

# Minority Opportunity News

"The Paper of Choice"

Volume 8, Number 22

## NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### Rep. Maxine Waters terms Senate denial of Judge Ronnie White as "racist"

During a recent protest rally outside the U.S. Capitol, Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA) challenged the U.S. Senate's denial of a federal judgeship to Missouri Judge Ronnie White. The rally, triggered by the October 5th Senate actions, marked that the refusal to confirm Judge White's nomination to the federal bench marked the first time since 1987 that a nomination was denied by the full Senate.

According to Rep. Waters, "Senator Ascroft (R-MO) played the 'race card'. He played it by acting in the most racist way to deny a qualified African-American his rightful position on the federal bench. I know a racist when I see one."

Senate Republicans justified their action in the 105th Congress, citing Judge White's opposition to the death penalty.

### Economic development partnership formed between Bethune-DuBois Institute and Malawi

In a nation where 64% of the people live below poverty, and females head 34% of all households, Malawi is one of the world's poorest countries. Thanks to a commitment from the president of the Bethune-DuBois Institute, Dr. C. DeLores Tucker, Malawi women have American partners to combat hunger and forge education and business opportunities for the small African nation.

In a recent U.S. visit, Mrs. Joyce Banda, founder of an educational foundation in Malawi, spoke to a Washington, D.C. gathering about the shared interests of promoting the growth of women-owned businesses. Pictured left to right are Dr. Tucker joined by Peter Bailey, Editor of Vital Issues: The Journal of African-American Speeches; Mrs. Banda; Judge Mary A. Terrell from the District of Columbia Superior Court; and Rev. Dr. James Terrell, of Second Baptist Church of Washington.

## More Youth Programs

## Positive Parental Guidance

## Restrict Access to Weapons

## The Arts

## Communication

## MILLENNIUM COUNTDOWN

November 15 - 30

- 19 1953 For the second time, Roy Campanella is named Most Valuable Player in baseball's National League.
- 20 1923 Garrett P. Morgan receives a U.S. patent for his invention of the traffic light.
- 22 1930 The Nation of Islam is founded in Detroit by Elijah Muhammad.
- 27 1942 Rock musician Jimi Hendrix is born.
- 29 1905 The nation's first black newspaper, the Chicago Defender, begins publication.

### Spotlight: November 29, 1908

### ADAM CLAYTON POWELL 1908-1972

On this date, Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. was born in New Haven, Connecticut. While working as an assistant pastor to his father, the famed minister of Harlem's Abyssinian Baptist Church, the younger Powell organized the picketing of white-owned establishments in Harlem that hired no blacks. He also led other successful mass meetings and strikes to force reform in employment practices.

A graduate of Colgate and Columbia Universities, he was elected to Congress in 1944. His legislative interests continued his civil rights efforts, vehemently opposing lynchings, poll taxes and tireless efforts to end segregation in Washington, D.C. federal buildings, and schools.

Despite being stripped of his chairmanship of the House Education & Labor Committee in 1967 for alleged misuse of public funds, he won reelection two years later. Despite being stripped of his seniority, he continued to fight for justice and equality. A charismatic, outspoken figure, Powell was known for his popular slogan, "Keep the faith, baby".



Friendship  
West Baptist's  
60-acre  
development

Thomas  
Muhammad  
on DISD  
Supt.. Bill  
Rojas



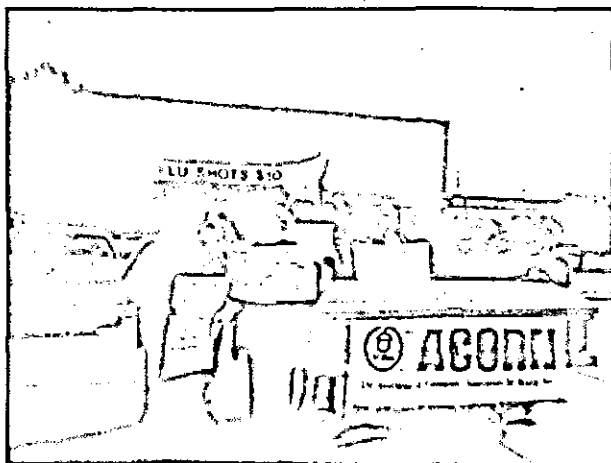
Adam Clayton Powell, 1908-1972





## Next Edition Features

### ACORN alleges discriminatory lending at Citigroup



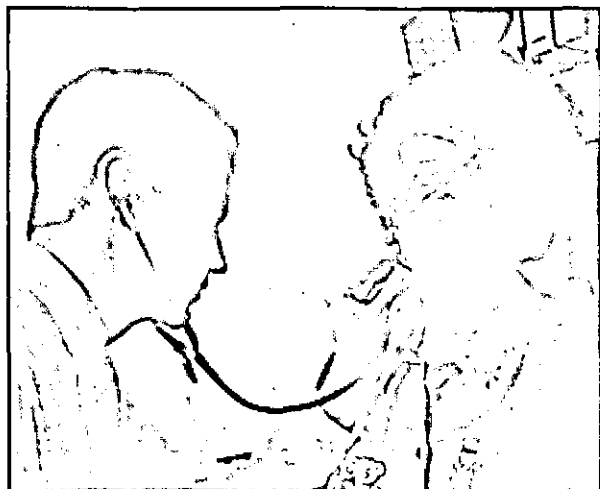
Access to capital remains a critical concern for businesses and consumers alike. In our next edition, Minority Opportunity News takes a look at charges of discriminatory lending by Citigroup. According to the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, also known as ACORN, Citigroup is charging higher lending rates to minority and low-income neighborhoods than those offered in the general market. Correspondent Rufus Coleman will review both the corporate and community perspectives on this key issue.

At a recent ACORN demonstration, community activists staged a protest against unfair lending practices. The protest site was the DeSoto office of City Financial. According to ACORN, City Financial is owned by Citibank. The local protest was part of a coordinated national effort to force Citibank officials to address alleged loan inequities.

### Next Edition Wellness Feature:



### Nationwide clinical study to research strokes among African-Americans



730,000 Americans have a stroke each year. It is the 3rd leading cause of death among Americans and the nation's leading cause of disability. For African-American men, however, the likelihood of a stroke is three times that for white men. For African-American women, the risk of death from stroke is four times greater than for white women. MON's next Wellness feature shares how a new clinical study at UT Southwestern Medical Center will address ways to reduce stroke recurrence among African-Americans.

Dr. Mark Johnson examines Ms. Otha Faye McIntyre to see if she qualifies for a study on secondary stroke prevention.

*"Business is the emancipator of a group of people. It's always going to be harder if you're a minority. You can't worry about it, though. You have to ask, 'What can I do for myself?' Then go out and do it."*

J. Bruce Llewellyn, businessman and investor

When you subscribe to Minority Opportunity News, you are supporting a people's emancipation. A \$50.00 annual subscription purchases 24 issues, published on the 1st and 15th of each month.

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## Youth opposed to violence deserve community support

Violence or the threat of it, is unfortunately one of the major issues facing this nation and its people. Regardless of locale, violent crime affects every citizen. Moreover, the threat of violence is regrettably nothing new in America.

During the 60's, the crimes that seemed to shock citizens the most were mass murderers like Charles Manson and Richard Speck... tortured, demented souls who ravaged others for no apparent reason.

But the 60's also witnessed a series of assassinations: Malcolm X, Medgar Evers, President John F. Kennedy, and our own prince of peace, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. For these martyrs, their loss was acutely tragic; for their lives were more public than private; lives dedicated to service more so than personal gain. Then there were civil rights workers, like Goodman, Chaney and Schwerner whose murders showed a nation that the ultimate price for freedom's quest could happen to people who never sought the limelight. These three, murdered in Mississippi, just wanted in their own way, to make this a better place in which to live.

By the 70's and 80's, some sought solace in suburbia, believing that geographical distance would avoid a growing trend of urban, inner city violence. Older, land-locked cities were abandoned for newer homes, office parks and malls in suburbs. Here in Dallas, the growth of Irving and Arlington are only two examples of how urban flight affected the Metroplex.

But in the 1990's, communities that were once thought to be safe havens are not. Some might expect gangbanging violence in the 'hood. But who would have imagined the massacre at Columbine or the gunfire at a California day care center or worse yet, a Fort Worth church? Young, white youths are now turning classrooms and sanctuaries into crime scenes. No longer are black and brown youths the only perpetrators. Crime in the 1990's has dramatically crossed the color line.

No parent of any color expects or wants to bury a child. But in disturbing frequency, more and more parents and families are suffering that fate. And when those moments come, the color, income or neighborhood does-

n't matter. Despite a nation's record economic growth, with accompanying job creation and strong local economies, the naivete of youth has been lost. Young people are going to funerals of their friends. Some speak of, 'if they grow up', as opposed to when.

For all of these reasons and more -- It is therefore noteworthy that young people from north Texas lent their voices and energies to a recent Capitol Hill conference addressing violence. More importantly, the students from Dallas' Lincoln, James Madison the Gifted & Talented Magnet and Fort Worth's Polytechnic and South Grand Prairie are all deserving of a public salute.

...continued on page 7

## City salutes a hero for making a difference - Mr. Comer J. Cottrell

Fall is traditionally a popular time of year for gatherings. Even before the barrage of holiday activities begin, there are usually numerous dinners, fund-raisers for a myriad of worthwhile causes and/or concerns. This year, the Metroplex honored a man who has consistently demonstrated a concern to give as much as he received.

As chief executive officer, chairman and founder of the Pro-Line Corporation, Comer J. Cottrell has created jobs and business opportunities. His experience as an Air Force military exchange manager revealed a noticeable need for African-American hair care products. In responding to this market need, he became one of the first to open the market for African-American cosmetics in military exchanges.

Following Pro-Line's relocation from Gardena, California to Dallas, the firm became the largest black-owned manufacturer in the Southwest. Since 1970, his faith, perseverance and sheer business savvy supported his firm's development and growth since. Beyond Pro-Line's Texas operations are plans and distributors in Nigeria, Kenya, Ivory Coast, South Africa, Brazil, Caribbean Islands, London and Paris. Today, the 1999 annual listing of the 100 most successful black businesses by Black Enterprise magazine shows Pro-Line to rank 34th on the list.

His varied business interests have forged 'firsts' in other industries. As a former partner/owner of the Texas Rangers baseball team, he is the first African-American to hold an equity stake in a major league team. A member of Chase Bank's board of directors, Mr. Cottrell is also a member of the

U.S. Trade Commission's Advisory Board, and the U.S. Foreign Commerce Service Commission and chair of the Texas Cosmetology Commission.

For the success Mr. Cottrell has known, he has also shared. Educational support is a cornerstone of his civic work. Two local institutions, Paul Quinn College and Dallas Can! Academy have both benefited from this gentleman's concern.

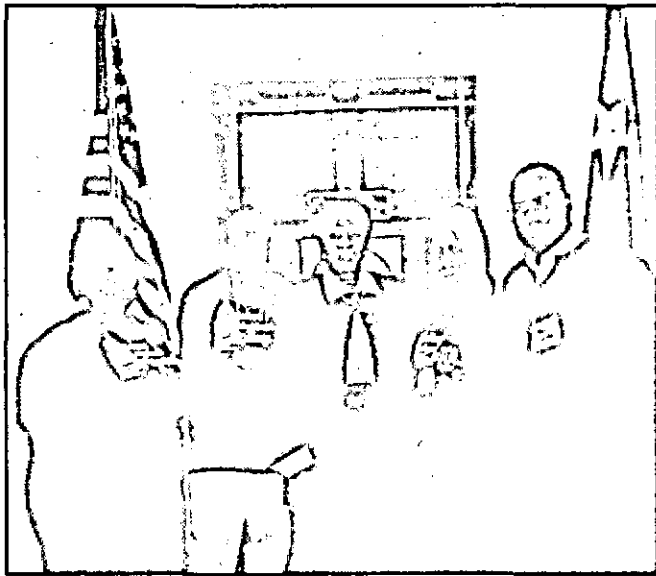
It was Mr. Cottrell who in 1990 purchased the land and buildings of a bankrupt Bishop College at a price of \$1.5 million. Relocating the 108-year old historically black Paul Quinn College to Dallas from Waco was not the only time he invested in education and young black minds. He invested another \$1.7 million for renovations and funds to cover a portion of the college's debts. When questioned as to why or

whether such a major level of support was prudent, Mr. Cottrell's retort was not 'why, but 'how'. His decision to invest in black children's education was non-negotiable.

His generous support of education also includes those struggling with the basics. At-risk children enrolled at Dallas Can Academy have a friend and benefactor in Mr. Cottrell. Children who needed a second chance got one, thanks to Mr. Cottrell.

Other community activities have included work with the Boy Scouts, NAACP, and Texas Youth Commission. Among his many honors is an honorary citizenship from Soweto, South Africa, the Dow Jones/Our World News Award for Entrepreneurial Excellence and induction into the Texas Business Hall of Fame.

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left to right: Laticia Ogletree, Lincoln HS; Gregory Randel, Madison HS; Congresswoman Johnson; Jennifer O'Neil, Talented & Gifted Magnet; Chaperoned by Mr. Robert Edison



Mr. Comer Cottrell, Jr.

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Thomas Muhammad

He certainly came in the right way. He became the first Dallas Independent School District (DISD) superintendent in recent memory to receive a 9-0-board vote to get the job. He's bilingual. He has an impressive record of working with some of America's most high profile African-American political, civic and grassroots leaders. He also became the highest paid superintendent in the nation, signing a contract worth a record \$260,000. And by all accounts many believe he's worth every penny.

But there's another side of Dr. Bill Rojas that makes him the perfect person, I believe, to lead the 160,000-student district. He's a fighter! No I'm not talking about the fights with members of the school district Community Advisory Committees. Or fights with members of the school board. Nor am I speaking of his fight to gain acceptance of the Edison Project. What I appreciate about Dr. Rojas is that, if he believes in something, he doesn't mind rolling up his sleeves and mixing it up to achieve it! That's unique for a person who could easily just stick with the status quo.

After all there have been many school administrators, regardless of color, who have just been going along to get along. While at the same time children and parents the "true stakeholders" as former school board member Kathlyn Gilliam calls them, have been getting the short end of the "ruler" or stick as it were.

To be sure, Dr. Rojas has made some major community and administrative mistakes. No one can justify his blatantly disrespectful attitude in calling for the resignations of both the African and Latino Advisory Committee presidents. Dr. Rojas and any superintendent in the future will have to accept the leadership of whomever those respective committees elect among themselves. These are community volunteers who receive no pay and more importantly -- they are parents.

What Dr. Rojas should do is keep an open door policy with these leaders and respect their criticisms as a way of gauging how well his administration is doing in those communities. These committees were also set up by court mandates. As long as the court order is in force, these committees can not be ignored. And finally he should understand that he and no one has the right to pick and choose who will represent these communities. If this is a personality problem, he'd best get over it!

His next major mistake was his gross disrespect of board members in general and Hollis Brashear in particular. It was Brashear who sacrificed his board presidency to bring Dr. Rojas to Dallas and then fight any and everybody to secure for him

the top job. Dr. Rojas showed arrogance and ungratefulness in his public criticism of Mr. Brashear for voting against the Edison Project. Brashear dogged Dr. Rojas to no avail, trying to get additional information on the Project, however, according to Brashear, Dr. Rojas would never return Brashear's calls nor would he agree to a meeting. And when a meeting was set between Brashear and Dr. Rojas, Rojas cancelled it.

Dr. Rojas has only himself to blame for the Edison Project debacle. On the surface the Edison Project seems to be a wonderful plan. To get approval, Dr. Rojas should have tried much harder to get more information out to "all" stakeholders in the community. You would be hard pressed to find anyone being openly against longer school hours, or providing each student with a lap top computers and adding more school days. But Dr. Rojas will never be able to get his badly needed reforms into place as long as he behaves in such a very disrespectful way.

Brashear was not the only board member Dr. Rojas disrespected. Rumor has it that SeGwen "Sell-out" Tyler reportedly went to Dr. Rojas's office unannounced to meet with him about the Edison Project. She apparently asked Rojas's secretary to inform Rojas that she was there and wanted to meet. According to sources familiar with the story Dr. Rojas refused to meet with Tyler. In fact, word has it that he disappeared through the infamous "hidden door" that was built by former superintendent Yvonne Gonzales. Ironically this was the very same door that Brashear used to sneak Dr. Rojas into the school building the day the board unanimously agreed to support him to be the new superintendent.

Word has it that all nine board members were laughing their heads off as every media organization was in the school administration lobby waiting to hear which candidate would be chosen between Dallas County Judge Lee Jackson and General what's-his-name from Washington, DC. All this time the school board was interviewing Dr. Rojas in the school basement.

You could say that Hollis pulled the wool over their eyes. Smile. O

Back to our story: Tyler, who waited some, said, as long as four (4) hours cooling her heels in the superintendent's office, was furious when she found that Rojas had avoided her by slipping

out the trap door! However, Rojas knows she's a wimp. He has no worry!

As for Dr. Lois Parrott, well the silence speaks for itself. If he publicly lied about her attempting to bribe him into getting her close associate a promotion in return for her yes vote on his Edison Project, then there obviously was something truth to it. We haven't heard one word from her since the last board meeting. And as I've said from the outset, if she did put her supposed bribe in writing, whatever type a doctor she is -- she's a dumb one.

And it is also very obvious that her fellow colleagues believe she was up to something, because during the board's private meeting, Parrott would not get a second for her motion to terminate Dr. Rojas's contract. Board members refusing to take action against a superintendent who has publicly lied on and slandered the character of a fellow board member, makes the allegations seem highly true. Then again Dr. Rojas could be making the same assumption concerning Dr. Parrott as he has with Sell-Out Tyler. And again he is very right. Most people who've met Dr. Parrott would readily agree that many times she does not seem to be playing with a "full deck."

All and all it is my hope Dr. Rojas has learned from his mistakes and that he will continue to fight, but do it with the community as a support base, not as an enemy. Many community activists do care about the children in the school district. And contrary to popular belief, they also do believe



DISD Superintendent, Dr. Bill Rojas

that an educator, who is a person of color, could improve the school district.

Oh sure. Hollywood (hollow-wood) will continue to produce movies of "white saviors" coming in to save our children. "Music of the Heart" starring Meryl Streep, an East Harlem school classical violin teacher, is just one of an endless string of shows created to prove that we are not up to the task. However, we know better. With

...continued on page 7

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# HIV/AIDS town hall meeting set for Nov. 20th by Congresswoman Johnson

The impact of HIV/AIDS in the black community will be the focus of a November 20th town hall meeting set by Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson. The session will be held from 1:00-4:00PM in room 168 of the Dallas Urban League's offices. The league is located at 4315 South Lancaster Boulevard.

According to the Congresswoman's office, the meeting will address the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the black community, as well as the health disparities related to this disease between African-Americans the general population. The meeting is one of a series of such discussions scheduled by the Congressional Black Caucus

(CBC) as preliminary community events leading up to the December 1st observance of World AIDS Day. to share ideas and learn about the issue."

As CBC vice-chair, Congresswoman Johnson said, "In the war against AIDS, there is a racial divide. The black community must work together to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. This town hall meeting will allow health care experts, concerned citizens, and civic leaders



Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX-30th Congressional District)

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recently released a report that showed that HIV/AIDS is a significant problem in the African-American community. The AIDS death rate among blacks is ten times that of whites. AIDS is also a leading cause of death among black women between the ages of 25 and 40. In 1998,

African-Americans accounted for 49% of all AIDS-related deaths.

Saturday's town hall meeting will provide an opportunity for community members to receive the latest available information about care, treatment, prevention and testing. Co-sponsoring organizations of the event are the Dallas Urban League; NAACP; National Caucus of Black State Legislatures; National Organization of Black County Officials; 100 Black Men; Renaissance III; AIDS Resource Center; AIDS Arms, Inc.; Dallas County Health & Human Services' and the African-American AIDS Policy & Training Institute.

## Texas School Performance Review program wins national award

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander announced that the Texas School Performance Review (TSPR), a program that recommends ways to improve public school management in large and small districts throughout the state, is one of ten winners of the national Innovations in American Government Awards. Sponsored by the Ford Foundation and Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, the awards program is one of the nation's most coveted public service awards.

"Thank you to the judges and sponsors for selecting the Texas School Performance Review a winner of this prestigious award," Comptroller Rylander said. "This award lifts TSPR into the national spotlight and highlights the positive effects it has on public schools throughout Texas."

TSPR's goal is to direct more of every education dollar into the classroom and to enhance the quality of every student's education. To reach this goal, TSPR auditors visit a school district, review its operations, interview administrators, teachers, parents and students, and recommend ways to cut costs and improve operations. TSPR's evaluation and recommendations are published in a report that is circulated throughout the community. Since its inception, TSPR has reviewed 34 school districts serving more than 900,000 students. As a result, \$381 million in net savings have been recommended.

"The TSPR helps accomplish one of the most important duties of any government—local, state or federal can do: drive more dollars directly into the classroom so our most precious resource, our children, will be prepared for the 21st century. Nothing is more important than education," said Rylander. "This program should serve as a model for innovation and change for the entire country in the education arena."

From a field of 25 competing finalists, TSPR emerged to win a \$20,000 Ford Foundation grant. Prior to the awards presentation, Comptroller Rylander presented an overview of the program to the Innovations in American Government Awards National Selection Committee. The event recently took place in Washington, D.C.

# Child support collections to be aided by new law lifting age requirements

Among the numerous legislative reforms passed by the 76th session of the Texas General Assembly were new laws affecting child support. While the legislature concluded its work earlier this year, many of the laws have only gone into effect this fall.

These changes are important to Texans than one might imagine. Texas' Office of Attorney General has the nation's fourth largest child support caseload. 1.2 million cases involve 2 million children. Child support collections for these cases increased 15% from 1998 to 1999, outpaced the 8% growth in cases. In fiscal year 1998, \$757 million was collected, compared to \$868 for 1999's fiscal year.



Texas Attorney General John Cornyn

Secondly, parents who have dodged child support payments, waiting for their children to reach adult age will find a new level of prosecution. The Office of the Attorney General is now able to pursue judgment for unpaid child support regardless of the age of the child. According to Attorney General John Cornyn, "Delinquent parents will no longer be able to run out the clock on their obligations to their children."

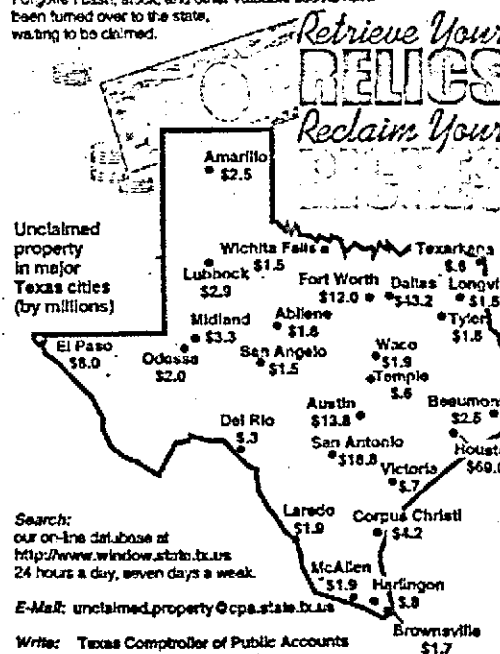
According to Cornyn's office, more than 105,000 children are born out of wedlock in Texas each year. Before courts can order child support or visitation, legal paternity must be established for an out-of-wedlock child. A new law streamlines the voluntary paternity establishment process. The new law allows the parents to sign an Acknowledgment of Paternity (AOP), furnished by the hospital. When the AOP is filed with the Bureau of Vital Statistics, the AOP becomes a legal finding of paternity.

Cornyn's office also reports that voluntary

## Keeping an eye on Texas

### Millions in unclaimed property statewide

In fiscal year 1999, the state returned more than \$49 million to its rightful owners, but more than \$711 million remains unclaimed. Forgotten cash, stock, and other valuable assets have been turned over to the state, waiting to be claimed.



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paternities have slightly increased. Paternity was established in 37,002 cases involving 46,556 children. Those figures represent a 16% increase over those established in 1998.

For more information on Texas' child sup-

port program, or to file a case with the Child Support Division, interested persons can call a toll-free number: 1-800-252-8014. Information on the Child Support Division is also available on the Attorney General web site at: [www.oag.state.tx.us](http://www.oag.state.tx.us).



**..Violence cont'd from page 4**

Laticia Ogletree, Gregory Randel, Jennifer O'Neil, Rickey Brown and Marianne Moreno are shining examples of how young people want to live, grow and achieve. Beyond a trip to Washington's Capitol Hill, they are striving to share heartfelt concerns to make ours a safer place in which to live.

Just as every black man is not a convicted felon or on drugs, not every young per

**...continued from page 5**

stakeholders support, open dialogue, respect and yes, metaphorically speaking - something times an old fashioned whippin'.

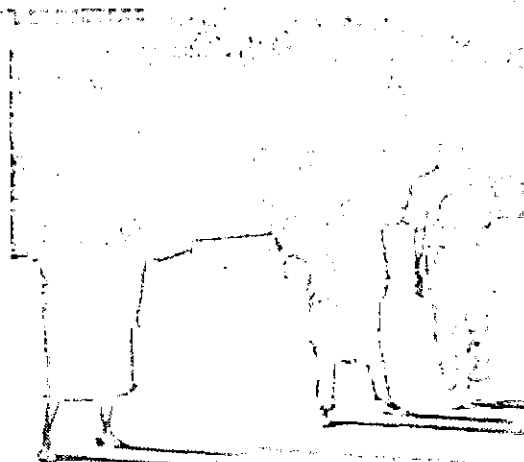
There's no telling what Dallas' community of color can do. Who knows maybe Rojas could turn out to be "crazy Joe" as played in the movie "Lean On Me" starring Morgan Freeman. You remember that famous part when he held up a hat after chasing out a group of nosy-busy-bodies who wanted to continue the status quo. They allowed drugs, gangs, prostitution and mediocre to prevail in the school. The teachers did not care whether the children learned or not. Note: a majority of the teachers were white. You tell me what it means. But, Joe ever so caring decided he was going to change things and make everybody proud of the school. After all it's the reason he was sent. Nobody would take on the challenge.

Well, Joe turned to the lead busy-body and proclaimed ever so loudly at her when she angrily asked him "who do you think you are!" Joe responded "people used call me crazy Joe, but now they call me Batman!"

With a little help, Bill Rojas could be our Batman.

Until then the struggle continues...

**South Dallas Superbowl**



On Saturday, November 6th, the James Madison High School Alumni Association offered a half-time presentation at the South Dallas Super Bowl. At Forrester Stadium, a ceremonial 'passing of the torch' symbolically linked successive alumni generations. On the left, Alumni Association President member Mary Morgan (Class of '63) accepts the torch from Nissa Muhamma (Class of '59). Hubert Mahny (Class of '59) watches on the right.

**...Cottrell continued from page 4**

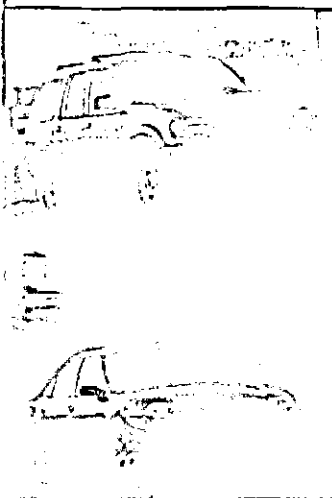
With consistent business achievement matched by community concern, it is little wonder why a tribute to Mr. Cottrell would attract a capacity crowd at the Morton H. Meyerson Center. The list of dignitaries and program participants read like a Who's Who from every walk of life. Athletes such as Olympic gold medallist Michael Johnson, and former Dallas Cowboy turned entrepreneur, Drew Pearson joined civil rights leaders such as Martin Luther King, III and Rev. Al Sharpton; actors Dennis Weaver and Roger E. Mosely; Reverend Tom Tipton of the Crystal Cathedral; Yah Ya Abdullah-Iman/Muslim American Society; Joel Brooks, president of the American Jewish Congress; Dr. Paul Monroe,

president of Paul Quinn College; and Earl Goode, president of GTE Directories were among the many honoring Mr. Cottrell. Honorary chairperson for the occasion was Earl Graves, publisher of Black Enterprise magazine.

Minority Opportunity News joins the thousands of well wishers who salute the distinguished community and business achievements of Mr. Comer J. Cottrell. His is the kind of giving that deserves to be emulated. Those who have been richly blessed have an obligation to pass on hope to others. Mr. Cottrell has and continues to offer much-needed financial support, business opportunities, jobs and immeasurable hope. Your community thanks you, Mr. Cottrell.

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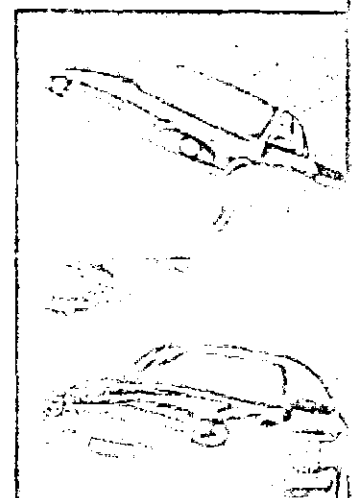


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 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I (We) hereby authorize Plano Lincoln Mercury's Custom Finance Division to make a credit inquiry request on my (our) behalf and to contact us as soon as possible for an interview appointment.

My Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse Signature \_\_\_\_\_



Mitchell Trimble, III, Manager  
 Elijah Dawson, Direct Sales Manager  
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**Step 3...**Schedule an appointment with our Custom Finance Division at 972-985-6111. Ask for Mitch Trimble, Elijah Dawson, Joe Garza & Ricardo Zapata

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I have lived at my present address for...	Over 3 Years 10 Points	1-3 Years 7 Points	Under 1 Year 5 Points		Points	
My present residential status is...	Homeowner 10 Points	Renter 7 Points	Live with Relative 4 Points		Points	
I last financed an automobile...	Over 3 Years Ago 10 Points	1-3 Years Ago 7 Points	Under 1 Year Ago 5 Points	Never 3 Points	Points	
The last time I had an automobile repossessed...	Never 10 Points	Over 3 Years Ago 8 Points	1-3 Years Ago 7 Points	Under 1 Year Ago 3 Points	Points	
My Chapter 7 Bankruptcy status is...	Never 10 Points	Discharged 3+ Years 8 Points	Discharged 1-3 Years 7 Points	Not Yet Discharged 3 Points	Points	
My Chapter 13 Bankruptcy status is...	Never 10 Points	Discharged 3+ Years 8 Points	Discharged 1-3 Years 7 Points	Not Yet Discharged 5 Points	Points	
My monthly household income is...	Over \$3,000 10 Points	\$2,000-\$3,000 8 Points	\$1,500-\$2,000 6 Points	Less than \$1,500 3 Points	Points	
The percentage of my family's gross monthly income spent on housing and debt payments (includes mortgage or rent, credit cards, installment loans, and \$125 for auto insurance)...	Less than 20% 10 Points	20-29% 8 Points	30-39% 6 Points	40-49% 3 Points	50% or more 0 Points	Points
The total cash I have for a car purchase downpayment is...	Over \$3,500 10 Points	\$2,500-\$3,500 8 Points	\$1,500-\$2,500 6 Points	Less than \$1,500 3 Points	Points	
<b>Your "Loan-Ability" Point Score</b>					<b>Total</b>	

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 3333 West Plano Parkway  
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## Capitol Hill teen conference termed successful in anti-violence efforts

by Josef Spencer

**"B**

y the year 2000 all schools in America will be free of drugs and violence and the unauthorized presence of firearms and alcohol, and offer a disciplined environment that is conducive to learning," states objective #7 of the

National Education Goals. But as the millennium approaches, we are greeted with the unlikely accomplishment of this goal as violent occurrences in educational institutions increase.

According to the report entitled National Violence and Discipline Problems in U.S. Public Schools annual crime statistics record disturbingly different numbers:

- 4,000 incidents of rape or other types of sexual battery
- 11,000 incidents of physical attacks or fights in which weapons are used
- 7,000 robberies
- 190,000 fights or physical attacks not involving weapons
- 115,000 thefts
- 98,000 incidents of vandalism

These numbers warrant grave public concern. Despite student activists and school official's long-standing attention to the problem, the need for more counselors, more after school programs, and more safety officers have gone unmet. Far more important and extremely too silent, students' voices have gone unheard.

Hearing the youthful pleas of students, Texas Congressional members responded by sponsoring and participating in the Congressional Voices Against Violence, a national student conference held in Washington October 19th-20th. Democratic Caucus Chairman Congressman Martin Frost, and House Democratic Leader Richard A. Gephardt sponsored the two day event. A bipartisan group of over 130 Members of Congress, including Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, participated by bringing up to 3 high school students from his or her District to Washington, D.C. to dictate their "voice against violence." "This summit [gave] our young people the opportunity to share ideas with Members of Congress, federal law enforcement officials and other key organizations about youth violence prevention," said Congresswoman Johnson.

Laticia Ogletree, of Lincoln High School; Gregory Randel of James Madison High School; and Jennifer O'Neil of Talented and Gifted Magnet represented the 30th Congressional District of Texas. From the 24th District, Rickey Brown, a senior at Polytechnic High School in Fort Worth; Marianne Moreno, a senior at South Grand Prairie High School; and Haley Wylie, a junior at Corsicana High School were chosen. These students along with over 350 more from across the United States were selected because of their interest and concern with youth violence, leadership abilities and demonstrated communication skills.

With each district's pool exceeding 100 applicants, the students underscored their interests by submitting an essay outlining their experiences with youth violence, its causes, issues on school safety, and a recommendation to the government about ways to address this issue. In a very practical the essays gave members of Congress an opportunity to evaluate applicants and the added advantage of a youthful perspective being incorporated into a resolution about youth violence.

"These students were chosen to represent North Texas in Washington because they showed a tremendous awareness of the challenges in their communities, and offered real solutions to the problems of youth violence," said Congressman Frost.

Following the October 19th kick-off and welcome by Congressman Gephardt, Congressman Frost, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, and an address from President Clinton, the students engaged in a panel discussion facilitated by MTV Video Jockey, Ananda. Following, the students' dialogue with

...continued on page 9





Haley Wylie, a junior at Corsicana High School (left) and Rickey Brown, a senior at Polytechnic High School in Fort Worth (right) meet with Congressman Martin Frost. Next to Rickey (partial view) is Marianne Moreno, a senior at South Grand Prairie.

regional press and Members, the first round of workshops began with "Solving the Problem". In this workshop students learned about existing programs that address youth violence from an array of organizations including American Civil Liberties Union, Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, U.S. Department of Justice, and Volunteers of America; Lighthouse Program.

On the last day of the seminar, the students separated into sessions divided by geographical region and identified the top five primary causes of youth violence, the top three fundamental needs for reducing youth violence, and the best five solutions to the problem by sharing and debating their responses to pre-conference questionnaires.

The youth leaders resolved that the primary causes of youth violence are:

1. The lack of positive parenting skills
2. Discrimination and intolerance towards others
3. Lack of social-emotional skills, community morals and self-esteem.

To reduce youth violence the young people advocated:

1. Positive after-school programming, including the arts
2. More mentoring and open communication;
3. Character education

The most effective way to decrease the level of youth violence in schools and communities is believed to be

1. Increasing the number of youth programs (teen centers, job training and conflict resolution)
2. Increasing support for peer mentoring and youth-adult mentoring
3. Restricting access to weapons

Some of the teen ambassadors' interest in youth violence stems from personal experience. "Last year, my nineteen year old cousin was shot twice in the head by an eighteen year old," shared one student.

Another student said, "My friend of two years got in a fight over a pair of shoes. A boy at his school tried to steal his shoes and instead of talking it over, they fought."

Dallas' Jennifer O'Neil refuses to accept the "popular belief" that violence is derived from television and movies. "In my opinion, the rise in teenage violence is a direct result of the lack of parenting in today's society. In the midst of all the e-mails, phone calls, meetings and everything else that parents have to deal with, they have forgotten their number one priority--their children."

She adds, "In order to prevent future acts of teen violence, parents need to take time out of their busy schedules to spend with their kids. During that time, they ought to have at least one conversation

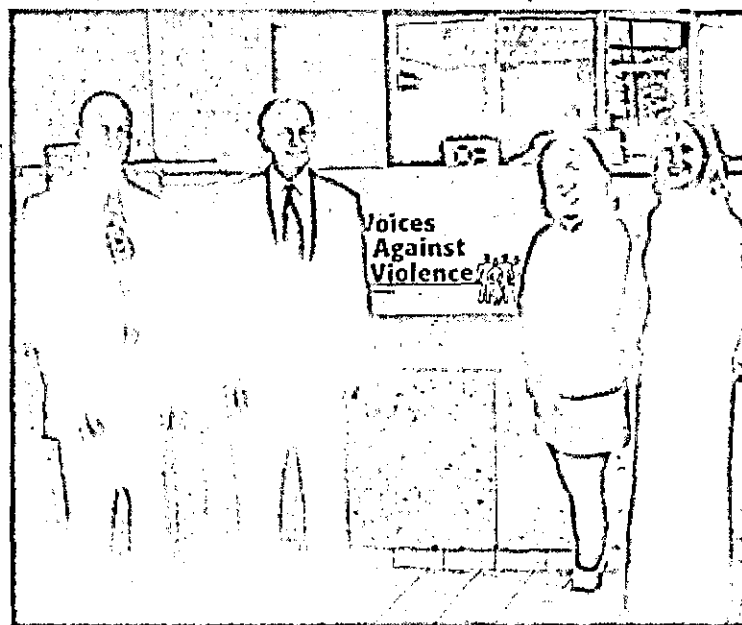
specifically about violence and its consequences. If teens know the legal consequences as well as the parental consequences, they may be more reluctant to commit these acts."

Students expressed beliefs that the tragedy that unfolded in Columbine was a teen's cry for attention. "If they weren't [attention deprived] they wouldn't have orchestrated such a huge plan." Lincoln High School's Laticia Ogletree said, "In the wake of the Columbine killings, we should start showing love and affection towards each other." "We watch movies on television and listen to songs on the radio that are full of hate and violence. People are making millions and billions of dollars talking about killing someone else. Teenagers pick up on this type of thing, and they begin to do just what they are seeing or hearing...[becoming] a perfect example of 'life imitating art.'"

This "art" can become a self-fulfilling prophecy. "There is an African proverb that says, 'If you kill the father, you make an enemy out of the son.' This means that violence begets violence," said Gregory Randel of James Madison High School.

The youthful perspectives gave Congress members an opportunity to hear and focus on their teen constituents. "This is exactly the outcome we wanted from Voices Against Violence. As these students know better than anyone, too many of our schools are grappling with unprecedented levels of violence," said Frost. "Some of the best ideas I've heard have come in discussions I've had with students. Unfortunately, youth violence is something too many young people deal with every day, and they are experts."

Though they may be experts, the students are not the ones able to authorize financial support at the federal level. That authority rests with Congress. And for Congresswoman Eddie Bernie Johnson, the students have an ally. "I am eager to develop solutions to this problem with teenagers from 30th



(left to right) Rickey Brown, Congressman Martin Frost, Marianne Moreno, Haley Wylie

Congressional District of Texas and others from across the country," said Congresswoman Johnson.

In addition to his work organizing VAV, Congressman Frost is serving as the Democratic Chair of a 24-member bipartisan Congressional Working Group on Youth Violence. Frost is also organizing a 24th District Student Advisory Board to provide a forum for continued dialogue on educational and school safety issues.

The post-conference work is not confined to Capitol Hill either. Upon returning home from the conference, students immediately started working in their communities. Corsicana's Haley says that she wants to organize a peer mediation group, South Grand Prairie's Marianne is planning a mentoring group between seniors and students in lower grades. And Fort Worth's Rickey is already circulating a petition to organize a discussion on students' experiences with violence; his hope is to hold at an assembly before his entire school.

"This is exactly the outcome we wanted from

...continued on page 10



(left to right) Cong. Martin Frost gives Haley Wylie, Marianne Moreno and Rickey Brown their 'Voices Against Violence' t-shirts. An unidentified security guard stands on the far right.

...continued from page 9

Voices Against Violence. I hope to build upon this progress when I convene meetings of the Youth Violence Advisory Board," said Frost. Other tangible outcomes to the Voices Against Violence, such as the U.S. House Resolution that students passed will be introduced in Congress by Congressman Gephardt. The resolution recognizes the importance of youth involvement in the development of solutions to school violence and encourages Congress to take immediate action to comprehensively address the problem.

"We must do everything we can to prevent violent acts that chip away our children's dwindling sense of security. By working together and listening to the real concerns of young people, this conference can help make our schools safer by engaging students in the hard work of addressing this national epidemic--and by helping all of us put the lessons of [those] two days in Washington to work every day in communities across the country," reminded Frost.

## Douglass Elementary celebrates decade of excellence

On November 5th, the award-winning Frederick Douglass Elementary School celebrated ten years of achievement at its present location. Although the facility, located at 225 N. Jim Miller Road opened in August 1989, the school, begun in 1927, is one of Dallas Independent School District's first schools.

To honor the achievements at the new location, students and faculty were joined for the occasion by school board members, elected and PTA officials, and other community leaders. The award-winning school's well-noted record of achievement in early learning, spanning kindergarten through grade three, was honored. Students shared in the occasion with recitation of winning oratorical presentations, poetry readings, the school creed and song.

The school's first principal, Ms. Patricia Mays offered Douglass Elementary's historical highlights. Later in the program, Ms. Mays and long-time volunteer and donor, W.W.



A host of business, community and educational leaders attended the 10th anniversary celebration at Frederick Douglass Elementary. Pictured on the podium (left to right) are Ms. Dannette Brown (standing), Ms. Patricia Mays (seated) and PTA President, Ms. Francine Colbert (also seated).

Guests standing (left to right) are Mr. W. Austin, Douglass staff; Mr. Thurman Jones, MON Publisher; Mr. Ellery Gary, Williams Chicken, Inc.; Mr. Roland Parrish, Parrish Foods/McDonald's, Inc; Mr. Larry Wainer, North Texas Alumni Chapter - University of Houston; Dr. Johnny Lawton, 1st SCE Chairperson; Ms. Sandra Mims, Southeast Dallas Health Clinic; Dr. Lavern Holyfield, Kappa Zeta Chapter, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.; Ms. Berna Dean Steploe, WFAA-TV News; Ms. LaWanda Williams, Mom's Club; Douglass Principal, Ms. Ellen Perry; and Judge Thomas Jones, Justice of the Peace.

...Douglass continued

Austin, both received special recognition.

Other guests offering greetings included: the current and former District Nine School Board Members, Ron Price and Kathlyn Gilliam; Area One Superintendent Mary Roberts; retired deputy superintendent Otto Fridia; Ms. Vivian Gibbs, chair of the Site-Based Decision-Making Council; PTA President Francine Colbert; State Senator Royce West; State Representative Helen Giddings; and Dallas County Commissioner

John Wiley Price.

In seven of the last ten years, Frederick Douglass Elementary has been honored by Excellence in Education, capturing four times its "Gold-Star School" award and on three other occasions its "Silver Star School" award. Also during the 1990s, the school was chosen four times as a Mentor School for the State of Texas. The Texas Education Agency has also named Douglass Elementary as a model facility.

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**John  
Dudley**

## Plan a post-Thanksgiving talk about family finances

Whether you are a child watching your parents grow older, or parents watching your children mature, you may have concerns about how your loved ones have financially planned for their future. An open and honest discussion about family finances could ease your concerns. But how often do you get the opportunity to talk to your entire family?

Many families only get together once or twice a year during the holidays. These occasions are usually reserved for celebration and few family members will want to disturb holiday traditions and values by prompting a conversation about serious family issues. It is never easy to raise issues like the legal and financial aspects of retirement, long-term health care, and estate planning.

One solution is to plan a dinner immediately after a holiday while family members are still likely to be available. Setting aside a day for the discussion in advance gives your family time to prepare and may even relieve tension at the holiday feast. The Friday after Thanksgiving, for example, presents the perfect opportunity to arrange a discussion. Most people are off from work and school. Offering leftover turkey and stuffing is a great way to lure family back to the table.

But before sitting down to this conversation, you will need to prepare. A discussion about money, wills, and inheritances easily can become a heated argument that drags up ancient history, rivalries and conflicts. Try following these steps:

- Find a reason to introduce the topic.

Current news coverage about retirement and estate planning, health care, or long-term care offers ready-made reasons to talk about family plans. The reason for bringing up the topic should not be based on your own financial situation; but relevant to family members.

- Offer a rationale for the conversation. You might explain that in the day-to-day rush, plans as well as needs change. It is in everyone's interest to look ahead. Explain how careful planning could benefit all family members.

- Plan ahead. Think about what you want to say and the most thoughtful way to say it.

- Put yourself in their place. How will each family member react to a frank, open discussion about financial plans, hopes and expectations? If there are likely to be fears, what information can dispel them?

- Clear your thoughts of any resentments or expectations. By keeping an open mind, you will be a better discussion moderator. Remember your intent is to help ensure that the family is prepared for the future.

- Introduce possible scenarios. Present various situations, beginning with what may be the least threatening, such as savings and pensions plans. Will there be enough for the future? Lead up to more difficult issues, such as planning to cope with deaths or failing health. Build strategies for financial resources and eventually distributing assets.

- Remain neutral if controversial issues surface. If the conversation becomes too emotional, postpone it for a while, or consider including an objective advisor.

Sometimes the presence of an outsider can keep the discussion objective and less emotional.

During the discussion, you may want to cover a range of issues that lead to the creation or the amendment of four legal and financial documents:

1. A durable power of attorney is a legal document that appoints someone to make financial decisions for an individual or individuals should they become ill or incompetent. A person with durable power of attorney can pay bills, sign tax returns, and perform other functions.
2. A legal will stipulates how an individual wants their assets distributed after death.
3. A health care proxy statement, or living will, specifically states the measures each parent is willing to take to prolong life. The proxy will also name a person who is authorized to ensure that the statement's provisions are followed.
4. A list and location of assets should include bank accounts, savings accounts, pension plans, IRAs, and insurance policies. It should also

include money due from all sources, including any loans made to children or other family members but never repaid, and an estimate of the date of purchase and price of major assets for tax purposes. This information will be needed to settle the estate.

After the conversation, you and your family most likely will have a better sense of what the future holds. Your discussion could also have the added benefit of relieving anxiety about these sensitive issues. With planning and attention, an honest and rewarding exchange may bring the entire family closer together.

If you need more sophisticated information about the creation of financial documents or general estate planning information, contact your financial advisor.

*Editor's Note: Prudential Securities is not a legal or tax advisor. However, interested readers are encouraged to choose their own financial advisor. Financial advisors can work with other professional services such as accounting, attorneys and/or tax advisors. For copies of previous columns by John Dudley, contact him at 214-761-5142.*



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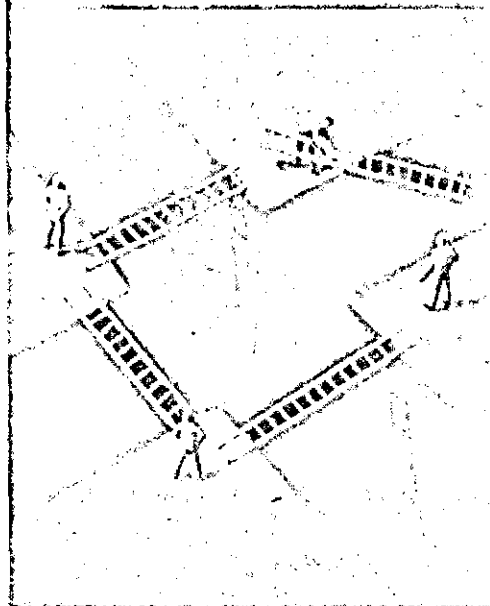
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## Black investment trends cited in new report

According to a recent poll taken by a nationwide investor education network, the baby boomer generation makes up more than half of all African-American investors. And among the black boomers, investors are likely to be college-educated with incomes exceeding \$60,000. Moreover, the size of investment portfolios widely varies from \$10,000 to more than a half million.

The 5,000 member Coalition of

Black Investors (COBI) recently reported these findings and more. Survey results came via direct mail and COBI's web site from February through August of this year. COBI conducted the study to identify black investors, as well as to gather data about blacks' holdings and economic clout.

Major findings revealed among the 1,320 responses are:

- Four of every five respondents held college degrees and had two or more years of investing experience.
- One of every three respondents had annual household incomes between \$60,000 to \$79,999.00.
- More than 85% of respondents monthly save at least \$100. Nearly 27% save \$300-\$399 per month. 15% save a minimum of \$1,000 per month.
- 53% of respondents were female.
- 52% of the survey respondents were ages 35-54, 38% were 25-34, and only 7.8% were 55-64 years of age.
- 72% of the respondents owned mutual funds; nearly 70% invest in stocks. Yet only 3.4% hold bonds, and less than 5% hold certificates of deposit.
- Nearly four of five survey respondents had two or more years of investing

experience; 28% of respondents have been investing for eight to ten years.

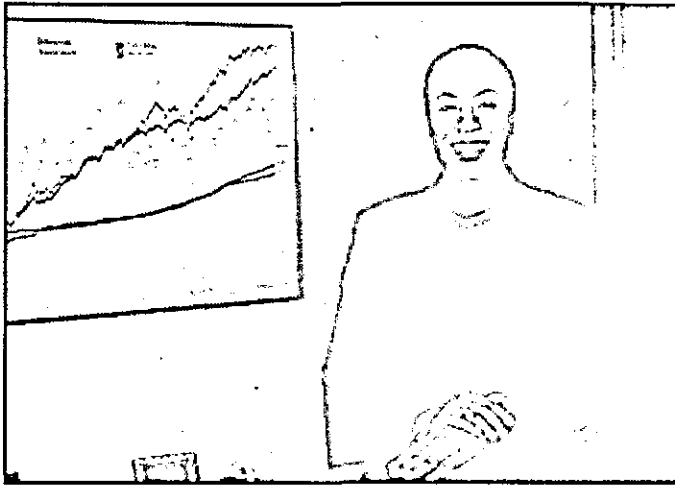
Saving for retirement topped the list of reasons to invest, despite the fact that nearly 73% of respondents participate in workplace retirement plans. Saving for a home purchase ranked second, saving for college ranked third and saving to buy a business ranked fourth. Supporting parents ranked fifth.

When asked to name their stock holdings, African-American investors are banking on tech stocks. Microsoft was the most frequently cited company, followed by Lucent Technologies. Cisco Systems and WalMart tied for third place. Other frequently cited stock holdings included AOL, MCI Worldcom, Intel, Merck, GE and Home Depot.

Among mutual fund investments, the most frequently cited was Fidelity Value, followed by Janus and Vanguard.

Commenting on the survey, COBI President Carol Davis said, "COBI seeks to identify and link one million African-American investors and to mobilize its membership to focus on saving rather than spending. Future generations are counting on our generation to build a firm financial foundation."

Investment professional Duane Davis founded COBI in 1997. COBI's goal is to improve financial literacy and foster communication between African-American investors. Based in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, COBI advocates financial planning and investing in stocks, bonds and mutual funds as a means for African-Americans to achieve economic parity.



COBI President Carol Davis

## Friendship West Baptist moves forward with 60-acre development

Friendship West Baptist Church, home to one of Dallas' largest and predominantly African-American congregations, is moving forward with its 60-acre planned community development. A 315,000 square foot worship and family life center, health clinic, office and retail space, church museum and a multi-purpose center will all be located on the parcel of land located near I-20 and Wheatland Road. The mixed land use and project's scale make it an unprecedented development in North Texas. When completed, the development will also be home for the congregation's new 470,000 square foot church. Project planners anticipate the development to have a positive impact beyond the church's members, to the surrounding communities as well.

According to Rev. Zan Holmes, president of the African-American Pastors Coalition, "Sometimes we are so close to history that we don't recognize history when it is being made. This is a very, very significant and historic event."

Land excavation began in October and construction is slated to begin in January for the four-phase project. Project team members include its construction management firm, MACOR Unlimited, Inc. and the archi-

tectural firm of E. Evans Associates. Phase I is expected to be completed by November 2001.

Mrs. Stacy Fielder, wife of baseball great Cecil Fielder and president of the newly created NuBank Financial has donated \$500,000 and pledged an additional \$500,000 to the project. At the October groundbreaking, Fielder, who was near death after being hit by a car while jogging less than one year ago, gave a stirring speech. During her remarks, she spoke to the importance of the church in developing and improving communities.



(left to right) Ms. Carla Barnes; Matthew Harden, president MATCOR Unlimited; Rev. Frederick D. Haynes, III, Senior Pastor of Friendship West Baptist Church; Michael Henderson, FWBC Facilities Director; and MATCOR Vice-President, Gena Bradford.

"Friendship Community" as it will be known, is the vision of the church's senior pastor, Rev. Frederick D. Haynes, III. Under Rev. Hayne's leadership, the 23-year old church has grown from 200 members in 1991 to over

6,000. Rev. Haynes believes that the development will demonstrate the significant and positive impact that the church can have on a community such as Oak Cliff.

"Our mission" says Rev. Haynes, "is to 'equip changed people' to change the world. This project will enable us to carry out that mission in a tremendous way." Phase I, scheduled to be completed in November 2001.

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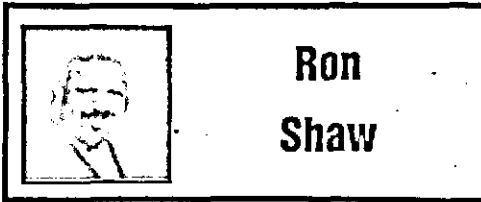
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Proverbs 24:3-4





**Ron Shaw**

## Acknowledgments

*Philemon 4-7*

A few days ago, I attended a function where one of my friends was acknowledged for his accomplishments. I noticed that amidst a crowd of people, he remained obscure. No one noticed him. No attention was called to him. He was just like all the rest of the people that were in attendance.

Then, after the host for the evening called his name, he stood and all eyes turned to him. The crowd sat quietly and yielded to the evening's honoree.

To be acknowledged means to be recognized, to make known... to fully discern. As I thought on this occasion, it occurred to me that there were some things that we possess that never get acknowledged. And because they are not, we never realize their true benefit. If no attention is ever called to the good things in us, the goods will lie latent in our lives and go unnoticed. When someone is acknowledged, they are also empowered to a certain degree.

When my friend was acknowledged, he then gained the power to act at that moment. He made few encouraging remarks that seem to lift and inspire the people in that room beyond their present circumstances. With his remarks, there appeared to be a little more hope than was present before he was recognized.

Our text says that the sharing of our faith is energized, activated, made effectual or potent through the acknowledgment of every good thing that is in us. Acknowledgment is a very effective tool. As we recognize the good things that are in us by way of Christ, the sharing of our faith effects all who are blessed by its encounter. As Christians, our constant goal is to share our faith at home, at school and in the workplace. When we acknowledge our faith, God is able to use it to make a significant difference in the lives of people. In his infinite wisdom, good was given to us to share, to pass along and become even more blessed by the experience.

I recently asked a group of teens and young adults what their greatest needs were. The list ranged from money to cars, to a place of residence. I informed them that the things they desire had already been granted

them in the form of their innate gifts and abilities. The Bible says that God has given us the power to get wealth in order to establish His covenant in the earth. This is not something He will do; but rather something He has already done. So let me help each reader to take a giant leap forward in this process.

First, learn what good things God has placed in you. It is difficult to acknowledge what you do not know. A good bible study program will teach you who you are and what you have as a result of your becoming a Christian.

Secondly, after discovering your unique and good gifts, daily call them as needed. For example, when I recently talked with some high school students, I instructed them to verbally acknowledge that God had given them the ability to think clearly and make good decisions. By way of His spirit, He has given wisdom. Therefore, in meeting each new school day, it is a strengthening experience to simply confess or acknowledge those good things. He has given the ability to learn and recall what is taught. Therefore acknowledge your gifts and perhaps as in case of my friend at the function, your gifts and abilities will rise from obscurity and graciously be shared.

Thirdly, it is important to acknowledge God's power. Every good and perfect gift comes from Him and must be acknowledged in the light of His benevolence. Herein I confess that when I am to speak, "I call for the gift of communication to come forth and help me in sharing the truths of God's Word to the people in such a way that it unlocks the secrets to their success in Christ". I thank our heavenly Father for this gift. More importantly, I submit to His glory in confessing that it is perfect only in Him. The gift to effectively communicate will always rise and when needed, perform. The sharing of my faith becomes more effective than if I just tried to do it alone.

Do you know what good things are in you through Christ? How many times have you acknowledged them? Or do they remain obscure amidst all of the other things in your life?

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# Public education's victory: Brown v. Board of Education

By Charlene M. Crowell

In the 1980s, high profile educational issues found their way to America's courtrooms in the Bakke and Hopwood decisions. But before legal challenges to affirmative action, America's courts were forced to decide an even more basic educational question: Is government enforced school desegregation unconstitutional?

The nine justices who sit on the U.S. Supreme Court and are informally known as "the brethren", issued on May 17, 1954, a decision that even today resounds in its impact and consequences.

Ironically, the case known as *Brown v. Board of Education* is actually a consolidation of five local school desegregation cases from Delaware, the District of Columbia, Kansas, South Carolina and Virginia. In all but the Delaware case of Gebhart v. Belton, the appeal to the nation's highest court was to reverse lower court opinions upholding the precedent-setting *Plessy v. Ferguson*. In the Delaware case, lower courts ordered an end to desegregation; the defense counsel's appeal to the nation's highest court was an attempt to maintain the "separate but equal" segregated systems first sanctioned by our nation's highest court in 1896 in the landmark, *Plessy v. Ferguson*.

Homer Adolph Plessy, a black man, refused to ride in the Jim Crow car of a train bound from New Orleans to Covington, an approximate thirty-mile trip through Louisiana. Charged with violating a state law that required racial segregation, Plessy was convicted by Louisiana Judge John H. Ferguson. When Plessy's lawyer appealed the case to the United States Supreme Court, he argued that enforced separation of the races violated the constitution's 14th Amendment, guaranteeing all citizens "equal protection under the law". The 14th Amendment's ratification came five years following the Emancipation Proclamation. Legislatively, the amendment was to ensure newly freed blacks the same legal rights and privileges as whites.

But in 1896, the Supreme Court's 7-1 opinion authored by Justice Henry Billings Brown held that Louisiana's segregation law satisfied the amendment's "equal protection" guarantee. The lone dissenting opinion came from Justice John Marshall Harlan, a Kentuckian and former slave owner. Justice Harlan wrote, "Our Constitution is color-blind, and neither knows nor tolerates classes among citizens...In respect of civil rights, all citizens are equal before the law."

The Plessy decision triggered a series of Jim Crow laws, statutes requiring racial separation in both private residential areas and public facilities. Following *Plessy*, few states or local governments enforced the equality of the institutions and services available to blacks. For more than fifty years in virtually every dimension of life, segregation was the law of the land.

By 1951, however, Jim Crow was under attack. The locales varied and so did the names. But the issue was first-class citizenship and its rights, with education at the top of the list.

A 16-year old high school junior named Barbara Rose Johns convinced a few hundred students to go on strike in Prince Edward County, Virginia. The students were protesting the lack of heat or other facilities in their tar paper shack school.

One month after the 2-week strike began, NAACP Legal Defense Fund attorney Spottswood Robinson filed



With public schools closed in Prince Edward County, Virginia, four young black students are tutored outdoors. The schools remained closed from 1959-1964. During these years, some children had no trained teachers.

suit in Richmond's federal court. The first name on the list of protesting students was Dorothy E. Davis, a 14-year old farmer's daughter.

About the same time in Clarendon County South Carolina, 34-year old gas station attendant Harry Briggs, a Navy veteran, wanted improved conditions for his five children.

For the school district's 276 white children, there were two brick schoolhouses, school buses, cafeterias, and one teacher for every 28 students. Beyond basic academics, courses were also offered in typing and bookkeeping.

By comparison, the district's 808 black students were assigned to one of three dilapidated wooden buildings with outhouses. No school buses or lunchrooms were available. There was one teacher for every 47 children. Some elementary students had to walk as far as six miles, past white schools, to reach assigned schools.

The NAACP agreed to take the case if 20 plaintiffs could be assembled. It took nearly a year for Rev. Joseph DeLaine, a black schoolteacher, to gather the signatures. As a result, Rev. De Laine's house was set afire and destroyed. Circumstantial evidence pointed to arson and a reprisal for the minister's civil rights activities. Moreover, both Briggs and his wife lost their jobs and their credit at the local bank.

Oliver Brown, a Topeka, Kansas parent resented his 7-year old daughter's crossing a dangerous set of railroad tracks at a switching yard before she could reach a run-down bus to take her the rest of the way to school. Mr. Brown felt his daughter should be able to attend a closer school, one reserved for whites. With the help of the

NAACP, Thurgood Marshall's top assistant, Robert L. Carter and Jack Greenberg, a young white lawyer from Brooklyn, argued the case in Kansas' federal district court.

When the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear the mounting school desegregation cases, it was December 9, 1952. Oral arguments went on for two days.

Arguing for the youthful plaintiffs, Thurgood Marshall led a legal team that included Robert L. Carter, Constance Baker Motley, James Nabrit and others. The team asserted that black and white children possessed equal learning potential. Further, there was no reasonable basis, according to Marshall, to segregate schools. The effect on black children was a loss of self-esteem and a blighted future.

Arguing that segregation was not only fair, but necessary was 80-year old John W. Davis, at that time the nation's leading constitutional lawyer, having argued some 140 cases before the high court. His services were more moral than financial. His only payment for defending segregated southern schools was a silver tea service presented by the South Carolina legislature.

At their regular Saturday conference, the nine justices discussed the desegregation cases on December 13, 1952.

Speaking first, Chief Justice Fred Vinson offered a defense of *Plessy*, noting the lengthy precedent wrought by black letter law. Sharing that opinion was Justice Stanley Reed, a Kentuckian.

Four justices, Hugo Black, the oldest; William Douglas, the youngest; and two others, Sherman Minton and Harold Burton expressed a willingness to overturn *Plessy*.

Justice Tom Clark thought the states should be allowed to make their own decisions.

Over several sessions the divided court wrestled with the issue. It was Justice Felix Frankfurter who offered a plausible plan for the nagging question. Frankfurter proposed to offer reargument with the opposing counsels addressing five relevant questions:

1. What evidence was there that the 14th Amendment was intended to cover school desegregation?
2. Could Congress abolish school segregation on its initiative?
3. What was the Court's power to do so?
4. If ordered, should the remedy be gradually imposed or delayed?
5. If the Court elected the gradual approach, what form should the decree take?

On June 8, 1953, oral reargument was scheduled for October 12th.

With no clear majority, the decision's outcome appeared to rest with Justices Frankfurter and Robert Jackson. But an unexpected development changed

...continued on page 15



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the course of deliberations. At the age of 63, Chief Justice Vinson died of a heart attack in September.

President Dwight Eisenhower, fulfilling a presidential campaign pledge to offer the first high court appointment to California's Governor Earl Warren, appointed an interim chief justice on October 5, 1953.

With rearguments deferred to December 8, 1953, Thurgood Marshall assembled a 100-person squad of scholars, lawyers and researchers to carefully craft responses to the five questions. He also initiated a dedicated fund-raising effort to raise \$15,000 to support the expenses incurred from such an undertaking.

On reargument, citing 'separate but equal' as a basic principle of American life, Atty. Davis said the principle was "so often announced, so confidently relied upon, so long continued that it passes the limits of judicial discretion and disturbance".

Directly challenging Davis' contention, Atty. Marshall concluded his remarks by saying, "The only thing segregation can be is an inherent determination that the people who were formerly in slavery, regardless of anything else, shall be kept as near that stage as is possible. And now is the time, we submit, that this court should make it clear that that is not what our constitution stands for."

Using his political skills of persuasion, the new chief justice worked behind the scenes to unite the court on this key decision. On May 17, 1954, the opinion, authored by Chief Justice Warren, offered in clear, and easy to read language, that education was "the most important function of state and local government".

Posing the question of the hour, Warren asked, "Does the segregation of children in public schools solely on the basis of race...deprive the children of the minority group of equal educational opportunities...We believe that it does. . .To separate black children from others...solely because of their race generates a feeling of inferiority...that may affect their hearts and minds in a way unlikely ever to be done...We conclude unanimously that in the field of public education the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal."

That same day, and in a prepared statement, Harvard University history professor, Dr. Arthur Schlesinger, Sr. said, "The Supreme Court has finally reconciled the Constitution with the preamble of the Declaration of Independence".

Unfortunately that view was not shared by all. Prince Edward County, Virginia closed all of its public schools from 1959-1964. Schools were reopened only after an order issued by the Supreme Court.

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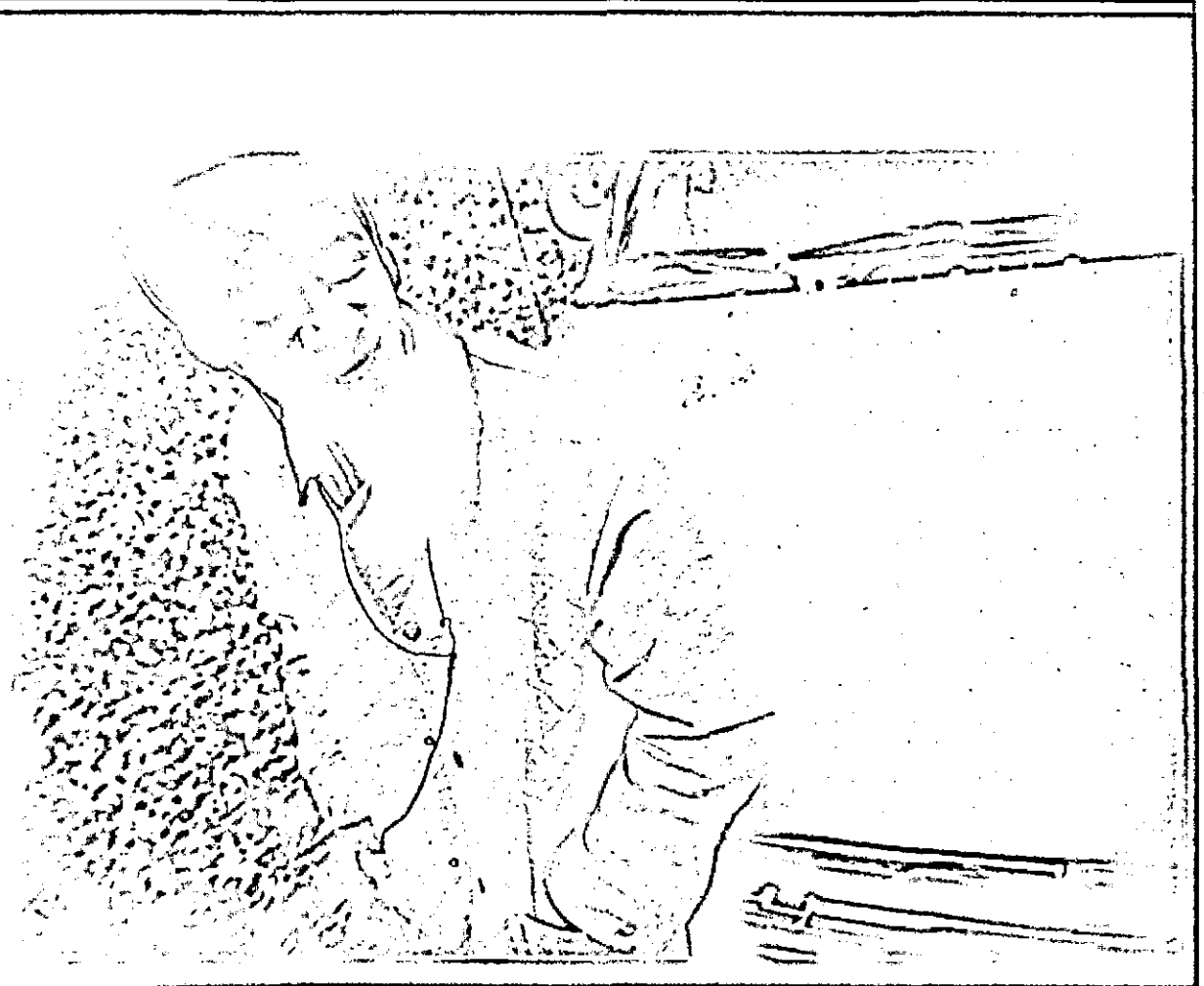
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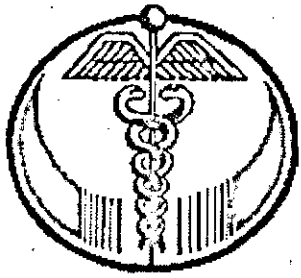
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# The Wellness Diary

## Southwest Transplant Alliance reaches out to South Dallas, plans gala at Southfork Ranch

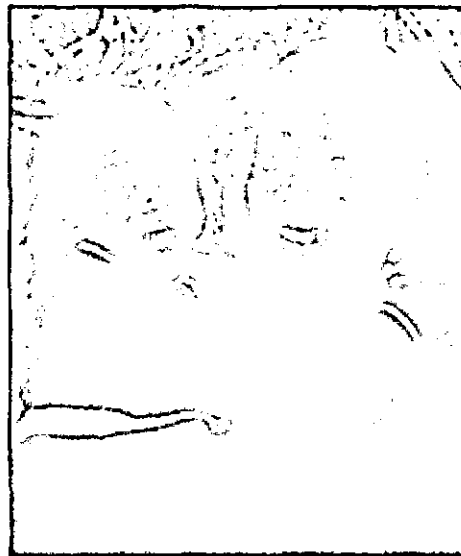
by Jamila Thomas

This year marks the 25th anniversary for Southwest Transplant Alliance (STA), Texas' largest organ donation center. In observance of this momentous milestone, two events will heighten awareness and understanding of the important work this vital agency offers families and patients.

On November 20th at Exline Park, 2525 Pine Street, STA in coop-

the country discuss organ and tissue donation and its consistency with scriptures.

Event organizers are mostly transplant recipients, candidates and donor family members. Nutrition information, dental and blood pressure screenings, HIV information and immunizations are among the services that will be available on November 20th. Organizations providing these services include the Buckner Children &



DeVaunte Phillips (left) received a kidney from his father, Reginald (right). DeVaunte was born with kidney failure and once he reached minimum weight for transplant, both his mom and dad were tested as donors. DeVaunte recently played in a softball game with other transplant recipients.

The national network assigns a designated service area. Due to the federal designation, each agency is responsible for coordinating the recovery and distribution of organs and tissue in its service area. Beyond Dallas, STA has offices in Corpus Christi, Dallas, El Paso, Galveston, Midland/ Odessa, Temple and Tyler.

Of the nearly 70,000 people are waiting for life-saving organ transplants, almost 4,000 are Texans. Ten people die waiting for an organ everyday. For more information, contact STA at 214-522-0255.



Audrey McClure (left) and Ardell Richardson (right) of Dallas, both chose donation when their sons were killed. Both women share their personal stories publicly whenever they can. Their triumph over tragedy came through helping others.

Christian and St. Paul AME.

On Friday, December 3rd, a ceremonial gala will take place at Southfork Ranch.

Among those expected to attend are transplant patients, donor members and families served by STA, donation and transplant professionals.

Since 1974, STA has played a pivotal role in the recovery of donated organs and tissues for transplant. As part of a network of nationwide agencies, STA is the link between those who need a life saving organ transplant in order to survive, and those who choose to save their lives of others through donation. STA's services span organ donation, recovery, distribution and tissue transplant.



Jennifer Cox (left) received a kidney transplant from Beverly Jones' (right) husband, Toby. Jennifer and Beverly, both from Duncanville, met and became friends after initially corresponding. They speak together publicly and have also spoken at each other's churches about donation and transplant.

eration with several South Dallas churches will host a free Health and Prayer Day. The event is in honor of National Donor Sabbath, a time when religious communities across

Family Services, Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship and the Black Nurses Association. Participating churches include: Romine Christian, Greater New Zion, Warren Avenue



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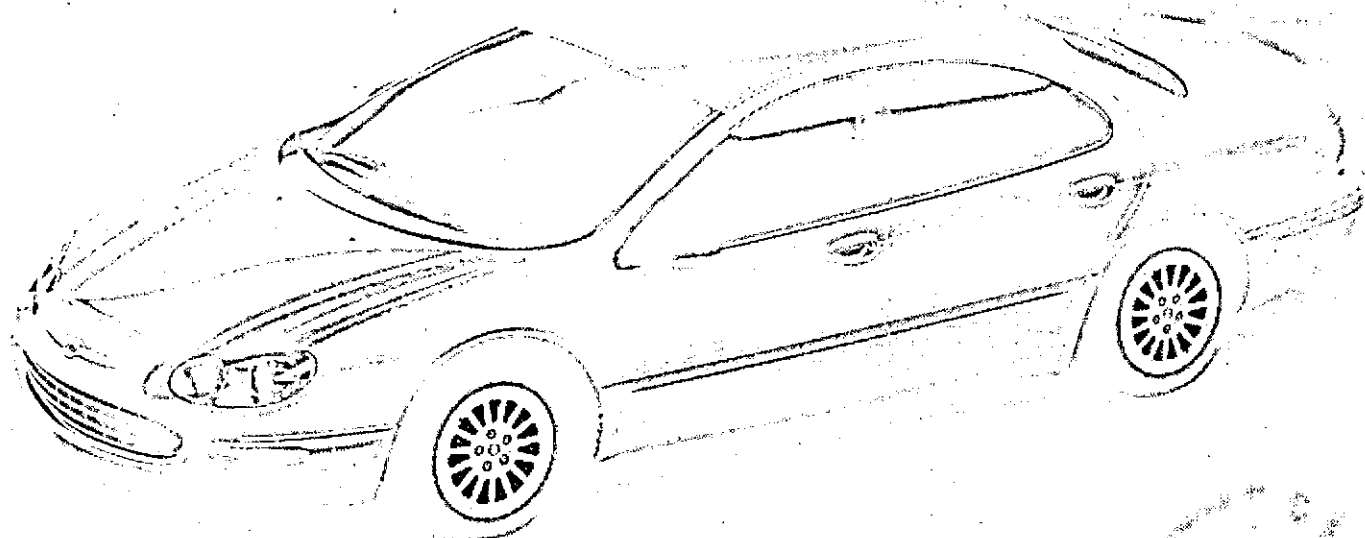
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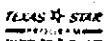
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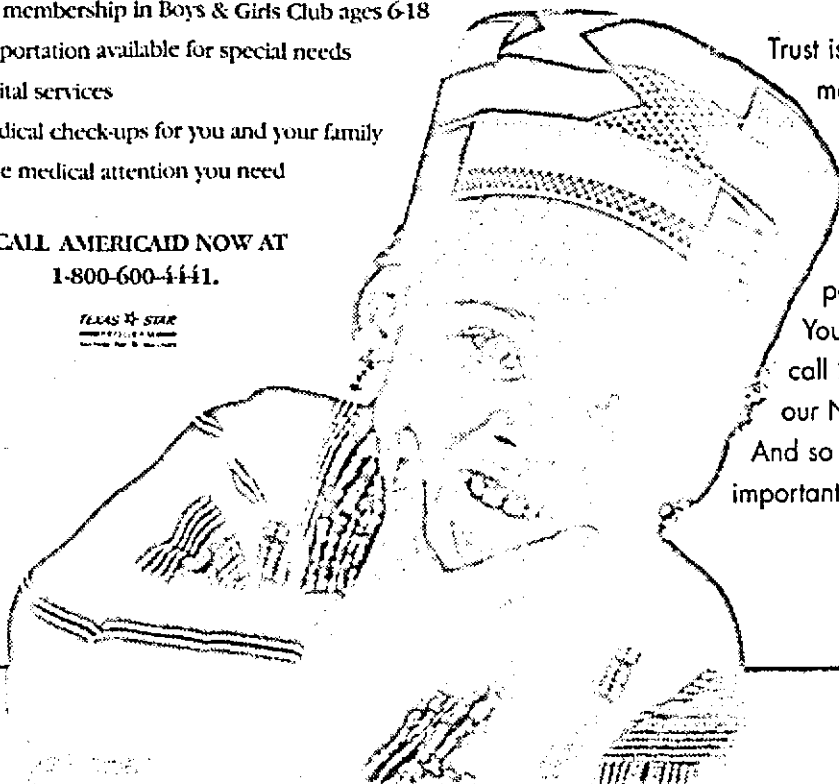


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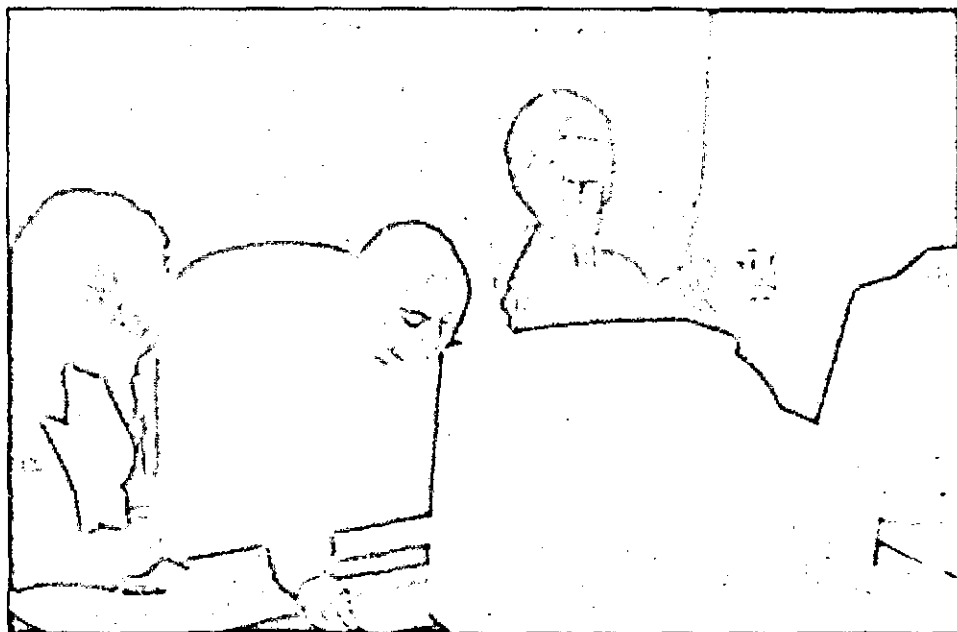
## ExecuTrain partners with Girls, Incorporated for youth intro to World Wide Web

As the 20th century draws to a close, more than a new century awaits. While virtually all businesses and organizations adjust to Y2K readiness concerns, there yet remains another and equally important technological challenge. For the foreseeable future, computer literacy and enhancement of computer skills will continue to determine access business and employment opportunities.

Since October, a pilot program representing a genuine partnership between a business and community service agency is working to ensure that adolescent females acquire computer skills. ExecuTrain, a Dallas firm offering computer training services to new users, those seeking skill upgrades and career changes, has donated instructors, courseware and their facility to the "Link-It Up" program sponsored by Girls, Incorporated.

ExecuTrain instructors developed customized technical instruction for eighteen female adolescents aged 12-17. Through the program, participating teens are learning how the Internet can be a platform to learning. The students are being trained to create, design and maintain their web page targeted to other youth. By

...continued on page 19



ExecuTrain Instructor Lee Jarrell (standing) speaks with Girls, Inc. participants Christina Faith Gonzales (center) and Rosanna Nava (right). Adult Advisor/Chaperone Ms. Mary Blade appears on the left.

### Univision Noticias 23

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## Texas Mezzanine Fund to help small business access to capital

For the first time, a consortium of Texas-based financial institutions is creating a statewide economic development fund. With an initial capitalization of \$6 million, the Texas Mezzanine Fund (TMF) is projected to grow to \$25 million. More importantly, the fund is targeted to assist small businesses in distressed areas.

The Office of Thrift Supervision has authorized the TMF to help businesses create and retain jobs for low and modern income citizens throughout Texas. At a recent luncheon meeting in Dallas, officials from the Southern Dallas Development Corporation (SDDC) and the Texas Mezzanine Fund explained the new financing vehicle.

TMF can provide funds for expansion, term equipment loans, real estate loans or a combination of these kinds of loans. Funds can be used to supplement other resources, such as those provided by traditional lending institutions or community development corporations. Three types of businesses are eligible for TMF's loan program:

- Fast growing companies that need creative financing on loans of less than one million dollars.
- Businesses that partially qualify for

financing from a bank or thrift and need a credit enhancement

- Business that must use alternative financing provided by a community development financial institution.



Mr. Jim Reid, President  
Southern Dallas Development Corporation

All qualifying business owners are expected to demonstrate strong management, an expanding market, positive operating history and a strong business plan. Once approved, all participating businesses must provide more than half of their jobs to low-to-moderate income workers.

TMF will provide credit enhancement for loan clients of member financing institutions through junior debt structures. A typical loan

of \$100,000 would be financed from a member thrift or the SDDC and the remaining \$50,000 from the TMF. A non-member financial institution may originate only one loan. The lender must then join TMF before originating a second loan.

Loan applications are to include personal financial statements, legal documents of entity, tax returns and other financial documentation. The applications are then reviewed by a local participating lender or SDDC to determine basic qualification. In reviewing proposals, SDDC's staff also makes recom-

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**...Executrain continued**

December, the web page will be launched on the World Wide Web. "Link-It Up" will provide information geared to youth on cultural diversity on a peer-to-peer level.

Preparing girls for the next millennium, Girls Incorporated developed a special focus on career planning with an emphasis on science, math, literacy and economic empowerment. As young women discover their talents, aptitudes and knowledge, the ultimate goal is to assist them in becoming future community leaders.

"Preparing Today's Girls for Tomorrow's World" is the motto of Girls, Incorporated of Metropolitan Dallas. Funded by United Way, individual and corporate donors, foundations and governmental grants, six metropolitan centers provide a safe and nurturing place for some 800 girls each day. 65% of the girls served are from families with incomes below the poverty line. Reportedly, one in seven adult U.S. women live in poverty. Annually, the agency serves through its programs and outreach efforts approximately 22,000 girls.

An upcoming kick-off demonstration will follow the "Link-It Up" web site going live. Among the special guests ExecuTrain expects to invite will be Mayor Ron Kirk.

**...Mezzanine continued**

mendation to TMF's investment committee. That committee will either approve or decline proposals.

If approved, a letter of intent will set forth for the borrower all of the terms and conditions of the loan. Upon a borrower's acceptance, loan documents are then prepared for closing. SDDC staff will service the loan, including billing and collection services, maintaining current information, processing delinquent accounts and assisting participating lenders.

Current investors in the Texas Mezzanine Fund are Guaranty Federal Bank, \$4.8 million; Washington Mutual, \$1 million; Jefferson Heritage Bank, \$200,000; and SDDC, \$1,000. Other partnerships with regional community development financial institutions include: ACCION Texas, Austin Community Development Corporation, San Antonio Business Development F and the William Mann, Jr. Community Development Corporation.

According to Jim Reid, SDDC president, "The Southern Dallas Development Corporation is pleased to welcome a new financing partner to increase our impact on job creation and economic development."

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## Felipe Alanis named Assistant Vice Chancellor for University of Texas System

By Jamila H. Thomas

A deputy commissioner at the Texas Education Agency has now been named to coordinate university and public school collaborative programs in the University of Texas System. As the new assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs in the University of Texas System, Dr. Felipe Alanis will be in charge of an expanded initiative to coordinate and strengthen the institution's role in the preparation of teachers, education research and other activities that support public education.

His duties will include the encouragement of productive partnerships with government agencies, professional associations, school districts and other school support groups. He will help develop programs that lead to improved performance of U.T. institutions in the training of teachers, administrators, and other school professionals. He will also seek support for such programs from private and public sources.

Additionally, Alanis will help promote university scholarship and research, addressing public education policy issues and strengthened communication between university scholars and those who develop and implement school policy.

This new role has drawn the support and encouragement of many in higher education. According to UT Chancellor William Cunningham, "We are very fortunate that Dr. Alanis has agreed to carry out this critically important role for the U.T. System and its institutions across the state. He has the depth of experience and understanding

necessary for continuing and strengthening relationships between U.T. institutions and the public schools."



Felipe Alanis

Mr. Ed Sharpe, executive vice chancellor for academic affairs adds, "Dr. Alanis is well known in the Texas education community for his superb leadership skills and his extensive knowledge of education issues at all levels. He will be a very valuable asset to the U.T. System as we seek to enhance the partnership between U.T. institutions and the state's elementary and secondary schools."

Dr. Alanis' education career began in 1970 as a teacher in the Pharr-San Juan-Alamo school district. From 1973-1987, he further served that district as an assistant principal and principal. As a graduate student at U.T. Austin, from 1987 to 1989, he was a consultant and cooperative superintendency fellow at the Texas Association of School Boards. He then worked in the Ector County school district as executive director for secondary education from 1989 to 1991, and as deputy superintendent from 1991-1994.

From 1994 to 1995, he served as superintendent of the San Benito school district.

Since 1995, Dr. Alanis has been deputy commissioner for programs and instructions at the Texas Education Agency. He will continue in an advisory role to newly appointed Texas Commissioner of Education James E. Nelson for an indefinite time.

Dr. Alanis earned a Ph.D. in educational administration from U.T. Austin. He also holds two other degrees from U.T. Pan American: a master's in supervision/education administration and a bachelor's in political science, government and history.

## The Job Corps Advantage

By Jamila H. Thomas

For 30 years, Job Corps has converted nearly two million disadvantaged young men and women into well trained, socially adjusted graduates, ready and able to lead productive lives. Yet for employers, Job Corps is an often-underutilized resource.

To bridge the gap between employer staffing needs and newly trained workers, North Texas Job Corps recently held an "Employer Outreach Luncheon".

On November 10th at the Radisson Hotel's North Central Expressway location, Job Corps officials and prospective employers. Approximately eighty area employers were in attendance. More importantly most employers have already begun interviewing and hiring prospective workers.

Job Corps' central advantage to employers is the job-readiness of its graduates. Nationwide, Job Corps offers more than 100 vocational training career categories. Additionally, workplace safety and conduct are also stressed during training. As a result, for most employers, Job Corps graduates arrive with more than entry-level performance capabilities.

"Our mission is simple -- encourage and support them from the day they arrive until the day they leave," says Job Corps Regional Director Jose M. deOlivares. Each program includes basic education, room, board, medical and dental care, work clothes, sports and other recreational activities. In

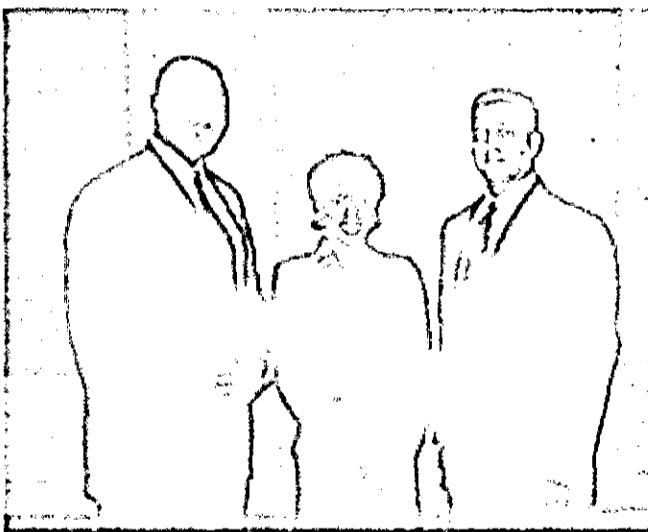
addition, incentive bonuses with 24-hour residential supervision guarantee a safe living and learning environment.

A recently authorized employer tax credit is now a new bonus for hiring Job Corps graduates. The Work Opportunity Tax Credit is available to all employers who hired eligible Job Corps graduates. After six months of full-time employment, employers can deduct up to 35% of each Job Corps

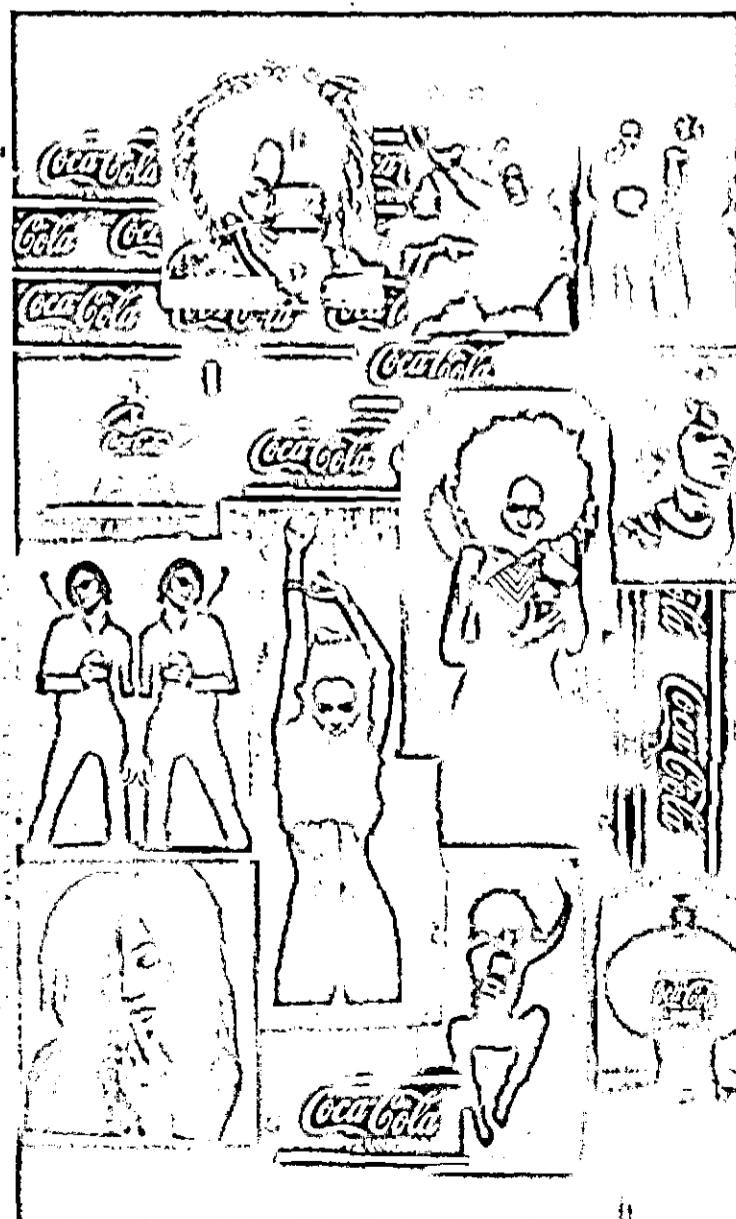
employee's total yearly wages.

According to Job Corps officials, for every tax dollar invested in Job Corps, \$1.46 returns to the economy via reduced welfare payments, lower crime rates and added tax revenues.

"Employers gain reduced training time, experience less turnover, and the assistance of a trained



(left to right) Other Job Corps staff members in attendance at the luncheon included DeWayne Owens, career counselor; Carla Lacy, career counselor; and John Perron, director of outreach, admissions & placement.



...continued on page 26



# CELEBRATE

## Events

### NOW PLAYING

#### AT A THEATER NEAR YOU

##### The Best Man

Nia Long and Taye Diggs are among a stellar ensemble cast whose characters reunite for the wedding of close college friends. The question for the wedding party is just how close they really were.

##### The Bone Collector

Denzel Washington delivers another stunning performance, as a forensic expert teamed in a suspenseful tale with co-star is Angelina Jolie as a rookie cop. As they work their crime case, other talented cast includes Queen Latifah, Luis Guzman and Ed O'Neill.

##### Double Jeopardy

Murder is not always a crime. And those who are supposed to be dead may not be after all. Tommy Lee Jones and Ashley Judd star in this suspense-packed feature.

##### The Insider

Al Pacino has received rave reviews for his dramatic portrayal of what it's really like to be a whistle-blower on big business. Pacino portrays a television producer caught in the midst of the intrigue.

## HOT

### Dennis Rodman, estranged wife Carmen Electra busted for fighting

The on-again, off-again duo of former NBA defensive all-star Dennis Rodman and ex-wife former Playboy pinup, Carmen Electra found the two being charged with misdemeanor battery offenses and a Miami-Dade County Court ordering the two to stay at least 500 feet away from one another.

Police were called to the couple's South Beach Bentley Hotel room after reports of screams and loud fighting. The two were captured on television cameras, hauled off in handcuffs.

The 39-year old Rodman, in town to shoot a film, "Cut Away", called the incident, "one of those situations". The two cited "irreconcilable differences" in an April divorce filing.

### Rosa Parks sues Arista, LaFace Records

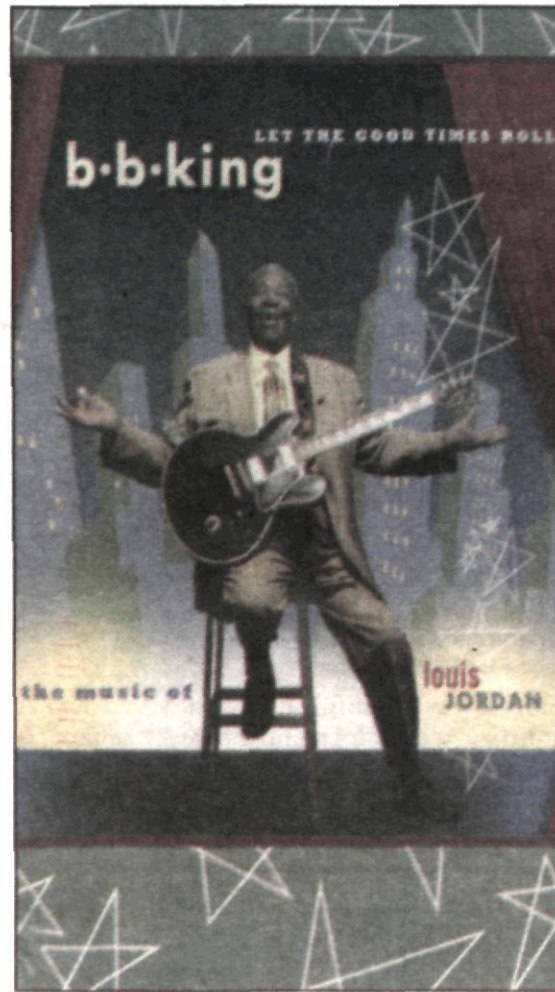
It's one thing for Arista Records, LaFace Records and the group OutKast to record songs containing expletives, sexist language and racial slurs. But quite another when the same tune uses the name of Rosa Parks. Reportedly, the group used Rosa Parks' name without permission in a song having nothing to do with the lady. A lawsuit contends that the label and artists defamed Parks' good name. At press time, no settlement or agreement was forthcoming from the group or the labels.

## SPOTLIGHT

### B.B. King celebrates the music of Louis Jordan with "Let the Good Times Roll"

B.B. King has long been an admirer of the late jazz/blues/swing vocalist and saxophonist Louis Jordan, one of the top-charting artists of all time. Credited with bridging the gap between rhythm & blues and rock & roll, Jordan's distinct style influenced King and many other musical trailblazers such as Ray Charles, Fats Domino and Chuck Berry.

B.B.'s new recording features classics like "Caldonia", "Is You Is, Or Is You Ain't (My Baby)". B. B.'s arrangements are matched with piano work from Dr. John on "Let the Good Times Roll".



## THE TUBE

### November 20th

BET will offer college football fans the Capital City Classic from Jackson, MS. The match-up features Alcorn State vs. Jackson State in a tape-delay cablecast. Game time is 6:00-9:00PM. The game continues BET's series of 1999 classic football games featuring historically black college teams.

### November 23rd

At 9:00PM, "A Family Thanksgiving" will inaugurate the holiday season with a holiday concert by the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra. Conductor Erick Kunzel will be joined by 5-time Grammy winner Sandi Patty,



Arnold Schwarzenegger as "The Terminator"

actor/singer John Schneider, and actor Richard Thomas from "The Waltons". The concert will also feature the Cincinnati Ballet, and students from the School for Creative & Performing Arts.

At 10:00PM, USA Network presents Arnold Schwarzenegger and Linda Hamilton in "The Terminator". A human-looking but unstoppable cyborg is sent from the future on a mission.

### November 26th

James Earl Jones hosts the "Twilight Zone: Rod Serling's Lost Classics". Two recently discovered stories by Serling star Amy Irving, Jack Palance, Gary Cole and Patrick Bergin.



The Twilight Zone's Rod Serling

### November 16th

The Dallas Mavericks host the Houston Rockets in NBA action at Reunion Arena. Tipoff time is 7:30PM.

### November 18th

The Renaissance Cultural Center presents its Fall Gospel Concert '99, featuring John P. Kee and the New Life Choir. Comedian A. J. Jamal, Victor Speedy McCray and Persuaded will also perform. The 8:00PM performance will be held in the JFK Theater of the Fort Worth Convention Center. Individual tickets range from \$18.00 to \$25.00. Group and student tickets are priced from \$15.00 to \$22.00. For more information call 817-922-9999.

### November 19th -21st

Soul Rep Theatre Company, in partnership with the Black Academy of Arts & Letters, presents the Harlem Renaissance-era musical, "Breakfast in Harlem". To make reservations or for more information, call Soul Rep at 214-521-5070, or visit their website at SoulRep.org.

### November 20th

At 2:00PM, The International Museum of Cultures will present "Sojourner Truth" by Catherine Whiteman. The free performance, based on the play, "A Woman Called Truth", will be held at the ILC Activity Center, 7500 West Camp Wisdom Road. For more information call 972-708-7406. Parking is also free.

### Through November 28th

As part of its 1999-2000 season, Jubilee Theatre presents the folk fable, "The Grandmama Tree" by Bernard Cummings. All performances are in downtown Fort Worth at 506 Main Street. Friday and Saturday evening performances are at 8:15PM; Saturday and Sunday matinee performances are at 3:15PM. Ticket prices range from \$12-\$16. Group, student, and senior citizen discounts are available. For ticket information call 817-338-4411 or e-mail Jubilee at jubilee@startext.net.

### November 30th through December 5th

Disney on Ice presents "Toy Story" at Reunion Arena. Call TicketMaster at 214-252-0200 for more information.

### Through December 13th

Stephanie's Collection presents "Dallas" an oil exhibit by artist Karen Antos. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11AM-7:00PM. Its Deep Ellum location is 2546 Elm Street. Phone 214-752-5588 for more information.



# "Felicia's Journey"

Armed with only the vaguest information about where he lives and works, seventeen year-old Felicia (Cassidy) travels to England, desperate to find her lover, Johnny Lysaght (Peter McDonald), who left her behind in Ireland. Johnny



Seventeen and pregnant, Felicia (ELAINE CASSIDY) travels to England in search of her lover and is found instead by Hilditch (BOB HOSKINS) a helpful catering manager whose kindness masks a serial killer in "Felicia's Journey".

Johnny's child, he throws her out of the house.

Homeless, Felicia feels she has no choice but to find her love. As she combs Birmingham, England, Felicia is found by Joseph Ambrose Hilditch (Bob Hoskins), an obsessive, solitary bachelor and tireless ally of homeless girls. Hilditch goes out of his way to help Felicia in her quest. But his kindness conceals the private agenda of a soul in unbearable pain. Hilditch's evil deeds do not exist within his consciousness; he remembers the girls, but not their deaths.

Ultimately, Felicia's journey will transform them both, laying reality bare and allowing healing to begin.

"Felicia's Journey" is presented to film audiences by Artisan Entertainment. Canadian born director, Atom Egoyan, is considered one of the film industry's most talented auteurs. His career has already garnered a host of national and international awards including as well as two 1997 Academy Award nominations (for Best Director and his adaptation of Russell Banks' novel, "The Sweet Hereafter").

Starring Academy Award nominated actor Bob Hoskins ("Who Framed Roger Rabbit," "Mona Lisa") and Elaine Cassidy ("The Sun, the Moon and the Stars"), "Felicia's Journey" was shot on location in England and is based on William Trevor's novel.

The film opens in theaters November 19th.



Super hot actor/comedian Chris Rock is now appearing in Lions Gate Films' "Dogma". The film also features Ben Affleck, Matt Damon and Alanis Morissette. Here, Chris Rock is featured with other cast members Jason Mewes (center) and Salma Hayek (right).

was Felicia's first love. When he told her she was beautiful and that he loved her, she believed him. Her reminiscences of their tender moments however cannot ignore that on his way to a job in England, he did not give her an address. He promised to write Felicia; but no letters arrived. And his mother (Brid Brennan) refused to give Felicia any help at all. When her father learns she is carrying

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## Around The Town

### Ongoing

Soul Rep Theatre Company is accepting entries for its 5th Annual New Play Festival to be held in August 2000. Playwrights are encouraged to submit a 2-3 character, 30 minutes or less, one act play. Subject matter is open. Six new plays will be chosen for production and announced in May. Work written by women, youth and people of color is encouraged. Send scripts to Festival Coordinator, Soul Rep Theatre Company, 3630 Harry Hines Boulevard, Dallas 75219. Direct your questions to 214-521-5070.

The SHARE! High School Exchange Program needs host families for spring semester of the 1999/2000 school year. Students will arrive in late December to early January and remain with host families until the end of the school year. Sponsored by Educational Resource Development Trust, a non-profit educational foundation, the program promotes intercultural exchange for students between the ages of 15 and 18. For more information, call the Southwest Regional office at 1-800-414-3738.

The Science Place in Fair Park is open every day of the year, including Thanksgiving and Christmas. Thanksgiving Day hours will be 9:30AM-5:00PM. Among their numerous events are films such as *The Magic of Flight*, *Amazon* and *Mysteries of Egypt* and a 3-D laser theater featuring *Quest for Flight*. Demonstrations of hands-on learning are posted daily. For more information, call the Science Place at 214-428-5555.

The Volunteer Center of Dallas County is a United Way affiliate that serves as a clearinghouse to recruit and refer volunteers and other resources to more than 1,100 nonprofit agencies in the Dallas area. Thousands of volunteer opportunities are waiting to be filled. Please call the Volunteer Center at 214-826-6767 to speak to a volunteer phone counselor about these and other opportunities that you and your community-service organization can participate in this holiday season. You can also access this information by logging on to [www.non-profits.org](http://www.non-profits.org)

Volunteers are also needed to assemble Thanksgiving and Christmas food and toy baskets at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center.

### November 15th

Tarrant Community College is bringing management consultant Glenn Shepard to Ft. Worth to present the one-day seminar "Supervising People and Leading a Team." The seminar will be held at Tarrant Community College on November 15 from 9 am to 3:30 PM. Tuition is \$149. It is open to the public and

earns 5 1/2 CPE credits. For more information contact Cindy Edwards at 800-538-4595.

### November 15th -19th

The Dallas/Fort Worth/Arlington Minority Business Development Center will present its "Brown Bag" Small Business Mini-Workshop Luncheon Series II from Nov. 15-19 at the DFWA Minority Business Development Center. Each session will be held from 11:30 am - 1:30 PM and will cost \$10. For more information about topics, please contact Hopeton Hay at 214-688-1612.

### November 17th -21st

The Bob Hope Show, a bold and ambitious presentation of works choreographed by the masters of dance at Southern Methodist University, will be presented November 17-21. Past concerts have included works by Fanny Taylor, Merius Petipa, Martha Graham and Agnes de Mille. Our fall concert will feature a dazzling variety of styles, performed by the SMU Dance Ensemble. The shows will begin at 7:30 PM on Wednesday-Saturday and 2 PM on Sunday in the Bob Hope Theatre of Meadows School of Arts on the campus of Southern Methodist University. For more information, please contact Marcelyn Ramsour at 214-768-2788.

### November 18th

From 2:00-7:00PM at the Martin Luther King Center, 2922 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, KRNB'S "Soul Patrol" will sponsor "Joe & Lynne's Holiday Coats and Cans" drive. Citizens are asked to bring their slightly used coats and their canned goods for the cold season. Joe and Lynne will broadcast their show live during these hours. Persons making donations can also register for a chance to win a prize pack from R. Kelly and Jive Records.

From 4:00-6:00PM, the 4th annual Thanksgiving Dinner for Homeless Veterans will be held at the VA North Texas Health Care System, 4500 South Lancaster Road in Dallas. The dinner will be in the center's multi-purpose room. Guests should enter off Ann Arbor Road. For more information call during regular business hours at 214-857-1158. After hours, call 214-378-5715.

### November 20th

Special Autumn Color Steam Train Excursions will be conducted on November 20. The excursions will leave from both the Rusk & Palestine Depots at 11:00 am and will return at 3:00 PM. The vintage steam trains travel over a 50 mile round trip through

beautiful rolling hardwood hills and creek bottoms of East Texas. For reservations and information call the Texas State Railroad State Historical Park at 800-442-8951 or 903-683-2561.

The Fifth Annual Dallas Children's Book Fair and Literary Festival will showcase several nationally known African American authors and illustrators of children's books, at 10:30 am, Saturday, November 20, at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library. For more information please contact Yvette Blair at 972-298-3867, or Daphne Stephenson at 214-565-9026.

On Saturday, November 20, the Scholarship Committee of Alpha Xi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. will sponsor its fourth annual AKA "Ivy" Bowl-A-Thon at Don Carter's West All Star Lanes located at 10920 Composite Drive in Dallas from 11 am-4 PM. Ken Bell will serve as Master of Ceremonies and prizes will be given away throughout the event. To obtain registration materials, call the AKA "Ivy" Bowl-A-Thon at 972-519-5495.

### Through November 20th

The Garland YWCA will be registering for its youth basketball league starting November 1st until November 20. The YWCA offers a co-ed, non-competitive, sports experience for children ages 4 through 12. At the "YW" all children get to play half of each game and enjoy a fun, learning environment. To register stop by the Garland YWCA at 3821 Broadway or for more information contact the Sport Director at 972-271-4681.

### Through November 21st

Paul Quinn College will celebrate its 127th Homecoming. The Homecoming Parade will be on November 29 at 8 am. The parade route will begin at the Tommy Allen Recreation Center on Bonnie View Road in Dallas. For additional information on the student activities contact 214-302-3569/3513 or the office of development at 214-302-3510 or visit the web site at [www.pqc.edu](http://www.pqc.edu).

### Through November 23rd

The gallery of UMR Communications, 2400 Lone Star Drive in Dallas will exhibit "Art for Christ." Viewing times are Monday- Friday from 9PM to 4PM. For more information, call (800) 947-0207 ext. 138.

### Opening November 26th

The Black Academy of Arts & Letters presents The Corporate Plantation at 650 South Canton

(Corner of Canton and Ackard) Dallas Convention Center Theater Complex Friday - Saturday, November 26-27, 1999 at 8:00 PM and Sunday, November 28, 1999 at 5:00PM. Tickets are \$10.00 in advance & \$12.00 at the door. Tickets may be purchased at the Black Images Bookstore, Wynnewood Village (214) 943-0142.

The Dallas Theater Center presents *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. The Performances will run November 26 through December 26. All performances are at the Arts District Theater, 2401 Flora Street. Tuesday through Sunday evening performances are at 7:30PM. Opening night is December 1. Tickets range from \$21-\$37. For more information, call the Dallas Theater Center at (214) 522-8499.

### November 26th through 28th

New Hope Christian Center, located in the Polytechnic section of Fort Worth, will host its 4th annual Thanksgiving Bible Conference, featuring Rev. Buddy Bell. Rev. Bell, an author and international conference speaker has addressed over 1500 churches since founding his ministry 13 years ago. The weekend events will include various training activities, youth skating party, street evangelism explosion, pastor's fellowship luncheon and interracial/inter-denominational worship. New Hope's street address is 3501 Avenue I @ Little Street. For more information, call 817-534-6739.

### Opening December 3rd

The Dallas Children's Theater & Macy's present *Miracle* on 34th Street at El Centro College Theater, Main and Market Streets in downtown Dallas, near the West End. Friday evening performances are at 7:30PM. Matinees are available Saturdays and Sundays at 1:30pm. A Sunday 4:30PM performance is also available. Tickets are priced from \$13 for children to \$15 for adults. Special rates apply to groups of 10 or more. For reservations or more information, call the box office at 214-978-0110.

### December 4th

The North Texas Chapter of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators will host a Fashion Show Extravaganza and Silent Auction at the Dallas Theater Center, 3636 Turtle Creek Boulevard. All proceeds will benefit the group's Youth Initiative Project which funds two scholarships and a spring symposium focusing on public service. Advance tickets are \$20.00 and can be purchased at Black Images Bookstore, 230 Wynnewood Village. For more information, call Vanessa Gray at 214-670-3527.

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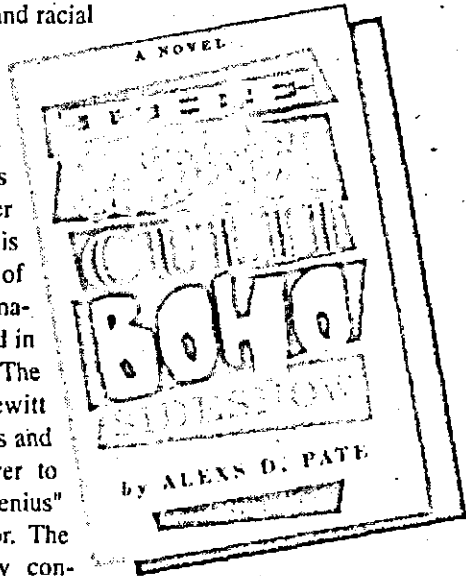
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**"The Multicultiboho Sideshow"**

by **Alexs D. Pate**  
 Avon Books, 241 pages  
 (\$23.00 Hardcover)

A mind-boggling story of power, immorality, money, political stratification and racial discrimination is told by the young, unpublished African American author Ichabod "Icky" Word. After summoning a police detective to his Minneapolis apartment under false pretenses, Icky regales his prisoner with a rambling tale of anger and woe...and an explanation for the dead body wrapped in plastic in his living room. The saran-wrapped corpse is Dewitt McMichael, a maker of dreams and cultural gigolo with the power to bestow a half-million-dollar "genius" grant on the lucky artist of color. The twisted roads that ultimately converged are all part of a mad story that must be told. And Icky is determined to tell this chronicle of brilliant creation and desecration--even if it proves to be his last, desperate act on this Earth.



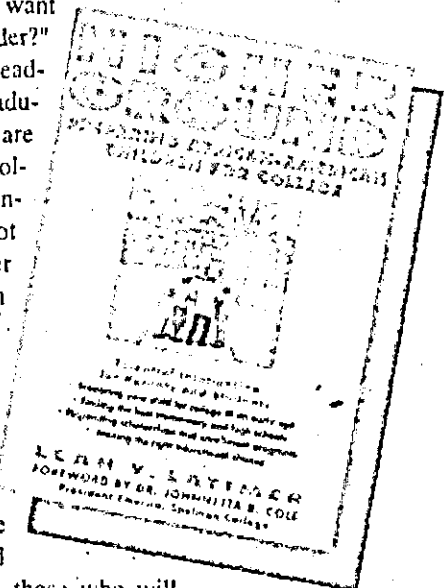
**"Higher Ground: Preparing African American Children for College"**

by **Leah Y. Latimer**  
 Avon Books, 300 pages  
 (\$12.00 softcover)


Behind the "what to do" recipe outlined in *Higher Ground*, this book poses a grander question. Surprisingly, it is not if American education is failing our children. The question for every parent today is "Where do I want my children to be in the social order?"

Millions never master basic reading, millions more dropout or graduate functionally illiterate. They are prepared for neither work nor college. Author Leah Y. Latimer contends this failure is is not American education's own; rather it is part of its plan centered on social necessity.

Society needs strong backs as much as it needs great minds. It needs trash collectors as much as it needs computer scientists. This system continues to produce leaders and followers, those who will make decisions and those who will carry them out; those who will direct, and those who will serve. Proving that there is much truth in the statement "College Begins in Kindergarten" this book is a strong treatise that an education will largely determine the answer to this question.




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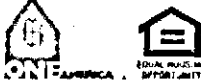
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## Meadows Foundation offers UNCF a new home for the holidays

By Jamila H. Thomas

Christmas arrived ahead of schedule this year for the United Negro Fund (UNCF). A \$400,000 gift from the Meadows Foundation has enabled the agency to move to a new home at 2800 Swiss Avenue.

The turn of the century, two-story house is at the corner of Swiss Avenue and Texas, directly across from the Meadows Foundation's newly opened Arts Center. The new office was built circa 1902 in the then-popular shingle styled exterior. The former residence features large bay windows, classic carpeting, hardwood floors manicured landscaped garden grounds. A conference room accented by stained glass windows and recessed lighting, and a wraparound porch, popular in the Victorian tradition, are also among the many architectural features.

The 4,092-square foot house in the heart of the picturesque Wilson Historic District near downtown Dallas will house UNCF's North Texas operation on a rent-free basis. The Wilson Historic District is the Meadows Foundation's fully restored 22-acre complex. UNCF now joins 25 other non-profit agencies housed in the area. The district's Wilson Block has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

"The Meadows Foundation is pleased to welcome the United Negro College Fund to its new corporate home in the Awilson Historic District" said Linda Evans, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Meadows Foundation. "Their presence adds a valuable educational component to this neighborhood of nonprofit agencies. It is our hope that their tenancy here will serve as a catalyst to further program expansion in service of their mission," Evans added.

"This is an incredible and most appreciated gift," said Ms. Kristie Patton, UNCF's area development director. "This home is beautiful and will truly


accommodate the needs of our staff. Inter Alumni Council and volunteers. What makes this gift even more special is that it greatly reduces our operating costs so that even more money can support our colleges and university and the students."

Founded in 1944, UNCF is the nation's oldest and most successful African-American higher education assistance organization. It is now a consortium of 39 private, accredited four-year historically black colleges and universities with a combined enrollment of more than 55,000 students. Over 300,000 UNCF graduates have worked to strengthen their communities thanks to the support they received from UNCF. For more information contact (972) 234-1007

Algur H. and Virginia Meadows established the Meadows Foundation, a private philanthropic institution, in 1948. The organization is dedicated to improving the quality and circumstances of life for current and future Texas generations.


Since its inception, the Foundation's assets have grown to more than \$800 million in current value, with disbursements of \$400 million in grants and direct charitable expenditures among some 2,000 Texas institutions and agencies. Foundation grants support work in the fields of arts and culture, civic and public affairs, education, health, and human services. The foundation has projects leading to organizational self-sufficiency and in capital campaigns. It also looks to support projects that enhance social skills and promote better human relations.

Another Foundation initiative challenges high school and middle school students to engage in community service programs and provides cash awards to schools that complete these projects. Established in 1981 to encourage and support youth volunteerism, the Meadows Foundation Awards for Charitable South Projects has grown to include nearly 200 public and private high schools and middle schools in the North Texas region. Since the program's inception, the foundation has awarded over \$2 million to participating schools.



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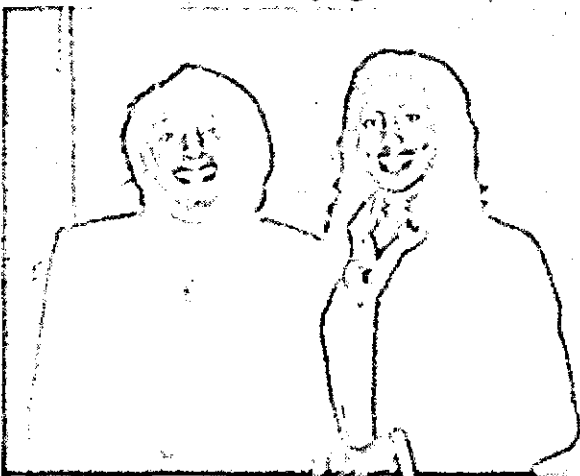
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Job Corps campuses are drug free.

...continued from page 20



Lisa Randle, Job Corps' Senior Counselor (left) and counselor, Kwenita Lewis (right) were two of Job Corps' luncheon representatives.

counselor up to six months to assist the workplace transition", adds Lisa Randle, senior counselor for Job Corps in northeast Texas. There are six Job Corps admissions and placement offices in northeast Texas; two of those are in Dallas. Thus far in 1999, Job Corps' graduate placement rate is at 91%. In 1998, approximately 400 graduates were placed.

Automotive repair, building and apartment maintenance, food service, business and office technology, landscaping, and retail sales are among career training choices. Beyond these categories, training options also offer a number of skilled trades such as plumbing, plastering, bricklaying, cement masonry, carpentry, electrician trainee, pre-apprentice painting, and welding. Health occupational training includes such subjects as prosthetic and assistive devices, home health care, nursing assistant duties, infection control, patient admissions/discharge and transfer; and safety and emergency techniques.

With every Job Corps graduate, employers gain a new employee who has mastered marketable skills, and in that process, realized personal confidence and self-esteem.

The students themselves are the ones, "who create their own transformation, day by day, month by month, said deOlivares. "If you are in search of the American Dream hero "look into the eyes of a Job Corps graduate." Keep the American Dream alive. Hire a Job Corps graduate," exclaimed deOlivares.

**POSITION:** Editor      **COMPENSATION:** Salaried at \$28,500

**GENERAL FUNCTION:**

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- Ability to effectively manage multiple projects, readily adapting to time constraints and abbreviated deadlines
- Interested persons should fax current resume and 3 recent writing samples to:

**MR. THURMAN R. JONES, PUBLISHER • Fax: 214-905-5198**

### Freelance Investigative Photojournalist Sought

As Minority Opportunity News continues to grow in content and in readership, opportunities exist for experienced investigative photojournalists. Applicants with the following skills, abilities and experience are encouraged to apply:

- Prior knowledge and extensive in-depth writing experience with a daily or weekly newspaper
- Knowledge and demonstrated experience in one or more of the following areas of interest: economic development, municipal and/or state government, education and health care.
- Clear and concise copy with an ongoing concern for thoroughness, accuracy and balance in all assignments
- Ability to complete story assignment with related photography
- Ability to regularly adapt to tight deadlines and time constraints
- Reliable personal transportation and proof of valid license and insurance
- Better than average computer competency in PC and MAC hardware and related software
- Flexibility in adjusting assignments to meet publication needs
- Appearance and personal grooming to project professional image

Qualified applicants will be interviewed, screened and hired on a contract basis. Negotiated compensation will range from \$250-500 per assignment, depending upon experience and other related factors. Interested persons should fax or mail resumes to:

Editorial Department  
Minority Opportunity News  
2730 Stemmons Freeway,  
1202 Tower West Dallas, TX 75207  
Fax Number: 214-905-5198

## HOBBY LOBBY

### RETAIL MANAGERS

Candidates will be self Motivated, with experience In the retail field and Willing to relocate Benefits include, Medical/Dental Insurance, Life Insurance, 401K, Merchandise Discount Qualified Candidates should Send Resume to 7707 S W 44<sup>th</sup> Street OKC, OK 73179 Fax (405) 745-1636 Attn: Bill Owens Hobby Lobby is an equal Opportunity employer See us at:

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### MONORAIL DRIVER/GUIDE

Qualified applicants must have a High School education or equivalent and two (2) years of teaching, touring, public speaking, or related experience; good communication skills; available to work weekends, holidays, and some evenings. Basic knowledge of animals and their habitats or a biology background is helpful. All necessary training will be provided.

Responsibilities include helping load visitors on to a monorail train; driving the train while narrating a 20 minute tour, answering questions about animals and the Dallas Zoo; working with diverse groups of people; and in inclement weather and extremes temperature. (PermPart-Time) \$10.00 per hour

Interested individuals must submit an application/resume by, **November 19, 1999** to:

City of Dallas  
Department of Human Resources  
1500 Marilla, Suite. 6AN  
Dallas, Texas 75201  
(Fax) 214-670-3764



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CITY OF DALLAS

GRAPHICS DESIGNER

Qualified applicants must have a Bachelors degree in a related field or equivalent and two (2) years of progressive management experience. Experience in a zoological institute, nature center or museum is preferable. Experience in computer graphic design and knowledge of display set-ups and examples of transforming original artwork into a media for wide distribution (posters, brochures, etc.) Must be able to develop short and long range plans, manage multiple funding sources in the Zoo. Must be able to communicate effectively with a variety of people both verbally and in writing.

\$31,504-\$40,709 annually

Applications/resumes must be received by Friday, November 26, 1999 at the following address:

City of Dallas
Human Resources Department
1500 Marilla, Rm. 6A North
Dallas, Texas 75201
(Fax) 214-670-3764
EOE/MFD

REQUEST FOR BIDS ON TEXAS HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

Sealed proposals for landscape development on IH 30 at Fair Park Bridge to IH 35E covered by CL 9-11-185 and on IH 35E at IH 30 to Oaklawn Boulevard covered by CL 196-3-211 in Dallas County, will be received at the Texas Department of Transportation, 200 E. Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas, until 1:00 P.M., December 8, 1999, and then publicly opened and read. It is the bidder's responsibility to ensure that the sealed proposal arrives at the above location and is in the hands of the letting official, by the specified deadline regardless of the method chosen by the bidder for delivery.

Plans and specifications, including minimum wage rates as provided by Law, are available for inspection at the office of Alvin Barton, Area Engineer, Hutchins, Texas, and at the Texas Department of Transportation, Austin Texas. Bidding proposals are to be requested from the Construction Division, 200 East Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas 78704-1205. Plans are available through commercial printers in Austin, Texas 78704-1205. Plans are available through commercial printer in Austin, Texas, at the expense of the bidder.

The Texas Department of Transportation hereby notifies all bidders that it will insure that bidders will not be discriminated against on the ground of race, color, sex or national origin, in having full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation, and in consideration for an award.

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18-D-122016 18-76-0009-11-185, etc.

REQUEST FOR BIDS ON TEXAS HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

Sealed proposals for 10.800 mi of guide sign refurbishing on IH 45 from SH 310 to SPUR 366 covered by IM 45-3(104) in Dallas County, will be received at the Texas Department of Transportation, 200 E. Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas, until 1:00 P.M., December 8, 1999, and then publicly opened and read. It is the bidder's responsibility to ensure that the sealed proposal arrives at the above location and is in the hands of the letting official, by the specified deadline regardless of the method chosen by the bidder for delivery.

This contract is subject to all appropriate Federal laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Texas Department of Transportation hereby notifies all bidders that it will insure that bidders will not be discriminated against on the ground of race, color, sex or national origin, in having full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation, and in consideration for an award. Plans and specifications, including minimum wage rates as provided by Law, are available for inspection at the office of Dan Turk, Area Engineer, Dallas, Texas, and at the Texas Department of Transportation, Austin Texas. Bidding proposals are to be requested from the Construction Division, 200 East Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas 78704-1205. Plans are available through commercial printers in Austin, Texas 78704-1205, at the expense of the bidder.

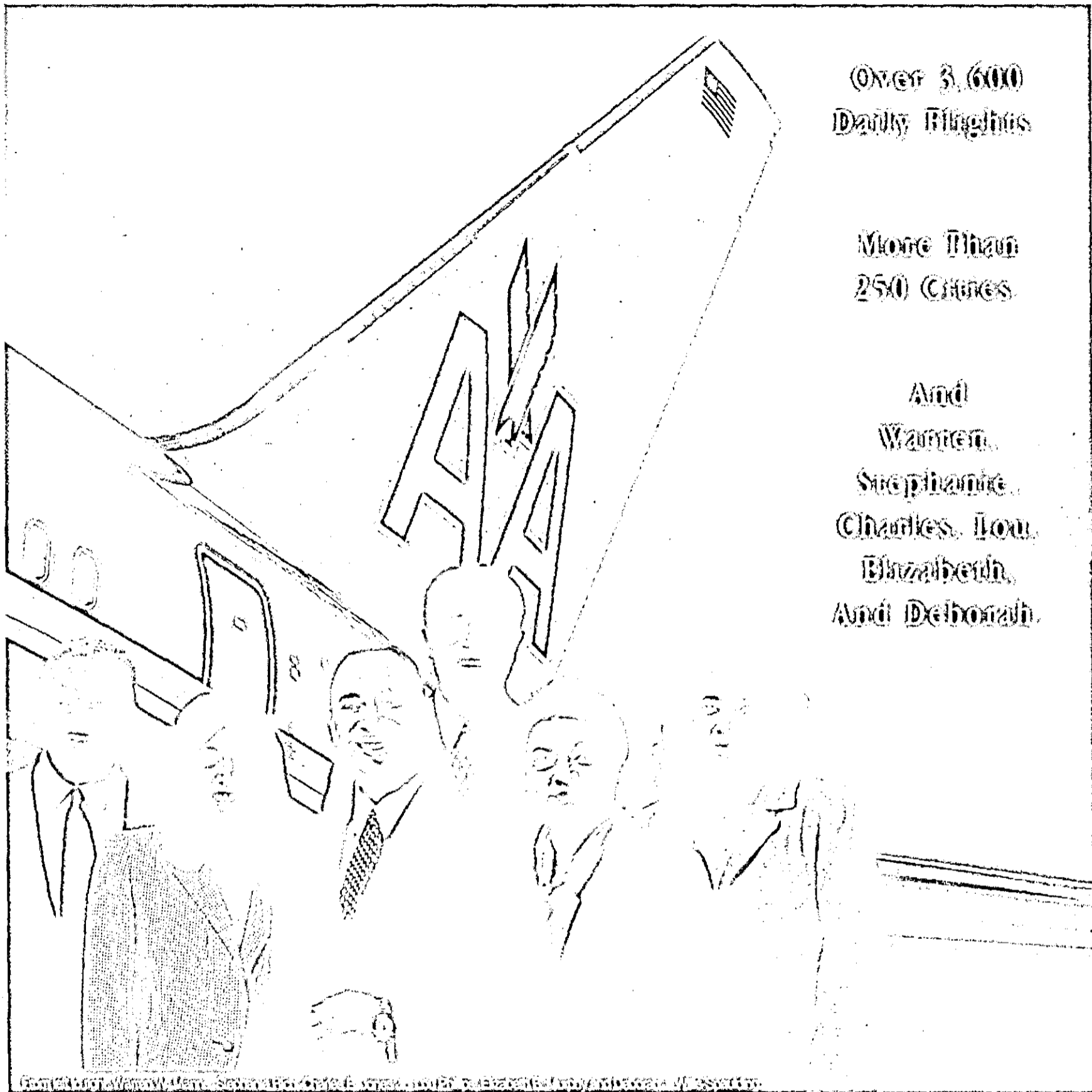
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REQUEST FOR BIDS ON TEXAS HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

Sealed proposals for 1.636 km of constructing two lanes on new location on CS from Whitley Road to Rufe Snow Drive in Keller (on Wilson) covered by STP 94(101)MM in Tarrant County, will be received at the Texas Department of Transportation, 200 E. Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas, until 1:00 P.M., December 8, 1999, and then publicly opened and read. It is the bidder's responsibility to ensure that the sealed proposal arrives at the above location and is in the hands of the letting official, by the specified deadline regardless of the method chosen by the bidder for delivery.

This contract is subject to all appropriate Federal laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Texas Department of Transportation hereby notifies all bidders that it will insure that bidders will not be discriminated against on the ground of race, color, sex or national origin, in having full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation, and in consideration for an award. Plans and specifications, including minimum wage rates as provided by Law, are available for inspection at the office of Mark C. Schluter, Area Engineer, Fort Worth, Texas, and at the Texas Department of Transportation, Austin Texas. Bidding proposals are to be requested from the Construction Division, 200 East Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas 78704-1205. Plans are available through commercial printers in Austin, Texas 78704-1205, at the expense of the bidder.

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