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Southwest Digest

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NATIONAL NEWS

CBC Urges President to Oppose Senate Proposal

The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) has sent a letter to President Clinton urging him to stand firm against a Senate provision designed to impose co-payments on individuals receiving Medicare home health care. U.S. Congressman John Lewis (D-Ga.) initiated the letter and gathered signatures from all 38 members of the CBC, including Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-Calif.), chair of the CBC and Congressman Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), the ranking member of the House Ways and Means Committee. The letter was sent to the White House as the House and Senate Medicare conferees debated the Senate provision. "We cannot raise revenue on the backs of seniors," said Lewis. "Forcing senior citizens to pay co-payments will hurt those who can least afford it." According to a recent report by the Kaiser Medicare Policy Project, low income seniors, minority women and those living alone have the greatest home care needs. "We must preserve affordable health care for senior citizens. We must be fair. We must not burden our most vulnerable populations with additional costs," said Lewis. The Senate-passed bill includes the provision that would require Medicare beneficiaries to pay \$5 for each home care visit they receive, up to the amount of the hospital deductible—\$760 in 1997, and an estimated \$960 by 2002. The provision is expected to raise \$4.9 billion over five years but opponents believe the co-payments are an inappropriate way to reach the budget savings required by the budget resolution.

Is the Junk Food Industry Next For Federal Regulation?

Yale University researchers have taken the first step toward turning unhealthy food production and distribution into the nation's next pariah industry. They are now calling for federal regulation of unhealthy foods, federal subsidies of fruits and vegetables and punitive excise taxes on high-fat foods. Professor Kelly D. Brownell, director of Yale's Center of Eating and Weight Disorders, said the U.S. is plagued with an "out-of-control epidemic of obesity and other diseases related to diet, such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer." African Americans need to take particular note as these are diseases that disproportionately affect the community. Brownell says, "Junk food advertisements should be regulated, and excess taxes imposed on high-fat foods, just as they are on tobacco and alcohol." Will producers and vendors of food other than fruits and vegetables soon be paying hundreds of millions of dollars to trial lawyers, as the tobacco industry soon may do? Professor Brownell sets the stage for it, telling the Washington Times: "As a culture, we get upset about Joe Camel, yet we tolerate our children seeing 10,000 commercials a year that promote foods that are every bit as unhealthy."

National Academy of Arbitrators Elects First African American

At the 50th Annual Meeting of the National Academy of Arbitrators in Chicago, Ill., the members elected James M. Harkless of Washington, D.C. to be the president of the organization. Harkless, the first African American to hold this position, will assume his position at the May 1998 annual meeting in San Diego. A native of Detroit, Mich., Harkless attended Harvard University where he received a B.A. and later a J.D. in 1955. He is a member of the D.C. Bar and has been a full-time arbitrator of labor-management disputes since 1970 in various industries including steel, airlines, oil, hotel, public utilities, newspapers, health care and public employment. Since 1985 he has also been the chairman of the IUE-GM Legal Services Plan. In 1990, he was appointed by the U.S. Secretary of State to the Foreign Service Grievance Board and is currently serving his fourth term.

ANHEUSER-BUSCH JOINS IN SALUTE TO WOODHOLME FOUNDATION



Just before they received the Woodholme Foundation Award for their efforts to provide educational opportunities for disadvantaged youth, noted entertainers Tim and Daphne Maxwell Reid (center), are congratulated by DeWayne Wickham (left), columnist for USA Today and founder of the Woodholme Foundation, and Wayman F. Smith III, vice president of corporate affairs at Anheuser-Busch Companies, a corporate supporter of the foundation's second annual celebrity weekend. The Reids have provided numerous college

scholarships for deserving students and have been strong supporters of historically Black colleges and universities. Their efforts were recognized by the Woodholme Foundation in Baltimore, which provides "second chance" scholarships to students who have underachieved in school as a result of personal or family situations. Other celebrities on hand for the gala and charity golf tournament included actresses Olivia Brown, Loretta Devine and Anna Maria Horsford, comedian Michael Cojyer, and actor Dorian Wilson.

Blacks In Government Joins Congressman Albert Wynn to Redress Discrimination in the Federal Workplace



Washington, D.C. From the U.S. House of Representatives Triangle, Oscar Eason Jr., president, Blacks In Government asked President Clinton and the newly formed Presidential Advisory Board on Race to support "the complete overhaul of the present equal opportunity process." Maryland Congressman Albert Wynn (left), who called the press conference; Congressman Elijah Cummings (partially hidden) and District of Columbia Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (right) look on. Mr. Eason asked the President to "take away all EEO enforcement responsibilities from individual Federal agencies" because "the fox is guarding the chicken coup" - meaning the agencies charged with enforcing equal employment laws are also part of the institution charged with discrimination. Mr. Eason also asked for full funding for the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission so that the agency can fully handle its enforcement responsibilities. Others in the photo include (left) Mr. Andre Jordan, from the National Association for the Advancement of Black Federal Employees, Department of Interior (near left) Mr. Rudy Arrendondo, president, Hispanic Leadership Alliance, the Department of Agriculture; (near right) Mr. Lawrence Lucas, president, Coalition of Minority Employees, the Department of Agriculture.

Halle Berry Honored At Black Film Awards Ceremony At Acapulco Black Film Festival



Actress Halle Berry was honored for her artistic achievements in film at the gala Black Film Awards Ceremony at the inaugural 1997 Acapulco Black Film Festival. The Awards ceremony, hosted by Robert Townsend, culminated the five-day film festival that was held in the resort district of Acapulco, Mexico. The 1997 Acapulco Black Film Festival, presented by UniWorld Group, Inc. and the Black Filmmaker Foundation, was dedicated to heightening the interest in Black films and showcasing the cinematic works of Black filmmakers, actors and actresses.

FORTY ACRES AND A MULE

by Bernice Powell Jackson



People have been asking what I think about all the talk about whether the nation should apologize to African Americans for slavery. Combined with President Clinton's recent call for Americans to dialogue about race and his apology to the victims of the Tuskegee syphilis experiment, much attention seems to be focused on righting our past sins as we prepare for a new century and a new millennium.

Having visited the "slave castles" in Ghana and Goree Island in Senegal where my ancestors were held until the slave ships arrived, I know some of the physical and psychological pain those men and women must have felt. This nation, and others, have much to atone for when it comes to slavery.

Unfortunately, slavery is not all this nation has to apologize for to African Americans. It has the lynchings of thousands of black men and women and it has decades of Jim Crow laws of segregation. It has political disenfranchisement and destruction of whole towns like Rosewood, FL and whole communities like

Greenwood Ave. in Tulsa, OK to apologize for. I must admit it's difficult to find words to express what I feel about all of this. As a Christian, I truly believe in the power of forgiveness. As a student of language, I understand the power of words.

But, as a student of American history, I know that words alone can ring hollow. I know of the many times our nation has signed treaties with our native American brothers and sisters, only to break them when they were no longer convenient.

Words alone are too easy. Words must be accompanied by repentance -- by empathizing with the people who were hurt and acknowledging the wrong that has been done. Words alone, without wrestling with the pain of the broken relationship, are not true apology, they are only words.

Many cultures of people of color around the world are based on relationship and include a formal or informal process for reconciliation. Native Hawaiians, for instance, call this process ho'oponopono, which means setting to right. It is based on the word and concept of pono or righteousness which is always connected to right relationship and requires one to keep working at relationship until it is right. Ho'oponopono includes prayer and a conversation among those whose relationship has been broken. Confession is made; restitution is offered. Forgiveness follows.

Without all these steps, apology doesn't mean much.

And while I have heard some in Congress willing to apologize, I haven't heard much support for restitution. In the 1960's and 70's, we called it reparations and Congressman John Conyers had even introduced a bill calling for some kind of payment to African Americans. The bill may still be languishing somewhere in the basement of the Capitol, but we haven't heard it mentioned in the discussions about apology.

Reparations are probably politically problematic. But, if Congress is serious about apology, then restitution might take the form of college scholarships, job training programs and prison intervention and alternative programs. If Congress is really serious about apology, how about increasing Head Start programs and providing health care for all African American children.

It's a little difficult to take seriously all the talk about apology from a nation which is quickly retreating from the closest thing we have had to restitution -- affirmative action -- after only thirty years. It is difficult to hear a President talk about race and racism only months after he signed a welfare "reform" bill which he knew would make 1 million poor children -- many of them children of color -- poorer.

African Americans are not likely to get those forty acres and a mule promised at the end of slavery. But without their modern-day equivalent, we can talk about apology, but I don't know if we can really have reconciliation.

KELLEY-SEASE TAPPED TO HEAD BLACK COMMUNITY CRUSADE FOR CHILDREN



WASHINGTON, D.C. - Barbara Kelley-Sease has been named director of the Black Community Crusade for Children (BCCC), the Children's Defense Fund's (CDF) initiative to mobilize the Black community on behalf of children, families, and youth. CDF President Marian Wright Edelman recently announced.

Kelley-Sease's appointment was effective September 4, 1996. As director, her responsibilities include oversight of BCCC programs, and coordination of national staff in Washington, D.C. in partnership with regional offices of the Crusade located in New York, Los Angeles, Oakland, Cincinnati, Jackson, MI, and Indianapolis, IN.

Prior to joining the Crusade, Kelley-Sease served as the executive director of the Union Industrial Home for Children (UIH) in New Jersey, the oldest child services agency in the state. Following a 127-year history of serving needy children, UIH had been closed for five years and was searching for a leader to develop a residential program for teen mothers. Under Kelley-Sease's direction, the agency became licensed and

began accepting teen parents and their children, most of whom had been physically or sexually abused, and provided them emotional support while they completed their education, received family counseling, and parent training. Most importantly, there were provided with a home where they were nurtured and loved. "We are delighted to have a seasoned and visionary leader of Barbara's caliber to head the BCCC," said Marian Wright Edelman, CDF president and a leader of the Crusade. "She has spent her entire professional career addressing the needs of poor mothers and their children, and she brings the kind of wisdom and passion that will help the BCCC accomplish its mission to leave no child behind."

Kelley-Sease is a graduate of LaSalle University where she received a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and of Springfield College where she received her Masters in Education degree. After graduation, she obtained a job as an administrator with the Southwest-Belmont branch of the YWCA of Philadelphia, which was founded by women, and led that organization through several successful years.

Barbara next accepted a position as deputy director of

Women Against Abuse, a battered women's shelter that included a fully accredited school, where mothers could send their children without fear that abusive fathers would find the mothers by going to the neighborhood schools that the children had attended.

"Barbara's life has been one of compassion and commitment, and with her leading the second phase of the BCCC, the Crusade is in a much better position to work to ensure a better life for children," said Edelman.

The mission of the BCCC is to leave no child behind and to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start, and a Moral Start with the help of caring parents and nurturing communities. BCCC is coordinated nationally by EDF in partnership with well-established and effective regional child-serving organizations. The Urban Strategies Council of Oakland and the Charles Drew Development Corporation in Los Angeles serve as the western regional offices. The Rheedlen Centers for Children and Families in New York City serves as the eastern regional office, CDF's Ohio state office - including Cincinnati and Columbus projects -- serves as the mid-western regional office.

NOTICE!!! September 11th a Great Historical day in Lubbock. The Birth of the Southwest Digest formally the (Lubbock Digest) The first Recognized Minority (Black) owned publication in Lubbock. September 11th is a Special day in Lubbock, Texas. Watch the Digest for more later.

DAMON HILL SR. TENNIS TEAM WINS REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



From Left: Maria Lopez-Strong, Jerbran Strong, Omar Jones, Jessica Jackson, Tizoc Strong, Nathan Gomez, Daryl Wilkerson, Destiny Strong, Gracie Hernandez, Jennifer Strong and Winnie Jackson. Not Pictured: Erin Williams.

The Damon Hill Sr. National Junior Tennis League Team of Lubbock captured the Lubbock Regional Rally Championship at the city's Municipal Tennis Center recently.

The event featured teams from across West Texas and was structured in a round-robin format. Second place honors went to the NJTL team from Brownwood, with the teams from Dumas and Midland capturing 3rd and 4th places respectively.

The Damon Hill Sr. team began several years ago as the "Young Mandingos Tennis Team," but later changed the name to honor Damon Hill Sr., the individual credited with helping to start East Lubbock's tennis tradition.

The team offers free lessons each Saturday morning at the Dunbar Tennis Courts under the direction of coaches Rhon Knighten and Eric Strong. For more information or to sign up for free lessons call 745-0088.

Ruby Jay's Corner



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

R. Moton is the proud pastor.

Services began last Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. Assistant Supt. James Sterling presided over the session. This was Youth Day, and the young people conducted the remainder of the services. All classes received instruction for 30 minutes, and marched into the main auditorium singing "Oh, How I Love Jesus."

High points of the lesson were given by each class with Sister Florenzo Stokley reading out. The secretary's report: Youth Department - Intermediate Class retained the Offering Banner, and also received the Attendance Banner. Adult Department - Class No. 1 lost the Offering Banner to Class No. 2. Class No. 1 retained the Attendance Banner.

The Youth did a marvelous job last Sunday morning. They looked pretty in their uniforms, red shirts and blue jeans. Since this was casual month, their pastor had on the same kind of a uniform. He said, "It's not what you wear, but what's in the clothes!" SO TRUE!

The devotional period was held from 10:45 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

The Youth Choir marched in the processional singing "Lord, Prepare Me." Altar prayer was offered by Rev. Jeff Brown. A song, "Rain, Holy Spirit, Rain On Me," was sung. 98th Psalms was the scripture read, and was followed by another prayer. Another song, "Oh, My Brother, Be Encouraged," was sung.

Responsive reading was done with the congregation standing. The morning hymn was "Walk With Me." Pastoral observations were given by Pastor Moton. "Blessed Be The Name" was sung, and the sermon hymn was "Pass Me Not."

Pastor Moton's sermon was entitled "God's Answer For Man's Complaint." His scripture text was Exodus 4:1-17. He let the congregation have it again!

If you missed the Church picnic last Saturday, you missed a treat! The food was fine! Many played games.

Let us not forget those who are on the sick and shut-in list. Sister G.H. Davis was admitted back to St. Mary Hospital. Sister Mable Biggers is also a patient at St. Mary Hospital. So is Mr. Sammie Beaty.

Sister V. Hibbler left to visit her daughter who is ill out of town. Let us pray for her travel and that her daughter gets well. Remember prayer changes things!

There are others whom we fail to mention, but don't forget them either. Sister Etta Tucker, a faithful member of the Greater St. Luke Baptist Church, is ill at this report.

Member of New Hope and Pastor Moton, who delivered the sermon, were special guest at the Happy Union Baptist Church in Plainview, Texas last Sunday afternoon. All reported a wonderful time.

Just think about it, the Southwest Digest will be 20 years old Thursday, September 11, 1997! Praise God for the Southwest Digest. You'd better subscribe! That is, if you are not. Call 744-4127 if you are interested in subscribing.

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Atlanta, GA-Best-selling Author George Fraser Reveals Keys to Success at Salute to Youth Luncheon - From left to right, Tommy Derich, President, 100 Black Men of America; George Fraser, author of Success Runs in Our Race: The Complete Guide To Effective Networking In The African American Community; and Andre Howell, Senior Strategic Relations Manager, Allstate Insurance Company.

Fraser delivered the keynote address at the Salute to Youth luncheon sponsored by Allstate Insurance Company during the 100 Black Men of America's 11th Annual National Convention. Fraser's speech, which reflected the convention's theme "Investing in America's Greatest Resource - Our Youth," applauded young African Americans for their accomplishments and contributions and offered motivational strategies for achieving success.



Is it Rap or is it Hip-Hop? - Many artists are eager to establish a distinction between Rap and Hip-Hop. Sony Music Entertainment Corporate Affairs recently hosted a symposium commemorating Black Music Month where rap veteran Chuck D (Public Enemy) joined conscientious rapper, Wyclef Jean (Fugees), among others, to discuss the mainstreaming of Rap and the evolution of Hip-Hop culture. Pictured (L to R) are Wyclef Jean, Isisara Bey, Sr. Director, Corporate Affairs, Sony Music Entertainment, Rev. Jamal Harrison Bryant, National Youth Director, NAACP, and Adario Strange, founder- Hip-Hop Online and former editor of "Hip-Hop's bible," The Source Magazine.

Mel Reynolds Receives More Jail Time

By Elaine Hegwood Bowen

While nearing the end of his jail sentence for sexual misconduct, former U.S. Rep. Mel Reynolds has received more jail time for bank and campaign fraud.

When Reynolds initially faced sexual misconduct charges for allegedly having sex with a teenage campaign worker, many suggested that he was at times very uncooperative in the courtroom. But on July 15, Reynolds pleaded for leniency before being sentenced to another six-and-a-half years in federal prison.

He admitted he made mistakes and did not follow the law pertaining to his campaign. But ultimately Reynolds was pleading for time to make amends to his family.

Reynolds' wife, Marisol, and their two children are reportedly living on public aid in Boston, Mass.

In a related matter, Mrs. Reynolds, who at first stood by her husband but then charged him with abuse, was also charged and convicted of campaign fraud. She is expected to be sentenced in that case. She has also filed for divorce from the former congressman.

The current case against Reynolds was decided on April 15, 1997 when he was found guilty of 16 counts of

fraud -- illegally raising campaign cash and defrauding banks of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Reynolds is due to complete his sentence on sexual misconduct in early 1998 and the new sentence will begin at that time.

Reynolds' attorney William Hooks said his client is being unfairly targeted by prosecutors. He claimed that instead of focusing on "real" criminals the U.S. Attorney's Office is bent on further punishing Reynolds, who grew up poor, became a Rhodes scholar and eventually a promising force in Washington.

U.S. District Judge Charles Norgle, who sentenced Reynolds, said the former politician is also guilty of numerous obstruction of justice violations. Reynolds has lied to the court and concealed and/or destroyed evidence, Norgle charged.

Even though Reynolds might be sorry for his action, the judge reportedly thinks he has not shown enough remorse and is only now attempting to avoid more jail time.

Hooks reportedly will appeal the court's decision.

Obituary Mrs. Laura Baldwin-Grisby

Funeral services were held last Saturday afternoon, August 9, 1997 for Mrs. Laura Baldwin-Grisby at the Lyons Chapel Baptist Church with Rev. W.D. Davis officiating.

Interment was held in the City of Lubbock Cemetery under the directions of Jamison Funeral Home.

Pallbearers were Rufus Stevins, Calvin Walker, Brady Baldwin, Jr., William Bell, Elgin Baldwin, Lew Coleman, and Jermaine Cleveland.

Mrs. Grisby was born May 8, 1930 to Ella and Curtis Ray in Honeygrove, Texas. She professed Christ at an early age.

As a young adult, Laura and her late husband, Rev. Wilson Baldwin, Sr., united with Lyons Chapel Baptist Church where she worked very faith-

fully. They moved to Midland, Texas in 1973. In 1975 she became a member of New Jerusalem Baptist Church in Littlefield, Texas. In 1995, she reunited with Lyons Chapel Baptist Church until her death. She was a member of the Eastern Star, Missionary Sisters of Lubbock and the Interdenominational Ministers Wives Alliance.

Survivors include her husband, Rev. Mitchell Grisby; three sons: B.D. Baldwin of Dallas, TX; Michael D. Baldwin of El Paso, TX; and Wilson Baldwin, Jr. of Lubbock, TX; three daughters: Betty Little of San Diego, CA.; Dianna Garner of Houston, TX, and Tonya Outland of Irving, TX; eighteen grandchildren, and thirteen great grandchildren.

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THIS N THAT

TWENTY YEARS OLD!! THIS N THAT... just writing this column...each week...it's just hard to realize that the...SOUTHWEST DIGEST...will be...TWENTY YEARS OLD...come Thursday...SEPTEMBER 11, 1997...It has been a...CHORE...but when you think about it...IT HAS BEEN WORTH THE EFFORT...In order to celebrate...this historical effort...A SPECIAL PROGRAM...will be held on that evening at a local location...More will be given on this program in the very near future...It is also the intent of the...CO-PUBLISHERS...to have a special...ISSUE...of which...you can be a part...by purchasing a...SPACE IN THE SOUTHWEST DIGEST...A...SPECIAL PAGE...is in the plans for the celebration...to allow those who would like to say...HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SOUTHWEST DIGEST...If you'd like to do so...just call...(806)...762-3612...between...9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m....Monday thru Friday...or you may bring by your info to...902 East 28th Street...THIS N THAT...hopes this will be a great celebration...as we reflect...what the...SOUTHWEST DIGEST...means and has contributed to the...CITY OF LUBBOCK...and the SOUTH PLAINS OF TEXAS...the...STATE OF TEXAS...and these...UNITED STATES OF AMERICA...JUST THINK...TWENTY YEARS...of the...SOUTHWEST DIGEST...Will you be a part of this celebration?

CONGRATS!! THIS N THAT...would like to say...CONGRATS...to one of our friends...FATHER MCKINLEY SHEPHERD...who has been appointed as...CHANCELLOR...of the African Orthodox Church, Inc. ...THIS N THAT...wishes him the very best...THIS N THAT...was in attendance of the...76TH CONFERENCE...of the African Orthodox Church, Inc. ...last week at the...Best Western Motel...It was a most joyous occasion...as delegates from throughout the country was present...FATHER SHEP-

HERD...has been well accepted...and will do well...in this new capacity...

THANKS, PASTOR RASPBERRY!! THIS N THAT...would like to say THANKS...to...PASTOR TODD RASPBERRY...who has resigned as pastor of the...MT. VERNON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH...to accept a position at...TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY...in the College of Arts & Sciences...THIS N THAT...has enjoyed working with this man...and he has been open in working with the citizens of our community...THANKS...PASTOR RASPBERRY...for a job well done...

IT WAS A VERY GOOD PROGRAM!! THIS N THAT...had an opportunity last...Saturday evening...to visit with some young people...who were attending a three day program...called...SUMMER YOUTH JAM...at the Mae Simmons Community Center...These young people...between the ages of...6 and 17 years of age...were having a great time...This program was sponsored by the...DRUG ELIMINATION PROGRAM...of the Lubbock Housing Authority, Inc. and the...Lubbock Regional Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse...THIS N THAT...would this program...would continue...if not during the school year...but...at least...next summer...It would be great if this program would last longer than...THREE DAYS...say at least...THIRTY DAYS!

SHIRLEY CANDADY THE BARBER SAYS: "ONE PERSON...practicing...SPORTSMANSHIP...is far better than...a...HUNDRED TEACHING IT..."

LISTEN TO SPEAK OUT LUBBOCK" THIS N THAT...would hope you will tune each...SATURDAY NIGHT...over station...LKFB...1420 AM...from...8:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m... and listen to..."SPEAK OUT LUBBOCK!" If you would like to call in and ask a question...you can do so...by calling...765-5016.

IN CINQUE

by Renetta W. Howard



There is a controversy going on about whether school integration has been or still is a worthwhile thing for Black students. One of the reasons for this controversy is the fact that as schools strive to improve test scores, that the majority of all minority students appear to be making progress but Black students With all of the federal chapter funding programs, the Reading scores of Blacks, especially, have not risen. Dr Granerio from the Equity Center in Florida made this statement on July 15, 1997 as he lectured to a group of teachers taking his course in a Reading Institute

Based on the premise that Dr Granerio's theory is correct, what

assumptions can educators and parents make from this? The first thing that came to my mind was the fact that Black students are not getting any one on one help where and when needed. The second notion that entered my mind was that Black students are not getting encouragement and support from home and the third idea was that there are not enough Black teachers to teach Black children. The more I thought about it, the more I decided that three of these assumptions are probably true and may be characteristic of many Black students. These three variables may very well determine how well a Black child learns. It may all rest on who is the teacher?

We are all aware that too many Black children feel inferior to White teachers or minorities who look white Based on

this knowledge, Black children are slow to ask questions for fear of being called or treated as though they were dumb, when their question might very well have to do with some aspect of their learning which could bridge a cultural, social or racial gap and help learning to proceed. Such a gap not bridged could bring learning to a standstill or cause it to lag, showing up on the test report as a lack of progress. Truly, it is a lack of progress.

When schools were not 'integrated,' Black teachers, many with a minimum amount of education, taught Black children and they progressed! What has changed? We have more educated Black teachers so what is the problem? We must get 'in cinque' and solve the problem. (To be continued).

"WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?"

by Eddie P. Richardson



From Africa to America, one would ask who sold us? And yet, it is not the important issue. It depends on who you talk to. Some say African reality; some say Jews, some say Arabs. That is not important! We are here! We were sold as slaves and that's the bottom line.

We had a tremendous exciting journey from Africa to America. Some of us jumped ship from the Caribbean, South and Central America. Some died along the way. It was only the strong who survived, and arrived to the American shores as slaves.

We were sold as slaves. We worked! We learned the American way, but we were the only group of people in the melting pot who could not melt because of legislation. This was put into place and deemed us not a full human being, but cattle like things. We were humans, people, God's children. We worked the lands, the mills, and everything else. But, thru it all, we sung, prayed, and kept on moving on.

Just think, we made it through slavery, Jim Crowism, segregation, defacto segregation, discrimination, affirmative action, and set aside. We made it! The more we gave, the more we got. A few of us went the extra mile, and worked harder with determination and made it to the top and beyond.

The old adage: "You can make it if you try," still holds true. The tougher the odds, the

harder one has to try. One cannot make it, especially when the odds are against you. If you sit around and moan, groan, and cry, and give up, you will have a tough life. But if you fight for what you want, you can attain it.

No dream is impossible, but one must be willing to work at it, and pay the price. We had a few Blacks immediately after slavery who became millionaires. They had to be cut's above the rest, and had to do things others would not do because of the lack of knowledge, impatience, or not willing to pay the price through hard work and praying the price.

In some instances, social programs and government hand outs made us sorry and lazy. When FDR set up these programs, they were designed to be self destructive. Everyone who got a government check worked through the WPA, CC Camps or etc. People did everything from pottery, quilt making, building roads and bridges, and many other chores. What was important, each earned their keep.

As time continued, guess what happened? You guessed it, the bureaucracy took over. Each administration took on more government control and it became a career status which gets 80% of the welfare of a social fund for administering these programs. On the other hand, the victims get blamed for the treasurer drain. The bureaucrats and free loaders hurt those who are handicapped or impaired, disabled and other needy. But it appears as though the greedy are in need.

More later!

SOUTHWEST DIGEST

902 East 28th 79404
P.O. BOX 2553—LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79408
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 the 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."

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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.

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Lubbock City-County Library KOHM Radio To Host Concert Sunday, August, 24, 1997

If you love to read, enhance your enjoyment by discussing some of the best of recent fiction and nonfiction with fellow readers at the Lubbock City-County Library's "First Thursday Book Discussion Series." Discussions will be on the first Thursday of each month from September through December. The first meeting will be held at the Groves Branch Library, 5520 19th Street, on Thursday, September 4, from 7:30 to 8:30 P.M., and the featured book will be Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt. Future selections are: *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* by John Berendt, *The English Patient* by Michael Ondaatje,

and *Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson. Copies of each book are available for checkout at all libraries. The discussions will be led by Thomas Perchlik of First Unitarian Universalist Church. All are invited to attend this free series. For more information, please call 767-3733.

"Saturday Showcase," a program of children's films, will feature "A Pocket for Corduroy," and "The Tap Dance Kid" on Saturday, August 16 at 3:00 P.M. in the Mahon Library Activity Room, 1306 9th Street. This program is open to children of all ages and no admission is charged. For more information, please call 767-2838.



LUBBOCK, TEXAS--KOHM Radio Station, the South Plains region's only public radio station, will host Share the Spectrum -- Enjoy the Best of KOHM, Sunday, Aug. 24, 1997, at 6 p.m. This benefit concert, which will present classics from the various genres of music represented in the KOHM listening audience, will be held at Texas Tech University's Hemmle Hall. A reception in the Cruslyn Room of the University Library, will follow, from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

"This concert will be different than one normally finds in Hemmle Hall," said Event Coordinator and KOHM Board Member Jane Ann Wilson. "Many times, jazz or pop concerts are held in the Hall, but rarely is there such a fine combina-

tion of styles and versatile artists as this event will offer.

Cost for the event is \$10 per person. Tickets can be purchased at the door the day of the concert, or may be purchased at the KOHM office (room 210, Journalism building, TTU). Share the Spectrum will feature shorter, lighter works that are some of the most beloved favorite classics.

These pieces will be performed by many of Lubbock's favorite, outstanding artists. Emcee for the concert will be Clint Barrick, a unique voice of KOHM.

The concert program includes musical selections ranging from jazz and roots genres to mariachi and classical violin.

"This will be an exciting evening of fun for all," Wilson said. "Our reception will feature regional wines, desserts, breads, fruit and cheese from a variety of local sponsors. For more information, call the KOHM offices at (806) 742-3100.

Terry King was a protege of Gregor Piatigorsky and was a former assistant to him in the famous master classes at the University of Southern California. Many prominent American composers have written works for Mr. King and he has premiered, commissioned and/or recorded important cello compositions by such celebrated masters as Roy Harris, Virgil Thomson, Henry Cowell, Paul Creston, Halsey Stevens, Lou Harrison, Lukas Foss, Miklos Rosza, and many others.

King is a member of two world-class piano trios, the Mirecourt Trio, and the International Trio. He is presently engaged in recording projects of the major works for cello including American classics ("Cello America" on the Music and Arts label, and the complete Beethoven works on the Dutch label Erasmus). Mr King has also recorded for MCA, ABC Classics, CRI, Innova, Genesis, Orion, Grand Prix, Audax, A&M, Bay Cities, Gasparo, and TR Records. Terry King currently teaches at Texas Tech University.

Share the Spectrum -- Enjoy the Best of KOHM

Partial Program

Pianist William Westney -- Nocturne by Gabriel Faure; Violinist Susan Baer -- Meditation from Thias by Jules Massenet; Flutist Margaret Redcay -- Carmen Fantasy; Trumpeter Will Strieder -- Slow movement of the Concerto by Fisher Tull; Cellist Terry King -- The Swan from Carnival of the Animals by Camille St. Saens; Organist Roy Wilson -- Toccata and Fugue in D Minor by J. S. Bach; Fiddler Lanny Fiel -- Traditional fiddle tunes; Jazz Quartet: Saxophonist Robert Walzel; Pianist James Sudduth; Percussionist Alan Shinn; Bass player Edward Wilsworth -- Jazz classics; and Mariachi Flores -- Vera Cruz 2, traditional Mexican arranged by Pepe Martinez.

DUNBAR AREA RECEIVES SECURITY LIGHTS

The security lights seen in the allies in the Dunbar/Manhattan Heights Neighborhood area have been made possible through the efforts of the neighborhood association.

According to Mr. David Sowell, association president, a special thanks is given to the Boy Scout Troop No. 500 for the installation of the security lights.

It is the hope of the Dunbar/Manhattan


Heights Neighborhood Association all citizens will enjoy the new security lights. Those who have not received their lights need to know that the lights are in, but will have to be installed.



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"SPECIAL"

If you would like to be listed in the Twentieth Commemorative Issue of the Southwest Digest, you can do so by calling 762-3612. These signatures congratulation ads will run from \$15.00 to \$75.00. It will include your name, family or business. Your business will have an opportunity to list a small message. Deadline for this information will be 5:00p.m. Friday, August 29, 1997

LUBBOCK CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY

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6601 Quaker Avenue

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Patterson Branch
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Groves Branch
5520 19th Street

Monday - Tuesday 12 - 9
Wednesday - Saturday 9 - 6

NEW BOOKS
The Best Caribbean Travel Tips by John Whitman
LBJ and Vietnam by George C. Herring

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Thursday 10:00 & 11:00 a.m. 2 year-olds

Godeke Branch
Tuesday 10:30 a.m. 3-5 year-olds
Wednesday 2:00 p.m. 3-5 year-olds

Patterson Branch
Tuesday 7:00 p.m. 3-5 year-olds
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CHURCH DIRECTORY



We Thank God For Jesus "WILL A PREACHER ROB GOD?"



MALACHI 1:6, A SON HON- OURETH HIS FATHER, AND A SER- VANT HIS MASTER; IF THEN I BE A FATHER, WHERE IS MINE HONOR? AND IF I BE A MASTER, WHERE IS MY FEAR? SAITH THE LORD OF HOSTS UNTO YOU, O PRIESTS(PREACHERS), THAT DESPISE MY NAME. AND YE SAY, WHEREIN HAVE WE DESPISED THY NAME?

SOME PREACHERS DON'T TRUST GOD; TO TAKE CARE OF ALL HIS NEEDS; SO HE CONJURES UP THE IDEAL, TO GET THE PEOPLE; TO RAISE A BIG ANNIVERSARY.

ISAIAH 56:11, THE LORD SAID, YEA, THEY ARE GREEDY DOGS WHICH CAN NEVER HAVE ENOUGH, AND THEY ARE SHEPHERDS THAT CANNOT UNDER- STAND(THE WORD OF GOD); THEY ALL LOOK TO THEIR OWN WAY, EVERY ONE FOR HIS GAIN, FROM HIS QUARTER(ANNIVERSARY).

MANY PREACHERS SAY: GOD'S STOREHOUSE IS THEIR OWN PERSONAL BANK ACCOUNT; BUT THE HOLY BIBLE IS THE GUIDE LINE; AND IT DON'T GIVE THAT ACCOUNT.

*****WILL A PREACHER ROB GOD????*****

MATTHEW 20:4b, JESUS SAID, GO YE ALSO INTO THE VINEYARD (KINGDOM BUILDING), AND WHAT- SOEVER IS RIGHT I WILL GIVE YOU, AND THEY WENT THEIR WAY. SOME PREACHERS LET THE UN- SAVE, HOLD POSITION IN CHURCH; BUT THEY PAY TITHE BUT FOR THE LOVE OF MONEY; HE DON'T CARE THAT GOD'S HOUSE SUPPOSE TO BE SANCTI- FIED

MATTHEW 23:23a, JESUS SAID, WOE(CURSED) UNTO YOU, SCRIBES AND PHARISEES, HYPOCRITES! FOR YE PAY TITHE OF MINT AND ANISE AND COMM- MIN, AND HAVE OMITTED THE WEIGHTIER MATTER OF THE LAW, JUDGMENT, MERCY, AND FAITH.

(YOU KNOW WHEN THE CHURCH HAS PROBLEMS LIKE THIS, THE PEOPLE NEED TO COME TOGETHER IN A MEETING TO GET THIS THING RIGHT; THE MESS THAT IS GOING ON IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY IS: SHAME,SHAME,SHAME-!! I KNOW THE BIBLE SAYS TO OBEY THE LEADER; BUT WHEN THE LEADER IS MISLEADING; WHY FOLLOW HIM? THE CHURCH IS TO BE A HOLY PLACE OF GOD. IF THERE IS AN UN-SAVE MUSICIAN, OR CHOIR MEMBER, OR DEACON, OR PASTOR; WHEN THE UN-SAVE VISITOR COMES IN, HE KNOWS THIS SHOULD NOT BE; AND MAY WOULD GIVE HIS LIFE TO CHRIST, BUT SEEING THE CHURCH PLAYING CHURCH; HE SAYS: I CAN GO TO HELL LIVING IN MY SINS IN THE STREETS; I DON'T WANT PLAY CHURCH!!!)

*****WILL THE CHURCH ROB GOD????*****

WHEN THE PREACHER DATES THE SISTERS IN CHURCH; AND YET HE HAS A WIFE; HE USE TO BE A PIMP IN THE WORLD; BUT SAYS HE HAS CHANGED IN TO A NEW LIFE.

MARK 13:38a,40, JESUS SAID, BEWARE OF THE SCRIBES(PREACHERS), WHICH DEVOUR WIDOWS' HOUSES, AND FOR A PRETENSE MAKE LONG PRAYERS; THESE SHALL RECEIVE GREATER DAMNATION.

REVELATION 3:13,15,16, JESUS SAID, HE THAT HATH AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAITH UNTO THE CHURCHES. I KNOW THY WORKS, THAT THOU ART NEITHER COLD NOR HOT; I WOULD THAT THOU WERE COLD OR HOT, SO THEN BECAUSE THOU ART LUKEWARM, AND NEITHER COLD NOR HOT, I WILL SPUE (SPIT) THEE OUT OF MY MOUTH.

GOD IS NOT THROUGH WITH US YET. SO LETS PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER ALWAYS. WRITTEN BY EVANGELIST BILLY B.J. MORRISON, III YOUR BROTHER IN CHRIST JESUS!!!



from the Desk of Parson D.A. Smith

A SEEKING FATHER.

"This my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found."—Luke 15:24

Each time I read the story of the "Prodigal Son" I am struck with awe about the love of our Father God for sinful humanity. The story shows the inner character of the father—warm understanding, benevolent, gracious, forgiving, rejoicing.

A famous novelist claims that we cannot go home again. Robert Frost suggests that home is the place where they have to take you in. Jesus insists that home is where the waiting father welcomes the lost back with open arms. Home is where the prodigal finds the freedom he thought only the far country could provide.

Most of us know this story but each time we read it, it mirrors our lives. Most of us were once like the prodigal in the far country who was hungry, disillusioned, shamed, humiliat- ed, broken in spirit, all of it by his own doing. We see him in the land of his choosing, stomach drawn up and aching. We see him trying to eat the pods the swine ate, but his stomach not able to digest them. Only a pig stomach could handle that stuff.

The boy knew nothing of the far country's ways. But no illusions were cluttering his mind now. He could think clearly now that necessity was upon him. Necessity had invented a repentant heart. The boy had been seeking answers but "He came to himself?" He realized the state that he was in. He rehearsed what he would say as he turned toward home. He would acknowledge his unworthiness. He would ask just to be given the chance of a hired servant.

What the son did not know was that each morning, at noon, at the close of the day's work, the father looked down that road the boy had left to see if he was returning home.

On this particular day the father look and he saw something familiar about that figure on the road way off in the distance. "That's my boy! He doesn't look like he did when he left. His head is down, not thrown back. His shoulders are bowed. His chest isn't lifted up, but that's my boy! I know it is! My boy has come home!"

The message of the story still is: "You can come home again to the father. He waits to welcome you no matter how low you have sunk." God our Father, comes

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The Outreach Prayer Breakfast

The members of the Outreach Prayer Breakfast are talking about the Kingdom of God this week.

The Kingdom of God is the rule of God; the will of God unchallenged on earth. It is that area and territory over which God is absolute ruler and where all of the wishes, desires, and commands of God are completely accomplished and obeyed by all. You may ask, where is the Kingdom of God???

The Kingdom of God is in the heart of men and women or within every Christian's life. When God rules our hearts, then God will rule over our lives, our habits, our homes, our communi- ties, our nations, and our world.

You can be a citizen in God's Kingdom. One becomes a citi- zen of God's Kingdom through the "born again" experience. This experience can be gradual or sudden. As one is born again into God's love and grace, through one's commitment to Christ Jesus and as one denies himself, picks up his cross and follows Jesus, he or she then becomes a citizen of God's Kingdom.

Luke 17:21—it's nice to know that the Kingdom of God is within us so be careful Saints. If it's not in us, it's among us. Be very careful how you treat your Brother or Sister. You're hous- ing the precious Kingdom of our God. Take care of your body and soul.

Acts 17:30; II Chronicles 7:14—The day to repent. This meet- ing will be rescheduled. Keep praying about it people. The Prayer Warriors are constantly putting on their armor dress- ing themselves. Repenting and receiving power. But we shall receive power. We are armed and considered dangerous against evil and sin, that is, in our communities, homes, schools, state and nation. We're moving to a higher level in Jesus Christ. We have to do it for our children and the world.

"Let's Pray"

Oh, Lord, we repent from grumbling, complaining, planting seeds of discord in the body, and destroying the good name of our Sisters and Brothers. Open our eyes and the eyes of our leaders, from the Church to the White House. Holy Spirit, guide us in knowing how these drugs are reaching our young people who don't own cars, trains, nor airplanes. Touch the hearts of adults who will stoop so low as to ruin our children's lives. We speak to the "root source now," in the name of Jesus who these evils will be shouted from the roof top. The evils which are committed in darkness will be brought to light and corrected, because your people are praying. Lord, we thank you for the Prayer Warriors who will be praying for our schools, the school system, and our teachers. Move in their minds and hearts to do the right thing. Show love regardless of the circumstances. Help them to realize they are standing before young innocent minds who need role models to be loved. Help them to place a tool of correction in their mind before placing condom in their hand. Lord, please bear our prayer in the precious name of Jesus. We pray! AMEN

Please write us if you feel the need. Write us: Outreach Prayer Breakfast, P.O. Box 1223, Lubbock, Texas 79408.

Keep smiling and loving everybody, whether they are hurting or not. Keep reading II Chronicles 7:14; Mark 11:22-24.

Thought of the Week: "A man wrapped himself up in himself makes a very small package." Think about it!

Sister Dorothy Hood, president; Sister Christine Burleson, vice president; Sister Ernestine Praizer, secretary.

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VICKIE WINANS "LIVE IN DETROIT"



It's been three long years since the public has heard anything new from one of the most charismatic artists to ever spring out of the Motor City -- Detroit. Backstage at her con- certs, in public ladies rooms, in air- port gift shops and anywhere else she goes, Vickie Winans' faithful fans have begged and pleaded for a new album. She always said "I'm working on it." Well, it is finally here and Vickie's die-hard fans will agree that it was surely worth the wait. The new set, Vickie Winans Live in Detroit (CGI Records), is an intimately personal musical journey for Vickie for a variety of reasons.

For starters, it's Vickie's first live album and it was recorded in her native Detroit at the Straight Gate Church where Andrew & Viveca Merritt pastor. "There were about four thousand people there [on Mother's Day 1996]," the singer recalls. "There wasn't even standing room. It was unreal." Gospel luminaries such as Black Entertainment Television (BET) personality Bobby Jones and singers such as Inez Andrews, Albertina Walker, Kim Stratton and Yolanda Adams came out to support Vickie. However, the most cher- ished guests of honor were Vickie's parents, Aaron and Mattie Bowman.

This concert took place just a few months before the sudden death of seventy-three year old Aaron Bowman. He was a hard worker who labored for four decades as a contractor and spent just as many years raising his twelve children in the fear of God. "He died right after he left my house on Christmas day," Vickie says with shock still covering her words. "We had dinner and everything. It was a fabulous night. Nothing was wrong with him. He just went home and died. They said it was natural causes. He didn't suffer. There was no beating in his chest. He just dropped his head over."

"We were devastated. I had a hundred and three people in my house, family members and friends for Christmas. We were all around. I had just bought my new home and I wouldn't let [my parents] see it until

Christmas. My Daddy was so proud and I just paid off all my daddy's bills the year before. Every bill he had I paid them all off I gave him money every month. He had worked forty years for us twelve kids. He was a carpenter and a mason. We laughed and cried and laughed for about thirteen hours that day. We all got up and took pictures with him. He got up. He hugged us all, we all started leaving and took maama home. Went home, sat down, started to slump his head and died. We liked to have lost our minds. I still can't believe it." Vickie dedicates the album to her beloved father's memory. Vickie's dad would be proud too. The album opens with an orchestra styled overture of Andrae Crouch's classic "My Tribute (To God Be The Glory)" which Vickie transforms into a stirring, melismatic medley with the classic church hymn "Great Is Thy Faithfulness." When asked why she chose to record these particular songs, Vickie exclaimed, "To God Be The Glory is a thankful song. God has blessed me so. Oh, my God! I am so blessed. I'm doing things they tell me gospel artists don't do, but this gospel artist is and God gave it to me. You don't have to go to the world to get nothing, I'm just honoring him and doing anthems in his name."

"I've been busy, but it's a blessing," says the singer who has been national spokesperson for the Quaker Oats Company's Voices of Tomorrow gospel competition since 1992. "It's live," she says returning to the subject of her album. "I just wanted to go back and get some of those old songs. I did some contemporary in there, but this is basically a traditional type album. It's a churchy album, very church. The title cut that I think will take it where it should go or all the way to the top is As Long As I Got King Jesus. I remember it from years ago and I always loved it. I been lied on, talked about, mistreated. I been bused. Now, that's ebionics," she cracks with a hearty laugh.

"The people made this album traditional," Vickie explains. "Out side of my other albums, I sang No Cross, No Crown [which is included here as well] for James Cleveland. The song was such a hit and people just like me doing traditional and then, that's the way I

felt this time. It's interesting. It's traditional because I'm such a flair singer. I sing with such... I just put all that flair in it, so it's like traditional with a little pepper. A little spice. A little contemporary spice."

It's a thoroughly enjoyable set finding Winans' voice in fine tone and at the top of her craft. "King Jesus" is a shout number that will have the saints running down the church aisles proclaiming the glory of Jesus. With a simple piano backing her, Winans softly recounts the goodness of God on "No Not One."

Another pleasing factor to the collection is that there is a diversity of songs yet none of the tunes seem out of place for the album. "More Than Enough" is a con- gregational sing-a-long, "My Soul Escapes" has a big band jazz feel and Winans' remake of Candi Staton's 1991 hit "The Blood Rushes" is jubilee style. "Alter that, we turned around and got something contempor- ary that is just so wonderful," Winans adds. "If You Believe" has the funky flow of anything you'll hear on urban radio today and the album closes with a tranquil opus to strong relationships on "Friends," a song on which Winans thanks her audience for their support over her ten year career. Winans is a wise business- woman in firm control of her career. She runs Viviane, her own Detroit-based management company and is constantly strategizing for bigger career adventures. "I like doing what I'm doing," she says matter-of-factly. "I've been offered a movie. I want to do movies. I want my own gospel talk show, so we can have a ball."

With her vivacious personality, a television show would be the perfect vehicle for her. In fact, in her own appraisal, one key to Winans' success is the fact that her humor immediately disarms the coldest strangers. An old adage suggests that people who laugh a lot lead happier, healthier lives. Winans makes it safe to laugh and worship at the same time. "It's that comedy because I will have them screaming," she jokes. "I incorporate my life stories and the way I tell them into my singing. I've been offered four to five major con- tracts to do comedy records, but I'm not no comedian. People be literally on the floor and I just let them lose it. I was at Carlton Pearson's Asura [a major religious conference] I clowned so up in there it didn't make no sense. We just had a ball."

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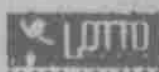
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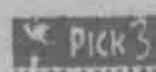


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BUSINESS EXCHANGE

by William Reed

FOR THE KIDS' SAKE: TURN OFF TV AND TURN TO PCs

Don't let anybody tell you that the white man's racism is keeping us in last place on the road to modern technology. Of course it's true that in the recent history of America's educational systems black girls and boys had to be twice as good to keep pace while they learned from second-hand books, on second-hand desks. But if we be honest with each other today, we know that on the Information Super Highway the lanes to learning are color blind and that all African-American children need sufficient introductions to the world of computers.

The Information Super Highway is one area where don't have to wait 400 years to get what is rightfully ours. Unless the current generation of African-American parents, and their children, begin to grasp technology and its value to us now and into the future, as other cultures have, where we live will become more and more like Third World enclaves, surrounded by plenty.

As the world races toward an information-based society, exactly where is Black America? Unfortunately amid discussions of the Information Super Highway, African Americans are on a dirt road, lost in the boondocks. Unless we quickly embrace these technologies, we'll find ourselves traveling through life by horse and buggy while others bypass us, economically and socially, aboard the Concorde. Look at the way information-based technology has already changed our lives in the past 10 years - call waiting, caller ID, cellular phones, pagers, etc. - and you see the future. And for African Americans, of

whom only 12 percent of households own PCs, the future will be bleak.

We have to start now to understand the value of computers. Young people can gain immediate educational benefits from using computers. Seventy percent of all future jobs will be computer-related, and those who remain computer illiterate will earn one-quarter less income than others. It is up to parents, preachers, teachers and relatives to help black children get the tools they need to stay afloat in the 21st century. With purchasing power of \$400 billion a year, more blacks can afford to own computers. Too many of us will spend money on expensive - and often violent - video games or \$100 sneakers for our youth while refusing to invest in the technology essential to a child's development. If your child has a boombox, Nintendo, Sega, VCR, car and/or \$120 Reeboks, and no computer, then you (not the white man) are definitely the problem. If you can figure out how to get dollars to pay Nike, Nintendo and Sony Entertainment for what you, and your kids, want, surely you can get the financing to buy your children computers, which they will need to make it in life.

Isn't it sad to think that one could stand on any inner-city corner in America and sell fake Versace suits, discounted Reeboks and gold chains all day, but be unable to sell software, hardware or any kind of technological equipment in the very same place. Even if we are strapped financially, most of us still seem to squeeze out enough money to get our hair done, cars custom cleaned and buy the latest CDs and CD players. If your

car is clean, your hair done and are listening to the latest sounds on the latest equipment, but have no computer, you need to stop and think about that.

There are many resources for exposing black children to the Information Super Highway, via personal computers. Some libraries have them. Most colleges and universities have PC labs and will allow kids to use them. Our churches definitely should have such systems available for members' and community use. But, on your own, for Christmas or before, you should check out the prices for a computer and start the process of setting your child, and his or her mind, free. If African-American children can learn and grasp computer technology, this is the quickest way out of a dead end, minimum wage job, or a profession in drug distribution.

We can't afford to let the technological revolution pass us by. Experts estimate that the total sum of human knowledge doubled from the year 1750 to 1900. It doubled again between 1900 and 1950, and yet again in the 10 years from 1950 to 1960. Though the tremendous impact of information-based technology by the year 2000, knowledge is projected to double every 73 days. And there is no way to compete in the future without mastering the computer, the instrument through which much of this knowledge will pass. It is our responsibility to give our children lifestyle options. Strategic planners would enthusiastically tell you that "It would be grand if African-American families could welcome the 21st century with a computer in every child's room."

LEGAL MATTERS

by Attorney General Dan Morales

SOME SCAM ARTISTS RE-VICTIMIZE DISASTER VICTIMS

DISASTER CONS and frauds take many forms. Some businesses raise their prices unconscionably. Unscrupulous home repair services flourish in the wake of a disaster. Bogus charities spring up. And solicitors may advertise that they can get big insurance settlements for disaster victims—for a fee.

If you are the victim of a hurricane, flood, tornado, or other disaster, exercise extreme caution. It's bad enough to have to cope with the destructive force of nature. Don't let a scam artist victimize you a second time. Be prepared, and know your rights.

Price-gouging is illegal

Price-gouging is the practice of charging excessively high prices for goods or services to take advantage of individuals affected by a disaster. Under the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act, price-gouging is illegal.

When massive floods inundated parts of Southeast Texas in 1994, many consumers complained about businesses charging excessive prices on such necessities as drinking water, carpet cleaning, car rentals and towing jobs.

More recently, my office issued warnings against price-gouging after tornadoes struck Central Texas this past May. The Office of the Attorney General has authority to prosecute any business that engages in price-gouging after a natural disaster has been declared by the governor.

Clean up without getting taken

After a flood, hurricane, tornado or other severe weather, salespeople may go from door to door through your neighborhood offering clean-up and repair services. While many of these people are honest and reputable, some are not.

There are several things you can do to protect yourself—and your wallet—from unscrupulous operators. If you are insured, ask your insur-

ance adjuster for an estimate of the damage and probable repair cost. This will give you a benchmark estimate, prepared by a professional, when you negotiate with contractors.

If someone comes to your door and offers to do your repairs, follow these basic guidelines:

- Get more than one estimate. Don't be pushed into signing a contract right away.
- Check the contractor out with the Better Business Bureau.
- Get references from past customers and check them out thoroughly.
- If the salesperson is unknown to you, write down his or her driver's license number and license plate number.

Get everything in writing and keep the documents in a safe place. The total cost, work to be done, time schedule, payment terms, and other expectations should be noted in specific detail. A notice of cancellation—giving you the right to change your mind within three business days—must be included. Do not sign a contract containing blank spaces. Ask for any guarantees in writing.

Never pay 100 percent of the cost up front. And arrange for an independent third party, such as an insurance adjuster or real estate inspector to inspect the completed work before you make full payment. Don't sign completion papers or make final payment until the work is completed to your satisfaction.

If you feel you that you are being unfairly charged for goods or services in the wake of a natural disaster, you may file a complaint by calling my Consumer Protection Hotline at (800) 337-3928 or e-mailing the Citizens Assistance Division at: cac@oag.state.tx.us. The OAG's Consumer Complaint Form can be downloaded from our Web site at www.oag.state.tx.us.

CORONADO SENIOR AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP

Castle Rachelle Reed, a senior at Coronado High School, was awarded a scholarship by the Promotional Products College Education Foundation (PPCEF). She is the daughter of Joe and Stephanie Reed of Lubbock, TX. Mrs. Reed is a promotional products distributor with Scarborough Specialties

in Lubbock, TX.

Reed plans to attend Texas A&M University in College Station, TX and study psychology.

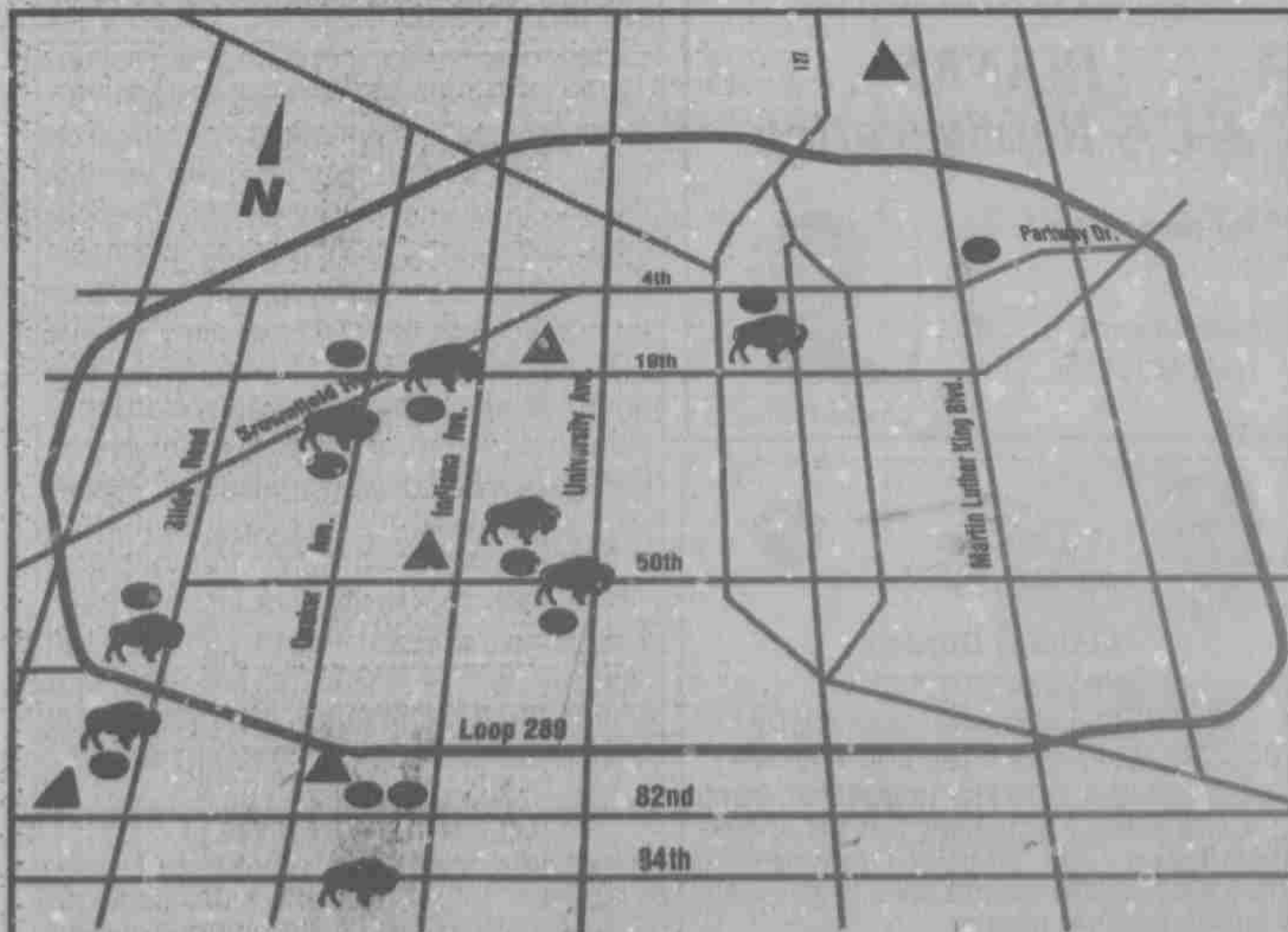
The Foundation awards college scholarships to the children of promotional products industry professionals. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of the student's grade point average, test scores, and financial need. Applicants are also required to submit a letter outlining their educational goals, extracurricular activities and work experience.

Out of more than 70 applications received from around the country, seven new scholarships were awarded this year.

"We're excited to offer this investment to bright, hardworking young men and women planning for their future," said Keith Olivit, PPCEF Chairman.

PPCEF, founded in 1978 as an educational, charitable, non-political and non-profit organization, has presented approximately \$100,000 in scholarships to over 50 students since 1989. PPCEF is incorporated in the District of Columbia, with its administrative offices at Promotional Products Association in Irving, TX.

Promotional products, usually imprinted with a company's name, logo, or message, are useful or decorative articles of merchandise that are used in marketing and communication programs. Promotional Products Association International is a trade association, based in Irving, TX, that serves more than 6,000 supplier and distributor companies of promotional products and services.



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Sparrowgrass Poetry Forum is offering a grand prize of \$500 in its new Distinguished Poet Awards poetry contest. Thirty-four other cash awards are also being offered. The contest is free to enter and open to everyone. Anthology purchase may be required to ensure publication, but is now required to enter or win the contest.

Poets may enter one poem only, 20 lines or less, on any subject, in any style. The contest closes September 30, 1997, but poets are encouraged to submit their work as soon as possible. Poems entered in the contest also will be considered for publication in the Summer 1998 edition of

Treasured Poems of America, a hardcover anthology. Prize winners will be announced on November 30, 1997.

"Our contest is especially for new and unpublished poets seeking a forum that enables them to share their work," says Jerome P. Welch, Publisher. "We are looking for sincerity and originality in a wide variety of styles and themes. Many of our contest winners are new poets with new ideas."

Poems should be sent to Sparrowgrass Poetry Forum, Dept. J, 609 Main St., PO Box 193, Sistersville, WV 26175-0193.

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