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Minority Opportunity News

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Minority Opportunity News

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



TPA

Living life down in

"The Heights"

Larry Johnson '99

Homeless Son: A
Mother's Diary
Part 2

Take A Look At
MON's
Capitol Watch

Thomas
Muhammad
Looks At Kosovo

After advertising heavily in support of legislation that would lower access fees, AT&T has suddenly reversed its position. AT&T is now fighting against the passage of legislation that would lower access fees and allow Southwestern Bell to lower rates on several popular services.

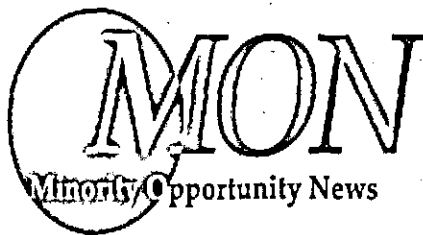
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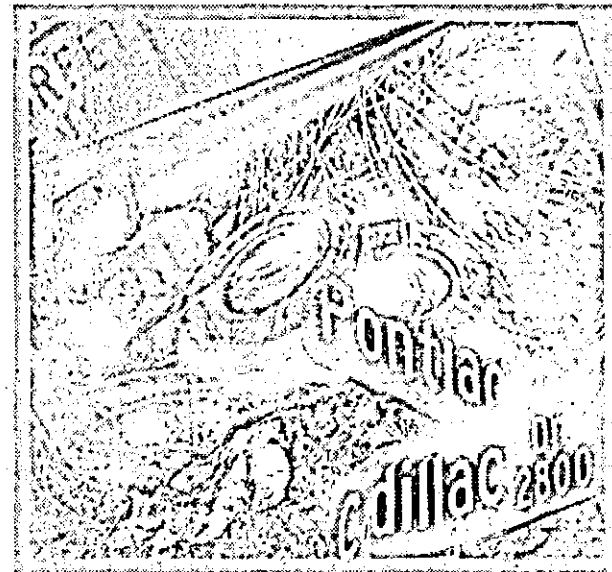
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Editorial

Education Reform: Entitlement vs. Privilege

In the aftermath of yet another incident of school violence, much of the nation is still in shock. It is hard to conceive how high school students could construct homemade bombs without a single parent being aware of their activities. Harder still to understand is what would prompt teenagers to kill classmates, a teacher and then themselves?

With more and more classrooms becoming crime scenes, Americans are clamoring for something to be done — now. While some are proposing a new round of gun control, others are pushing for educational reform.

Here in Texas, Senator Teel Bivins (R-Amarillo), chair of the Senate Education Committee, is steering passage of a reform measure he authored that appears to be one of the most hotly contested issues in this session of the legislature. His Senate Bill 10 would authorize a pilot program targeted to low-achieving urban students. A small number of selected students would enroll in private schools. The legislative intent would be to measurably compare student performance before and after private enrollment. In so

doing, the pilot program would determine whether student performance improved in private school settings.

For a poverty-stricken family, SB 10 has an undeniable lure. Who wouldn't want their child to have the chance to attend a private school for free? Who wouldn't want their child to benefit from an educational environment premised on privilege?

The poor and hopeful are not the only supporters of SB 10. Sen. Bivins has colleagues and supporters who have long-since given up on public education. Theirs are the children who largely fill private school enrollment. Armed with the financial strength to afford private

tuition, what better time than now, in the midst of public school turmoil, to slightly

open the doors of private educational opportunity? Gov. George Bush and Lt. Gov. Rick Perry proudly count themselves among SB 10's supporters.

Minority Opportunity News firmly believes that educational

opportunity is the right of every child. A quality education should be available to more than a favored few. Quality education for all is an entitlement on which Texas (and all of the United States) should not compromise. And while we concede that a pilot program may benefit

those few students selected, what of those pupils still attending public schools? How could anyone reasonably expect the performance of public school students to improve when precious financial resources are being siphoned off? Is it fair to fund private schools at the expense of public education?

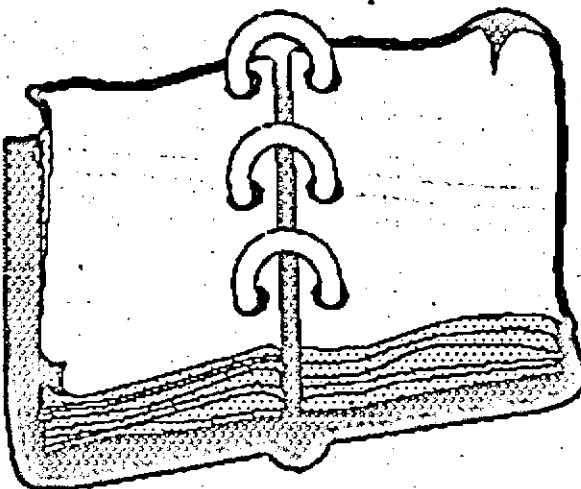
We think not.

The public purse is filled with hard-earned tax dollars from everyone's pockets. Public schools need and deserve more funding — not less. From teacher salaries to building improvements, updated curricula, new textbooks and more — we still have a public duty to all of our children.

In the feature film, *It's a Wonderful Life*, the central character, George Bailey, observed, "This rabble you're talking about does most of the living, the working, the paying and the dying." George was right. Before anyone else dies, even-handed efforts at educational reform are needed.

Everyone's child deserves a quality education.

MON



A looking glass for the African American community

There is little doubt that many of the readers of *Minority Opportunity News* are becoming increasingly aware of the impending political season. From the local elections to the declarations of candidacy by those who aspire to the Presidency of the United States, there is an apparent air of the body politic that is growing every day. The only other future-oriented discussions that we hear seem to be centered on the coming of Y2K. When we consider the next national elections against the backdrop of the beginning of the next millennium, we have two major events that warrant our thoughtful consideration.

MON has always served as a point of timely information concerning those issues that impact the African American community. In this sense, the confluence of the national elections with the turn of the century should make us all seriously examine our state of affairs. Furthermore, as we look forward, we should likewise consider the issues we face that must be addressed and how might we best pre-

pare ourselves to take advantage of the opportunities that await us.

MON is committed to an in-depth review of those areas that will impact and define the quality of our lives as we enter the new millennium. Throughout the rest of 1999, we will dedicate one edition of MON each month to a broad analysis of these contemporary issues and trends. By way of a brief summary, the following list reflects the areas that we will examine.

• **Education** — It was the case before, and will continue to be in the future, that our success will be largely shaped by how well we educate our citizens. With the turmoil within the Dallas Public Schools, we need to be deeply concerned about the nature and quality of the academic experiences of our children. As well, how are the post secondary institutions (e.g., two- and four-year colleges, trade schools, etc.) doing at preparing African American students for needed and lasting future careers? We will look at these questions and offer recommendations for

personal and career planning.

• **Healthcare** — Managed care, HMOs, PPOs, insurance reform and Medicare and Medicaid changes have become a part of our current language. Corporate mergers and government downsizing have forevermore changed the map of healthcare options and services available to Americans. How will these wholesale changes in the healthcare delivery system affect African Americans in particular?

• **Entertainment** — The growing impact of more efficient and compacted work schedules will be how we define and respond to our entertainment needs. Presently, it is well known in industry circles that African Americans attend movies at a higher rate than their White counterparts. Will this trend continue? What other entertainment venues will grow in popularity? MON will look at these and other uses for our relaxation dollars.

• **Economic Development** — We have had several decades of promises for

real economic development in the southern sector of Dallas. Will the new millennium bring the needed changes? In addition, as it relates to the growth of minority- and women-owned businesses, what does the next century portend?

• **Government/Politics** — The latter part of this century saw a significant trend towards lower voter turnout among African Americans. This phenomenon was true despite the devastating impacts on our community during the Reagan years. What will the new census bring? What will be the lasting results of voter apathy? On a more positive side, MON will also look at the political leaders of the next generations.

With all of the changes that the future will bring, please rest assured that MON remains committed to bringing you the critical review of those issues and opportunities facing our communities. Look forward to our future issues — we are here for you.

MON



Community Pulse

Thomas Muhammad

The Kosovo crisis is a reminder of racist hypocrisy

You hear the sounds each and every day from the Clinton administration, calling our attention to the crisis in Kosovo. The calling for American support of NATO bombing runs on Serb (majority Greek Orthodox Christian) targets in Yugoslavia. (Ironically, the word "Yugoslav" is where the dreaded word "slave" comes from.) The calling of humanitarian relief organizations to help fleeing Kosovars. The world condemnation of Serb president Slobodan Milosevic's war against the people of Kosovo (who are, by the way, predominately Muslims). We see the gruesome pictures of sickly old men and women, their faces filled with terror. The pictures of young men, straining with the physical and emotional burden of transporting their family (and in many cases, extended family) sometimes hundreds of miles, as they flee to escape the holocaust happening behind them in their homeland. And of course there are the typical stories of rape, always a primary weapon of conquerors over the vanquished.

As a practicing Muslim I am outraged. As a human being I am speechless. And I believe that the entire world should do whatever necessary to stop this mad dog Slobodan (or Sobo, as some American comedians call him) Milosevic at all cost. It is also my opinion that the U.S. should help arm the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) and let the Muslim men fight for themselves. I am confident that we would not have to worry about Sobo anymore after that. But as usual, the West, including the United States, is afraid that the Kosovars will create another Iran. And they can't have that, can they? (Oh yes, I love Iran.)

One still has to wonder why so little commotion was raised about the many other non-European holocausts that have occurred?

In fact, what if I told you that one day early on the morning of April 9th, a couple of gangs attacked a small, beautiful village. The village had houses made of cut stones and was located on the west side of a famous city. It took place several weeks before a very special British mandate. The village lay outside of the area to be assigned by the United Nations. It had a peaceful reputation; it was even said by many newspapers to have driven out some town militants. But it was located on high ground in the corridor of two famous cities. This fact made it a famous target for the mainstream forces.

However, in spite of being better armed, the mainstream forces were unable to conquer the village. But after

they elicited the help of a small band of special troops, the village soon fell. After the special troop left, a massacre began. In the neighboring settlement later that evening, the gang members themselves, over tea and cookies, told foreign correspondents that over 200 villagers were

pulse

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

killed and forty were taken prisoner. The New York Times reported this same story, the very next day. The terrorists claimed to have lost only four of their own forces. They boasted of the battle but made no mention of the males they loaded onto trucks and paraded through town before taking them to a stone quarry and shooting them to death. On April 13th the New York Times reported that 254 men, women and children had been killed in the village. There was no mention of prisoners.

These days, had I told you such a story you might have easily assumed I was speaking of Kosovo. You would be wrong. It was Deir Yassin, in Palestine, April 9, 1948. And it was just one of many towns and villages that met a similar fate. All perpetrated by Jews against Palestinians. Was there an international outcry?

And what if I were to tell you of another incident where upwards of 800,000 people had been massacred, with an additional 200,000 to 300,000 more left homeless and hungry and ravaged by disease. Again, you'd probably think of Kosovo. But no, you would be wrong again. This happened on the African continent. In Rwanda, nearly five years ago. Again, where was the outrage?

Or how about Sudan where a West-inspired and West-financed civil war is taking place between groups who are not sure what type of government they desire. This war, along with years of drought and crop failures, has killed nearly 1.5 million people. No outrage!

Look at Algeria, where there has been a bloody civil war for nearly a decade. The war began when an election in December of 1991 was about to be won by an Islamic political group (just as the Republican Party won the U.S. Senate and Congress in

1994). The elections were annulled when the Algerian military recognized that the new Islamic Salvation Front was in the lead during the first round of elections. It appeared that the Islamic group was about to win, because Algerians were tired of the military's policies that many saw keeping the populace impoverished since its 1962 independence from France. The Algerian civil war has left more than 75,000 dead.

There has been a civil war going on in Angola for nearly 20 years. More than 500 thousand have been killed. But more than that some African experts have said that since the civil war began, nearly 12 million people have been forced from their homes and are wandering the countryside for food and shelter. Hope for a United Nations-brokered peace is fading.

Then you have war between Ethiopia and Eritrea; the Congo and its rebels; Sierra Leone and its rebels; before these, Somalia and Liberia were on fire.

The Western countries and the United States came quickly to the rescue of Kuwait against Iraqi aggression. Of course Kuwait clearly had something of value to

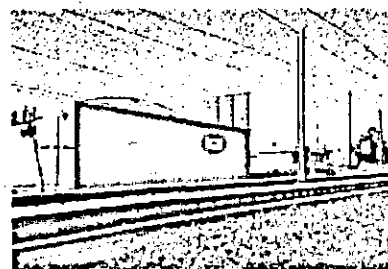
them: oil. But what happens when the country has no value? A more serious question might be, Does the West only respond to a human crisis if the country asking for help is a White nation? How about the Aborigines of Australia? For centuries they have been systematically driven from their towns and villages into the bush, after Europeans burned, raped and pillaged their country. Where is the outcry? Most of us are too busy listening to Olivia Newton-John or taking a nice slow ride in a Subaru Outback (after eating at a great Outback Steakhouse). Yeah, I know you're probably sitting in one this very minute as you read this informing column.

More recently a number of African countries are beginning to understand what was called for over 30 years ago by many African leaders — African solutions for African problems. (In the past, some were assassinated for supporting this very noble idea.) But unfortunately, there are still too many African leaders who, like many Negroes in America, believe that a White man's involvement is needed to solve their problems. And then that same old White man comes back and misuses them. Again. Yeah, I guess it did take the racism in the Kosovo crisis to reveal a lot of things. Are you with me this one?

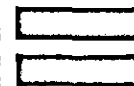
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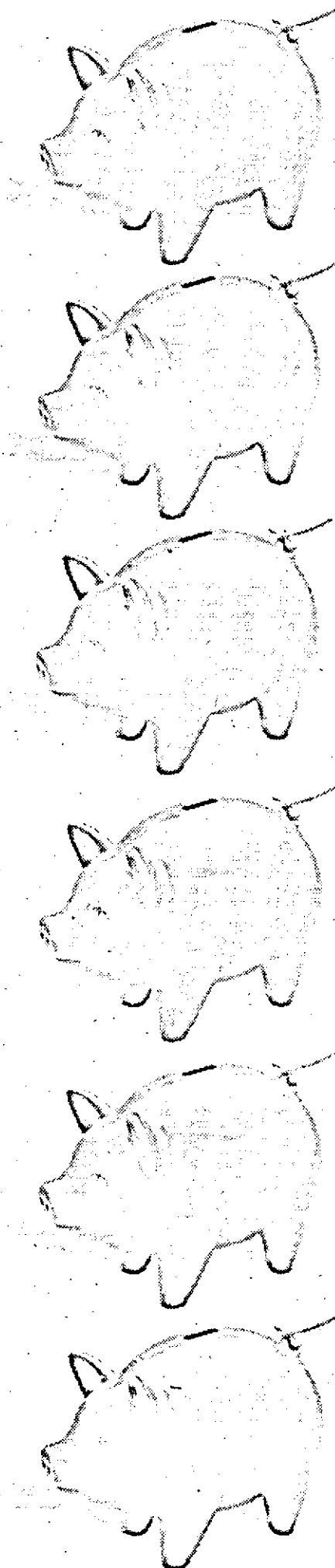
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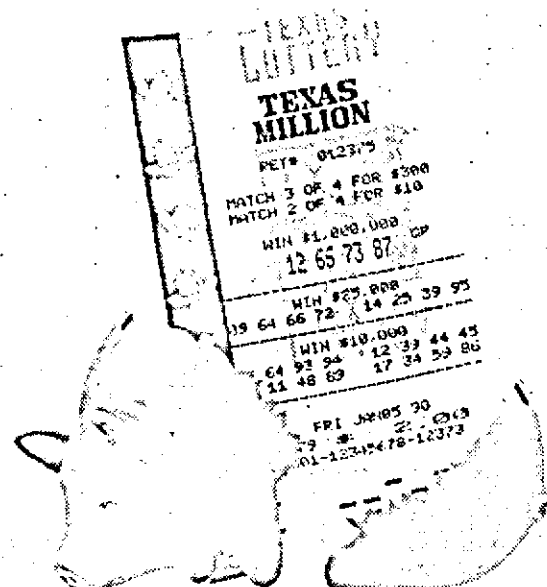
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Hate Crime bill passes; Aid to grandparents proposed

Rep. Sefronia Thompson calls for monetary fines

People committing hate crimes in Texas could literally wind up paying for their biases if legislation passed in the Texas House of Representatives becomes law. Texas and 39 other states are reported to have some form of laws already addressing such offenses. However, Rep. Sefronia Thompson (D-Houston) is proposing that civil damages, i.e., monetary penalties, be attached. Such penalties would apply if bias is determined to be against groups by race, color, disability, religion, sexual orientation or ancestry.

Beyond civil damages, Rep. Thompson's bill would also:

- Provide funding for small towns whose budgets would not afford prosecution of hate crimes.
- Institute specialized police training
- Appoint a special prosecutor in the attorney general's office to specifically investigate hate crimes.

In 1997, 331 hate crimes were documented in Texas; more than half were motivated by race.

The 83-61 House vote was largely

along party lines, with African-American and Latino legislators voicing strong support. The only House Democrat to oppose the bill was Rep. Bob Turner (D-Voss). Republican representatives breaking ranks in support of the measure were: Toby Goodman (Arlington), Tony Goolsby (Dallas), Pat Haggerty (El Paso), Bob Hunter (Abilene), Delwin Jones (Lubbock), Tommy Merritt (Longview) and Jim Pitts (Waxahachie).

Sen. Royce West proposes financial aid to Grandparents of welfare babies

The Texas Senate recently approved a bill to financially assist grandparents rearing children eligible for public assistance. The proposed assistance, if enacted, would afford monies beyond Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, also known as TANF.

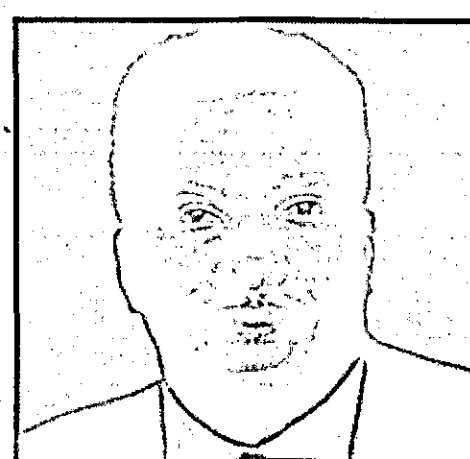
According to Senate Bill 1423 sponsored by Senator Royce West (D-Dallas) would be extended to grandparents meeting the following criteria:

1. Primary and custodial caretakers of dependent children eligible for financial assistance.

2. Annual household income less than \$50,000.

3. At least 45-years of age.

A one-time cash payment of \$1,000 would defray household expenses normally incurred in child placement. Eligible expenses would include such items as bedding, furniture, and clothing. An annual school subsidy would also be allowed.



Sen. Royce West

Proposed as a means to preserve family ties, Senator West said, "I often get calls in my district office from grandpar-

ents asking me when will the state of Texas do something to help them with raising their grandchildren. These grandparents have become second-time parents, often while living on fixed incomes."

A member of the Texas Senate since 1993, West serves on the Criminal Justice, Education and Finance Committees in the upper chamber. Additionally, he chairs the Education Subcommittee on Higher Education.

Passed in late April by the Senate, the measure now moves to the House of Representatives for further consideration.

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1999 Dallas Mavericks Hoop Camps Schedule

CAMP #	DATE	CAMP LOCATION
#9	June 28-July 2	Richland High School (N. Richland Hills)
#10	July 5-9	McCulloch Middle School (Highland Park)
#11	July 5-9	Nutin' But Net (Plano)
#12	July 12-16	Richland College (N. Dallas)
#13	July 12-16	Cross Timbers Middle School (Grapevine)
#14	July 19-23	The Oakridge School (Arlington)
#15	July 26-30	Univ. of Texas of Dallas (Richardson/Plano)
#16	August 2-6	The Greenhill School (Addison/Carrollton)

Dallas office of Charles F. McAfee joins architectural design team to help plan Victory

Fulling its commitment to utilize minority-owned businesses throughout the planning and development of American Airlines Center and Victory, Hillwood has added Charyl F. McAfee, vice president, Charles F. McAfee, FAIA, NOMA, PA Architects, Planners, Program Manager to its master planning team.

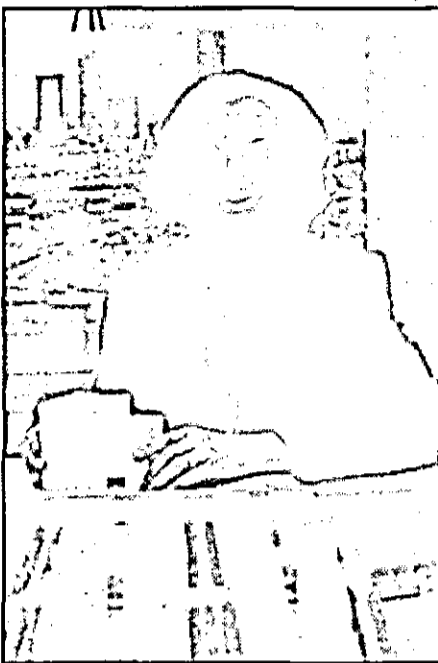
Hillwood has divided its architectural design and planning team into two units: the construction unit, which is working on building the American Airlines Center and the planning unit, which is working on Victory, the 48-acre development around the arena. McAfee-Duncan represents Charles F. McAfee (CFM) on the planning team in the development of design guidelines for Victory.

As the manager of CFM's Dallas and Oklahoma City offices, McAfee-Duncan brings more than 14 years of project management and design experience to the arena planning team. She received a master of architecture degree from The University of Texas at Austin, and a Bachelor of Science in architectural studies from the University of Nebraska. The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards has also certified McAfee-Duncan.

"Charyl [McAfee-Duncan] and CFM have an exemplary track record of project management and design with first class projects," said Hillwood strategic president, Isaac Manning, who oversees the planning and design for Hillwood projects. "I'm pleased that someone of her caliber has joined Hillwood's team of architects."

Among fewer than 100 African American female architects in the United States, McAfee-Duncan brings a wealth of experience, having managed projects ranging from a six-story ambulatory care center to the renovation of 19 schools in Oklahoma City.

McAfee's father, Charles F. McAfee, started CFM at a time when most blacks were still fighting for their basic rights. He started the 36-year-old architectural firm in 1963 in Wichita, Kansas, and in spite of civil rights barriers, grew the firm through dedication and award-winning work.



Charyl McAfee-Duncan

Two of his three daughters followed his path. Besides McAfee-Duncan, sibling Cheryl L. McAfee-Mitchell directs CFM's Atlanta office. (The third sister, Pamela A. McAfee, is a medical doctor. She is director of occupational therapy for a major hospital in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.)

During the past four years, the firm has garnered a reputation for developing Olympics-caliber sporting facilities. Beginning in 1996, the firm managed the programming, design and construction of 31

sports venues for the Centennial Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta. Following the Games, CFM was hired to convert the Olympic structures into post-Olympic use.

Working with lead planning architects Koetter Kim and Associates through Hillwood is the type of opportunity architects dream about," McAfee-Duncan said. "It's exciting, serious but fun. I tell everybody that what I like about this project is the people we work with and the fact that we are involved in a marquee project that will redefine downtown Dallas."

Before joining CFM, McAfee-Duncan started her career in 1988 at John S. Chase, FAIA, Architect, where she helped design the renovation and addition to the Low Sterret Justice Center in Dallas. Later, she joined Dallas-based HKS Architects, one of the ten largest architectural firms in the nation, where she provided architectural and interior design, production and construction administration for large commercial and health care facilities.

Besides managing CFM's Dallas and Oklahoma City offices, McAfee-Duncan serves as co-chair of the City of Dallas' Urban Design Advisory Council and sits on the board of directors of the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce and Wichita-based McAfee Manufacturing Company. (McAfee Manufacturing builds affordable modular homes to help low-to-moderate income earners achieve homeownership.) A member of the 1998 Leadership Dallas class, she was recognized in the 1998 Onyx Hall of Fame as one of the eight outstanding African American men and women in Dallas.

Chess event helps kids get to college

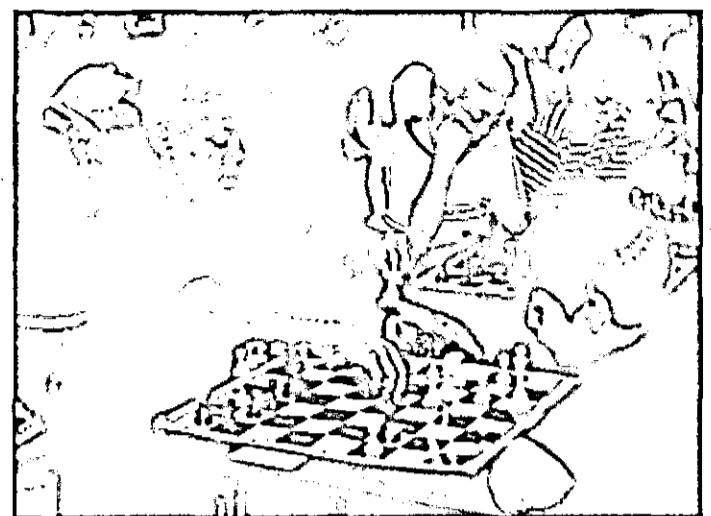
It takes a lot of smart moves to make it to college. For dozens of Dallas-area children, those smart moves begin while playing the game of chess.

According to the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD), playing chess can improve a child's reading scores and heighten self esteem. The Chess Championship, sponsored by Dallas Area Chess-in-the-Schools (DACIS), provides many area youth with college scholarships.

That's why the All-state Foundation has given a \$1,500 grant to the DACIS association. For the past seven year, the program has sponsored

the event that gathers more than 500 students from over a dozen Dallas Independent School Districts.

See CHESS next page



Child contemplates move at the Chess Championship, sponsored by the Dallas Area Chess-In-the-Schools. The annual event provides area youth with college scholarships.

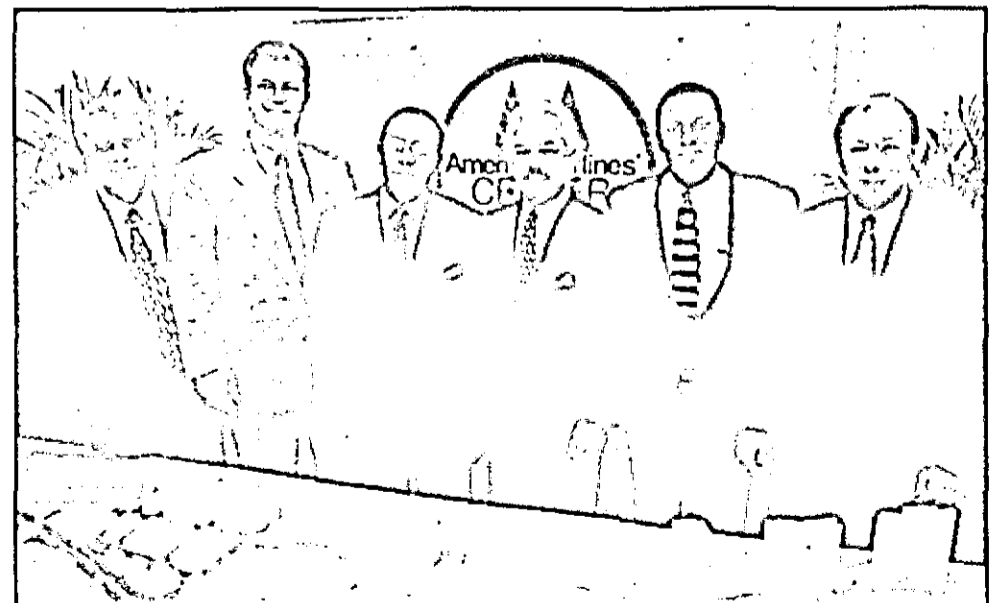
The Arena Group names Joe Alcantar and Richard Knight, Jr. as new members of the board of directors

The Arena Group announced the key appointment of two members of the board of directors, Joe Alcantar and Richard Knight, Jr. The recently-appointed board members join David Deniger, chairman and CEO, Olympus Real Estate; Tom Hicks, chairman and CEO, Hicks, Muse, Tate & Furst; Tom Luce, counsel, Hughes and Luce, LLP; Rick Patterson, CEO, Hillwood Development Corporation; Ross Perot, Jr. chairman, Hillwood Development Corporation; and Larry Stuart, managing director and principal, Hicks, Muse, Tate & Furst in

forming The Arena Group board of directors. "The Arena Group is delighted to welcome Mr. Knight and Mr. Alcantar to the board of directors. These gentlemen will play a key role as we move forward with the development of Dallas' new sports and entertainment venue, American Airlines Center. They share our vision of its importance to the community and the revitalization of Downtown," commented Brad Mayne, president and CEO of The Arena Group.

Joe Alcantar serves as president and

See ARENA GROUP next page



Pictured from left to right: Jim Lites, president, Dallas Stars; Brad Mayne, president, The Arena Group; Richard Knight, president, KNIGHT OIL, INC., and Arena Group board appointee; Joe Alcantar, president, Alman Electric, Inc., and Arena Group board appointee; Terdema Ussery, president, Dallas Mavericks; Michael Cramer, chief operating officer, Southwest Sports Group, Inc.

More In The News . . .

CHESS from page 8

dent School District (DISD) elementary schools. The non-profit organization's mission is to bring chess to students of economically and socially disadvantaged backgrounds in order to improve school performance.

"Getting a college degree does more than open a young person's mind," says Gary Briggs, Allstate's regional vice president. "It opens doors of opportunity in the workplace. We're honored to support a program that is helping young Texans get to

college."

Allstate supports programs like DACIS through its public service program, "Making Texas Safer...One Neighborhood at a Time." The program aims to heighten public awareness and understanding of community issues by supporting non-profit organizations across Texas.

Allstate Insurance Co. is the nation's largest publicly-held personal lines insurance company. In Texas, the company has more than 1,500 agents and insures more than two million homes and vehicles.

ARENA GROUP from page 8

CEO of Alman Electric which has grown to be one of the largest electrical contractors in the Dallas/Fort Worth area since it was founded in 1979. Alman Electric has been ranked in the top 500 Hispanic businesses in the United States since 1987.

Under the leadership of Joe Alcantar, Alman Electric joined with AT&T in creating a four-year scholarship at SMU, offering DISD Hispanic students the opportunity to attend and receive an education from a quality institution. Alcantar also represents Alman Electric as a participant in the Jerry Junkins Minority Scholarship Fund, which offers college education to minority DFW area students who wish to enter the construction industry. Under Mr. Alcantar's direction, Alman Electric is a proud contributor to the Salesmanship Club Family and Youth Center capital campaign and also serves as co-chair of the capital campaign for the Latino Cultural Center, which is a public/private joint venture with the City of Dallas. With membership and leadership positions in numerous area organizations, Joe Alcantar has been in the vanguard of commercial and civic promotion of Hispanic business development.

Richard Knight, Jr. founded KNIGHTCO OIL, INC. in 1997 and serves as president. In April 1998, he was appointed chairman of the board of Vista Stores, LLC, a \$100 million company with stores located in Texas and the Midwest. In addition, he owns Richard Knight Parking company, formerly Shelter Park at Love field. From 1990 to 1997, Knight held several key executive positions with Caltex Petroleum Corporation. Prior to that, he served as City Manager of the City of Dallas and was the first African American to hold that position.

In 1980, Knight was elected vice president at large of the International City Management Association for a two-year term. He also served as chairman of the board of the D/FW Minority Business Development Council. Additional board memberships have included board of directors for Comerica Bank-Texas, Dallas Chapter of the American Red

Cross, Parkland Hospital, Goodwill Industries, Nippon Petroleum Refining Co., Ltd. (Japan) and North Texas Public Broadcasting, Inc. In addition, Knight served on the board of trustees of Children's Medical Center, Dallas Medical Resource and The Science Place. He is also a member of the Salesmanship Club and presently serves on the board of directors for Charlton Methodist Hospital of Dallas, Texas.

"We are fortunate that we are able to bring two such prominent businessmen to our project. Not only are Mr. Alcantar and Mr. Knight extraordinary business visionaries, but outstanding citizens with a commitment that goes well beyond simply doing business and reaches deep in the heart of the community. Each has demonstrated a long, proud history of community involvement," said Mayne.

The Arena Group was formed by the owners of the Dallas Mavericks and the Dallas Stars to build and operate American Airlines Center. The Arena Group also manages Reunion Arena.

The new American Airlines Center will be located on the old TU Electric site, adjacent to the West End and at the heart of the Victory development. Construction will begin this fall, and the facility will open in the fall of 2001.

Texas Publishers Association Honors Journalistic Excellence for 1998

When the Texas Publishers Association held its 1999 annual convention in mid April, newspapers throughout the Lone Star State were recognized for journalistic achievement. Judging 1998 award entries in eleven categories were journalism faculty members from the University of Texas at Austin.

Minority Opportunity News garnered two coveted awards: best editorial and 2nd place for best use of color. According to Associate Professor George Sylvie, MON's June 1998 color cover, portraying

Dallas Post Tribune Awarded School Bell Award For Outstanding Continuous Coverage By Teachers Assn.



Shown are Mrs. Mary E. Beck, left, chairperson of the Board of Directors for The Dallas Post Tribune, accepting the 1999 School Bell Award for Outstanding Continuous Coverage from Texas State Teachers Association (TSTA) president, Mr. Ignacio Salinas, Jr. The award was presented at the TSTA's 120th Annual Convention held April 23 in Amarillo, Texas. The Dallas Post Tribune was one of 36 newspaper awarded from over 2,100 newspaper in Texas.

a father and son, "presents nice balance to spectrum-like blurbs at bottom; black & white flag at top makes the picture complete; kudos to the photographer, especially." Commenting on the top editorial award, Prof. Sylvie wrote of the December 1st, "Black Friday" editorial, "This piece raised important issues for the community in a clear and compelling fashion. It does what an editorial should do - get people thinking about a tough issue."

Other winning publications included: The LaVida News (Houston) for "Best In-House Original Ad"; Dallas Examiner - "Best Use of Color" and "Best Special Section"; Nokoa - The Observer - "Best News Story" and "Best Photography".

The Texas Publishers Association is the trade group representing more than 30 African American owned and managed newspapers. Mr. Reginald Blow, publisher of the North Texas Journal in Wichita Falls serves as president.

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Living life
down in

“The Cadillac 2800
Heights”

Dr
Story and photos
by Allen Gray

Cruise down Cadillac Drive. Prowl up Pontiac Avenue. Creep down Chrysler. Take a peek up Packard. Or even browse down Buick, and you'll find the same things you'll find in any other neighborhood in this vast metropolitan statistical area. A great diversity of people and a culmination of families interacting as families should.

Unfortunately for the inhabitants, these are all streets which are situated in the heart of Cadillac Heights. And at any given time the calm of a sunny Sunday morning can turn real ugly when skies turn gray. Because those same April showers that bring May flowers to those hamlets situated north of the Trinity River, bring havoc and chaos to the Heights.

The telltale signs are all there: The dried, silken grass fibers wrapped four feet high on the trunks of trees and poles; the stains of water lines etched along metal fences and the sides of houses; or the discarded tires and driftwood laid precariously upon mud dunes. They are all indications of past floods.

Yet the residents—some Blacks, some Whites, mostly Hispanics—randomly ignore these conditions as they go about their day preparing for church or some other Sunday morning activity. For them it's all a part of life down in Cadillac Heights. They polish their cars, make improvements to their homes and frolic in the sunshine just as anyone else might—but life here can be so very different when the rains come.

From lead contamination to constant flooding, there have been some low points in the lives of those in the Heights. To hear of all the physical problems associated with the lead contamination, one would assume it more humane if the city had gathered all the lead together, fashioned it into a gigantic bullet, and ended things quickly the citizens of the Heights. Heaven help Cadillac Heights.

Cadillac-ing On Cadillac Drive

Ms. Velma Harper will turn 63 in May of this year. She has lived on Cadillac Drive for more than 32 years. She raised her children there. For the majority of those 32 years of living in the Heights Ms. Harper hasn't noticed any substantial changes in the area. She is one of the lucky ones, though; she lives on the elevated end of Cadillac Drive, located near Cedar Crest Drive. So, while Ms. Harper escapes what can be legally defined as flooding—what the low-line area of Cadillac Drive experiences during the rainy season—she nevertheless must deal with the run-off. The geographical location of Cadillac Heights (and Cadillac Drive) has it sitting like the spout of a funnel—that point to which all water must and will run. Inevitable flooding of the low end of Cadillac Drive, the poor drainage and unpaved black-top street on the other end forces the water run-off to flood Ms. Har-

per's front yard until, in her opinion, "it looks just like a river." In short Ms. Harper says, "Our streets and things need improving and the city doesn't do anything to help."

Certainly the question begs to be asked, "Why don't the residents of Cadillac Heights simply move?" Well, the expense of moving is an issue in itself; some of the residents of the Heights have everything they own tied up in the area. Ms. Harper, for example, is like an old tree planted by the river. Once its roots have taken ground, it's unlikely it will be moved. And after over 32 years near the river, Ms. Harper (like many of her neighbors) is not looking to go anyplace else.

Cadillac Heights is a community unto itself—cut off from the rest of Dallas by the rising tides, and bonded together by contamination of smelted lead and incessant flooding. With the hazardous remnants from industrial neighbors that include a closed lead smelter, a water treatment sewage system, a company that processes automobile bumpers, and a rendering plant that processes discarded animal parts, Cadillac Heights denizens figure that "the city is not watching our back, so we'll watch our own back."

"Everybody over here knows everybody 'cause we've all lived here for years and years," Ms. Harper explains. "So that means that everybody watches everybody else's back and we know when a stranger comes through here."

Heights residents are even their own police when need be. Like the time when Ms. Harper's son was walking home after having just cashed his paycheck one Friday afternoon. A would-be robber followed young Harper step-for-step all the way to the crest of the Harper home. Then he made his move, pouncing on the young Harper and grabbing for his wallet filled with a weeks worth of wages. A struggle ensued. Young Harper eventually was able to overpower and subdue his attacker and retain his possessions. Then he called out to his mother, "Mama, Mama, call the police!"

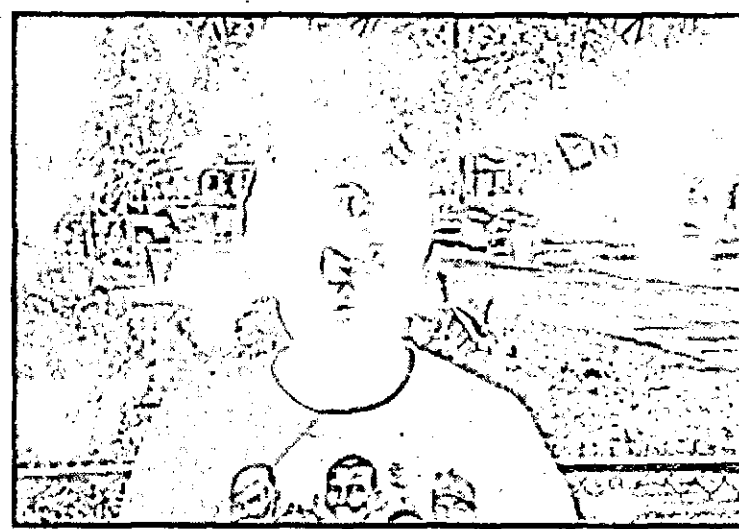
Ms. Harper recalls that it took the police three hours to finally arrive. Her son was growing tired of keeping the man held captive. So they improvised. "We got a pistol and held it on him," Ms. Harper said with a defiant snap in her voice. "We said, 'that'll hold him.'"

Hopefully the 7 p.m. meeting at Salvation Army/Cedar Crest Community Center held on the night of March 22, 1999 would, perhaps, explain not only the Trinity River Corridor Project, but also what the future held for the Heights. Velma Harper is somewhat skeptical of these Trinity River meetings. She says, "We have a lot of neighborhood meetings and that sort of thing. But the city officials, they come out—maybe we'll get some-

body from the water department or somebody from the street [department]—and they'll make speeches and give you a card and say, 'If you have problems with this, that or the other, or if you need anything, give me a call.' And when you give them the call nothing happens and they don't know you."

The doubt and skepticism is obvious as Ms. Harper recalls the time she applied for a home improvement grant (for the elderly) back in 1996. They told her the entire process would take no more than a year. Ms. Harper heard something about the grant in 1997, and again in 1998, but as the new millennium swiftly approaches, not a single repair has been made. A few of her neighbors have had similarly disheartening experiences.

While describing the depressing plight of the Heights, Velma Harper has become so frustrated and involved in telling her story that she does something she doesn't normally do—she let the food in both of the pots she had simmering on her stove top burn. Her house became



Velma Harper outside her home in "The Heights."

inundated with a cloud of smoke—sort of like the circumstances in the Heights itself.

A river of paradox

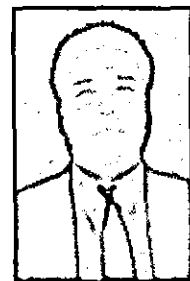
Take a whiff of the air around the river or view its appearance and witness its ecological abuse, and one cannot help but ponder the irony of the Spanish conquistadors naming the river that snakes a path through the metroplex after the Holy Trinity of Christendom. Yet, there is a trinity to this beguiled Nile.

The Trinity River is a confluence of three forks: the West Fork, the Elm Fork and the main stem. It is the main stem of

Continued on next page



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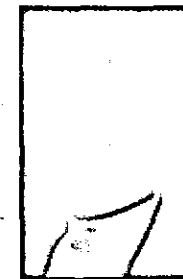
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Continued from previous page

the river that flows through south-south-east Dallas. About half of the river's area is vacant land. The main properties along the flow of the river are either residential or industrial.

At one time the Trinity was the hub of the wheel of commerce in Dallas. It enabled barges of cotton and other goods to be laid at the threshold of downtown. At one point, the business community of Dallas hoped to revive that relationship with the Trinity by converting it into an inland waterway to the Gulf of Mexico. But those hopes were laid to rest in 1981 when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers declared the idea unworkable.

The flooding of the Trinity is, perhaps, the river's way of striking back at mankind for the destruction of its natural grace and purity, because urban activity has impacted it greatly. For decades the Trinity has been the receptacle of storm water discharge, treated waste water, and a highly lethal nutrient overload associated with agricultural use and homeowners sprinkling weed and feed on their lawns. This urban abuse led to depressed oxygen levels in the river, further leading to large-scale fish kills during the 1980s.

Now, the biggest paradox of them all is the notion of reverting the Trinity back to its natural state. The new vision is a Trinity River of ecological verve and fun-filled recreation rather than commerce. Over the next 20 years or more, plans are to harness and control the flooding, and purge the Trinity of the toxic poisons man has forced it to ingest. Thus the Trinity River Corridor Project.

Tributary of debate

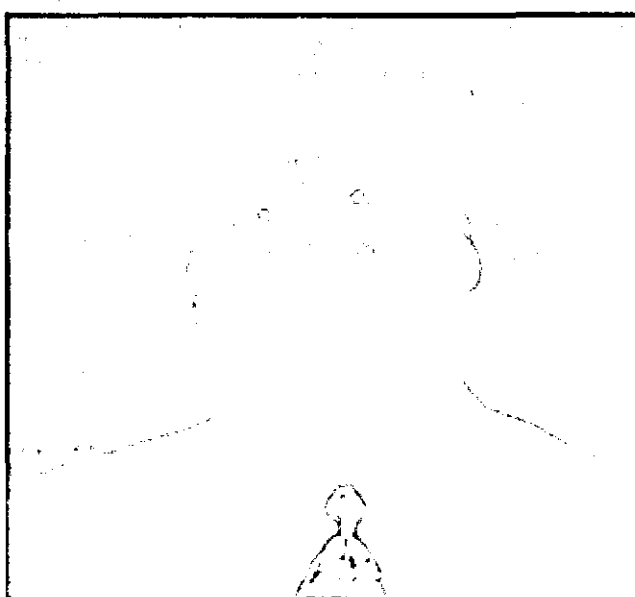
The Trinity has long been a depository of rage and controversy. The flooding of the potentially deadly Trinity River has often produced fatal consequences for

those residences located too close to the swell. After three years of flooding (from 1989 to 1991) drowning Cadillac Heights (and neighboring Rochester Park), the seeds of an unresolved debate were planted.

November 1994—Walter Skipwith, an engineer working on the Trinity River Corridor, noting that the homes and businesses in the Heights were at great risk, recommends that the city find an answer immediately or soon the area would "deteriorate and people won't be able to live there." The major obstacle to a buyout at the time was residents' fears that their land would be sold to businesses for a profit.

October 1994—The city offers residents in the flood-prone lower Lincoln area of South Dallas shelter from the storms with a buyout proposal for an estimated \$21,000 per household, and up to \$22,000 per household in relocation funds, but was vague on a similar offer for residents in Cadillac Heights, Joppa and South Lamar Street. (By mid-October the backwash of a Pacific-born hurricane forced the issue as it caused the Trinity to rise from 12.6 feet to 30.81 feet. When the river rises 33 to 35 feet folks in the Heights become nervous—at 39 feet flooding occurs.)

January 1995—The Trinity River Corridor Committee, led by Dallas City Councilwoman Barbara Mallory, recommends that the city buy out Cadillac Heights property owners or build a levee. The Committee also requests that city engineers draft a 100-year flood-protection plan for areas along the Trinity.



MBA Consultants chairman and CEO Van Howard.

February 1995—A diverse committee of residents and government officials, co-chaired by council members Barbara Mallory and Larry Duncan, unveil for the first time a plan that would fashion the Trinity into a multibillion-dollar riverfront plaza and park facility.

May 5, 1995—A deadly rain and hail storm leaves at least 18 people dead and forces the city to revamp its methods of emergency response in bad weather conditions.

August 1995—For the first time, lead contamination becomes an issue in Heights at a rancorous meeting between

150 Heights residents and their state representative, Roberto Alonzo.

October 1995—Responding to recommendations of the Trinity River Corridor Committee, Mayor Ron Kirk vows to begin development of the river within a few years.

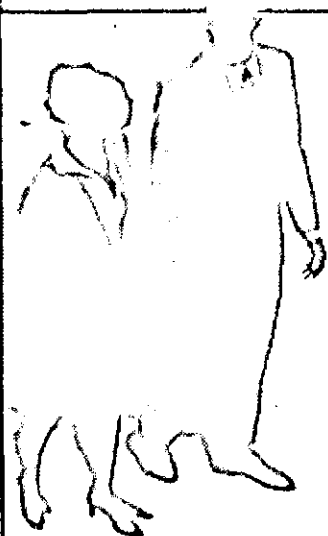
July 1996—Colonel Pete Madsen, head of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, announces the city must make a decision on the Trinity flood control project or risk losing up to \$83 million in federal flood grants. The project has been under consideration since Lyndon B. Johnson was president over 30 years ago.

August 1996—The Dallas city council approves the flood control project for an estimated \$92 million. Along with strengthening, restoring and building levees, the funds will also be used for the committee's Trinity Corridor Project.

September 1996—Residents of Cadillac Heights are encouraged to have their children's blood tested for lead by the Dallas Environmental and Health Services Department, and the Texas Natural Resource Conservation commission determines that between 62 and 230 residential properties in that neighborhood have higher than normal levels of lead in their soil.

December 1996—Plans continue to transform the 20-mile Trinity corridor into an attraction comparable to New York's Central Park. The plan will take 30 years to complete and carry a total price tag of

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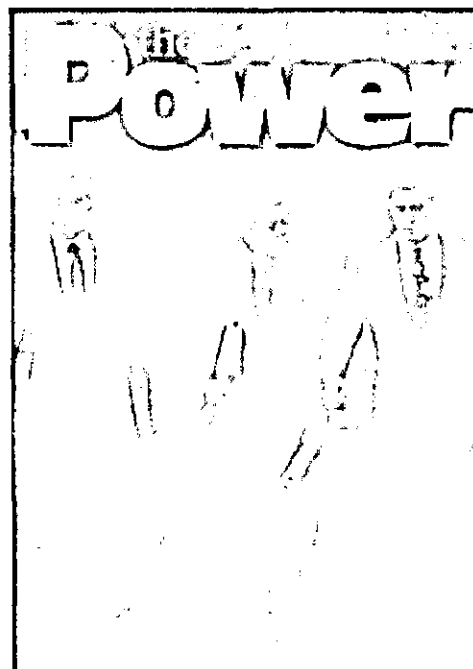
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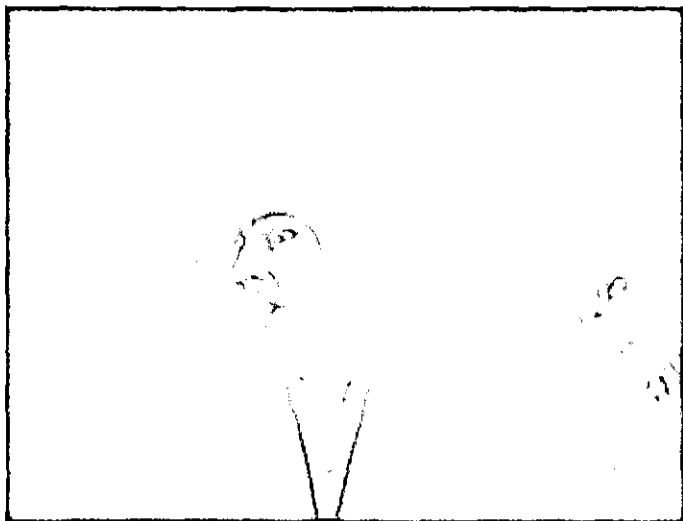
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"Out-of-District" City Councilwoman Barbara Mallory-Caraway showed up at the meeting. The Heights own Council rep, John Loza, was not there.

\$1 billion to \$2 billion.

•February 1997—The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission agree to spend \$2.5 million in state money to clean up the lead contamination Cadillac Heights that was left by two closed lead smelting facilities.

•February 1997—The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers unveil a revised flood control plan, which would cost an additional \$8 million to \$12 million, but would save more trees. Mayor Kirk praised the new-new plan.

•March 1997—In the further interest of the Trinity Project, city council voiced

unanimous support for a levee plan for Cadillac Heights and Lamar Street business district.

•August 1997—The Army Corps of Engineers determine that a buyout of Cadillac Heights at an estimated \$60 million is more cost effective than construction of levees and drainage swells. The levees and swells, which are endorsed by the council, would lower flooding in the Heights by only 1.1 foot and will cost roughly \$127 million.

•March 4, 1998—A group of citizens, called

Save the Trinity, launch a campaign to defeat the city's Trinity River bond proposition.

•April 1, 1998—Tulsa, Oklahoma, urban planner Ronald Flanagan, of R.D. Flanagan & Associates, labels the levee plan a costly mistake and suggests the city move toward a buyout, as was done in Tulsa.

•April 8, 1998—Residents of Cadillac Heights file suit against Exide Corp. and NL Industries, two lead smelters that closed, for lead soil contamination.

•April 11, 1998—Dallas NAACP and community leaders urge voters to defeat

the Trinity River proposal in upcoming bond election, because it totally ignores the needs of the Heights.

•May 1998—Voters approve record bond package for Trinity development.

The meeting

At 6:50 p.m. on the evening of March 22, it appeared that no one who lived in Cadillac Heights would attend the meeting—perhaps they had grown stone-cold to the city's charade. But hope truly sprung eternal that night. Ten minutes past total vacancy there began a slow matriculation of individuals. Before long, the meeting room was full.

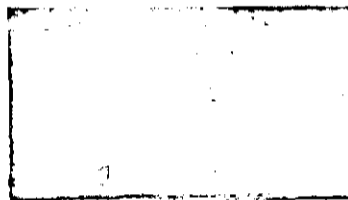
The meeting was a collaborative effort. It was sponsored by the Trinity River Corridor Management Office, which is managed by Marina Sukup (who was under orders not to speak to the media); organized by MBA Consultants

and their chairman and CEO Van Howard; and presented by Halff Associates, the engineering and architectural firm that will design and develop the multi-million dollar Trinity River of the future.

Halff Associates' James E. Carrillo is the director of planning for the Trinity Project. The purpose of the meeting was to solicit input from the Heights residents that would lead to the final design of the Master Implementation Plan for the Trinity River Corridor Project and the recreational areas along the corridor that would stretch roughly from Royal Lane (to the north) to Interstate 20 (in the south). Initial estimates for the project are approximately \$276 million. The city's commitment to the Trinity Parkway is \$84 million. The Texas Department of Transportation and North Texas Tollway Authority would resolve any possible

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ST. JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH



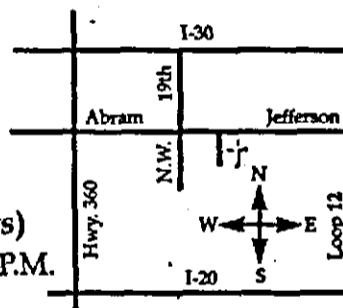
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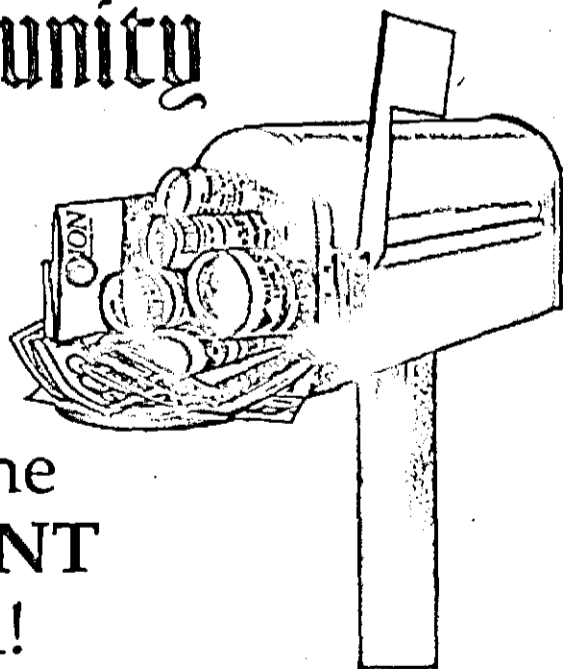
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Continued from previous page

funding shortfalls.

Carrillo talked about perhaps damming up the Trinity to form one lake (maybe two), constructing access roads, boat ramps, recreational areas and building the Great Trinity Forest.

But that wasn't the information Cadillac-ites came to hear. They wanted to know: What was going to be done about the nauseating stench coming through their neighborhood? Who was going to do something about the lead contamination? What of the flooding? Are they going to be bought out, or will they have to live the possibility of more and greater flood potentials?

The answers to those questions were exactly what the citizens of Cadillac Heights didn't want to hear. It merely was more of the same rhetoric they had come to expect. Not one of the officials in attendance was responsible for what was going on day-to-day in the Heights; nor were they able to direct the residents to that one responsible party or agency. Councilwoman Barbara Mallory-Caraway was there to represent the Dallas City Council, but she couldn't go on record with any suggestions, because she wasn't the council representative from that area. John Loza, who is the city councilman for the Cadillac Heights area, was not present.

Caraway did inform the residents that were absolutely no plans of a home-

owner buyout.

The meeting after the meeting

The general consensus of this meeting was the same as the others and best expressed by Fred Crawford, a taxi driver who resides in the Heights.

Fred Crawford represents a typical story of the atypical Heights resident. A while back, Crawford, now 50, took a gamble by moving with everything he owned from South Carolina to what he believed was an environmentally safe neighborhood in Dallas. He's been trapped there ever since.

"It was just a bunch of BULL," Crawford stated succinctly, as he drew shouts of approval from bystanders. "We here this same old thing every year. 'We saw this plan last year and they left us out.'"

Sadly, Crawford was correct in his summation of the gathering. The folks from the Heights didn't come to here what Carrillo had to talk about; they needed to hear from city officials. City Councilwoman Barbara Mallory-Caraway—who came late (shadowed by her husband), made a few off-the-cuff comments and left early—wasn't the one to ask. In essence, she knew nothing from nothing.

One of the more astute Heights residents saw Mallory-Caraway's attendance as the old bait and switch—the city council switcharoo. As he explained it, if a meet-

ing of some importance is being held in any particular council district, the council representative from that one area hardly (if ever) attends. Instead, a council representative from an adjacent area will show up to cover for him or her. That way the absent council person is never held liable for any comments or bogus promises made by the replacement. In this way, what Mallory-Caraway was saying, or not saying, could not be attributed to the absent John Loza.

Outside after the meeting folks gathered in groups to recap the evening's events. Small gripes and flippant remarks evolved into full-blown statements, and a small crowd began to gather. A few Heights residents, initially talking randomly among themselves, were joined by Howard, Carrillo (and staff from Half Associates) and a big-bellied attorney who swung through in a brown Chevy Suburban. A vigorous verbal repartee evolved and before anyone realized it, a second meeting was being held right there in the parking lot of the Salvation Army.

However, this second meeting developed a new wrinkle. To the pleasure, delight and astonishment of those Heights residents still on hand, up drove John Loza, a frail-bodied man who walked from the safety of his car into the fiery jaws of a furnace of remonstrance. Too bad for Loza, because he wasn't saying what they wanted to hear either. They wanted to know about the current flood-

ing conditions.

In an effort to appease, Loza said, "We're going to have to build a drainage system to go along with (the purposed levee construction)." But he also allowed that the second drainage system only would be constructed if and when the system was approved by a city bond election. And that would be years away.

Loza did, however, clear up the ambiguity of the buyout proposal. "There is not one at this time," said Loza. "It was something the city considered three or four years ago, but it was voted down by the council."

So the speculative resolve was this: a 25-foot high levee would be built that would, in essence, hide the shameful conditions of the Heights from the view of Trinity visitors, and add to or lessen the flood conditions of the Heights . . . and that was as much as had been decided.

So, yet another meeting had come and gone, and still the folks down in the Heights were dissatisfied. What they were saying was this: Recreational venues and hiking trails and boat docks and historical excavation sites all have their merit. But when you can't sleep at night because of nauseating funk pouring through your window, or muddy water seeping underneath your front door, or lead-contaminated blood pouring through your child's veins, no one really cares.

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Around Town

May 6

The Southwest Dallas County Pachyderm Club will hold its monthly meeting from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Luby's Cafeteria, 5600 S. Hampton Rd. Dinner is available from 6:30 till 7:00. Dawn Estes of Gardere & Wynne Law Firm will be the guest speaker. Please call Janice Sam at 214-421-6250 by May 3 to confirm attendance.

May 7

The American Cancer Society will hold its 7th Annual Mother's Day Luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center, 2901 Pennsylvania Ave. The program will focus on heightening women's awareness of breast cancer. Mammography Unit will arrive at 8:00 a.m. Clara Winfrey of KDFW Fox (Channel 4) will emcee. For more information, call 214-421-1680.

May 8

St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church presents its 8th Annual SOKO (marketplace), a fun-filled day of African and Hispanic heritage entertainment featuring over 50 Black and Hispanic vendors. There will also be a health fair and youth garage sale. Open to the public. Rain date is May 22. For vendor or entertainer registration, call 214-821-2970 or 972-407-2523.

....

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People/University of Texas Arlington Chapter will host their first annual Minority Student

Scholarship Fund Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. in the Carlisle Suite on the UTA campus. Tickets are \$15 per person, \$100 for a table of eight. Call 817-272-6790 or e-mail ebw6911@kutarlg.uta.edu for more information.

....

The African American Museum will hold its 15th annual fundraising gala starting at 6:00 p.m. in the Chantilly Ballroom of the Wyndham Anatole, Stemmons Fwy. & Market Center. Sponsored by Sprint, the event will feature African American art, dinner and dancing. Musical guests include the legendary Four Tops. Call 214-565-9026, ext. 301, for ticket information.

May 12

The National Association of Black Social Workers presents "Families of the New Millennium: Strengthening Stepfamilies" from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital Auditorium, 2222 Welborn St. Continental breakfast is provided. Cost is \$10. Call 972-494-8970 for workshop information.

May 14

The Oak Cliff Coalition for the Arts and El Centro Cultural de Dallas/The Latino Cultural Center of Dallas will present an artists reception from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at The Ice House Gallery, 1000 W. Page St. On exhibit will be traditional and contemporary votive paintings from J.R. Alcazar, Maria Teresa Garcia-Pedroche, Jorge Lopez and Lilia Rodriguez, which opened on May 4. Open to the public. For more information, call Sara Cordona at 214-670-4006.

....

Dallas Black Dance Theatre will present Choreographer's Choice Performances, 7:30 p.m., at the Majestic Theatre, 1925 Elm St. Main floor tickets are \$35, \$25 and \$20. Call 214-871-2390 or e-mail dbdt@gte.net for more information.

May 15

The Moorland YMCA, 907 East Ledbetter Dr., will hold their Annual Gala at 6:30 p.m. to honor those volunteers who have gone the extra mile when serving the people in their community. This year's Gala chairperson is Brenda Young, second vice chair of the Board of Management for the Moorland "Y." For more information, call 214-375-2583.

....

The American Lung Association of Texas will hold its 5K "Walk to Fight Asthma" 9:00 a.m., at John S. Bradfield Elementary School in Highland Park in Dallas and at Trinity Park Shelter House in Fort. Worth. Registration is at 8:00 a.m. Proceeds will benefit various asthma education programs in the Metroplex. The walk is open to the public. Call 214-631-5864 (Dallas) or 817-332-4549 (Fort Worth) for more information.

May 19

DART's How To Do Business With DART business workshop series will host "Marketing With The Internet" from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at The Bill J. Priest Institute for Economic Development, 1402 Corinth St. Susan Vigil of Technology Assistance Center will conduct the session. For more

information, call 214-749-2507.

May 22

Antioch Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, 7408 S. Hampton Rd., will conduct its annual Information Fair celebrating Christ, the Family and our Community from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Free mammograms, immunizations and health screenings as well as homebuyers' seminars, home improvement demonstrations and kids activities. Call 972-228-2420 for more information.

May 23

SABLE Publications will host another evening of Jazz and Poetry at Shedrixx, Gaston & Carroll (east of downtown) at 6:00 p.m. Come and enjoy the magical, soulful saxophone of Thomas Brownlee Jr. and the artful poetry of Peggy Jones (The Poet w/ A Vision), Smoov-Velvet, CDubb, "The Eyes Have It" and others. Tickets are \$10 per person and includes wine and appetizers. Seating is limited. For more information, call 214-341-2370.

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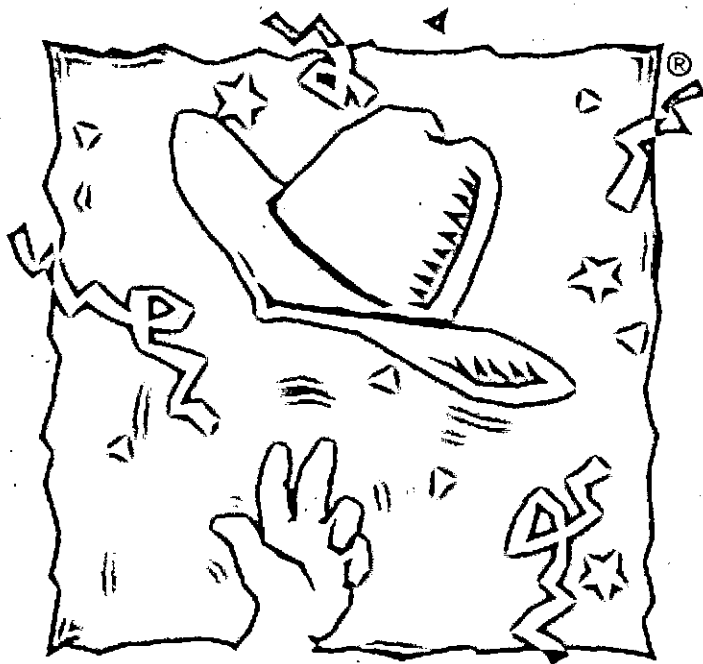
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TEXAS LOTTERY

Clifford F. Clark: Texas' Master Electrician

By Russell D. Shockley, BS.Ed.

Editor's Note: This is the first in a series about great African Americans of history who hailed from Texas.

Clifford E. Smith, a Texas native, was one of the first African Americans in the state to receive a "master electricians" license. As a young man growing up in the Houston area, Smith realized that many of the houses throughout his neighborhood suffered from either bad or inadequate electrical wiring. This led to him founding his own company, C. F. Smith Electrical Company, in 1945. During the next half-century Smith, along with his employees, managed to rewire every home, church and business in the Fifth Community Ward, where he lived. His business influence extended throughout Houston and into other Texas cities.

Clifford E. Smith's talents were also widely known outside of Texas. Just three years after graduating from Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, Smith found himself in charge of the electrical team responsible for wiring the Tuskegee Air Base, where the first Black Air Force pilots were trained. After the completion of this project, Smith returned to his home in Houston, where he earned his private pilots license in 1947.

Early in his business career, Smith had to overcome some very unique hurdles. One of these hurdles is mentioned in a book that Smith later wrote about his life. The story's title, "Whatcha Want Boy?" comes from a White clerk he met at city hall where he went to apply for his electrical masters license.

Some forty years later, Smith became the chairman of the board of the city of Houston's Electrical Board. This board is responsible for the issuance of any and all electrically-related licensing within the city of Houston.

Smith went on to become the first Black president of the Houston Chapter of the Associated Builders and Contractors (also serving on their national board). He served on the Houston and the national boards of the Associated Independent Electrical Contractors and traveled on several occasions to Washington, D.C., in order to testify against picketing by building trade unions.

Smith's personal and social activities were also very important to him. He became one of the first Boy Scout lead-

ers in his community and went on to earn the highest award in boy scouting, "The Silver Beaver Award."

The dedication of Smith to his scouting role was such that both he and his associates built a scout house on his property. The scout house was then utilized by both boy and girl scout troops.

Clifford E. Smith also served on the Houston Chapter of the Sam Houston Boy Scout Council and was president of both the Houston Chapter of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and the Tuskegee Alumni Association.

To Smith, despite all the fanfare, his greatest contribution was to the electri-

cal business. In 1949, when his house was completed, one of the local Houston magazines named it one of the most modern "electrically modeled" homes in Houston. The home came complete with outside lighting that could be turned on by remote control from the family auto.

In 1958, Clifford F. Smith was honored by his college alma mater by being presented the "Tuskegee Alumni Merit Award." Recently, both of his daughters, along with one granddaughter, continued in the Tuskegee tradition and were graduated from the Institute. In 1979, Smith was duly appointed to the Texas State Board of Corrections.

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Thursday

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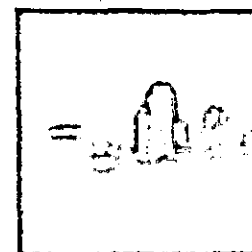
Friday

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



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Homeless Son: A mother's diary

Part 2

By Ester Sadler-Davis

Editor's Note: Back in our January 1, 1999 issue, we ran a story about a mother's tireless attempts to get long-term treatment for her mentally ill son. This is the continuation of that story.

Diaries have been a part of our family jewels for decades. I have a letter written by my mother at age 17 about her train ride to Oklahoma to visit an aunt. This was about 1930 or 1931. Decades later we ran across an unpublished book titled "The Four Missions of Life," depicting stages of life surrounding her four children. As a teenager I, of course, kept a diary. I really think every teenager had one, with a lock on it. As a teenager, your thoughts are easily defined. As an adult so much is locked in and caged that you have to do a lot of soul-searching.

A lot of searching goes into the chronicling of a true-life story, especially a story as close to the heart as one of a child. Feelings are difficult to put on paper. Words cannot explain the sheer agony of my decision to leave my son Todd in Washington, D.C., with a one-way, non-refundable ticket. Despite his obvious mental illness, I still felt like he would do the right thing. After all, our last few days together had been very positive ones.

During my return flight home, I was glad I did not own the aircraft, and happy I was not driving. I firmly believe that you don't know what you will do in a crisis until it happens. Riding on an airplane towards your destination, you know without a doubt that, barring any emergency, you have no choice but to go there. Driving gives you options. You can turn around, take a longer or shorter route... or just stop and ponder. Anyway, turning back was not a good idea for several reasons. Number one, I had no assigned

place to look or return to. I had no key or address. I had no phone number at a residence or on a job. And for the first time I could remember, I had no friends, neighbors or family to call. I had just had a visit with a "homeless person," my son.

Visiting your children is suppose to be a happy experience, however inconvenient it may seem to you. There are five boys that call me "Mom." At one time, my two sons and one of our "adopted" sons, Kyle, had an apartment together. (We raised two other boys who stayed with us until the end of high school and first year of college.) After my first visit, I left thinking "that [apartment] is the smallest place." But they liked it and, most importantly, they were paying the rent.

When Todd and his then wife, Amanda, first got married, we were all invited over to the first family dinner in the new apartment. When young people don't have certain things, they acknowledge that they don't have them, but next to buy them the next payday. This last visit was unlike any I had ever had or want to have again. Where would Todd now that I had left Washington? Would his homeless routine change now that he was clean and shaven?

Flying is a glorious experience. It can be smoothing and tranquil. I kept thinking about our last few hours together. Todd changed his mind so many times about returning to Texas, even for a few days. I kept reminding him that he needed his glasses, so we would get a new prescription and glasses the first day he was home. Any other reasons he had for not returning to Texas, I simply dismissed and tried to direct attention to a lighter side. He had teased me earlier during our walk around Washington about being "slightly out of shape." So to change the subject at one interval I responded, "What do you mean out of shape?" We talked

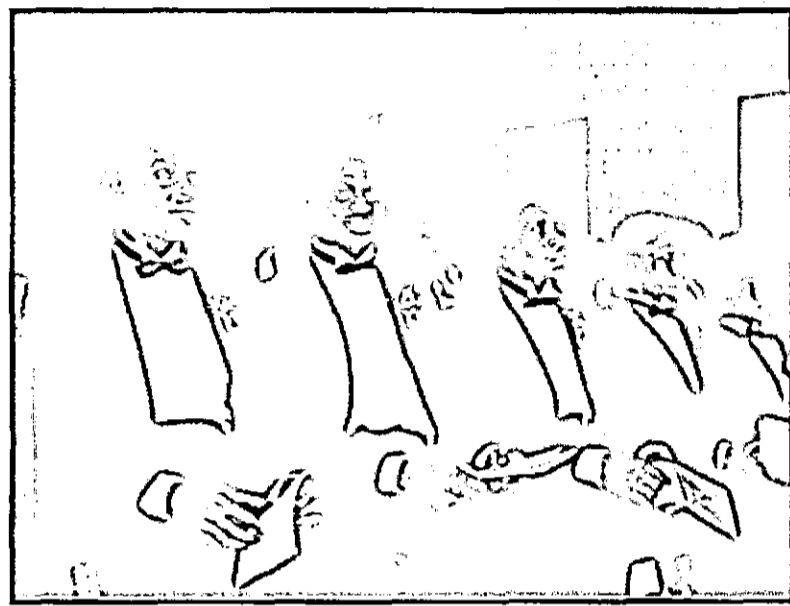
about my exercise routine and the fact that I was a 'warm-up' Mom during the basketball and soccer days. We laughed about all the new little Tiger Woods out there. In the 70s, we ushered in the tennis age thanks to Arthur Ashe. Wilma Rudolph introduced hundreds of African American young ladies to track a decade earlier. So all in all the conversation had been good leading up to my departure. But I continued to labor over the decision. Actually, I did like it. The next move was his and it was obvious what he should do, and what I wanted him to do.

Back home in Dallas, I set up a conference call with my family to bring everybody up to date. Rodney, my other son, had expected Todd to return with me, but with Todd there had been the delicate issue of non-confrontation and threatening his so-called position. There had been no guarantees from the very beginning that he would return with me. You just hope and pray and put one foot in front of the other.

The outcome soon became apparent. But the "now what" silence was very

loud. Fortunately, humor is so healing. And family members can laugh about family members and it's okay.

Mothers should always have a therapy plan. This is a power-proof positive plan where you indulge yourself in the midst of a crisis. Indulging yourself mentally, physically and spiritually. So many of us live from one crisis to another. We have become so accustomed to crisis and deadlines that we feel almost lost if we



Happier times. Todd Davis (second from left) at his grandparents 50th wedding anniversary celebration.

are not putting out some kind of fire. In fact, I read someplace that if we really were honest, there is something dramatic and exciting about handling a crisis. Well, I have to wonder if all of these crisis are normal and if there is another way to live life that might be a little less exhausting. Because a crisis just leaves you drained. Day 1, I jogged and worked on a positive mental attitude. After being drained, you must enter recovery. My recovery was a heavy, demanding jogging schedule. I really was a bit slow and out of shape.

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Day 2, the positive mental attitude was slipping. Day 3, I was gaining physically on the jogging track, but losing ground mentally. But I tried to just keep moving. If you design your therapy plan well, it can be very inexpensive, thank goodness, because everything else seems dismal and costly. Since this saga with my son began, I have talked to countless people with similar family situations. Some people bake, hide from society, work and save money, overindulge in refrigerator goods, etc., etc. A therapy plan is so necessary because you always think the worst. And talking to people, you get more negative thoughts. So Day 4 was a low-downer.

If I had to select an error in hindsight, I would have only consulted professionals during this critical time. Talking to friends and family members was a mistake. I would be remiss not to admit thinking that Todd would sell the plane ticket, lose the plane ticket, or just keep it as a memento. Schizophrenia — that's what my son suffers from — is primarily a disorder of brain biochemistry. It has no set patterns. Medication is necessary to correct the biochemical malfunctioning of the brain. Todd has not been treated and therefore has not been on medication. My number one sense of crisis is we really don't know what is going on. It soon became clear in my mind that he had to be treated. And I would have to be the cho-



Ester Sadler-Davis

sen one to facilitate this action.

I went through five days of wondering what Todd would do. Day 5, I received a telephone call. A very simple one. "Hi, Mom, I am at the bus station. Can you come and pick up your son?" It was about 9:00 p.m. Earlier on Day 5, I had contacted the Mental Health Department for instructions on what to do with a mentally ill person. I was instructed to go down and sign a warrant for an arrest and the marshals would pick him up at the place given and take him to a local hospital. That non-caring, nonchalant voice of authority was a bitter pill. It was suggested as an afterthought that the

place not be my residence. But on the other side of the coin, I was 100 percent sure this full-blooded African American male would not go voluntarily and admit himself for treatment.

The first night home, we sat up until about 3:00 a.m. His thoughts were much like they were in Washington. One moment lucid, the next bazaar and unrelated. He slept until noon. He slept fully-clothed. During the morning while he slept, I went downtown to sign the warrant for his arrest. Sitting in the office, the counselor was very sympathetic, since this was my first time. The most important insight gained was that there was help. All of my questions were answered and I was told upfront what to do if I needed a second warrant. I delivered the warrant to the Marshal's Office, and answered questions about our day. I had to get this done, because if I did not walk it through, I would have reneged. I was

not afraid of Todd and I did not consider him harmful. But I did not know what he would do when the arrest was made. I met the officers that would possibly be picking him up and I would follow in my car to the emergency room. It was suggested that I stay with him as long as I could to correctly answer the doctor's questions.

Our first appointment was with the eye doctor. Todd concluded that this was the only doctor [he] needed to see. By this time it was nearing late afternoon. I decided that this day should be free of any unpleasantness. I would call the officers tomorrow to serve the warrant.

Home Day 2 was the day. The morning was uneventful. However, during the night, Todd had stuffed the ceiling vent with towels. I noticed it when I walked into his room that morning. When I asked him about it, he said that something (not air or heat) was coming out of it, and he

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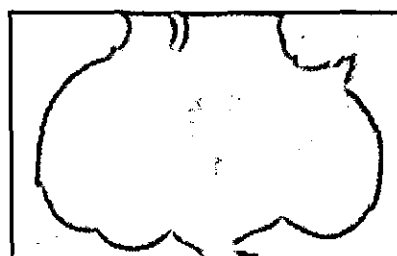
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had to stop it. He said he could 'see something.'

After lunch we parked at a meter. I went in to notify the officers, Todd started walking toward me and the car. When he arrived at my car, the officers got out of their vehicle and asked if he was Mr. Todd Davis. He answered right away, and then he took inventory of the three officers. Todd was at one car door and I was standing at the other car door. I came around to his side of the car. By this time the officers had announced that they had a warrant for his arrest. I explained to him what was going to happen. I asked him to ride in the car with the officers to the hospital. I would follow in my car and stay with him as long as I could. I concluded by saying we were going to do this now, and peacefully. There was silence. Cars were passing by because we were on a public street. It was a beautiful day to be out and about. I am sure we looked like five people standing at a parking meter talking, nothing more. Todd was staring straight ahead. I am sure that the silence did not last very long at all, but it was thundering so loudly. Todd could be confrontational even before the illness and would not back down in the wake of a challenge. I think I spoke first, and simply repeated what was said earlier. The only rebuttal he gave after I repeated myself was, "You don't have to bring these White boys to pick me up."

I asked him to get into the car and let's go. I remember wanting my voice to stay even toned, but with the traffic around us I am not sure. One thing I can say, the officers were extremely patient and non-threatening. Finally, Todd headed for the car and got in. Two officers were seated in the front seat, and one sat with him in the back. Shirley Caesar, my favorite gospel artist, has an old song titled "Stand Still," which says, "What you going to do when you don't know what to do... what

you going to say when you don't know what to say... stand on the promises... the promises of God... and whenever you are in trouble, he will never, never, never let you down."

At the hospital, Todd was escorted in by the officers. He refused to answer any questions. By the time I parked and entered the emergency room, the officers had left. Todd was seated and very angry with me. He now addressed me as Mrs. Davis. A nurse came over to give him something for anxiety. He refused to take it. Even during his anger, he remained amazingly lucid. There was never any violence or obscenities, but his conduct toward the nurses was rude and uncooperative. I answered the questions from the interns and doctors, and he did not dispute them. At one point, one of the nurses asked me if I was okay sitting with him. He was really upset about the "White officers" picking him up. I told him that I did ask for Black officers, but the only ones that worked in this precinct was out of the office with a sick mother. I am not sure if he ever felt betrayed. I told him that this was what I thought was best. He retorted, "I knew you were going to pull something. I forgot how smart you are."

His anger finally subsided, but the behavior towards the staff remained. Todd was finally admitted. He stayed on the 8th floor — the psycho ward — for four days. And he cooperated. We visited him at every opportunity. On a Wednesday, after three days of tests, a family session was scheduled with three of his doctors to discuss his next level. I warned the doctors repeatedly that he needed to stay. If he was allowed to leave he would disappear again. Most of the preliminary reporting indicated that he would and should be moved to a permanent facility for evaluation and treatment.

The family session included Rodney, Todd, their Dad and myself, two doctors

and a social worker. The session consisted of an update, a diagnosis (that was to be completed in two more days) and recommendations. Todd took charge of the session. He thought that he had cooperated and said he was fine. He was ready to leave and get on with his life. We all almost believed him. He listened patiently to the doctors report. The social worker thought some more time was needed. Her recommendation was a stay of about 90 days. The session was open and upbeat. Todd thought that he could participate in the outpatient segment of the program. Throughout the entire session, most of the talking was done by Todd, his Dad and me. Near the end of the session, big brother spoke up. He did not think Todd was a candidate for the outpatient program. He just did not think Todd would follow-through. Rodney is very matter of fact with a no-nonsense, straight-face personality. With Rodney speaking against his decision. Todd was visibly crushed. My sons are direct opposites. They are eleven months apart and very close. But in raising them, one had a spotless room, the other's room was a disaster. One always had money, one was always broke. They could work together, but they could not live together as adults.

We thought the family session had substance, but there were a few uneven straws to pull out. With Todd's test due in on Friday, we all assumed he would at

least be kept until the results were in. On Thursday, the doctor called to say that Todd had checked himself out of the hospital. I instantly knew he would attempt to get out of Texas. Where, I had no idea.

I took a chance and went down to the bus station. Other family members check the other transportation sources. Todd was sitting in the bus station, writing some "important proposals." He would not budge. We ate together. He would not discuss the hospital or his destination. I managed to get another warrant, but was unable to keep him stationary.

The end of October 1997 was the last time I saw or heard from my son. At this writing it has been a year and four months. Several months ago, while the President of the United States was in Chicago, the Secret Service called to inform us that Todd had caused a disturbance. I went to Chicago looking for him. We passed out flyers. I returned to Dallas. Meanwhile, a detective alerted us that Todd was due in court on a misdemeanor charge. I returned to Chicago on my son's court date only to miss him by a couple of hours. The addresses he had given on the court records were vacant lots or the YMCA. He has not called home or contacted any family member. Every so often we check the jails and hospitals... so far to no avail.

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Book Review

Angela
Washington-Blair,
Ph.D.

The week of April 11 was designated as National Library Week. This was a wonderful opportunity to show your support for your local library, and also a wonderful time to go to the library and check out reading material. Reading material at the library covers a full spectrum of purpose. There are books meant to inspire, to inform, or to entertain. There are books to validate self, to boost your own sense of worth. There are books to provide a new slant on a subject; books to get your hackles up. As one library poster laments: "So many books... so little time."

Though time may be somewhat of an issue, it's a shame to hear children and adults say they "hate reading." Remember reading about the time when it was illegal for African Americans to read? Hey, reading is a privilege.

If you don't like to read, chances are you just haven't yet discovered your genre. There's fiction, non-fiction, the newspapers, magazines, the Bible. How about the two selections discussed below in this column! These books will save you

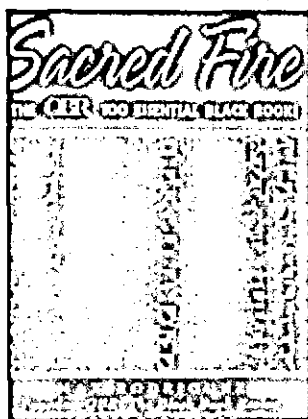
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American
Children

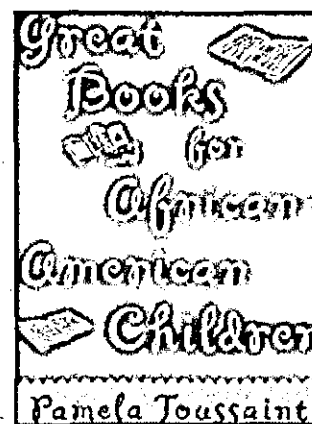
By Pamela Toussaint (Plume Books,
\$12.95)

A compilation of more than 250 books that celebrate the African American experience, this guide is for parents and teachers who must select reading materials for children of all ages. Provided is a list of some of the best books available, including out-of-print books, in-depth reviews of each book and information on awards received. Each book high-



lights a moral lesson along with thoughtful, exploratory questions to ask your child. A helpful index list each book by title, author and moral value.

Finally, there is a list of reading resources parents and teachers can use to find web sites, magazines, videos and bookstores specializing in African American subjects. The first chapter, "Help Any Child Love Reading," is particularly timely in this paradoxical world of technology and apathy. Buy this book and put the spark for reading in a child's mind.



\$22.95)

Sacred
Fire: The
QBR 100
Essential
Black Books
By Max
Rodriguez,
Angeli R.
Rasbury and
Carol Taylor
(John Wiley
& Sons,

This worthwhile book was written partly in response to the recently published but disputed literary canon put forth by the Modern Library titled, *The 100 Best English-Language Novels*. Of course that list only included three books written by African Americans — all males, all published before 1955. *The QBR* is a published-quarterly critical showcase of Black works. Rodriguez (the editor), Rasbury and Taylor honor Black artists by providing a one- to two- page synopsis and analysis of great books that have shaped and defined African American culture for over 200 years. From a panel of authors, scholars, historians and booksellers, a consensus was reached on those books that have made a significant impact. The collection includes poetry, short fiction, novels, drama, autobiographies and history from male and female authors.

While the list includes Maya Angelou, Bebe Moore Campbell, Alice Walker, Terri McMillan and Octavia Butler, it does not include Dorothy West. While it does include James Baldwin, Walter Mosley, Chester Himes and August Wilson, it does not include Ralph Wiley or Robert Greer. Yet the list is constantly evolving via the Internet. Share your favorites and you may see them posted on their web site.

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THIS AD VALID WED., APRIL 28 THRU TUES., May 4, 1999

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Electronic Urban Report

Newsbits

Gladys Knight is smokin'. She is ready to make her Broadway debut in the Leiber and Stoller revue *Smokey Joe's Cafe* in May. Knight will join the Tony-nominated show playing at New York's Virginia Theatre for two weeks, beginning May



Gladys Knight

11 and will conclude her guest run on May 22. The show also includes greats

like Pam Tillis and Lou Rawls. Tony Orlando will join the cast in June.

Gladys' new inspirational CD, "Many Different Roads," will be released on June 15 by MCA Records.

.....

Matty Rich's critically acclaimed film *Straight Outta Brooklyn* dealt with what happens when people become desperate and try to find the "easy" way out. Apparently his mother, Beatrice Richardson, wasn't listening. She was arrested earlier this week for embezzling \$250,000 from an East Harlem Head Start Program. She is accused of using the money to shower her family and her boyfriend with gifts.

She is also accused of writing \$45,000 worth of Head Start checks to a movie production company she owns with her son. In addition to that she is accused of having her daughter, a full time college student, on the payroll as a consultant.

.....

Mariah Carey has just been named as the national spokesperson for the Nick-

elodeon "Big Head" oops, we mean "Big Help" program. :) The program is a year round campaign to encourage children to volunteer in their communities. As a spokesperson, Carey will try to get kids across the nation to participate in their community.

Ms. Carey will also participate in a park makeover in New York City on Saturday, April 24 to celebrate the network's Big Help Week, an annual event during which thousands of kids coast-to-coast volunteer in their communities by helping to rejuvenate local parks. Nickelodeon is joining kids and the City of New York to refurbish five parks on that day.

"I am thrilled to be part of this ongoing commitment to encourage kids to pitch in within their own communities," Carey said. "I know this will have a great impact on their future and ours."

.....

Sean "Puffy" Combs will be in court on June 24. He's charged with second degree assault and criminal mischief. He allegedly took part in the beating of record exec Steve Stoute last Thursday...The Boys Choir of Harlem is setting



Mariah Carey

up satellite choirs in Miami, Chicago, San Francisco, Milwaukee and Detroit...Six gospel music groups--the Cathedral Quartet, Fairfield Four, Florida Boys, Gaither Trio, Mighty Clouds of Joy and Second Chapter of Acts — will be inducted into the Gospel Music Assn.'s Hall of Fame.

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.

phunky.

Saturday Nites On 11

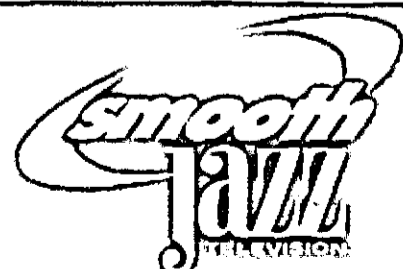
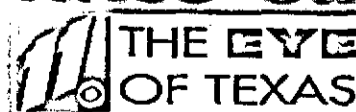


Host CAMERON SMITH



checkitout.

Saturday Nites On





You and Your Money

John Dudley

What you should know about IPOs

As with many things in life, the more investors know about a specific stock and the company behind it, the greater their chances of making a prudent decision that will enhance their investment portfolio.

This is especially true when considering investing in a new stock issue, known technically as an initial public offering, or IPO.

Investors who are willing to spend the time learning and researching about the new-issues market before they buy often can find some rewarding investments.

Investors can learn about new issues by referring to the market's major publication, *Investment Dealers' Digest*, which lists all IPOs as they are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Then ask a financial advisor to obtain a copy of your target company's preliminary prospectus, called a "red herring" because of the warning printed in red on the front page indicating that it is not a final or complete offering statement.

Despite a number of caveats, the prospectus will help form an overall opinion about the company's investment potential. Some of the things to look for in the prospectus, and elsewhere, are:

- **Management Details.** Be sure the officers and directors of the company have solid experience relevant to the company's business. Management should be fully involved in the firm and should not treat it as a part-time activity.

- **Shares and Proceeds.** Note whether a majority of the shares are sold by the company itself or by founders intent on reaping a windfall. Newly-raised capital should be used to expand the business, not to repay short-term debt or bail out the founders or management. Avoid firms whose management or founding shareholders are selling much more than 30 percent of their shares; experts view such sales as a potential lack of confidence in a company's future.

- **Industry Prospects.** Learn as much as possible about the company's industry. Is it poised for growth? Are the stocks of other firms in the field doing well? A rule of thumb is that if the outlook is poor for other companies in the industry, a target company probably won't do well either. Current new ventures often have a good chance of succeeding in growth areas.

- **Capitalization.** It's a good idea to study the balance sheet and financial statements in the prospectus to determine how management may have used its resources in the past. Bear in mind that the higher the debt-to-total capital ratio, the more leveraged the company and the greater its potential vulnerability in the future. Also, be wary if a check of the financial footnotes reveals that directors are to receive special payments or employment contracts, or that company managers have conflicts of interest.

- **IPO Underwriters.** Another important factor is to be certain that the firms managing the IPO, those whose names appear on the cover of the red herring, enjoy solid professional reputations. Ask a financial advisor's opinion of these companies and their previous IPO experiences.

Although no one can guarantee that a particular IPO will be successful in the long run, carefully studying the company's prospectus, reviewing the firm's industry and consulting with a financial advisor can significantly help

increase the chances that your investment decision will be a wise one. And remember, if the stock is not available on the offering, keep an eye on the price of the stock in the aftermarket. It may be possible to purchase it at a lower price when it begins trading there. Many attractive investment values are found after a company has already gone public.

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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.

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The promise for an open telecommunications market came a step closer in 1995 with the passage of House Bill 2128 by the Texas state legislature. That legislation and Southwestern Bell's voluntary discount programs helped introduce many new services. For kids in Texas schools, it opened up access to distance learning. For visitors to libraries, it opened up faster access to information through toll-free Internet access. And for people at non-profit hospitals, it extended remote access to medical specialists over high-speed ISDN lines.

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But the 1995 legislation is just a start. Southwestern Bell continues to work with the state legislature to bring the full promise of an open telecommunications market to the people of Texas. That way people throughout the state will continue to experience the full benefits of new technology. We're working with Texas. For the future of Texas.

Southwestern Bell

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On Real Estate

Curtis Yates

Home Ownership

One of the most important aspects of purchasing a new home is obtaining the right home loan for you. Home loan options have changed dramatically in the past few years, and lenders are adding new types of loans daily. Not only are there more loans from which to choose, but they also are changing constantly. Consequently, many lenders are working hard to obtain and maintain the services of experienced loan officers to help you with your home financing needs. At no cost or obligation to you, many approved lenders will consult with you about your home financing needs. Lenders have supervised the approval of hundreds of home loans in Dallas and surrounding areas and have experience with loans ranging from \$40,000 or more. Lenders and real estate agents will help you calculate how much home you can purchase by asking specific questions about you, the prospective borrower. Let's look at certain areas of financing.

First, qualifying income involves annual income, including base pay, bonus pay, commission income, overtime, child support (if court ordered and received for at least one full year, documented by canceled checks); retirement income; annuity income; alimony; and 75 percent of rental income. All income is before taxes or other deductions.

Secondly, the amount of debt being carried is considered, including regularly recurring payments for automobile loans; credit card payments; department store accounts; signature loans; installment loan payments; retirement fund payments; student loans; child support; alimony payments; etc. All these are expenses that reduce income.

There are several methods of financing from which to choose. If you are qualified for a loan amount under \$160,950, you may be eligible for Federal Housing Authority (FHA) financing, a government program that reduces the down payment by permitting you to finance some of your closing costs. Additionally, the allowable amount of mortgage payment as a percentage of your monthly gross

income is higher than under conventional financing. Veterans Administration (VA) qualified buyers may finance up to \$203,000 with no down payment. Furthermore, VA buyers may have all of their closing costs paid by the seller (The amount is negotiable.) VA financing is available for active-duty military, retired military, military widows or widowers, and some national guard personnel. Through conventional financing, how much home you can

qualify for is determined, in most cases, by the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) guidelines.

MON

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

Think you can't afford a home? There's a First Time for everything.

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Oak Cliff

Friendship West Baptist Church
616 W. Kiest Blvd.

Nations Bank
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Black Images Book Store
230 Wynnewood Village S. C.

Bank One

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Jokae Bookstore
3917 Camp Wisdom #107

Pleasant Grove

Inspiring Body of Christ
820 S. Buckner

Bank One
1838 S. Buckner

Nations Bank
1820 Buckner

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6424 Elam Rd.

Duncanville

Ebony Fine Art Gallery
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102 N. Main St.

Dooney's
620 E. Camp Wisdom

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Lancaster

Keys of Life Books, Etc.
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Cedar Valley Community College
330 N. Dallas

Grand Prairie

St. John's Baptist Church
1701 W. Jefferson

First State Bank
2505 North Hwy. 360

Denton

Denton Public Library
502 Oakland

M. L. King, Jr. Rec. Ctr.
1300 Wilson

Lewisville

Lewisville Library
1197 W. Main

Macedonia Baptist Church

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Barnes & Nobles

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Keller Springs Baptist Church
3227 Keller Springs

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Bookstop
4801 Hulen

Omni American Credit Union
2330 Rosedale

Black Bookworm
605 E. Berry St #114/1-35

Black Chamber of Commerce
3607 Rosedale

Bank One - Dunbar
6040 Ramey

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

Arnicks Barber Shop
500 Clark Street



You and God

Ron Shaw

Do It Daily

John 8:31-32

One month ago a young man sat across from my desk in tears as he confessed that he had slipped back into drugs and alcohol. I asked him when he had slipped. "Last weekend" he replied. As I listened to him, the Lord began to reveal some things to me about success and failure. The young man tried his best to recall exactly what led to his fall. Finally I said to him, "You didn't fall last weekend. You fell the day after you came in. Then you fell the day after that, and the day after that, and so forth."

I realize that success or failure isn't something that just shows up and happens in one day. What happens is that we either succeed or fail so many times that it becomes obvious in our everyday lives. Consider this analogy. As a student, one doesn't graduate in a day. One graduates one day at a time until finally he or she is recognized. I often ask students what kind of report card are they expecting. Sometimes they are shocked when they receive their report cards and see they've failed a course. Then I ask them these pertinent, tell-tale questions: Did they turn in all their homework? Did they do their class work? Did they participate in daily discussions? Did they study daily? Depending on how these questions are answered, there should be no surprises on the report card.

You see, we don't fail in one day. We do it day after day until finally, we accumulate so much failure that it's obvious to us and everyone else. Success is the same way. If you succeed everyday, then one day you will have accumulated so much until the fruits of your success are obvious. Then people will say you were an overnight success. As one fellow said, "Yes, and it was one 17-year-long night!"

Our text says that if we expect to be free and maintain our freedom and stay in the process of being made free, we must continue daily in [God's] Word. Christians love to celebrate the event and ignore the process. We spend 5 to 10 thousand dollars on the wedding and make no plans for the marriage. We spend thousands of dollars on the graduation party and make no plans for life after graduation. We go from one miracle to another wondering why we still can't stay free. We go to church on Sunday looking for a lift but ignore the process of daily discipline, devotion and delight. Jesus says he didn't come just to give us life but that in having life, we might keep on having it in abundance. The secret to walking in success in any area of your life is in what you do daily.

I always get tickled when some one says to me "I don't know how I gained so much weight"! Then they'll sit and eat a half gallon of Blue Bell ice cream one day, a basket of fried chicken the next, and an order of ribs on the day after that. I talk to couples with the same rationale. They are shocked that their marriage fails, as if they thought it should just survive without any help at all. One guy said, "My wife left me last night". The real truth is, she may have been leaving everyday for over a year. He just didn't notice that one week the dishes were gone, the next week her winter wardrobe was gone, the next week her bathroom accessories were gone until finally he came home and noticed that all her stuff was gone.

If you want to be a success, you have to start today. Be successful today. Then be successful tomorrow. The young man I talked to about his relapse back into drug use asked me what I meant by telling him he slipped the day after he came in. My response was, "The day after you came in you started showing up late for Bible study. Then you started falling asleep in Bible study. Next, you started skipping Bible study. You were still coming to church but then you started showing

up late".

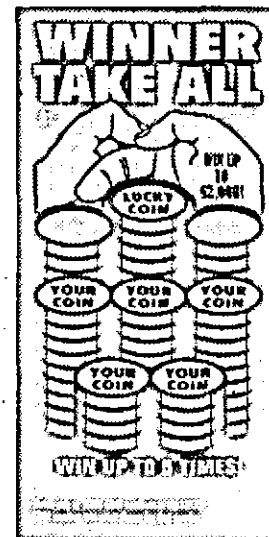
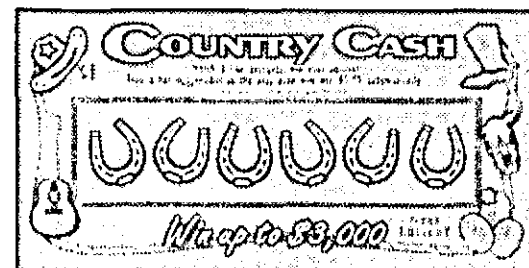
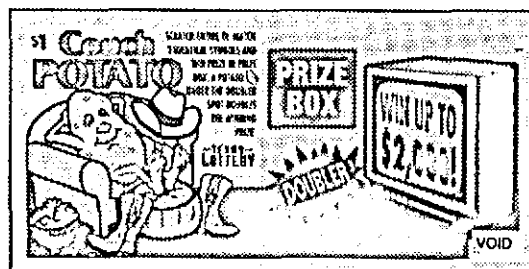
Like many Christians who have a false sense of security, the young man in question shouted and testified about his "deliverance" from drugs. But he failed to do the daily things necessary to keep himself delivered from drugs. Don't worry about achieving complete and total success all in one day. Concentrate

on being successful one day at a time. Eventually, your success will be obvious to everyone.

MON

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

END OF GAME NOTICE



Three of the Texas Lottery's instant games will close on May 31, 1999: Couch Potato, Winner Take All and Country Cash. You have until November 27, 1999, to redeem any winning tickets. You can win up to \$2,000 playing Couch Potato, up to \$2,000 playing Winner Take All and up

to \$3,000 playing Country Cash. You can claim prizes of up to \$599 at any Texas Lottery retailer. Prizes of \$600 or more are redeemable at one of the 24 Texas Lottery claim centers or by mail.

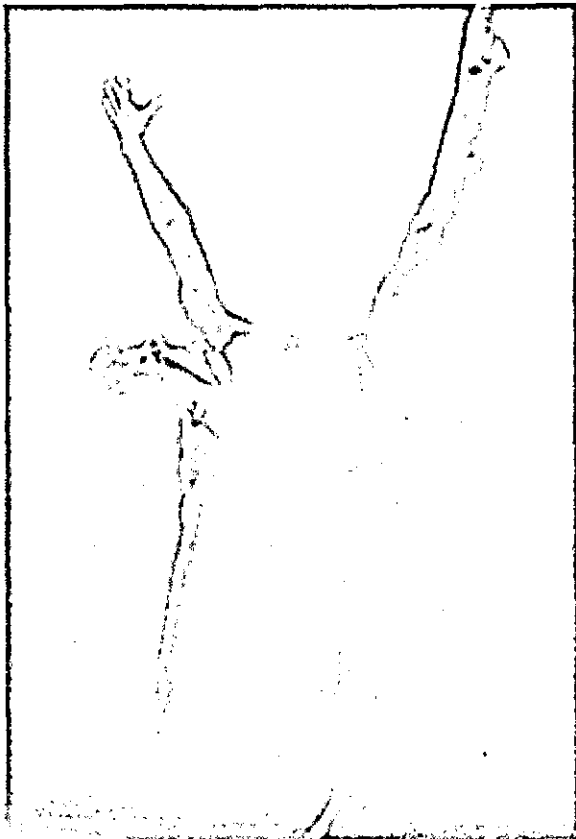
Questions? Just call the Texas Lottery Customer Service Line at 1-800-37-LOTTO (1-800-375-6886).



Overall odds of winning Couch Potato, 1 in 5.07. Overall odds of winning Winner Take All, 1 in 4.96. Overall odds of winning Country Cash, 1 in 4.65.

Must be 18 years or older to play. ©1999 Texas Lottery

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NOTICE TO SUPPLIERS

The Collin County Committee on Aging in McKinney, TX. is looking for minority businesses to service our vehicles along with purchasing certain office supplies. If you feel your business could help please contact Bob Babekuhl at 972-562-6996.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

ROSELAND MASTER PLAN
THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF DALLAS (DHA)

The Housing Authority of the City of Dallas, Texas (DHA) is seeking the services of an architectural/planning consulting firm qualified to develop a Master Plan for the Roseland Homes area (bordered by Washington Ave., Munger Ave., Hall St. and Alonzo Pl. and Central Expy.), and for other DHA selected off-site properties as necessary, plus the design of an 192-unit apartment complex. To successfully address all of the required Master Plan elements, the selected consulting firm and any associate firms, must possess substantial knowledge and experience in land use planning, architecture, economic development/revitalization, security, housing redevelopment, finance, environmental health, transportation, engineering, infrastructure analysis, community service analysis and landscape architecture. Proposals will be received until 2:00PM on Tuesday, May 25, 1999, at DHA's Central Office, Development and Planning Department, 3939 N. Hampton Road, Suite 350, Dallas, Texas 75212. Proposal submission documents are on file and may be acquired at DHA's Central Office, Development and Planning Department, 3939 N. Hampton Road, Suite 350, Dallas, Texas 75212.

THE DHA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS OR TO WAIVE ANY AND ALL INFORMALITIES IN THE SOLICITATION.



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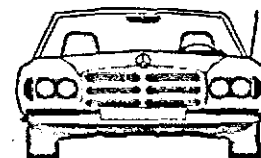
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Arlington, Texas 76016
817-446-4455

Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company

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EOE

INVITATION TO BID

The Housing Authority of the City of Dallas (DHA) is accepting Bids for a two (2) year contract for the Purchase of Residential Appliances.

Bids will be accepted until 3:00p.m. Tuesday, May 11, 1999 at 2075 W. Commerce, Building #200, Dallas, Texas 75208, at which time and place all bids will be opened and publicly read aloud.

Specifications and bid documents may be obtained from the Purchasing Office, 2075 West Commerce, Building #100, Dallas, Texas 75208, or by calling (214) 672-0226.

THE DHA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS IF SUCH ACTION IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND TO WAIVE ANY AND ALL INFORMALITIES AND MINOR IRREGULARITIES.



The Housing Authority of the City of Dallas, Texas will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or age.



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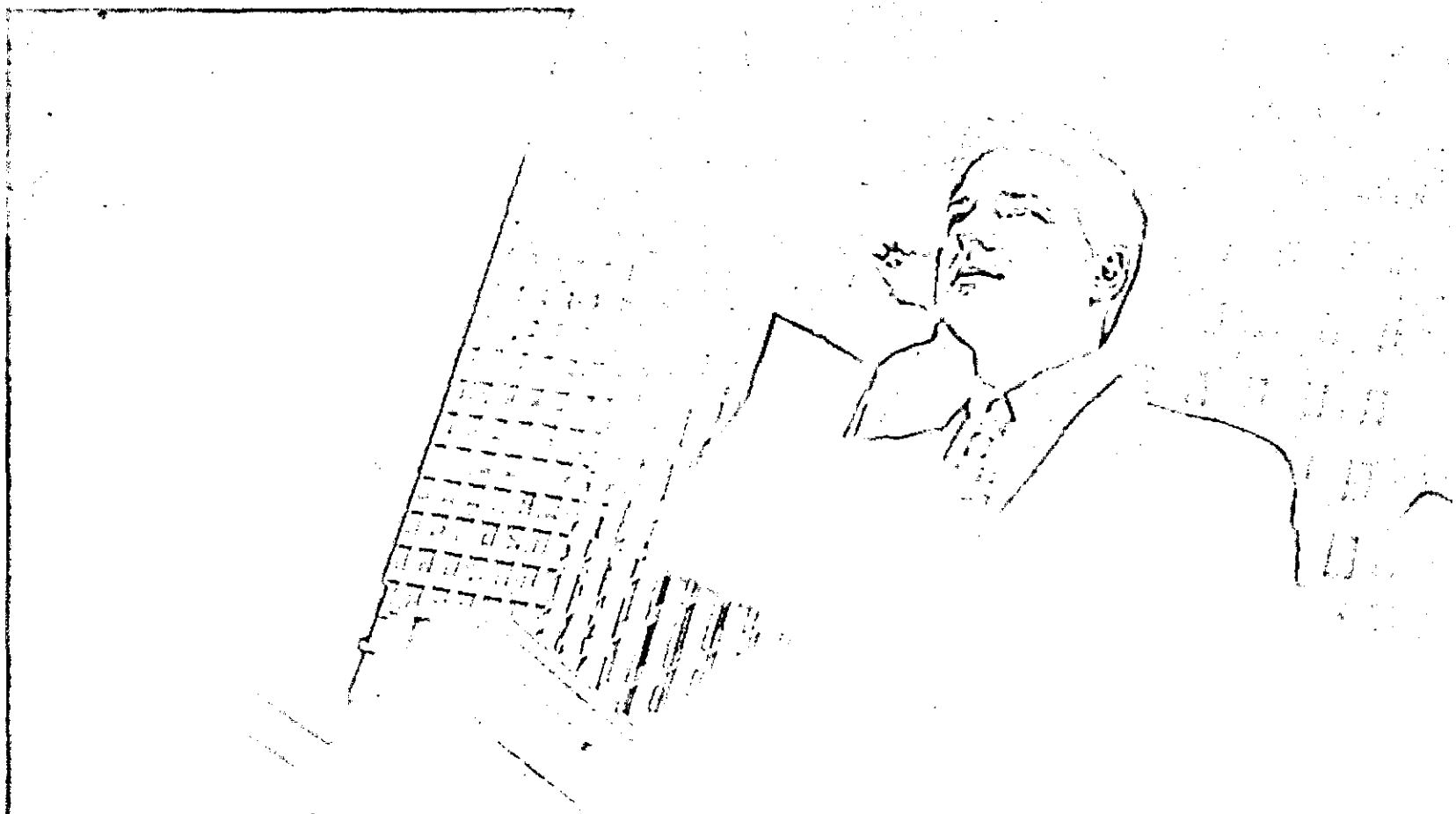
City of Dallas

1999 Dallas Charitable Campaign (DDC)

The 1999 City of Dallas Charitable Campaign application period will begin April 26 through May 28, 1999. In order to ensure an inclusive campaign, an Open House will be held on Friday, May 7, 1999 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., at the J. Erik Jonsson Dallas Public Library in the "Dallas West Room", the address is 1515 Young St., Dallas, TX 75201. You may obtain an application there and have questions answered regarding the application or for more information regarding specifications or to request to be mailed, please contact Patricia Lopez, Human Resources, Monday thru Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., City of Dallas, 1500 Marilla, Suite 6AN, Dallas, Texas 75201, (214) 670-7023, Fax: (214) 670-4049.

Applications must be received no later than May 28, 1999. Applications after this date will not be considered.

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