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National Black News Survey

From NBNS
Communications

STUDY: POVERTY HAMPERS BLACK CHILD DEVELOPMENT

ATLANTA, GA—Children born to poor, black women are likely to become mildly retarded than any other segment of the population. According to government researchers at Atlanta's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the culprit is poverty not race. The study counters arguments like those advanced in the controversial best-selling book "The Bell Curve" which suggest that intelligence is racially based. Emory University epidemiologist Carolyn Drews said she found no disproportionate racial difference in children diagnosed as mildly retarded. The study found that children born to poor white women were also more likely to become mildly retarded. CDC Director David Satcher said of the study, "This nation can make a difference in the lives of children by helping to facilitate their early health and learning environments." The CDC has launched an experimental program to help 5,000 high risk children in 10 cities.

REPUBLICAN "CONTRACT" TO HURT BLACK AMERICA

WASHINGTON, D.C.—As Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives celebrated successes in their legislative agenda known as the "Contract With America" last week, an analysis of some of the new and proposed legislation suggests that African-Americans especially the poor will be severely hurt by the changes being pushed through Congress by the new Republican majority. The analysis by the Washington, D.C.-based National Black News Survey found that the cuts in social programs—especially reductions in welfare—could "plunge hundreds of thousands of low-income blacks deeper into poverty and force large numbers into crime." The Republicans have set the stage for the transfer of welfare programs from the federal government to the states while simultaneously reducing funding for the programs. In order to compensate for the reduced funding, NBNS projects that state governments will force thousands of mothers and their children off the welfare rolls.

MIAMI PREPARES FOR BLACK WEALTH BUILDING SEMINAR

MIAMI, FL—"Economic empowerment through business ownership and income enhancement is our goal." With those words last week, James W. Nathan, spokesman for the Better Life Club of America, announced a day-long national black wealth building conference which will take place in Miami, Florida on Saturday, April 22. The seminar promises to show blacks how to increase their family incomes and provide help and financial resources for starting home-based and small businesses. Topics range from real estate purchases to multilevel marketing to investment opportunities. The wealth building seminars are sponsored around the nation by the Washington, DC-based economic empowerment group known as the Better Life Club. The Miami conference will take place at the Holiday Inn Downtown Additional

Continued On Page 2.

Terror In Nigeria

By Bernice Powell Jackson

With all of the attacks on poor people and people of color going on in the United States these days, it's easy to wear blinders to what is going on in the world around us. But, as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminded us in 1963—during the middle of the civil rights movement in the South—an injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. What is going on in Nigeria is truly unjust.

Nigeria has the African continent's largest population and there was a time when its economy was one of Africa's strongest, when its higher education institutions flourished and life was good for many Nigerians. It was a success story which made Africans and African Americans proud.

Today Nigeria faces inflation of more than 100 percent annually and its currency is virtually worthless. Per capita income has dropped from \$1,000 in 1980 to \$250 in 1993. Last year a government panel found that the government could not account for \$12.2 billion in oil sales during the Persian Gulf War. Educational institutions and hospitals have crumbled and Nigerian drug traffickers are said to be responsible for up to half of all heroin and cocaine smuggled into the U.S.

Meanwhile, under the present military dictatorship of General Sani Abacha, labor unions have been crushed, nearly 20 newspapers have

been shut down, political activity banned and hundreds of Nigerians have been arrested and killed. Wole Soyinka, Nigeria's Nobel laureate, is in exile in the U.S. and General Obasanjo, former military head of state, was arrested last month after visiting in the U.S.

General Abacha seized power in a bloodless coup in late 1993 after the previous military rule, General Babangida, annulled the presidential elections which had just been held. Indeed, Nigeria has been led by military dictatorships in 24 out of its 34 years of independence.

Now public attention is beginning to turn to the injustices which the Nigerian government is inflicting on its own people. TransAfrica, the lobbying group which spearheaded U.S. anti-apartheid protests and the return of President Aristide to Haiti, is now heading a campaign of African American leaders urging Nigeria's leadership to restore Nigeria's democracy or face global economic and political isolation. "We will oppose the Nigerian government with as much tenacity as we opposed the (former apartheid) South African government, with as much tenacity as we opposed the military regime in Haiti," said Randall Robinson, TransAfrica's Executive Director.

At the same time, the international human rights organization, Human Rights Watch, has released a report showing that Nigeria's military has

carried out a two year war against the Ogoni people who live in Nigeria's oil-producing southeast. Human Rights Watch has collected accounts of victims and participants in attacks on civilians, which have included shooting of unarmed villagers, the gang raping of women and burning of homes. The Ogoni have been in the forefront of demands that the government protect their environment from the operations of Shell Oil and that the people share more revenue from their oil fields. Half of all Nigerian oil is sold to the U.S.

TransAfrica has promised a media campaign alerting Americans to the Nigerian human rights violations and the annulment of democracy. It also plans protests at the Nigerian embassy in Washington and an eventual U.S. boycott of Nigerian oil. "If we are to be true to what we stand for, we simply have to apply the same yardstick to Nigeria that we have applied elsewhere in the world," said Randall Robinson.

If Nigeria is ever to realize its dream of becoming an African superpower, it must return the democracy its people so crave. Oppression by black rulers is just as onerous as that by whites and Nigeria can't afford to become the black apartheid regime of West Africa.

Tom Braxton to Perform at More Sky City Jazz Celebration



THOMAS BRAXTON

The More Sky City Jazz Celebration is coming and West Texas music lovers couldn't be happier. This May 5th celebration, at the Hillcrest Country Club, will showcase the long-awaited homecoming performance of sax virtuoso, Tom Braxton.

Braxton, a celebrated product of the Texas Tech School of Music and the watchful eye of his father, longtime LISD orchestra director, J.T. Braxton, has become a nationally acclaimed recording artist and one of the hottest jazz acts in the country.

During his early years at Texas Tech, Braxton formed the jazz/fusion group NO COMPROMISE. This team of talented musicians soon gained statewide notoriety, performing Tom's original compositions throughout the Southwest. It was while he was a student at Tech that he released his first album, *No Compromise*.

After leaving Tech, Braxton entered the national jazz scene by opening for such jazz greats as Joe Sample, Stanley Clark, David Sanborn, and Cab Calloway. Braxton performed alongside such great talents as Luther Vandross, Philip Bailey and Kirk Whalum.

Not until the release of his *Your Move* CD, in 1992, did Braxton establish himself as a national jazz artist destined for the top of the jazz world. Today, Braxton and Whalum are collaborating on Braxton's much-anticipated third CD, *Katalasso*—a Greek term meaning reconciliation—due out this summer.

Tom's wizardry on the soprano, alto and tenor saxophones has been captivating and thrilling audiences of all ages and ethnic backgrounds for a over a decade. Accompanied by an exceptional group of Texas' finest jazz musicians, Braxton blends elements of jazz, reggae, Latin, gospel and pop to create a sound that is innovative and appealing.

With a charming stage presence, a quick wit, and widespread "Christian jazz" appeal Braxton and his saxophone are very much in demand at jazz festivals and concert halls across the country.

"What makes the Lubbock celebration so special," says Robbyne Fuller, a event spokesperson, "is not just the fact that Tom is one of America's hottest and fastest rising jazz stars, what makes this event special is that he's a homeboy coming home."

"Tom has never really had an event at home like the More Sky City Jazz Celebration to showcase his incredible talent," Fuller explained, "Its going to be great. You can just feel the emotional connection. I'm excited. Tom's excited. We're all excited."

Sponsored by the Roots Historical Arts Council, the celebration will also feature a special tribute to seven West Texans who have gone the extra mile for music.

For an evening to remember, come out and enjoy the the Hillcrest's famous gumbo, crawdads, and jazz at its very finest. Tickets to this special event are \$10.50 and \$14.00 at the door. Get tickets while they last at all locations of Ralph's Records and Tapes and Cavali's Pharmacy.



Remember these four young Dunbarites?

Can you name them and remember the occasion this photo was taken and the year? Dunbar's upcoming "ALL-CLASS REUNION III" in July will reunite two of these young ladies, and the association is hoping the other two will join them for "REMEMBERING THE GOOD TIMES," the theme for the upcoming reunion.

Do YOU have any good times to remember while you were at Dunbar? Then why not participate with them in July and share those good times!! We have been told that there has NEVER been pride like "PANTHER PRIDE!"

Ellis Pushes Judicial Reform



SENATOR RODNEY ELLIS

A proposal by Senator Rodney Ellis to integrate the Texas judiciary was left pending in a Senate committee this week due to opposition from Republican lawmakers.

"Out of 484 district and appellate court judges in Texas, only 11 are African American, and only 29 are Hispanic. We've got to change this system to comply with the Voting Rights Act," Senator Ellis said.

The legislation to reform judicial selection would provide for the non-partisan election of district judges from county commissioner districts and for appointment of appellate judges that reflect the diversity of the Texas population.

"By holding non-partisan elections from county commissioner precincts in the four largest counties in Texas and eliminating the runoff, we empower minority voters

and give organized minority candidates a fair chance to win election to the bench. They are not by any means guaranteed victory under this plan, but at least they have a fighting chance—which history shows is denied them in the current system," Senator Ellis said.

On March 27, 1995 the U.S. Supreme Court maintained a block on new Texas courts. The high court decision summarily affirmed a decision by the D.C. court blocking the new Texas courts pending a trial on the merits in the case of *Texas v. U.S.* The State of Texas is bringing a lawsuit after the U.S. Department of Justice objected to the new courts under the Voting Rights Act.

"The reform plan is non-partisan. It reduces judges' need to raise large amounts of money to stay on the bench. It holds judges accountable to all the voters they serve, regardless of whether they have an opponent. It provides for some much-needed stability and continuity in the judiciary," Senator Ellis said.

"This plan is not my first choice of plans, and it is not the first choice of any members of the working group. It is, I hope, a viable compromise that can gain the support of this committee. There is no question in my mind that it represents a vast improvement over the status quo. And I am afraid that if we do not act on this bill—and act now—we will be stuck with the unacceptable status quo for a long time to come," Senator Ellis said.

Senator Ellis urged all Texans to contact members of the Texas Legislature and express their support for judicial reform in Texas.



KEVANDRICK JORDAN

"Friendship Wedding" Set Here

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church will sponsor a "Friendship Wedding Sunday evening, April 30, 1995 at 6:00 p.m. in the church auditorium.

The groom will be Kevandrck Tyrone Jordan and the bride will be Alexandria Nacole Crawford.

The church is located at 2002 Southeast Drive. Rev. N.H. Franklin is pastor.



ALEXANDRIA CRAWFORD

NOTICE

The co-publishers of the *Southwest Digest* have received calls and inquiries about receiving their paper each week.

If you have proof of paying in advance and you have a cancelled check, receipt, or any proof of payment, we will honor your subscription.

Rev. G.E. O'Neal was responsible for some of our customers receiving their paper. He is no longer with us, and we are no longer in contact with him. This is the reason for this notice.

If you have any questions, then contact us at 762-3612 or 762-4605. Thank you for subscribing to the *Digest*.



Meet the Student Council Officers of Estacado High School, 1995

Pictured above are the 1995 Student Council officers of Estacado High School. Elections were recently held. They will serve for the Fall, 1995.

They are: standing, from left to right: Reggie Wallace, vice president; Wykesha Brown, secretary; Stephanie Brown, treasurer; seated, from left to right: Tanyette McCoy, head cheerleader; and Ahmad Luckey, president.

The best of luck to each of you!

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Ruby Jay's Corner

The New Hope Baptist Church, 2002 Birch Avenue, is the "Church Where The People Really Care," and Rev. Billy E. Moton is pastor.

Services began last Sunday morning with Sunday School at 9:30 a. m. and Brother James Sterling, assistant superintendent, presiding.

Services began with the singing of "Keep Me Every Day." The devotional period was conducted by Pam Moton and Isaac Skief. Another song, "Oh How I Love Jesus," was sung by the congregation.

Classes marched to their various places of learning for 30 minutes. Upon return, Sister Dorothy Kinner gave the high points of the lesson. It was very well done.

The secretary's report: Youth Department: The Junior and Intermediate Classes received the attendance banner as they tied for the honor. The Kindergarten class won the offering banner. How sweet it was for them.

The Adult Class report: Class No. 1, Men's Class received both banners, as Class No. 2 lost both banners. Great job, Men!

The morning devotional period was conducted by Sister Margaret Moton and Brother Ernest Swain.

The Senior Choir marched in the processional singing "We Got To Praise Him." Altar prayer was offered by Rev. Jeff Brown. A song, "He Cares For You," was sung. The scripture lesson was read by Sister Joan Kerr Jones. Prayer was given by Brother Robert Cork. Another song, "When We All Get To Heaven" was sung.

Responsive reading was done with the congregation standing. The

morning hymn was sung. It was "I'll Fly Away."

Pastoral observation was given by Pastor Moton. He told the congregation that one glad morning "I'm going to fly away. Don't know about you. He knows

about himself. He said: "Happy Anniversary to New Hope Baptist Church for their 69th Church Anniversary!"

Another song, "Jesus Will Be Right There," and the hymn of preparation was "Near The Cross."

Pastor Moton's sermon was entitled "Jesus Wants To Make You Whole." His scriptural text was Matthew 12:10-13. Thank God for a loving Christian minister. The Lord visited New Hope last Sunday morning.

During the invitation to discipleship, one came for special prayer. She was Sister Dyer who asked special prayer for her sister in Midland. Rev. McKinney, a member of Mt. Tabor Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas, prayed.

There are still many on the sick list this week who include the Henderson family.

The Pastor's Aide Committee invites the public to attend a special program Sunday afternoon, May 7th, at 4:00 p. m. A "Tom Thumb Wedding" will be presented by the children of New Hope. Come out and support them. This is a worthy cause. C. M. Howard is president.

Sunday afternoon, April 30th, at 4:00 p. m., the Fifth Sunday program will be sponsored as it is Women's Day. Each member is asked to give \$15.00. Speakers for the theme will be Brother Tharrington, Sister Winnie Jackson and Sister Kendrick. The Women Chorus will sing. Sister C. M. Howard, president; Sister Elнора Dyer, chairperson.

National Black News Survey

information and registration materials about the Miami and other upcoming wealth conferences can be obtained by calling 1-800-748-1821 (or 202-686-4775 in the Washington, D.C. area).

BLACKS SEEKING REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Among the seven announced candidates for the Republican party's presidential nomination, two are blacks — 44-year-old radio talk-show host Alan Keyes and 70-year-old former U.S. Civil Rights Commissioner Arthur Fletcher. However, neither of the blacks is given much of chance of capturing the nomination. Of the two contenders, Keyes is the more conservative. In fact, his positions are often so far to the political right that he has frequently been labeled anti-black.

WILL COLIN POWELL RUN FOR THE PRESIDENCY?

SALEM STATE COLLEGE, MASS.—Speculation increased last week that popular Gulf War veteran General Colin Powell will throw his hat into the presidential ring within the next few weeks. Powell set off the speculation last week during an address at Salem State College in Massachusetts. The former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said, "I've checked the Constitution very carefully, and you do not have to belong to a political party to run for president. I will see where I go from here." The retired black general has been scoring well in public opinion polls but there is some doubt as to whether that popularity can translate into a viable presidential campaign. And despite his popularity, Powell has been unclear about how he stands on the major issues of the day. In fact, he has generally refused to say whether he is a Democrat or a Republican.

MISS BLACK WORLD BEAUTY PAGEANT TO HIGHLIGHT TALENT

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Miss Black World Beauty & Modeling Pageant has chosen Washington, D. C. as the location for its 1995 international beauty and talent competition. Pageant organizers are currently accepting qualified contestants for the October competition which is expected to feature young ladies from 50 U.S. cities and at least 20 foreign countries. The top prize includes a \$10,000 cash award. Interested young ladies can receive information and registration materials for preliminary pageants in their areas by writing Miss Black World, P.O. Box 65001, Washington, D.C. 20035.

RANGEL WANTS GOVERNMENT TO DROP SHABAZZ CASE

NEW YORK, N.Y.—Senior Congressional Black Caucus member Charles Rangel of New York has asked Attorney General Janet Reno to consider dropping charges against the daughter of Malcolm X—Qubillah Shabazz. Shabazz has been accused of trying to hire an FBI informant to kill controversial Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan. Members of Malcolm X's family have long held the view that Farrakhan played a role in the 1965 assassination of the black nationalist leader. But supporters are arguing that the government case against Shabazz amounts to entrapment. The informant was paid \$45,000 by the government and has a long criminal record. Currently, Shabazz is scheduled for trial the first week of May in Minnesota. Reno has not yet responded to Rangel's request.

REPUBLICANS TAKE AWAY RADIO-TV TAX BREAKS FOR MINORITIES

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Republicans and conservatives in Congress last week continued their assault on affirmative action programs by approving a bill which repealed a tax incentive program designed to increase the number of minorities who own television and radio stations. The law had allowed white-owned firms to receive substantial tax breaks for selling their stations to women and minorities at reduced prices. The Republicans charged the law was unfair to white males. Upon repeal of the law, the giant Viacom Inc. immediately dropped a deal which would have resulted in the sale of several radio stations to a minority-controlled group.

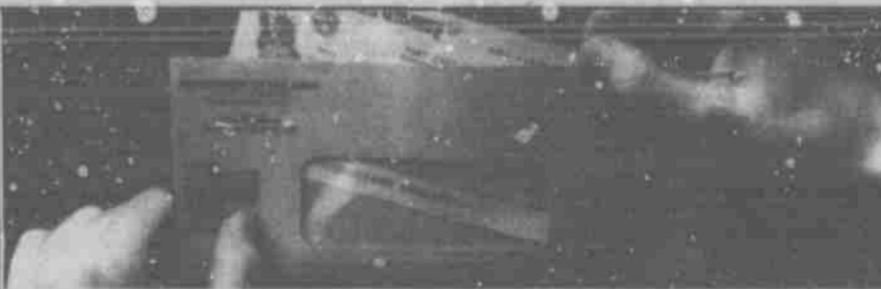
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Parkway Manor Care Center News

Residents of the center watched the Easter Sunday morning being on KCBD-TV, Channel 11. It was sponsored by the First United Methodist Church.

Leta's Alexander and Sista Ladd, who are members of Alexander Chapel COGIC, visited the residents last week. Their pastor is Elder Leonard Thorton.

Last Monday afternoon, Hayward Lewis visited his brother, Artis Lewis.

Last Sunday afternoon, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Pine visited Scottie Moore.

Last Tuesday, members of the Greater St. Luke Baptist Church Missionary No. 2 visited the residents and held worship services. Rev. J. H. Ford is pastor.

Members of Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church came and held worship services last week. Rev. Todd Rasberry is pastor.

Brother Birmingham, who is a member of the Hope Deliverance Temple Church where Elder Charles Tanner is pastor, came and visited with the residents last Wednesday afternoon. He is a frequent visitor for the residents.

Members of the Greater St. Mark Baptist Church

came last Thursday evening and held worship services. There were five members of the church present.

Rev. W. H. Stephens held his regular Wednesday morning Bible study at 10:15 a.m. The theme was "Then There Was Hope," Romans 12:10.

Rev. W. H. Stephens, who is the adopted grandfather of students of the Future Teachers of America from Debarth-Struggs Junior High School, enjoys this presentation. The boys and girls visit him each Thursday after school. Last Thursday, there were no students present because of sickness and work. Rev. Stephens sure did miss them. He enjoys them so much, he didn't stop the sponsor, Mrs. Castle, from coming. She was present.

"MOTHER"

Who holds our hand when the nights are dark. She heals our hurts when they are not really there. Who always waits through the days and years as they roll by? And never gets tired. Though times seem like eternity and keeps on praying when words seem to fail and waits for the answer when the heart seems to smother.

—By Mary L. Hearn

Mrs. Gloria Oquinn, A. D. & R., Rev. W. H. Stephens, Assistant A.D. & R.

OBITUARY

PHYLLIS UZETTA ROBINSON

Special services were held for Phyllis Uzetta Robinson on Wednesday, April 19, 1995 at the Ford Memorial COGIC with Elder H.C. Johnson, pastor, and Supt. R. L. Caro officiating.

Ms. Robinson was born to Ulysses Robinson and Vernell Tubbs Robinson November 14, 1965 in Panama City, Florida.

She became a member of Holy Temple COGIC at an early age and attended Bay County Schools. At age seventeen, she moved to Lubbock, Texas where she resided until her death. She attended the Tree of Life COGIC.

She leaves to cherish her memories: three children: a son, Tammero Robinson; two daughters, Felicia and Tamishia Hickson, all of Lubbock, Texas; a loving mother, Vernell Hickson of Lubbock, Texas; a father, Ulysses Robinson of Panama City, Florida; one brother, Drexal Robinson of Panama City, Florida; five sisters: Glynda Williams of Panama City, Florida, Gilda Shine of Atlanta, Georgia, Libby Lee (Henry C.), Lisa Miller (Alfred) and Tyra Robinson, all of Lubbock, Texas; maternal grandparents, Plaze and Lillie Tubbs of Panama City, Florida; four uncles and five aunts, a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The family of Mildred Deo Card of Thanks

Thank you so much for your calls, the beautiful flowers, food, and most of all your prayers. It does somehow make our loss easier to bear. May God richly bless each of you.

Kervin, Lorrvell, and Carl

Annual Musical Set for Visions of Light

The Visions of Light Gospel Choir of Texas Tech University will present their annual musical on Sunday evening, April 30, 1995 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Community Baptist Church, 220 North MLK Blvd.

The theme for this year's effort is "Behold the Risen King."

Rev. Larry Brooks is pastor of Community Baptist Church.

THE MORE SKYLINE

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and
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FIRST THING SHE DID:
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PRIZE: \$3.6 MILLION



Affirmative Action Myths

By Eddie P. Richardson

A Continuation from last week.

MYTH #1: *White males are being hurt and discriminated against because of affirmative action.* White males are 33% of the population, but 80% of tenured professors; 80% of the U.S. House; 90% of the U.S. Senate; 92% of the Forbes 400; 97% of school superintendents; 99.9% of professional athletic team owners; and 100% of U.S. Presidents.

Since the inception of this nation, white males were given preferential treatment—the right to vote, the right to own land, apply for loans and enter institutions of higher learning. In the late 1800s, white males were given millions of acres of mineral and soil-rich land under the Homestead Act as a bonus to go west and replace Native Americans. Such preferential treatment has carried over to 1995. White males are still the most educated, the most highly paid, the wealthiest, the most politically powerful and occupy the most prestigious positions.

MYTH #2: *Affirmative action creates preferences for women and people of color.* After 250 years of slavery, 100 years of apartheid and 40 years of discrimination, this unbroken record of race and sex discrimination has warranted conservative remedy—affirmative action (*reparations are truer to America's history—e.g. Western Europe, Japan, and Israel*). Those who have been locked out through negative action need affirmative action laws to protect them from both a discriminatory legacy and continuing discrimination. We need not be race neutral, but racially inclusive. We need not be color and gender blind, but color and gender caring.

MYTH #3: *Affirmative action has hurt people of color women and the nation.* Affirmative action has benefited the entire nation. It has benefited corporations—we have the strongest and most diversified work force in the world. It has benefited families—allowing two-wage earner households. It has benefited minorities (African Americans, Latinos/Hispanics, Asians and Native Americans), older Americans and the disabled. It has helped to create a new middle class.

MYTH #4: *Affirmative action is no longer needed.* We cannot fall prey to the notion that discrimination is an evil of the past. It is a very painful reality today. While affirmative action has diversified and improved the American work force and its centers of higher learning, as a nation we still have a long way to go.

If the president conducts a FULL public review, he and the country will find empirical proof that when the law is removed or not enforced we return to our old ways and our old habits. Since the Croson decision, minority contracting in the City of Richmond, Virginia has gone from 35% to 1%—i.e., to pre-affirmative action levels.

When the president reviews lending practices, he will find that access to capital and credit are denied to women and people of color because lending decisions are private, subjective and arbitrary. Unless there are laws that are strongly enforced, with a plan that includes goals and timetables, the traditionally locked-out will never gain access to capital.

Upon completion of his review, we urge the president to renew his commitment to affirmative action and strong enforcement of the law. We hope he will make the EEOC and the OFCC visible agencies and forces for good. The falsely accused need protection, hope and opportunity, not scapegoating, divisiveness and undue blame.



IN CINQUE

by Renetta W. Howard

Deadbeat Parents—Part I

We hear a lot today about "deadbeat dads" and wonder why they exist. The answer is simple. Most "deadbeat dads" have or had "deadbeat moms." It is with them a way of life. There is, however, another variable in this scenario which we will discuss in Part II.

Deadbeat dads teach their sons what they know about life and how to live it. They want to conquer the nicest girls for their wives and teach their sons the same values. These men usually idolize their own dads even after they have deserted their moms who are left behind to rear them.

Some of the deadbeat dads BELIEVE that women

are strong and will survive along with the children that they leave behind because, "My mama did it. She took care of us after my dead left us. My wife (or girlfriend) can do it too."

The problem with this reasoning is that the deadbeat dad has no idea in many instances HOW his mom did it. He further has no idea how his kids' mom will do it, nor does he care. His own mom had either been too busy trying to do it and did not have time to let him know how, OR she really did not WANT him to KNOW HOW she did it! In either case, a deadbeat dad was responsible.

We need to get "in cinque" and start requiring by law parenting classes for deadbeat parents who leave their children's welfare for others.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

The publicity that the Black community often gets is negative. I would like our community to know that there are some positive things occurring.

Last week, 45 first-grade students from Bozeman Elementary boarded a bus to Barnes & Noble Bookstore to purchase two of their "very own" books. For many of these students it was their first time to have ever entered a bookstore and a large number of them did not own a book until now.

This learning experience is all due to the generosity of Rueben Wilborn and the Lonestar Peace Officers Association. These men not only donated money but they recognized the need for community involvement and met our students at Barnes & Noble to assist them with their purchases.

The unique and exciting fact about these men is that they are comprised primarily of Black officers throughout Lubbock county. These are individuals who wanted to give back to our community in order to help others succeed. They have demonstrated to 45 students that someone cares and is willing to give time and money to help.

Each of us recognizes the fact that in order to have a stronger Black community, we must educate our children. I can't think of a better way to do that than what was accomplished by these officers.

Books Light the Path of Knowledge and Knowledge is Power and the Key to everything.

Thank you.

Sabrina Smith

First Grade Teacher/Bozeman

THIS N THAT

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT, MAYOR LANGSTON!! THIS N THAT... and others... were in attendance of the... OPENING... of the... RIB SHAK... 1403 East Broadway... when... MAYOR DAVID LANGSTON... pulled out his wallet... and showed something which makes a lot of sense... He showed... THIS N THAT... figure of the... POPULATION... of Black people in Lubbock... and then asked a... VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION... He asked, "WHY CAN'T BLACK PEOPLE OWN THEIR OWN GROCERY STORE WITH A POPULATION OF MORE THAN 17,000 BLACK PEOPLE LIVING IN LUBBOCK?" THIS N THAT... agrees with his observation... as... BLACK PEOPLE... should own something... which... A LARGE NUMBER... of Black people could support... Instead... all of our... hard-earned money... continues to leave the neighborhood... and other parts of Lubbock benefits... from what we have to bring to the market place... A good opportunity has to be the... CANYON LAKES CREDIT UNION... which is in a position of getting... ONE HUNDRED MEMBERS BY MAY 9TH... and the money involved in this is just a meager... \$5.00 BILL... Now... with the mayor's observations... it should make us think... of what we should be doing... for our own community... Surely... BLACK PEOPLE... want to own something... which we all can be proud of owning... Not only do we have a shortage of... GROCERY STORES... but we don't even have other business... which we could afford... that is... IF WE WOULD BEGAN TO TRUST EACH OTHER... and this is causing us some shortcomings... THIS N THAT... is hoping we'll see the light... and start doing something for ourselves... Now what the...

MAYOR... has said... has been... WRITTEN... on these pages of the... SOUTHWEST DIGEST... for many years... and we still don't believe we can own anything... REALLY WE CAN OWN ANYTHING... we want to own... that is... if we would come together and make somethings happen... THIS N THAT... hopes... by the time you read this... that the... OFFICERS... of the... CANYON LAKES CREDIT UNION... has gotten its 100 members... At the time of this... writing... the union was only... TWENTY MEMBERS SHORT... You're correct... MAYOR LANGSTON... and BLACK PEOPLE know that but are still sitting back and wanting others to do it for us...

NEEDS TO BE CORRECTED!! THIS N THAT... as well as... HUNDREDS OF OTHERS... drive down... AVENUE A... between... EAST 19TH STREET & EAST 50TH STREET... and our cars are Bumped... because of the... lack of completion of this major artery... Surely... something can be done about it... Help us... TEXAS HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT...

D. C. KINNER THE BARBER SAYS: "THE BEGGING... doesn't mean a... THING... its the... END... which really counts..."

REVEREND, I'M AVAILABLE... IS A GOOD PRODUCTION!! THIS & THAT... hopes... you will support the national touring play... "REVEREND, I'M AVAILABLE"... WHICH WILL PLAY... MAY 5TH & 6TH... AT THE LUBBOCK MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM... BROTHER L. CLARK... has done a great job... with the assistance of his wife... who are here making ready for this... production... Go and get you a ticket today... JUST \$12.00... PER TICKET...

Abraham Spires Works with CLCU

Abraham Spires, who received more than 4,000 votes in his bid to become a Lubbock County Commissioner last November, has been named by David Sowell, president of the Canyon Lakes Credit Union (CLCU), as a representative for the credit union.

According to Sowell, he will be assigned to the task of securing memberships to the credit union.

"I hope to do all I can to help this needed effort. We need to own something collectively in the economic arena," said Spires.

His main thrust, according to Sowell, will be to acquire \$5.00 memberships. For more information, interested members may contact Spires at 793-0936.

Local Students Participating in Play

Several high students at Estacado High School will be participating in the national touring stage play, "Reverend I'm Available," which will be playing May 5th & 6th at the Lubbock Municipal Auditorium.

The students are: Tim White, May 5th; Steven Pulley, May 6th; and Tanya Sedberry, back stage, both nights.

Singers are: Tanyette McCoy, Friday night, May 5th; and Joih Evans, Saturday, May 6th.

Instructor of these Estacado High School students is Ms. Barbara Jackson.

Statement of Congressman Larry Combest (R-Texas)

Chairman, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

It is important that the public understand that we are not entirely defenseless against terrorism. The Intelligence Community and Law Enforcement Community have had genuine successes in thwarting terrorist incidents against the United States. Because these tactics are thwarted, these successes go unheralded. But Oklahoma City teaches us that we must do better and that we will never be perfect. The House Intelligence Committee has been active in providing the funds and support necessary to enhance our counter-terrorism capabilities. We will be looking into the intelligence issues surrounding this dastardly attack. We will also continue to look closely at our current

SOUTHWEST DIGEST

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The Southwest Digest is an independent newspaper serving the Lubbock, West Texas, South Plains of Texas and Eastern New Mexico areas printing the news impartially supporting what it believes to be right without opposing what it believes to be wrong without regard to party politics.

Dedicated to the Industrial, Educational, Social, Political, and Economical Advancement of African-American People.

We may be critical of some things that we written, but, at least you will have the satisfaction of knowing they are truthful and to the point.

People will react to that which is precise, and we will publish these articles as precisely and factually as is humanly possible. We will also give credit and respect to those who are doing good things for the Lubbock Area and the people. We will be critical of those who are not doing as they have said they would, and this, we think, is fair.

So, this is our resolution to you. "Feel free at any time to call this office for information concerning this newspaper or any other matter that is of concern to you."

This is not a propaganda sheet made to chastise or vilify. This is a newspaper made to educate and not to agitate.

The opinions expressed by guest columns or editorials are not necessarily the opinions of the publishers/editors or those of the advertisers. Comments and pictures are welcome but the publishers are not responsible to return articles unless a self-addressed envelope is submitted. All notices must be paid in advance. Story deadline is 3:00p.m. Friday. Advertisement deadline is 3:00p.m. Friday or if camera ready, Monday at 12:00 noon. Member A.O.L.P. (Assault on Literacy Program)

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LIVE FROM THE HOUSE OF BLUES on TBS

Jazz group Take 6 dazzles the House of Blues™ crowd with the singing style that has earned the band five Grammy awards. Take 6 takes center stage on LIVE FROM THE HOUSE OF BLUES PRESENTED BY PONTIAC SUNFIRE, Friday, April 28 at midnight (ET) on TBS Superstation, with an encore presentation scheduled for Saturday, April 29 at midnight (ET).

In addition to its collection of Grammys, Take 6 has been recognized by *Downbeat Magazine* as Best Jazz Vocal Group four years running. After years of electrifying people with their a cappella style, the band has added instruments to the harmonic equation with their latest release, *Join the Band*, which features such artists as Stevie Wonder and Herbie Hancock. Take 6 was recorded live at the House of Blues™ in Los Angeles on Jan. 31, and was joined on-stage by Prince protege Sheila E and Grammy-winning producer/composer/arranger David Foster.

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU® REPORT

by Nan Campbell, President

Owning a car can mean trouble if you are not prepared to handle inevitable mishaps and repairs. It takes preventative maintenance, planning and know-how to avoid, or deal with, problems when your car needs repairs. With this in mind, the Better Business Bureau has published a new booklet in its consumer information series called "Tips on... Car Repair." This booklet offers advice on avoiding car repairs; servicing your car; finding a reputable repair shop; what to expect while you are at the shop; getting a second opinion on work that needs to be done; traveling with your car; out of town emergency repairs; and what to consider before you pay for repair work that was done on your car. It offers you tips to remember to protect yourself against disreputable car repair shops and scams. For your free copy of TIPS ON CAR REPAIR, give the BBB a call at 763-0459.

GOLD UNLIMITED out of Madisonville, Kentucky which was doing business as a direct marketing

company here in the South Plains has been the subject of several government actions. Their method of operation was friends contacting friends and colleagues to invest in gold coins and recruit others into the multi-level type company. In mid-March, the U.S. Postal Inspectors, along with the FBI, Kentucky Attorney General and Madisonville Police executed a federal search warrant at the headquarters of Gold Unlimited because of possible pyramid.

A Temporary Restraining Order was obtained which prohibits David and Martha Crowe, their agents, representatives, officers, employees and attorneys from operating or participating in any marketing plan such as GOLD UNLIMITED; receiving any incoming mail; processing applications or transferring, liquidating or disposing of any assets of the company. The hearing is pending. Investors wishing to file a complaint against the company, should contact the Attorney General at 747-5238 and the BBB at 763-0459.

SPC Law Enforcement Program to Offer Three Continuing Education Classes

LEVELLAND—The South Plains College law enforcement program will offer three law-enforcement related courses beginning this month in cultural diversity issues, use of force and combat firearms.

Mandated Course #1021 is designed to provide Texas law enforcement personnel with a basic awareness and appreciation of cultural diversity issues. The course will meet 5-11 p.m. April 24-27 and May 1-4 in the SPC Petroleum Technology-Law Enforcement Building, room 115. Registration deadline is April 21. Cost is \$40 a person. The course can be used as a partial fulfillment of certain sections of the State Government Code. Either payment or a purchase order is required.

Use of Force will meet 8 a.m.-noon or 4-8 p.m. May 1-3 in the same location. Cost is \$24 a person. Registration deadline is noon April 28. The course will

provide a working knowledge of the laws pertaining to the use of force, including chapter 9 of the Texas Penal Code and case laws involving liability of the officer. The course is one of the requirements for intermediate certification by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education.

Combat Firearms will meet 8 a.m.-5 p.m. May 15-19 in the same building, room 108. Cost is \$40 a person and registration deadline is noon May 12. The 40-hour course will focus on combat shooting techniques, cover and concealment. Firearms used will be semi-automatics, revolvers and pump shotguns. Students must furnish a service weapon and 500 rounds of ammunition.

For more information, contact the SPC Law Enforcement Office at 894-9611, ext. 291.

Lubbock Residents Among Outstanding Students for April at SPC

LEVELLAND—Four Lubbock residents are among South Plains College's outstanding students for April in the Technical Division at South Plains College.

Lubbock recipients are Paul Garcia, drafting technology, Caitlin Nelson, associate degree nursing, Stephanie Bratcher, law enforcement technology, and Lisa Blackwell, merchandising.

Levelland recipients are Billy Tackett, electronic service technology; Justin Windsor,

diesel service technology; Brad Akin, refrigeration air conditioning service technology; Sharon Smith, microcomputing; Matt Peck, marketing and management; Brittney King, vocational nursing; and William Ash, performing arts technology with a music option.

Other recipients are Anthony Dever from Brownfield, automotive service technology; Reid Arnold from Spur, agribusiness; Heather Fondy from Floydada, legal secretary; Gilbert Baldwin from Austin, string and fretted instru-

ment repair; and Robert Mercer from Hale Center, computer information systems.

"We have a monthly recognition program in the Technical Division designed to showcase the talents and accomplishments of our students in SPC's technical programs," said Frank Hunt, division dean. "We are extremely proud of these students and the contributions they make to the life of SPC."



JANICE ROBINSON
Gospel Recording Artist



DERONDA LEWIS
Gospel Recording Artist



RICKIE WALLACE
National Stage Actor



ALICIA HILL
National Stage Actress



REVEREND JOE JOHNSON
National Stage Actor



ROSALIND HOLLOWAY
Gospel Recording Artist



CECELIA DANIELS
National Stage Actress



KELLY DANIELS
Musical Composer-Arranger

"Reverend I'm Available"

"This is a very funny show—half-play, half-musical—that provides a nonstop, rollicking good time for its audience." (Jim Delamont - OMAHA WORLD HERALD)

"On a scale of one through 10, I rate this stage production a 10-Plus." (Angel Craig - OKLAHOMA EAGLE)

"With some witty moments and some phenomenal musical numbers aided by a first-rate sound system, "Reverend I'm Available" is a step above other black-oriented theater shows ranging from Shelly Garrett's "Beauty Shop" and "Living Room" to "A Good Man is Hard to Find." (Alec Harvey - BIRMINGHAM NEWS)

"Make any plans possible to get to any city to see this production, for it will have the hardest of hearts tickled or tested, and definitely high spirited." (Brandon Moore - CHATTANOOGA COURIER)

"It was the funniest of times; it was music to stir your soul; it was an outspoken incredible farce. It was great entertainment; it was a shame it only stayed for one night. It was "Reverend I'm Available," a play that approached a very real moral problem with so much humor that the whole audience roared, giggled and howled." (Joy Lynn Rosser - SHREVEPORT SUN)



WALTER RANDALL
Recording Artist
National Stage Actor



MARVA WALKER
Gospel Recording Artist
of "Serenity"

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CHURCH DIRECTORY



from the Desk of Parson D.A. Smith Speaking Out Of Turn

"And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make them tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah. For he wist not what to say; for they were sore afraid" (Mark 9:5, 6).

In the sensational experience of the transfiguration, Peter gave too much credit to the humans. He allowed his eyes to become distracted from Jesus and tuned into his earthly considerations of who was great.

All of us have experienced time in our lives when we have spoken words that were not too appropriate. In the presence of some great event that was breathtaking in its significance we have been pressured into saying something, although we "wist not what to say." That is why we can sympathize with Peter, who, with

James and John, was allowed to be part of the mystical drama that unfolded on top of the mountain.

Peter had just watched the garments of Jesus begin to glow and shine with an ethereal radiance; He had witnessed the appearance of both Moses, who had died and been buried, with no man viewing the spot, and Elijah, who had been delivered from the power of death without having suffered its stings. Moved with trepidation, for "they were sore afraid," Peter suggested they begin a construction project and build three places of abode, one for each of those who had appeared in their glory.

Peter did not realize that such an action would make it impossible for Jesus to fulfill His mission on earth. There was still preaching to be done. There were other miracles to be performed. Awaiting still were the final betrayal, the death of the cross, and the resurrection. Jesus could not forever stay on top of the mountain. But Peter never forgot what occurred. Years later he told about what took place in the holy mount (2 Peter 1:16-18). It is important that we learn by our mistakes also.

The Outreach Prayer Breakfast

A person of character must tell the truth, be sincere. Stand up for your beliefs, be your own self, walk your talk, show commitment, courage and self-discipline.

Keep your word, and honor your commitments. Pay your debts and return what you borrow. Stand by, support, and protect your family and country. Judge people by their merits. Be courteous and polite, tolerant, appreciative and accepting of individual differences. Respect the right of individuals to make decisions about their own lives.

Be motivated by love. Think before you speak, or act. Consider the consequences on all people effected. Be reliable, be accountable, accept responsibility for the consequences of your choices and set a good example for those who look up to you.

Do your best and keep trying; be diligent and industrious. Exercise self-restraint and be disciplined. Treat all people fairly; be open-minded; listen to others; try to understand what they are saying and feeling. Make decisions which affect others only after appropriate consideration. Show you care about others through kindness, caring, sharing and compassion.

Live by the Golden Rule and help others.

Play by the rules, obey laws; do your share, respect authority; stay informed; vote; protect your neighbors; pay your taxes; be charitable; help your community by volunteering service. Remember, it takes a whole village to raise a child.

Thoughts:

Every jail cell, every street corner is a mission field (Saints).

Don't sit in your congregation with your mind in turmoil. You can't worship God in that state of mind.

Don't put a rumor on wings until you're sure it has feet... Think about it.

Satan, you're a wanted man, "dead or alive."

God bless our readers and those who are sick today, help them to believe that prayer really does change situations. Please read II Chronicles 7:14, Mark 11:22-25. Keep smiling, people, God loves you and so do we. Write P.O. Box 1223, Lubbock, TX 79408.

D. Hood, Pres., Ernestine Frazier, Sec.



REV. & MRS. C.C. PEOPLES

Rev. & Mrs. C.C. Peoples 25 Years of Service

Words cannot express the joy we felt and the experience that we've had during our pastorship at the Mt. Olive First Missionary Baptist Church of Slaton, Texas. We would like to first thank all our members, pastors, churches and friends who we have become acquainted with during this decade of our life. We thank our members especially for your love, support, efforts and acts of kindness you have shown us. We love each and every one of you, and remember, God loves you too!



BISHOP LOUIS FORD

Homegoing

Bishop Louis Henry Ford, the chief apostle of the Church of God in Christ, passed away Friday morning, March 31, 1995.

The presiding bishop of the second-largest denomination in the world was funeralized in Memphis, Tenn., the C.O.G.I.C. headquarters, April 5.



REV. S.E. FIELDS PASTOR

Family Day

at St. John Baptist Church located at 1712 East 29th Street will celebrate its Family Day, Sunday, May 7, 1995 at 3:00 p.m.

We are asking all former members to please come and fellowship in this service. The public is invited to this special event. The theme is, "He is God of All Families," Jeremiah 31:1. Special guest will be the Community Baptist Church, and Rev. Larry Brooks, Pastor will bring the sermon for the occasion.
Sis. Alma Gopie, Reporting



We Thank God for Jesus THE NEW CHURCH GAME!!! part 1

Revelation 2:7a, JESUS said, He that hath an ear, let him HEAR what the SPIRIT SAITH UNTO THE CHURCHES.

THE CHURCHES are coming forth today, with many a NEW THINGS, they are of THE DEVIL, because it brings to GOD'S NAME: SHAME, SHAME, SHAME.

Mark 16:15,16, JESUS said, Go ye into all the world (SOCIAL SYSTEM), and preach THE GOSPEL to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be SAVED; but he that believeth not shall be DAMNED.

THE GOSPEL is a MESSAGE! and GOD gave a COMMAND TO THE CHURCH, but the CHURCHES ARE PLAYING CHURCH; AND THE CULTS ARE WAITING AND THAT HURTS.

Malachi 1:6, A SON honoureth his FATHER, and a SERVANT his MASTER: if then I be a FATHER, where is MINE HONOUR? and if I be a MASTER, where is MY FEAR? SAITH THE LORD OF HOSTS UNTO YOU, O PRIESTS, that DESPISE MY NAME. And ye say, Wherein have WE DESPISED (DISRESPECT OR SHAMED) THY NAME.

There is a NEW thing in CHURCHES to day: CALLED \$10, \$50, and \$100, PRAYER LINES. THEY SAY THEY HAVE POWER FROM GOD; BUT ITS ROBBERY: AND THE TONGUE IS LYING.

Matthew 10:7-9, JESUS SAID, And as ye go, PREACH, SAYING, THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND. Heal THE SICK, cleanse the LEPERS, raise THE DEAD, cast out DEVILS: FREELY YE HAVE RECEIVED, FREELY GIVE. Provide neither GOLD, NOR SILVER, NOR BRASS IN YOUR PURSES.

♦♦♦♦♦ WILL A MAN ROB GOD?♦♦♦♦♦

There is also this GAME: where THE PREACHER CUT UP HIS SHIRT & CALL IT A PRAYER CLOTH, TELLING THE PEOPLE, IT HAS POWER IN IT; AN FIFTY DOLLARS, IS THE COST.

Isaiah 56:9-11, All ye beast of the field, come to devour, yea all ye beasts in the forest. His WATCHMAN are blind: they are all IGNORANT, they are all DUMB DOGS, they cannot BARK; SLEEPING, lying down, loving to slumber. Yea, they are GREEDY DOGS which can NEVER have enough, and they are SHEPHERDS that cannot UNDERSTAND: they all look to their OWN WAY, every

Rev. Weatherspoon Speaker For The Youth Program

Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church and the Sunshine Choir will celebrate its annual Youth Program Sunday, May 14, 1995 at 3:30 p.m. at the church, 2304 Cedar Avenue. The speaker of the hour will be Rev. Clarence D. Weatherspoon. Rev. Weatherspoon is a native of Southeast Texas. He is a graduate of Bryant High School, of Pineland, Texas. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Jarvis Christian College; a Master of Science degree from Prairieview A&M University; and has done doctoral studies at Texas Tech University. He completed his all-level mid management, and professional superintendent's certificates at Texas Tech also. Rev. Weatherspoon is retired from

Roosevelt Independent School District, and now serves as Pastor of Carter Chapel C.M.E. Church, Lubbock, Texas. He and his wife Marie have two children, Stephon and Niccole; they both attended Texas Tech University. The theme for the annual program will be "Listening To Jesus". The public is asked to come and receive a spiritual feast in the word and music.

- Rev. Todd Raspberry is pastor
- Mrs. Nancy E. Donely Coordinator for Youth
- Mrs. Ruth Priestly, Mrs. Edna Walker, Mrs. Jean Hardwell, Mrs. Dolores Brown, and Lora Wilson are members of the Program Committee

Women's Missionary Events This Weekend

Mt. Gilead Baptist Church Missionary Society will sponsor a Mission Workshop, Saturday, April 29, 1995, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Sis. Vivian Peoples of the Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Rev. C. Peoples, pastor, Slaton, Texas, will be the conductor. Our theme is "The Acceptable Woman," Acts 16:13-15, 40.

The public is invited to come and hear a woman on fire for the Lord. This workshop is free to all. Breakfast and lunch will be served.

Our annual Women in White Day will follow on Sunday, April 30 at 3 p.m. with our theme above.

Sis. Maudie Powell of the Greater St. Mark Baptist Church, Rev. Leon Armstead, pastor, and Sis. Vivian Peoples will be our guest speakers.

- Come and bring a friend. Share these events with us. Yours in Christ,
- Sis. Frances Bell, General President of A.M.S.
- Sis. Vinia Thompson, Program Chairman
- Rev. J.J. Johnson, Pastor Elect

18th Annual Ladies Day

The Twentieth & Birch Street Church invites you to attend their 18th Annual Ladies Day Lectureship Saturday, April 29, 1995. Registration is from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

The theme is "A Friend to Jesus in the 90's."

Scheduled speakers are: Verlene Lemons of Midland, Texas; Dorothy Chapell of Dallas, Texas; and Essie M. Teanor of Houston, Texas.

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Sunday

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Wednesday

Kingdom Kids Club 7:00 p.m.

Thursdays

Health for Friends Clinic 9:00-12:00 noon
Clothes Closet 9:00-12:00 noon



Pastors Gary & Teresa Scoggins

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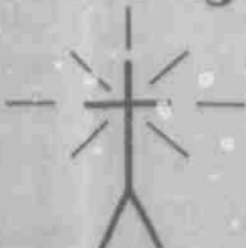
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Keys to a Successful Relationship

By Dr. Charles W. Faulkner

I have received quite a few nice letters from you in which you ask me to tell you what to do to improve your chances of having a successful relationship. Here are some hints that might lead to a successful match for you:

1) **Tell the truth about yourself to potential mates.** Most people tell only the positive aspects of themselves. They neglect to tell you about their negative behaviors or hang-ups. One lady said, "I want a man who is compatible with me and I won't accept less. I am well-organized, very clean, understanding, assertive, warm and mature. My man should be so, too." Is this the whole story or are there some negative surprises in store for the man who teams up with her? (Also, don't expect that everyone is going to tell the truth about themselves, either.)

2) **Allow for some flexibility in your requirements.** The more flexible you are, the greater your chance of finding a compatible mate. One person said, in a letter to me, "I want to meet someone who is six feet tall, 175 pounds, light complexioned, athletic, intellectual, professional, earning a good salary, good-looking, has a good sense of humor, is outgoing and has a wonderful personality."

The person who wrote the above letter is bound to be disappointed because these requirements are much too specific. If the potential partner lacked even one of the above-listed qualities they would be "ineligible." Thus, quite a few wonderful people would not qualify. Don't expect the other person to bring any more to the relationship than you are able to bring.

3) **Be realistic in your requirements.** One gentleman said, "I am looking for my queen, the girl of my dreams. I want to find that perfect woman." This gentleman is almost certain to be searching eternally. No perfect individual exists—except in our dreams. In any case, a perfect individual would also be looking for a perfect partner. Thus, none of us would qualify.

The fact is that there are many, many people who would be excellent mates for you. But

they may not be beautiful, handsome, wealthy or brilliant. So keep your requirements in the real world and you will be surprised at the number of quality individuals you will find.

4) **Happiness is a two-way street.** Be prepared to give as much to the other person as you ask the other person to give to you. One lady wrote, "I want a man to take care of me, to take me to nice clubs, to go to church with me every Sunday, to give me nice surprise gifts, to be around when I need him..." No where in her letter did she say what she was going to give to the relationship. In effect, she is looking a "sugar-daddy". The problem for her is that sugar-daddies are probably looking for famous, rich women. You have got to be able to give as much to the relationship as you get from it.

5) **Don't look for a "candy man" (or woman).** One person wrote, "I have worked hard all my life, now I want someone to take care of me, so that my life can be easy." The person who made this statement is probably going to be unhappy for the rest of his/her life. Realistically, what kind of an individual is looking for a mate who they can take care of? Such a person obviously has severe personal problems. You will probably never find a person who wants to take care of you—unless you want to take care of them.

6) **Expect problems.** Expect the unexpected. You are going to have problems in the relationship, in spite of who you meet. There are no perfect relationships. You should start, right now, to get your problem-solving skills into good working order. The successful couple is the couple that works at solving every problem, rather than getting angry and making the problem worse.

7) **Finally, don't get fat!** Most people steer clear of fat people. Don't you? Actually, fat people are no different than anyone else. But many people will not date a fat person. A gentleman said, "I know that I am fat, I want to meet a nice lady, but don't introduce me to anyone who is fat like me."

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ADA Hosts Gospel Concert To Fight Diabetes

LOS ANGELES, CA—Gospel's best raised their voices to fight diabetes at "A Celebration of Gospel," held recently in Los Angeles. Proceeds from the concert will benefit the American Diabetes Association's (ADA) African American Outreach Program and the Black Church Diabetes Education Program.

Blue Cross of California was honored at the event for its sponsorship of the Black Church Diabetes Education Program. The program coordinates efforts with 200 churches throughout Los Angeles, targeting 50,000 members. The goal of the program is to create an awareness about the problem of diabetes among African Americans as a community health issue that affects everyone.

"This was a special night for gospel fans," said Carolyn Hairston, ADA's outreach coordinator for the African American community. "Many of these performers have been personally touched by diabetes. They graciously agreed to help us by performing at the concert and joining the fight against a disease that affects so many African Americans."

Gospel greets who donated their time and talent to the event included the Clark Sisters, Rev. Daryl Coley, Merry Clayton, the Starlights, Norman Hutchins and Tony Warren.

Diabetes is the third leading cause of death by disease among African Americans. Twice as many cases of the disease surface in members of this ethnic group than in their white counterparts of the same age. Beyond age 65, there are nearly three times as many cases of diabetes in blacks as in whites, with the majority of cases affecting women.

The American Diabetes Association is the nation's leading voluntary health organization supporting diabetes research and education. It serves the entire community through the efforts of thousands of volunteers from more than 800 affiliates and local chapters in communities throughout the United States.

For more information about how to develop a Black Church Diabetes Education Program, please call Carolyn Hairston, ADA at (213) 381-3639.

Groundbreaking Held for New Hope

Pastor Monica C. Hall and members of the New Hope Church, Shallowater, Texas, announce the groundbreaking for their new church edifice to be constructed at 12th Street and Avenue G in Shallowater, Texas. Purchase of the land for the new church site was made possible with assistance of the late Bennie Lee James of Shallowater. The Church will always be grateful to Mr. James for allowing God to use him to the benefit of this cause. Local dignitaries and residents of Shallowater and Lubbock participated in the program. Groundbreaking services were held Sunday, April 23, 1995.

New Hope Church was founded in the early 1950s by Pastor C.L. Harris to provide a place of worship for the few black families living in the Shallowater community at that time. The church met initially in the only school building serving the Black community, located at the intersection of F.M. 1294 and the Littlefield Highway. Seven years later the church moved to its present location two miles west on F.M. 1294. Many families have come and the church is still leaning and depending on the Grace of the Lord.

In January of this year the church called the Reverend Monica C. Hall to lead the flock. Rev. Hall is inspired of God to initiate the construction of the much-needed House of Worship to the benefit of both Shallowater and Lubbock residents. Construction will begin in the very near future. In the meantime worship will continue at the present location on West F.M. 1294. Anyone desiring a Spirit-filled worship service is invited to attend Sunday and weekday services.

Special guests present were Mayor Moe Dozier, Dr. Billy Howell, and members of the Shallowater City Council and School Board.

The Benny James family was present to witness a special memorial for Brother James.

Guest churches were Unity Baptist Church, Rev. R. Adams; Rising Star Baptist Church, Rev. Bell; Hester Memorial AME Church, Elder Brazzle, Brownfield, TX; and First Baptist Church of Shallowater, Pastor Adams.

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