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# Minority Opportunity News

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Minority Opportunity News

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VOLUME 8, NO. 9 May 1-15, 1999



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## THE AFRICAN HERITAGE NETWORK

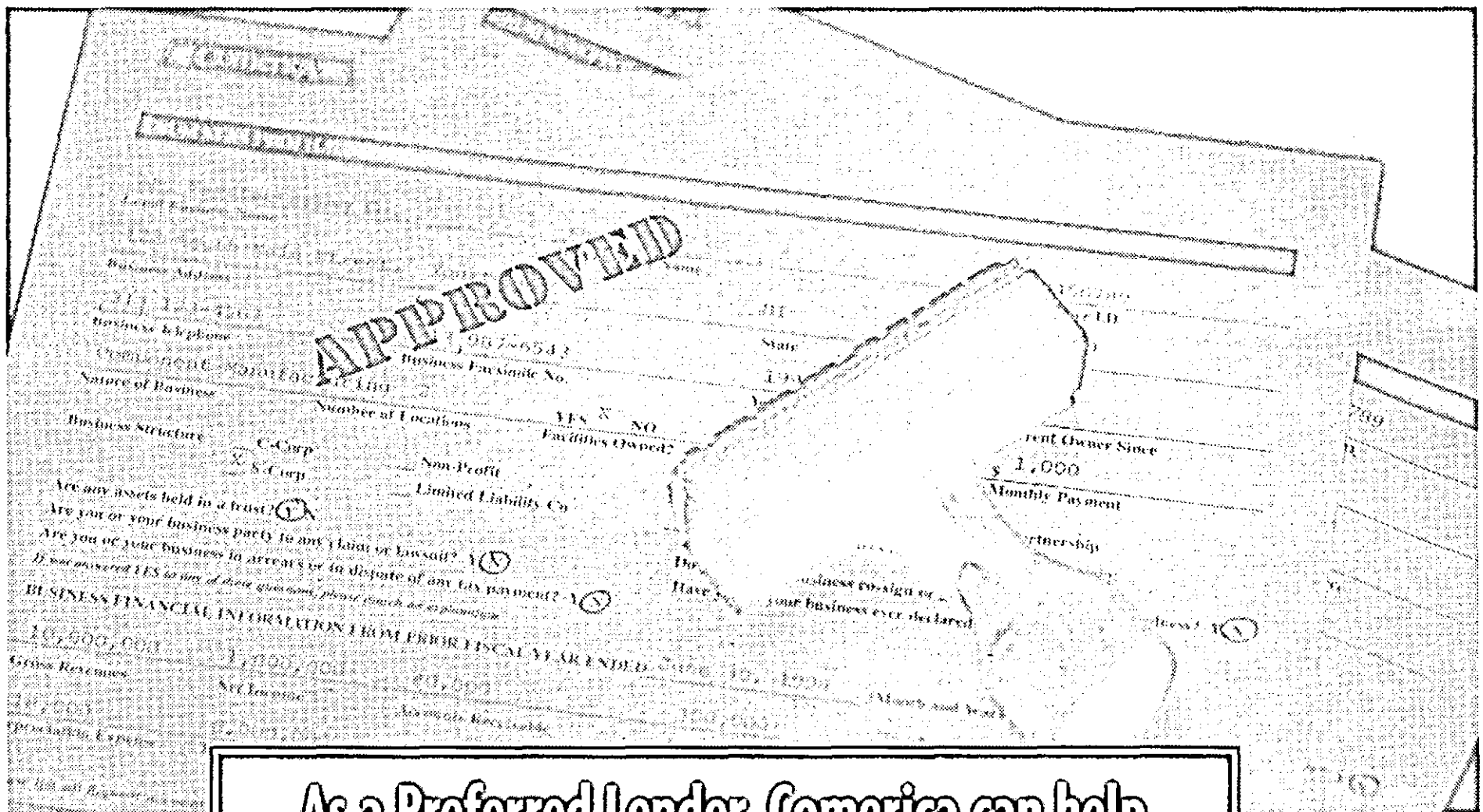


BLACK AMERICA'S MOVIE OF THE MONTH

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Homeowners

Capitol Watch's  
legislative update

Black Chamber  
Scholarships



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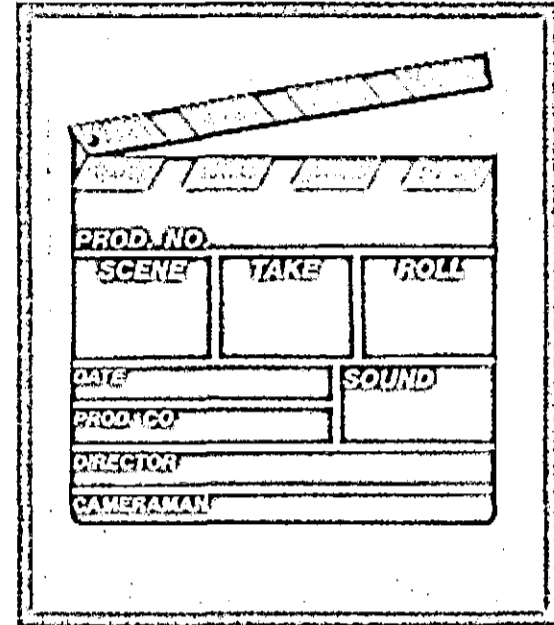
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**Minority Opportunity News**  
 2730 Stemmons Freeway, Ste. 1202  
 Tower West, Dallas, Texas 75207  
 (214) 905-0949 FAX (214) 905-0949  
 Email: Minorppnews@aol.com

**Chairman Emeritus**  
Jim Bochum

**Publisher**  
Thurman R. Jones

**V.P. Business Affairs**  
Charlene M. Crowell

**Editorial Department**  
(972) 606-3890

**Sales/Marketing Department**  
(972) 606-7351

**Contributing Writers** ..... Sherelyn Roberts  
 ..... Vanessa Baker

**Columnist** ..... Thomas Muhammad

**National Marketing Director** ..... Steven Scott

**Marketing Coordinator** ..... Renee Bryant

**Account Executive** ..... Delisha Evans

**Production** ..... Armando Canales

**Editorial Assistant** ..... Michelle Pinkard

**Cover Art** ..... Christopher Bryant

**Photographer** ..... Wallace Faggett

**Vol. Community Publicist** ..... Rita White

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# A Salute to the Class of '99

In recent weeks, headline news has been dominated by the senseless deaths of students in Littleton, Colorado. MON joins the nation in offering heartfelt condolences to a community wrenching in grief.

There was a time when thoughtful men and women would reflect on the prevalence of babies having babies. No one could have imagined a day or time

## School superintendent selection leaves unanswered questions

Most reasonable people would be very wary of predicting who would be the "best" candidate for the Superintendent of the Dallas' public schools. The job requirements, as written by the board, read like a description of a saint with a doctorate in education. While politically palatable, there are significant questions as to whether anyone could meet these lofty expectations. Nonetheless, our school board has unanimously endorsed a candidate, Dr. Waldemir "Bill" Rojas.

Before we address the legitimacy of Dr. Rojas' candidacy, let us first review a bit of recent and relevant history. No, we will not review the grand-standing and self-serving politics of the last permanent superintendent, Dr. Yvonne Gonzales. Nor will we discuss the feeding frenzy that has ensued at DISD since her departure; nor will we rehash the countless faux pas of our current board of trustees.

The lesson we wish to revisit is that of the negative results of short circuiting a well-defined selection and review process. Dr. Gonzales' consideration for the superintendent position was primarily promoted as a

when a frightful pattern that defies race or class, city or suburb: babies would consciously and deliberately kill other babies.

As this century draws to a close, it is a sobering reality that somehow our children need more... more attention... more counsel... more support and more love.

Opportunity is what most of us seek - without regard to age, race, gender or any classification. The chance to learn... to grow intellectually, spiritually, professionally or personally - gives

political agenda. The educational success of our children was relegated to what was then deemed to be politically correct. Unfortunately, we may yet again hire a superintendent for less than the right reasons.

Once news coverage got beyond the rush of school board members taking credit for "finding" Dr. Rojas, the first descriptions of his credentials were:

- A multi-ethnic/racial background. Hence, he met the litmus color test.
- As San Francisco's superintendent he has worked with large, diverse and urban student populations. It is noteworthy to mention that San Francisco's enrollment is just over one-third that of DISD.
- Named "superintendent of the year" last year in California. While the objective criteria for this award is not clear, MON agrees that it reads well in the press release.

In sum, this community has yet to learn much of Dr. Rojas' performance as a working superintendent. This community has a duty to question whether Dallas School Board has done its home-

each of us reasons to live. What better time or season than now to let our young people learn and adults be reminded that our lives are precious gifts.

Youthful joys should allow a season traditionally marked as one of renewal and rebirth, of proms and graduation celebrations, not parents burying their children.

Spring is a season of renewal. Traditionally, it is also a time for proms and graduations - events that create memories that

last a lifetime.

In this season of blooming possibilities, now is an appropriate time to salute young people who have somehow steered their paths towards educational achievement. Our graduating seniors, whether from high school or institutions of higher learning, have earned credentials that now enable new horizons of opportunity. Congratulations to one and all!

MON

Perhaps the lack of thoroughness is in part attributable to the lack of public accountability. No member of the current board was elected to serve based on their expertise at selecting superintendents. That is why the lack of accountability could very well explain the board's decision to spend precious public dollars on a search consultant.

If the public's money paid a consultant to screen candidates, was a report offered to the board? If so, where is public access to it? If not, why isn't there a work product to summary efforts on an important public decision? On such a major public decision, doesn't the public have a right to know?

Dr. Rojas may be a fine candidate with the essential skills we need to lead the Dallas' schools forward. The unfortunate truth is at this point, none of us really know whether that statement is a hopeful wish or a certain truth.

Perhaps it is time to remind the school board of valid concerns and expectations. The public's interest cannot be well-served when citizens, through no fault of their own, are left with more questions than answers.

As many of our young people would say, we do not need to ever "go there" again.

MON

# Editorials

## Community

## Pulse

Thomas Muhammad

## Dr. Lois Harrison-Jones: an educational giant

As usual, there she was taking the lead. For many of her colleagues, dignity and anonymity are preferable to a public spotlight.

Dr. Lois Harrison-Jones has a personal philosophy that mirrors the activist stance of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It was Dr. King who once said, "If all the people who tell us that they are supporting our cause behind the scenes would just come out in front, the Negro problem would be solved overnight."

An up front fighter, Dr. Harrison-Jones has dedicated her life to fighting for the right of every child in America to be properly educated. For her, education is more than a chosen profession; it is a mission. When she speaks on educational issues, people take notice. Her history has earned wide spread community respect and many listening ears.

As the president-elect of the 5,000 member-strong, National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE), Dr. Harrison-Jones has won the confidence of educators throughout the nation. Founded in 1970 by Dr. Charles D. Moody, Sr. and other prominent educators, NABSE is dedicated to improving educational accomplishments of African-American youth. Advocating the development and deployment of instructional and motivational methods, NABSE zeroes in on inspiring students to achieve and improve attendance. It is the nation's largest network of African-American education professionals.

Beyond focused attention on student performance, NABSE's compelling mission has three other primary components: professional development programs, the sharing of resources and/or

information and public policy advocacy.

By strengthening the skills of teachers, principals, specialists, superintendents, and school boards, NABSE members move from the level of participation to leadership. By sharing innovative and successful instructional approaches in critical learning areas, members effectively expand the educational horizons of more young people. The intent of NABSE's public policy activities is to ensure high standards and quality in our educational systems.

Should anyone doubt whether Dr. Harrison-Jones is prepared for such an ambitious role, one need only review her life. She was the first African-American woman to hold a superintendent's position in two states, Virginia and Massachusetts. She is the first and only African-American to serve as a community ambassador, representing Virginia as a part of Northern Ireland's peace initiative.

Before serving as a school district superintendent, Dr. Harrison-Jones honed her skills beginning as a classroom teacher. Steadily progressing through a series of increasingly responsible positions, she later served as supervisor, principal, associate superintendent, associate professor and adjunct faculty member. Esteemed institutions of higher learning that have benefited from her skills include the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and the University of Massachusetts. Her public school system service has taken her to Richmond, Virginia; Boston, Massachusetts; and Dallas, Texas.

Equally impressive as Dr. Harrison-Jones' professional accomplishments are her creden-

tials: a baccalaureate degree (education) earned at Virginia State University; a master's in reading and psychology earned at Philadelphia's Temple University; and a doctorate in educational administration from Virginia Tech. Her two honorary doctorates are from Mount Ida College in Newton, Massachusetts, and Boston's New England School of Law.

It is therefore notable that Dr. Harrison-Jones took a local leadership role in the ad hoc group known as "Concerned African-American Citizens". Readers may recall seeing Dr. Harrison-Jones in an activist role in Dallas Independent School District's superintendent selection process. She was a visible and vocal advocate of a non-traditional selection. In her view, a military or business background at the helm of Dallas' beleaguered public schools would better serve our

largely minority student population.

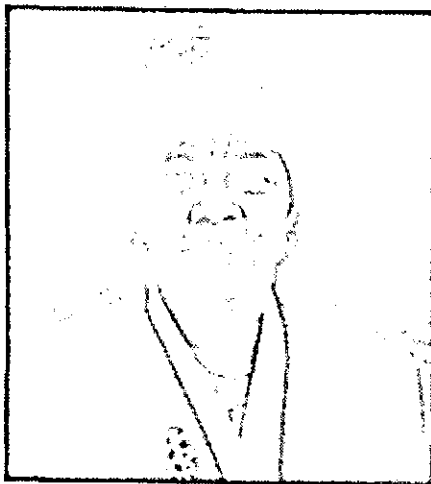
Others may recall how some years ago Wilmer-Hutchins School District had a friend in Dr. Harrison Jones. Wilmer-Hutchins ISD is now on solid footing, thanks in large part to her timely assistance and counsel.

The American Association of School Administrators recently recognized her for 25 years of exemplary service. Other civic and community activities have included roles with: NAACP, Women's Political Action Committee, National Commission for African-American Education, NAACP, American Association of University Women, American Association of Supervision & Curriculum, and National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

Is there any wonder why many call her an educational giant?

Until then, the struggle continues.

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



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# Competition vs. Cost Recovery:

## Central Issue in Electric Utility Legislation

From a consumer perspective, few products or services have as pervasive an impact on how we live and function as the availability of affordable gas, electricity and telephone services. Pending legislation in this session of the Texas

Recent and consistent downward revenue trends significantly contribute to the competitive concerns of utility reform. Moreover, industry revenue forecasts project a continuation of the downward spiral.

General Assembly would alter existing laws that regulate electric utilities. The current legislative debate centers on two primary factors: cost recovery and competition.

Electric companies are actively advocating public policies that would retain multi-million dollar construction cost recovery for power-generating plant construction.

At the time these facilities were built, the state of Texas, through the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), authorized cost recovery for "reasonable and prudent" costs related to capital investments. Cost recovery was to be accomplished by pro-rating consumer bills over an extended period of time. A percentage of each electric utility payment is now dedicated to that cost recovery.

Decreasing revenues, coupled with proposed electric competition, free of geographic restrictions, together form the nucleus of concern for large utility providers. The marketplace effects of debt-free competitors waging aggressive campaigns for consumer dollars is a scenario that larger, well-established providers oppose. Moreover, current technology is proven to be more cost-effective than that of plants designed more than a decade ago.


A bill now under consideration would freeze current electricity rates for the next two years. A rate freeze would also allow utility companies to recoup investments before deregulation allows marketplace competition.

A two-year period is a significant abbreviation of the time originally anticipated to recover plant construction costs. Some providers were originally given as many as 40 years to pro-rate cost recovery. For these providers, the proposed alternative to a two-year window would be fewer state regulations and a longer period to recover costs.

From a consumer perspective, the public's interest was to guide the actions of the PUC. It was also PUC's role to enhance the industry's competitive environment, and ensure reliable electricity access at affordable costs. Cost overruns and inaccurate revenue projections are therefore believed by some to be the result of poor management.

If a legislative compromise is not found, the PUC could likely turn much of its attention to a re-examination of its role and purpose.

The bottom line is that two distinct views are being voiced in the legislative process. Utility companies are looking to be repaid. The state, on the other hand, wants free enterprise competition to determine future utility costs.



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# Pending telecommunication legislation

*proposes more consumer support*

An important telecommunications bill moving forward in the Texas General Assembly sets the stage for consumers to reap considerable benefits from this evolving industry. The bill, House Committee Substitute to Senate Bill 560, or CSSB 560, would offer Texans lower prices, more choice and better service.

CSSB 560 would reduce access fees significantly. Access fees are the costs paid by long distance companies to local telephone companies for the use of the local network to complete long distance calls. In Texas, access fees also play a key role in the public policy of maintaining affordable local telephone rates. While access fees in Texas are higher than the national average, local telephone rates are the 7th lowest in the country and have not changed in 15 years. Lawmakers are taking a careful, studied approach in adjusting the access rate in order to ensure that local telephone rates remain stable.

CSSB 560 would make a deep, yet reasonable, reduction in these fees. This provision would help Texans pay less for their in-state long distance calling. Importantly, it would also cap business and residential local rates until 2005. Consumers would also be protected from price increases on other popular services such as call waiting and caller ID. By combining reduced access rates with capped local telephone rates, the bill would ensure Texans continue to enjoy some of the most affordable telephone services in the country.

Consumers would also benefit from the ability to receive discounts on packages of telecommunications services. Currently, new entrants into the local telephone marketplace are allowed complete freedom to price and

package their services in response to customer demand. Texas' traditional telephone companies, however, are limited by regulations in their ability to offer customers promotional packages. CSSB 560 would allow customers of traditional telephone companies to realize the same savings that are available to customers of new and competitive local telephone companies.

Another consumer benefit targeted by the bill is "one-stop shopping" for a wide variety of telecommunications services. CSSB 560 directs the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to adopt business rules that are no more stringent than those specified by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Such rules are necessary for consumers to have the option of ordering local, long distance, Internet and wireless telephone service from one carrier. Related FCC rules have already proven effective in protecting consumers while maintaining a competitive environment.

Simplified monthly customer bills, another provision of CSSB 560, would likely be a welcome change for consumers. Simpler and easier to understand bills are expected to assist in protecting consumers from two unpopular practices. "Slamming", a practice of changing a customer's long distance carrier without the customer's approval, and "cramming", the practice of billing consumers for optional services not ordered, would be easily detected on the revised bills. CSSB 560 would require all local telephone companies to clarify their customer bills into easy to understand, general categories.

Lastly, the legislation would allow local telephone companies to remain under a form of

regulation that spurs strong investment. Such a requirement is expected to ensure consumers early access to the latest telecommunications services.

Affordable prices, more choice, better service and advanced services are the goals of CSSB 560.

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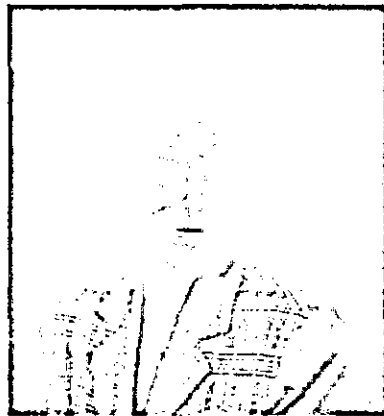
\*No purchase necessary. Complete contest rules available upon request.  
\$1,000,000 payable in 25 equal annual installments of \$40,000 each, without interest.

## Peek-Haynes Appointed to Museum's Board of Trustees

Commercial real estate broker Debra Peek-Haynes was appointed to the Board of trustees of the African-American Museum of Life and Culture. Peek-Haynes, who is president of Dallas based Quorum Commercial, is a long time supporter of the Museum. Located in Dallas' Fair Park, the museum is the only one in the Southwest devoted to the preservation and display of African-American artistic, cultural and historical material.

"I enjoy giving back to the community and serving as a Trustee for the African-American Museum is a great way for me to do that," says Peek-Haynes. "It is vital that we maintain a strong arts community in Dallas."

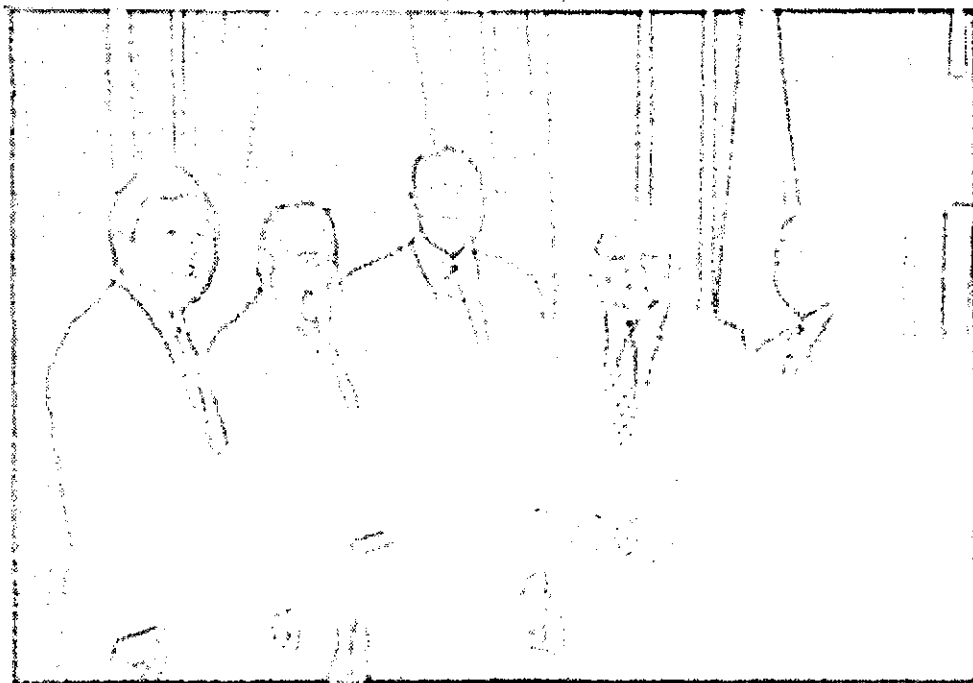
Peek-Haynes has been active in the Dallas community for years. She was appointed



Debra Peek Haynes

and served on the City of Dallas Plan (Zoning) Commission, is a member of the North Texas Commercial Association of REALTORS and the Greater Dallas Association of REALTORS. She founded Quorum Commercial, a consulting firm that specializes in commercial sales and leasing, in February 1998.

## Dallas Ethnic Chambers Talk Trade



(L to R) Peter Ng, Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber of Commerce; Guillermo Galindo, Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk; His Excellency Jaibuu Cholnor, Ambassador of Mongolia; Jerry Haynes, Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce

Dallas' ethnic chambers of commerce hosted a reception during the 1999 Dallas Ambassadors Forum in honor of visiting foreign ambassadors and consuls. This reception and other events during the Dallas Ambassadors Forum Weekend

allowed Chamber members to discuss international trade opportunities with contacts from throughout the world. The Forum is sponsored by the City of Dallas and the Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce.

## Lucent Technologies Employees Support Metroplex's Global Days of Caring



Lucent Technologies employees participate in volunteer activities aimed at improving Dallas area communities.

Residents of some local communities may have noticed a little shine in their neighborhoods thanks to the Lucent Technologies employees who took part in the company's 4th annual "Global Days of Caring" (GDOC) event. The event

encourages Lucent volunteers to support community improvement through hundreds of service projects.

An estimated 13,000 employees world wide participated in GDOC events, logging more than 50,000 hours of service in projects benefiting schools, hospitals, libraries, orphanages, shelters and the environment.

Lucent Technologies designs, builds and delivers a wide range of public and private networks, communications systems, software, data networking systems, business telephone systems and microelectronics components. Bell Lab is the research and development component for the company.

## Kenneth D. Martin & Associates, P.C. Joins Victory Legal Team

Honoring its commitment to utilize minority business enterprises in all facets of the development of American Airlines Center and Victory Hillwood recently selected real estate law attorney, Kenneth D. Martin, Esq., of Dallas-Based Kenneth D. Martin & Associates, P.C. to work on the legal team for both projects.

Martin has earned a reputation among local attorneys as an adept legal professional in public policy, real estate and transportation legal matters.

His firm, Kenneth D. Martin & Associates, P.C. has established itself as one of Dallas' most progressive and diversified law offices. It's members have presented some of the most prominent and respected businesses, and individuals and governmental entities at the state, regional and national levels.

We are extremely confident in Kenneth Martin and his real estate law firm in assisting us in making Victory Dallas' premier development," said Darcy Anderson, president of Hillwood Urban, the division overseeing



Hillwood adds Kenneth D. Martin & Associates, P.C. to the legal team for Victory.

the Victory Project. "Their expertise in real estate has been a tremendous benefit to the project."

A Dallas native and Dallas Public Schools graduate, Martin completed his undergraduate studies at Austin College in Sherman, Texas, majoring in political science and economics. He holds a master of public policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He received his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law.

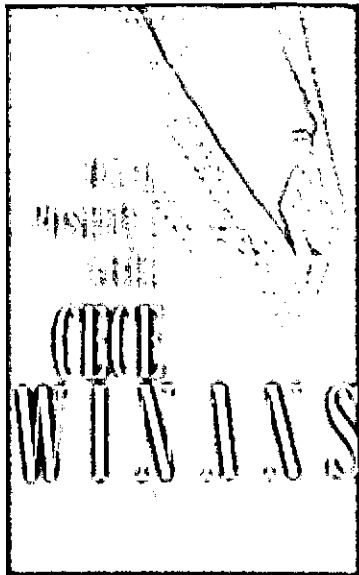
Martin currently serves on the Advisory Committee to the Texas Workforce Commission, the Board of Directors for the Child Care Group and the Austin College Alumni Association. In addition he is secretary of Digital Marketing Services, Inc., a sub-



**Book Review**

Angela  
Washington-Blair,  
Ph.D.

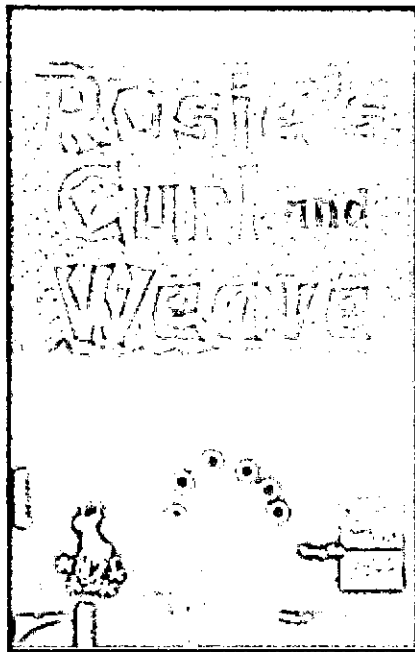
*On a Positive Note: Her Joyous Faith, Her Life in Music and Her Everyday Blessings*  
By Cece Winans (Pocket Books, \$20.00)



This inspirational gem is one that will introduce to some, and draw others a little closer to CeCe Winans. An 8-time Grammy winner, and also the recipient of Dove, Stellar and NAACP Image awards, Ms. Winans offers readers a glimpse into lesser known areas of her remarkable life. In many ways, this autobiography reads much like a testimony, relating how Jesus Christ helps her with the ongoing challenges of balancing a successful career with a busy family life. Through childhood recollections, readers learn she is one of ten children born to parents who were as musical as they were spiritual. Particularly poignant are her candid recollections of her life's low ebbs. Through struggles and success, Cece Winans authors a work with a central message: God's grace is everlasting.

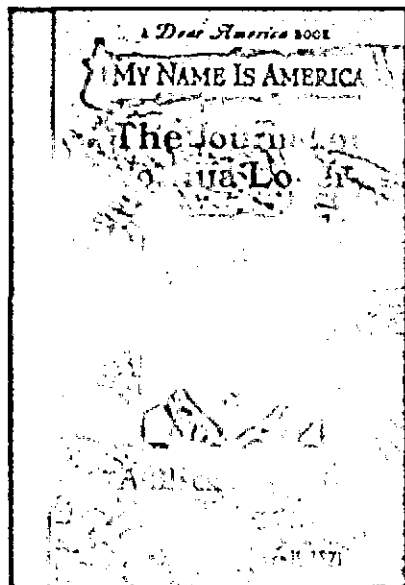
*Rosie's Curl and Weave*  
with Stories by Rochelle Alers,

**Making pages: Stories of faith, Frontier West and Negro Baseball League**



Donna Hill, Felicia Mason and Francis Ray  
(St. Martin's, \$5.99)

Adult fans of ethnic romance will delight in this anthology of both sweet and spicy stories of men and women drawn together on Harlem's 125th Street. The shop beckons its customers and readers with beauty, laughter, love and a few revelations. Rosie, the owner, discovers love is about the young at heart, not of age. Her assistant manager is at a crossroad of life, trying to decide whether a fine-looking contractor with hypnotic eyes is the right choice. There's also a timid, dowdy duckling of a girl who grows into her own womanly swan.



*The Journal of Joshua Loper: a Black Cowboy*

by Walter Dean Myers  
(Scholastic, \$10.95)

In this children's book, the protagonist is a fictitious character named Joshua Loper, who in 1871 is a 16-year old black cowboy. Recording his experiences in a journal, readers learn of Loper's first cattle drive and his unsympathetic trail boss. Although fiction, this book offers readers an authentic glimpse into life on the Chisholm Trail. One particularly moving entry reads: "I know the Captain don't particularly like me and I don't make things any better. This afternoon a steer broke out of the line and started running toward a grassy hill to my side of the herd. Doom crossed over and pushed the line

back so there wouldn't be a stampede."

*Fair Ball! 14 Great Stars from Baseball's Negro Leagues*

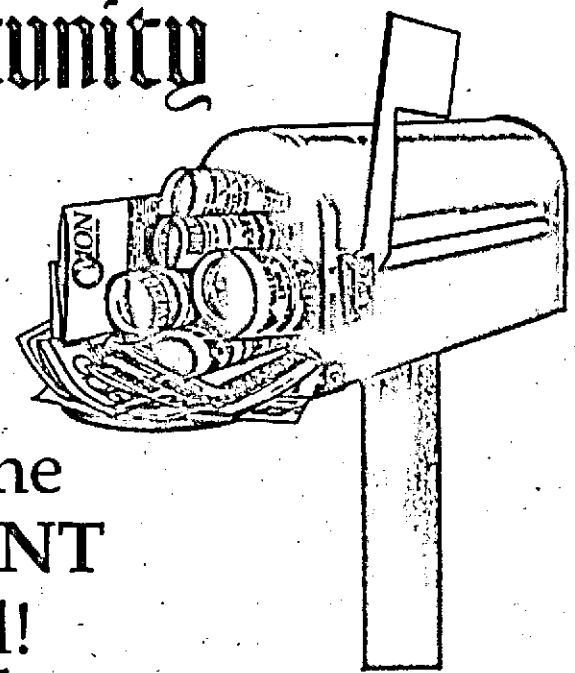
By Jonah Winter  
(Scholastic Press, \$15.95)

This picture book biography chronicles a bygone era's athletic superstars. For every Willie Foster, Satchel Paige or Josh Gibson, there is also a Mule Suttles, Buck Leonard, Bingo DeMoss or Biz Mackey. Each 2-page entry offers a full-page illustration of each player and



information on career and team highlights, as well as personal information.

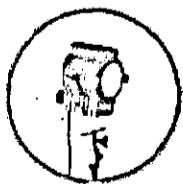
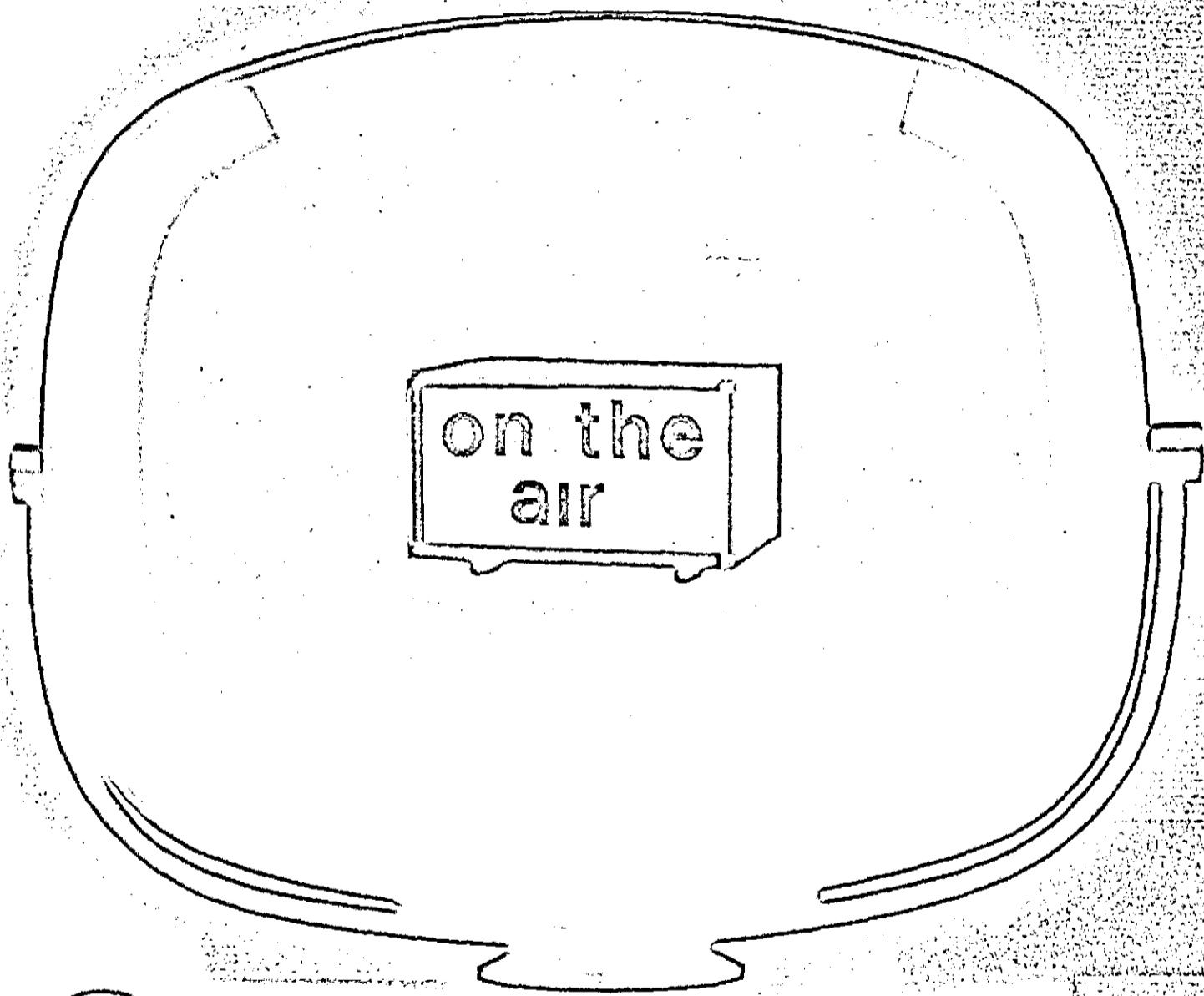
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# THE AFRICAN HERITAGE NETWORK



BLACK AMERICA'S MOVIE OF THE MONTH

# THE AFRICAN HERITAGE NETWORK

## Black America's movie of the month

By Vanessa Baker

*As the tree draws substance from its deeply planted roots—roots that are grounded in fertile soil, frequently nourished with the purest of rain, and privy to the sun's most brilliant rays—its branches flourish with the sweetest of fruit. As the young man draws substance from his deeply rooted passion—passion grounded in a fertile imagination, nourished with absolute determination, and privy to the most brilliant rays of possibility—that man is bound to realize every dream he's dared to entertain.*

Such is the heart behind the mega-talented tycoon, Frank Mercado-Valdes, whose creative genius and tenacious resolve created and now heads the New York based, African Heritage Network. This syndicated series of feature films provides monthly program offerings featuring African-American actors, directors, and producers. The syndication airs on major channels in more than 125 markets nationwide.

Mercado-Valdes' passion: "I loved watching old black movies, but I never could find any of them on local television because they were rarely on."

His determination: "When I discovered that seven out of the top twenty movie packages did not have Black movies, I knew we could fill a niche that was being ignored."

The possibility: With a \$25,000 investment and a \$350,000 loan, Mercado-Valdes' vision gave birth to a company that now heralds the contributions of African-Americans in cinema, while showcasing this mother load of talent to film lovers of all races across the United States.

Launched in 1993, the network's format is unique. The company purchases 30-day syndication rights to Black classics such as *Cotton Comes to Harlem*, *Cotton Club*, *The Learning Tree*, and *The Louis Armstrong Story*, as well as more recent productions as *Glory*,

*The Shawshank Redemption*, and various Spike Lee films. In the firm's brief history, Mercado-Valdes has purchased the rights to over 100 films. On average, 20 feature films reach audiences annually.

These movies reach the viewing audience via two avenues. The company's "Movie of the Month" is hosted by film legends, and husband-and-wife team, Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee. "Primetime Presentation", the network's second offering, appears quarterly.

Mercado-Valdes is a product of his environment, and due to the societal biases that limited his accessibility to enjoy "Black movies" during his childhood, his unsatisfied passion prodded his creative soul. The result was the emergence of an entrepreneur who has frequently broken barriers in his chosen arenas. His accomplishments are illustrative examples of how seeming limitations can actually propel one to unimagined heights.

Shortly after Thomas Edison introduced this cinematic process in the early 1900s, on-screen intolerance against black people appeared. Early Edison productions were called "actuality" films, as editing techniques were still unknown. Consequently, scenes depicting African-Americans revealed, and in turn validated, dignified life portrayals. Examples of these depictions were first seen in Edison's production of the Ninth and Tenth Cavalries returning from Cuba. In these early cinematic works, African-American were trained and disciplined soldiers, either on horseback or in formation.

With the advent of editing came the means for filmmakers to delete the more accurate portrayals of African-Americans and perpetrate less favorable images. D.

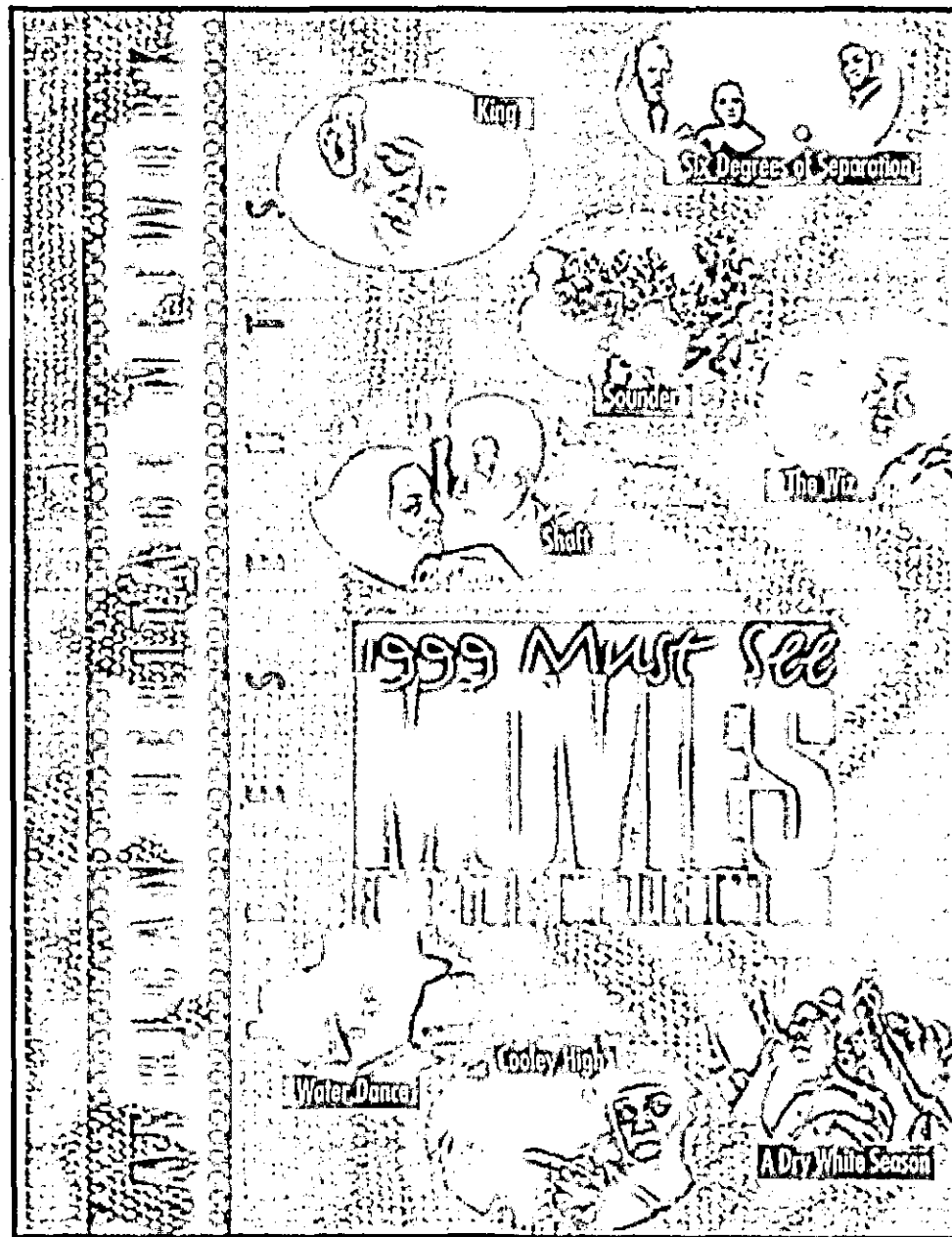
W. Griffith's, *The Birth of a Nation* (1915), is a prime example. While the movie is chronicled in history as technologically superior and ahead of its time, it also introduced stereotypical tone for many years to come. Distorting history as well as revealing Griffith's philosophical concept of the universe and his personal racial bigotry, *The Birth of a Nation* has been credited with typecasting the "black buck" character and the "mammy" figure. Such depictions are believed to have glorified the formation of the Klan.

Set during the Civil War, the fictional Cameron family is terrorized by a troop of Negro raiders. The devastated South falls victim to widespread rape

and pillage. Carpetbaggers and uppity northern coloreds exploit and corrupt former slaves. In Griffith's creative view, America's Reconstruction era unleashed the innate sadism and bestiality of Negroes. The white South, thusly, is crushed under the heel of black destruction.

It was in this later era of filmmaking that colored characters became stereotyped as intellectually limited, fond of funny hats and head rags, eating watermelons, and shuffling instead of walking erect.

As network television began, it too projected narrow and restricting images of African-Americans. Early network television limited African-American characters to featured or supporting roles in comedies and musical variety programs. Playing slaves, maids, comics, or musicians, afforded African-American actors no possibility for meaningful, dra-



matic characters—as portrayed by their white counterparts. Thus, the talents of these performers were of limited scope and frequency.

The famed and Academy Award winning actor, Sidney Poitier broke new ground in the 1950s when he was given the opportunity to play characters of substance and integrity. Shattering stereotypes in virtually every role he portrayed, by the early 1970s, Poitier's consistent popularity certified box office appeal and profits. Poitier's stellar rise was an exception, however. Television, was yet to undergo its own racial metamorphosis.

Mercado-Valdes was a child living in Miami during the significant decade of transition for African-Americans in television programming. The medium was beginning to offer roles that were never before available. Mercado-Valdes saw on the small screen, Blacks as doctors, nurses, secretaries, law enforcement officials and social workers.

But these portrayals of multi-dimensional people experiencing the joys and pains of daily life were short-lived. During the next decade, 1970-1980, the typical two-steps-forward, one-step-backward syndrome occurred as African-Americans were integrated into "white" television. Their acceptance came in much smaller numbers, and their roles lacked true depth, offering a sterile picture of black life. The movies and television performances Mercado-Valdes had grown accustomed to seeing were suddenly not available. The noticeable absence left a void. This void was instrumental in directing the course of Mercado-Valdes' life. The direction he took led him to the level where he became a significant component in the decision-making process.

The industry wasn't used to African-Americans in upper management. Their premise was that if there were any blacks in managerial positions, they would fit comfortably on one city bus. Wrestling with the very demon

that plagued filmmaking history, African-Americans lacked balance and truth in the images seen by American audiences. Moreover, the perpetuation of these images seemed permanent: people of color were not a part of the film and television industry's decision-making process.

"It's always better to find an area where you have the least obvious

competition" says Mercado-Valdes. As a young adult, he researched this industry. Encouraged by Cuban grandparents who raised him to reject systematic limitations, he decided to shatter the status quo and join the ranks of those who determined what the viewing public would see.

His decision and determination have now realized a multi-million dollar enterprise.

In the 1980s, Mercado-

Valdes produced two annual television shows—the Miss Collegiate African-American Pageant and the S.T.O.M.P.! Dance Competition. It was during this time that he noticed how well syndicated movies did with African-American television audiences, even if they didn't feature black actors.

In

1992, he came up with his brainchild—

licensing movies with African-American actors and themes, and then packaging them for local stations.

In four years, this brilliant concept earned \$10 million dollars.

True to his nature, Mercado-Valdes does not sit on past successes. He's recently purchased the national barter time to the weekend broadcast runs of Dick Wolf's hit drama, New York

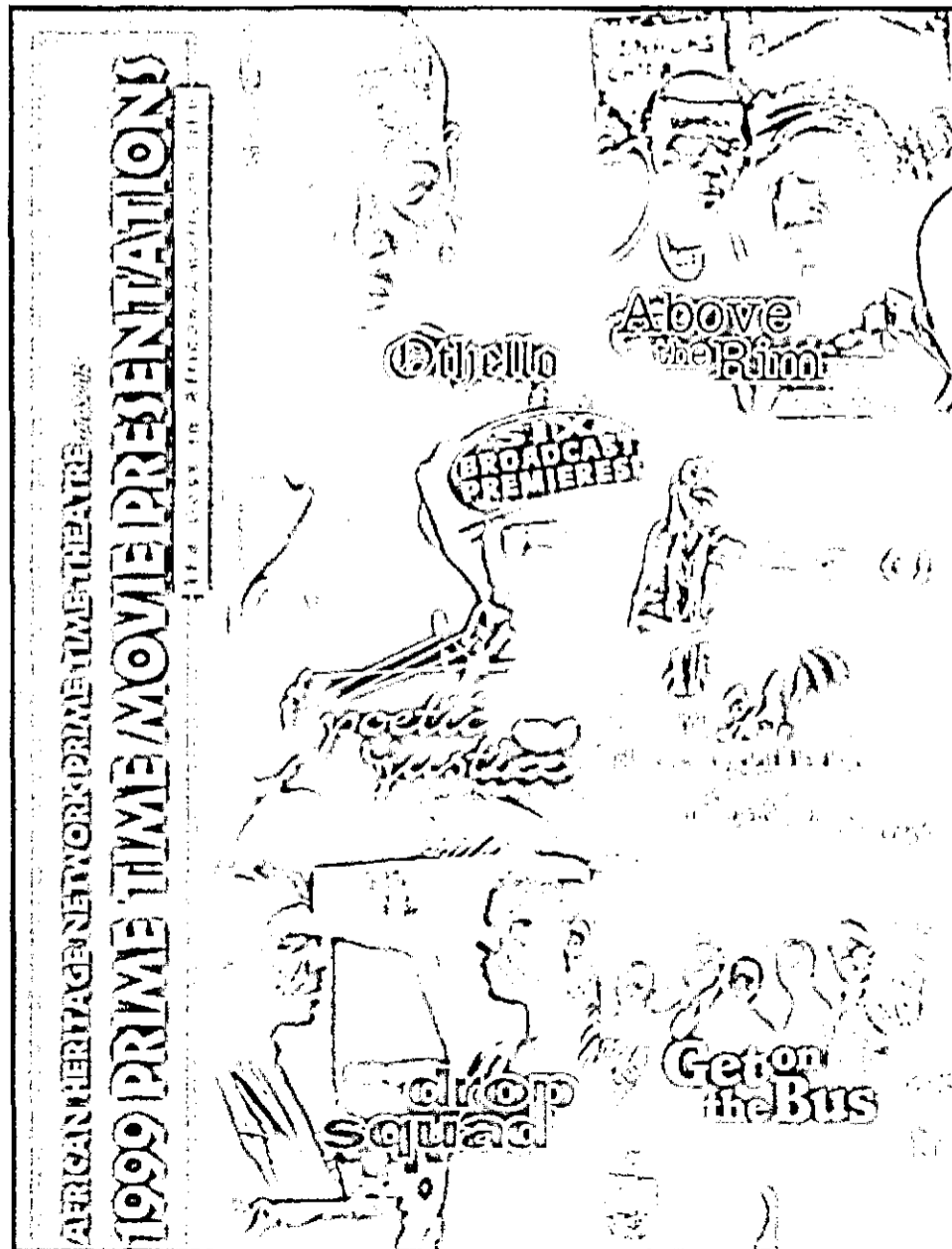
Under Cover, making the African Heritage Network the first minority company in the history of broadcast television to acquire these rights. Aired in September of 1998, this venture also marked the first time in the history of broadcast that a minority-owned company has purchased a network series for syndication.

The business mogul relishes on "firsts." In 1990, he became the youngest African-American executive producer of a nationally-televised special, when his Miss Collegiate African-American Pageant (MCAAP), was launched. Aired in over ninety markets, MCAAP was the only syndicated pageant not to include a bathing suit competition.

In 1992, the genius' creation of the S.T.O.M.P.! Dance Competition was the first national step show competition between 8 African-American fraternities and sororities. The production emerged as one of the most watched syndicated specials on television.

Mercado-Valdes became the first African-American board member of Advertiser Syndicated Television Association (ASTA). He is a recipient of the CLYDE Award (Cultural Legacy for Young Developing Entrepreneurs) in Washington, D.C. from the Marketing Opportunities in Black Entertainment (MOBE) organization for his outstanding contributions made in the television industry.

Purchasing the rights to Kensington Publishing Group's Arabesque Books, the first and only romance line from a major publisher to feature African American characters in books written by Black women, Mercado-Valdes targeted his 1996 projects to include bringing these African-American love stories to prime time television. "We know that networks are unlikely to greenlight an African-American drama in prime time. How often do you see that?" he asked. "These will be 'Dynasty'-type middle-class romances." The plan to make



movies was an outgrowth of the successful runs of the African Heritage Network and his "Primetime Presentations" series. He also wishes his library of productions to include English-language shows for Hispanic viewers. Ultimately, he says, he would like to be in the cable television business, and operate a studio that will produce black films and black soundtracks. "We're just the company to get it done."

New York can not claim all of the success enjoyed by the mammoth African Heritage Network enterprise. Dallas' own Comer Cottrell, founder and chairman of the Pro-Line Corporation, played a major role in the African Heritage Network's inception. Cottrell was the sponsor who invested the initial \$25,000 helping to boot this com-

pany into gear. Noted as a co-owner with Mercado-Valdes in the June 1997 issue of *Black Diaspora*, their operation is one of the largest Black-owned syndicated companies in the country.

A recent Dallas Morning News article on Comer Cottrell, cites him as one of the nation's best-known black businessmen—a long time leader in the business of ethnic hair-care. Out of California, the Pro-Line Company took its first business breath in 1970 with \$600 and a borrowed typewriter. Mr. Cottrell moved the corporation to Dallas in 1980, and was quickly accepted into an elite circle of friends where he is known for his charitable activities and professional astuteness.

This company continues to show high profits. Last year's revenue reached about \$55 million,

with net income of \$4.5 million, and the company now has 300 employees. Though contemplating the sale of Pro-Line, Cottrell said he was in no mood to retire. This attitude is what inspired him to invest in the African Heritage Network.

"Cottrell has since been paid back," Mercado-Valdes said regarding the \$25,000 investment. "In 1997, his share was worth one million dollars."

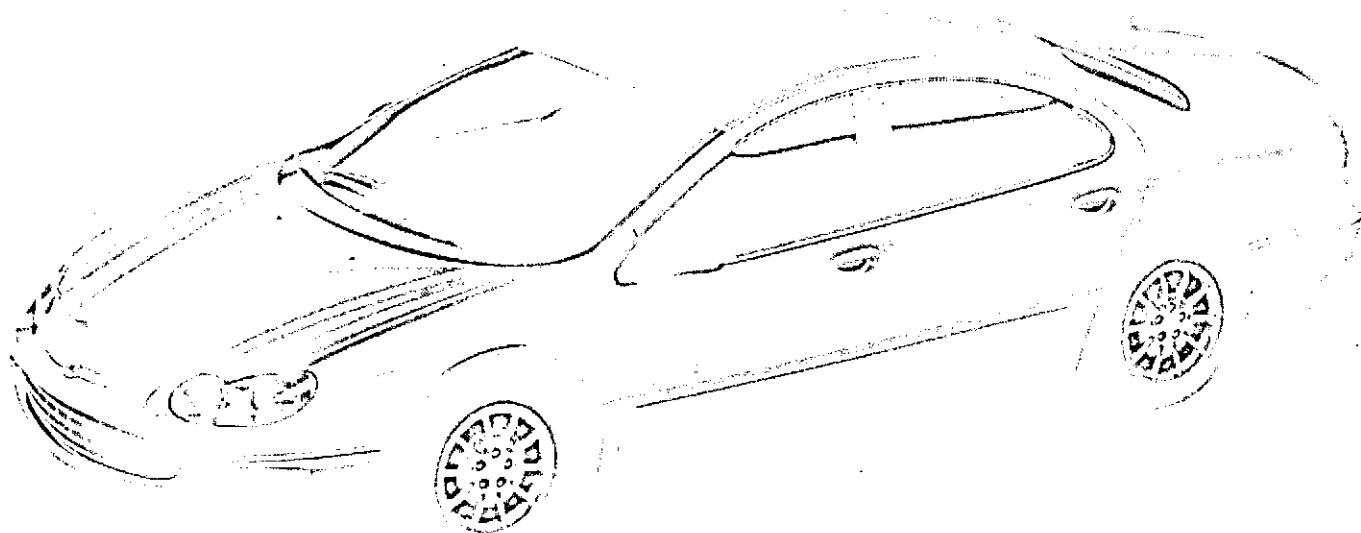
A man with a mission and a vision, Mercado-Valdes has been featured in various publications across the United States. Clearly, he has not stopped dreaming: "The 21st century will bring more advertisers that will target African-American and Hispanic markets more aggressively. No marketer will be able to ignore the fact that America is changing its

ethnic composition. To that extent, services like ours that provide quality programming are going to benefit from that."

His is not a bad posture for someone who used his limitations as the fuel to propel his dreams. He intends to return to Cuba with an American-made fortune, he says. In ten years, he would like to help the Afro-Cuban population return to its capitalist roots in a "post-Castro" Cuba. Grounded in his fertile imagination, nourished by much determination, and privy to endless possibilities, Frank Mercado-Valdes, will undoubtedly realize every dream he dares to entertain.

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## Sutton E. Griggs

An African-American publisher, author and Dallas native

By Russell D. Shockley, BS.Ed.

Sutton E. Griggs was perhaps the first African-American from Texas to publish a novel. His first published work, *Imperium* in *Imperio* appeared a century ago in 1899. Equally important is that Mr. Griggs' independent publishing house, Orion Publishing, was located in Nashville, Tennessee. As author and publisher, one man was responsible for the creation of an ambitious six additional books in the next twelve years.

In 1969, Dr. Harold Glouster, former president of Atlanta's Morehouse College, wrote of Griggs' achievements. "Sutton E. Griggs is perhaps one of the most neglected of the black writers of his time period, that being between the Spanish American War and World War I" (1894-1914).

Griggs' lack of recognition may be attributed in part to the nature of his works. A strong advocate of self-government for African-Americans, Griggs authored elaborate plans for the establishment of Texas as a separate state operated by the *Imperium*, a political agency that whose mission was envisioned to be the unification of all Black people. His most common themes involved post Civil War race relations. As his own publisher, white publishers were largely unaware of the expanse of Griggs' works.

His love stories were almost always portrayed strong, beautiful Black women. *Pointing the Way*, was one such work. In this novel, the central female character was well educated, financially well off, and fair enough to pass for a white woman. However she chose to live as a Black

woman because of her love for her Black man.

In another novel, *The Hindered Hand*, Griggs pays special tribute to both of his parents. The work is dedicated with the following words, "To a devoted Father of rugged strength, of character and withal, preeminently a man of peace; and to a loving Mother, ever tender and serene of soul. . . twin moulders of the heartsick." Other works were dedicated to his wife and siblings.

An 1890 graduate of Bishop College in Marshall, Texas, he later became a seminary student at Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia. As a young Bishop graduate, Griggs briefly returned to his hometown of Dallas, serving as assistant principal at Colored School Number 2.

Before long, however, he followed his father's footsteps, becoming a well-known minister. For three decades, he served congregations in Texas, Virginia, and

Tennessee. His ministerial activities, however, extended beyond church assignments; numerous spiritual handbooks were authored. *Wisdom's Call*, one of his spiritual works, is a collection of personal philosophies and various sermon selections.

The last days of Griggs' life were spent in Texas. Following his death in Houston, his remains were returned to Dallas, where he was buried.

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# Around Town

## May 19

*Need A Little Legal Advice?* Volunteer lawyers from the Dallas Bar Association will offer free advice to Dallas county residents from 5:15 p.m. to 8 p.m. through the LegalLine community service program. For more information, call the LegalLine at 214-969-7066.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Help for that Adoption* Catholic Counseling Services will have an Adoption Orientation from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at 3725 Blackburn St., Dallas TX. It is a wonderful opportunity to gain additional information regarding the practices and philosophies of adoption. For more information, contact Linda Christianson at 1-800-CARE-002.

## May 21

*By Any Means Necessary* Join the South Dallas Cultural Center as they honor the legacy of civil rights activist Malcom X, 7:30 PM, 3400 S. Fitzhugh St. The event will include screenings of award winning film *John Henrik Clark: A Great and Mighty Walk*. and *The Speeches of Malcom X*. Admission to the festival is \$5. For ticket information, call 214-426-1683.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Johnnie B. Goode!* The Jubilee Theatre will present "Johnnie B. Good" from May 21 - June 20. The

play, intended for mature audiences, examines the evolution of African-American music as well as the clash of generations. Regular admission tickets range from \$12 to \$16. For pricing specials and other ticket information, call 817-338-4411.

## May 23

*Calling All Actors!* Plano Repertory Theatre (PRT) will hold auditions for its upcoming production of "Jungle Rot" May 23-24 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the ArtCentre Theatre, 1028 15th Place. Call the PRT office at 972-422-7460 for an audition appointment.

## May 24

*Minority Business Opportunities* Hosted by D/FW Minority Business Development Council, Trade Fair Access '99 is geared toward connecting minority business owners with major corporations. It will be held May 24 & 25 at the Arlington Convention Center. Registration for all of the events and luncheon costs \$75 per person. For more information call 214-630-0747.

## May 27

*Do the Honors...* when you volunteer at an awards luncheon at the Myerson Symphony Center. The event is hosted by an agency that

helps people with HIV/AIDS. Volunteers are needed to set up, distribute tickets, serve as cashiers and much more. For more information call 214-826-6767.

## June 3

*Corporate Plantation!* This play explores the life of an African-American couple who faces the consequences of success. It addresses serious issues such as affirmative action, sexual harassment, and job related stress with insightful humor. The play runs June 3-6 and June 11-12, 7:30 p.m. at the African-American Museum in fair park. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at door; for more information contact Willie Homes at 214-515-0076.

## June 5

*Swing "Fore" Kids Golf Tournament* Tee off at the Jefferies Learning Center's First Annual Golf Tournament will be held on Cedar Crest Golf Course. There will be a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m., hole-in-one contest for a new automobile, putting contest and much more. All proceeds will support organizational programs geared to child enhancement. For a list outlining fees and sponsorship levels, call Levi Williams at 214-426-1834.

## June 7

*Volunteer Opportunities for Teens* A special teen volunteer program at Methodist Medical center will run from June 7 - July 31. Teens ages 14 - 18 are invited to volunteer. To find out more about this program, call 214-947-2975.

## June 14,

*A Call for Poems* The deadline for this national free poetry contest is June 14. Submit one poem, 21 lines or less, to New York Poetry Alliance, BOX 1588, New York, NY 10116-1588. Or enter on-line at [www.freecontest.com](http://www.freecontest.com).

## June 19

*A Brady Juneteenth Celebration* The Brady Center is a place where seniors 60 years and older go to enjoy themselves. Juneteenth will be no exception as they host a dance, complete with food and entertainment, from 10 a.m until noon at the center, 4009 Elm St. RSVP by June 15th at 214-826-8330.

### 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:

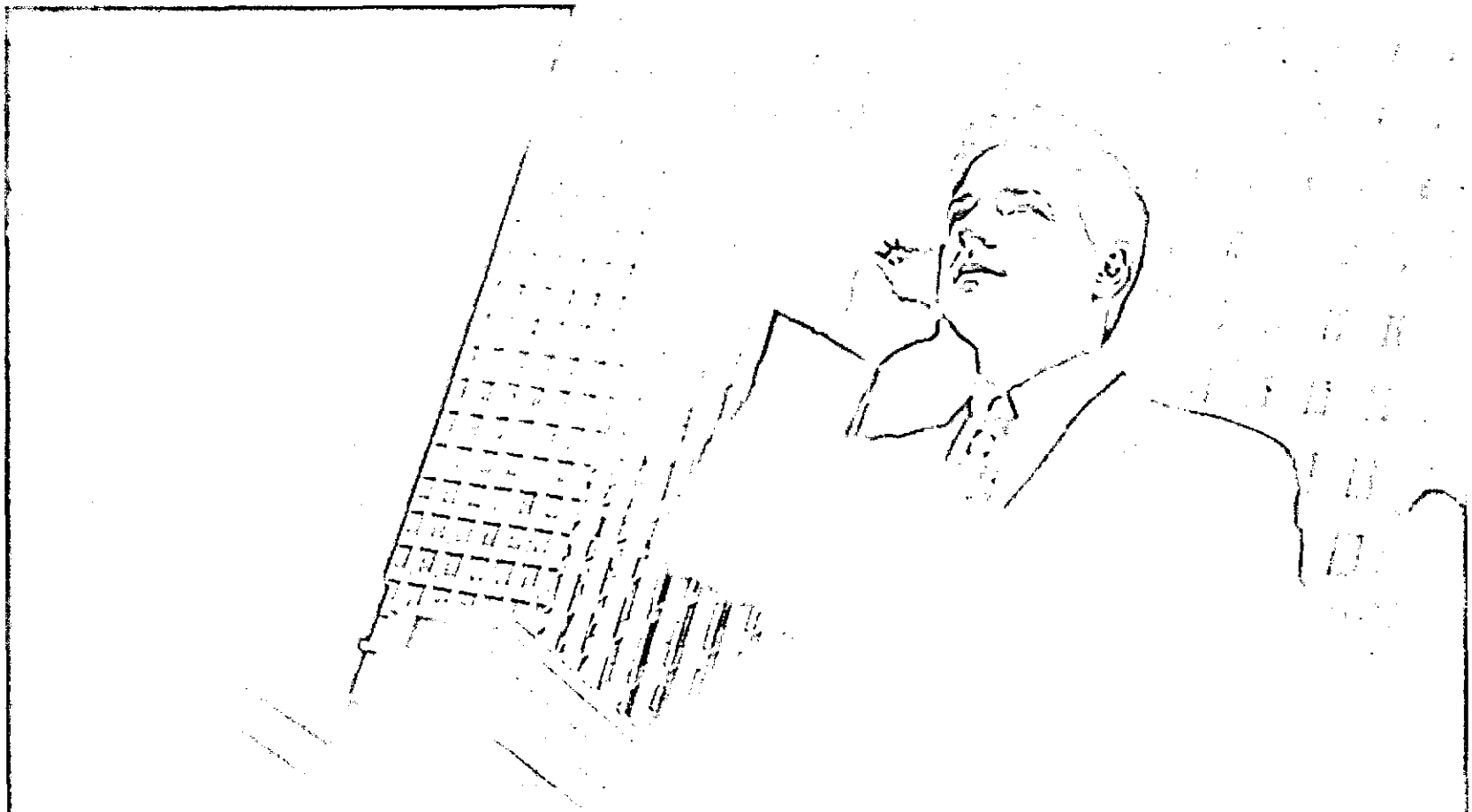
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**ACORN – Bank of America partnership creates 2,000 1st time homeowners in Dallas**

By Shereilyn Roberts

Do you dream about owning your own home; but feel it is only that... a dream? Two non-profit community based organizations here in Dallas, offer technical assistance that moves home ownership dreams towards reality. Moreover, one community organization has a major lending partner. The other is in partnership with federal agencies.

Together, ACORN and Bank of America have helped more than 2,000 Dallas area families acquire the pride of home ownership. Beyond first-time buyers, ACORN's counseling services have helped thousands of other potential homebuyers.

Free, homebuyer seminars are held every Thursday at the ACORN office, located at 4415 San Jacinto. The one-hour session begins at 6:00PM.

Although ACORN, gears its services toward first-time home ownership, the agency is willing to work with all interested persons. Beyond the buyer education seminars, ACORN also offers credit and budget counseling and prequalification/affordability analysis. Together, all of ACORN's services are designed to prepare clients for the submission of competitive mortgage applications.

ACORN's partnership with Bank of America began in 1992. According to Carol Brandon, a loan counselor with ACORN Housing Corporation, "ACORN has been a long time advocate in pressing banks to adhere to their commitment to the Community Reinvestment Act." Continuing Brandon added, "Bank of America was one of those large lenders that said ok,

let's do it. It has been a fruitful experience ever since."

Michelle Thomas, Vice-President of Community Development Banking at Bank of America agrees: "We saw the need to help facilitate homeownership for low to moderate income individuals and to better serve the community."

According to ACORN's Brandon, three common problems confront most people in their quest for home ownership: lack of knowledge and information; capital for down payments and closing costs; and thirdly, poor credit.

"By working together, ACORN and our bank partner find innovative ways to help people of modest means achieve their dream of becoming a homeowner" said Brandon. ACORN's offices are located at 4415 San Jacinto. More information on their services is available by calling (214) 823-9885.

The Dallas Urban League's

Housing Department is another agency providing services for potential homebuyers. The League is one of only three area-wide agencies certified by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) to provide counseling for HUD-insured and HUD-assisted housing.

"Our seminars provide a step by step guide to homebuying" said Clarene Whitfield, program director. "Upon completion of the training, each participant is issued a certificate from HUD, which includes 1/2% reduction in the upfront mortgage insurance premium on a FHA insured loan."

The League's free seminars, held each month, are open to the public. During the month of May, three seminars will be held. From 6:00 to 9:00PM on May 18th and 20th and from 8:00AM -12 Noon on May 22nd. Located at 3625 North Hall, more Urban League information is available by telephoning (214) 528-8038.

ACORN and Bank of America recommend the following major steps to home ownership:

1. Decide how much you can afford.
2. Decide what kind of home you want or need, based on size, location and special features.
3. If possible, pre-qualify for a loan.
4. After determining how much of a mortgage is affordable, then begin looking for a new home.
5. In looking at homes, go past curb appeal and one to personal inspection. If the home needs major repairs, be prepared to negotiate the price or look elsewhere.
6. If a home meets your family's needs, make an Offer to Purchase, including earnest money, or a partial down payment. Make sure the offer allows a full refund if professional inspection reveals problems, or if you are unable to secure financing.
7. Formally apply for a mortgage loan.
8. Get a professional inspection of the home.
9. Close the loan:
  - A. Complete your down payment
  - B. Pay loan fees
  - C. Sign all necessary legal documents.
  - D. Get the keys to your new home

**Minority Opportunity News**



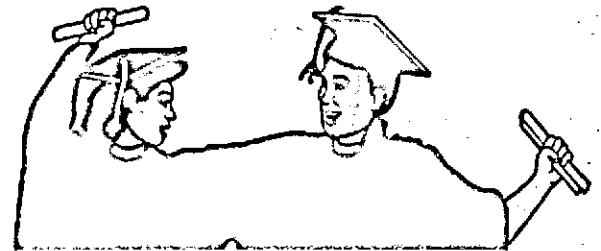
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# 47 Dallas students awarded Black Chamber Scholarships

*\$50,000 pledge fund still growing* By Charlene M. Crowell



47 Dallas area high school students are now scholarship recipients, thanks to the ongoing efforts of the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce. The second annual Excellence in Education Awards Luncheon, in partnership with the Dallas Independent School District (DISD), was held April 30th at the Hyatt Union Station.

Fargo, Alcatel, American Airlines, Southwest Airlines, Texas Instruments, TU Electric and a host of other corporations, minority-owned businesses and area institutions of higher learning.

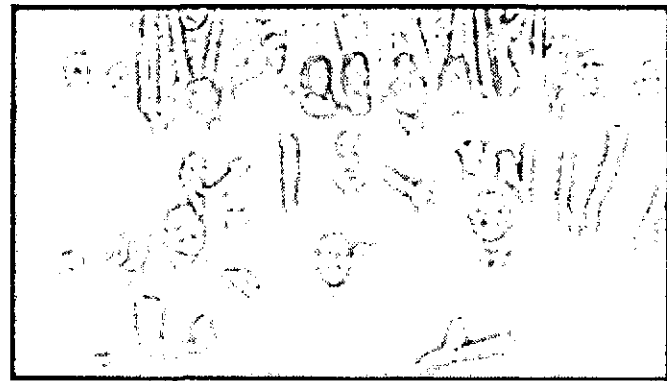
Commenting on the success of the program, the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce's president, Reginald Gates added, "Our scholarship program began

with five scholarships a few years ago. Today, we are proud and privileged to be able to help 47 students take an educational leap into the future. We recognize that the students benefit long-term from

these awards. In fact, many of the past scholarship recipients are now employed with corporations like GTE."

The awards luncheon also recognized classroom contributions and one church's support of students. Kirkwood Temple CME Church received the "Power in the Pyramid" award, recognizing outstanding church support. Four teachers honored with the "James A. Gates" award for outstanding educational support were: Mary Helen Crossland, Donald Elementary School; Angelia Jackson, Polk Elementary School; Viola Latimer Anderson Middle Learning Center; and Karen Butler, Grady Spruce High School.

Now in its 73rd year of service, the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce advocates the creation, growth and general welfare of African-American businesses in the Dallas area. Offering a variety of membership services, the organization also offers seminars, technical assistance and referrals.



Scholarships range from one-time awards to four-year tuition assistance. Each student received a minimum stipend of \$1,000. Depending upon each student's financial aid package, some scholarships will reach as high as \$4,000 over four years. More than 40 of the scholarships were awarded to DISD students. Other area high schools with scholarship winners included Duncanville, Plano East and Jesuit.

Scholarship funds are generated through corporate and other private donations. Speaking on behalf of GTE, title sponsor of the program, corporate communications president Butch Bercher said, "The future of our community is directly related to how well we encourage, support and recognize young people who are eager to learn, eager to think and eager to grow. That's what the program is all about."

Other 1999 sponsors included: Exxon, Bank of America, Southwestern Bell, Wells

## 1999 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### A. MACEO SMITH HS

Shantta Holland  
Jacqueline Willis  
Kristal Easley

### BUSINESS MANAGEMENT CENTER

Camile Roberts  
Chinyere Okoro

### CARTER HS

Tanya McClendon  
Jessica Johnson  
Brandon Foster  
Tiffani Harper

### DUNCANVILLE HS

Gregory Jones  
Kenya Brooks

### EDUCATION MAGNET

Joy Runnels

### HEALTH MAGNET

Jamecia Finnie  
Lynden McGriff

### HILLCREST HS

David Sullivan

### JESUIT HS

Bjorn Curry

### KIMBALL HS

Brandon Bailey

### LAW MAGNET HS

Chenese Scroggins  
Jonnika McIntosh

### LINCOLN HS

Kevin Watson  
Mari Simmons  
LaKisha Lewis  
Sarah Everett  
Hamilton Sneed  
Ashante Allen  
LaKisha Robinson

### MADISON HS

Kevin Elder  
Kinney Fields

### PINKSTON HS

Maria Ibarra  
Tommy Hall  
Brandon Jackson

### PLANO EAST HS

Earnest Burke

### ROOSEVELT HS

Ron Amber Deloney  
Jeremiah Foster  
Tabitha Shears  
LaToya Harris  
Semon Betts  
Cheryl Kines  
Christy Choice

### SAMUELL HS

Gregory Carter

### SCIENCE MAGNET HS

Chibuike Okoro  
Bob Bell, Jr.

### SKYLINE HS

Sommer Washington  
Hayward Adams  
Trina Kilpatrick  
Princess King

### SPRUCE HS

Nakiya Jones

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**On Real Estate**

Curtis Yates

# FHA and VA vehicles to home ownership

When a renter has the combination of a good paying job and poor credit, homeownership might not be an elusive or even distant dream. The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and Veterans Administration (VA) offer real financing options. In fact, there are ways to buy a home without even qualifying for a new home loan.

VA loans are secured by the Veterans Administration to insure banks from defaults. In conventional home loans, most banks require borrowers to provide some form of collateral. With a VA loan, the funds for home buys are secured by the VA. Hence, the lender loses the risk normally incurred with major loans.

Similarly, FHA loans are secured by the Federal Housing Administration. Established in

1934 to encourage lenders to invest capital in the mortgage market, FHA's primary interest is in insuring loans. There are occasions, however, when FHA loans are direct to qualified homebuyers.

In both types of home financing, it is possible to re-sell the property without bank approval, credit check or a climb in interest rates. However, a number of changes now affect assumptions. Since 1988, all VA loan assumptions require prior credit approval. FHA loans can still be assumed without qualifying if the loan has existed for at least one year. Many older FHA loans are not affected by recent changes. In general, assumptions cover the owner's equity, plus closing costs.

Local title companies can provide much of the step-by-step information to assumption home purchases. For a fee, title company attorneys can provide legal guidance in closing, from drafting sales contracts to assisting with other legal aspects of the sale.

While I recommend closing to be handled through a title company, there are other options. A general sales contract, available for purchase in most office supply stores, is an inexpensive alternative.

Regardless of options

selected, a sales contract must state all terms. Buyers and sellers should fully understand the terms and conditions stated in that binding contract.

MON

*Curtis Yates is the owner/operator of REAL ESTATE STATUS QUO; 8111 LBJ Fwy, Ste. 787bb, Dallas, TX 75251-1333; Ph. 972-702-0151; Fax, 972-934-2706; E-mail, statusquo7@hotmail.com; Promotion Web Site: <http://www.angelfire.com/biz/statusquo7>.*

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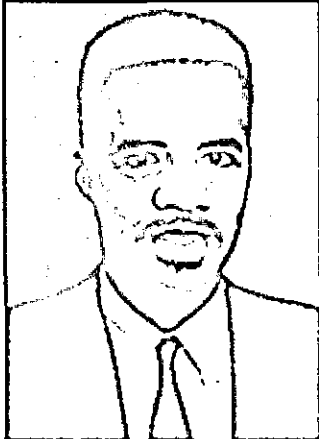
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Ron Shaw

# The continual learner

John 8:31, 32

One of my mentors told me once to never stop learning. As I follow that advice, a process is set in motion; I consciously strive to develop my abilities. As a pastor and seminar speaker, I encourage people to face and then solve their problems.

If you've never been a parent before, you must learn to be one. Parenting is not an event; it is a process. We must continue to learn to be better parents.

If you've never been a spouse, avoid assuming you know how to be a good one. Most marital counseling reveals that troubled spouses still love one another. The problem was not love; but most often, a lack of understanding and knowledge of a partner's concerns. Successful relationships are almost always the result of two people pledged to make it work.

Successful marriages, like other successful relationships are a continual process. In order to be successful, we must be continual learners. Just as graduation is the commencement of a new era in life, our relationships must begin to look forward to all that lies

ahead.

Jesus said in Matthew 22 that we must continue to learn of Him if our lives are going to get better. As Christians, we have been freed by the work of Jesus Christ. Our faith frees us from the bondage of darkness and whatever holds us down. We are freed to remain in a learning mode. What one learned yesterday can be added to today's knowledge.

Faith is not a new concept. However, our faithful discoveries help us to experience God's best for us. When we remain open and watchful for opportunities to grow, we unfold a process that helps each of us to become better.

I find it interesting that in materialistic areas of life, we knowingly strive to become more comfortable and enjoyable. The growing popularity of gadgets and inventions like microwaves, computers, solar energy, cell phones and other devices reveal how willing we are to keep learning.

How we live with our God and with our brethren are areas that we must exercise an equal or even larger diligence. Technology

serves a limited purpose. Our ability to build effective and harmonious relationships with one another, however, serves a deeper and broader purpose.

The following helpful hints are offer to help readers stay on the learning track:

1. Make learning fun. People tend to continue what is also enjoyable.
2. Pace yourself. Cramming is not learning. Take the necessary time to learn your chosen subject.
3. Learn the mode that best suits you. None of us learn the same way. Know what works best for you.

The degree of joy anyone experiences in life is proportionate to the level of knowledge mastered. Continue to learn.

*Ron Shaw is the pastor of Light Church and can be reached at 214-320-5744. His e-mail address is Lightchurch@aol.com.*

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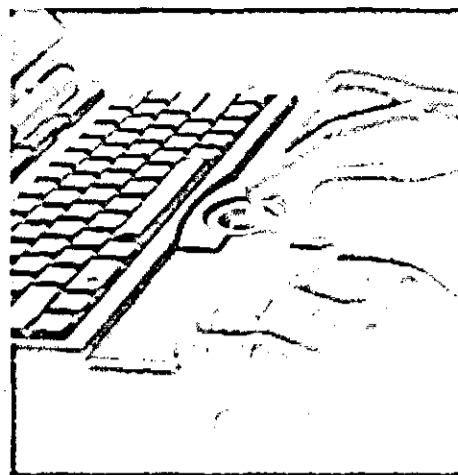
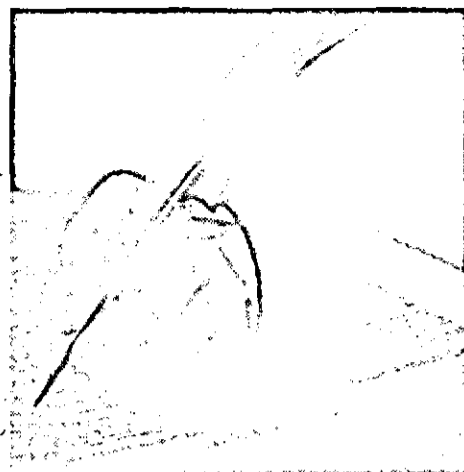
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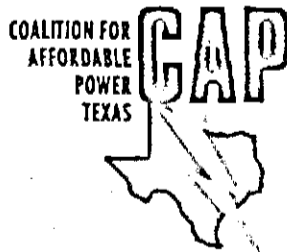
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**You and Your Money**  
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# Understanding Stock Exchanges

Mention the words "Wall Street" and images of the bustling New York or American Stock Exchanges come to mind.

While these two are, respectively, the first and second largest U.S. exchanges, they certainly aren't the only ones. A dozen national and regional stock exchanges conduct business daily in the United States; and that doesn't include the enormous number of shares traded over the counter (OTC) on the NASDAQ.

Basically, an exchange is a place where buyers and sellers get together, either in person or electronically, to trade stocks, bonds, commodities, options, future contracts and other securities. Exchanges provide liquidity; that is, they offer investors the opportunity to buy and sell shares quickly and inexpensively, at their fair market value.

In effect, the market for shares and other securities is virtually identical in concept to the traditional public market where growers display produce on counters and consumers come to buy; only the products are different.

The New York Stock

Exchange, sometimes called the "Big Board," is the dominant market for stocks in this country for two reasons: more than 80 percent of the share volume handled by exchanges is traded here, and many of the oldest and largest corporations trade on it. Founded in 1792 as the New York Stock & Exchange Board, the NYSE lists more than 1,700 companies whose securities are traded under its rules and regulations.

Member firms, brokerages and securities dealers own the NYSE. These seats, which can cost in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, permit their owners to buy or sell shares on the trading floor, either for themselves or for their clients. Memberships, or seats, on the exchange trade at auction like the shares of other corporations.

The only other national exchange is the American Stock Exchange. About 900 companies are listed on the AMEX, but the number changes as companies move up to the NYSE are "delisted" for failing to meet qualifications. The AMEX is heavily involved in options, contracts that

may entitle or obligate holders to buy or sell a fixed number of shares of a security at a stated price on or before a designated date. Options trading is considered speculative and risky.

The remaining exchanges are regional. They are smaller and may trade the stocks of companies located in their regions, plus commodities, futures or options unique to their exchange. Some of them participate in the Intermarket Trading System (ITS), which enables brokers and specialists to represent clients and interact with other markets to gain the best prices available.

Varying widely in trading volume, technology and investment philosophy, the regional exchanges help increase the overall liquidity of the marketplace. In addition, they sometimes provide investors with promising opportunities that may not be found on the NYSE or AMEX. The regional exchanges are encircled by the Boston Stock Exchange in the East and the Pacific Stock Exchange in the West. The others include the Midwest Stock Exchange, the result of two mergers; the

Philadelphia Stock Exchange, the nation's oldest; the Cincinnati Stock Exchange, the first automated auction market for listed securities; and the Spokane Stock Exchange, which specializes in small mining company stocks.

If you want to know more about these and other exchanges and what role, if any, they may have in your investment plans, ask your financial advisor.

MON

*John Dudley is a financial advisor with Prudential Securities. He can be contacted at 214-761-5142. Prudential Securities is not a legal or tax advisor. However, its Financial Advisors will be glad to work with you, your accountant, tax advisor and/or attorney to help you meet your financial goals.*

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## 1999 French Open

For the sixth straight year, USA sports will telecast tennis' second Grand Slam, the French Open, from the historic clay courts of Stade Roland Garros in Paris, France. Beginning Monday, May 24, USA Network will originate 32 hours of live tournament coverage culminating with the men's semi-finals on Friday, June 4. Calling the shots for USA's critically-acclaimed tennis coverage will be the finest collection of tennis announcers, anchored by the game's preeminent analyst, John

McEnroe. Tennis Hall-of-Famer Tracy Austin, Bill Macatee and Barry MacKay round out USA's announcing lineup.

## USA Network Memorial Day Movie Specials

5/31 HOUSE PARTY 2 (1-3pm)

Rap stars Kid 'N' Play are back in this hip-hop sequel on . At Harris University, Kid 'N' Play hustle up overdue tuition by holding a campus "jammie jam." Also

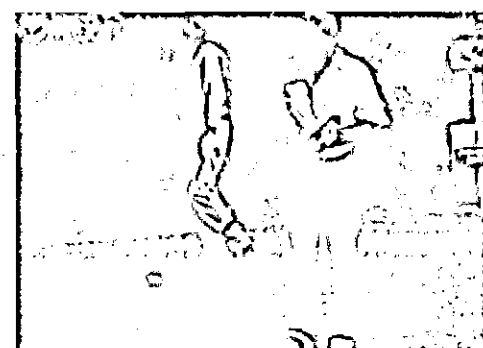
stars Christopher Reid, Tisha Campbell, Iman and Queen Latifah {TVPG-D}

5/31 FRIDAY (3-5pm)

Rapper Ice Cube co-wrote this high-energy, hip-hop comedy about a couple of urban guys with 24 hours to pay back the baddest loan shark in the 'hood—or never make it to Saturday. Also stars Chris Tucker, Bernie Mack, Regina King and Nia Long. {TV14}

## National Association of Urban Bankers Hosts Golf Tournament

The NAUB Dallas Chapter recently hosted its first annual golf tournament at the Cedar Crest Golf course in Oak Cliff. The event was a tremendous success as 70 bankers and members of the business community gathered, played golf and enjoyed excellent professional exchange and networking.



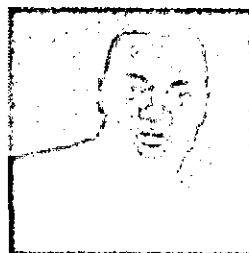
Tee Time! Golf participant prepares to tee off at the National Association of Urban Bankers Golf Tournament

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## Calendar of Events



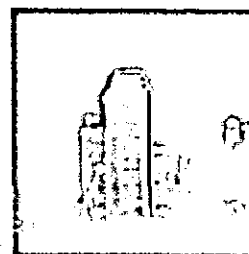
### Wednesday

Comedy Night...8pm-10pm  
Hosted by KRNB, 105.7FM  
Miguel Washington  
Live Band...10pm-12midnight



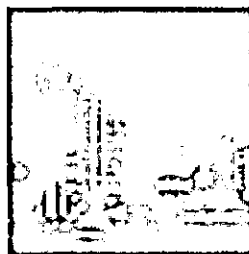
### Thursday

Ladies Night  
• Mr. Body Contset  
• Margarita Specials  
• \$5 cover after 9pm



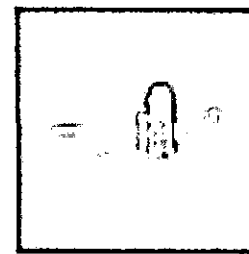
### Friday

Business Network  
"Happy Hour"...5pm-9pm  
• Free Fried Catfish  
• \$5 cover after 9pm  
• Live Band...9pm-12midnight



### Saturday

Soul Mix  
Dance Fever  
• DJ SMASH  
• \$5 cover after 9pm



### Sunday

Silky Jazz Sundays  
(No Cover)  
• Live Band...9pm-12midnight

### Monday Night Blues Showdown

**Bobby Patterson**

Host/MC/Entertainer  
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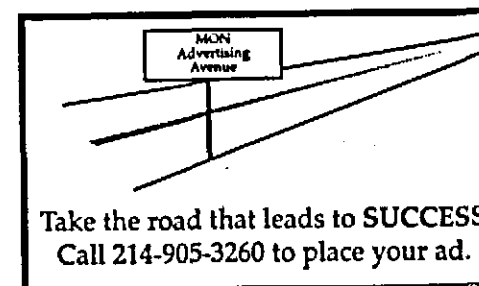
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NAUB is a non-profit organization of minority banking professionals in the Dallas metro area. Their primary focus is to inform youth about career opportunities in the finance industry, provide education and technical assistance to minorities in financial services, and serves as a communication network for minorities pursuing careers in finance. NAUB is the premier organization in Dallas for minority banking professionals to exchange experiences, ideas, and interests and to promote career and professional development.

For more information regarding membership, please contact Myron L. Smoot, President at 972-223-9699.





# Trippin'

Looking for a good comedy? Don't trip...Rogue Pictures presents *Trippin'* in theaters throughout the metroplex.

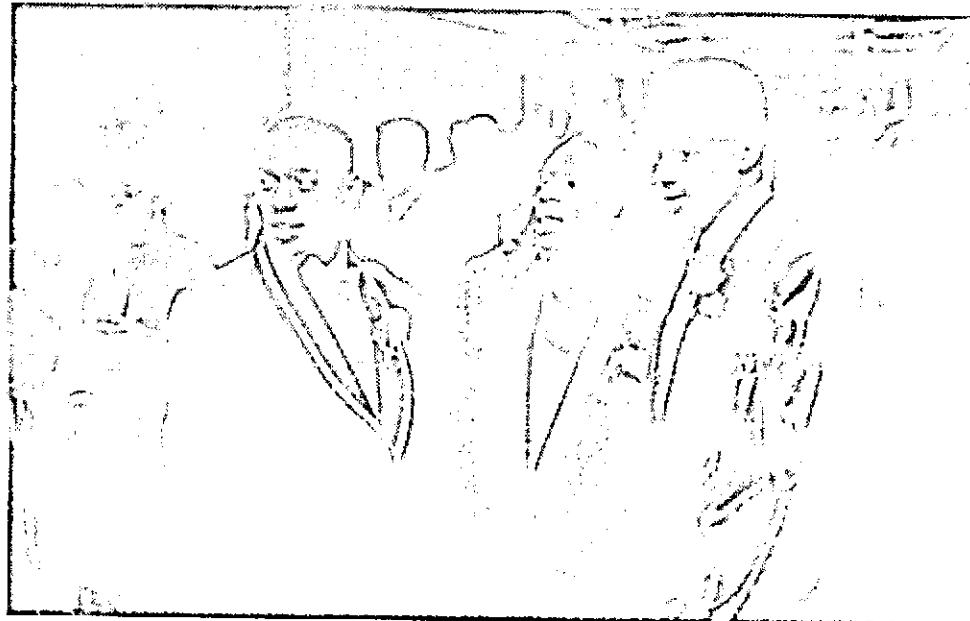
Known to his friends as G, Greg Reed, played by Deon Richmond, has it all - money, fame, success, and most importantly to him, women, women, and more women. The only problem is, his success is only in his mind. Uncertain and dissatisfied with his life, he spends so much time day-dreaming, trippin' out on what might happen, that he can never focus on what will really happen. As a high school senior, time is running out and the future - reality - is closing in fast.

"Greg is basically like the rest of us in out twelfth grade year," explains Richmond. "We all get lost. We don't know what we want to do."

Greg and his friends are

not unlike most young people their age, opting for immediate gratification and relaxation over making long-term plans or thinking about their future. It's a new twist to the timeless tale of one's journey into the world of adulthood.

"I think the film sold because it brought something different to a genre that had been played out," says screenwriter Gary Hardwick. "I think it's gonna make you laugh and it's gonna touch you a bit. It's gonna remind you of the time when you were eighteen, seventeen years old. And, if your younger than that, you're gonna be looking forward to those great days."



"Gregory Reed" (DEON RICHMOND) (l), "Fish" (GUY TORRY) (c) and "June" (DONALD ADEOSUN) (r) in a scene from *TRIPPIN'*, a ROGUE PICTURES release. Directed by David Raynr

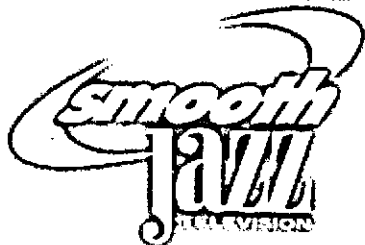
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Saturday Nites On 





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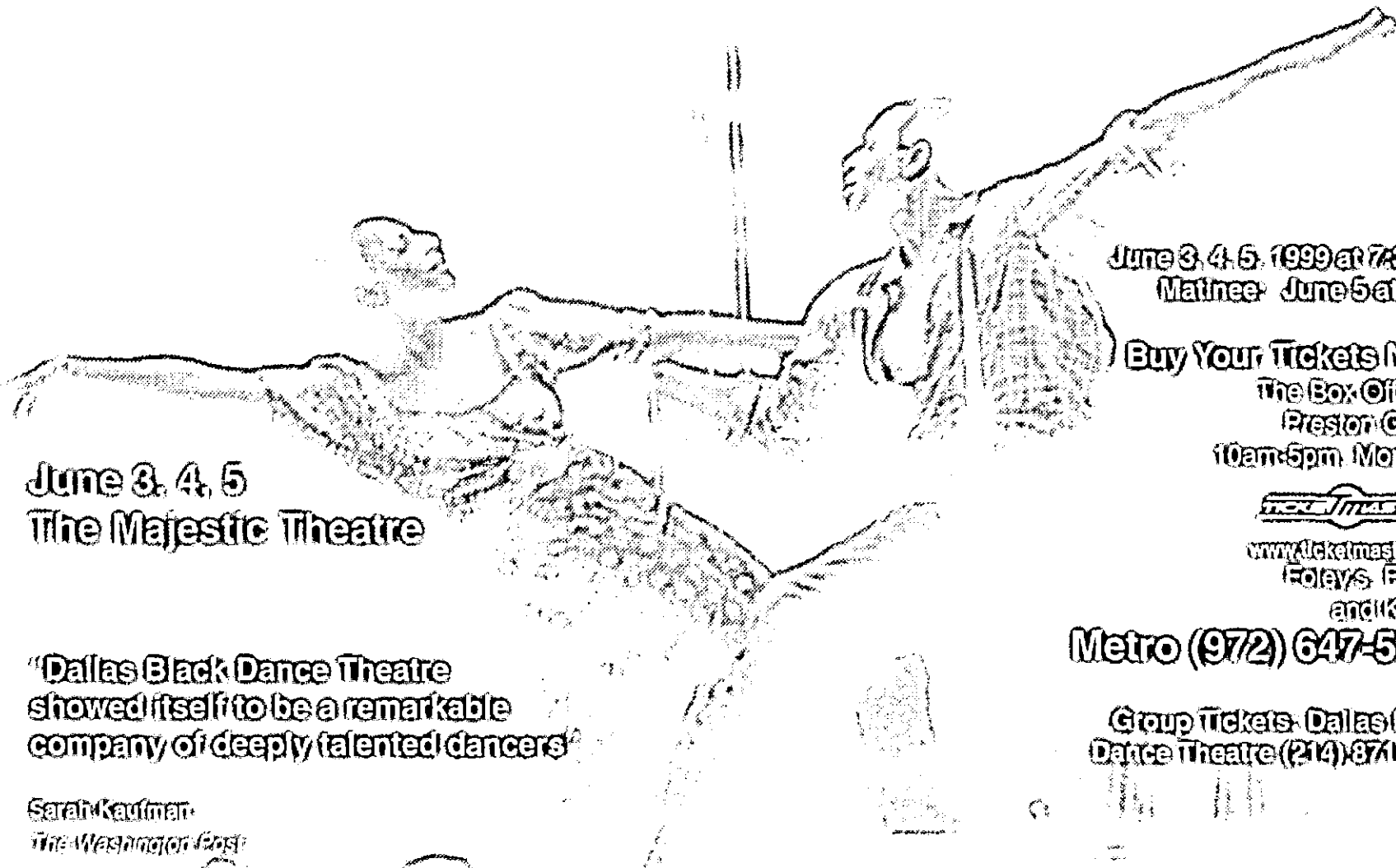
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# Porgy Davis

# and Bess

choreography  
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The Washington Post

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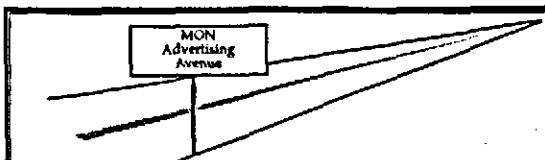
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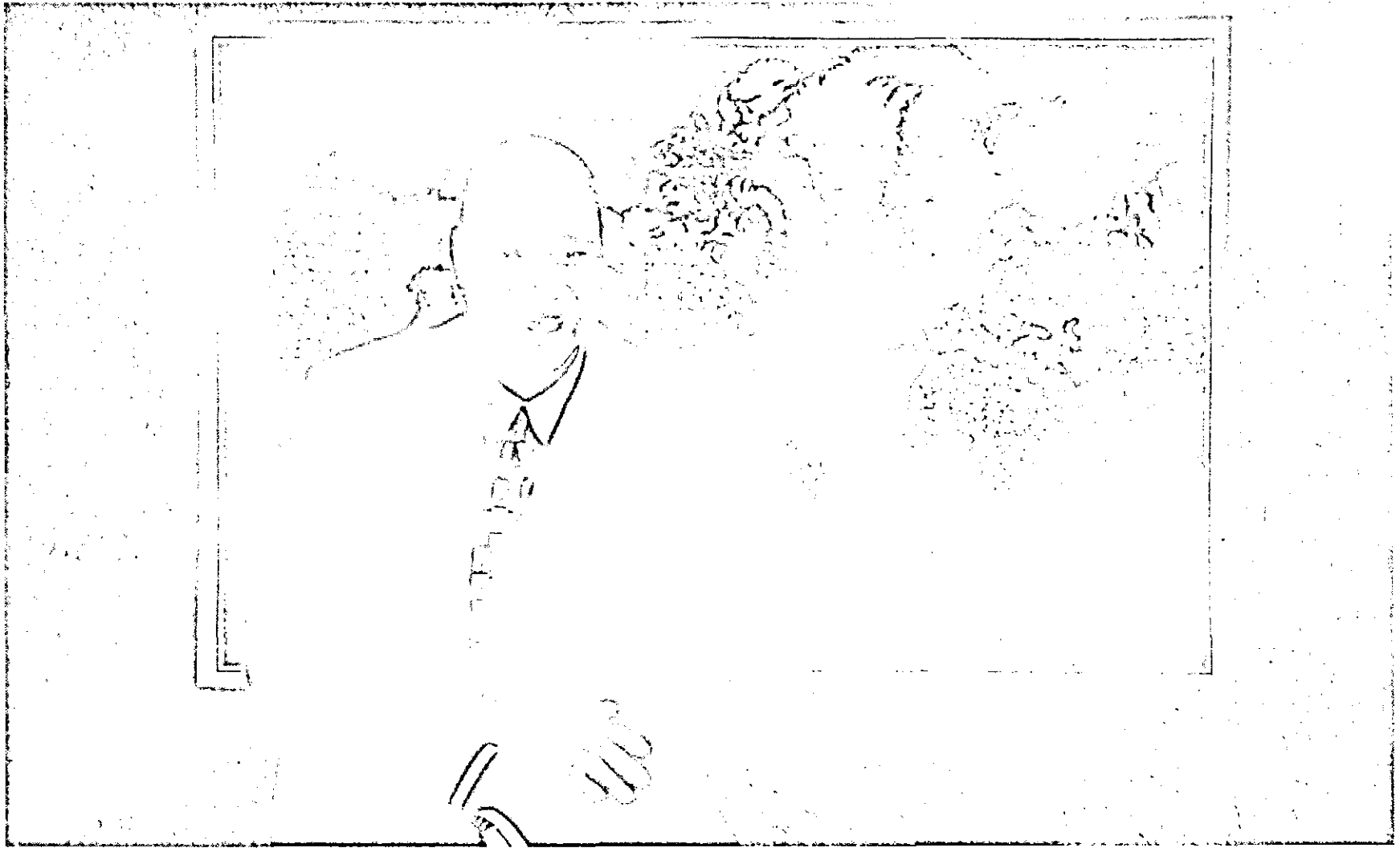
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