. Turner Legal Association, Mexican-American Bar Association of Dallas, Dallas Association of Black Women Attorneys, Dallas Asian American Bar Association, and Dallas Women Lawyers Association.

"My initial reaction was one of disbelief," Senator West said. "Once I

realized it was true, Martin Luther King, Jr. was not the first person that came to mind. My initial thought was of my mother Gloria Ashford. She consistently taught me that there is no excuse not to do your best in life. To be honored by my peers with such a prestigious award humbles me."

A member of the DBA, Senator West has received numerous awards and honors, including Continued Advancement



Senator Royce West

safety, promoting economic development, reducing crime, improving health and human services, providing public education and ensuring accessibility to higher education.

For his years of service as a state senator, Dallas lawyer and community leader, he will be honored as the 1999 Martin Luther King, Jr. Justice Award recipient at a noon luncheon January 18 at the Dallas Bar Association's headquar-

## Hillwood hires Project Manager for Victory

Hillwood Development Corporation has added Walter Edge, who worked the past three years as a senior estimator for JPI Construction, as a project manager on the Victory project in downtown Dallas. His responsibilities include coordinating and maintaining the complicated construction timelines associated with the new arena and the various projects around it.

"Coordinating the construction of Victory and the new arena is a great chal-



Walter Edge, Project manager for Hillwood Development Corporation.

lenge," said Hillwood Senior Vice President Darcy Anderson, who oversees the development. "Walter's construction experience will help us to develop and maintain our complicated schedule."

With JPI, Edge coordinated the construction budgets, monitored the bidding process and developed subcontractor and vendor lists for the regional teams. He joined JPI in 1996 after working as the purchasing/estimating manager at David Simonini Custom Builders in Charlotte, NC.

of the Juvenile Justice System of Texas; Texas Juvenile Probation Committee; Community Service Award Recipient-Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce; Texas Licensed Child Care Association Man of the Year; Equal Access to Justice Award-Texas Legal Services; Dreamer Award-I Have a Dream Foundation; Appreciation Award by the National Black Chamber of Commerce; CB Bunkley Award by the J.L. Turner Legal Association.

A graduate of Wilmer-Hutchins Independent School District, Senator West graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington with a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Sociology. He served as the first African-American President

In 1986 Edge began his construction career as a field manager responsible for all phases of home construction at the Ryland Group. During his stint with Ryland, he also served as a systems analyst—helping develop, install and teach manufacturing software—and as a project coordinator—preparing home plans and supervising construction.

From 1993-95, Edge worked as a project estimator at Centex Crosland Homes, where he developed a PC-based labor and material estimating system and performed cost analysis.

Edge earned his bachelor's in architecture from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. He also served in the United States Army and the United States Marine Corps.

Victory is the largest master-planned development surrounding an arena in the country. The 48-acre site will feature retail, entertainment, residential and office components. The new arena is a public-private partnership between the city of Dallas, the Dallas Mavericks and the Dallas Stars.

Hillwood Development Corporation began in the late 1980s when it joined the city of Fort Worth and the Federal Aviation Administered in building Fort Worth Alliance Airport, the world's first industrial airport. The Alliance development now is home to more than 60 companies, including 17 from the Fortune 500. At the same time, Hillwood began work on Park Glen, which is one of many master-planned residential communities the company has developed in Dallas-Fort Worth over the past decade. As Hillwood continued to grow, it expanded into property management, investments, sports and consulting.

In addition to continuing its success at Alliance and its many residential projects, Hillwood is in the initial stages of developing Circle T Ranch in Westlake, as well as projects in Atlanta, Hawaii, California and abroad in Abu Dhabi.

of UTA's student body. He earned his Doctorate of Jurisprudence from the University of Houston and was licensed as an attorney in 1979. From 1979-1984, he worked in the Dallas County District Attorney's office serving as chief felony prosecutor from 1982-1984. He was the first African American to hold this position in Dallas County.

Judge Carl Stewart, United States Circuit Judge-United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, will be the keynote speaker at the MLK awards luncheon.

The Dallas Bar Association is a professional, voluntary organization of nearly 8,000 Dallas-area attorneys.

# Have You Seen This Man?

*Homeless son:  
A mother's diary*

By Ester Sadler-Davis

Thanksgiving Day 1998 was planned so that my family would be in a position to receive a possible call from my youngest son, Todd. We all stayed in Dallas answering the telephone with the hope that Todd would remember the number and call home. Our family gatherings are very typical, complete with a pick-up basketball game or street soccer. As family matriarch, I hear from all the friends of my sons, former girlfriends and in-laws, even some of the boys' college roommates. Thanksgiving Days is always about news. Good news. Old news. Where is and who is news. News nevertheless.

Thanksgiving Day 1998 for this matriarch and her family was about no news. I have learned to rely on the adage "no news is good news" with deep conviction, patience and respect. I have two sons. Rodney Samuel, now 35 years of age, and Gerald Todd, 34 years old. They are both bright, handsome, hard-working and truly outstanding. Todd has had some type of mental breakdown and over the last four years we have noticed an obvious form of mental deterioration. Our guess is that he suffers from paranoid schizophrenia. Yes, Todd is mentally ill and lives on the streets of America. I have not heard from him since October 1997. His favorite holidays are Mother's Day, my birthday and Thanksgiving Day. Three years ago, he called on Mother's Day in his usual jovial mood and evaded questions about employment and housing. He did, however, have a job as a cook in a restaurant. Last year he called three days after my birthday—he was unemployed. This year, since he missed calling on Mother's Day and in September (for my birthday), I concluded that he would possibly call on Thanksgiving Day—if he had not forgotten the number. The phone rang constantly, but we heard nothing from Todd all day. I can sincerely say that after the dust settled and everyone departed, I knew that my son had reached another stage of diminished mental capacity. And once again 'no news is good news' was my prayer and comforter.

In searching for Todd in three American cities, I kept wondering why there are so many African American males on the streets. What is wrong? In Washington, D.C., I saw the largest population of Black, homeless men. Trying to find statistics was even more disturbing. Answers from the local and national agencies were vague and general. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, in any given year 22 percent of adults will suffer a mental disorder. Mental illness can now be diagnosed and treated. There have been many breakthroughs in treatment and huge leaps in understanding the brain. However, recent studies, according to Indianapolis-based Dr. William B. Lawson, M.D., Ph.D., in his writings in the Mt. Sinai Journal of Medicine, suggest that

African Americans generally perceive mental health services differently from Caucasians. They are more likely to fear treatment and to fear hospitalization. An active deterrent in the African American community is a strong awareness of the Tuskegee Study. This study, begun in the 1930s, was federally sponsored and involved exclusively African American men in whom syphilis was diagnosed. The men were never provided with antibiotic therapy when it became available and were not informed. Partially because of a lack of knowledge or misinformation, African Americans perceive psychotropic medications as being experimental, like the Tuskegee syphilis experiments or unacceptable mind altering drugs. In addition, as already noted, distrust of standard mental health treatment is widespread and treatment is often sought from non-mental health professionals, such as members of the clergy or a respected friend.

When I recognized Todd had a problem, I embarked on what I called a journey of hope. This journey of hope has launched the family and me into an unexpected adventure of unknowns, some open and shut discussions. Most of our older family members are now deceased, so there is little information available about our family tree. I fully recognize also that a lot of negative, or not so pleasant, subjects in some families are simply not discussed openly. Todd had a lot of the symptoms described in our research data. Resources in the family such as my sister, who worked as a social worker, were extremely helpful in bringing this mystery all together. The term schizophrenia literally means 'split-mind' because the thoughts and feeling of people who have this illness do not relate to each other.

We are informed of Todd's whereabouts primarily through U.S. Secret Service agents. Todd has a fascination with the First Family. He envisions himself as a watchdog for powerful people. When he called several days after my birthday in September 1997, we knew he was in Washington, D.C., because he had caused a disturbance at the White House in July 1997. Todd is listed, or was listed, as one of more than 50,000 individuals categorized as low-risk threats to the presidency. My number one frustration point is that Todd is an adult. Consequently he has so many rights that it is impossible to get answers, get assistance or have him detained without his approval. The fact that he is mentally ill is not sufficient. The mentally ill have to admit themselves for treatment. With any other physical ailment, such as a heart attack or a broken limb, this is not



Dedication services for Todd's son, Christian Todd. Back row: Ester's oldest son, Rodney, and his wife, Gretchen. Front row: Ester Davis; son Todd and his wife, Amanda; Felicia Power, Amanda's sister from Houston; and Dorothy Reece, Ester's aunt from Conroe, Texas.

the procedure that is expected to be followed. Todd has not been in trouble, is not harmful to himself or others. So he, and thousands like him, is free to be ill and untreated, which makes no sense in a society as advanced as ours.

Throughout my own personal research of 'why' and 'what is happening' I found that more information existed on the criminal justice system housing the mentally ill. One researcher stated that "we did not anticipate for mentally ill people to get arrested instead of treated." In 1970, the United States had 207 public mental hospital beds for every 100,000 people. In 1992, the number was 37 per 100,000 according to the Center for Mental Health Services. In November 1997, *The Dallas Morning News* reported that county jails, built as houses for criminals, have reluctantly become depots for the mentally ill. National surveys estimate that nearly 700,000 people with diagnosed mental illnesses are taken to jail each year, more than nine times the number found in public mental hospitals at any one time. Case workers are overloaded and of the 55,000 people in Dallas County now on probation, 600 to 700 are known to have mental impairments. We can only surmise that a notable percentage of these numbers are African American males. Given the choices that are available to me, a mother, I would rather see my son in jail than on the streets. I don't like the choices, but at least I'd know where he is.

Presented at the Second Annual Conference of the Black Task Force, Department of Psychiatry, Dr. Lawson and his research team reported that "in mental health, Blacks are more likely to receive

the least desirable, least optimistic diagnoses. In the past, Blacks were more likely to be diagnosed as schizophrenic; now, recent research suggests that many of these patients had an affective disorder that was misdiagnosed. However, other research findings confirm the importance of heredity as being a major factor in the etiology of schizophrenia, meaning that what may be inherited is the potential to manifest characteristic symptoms, given sufficient "social stress."

Other health professionals that I have spoken with firmly believe that there is a sure link between drugs and mental illness. During Todd's senior year in college, we committed him for drug treatment. As a finance and economics major, he held jobs with Merrill Lynch and TransAmerica before he and his brother opened their business at the ages of 27 and 28 years of age.

Schizophrenia symptoms appear gradually. Family and friends may not notice them as the illness takes initial hold. As the illness progresses, the symptoms become more bizarre, manifesting themselves in work performance, appearance and personal relationships. Todd's behavior, although not being professionally diagnosed, follows this pattern exactly. The relationship with his wife failed, and he immediately entered into another relationship that was very stormy. In 1993, he sold me his profitable pest control business (Davco Pest Control) and moved to Atlanta. (At the time he and his brother were cited as the youngest African American business owners in Arlington.)

The bizarre phrase of the illness was

Continued on page 12

# Around Town

## January 1

Casa Mañana's Theater on the Square, 109 E. 3rd St. and Main, Sundance Square, has announced the extension of *The Complete History of America (Unabridged)*, a humorous new comedy, now playing through Feb. 14. History is the "politically incorrect" play that pokes fun at the founding of this country. Performances are at 8 p.m. Thursday and Fridays, 5 and 9 p.m. Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets range from \$16 to \$24. Call 817-332-CASA, metro 972-647-5700 or any TicketMaster outlet for tickets and information.

....

Soul Rep Theatre Company is currently accepting submissions for its 4th Annual New Play Festival to be held July 1999. Playwrights are encouraged to submit a 2-3 character, 30 minutes or less play to Soul Rep by March 5. Six new plays will be chosen for production and/or staged readings. Winning plays will be announced in May 1999. Send scripts with attention to Festival Coordinator, Soul Rep Theatre Co., P.O. Box 15175, Dallas 75201. Call 214-521-

5070 for more information.

....

Join The Science Place for "The Story of the Star" in the Planetarium. Have an epiphany of your own and learn more about the heavens. This planetary presentation runs Jan. 1-4. Call 214-428-5555 for more information and various show times.

## January 2

*Deadline!*, a murder-mystery comedy by Kurt Kleinmann will open at the Pegasus Theatre Jan. 2. *Deadline!* is the story of would-be actor turned detective Harry Hunsacker and his paid-by-the-hour assistant Nigel Grouse. The pair must find out who is killing the reporters at *The Daily Journal* and they've only got one hour and 45 minutes to solve the crime - or Harry will miss his audition. Tickets are available through Pegasus Theatre, 214-821-6005 and TicketMaster, 214-373-8000 or metro 972-647-5700.

....

The Dixon Avenue Group of

Alcoholic Anonymous meets every Saturday from noon-1 p.m. at the Larry Johnson Recreation Center, 3700 Dixon Avenue, Dallas. Presently the only AA meeting in South Dallas, the Dixon Avenue Group encourages those who might need help to attend. Call 214-670-8495 for more information or directions.

## January 5

Life in the Spirit Christian networking group meets the first and third Tuesday of every month at CityPlace, 2711 N. Haskell, Dallas, at 7 p.m. This group was developed to provide a positive and inspirational environment for small and mid-sized business owners to network and capture capitalization opportunities. Call 972-381-6278 for more information.

## January 6

New Image Business Associates invites the public to its small business luncheon every Wednesday at the Bill J. Priest

Institute of Economic Development, 1402 Corinth, room 202 A&B, in Dallas, from noon-1 p.m. Lunch is \$5 per person. For more information, call 214-350-9590.

....

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

## January 7

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

# Around Town

## January 9

Spend an evening with legendary jazz and blues singer Joe Williams Jan. 9 at the Majestic Theatre. Williams is performing a benefit concert for the Artist & Elaine Thornton Foundation For The Arts, Inc. Opening for Williams will be the Steve Meeks 5 featuring veteran jazz musician and composer Steven Meeks. The concert begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are on sale now at all TicketMaster locations.

....

All poetry writers are invited to attend the Poetry Explosion taking place Jan. 9 at the Hampton-Illinois Library, 2210 W. Illinois, Dallas. For more information, call 214-372-2389. This event is sponsored by Poetry "Riters" and Readers Club.

## January 13

New Image Business Associates invites the public to its small business luncheon every Wednesday at the Bill J. Priest

Institute of Economic Development, 1402 Corinth, room 202 A&B, Dallas, from noon to 1 p.m. Lunch is \$5 per person. For more information, call 214-350-9590.

## January 16

Would you like to know how to start and manage your own business? SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) is sponsoring two all-day workshops from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the Saturday, January 16 and 23. Call the Continuing Education Department at Richland College at 972-238-6005 for more information.

....

The King Institute for Better Health, Research and Education will conduct a workshop to teach proven, corrective techniques on how to improve your health. The workshop will review the physics underlying the body's natural ability to heal itself, and teach procedures that require only your hands to produce measurable improvement in your feet and back. It will be held from noon to 2 p.m. at the King Institute, located at 3530 Forest Lane, Suite 195

(west of Marsh Lane). The seminar is \$25 per person. For more information and reservations, call 214-902-9266.

## January 21

The Dallas-Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators, joined by The Center for Non-profit Management and the Volunteer Center of Dallas County, will once again sponsor a panel discussion featuring several prominent members of the African American media on Thursday, January 21, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at The Center for Nonprofit Management, 2900 Live Oak, Dallas. The cost of the event is \$10 for Center members and \$20 for non-members. Seating is limited. For information and reservations, call Paige Dukes at 214-826-3470, ext. 200.

....

A two-day seminar titled "Breaking the Barrier of Bias" will be held at The Raddison Hotel & Suites in Dallas January 21 and 22. The seminar is designed to help people understand how their biases affect relationships

and productivity at work and is sponsored by Person to Person Consulting. For more information, contact Tracy Brown, Person To Person Consulting, P.O. Box 150761, Arlington, Texas, 76015-6761; phone: 817-467-5753; fax: 817-467-4509; e-mail: p2pinfo@aol.com.

## January 23

The Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. will hold its annual Frederica Chase Dodd Founders Day Luncheon on Saturday, January 23, at the Wyndham Hotel in Dallas. Subscriptions are \$35 each. For more information or to purchase subscriptions, please call 214-337-7881.

### ATTENTION:

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

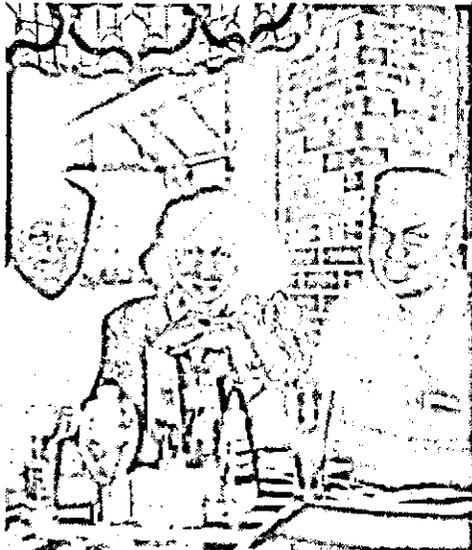
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# "Your Friendly Neighborhood Global Communications Company."

 Southwestern Bell

Continued from page 9

blatant and apparent in September of 1997. From 1993 to 1997, Todd moved and lived in about seven different cities. He was able to support himself with jobs of all sorts. During this period his sales skills were still very acute; he was just as comfortable painting a building, which he did someplace in Omaha in 1995. As a finance and economics major, he held jobs with Merrill Lynch and TransAmerica before opening the pest control business.



Ester Davis with sons Todd (l.) and Rodney on Mother's Day eve, 1991.

Scientist and researchers conclude that in some mental disorders, the subject's behavior may appear normal most of the time. When Todd called in September of 1997, we talked as though nothing was really wrong. He asked about everybody, we laughed and talked until finally I told him that I was coming to Washington on business. He was excited, wanted to pick me up and show me around. So I gave him the flight information. This flight to Washington was my second one and my longest one. I prepared myself for the possibility that he might not have a

place to stay. I even talked to myself about him not having enough money for this and that. 'Picking me up' would probably be public transportation. But something told me to take some of his clothes and some basic items. Being a mother, I also took some of his favorite cologne and shaving stuff. But nothing in this world prepared me for the 'person' that met me at the airport baggage claim. My knees got weak and my feet became heavy as lead. He looked just awful! He had not changed clothes in about three months. His hair had not been combed or cut in about the same length of time. He had a full, unkempt beard. He was smelling and dirty. He was all smiles when he saw me. And I was so happy to see him. We hugged and he kissed me on the top of the head and greeted me with the usual "MamaGirl," a nickname he coined for me as a little boy. The smell was unbearable. We continued to laugh and talk like everybody else there, waiting for my luggage to arrive. He liked my hair. He thought it was getting too gray. I asked about his hair and he made a remark about needing a haircut. He did not have a comb and could not remember the last time he had shaved. By this time we were attracting attention because it was obvious he was a street person. He had brought everything he owned with him to the airport. His belongings were in a large duffel bag that he carried on his shoulders everywhere he went. During the cab ride to my hotel, he continued to talk and was quite lucid, which means everything he said made sense. At one point, he said, "Mom, thanks for the hug." At the downtown Washington, D.C., hotel, where I had reservations, security was called to oust him while I was checking in. Only after we got into the hotel room did I address his appearance. And all the things I had the instincts to bring were put to good use. His clothes I placed in a bag and put out-

side for trash. When he emerged from a hot shower and shave, he had some semblance of my son Todd.

After room service was delivered, we got into a conversation about his bag. He had absolutely no clothes or personals in the bag. Only large volumes of papers he had written for delivery to the president and senators. There were mounds and mounds of papers, some stapled, some in presentation folders. This bag had to weigh 50 to 60 pounds. As he talked, my thoughts turned from frustration to fascination. From intrigue to confusion. His thoughts soon became illogical. He admitted to being on the streets, but he added that he was a Secret Service agent for the FBI. Listening to him expound, I learned that he had a working knowledge of every bill on the Senate floor and background information about the legislator that introduced the bill. But in his self-appointed position he had researched rebuttals and objections to these bills. He had ways of getting this information to the political lawmakers, pointing out in his opinion the strengths and weaknesses of the bill in question. He picked up a discarded *Washington Post* everyday. He assessed his days as busy and well-spent. Early in the morning he would catch the workers coming into the city and ask for money. He would eat at the many places for the homeless everyday. The next stop was the library to look up information. At night he went to a local copy place that stayed open all night, rented a computer with the money he collected that morning and typed up his research in brief format. The appropriate number of copies were made for delivery the next day. He did not sleep. He could stay up several days without sleep. Sometimes he had enough money for a shelter, which he did not like.

During my stay in Washington this time, and since I had Todd with me, at every available interlude I made tele-

phone calls to agencies seeking assistance. The Secret Service would not help. They had me call the U.S. Marshal. Then I called the city of Arlington police, who considered him an adult that had harmed no one. On and on and on. From roadblock to dead end. My efforts fizzled. My time rapidly closed in.

My last day in Washington, despite all the dismay, was quite amusing. It was a beautiful day and Todd had some friends he wanted me to meet.

Some of the 'friends' were the guards around the federal buildings. But I learned that street people have a social society also. Todd only introduced me to certain people. He introduced me to a young man about his age that had been a computer programmer with a major corporation. He was from Detroit. This friend also had a masters degree. Being a mother, I asked him when was the last time he called home. He said he did not know where anybody was. Another associate approached me and Todd would not introduce him because he did not want me to meet him. While walking, we talked about his illness. Of course I called it an illness, but he dismissed it as an assignment that I didn't understand. He agreed to come home for a visit, but he was not going back with me. He would be home in a week, after some important business. I knew he realized that something was wrong with him when he agreed to see a doctor while he was home. I bought him a one-way nonrefundable ticket and left for Dallas. Progress always involves risk, even with the ones you love.

MON

Watch for part 2 of Homeless: A Mother's Diary.

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# The Harlem Renaissance

## Parts 3 & 4

By Russell D. Shockley, B.S.Ed

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

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

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

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

Interest in Black performers also accelerated in 1921 with the opening of the musical revue *Shuffle Along*, written by the great Eubie Blake and Noble Sissle and performed by an all-Black cast that included the famous Florence Mills. *Shuffle Along's* success ensured the production of similar all-Black revues on Broadway.

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

to emulate Black life through the eyes of White writers.

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

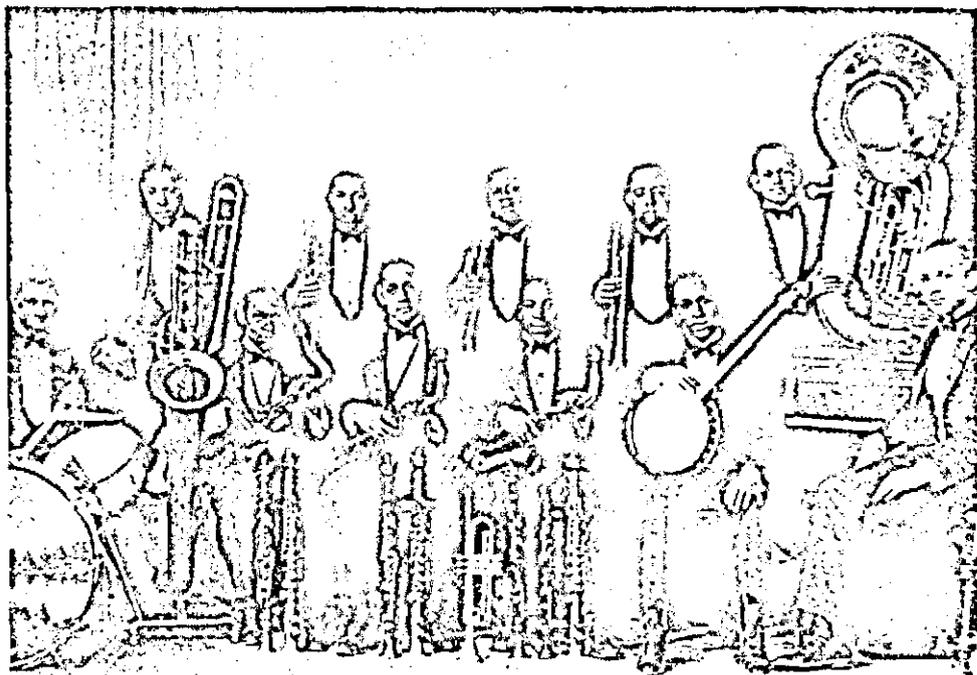
Black musicians, in the forms of blues, jazz, and spirituals reached a new pinnacle of popularity. The lineup of now legendary singers performing in Harlem's clubs included Bessie Smith, Ma Rainey, Adelide Hall, Florence Mills and Ethel Waters.

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

For a quarter, or slightly more, one could hear the pick-up combos at informal rent parties. There was also big band jazz by Duke Ellington. European modernists like Igor Stravinsky began to incorporate Black musical idioms into their own classical music. When European modernist Darius Milhaud first heard Harlem performers, he declared the experience "different from anything I had ever heard before. It was a revelation to me."

Dancing also provided the perfect compliment to Black music and Harlem boasted some 300 female and some 150 male dancers in clubs at any given moment. On the stage, such tap-dancing masters as Bill "Bojangles" Robinson could be seen, as well as the eccentric dancer Earl "Snakehips" Tucker.

It was not only professionals who gave riveting performances, anonymous work-a-day Harlemites also thronged to the dance floors of the clubs, developing elaborate Lindy-hop routines and distributing printed cards advertising themselves as dance instructors. When choreographer Frederick Ashton needed dancers for *Four Saints in Three Acts*, the modernist soap opera by Gertrude Stein, Ashton headed quick, fast and in a hurry to the Savoy Ballroom. The Wall Street crash of October 1929 marked the close of an epoch. The era of the Charleston and speakeasies was replaced by overcrowding, insecurities and the Scottsboro Boys. The stock market crash ush-



Fletcher Henderson (at piano) and his band.

ered in a period in which White patrons tended to more immediate pressing financial matters than the support of Black writers.

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

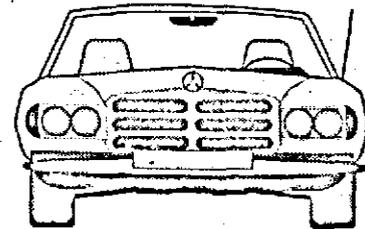
The demise of the Harlem Renaissance was not simply the result of a depressed economy and the dispersal of its key players. The New Negro Movement was torn apart by internal contradictions: Politics versus art. The new Negroes mistook art for power. Years earlier, W.E.B. Dubois, along with Alain Locke, had proclaimed the birth of the Harlem Renaissance; years later, they delivered its obituary.

MON

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

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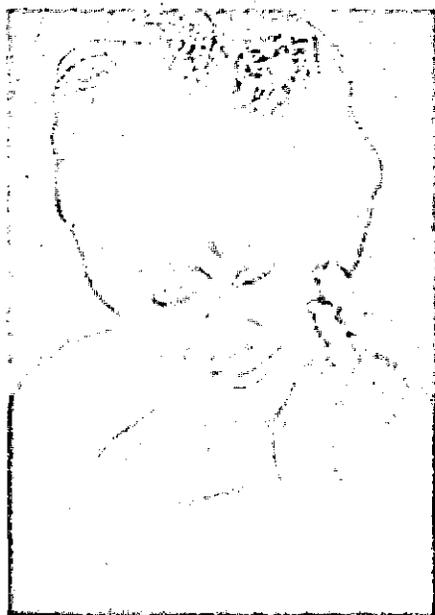
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# UNCF presents annual star-studded television special

Tom Joyner joins Lou Rawls and Co. in a Celebration of Educational Excellence

KXTX-TV (Channel 39) will broadcast the United Negro College Fund's (UNCF) annual fundraising entertainment special *An Evening of Stars: A Celebration of Educational Excellence* from 7pm-11pm, Saturday, January 9, 1999. Hosted by Lou Rawls, Debbie Allen, Tom Joyner and Jasmine Guy, the special will feature concert performances by superstar recording artists including Boyz II Men, Kenny "Babyface" Edmonds, Patti LaBelle, Stevie Wonder, Celine Dion, Brian McKnight, Ashford & Simpson, The Commodores and Freddie Jackson. In addition, there will be special celebrity guest experiences by Sidney Poitier, Samuel L. Jackson, Bryant Gumbel and Shaquille O'Neal.

*An Evening Of Stars*, which will be aired nationwide on more than 69 stations throughout the country, will highlight the important work of UNCF by



Pattie LaBelle

focusing on the compelling success stories of the organization's students, alumni and member colleges and universities. The four-hour special will pay tribute to the UNCF's many corporate partners, detailing the vital role they play in helping the organization realize its mission of providing opportunities for deserving young men and women to fulfill their dream of a college education.

"This telecast will mark the second year that the UNCF has a new, exciting format which features concert performances by many of today's top entertainers," says Kristie L. Patton, UNCF Area Development Director. "When this

special airs, we're hoping viewers will pick up the phones and make pledges that will help pave the way for a bright future for many deserving students," Patton adds. A convenient toll-free number is provided to allow viewers the opportunity to pledge financial contributions.

In addition, Dallas and Tarrant County UNCF supporters will be featured throughout the broadcast. "We want to thank the people in the community and in business who made financial contributions, provided in-kind gifts and volunteered to support UNCF," says Tracey New, UNCF Assistant Area Development Director.

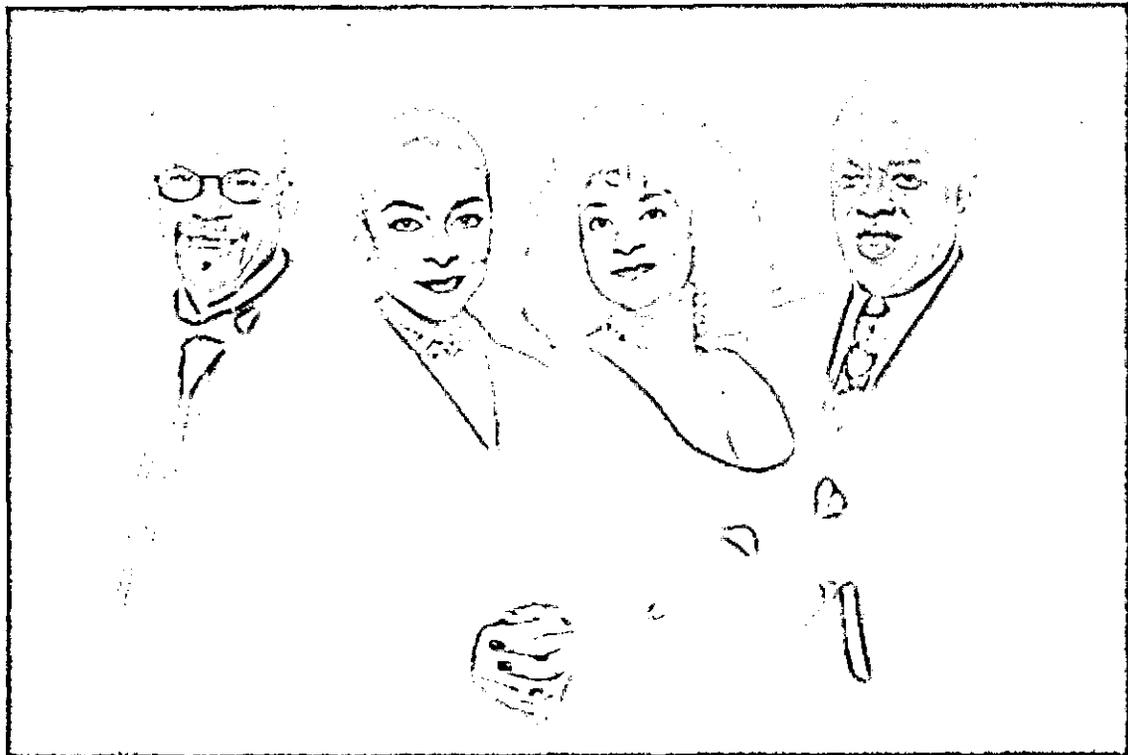
Sponsors of the local telecast are American Airlines, Coors, Neiman Marcus, Bank One, and Eckerd/AHBAL. *An Evening Of Stars* will be simulcast on KHVN-FM (Heaven 97).

The UNCF is the nation's oldest and most successful minority higher education assistance organization in the country. It is a consortium of 39 private, historically Black colleges and universities. UNCF currently administers more than 400 educational programs that give students access to higher education and career opportunities, and strengthen its member colleges. It has been named as the number one educational non-profit organization in America by The Chronicle of Philanthropy. To date, the UNCF has raised more than \$1.4 billion for its member schools and colleges and helped them educate and graduate more than 300,000 men and women from UNCF colleges and universities.

The UNCF headquarters is located in Fairfax, Va. It also has 24 regional bases around the country, including offices in such major cities as Atlanta, New York, Los Angeles, Dallas, New Orleans, Washing, D.C., Miami, Chicago, Philadelphia and Boston.

For more information on UNCF, call 972-234-1007. Or visit the their web site at [www.UNCF.org](http://www.UNCF.org) for general information or to make donations online.

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Syndicated "Fly Jock" Tom Joyner (l.) is accompanied by (l-r) Jasmine Guy, Debbie Allen and Lou Rawls will serve as co-hosts of the United Negro College Fund's television special, *An Evening of Stars: A Celebration of Educational Excellence*. Other top celebrities appearing will be Stevie Wonder, Ashford and Simpson, Brian McKnight and Boyz II Men.

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Electronic Urban Report

Newsbits

Philip Caputo, who was Ennis Cosby's best friend is suing the National Enquirer, alleging it defamed him in two articles that claimed he and Ennis, the only son of entertainer Bill Cosby, quarreled hours before Ennis was murdered.

The suit is over an article that reported: "Just hours before he was murdered, Ennis Cosby quarreled with a close friend who accused him of having an affair with the pal's longtime lover."

Caputo says he was "never paranoid or suspicious" that Cosby was sleeping with his girlfriend, and denies claims made in that story and another published one.

In a related story, The LA Times reported that lawyers have asked the Los Angeles Superior Court to free Mikhail H. Markhasev, the man convicted of killing Ennis Cosby.

In a petition prepared last week, the

informant, convicted forger David Gomez, admitted during an unrelated trial that he made up the jailhouse letters used as evidence to convict Markhasev.

In those letters, Markhasev allegedly admitted to Gomez that he killed Ennis Cosby in January 1997 in a botched robbery. Markhasev, who has denied writing the letters, was convicted Aug. 11 of murder and was sent to prison for life without parole.

Ol' Dirty Bastard has probably been called a lot of things in his life. (As if Ol' Dirty Bastard isn't bad enough.) Well he may be called something a lot worse if his recent Superior court case doesn't go right: criminal.

Last week, one of his court cases was bumped up to a California Superior Court after a municipal court judge found it was worthy of further scrutiny.

On Sept. 16, O.D.B. was arrested after he was kicked out of The House of Blues in West Hollywood and threatened to return and kill the club's bouncers.

In November, he was picked up on

similar charges after allegedly threatening to kill his ex-girlfriend, the mother of his year-old child. Both cases are currently slated for trial Jan. 4.

An award winning actress that had a self esteem problem? Alfre Woodard said she didn't feel like a beautiful American woman in a recent interview with the New York Daily News.

It wasn't until a trip to Zimbabwe more than 10 years ago that Woodard realized she wasn't ugly.

African men and women told her she was "a little skinny, but so beautiful." She said: "I felt like starting a fund to have every one of my nieces visit Africa immediately. You just realize everybody's beautiful if they just go to the right place."



Woodard: found self esteem.

by Method Man and the RZA already making noise, 1999 will showcase more



Slammin' Sammy Sosa

solo efforts from the Staten Island, N.Y., camp, ensuring a long wait for a WuTang reunion project.

Ghostface brings his flow in February with "Supreme Clientele." Raekwon presents his second solo work with "Blood On The Chef's Apron." Everybody's favorite terrorist, Ol' Dirty Bastard, will deliver his long awaited release tentatively titled "God

Made Dirt And Dirt Don't Hurt." (Hmmm, maybe we should ask his ex-girlfreind what she thinks about that title.)

Slammin' Sammy Sosa will bite the Big Apple on Jan. 18, when he comes to New York to receive the Congress of Racial Equality's Outstanding Achievement Award at the annual Martin Luther King awards banquet at the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers.

CORE Chairman Roy Innis says he's also trying to land home-run king Mark McGwire to make the presentation to Sosa.

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

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# Fitness or Bust

A new year is here and the annual event of new year resolutions is upon us. Thousands of overstuffed couch potatoes fresh from all the holiday feasting will make a mad dash for the local health club. Some will try out the new fitness goodies they received for the holidays. All in an effort to lost those extra pounds around the waistline and their rear end. Some will succeed more will fail, because they lack motivation and a plan to shed those extra pounds. Well here what you can do to greatly improve your chances of getting the body you desire. Get help, that right hire yourself a personal trainer.

Most people seem to think that only professional athletes, bodybuilders, movie stars, and models hire personal trainers. But all kinds of people hire personal trainers to help them improve and reach goals in health and fitness. A proper personal trainer should be able to assess the client, help set goals, motivate, and customize a program for their client's personal needs. Consider hiring a personal trainer if you answer yes to any of the following question:

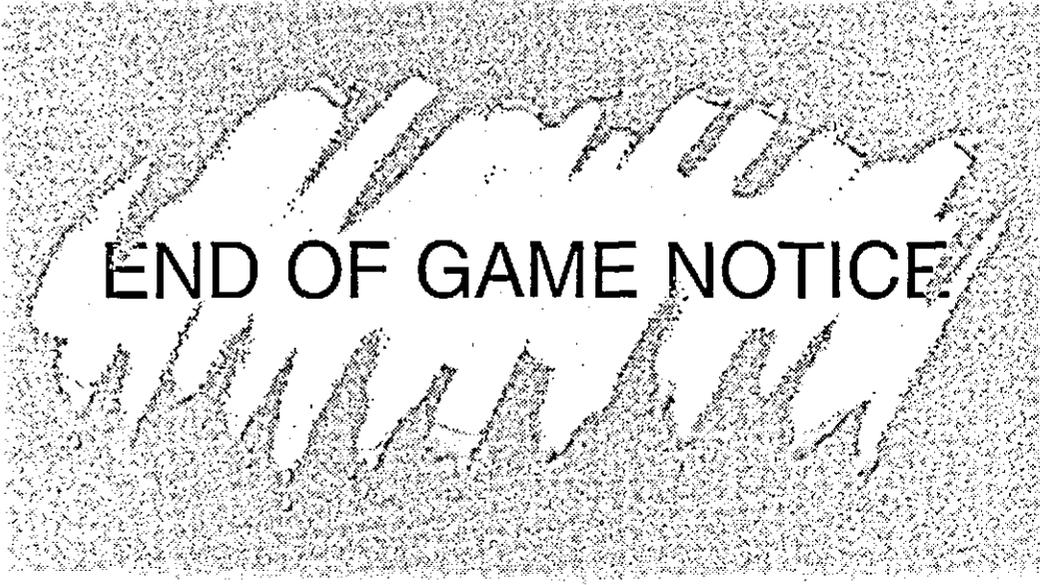
1. Are you totally out of shape and overweight?
2. Are you new to exercising?
3. Do you need help setting realistic goals?
4. Do you need constant motivation?
5. Are you a Yo-Yo dieter.

Now I know your thinking that you can not afford a trainer right. Well you'll never know until you try. There is sure to be a personal trainer some where, who is qualified that is within your budget. Some personal trainer offer group training, this allow you to divide the cost up between 3 or 4 people. Other trainer may offer discounts for signing up for a certain number of training sessions.

Things to know when hiring a personal trainer:

1. Interview the personal trainer on the phone first.
2. Schedule a face to face interview.
3. Ask for credentials
4. Make sure he or she is certified by a reputable organization. (Call IDEA 1-800-999-4332 and ask about certification organizations).
5. Ask for proof of liability insurance.

I could go on and on about the benefits of hiring a personal trainer, but that's not needed. I'm sure you understand the importance of your health. Well, a personal trainer is just a tool to help you reach your health and fitness goal. Personal trainers are for people from all walks of life and, no matter what your fitness level, you can benefit from a personal trainer's experience. As a society, we spend billion of dollars a year on fad diets and exercise equipment we barely use. You will get more for your money by hiring a personal trainer and letting him or her develop a simple program that gets you real results.



## END OF GAME NOTICE



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Three of the Texas Lottery's instant games are coming to a close: Double Roll, Lucky Frog and Lone Star Millionaire. Lone Star Millionaire closes on January 1, 1999, and you can redeem any winning tickets until June 30, 1999. Double Roll and Lucky Frog close on January 30, 1999, and you can redeem any winning tickets until July 29, 1999. You can win up to \$5,000 playing Double Roll, up to \$1,000 playing Lucky Frog and up to \$5,000 playing Lone Star Millionaire. You can claim prizes of up to \$599 at any Texas Lottery retailer. Prizes of \$600 or more are redeemable at one of the 24 Texas Lottery claim centers or by mail. Questions? Just call the Texas Lottery Customer Service Line at 1-800-37-LOTTO (1-800-375-6886).

Overall odds of winning Double Roll, 1 in 4.92  
Overall odds of winning Lucky Frog, 1 in 4.84  
Overall odds of winning Lone Star Millionaire, 1 in 4.76.



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**You and God**

Ron Shaw

**Vessel (Pt. 2)**

**2 Timothy 2:20-21**

Before I begin addressing this issue of vessels, I want to thank all of you who continue to call or write me to express your appreciation for the encouragement this article provides. It is my objective to lift your sights to higher levels of excellence and help you become what you were meant to be. I usually get to most of my letters and callers but if I have missed some of you, please accept my apology and charge it to my head, not my heart. Also, you may contact me via e-mail at [Lightchurc@aol.com](mailto:Lightchurc@aol.com).

As I continue to help people find their God-given gifts and talents, I am constantly amazed at how willing we are to accept the least when the best is available. If someone took me to a car lot and told me they would buy me any car on the lot that I selected, I would select the very best one on the lot regardless of the price. I asked that question to several groups and got some amazing answers. One guy told me he would select the sportiest slickest looking one. I asked him "what if it were the cheapest." He said that would be all right. So, I proposed this solution to him. I said, "What if you selected the best one no matter how expensive it is, bought it, sold it, then went back and bought the cheaper car. Then you would realize a nice profit and [still] have the car you wanted also." He said he hadn't considered that.

The truth is, we have to change the way we think in order to become better than average. Average thinking only makes you average acting. The leader-

ship of most Christian organizations is average at best. That's why service among Christian organizations is average.

In our text, the Word tells us that in the Christian community there are those who are satisfied with just being in the family and there are those who are not satisfied just being in the family; they desire to excel and be a vessel God can greatly use. Be sure you understand that size has nothing to do with you being above average. Neither does the amount of money you have or your gender or your ethnicity. Also, remember that we're not talking about outside the Christian community. Our text only deals with what's inside. Mediocrity is as big a problem in the church as it is outside of it. However, our standard is not the world, but Christ. We shouldn't measure ourselves by what's outside the "house" but rather what's inside. Being average or mediocre has nothing to do with the kind of clothes you wear or car you drive or house you live in. It's about your desire to be everything God had in mind for you when He carefully created you. You were not created to worry or fear or fail. When He made you, He intended to have a great relationship with you. I ask you, "Is your relationship with God like most Christians, or is it above average? The average Christian may only pray earnestly once a week and read his or her Bible less than that. You can't be all God had in mind with that kind of thinking. Since He has made being a gold vessel available to us, why not choose that.

What does it take to be the kind of vessel God wants and can use? He tells us in our text. We must purge ourselves from those who don't want to be any more than they are right now. This is a principle you must be careful not to miss. If you want to be excellent in your relationship with God, you have to hang with people who desire the same thing. The Bible says as iron sharpens iron, so a

man sharpens the countenance of his friends. Superior athletes hang with those who want to be superior. The guys that just want to draw a paycheck hang with those who just want to draw a paycheck. To be a vessel of honor in God's house, you need the constant sharpening of those who will also strive to be honorable vessels.

I heard a principle on leadership that says, "... those closest to you will determine the level of your success." That's also a Biblical principle. You can't hang with turkeys (who are satisfied just being turkeys) and become an eagle. You need Christians who will keep your feet to the fire about your commitment to God, your service to Him, and your Christian lifestyle.

You can tell those who are just content to be a wooden vessel because they always have an excuse for why they can't do something. They always lay at the feet

of others the reason for their failures and mistakes. People who want to be honorable vessels for God keep the pressure on to be better and better Christians in everything they say and do. How many of the people you hang with put you in check when you get out of line? Or do you just hang out with those who will let you "slide" in the way you treat men and women, your finances and your life in general?

I want God to be able to use me to do every good work. In order to do that, I have to stay around people who will inspire me to excel and continue to raise my standards. I want to be a golden vessel in everything I undertake. I don't plan on being average!

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Ron Shaw is the pastor of LightChurch and can be reached at 214-320-5744. His e-mail address is [Lightchurc@aol.com](mailto:Lightchurc@aol.com).

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