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Southwest Digest

July 13 thru July 19, 1995

VOL. XIX, No. 24

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NATIONAL BLACK NEWS SURVEY

from NBNB Communications

SUPREME COURT DEALS MAJOR BLOW TO AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Supreme Court last week delivered a major blow to a broad range of government affirmative action programs. Such programs were initially designed to give preferential treatment to blacks and other minorities when they competed for jobs, contracts and scholarships. The goal was to compensate for past discrimination. But last week's 5-to-4 high court ruling, while not outlawing the programs, made it much more difficult for the government to justify the affirmative action practices. In effect, the court opened the door for numerous legal challenges to affirmative action programs by applying what is known as "strict scrutiny"—the most difficult legal test to meet. During the next few months, the likely result is that a wide range of programs designed to benefit minorities and women will be declared unconstitutional. Affirmative action programs came under their most heated attack when the Republican Party took over Congress after last November's elections. Conservatives and many whites were generally pleased by the ruling. But civil rights groups were outraged. National black political leader Jesse Jackson summed up their feelings when he said, "This decision hurts. It's a major setback."

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR ELIMINATES OVER 100 AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAMS

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.—Prior to last week's Supreme Court ruling making it much more difficult to justify the existence of affirmative action programs, California Gov. Pete Wilson started the anti-affirmative action ball rolling with an executive order which eliminated dozens of affirmative action programs in his state. Wilson simply struck down any program which had not been written into law. His action meant that 118 boards and commissions which had been established to insure better treatment for minorities and women in the awarding of state jobs, contracts and scholarships were struck down. Wilson is running for the Republican Party presidential nomination. And ending affirmative action programs has become a major goal of the Republican party.

STUDY SAYS GOP PLANS WILL WIDEN RICH-POOR GAP

WASHINGTON, D.C.—"The poor are being asked to bear a large share of the burden of this economic program... at a time when economic forces are already running against them." Those were the words last week of Urban Institute spokesperson Isabel Sawhill referring to the Republican tax and spending cuts currently making their way through Congress. It is the view of Sawhill and an apparent majority of economic analysts that the Republican budget plans will have the effect of making the poor poorer and the rich richer. If the plans become law, they will take effect at a time when a host of non-government economic factors are already making life increasingly difficult for the poor. According to the Labor Department, for example, the

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Chavis-led organization encourages Black America to save itself

By Al Brown

Special to the NNPA Courtesy of the Houston Defender

The black empowerment organization founded by Rev. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. during his last days as head of the NAACP is successfully evolving from its infancy stage.

Born from the ideology that Black America has to take control of its own destiny, The National African American Leadership Summit (NAALS) focuses on economic empowerment, more black political education, as well as the saving and cultivating of black youths.

A believer that organizations advocating black issues should be black-run, black-financially backed and should include the leadership of all of Black America, Chavis and his young organization faced a tough test at last June's Baltimore Summit.

By inviting Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan to the NAALS table despite a fury of white corporate and Jewish protest, Chavis refused to buckle in to pressure, setting a strong tone for the new organization. While the move may have been unpopular with conservative blacks, Chavis received encouragement and support from the grassroots segment of Black America.

Now, on the first year anniversary of the Baltimore Summit, Chavis and the NAALS are gaining rapid exposure and wider acceptance across America.

On the eve of the fourth National African American Leadership Summit held in Houston June 9-11, Chavis candidly described the inner workings of the NAALS, its purpose and what the organization needs from Black America.

Defender: What's the summit's role?

Chavis: We really have a dual role. One is empowering the African-American community and dealing with some of the internal divisions and working to bridge those divisions. But externally, we have the job of reeducating the larger society including white America.

Right now the black community is being scape-goated for all of America's ills. We intend to stand up and say no to the scapegoating and proactively try to engage our own people, particularly our young people; one of the most encouraging things about the Summit so far has been the attraction of young African Americans.

Defender: Are more summits planned before concrete implementation is set in motion?

Chavis: The summit is still in its embryo state. But over the last 12 months there has been a growing outcry, particularly at the grassroots level, for the summit to become a membership based organization. That will be discussed at the Houston Summit.

In fact, this is the pivotal summit. If delegates and participants approve and ratify a constitution and bylaws, the Houston Summit will birth a new organization.

Another concrete proposal to come from the Houston Summit is the strategy to mobilize one million black men to march on Washington October 15 of this year. That's very concrete.

Thirdly, over the last nine months we have been working quietly to put in place a African-American development fund, which will be a venture capital fund to assist African-American business persons and also focus on youth entrepreneur training.

We realize last year that the black community has not placed enough emphasis on economic development. In other words, if African Americans are going to look towards the 21st century as having a sustained presence in the U.S., we're going to have to work hard to build an economic infrastructure for our community. The summit is committed to that process. That's the purpose that we invited African-American business leaders from across the country.

Another definitive turn that this summit takes is that it is the first that representatives from Africa (Ghana, Liberia, Angola, Nigeria and South Africa) will sit at the table with us.

The NAALS will help to promote the establishing of joint economic ventures between African Americans and Africans. We are also reaching out to Caribbean.

We're expanding the scope of the summit, but in order to be effective, there has to be people committed to implementing the plans and programs. We now have a full-time operational office in Washington, D.C.

Defender: The NAALS was born without traditional funding from corporate America. How will the organization be funded?

Chavis: That's also under discussion at this meeting. I believe that the NAALS should receive its funding directly from the African-American community and not engage in grant making proposals to foundations.

With the NAALS, we're departing from the traditional route. We believe the African-American community will support a grassroots and a national organization to the extent of which that organization will advocate unapologetically.

While all these right wing decisions are being made in the Congress and at the state level, there's a void of response; no one is challenging the Contract With America; the Supreme Court just ruled against minority scholarships; California Governor Pete Wilson recently signed an executive order to eliminate affirmative action and the Voting Rights Act is under attack.

In a few months various forces can erode 20 years of progress. This is a very serious matter. Through the NAALS we intend to engage those forces proactively, not necessarily just in reaction to what they do. In other words, we believe that the fundamental uplifting and destiny of

the African-American community is in our hands.

We will not depend on the government or forces outside of the African-American community. This is the mistake that some of the other African-American organizations have made. There has been an old reliance on help from outside the community without putting enough emphasis on galvanizing and refocusing and redirecting the wealth of talent and resources that are in the African-American community.

African-Americans spend \$400 billion yearly. But most of that spending has nothing to do with our liberation, has nothing to do with our self upliftment, but concentrates on funding the very forces that oppress us, and we're trying to change that.

Defender: What is NAALS role in upcoming national elections?

Chavis: We will play a role by registering African Americans to vote. For example, when the one million men march in Washington, we're making sure that they are registered.

We realize that this is the eve of the 1996 presidential election and we will weigh in. But we will weigh in on the issues that affect the quality of life of the African-American community rather than get into a situation where we blindly follow a candidate or a party.

What we'll do is help disseminate political education and voter education because we've found as you do voter registration and voter mobilization, if there's no voter education, voters still may not vote, even though registered.

Defender: Will the organization provide an avenue for dialogue with black conservatives and black Republicans?

Chavis: Oh, no question. Part of our principles is that we have to outreach to all the diverse forces in our community, whether Democrats, Republicans, conservative, moderate or liberal, we want everybody at the table.

Defender: If the targeted goal of the one million men march on Washington falls short in numbers, will it slow NAALS's momentum?

Chavis: No. We believe that the very call for such a demonstration already has had some therapeutic consequences in the community. In my travels across the country over the last nine months, I see brothers preparing themselves by trying to get off drugs, alcohol and find jobs, so that when October 15 is here they will have their backs straightened.

Defender: What's the significance of the march?

Chavis: The significance of the march is partly what will happen after the march. This will not be an anonymous march; people are registering to march; we're getting names and addresses. We're going to build a computer base to network and hold this together.

Defender: There are many unheard voices in Black America that have never had a forum to share their knowledge and proposed solutions. Will the NAALS welcome critical dialogue from this group?

Chavis: One reason that we include the National Town Hall Meeting as part of the summit is so that we can gather input from the community of the city where the summit is held.

Defender: Will the NAALS make an attempt to present issues in a clear and definable way, so that it brings a faster understanding to the African-American community as a whole and not just those who are well-educated?

Chavis: Clarity was genius of the 1960s. It was crystal clear what the issues were and also clear of how those at the local level could participate.

Today, in terms of how issues are framed, there's a lot of confusion. For example, take affirmative action, we've allowed the right wing to wrongly define it, and they've done the same with welfare. People on welfare did not build the welfare system, but they want to blame welfare mothers as if they are criminals.

Defender: In summation, what are some immediate challenges facing Black America?

Chavis: Political education, economic development and the embracing of our youth in terms of encouraging leadership development. I've said that what we need to do is raise up a new generation of freedom fighters.

Defender: The NAALS was formed while you were still head of the NAACP, had you not left the NAACP what would have happened to the NAALS?

Chavis: It would have been a priority of the NAACP. Ironically, many local NAACP branches are still participating in the NAALS.

Defender: What do you want to say to Black America?

Chavis: One essential message that the summit is trying to deliver is how important it is for the black community for its destiny. In our view, there is no guilt left in the white community that we can appeal to.

When *Time* and *Newsweek* report that white males are angry, what they're really saying is that white males are afraid. Again, the larger society is acting out its fears by scapegoating the black community.

Across the board there's an attempt to prevent African Americans from being productive citizens. In other words, there is a blockade being established on the African-American community. However, the NAALS will expose and break the blockade.

ANHEUSER-BUSCH SPONSORS LUNCHEON FOR BLACK OFFICIALS



Anheuser-Busch executives Deloria Jones (third, left), corporate affairs western region manager, and Victor M. Julien, (third, right), corporate affairs director of special programs, welcome members of the National Organization of Black County Officials (NOBCO), to the organization's awards luncheon, underwritten by Anheuser-Busch Companies. Jones and Julien are shown with NOBCO members (from left to right, including), Michael Hightower, NOBCO board member and project vice president—Calif.; Webster J. Guillory, NOBCO chairman Calif.; John Stroger, NOBCO board member and general counsel—Ill.; and Donald M. Ayers Sr., NOBCO board member and vice chairman—La. NOBCO, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary, works to advance community progress through economic development.

BLACK LEADERS DISCUSS "AFFIRMATIVE ACTION"

At a Black Leadership Summit on affirmative action in Washington, D.C., NNPA President Dorothy Leavell (far right) is joining in a discussion on the effects of recent Supreme Court rulings by other panelists: Anthony Robinson (standing) of the Minority Enterprise Legal Defense organization, Dr. Ron Walters (left) Professor of Political Science at Howard University and the Rev. Jesse Jackson (sitting in the middle) of the Rainbow Coalition.



FLOWERS AND MARY KAY STRIKE GOLD!



Members of the Mary Kay Black Women's Advisory Committee were featured in radio and print releases that focused on their career path and community involvement. Pictured (left to right) at the PCC awards luncheon are Michelle Flowers, president and CEO of Flower Communications Group; and Shelley Whiddon and Karen Harris of the marketing publicity department at Mary Kay Cosmetics, Inc.

Flowers Communications Group (FCG), a Chicago-based public relations agency, has been awarded a Golden Trumpet from the Publicity Club of Chicago (PCC) and a Regional Creativity in Public Relations Award (CIPRA) from *INSIDE PR*. The awards, which honor excellence in public relations, were presented for the firm's work on Mary Kay Cosmetics' black consumer market program. FCG increased public awareness of Mary Kay products and career opportunities through a comprehensive media relations campaign which spoke directly to black women.



Ruby Jay's Corner

Sunday School began at 9:30 a.m. at the New Hope Baptist Church—the "Church Where The People Really Care." Rev. Billy R. Moton is the proud pastor. Supt. James Sterling opened up Sunday School. This was Youth Day and young Brother Skief presided. A song, "Love Me," was sung. Prayer was given. Another song, "Blessed Assurance," was sung as the classes marched to their various classes for instruction.

After reassembling after thirty minutes of learning, they marched back singing "Pass Me Not." High points of the lesson were given by the Junior Class with Brother Patrick Johnson as teacher. It was very good. The Secretary's Report: Youth Department—Senior Class received both banners—Attendance and Offering. Adult Department: Class No. 1, Men's Class, lost both banners to Class No. 4. There was one visitor who was Supt. Sterling's sister from Denver, Colorado. She was attending Dunbar All Class Reunion. There were also several visitors in the morning worship hour. The Youth Department led the morning devotional period. During the morning worship hour, the Senior Choir led the processional singing "When All God's Children Get Together." Altar prayer

was offered by Rev. Jeff Brown. A song, "Nothing But The Blood," was sung. Sister Kendrick read the morning scripture which was St. John 14:1-6. Prayer was given by Eric Walker. Another song, "The Lord is Holy," was sung.

Responsive reading was done with the congregation standing. The morning hymn was "In The Garden." Pastoral observations were given by Pastor Moton. Another song, "He Cares," was sung.

The hymn of preparation was "Have Thine Own Way," was sung. "It's A Good Time to Wait on the Lord." The scripture text was Psalms 27:14. The message was great!

Invitation to discipleship was extended and one lady came for prayer for her sick husband, who is a patient in the hospital. Prayer always changes things. Don't give up!

Don't forget July 15, 1995 as it is the Annual Ushers Musical. It will be held at 3:00 p.m. Brother Robert Cori is counting on your presence. He is chairperson.

Remember Winnie Knighton and others in your prayers. Services were held for Deen Nash Friday morning at Bethel A.M.E. Church. Our love, sympathy and prayers go to the family.

Maxine Burton of Oakland, California is visiting her mother, Mrs. Grace Sullivan, and other family members.

Mrs. Elsie Young is home from Giddings, Texas where her family held their family reunion. They reported a most enjoyable time.

Mary Ann Jones was here last week attending the Dunbar All Class Reunion. She reported a wonderful reunion. She resides in Dallas, Texas

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National Black News Survey

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

income gap between upper income Americans and lower income Americans has been widening for the last 15 years in a row. The result has been that households earning \$60,000 or more a year have been getting better off over time while those earning \$15,000 or less have been getting worse off. The Republican plans will make that situation worse because disproportionately the tax cuts will benefit upper income Americans, while cuts in government programs will most adversely affect those with lower incomes.

BLACK WEALTH CONFERENCE SET FOR LOUISIANA

LAFAYETTE, LA.—A daylong series of seminars and workshops designed to show African-Americans how to build personal and family wealth will take place in Lafayette, La. on Saturday, June 24. The wealth building conference is being conducted by the Better Life Club of America—a Washington, D.C. based financial self-help group which devises income enhancement programs and projects. Conference topics will range from starting home-based businesses to investing and from repairing negative credit to making profits in the 900-number business. Financial planning and debt reduction experts will also be present. Interested persons can get registration information by calling Gwen or Bernell Nora at 318-229-4100 or 1-800-748-1821.

HEART DISEASE HITS BLACKS DIFFERENTLY THAN WHITES

CHICAGO, IN.—Heart disease is the number one killer in America. But it appears to affect blacks differently than whites. The biggest problem among whites is clogged arteries which reduce the ability of the heart to pump blood through the body. But according to a just-released study, the deadliest problem among blacks is the enlargement of the heart. This may explain why blacks with heart disease have a higher death rate than whites with heart disease. It is not that one ailment is worse than the other. The simple fact is that most heart disease treatments have focused on clogged arteries and, as a result the principle heart disease problem among blacks has gone largely unstudied and untreated. Controlling blood pressure is believed to be the best way to prevent enlargement of the heart. The heart becomes enlarged when it has to overwork and becomes over muscled and thus inefficient. The

study was published in last Wednesday's issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

AIDS CASES RISE SHARPLY AMONG BLACK HOMOSEXUALS

ATLANTA, GA.—Officials at the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention are reporting a dramatic rise in the number of AIDS cases among black male homosexuals. During the first half of 1994, there was a 79 percent increase in AIDS cases among black gay males as compared to the same period in 1989. The rate of increase among white male homosexuals was only 14 percent. There was also a dramatic rise among Hispanic gay males of 61 percent. Despite an increased spread of the deadly disease into the general population, approximately 90 percent of all Americans afflicted with the deadly HIV virus fall into two groups; homosexual males and intravenous drug users. The CDC also found that in recent years AIDS infection has begun to spread faster in small towns and rural communities.

PAGEANT RECRUITING BLACK CONTESTANTS

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 55001, Washington, D.C., 20035.

SOUTH AFRICA ABOLISHES THE DEATH PENALTY

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA—While the U.S. is moving toward establishing an ever larger number of crimes for which a person can be put to death, South Africa last week abolished the death penalty after declaring it cruel and unusual punishment. The decision by the South African high court had been expected for some time. Nelson Mandela, the country's first black president, had long been critical of the death penalty, saying among other things that it was used disproportionately against blacks.

Junior Women Will Celebrate Annual Day

The Junior Women of the Greater St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church will be celebrating their Annual Day Sunday afternoon, July 16, 1995 at 3:00 p.m.

Officers and members are asking all women to come and worship with them as they bring to you "Christian Women Pressing On in Christ." This theme has been selected for this joyous occasion. The scripture reference is Phil. 3:14.

Guest speaker for the occasion will be Sister Mamie Bush Johnson of Dallas, Texas, who is the Junior Women's Auxiliary of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Texas.

All are asked to mark their calendars for this fellowship and praise.

The officers of the Junior Women of St. Luke are: Sister Chris Evans, president; Rev. J.H. Ford, pastor.

USTA/NJTL Announces 1995 Regional Rallies

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y.—The United States Tennis Association/National Junior Tennis League will present 36 Regional Rallies during the months of July and August, it was announced today.

USTA/NJTL chapters throughout the country will host 36 fun-filled recreational tennis events that feature team play, round-robin tournaments, carnivals and tennis olympics. The one and two-day rallies are rewards for those players who display enthusiasm, strong effort and good sportsmanship throughout the USTA/NJTL season.

"The USTA/NJTL Regional Rallies provide opportunities for youngsters to expand their tennis experience beyond the local level," said USTA/NJTL national coordinator, Dave Abrams. "The key ingredients are fun, friendship, teamwork and sportsmanship."

The USTA/NJTL, founded in 1969 by Arthur Ashe, is a beginner and advanced beginner program that provides youths with access to tennis, promoting team play in a low-key competitive atmosphere. Over 800 local chapters serve more than 135,000 boys and girls nationwide.

Founded in 1881, the USTA is a not-for-profit volunteer organization with over a half a million individual members and over 6,000 organizational members. As the official governing body for tennis in America, the USTA uses its \$94 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, Fed Cup, and the Olympics.

Black Community to Share in Historic \$180 Million Dollar Settlement

In a settlement that has far reaching implications for African American communities everywhere, a proposed settlement was submitted for approval by the Contra Costa County Superior Court in behalf of over 60,000 claimants, most of whom were black residents of Richmond, California.

According to John Burris, the Oakland-based African-American attorney who helped bring the case to settlement, this is "an historic development."

"On July 14, 1993," he explained from his offices in downtown Oakland, "a cloud of Sulfuric acid from a tanker belonging to the General Chemical Corporation, Richmond Works, escaped from the car after a safety valve failed and spread over a largely black area of West Contra Costa County. Over 20,000 people sought medical attention."

Fortunately, few people were hospitalized, and most of the injuries were short lived, although there are still people complaining about lingering problems.

"But," Mr. Burris pointed out, "for years, all

kinds of environmental problems have been building up in black communities nationwide. Anything from dumping toxic waste, to the kind of carelessness which occurred in this case. Most of the time, the offending party get away with it because the community often lack the resources to fight back. But not this time."

According to Mr. Burris, this is the largest settlement of this kind that works in the interest of blacks. If preliminary approval is granted, claimants will be notified of the terms of the settlement and the procedures for sharing in the proceeds. In addition to monetary compensation to claimants, \$1.5 million of the settlement will be used to create a fund to benefit the health and children of the Richmond area.

"The black communities of this nation," Mr. Burris said forcefully, "will no longer serve as the waste dump of America. I hope this case sends a clear message to Corporate America that we will remain vigilant, and they will pay a high price if they come into our communities and pollute."



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Parway Manor Care Center News - Volunteer Registration

Willie Lan Davis visited George Skelton and Ruth Robinson last Sunday afternoon, and enjoyed a wonderful time together.

The New Zion Dayist Church Missionary Society with seven members came last Monday evening and held worship services for the residents. The lesson was taught by their teacher, Sister Smathers.

R. Dale Evans visited Bassie Johnson last Tuesday morning.

Willie Jean Floyd came back last Tuesday afternoon and visited with George Skelton.

Eva P. Evans visited Joe Wesley last Tuesday afternoon.

Hayward Lewis visited his brother, Artis Lewis, last Tuesday afternoon.

Ann Day, who works with C.P.A.G., visited the residents last Wednesday morning. She always is present for Rev. W.H. Stephens' weekly 1923 A.C. Bible lesson. There were two other visitors to come with her. It was another joyful time. The lesson theme was "I Am That Bread of Life." Scripture was St. John 6:48. Jennie Ann Jordan and Jaughton Shimir Botger visited their mother and grandmother last Thursday morning.

Mrs. Ber Birmingham, a faithful member of Holy Deliverance Temple Church, visited the residents last Wednesday afternoon.

The Parway Drive Baptist Church had six members to come last Wednesday evening and held worship services for the residents.

The King Sisters came by last Friday evening and visited the residents with some of their spiritual songs.

Albert Lincoln visited his brother, William Lincoln, last Friday afternoon.

Lethia Alexander and Susie Ludd visited the residents last Friday afternoon. They are members of the Alexander Chapel C.O.M.C. where Elder Lemuel Thurston is the proud pastor.

Why pay the high price of being lost when salvation is free?

Mrs. Gloria Okuma, A.D. & R.; R.V. W.H. Stephens, Assistant A.D. & R.

OBITUARY

Final rites were held for Mrs. Yesletta "Hess" Adams Wednesday, July 12, 1995 at the Greater St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. J.H. Ford, pastor, officiating.

Interment was held in Peaceful Memorial Gardens under the direction of Jamison Funeral Home.

Active pallbearers were Alvin Harris, Leon Jeffery, Tony Pendergraft, Albert Evans, Calvin Walker, and Michael Henderson.

Honorary pallbearers were Deacons of St. Luke and flower bearers were members of Mission One.

Mrs. Adams was born in Mansfield, Texas August 20, 1920 to the parentage of Lottie and Germaine Briscoe. She became a Christian when a very young girl and began her work in Christ's Kingdom. In 1951, she and her husband moved to Lubbock, Texas where she joined the St. Luke Baptist Church. She was a faithful and ardent worker for many years.

Mrs. Adams was especially loyal to the work of the Mission One Hannah Circle and never refused a task because she was too busy or because she was too tired.

Mrs. Adams was a lovable character, a person everyone chose to have as a friend and willing to be a friend to all. She never pushed herself forward, but always stayed in the background working and praying and doing whatever she was called upon to do for the Master.

She was the widow of the late H.M. Adams. This couple was always interested in the Youth Movement of St. Luke Baptist Church.

She is survived by one brother, Bill Briscoe of San Francisco, California; one sister, Mrs. Weedall Givens of Dallas, Texas; three sons/nephews and their families—Gene Gatewood and Kevin Gatewood, both of Lubbock, Texas and Michael Gatewood of Arlington, Texas; three grandchildren, one great-grandchild, a host of relatives and friends.



Yesletta "Hess" Adams

Portland Mass Choir



In the 25th chapter of Matthew, Christ says that the person who is faithful with small things shall one day be entrusted with much. That scripture could find no better illustration than the Portland Mass Choir. The choir's debut release, *It's Jesus*, is proof positive that single-minded purpose and devotion to the Lord indeed yields great returns.

With a sound that is both cutting-edge contemporary, yet still firmly rooted in tradition, the Portland Mass Choir is creating its own, unique definition of Gospel music. The title song from *It's Jesus* begins as a soul-stirring ballad before sliding into a smooth urban groove. It also makes a simple but powerful statement that sums up the choir's message and mission.

"Our choir is made up of people of all denominations, races and backgrounds," says co-founder and conductor, Ray Tellis, "but Christ is the common bond that brings us together and makes us strong. We live the life we sing about, and if it's not about Him, it's not worth doing."

Among numerous stand-outs, "Deliverance" showcases both the Portland Mass Choir's jazzier and traditional side. "Lord We Praise You" is a dramatic, heartrending song of worship, and "Come and Go" is a joyful, uptempo invitation to lift up the name of the Lord.

"All of our songs are message songs," explains Ray, "and all of them point directly to Him."

While the choir members share a common focus and purpose, the Portland Mass Choir is also the realization of a personal dream held by Ray almost from the day he was born. "When I was two weeks old, my pastor laid hands on me and said that God was going to anoint me to play music," says Ray. "And I've been doing it almost ever since."

Ray was raised in a devout Christian home, surrounded by older brothers and sisters who all sang and played music around the house and in the church choir. By age four, Ray was playing the piano. He was that choir's accompanist at age 12, and its conductor by the time he was 15.

While the adult choir was initially skeptical of the leadership of an adolescent, Ray's dedication and abundant talents prevailed, and he was soon accepted and respected in his new role, where he remained for a number of years.

Having been born with a natural gift, Ray received his only formal musical training in his middle and high school bands, playing the trumpet, though he had an innate ability to make music on any instrument he spent enough time to become familiar with.

As Ray filled his days with dual careers in the workaday world as well as the church, he also harbored a vision of greater things, playing keyboards and arranging on a custom album project in early 1983 that pulled together many of Portland's finest Gospel talents and became the seed of the Portland Mass Choir.

Ray's wife, Ada Tellis, was also born into a musical family and sang in church and professionally since early childhood. Now a singer and songwriter in Portland Mass, it was Ada who took Ray's ideas for a choir and began organizing them into reality.

In March of 1993, Portland Mass Choir's first workshop was kicked off by Donald Taylor, director of the renowned L.A. Mass Choir. Ada's advertising, promotion and public service announcements brought out a large, multi-cultural group of people which, by April of that same year, had evolved into the Portland Mass Choir. Ada brought to the choir a desire to see the Body of Christ come together in one mind and one accord, not only as Gospel singers, but as Christians who sing the Gospel message of Jesus Christ.

Ray is currently the worship pastor at Portland's New Beginnings Christian Center, where his wife joins him on the music praise team. Ray and Ada have watched as the dream of a community mass choir has taken on a life far beyond their original expectations.

"The choir became something more than we had anticipated," says Ada, "but in our spirits, we felt right because we could sense the Lord at work in it. So many times, as Christians, we try to be approved by man, but it's really all about Christ. God is not looking for superstars, or men that other men will follow. He wants the praise that's due Him, and that's the realization around which Portland Mass Choir was formed."

"Presentation and professionalism are important parts of what we do," Ray concludes, "but we really are groomed towards ministry. What's a song without a soul? What good is it if people aren't saved? That's the whole purpose of Portland Mass Choir."

Storra Meeting Over Gangsta Rap Music 'Stop Pornography Pimping Our Children!' Dr. Tucker, 'Black Mommas' (NPCBW) Group Tell Time-Warner Executives, Stockholders

By Chester A. Higgins, Sr.

New York — Well, now! It looks like the black mommas finally did it! After raising a national stink more than year ago (which continues today), over "gangsta rap" music, and its nasty put-down of black women, the National Political Congress of Black Women, led by its determined founder and president Dr. C. Delores Tucker, appears to have finally commanded the attention of the mega media/music/entertainment giant, Time-Warner, Inc., its chairman and CEO Gerald M. Levin and some of its other top officials.

They did it, but only after first throwing up an active and vocal picket line outside Time-Warner, Inc.'s Rockefeller Center Manhattan headquarters, where the corporation's stockholders were holding their annual meeting. They passed out leaflets containing the filthy rap lyrics of 2 Live Crew, Tupac Shakur, Niggaz With Attitude, Snoop Doggy Dogg and others to startled and often shaken passersby.

They did it, yes, but only after attracting the vocal support of conservative leader William J. Bennett, head of a political action group called Empower America. Bennett was a former Secretary of Education and Drug Czar under the Reagan/Bush Administrations. Bennett and Tucker are dubbed "fire and ice" by some observers because of Dr. Tucker's passionately expressed liberal stance on civil rights issues and Dr. Bennett's reserved conservatism on the same issues.

But, when it comes to gangsta rap's hateful music, both are of one mind. They have even cut a video tape soon to be released nationally, denouncing Time Warner for distributing such music.

Yes, they did it, finally, but only after Dr. Tucker, (herself a Time-Warner shareholder, and thus permitted to address the annual conclave), entered Time Warner's headquarters, taking the fight to the floor of the meeting.

Dr. Tucker disclosed she had a "very productive private meeting" with Levin and the others, whom she did not name, following her floor appearance. She did not reveal the nature or scope of a settlement or agreement, or if, indeed, any agreement was reached. But the optimistic tone of her statement hints that the giant corporation, which produces and distributes much of the world's gangsta rap (so named because of outlaw-style lyrics) and other music, as well as other entertainment, is at least softening its stubborn year-long stance against any move to curtail the excesses of this bawdy music.

Mrs. Tucker asked Time-Warner point blank, "How long will (you) be the pimps of pornography to our youth?" Pricked, Levin reportedly admitted "there must be a balance struck between the creative process and our collective responsibilities as the world's leading communications company to our community and shareholders." He also reportedly said he has asked Michael J. Fuchs, the new chairman of the Warner Music Group, to talk with critics and develop guidelines for placing more specific warning labels on some rap albums.

But many critics say there are already warning labels on some albums but they do little to prevent youngsters from buying them.

Supporters say Dr. Tucker rightly targets gangsta rap lyrics as obscene, and agree that its messages delivered by the youthful rappers debase black women, glamorize drug usage and incite violence and immoral behavior among young impressionable listeners.

Objectors declare the NPCBW are over-reacting, that in any case what it is doing is acting as a censor and thus violating the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment which safeguards freedom of speech. But NPCBW, which carried its fight against the music to Capitol Hill committee hearing last year before a headed by Sen. Carol Moseley Braun (D-Ill.), say it is not trying to censor, but attempting to bring back civilized and decent discourse into this music genre. And, anyway, it does not believe that the First Amendment protects purveyors of viciously verbal, hurtful abuse.

Said Dr. Tucker: "Warner has recently invested an additional \$80 million in Innerscope, a subsidiary, to increase their production and distribution of this cultural filth called 'gangsta rap.' Several of their artists are in jail, yet these criminals are being exploited to propagate their violence and destroy not only their own lives but the lives of innocent young people. How long will it (Time-Warner) continue to be the pimps of pornography to our youth?"

"If corporate responsibility dictates that we protect the whales, protect the rivers, protect the environment, then [it must] protect one of the earth's most precious resources—our children! That is the ultimate corporate responsibility," she emphatically added.

Yes, the black mommas have finally got the ear of Time Warner's executives, but will the latter really act in a positive and responsible manner? Stay tuned!



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From time to time we run across articles that voice our opinion from across the nation and here is one from The Atlanta Voice June 24-30. We will share it with our readers. Hope you enjoy and understand.
—Eddie P. Richardson
It's Hard to Believe, But It's True

by A. Reginald Eaves

It is exceptionally hard to witness the U.S. Supreme Court, the same institution that gave rise to so much hope in the African-American community deliver such a severe body blow to affirmative action.

This is especially true, when one notes the increased number of people claiming to be born again, while at the same time continue to proclaim their religion from the roof top and swear that there is reverse discrimination taking place in this country.

If they are truly born again, then it is impossible for them to forget the following words in the Good Book: "He who has two coats, let him impart with him who has none and who has meat, let him do likewise."

What kind of IQ does it take for a man to believe that there is really reverse discrimination? Very low! This is especially true when a report released recently said that 95 percent of the jobs above the glass ceiling are held by white males.

It is true, that most white men believe that 99 and one half percent won't do? Must it be 100 percent? If we believe strongly in religion, how can we make greed (money) our master?

The Good Book says, "The love of money is the root of all evil." When we allow money to dictate our behavior toward our brother or sister, our actions cannot be anything but evil.

As I have said before, the following words were

written many years ago, "America is great because America is good, but when America ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."

To my blue-eyed brothers and sisters, if you do, I understand what I am talking about, let me introduce you to some code words:

It is too difficult for some people to say openly, "I don't like African American," so they end up saying "I am against quotas and I am tired of people getting something for nothing..."

When you hear a man or woman placing all African Americans in the same category or when you hear them using the word "they" or "those people" excessively, you are hearing classic code words.

For years, people who think and talk like that have attempted to lay the group guilt thing at the door of every African American. Consequently, we find people making value judgments about all African Americans based on the experience with one person.

The history of this kind of behavior is well-known by most African Americans and any effort to make these evil acts invisible is a waste of time.

Justice Clarence Thomas is referred to, by many in the African-American community, as the original "Uncle Tom," as a person who has a very short memory and is void of a conscience.

Could it be that a man who is a product of the Affirmative Action program at Yale Law School, like those at many others' professional schools, is turning his back on that which brought him over?

If you see Clarence Thomas, will you please ask him for me, what does he see every morning when he looks in the mirror while shaving? Ask him if he remembers his people and what they look like?

There are some who will turn his or her back on his or her people and on those in need the most. In an effort to win friends, they are fighting a losing battle trying to be accepted by those who will not accept all people based on merit.

THIS N THAT

CLASS REUNIONS ARE GREAT! THIS N THAT... for the first time ever... T.J. PATTERSON... had an opportunity to visit his class reunion... BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL... those leopards... in Wichita Falls, Texas... and it was great... For the first time ever... and had to say it... but it was the first time in... FORTY YEARS... this writer has had an opportunity to see some of his classmates... As there were... THIRTY NINE... who graduated in 1954... some are deceased... but there were... TWENTY TWO... present at the... ALL-CLASS REUNION... Looking back... one must never forget where one comes from... as without some kind of a... BEGINNING... there is no future... It is so important to visit... FIRST HAND... where it all began... THIS N THAT... walked the neighborhood where he once walked... and looked at locations... which appeared not to be important years ago... but last week... all the locations had some significant value for this writer... Even walking up the... alley... yes alley... where once was walked to go to the morning dish-washing job... brought back... VIVID MEMORIES... and spoke loudly exactly who I am... Sometimes in life... we must stop and take a look on where the road has led... and... as this writer can attest... if you be honest... YOU... will quickly get a glimpse of who you really are... and what you should be doing... Sure the area doesn't look the same... and many are gone... or... deceased... But if you really look... you'll understand how important your beginning really is for you... Even visiting with my classmates... all seemed surprised on my physical posture... as when I was in the class... this writer didn't possess the height of today... and didn't

talk much... Just to see me... and visit with me... was something that was very important for me... Yes... going home... is... VERY IMPORTANT... All these years... those 214 miles to Wichita Falls seemed to close... but yet so far away... Hopefully... with this connection... this writer... will be making that journey often... So thanks to all of my classmates... for being there... at this time in my life... Also my family members... who embraced me with love and appreciation for me... Oh yes... Cousin Roversa and C.H. Mitchell... Lucky Cleaver... Evelyn Johnson... and all the others for making my visit one which will never be forgotten... Oh by the way... my baby brother... HERCHIEL... hang in there, man... Luv you too... See all of you later... Stay the next family reunion...

ALL WENT WELL!! THIS N THAT... learned that the... DUNBAR ALL CLASS REUNION... went well last week also... Isn't it great... to know that we can come together and fellowship... about where we have come from... Another... CONGRATS... Is in order for the... DUNBAR ALUMNI INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION... for a job well done...

HEART SYMPATHY TO NASH FAMILY!! THIS N THAT... was unable to attend the... funeral services for... DEAN NASH... 45-year-old son of... MR. & MRS. SANC0 NASH, II... But our sympathy goes out to this family...

D.C. KINNER THE BARBER SAYS: "BLACK BOYS AND GIRLS... stay in school... and set some... GOALS... in life... which will help mankind..."



IN CINQUE by Renetta W. Howard

I have a dear friend who is a biology teacher on the college level and she has a grandson whom she had taught how to identify all of the bones in the human body by the time he was three years old. He was always the subject of her conversations and how brilliant he was. I admired the tyke and was very happy that he was so apt.

My friend and I had a brief encounter this summer and as usual, she was glorifying the accomplishments of her offspring, mostly to my husband. When she had finished she inquired of our granddaughter who is three years younger than her grandson and was surprised that she was not with us. My husband replied, "Oh, she couldn't come with us this time, she is taking some college courses." She said, "

she's only 10 years old and in college already?!" My husband went on to tell her that the child was enrolled in two computer classes, astronomy and Spanish. My friend did not say another word to anyone after that for ten minutes or more.

What my husband had not explained to her was the fact that our granddaughter was enrolled in a 'College for Kids' program at a college in the city where she lives. It is an enrichment program for elementary school children which lasts for about four weeks, where they are exposed to some of the same subjects offered in the college curriculum. Most colleges offer enrichment programs for elementary and secondary students at a nominal fee. There are available at some colleges, scholarships for students who cannot afford to pay the tuition. Get 'in cinque' and call your nearby college and find out what they have to offer for your child. Our children need enrichment.

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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.

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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Gary Goes to Washington

STUART—Attorney Willie E. Gary will join other members of the board of trustees for the Democratic National Committee gathering in the nation's capitol to discuss political matters with President Clinton.

The items on the agenda for discussion include the Contract with America, Clinton's veto of the bill that would have cut education and social security and strategies for the upcoming presidential campaign, Gary said.

Gary, whose rags to riches story boosted him to national fame, has been a member of the party's board of trustees for the past two years. He gained the position by being one of several party members, who have either raised or contributed \$250,000 to the Democratic Party.

During the Gary's two-day stay in Washington, D.C., he and his wife, Gloria, attended a dinner dance Wednesday expected to attract Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Gary hopes to continue talks with Clinton about a

proposed visit to Stuart in the fall for a scholarship fundraiser, he said.

"I have been assured he will do it as long as he can work it into his schedule," Gary said. "I plan to raise \$1 million in scholarships to help send kids to college, donate to the United Negro College Fund and Shaw University."

In addition, Gary plans to discuss with committee officials the possibility of being one of the keynote speakers during the 1996 Democratic National Convention. Because of Gary's staunch support of education and concern for the nation's youth, his name is being

tossed around by some of the people involved with organizing the event, he said.



Letter to the Editor

Only two months ago, on April 10th, 1995 at 3 a.m. Lubbock had two large catastrophic fires, almost at the same time. One fire was stated it appeared started by 'Arson' and the other fire was not the same cause. Both were large money losses.

The Mill had one half destroyed, as by the A.J. photo, while the Flea Market was totally flattened. Difference here is one probably had insurance on the mill, but all the 'vendors' in the Market had virtually none at all.

In a matter of three hours there was 25 'Small Business's' wiped out! Many lost everything they had, There were Hispanic, Blacks, White folks Seniors and friends of mine; all gone!

The Market states it has Vendors from all over the world and has been operating over 25 years. I was a volunteer, working there, I met many good people, made friends bought and sold every weekend. I had a 'place' to go to, and meet people every week. I am a senior, retired person, but now I have no place to occupy myself on weekends, and miss being with these special people.

One Black gentleman had a shoe shine business, he had a special type of old chair for his business. These chairs are antique, hard to find today it was his livelihood, his main income, it's all gone!

I was told losses were close to \$500,000 in all the items "new and used" plus the building and fixtures.

I hope that the elected people we have at city hall, can and will assist these business's, to set up help like the City did after the Tornado struck Lubbock twenty odd years ago. To offer assistance and counselling help to the needy vendors.

Many of these folks are still in shock, walking about like "Zombies" and do not have anyone offering them any help. Some lost their tools of their trade, plus all materials. One vendor lost \$45,000 in all new items and stock. A carpet vendor had about \$29,000 in stock. Another vendor with old collectibles, one of a kind items, had over \$8,000 in losses. All were totally wiped out!

Nothing to re start with, but strong 'wills and hope'. The Flea Market was a business place, offering choices of fresh produce, new and used clothing, appliances, tools, crafts, and everything that one may need, plus a place to trade—swap stories and have a good time.

Come on Lubbock, lets stand behind these 'Flea Market Merchants' and get city hall to listen, and help those who need help NOW!

Robert J. Lamond, Lubbock

THE DEFENSE Closing Argument for a Black Icon O.J. SIMPSON

You Be The Jury
This is must reading for potential jurors. Don't think of being on a jury panel without it.
Use this as it means to seeing the real drama unfold.
Compare it with what you hear and what you don't hear, and realize the unbelievable predictions and likeness.
See why the prosecution has to rush to trial. You need this even more if there is a mistrial. Watch for one!

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Southern Baptist Should Apologize with Substance

by Abraham Spires

The delegates to the Southern Baptist convention of two weeks ago must certainly be commended for that first significant step toward redemption for the sin of supporting slavery and racism historically in the United States.

The confession that they and their ancestors have been a pain in the sit-down area, and were wrong on the question of race in America from 1845 to 1995 took courage, seldom exhibited by white people in this nation.

I have never heard a white league or read a book or curriculum adopted in Lubbock County which acknowledged that slavery was wrong. And to this very day the highest officials in the school system or the school board will tell you that racism does not exist anywhere in the system.

So what those Southern Baptists did the other day was a milestone in the history of the white attitude and race in America.

Now, what 'Substance' is that such an apology... confession must be followed by sub-

stantive acts of redemption, in keeping with the Holy Spirit.

The attitude fostered by the likes of the Southern Baptists brought tremendous suffering on the part of Black people, the effects of which can be seen today.

Southern Baptists, economically and politically, control tremendous resources and power. Such investments impacting upon the problems of their Black "Brothers and Sisters" cannot be expedited too soon.

Aside from the social and religious service exchange which should begin immediately, community by community should engage in constructive dialogue to formulate economic programs in poor Black neighborhoods.

Black Baptist leadership should begin immediately to plan in that direction, or the congregations should plan on replacements.

With the 1996 presidential election on the horizon, the test of such confessions will soon happen.

Miss Black Lubbock Pageant Crowns Winners

The first Miss Black Lubbock Metroplex pageant was held March 25 at the Lubbock Municipal Auditorium. Contestants, ranging in age from 0-18, competed in several categories. The pageant was incorporated in 1995 as a non-profit organization. The pageant was organized to promote education, build character, promote self-esteem and project a positive role model for our youth. Directors for the pageant are Demetria Coleman, Louise Coleman and June Flowers. The Board of Directors are Linda Woods, Verdie Corneljes and Gordon Harris. We are delighted to salute these young ladies and exemplify excellence in achievement and leadership abilities. We would also like to commend the parents who are indebted to the community for continued support of this event.

The following winners will advance to the Ms. Black Texas State Scholarship Pageant to be held July 14-16 in Dallas.



Ashley Cole: Lafonda Cole; Parkway



Dalita Brown: Wilma Brown; Bozeman



Tiffany Johnson: James & Natalie Johnson; Hodges



Mia Johnson: Livia & Comas Godfrey; Friendship



Latasha Harris: Sarah & Freddy Harris; Nat Williams



Princella Langs: Tina Langs; daycare



Kiarra Godfrey: Latrice & Craig Godfrey; Hunt



Shealna Page: parents Tina Ransom & Kevin Page; daycare



Breanna Roberson: Cheryl Harkey; Hunt



Cierra Mosley: Juan & Angela Mosley; Nat Williams



Ashley Sander: Marie & James Sanders; Hunt



Antoinette Felder: Mr. & Mrs. Willie Felder; Evans



Deneé Felder: Dana Felder; Ballenger Headstart



Ketasha Conor: Gordon Harris & D'Juana Johnson; Hunt



KeAndrea Page: Tina Ransom & Kevin Page; daycare



Demetria Coleman

Best Wishes to Ms. Demetria Coleman

Ms. Demetria Coleman was crowned Miss Universal Supreme Queen in October. Coleman will now go on to compete on a state level. She is also the director of the Ms. Black Lubbock Metroplex Pageant. Demetria is the proud daughter of Louise Coleman. She will be going to the Ms. Black Texas Pageant which will be held in Dallas. The competition will begin July 14-16. Demetria is 20 years old and a student at Texas Tech University. She also attends Twentieth and Birch St. Church of Christ. We would like to wish her the best of luck!

Baby Miss—Shealna Page, age 1, Baby Hospitality—KeAndrea Page, 2, Baby Glamour—Princella Langs, 2, Tiny Miss—Breanna Roberson, 5, Tiny Miss Talent—Kiarra Godfrey, 5, Tiny Miss Modeling—Deneé Felder, 5, Petite Miss—Ashley Sanders, 7, Petite Miss Talent—Ashley Sanders, 7, Petite Miss Modeling—Tiffany Johnson, 8, Little Miss—Dalita Brown, 12, Little Miss Hospitality—Cierra Mosley, 5, Little Miss Glamour—Ashley Sanders, 7, Little Miss Talent—Dalita Brown, 12, Little Miss Modeling & Overall Fashion—Ashley Cole, 10, Teen Miss—Mia Johnson, 15, Teen Miss Glamour—Mia Johnson, 15, Teen Miss Talent—Mia Johnson, 15, Teen Miss Modeling & Miss Congeniality—Antoinette Felder, 13, Hall of Fame—Latasha Harris, 8, Ketasha Conor, 11, Overall Supreme Queen—Ashley Sanders, 7. These are the 1st Annual Miss Black Lubbock Metroplex Queens for 1995-96. These girls have been recognized in many cultural events. So remember these beautiful faces.

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Saturday, July 15 thru Saturday, July 29th

Find a Buddy or be one, clip the coupon and RIDE FREE with a paying passenger on Citibus. Present this coupon to the driver and RIDE FREE to shop, to work, or to play.



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Citibus is celebrating Buddy Days. From July 17 to July 30, your buddy rides free! Just present a coupon to the driver from one of the following newspapers: Avalanche Journal, Southwest Digest, El Editor and West Texas Hispanic News.

"We tried this last year and were very pleased with the turn out," said John Wilson, Citibus general manager. "Just present a coupon, and a buddy, to the driver and your buddy will ride for free!" Citibus offers a variety of fares and value cards to suit the various passengers' needs. The adult fare is 75 cents, for children 6-12 years of age the fare is 50 cents, and children under six ride free. Passengers can purchase a card worth 10 rides for \$6.50, and an Econocard with 20 rides for \$13.

Citibus runs in approximately 30 minute intervals. Last November, Citibus opened the Downtown Transfer Plaza which offers covered waiting areas for passengers. For more information, or a route map call (806) 762-0111.



SAYING THANKS TO A FRIEND—Robert W. Bogle, left, former president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), expresses the thanks of African American newspaper publishers to retired Pepsi executive, Sam Hall, (Mrs. Mildred Hall looks on). Bogle said Hall had "consistently sought to make Pepsi a partner with the Black press as well as the Black community" during the Association's recent convention in Oklahoma City. Hall and Henry H. Brown, a retired Anheuser-Busch executive, were the "two friends of the publishers" honored during the convention's merit award ceremony.

1995 Essence Awards Celebration

A celebration of the 1995 Essence Awards, ESSENCE and JCPenney presented a live review of fashions for the whole family on Saturday, June 10 at the JCPenney store at the Fox Hills Mall in Culver City, California. The show spotlighted the latest in affordable career, evening and urban clothing, sportswear, active wear, and children's fashions available at JCPenney. Fashions were presented by models from the African-American community, including children from the Los Angeles chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. organization. Throughout the show, tips on creating an Afro-centric look using accessories and jewelry available at JCPenney were offered. Special gifts from ESSENCE and JCPenney were presented to attendees. Pictured are (from left to right): Jocelyn Brown, Midwest advertising sales director for ESSENCE magazine, two JCPenney models, Bunny Withers president of the Los Angeles chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. and Edward T. Howard, president of the Southwestern region for JCPenney.



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CHURCH DIRECTORY



The Outreach Prayer Breakfast

Outreach Prayer Breakfast was out there on Saturday, some enjoying the class reunion activity.

Listen to this:
 God chooses people and burdens them to proclaim his word. God uses ministers through whom he can speak. These must be usable ministers to who God can entrust his word, those who have been dealt with by the Holy Spirit of God. There is a lot of preaching, but so little word!! Why is there barrenness? Poverty, and corruption in the black church? All the problems today seem to rest on the shoulders of the minister. Neither is vision infrequent nor the word rare, but the minister of the Word is sometimes hard to find. How often God's light disappears when it is discharged from our mouth. Some speak of the Holy Spirit, yet only touch the flesh and not the Holy Spirit. Some speak of God's Holiness, but what the congregation teaches is not always holiness but a lightness of spirit. Still more may talk about the cross, yet where are the marks of the cross on them? Some are undisciplined persons, and others may preach on the love of the Lord, yet the impression conveyed to their hearers is not their love but of their anger or other foul temper.

These all suggest problems which are with some leaders, also congregations. We're all messengers on this earth, ministers of the Word. How rich the Church would be if we better off the world would be as well, if we all would look for the good in each other, and not magnify the wrong, but try to right it. Romans 10:1-3 says, "My heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved. For I bear their record, that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they, being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God." Could this also be possible with so many leaders & congregations today?!

Thought:
 Never assume that because you speak on the same Bible word as the apostles of old that you therefore are a successor of the apostle. Not so. You are a true successor to the apostles only when you receive the same revelation and appointing as the apostles had. The deciding factor is not in preaching the same doctrines but in receiving the same anointing. Think about it.

God bless you all, keep smiling and loving your enemies. Pray for them. Especially the sick—write us, P.O. Box 1223, Lubbock, TX 79408.

D. Hood, President; Ernestine Prazier, Secretary



from the Desk of Parsen D.A. Smith Hurters or Healers

"And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep." Acts 7:60

A storyteller tells of a time that he went to a shopping mall to do some shopping. In the parking lot, a small foreign automobile, apparently trying to get either in or out of a parking space, was blocked by another car behind him. The man trying to get in was a senior citizen and the storyteller offered his help by going to the window to ask if he could be of any assistance. The elderly driver said, "No." He was trying to get around so he could get into the parking space, but the man behind him yelled through the window of his automobile, "That so-and-so took my parking space and I am not moving. Not wanting to get into the fray, the storyteller went into the mall.

A half a hour later the storyteller emerges from the mall to find that

neither of the two drivers had relented and were still sitting there in their cars glaring at each other. A desire for revenge in the case had cost the two men an hour's time and a lot of anxiety, if nothing else.

As he sank to his knees, Stephen's thoughts turned to his executors, and like Jesus, he pleaded their case before the judgment seat of God. Stephen had found strength to endure the pain and agony of a cruel death committing himself to the Lord Jesus. It would have been quite natural for Stephen to pray for the wrath of God to rain down upon his persecutors. He was guilty of no crime. He had spoken but the truth when he charged the religious leaders with the death of the Messiah whom God had sent to save mankind. Yet this man refused to allow hatred in his heart. As difficult as it was to avoid being vindictive toward those who were stoning him, he found the strength to pray for their forgiveness. As such, in his death, Stephen embodied Jesus' teaching for His followers to "pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you" and he has become an inspiration for Christian of all ages.

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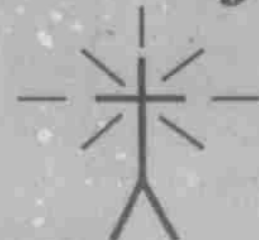


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We Thank God for Jesus

Part 1: "AIN'T THAT A SHAME???"



Deuteronomy 6:10a, 11, 12a. And it shall be, when THE LORD THY GOD shall have brought thee into the land. And houses full of all GOOD THINGS, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou have EATEN AND BE FULL: THEN BEWARE

LEST THOU FORGET THE LORD.

LORD, thanks for keeping YOUR PROMISE; YOU MADE WITH OUR FATHER'S. But WE: THE U.S.A. ON KEEPING OUR WORD; WE DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER.

Deuteronomy 11:14, 15, THE LORD SAID, I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thy oil. And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full.

LORD, You did BLESS this land; WE CRIED OUT: AND WE DID ALL TIME PRAY. But when YOU made US PROSPEROUS; WE DID: WANT TO GO OUR WAY.

Romans 1:21, 22, Because that, when they knew GOD, they glorified him not as GOD, neither were THANKFUL; but became VAIN in their IMAGINATIONS AND FOOLS THEIR FOOLISH HEART WAS DARKEN. PROFESSING THEMSELVES TO BE WISE, THEY BECAME

You said, GO into all the world, and PREACH THE GOOD NEWS, TO MANKIND. BUT THE CHRISTIANS: WANTED TO DO THEIR OWN THING; IN THEIR LITTLE MINDS.

They said we will go forth, AND WE WILL SET ALL MANKIND FREE, THAT'S LIKE RAY CHARLES LEADING STEVIE WONDER ACROSS A FREEWAY; CAN'T BE.

Luke 6:39, JESUS SAID, Can the BLIND lead THE BLIND? shall they not both fall INTO THE DITCH?

LORD, you said: if you be lifted up; YOU'D DRAW ALL MEN UNTO THEE, BUT THE CHRISTIANS WANTED TO MARCH, SING WE SHALL OVERCOME; AND SET MAN FREE.

John 3:16, JESUS SAID, For god so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son (JESUS), that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have EVERLASTING LIFE.

They follow a man who told the WORLD; I HAVE A DREAM, BUT NOW AFTER FOLLOWING HIM; AMERICA IS IN A NIGHTMARE, THE WAY IT SEEMS.

Jeremiah 23:25-28, I have heard what the prophets said, that prophesy LIES IN MY NAME, SAYING, I HAVE DREAMED, I HAVE DREAMED. How long shall this be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy LIES? yea, they are prophets of the deceit OF THEIR OWN HEART; Which think to cause my people to forget MY NAME by their dreams which they tell every man to his neighbour, as their fathers have forgotten my name for BAAL. The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath MY WORD, let him SPEAK MY WORD FAITHFULLY. What is the chaff to the wheat? SAITH THE LORD.

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This nation is SICK; GOD IS THE DOCTOR! WE NEED TO RETURN UNTO THEE, AMERICA IS HEADING FOR A GREAT FALL; AS ANY BLIND MAN CAN SEE.

Isaiah 1:5, Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: THE WHOLE HEAD IS SICK, AND THE WHOLE HEART FAINT (SICK).

◆◆◆◆◆ AIN'T THAT A SHAME???" ◆◆◆◆◆

LORD, YOUR LEADERS BROUGHT THIS SHAME, UPON YOUR HOLY NAME, AND THEY HAVE NOT REPENTED: OF THIS GREAT SIN, SHAME, SHAME, SHAME.

Malachi 1:6a, 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.

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"WHO CAN FIND A VIRTUOUS WOMAN?" PROVERBS 31:10

The Saint John Baptist Church would like to invite you to come to our Pre-Annual Women's Day Praise Service on Saturday, July 15th from 10:00 A.M. until 12:00 P.M.

Our guest speaker for the Saturday morning praise service will be Ms. Marilyn J. Giles of Dallas, Texas. You will be blessed as Ms. Giles speaks on the theme: "Who Can Find a Virtuous Woman?" Ms. Giles will inspire you to be your best for yourself, your family, and for the glory of God.

Ms. Giles specializes in Christian Activities and Consulting. Ms. Giles conducts Youth Socials, Youth Workshops, Youth Worker Seminars, Women's Seminars and Program Coordinating.

Please come out and receive a blessing from God through this great speaker. Ms. Giles' motto is CHRIST AND COMMON SENSE. Come and learn how we as black women must seek christ and use common sense to be effective leaders, teachers and missionaries in our Churches and

our community. "For with God nothing shall be possible."

St. John 1:37.

In addition to our praise services we would like to invite you to our Annual Women's Day Program on Sunday, July 16th, at 3:00 P.M., Pastor S.E. Fields

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Applications will be accepted until July 14, 1995. South Plains College reserves the right to extend the search or not offer position advertised.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Lubbock/Citibus has established an FY 1996 goal of 15.8% 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 30 days following this notice. Comments are for informational purposes only.

DBE DIRECTORY

The City of Lubbock and Citibus are interested in expanding their 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
801 Texas Avenue
P.O. Box 2000
Lubbock, TX 79457

Texas Department of Transportation

The Texas Department of Transportation anticipates District Engineer job vacancies at various locations in the State, effective Sept. 1, 1995. Applications are being accepted from registered professional engineers who meet minimum qualifications. Submission of application indicates willingness to accept any open position.

Refer to TxDOT Listing Number 5-005 for the following possible levels and locations with a salary range of \$5027.17-6240.58. These positions require licensing as a registered professional engineer with 5 years of progressively responsible experience as a professional engineer plus 5 years of managerial experience.

Director IV—Arlene, Amarillo, Atlanta, Brownwood, Bryan, Childress, Laredo, Lubbock, Lufkin, Odessa, Paris, San Angelo, Wichita Falls, Yoakum

Director V—Beaumont, Corpus Christi, El Paso, Pharr, Tyler, Waco

Refer to TxDOT Listing Number 5-006 for the following possible levels and locations with a salary range of \$6240.59-6933.99. These positions require licensing as a registered professional engineer with 7 years of progressively responsible experience as a professional engineer plus 7 years of managerial experience.

Director VI—Austin, Fort Worth, San Antonio
Director VII—Dallas, Houston

Each of the above positions involve providing executive-level direction and management of all engineering-related activities, programs and staff for a large area of the state comprising several counties.

Applications and complete job vacancy notices are available at all TxDOT district offices or the TxDOT Employment Office in Austin. Out-of-state applicants may call (512) 416-2994 to obtain a copy of the job vacancy notice and application. Qualified applicants must submit a completed application.

RESUMES WITHOUT ACCOMPANYING COMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Applications will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., C.D.T., July 28, 1995. Applications mailed must be postmarked no later than July 27, 1995.

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If You Are African-American, You Could Be Clinically Depressed!

by Candida N. Johnson

Halfway through the semester, Timothy stopped going to class. No matter how early sister Jackson wakes up, she's always late for church on Sunday morning. Mr. Smith never finishes anything he starts. All these scenarios are common but what most people don't know is that they could have a deeper meaning.

It is estimated that over 2 million Americans will suffer from a depressed episode this year. Some will be able to come to terms with these feelings. Some will seek help; others will attempt or sadly succeed in committing suicide. Those who cannot come to terms are said to be clinically depressed.

Thousands of African Americans are clinically depressed and don't even know it. We are ten times more likely not to seek help. We are taught at a young age to mask our feelings because African Americans aren't supposed to hurt. We laugh in the face of fear and simply dust off our pants when we're knocked down. But rarely do we take the time to ask why? Why am I feeling the way I feel? Why can't I motivate myself? Why can't I get anywhere on time? The answers to these questions could be clinical depression.

Clinical depression can be triggered by a loss, unfulfilled need or desire. Clinical depression can also run in families. The American Psychiatric Association lists the following as signs of depression:

1. Poor appetite and significant weight loss or gain
2. Insomnia, or increased sleep

3. Agitation, or retardation of movement and thought
4. Loss of interest or pleasure in usual activities
5. Fatigue and loss of energy
6. Feelings of worthlessness, self-reproach, or excessive or inappropriate guilt
7. Diminished ability to think or concentrate or indecisiveness
8. Recurrent thoughts of death or suicide, or suicide attempts.

If all or at least four of the above symptoms occur nearly every day for at least two weeks a person is considered to be experiencing a major depressive episode. Help for this illness includes mental counseling and/or anti-depressant drugs. Both have had a 75% success rate in two to three weeks. Sleep orders begin to diminish and a lightening of mood becomes apparent.

For more information call Charter Plains Hospital at 744-5505 or Mental Health and Mental Retardation at 800-609-6198. Both facilities can (confidentially) head you in the right direction. For African Americans, listening to the Blues is a part of our heritage. However, feeling blue is a tradition we can and must break. We deserve to be happy.

Bridges II Project Hosted

The historic and unprecedented, "BRIDGES II", A Japanese and African American Leadership Project, was recently hosted at the Hancock Park residence of the Consul General of Japan-Los Angeles, Seiichiro Noboru, and Yoko, his lovely wife. The successful event was co-sponsored by the Congress of Racial Equality-California. The Consul General's presentation: Deepening Understanding Between African Americans and Japanese, focused on: 1. Japan and African American tourism; 2. overcoming xenophobia and race related ignorances through education; and, 3. advancing economic development opportunities. CORE-CA strongly supports and encourages the positive intentions and demonstrated commitments the Japanese have made to Los Angeles' automotive training projects; and, their other industries' contributions to California jobs and economic development. CORE-CA Chairman, Celes King III, further positions: "We are flatly opposed to a 100% tariff on Japanese luxury automobiles that could result in a downside to the California and United States economies." CORE-CA joins the ALLIANCE TO SAVE CALIFORNIA JOBS in support and encouragement of fair trade; continued dialogue; and the accurate reporting of facts and figures regarding the trade deficit with our largest trading partner, Japan. Pictured, left: Celes King III, Seiichiro Noboru, Frank S. Elmore.



Klan Writes Letter

A letter that was said to have been placed on the bed of a young African American incarcerated in the Chicago City jail said, "The Ku Klux Klan would like to take this time to salute and congratulate all the gang-bangers for the slaughter of over 4,000 Black people since 1975. You are doing a marvelous job. Keep killing each other for nothing."

"The streets are still not yours, niggers. They are ours. You are killing each other for our property. You are killing what could be future Black doctors, lawyers and businessmen that we won't have to compete with. And the good thing about it is that you are killing the youth. So we won't have to worry about you niggers in generations to come."

"We would further like to thank all the judges who have over-sentenced these niggers to prison. We are winning again. Pretty soon we will be able to go raping your women, because all the men will be gone."

The letter concluded, "You are doing a wonderful job in eliminating the Black race.... If most of you nigger gang-bangers cannot read this letter, it is OK. Go pull a trigger and kill a nigger. Thank You."

[callout]

"You are killing what could be future Black doctors, lawyers and businessmen that we won't have to compete with. Thank you."

-The Ku Klux Klan

Harlem Globetrotters South American Tour Attendance Tops 11,000; 40,000 Watch Team Perform in São Paulo

ALHAMBRA, CA—The Harlem Globetrotters continued their successful month-long tour of South America this weekend drawing over 40,000 fans to four sold out shows in São Paulo, Brazil. The Globetrotters have drawn over 110,000 fans to their games since this tour began in Bucaramanga, Colombia on June 5.

The team had to turn away as many as 2,000 people at each of the shows in São Paulo. Fans inside the arena witnessed exciting Globetrotter basketball where in one game Globetrotter rookie center Glover Jackson had a literal rim-shattering slam dunk where his head and arms soared above the rim and then he broke the backboard. This dunk caused an injury to him requiring 13 stitches to his right shoulder. At the end of the game the next day, guard Barry "High Rise" Hardy shattered a second backboard with a high-flying, mystifying dunk. Hardy was not injured, however, the standing room only crowd of nearly 12,000 lingered in the arena for nearly 45 minutes after the game had ended.

"The fans in Colombia, Mexico and Brazil have been very receptive to Globetrotter basketball. Harlem Globetrotters owner and chairman Mannie Jackson said who attended the games in São Paulo, "They experienced the true essence of our new game which is a new generation of talented athletes and superior family entertainment. With the overwhelming response we have had from the people there, we are currently making plans to return this Fall and next Spring."

The Harlem Globetrotters were asked to extend the tour four games but the team will conclude this current tour in Rio De Janeiro on Sunday, July 2, before over 20,000 fans.

The Harlem Globetrotters are the most popular family entertainment show in the world as they have performed for over 100 million people in 113 countries in the past 69 years.

Six Months After Accident Case Settles for \$2.1 Million

ORLANDO, FL—Partners Willie E. Gary and Linnes Finney of the law firm of Gary, Williams, Parenti, Finney, Lewis and McManus of Stuart, Florida won a structured settlement of \$2.1 million for their client, Shirley Boxill whose husband was killed as a result of a three car accident in Duval County, Florida on September 24, 1994.



(L to R) Willie E. Gary, Shirley Boxill, Linnes Finney, Jr.

On September 23, 1994, Frank Boxill was operating a vehicle traveling northbound on I95 when Shawn Freeland, an employee of UNC Media, struck a mini-van, lost control of her car and crossed the medium strip into the path of Frank Boxill's car. Frank Boxill was critically injured, and died one month later.

"We are happy with the outcome, and we feel that the insurance company was wise to pay without a lengthy trial; this way both sides avoided spending a lot of unnecessary money," said Linnes Finney.

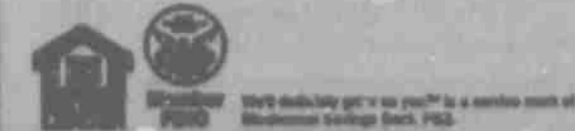
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