

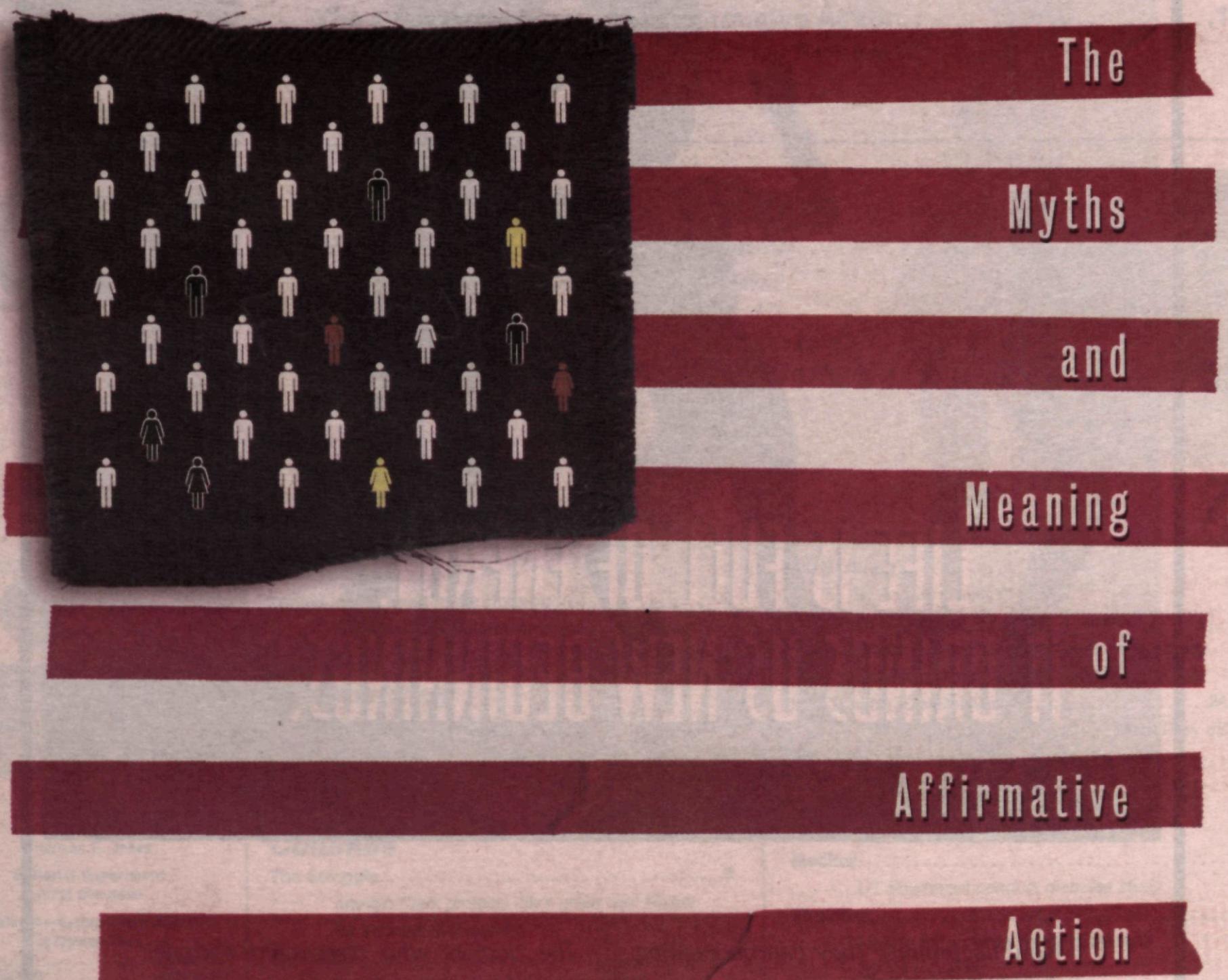
*The Paper of Choice*

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# Minority Opportunity News

**MON**  
Opportunity News

2730 STEMMONS FRWY. STE. 1202 TOWER WEST, DALLAS, TEXAS 75207  
**VOLUME 8, NO. 4 February 15-28, 1999**



**Marilyn Clark:  
Protector of Dallas'  
Grass Roots History**

**"Peanut" Johnson  
only surviving female  
Negro League player**

**Learn How To Read  
Mutual Funds  
Quotations**



LIFE IS FULL OF ENERGY.  
IT BRINGS US NEW BEGINNINGS.

*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.*

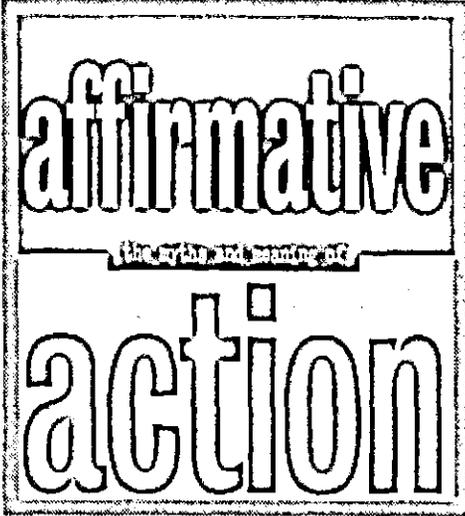
*The doctors who discovered and de-  
signed new cures.*

*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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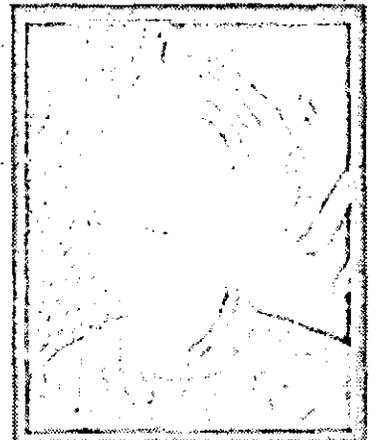
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 Minority Opportunity News

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C I P V S



**From  
The Editor  
Chris Pryer**

## Soldiers without swords, indeed

There has been a plethora of programs being aired on radio and television celebrating and honoring the contributions of African Americans in the building and maintenance of this country during February, African American History Month. And, of course, all of the pre-existing and recently published literature telling the story of the African American struggle for freedom and full inclusion are highlighted for recommended reading. One of these programs, "The Black Press: Soldiers Without Swords," aired Feb. 8 on the Public Broadcasting System (KERA-TV, Channel 13), gave an excellent historical account of the need and responsibility of the Black press.

No treatise of the history of the Black press in America would be credible without mentioning these publishing giants of yesteryear: John Russwurm and Samuel Cornish, Ida B. Wells, Robert S. Abbott, and Robert Van. But of more import than talking about the men and women who were the driving forces behind starting and building Black publishing concerns was the underlying theme of the tremendous service rendered by the Black press. The brave and unyielding voice of the African American press was a major contributor to the geographical shift of the Black population from the South to the North and West. This shift had a significant economical impact on the South as well as the regions of the country that received the mass influx of migrating African Americans. Prominent in instigating this significant geographical shift was Robert Abbott's *Chicago Defender*. Its readership in the South became so strong and its influence on the minds of its readers so powerful, that it became illegal in many southern venues for Blacks to read *The Defender*. (In a recent conversation I had with Dallas genealogist and historian Donald Payton, whom we featured in a cover story several issues back, Payton recalled how it was illegal to possess a copy of *The Defender*.) *The Defender* painted a picture of hope and opportunity existent in the North that could not be obtained living in the South at that time.

Without a doubt, the main focus of the Black press was on the ubiquitous social problem of race relations. Indeed, "standing up for the race" was the unofficial battle cry of Black newspapers around the country. And while they served the very important function of being a clearinghouse for the gathering and disseminating the when, where and

# Editorial

## School board must make the right choice—for the right reasons

The Trustees of the Dallas Independent School District (DISD) face an awesome responsibility in selecting a new superintendent. In an era when community support for private school vouchers appears to be mounting, Dallas' Trustees must select a leader for one of the nation's largest public school systems.

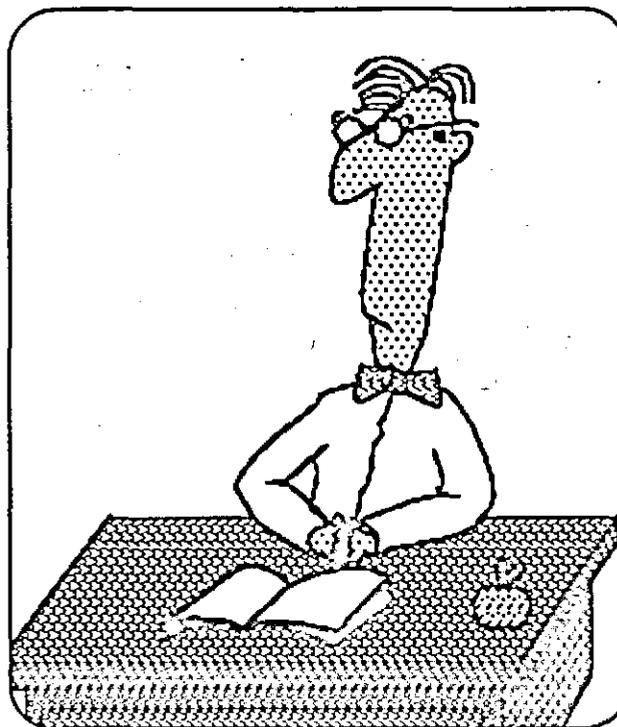
The fate—and future of 160,000 students—is at stake.

The vast majority of those students are children of color. Moreover, an estimated half of Dallas' public students are Hispanic. It is both understandable and valid for the Hispanic community to insist upon the selection of someone who will understand and respond to the myriad of concerns wrought from cultural diversity. Bilingual education will likely be the first of only several issues a new superintendent will be expected to address.

Beyond embracing the realities of diversity, the next superintendent must also develop genuine relationships that inspire performance. Bureaucracy aside, administrators, teachers, counselors, parents and

students alike must all feel a part of the same system.

The "them and us" mentality" offers no beneficial service to edu-



cation or its premise of enlightenment.

As a community, we share a public education system. Let us share, listen, learn and grow together. All of us—the growing as well as the grown—can still experience the thrill of discovery and the pride of achievement. Perhaps, if our children saw more of that attitude in

adults, they might choose to emulate positive images more often.

In other words, the selection of a new superintendent is really about leadership. The question for the school trustees becomes one of selecting a leader that's right for Dallas. If the search process has not produced a set of candidates that are prepared and committed to this district, then continue searching. Education should never be at the sake of expediency. In the long-run, our children will be better served by the right choice, than a quick one.

If, on the other hand, the remaining finalists are all found fit for the job, then the trustees should get on with the business of reaching a decision. Better than most, school boards ought understand that indeed a mind is a terrible thing to waste.

*Minority Opportunity News* hopes that the future of all of Dallas' students will be the guiding factor in decision-making. Educationally speaking, it is time to get back to basics: Preparing today's students for tomorrow's millennium.

MON

why of social events within the Black community, their main function was to chronicle any and all acts of racism and discrimination wherever they occurred. Ida B. Wells' tracking of the lynching of Black folks resulted in her newspaper, *The Memphis Free Speech*, being burned down by an vengeful White mob while she was visiting in New York City. Fearing for her life, Ms. Wells didn't return to the South for 30 years. However, she continued to speak out against racism from her new home up north.

It would be a misrepresentation to say things have not improved since the days of the aforementioned titans of Black journalism. The still predominant-

ly White "mainstream" press has an infusion of African American (and other minorities) journalists that would have been unimagined in times gone by. (Case in point, the editor of *Newsweek*, Mark Whitaker, is African American.) *Ebony* and *JET* magazines have been informing and entertaining Black America for decades. *Essence* magazine has clearly muscled its way into the forefront of the American publishing industry. *Black Enterprise* and *Emerge* have gone past the traditional subjects of art and entertainment and forged ahead into the fields of business and current affairs. Even so, there are still too many examples of bias in reporting by the mainstream press, too

few comprehensive, fair-minded, unprejudiced treatments of news involving people of color for there not to be an African American press.

The world is filled with people with good intentions, people who genuinely feel that we have finally achieved the elusive social plateau of equal opportunity for all, that race is no longer an issue of weight. We all wish that it were so. But when we hear read about the Jasper, Texas incident, or the more recent atrocity of the New York shooting, we are grimly reminded just how far we have to go.

Viva the Black press!

MON



## The Struggle Continues

Thomas Muhammad

Marilyn Clark probably has one of the most recognized faces in Dallas' Black community. She can be seen at nearly every African-centered event in Dallas. Many know her for her quick sharp wit and ever ever-encouraging smile, which displays a real confidence of self-will and self-determination. Her workaholic stamina and cultural pride is admired by everyone. A simple observation by many reveals one true fact. Marilyn (as many affectionately call her) has been at this for a long time.

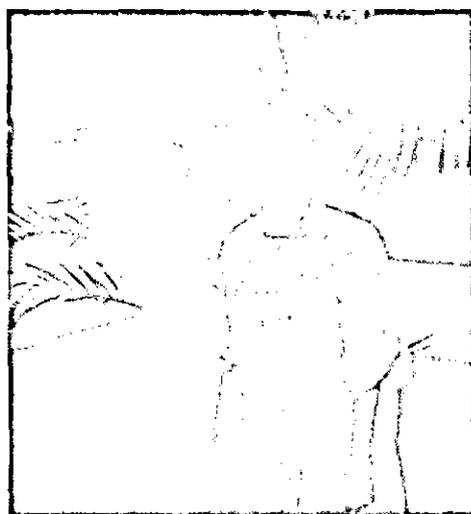
Marilyn started as receptionist and Assistant Director of Education with the Dallas Urban League, under the leadership of Felton Alexander. Soon after Mr. Alexander, who was Dallas' first Urban League director, left for New York. For a time Marilyn worked under the new director, Roosevelt Johnson. But, it was during Mr. Alexander's leadership that Marilyn became exposed to a number of community organizations. Her job was to answer the phones and to organize community meetings around educational issues. And since she answered the phones, she became the public's first contact with the Urban League. Mr. Alexander then gave Marilyn permission to assist and aid the various community organizations in any way she could.

Marilyn set up a job referral station that matched major corporations with community groups, organized SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Conference) meetings and made the Urban League a one-stop shop of community information. Of great help was her ability to assist the local SNCC (Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee) in accessing to the Urban League's office telephone, copy machine and meeting space. It was primarily because of this support that the community was able to mobilize around the agenda of SNCC, the Black Panther Party and Black Citizens for Justice Law and Order. Marilyn takes pride in being known as "the bag women," meaning the woman who helped gather the money that was used to get many of the SNCC members out of jail.

After leaving the Urban League, Marilyn's next experience probably had the most profound impression on her. The University of Chicago created a local office of the National Opinion Research Center in Dallas. Marilyn was hired as Director of Testing and her boss was none other than the legendary Kathryn Gilliam. Their task was to collect data on

# Marilyn Clark: Protector of Dallas' grass roots history

1800 participants who participated in five federally funded Manpower Training Program like Job Corp, Head Start, War on Poverty Training Programs, OIC, etc. Their job was to track down males and females who had graduated or dropped out and determine if they had found meaningful employment or why they had left the program. There were ten testers who went out into the field—



Marilyn Clark

housing projects, jails, and neighborhoods day and night to administer a 30-45 item questionnaire about their experiences. Marilyn's job was to supervise the testers, ensure that there was a quality product, come up with creative ways of getting people to come to the test site or get testers to wherever the people were. Such an experience provided Marilyn with a first-hand opportunity to see up close the needs of her people and to fully examine how many of these programs, designed to remedy the needs, were really bogus. Needless to say, working under the tutelage of Mrs. Gilliam heightened Marilyn's understanding of serving and organizing the poor. It also helped her to be sensitive to not letting a job description get in the way of doing what must be done, while using the resources of your position to help others.

One position Marilyn held which would probably shock some, but would be very normal to her close associates and friends, was Associate Regional Director at Children's Television Workshop. The Workshop produced noted children's education programs as *Sesame Street*, *The Electric Company* and *Feeling Good*. Marilyn served as consultant to 12 PBS TV stations in Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Oklahoma and Louisiana. She would organize performances for the cast of *Sesame Street* throughout the Southwest with a minimum of 15,000

children and parents in attendance for each performance. Her responsibility was to design and implement programs to serve the neediest of families throughout the five states. She had complete freedom to identify and develop programs for children in the public schools, federal prisons, migrant camps (yes lots of Black folks work in the fields) family shelters, welfare hotels, hospitals, day care centers, Native American reservations in New Mexico, day homes and on US Army bases where some of the poorest and most abused children and families were. Because of the great love that local politicians had for Big Bird, it was easier to access money for *Sesame Street* and take it to implement programs that most folks would be afraid to touch.

It was while working as congressional assistant to then Congressman Jim Mattox that Marilyn received her now famous knowledge of the importance of politics in the lives of people. As assistant to Mattox, she was responsible for designing and implementing voter registration drives as well as organizing monthly town hall meetings in South Dallas. Mattox believed in a grass roots, hands-on approach to helping his constituents. This meant that Marilyn and others had to open a file on each constituent who called the office. Once a file was opened they then had to keep in constant contact with them to see if their problems had been solved. And even if the problem had been solved, Marilyn and others had to still contact the constituents to express greetings from Mr. Mattox's office. Two days out of every week she and another aide had to walk door to door in the 23 African American precincts in South Dallas. They spoke to their constituents to find out if they had any problems that the congressman's office could solve. They also called precinct chairpersons each week with a message from the congressman. The door to door campaign left such an impression on Marilyn that she moved to South Dallas and lives there today. After leaving Mattox's office Marilyn went to work for former State Representative Paul Ragsdale. There she spent a lot of time traveling back and forth to Austin, preparing bills, responding to voters back in the district. She received first-hand knowledge of how the legislative process worked. The experience in Austin left such a bad taste in her mouth that she decided that she could never be an elected official.

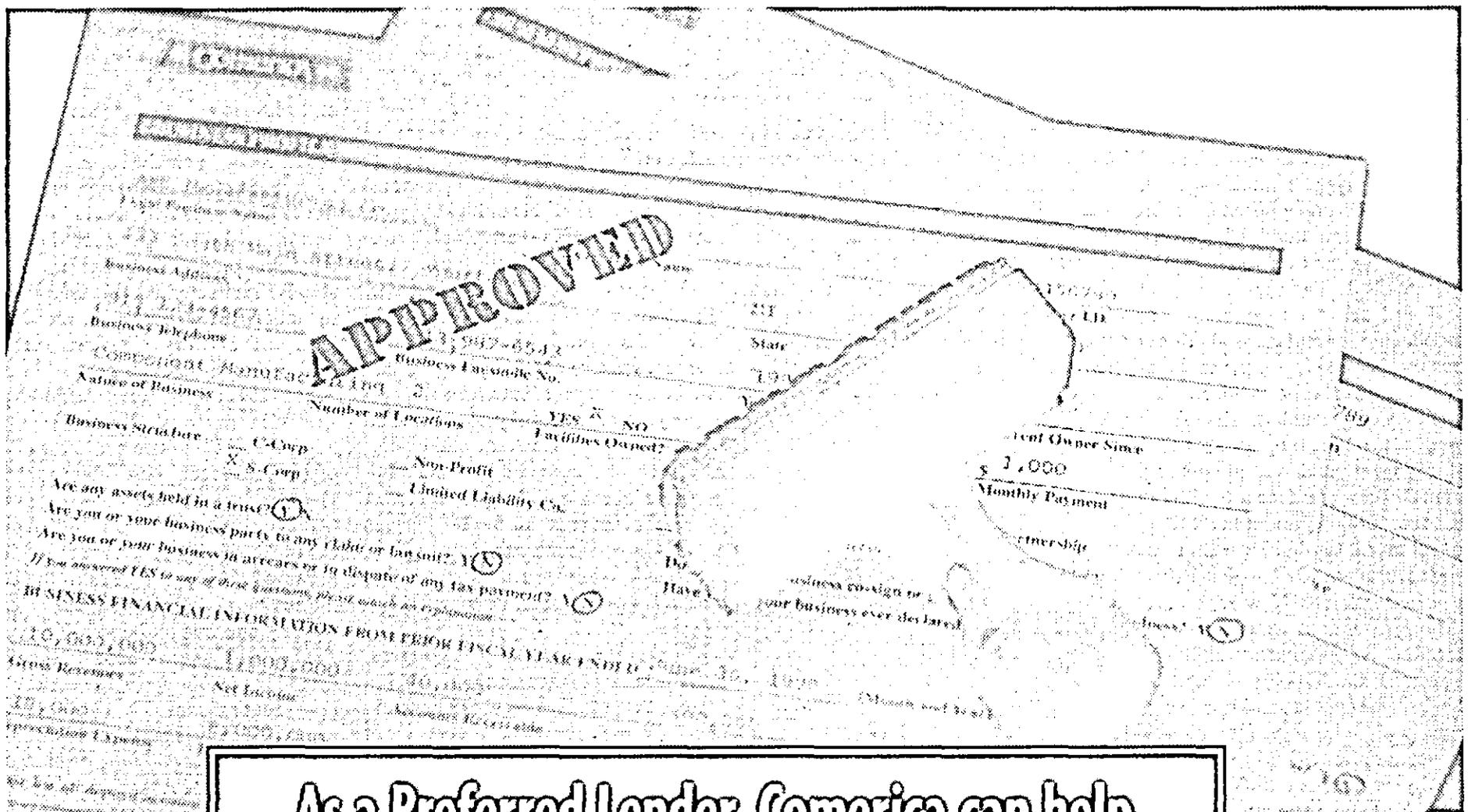
Marilyn's most popular job by far was as Community Access Studio Coordinator for Warner-Amex Cable Television. Many remember her managing the daily operations of the broadcast radio and television studio, which was located in the Lincoln Communications Magnet High School. There she supervised a staff of five. She recruited/organized and trained over 300 neighborhood groups and individuals to produce their own television programs. Under her leadership Dallas had one of the largest access operations in the country, with 4,000 persons and 500 organizations certified (trained) to utilize the portable studio equipment and broadcast their own programs. Because of Marilyn's background in grass roots activism she knew of a lot of groups that could use cable to get their views and information out to the public. (And you can believe many did!) A number of previously unknown individuals became household names in the community because of their access to cable viewers and live audiences. There was *The Bottom Line*, produced by the Black Chamber of Commerce; *Rufus Shaw Live From South Dallas*; *The Diane Ragsdale Report*; *The Sports Section*, produced by Chris Arnold; *Legal Lines*, produced by J.L. Turner Legal Association; *American Muslim Mission In Focus*; *Speak Out!*, with John Wiley Price; *The City Barometer*, with Councilman Al Lipscomb; and one of the most famous, *Police Watch and Nosy Neighbors Brigade*, with the late Dallas Jackson.

After leaving Cable Access, Marilyn went on to establish her own PR firm, M. Clark & Company. The company was established to help African American groups effectively get their message out to their targeted audiences. Many of us have used Marilyn's video services and have found them very useful for our issues. Oh, by the way, Marilyn asked me to make a plea in this column, to ask any of you who have used her services, but were not able to pay her at the time, she still needs her money (smile). Yea, I know how guilty you feel to hear it like this but hey, I had to pay her my back fees just to get her to do this column.

These days Marilyn is busy with her new project, Black Cinematheque Dallas. The Cinematheque was established for the purpose of screening independently produced films on a monthly bases. Keep your ears and eyes open for announcements of upcoming films that are really creative, interesting and, above all else, ours.

Until then, the struggle continues...

MON



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## Pen Notes

Cheryl Smith

Editor's note: This will be Cheryl Smith's last regular column for MON. We appreciate Ms. Smith's contributions down through the years and look forward to her doing special projects for us from time to time. Again, thank you Cheryl Smith, and may you enjoy much success in your future endeavors.

*"The pen is not mightier than the sword if you don't use it!"*

Too often people in the media use their pens or microphones or cameras to benefit others and sometimes to tear people or things down. There has to be a time when they can benefit themselves. You would think. Hopefully as we approach a new century, we will see the level of activism that was prevalent at the beginning of this century. Hopefully you will see more journalists and communicators mentoring, giving of themselves and realizing that they did not make it all on their own. And hopefully, just maybe we will see less of the infighting. FAT CHANCE, you say. But, just hopefully, we will stop tearing down those who are doing and making things happen because we don't have the fortitude or whatever it takes to make things happen for ourselves.

I sure wish there were more African Americans in management and I wish I

could say that those who are in positions are all working to bring about a difference. Some are just happy to have a title and a paycheck. And this is sad. Some go to work and pay little or no attention to the atrocities that occur around them. Instead, they hope to stay out of the fray. Does this mentality gain them a level of respect or longevity? They may think so, but I have seen the ones who were silent get the boot just as quickly as the ones who speak out. We have a lot of work to do in mainstream and for damned sure in the Black press. In the next month or so, I will be making an announcement that will infuriate the masses, but not if their hearts and minds are in the right place. We can not forget the valiant men and women who gave everything they had, so that we can be free.

On another note, you've seen the billboards and the DART buses. Now WB 33 has a newscast at 9 p.m. Don't forget to check out the sister, Crystal Thornton. She's the second one from the left. Many people were having fits and wondering if WB would make the same mistake that KTVT made several years ago with the lily-white billboards. Well, KTVT has made quite a few changes and has been much more aggressive than other stations in this area. In the coming months, the Dallas-Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators will meet with executives from all five stations to look at numbers and the future. It should be interesting. KDFW has had recent hires and KXAS was the first to bring in an African American news director. And

the sister is committed as well as competent! Too often, you have people of color in positions and you don't find out until they are in trouble. This is not the case with Kimberly Godwin-Webb. I have heard wonderful things about her from KXAS staffers and also from one of her professors, Dr. James Hawkins, at Florida A&M University. Hopefully we can get Kim out to the 5th annual "Don't Believe the Hype" Celebrity Bowl-a-thon, Saturday, June 26 at Don Carter's West. Pro-Line Corporation will join longtime sponsors American Airlines, Mesa National, Eller Media, AT&T, Six Flags, American Airlines, Creative Events, Kroger, the Texas Rangers, KKDA/K104/KRNB and Coca Cola. And, of course, Dick Gregory will be here once again, and Public Enemy. Now this event has continued to grow and so you must get your lanes early. Call 972-263-9911 for a registration form. This year's top bowler will walk away with \$1,000. Last year's top celebrity bowler was Skip Murphy of K104. There's a long line waiting to dethrone him this year, including ABC Radio's Dwayne Dancer, Service Broadcasting's Gorby, Spec'l K, Dallas Urban League president Dr. Beverly Mitchell Brooks, Dallas Mavericks president Terdema Ussey, Fort Worth Star-Telegram columnists Gracie Bonds Staples and Dr. Monica Anderson, KTVT anchors Rene Syler, Gwen Tolbart and Ginger Gadsden, Starlene Stringer, Alicia Spears, Wendy Schofield, The Weekly's Jim Washington, The Dallas Morning News' Norma Adams-Wade and Duchesne Paul

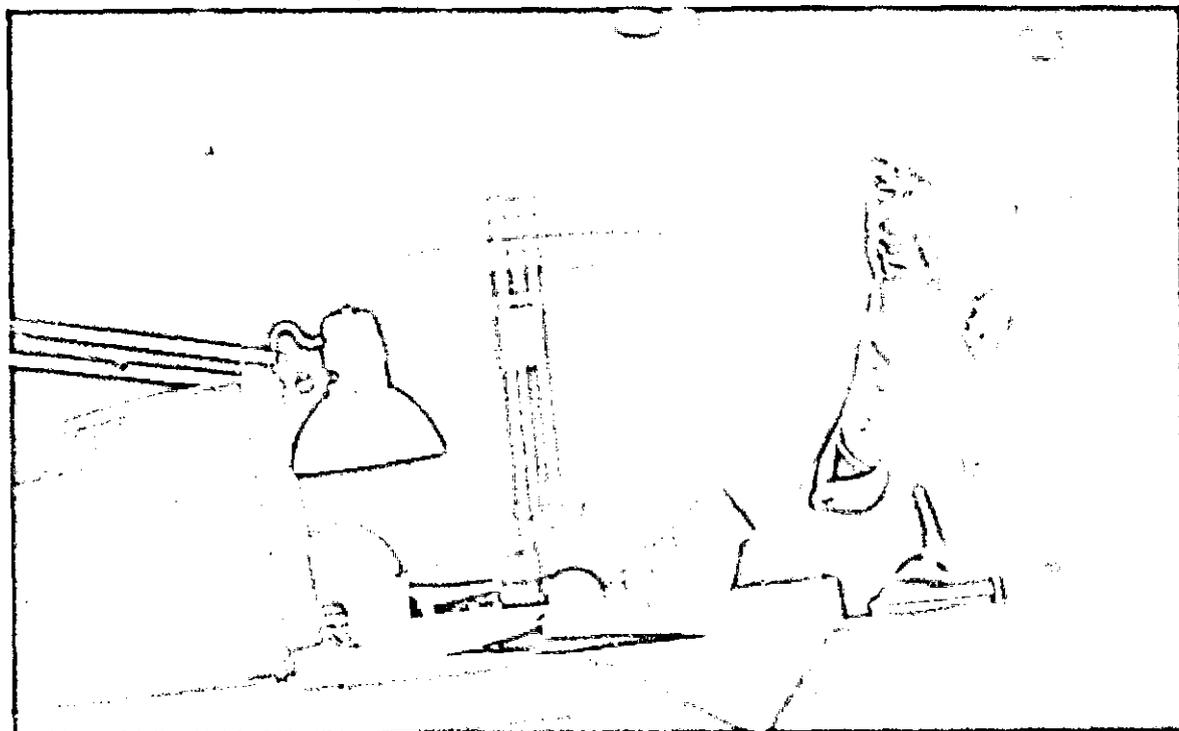
Drew, Joyce Ann Brown, KKDA's Paul Turner, KXAS' Shelli Lockhart and many more. It's all for a good cause. In fact, in three weeks, checks for \$1,000 will be presented to Cheryl Mayo, of Parkland Hospital, who is also on the board of Girl's Inc., and Wesley Francis of the Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center. Last year, over \$2,500 was presented to the Dallas-Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators Scholarship Fund and \$1,000 each was given to Mothers Against Teen Violence and Africa Care Academy. That is what it is all about. People coming together to have a good time and raise money to help others...DFW/ABC will be taking students to the National Association of Black Journalists Regional Conference in New Orleans. Anyone interested in being a chaperone? Give me a call. These 20 or more students will have an opportunity to mingle with professionals in all areas of communications. I would especially like them to meet Robin Stone. Hopefully she will be the next president of NABJ. This Essence magazine editor knows the importance of advocacy and activism and NABJ sorely needs both...Until next time, power and justice. Because without either, there will be no peace!

MON

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

## WELLS FARGO

It's difficult finding information about minority business credit.



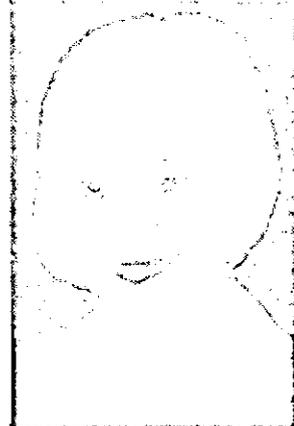
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## Hadeler White Public Relations Hires Yvette Blair As Account Mgr./Publicist

Hadeler White Public Relations, Inc. has announced the addition of Yvette R. Blair as account manager, writer and publicist for the agency.



Yvette R. Blair

Ms. Blair previously worked for Good Morning Texas on WFAA-TV (Channel 8) in Dallas, where she produced segments and did promotions. Prior to that she was an associate producer and anchor for Community Cable Television's City Page Update in Fort Worth and also handled public relations work for such clients as the National Pharmaceutical Association and Ringling Bros.

and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

A native of Dallas, Ms. Blair is a former staff writer for Minority Opportunity News and was contributing writer for The Arlington Morning News. She is also a performing artist with the City of Dallas' Neighborhood Touring Program, where she reads poetry and teaches a workshop on writers of the Harlem Renaissance.

"Yvette brings Hadeler White a wealth of expertise in broadcast publicity, which will be invaluable in offering our clients the best and most comprehensive services possible," said Scott White, president of HWPR.

Hadeler White Public Relations was founded in 1992 to provide franchise and entrepreneurial businesses with direct access to experienced senior professionals. HWPR is affiliated with sister company Hadeler Sullivan & Law Advertising and is the Dallas affiliate agency for New York-based Ruder Finn.

## Kokelbug Petroleum Opens Conoco Station, Convenience Store On South Buckner

Kokelbug Petroleum Products, Inc., a Dallas-based marketer of Conoco petroleum products, celebrated the grand opening of a new service station/convenience store located at 3003 S. Buckner in Dallas. The store, previously located at this site, was demolished and rebuilt by Kokelbug. The new store signifies Kokel-



Alan K. Kosley, Conoco marketing mgr. (left) and Ken Mullins, Conoco Account mgr. (right); Marcus Nelson, Kokelbug (center)

bug's commitment to urban renewal.

"We are committed to improving urban neighborhoods by improving the image of retail gasoline facilities, providing jobs, selling quality goods and services as well as providing excellent customer service," said Marcus Nelson, president of Kokelbug. "Our South Buckner store represents the first of several developments planned for urban Dallas in 1999. Nelson also said that while Kokelbug is building stores suburban markets, "we are convinced that our urban development strategy will be of mutual benefit to Kokelbug and the communities we serve."

The South Buckner grand opening included a ribbon-cutting ceremony, radio remote broadcast and in-store promotions. Kokelbug Petroleum Products, Inc., is a distributor of Conoco-branded petroleum products. Conoco is the Houston-based energy subsidiary of DuPont.

um Products, Inc., is a distributor of Conoco-branded petroleum products. Conoco is the Houston-based energy subsidiary of DuPont.

## Aaron Demerson Named Manager of Texas Tomorrow Fund

State Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander has appointed Aaron Demerson as the new manager of the Texas Tomorrow Fund, the state's prepaid college tuition program. Prior to being named manager, Demerson served as the director of operations for the fund.

"The 21st century is just around the corner, and never before has a college education been so important to our children's success. I'm looking forward to working with Comptroller Rylander to make sure that Texas parents and grandparents know that the Texas Tomorrow Fund is an affordable way to save for future college costs," said Demerson.

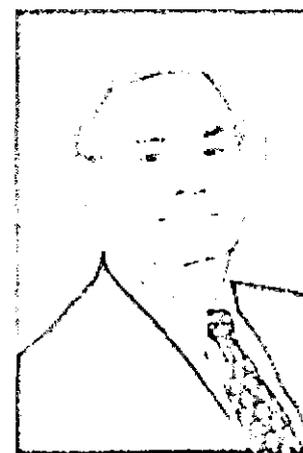
The current enrollment period for the program runs through February 18, 1999. The program allows families to lock in the costs of their children's future college tuition and required fees for about what they would pay today. For



Aaron Demerson, Carole Keeton Rylander

more information about the Texas Tomorrow Fund, call toll-free 1-800-445-GRAD (4723) or information is available on the Internet at <http://www.texastomorrowfund.com>.

## George L. Williams Named To School Board District 4 Seat



George L. Williams

George L. Williams was elected to fill the

A Dallas-area businessman with strong community ties was recently elected to represent District 4 of the Dallas Independent School District. On Saturday, January 17,

unexpired term of Don Venable.

In seeking the policy post, Mr. Williams stressed a desire to provide a solid educational foundation for all children. "I have no bone to pick, no axe to grind, no single faction to represent," said Mr. Williams. He added, "District 4 needs a trustee who is capable of working with every community in Dallas to endorse programs that foster a world of knowledge in a multi-cultural setting... We owe this to our children and to our future."

## Steve Nash, Mavs donate \$20,000 to refurbish Oak Cliff "Y" Tennis Courts



Steve Nash

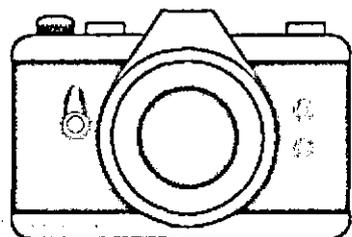
Steve Nash will donate over \$10,000 and the Dallas Mavericks Foundation will contribute matching funds to refurbish dilapidated tennis courts at the Oak Cliff Family YMCA, creating the second Mavericks

Newly arrived Dallas Mavericks point guard Steve Nash will donate over \$10,000 and the Dallas Mavericks Foundation will contribute matching funds to refurbish dilapidated tennis courts at the Oak Cliff Family YMCA, creating the second Mavericks

Omnicourt. The project will total over \$20,000.

This project, which will begin sometime in February, includes resurfacing of the court, new backboards, rims and nets. The court will also have the capability of being used for both basketball and tennis. The anticipated completion date is sometime during May. The Oak Cliff Family YMCA is located at 6701 S. Hampton Rd. (just off Camp Wisdom).

The Dallas Mavericks Foundation has just completed the first Mavericks Omnicourt project, located at the West Moorland YMCA.



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# Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk kicks-off reelection campaign

Stating that Dallas' progress over the past four years is because "this city has learned how to say yes to what's good for Dallas," Mayor Ron Kirk kicked off his reelection bid earlier this month as hundreds of supporters gathered at "The Ranch" in downtown Dallas. The mayoral election for the nation's seventh largest city is scheduled for Saturday, May 1, 1999.

Mayor Kirk said that four years ago Dallas was a city at war against itself, "a city that had perfected the art of saying no."

"But, today, there is a renewed sense of spirit that is now evident," the 44-year-old native Texan said. "We have learned that by directing our energy on our problems—rather than one another—that there really is no problem we can't solve together."

Examples of Mayor Kirk's leadership include the successful passage of the 1998 Capital Bond Program totaling \$543.5 million, which provided \$246 million for improvements to the Trinity River Corridor. Further, Mayor Kirk led the victorious Yes! Let's Build It! Campaign in support of a new downtown arena, keeping the Dallas Mavericks and the Dallas Stars in Dallas for the next 30 years. In 1997, Mayor Kirk's work to insure the Nasher Collection remain in Dallas resulted in the donation of an outdoor sculpture garden to the city from the Nasher Foundation.

During the past four years, Mayor Kirk's economic development efforts have helped secure 40,000 jobs and investment of more than \$3 billion in Dallas. In addition, Mayor Kirk has worked diligently to bring economic development to Downtown and Southern Dallas.

"We've increased services in every

area of the city while lowering property taxes and expanding our tax base," Mayor Kirk said. "Dallas today is cleaner, safer and robust—and we're more excited about our future today than at any other time in our history."

Since taking office, Mayor Kirk has helped pass four budgets, which have reduced taxes by 2.5 percent and kept the premium Triple A bond rating. In addition, the property tax base has increased 28.1 percent from the \$42.5 million in fiscal year 1994-95 to \$54.4 million in fiscal year 1998-99.

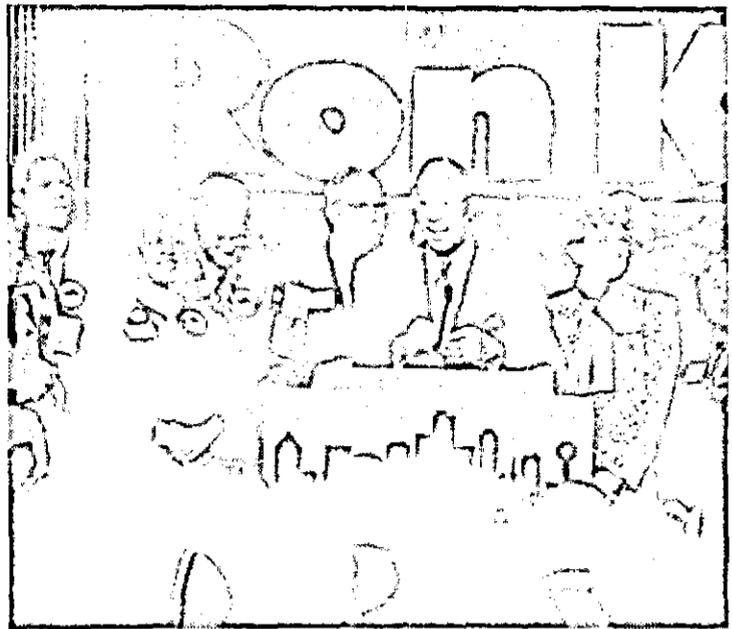
"But there is still much to be done, and we can't afford to be blinded by our prosperity," he said. "There are still too many of our citizens who have yet to reap the benefits of this new Dallas—and too many children who still need the hope and belief that there is a place for them in this new Dallas."

When asked why he was running for a second term, Mayor Kirk said one reason was to continue to build for the future of the city.

"But to be perfectly honest, I must admit, I love my job," Mayor Kirk said. "Being Mayor of Dallas—a big, ethnically diverse, progressive city—is the best."

Mayor Kirk was elected the 51st Mayor of Dallas on May 6, 1995, with more than 62 percent of the popular vote. The first African American elected Mayor of Dallas and of a major Texas city, Mayor Kirk has won citywide support and national acclaim for his commitment to make Dallas work together and build the capital city of the American dream.

Mayor Ron Kirk makes a point during the kickoff of his reelection campaign.



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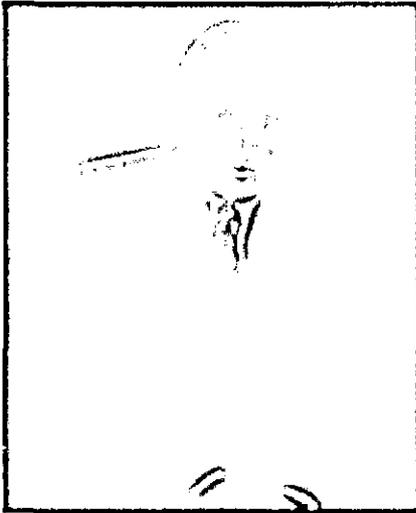
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## Dallas Urban League and UTD president to salute youth at annual meeting

Dallas youth throughout the Dallas area will be honored at the Dallas Urban League's (DUL) Annual Meeting and Luncheon to be held 11:45 a.m. on Wednesday, February 17, 1999 at the Great Hall of the International Apparel Mart located at 2100 Stemmons Freeway. The theme for this year's celebration is "Bridges: A Salute to Our Youth." Fourteen students from area high schools who meet the following criteria will be selected for special awards: good citizenship/attitude, community involvement/volunteerism, extracurricular activities and



Dr. Franklyn Jenifer

most-improved in academic performance. "For the past six years we have honored persons in the community who, against all odds, remain good citizens, peer models and are involved in the community," said Dr. Beverly Mitchell-Brooks, president and CEO of the DUL. "It is time to find the good in our youth and salute them."

Winners of the McDonald's Black History Makers of Tomorrow program will also be honored during the luncheon. This 12-year-old program recognizes college-bound high school seniors who exemplify exceptional work in their classrooms and communities. Winners are selected based on their 500-word essay entitled "How I Plan to Make an Impact on Black History." Ten \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded.

Noted educator Dr. Franklyn Jenifer, president of the University of Texas at Dallas, will be the keynote speaker. Dr. Jenifer, a nationally acknowledged leader in higher education, has served as the chief executive of public, private and statewide institutions throughout the country and left behind a legacy of enhanced academic strength and integrity at each institution.

Prior to coming to UTD, Dr. Jenifer was president of his alma mater, Howard University. He also served as chancellor of the Massachusetts Board of Regents of Higher Education where he was responsible for 27 public colleges and universities with a total enrollment of approximately 180,000 students. Dr. Jenifer served as associate provost at Rutgers University's Newark campus and began his teaching career there as an assistant professor of biology. He became a full professor six years later. He also served as chairperson of the biology department and chairperson of the university senate.

Dr. Jenifer received his Ph.D. in plant virology from the University of Maryland in 1970 and worked with the United States Department of Agriculture Pioneering Laboratory in Plant Virology in Beltsville, Maryland. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1962 and his Masters of Science degree in 1965, both in microbiology from Howard University.

He is a member of many distinguished educational, scientific, civic and corporate organizations including the Board of Directors of Texaco, Inc., the National Foundation for Biomedical Research Association, Inc. and the Alliance for Higher Education. He was recently appointed to the Texas Science and Technology Council by Texas Governor George W. Bush.

Dr. Jenifer is a member of the Dallas Citizens Council, the Association of Texas Colleges and Universities and the Moni-

toring Committee of the Louisiana Desegregation Agreement. He is also community advisor to the Junior League of Richardson.

As a result of his many contributions to society, Dr. Jenifer has received honorary degrees from Babson College, Boston College, Mount Holyoke College, the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Bowdoin College, Kean College of New Jersey, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and Essex County (N.J.) Community College.

His publications range from articles in scientific journals on plant viruses to newspaper commentaries on such topics as Afrocentricity, residential schools for at-risk youngsters, Black entrepreneurship, "political correctness," the academic preparation of student athletes, the enduring value of predominately Black colleges and universities and the aftermath of the Rodney King incident.

Dr. Jenifer and his wife Alfreda have three adult children.

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## Royce West continues push for HUB inclusion

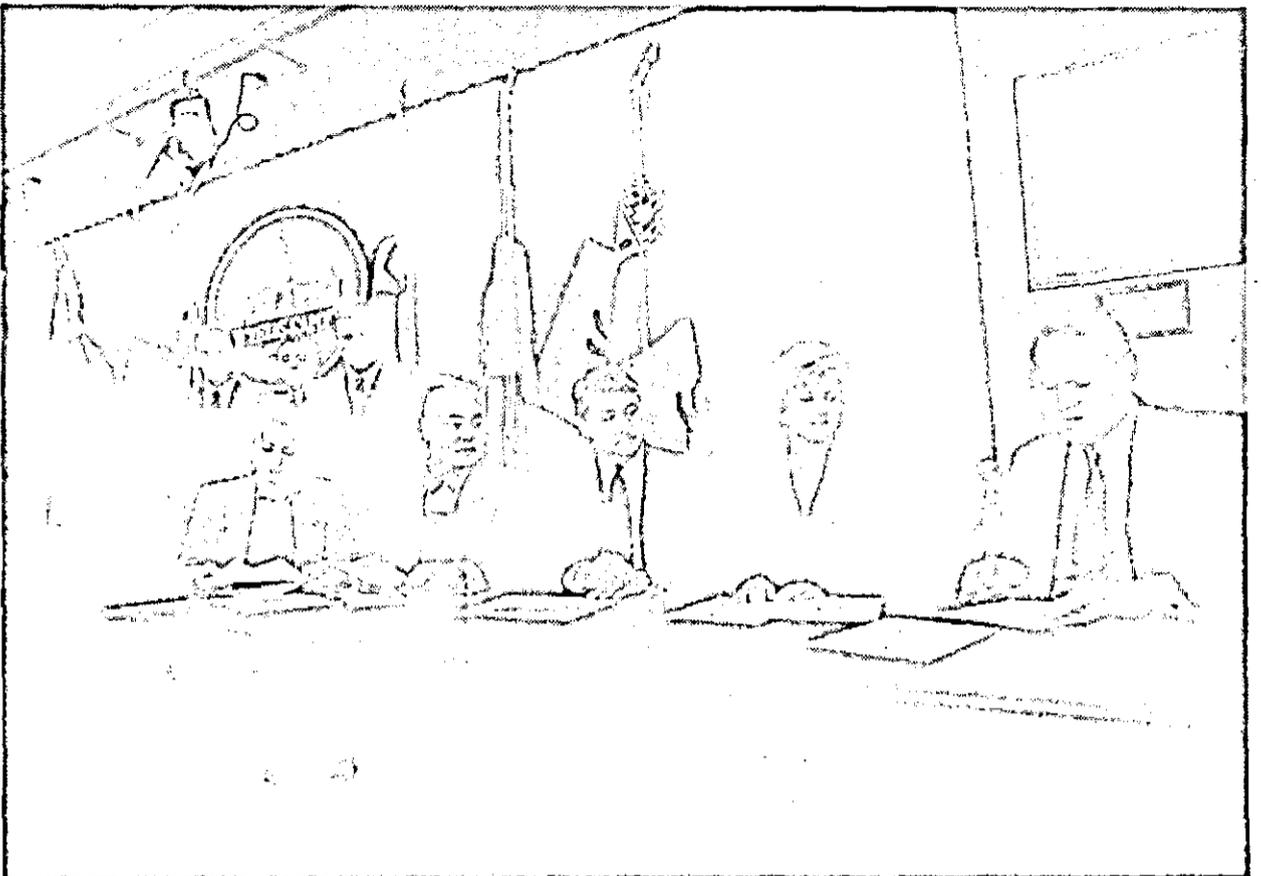
AUSTIN — State Senator Royce West, (D-Dallas), arranged a meeting in which the Texas Association of African American Chambers of Commerce (TAAACC) and the Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce (TAMACC) met on Tuesday, February 2, 1999 at 2:30 p.m. with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation and the University of Texas at Austin to collectively sign a Memorandum of Cooperation Agreement.

The purpose of this "good faith" Agreement was to create a mutually beneficial relationship between the aforementioned agencies and organizations with the intention of encouraging and assisting the development of Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs) within the state of Texas. Furthermore, the Agreement was intended to facilitate the accessibility of information regarding the purchasing procedures and HUB programs of the involved agencies to TAMACC and TAAACC as well as their member Chambers of Commerce.

Senator West stated that the aforementioned state agencies, which have historically performed poorly in their procurement of state contracts with HUBs "have [in signing the Agreement] been asked to be on the vanguard of the HUB issue."

Senator West, who led the initiative to create the Memorandum of Cooperation Agreement with the involved parties, was thanked by Senator Frank Muilla, chairman of the Hispanic Caucus, for his leadership in constructing the Agreement.

When asked to comment on the Agreement, Senator West went on to say that "the Agreement represents a changing of the guard. The fact that [the] agencies represented have accepted the invitation to partner in this effort with the involved Chambers reflects the attitude that it is futile to stand outside throwing stones, but that change is initiated by sitting collectively at the table and making things work. Hopefully, additional agencies will take heed and follow suit by



Front Row (l-r): Marilou Martinez (chairwoman, TAMACC), Roy Malonson (chairman/CEO, TAAACC), Wayne Scott (TDCJ), Karen Hale (commissioner, TDMHMR), Larry Faulkner (president, University of Texas at Austin). Back Row (l-r): State Senator Royce West, State Representative Rick Noriega, State Senator Frank Madla, State Senator Eddie Lucio.

entering into similar Agreements."

Several statewide Legislators attended the meeting including Senate Hispanic Caucus chair, Senator Frank Madla and Senator Eddie Lucio. State Representatives present included Representative Dora Olivo, Rick Noriega, Jaime Capelo, and Joe Deshotel. Rep-

resentatives from the office of Dawnne Dukes and Black Caucus chairwoman, Representative Yvonne Davis, were also present at the meeting.

## Speaker Appoints Rep. Yvonne Davis to committees

AUSTIN — House Speaker Pete Laney announced today that he has appointed Representative Yvonne Davis, D-Dallas, to serve as Chair of the House Committee on Local and Consent. She also will serve on the House Committee

on Transportation and the Committee on Ways and Means.

The 11-member Committee on Local and consent Calendars has jurisdiction over the placement on appropriate calendars of bills and resolutions that may be local or uncontested.

The 9-member Committee on Transportation has jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to the highway system and aerial transportation. Its oversight authority includes the Texas Department of Transportation.

The 11-member House Committee on Ways and Means has jurisdiction over bills and measures proposing to raise revenue and levy taxes. Its oversight authority includes the State Comptroller of Public Accounts.

Yvonne Davis represents House District 111, which includes part of Dallas County. She has been a House member since 1993.

### State Rep. Yvonne Davis





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# The Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

## Part 3

By Russell D. Shockley, BS.Ed.

### The King Assassination April 4, 1968

Morning came too quickly as the Rev. R. D. Abernathy sat up in his bed. There is a creaking noise as he swings his feet over the edge of the bed to the floor, stretching and yawning at the same time.

Abernathy glances into the bed next to his and sees that his friend, M. L. King is still asleep. "Michael, Michael, come on now, it's time to get up." Abernathy and King tease back and forth, lightly and easily.

It is a typical beginning to perhaps an ordinary day. King regularly called Abernathy by his middle name, David, and Abernathy privately addressed King by his real name which was Michael.

King was christened Michael Luther. When he was six years old, his father changed both of their names to Martin Luther.

After getting up, both men showered and shaved in order to get ready for an important meeting where they would discuss the forthcoming "Poor People's March" on Washington, D.C. Another meeting was also to be held at the Lorraine Motel with the leaders of the local militant group called the Invaders.

A march that had been held a week earlier had been disrupted by persons claiming to be Invaders. These persons had infiltrated the ranks of the peaceful marchers and then had begun to riot as the marchers reached downtown Memphis. King's response was, "this movement will exclude any person or group that uses violence as a tactic, as a strategy or as a way of life."

After the meeting, Abernathy and King spent the rest of the afternoon with the other S.C.L.C. members making plans and mapping strategy. The Reverend Samuel Kyles, a Memphis minister who had been in charge of the Memphis Garbage Workers Boycott, was one of those present.

Around five o'clock, King and Abernathy prepared to leave the Lorraine Hotel for a dinner planned at the Reverend Samuel Kyle's home. Both men had been told that Mrs. Kyle was a splendid cook and had prepared a traditional dinner that was to include roast beef, col-

lard greens, chitterlings, black-eyed peas, corn bread and fried chicken. Rev. Kyle's wife also had told Abernathy that the dinner would be at six o'clock, not five o'clock as her husband had told them.

The two men were in room 306 alone. Both had changed clothes and were freshening up. Dr. King walked over to the balcony, leading from the room. The Reverend Jesse Jackson was on the ground below.

The talk was about the type of music to be played that night. King turned to one of Jackson's companions, Ben Branch, an organist from Chicago and stated, "Please be sure to play my favorite song tonight, okay." Branch assured King that he would play his favorite tune, "Precious Lord Take My Hand."

Abernathy, meanwhile, continued to apply Aramis to his face. He hears a noise, reminiscent of a firecracker popping. Looking towards the balcony, he sees King's knees collapse. "All I could see were his feet," said Abernathy as he would later recall that fateful night. Abernathy immediately ran towards King and saw the blood as he lifted the head of his friend and looked into his eyes.

Abernathy believes that King both did see and hear him that night. He recalled saying to King, "Michael, it's going to be alright. I'll get help, don't you worry now because everything is going to be alright."

It was Abernathy who stayed with King's body the rest of the night. It was Abernathy who stayed in the operating room though the nurses and the doctors told him he would have to leave.

The world was shocked and its press was looking for Ralph David Abernathy to talk, but Ralph David Abernathy never left his friend's side.

Finally, it was Ralph David Abernathy who was called to the morgue to identify the body of his friend, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Following the death of Dr. King, a number of American cities were literally set on fire. The Attorney General, Robert F. Kennedy, called upon the Justice Department to investigate the murder. The Justice Department called upon the F.B.I.

Hoover sent the request to the S.A.C. (Special Agent in Charge) in

Atlanta. The S.A.C. in Atlanta then turned the investigation over to the very same people who had illegally harassed King while he had been alive.

This included an Agent whom upon hearing of King's death, had celebrated by leaping into the air and yelling, "They got Zorro! They got Zorro! They got the son-of-a-bitch. I hope he dies."

This same agent later was placed in charge of the Atlanta office by a group that had been identified as the "Destroy King Squad."

Stated Arthur Murtaugh, veteran F.B.I. agent, "I think they might not have gotten the right answers to a lot of the questions. They didn't want to ask the right questions because there was no interest in obtaining the right answers."

### Testimony

On March 10, 1969, in Division III of the Criminal Court of Shelby County, Tennessee, James Earl Ray entered a pre-

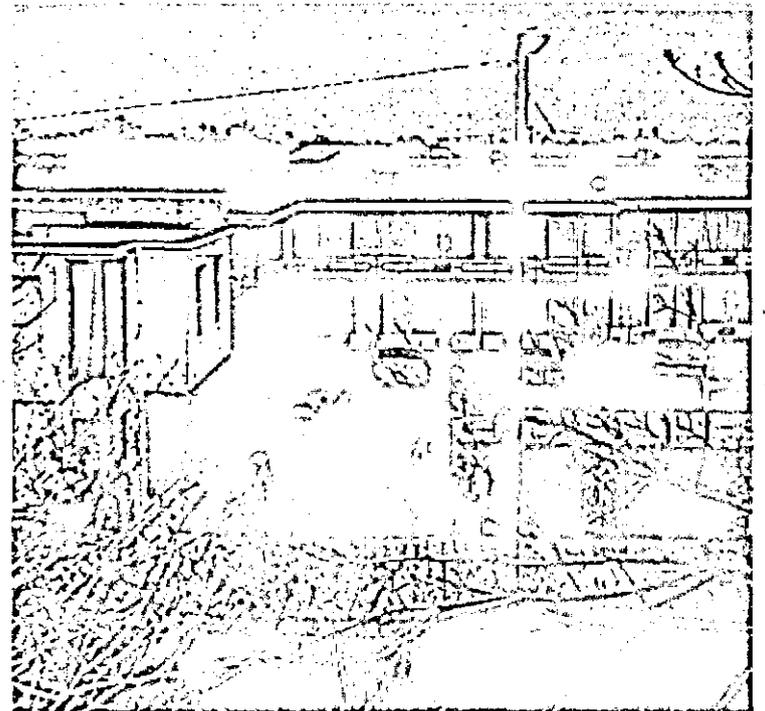
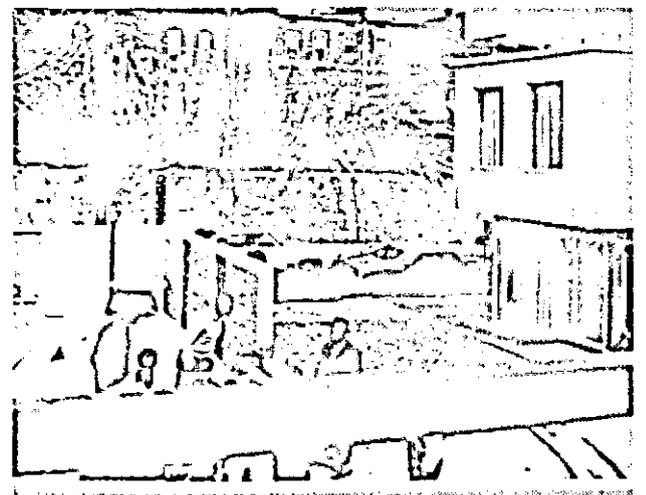
arranged plea of guilty in the murder of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Before the morning had ended or the jurors had been excused for lunch, the case against James E. Ray for the murder of Dr. King had already been spelled out.

The first of several witnesses to be called and questioned was the Reverend Samuel Kyles. Kyles stated that he had known Dr. King for more than ten years and had been with him in room 306 of the Lorraine Motel the night that Dr. King was killed. Kyles stated that when the shot was fired, he looked in the general direction of the rooming house.

With this first testimony, the state established that Dr. King was shot at approximately 6:00 p.m. on April 4, 1968 and that he subsequently expired.

Chauncy Eskridge, a Chicago lawyer who had represented Dr. King, testified next. He said that, "A sound (zing) came from my right ear." Eskridge



Top: View from the balcony of the Lorraine Motel where Dr. King was standing when he was shot, looking across Mulberry St. to the area behind the rooming house and Jim's Grill. Note the eight-foot retaining wall with a large tree branch hanging over the edge. Bottom: A reverse view, looking at the Lorraine Motel from the rooming house.

agreed with the Reverend Kyles in that the sound seemed to come from the general direction of the rooming house and that when he (Eskridge) looked, he could not see anyone moving.

After the testimonies of both the Reverend Kyles and attorney Eskridge, no other eye witnesses to the murder of Dr. King were called.

The next witness was Dr. Jerry Thomas Francisco, the medical examiner for Shelby County. Francisco testified about the autopsy. "The examination revealed a gunshot wound to the right side of the face, passing through the body, into the neck, through the spinal cord at the base of the neck, with the bullet lodging beneath the skin, near the shoulder blade, on the left."

"This bullet was then identified by a number and then delivered to a representative of the Memphis Police Department."

Dr. Francisco also offered the opin-

Continued next page

Continued from previous page

ion that the angle of the bullet through the body was consistent with a shot having been fired from the rooming house. However, he did not state that he knew where Dr. King had been standing, in which direction he had been facing or if he had been leaning over when he was shot. This lack of evidence on King's positioning considerably reduced the value of Francisco's testimony as to the origin of the shot.

Next came Inspector N.E. Zachary of the Memphis Police Department. Zachary testified that he had been the Inspector in charge of the Homicide Bureau on April 14, 1968. Zachary stated that he had been at police headquarters when Dr. King was shot. When he heard the news over the radio, he had immediately gone to the Lorraine Motel and began assigning men to the investigation.

Zachary then stated that he then stopped in front of the Canipe Amusement Company where, "I found a package rolled up in a bed spread which upon examination (his own) determined that it consisted of a blue brief case and a brown pasteboard box containing a rifle."

"At that point, I put a police guard with the package with the instructions to let no one touch the package until photographs could be taken of its contents."

Zachary later testified that the package included as its contents a rifle, a pair of binoculars (along with its case), a pair of under shorts, a shaving kit, two cans of beer, a hair brush, a hammer, a paper bag, a copy of the Memphis Commercial Appeal and some cartridges. Zachary then testified that he gave all of the evidence to the F.B.I. some time around 10:00 p.m. that night (April 4, 1968).

Zachary explained that the purpose of turning these identified objects over to the F.B.I. was for them to be sent to F.B.I. Headquarters in Washington, D.C. for further examination.

Special Agent Robert Jensen of the F.B.I. testified that on April 4, 1968, he had been the Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of the Memphis Division. He then stated that at around 6:05 p.m., he had been informed that Dr. King had been shot. He then stated that he had called Washington to advise them of the information that had been received.

Jensen then proceeded to dispatch men to assist in the investigation at around 6:30 p.m., a period of some 25 minutes from the 6:05 p.m. notice.

This 25-minute delay was not explained nor has it ever been through subsequent F.B.I. statements. This unexplained time of some 25 minutes has

lead some to conclude that there was no federal effort to close off the area in order to prevent the murderer's escape.

Since the city of Memphis borders on the states of Arkansas and Mississippi with both just moments away, no local police roadblocks would have proven to be reasonably effective.

Upon further testimony, Agent Jensen stated that the F.B.I. had discovered that a man named Eric C. Galt had resided at the Rebel Motel. Jensen said that Galt had been driving a white Mustang (later to be designated as the get away car).

Eric Galt was an alias that was used by James E. Ray.

Jensen also testified that the rifle had been purchased at the Aero Marine Supply Company in Birmingham, Alabama. The white Mustang (the alleged get away car) had been discovered April 11, 1968.

### 44 1/2 South Main Street

Wayne Chaistain, a practicing lawyer in Memphis, was also a reporter for the Memphis Press Scimitar, one of two major dailies circulating during the time of the assassination of Dr. King.

After the police concluded the shot had been fired from the bathroom window in the rooming house, Chaistain came across an unpublished photograph in the newspaper files taken by an Associated Press photographer from the bathroom window. It showed the Lorraine Motel balcony as the sniper would have

seen it, if the shot had been fired from there.

Chaistain noticed that the view was obscured by branches from trees growing on the embankment between the rooming house and the motel. Chaistain states, "The picture was puzzling because at the time, I believed the shot had come from the window. I believed that the Memphis Police were right."

Chaistain continued to maintain a file on the King murder and also talked with a few of the eyewitnesses. He then stated, "Now I no longer believe that the shot came from the boarding house."

Late in the investigation, Ms. Kay Black, also a reporter for the Memphis Press Scimitar and an associate of Chaistain's, received a phone call from Mr. William B. Ingram, the former mayor of Memphis. Ingram had called to inform Black that the city was cutting down the trees on the embankment between the boarding house and the Lorraine Motel. (Black had been covering the black community and King's group.)

Ms. Black later reflected upon this call and the information that Chaistain had revealed. "I hadn't been in the bathroom at the rooming house, but I do recall Chaistain having said that he didn't see how they could have seen through the branches."

In Ms. Black's judgement, these



Attorney Wayne Chaistain in 1995. Chaistain was a reporter in 1968 and one of the first people on the scene of King's murder.

trees could provide a substantial screen. The trees could possibly be important evidence in the King murder. Now they were being cut down, just as the investigation was beginning.

From this, Ms. Black determined that the city of Memphis had arranged for the trees to be cut down and had ordered the city's sanitation department to remove them.

Ingram had called in the morning. Visiting the murder scene that evening, Black could see that all of the trees were gone. The screen was gone and with it, the possibility of determining from where the shot came.

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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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## Negro Baseball League's only surviving female player to appear at African American Museum

In celebration of Black History Month, Mamie "Peanut" Johnson-Goodman, the Negro Baseball League's only surviving female player, is scheduled to attend an exhibit and brunch honoring former players at 11:30 a.m. on February 20 at the African American Museum.

Other former players including country and western singer Charlie Pride and *Elite News* publisher William Blair are also scheduled to attend. The exhibit, "Triumph Over Adversity," is on display at the Museum at Fair Park.

Standing 5'4" and weighing only 120 pounds, Mamie "Peanut" Johnson was a pitcher for the Indianapolis Clowns, joining the team in 1954 at the age of 22. The right-handed pitcher, who studied medicine and engineering at New York University, had played boys sports in high school.

Bob Kendrick, the director of development for the Kansas City-based Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, said "this is an excellent opportunity for people of all ages to learn about the Negro Leagues." He said that many people know about Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier and gaining inclusion into the major leagues, but they don't know about Black players before that.

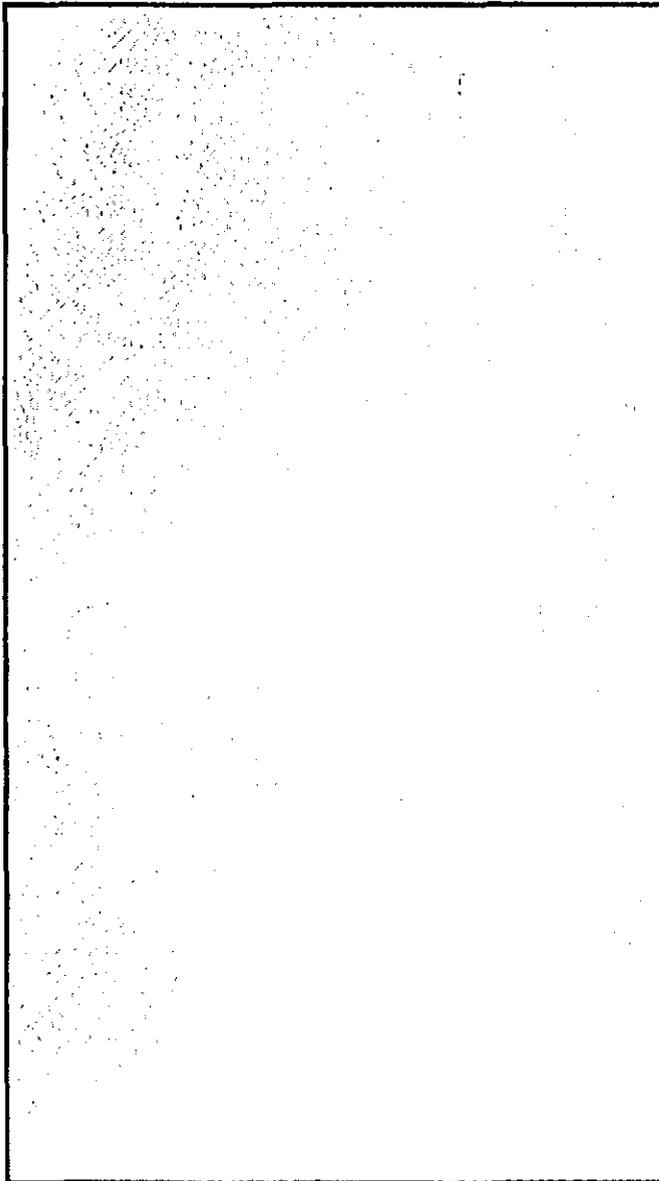
"This was a pivotal time for Black and white Americans. So much work had been done leading up to this historic moment and there is documentation of all the players and all the teams that made that day in 1947 possible," he said.

Some of those documents are included in the exhibit at the African American Museum. But a more complete history is at the world's only museum dedicated to preserving the history of Black baseball players—the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas

City, Missouri.

The Missouri Division of Tourism and the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, along with the African American Museum is sponsoring a trip to Kansas City. The trip includes a tour of the museum, tickets to the Kansas City Royals

*Photo courtesy of African American Museum*



Standing 5'4" and weighing only 120 pounds, Mamie "Peanut" Johnson was a pitcher for the Indianapolis Clowns in 1954.

game, dinner at a local restaurant and Negro Leagues souvenirs. A drawing will be held at the celebration on February 20.

Registration forms are available at the following bookstores: Black Images Book Bazaar in Dallas, Afro Awakenings in Arlington, Barnes and Noble at Preston and Beltline in Dallas and Barnes and Noble at Sundance Square in Fort Worth. You can also register at the African American Museum.

CHASE

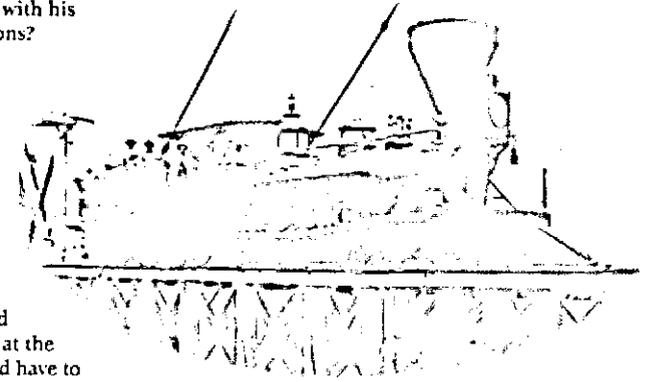
## A Spark of Genius In Transportation

Few scientists can match his creative genius and intelligence. A mind so renowned, his inventions not only revolutionized the electronic and transportation industries of the United States, but made way for the twentieth century. How else could one be known as "The Black Edison"?

His innovative invention of a telegraph that could reach moving trains made it possible for the first time ever to warn moving trains of the dangers on the tracks, and his overhead conducting system for trolley cars has become a vital element of today's subway systems.

Who is this genius that has paved the way to the future with his powerful inventions?

He is Granville T. Woods, an African-American born in Columbus, Ohio in 1856. Who would have thought, with over 60 patents accredited to his name, that at the age of 10 he would have to quit school to go to work. But such genius cannot be denied.



*Granville T. Woods, 1856 - 1910, an inventor, a genius, an African-American.*

Join CHASE as we commemorate Black History Month by celebrating a true pioneer in black history.

CHASE. The right relationship is everything.<sup>SM</sup>

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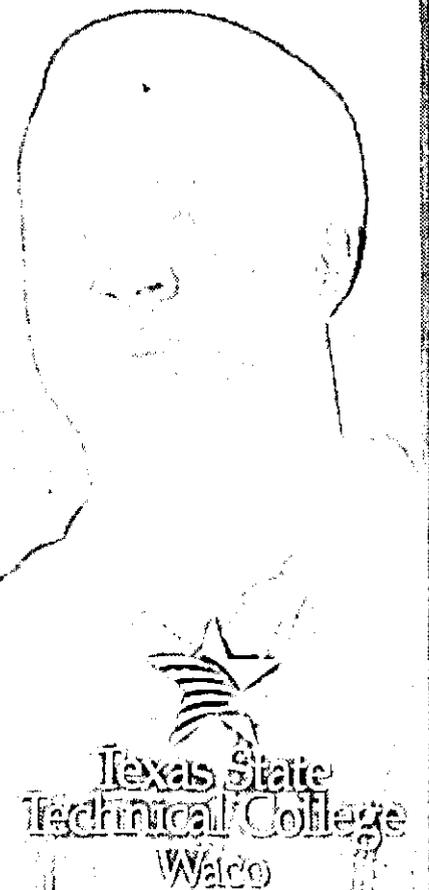
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# Black History, A to Z

*Did you know? (Or little-known facts)*

- A** Alcorn State University was the first black land grant college in the U.S.
- B** The Baltimore Museum of Art presented the first black American art show in the south.
- C** The cakewalk was an African American dance originating during slavery and was a caricature of the Anglo American waltz.
- D** Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, a black surgeon, in 1893 performed the world's first successful surgical closure of a heart wound in Chicago.
- E** Elijah McCoy was a black inventor whose inventions helped Henry Ford's new automobile industry.
- F** Benjamin Franklin was the President of the Philadelphia Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery and the Relief of Free Negroes Held in Bondage.
- G** Ernest J. Gaines, a black writer of short stories and novels (including *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*), should be remembered for his work in searching libraries across the country, making sure they included books about positive images of black people.
- H** Hiram Young is a man to be credited with much of the development of the American West; he built wagons for the pioneers going West—and made a fortune doing so.
- I** Issac Murphy, a black man, was the first jockey to win three Kentucky Derbys.
- J** Jan Matzeliger (1852-1889) revolutionized the shoe industry with the invention of a "shoe-lasting machine," which eliminated the task of hand-stitching leather to a shoe sole. His machine took less than one minute to complete a shoe, as opposed to hours by hand. In the process, it lowered shoe prices around the world.
- K** Sharon Pratt Kelly was the first African American woman to be elected Mayor of Washington, D.C. (in 1990). She concentrated efforts on crime and public safety.
- L** Lt. Col. Guion Bluford, Jr. was the first black American in space (on the third mission of Space Shuttle Challenger in 1983).
- M** Morehouse College was founded in 1867 to educate ex-slaves.
- N** Norbert Rillieux, a black man, in 1843 invented a process of boiling cane juice to make sugar crystal—ironically making sugarcane profitable to grow, but requiring a large labor force.
- O** It was a Boston physician who administered America's first smallpox inoculation. He had learned the procedure from Onesimus, a slave owned by Cotton Mather and an expert in African folk medicine.
- P** *The Philadelphia Tribune*, established in 1884, is the nation's oldest black-owned newspaper.
- Q** *Quest of the Silver Fleece*, W.E.B. DuBois' first novel, tells about the mental serfdom that trapped blacks in ignorance and poverty after emancipation and suggested actions to overcome this new slavery.
- R** Hiram Revels was the first black man to serve in the U.S. Senate.
- S** Bessie Smith became known as the "Empress of the Blues" and recorded her first record with Columbia Records in 1933.
- T** Harriet Tubman, called the "Moses of her people," led 300 slaves to freedom and also served as spy and scout for the Union forces in the Civil War. Forty thousand dollars was offered for her capture, but she was never caught.
- U** Uncle Tom's Cabin, written by Harriet Beecher Stowe, was inspired for the book by an anti-slavery sermon she heard at a church in Maine.
- V** Black people (20 tobacco slaves) reached Jamestown, Virginia one year before the pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock.
- W** Phillis Wheatley, the first African American and the second woman to publish a book in the United States, was bought as a slave in 1761, at age 11, from Gambia. Her name is the result

of the Wheatleys buying her and then naming her Phillis, after the slave ship that brought her to America.  
**X** Xaymaca is what the Spanish called Jamaica (pronounced ha may ik a). The King of Spain authorized 4,000 African slaves to be sent there to work the sugarcane. Slavery was permitted there for 250 years and 30 million Africans were thus brought to the New World.

**Y** The Yellow Fever epidemic of 1793 was so devastating because whites had lied about a supposed African immunity to the disease.  
**Z** Zora Hurston was a well-known figure among the New York intellectuals of the Harlem Renaissance in the mid-1920s. She wrote *Mules and Men*, a collection of black music, games, oral lore and religious practices.



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# Around Town

## February 17

A health fair featuring health issues that particularly affect African Americans and a free blood pressure clinic will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Student Union 2.602 at the University of Texas at Dallas. Call 972-883-6390 for more information.

....

Volunteer attorneys from the Dallas Bar Association will offer free advice to Dallas county residents from 5:15 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Call 214-969-7066.

....

The Dallas Urban League and McDonald's of Greater North Texas will host a luncheon recognizing McDonald's Black History Makers of Tomorrow scholarship-essay winners at 11:45 a.m. at the Great Hall of the International Apparel Mart located at 2100 Stemmons Fwy. Call 214-528-8038 for more information.

## February 18

Life Resource Connection Academy will be enrolling high school dropouts in their alternative high school program on Feb. 18, 23, 26. On-site child care available. Call 214-375-4262 ext. 406 for more information.

## February 19

The South Dallas Cultural Center will 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 214-939-ARTS (2787) for more information.

....

The City of DeSoto is presenting The Ester Davis Distinguished Arts Series at the City Hall Atrium, Hampton Rd. @ Pleasant Run Rd., in recognition of African American History Month. Open to the public.

....

Texas Christian University will hold its fourth annual High School Conference to reach out to area minority high school students. Call 817-257-7855 for more information.

....

South Dallas Cultural Center will present "A Heartful of Heritage," a compilation of theatre, music and poetry passing over the centuries of African & African American contributions to the artistic world at 10 p.m. From the drums of the power of the present, J&j Group will journey through time of a people. Call 214-939-ARTS for more information.

## February 20

Composer/performer Rashani will display his "Riddems Carribean Style" at the South Dallas Cultural Center at 8:00 p.m. The Dallas-based artist will create a carribean flavor with his special brand of Reggae and Carribean music. Admission is \$5.

....

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 more information.

....

An a capella singing group from the west coast of Africa will perform in concert at the International Museum of Cultures at 2:00 p.m. The group, from Monrovia, Liberia, is comprised of ten singers who have no musical training. Amazingly, six of them are blind. The IMC is located at 7500 West Camp Wisdom Rd. Free admission and parking. Call 972-708-7406 for more information.

....

Wednesday's Child Benefit Corp. will host its 9th annual Casino and Auction at 7:00 p.m. in The University Club, located on the 6th floor of the Galleria. Call WCBC office for more information at 972-231-1433.

....

The Women's Legal Advocacy Center of Legal Services of North Texas will hold its first one-day, one-stop clinic, Options, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Beckley Saner Recreation, 114 W. Hobson St. For more information, call 214-748-1234, ext. 3225.

## 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 214-977-7886.

....

The Alpha Chapter of Alpha Chi Pi Omega Sorority and Fraternity present their 39th annual "Hair & Fashion Expose" from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Junior Black Academy of Arts and Letters, 650 S. Griffin. Donations are \$6 per person.

....

Dallas Public Schools students will share the stage with Russian performers at the Russian American third annual Russian Winter '99. This festival of music, art and dance will be held at 4 p.m. at The Majestic Theater, 1925 Elm St. Call 214-989-8301 for more information.

## February 22

The University of Texas at Arlington will kick off Business Week with a series of panel discussions, workshops and speakers on personal financial planning, salary negotiations, information technology and global economics. Call (metro) 817-272-2881 for a complete line-up of events.

## February 23

The Hong Kong Trade Development Council and Hong Kong Association of Northern Texas will present "The Hong Kong Advantage" from 10:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. at the Le Meridien Hotel, 650 N. Pearl St. For more information, contact Tracy Schick at 972-241-8250.

## February 24

# Around Town

Jazz clarinetist Don Byron will present two master classes for area musicians and music teachers at the South Dallas Cultural Arts Center. Pre-registration is required for the mater classes as space is limited. Interested musicians should call Vicki Meek at 214/939-2787.

....

Y.O.U.T.H. 2 Y.O.U.T.H., Inc. is sponsoring "A Journey into our Past...A Vision of the Future" at the Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center, 2901 Pennsylvania Ave. Starting time is 7:00 p.m. For more information, call 972-640-7706.

## 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) 817-272-5302 for more information.

....

Dr. Bertice Berry, host of the USA Network's daily interactive talk show *USA Live*, will speak from her book, *Bertice: The World According To Me*, at TCU at 7:00 p.m. in the Brown-Lupton Student Center ballroom as part of African American History Month. Call 817-257-7810 for more information.

....

The Africa Program, as part of its Inaugural Distinguished African Lecture Series, presents Dr. Ali A. Mazrui to lecture on "Africans and African Americans on the eve of the 21st Century: Between Ancestry and Anticipation" at 7:00 p.m. in the Atrium, 6th floor Central Library at UTA. Call 817-272-5302 for more information.

mation.

## February 26

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

....

The Texas Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs will sponsor a seminar on how organizations can raise money. "Raising Funds for Your Organization: It's More Than Money" will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Harvey Hotel-DFW Airport. Registration is \$95. Call 210-924-6631 or 210-534-1003.

....

Project Esperanza will hold a fundraiser, "Latin Carnival '99," from 8:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. on the 4th floor atrium of Cityplace Conference Center, 2711 N. Haskell, complete with Latin music and dancing and a silent auction. Call 214-630-0114 for sponsorship information.

## February 27

The African American Museum, as part of its series of topics on African American History, will present "Jim Crow and Segregation." For more information or to enroll, contact the African American Museum at 214-565-9026, ext. 316.

## February 28

The New Black Panther Party will hold its first annual Community Service Awards at 3:00 p.m. at Cultural Insights' Sankofa Arts Arts Club, 1908 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

## March 2

Rakeiho Musical Offerings, Inc. presents "The Centennial Celebration of Duke Ellington" at 7:30 p.m. at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center. For more information, call Cheryl Francis at 817-265-4528.

....

Dallas Theater Center presents *Alice: Tales of a Curious Girl*, 7:30 p.m., at the Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. For ticket information, call 214-522-8499.

....

The Southern Sector Economic Development Summit will conduct "Momentum Dallas," a one-day seminar on how to start or grow a business in Southern Dallas, at the Bronco Bowl, 2600 Fort Worth Ave. Call 214-467-0393 for registration information.

## March 6

Y.O.U.T.H. 2 Y.O.U.T.H., Inc. is sponsoring "Greek 2 Greek," a Greek step show at 7:30 p.m. at the Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center, 2901 Pennsylvania Ave. Call 972-640-7706 for more information.

## March 13

The Black State Employees Association of Texas will give an employment discrimination workshop and seminar from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Eastgate Baptist Church, 6960 S. Polk St. Donation is \$10. Call 214-339-7700, ext. 29 for more information.

## March 14

The Links, Inc., Dallas Chapter, will sponsor the 41st Ebony Fashion Fair at the Music Hall in Fair Park at 5:00 p.m. For ticket information, call 214-467-4255.

## March 15

The Southwest High Tech Career Fair will be held at the Dallas Convention Center from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Admission is free. Call 800-593-0101 or 972-221-8800 or visit [www.1-jobs.com](http://www.1-jobs.com).

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# affirmative

the myths and meaning of

# action

By Jackie Larson

This is the first in a series of articles where MON will look at the roots, myths, realities and future of affirmative action in America.



Alternately praised and castigated, affirmative action remains part of the way America looks to heal deeply entrenched racial rifts. Under attack in recent years, affirmative action is being held under scrutiny from all sides—those who love it, those who hate it, and those who have benefited from it the most.

Over its official 33-year history, affirmative action has opened many doors for the Black community; however, the very swinging of those doors has caused some discomfort, particularly among those who knew they should have been open all along.

In the strictest sense, affirmative action refers to a federally mandated program that requires any company that does over \$50,000 in business with the federal government to take proactive steps to counteract past discrimination in its recruiting, hiring and promotion of employees. While it applies to federal contractors only, it is a mighty legal force—as the list of federal contractors includes almost a quarter of all American companies.

Affirmative action is a term also used in the education world, particularly in the recruitment of minority students to predominantly White universities and colleges.

Perhaps one of the best definitions of affirmative action comes from Rene Redwood, executive director for the Glass Ceiling Commission, who said, "Properly implemented, affirmative action does not mean quotas, allowing preferential treatment or employing or promoting unqualified people. It means opening the system and casting a wide net to recruit, train, and hire people who may not look like what corporate executives have traditionally looked like; who may not think like corporate executives have traditionally thought."

At a summit for working women Redwood, then a special assistant to the Secretary of Labor, opposed the prevailing notion that affirmative action was no longer necessary.

She cited surveys of the top Fortune 1000 industrial and 500 service companies, showing that 95 percent of senior-level managers are men and of that 95 percent, 97 percent are White. Of the five percent of these managers who are women, only 5 percent are minority women.

"This at a time when there are nearly 60 million working women in America, more than 45 percent of the U.S. work force. Women and minorities are two-thirds of the population, two-thirds of consumers and 57 percent of the work force," Redwood said, citing statistics that African American men with a bachelor's degree earned on average \$15,180 per year less than the White non-Hispanic male population; African American women on average earned \$754 less than White non-Hispanic women.

The Glass Ceiling Commission, commissioned by President Bill Clinton, identified these barriers affecting minorities and the need for affirmative action.

- Societal barriers, which include a supply barrier related to educational opportunities and the level of job attainment.

- Difference barriers manifested through conscious and unconscious stereotyping and bias—people who do the hiring feel most comfortable "hiring people who look like them."

\*Stereotypes must be confronted with hard data

because, if left unrefuted, they become factual in the popular mind and reinforce glass ceiling barriers," Redwood said.

Governmental barriers cited by the commission's report include inadequate collection, disaggregation and dissemination and reporting of employment related data which make it hard to determine glass ceiling issues. Redwood pointed to a need for vigorous and consistent monitoring and enforcement of laws relating to the glass ceiling that are already on the books.

Internal structural barriers or business barriers include:

- Outreach and recruitment practices that do not reach or recruit women and minorities
- Corporate climates that alienate and isolate
- Pipeline barriers that restrict career growth because of poor training, inadequate mentoring, biased rating and testing systems
- Few or no internal communication networks
- Limited rotational job assignments that lead to the executive suite
- Institutional rigidity that deny the fragile family and work balance.

"Corporate leaders must recognize that they need the talent and input of women and minority men at the highest levels to better address the changing consumer markets, the changing work force demographics, and international competition in today's global economy," Redwood said.

Author and teacher Paul Kivel discussed the entrenched and insidious nature of racism that keeps the need for affirmative action alive.

"Racism, rather than being self-correcting, is self

perpetuating. The disadvantages to people of color and the benefits to White people are passed on to each succeeding generation unless remedial action is taken. The disadvantages to people of color coalesce into institutional practices which, although they may be race neutral in intent, adversely affect people of color. It has proven necessary to take positive steps to eliminate and compensate for these institutional effects of racism, even when there is no discernible discriminatory intent," said Kivel.

"For example, most job opportunities are heard about through informal networks of friends, family and neighbors. Since the results of racism are segregated communities, schools and work places, this pattern leaves people of color out of the loop for many jobs, advancement opportunities, scholarships and training programs. Federal law now requires widespread and public advertisement of such opportunities so that not only people of color, but White women and men who are outside the circles of information, have an equal opportunity to apply for these positions," he added.

One insightful essay, *Ten Myths About Affirmative Action*, by S. Plous of Wesleyan University, says the case against affirmative action is "weak, resting as it does so heavily on myth and misunderstanding."

Plous cites the most popular myths regarding affirmative action and gives his facts-based answer for each one.

**Myth #1:** The only way to create a color-blind society is to adopt color-blind policies.

Continued on page 21



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Continued from page 19

**Fact:** "The reality is that color-blind policies often put racial minorities at a disadvantage. For instance, all else being equal, color-blind seniority systems tend to protect White workers against job layoffs, because senior employees are usually White (Ezorsky, 1991). Likewise, color-blind college admissions favor White students because of their earlier educational advantages. Unless pre-existing inequities are corrected or otherwise taken into account, color-blind policies do not eliminate racial injustice—they reinforce it.

**Myth #2:** Affirmative action has not succeeded in increasing female and minority representation.

**Fact:** Labor Department statistics show affirmative action has helped 5 million minority members and 6 million White and minority women move up in the work force. An OFCCP study showed that between 1974 and 1980 federal contractors, required to adopt affirmative action guidelines, added Black and female officials and managers at twice the rate of non-federal contractors.

**Myth #3:** Affirmative action may have been necessary 30 years ago, but the playing field is fairly level today.

**Fact:** "Women continue to earn 72 cents for every male dollar. Black people continue to have twice the unemployment rate of White people, half the median family income, and half the proportion who attend four years or more of college...without affirmative action the percentage of Black students on many campuses would drop below 2 percent. This would effectively choke off Black access to higher education and severely restrict progress toward racial equality.

**Myth #4:** The public doesn't support affirmative action anymore.

**Fact:** "Most members of the public oppose extreme forms of affirmative action that violate notions of procedural justice—they do not oppose affirmative action itself. (A Time/CNN poll found that 80 percent of the public felt "affirmative action programs for minorities and women should be continued at some level" (Roper Center, 1995a).)

**Myth #5:** A large percentage of White workers will lose out if affirmative action is continued.

**Fact:** According to the Commerce Department, there are fewer than 2 million unemployed Black civilians and more than 100 million employed White civilians (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1994). Thus, even if every unemployed Black worker were to displace a White worker, less than 2 percent of Whites would be affected. And since affirmative action pertains

only to job-qualified applicants, the actual percentage of affected Whites would be a fraction of 1 percent, Plous reported, adding that the main sources of White unemployment are such business-related factors as corporate downsizing.

**Myth #6:** If Jewish people and Asian Americans can rapidly advance economically, African Americans should be able to do the same.

**Fact:** "This comparison ignores the unique history of discrimination against Black people in America. As historian Roger Wilkins has pointed out, Blacks have a 375-year history on this continent: 245 involving slavery, 100 involving legalized discrimination, and only 30 involving anything else (Wilkins, 1995). Jews and Asians, on the other hand, emigrated to North America, often as doctors, lawyers, professors, entrepreneurs, and so forth. Moreover, European Jews are able to function as part of the White majority. To expect Blacks to show the same upward mobility as Jews and Asians is to deny the historical and social reality that Black people face.

**Myth #7:** You can't cure discrimination with discrimination.

**Fact:** "The problem with this myth is that it uses the same word—discrimination—to describe two very different things. Job discrimination is grounded in prejudice and exclusion, whereas affirmative action is an effort to overcome prejudicial treatment through inclusion. The most effective way to cure [a] society of exclusionary practices is to make special efforts at inclusion, which is exactly what affirmative action does. The logic of affirmative action is no different than the logic of treating a nutritional deficiency with vitamin supplements. For a healthy person, high doses of vitamin supplements may be unnecessary or even harmful, but for a person whose system is out of balance, supplements are an efficient way to restore the body's balance.

**Myth #8:** Affirmative action tends to undermine the self-esteem of women and racial minorities.

**Fact:** "A Gallup poll asked employed Blacks and employed White women whether they had ever felt that others questioned their abilities because of affirmative action (Roper Center, 1995c). Nearly 90 percent of respondents said no (which is understandable—after all, White men, who have traditionally benefited from preferential hiring, do not feel hampered by self-doubt or a loss in self-esteem). Indeed, in many cases affirmative action may actually raise the self-esteem of women and minorities by providing them with employment

and opportunities for advancement. There is also evidence that affirmative action policies increase job satisfaction and organizational commitment among beneficiaries (Graves & Powell, 1994).

**Myth #9:** Affirmative action is nothing more than an attempt at social engineering by liberal Democrats.

**Fact:** Affirmative action programs have spanned seven different presidential administrations—four Republican and three Democratic. Although the originating document of affirmative action was President Johnson's Executive Order 11246, the policy was significantly expanded in 1969 by President Richard Nixon and then Secretary of Labor George Schultz. President George Bush also enthusiastically signed the Civil Rights Act of 1991, which formally endorsed the principle of affirmative action," Plous noted.

**Myth #10:** Support for affirmative action means support for preferential selection procedures that favor unqualified candidates over qualified candidates.

**Fact:** Most supporters of affirmative action oppose this type of preferential selection. Preferential selection procedures can be ordered along the following continuum:

- Selection among equally qualified candidates. (Survey research suggests that three-quarters of the public does not see this type of affirmative action as discriminatory.)
- Selection among comparable candidates.
- Selection among unequal candidates.
- Selection among qualified and unqualified candidates.

The strongest form of preferential selection occurs when unqualified female or minority members are chosen over other candidates who are qualified. Although affirmative action is sometimes mistakenly equated with this form of preferential treatment, federal regulations explicitly prohibit affirmative action programs in which unqualified or unneeded employees are hired.

"Of the four different procedures, the selection of women and minority members among equal or roughly comparable candidates has the greatest public support, adheres most closely to popular conceptions of procedural justice, and reduces the chances that affirmative action beneficiaries will be perceived as unqualified or undeserving

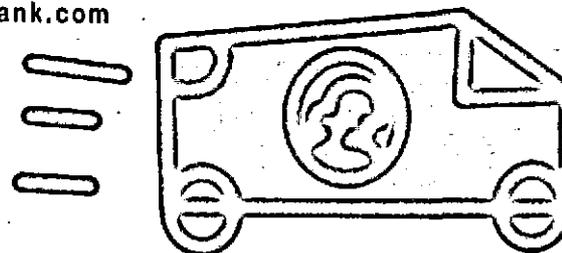
"The selection of women and minority members among unequal candidates—used routinely in college admissions—has deeply divided the nation (with the strongest opposition coming from White males and conservative voters).

"And finally, the selection of unqualified candidates is not permitted under federal affirmative action guidelines and should not be equated with legal forms of affirmative action. By distinguishing among these four different selection procedures, it becomes clear that opposition to stronger selection procedures need not imply opposition to milder ones.

"What is needed, I would argue, is less of an effort to caricature affirmative action and more of an effort to discuss which of its many forms are beneficial," Plous concluded.

*Next: An historical look at the timeline of affirmative action and those individuals that facilitated its bumpy passage through the legislative pipeline.*

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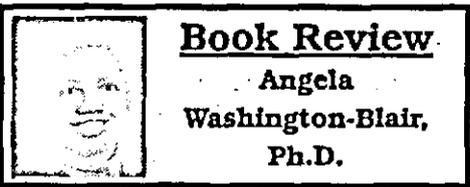
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**Book Review**

Angela Washington-Blair, Ph.D.

*At Her Majesty's Request: An African Princess in Victorian England* by Walter Dean Myers (Scholastic Press, \$15.95)

Myers is the two-time recipient of the Newbery Honor, and the multiple winner of the Coretta Scott King Award. In this latest book, the author shares his findings from a trip to London in which he "discovered" letters and diaries belonging to an African princess who was rescued from sure death in 19th century Okeadan. The cruel King Gezo of Dahomey slaughtered countless captives including the parents of the princess. At the tender age of seven, she is saved from certain sacrificial death by Commander Frederick Forbes, a British captain who is strongly opposed to the slave trade. Forbes moves her to England and gave her the name of Sarah Forbes Bonetta. Her new life in England is brilliantly recounted in this, the true story of an

African princess.

*Black Cat* by Christopher Myers (Scholastic, \$16.95)

This Myers is the talented son of Walter Dean Myers. This picture book is full of stark and thought-provoking images of life in the big city as viewed by a black cat who is a lonely cat, and a roaming cat. Readers join the black cat on his journey as he searches for a home. *Black Cat's* rhythmic poetry and bold collage art will stimulate readers of all ages to explore their own feelings about identity, beauty, and home.

Myers, through his art, has shown us that even through the ugliness that often colors urban life, there is beauty of color, shape, and form.

*Black Hoops: The History of African Americans in Basketball* by Frederick McKissack, Jr. (Scholastic, \$15.95)

Frederick McKissack, the son of prolific husband and wife writing team, Frederick and Patricia McKissack, and an

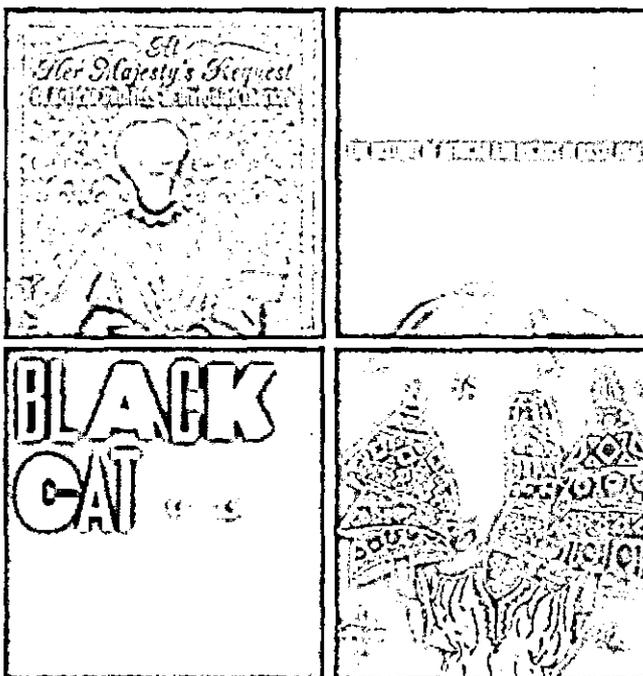
award-winning writer in his own right, has penned this fascinating history and close look at a sport that has become a

popular pastime. Do you know how basketball was invented? This book will give you the answers. Read about segregated

teams, and then read about players and teams that are notable. Go beyond the familiar as you read about the Harlem Renaissance. This well-researched history contains black and white photos, a glossary, a bibliography, and is indexed.

*The Hatseller and the Monkeys* by Baba Wagué Diakité (Scholastic, \$15.95)

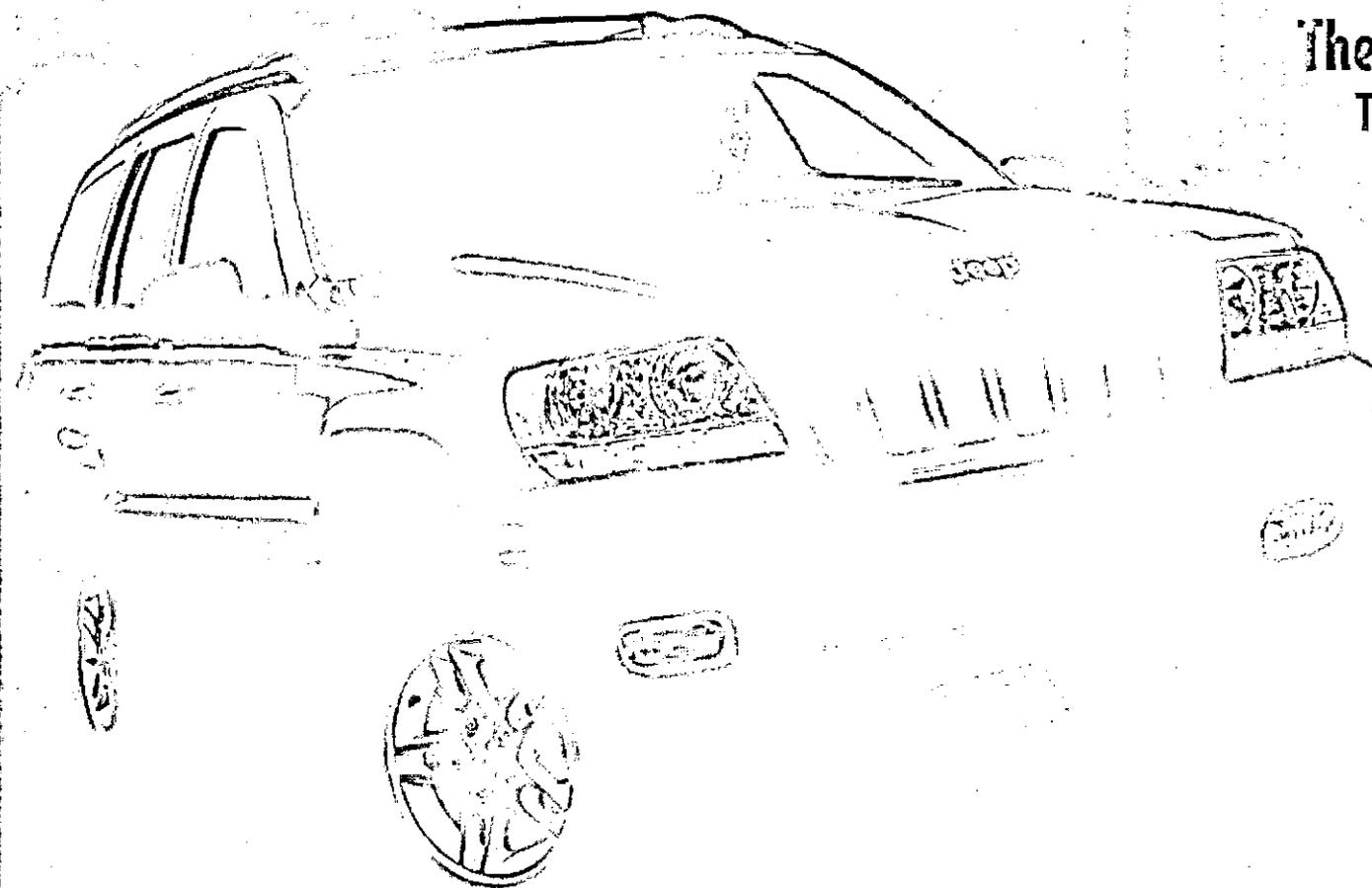
This West African folktale is retold and illustrated in vivid ceramic-tile paintings. A story told not just to entertain, but to teach how to "conduct ourselves and live among others and nature." The author, a native of Mali, will delight you with this African tale. He gives at the end of the story, pronunciations of the phrases and a history of folklore. BaMusa, the hatseller, stops on his journey and takes a nap. When he awakens, he finds that monkeys have taken all of the hats. How to get the hats back is his dilemma. A visually stunning book.



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**Electronic Urban Report  
Newsbits**

Public Enemy is not joking. They are putting their money where there mouth is, literally. They have launched the second wave of their attack on the record industry by launching an Internet radio station.

The site, [www.bringthenoise.com](http://www.bringthenoise.com), began broadcasting on January 29 at 9 p.m. New York time with a show co-hosted by the band's leader and prime mover, Chuck D. The show was broadcast in Real Audio format and can be heard at any time by visiting the site.



Wesley Snipes

In a related story, Chuck D is dogging all the corporate owned "black" radio stations. The following is an excerpt from his article that was posted at his [www.bringthenoise.com](http://www.bringthenoise.com).

"Now dig this," he writes, "the first thing we're gonna do is boycott corporate owned black radio stations because it's a total front. Black folk are religious to the

radio in black communities, and the crime of someone outside governing that word has to stop. I should say corporate owned urban stations but I'm calling it how I see it being that the thoughts, actions and selections are endorsed, chosen and approved by other folk that don't even live under the signal." I know it sounds crazy but we refuse to pay money for airplay."

After being shot at by NYPD, Old Dirty Bastard is fighting back. Last Wednesday the Wu Tang rapper was cleared of attempted murder and a weapons possession charge. At a press conference the following day, ODB fired back at the cops who fired on him.

"They took shots at me, now I'm taking shots at you all, as much money as I can get, I'm gonna get it."

Wesley Snipes is set to cash in on his new role as the last action negro. New Line Cinema has signed a deal with Snipes to produce and star in a sequel to *Blade*, based on the Marvel Comics super-

hero.

From their big hats and yellow cadillacs to their fish bowl platforms, pimps are designed to be loud and attention grabbing. So why did the Hughes Brothers think their film, "American Pimp," was just another boring documentary. Even though the film was a huge hit at last week's Sundance Film Festival. In an interview with CNN Tuesday, Albert Hughes said: "It isn't an entertaining documentary. It's like you go there and you fall asleep halfway through it. Like every documentary, the prerequisite is it has to be boring."

(So, umm.....why did you make this film? It's not like this was a story that was dying to be told.)

D.L. Hughley was recently asked his opinion of Eddie Murphy's new animated comedy, *The PJs*. The show has drawn fire for what critics say are negative stereotypes of Blacks.

Hughley said, "I think Eddie Murphy writing about the projects is like me writing about nuclear science. I don't think that most people believe that he has a sense of expertise about that. But I very much respect his right to do it." Does Hughley think Murphy's show is funny? "No, I don't think it's funny at all."



D.L. Hughley

Foxy Brown probably likes being on top and the debut of her new album "Chyna Doll" attests to that. Her album is the third Def Jam release to premier at #1 in the past few months. She jumped out the box with 173,000 units sold in the first few weeks, according to SoundScan.

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.

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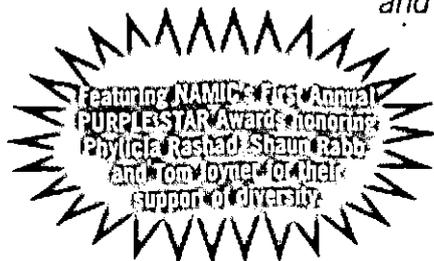
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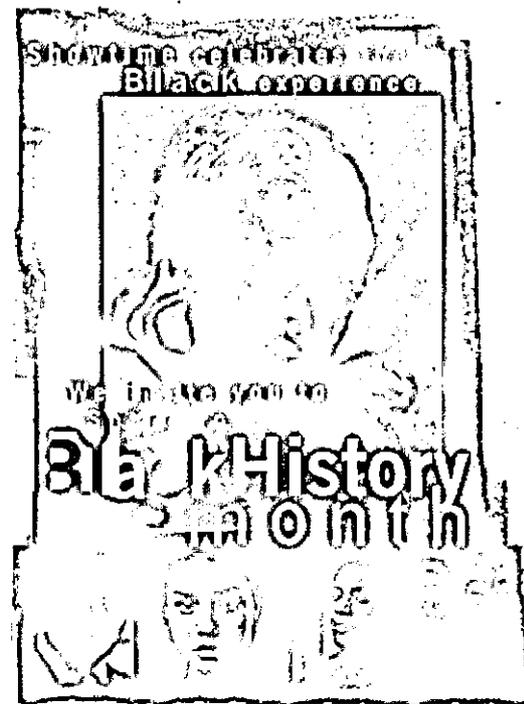
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## Killingsworth playing at Jubilee Theatre

Eugene Lee, writer of Fear Itself and East Texas Hot Links, sets *Killingsworth* in Tyrant County, where a murder has occurred. Texas itself plays a role in this play that characterizes a family in turmoil and their restrictive, unyielding ties to their home state.

Cast members include Angelo Reid as Moriah Killingsworth, a 40-year-old wanderer come home, and Regina Washington is Ann Emerson, Moriah's wife. Jobeth "Slim" Killingsworth, Moriah's alcoholic, pill-popping sister is played by Evette Perry-(Glass) Buchanan. Mary Catherine Keaton-Jordan is Brother Killingsworth, Moriah and Slim's lazy, unreliable step-brother. Kevin Earl plays Franklin Fontenot, a deputy investigator with the sheriff's office.

Directed by Gloria Abbs, with set design and construction by Roger Ross and sound design by Joe Rogers, *Killingsworth* will be performed Friday and Saturday nights at 8:15 p.m. and Sat-

urday and Sunday afternoons at 3:15 p.m. Suggested for mature audiences.

Jubilee Theatre still offers its Saturday matinee "buy one adult ticket, get the second one free" specials. Student, senior



Evette Perry-Buchanan (foreground) and Regina Washington star in Jubilee Theater's *Killingsworth*.

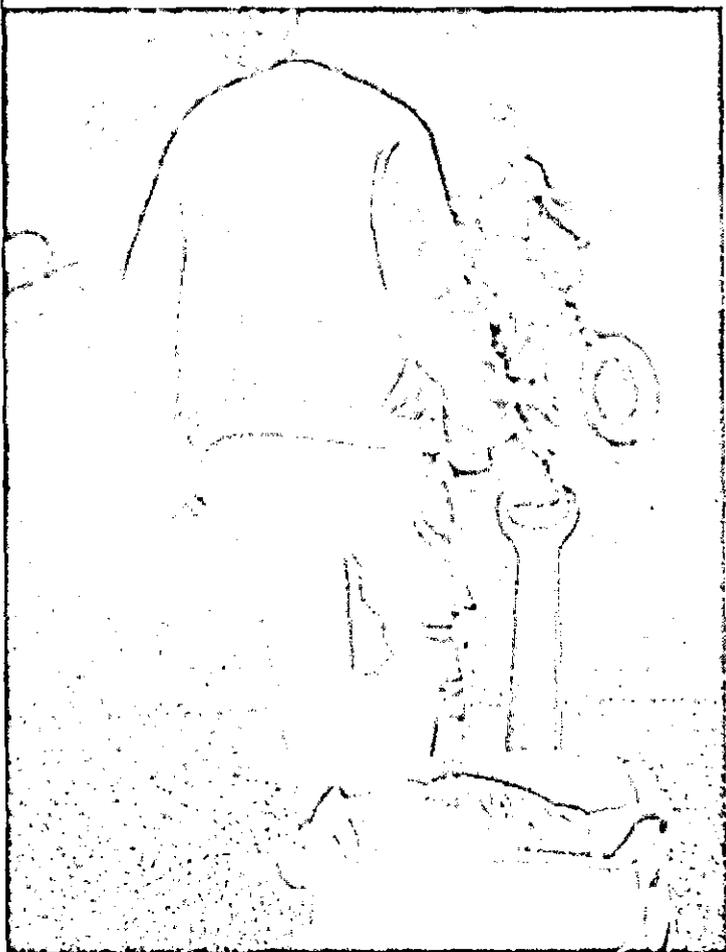
citizen and group rates are also available. All major credit cards are accepted. Call 817-338-4206 or e-mail jubilee@star-text.net for more information.

*Phunky.*

Saturday Nites On



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**Get Real!**

**Black Youth, Hip Hop, and the Law**

By Mark Riley

Ol Dirty Bastard joins a long list of people in the world of hip hop who have had run-ins with the law. The circumstances around ODB's arrest on attempted murder charges remain murky. His people say he had a cell phone in his hand and not a gun. Given that New York police have shot Black youth in the past for holding a Three Musketeers candy bar that looked like a gun, this is not too farfetched. However, there are reports ODB's cousin has decided to testify for the prosecution. If convicted, ODB faces life in prison, which means in this case, stakes are high. When it comes to altercations between police and Black people, the stakes are often life and death.

It should be noted that in ODB's case, like many others, police stopped his car for "driving erratically." This is something that happens all too often. Cops stop cars for, among other things, a broken headlight, a dark tint on side windows, and driving a couple of miles over the speed limit. This commentator was once stopped on the Connecticut Turnpike because a state trooper said he couldn't read the license plate of the car I was riding in. Because cops have and can use deadly force, it becomes important to understand how to act when or if you're stopped by law enforcement.

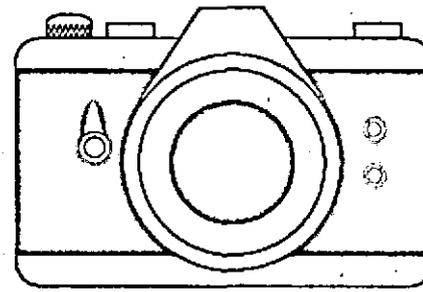
Rule number one is to follow all lawful orders from an officer. If you're told to pull over, do so. Always have your license and registration handy, and present them when asked. Keep your hands

empty and visible unless told to do otherwise. Rule number two is a common sense one. Don't argue your constitutional rights with a cop. You can't win. Wait, and let your attorney make those arguments for you. You do have a right to know the reason for being stopped, but don't take it further than that. Finally, there's the issue of whether or not to let a cop search your car. This is a real gray area. Sometimes cops will ask to conduct a search, then bust you if you say no. If you're stopped for a routine traffic violation, they don't usually have the right to toss your vehicle. The smartest thing is not to carry any sort of contraband for them to find. That means drugs, weapons, and any type of property you can't account for.

For every rap artist that gets busted and comes to public attention, there are hundreds of other Black young people who have their lives permanently changed after an encounter with police. Don't be one of them.

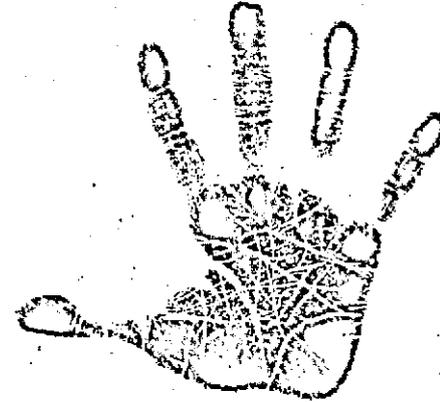
Please send comments to: [getrealradio@usa.net](mailto:getrealradio@usa.net)

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## UT Southwest Medical Center seeks volunteers for diabetes study

*Part of national effort to develop preventive methods*

The Diabetes Prevention Trial—Type 1 (DPT-1) is a national study supported by the National Institutes of Health, part of the U.S. government, and two of the major diabetes organizations, the American Diabetes Association and the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International. The purpose of the study is to see if we can prevent or delay type 1 diabetes in people at high or intermediate risk for the disease by giving them insulin, either as injections or orally in capsule form. The first step is to identify people at risk.

Type 1 diabetes is a life-long disorder that can occur in children or adults. It develops when the body attacks and destroys the insulin-producing cells in the pancreas.

Relatives of people with type 1 diabetes have a 10 to 15 times greater risk for the disease than people with no family history. Therefore, the DPT-1 is screening first- and second-degree relatives of people with this type of diabetes.

To participate in the DPT-1, you must be: age 45 or younger and have a brother, sister, child, or parent with type 1 diabetes, or age 20 or younger and have a cousin, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, half-sibling, or grandparent with type 1 diabetes. Children under age three are not eligible for the DPT-1.

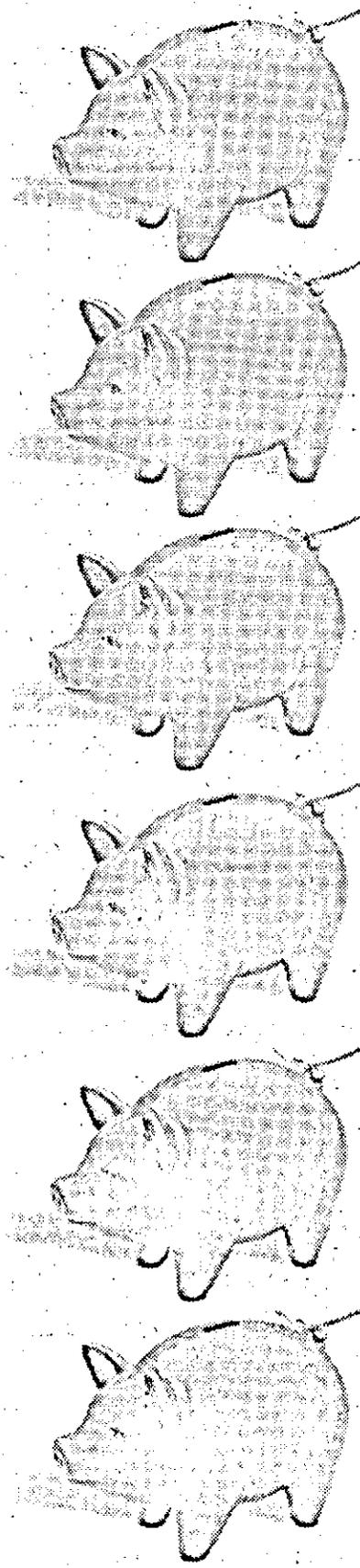
The first step to determine the risk of developing type 1 diabetes is to be screened for islet cell antibodies. This test looks for signs that the immune system is attacking the insulin-producing cells in the pancreas. Only about 3.6 percent of the relatives tested are expected to be islet cell antibody (ICA) positive.

To test for ICA's, a small sample of blood is drawn from the volunteer's arm and sent to the DPT-1 central laboratory for analysis. This test can be drawn locally and for relatives in other parts of the country, there is a toll free number to see where the testing can be done. People who are ICA negative will receive a letter and those who are ICA positive will be notified by telephone to discuss results and possible follow-up studies.

As is the case in most research studies, there is a lack of minority participation in the DPT-1. In one recent long-term, nationwide diabetes study, less than 1 percent of the participants were Black. According to the City of Dallas Census forecast, Dallas County has 427,673 Blacks—19.65 percent of the total population. This total is predicted to rise slowly over the next 20 years. There are 481,865 Hispanics—22.0 percent of the total population with the expectation of reaching 33.4 percent by the year 2020. In a 1995 National Institutes of Health Publication, "Diabetes in America," the incidence of type 1 diabetes in the United States ranges from 3.3 to 11.8 per 100,000 per year among Black children age

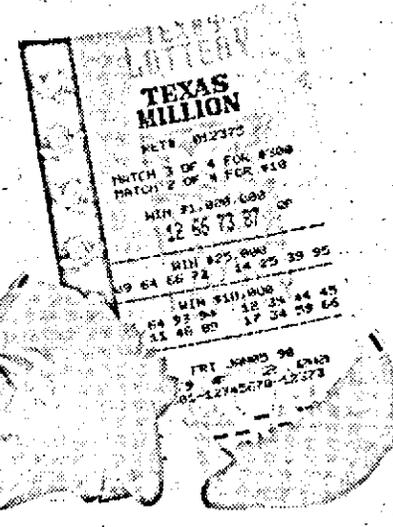
15 and younger. Despite the limited data available, there is the suggestion that considerable morbidity and excess frequency of diabetic complications exist in this population. Rates for White children are almost twice as high. The incidence is lower in Hispanic than non-Hispanic White children.

This study is being conducted locally at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas/Children's Medical Center. To participate in this study or for more information, please contact Marilyn Alford, M.S.N., R.N., C.S., at (214) 456-5974 or toll-free 1-800-HALT-DM1 (1-800-425-8361).



Overall odds of winning, 1 in 20. Must be 18 years or older to play. ©1999 Texas Lottery

To play Texas Million, just pick 4 numbers or Quick Pick (QP) for the \$1,000,000 cash prize, and you automatically get 6 more sets of random numbers for more ways to win. In fact, Texas Million offers a \$10 cash prize for matching just 2 numbers within any of the seven sets and \$300 for matching 3. What more could you ask for?



# 7 Chances To Cash In.



**You and Your Money**  
John Dudley

# How to read mutual funds quotes

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.

It may look like Greek to you at first, but the listing of mutual funds in the financial pages of your newspaper contains a wealth of vital information. An understanding of these symbols and abbreviations is critical to being an informed mutual fund investor.

The box below is a hypothetical listing of a family of mutual funds. Let's take

ABC Funds:	NAV	OFFER PRICE	CHG
Apex p	12.37	12.95	+ .02
Bass	17.01	NL	+ .02
Cntrl x	13.81	14.40	+ .13
Devlmt t	9.12	9.52	+ .02
Envlpe r	11.00	11.00	0.00

The next column, NAV Chg, shows the change in the fund's net asset value since the previous business day, measured in dollar amounts. So, for example, Apex increased .02 dollars or 2 cents, from \$12.35 to \$12.37.

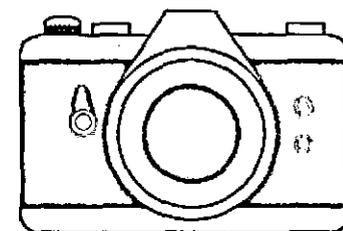
Now look at the listing of funds. Note that Apex is followed by a small "p." This indicates that the fund charges a fee for marketing and distribution costs. Known as a 12b-1 fee, it is automatically deducted from the fund's net

asset value has been reduced by a dividend payout.

Finally, the small "t" used in conjunction with the fund called "Devlmt" means that both "r" and "p" apply; that is, the fund charges a 12b-1 fee and maintains a redemption fee schedule.

Consult with your financial advisor about the mutual funds that are best suited to your investment goals, styles and strategies. Then follow the progress of your investments in the financial pages of your favorite newspaper with a new understanding and appreciation of the language of mutual fund tables.

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a closer look at its symbols, words and numbers:

Look at the left hand column. Funds are listed under the sponsor's name as in this case, ABC.

Moving to the right, "NAV," or Net Asset Value, is the dollar value of one share of the fund at the close of business on the previous day.

The next column, "Offer Price," is the price paid to purchase shares the previous day. When the offer price is higher than the NAV, there is an up-front "load," or a commission you pay to buy shares in that fund. If a fund has a front-end load, it is added to the net asset value. Funds such as ABass@ that show NL in this column are no-load, meaning the fund has no sales charge; in this case, you buy and sell shares at the fund's net asset value.

As an investor, you should bear in mind that the NAV is the price the fund will pay you to buy back its shares; in other words, the price at which your shares can be sold. However, the Offer Price is the price you will have to pay to buy shares in the fund.

asset value over time.

The small "r" after the fund's name, "Envlpe," means that the fund will charge a redemption fee if you sell your shares within a certain period, usually one to six years. This fee is also called a "back-end load" or a contingent deferred sales charge.

The small "x" next to the fund abbreviated "Cntrl" shows that the fund's net

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You can purchase a copy at the Center for Community Cooperation\* for \$5.00. If you would like to receive a copy by mail there will be an additional of \$2.00 for Shipping and Handling.

For more information please contact:

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**You and God**

Ron Shaw

**You can change. Really!**

James 1:21

I was on the phone with a pastor several months ago discussing some issues in his church. During our conversation, he made a statement that absolutely startled me. We were identifying some key problem areas and solutions when he said he wondered if people really can change. He said that after all the preaching and teaching has been done at his church, he'd seen little change in the people. He said they seemed to be just as mean and unforgiving and selfish and financially stingy and vengeful as ever.

This question of whether or not people really change seems to be more prevalent than ever before. (And let me say right up front that if I didn't believe in the power of God's ability to change people, I sure wouldn't be in the ministry. There

are better ways to make a living!) As I travel and meet Christians and spend time in a variety of churches, I understand why this pastor thinks the way he does. There are many who say they are Christians but have no outward demonstration of the Christian life. We see it in every walk of life. There are those who say they are Christians—politicians, business professionals, athletes, ministers, husbands, wives, students, etc.—yet we see no outward proof. Christianity is based upon an inward work of the spirit of God manifested outwardly. So if there is no visible sign that a person has changed, how can you tell that they have?

According to 1 Corinthians, a person can genuinely be born again and yet act like those who are not. I talk to people who say they are Christians, yet they are miserable at home, in their careers, and in life. People give up on their marriages, their health, even themselves, when they lose all hope of things ever changing for the better. Perhaps I can help in answering the question of whether people can truly change.

Our text says the implanted Word can change your soul. That's your emotions, your thinking process (attitude) and your will. The reason why there may be little change observed or realized is

because the way we receive the Word is wrong. We are told the way we receive the Word will determine whether it will change us. To receive with meekness means that we hear for change in ourselves not in others. Many people hear the Word in order to beat up on someone else. They never measure it out to themselves. Actually, most of my time is not spent on other people but, rather, on me. I don't have time to try to fix someone else because I'm so busy allowing the Word to fix me. My thinking is always in need of an overhaul. My emotions always need arresting. I have enough to do just to get myself together rather than spend time worrying over how other people are acting.

I want to be a model Christian in my thinking and my actions. If my attitude doesn't change, my actions won't change. So in order to change my actions, I must receive the Word and allow it to change my attitude. If I hear the Word, and make application to my life (and not hear it and point it at others) then it will change my soul. If I don't do this, then I can go to church each Sunday (and all the other times church members come together) and it still won't make me any different in my thinking or behavior. That explains why church people still have some of the

nastiest attitudes and why they still treat others with such unkindness.

In conclusion, please understand that this can't be a momentary thing, or a once-in-a-while thing. It has to be a continual thing. The change that we desire to experience only comes when we receive the implanted Word continually. I believe that, in spite of how you've lived in the past, in spite of how you thought in the past or how you've behaved in the past, you really can change. I don't believe you have to live in fear or with a low opinion of yourself. If all or any of these describe you, hear this: *You really can Change!*

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

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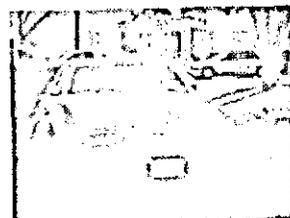
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Applications/resumes should include the population size of municipality employment; administrative structure of current and past organizations, and three professional references. These information must be received by March 12, 1999 at the address below:

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The minimum qualifications for appointment are set forth in Title 28 of the Code of Federal Regulations at Part 58. To be eligible for appointment, an applicant must possess strong administrative, financial and interpersonal skills. Fiduciary experience or familiarity with the bankruptcy area is desirable but not mandatory. A successful applicant will be required to undergo a background check, and must qualify to bonded. Although chapter 7 trustees are not federal employees, appointments are made consistent with federal Equal Opportunity policies which prohibit discrimination in employment.

Forward resumes to the Office of the United States Trustees, 1100 Commerce Street, Suite 9C60, Dallas, Texas 75242. All resumes will be kept confidential and should be received on or before April 2, 1999.

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Communication Skills Required.

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Tarrant County, Irving & Duncanville

Metro Phone: 817-461-4121

Fax: 817-460-5989

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Phone: 972-681-9096

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For Interviews & 1st Phase Testing Contact Recruiters At:  
DALLS POLICE ACADEMY • 5310 Red Bird Center Drive  
Dallas, Texas

Friday, Saturday, Sunday • February 19, 20, & 21, 1999  
8:00 am - 5:00 pm

(Appropriate athletic wear required for physical Fitness Test)  
\*Official College Transcript Required for Testing\*

Dallas Police Department  
214-670-4407 or 1-800-527-2948  
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\* BID DATE & TIME: 2/18/99 @ 2:00PM  
\* PLEASE SEND BID PROPOSALS TO:  
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OWNER: Arlington Independent  
School District (A.I.S.D.)  
ARCHITECT: CHS Architects, Inc.  
(817) 649-0885 Fax# (817) 649-8863  
DETAILS: Remodeling of Restrooms/Kitchens for  
nine (9) Arlington Public Schools.  
ESTIMATED AMOUNT: \$450,000.00 to  
\$900,000.00

 **JOBLINE**  
City of DeSoto  
(972) 230-9698

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**TRANSMITTER  
SUPERVISOR**

KDFW FOX 4, a FOX O&O, currently has an opening for an experienced Transmitter Supervisor. Responsibilities include but not limited to the operation, installation and maintenance of all equipment associated with the transmission facilities for KDFW Fox 4 Television. Additional duties include operating two-way communications, microwave, and transmission equipment, microwave receive sites, helicopter operations, and various test equipment. This position reports to the Director of Engineering and includes supervising maintenance staff assigned to RF, developing Capital and Operating Budgets for transmitter operations, maintaining all EAS logs and other required transmitter/operation logs to insure compliant operations.

Qualified candidates must possess two-year technical college or higher education with courses relating to broadcasting engineering. Ideal candidates must demonstrate proven management experience and knowledge of VHF and UHF. Previous experience with RCA, TTU-110 and Harris Plantium preferred.

Rush resume/letter of interest to:

Human Resources/Job Code: 540-9  
KDFW FOX 4 Television Station  
400 N.Griffin Street  
Dallas, Texas 745202  
Faxes accepted at 214-954-0315  
Job Line: 214-720-3236  
No Phone Calls Please  
EOE/M/F/D/V



**TARRANT COUNTY**

**Technical Officer I.**

HS/GED & 3 months work exp. Monitors hall cameras in confinement facilities. Answers floor telephone and intercom. Directs authorized visitors to proper visitation locations. Orders supplies, checks equipment, and keeps files in order. Valid DL. \$1449-1598/mo.

**Technical Officer II**

HS/GED & 6 months work exp. Supervises inmate feeding & cleaning of jail house area. Completes paperwork relating to custody & care of inmates. Conducts security checks hourly. Valid DL. \$1694-\$1868/mo.

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.

**ASSIGNMENT DESK EDITOR**

KDFW Television, a FOX O&O, has an immediate opening for an experienced Assignment Desk Editor. Duties include, reviewing and filing news releases, newspapers and news stories on other broadcast media. Monitors emergency service agencies and assigns/manages logistics of news crews as needed. Ideal candidates must have the ability to work on multiple tasks under tight deadlines. Candidates must possess excellent verbal and written communication skills and the ability to work effectively with newsroom personnel and the public. Experience with BASYS Computer System, AT&T 302A CP preferred. Three-five years experience in a major television market and a college degree preferred. Job Code: 520-9 & 523-9

**BUSINESS REPORTER**

KDFW Television, a FOX O&O, has an opening for an experienced Business Reporter. Ideal candidates must demonstrate a solid Business and Financial background, including extensive knowledge of current events and business trends, exceptional writing, creative, live shot(s), and storytelling ability, with proficiency in news production techniques. Additional duties include, but not limited to, developing ideas, exercising news judgement, creating various types of business related stories in an interesting and compelling fashion. College degree (preferably in Business or Finance) and three-five years experience in a medium-major television market and experience with news computer systems and news gathering and operation techniques required. Bilingual English-Spanish a plus. Job Code: 522-9.

**SPORTS REPORTER**

KDFW Television, a FOX O&O, is currently seeking an aggressive, Sports Reporter. Responsibilities include sports reporting, live shots, special reports, and other tasks assigned. Contributes to stories on a daily basis. Additional duties include, but not limited to, developing ideas, exercising news judgement, creating various types of sports related stories in an interesting and compelling fashion. May be required to anchor on an as needed basis. Three-five years experience in television sports reporting/anchoring in a medium-major market required. Must demonstrate proficiency in sports production techniques, newsroom computer experience, with extensive knowledge of sports and possess excellent writing, storytelling, live on-camera, and delivery skills. Flexible schedule with the ability to travel required. College degree preferred. Bilingual English-Spanish a plus. Job Code: 523-9

Qualified candidates rush resume and tape specifying job code to:  
Human Resources, KDFW Fox Television  
400 N. Griffin Street  
Faxes accepted at 214.954.0315 • Job Line 214.720.3236  
No Phone Calls Please • EOE/M/F/D/V

**\*\*\*\*\* Editorial Interns \*\*\*\*\***

If you are ready to become a vital part of a news organization, then Minority Opportunity News could be YOUR OPPORTUNITY. Experience counts with us. But a personal commitment to develop a communications career is even more valued. If you think you:

- have a "nose for news"
- can manage multiple assignments under deadline pressures
- value accuracy and balance in news
- have the ability to work regular part-time hours with the potential to become full-time

-- Then send us your resume and a letter. Let your letter relate not where you are—but where you see yourself in five or even ten years from now. Minority Opportunity News is growing. Come grow with us. Interested candidates are asked to fax their correspondence to:

Charlene M. Crowell, Vice-President of Business Affairs at  
214-905-0949



Mature individual sought for permanent part-time work. Successful candidates must be able to:

- work independently with little supervision
- possess reliable transportation
- work flexible schedule and hours
- document valid Texas driver's license and insurance coverage
- handle merchandise weighing up to 25 pounds
- punctual work habits with sensitivity to deadlines

Interested candidates should fax their resumes to  
**214-905-0949**





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