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National Black News Survey

by Robert N. Taylor

ANGRY BLACK CAUCUS THREATENS TO HOLD UP CRIME BILL

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Members of the Congressional Black Caucus last week threatened to vote as a group to hold up passage of Congress' latest \$30 billion anti-crime bill. Having already complained that the bill favors punishment (longer sentences and more jails) over prevention (more social and rehabilitation programs), caucus members were further angered recently when President Clinton indicated that he would not fight for the racial justice provision in the bill. That provision would allow inmates sentenced to death to challenge the sentence if they could show statistically that there had been racial discrimination in handing down such sentences in the area where they were convicted. Clinton spokesperson Dee Dee Myers said the president favored the provision but did not want any one issue to hold up passage by early August. Conservatives oppose the provision arguing it would delay the carrying out of death sentences. But black caucus chairman Rep. Kweisi Mfume labeled the group's stand on the provision "a principled position" and threatened to block passage of the crime bill. The black caucus has 40 members.

TUTSI-LED REBELS APPEAR VICTORIOUS IN RWANDA

KIGALI, RWANDA—A Tutsi-led rebel army has apparently achieved most of its major military objectives and last week began the process of establishing a new government in the war-torn and massacre-scarred central African nation of Rwanda. The fleeing Hutu-dominated Rwandan army was by week's end reported in disarray and headed for refuge in neighboring Zaire. The bloodshed in Rwanda began last April when the country's president died in an airplane crash. The Hutu-led government accused Tutsi-led rebels of shooting down the plane and then saw the army and Hutu thugs on a killing spree in which thousands of Tutsis and moderate Hutus were murdered. Indeed, the Hutu led army spent more time killing civilians than it did fighting the rebels. As a result, the mostly Tutsi rebels have gained control of virtually every major province in the country including the capital of Kigali. The current fear is that the Tutsis may launch a wave of revenge killings. But they allayed that fear a bit last week when they appointed a moderate Hutu as prime minister.

AMERICANS, ESPECIALLY BLACK WOMEN, GETTING TOO FAT

ATLANTA, GA.—A government study released last week

Cont. On Pg. 2

Is O.J. Case An Assault On Image Of Black Males?



O.J. Simpson and his late ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson celebrated the opening of the Harley-Davidson Cafe in this October 19, 1993 file photo.

The O.J. Simpson case provides another example of an assault on the image of black males, according to a noted Los Angeles author.

"When there is one individual in that group that does anything, guess what happens? The whole group is made to pay. They're put on the spot for the crimes, whether real or imagined, of the individual," said Dr. Earl Ofari Hutchinson, author of *The Assassination of the Black Male Image*.

But a Kent State, Ohio (KSU) communications spokesman says race has nothing to do with this case.

Frank Bentayou, manager of student media at KSU's School of Journalism and Mass Communication, said he felt Simpson's case was receiving more attention because of his prominence as a football player, actor and network commentator, not because he is a black male.

"Is he getting more attention as a male than he would as a female? I don't think so," he said. "I haven't been aware of any racial implications in the stories I've seen, so I don't

think that plays a role."

In a telephone interview from Los Angeles, before authorities issued warrants for Simpson's arrest, Hutchinson said the case would have a great impact on societal perceptions of black males.

Hutchinson said cases like Simpson's do two things for the image of black males. They affect all black males by convicting them as a group, and tend to affect media coverage of trials.

When a case involves race, sex or a celebrity—as Simpson's does—Hutchinson said media coverage is more likely driven by hearsay.

"Generally speaking, they're never given the benefit of the doubt—rumor and innuendo kick in long before fact," Hutchinson said.

That means they are "prejudged and convicted of a crime long before a court of law kicks in." And it becomes more difficult for Simpson who must defend himself against a presumption of guilt.

Bentayou, who is white, disagreed with Hutchinson.

"I certainly think it's true that the media often explore stories regarding prominent people more than they do people who don't have prominence, but that's one of the tenets of journalism, in a sense," Bentayou said.

"People are shocked by this story, and everyone seems to have an opinion about the character of O.J. Simpson because he's been a likable person generally," Bentayou said, adding that he didn't think Simpson's race or gender would make any more difference than "if a prominent female athlete or entertainment figure were accused of murdering an ex-husband and his female associate."

Hutchinson said one of the greatest problems black males face in terms of image is frequent portrayal in the mass media as irresponsible and violent or as criminals and drug dealers.

While prominent black athletes, entertainers, and political figures, such as boxer Mike Tyson, entertainer Michael Jackson and Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas have

come under intensifying scrutiny in recent years—all in cases involving alleged sexual misconduct—Hutchinson said he didn't think that scrutiny is part of an anti-black conspiracy.

Instead, he argues blacks are victims of a "conspiracy of history" caused by a confluence of events—cultural and media distortion, economic and political crisis, a leadership vacuum and societal tendency to blame young black males for problems.

Add in stereotyping and a historical bias, and the picture becomes clear.

"African-American males in America are getting a raw deal," Hutchinson said. "The image of African-American males has been layered in myths, half-truths and lies."

"It's a bottomless pit in terms of the negative images of African-American men," he said.

Hutchinson compared the media image of black males today to the images contained in movies of the 1920s and 1930s, where blacks were portrayed in dimensionless and powerless roles. "It's not as crude, it's not as vicious, it's not as overt as in past years, but it's still there," Hutchinson said. "You've got a situation basically where you've got an update of the old stereotypes."

And while black Americans are very diverse, their diversity isn't reflected consistently. An example of that lack of diversity can be as near as a television set.

"White males, we see them climbing mountains, we see them chasing sharks... We see the whole spectrum, we see the diversity."

"Now, when we turn on the same TV, do we see (black males) climbing mountains, do we see them playing volleyball?" Hutchinson said, noting that the image of black males is largely that of buffoons and fools. "You have only one image."

(A Los Angeles author and lecturer, Hutchinson's books discuss politics, economics and crime in the black community. *The Assassination of the Black Male Image*, released in April, focuses on the perceptions of black males in America and around the world.)

African Orthodox Church Founded in Lubbock

The Rev. McKinley Shephard has organized and founded the first African Orthodox Church in Lubbock, and for that matter, the first in Texas.

The name of the local church is "St. Moses The Black", and is temporarily located at East Broadway Avenue and Avenue A.

Rev. Shephard states, "The African Orthodox Church is part of the One Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, and was established and organized September 2, 1921 in New York City."

According to Rev. Shephard, "It was named African, because while it admits all persons into the membership, it's special mission is to the African race, and the church is governed entirely by persons of African descent. It was named Orthodox because it conforms in part with the Orthodox eastern churches from which its Episcopate is derived."

September 28, 1921, in the city of Chicago, George Alexander McGuire was consecrated its first bishop and primate by the Archbishop Joseph Rene Vlatte, assisted by Bishop Carla Nybladh.

After a long and distinguished career with the Protestant Episcopal Church, under influence of the Marcus Gavey Movement (UNIA), Bishop McGuire left the Episcopal Church to found the Independent Episcopal Church. Prior to Bishop McGuire's consecration September 28, 1921, the Independent Episcopal Church became the African Orthodox Church and elected Bishop McGuire as Primate, and an aggressive expansion program has followed. Bishop McGuire became the first Patriarch and on July 30, 1983, the Glorification of Bishop McGuire was held and the Church became the Saint George Alexander McGuire.

Rev. Shephard says, "I am very excited about this new ministry, and I'm looking for it to grow, because we have the right program, and I know God is in the plan." He continues, "I will receive my Holy Orders sometime this fall."

"St. Moses The Black" has an outreach organization which is called the Organization of African-American Christian Unity which ministers to the youth, and to those who are recovering from addiction. The center is also located at East Broadway and Avenue A. The telephone number is 741-0186.

Rev. Shephard says this new ministry will not fail because: "The Apostolic power bestowed upon the Disciple by Jesus is also given to us because we in this day understand and continue the revolutionary ministry of Jesus. The power of prophesy, to heal, and forgive sin is being bestowed upon the church daily. We reject the idea of individualistic Salvation (Salvation attainable without the mediation of the church.) We are Apocalyptic, Apostolic, Theocostal and Messianic. We are the instrument of God for the liberation of Black people. We teach the mysteries of the divine triangles the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, the spiritual psychological conversion of the group process, and the revolutionary concept of Positive Righteousness. We prepare for the coming of our Lord Jesus. Amen."

"St. Moses The Black" is under the leadership of His Eminence Archbishop Jansen Bernard, D. D.-Primate, and Bishop James Bramble.



Vice President Al Gore, in an address to the NAACP convention in Chicago, vowed that the Clinton administration will not allow the clock to be turned back on civil rights. He reaffirmed the Administration's strong commitment to racial equity in his address on July 12. The Vice President was joined by Executive Director of the NAACP, Benjamin Chavis, Jr., seated to the left of the podium, and Presiding Officer of the NAACP Convention Laura Blackburne, seated to the right of the podium.



Longtime Resident Succumbs

Earl Elliott, a longtime resident of Lubbock, succumbed here last week after an illness. Services were set for Wednesday as we go to press.

A detailed story on Mr. Elliott will appear in next week's edition of the Southwest Digest.



Congratulations Daniel Jackson!

Daniel is a yellow belt in Karate and studies under Sensei Daniel Thompson. On Saturday, July 23rd, Daniel and his class participated in the Battle of the Basin competition in Odessa. Daniel brought home a first place trophy in the sparring competition. Daniel is the son of Irene Moya and Rufus Conner. The parents wish to tell Daniel how proud they are of him and also encourage him to continue his hard work on the road to success. "We'll always be there for you." "Once again, congratulations and we love you." Overall, the Sensei's class brought home five trophies.

Parkway Manor Care Center News

Willie Jean Floyd visited George Skief last Sunday afternoon and reported a wonderful visit.

Jessie Bonson visited her sister, Pearl Thomas, this week, and enjoyed themselves.

Lucille Wiggins was visited this week by her family members which included Sarah Greenstead, Tim DeShone and Johnnie M. Henderson. They reported a wonderful time together.

Willie Herold visited Hazel Sanders on last Monday afternoon.

Edward Johnson was visited this week by his family members who included Mr. and Mrs. Michael Coleman, Brenda Wilson, and Mae Bell Myer.

The St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church had six members to come last Monday evening. They are members of the Mary, Dorcas and Deborah Circles. What a wonderful time they had together.

Annie Sanders visited Lula York this week. They enjoyed each other as they talked about many things.

Rosie Evans visited Benzie Stubblefield last week. Sister Stubblefield really did enjoy it to visit.

The Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church had eight members to come last Tuesday evening. They visited, sang hymns and held worship services.

Ann Day, who works with SPAG, came last Wednesday to visit and read to the residents.

Mittie Wallace visited with the residents also.

Melissa Smith visited Charlie Jordan last Wednesday evening, and reported a wonderful visit.

Robert Avery came last Wednesday afternoon to visit with all of the residents.

Brother Birmingham, a member of Hope Deliverance Temple Church, came last Thursday afternoon to visit with the residents.

Rev. R. G. Nathan visited Rev. W. H. Stephens on last week, and talked about many things.

Mrs. Edna Pine and daughter visited Scottie Moore on this week.

Last Friday evening, the King Sisters came to be with the residents and sang some of these soul-stirring spirituals. They were able to do a wonderful job as they always do. What a job they really did. It was good enough for them to come again. They said they would. We would be happy to have them come back.

God loves each of you, and so do we...

Mrs. Norma Owens, A. D. & R. and Rev. W. H. Stephens, Assistant A. D. & R.

Head Start Registration

The Ballenger Head Start Center will take applications for the 1994-1995 school year on August 2, 1994. Registration will be held from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. on that date.

A child must be four years old by September 1 in order to be registered and families must be within the federal income guidelines. (Example: A family of four can have a monthly income of no more than \$1,227—gross income.) Parents are also requested to bring the following items with them for registration.

1. Birth Certificate
2. Immunization Record (shot record)
3. Income verification (pay check stub, SSI, child support, etc.)
4. Social Security Cards
5. Utility Bill (for residence verification)
6. Food Stamp/Medicaid Information

The Ballenger Head Start Center has 20 classrooms and will serve approximately 400 Head Start children at its location, 1110 40th Street. Children will be served two hot meals as part of the nutrition education program. Medical and dental screenings will be provided for children in this full-day education program as well.

The program will provide bus transportation, if

desired, from Beau, Bozeman, Brown, Dupre, and Guadalupe. Also, from Harwell, Hodges, Hunt, Iles, Jackson, McWhorter, Parkway, Posey, Ratairez, Wheatley, and Wolforth. A Head Start teaching assistant will be at each elementary school listed above at 7:30 a.m. morning to supervise the children in the cafeteria while they wait for the bus and eat a free breakfast. Buses will leave the schools no earlier than 7:45 a.m. The assistant will then go with the children to Ballenger and will be responsible for getting the children back on the bus in the afternoon for the return trip to their home school. She will dismiss the children to their parents from the school cafeteria at 3:15 p.m., the dismissal time for elementary schools.

If parents do not want their children to attend a full-day program, Head Start eligible children will also qualify for half-day prekindergarten programs based at 14 campuses across the Lubbock Independent School District. Enrollment at Arnett, Bean, Brown, Dupre, Harwell, Hodges, Hunt, Jackson, Mahon, McWhorter, Ramirez, Tubbs, Wheatley and Wolforth, will take place on August 8, from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Parents are requested to bring with them the same information needed for the Head Start program. For more information, parents may call 766-1600, Monday through Friday.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:
I have been asked why those of us who get Medicare should support health care reform.

I can think of a lot of reasons. One, of course, is that I worry that too many of our children and grandchildren don't have health insurance now. A lot of young families today are overwhelmed by high medical costs, or they live in fear that they will have no coverage if they change or lose a job.

Those of us with Medicare are lucky because we do have basic health care coverage today. But our health care situation isn't always rosy, either.

The cost of prescription drugs eats up the income of a lot of people on Social Security. And if paying for medicines doesn't reduce us to poverty, there's a good chance that the cost of long-term care will. All of us need comprehensive health care reform that provides protection against the high costs of long-term care and prescription drugs.

It doesn't matter how old we are or how hard we worried or saved—some health care costs are more than the average person could ever pay. The best health care reform should provide security to everyone.

All of us need to tell Representatives Sarpaluis and Combast and Senators Gramm and Hutchinson that we are concerned about the future of our family's health care. We need to write or call them now.

Sincerely,
ROSE LINCOLN, Member
Texas State Legislative
Committee, AARP, Lubbock.

**Congratulations To
Ursula Yolanda Monroe & T. J. Patterson, Jr.
On Your Wedding!
We Wish You The Very Best!**



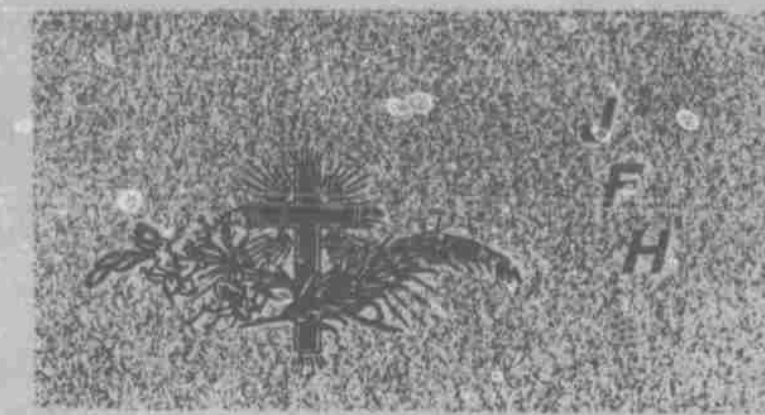
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ARMY & AIR FORCE NEWS

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, SAN ANTONIO—Air Force Airman 1st Class Larry L. Davidson has graduated from Air Force basic training here.

During the six weeks of training the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization and customs and received special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Davidson is the son of Larry L. and Rose M. Davidson of 5504 83rd, Lubbock.

He is a 1993 graduate of Escabado High School, Lubbock.

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| 1516 E. 24th St. | 3/1/0 | \$20,000 - Cross from Mae Simmons Park |
| 3307 E. 15th St. | 2/1/0 | \$16,000 - Near Martin Elementary School |
| 2732 E. 2nd St. | 3/1/0 | \$23,500 - Near Bozeman Elementary School |
| 2717 E. Colgate | 2/1/1 | \$24,500 - Nice Large two bedroom |
| 2721 E. Colgate | 3/1/1 | \$26,000 - Well kept 3 bedroom |
| 2404 Fir Avenue | 5/1/0 | \$28,950 - One owner home. Very good neighborhood. |
| 819 E. 35th St. | 2/1/2 | \$30,000 - You must see this house... |
| 2618 Duke | 3/1/0 | \$27,550 - Large, nice Neighbors, near schools |
| 1937 E. Colgate | 4/1/0 | \$31,500 - Den, Fireplace, Fenced Front & Back |
| 1321 E. 25th St. | 4/2/CP | \$27,500 - Den -Tike Fence - Double Carport |
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EDITORIALS • COMMENTS • OPINIONS



A Little Humility Is Good For The Soul

by Eddie P. Richardson

Sometimes we rise so high we tend to forget we arrived, and where we came from, we get so selfish and wrapped up in ourselves. I recently had a humbling experience in the form of a week's stay in the hospital. I didn't realize how bad I was until I went to the VA Outpatient Clinic and was placed in a wheelchair, hooked up to an IV and rushed to Amarillo VA Medical Center for a week.

I met a man, 76, dying from heart failure. He was one of the coolest people I have ever met. He took each day, a day at a time, in good spirits. On the other hand, there was a man, 74 years old, who still rode and broke horses, ran 10 miles a day and danced all night on weekends. Also saw a man who had not a bowel movement in 3 months. Also saw a man in his 70's that

they had to get off the treadmill. He kept saying "I'm not tired yet!" On the other hand I saw a 79-year-old man that could not pass the treadmill test.

That proves one thing: to have a healthy life one must have a good spiritual life, eat right, and have a good exercise plan that you can live with and keep it or some plan going at all times.

I heard a recent sermon where the minister said sometimes you have to be put on your back and have to look up to come back to reality and realize how great we are not. This I could relate to because I had just gone through the experience. Going to the hospital can be a very humbling experience if you just observe some of the people. No matter how serious your case may be someone else is always worse.

◆◆◆◆◆

During the Christmas Season our youngsters and others will remember, "Life can be difficult at times, but it's really tough to make it an enjoy

life when you are bombed out and don't have your full faculties together. There's always the possibility of your dreams coming true. But if you pollute your mind and your bodies with drugs and alcohol today, the you can forget the dream of tomorrow."

While we have the spirit of giving and sharing for us to keep it all ye we must and forever trust in the Lord and give thanks to all things. He will strengthen you in the weakest of times and give you humility in your most glorious hours and blessings all the days of your life.

One way to prevent gangs is to start in time when children are very young. Parents have one small person in their lives that loves them just for who they are. If we don't take the time to let our children know how important they are and how much we love them when they are small, we shouldn't be surprised when they grow up to feel that they don't make a difference in the world.



IN CINQUE

by Renetta W. Heward

Twenty years ago, I thought that the move to teach career education in primary school was a waste of time and good money. Today, I feel that it is needed more than ever. Too soon, our children find out about a life career of crime and too late a profitable life career with positive attributes.

Most countries in the world begin to prepare children for a lifetime career when they enter school. The children are aware at the outset of the career that they will pursue. They spend their young lives preparing for their careers. They study to be the best they can be.

It is a sad state of affairs when our young people are seniors in high school, about to graduate and have no idea about their life careers or goals. Making life choices this late in life can be expensive, especially if they plan to go to college.

When students enter college and know what they want to study and what career they are planning for, less time will be needed to pursue of their careers. If a student is not sure, changes in majors take place and often more time is needed to complete a particular course of study. More time means more money to be spent on preparation. This expense is generally borne by parents. Let us get "in cinque," at home and at school, and help our children to prepare for their futures as adults.

This & That

GET INVOLVED, CHATMAN HILL!! THIS N THAT...heard some...VERY FRIGHTENING FIGURES...last week from the...DOUG GOODMAN...who serves as the...DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM...about the participation of...residents of the...CHATMAN HILL ADDITION...which has been targeted for this year's...DEVELOPMENT...According to GOODMAN there were only...21 RESIDENTS...from Chatman Hill...to make application for a program which is designed to...HELP REHAB HOMES IN THIS AREA...There were...some 50...who applied for the program...but only 20 resided in the...CHATMAN HILL ADDITION...Sure...there are others who meet the requirements...So let's get involved...and work with the program...

HOPE A BLACK CONSTRUCTION COMPANY IS DEVELOPED!! THIS N THAT...hopes with the...some...\$400,000.00...provided by the City of Lubbock's Community Development Program...through the utilization of...COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS...THAT there will be development of...BLACK CONSTRUCTION COMPANY...to construct a...MODEL HOME...in the...CHATMAN HILL ADDITION...If there every was an opportunity...the time is now for...the...BLACK COMMUNITY...to rise up...and take advantage of a good program...which could very well be leverage for more funds to help in this area of development...

ARE YOU FOR THE INTERSTATE 27 LOCATION FOR THE PROPOSED MULTIPURPOSE ARENA?? THIS N THAT...would like to know how you feel...about the the proposed...MULTI-PURPOSE ARENA...which would cost some \$40 MILLION OR more dollars...And there will be some...POLITICAL MOVEMENT...to find a suitable location...for such a project...It appears to...THIS N THAT...with the theme for such...PROJECT...being to...DEVELOP A QUALITY OF LIFE FOR LUBBOCK CITIZENS"...it would appear that the...INTERSTATE 27 LOCATION...on the SOUTH PLAINS

FAIRGROUNDS would no doubt...be the...BEST LOCATION. If you agree...let...THIS N THAT...hear from you...This project...located at this...PROPOSED SITE...would help with the quality of life...for an area...which has been forgotten for so many years...Not only this...but...it would be most accessible to those...from the outside communities...who will be participating by...PAYING THE HALF CENTS SALES TAX PORTION...at least 40%...of the sales tax...is expected to come from the other South Plains Communities...So let's think about this location...as...THIS N THAT...will surely stand tall on this location...Let us hear from...EACH OF YOU...that is...IF YOU SUPPORT THE INTERSTATE 27 SITE!! Call...THIS N THAT...762-3612...By the way...there is some...TV ADVERTISEMENT...from an organization called...UNITY LUBBOCK...and they are pushing...the...4TH STREET & INDIANA SITE!! So what...let them do their thing...so we need to do our thing...The time is right for...THIS AREA!!

EARL ELLIOTT WILL BE MISSED!! THIS N THAT...along with...MANY OTHER LUBBOCK CITIZENS...no doubt...will miss...EARL "RED" ELLIOTT...who has been a...GOOD CITIZEN...in Lubbock since the 1950's...After a brief illness...BROTHER ELLIOTT...and...THIS N THAT...means this as he was a...BROTHER...of the graduate chapter of...OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY...and did an astronomical job...as a...PROFESSIONAL INSURANCE AGENT AND MANAGER...for the...ATLANTA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY...a company he retired from several years ago...EARL ELLIOTT...will be missed...and...he did care about his community...and has left a record in the...INSURANCE INDUSTRY...which will be hard to replace...SO LONG...EARL ELLIOTT...THIS N THAT...is glad to have been able to know you...and appreciated that OPPORTUNITY...

D. C. KINNER THE BARBER SAYS: "GOOD THINGS...from those...who...WAIT..."

"Why Ben Chavis Is Under Attack

by Dr. Manning Marable

NAACP Executive Director Benjamin Chavis seems to be doing every wrong. The national media is angry with him for bringing Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan to this June's African-American Leadership Summit. Conservative leaders within the NAACP were upset last April when Chavis and NAACP Communications Director Don Rojas called a "mini-summit" in Detroit, reaching out to black nationalists such as Maulana Karenga, the originator of "Kwenzac"; poet/author Haki Madhubuti; and Black United Front leader Conrad Norrill.

In a stormy and controversial debate among members of the NAACP's national board, motions to oust Rojas and to censure Chavis for the Detroit caucus with black nationalists were defeated. Rainbow Coalition leader Jesse Jackson did attend the Baltimore summit, but spoke openly on several occasions to contradict the NAACP leader's statements. Baltimore was filled with rumors that Jackson had personally convinced a number of key leaders in the Civil Rights Movement and inside organized labor to stay away from the summit. Moreover, only two members of the Congressional Black Caucus attended the summit: Representative Kwesi Mfume (D-Maryland), the caucus chairman, and Donald M. Payne (D-New Jersey).

The national media constantly fed public speculation that Chavis would soon be sacked as the venerable Association's Executive Director. Even at the Baltimore summit, in his opening remarks, Chavis forcefully addressed his critics: "There are some who have thrown stones at us simply because we're trying to bring our people together...I would not be sitting here if my board did not back what I'm doing."

The real issue which should be explored is not Chavis's personal history and political biography—although these details help to explain

much. Chavis was a celebrated political prisoner in the "Wilmington Ten case" two decades ago, a victim of racism within our criminal justice system. After his legal vindication, Chavis went on to become the leader of the United Church of Christ's Commission for Racial Justice. He was one of the first African-American leaders to focus on the issue of "environmental racism."

By defeating the candidacy of Jesse Jackson to emerge as the new leader of the NAACP following the retirement of Benjamin Hooks, Chavis marked the "coming of age" of an entire generation of post-Civil Rights Movement activists into the main arenas of struggle. Chavis spearheaded the successful thirtieth anniversary March on Washington, DC last August. His personal charisma and energetic travels across the nation are largely responsible for an increase in the NAACP's membership by over 120,000 since April 1993.

What is really behind the public and private attacks against Ben Chavis is the absence of ideas, effective leadership, and organizational action on the part of many traditional, mainstream black leaders. Without engaging in rhetorical criticisms—by his personal example of commitment to black empowerment—Chavis challenges the lack of creativity, the absence of militancy and the paucity of political mobilization by his "elders." Leaders such as Joe Lowery of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference have complained to associates that Chavis fails to show the "proper respect" and gives inadequate consultation to him.

What Lowery should be reminded is that the problems of the 1990s are not the problems of the sixties. Nobody's seeking to obtain an integrated cup of coffee at an all-white diner, anymore. The Voting Rights Act was passed nearly thirty years ago. Our problems today are not going to be solved by "racial integration," or by

what could be termed the "strategy of inclusion."

The former leadership of the Civil Rights Movement—Coretta Scott King, Ralph David Abernathy, Whitney Young, Roy Wilkins, Dorothy Height, A. Philip Randolph, Bayard Rustin, Lowery, and others—had certain assumptions about race and power in America. They believed that the white liberal state was a benefactor of blacks' collective interests. They believed that the Democratic Party was essentially our political ally. They favored incremental social change, not radical confrontations. They believed in "symbolic representation," that the advancement of individual African-Americans into positions of power and formerly all-white professions, would elevate blacks as a group. They never anticipated the rise of "Reaganism," the collapse of affirmative action and the welfare state, the massive growth of urban poverty and violence, and the class stratification within the black community. They had no language to articulate the rage of the "Hip Hop" Generation of the nineties.

In short, Chavis is trying mightily to bridge the gap between the Civil Rights Movement and where black America is going. Millions of our young people are thoroughly disillusioned with the political system and society. They feel that there is no future for them. Unless Chavis and the NAACP move rapidly to recapture the post-Civil Rights generation, the future of black people in American society is in profound jeopardy.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of History and Political Science, and Director of the Institute for Research on African-American Studies, Columbia University, New York City. "Along the Color Line" appears in over 250 publications and is broadcast by more than 75 radio stations internationally.

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EDITORS/PUBLISHERS

T.J. PATTERSON—EDDIE P. RICHARDSON

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.

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

We may be critical of some things that are 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.I.P. (Assault on Illiteracy Program)

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SPORTS

Sites Selected for USTA League Tennis National Championships

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y.—New Orleans, Louis., Palm Springs, Calif., Tucson and Phoenix, Ariz. have been selected to host eight 1994 United States Tennis Association League Tennis National Championships, the USTA announced today.

Two championships will take place at the Doubletree Hotel and the City Park in New Orleans, Sept. 22-25 (2.5 level) and Sept. 29-Oct. 2 (5.0 level). The Doubletree Resort, Desert Princess Country Club, Palm Springs Tennis Center and the Tennis Club of Palm Springs in Calif. will host the 3.5 championships, Sept. 22-25 and the 4.0 championships from Oct. 6-9.

In Tucson, the 3.0 championships will take place Sept. 29-Oct. 2 at the Doubletree Hotel and Randolph Park, as well as the 4.0 Championships from Oct. 6-9. The seniors will also compete at the Doubletree Hotel, Randolph Park and Tucson Racquet Club, Oct. 27-30 (3.0/3.5 level). The Mesa Pavilion Hilton, Western Reserve Club and Kiwanis Recreation Center in Phoenix will host the 4.0/4.5 senior championships, Nov. 3-6.

"We are looking forward to another successful National Championship season," said chairman of the USTA Leagues Committee, Elaine Viebranz. "We are

especially pleased to be holding two of the events, for the first time, in New Orleans."

The USTA League Tennis Program is the largest adult recreational tennis league in the world, with more than 176,000 players. Players are grouped in one of six National Tennis Rating Program skill levels, from beginners at the 2.5 level to the advanced at the 5.0 level. Adult matches consist of singles and doubles play, while seniors participate in doubles competition, only. Both groups compete at the local, district and sectional level before advancing to the National Championships. Penn Racquet Sports, the world's largest manufacturer of tennis balls, is in its seventh year as the official ball of USTA League Tennis.

Founded in 1881, the United States Tennis Association is a not-for-profit volunteer organization with a half a million members and over 6,000 organizational members. As the official governing body for tennis in America, the USTA uses its \$91 million annual budget to train and encourage tennis players of all ages and skill levels. The USTA presents the U.S. Open and sponsors teams for Davis Cup, Federation Cup and the Olympics.

Familiar Faces.

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City of Lubbock

INSIDE VIEW: THE INMATES ADVISE O.J.

by Samuel K. Atchison

I conducted my regular weekly prayer service at the Mercer County Correction center near Trenton, N.J. a few days ago, it was clear that nearly everyone had O.J. Simpson on their minds.

Most of the prisoners here are African-American. They had watched, along with the rest of the county, the slow-motion cavalcade up the freeway, as police pursued the former football star in connection with the murders of his ex-wife and her friend.

Given the extensive records of many in my prison congregation, I was intrigued as to the advice they would offer him. So, with our chairs drawn in a circle on the floor of our gymnasium chapel, we imagined O.J. was in the room with us.

As black men and inmates, I asked them, what advice would you give to this brother behind bars? The inmates, as expected, had much to say.

Many felt that Simpson had already had his shot at the big time, and now God was sending him a wake-up call. They felt the Lord was trying to get him to realize that fame and fortune are fleeting, and

that only faith could sustain him now.

The general consensus was both pragmatic and spiritual: "Get the best lawyer you can, and then put your trust in God."

It appears that O.J., some 2500 miles away, has taken the first piece of advice to heart. In Robert Shapiro, F. Lee Bailey, and Alan Dershowitz, he has brought together three of the most famous defense attorneys in the country. They are also among the most expensive, guaranteed to exact fees which will take a huge bite from Simpson's personal fortune.

As to whether he will follow the inmates' recommendation to seek the guidance of the almighty, no one seems to know. Yet, he would be wise to follow that suggestion as well.

The evidence against him seems to be mounting. But regardless of whether or not is proven guilty, his life will never be the same again. Even if exonerated, he will likely be unemployable as either an actor or pitchman.

His most marketable assets—a handsome face and celebrity sta-

tus—will be of little use. Furthermore, a long and costly trial, full of sleazy revelations about his personal life, may leave him bereft of friends. Prayer may be the one thing he has going for him.

It is thus ironic that with all of the high-priced counsel Simpson is receiving, his best advice may well have come from a group of career criminals who have begun to learn what he may not yet have grasped: The blessings of the "good life"—health, contentment, happiness and respect—flow from a relationship with God.

Meet the Community Advisory Board of First National Bank.

Since its beginnings in 1901, First National Bank has been committed to meeting the needs of the community it serves. Now, some familiar faces are joining us in that effort.

Our Community Advisory Board is comprised of leaders throughout our city. They represent our community's diverse interests, and, with their unique insight, will help First National Bank respond to the financial needs of the entire city. The new Community Homeownership Program (CHP) from First National Bank is a tangible sign of their efforts.

First National Bank welcomes these members of our Community Advisory Board and thanks them for the opportunity to work together to improve the quality of life we enjoy in Lubbock.



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Pastor of the Holiday Hills Baptist Church, Abilene, Texas
Graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

"And he answered them, saying, who is my mother, or my Brethern?"

Saint Mark 3:32-35

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St. Mary Hospital to Hold Eighth Annual NICU Reunion Saturday, July 30, 1994

LUBBOCK, TEXAS—St. Mary of the Plains Hospital will hold its eighth annual Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) reunion Saturday, July 30, 1994, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Moxey Lake Park.

St. Mary Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit boasts a 98.5 percent survival rate for infants cared for in the unit. The majority of NICU patients are born prematurely; others suffer from severe breathing problems, infection, etc. NICU personnel includes two neonatalists and a highly skilled and experienced staff of registered nurses and respiratory therapists.

The reunion will give former NICU "graduates" a chance to visit with the doctors and nurses who have made an important impact on their lives. More than 100 graduates and their families are expected to participate.

The reunion will include many activities for adults and children including face painting, balloons, and St. Mary Hospital Kid's Club mascot. Kristen, a complimentary lunch will be provided; reservations are requested.

For more information, or to make reservations, call (806) 796-6667.



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A Cry For Help from the Desk Of Parson D.A. Smith



Across lines of race and class, the number of preventable teenage deaths is rising at an alarming rate. What is causing these deaths is a troubling disease called "adolescence". The symptoms of the disease are violence (including drive-by shootings,) drugs, sexual abuse, babies having babies in communities that no longer care and churches that

are confused about their role and sense of direction, alcohol, poverty, and automobile wrecks.

It is said that African-American teenagers are more likely to lose their lives by being shot while white teens are more likely to be injured or killed in an automobile crash or killing themselves. However, both black and white teenagers share the same underlying condition: Three-quarters of the deaths of young people from 10 to 24—a total of 30,000 each year—occur not from disease but from preventable causes.

July 4, 1994, at approximately 2:30 a.m., a young teenage girl, age 13,

drove a blue GMC conversion van from Oklahoma through the rural Texas landscape at speeds of more than 100 mph. The teenager, an award-winning poet and musician, led five police cars, sirens blaring and lights flashing 75 miles, ending when she failed to negotiate a curve on U.S. 81 where her van left the ground, flew over a grassy median and crashed into six new cars parked at an automobile dealership.

During the chase an Oklahoma police officer remarked, "The subject has no regard for human life. He's almost rammed five or six cars. He has no regard for safety." The subject at this point, was traveling at speeds above 100 mph.

Could the death of this teenager have been prevented? What could have gone wrong in a family where parents worked hard to provide for their children? And even taking the humiliation from the deceased daughter of being reported to the Department of Human Services child welfare office for unfounded allegation of abuse and spanking many months preceding her death.

Included in the other threatening causes of death among teenagers is the high-risk sexual activity that produces HIV infection. A recent report by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) found that among teens, HIV infec-

tions are occurring at a startlingly high rate.

There is a belief that there is an "influential connection" between the 1 million teenagers who get pregnant each year and the violence that pervades their lives. Reports also confirm that across the lines of race and class a number of teenagers in America are openly identifying themselves as gay or bisexual. And there are reported cases where teenagers trade sex with older men of the same sex for shelter as well as pleasure and the older men, perhaps, takes advantage of youth and naiveté. The underlying dangers to these teens are exploitation, drug abuse, and AIDS.

The questions that one might ask are: "What are we doing to help a generation and our nation that is at risk?" Do we hear the cry for help? Does another little boy have to write to the President of the United States to say that he's afraid for his life and then be killed in a drive-by shooting while we sit on our 'back part' and do nothing? Are we going to sit back and let little boys be sexually abused in our community because the alleged offender is a so-called leader? God forbid! Now is the time to heed the cry for help.



We Thank God for Jesus

"What In Hell Do You Want?"

Matthew 25:10, 11, Jesus said, And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, LORD, LORD, open to us.

LORD, Someone knocking on the door, and ringing your bell, will you let them in HEAVEN, OR TELL 'EM TO GO TO HELL?

Look! there's A PREACHER out there, in his long flowing black robe, He say he's PREACHED to the people, and collected all their GOLD.

Luke 20:46,47, Jesus said, Beware of the scribes, which desire to walk in long robes, and love greeting in markets, and the highest seats in the synagogues, and the chief rooms at feasts: Which devour widows' houses, and for a shew make long prayers: the same shall receive greater damnation.

LORD, Someone knocking on the door, and ringing your Bell, Will you let them in HEAVEN, or TELL 'EM TO GO TO HELL?

LOOK! There's A MISSIONARY out there, with a BIG BIBLE IN HAND, She says she's fed YOUR WORD, TO THE CHILDREN IN THE FOREIGN LANDS.

(CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME; THEN IT SPREADS! America is the SICKEST COUNTY UNDER THE SUN; And she Wants to go to OTHER COUNTRIES TO TRAIN THEIR PEOPLE. IN CHINA, where the WHIPPING CANE IS A TOOL USED TO KEEP CRIME DOWN, AND CHANGE THE MINDS OF THE PEOPLE WHO COMMIT THEM. They have 80% less CRIMES THAN AMERICA; AND AMERICA WANTS TO SAY ITS CRUEL, for them to cane the people. WHEN AMERICA IS THE MOST CRUELEST NATION THERE IS, IN LYING, RAPES ROBBERY DRUGS, CHILD MOLESTATION, MURDERS AND MANY MANY MORE.)

Matthew 23:15, Jesus said, Woe(CURSED) unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte(christian), and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

◆◆◆WILL AMERICA ROB GOD???◆◆◆

LORD, Someone' knocking on your door, and ringing your BELL, WILL YOU LET THEM IN

HEAVEN, OR TELL 'EM TO GO HELL?

LOOK! There is a DEACON out there, standing TALL AND PROUD, Says he's been WAITING TABLES AT CHURCH 20 years and he didn't TAKE A PENNY OUT.

(But owe a BROTHER IN THE CHURCH \$50, AND WON'T PAY THAT.)

Matthew 23:28, Jesus said, Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

LORD, Someone' knocking on your door, and ringing your BELL, Will you let them in HEAVEN, OR TELL 'EM TO GO TO HELL?

LOOK! THERE' a CHURCH MEMBER OUT THERE, IN HIS FANCY FINE CLOTHES, HE SAYS he's PAID OVER HIS TITHE MONEY; AND WANT TO SAVE HIS SOUL.

Luke 11:42, JESUS said, Woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and Pass over judgment and the love of GOD: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

LORD, Someone' knocking on our door, and ringing your bell, Will you let them in HEAVEN, OR TELL 'EM TO GO TO HELL? LOOK! There's A CHOIR MEMBER OUT THERE, IN HIS LONG CHOIR ROBE, SINGS ZION SONGS ON SUNDAY, BUT SATURDAY NIGHTS AT THE CLUBS, IT ROCK & ROLL.

Matthew 23:13, JESUS said, Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

Luke 13:24, JESUS said, Strive to enter at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

Luke 14:34,35, JESUS said, Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land, nor for the dunghill (MANURE HILL); but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

GOD is not through with US YET, SO LETS PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER, ALWAYS. Directed*Arranged*Produced*Guided by our LORD JESUS CHRIST. Written by Billy B.J. Morrison, III, Your Brother in CHRIST JESUS ALWAYS.

The Outreach Prayer Breakfast

This was a free Saturday, no breakfast.

Did you go to church? If so, what was your pastor's subject? and what scripture? What did you learn from his sermon? Were you seated next to a dedicated Christian, or should you judge someone you feel is no Christian at all, or did you hold a conversation through the whole Church service about the preacher or others you don't like? You attend church services on Sunday to worship, not gossip, titile, discuss who's right or wrong, but to praise and worship. Just love your church family, without any its or buts. Talk them up, not down.

Who is God?

God is Creator and Sustainer of this universe and earth and of all living things in them.

What are his attributes?

God has many attributes that describe or point to what he is, and they are as follows:

God is Omnipotent—he is all powerful, all power, solar, nuclear, atomic, electric and energy comes from him. There is no power outside of God. Everything moves through Him.

God is Omniscient—he knows he is all wise. All branches of science comes from God, all revelations and ways of knowing come from God. There is no knowledge outside of God.

God is Omnipresent—he is forever present in all things. No one can go out of his presence. There is no "here and now" without him.

God is liberator—he sets free those in captivity. He looses those in social, economic, political or satanic bondage. "He sets the prisoner free." God is a healer, he will heal us when we are sick. He will

make us whole. God is defender—he will protect us from evil. God is provider—he gives us food when we are hungry, shelter when we're outdoors, gives us money when we are jobless, provides friends when we're lonely. Whatever our needs are, he will provide.

God is justice—He gives us moral laws to live by. God is constantly judging our actions and rewarding those who obey his laws and punishing those who willfully disobey his laws. He is all this and much, much more.

How many one get to know God?

One may get to know God through a sincere desire to be one with Jesus Christ through prayer and meditation, repenting of one's sins and believing in Jesus Christ.

Through knowing Jesus, one comes into knowledge of God, who is seeking us through Jesus. We need only to seek Jesus, and we will find and know God. If you don't know him today, please get to know him.

To all sick and hurting, get to know him. Read II Chronicles 7:14, Mark 11:22-24 and loving all mankind from the heart, and you will make it. We will make it together.

Thought:

We can understand when our prayers are answered like we want them to be—we have a testimony. But what about when they are not answered like we want them to be? Think about it.

Write Outreach Prayer Breakfast, P.O. Box 1223, Lubbock, TX 79408.

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The WMS of Mt. Gilead Baptist Church will present their 5th Sunday Women in White program at 5 p.m. on Sunday, July 31, 1994.

Our theme is "They That Wait Upon the Lord" (Isaiah 40:31)

Devotional message by Sis. Martha Blue.

The message by Sis. Vinia Thompson.

Soloist Sis. Rita Page.

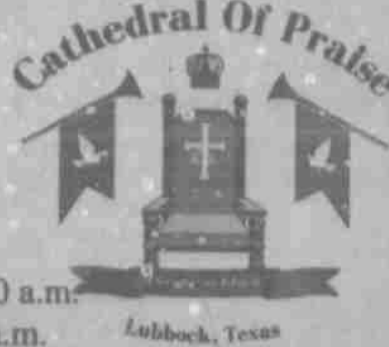
A Reception will follow the program.

The public is invited to come and share this special day with us. You will be glad you did, says Sis. Vinia Thompson, program chairperson.

Sis. Frances Pell, General President

Bro. Charles Johnson, Chairman of Deacons

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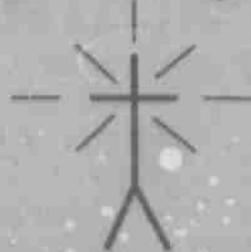
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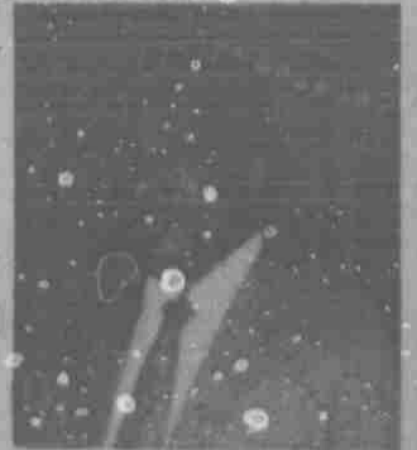
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Oven-Browned Beef Stew

- 5 whole cloves
- 16 small onions (same size as meat pieces)
- 2 pounds boneless beef stew meat, cut into 1 1/2 inch cubes
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 cup hot water
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1/2 teaspoon bottled brown gravy sauce
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- 1 bay leaf
- 1/8 teaspoon thyme leaves

- 2 tablespoons flour mixed with 2 tablespoons water
- Chopped parsley for garnish

Stick cloves into 5 of the onions. (Onions should be the same size as meat cubes; if using larger onions, cut into halves or quarters.) In a greased 2-quart baking pan, alternate meat pieces and onions.

In a small frying pan over medium heat, melt sugar and stir until caramelized to a dark golden brown (do not burn); remove from heat. Carefully and gradually add the 1 cup hot water. (sugar will harden); then return to heat and stir until sugar melts again. Stir in salt, gravy sauce, vinegar, bay leaf, and thyme; pour over meat.

Bake, covered, in 300° convection oven, turning once or twice, for 2 1/2 to 3 hours or until meat is tender when pierced. About 10 to 15 minutes before serving, remove pan from oven and stir flour mixture into meat gravy. Return pan to oven and continue to bake, uncovered, until thickened. Stir well and serve sprinkled with parsley.



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Personals



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Bowles Announces Repeal of "Opinion Molder" Rule

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Administrator Erskine B. Bowles today announced the repeal of SBA's media policy rule, also known as the "opinion molder" rule, overturning a 40-year policy excluding small businesses involved in the media from receiving SBA financial assistance.

"The repeal of the opinion molder rule will open the door to small business ownership and expansion to many deserving businesses," Bowles said. "This action expands the President's commitment to increase access to capital for all small businesses."

The opinion molder rule forbade SBA financial assistance to businesses engaged in "the creation, origination, expression, dissemination, propagation or distribution of ideas, values, thoughts, opinions or similar intellectual property, of medium, form or content."

The rule was based on concerns that the constitutionally-protected rights of freedom of speech and press should not be compromised by either the fear of government reprisal or the expectation of government assistance.

"We believe that our present regulatory procedures for dealing with loan applications and problems that might arise with these loans are sufficient to protect the public interest in a free press," Bowles said.

SBA proposed the rule's repeal in April, and received a number of public comments on the idea. One, from Ray Thomas, editor of the Yazoo Herald in Yazoo City, Mississippi, said the rule seemed too harsh a restriction on his business plans. "My wife and I have been discussing for the last year or so the possibility of one day owning our own newspaper," wrote Thomas. "I don't know if that will ever happen without an SBA loan."

The repeal, effective July 15, will allow many small businesses throughout the country, but particularly in rural areas, to obtain urgently needed financial assistance for maintenance, upgrading and growth. SBA estimates that 75,000 small businesses, including publishers, movie theaters, bookstores and broadcasters will be affected by the repeal. Those businesses represent nearly 95 percent of the companies in these industries.

"I have been in business 23 years and am trying to expand my businesses from two screens to six," said Robert Piechota, owner of Montgomery Theater in New Jersey. "My bank has told me they will only make loans with SBA backing."

Small business previously restricted by the media policy rule will benefit greatly from access to several SBA's loan programs, including the GreenLine Revolving Line of Credit and the General Business Loan Guaranty Program, as well as special programs for smaller loans such as the Microloan and LowDoc programs. The LowDoc program offers an easy application process and quick response to small business people needing a guarantee on a loan for less than \$100,000.

For more information about SBA loan programs, contact your nearest SBA district office or call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800-8-ASK-SBA.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Lubbock/Citibus has established an FY 1995 goal of 20% of funds to disadvantaged business enterprise participation (DBE) in contracted work and operational procurement, under DOT assisted contracts. The goals and description of the City of Lubbock's DBE Program are available for review between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the address listed below for thirty days following this notice. Comments are for information purposes only.

DBE DIRECTORY

The City of Lubbock and Citibus are interested in expanding its directory of DBE firms capable of providing goods and services required by the transit system. Firms interested in assuring inclusion or desiring to be listed in the directory should submit a letter of interest stating the firm's qualifications and area of service to the following address:

CITIBUS
P.O. BOX 2000/801 TEXAS AVE.
LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79457

Account Executive Needed

Sales Position available at a regional newspaper.

Sale experience in newspaper field required; Radio experience a plus.

Out going personality and self motivation are desired characteristics.

Resume required. Contact The Southwest Digest at

762-3612

ask for T.J. Patterson or Eddie Richardson and make an appointment for an interview. An Equal Opportunity Employer

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New Hours

Call 765-8114 or 765-8115

6 pm-12 am

7 Days a Week

Sunday: Best of Gospel Music

6 pm-12 am

Saturday: Oldies & Goodies Show

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T.J. Patterson hosts

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R&B, Soul, Gospel, Jazz

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Need a Job? Want to be a DJ?

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STATE COMPTROLLER JOHN SHARP APPOINTS AGENCY'S FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

(AUSTIN)—Comptroller John Sharp announced the appointment of Lee Johnson to the prestigious and important position of Administrative Law Judge for the State Comptroller's Office. Johnson becomes the first African American in Texas State Comptroller history to serve in this position.

"In addition to being an individual of renown respect, Lee is also actively involved in the community," Sharp said. "He has a keen knowledge of state tax policy and a deep concern for the rights of the individual."

As an Administrative Law Judge, Johnson's major responsibility is to provide arbitration between the Comptroller's Office and Texas taxpayers. In cases in which a taxpayer believes a tax liability has been unfairly assessed, the individual is given the option of taking the case to the Administrative Law Judge. After a hearing, the Law Judge issues an opinion on whether the tax liability was fairly assessed.

Ray Bonilla, General Counsel for the Comptroller's office, says Administrative Law Judges deal with difficult tax policy issues on a daily basis. "Their decisions are obviously important to the taxpayers involved in the case, but they are also important to overall tax policy. Lee has the experience, judgment, and temperament to enable him to perform in this capacity very effectively," Bonilla said.

Johnson is a 30-year-old native of Portland, Oregon. He received a bachelor's degree from Oregon State University and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University



LEE JOHNSON
Administrative Law Judge
for the State Comptroller's Office

of Texas School of Law in 1986. He worked for the Texas Railroad Commission after graduation through 1991, when he joined the Comptroller's Office as a Hearing Attorney.

Johnson has also held various civic and community offices, including the Board of Directors for the Austin Area Urban League, the Board of Directors for the Big Brothers and Big Sisters program and as a member of Texas Organized Professionals (TOPS). He hosts a local television talk show.

"I am excited about this new challenge," Johnson said. "This position offers more than the opportunity to affect tax policy. It offers the opportunity to demonstrate to our youth that dreams can be realized through dedication to education."

"All too often minority youth are only shown the narrow road of success traveled by athletes and entertainers. I want youth to be exposed to the broad highways of success that take just as much dedication and hard work, but can be traveled by a greater number of individuals," Johnson added.