Minority Opportunity News

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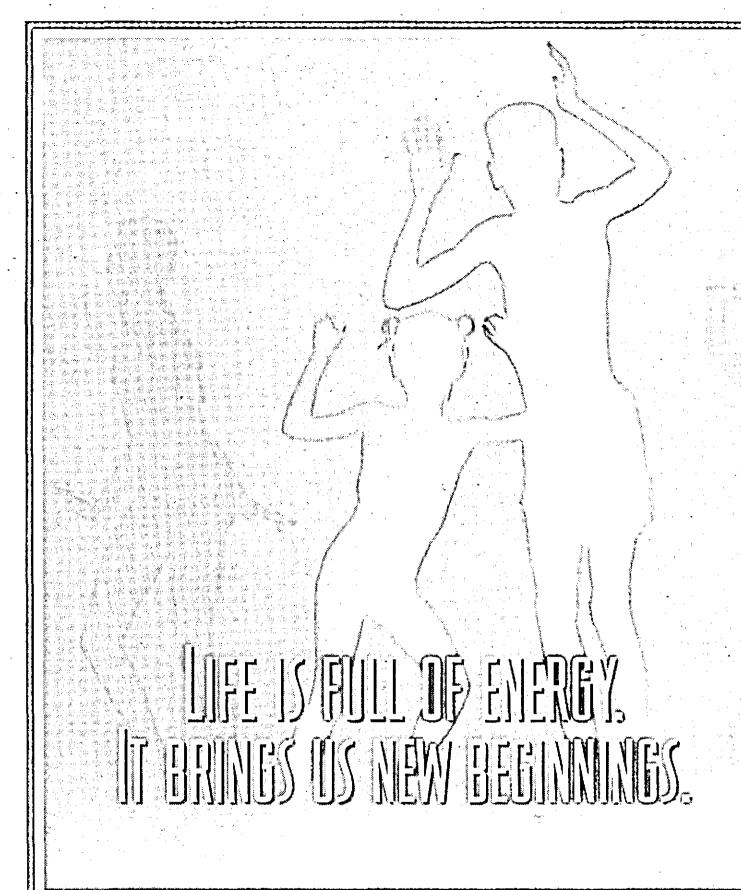
VOLUME 8, NO. 3 February 1-15, 1999





Madison High, SW Bell Partner in Tech Program Ethnic Notes: The Assassination of Dr. M.L. King, Pt. 2

Barbara Steele
To Be Feted At
UNCF Benefit



New beginnings. They can be exciting. And frightening. They can create anxiety and stimulate creativity.

Black History Month reminds us of the many courageous African Americans who made things new for us all. The warriors who fought for human rights. The artists who created new music. The doctors who discovered and designed new cures.

Most times, the road was rocky for these pioneers. But they were powered by their convictions and their visions. We at Texaco applaud these people. We all benefit from the ways they used their energy.



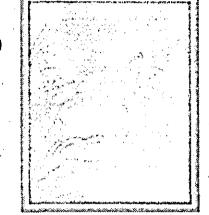


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South Dallas civic leader is newly-elected president of the National Association of Bench and Bar Spouses



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From The Editor

Chris Pryer

When the "N" word is not the "N" word

"Ignorance is a terrible thing," my mother-in-law is fond of saying. Though a simple statement, it packs punch and profoundness. It has the same sobering starkness to it as the somewhat ominous and forbidding tag line of the United Negro College Fund: "A mind is a terrible thing to waste" (or, as former vice president Dan Quayle once said: "What a terrible thing it is to lose one's mind"). Predictably, the consequences of ignorance are always tragic—sooner or later.

What brings me to this little ditty of a discourse is a story that I read from the Internet version of The Washington Post. Seems that the head of the District's (Washington D.C., that is) Office of Public Advocate walked into a P.C. minefield when he used a term that, while absolutely appropriate to the context of his conversation, was phonetically challenged. The word this man used was "niggardly." To quote him exactly, he said, "I will have to be niggardly with this fund because it's not going to be a lot of money." Seems this gentleman was discussing some local government fiscal matter with a couple of the mayor's aides, one of whom was Black. Well, need

The brother got peeved—an understatement—and stormed out. The other aide was stunned, either because he, too. thought the term was offensive or because he couldn't believe that the speaker would live so dangerously. At any rate, the situation ballooned to the point that the Office of Public Advocate head was forced to resign. And I do mean forced. The firestorm created by his egregious display of naivete-might I say ignorance?-made his staying on unten-

Opinions have varied on whether so much should have been made over this. Obviously the Black man who took offense at the word being used in his presence didn't know what the word meant. It is not colloquial by any means, probably because it sounds just like that word of infamy, nigger. And even if it was a part of everyday nomenclature at one time, surely it hasn't been lately. Most folks, probably, are not familiar with the word. (And those who are elude it, I'm sure.) But could he not have given the speaker the benefit of the doubt? Maybe even ask indignantly, "Hey, what do you mean by that?" Or, after he smashed the perpetrator in the mouth, allowed him to sputter through broken, bloody teeth what the word really means? Or doesn't

Bditorial

Looking back at Africans in America

much and so many are at a crossroads, the prudent refrain from predictions. Whoever we may be, and whatever circumstances we none of us is a stranger to strugindividually confront, none of us

knows what will happen tomorrow.

But for certain, each of us can face today and hopefully tomorrow with the wisdom of yesterday. If we can glean from those who walked and lived before us, perhaps we will gain enough insight to know what to do and when.. . To understand when to listen, and when to speak... to grasp the deft difference

As an African-American people, we must call upon all of our resources in order to face today's diverse and complex challenges. And there is much in our people's history that can help us—if we let it.

or principles and politics.

For our forefathers, the struggle to exist as free men and women developed the virility of our strain. Whether the foe was the cruelty of overseers and slave-

In a day and time when so masters, or the denigration of Jim Crow, or the snide condescension of those who believed themselves to be intellectually superior-

between action and reaction

gle. Regardless of the nature of contemporary concerns, our history teaches that there is nothing we can encounter that could somehow surpass that which our people have already met and conquered.

We are the descendants of

those who were strong enough to survive slaveships. We are the descendants of those who escaped the noose of a lynch mob, or the ravages of night riders and the

Klan. We share a heritage that is proud—not pitiful.

Minority Opportunity News is therefore proud to offer in this edition our annual salute to a unique American experience. Through these pages, we hope to offer all of our readers a unifying message to those who are growing as well as those who are grown.

In the words of our anthem:

"Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught

Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought

As a people, let us sing a month-long celebration achievement. And may the spirit of an unquenchable thirst to be free last throughout our lives.

MON

mean. Again, ignorance raises its ugly

It has been ventured that maybe the speaker of the word meant to be offensive, to denigrate. I find that hard to believe. Surely he would have foreseen the ramifications of purposely using such a word in a workplace that is super-sensitive to matters of race and gender. And if he wanted to resign, he could have fig-·ured out a much less circuitous way of doing it.

No, I think the guy just exercised bad judgement. Wasn't thinking far enough in advance. Forgot to put on his eggshellwalking shoes. Whatever it was, a quicker, far less aggravating solution would

have been, after finding out what the word niggardly means, to advise, "Hey, if I were you, I'd come up with a synomyn for that one." And then move on.

Ironically, the same situation arose right here in Dallas not long ago when a writer for The Dallas Morning News used the word "niggardly" to describe the portions served at a local restaurant he was critiquing. Again, folks were up in arms. The White folks went, "Tsk, tsk. Of course he should have known better. How gauche." The brethren charged The Morning News with racism. (I think they've heard that accusation before, don't you?) However, I am more surprised at the outrage here than the initial

reaction of the Black man in Washington, D.C., who could only hear the word said and not be able to see how it is spelled. If you can see that the word is niggardly, not niggerly, would you not at least look it up first? In the Dallas situation, you have to give the writer-albeit grudgingly—the benefit of the doubt. Phonetics aside, it's obvious the man is not using the term nigger.

Language can be a beautiful thing. When used, and understood, in all its exactness, new vistas of communication become open to us. But when used, and heard, in ignorance, it becomes nothing more than a blunt object. And it hurts.

MON



Community Pulse

Thomas Muhammad

Probably no political figure in American history has baffled as many journalist and political pundits as our president, William Jefferson Clinton. At nearly every turn, when his critics and enemies feel they finally can say, "Gotcha," Bill Clinton pulls

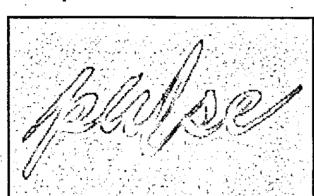
a Tony Dorsett move, leaving them only grabbing air instead. Now don't get me wrong. My opposition to Clinton's foreign policies will always find me referring to him as "Slick Willy." And until I see a more balanced approach to said policies, I will continue to call him that. But we must be honest and admit that Clinton has been very helpful in exposing what many African American leaders would consider some of the most right wing racists folks in the nation. And any exposure of these racist devils many would consider a blessing under any circumstances.

Like many political scandal watchers L too, have watched and listened to the talking heads on a number of media outlets as they've failed time after time in predicting Clinton's political death. Several months ago this columnist wrote how media and political pundits were predicting that in last November's elections the Republican Party was poised to pick up as many as fifteen seats in the US House with a possible five to eight seats in the US Senate. The pundits predicted that in picking up these seats Clinton would easily be impeached in the House and surely convicted in the Senate. The pundits claimed that the Republicans had history on their side because NO out-of-power party (in this case the Democrats) had ever picked up seats in a non-presidential election in thirty years. Not only did the Democrats pick up five new seats, but after many heated post election GOP caucus meetings, Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich resigned. And the newly-elected speaker, Bob Livingston, resigned after being, as he termed it, "Larry Flynt-ed," proving again that Clinton's political nine lives were still very much in effect.

Still gung-ho, the disgruntled Republicans forced four articles of impeachment through the House Judiciary Committee and managed to get the full House of Congress to adopt two of the four articles to send to the Senate: one count of perjury and one count of obstruction of justice. The Senate is currently trying the case. Those of us who have been observing this case since the president admitted to having an inappropriate relationship with Monica Lewinsky felt that the case should have ended right then and there. However, the rabid political right wing of the Republican Party just simply refused to let Clinton off the hook. The Republicans knew they

Clinton's trial exposing many noted racists and hypocrites

had to push through the articles of Already presidential contender Lamar impeachment while they still were in the majority in the 105th Congress. In the 106th Congress there would be five less Republicans in the House. Everyone in the Republican leadership except Tom Delay (party Whip, from Sugar Land, Texas) wanted to drop the case and move on. It was becom-



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

ing crystal clear after the November elections that the party was in dire political straits with the American people.

In fact, five of the House Republicans who voted for the two articles of impeachment co-wrote a joint letter to Senate majority leader Trent Lott expressing their disagreement with their forced vote. They said that they did not believe that Clinton should have been impeached for these offenses and if censure had been an option they would have voted for it. Such a disclosure means that had the rabid Republican House members waited until the new 106th Congress to be sworn in, the likelihood of impeachment would have been nil. However, recent events indicate Clinton may still survive the charges. His job approval ratings remain extremely high, even higher than the popular former president Ronald Reagan enjoyed. Therein lies the problem for the Republicans. Impeaching and convicting a highly popular president is like passing gas in the wind. It has no chance of survival. The Republicans are seen as being on a partisan witch-hunt in impeaching the president. They would have fared much better had they been able to get a number of Democrats to join them. And the more this case drags on, the more the Republicans seem to taking a beating. News accounts of registered Republican voters changing to the Democratic Party are running in the hundreds across the nation. In other words, these are people who are actually changing their party affiliation. Republican poll numbers are the lowest they've been in forty years, which means they will have a very tough run for the White House in the year 2000. It is clear why Governor George Bush is thinking real hard about tossing his hat into the presidential election ring for the moment.

Alexander has referred to Bush's concept of "compassionate conservatism" as weasel words." And some Republican leaders have even described Bush as a "stealth candidate," meaning that no one knows what he stands for or for that matter what dark secrets may lie in his closet. But

> you can best believe that once he announces that he will run for the Republican presidential nomination the attacks will come long, often and

> As for Clinton, his luck seems to be getting better and better. After his State of the Union speech his poll numbers went up (in some polls) by as much as ten points. Bill Kristol, editor of the Weekly Standard and a Republican consultant to ABC News, said that after the speech he (Mr. Kristol) ran into a Republican leader who said that Clinton "hit a home run." The following day Clinton,

wife Hillary, Vice President Al Gore (and wife Tipper) were out on the road to sell the president's proposals. They appeared in Brooklyn, New York where as many as 16,000 people waited for hours to hear the president. Back at the Senate trial, Clinton's lawyers so far have been able to make mince meat out of the Republican House managers case in the Senate, especially attorney Cheryl Mills, who is an African American. In fact, she is reported to have done such a great job that one Senator actually cried, and Texas Senator Phil Gramm rushed up to shake her hand after her presentation. And for those of you who did not watch her presentation, let me tell you, forget Sammy Sosa. Homegirl knocked he ball out of the park!

Meanwhile, Clinton's harshest ene-

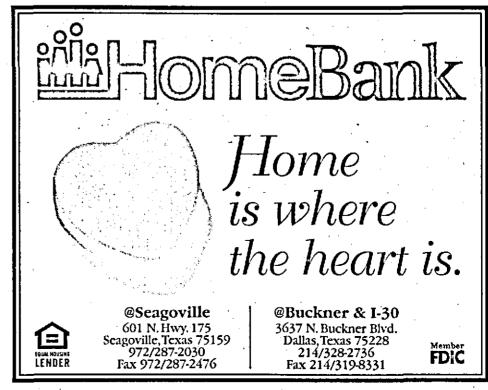
mies are either converting or falling on their own swords. Senate Majority leader Trent Lott has drawn political fire because of his association with a racist group known as the Council of Conservative Citizens. The council's state coordinator told a local newspaper (The Jackson Clarion-Ledger) that in 1994 he used the old White Citizens Council mailing lists to set up the new organization. The White Citizens Council was formed to fight busing during the battle of the Supreme Court's 1954 Brown v. Board of Education school desegregation case. It runs an all-White school, even today. Lott was a member and spoke to the group as early as 1997. So too did Georgia Republican Bob Barr, who called for impeaching Clinton back in 1993. Recently he's been busy trying to defend his stand (and actions) on abortion as well as fend off claims that he lied under oath about an extramarital affair.

Even Pat Robertson, the conservative host of the 700 Club, told his faithful TV listening audience that "the Senate should drop the charges against the president and move on. Clinton has won." In the meantime, Jerry Falwell seems to have stepped in his own "mess" when he preached that the antichrist is a lewish male and that he is alive today. Falwell's comments played in the media and the Internet carried it across the nation. The Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) national director, Abraham Foxman, and others believed that Falwell's comments could spell danger for many Jews because some madman claiming to be a Christian might do something crazy. Falwell said he was "caught off-guard by modern media that instantly transmitted a few sentences around the world from a sermon in a small town in Tennessee.

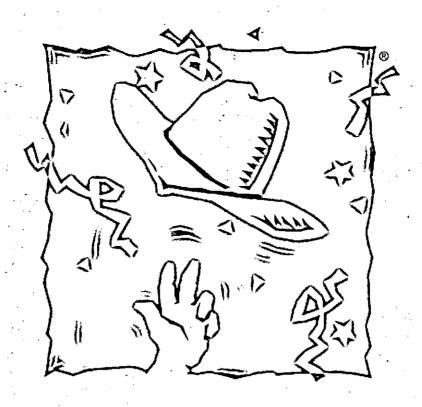
As many can see, Clinton's enemies have been our enemies all along. Maybe there's something to this claim of Bill Clinton being a Black president after all.

Until then, the struggle continues...

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TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT AGENCY

Temporary employment agencies needed. If your company can provide service in Austin, Houston, Irving, or San Antonio, we'd like to hear from you. Please submit a detailed company history for consideration.

Please respond in writing to:
Minority Business Development Team
Texas Lottery—GT
P.O. Box 16630
Austin, TX 78761-6630

-TEXAS-LOTTERY



<u>LifeStories</u> Cheryl Smith

Recently a young one in my house decided to take something to school and give it to a friend. For about a week, queries produced nothing but emotional pleas of innocence. As I listened to the pleas, I thought back to my childhood days.

Let's face it, children today are no different than you or I. The fear of reprisal makes them deny their actions. It's no different from the scenario President William Jefferson Clinton faced. And what did he do? The same as most children, and a lot of adults. He lied.

Well, just as there was a break in the Clinton case, there was also a break in this one at my house. The break came in the form of a phone call from a counselor at school. The counselor informed me that my property found its way into the hands of another student. The counselor said she was contacted by a student's mother who said her child brought home a gift and she was really concerned about the value of the gift, it coming from another child and all.

All I have is praise for the mother.

Like the mothers I remember

I have wondered from time to time if I'm a bit too overbearing as I attempt to monitor everything that enters and leaves my house. I have been very strict about gift-giving among elementary and junior high school children, especially when I don't know the children and their families. I also refuse to allow the sharing of clothes. If any of my kids wears something home from school and I don't know where it came from, it goes back—immediately. If they let someone take something of theirs, they had better get it back, and quickly!

That is the way I was brought up, and that is the way it has to be in my house. After all, I didn't turn out too bad!

Well, I praised the counselor and I had nothing but high accolades for the parent. Here was another parent with a sense of decency. Here was a parent with high values and a clear understanding of how her children should live and behave.

Once I knew who the culprit was, I set out to deal with her in such a manner that, hopefully, forever discourage a reoccurrence. First I called Constable Burl Jernigan's office. After talking to Chief Garrett, the plan was set into motion.

I have wondered from time to time if a bit too overbearing as I attempt to made it home, two officers, one in unitor everything that enters and tes my house. I have been very strict through the whole charade, including the handcuffs!

Now there are some who are probably saying, "How cruel!" Well, what is really cruel would be allowing my little one to get away with this one episode. Then there would be future episodes and before you know it, that child would be a number, a statistic, another life lost to the penal system.

Instead, I was hoping to put such an element of fear into her, without whipping her behind, that she wouldn't think about taking anything else from anybody!

The deputy constables were wonderful. They understood what I was trying to do and they were really helpful. One deputy told me that it was important to get them when they are young. And just as the deputy constables realized the importance of their participation in this learning experience, so did the other involved parent.

When you have met and dealt with parents who don't care what their chil-

dren do and who they do it with, it is very refreshing to meet a parent who has everything together. I can't say enough about parents who question their children and monitor their actions. And I can't say enough about those parents who are negligent and let their children do just about anything, anywhere.

It does take a village to raise a child and thanks to a wise parent, a counselor doing her job and Constable Burl Jernigan and his staff, we are all making an impact as we try to lead this child down the right path.

MON

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





Dallas Park and Recreation Assistant Director Receives National Honor

The National Recreation and Park Ethnic ernment are members. Society has honored Dallas Park and Recreation Department assistant director Carolyn Bray with its Citation Award for



Carolyn Bray

leadership excellence.

The award is the society's most prominent recognition, given annually to à member who demonstrates a profound commitment to the leisure services profession, according to awards committee chairwoman Deborah Totten of Peoria, Ill. The society is an affiliate of the National Recreation and Park Association, a 100-year old non-profit service, research and education organization. More than 23,000 park and recreation professionals who work for private organizations and federal, state and local gov-

Ms. Bray joined the city's park department in 1985 as the manager of human resources and payroll. She became the assistant director of administrative/financial services in 1988. In her present position, she manages and administers the department's \$50 million operating budget, accounts payables, human resources and payroll for more than 1,000 employees. She also directs marketing and public relations activities and six 18-hole golf courses and five ten-

A National Recreation and Park Association member, Ms. Bray serves on the Educational Program Development Committee and on the Ethnic Society Board of Directors.

"I am deeply honored to have been nominated and selected to receive this recognition. I express my sincere appreciation to all of the hard working dedicated professionals in this association," Ms. Bray said.

A graduate of Alabama State University with a degree in psychology and education administration, Ms. Bray earned a master's degree in education administration from Texas Christian University.

Prior to joining the park department, Ms. Bray was a U.S. Air Force officer working in human resources management with specialization in staff and employee relations and assistance services. She is a graduate of Air War College for Senior Military Leadership. A Lieutenant Colonel in the Texas Air National Guard, she served as co-chairwoman of the committee that in November created Dallas' first Veteran's Day celebration and observance since 1949.

Ms. Bray's other professional affiliations include the Texas Parks and Recreation Association, American Management Association, National Forum for Black Public Administrators and National Association of Female Executives.

Her community involvement includes the Lake Highlands Soccer Association, North Texas Little League Baseball Association, Lake Highlands Football Booster Club and YMCA of Greater Metropolitan Dallas. A Lake Highlands resident, she is a member of the North Dallas Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Rhonda Jackson New Dean At CedarValley College



Rhonda Jackson, the new Dean of Continuing Education, was the Asst. Dean of CE at Tarrant County Junior College. She has a B.S. from Midwestern State College and an M.S. from Texas Woman's University.

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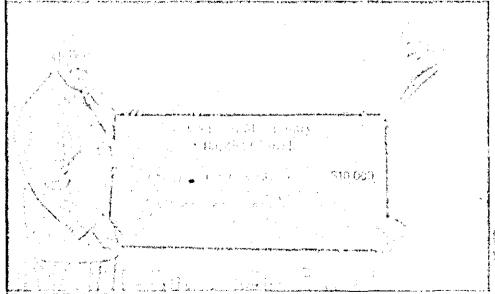
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Concord Missionary Baptist Church Donates \$10,000 to Freedman's Memorial Campaign



Concord Lilsolonary Baptist Church Sr. Pastor E.K. Balley (left) presents Brooks Fitch, Freedman's Foundation Chairman, with a \$10,000 donation towards the final \$300,000 needed to complete the Freedman's Memorial Cemetory.

ST. JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH

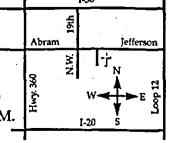


Denny D. Davis, Senior Pastor

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

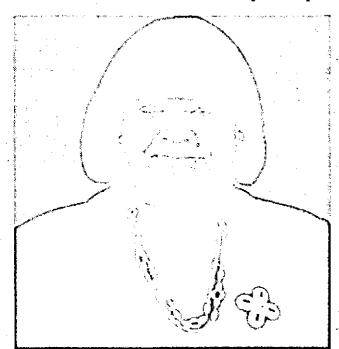
Midweek Family Night (Wednesdays) Prayer, Praise & Proclamation Service 6:45 P.M. Come and worship with us soon!



National Association of Bench and Bar Spouses honors new president

"A Night of Giving" event benefits United Negro College Fund

Hundreds of Barbara Steele's colleagues and friends will join her at the Top O The Cliff Club in historic Oak Cliff for "A Night of Giving," a festive gathering benefiting The United Negro College Fund. Sponsored by Ben E. Keith Beers/Budweiser, the event will honor Dallas civic leader Ms. Steele, who is the newly-elected pres-



Barbara Steele

ident of the National Association of Bench and Bar Spouses. "A Night Of Giving" will feature great food and live entertainment all geared to raise money and awareness for UNCF.

"I am pleased to be involved in an event that will have a direct impact on the lives of deserving students who want to attend college but require financial assistance," says Ms. Steele. "We all benefit when we support organizations like UNCF. The National Association of Bench and Bar Spouses invites supporters to attend the event and help pave the way for future professionals."

The NABBS comprises the spouses of attorneys and judges. The organization participates in a number of civic activities nationwide and greatly supports the National Bar Association, the nationally recognized association of Black lawyers and judges.

"Ben E. Keith Beers/Budweiser is a continued supporter of UNCF events in Dallas and Fort Worth and we look forward to working with the National Association of Bench and Bar Spouses to make this new event a success," says James Clements, executive marketing manager for Ben E. Keith Beers.

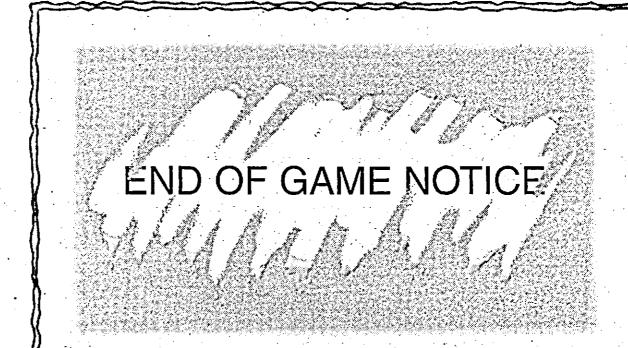
Ms. Steele adds, "Tickets are just \$50—an entertainment bargain, especially considering that \$50 also can help pay a students fees at school, feed him or her for almost two weeks or purchase a text book. The attire is festive and since it will be Valentines weekend, cupid may stop by and work his magic."

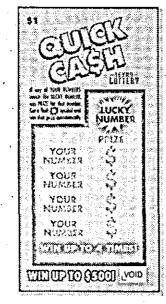
The United Negro College Fund is the nations oldest and most successful minority higher education assis-

tance organization in the country. UNCF is a consortium of 39 private, historically Black colleges and universities currently serving 54,000 students (including 2,700 Texans). More than 300,000 men and women have graduated from UNCF colleges and universities.

"A Night of Giving" will take place Friday, February 12, 7 p.m. at 400 S. Zang on the 15th floor. For ticket information, call UNCF at 972-234-1007 or metro 972-263-1007. Seating is limited.

MON









Three of the Texas Lottery's instant games will close on March 2, 1999: Quick Cash, Mucho Dinero and Lucky Streak. You have until August 29, 1999, to redeem any winning tickets. You can win up to \$500 playing Quick Cash, up to \$2,000 playing Mucho Dinero and up to \$5,000 playing

at one of the 24 Texas Lottery claim centers or by mail. Questions? Just call the Texas Lottery Customer Service Line at 1-800-37-LOTTO (1-800-375-6886).

Lucky Streak. You can claim prizes of

up to \$599 at any Texas Lottery retailer.

Prizes of \$600 or more are redeemable.

Overall odds of winning Quick Cash, Lin +32.

Overall odds of winning Mix to Direct. Lin +52.

Overall odds of winning Lucky Smith, Lin +73.

—1(11)

Must be 18 years or older to play. @1909 Telus Lottery

Southwestern Bell enhances Madison High technical program

Offers hope of jobs, college education for South Dallas students

Only a semester stands between James Madison High School's class of 1999 and the chance at a good job at Southwestern Bell. The Dallas high school, a landmark building located on historic Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. in the heart of South Dallas, is the first high school to participate in the Texas-based telecommunications company's recruitment and training program. Deserving graduates who pass required employment testing will become candidates for Southwestern Bell jobs. Those who score exceptionally well have a shot at technicians' jobs with an earning potential of up to \$50,000 annually (within 3 years).

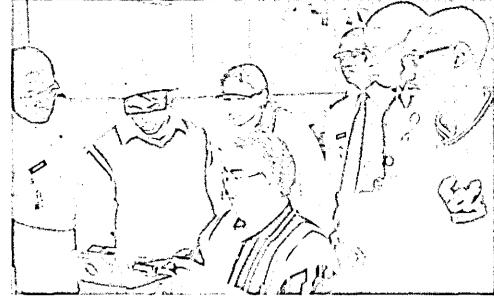
"Southwestern Bell has truly enhanced this program academically and improved our attendance rates," said Col. Joe Sasser, Director, James Madison High School JROTC. "We are fortunate to have such a community-minded company in North Texas because it has provided new

opportunities for our students."

The federal government, through the Junior ROTC, initially funded James Madison High School's technical program. As federal subsidies gradually declined, the Dallas Public Schools sought to keep the program afloat. Southwestern Bell's involvement has re-energized the program, providing advice to instructors, classroom materials and guest speakers, said Sasser.

Students learn to install telephones and telephone lines, repair lines and splice cables. They also take field trips to the Bryan Street Training Facility, where they receive experience in the lab and an opportunity to talk with technicians. In the future, Southwestern Bell plans full involvement in all four years of the program in order to graduate more qualified technicians from Madison High School.

"Southwestern Bell's recruitment and training program is a win-win partnership

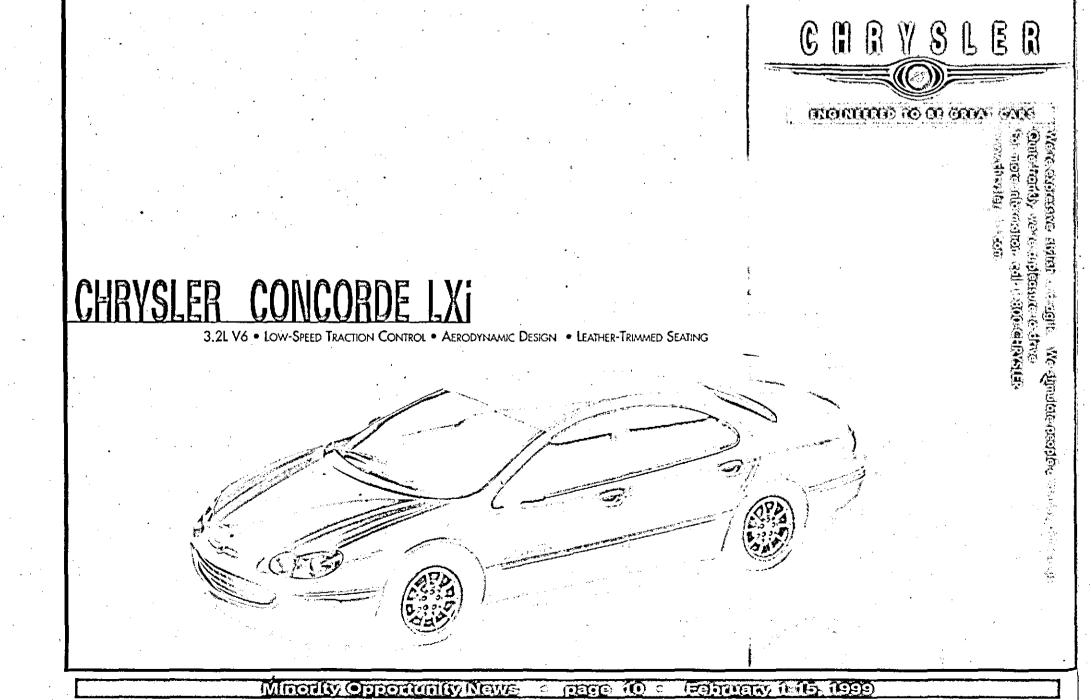


Standing, I-r: Jimmy Jonnson (reureg); Labonna Davis; Crystal Ybarra; James Johnson (retired); Kevin Elder. Seated, I-r: Don McBryde, Southwestern Bell technical instructor; Latasha Lewis.

for the community and our company," said Dennis Harris, Southwestern Bell regional vice president for network services. "The program provides a chance at a good job for students who pass our test; Southwestern Bell benefits by the oppor-

tunity to hire eager, well-trained and qualified workers from the South Dallas community."

James Madison High School's Class of 1999 will be the first to graduate after one full year of instruction.



The Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Part 2

By Russell D. Shockley, BS.Ed.

Newsum and Wallace

The occurrences leading up to the untimely demise of Dr. Martin L. King Jr. are as mysterious as those occurrences involved in the acceptance of the guilty plea of James Earl Ray. In addition, the direction of the lives of three of Memphis' citizens were sincerely touched during the King assassination and would remain affected forever.

On April 3, 1968, Floyd Newsum was stationed at Fire Station No. 2. That evening, Newsum attended the Masons Temple to hear Dr. King, who had just returned to Memphis, speak. King's words continued to plague Newsum as he returned home at around 10:30. Newsum intercepted a message to call a Lt. Smith at the Memphis Fire Department. Upon calling Lt. Smith, Newsum was informed by Smith that he was not to report to Fire Station No. 2 the next morning, but was to report to Fire Station No. 32 on "detail." (A detail is a temporary switch arranged so that any fire company, with a surplus of men, could detail out one or two of its men, to an understaffed company.)

On the morning of April 4,1968, Newsum reported to Fire Station No. 32, a company that required only four people to operate its pumper fire truck. Upon arriving, Newsum

was told that he was the fifth man in the unit. Later that day, Newsum discovered that the station was overstaffed. "I asked over and over again why I had been detailed to Station No. 32? It just did not make sense from a fire department management viewpoint," stated Newsum. Later, upon hearing of the murder of Dr. King, Newsum wept uncontrollably. In the agony of the moment, the fact that he had been inexplicably "detailed" and became all the more conspicuous to him.

Two weeks later Newsum requested a leave of absence or, if necessary, acceptance of his resignation. In a brief exchange of information with Deputy Fire Chief Gerald Barnett as to why he was moved on April 4th, Barnett responded, "All I can tell you is that you were moved at the request of the Memphis Police Department."

In an interview with the noted writer and producer Abbey Mann in 1976, Deputy Chief Barnett was at first vague about his conversations with Newsum and referred Mann to

Fire Chief Williams for further inquiries.

Mann, meeting with Chief Williams, asked if records supported Newsums' charges about being transferred? Williams replied, "Our records show that Newsum was detailed to Pumper Station 32; however, no reason was given as to why the detailing, was done."

In further inquiries into Memphis Fire Department records, it was discovered that there had been two Black fireman stationed at Fire Station No. 2 that had been detailed out on April 4, 1968. The other had been a Mr. Norville E. Wallace. In support of the concept of detailing, Williams stated: "We try to keep the fire stations balanced by detailing, to take care of shortages at any given fire station." Asked whether Fire Station 32 had been short, Williams replied, "A number of the fire stations had been short, however, Fire Station 32, located in or near the Memphis Airport, had not been."

Further inquiries into Wallace being transferred to Fire Station 33 begged the question, Had it also been short? Williams responded, "I don't believe that it was." Mann then asked if there had been a shortage at Fire Station No. 2, immediately after the two Black fireman had been detailed out? Williams responded, "I believe that there was, in fact, one man needed to be detailed in because the fire station was too short."

Mann then questioned Williams' own transfer to the fire chief's position, to which Williams responded, "We had a fire and police chief by the name of Holloman (in 1968) at the time that Dr. King was killed. If Newsum and Wallace were detailed out due to a police request, it would have come from Chief Holloman, the director at that time.

In a later conversation with the chief, Mann was told that the temporary transfers of both of the Black firemen, Newsum and Wallace, had been done because, allegedly, there was a lot of tension over the Black/White issue. "I think," recalled Williams, "that there had even been a few occasions where they had been harassed."

Later, when Newsum was asked about alleged racial tension Newsum laughed hysterically and said, "I don't believe that is the reason. I had never been threatened or harassed. "In fact, I was quite comfortable at Fire Station No. 2, more than I was at Station 32, because Fire Station No. 2, just like the Lorraine Motel, was located in the heart of the Black community. Fire Station 32 was located in an all-White area

Members of Fire Station No. 2 oftentimes sat outside their station house. On pleasant days, they would sit or stand around on a small grassy patch located near the rear of the firehouse, overlooking the Lorraine Motel. If Newsum or any of the other firemen had been at the rear of the station on April 4, 1968, they would probably have seen Dr. King when he was shot. If so, then they probably would have also seen his killer emerging from the rooming house door, just a few yards down the street.

Newsum was an activist. His first response to having seen Dr. King's murder could not have been predicted. It is certainly probable that he might have interfered with the flight of the murderer,





The New York Times called King's murder "a national disaster" that deprived "Negroes and whites alike of a leader of integrity, vision and restraint." Top: Frank Holloman, circa 1968, Director of Memphis Police and Fire Departments in 1967-68.

or perhaps observed the suspected person and the vehicle and then report the vehicle to the police.

However, for reasons that to this date that have remained unexplained by the Memphis police And fire department authorities, on April 4, 1968, neither Floyd Newsum nor Norvell Wallace, two Black firemen normally stationed at Fire Station No. 2, were present.

Detective Ed Redditt

Det. Ed Redditt, of the Memphis Police Department, was also at Fire Station No. 2. He was in charge of stationary security for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Assigned to assist Redditt was Officer W.B. Richmond. Redditt had become quite familiar with King and the membership of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee; he knew their cars, their colors and their license plate numbers. Redditt could identify everybody that came and went at the Lorraine

Motel

When asked about the specifics of King's security, Redditt stated, "Normally there are ten officers that would provide the security for Dr. King. This time there were only two."

On April 4, 1968, their was a police inspector within the Lorraine Motel area. He questioned Redditt about the attitude of the Black leaders. Redditt responded that the situation was very touchy and that some people did-not want any police around King. As the two spoke an unknown person approached and stated, "We don't want no police around him (King). Get the hell out of here." At this point Redditt recalled that the inspector took out his radio and, after contacting headquarters, said, "Okay, pull out." Redditt could hardly believe what was happening. It had always been the function of the Police Department to provide security for persons that were threatened, even if they object.

Continued on page 14



February 3

Catholic Counseling Services will be having its Adoption Orientations from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at 3725 Blackburn. For further details, contact Linda T. Christianson at 214-526-2772 or 1-800-CARE-002.

February 4

Dunbar Learning Center's "Recent Paintings" is showing in the Augusta Savage Youth Gallery, opening February 4. Under the instruction of art instructor Lucan Watkins, the students have won numerous award,s including a select piece (Jazmin Williams, student artist) currently on the Southwestern Bell Telephone Book. Dunbar Learning Center Recent Paintings Opening Thursday, Feb. 4, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Closes Feb. 26.

As part of the University of Texas at Dallas' Black History Month schedule of events, Dr. Mamie McKnight will lecture on "Black Dallas Remembered" at 6 p.m. in Student Union 2.602. Call 972-883-6390 for more information.

February 5

Strengthening the African-American Family (STAAF) is holding its 10th Annual STAAF Conference at the Sheraton-Brookhollow Hotel, located

Around Town

of the African-American Church and Family." STAAF is a non-profit organizations made up of dedicated indiplace.

D. Sneed at 214-330-1343 or 214-339- ucate@msn.com.

will feature the ancient Egyptian

symbols and spiritual concepts and

their incorporation into the institu-

tions of the Western world and the

African origin of the first European

Masonic lodges and "Greek" frater-

for students and elders. No one will

be turned away. Refreshments will be

The Wounded, a play exploring

male/female relationships dipped in

can humor, will appear at the South

Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 South

nities and sororities.

February 7

the Blacken Blues Theater.

more information, call Willie Holmes, For more information, call Tonya 214 515-0076 or send e-mail to whed-

at 1241 W. Mockingbird Lane, in Dal- Fitzhugh (across from Fair Park), Feb- ters will present acclaimed actress las. The theme this year is "Renewal ruary 5, 6, 12 & 13. It is produced by Ruby Dee performing her onewoman show, My One Good Nerve: A Free tickets will be available at a Visit With Ruby Dee, in the Naomi "Meet the Cast" event at Black Images Burton Main Theater, 650 S. Griffin viduals who volunteer their time to Book Bazaar on Thursday, Feb. 4 St., at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and making the community a better between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. For can be purchased from members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. or TicketMaster. Call 214-743-2440 or 214-743-2449.

February 9

St. Luke Community United The Annual Black Heritage Stamp Sankofa Freedom Forum is hosting Methodist Church will conduct a Unveiling will present a new postage career development Seminar from "The African Origin of Civilization & Western Freemasonry" 3:00 p.m. at 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on February 8 and 9. Call 214-821-2970 for more presentation will take place at Linthe Cultural Insights Sankofa Cultural Arts Club, located at 1908 Martin Luther King Blvd. The slide presentation and lecture by Ashra Kwesi

February 12

The National Association of Bench celebration to honor Dallas civic leader and newly-elected president A \$10 donation is requested, \$5 Barbara Steele. "A Night of Giving" will be held at the Top O' The Cliff Club, 400 S. Zang, 15th floor, and is geared to raise money and awareness ics include: for the United Negro College Fund.

> Tickets are \$50. For more information, call UNCF at 972-234-1007 or 972-263-4114. Seating is limited.

the unique flavor of African Ameri-

The Black Academy of Arts and Let-

February 13

stamp with the likeness of the great civil rights leader Malcolm X. The coln High School, located at Malcolm X Blvd. and Hatcher, at 4:30 p.m. For more information, please call 972-224-0513.

and Bar Spouses will hold a festive The African American Museum is currently providing history courses for adults that will give participants the opportunity to survey African American history through the eyes of those who made history. Course top-

> February 13: "Free at Last? The Civil War, Emancipation, and Reconstruction"

February 27:" Jim Crow and Segregation"

March 13: "DuBois, Washington, and Garvey and the Harlem Renais-



March 20: "Medgar, Malcolm and Martin: The Civil Rights Move-

March 27: "Women of the Struggle" (Women's History Month)

For more information or to enroll, contact the African American Museum at 214.565.9026 ext. 316.

The North Texas District of the Internal Revenue Service will hold a free tax preparation event from 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Guadalupe Cathedral at Ross Avenue and Pearl St. For The South Dallas Cultural Center will more information, call 214-767-1424.

February 14

St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, 1308 Wilcox, McKinney, will hold its annual Black History program at 4:00 p.m. Dr. Marcus Nelson, asst. principal at Dowell Middle School in McKinney, will be the guest speaker. For South Dallas Cultural Center will more information, call 972-542-6178.

event will feature appearances by on- of a people. air personalities and will be free and open to the public.

February 17

that particularly affect African Americans and a free blood pressure clinic Style" at the South Dallas Cultural 977-7886. will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Center at 8:00 p.m. The. Dallas-based the Student Union 2.602 at the University of Texas at Dallas. Call 972-883-6390 for more information.

February 19

screen two films: Ready for the Revolution: The Legacy of Kwame Toure-Kwame, and Kwame Toure: Get Organized at 7:30 p.m.

The South Dallas Cultural Center is located at 3400 Fitzhugh. Call 214- An a capella singing group from the 939-ARTS (2787) for more informa-

present "A Heartful of Heritage," a blind. compilation of theatre, music and African & African American contri-WFAA-TV (Channel 8) will host its butions to the artistic world at 10 p.m. second annual Family First Day at the From the drums of the power of the Dallas Museum of Art. The day-long present, J&j will journey through time

Call 214-939-ARTS for more information.

February 20

A health fair featuring health issues Composer/performer Rashani will display his "Riddems Carribean artist will create a carribean flavor with his special brand of Reggae and Carribean music. Admission is \$5.

Around Town

St. Luke Community United Methodist Church will hold a job fair beginning with a continental breakfast at 10:00 a.m. Call 214-821-2970 for 817-272-5302 for more information. more information.

west coast of Africa will perform in concert at the International Museum of Cultures at 2:00 p.m. The group, of ten singers who have no musical

The IMC is located at 7500 West poetry passing over the centuries of Camp Wisdom Rd. Free admission and parking. Call 972-708-7406 for more information.

February 21

LaFuente presents its 3rd Annual Bridal/Quinceañera Expo '99 (Feria de Novias y Quinceañeras) at the Grand Place at Fair Park. Bridal fashion shows will be at 1:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., with a Quinceañera show at 3:30 p.m.

Admission is free. For additional booth or event information, call 214-

February 25

University of Texas at Arlington will hosts its inaugural Distinguished African Lecture Series at 7 p.m. in the atrium on the 6th floor of the Central Library, 702 College St. Call (metro)

February 26

A contest of high school gospel choirs called "Gospel Showdown," featuring Generation Next will be hosted by Cedric Bailey of radio station from Monrovia, Liberia, is comprised KHVN-FM (Heaven 97) at 7 p.m. at the University of Texas at Dallas' Stutraining. Amazingly, six of them are dent Union Galaxy Room. Call 972-883-6390 for more information.

ATTENTION:

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

> Minority Opportunity News 2730 Stemmons Frwy Suite 1202 Dallas, TX 75207 (214) 905-0949 Fax

"Your Friendly Neighborhood Global Communications Company."



Continued from page

Redditt explained to the inspector, "We can't just walk away after all the threats of violence." Asked by the inspector what he wanted to do, Redditt said that at least at Fire Station No. 2 the police could see and establish security without being seen. The inspector responded," Okay, do what you want to do."

Redditt did establish a command post at Fire Station No. 2. However, less than two hours before Dr. King was shot, a Lt. Arkin, who was in Intelligence came down to Fire Station No. 2. Arkin said Redditt was wanted down at police headquarters immediately. Reluctant to leave officer Richmond alone, Redditt was then told by Arkin that Holloman, the fire and police chief, wanted to see him immediately. With this, Redditt went down to police headquarters with Lt. Larkin.

Arriving at police headquarters, Redditt was introduced to a bevy of enforcement people. Chief Holloman took Redditt aside and explained to him that a gentleman from the United States Secret Service had intercepted information from the Mississippi Highway Patrol that indicated that there was a contract out on Redditt's life. This was more than puzzling to Redditt. He could not bring himself to believe that a member of the United States Secret Service would take a trip all the way from Washington, D.C., just to expose a proposed contract killing of an ordinary local detective. Holloman went on to explain that in order to safeguard Redditt's life, he was ordering him off of the King security detail; instead he was to go directly home, gather his family and go into hiding.

Reservations were already made for Redditt's family to stay at the Riverfront Holiday Inn, in Memphis. Redditt was

Signature

incredulous. His first thoughts were, that this would leave Dr. King at the Lorraine Motel with only one man for security. Redditt then explained to Chief Holloman that it was better for him to remain on the street to be a lone target, rather than to expose his entire family to a hit man. Holloman steadfastly demanded that Redditt leave the King security detail and go home. Redditt's mother-in- law was too sick to be moved, so he remained home under the protection of two Memphis policemen. Redditt concluded that the two policemen were not there to protect him and his family but rather to watch him instead.

Redditt did not wish to go into the house, fearing that the presence of the two officers might be upsetting to his very ill mother-in-law, so he waited in his car for as few minutes. While waiting, he heard over the radio that Dr. King had been shot. Alarmed at this and at the same time wondering if his mother-in-law had somehow managed to hear the news over the radio. Redditt quickly headed for the house to check on her condition, hoping she had not heard the broadcast.

Unknown to Redditt, his mother-inlaw had a small radio and had also heard the report that Dr. King had been killed. A grief-stricken Redditt did all that he could to lessen the strain that the sudden

death of King had on his mother-in-law. However, the next night, April 5,1968, Redditt's overwrought mother-in-law suddenly sat up in bed and screamed, "Dr. King, Dr. King,

Dr. King. God, please, take me instead of Dr. King!" And then she passed away.

"I called," Redditt recalls, "on Thursday to see if there was any way that I could participate in the investigation. I called on Friday. I called on Saturday. When I called on Sunday, they told me that the basic investigation was over and that I was ordered back to work."

According to Redditt, nothing else

was ever said about the contract on his life.

MON

Russell D. Shockley is the director of Ethnic Notes. For lecture or presentation information, call or write Ethnic Notes, c/o MON.

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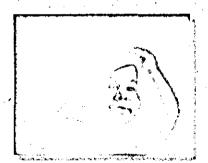
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FRIENDSHIP



Book Review Angela Washington-Blair, Ph.D.

Harassment in the workplace is an oft-

discussed topic these days. How to overcome harassment, how to get management on your side, and how to recover from traumatic experiences at work is the focus of Stand by Sharon Floyd (Victory Tabernacle Outreach Ministries, \$12.95). Floyd shares from her twenty-something years in corporate America some of the gross unfairness and some truly harrowing experiences meted out to her at the hands of bosses and fellow employees.

Floyd, an evangelist, provides readers with weapons to fight in this battle of not just workplace warfare, but spiritual warfare. Self-published, but a very polished slender volume, the book provides scriptural resources that enable workers to stand in the face of adversity.

Brian Keith Jackson's acclaimed debut novel The View From Here (Pocket Books, \$23) presents the view of the narrator from a unique perspective: the womb of a pregnant woman. Jackson tells the story from the point of view of L'il Lisa, who begins speaking five months into her

New fiction, old fiction and a primer on workplace harassment

mother Anna's pregnancy. Considered raw peace all around her. With her sixth child

and haunting by book critics, this book is on the way—she hopes for a girl—the herothe story of a lonely woman in the rural ine faces a challenge that threatens to

destroy the family she's fought so hard to preserve. This book has authentic dialogue and tells a sensitive story of a woman's feelings and thoughts, showing that an insightful male writer can do just that.

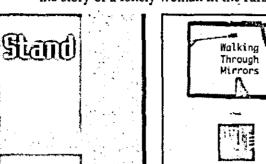
In Walking Through Mirrors, the second novel by Jackson, the protagonist is a successful New York photographer named Jeremy who receives a phone call from Louisiana that his father has died. He must make the journey home to help bury his father. It is also a journey home to find himself. Having been raised by his grandmother, Mama B-his mother died just hours after his birth—Jeremy is a man full of unexpressed wants and needs. His grandmother called him Patience; ironically, he feels anything but. Flashbacks dot the story as Jeremy recalls his life, his growing up, his sexual coming of

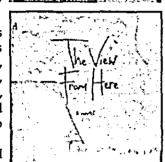
age. He tells of his rocking chair, his grandmother's rocking chair, the chair that gives him peace and closeness with his past. Jeremy has a lot of unresolved issues, one being

an intense loathing for his father who disappeared for years from his life. Now he must put together the missing pieces and in doing so, finally find peace.

If you've seen the movie version of this classic African American story starring Sidney Poitier and if you've been fortunate enough to see the stage version at the Dallas Theater Center starring Irma P. Hall (Soul Food, Beloved, and Patch Adams), then you will definitely want to purchase a copy of A Raisin in the Sun to read and add to your home library. The stage play has scenes not seen in the 1961 movie version. but are included in the 1989 American Playhouse version starring Danny Glover. Purchase the American Library book version to read those important 'missing' scenes.' A Raisin in the Sun, a timeless story and a timeless truth, was written by gifted playwright Lorraine Hansberry and opened on Broadway in 1959. As you read Mama Younger's story about the effects a \$10,000 check have on the hopes and dreams of this multigenerational family, you'll recognize people you know, families you know and, perhaps, your own dreams. You'll understand how dreams deferred become like raisins in the sun. You'll read how children relate to elders, how husbands and wives have misunderstandings, how siblings have rivalries, how we all, despite our racial distinctions, really want the same things in life.

MON

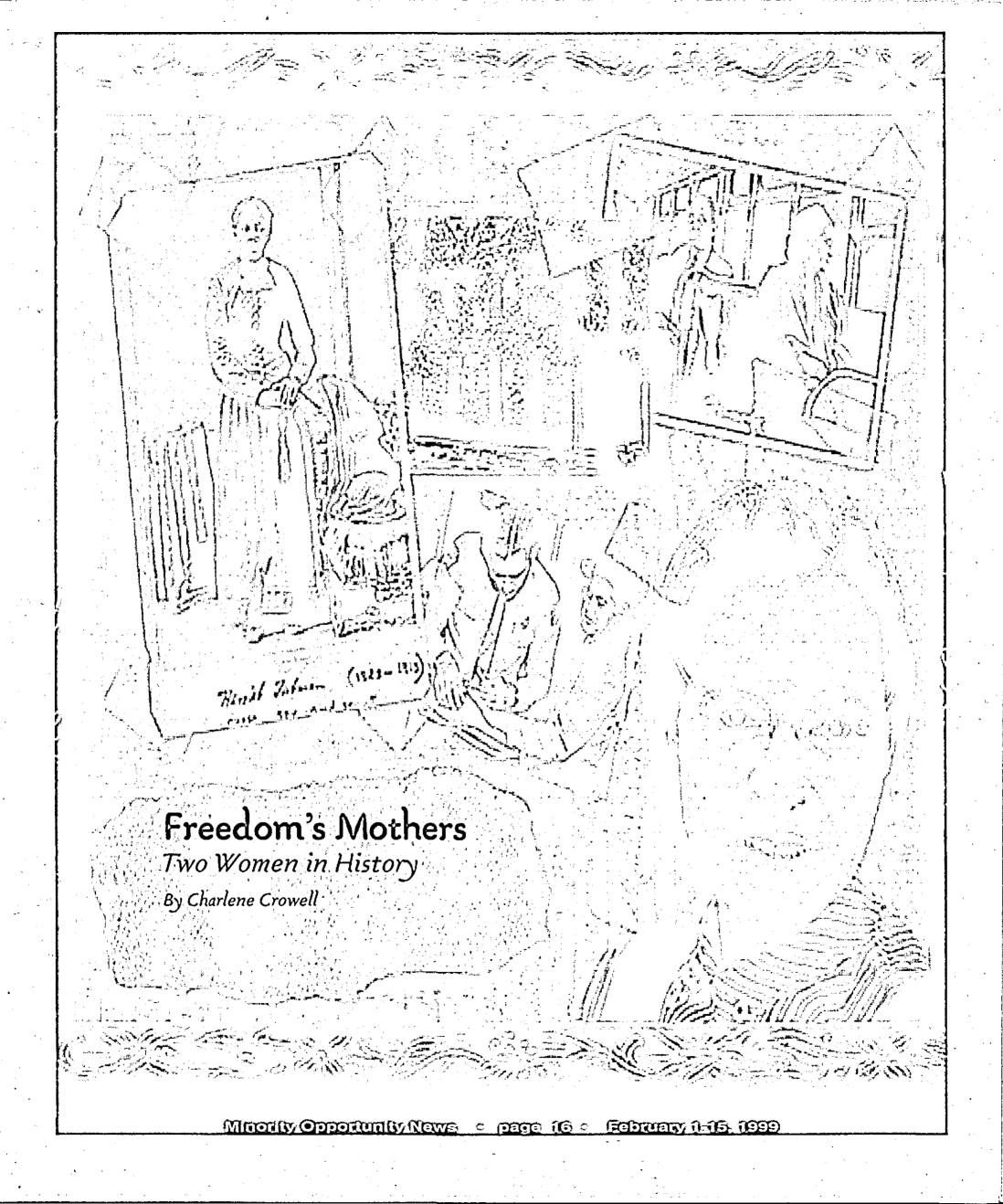






south. Her husband, J.T. is a strong but violent man who only tells her he loves her when she is asleep. Anna spends her time raising her five sons and trying to keep





few days ago, when President Bill Clinton delivered the annual State of the Union address, one of the people recognized was a Black woman. Graying and teetering as she rose to accept the applause of the entire chambet, a modest lady stood up.

The irony is that her proudest moment came when she sat down.

Alone and unaided, she quietly refused to be moved from her passenger's seat on a Montgomery, Alabama public bus. Rosa Parks' act of defiance on December 1, 1955, began a movement that forced this nation to honor its promises of freedom, justice and equality for all.

Yet the character that brought such a defining moment to a nation, was not the first time a small and fearless black woman took a stand for freedom.

When Harriet Tubman was a slave who yearned to be free, she was never taught to read nor write. But she was well-versed in the Bible, music and folk-lore. She relied upon her incredible memory, her knowledge of nature and an innate shrewdness to chart the road to freedom.

While Tubman herself was physically diminutive—only five feet tall—her character cast a giant shadow. She was

Harriet Tubman, conductor of the Underground Rail-



known to have a indomitable trust and belief in God and His divine providence and in 1849 she relied on that trust and belief to escape to freedom in Pennsylvania, alone and unaided by human hands. Within a year of her escape, she

began a series of journeys to free her relatives. By 1857, as the "Underground Railroad's" conductor, Harriet Tubman had assisted her entire family, including her parents, in gaining their freedom.

Tubman's fundamental goal was to work for the freedom of all slaves and that noble mission led to an association with people without regard to gender, color or economic status. Before John Brown was assassinated, he and Harriet Tubman were close associates. This uneducated but highly-principled woman became an effective and acknowledged leader in the abolitionists movement.

During the Civil War and Reconstruction, Harriet Tubman assisted Union army Colonel James Montgomery in battle against Confederate troops. Additionally, she nursed sick and wounded soldiers and taught self-sufficiency to newly-freed Blacks.

Following the Civil War, Tubman worked closely with Black churches. Her special concerns were for children and the elderly. In her own church she collected clothes for destitute children and helped find homes for the elderly.

John Tubman, her first husband, did not join her in running to freedom and died in 1867. But two years later, Harriet Tubman married a Union soldier by the name of Nelson Davis. Little is known of her second spouse except that he was a Black man 22 years her junior and also a

his death.

former slave. As a result of Nelson's war service record Ms. Tubman, as the widow of a civil war veteran, was able to draw a pension after

In 1896 she purchased 25 acres of land that adjoined her own home in Auburn, New York, On that parcel of land, she built the Harriet Tubman Home for Aged and Indigent Colored People. Construction began in 1903. With the assistance of the AME Zion Church, the home opened in 1908. The last two years of Harriet Tubman's life were spent in residence there. On March 10, 1913, she died of pneumonia.

In 1978, when the United States Postal Service began the Black Heritage USA series of commemorative stamps, the first African American so honored was none other than Harriet Tubman.

A woman who could not read, Harriet Tubman, nevertheless, was faithfully led to understand a heavenly map, pointing the way to freedom. And because of her sheer determination, the Underground Railroad is to this day a firmly



Parks gets fingerprinted

entrenched symbol and much-heralded legacy of a brave woman's contribution to freedom.

History teaches us how freedom's torch is passed from one generation to the next. One month before Harriet Tubman died, Rosa Parks was born in Tuskegee, Alabama.

The first of two children, Rosa Parks' father was a carpenter and her mother was teacher in rural schools. Her parents soon separated after the birth of her brother in 1915. When her father, James McCauley moved north to live, her mother, Leona, returned to her parents home in Pine Level, Alabama.

During those early years, Rosa helped with the household chores. Her mother was away teaching most of the time and her grandparents were in poor health. So it was little Rosa who was left to try to take care of the family. Cooking and quilting were said to be her specialties. At age 11 she went to live with her aunt, Fanny Williamson, in Montgomery. Agreeing to regularly clean two classrooms in exchange for tuition, Rosa was able to attend a private school for girls. She later entered Booker T. Washington High School but later was forced to drop out to care for her seriously ill mother.

It was during these out-of-school years that Rosa learned about the hardships of slavery and the hopes of emancipation held by the enslaved. Many of the lessons for life that she later called upon were first shared with her by her maternal grandparents.

In December 1932, a 19-year-old Rosa McCauley wed a young barber from Montgomery named Raymond Parks. Rosa contributed to the household income by holding a number of jobs. She sewed at home, worked as a domestic, sold insurance and was an office clerk.

The young marrieds also shared a concern for inequality and segregation. Raymond was a member of the National Committee to Save the Scottsboro Boys. The case of the Scottsboro boys made headlines when they were jailed for the rape of two White girls. Raymond took the young men food while they awaited trial in jail.

In 1943, Rosa Parks joined the Montgomery Chapter of the NAACP. In fact, she was one of the first Montgomery Negro women to do so. However, more than just a member on the rolls, she was an early activist in efforts to register Montgomery Negroes to vote. Whenever she could, Rosa avoided the colored-only fountains and elevators. Many days, rather than ride a segregated bus, she walked home.

But on a Thursday evening, December 1,1955, Rosa Parks decided she was too tired to walk. Instead, she would ride home on the Cleveland Avenue bus from her job at a downtown Montgomery department store. In those days, the first 10 seats on Montgomery buses were always reserved for Whites. If the White section filled up, the Negro or colored sections of the bus were simply made

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

smaller. On that fateful day, the White section of the bus filled up. The White driver asked four Negroes to move. When Rosa Parks refused, the driver called the police. Twelve years earlier, Rosa had been evicted from another bus by the same driver.

Recalling the events of that day, Rosa Parks said, "I didn't consider myself breaking any segregation laws... I just felt resigned to give what I could to protest against the way I was being treated."

Parks arrest came at about six in the evening. She was charged with violating a Montgomery city ordinance. Her one phone call from jail was to E. D. Nixon, at that time a Montgomery NAACP official. With Nixon's assistance, Rosa was released on \$100 bond. Nixon learned while posting her bond that it was the first time a Negro had been charged with violating the city's segregation code. Trial was scheduled for December 5.

On Friday morning, December 2, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. received a phone call from E. D. Nixon. As he recounted the events of the previous day, Nixon told Dr. King, "We have taken this thing too long already. We got to boycott the buses. . .make it clear to the White folks we ain't taking this type of treatment any longer." Dr. King agreed and offered Dexter Avenue Baptist Church as a meeting place for community and church leaders to decide the best course of action.

With agreement among almost 50 ministers and civic leaders that were in attendance evening, the bus boycott began on Monday, December 5. Fifty-two thousand flyers were distributed, calling for a boycott on the day of Rosa Parks' trial. A mass meeting attracted over 7,000 Negroes to the Holt Street Baptist Church. Out of that meeting, the Montgomery Improvement Association was

formed.

Parks was found guilty and fined \$10, plus \$4 in court costs. She refused to pay the money and appealed her case to the Montgomery Circuit Court. After she was released from jail, she went back to work but was later fired. The combination of receiving threatening phone calls, her work with the Montgomery Improvement Association and an increasing number of speaking requests did not help her marriage or her chances for employment.

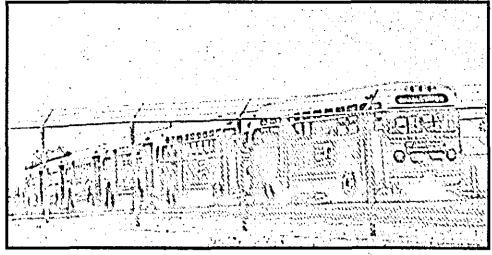
For more than a year, Montgomery's 30,000 Black residents walked, hitch-hiked, bicycled, taxied and used every available means of transportation except the city buses. Black taxi companies reduced the regular rate of cost to the same ten cents charged by the bus company. As time went on, however, the they were forced to revert to the regular 45 cents taxi charge.

For most Blacks, however, walking seemed to do just fine. On February 1, 1956, the Montgomery Improvement Association filed a lawsuit in federal district court. On June 2, the federal court declared segregated bus seating to be unconstitutional. The Supreme Court upheld the lower court's ruling and on December 20, 1956, the order was served on Montgomery officials to integrate.

That court order brought an end to 381 days of boycotting.

In the year of the Montgomery bus boycott, the transit company was reported to have lost \$250,000 in revenue. The city itself lost thousands of dollars in taxes and Montgomery merchants estimated they lost millions of dollars in retail sales.

By 1957, with Rosa unable to find employment and her husband Raymond ailing, they decided to move to Detroit, where Rosa's mother and brother resided.



The 381-day boycott took many of Montgomery's buses off the streets and brought the city to its economic knees.

Rosa began working with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's Detroit office. In 1965, she joined the staff of Congressman John Conyers. Although she retired in 1988, Mrs. Parks remained active in the struggle for freedom. On June 30, 1989, the silver anniversary of the civil rights act, she was invited to the White House as a guest

In February 1990, to celebrate her 75th birthday, 3,000 leaders, governmental officials and dignitaries feted her in the nation's capital. At those ceremonies, Mrs. Parks said, "Pray and work for the freedom of Nelson Mandela and our brothers in South Africa."

Those prayers were answered; Mandela walked to freedom just a few months later. On June 20, 1990, the 71-year old anti-apartheid leader who had spent most of his adult life as a political prisoner arrived in America for a 12-day tour.

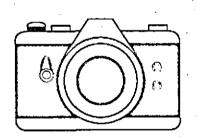
Randall Robinson, founder and executive director of TransAfrica, an organization that works to influence American foreign policy in Africa and the Caribbean, once said, "The blood that runs through us is deeper than the seas

that separate us." Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks would no doubt agree. From slave ships to slave auctions, plantations, prison and more—the African American experience reveals that our shared history places us far more in common than in conflict. . . that in innumerable ways, African Americans' unique history says we are all a part of each other.

Two heroic women's lives illustrate that truism.

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Electronic Urban Report

Newsbits

Master P. was recently cleared by the NCAA in a case that linked him to two Louisiana State University athletes. An LSU basketball player was spotted last spring driving a car registered to No



Master P

Limit Records. In addition, a former football player was also said to have ties to P.

The problem is not that P knows the athletes, but that he is also head of No Limit Sports Management, and both LSU and the NCAA have regulations pre-

venting their athletes from associating with professional agents.

Speaking of Master P. The No Limit Records entrepreneur had been ballin' for the NBA's Dallas Mavericks in hopes of trying out for the team. Although the Mays said P would not be trying out for the team, that doesn't mean his balling days are Will Smith completely over. The 28-

year-old No Limit CEO began a twoweek training camp with the Charlotte Hornets on Thursday, although this in no way guarantees him a spot on the team. He would most likely play point guard if he makes the team.

What a difference four months makes. Will Smith's four-month-old company, Overbrook Entertainment, has sold it's first television series. The company will team up with the WB network. to create a series that will star up and coming comedian Nick Cannon. The series already has a six episode commit-



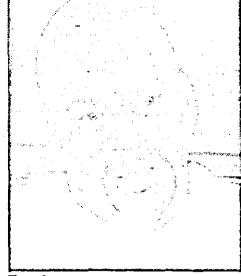
Wu-Tang Clan has been hitting the Billboard charts with bullets ever since the single "Method Man" was dropped back when. Well, they may have taken the bullet part just a bit too seriously. They are now under federal investigation for gun-running.

According to The New York Post, New York City

Police and the ATF suspect at least two members of the rap group are involved in a crime ring that links Staten Island, N.Y., to the small town of Steubenville, Ohio.

Officials said the Wu-Tang Clan is suspected of hiring friends to buy weapons in Ohio and bring them back to New York. A manager of the nine-member group, Walter Free, 30, has already been busted on federal gun charges stemming from the year-long probe.

Morning "Fly" jock, Tom Joyner has paired with Rhino Records to put some of his show on CD. The release, "Tom Joyner's Old School Mix" features a mix of 70s and 80s hits like A Taste Of Honey's "Boo-

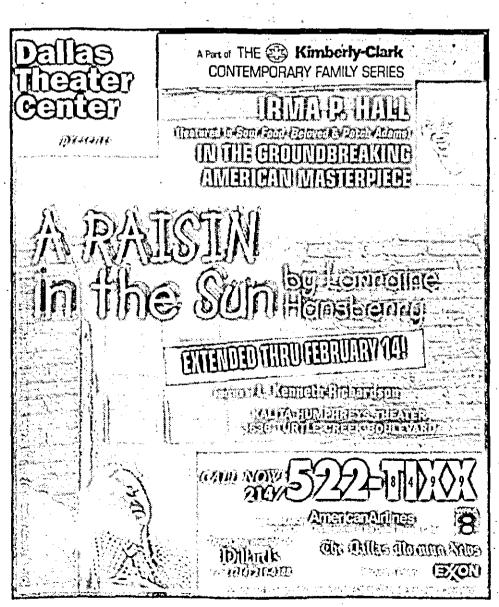


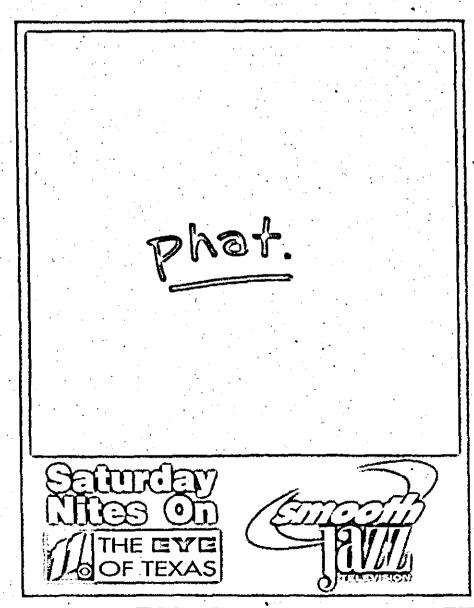
Tom Joyner

gie Oogie Oogie," Chic's "Le Freak," Slave's "Slide," Sister Sledge's "He's The Greatest Dancer," and many others. Joyner, urban radio's No. 1 morning show host, hand picked the tracks and also penned the accompanying liner notes. The CDs hit the streets March 16.

MON

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





Hollywood is in Dallas

Local entrepreneur peddles dreams of stardom

By Glenda Goodson

Score one for civilized entertainment. When Hollywood J.D. began his music promotion business, he had no



The star maker, Hollywood J.D.

idea that he would be hosting an annual VIP Valentine event. The place to be for the Pre-Valentine's Black and White Ball Extravaganza hailed as the "Lover's Special" is Hotel Inter-Continental at 15201 Dallas Parkway. Hollywood's purpose is to earn money to fund the company's other product line, youth talent searches, which is the heart of the business.

"There's a lot of talent in Dallas and Fort Worth. Someone needs to connect the young people with record companies."

The thirtysomething Dallas native has held Talent Star Search events that have packed the house in Dallas, Los

Angeles, Colorado Springs, Albuquerque and Montreal. All have been successful, but along the way he had to "remember my grandparent's wisdom when they told me when times are hard, you get on your knees and pray. When times are good you get on your knees and pray twice as hard."

He prayed that the youth of Dallas would have a venue to showcase their talent. His strategy was to parlay his experience helping launch Club New York, New York into one of Dallas' premier nightspots. (He claimed that his corner of the bar would host the Dallas Mavs and Dallas Cowboys and says "folks were lining up to get in.") His audacious plan was to utilize those connections in making the journey to Los Angeles and get record companies to judge his talent searches and thereby boost his profile.

His plan worked with the caveat that the more popular his events became, the greater the amount of up-front money was needed. The financial setbacks during this learning process were devastating. Once he booked the Radisson hotel for an event and bought enough food for a thousand people. Instead, only 75 people showed up.

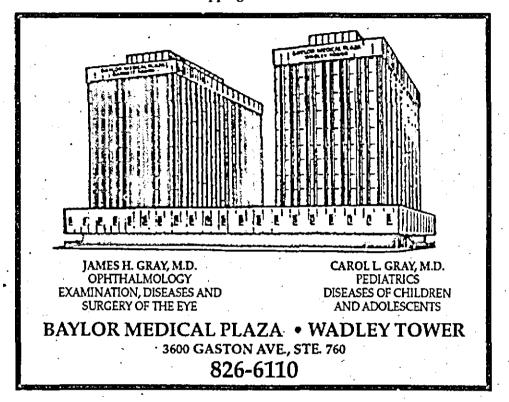
"I went home and laid on the floor for two days" and then he had to sell his Mercedes. He also had to contend with racism (he found some facilities would charge him more when they found out he was Black). But because he's a strong believer "that a kid can do anything if someone just takes them by the hand and just shows them" he presses on, raising money for both his promotions through

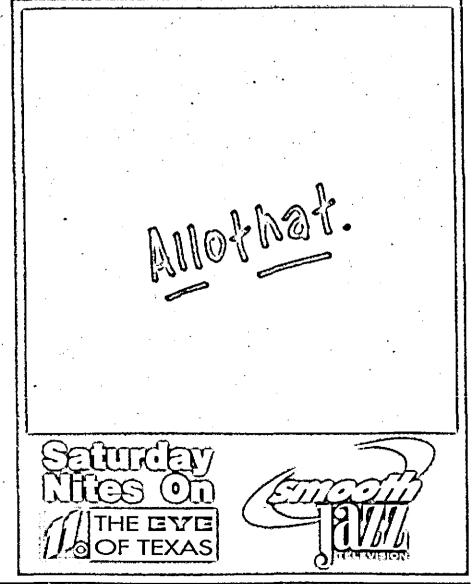
the VIP Valentine shows.

This year's Lover's Special, scheduled for Feb. 6, cost \$119 to check into a luxurious room at the Hotel Inter-Continental with chocolate strawberries, roses and champagne awaiting you. The following day, from 11:00 am-3:30 p.m., you can dine from a delicious buffet in the Malachite Ballroom (\$32 per person). Then take your sweetie to the Exhibitor's Showcase for the Sweetheart Shopping

Spree. The Black and White Ball Extravaganza begins next (advance tickets \$22.50 or you may purchase at the door for \$25.00). From 7:00-8:00 p.m. hors d'oeuvres will be served during the featured Fashion Showcase and at 8:00 it's showtime with special guest Michael Julius of V100.

You must be 25 years or over. For further information call the hotline at metro 817-355-5004.







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You and Your Money

John Dudley

Considering purchasing stock? Understanding what stocks represent and the many different types of stocks available can be critical to prudent investing.

In its simplest definition, stocks, or equities, represent basic ownership units in a corporation. In effect, when you buy the stock of a company, you buy part ownership of that company, including its physical plant, output and everything it owns.

The most popular equity is called common stock, so named because investors hold these securities "in common" with many other shareholders. Common stock ownership usually entitles shareholders to vote in the election of directors and to participate in other company concerns. Large companies generally have millions of outstanding common shares held by tens of thousands of

When the company in which you own shares grows and prospers, the value of the common stock generally will rise. This, in turn, usually represents additional value for shareholders, either as capital appreciation (the difference between the purchase price and current market value)

Taking stock of stock

and/or increased dividends. Of course, stock price and dividends can drop if a company does not perform well.

The dividend is a payment (usually made quarterly) by a corporation to its shareholders representing a percentage of the company's earnings. Typically, income stocks (companies that pay large dividends) show relatively less share price movement, while so-called growth stocks (companies that tend to reinvest most of their earnings into the business) pay smaller dividends, if any, and therefore usually have larger price movements.

The other major type of equity is called preferred stock. There are many different categories of preferreds, each of which offers varying features and benefits. Investors must take care to understand the differences before they buy.

Like common stock, preferred stock represents ownership units in a company, but preferred shareholders have priority over owners of common shares regarding payment of dividends and the distribution of corporate assets (in the event of liquidation). Most preferred stock does not carry voting rights.

Unlike common stock dividends that tend to fluctuate with the company's earnings, preferred stockholders generally receive a fixed annual dollar payment that doesn't change for as long as they hold the stock. Also, the market price of most preferreds does not go up or down as fast as common stock. It should be noted that because of their fixed dividend and fixed income status, when interest rates go up, the price of the preferred stocks go down. Likewise, when interest rates go down, the price of the preferred stocks go up.

For these reasons, preferred stock is often considered a more secure investment than common stock, although the fixed annual payment is not an advantage during periods of rapid inflation. Among the many types of preferred stock are the following:

- Straight or fixed rate perpetual preferred stock is the most popular type of preferred stock. Like its name indicates, its dividend rate is fixed for the life of the issue, and it has no maturi-
- · Convertible preferred stock may be "converted" to common stock at a prescribed ratio. When convertible preferred stock is issued, a conversion price is determined. This is the dollar value at which it would be financially

practical for an investor to convert to common stock of the issuer.

- Adjustable rate preferred stock pays a dividend that is tied to a benchmark. such as Treasury Bills or an index of some sort. When these rates move up or down, the dividend is adjusted correspondingly, according to a stated formula, giving preferred stock investors the opportunity to participate in an increasing rate environ-
- Participating preferred stock allows holders to receive dividend increases in years during which common stock dividends exceed the fixed payments on the preferred stock.

Investors can buy both common and preferred stocks in several ways, including individual issues, and through mutual funds and unit investment trusts, each with specific investment objectives. So, if you thought "buying some stocks" meant just one thing, you'd better think again. A qualified financial advisor can help you take stock of stocks, and put them to work for you.

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

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You and God Ron Shaw

Who's On Your Team? Proverbs 11:14

As we set sail on a new year, I have determined to be better than I've ever been before at who I am, not what I do. Don't misunderstand me. I plan to be excellent in ministry; however, who I am is more important to God. It's important for me to concentrate on being a good Christian rather than just doing good Christian things. So my objective is never to be the best preacher or the best pastor but, rather, to be the best Christian I can be. If I'm the best Christian, then it doesn't matter whether I'm a pastor or an usher or a janitor because no matter what I do, I'll be pleasing to God.

In order to be the best Christian, God has supplied me with all the tools necessary for that to happen. Interestingly enough, the tools I refer to are the people He has surrounded me with. One of the most important aspects of Christian development is how we handle the team of people God has added to our lives to help get us to the place in life He desires. From the beginning of man's existence here on Earth, God has made it clear that aloneness is not good. Our having dominion and being effective stewards of this planet requires teamwork. God said to Abram that He and Abram would be partners so that together God could establish His covenant. Under the new covenant, God has made it clear that we need assistance to successfully complete

the assignment He has entrusted us with. The Holy Ghost is a partner with us according to Jesus. God the Father is a partner with us according to the apostle Paul. Mark 16 says God worked with the disciples confirming His word. This is such an important principle. According to 1 Corinthians 12, God has fitted us into what is called "the Body of Christ" and we each have a function to fulfill. The body works by its many members effectively working together.

Our text in Prov. 11:14 says: "Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety (NKJ)." The word safety means deliverance, salvation, victory and help. It literally means that alone there is no deliverance. You can't get saved on your own. You can't win or have victory by yourself. Many people violate this principle and wonder where they keep missing it. Ecclesiastes says two are better than one...and a threefold cord is not easily broken. If you are going to be delivered from strongholds and be saved from all temporary ills, you must have a team around you.

The Bible says God gave some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and some teachers, so that we might be perfected. In other words, God recognized the need for us to have a staff of people to help us become what He intends for us to become. So the question is not whether we should have a team but, rather, who's on our team. There are several people that provide me with Godly wisdom and counsel for every area of my life. They are not people that are simply yes men and women but rather men and women who have proven trackrecords for being good stewards and following God. They are people that I am accountable to.

If you are going to succeed, you need what I call a "super team." They should

be people who can tell you no and you submit to their no's. They should be people who love you as Christ loved us and will not tell you what they think you want to hear but will speak the truth to you in love so that you may grow up into Christ in all things. I believe that's one of the reasons why, when we stand before God, we will be without excuse because He has afforded us enough help to succeed.

You need people in your life who will partner with you to help you become what God intends for you to become. Who's on your team? In the early church, none of the apostles acted solely on their own, even though they were hooked up with God. Jesus said out of the mouth of two or three witnesses our words should be established when we are resolving conflict in the church. The Psalms says that the man that walks in the counsel of the ungodly will not be blessed. If you are going to be all God says you are to be, you

need a super team around you. You need help. No matter how much education you have or how much money you have, you still need help from the people God has added to your life to speak into your life and offer you wise counsel. The Bible says through wise counsel, plans succeed. One of the reasons people continue to fail is because they constantly ignore the wisdom of those that are on their team.

I'll share more on this subject in the next article. Until then, who's in your life that serves as a of source godly wisdom? Who is it that you give an account to of your daily deeds? Who do you go to when you are confused about how to apply God's wisdom to the practical issues of your life? Who's on you team?

MON

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



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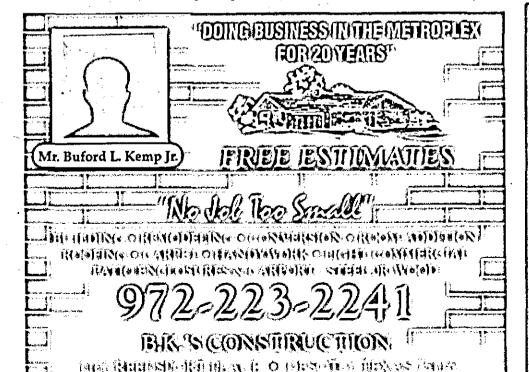
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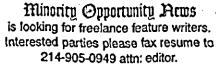
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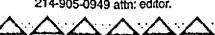
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Applications required. Appls issued/accepted M-F 7:30a-4:00p. If outside Tarrant County, call (817) 884-1188 to request an application & listen to the Job Line for details on these & other position openings. Tarrant County Personnel, 100 E. Weatherford, FW, TX 76196-0105.

ENGINEER

KDFW FOX 4 currently has an opening for a Engineer Technician. Responsibilities include but not limited to the operation, installation and maintenance of television equipment. This may include one or more of the following areas: audio board operation, technical director, master control operator, station automation operation, video tape operations, satellite/microwave acquisition, camera/robotic camera operation, ENG/SNG van operations, maintenance of broadcast equipment, and installation of broadcast equipment. Two years technical college or higher education preferred. Ideal candidates must demonstrate skills as a Technical Director and possess fouryears experience in commercial broadcasting, which includes news operation experience.

Rush resume/letter of interest (specify position and job code) to:

Human Resources Job Code: 517-10 KDFW FOX 4 Television Station 400 N. Griffin St. Dallas, TX 75202. Faxes accepted at 214-954-0315. No Phone Calls Please.

NOTICE TO **SUBCONTRACTORS** & SUPPLIERS

Cadence McShane Corporation is requesting competitive sealed proposals at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, February 16, 1999 from subcontractors and suppliers for the

"ADDITIONS AND RENOVATIONS TO RALPH H. POTEET HIGH SCHOOL, MESQUITE."

Included in this project is 70,616 SF of expansion and 16,200 SF of renovation. A preproposal conference will be held at 4:00 PM Tuesday. February 2, 1999 at Ralph H. Poteet High School. All interested proposers are encouraged to attend.

All MBE, WBE and SBE firms are encouraged to participate.

For viewing and obtaining plans on deposit for this project, or if you have questions, please contact Cadence McShane Corporation at (972) 239-2336.

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