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An Independent Pictorial Newspaper for All People • Primarily Serving the Black Population of Lubbock County and the Surrounding Area • Black Press of America

NATIONAL NEWS

Saving Mr. mia

By Bernice Powell Jackson

I just returned from a large meeting of the World Council of Churches (WCC), where more than 4,000 Christians from around the world came together to worship, pray, and deliberate. It is the 50th anniversary of the founding of the WCC and it is also the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights. So, it was appropriate that the churches chose to say a word in support of human rights.

In that statement in support of human rights was a call for the elimination of the death penalty, saying, "The WCC was long stood against the use of the death penalty, but recourse to this ultimate form of punishment is often sought by victims in societies ridden by crime and violence." Sadly, only a few days after these words of the church, this "ultimate form of punishment" seems to be even closer for one of the U.S. political prisoners, Mumia Abu-Jamal.

The case of Mumia Abu-Jamal is well-known by many who monitor death row cases and has been watched closely by the African American community and by a growing list of leaders in the church as well as by those in the entertainment community. Many of us believe that the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal is a travesty of justice and an important example of why the death penalty is a violation of human rights. Abu-Jamal, a long time journalist and activist in the Philadelphia Black community, was convicted in 1982 of the murder of a policeman. The witnesses for the prosecution were shown to have been coerced or promised immunity or non-prosecution of other cases. One witness, who originally had been threatened by police with the loss of her children, later recanted her earlier testimony and then found herself re-arrested when she left the witness stand. Another, who is one of two witnesses who actually saw the shooting, says the Abu-Jamal did not hit the officer as the police refused to release him until he signed their version of what happened. The second eyewitness has mysteriously disappeared.

Moreover, crucial evidence for the defense was withheld from defense lawyers. The original defense attorney admits that he went to trial without conducting a single interview with a witness. Even police officers who testified gave questionable testimony under oath. More frightening are a number of questionable prosecutorial actions. For example, the prosecution used ten-year old writings from Abu-Jamal, written while he was a member of the Black Panther party, as an argument for his receiving the death penalty, an action later outlawed by the Supreme Court. They also used peremptory challenges to remove eleven African American jurors, another tactic later outlawed by the Supreme Court.

Finally, there is the judge in the Mumia Abu-Jamal case. The judge sentenced more people to death than any other sitting judge in the United States. Indeed, of the 222 people on death row in Pennsylvania, 62% of them are African American, while blacks make up only 10% of the state's population. Philadelphia, the city of brotherly love, has more inmates on death row than 26 other states and nearly 84% of them are African American. No wonder the Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun shortly before his retirement wrote, "Even under the most sophisticated death penalty statutes, race continues to play a major role in determining who shall live and who shall die."

Despite all these discrepancies, despite disputed testimony and missing witnesses, despite jury inequities and the pleas of thousands of people, across this nation and around the world, the Governor of Pennsylvania has pledged to execute Mumia Abu-Jamal as soon as possible, possibly during this holiday period when the eyes of the public are turned elsewhere.

But the eyes of the one who holds the real scales of justice are never closed. The death penalty is the ultimate form of punishment, one which cannot be undone. And in the past twenty years 70 death row inmates were released after it was found that they were, indeed, innocent. Again, in the words of Justice Blackmun, "From this day forward I no longer shall tinker with the machinery of death. For more than 20 years I have endeavored indeed I have struggled...to develop procedural and substantive rules that would lead more than the mere appearance of fairness to the death penalty endeavor."

Sadly, even the appearance of fairness is absent from the Mumia Abu-Jamal case. And without that would be murder. It would be a travesty to execute any human being during this season of peace. It would be a travesty to execute Mumia Abu-Jamal at any time.

You may write Governor Thomas Ridge, Main Capitol Building, Room 225, Harrisburg, PA 17120 or fax 717-783-1396.



If you can identify this young Black musician by 5:00 p.m. Friday, January 29, 1999, the Southwest Digest will award a one year's free subscription. No telephone calls, please. Send your answer to: "Name The Black Musician," c/o Southwest Digest, P. O. Box 2553, Lubbock, Texas 79408.

NAACP Questions Objectivity of Army Report On Sexual Misconduct Investigations

BALTIMORE, MD -- The U.S. Army has released a report on investigations of racial bias by its Criminal Investigation Command (CIC) following sexual misconduct charges against soldiers at Aberdeen Proving Ground. The Army ruled that the CIC investigations were "not racially motivated and that all allegations of racial bias were without merit." NAACP President and CEO Kweisi Mfume issued the following statement in response to

the release of the report:

"The NAACP will conduct a comprehensive review and analysis of the details in this report within the next few days and will engage in further dialogue with Defense Department Officials on this matter as well as the broader issue of racial bias throughout the armed services. We will have more to say on this matter at that time."

LISD Orchestras To Perform In "String Fling"

On Tuesday, February 2nd, the LISD Orchestra Department will present its 14th Annual "LISD String Fling!" in the Civic Center Theatre, with this year's theme being "Dancing Strings!" Between 6:30 and 7 p.m., selected string ensembles will entertain the evening's guests as they enter the lobby of the theatre.

Mark Griffin, President of the Lubbock ISD School Board, will present the welcoming remarks with Andy Patterson, Director, Roosevelt High School Band, serving as the evening's Master of Ceremonies. "The Star Spangled Banner" will be performed by LISD's four high school orchestras, under the direction of Robert Meinecke, Orchestra Instructor of Lubbock High School.

LISD's fourteen secondary orchestras will perform in clusters, followed by the All-City 7th Grade Orchestra, conducted by Margaret Brown Johnson, Orchestra Director, Irons Junior High. The evening will climax with music performed by the 450+ member LISD Massed Orchestra, under the direction of Bryce W. Wyrick, Conductor of the Coronado High School Orchestra. The Massed Orchestra will perform music specially arranged by Dr. C. Ray Wilson, Orchestra Director, O.L. Slaton Junior High.

Two dollar, General Admission tickets (student-age and above) are available from any LISD orchestra student, or may be purchased at the door for three dollars. Proceeds from the concert will assist LISD's individual orchestras with their yearly activities. "LISD's 'String Fling' is one of the few massed secondary string concerts in our state," stated C. Doyle Gammill, LISD Coordinator of Instrumental Music, "and we urge our citizens to help us celebrate our students' achievements!"

Super Saturdays Set At Texas Tech

Texas Tech University, Institute for the Development and Enrichment of Advanced Learners (IDEAL), will host the spring session of Super Saturdays, beginning February 13 through March 13, 1999. Registrations are currently being accepted.

Super Saturdays is designed to provide students in kindergarten through 7th grade with academic and creative experiences beyond the regular school curriculum. Classes

offered include aerodynamics, animal science, art, biotechnology, cooking, computers, creative writing, geology, theatre and others. Instructors for the classes include members of the Texas Tech faculty, professionals in various fields, and public school teachers.

Students may take as many classes as they wish, most classes are limited to 15 students. Super Saturdays meets each Saturday for five weeks. The average cost per

class is \$66, but fees vary according to subject.

To participate in the Super Saturdays program, students must submit a recent report card with a B+ or better average. For more information or to register for Super Saturdays, contact Tina Vecchio, Program Coordinator for IDEAL, Texas Tech University, Box 42191, Lubbock, Texas 79409 or call (806) 742-2352, ext. 241.

Dr. Njoki McElroy Dramatist — Storyteller

A native Texan, who learned the art form of storytelling at the knee of her father and Mother, will be the second guest artist this year at St. John's U.M.C. Dr. McElroy is a professor of Black Literature at Northwestern University, Illinois, and Southern Methodist University, Dallas.

An afternoon workshop from 2 pm to 4 pm is planned for varied educators/storytellers, followed by a 7:30 pm Evening presentation and reception in the Garden Room of St. John's at 15th Street At University Avenue. All are welcome for her performance.

Dr. McElroy's repertoire is primarily garnered from travel experiences in Africa, The Caribbean, and South America, but she is a multi-talented person who offers Lectures, speeches, slide presentations, and poetry readings. She believes storytelling Aids in behavior modification, connection of subject disciplines in school, stress management, multi-cultural education, and building basic language for reading and writing skills.

In her storytelling performance the listener is allowed an extension of mental imagery, empathy, exciting vocabulary as well as satisfying responses, stimulating



concepts and above all a rousing good time and escape from the humdrum. Her published works have appeared in Essence Magazine, The Speech Teacher, The Theatre Bulletin, and Black World.

Dr. McElroy has written eight plays which have been produced and received Enthusiastically, but her touring performances usually come from monologues in Her book entitled, Black Journey.



AUSTIN—State Comptroller Carol Kreton Rylander congratulates Aaron Demerson, newly named manager of the Texas Tomorrow Fund, the state's prepaid college tuition program. Prior to being appointed manager, Demerson served as director of operations for the Texas Tomorrow Fund.

"The 21st Century is just around the corner, and never before has a college education been so important to our children's success. I'm looking forward to working with Comptroller Rylander, to make sure that Texas parents and grandparents know that the Texas Tomorrow Fund is an affordable way to save for future college costs," said Demerson.

The current enrollment period for the program runs through February 18, 1999. The program allows families to lock in the costs of their children's future college tuition and required fees for about what they would pay today. For more information about the Texas Tomorrow Fund, call toll-free 1-800-445-GRAD (4723) or information is available on the Internet at <<http://www.texas-tomorrowfund.com>>

\$136,000 Awarded to Local Teens

LUBBOCK, TX—January 19, 1999 —Thirty-four teen leaders were awarded \$1,000 per year scholarships to Lubbock Christian University last week by LCU's director of admissions, Randy Hanna, at their monthly meeting. The scholarships awarded totaled \$136,000. These 34 high school juniors all are members of the newly formed New Century Leadership program which is an offshoot of the Leadership Lubbock Program. They represent all four Lubbock ISD high schools, Frenship H.S., Lubbock Cooper H.S., Lubbock Christian H.S. and Trinity Christian. The LCU admissions department scholarships were given in recognition of the students' leadership abilities. They will have to complete the New Century Leadership Program in order to

qualify and must attend Lubbock Christian University.

The New Century Leadership Program is in its first year. Students are chosen by a committee and application is made through their school counselors. They must also supply at least two references. According to Robbye Appling, of the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce who works closely with the group, "Our goal is to show these young men and women how to be leaders in their communities—it is really an investment in Lubbock's future." Students spend one day a month together. The program is both topically and experientially based. The students learn about teamwork, respect and responsibility, communication, inclusion, and community appreciation.

Ruby Jay's Corner



The New Hope Baptist Church, 2002 V Birch Avenue, is the "Church Where The People Really Care," and the Rev. Billy K. Moton is the proud pastor. If you are looking for a church home, then come and visit New Hope. You are always welcome!

Services began last Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. with Sunday School and Superintendent Virgil Johnson presiding. Each teacher and class member were in their various areas for instruction. At 10:15 a.m., all re-assembled in the main auditorium singing "Dear Lord Forgive." Prayer was given by Brother Johnson. High points of the morning lesson were given by members of the Adult Classes.

Secretary's Report: Youth Department — Intermediate Class received the Offering Banner, and the Senior Class received the Attendance Banner.

Adult Department: Adult Class (No. 1) received the Attendance Banner, and Adult Class No. 2 received the Offering Banner.

The morning devotional period was conducted by members of the Senior Class. The spirit was very high.

The Senior Choir marched in the processional singing, "Glad to be in The Service." Altar prayer was offered by Brother F. J. Jenkins. A selection was sung, and scripture was read. Sister Margie Ruppels gave the prayer. After the singing of another selection, "When You Hear Of My Homegoing," Sister Florenza Stokley, led the responsive reading with the congregation standing and reading together.

The morning hymn was "Leaning On Jesus." Due to the absence of Pastor Moton, his letter was read by Sister Elizabeth Moton. Another song, "Somebody Prayed For Me," was sung. The hymn of preparation was "There's A Fountain."

The morning sermon was delivered by Rev. Jeff Brown. His subject was "Releasing The Weight That So Easy Beset Us In 1998." His scripture text was Hebrews 12:1-2. He asked the church to "Think!"

Let us not forget those who are on the sick and shut-in list in our community as well as those elsewhere. Don't forget the bereaved families as well.

Edward Nickerson, Jr. was funeralized at New Hope Baptist Church last Monday with Pastor Moton officiating. Services were under the direction of Calvillo Funeral Home with burial in the City of Lubbock Cemetery.

Sister Elnora Dyer attended her nephew's funeral services in Las Vegas, Nevada last Saturday. We are praying for all families who have lost loved ones.

New Hope Baptist Church will have the "Burning Services" Sunday afternoon, February 7, 1999, at 4:00 p.m. Rev. Larry Brooks, pastor of Community Baptist Church, will be guest speaker for the afternoon. Each member is asked to give \$2.25 as symbolic of the services. The burning of the original loan, in the amount amount of \$225,000.00 will be burned. New Hope has something to shout about and thank God.

Brother Virgil Johnson is pleading for a Sunday School secretary. Sister Lucille Jackson served for 25 years, and did an outstanding job. Man or woman, boy or girl, we need your help. Brother Johnson will help you. Will someone help?

African Heritage Network Hires Hudlin For 3rd Year

New York, N.Y. (January 99) - The African Heritage Network (AHN) "Movie of the Month" series and "Primetime Presentations," hosted by film legends Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, hires noted filmmaker, Warrington Hudlin, to produce the 7th Anniversary Season wrap-around.

AHN's 1999 season wrap-arounds will be taped on Tuesday, January 12, 1999 (8 a.m. - 7 p.m.) and Wednesday, January 13, 1999 (8 a.m. - 7 p.m.) *? Sony Studios, 460 W. 54th Street, New York, NY.

"It's extremely an honor to work with AHN's Creator and President, Frank Mercado-Valdes and film stars Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee," said Hudlin. "When AHN presented this opportunity to me for a third season, I couldn't refuse."

AHN's "Movie of the Month" series 1999 line-up includes: January, King; February, Six Degrees of Separation and Go Tell It on the Mountain; March, Shaft and Sounder; April, Final Shot; The Hank Gather's Story; May, The Mighty Quinn; June, Fame and The Wiz; July, Living Large; August, The Water Dance; September, Cooley High and House Party 2; October, River Niger and Nothing But A Man; November, A Dry

Poems Wanted For New Poetry Contest

Sparrowgrass Poetry Forum is now accepting poems for entry in its new Poetic Achievement Awards national contest. A Grand Prize of \$1,000 will be awarded plus thirty-four other cash prizes. The contest is free to enter.

Poets may enter one poem only. 20 lines or fewer, on any subject, and in any style. Contest closes February 28, 1999, but poets are encouraged to send their work as soon as possible. Poems entered in the contest are considered for publication in the Fall

White Season; and December, The Kid Who Loved Christmas.

AHN's Primetime Presentations 1999 line-up includes first time broadcast premiers: January - February, Othello; February - March, Above the Rim; April - May, Prairie Justice; May - June, The Josephine Baker Story; July, Drop Squad and October - November, Get on the Bus.

"As an African-American filmmaker," said Hudlin "I'm aware that AHN has been the pioneer in showing Black cinema on broadcasting television. In addition, AHN has been supportive of the next generation of Black Filmmaking through their partnership with the Black Filmmaker Foundation."

The African Heritage Network's hosts Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, are one of the entertainment industry's most well-known and gifted couples. Their film, television and stage careers extend over 50 years.

AHN's "Movie of the Month" series is the first and only feature film package which focuses on movies showcasing African-American actors, producers and directors since movie making began. AHN airs in 92 markets across the country.

1999 Poetic Voices of America edition, a hardcover anthology to be published in September, 1999. Anthology purchase may be required to ensure publication, but is not required to enter or win the contest. Prize winners will be announced on April 30, 1999.

"We are looking for sincerity and originality in a wide variety of styles and themes," says Jerome Welch, Publisher. "You do not have to be an experienced poet to enter and win."

Poems should be sent to Sparrowgrass Poetry Forum, Dept. M, 609 Main Street, Sistersville, WV 26175. Visit our website where you can submit your poems electronically: <http://www.tinplace.com/sparrow> or SPPPoetry@aol.com

Netown News



Air Force Airman 1st Class Cheri A. Hernandez has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

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

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

Hernandez is the granddaughter of Inez R. and

Feliciano R. Bustamante of 216 E. 35th St., Lubbock, Texas.

In 1998, she graduated from Esicado High School, Lubbock.

I Have A Dream



These are special words to us all, but especially important to the members of Hub City Kiwanis and the East Lubbock community. These are words of hope for the members of our community.

Hub City Kiwanis supports our community through various programs and agencies. Youth sports, scholarships, Estacado High School Key Club, Angel Tree, Toys for Tots Campaign, Lubbock State School, Texas Tech University Minority Faculty/Staff Scholarship, Lubbock Alumni Chapter of Houston-Tillotson College, Texas Tech University Student Chapter of Habitat for Humanity, Camp Kiwanis, The Children's Miracle Network. These are just a few of the agencies and organizations that we will provide assistance to this year.

Our flag service allows us to help those and others in need in our community. Flags are distributed at dawn and picked up at dusk. Cost is only \$20 per year. We distribute flags on the following holidays:

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	4th of July
Memorial Day	Labor Day
Flag Day	Veteran's Day

The flags not only give the community a great look but aides the programs in the community. For additional information or to sign up for flag service, please call 763-6161.

LUBBOCK CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY

Library Hours

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1306 9th Street and

Godeke Branch

6601 Quaker Avenue

Sunday 1-5
Monday-Thursday 9-9
Friday-Saturday 9-6

Patterson Branch

1836 Parkway Drive and

Groves Branch

5520 19th Street

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

NEW BOOKS

Titanic: An Illustrated History by Don Lynch
Serious Cycling by Edmund R. Burke, PhD

CURRENTLY ON EXHIBIT AT MAHON
Edgar Rice Burroughs Collection

PRESCHOOL STORYHOUR

Mahon (Main)

Monday 10:30 a.m. 3 year-olds
Tuesday 10:30 a.m. 3 year-olds
Wednesday 10:30 a.m. 4 & 5 year-olds
Thursday 10 & 11 a.m. 2 year-olds

Godeke Branch

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

Patterson Branch

Tuesday 7 p.m. 3-5 year-olds
Wednesday 10 a.m. 3-5 year-olds

Groves Branch

Tuesday 2:30 p.m. 3-5 year-olds
Wednesday 10:30 a.m. 2 year-olds
Thursday 10:30 a.m. 3-5 year-olds

Trial Lawyers To Meet In San Antonio

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Association of Trial Lawyers of America (ATLA), the world's largest trial bar with more than 55,000 members in the United States, Canada and abroad, will hold its winter convention January 23-27, in San Antonio, Texas at the San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter.

As a part of ATLA's campaign to "Keep our Families Safe," ATLA's National College of Advocacy will sponsor an educational program dedicated to legal issues that affect children as part of its continuing legal education (CLE) programming. The program entitled "The Voice of the Unheard: Preserving Justice for Children" will offer such topics as trial

children and products, and children and health care.

In addition, CLE programs will be held on a wide range of legal issues including the Year 2000 "bug" and its implications on the trial practice, effect of HMOs on health care, professional negligence, and business decisions affecting trial attorneys. ATLA will also offer its Litigation at Sunrise program, a fast-paced series of 10-minute presentations on new, unusual and groundbreaking litigation issues.

Established in 1946, ATLA safeguards victims' rights, strengthens America's civil justice system through education, promoted injury prevention, and fosters the disclosure of information critical to public health and safety.

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Payment Schedule/Service

• A deposit of \$500 per person is required to secure space.

• An additional deposit of \$500 per person is required on or before Dec. 15, '98

• Final Payments are required on or before March 15, '99

• Services - Payments will be handled through

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Jed Award Black Heritage Cruise June 19-26, '99

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IT ISN'T OVER.

Major hurricanes, storms and floods struck the U.S. this year, and thousands of families' homes and lives still lay shattered. The Red Cross is there to help storm victims put their lives back together again, and we urgently need your help.

Please send your donation right now to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund or call 1-800-HELP NOW. With your support, one day the devastation will be just a memory. Right now it's still all too real.

Yes, I would like to support the Red Cross.

<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
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CALL 1-800-HELP NOW
OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER.

American Red Cross
Help Can't Wait

Please make your check payable to the AMERICAN RED CROSS and mail your contribution to: P.O. Box 37243, Washington, D.C. 20013. Or call 1-800-HELP NOW for Internet information: <http://www.redcross.org>

Obituary

Virgil Johnson Recalls History of The Velvets



Abilene, Texas — (Special) — Final rites were read for Mr. Bennie L. Curtis on Tuesday, January 19, 1999 at the Macedonia Baptist Church with Rev. K. K. White, pastor, officiating.

Burial was held in the Cedar Hill Cemetery under the directions of a joint venture by: Gregory Spencer Funeral Home of Ft. Worth, Texas, Starks Funeral Home of San Angelo, Texas, Elliott-Hamil Funeral Homes and Curtis-Starks Funeral Home, both of Abilene, Texas.

Active pallbearers were members of the National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association, Inc.

Honorary pallbearers were members of Macedonia Baptist Church Deacon Board, Curtis-Starks Staff and the West Texas District.

Mr. Curtis, 70 years young, a second generation funeral director with Curtis-Starks Funeral Home for 48 years, died Monday, January 11, 1999, in a local nursing home.

Abilene native, Mr. Curtis graduated from Woodson High School before earning both a Bachelor's degree and mortician degree from the University of Denver at Colorado. He then returned to Abilene, where his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Curtis, opened the family funeral home in 1950. He was a co-owner and business manager of the funeral home until becoming ill 14 months ago. In addition to being active with the business, he also worked for Greyhound Bus Lines as a ticket agent for 49 1/2 years.

His civic involvement included being a past president of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, a former president and state board member of the United Political Organization, grand deputy chancellor of the Knights of Pythias of Texas; and member of Far West Lodge 777, Crawford Lodge 918 of the Supreme Council of the United States of Scottish Rite Masons, and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. He served as the first Black Election Chairman of Precinct 10 of Taylor County and was an Abilene Independent School District Board candidate. He served as a mediator for Greyhound Bus Lines.

He also served as a director of the YMCA. Mr. Curtis was a member of the Texas and National Funeral Directors associations, as well as the Independent Funeral Directors Association of Texas. He was a deacon for 46 years and assistant Sunday School superintendent at Macedonia Baptist Church.

Survivors include: four sons: Roderick and Gregory, both of Colorado, and Geoffrey and Scott of Texas; one daughter, Deadra of Texas; one sister, Willie Curtis of Texas; one brother, Samuel Curtis of Texas; six grandchildren, three nieces: Fern Miles, Brenda (Harold C.) Ray from West Palm, Florida, and Dorothy (Willie) Clough, Marshall, Texas; one nephew, Charles Pikes of Chicago, Illinois; one niece, Gladys Rogers of San Antonio, Texas; a special friend, Camile Parish. He leaves to mourn a number of cousins and other relatives, as well as his many friends throughout the community.

Lubbock Woman's Son Is Member of Emergency Parachute Regiment

By Rich Lamance

LOP BURI, Thailand —

When most of us make a 911 call, we expect a local dispatcher to plug us in to an emergency medical service, fire station or the police immediately. When the son of a Lubbock woman responded to a recent 911 call of sorts, he found himself on an 18-hour plane ride and a 6,000-mile jaunt that put him smack dab in the middle of a tropical jungle.

Army Pvt. 2 Quincy D. Prince, son of Sheryl J. Kobel of Lubbock, left his Alaska-based unit to drop in on a parachute as part of a joint U.S. and Thai exercise called "Black Tiger."

Prince is a member of the 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, a unit that



has been designated as a crisis reaction force - a 911 of sorts -

for the entire Pacific region. They can find themselves responding to American evacuations in a foreign country, helping with humanitarian assistance during a natural disaster or crisis, or jumping in for combat operations.

The exercise was designed to test his crisis reaction reflexes and determine how quickly he and his fellow soldiers could evacuate American noncombatants from a simulated situation that depicted a typhoon, followed by acts of violence and looting in a fictitious country.

"It was my unit's mission to establish a blocking position once we were on the ground. We were to ensure the safe extraction of civilians from the area. These exercises give us some good experience and we learn a lot. You never know when we might be doing this for real," explained Prince.

Before the exercise began, a group of 42 Royal Thai paratroopers traveled to Alaska to integrate with the American unit. They jumped into Thailand with their American counterparts as a joint force to both learn about American tactics, as well as to share a few secrets of their own.

"The language barrier made it difficult to talk with the Thais, but it was fun trying. As soldiers, the Thais are just as well trained and motivated as we are."

While Prince and his fellow paratroopers were far from

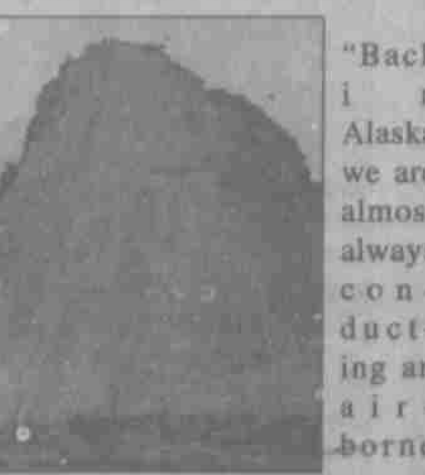
Thailand's vacation spots, he did find time to get an impres-



sion of his surroundings.

"The people of Thailand are friendly and helpful. The scenery is nice, but the heat is overwhelming. We came from Alaska, and had no time to adjust to the southeast Asian climate."

Prince is an airborne infantry soldier assigned to Fort Richardson, near Anchorage, Alaska.



"Back in Alaska we are almost always conducting an airborne operation, or at least preparing for one. When I do have some free time, I like to spend it with my wife, Michelle."

While we're not likely to reach Prince locally by simply dialing 911, it's comforting to know that if we ever need him and his unit to protect the U.S. and its interests in the Pacific region, they're only a call away.

(Editor's Note: This article was written in the Southwest Digest on Thursday, March 27, 1994, and it was written by Candide Johnson. At present time, Mr. Johnson has a morning radio show over KDAY, from 7:00 a.m. until no. n. Check him out.)

When the Johnson family packed their bags and moved to Lubbock from Cameron, Texas, they had no idea a family member would make music history.

Doo Wop fans all over the world remember the smooth sounds of the vocal group the Velvets. Led by Lubbock's own Virgil Johnson, the group found national fame. "My parents came to Lubbock looking for better job opportunities," said Johnson. Growing up in Lubbock in the 40's, Johnson sang in a singing group and later graduated in 1954 from Dunbar High School. His singing could have stopped there.

Thanks to encouragement from his mother, Pearl V. Johnson, Johnson attended Bishop College, which was located in Tyler, Texas at the time. "The trend was to graduate from high school, get a job and get married. My mother raised me from the seventh grade alone and pushed me to get a higher education."

Once at Bishop, Johnson found himself singing in groups around campus. After receiving a degree in English, he began his first teaching job in Odessa. Teachers noticed four students singing individually in the halls. "Singing groups were in back then so when someone suggested we combine the guys and form a group, I volunteered to work with them. I ended up singing," Johnson continued.

In the spring of 1958 Clarence Risby, Mark Prince, William Solomon, Robert Thursty and Virgil Johnson became the "Velvets." While other groups in the late 50's were imitating the popular groups of the times, the Velvets developed their own distinct sound. "We didn't want anyone to mistake us with other groups. We wanted to be original and yet maintain an R&B identity," Roy Orbison was from the Odessa area and gave the group the big break they needed. "We knew Roy from talent shows and other performances. One day while teaching class I was called to the office for a long-distance phone call. It was Roy calling from KOSA radio station with Fred Foster, the president of Monument Records. Roy had told him about us. Foster wanted us to come to Nashville for a recording session." Monument Records paid the group's expenses to Nashville.

After the first session the Velvets recorded their rock-a-ballad version of "Crying in the Chapel." The song broke into the 100 charts of Billboard and Cash Box music magazines. "Anytime you have a song on the top 100 charts it's a huge honor. Thousands of songs are released each week."

The Velvets were more popular on the East Coast than in West Texas. Johnson says this is due mainly to many radio stations not playing black artists' songs on traditional white-established radio stations. (Which back then accounted for nearly all radio stations, especially those in the South.) However, some radio stations along with many whites did not know the Velvets were African-American. "We had our sound and most people, if they didn't know us, thought we were white," said Johnson.

"The Velvets were really popular. My brothers and I would imitate them. We were proud that some local 'Negro boys' were making it big," said Velvets fan Lenious

Johnson.

"Tonight Could Be the Night," written by Johnson, made the top twenty charts, and when the group recorded "Lana," their popularity spilled over into other countries, hitting number one in Japan.

The group had the opportunity to meet Brook Benton, The Five Royals, Chet Atkins, Bill Justice and many other famous artists. "I really enjoyed working with Boots Randolph and once in the same studio after Elvis. We sang on all the takes so we could say we sang on the same take as Elvis."

After the group's last recording in Nashville, tragedy struck the group—Velvet member Clarence Rigby was killed in a car accident in California. "We all felt a deep loss," said Johnson. The group never recorded again as a group. "Sure, we always wanted to get back together, but we were all going different ways. I was a teacher and they were students. I realized I wasn't going to stay in Midland forever and I knew they weren't going to stay in high school forever. I got married and moved to Lubbock." Johnson later became principal of Dunbar High School and retired in 1993. "I still get calls from people today that ask me if I'm The Virgil Johnson of the Velvets."

Johnson may be making a comeback. Recently the Southern California Doo Wop Society flew Johnson to Long Beach to perform in concert with Angel of Angel and the Originals, McNeely and Buddy Bailey (lead singer of the Clovers). More appearances are in the making.

Last year Sony records released a CD collection of all the Velvets songs. The collection is available at local record stores here in Lubbock.

With all the contributions the Velvets made to the music industry they still have not been recognized in the West Texas Hall of Fame which is located East of Ave. Q and 7th Street. Most people know this area as the Buddy Holly Area.

Arts Grants Announced

The City of Lubbock/Lubbock Arts Alliance Grants Program awarded \$63,310 in matching grants to local non-profit organizations during the second funding period of 1998.

The funds are generated from locally assessed hotel-motel taxes set aside for the support of the arts and humanities in the Lubbock community.

Seventeen of the applications received were approved for full or partial funding by the City Council upon the recommendation of the program's Grants Review Committee. Those projects receiving awards include:

- Ballet Folklorico Aztlan - Viva Aztlan Theatre and Dance Festival - \$3,000; Ballet Lubbock - "An Evening of Classics" - \$5,200; Broadway Festivals, Inc. - 4th on Broadway - \$12,000; Landmark Arts, TTU - Luis Gonzales Palma Residency - \$4,000; Lubbock Arts Alliance - 21st Annual Lubbock Arts Festival - \$13,660; Lubbock Community Theatre - "The Grass Harp" - \$3,500; Lubbock

around the Civic Center. Established in 1980, the Walk of Fame recognizes outstanding West Texas citizens such as Waylon Jennings, Luc Davis, Jimmy Dean, the Maines Brothers, Roy Orbison, Jre Ely and many others from our area who have brought recognition to West Texas.

While Johnson believes it would be an honor to be recognized in the Walk of Fame, he does not dwell on the fact that his group is being left out of history. "If I never sing again, I still have so many memories to take with me forever."

New members are inducted into the Walk of Fame once a year, according to Civic Center employees, and are voted on by Civic Lubbock's Board of Directors. The velvets have been nominated and meet all the qualifications of new inductees. Only time will tell if this world-renowned group will be inducted this May.

For those trying to break into the music industry from this area, Johnson advises them to believe in yourself and be original. If you're making music that makes you happy, it will make somebody else happy." Acknowledging that Lubbock is a long way from Hollywood, Johnson says it's still possible to make it "Big." "Back in Nashville was the music capital of the world. Midland was a long way from Nashville, and who knows, we probably could have been even bigger had we not been so far away. Those hoping to make it big must get an education and above all else stay away from drugs. A person trying to get started in the business doesn't have time for drugs, they should be too busy trying to be creative."

The four remaining members of the Velvets are successful today and some are still involved in music. When asked if the Velvets could reunite for a concert, Johnson smiled and replied, "You never know."

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Editorials • Comments • Opinions



THIS N THAT

VISITED WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS! THIS N THAT ... who also serves a ... TEXAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE (TML) ... had a very informative visit last week ... with elected officials from the ... VALLEY ... Among the various cities visited were ... BROWNSVILLE ... SOUTH PADRE ISLAND ... SAN JUAN ... MERCEDES ... WESLACO ... MCALLEN ... and other communities in the ... VALLEY ... Being the first time to visit the area ... it was just ... GREAT ... to see ... ELECTED OFFICIALS ... come together ... A real hard worker ... who is the ... CITY MANAGER ... of Mercedes ... ERNEST SILVA ... did an ... outstanding job ... in seeing that ... THIS N THAT ... had an opportunity to see a great deal ... Perhaps the most interesting thing to observe was the ... MAQUILADORA PROGRAM ... which involve ... at least 140 national corporations in ... FORTUNE 500 ... THIS N THAT ... would like to say ... THANKS ... to the following ... for what they did to help with this effort ... They were ... JOHN WOOD ... President ... Commissioner ... City of Brownsville ... MAYOR GENE BRAUGHT ... City, Weslaco ... and ... MAYOR MIGUEL CASTILLO, JR ... TML DIRECTOR ... of Region XII ... In the so called ... VALLEY ... THIS N THAT ... so some good ... ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ... Would be nice to take a ... GRADUP ... of ... AFRICAN AMERICAN PEOPLE ... that is ... those interested in wanting to grow in stature ... and see what the findings would be ... More on this in the near future ...

SHIRLEY CANADY THE BARBER SAID: "THINK POSITIVELY ... always about ... YOURSELF ... KEEP YOUR ... THOUGHTS ... and your ... ACTIONS CLEAN ... and ask ... GOD ... who made you to keep ... REMAKING YOU!" ...

ANOTHER GOOD PROGRAM FOR OUR YOUTH! THIS N THAT ... has been attending a new program ... COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS ON THE SOUTH PLAINS ... which will serve three ... LUBBOCK PUBLIC SCHOOL CAMPUSES ... in the near future ... Campuses will be ... HUNT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ... ALDERSON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ... and ... ESTACADO HIGH SCHOOL ... This program ... is designed for these three schools ... because of the ... LARGE NUMBER OF AT-RISK YOUTH ... and the ... success will determine the location of other campuses in LISD ... and the ... South Plains ... This program is ... VERY MUCH NEEDED! ...

BLACK HISTORY MONTH, LET'S CELEBRATE! THIS N THAT ... would like to ... ENCOURAGE ... as many of you ... who can ... to come up with many ... BLACK HISTORY PROGRAMS ... Although ... every day is ... BLACK HISTORY DAY ... we still have an opportunity to do some ... SPECIAL PROGRAMS ... during the month of ... FEBRUARY ... So get involved ... and come up with some ... exciting programs ...

DON'T FORGET TO VISIT A SCHOOL! THIS N THAT ... would like to ask if you have visited a ... PUBLIC SCHOOL ... lately ... It is a good thing to do ... Just go by and let the principal ... know you want to visit the school ... It wouldn't hurt to even have lunch in one of the cafeterias ... There is so much we can do ... just by visiting a ... PUBLIC SCHOOL! ...

Remembering Heros



By Bernice Powell Jackson

A few weeks ago I was listening to *Talk of the Nation* on National Public Radio and they were talking about heroes. Many of the people who called in were lamenting that there are so few heroes today or that our heroes are often found to be flawed. Well, all human beings are less than perfect but at this time of celebrating one American hero, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I am reminded that I have been privileged to know and work with some real heroes in my lifetime. One of them we lost in the past few days. Like Dr. King he was an important part of the struggle of African Americans to be free. But, alas, his name is not as well known. But he was a hero just the same. His name was Charles Earl Cobb, Sr.

Dr. Cobb was the first executive Director of the Commission for Racial Justice of the United Church of Christ, the position which I now hold. But that title only begins to tell the story of Charles Cobb. Born in Durham, North Carolina, he saw his parents, particularly his mother, fight for justice as a small child. Indeed, he often told how she fought Duke University as it bought up the land of the black folks nearby when it was expanding. He attended North Carolina College for Negroes (now North Carolina Central, I believe) and then Howard University Divinity School and Boston University School of Theology. He pastored small churches in Kentucky and Massachusetts and then went to St. John's Congregational in Springfield, MA in the 1950's. There he took on the police department because of its treatment of black citizens and the

education department because of its treatment of black children and finally challenged the power structure by running for mayor himself. He lost that race but the black community won by virtue of its newfound political clout and its newly-organized people.

Indeed, strategic political skills and organizational capabilities were two of the gifts that Charles Cobb used on behalf of his people throughout his life. Not long after he ran for mayor, he was called to the position which he held for 20 years at the Commission for Racial Justice. There he confronted the churches, particularly the United Church of Christ, with their participation in racism and challenged them to work to end all forms of injustice. He challenged the criminal justice system's inequities and promoted programs for the African American family. He started a scholarship fund which resulted in thousands of young black people receiving a college education. The Commission for Racial Justice hired community organizers who worked in communities across the country, helping people to challenge all kinds of racism.

One of these organizers was a young man in North Carolina, Benjamin Chavis, who along with nine others was falsely accused of setting fire to a store in Wilmington. They became the Wilmington Ten, recognized by Amnesty International as political prisoners. Charles Cobb stood by these young people, urging the church to provide bail for them and then pressing

for their appeals, which finally won them an acquittal.

Indeed, Charles Cobb's lifetime was spent leading the fight for racial justice himself and then supporting others as they challenged the systems of inequity. Whether it was supporting young people in the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) or supporting communities of color in the earliest days of discovery that toxic wastes were being dumped in our communities across the nation, Dr. Cobb was a fearless advocate and supporter of justice. When Springfield police challenged the right of Black-Muslims to sell their newspapers on the streets of that city, he challenged the city and when William F. Buckley criticized Vernon Jordan's leadership at the National Urban League, Dr. Cobb took him on as well.

At his funeral Rev. Douglas Moore, the well-known D.C. activist, called Dr. Cobb "Our Great Ancestor," an appropriate title of respect. Charles Cobb studied at Boston University, as did Dr. King. And while Dr. King's name was well-known around the world for his leadership in the civil rights struggle, Dr. Cobb's name was not as well known, but his contributions were many. His legacy is in the hundreds of young people who were infused with his spirit of fearlessness and his commitment to justice. A freedom fighter, a challenger of structures of injustice, a man of God, Charles Earl Cobb, Sr. was one of my heroes. He is already missed.

IN CINQUE

By Renetta W. Howard



Renetta W. Howard

One has to wonder about where we are really going as we enter the twenty-first century, new millennium or Y2K. We have seen the onslaught and perpetuation of many new and innovative ideas as well as those that haunt us as we approach the year 2000. Many of us approach it with some trepidation while others have a 'roll with the punches' attitude about everything.

I see a problem of 'rolling with the punches' of harassment. There is plain old harassment, usually connected to the workplace, and there is sexual harassment, also connected to the workplace. It is difficult to come up with cut-and-dried evidence of either unless a 'sting' is involved. Harassment has left its niche in the workplace and traveled to the learn and play place, placing it upon the shoulders of the workplace. Parents are suing schools alleging that schools are responsible for student to student harassment.

Students are children in grades throughout most of their public school years. There are a few who manage

to hang around until they are 21 years of age. For they are the exception. They are also referred to as 'minors.' Being 'minors' means that they are under legal age and are in a position to 'mild' someone, usually an adult in charge. When adults harass each other, it simply means that a minor is *not minding*. One child harassing another is nothing more than a means to get a child involved in fist-fuffs. Children have done this for years and it is natural. Parents know this because they have a tremendous job in their homes trying to avoid sibling harassment and actual fights. The number of children in the home is also limited, whereas in the school, classrooms are made up of many families.

Teachers attempt to teach all of the children in a given class how to get along without harassment. Teachers discipline children within the limits of the law. Children need to be taught at home, before they get to the school, how to get along with others.

Too much blame and responsibility is placed upon schools. Children are home with their parents for five to six years before they enter school. It is during these years, the formative years, that basic social skills should be taught in order to prepare children for school and life! Let us get 'in cinque' and commence to 'do the right thing' in Y2K.

THIS WAY FOR BLACK EMPOWERMENT

The Rendezvous We Missed

By Dr. Lenora Fulani

In September 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. addressed the annual convention of the American Psychological Association. His speech *The Role of the Behavioral Scientist in the Civil Rights Movement* was recently reprinted in the APA's monthly newspaper, *The Monitor*.

This speech, less well known than most given by Dr. King, is especially moving and inspiring to me. As a developmental psychologist and a political activist who works constantly to bring these two fields of endeavor together, it is nothing less than thrilling to read Dr. King's bold appeal to psychology to play a progressive role in the movement to overcome racism and injustice. He opened his keynote address with this appeal: For social scientists, the opportunity to serve in a life-giving purpose is a humanist challenge of rare distinction. Negroes too are eager for a rendezvous with truth and discovery. Unfortunately, psychology has fallen considerably short of the heights to which Dr. King had hoped to inspire it. Today, many of us in the field black and white are attempting to find answer to the questions and problems that Dr. King asked be answered more than 30 years ago, and the new ones created by the failure to solve those problems at that time. Bringing social science and social justice together for a rendezvous with human development remains a great dream of mine.

It seemed to me a strange combination of the ironic and the absurd that the impeachment trial of President Clinton opened the day before Dr. King's birthday. One could hardly find a more extreme study in contrasts. Dr. King was perhaps the most principled national American leader of several generations. Bill Clinton and the Republican and Democratic members of Congress in both the House and the Senate are among the most unprincipled. I was so struck by the difference between how Dr. King made his political choices and how they in paraisized

and polarized America make theirs. Read this excerpt from Dr. King's remarks to the APA about his decision to oppose the War in Vietnam and you'll know what I mean.

As I looked at what this war was doing to our nation, and to the domestic situation and to the Civil Rights movement, I found it necessary to speak vigorously out against it. My speaking out against the war has not gone without criticisms. There are those who tell me that I should stick with civil rights, and stay in my place. I can only respond that I have fought too hard and long to end segregated public accommodations to segregate my own moral concerns. It is my deep conviction that justice is indivisible, that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice

everywhere. For those who tell me I am hurting the Civil Rights movement, and ask, Don't you think that in order to be respected, and in order to regain support, you must stop talking against the war? I can only say that I am not a consensus leader. I do not seek to determine what is right and wrong by taking a Gallup Poll to determine majority opinion. And it is again my deep conviction that ultimately a genuine leader is not a searcher of consensus, but a molder of consensus. On some positions cowardice asks the question, Is it safe? Expediency asks the question, Is it politic? Vanity asks the question, Is it popular? But conscience must ask the question, Is it right? And there comes a time when one must take a stand that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular. But one must take it because it is right. And that is where I find myself today.



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BLACK NEWSPAPERS VS. DAILY NEWSPAPERS

The Power Of The Black Newspaper

Black adult readers of both Black newspapers and general circulation dailies rated Black newspapers higher in the following categories:

	BLACK NEWSPAPERS	DAILY NEWSPAPERS
Newspapers deal with subjects of special interest to me.	82.2%	58.9%
Newspapers show an understanding of my kind of life.	69.9%	40.4%
Newspapers are honest and truthful.	72.2%	36.0%
Newspapers use my kind of language.	79.5%	61.4%
Newspapers are necessary and important for me.	71.3%	61.8%

Source: Scarborough Segment Corporation

Keeping an eye on Texas

Texans qualify for income tax refunds

More than 1.8 million Texans applied for income tax refunds under the Earned Income Tax Credit program in 1998. Texas ranked second among the states behind California's 2.3 million participating taxpayers—more than 19 million taxpayers in the U.S. received EITC refunds. EITC refunds may be sent to:

- 1 Families with two or more children, and a gross income of no more than \$30,000. The maximum refund could be \$3,700 in this category.
- 2 Families with one child, and a gross income of no more than \$26,475. Maximum refund: \$2,271.
- 3 Families consisting of adults between the age of 25 and 64 with no children, and a gross income of less than \$10,000. Maximum refund: \$511.

To inquire about the Earned Income Tax Credit:

- 1 Visit your local Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) center
- 2 Call the IRS toll-free: 1-800-829-1040
- 3 Call the Texas Comptroller's special EITC hotline: 1-800-277-8383.

SOURCE: Darla Keaton Hylander, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, and the Internal Revenue Service.

Municipal Garden & Arts Center

Adult Beginning Art Classes

LUBBOCK, TEXAS — The Municipal Garden & Arts Center has a few seats left for adults interested in beginning art courses at reasonable prices.

Local artist Wayne Greene will be instructing a beginners course in perspective drawing. This is a great class to learn the fundamentals of drawing with an emphasis on perspective. The course will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting on February 9 through February 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The cost per person. Please call for supply list.

Instructor Birgit McRae will be conducting a beginner to intermediate course in clay. This hand-building class will allow each student the freedom to explore the sculptural aspects of working in clay. Techniques introduced will be modeling, texturing, and glazing with an emphasis on the creativity of form, surface design, and individual ideas. The classes will be held every Tuesday starting on February 2 through March 9 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The cost is \$85 per person. Supplies are included.

Renown artist Jobeth Gilliam will teach a beginner to intermediate course in watercolor. This course will develop your confidence in creating with watercolor through color mixing, painting on dry and wet paper, and compositional skills. The course will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting on February 2 through February 18 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The cost is \$85 per person. Please call for supply list.

Registration is now until the start time of the first class, and all classes are conducted at the Garden & Arts Center located at 4215 University Avenue. For more information or to register for a class, please call the Center at 767-3724, fax 767-3726, or email at psimpson@mail.ci.lubbock.tx.us.

Parents Hurry! Enroll Your Kids In Our February Art Classes While Seats Last

LUBBOCK, TEXAS — The Municipal Garden & Arts Center has a few spots left for our kid classes and workshops in February.

Reputable multi-media children's artist Florence Lawrence will conduct several Saturday children workshops. Each workshop will work with a different media of art (i.e. clay, oil, pastels, watercolor, charcoals, etc.), teach the funda-

mentals of art, and provide your child with a finished project of his or her own. The workshops are held on every Saturday starting February 6 through February 27 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The cost is \$10 per workshop per child, or one can purchase all 4 workshops for \$30 -- better value. All supplies are furnished by the instructor. Also, call the Garden & Arts Center for our art class value packages for kids.

Exceptional children artist Sandra Lane will conduct a beginning children's drawing course. This is an excellent class to allow your child to learn the basic skills in art and to develop a foundation to build from. The course will be held on every Saturday starting on February 6 through February 27 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$35 per child. Please call for a supply list.

Registration is now until the start of the class, and all classes will be conducted at the Garden & Arts Center located at 4215 University Avenue. For more information or to register for a class, please call the Center at 767-3724, fax 767-3726, or email psimpson@mail.ci.lubbock.tx.us.

Hurry! Few Spots Left For Oil Workshop

LUBBOCK, TEXAS — The Municipal Garden & Arts Center has a few places left for our oil workshop in February.

Nationally renown artist Paul Milosevich will conduct a 4-day workshop geared towards beginners and intermediates. Studies will be still-life, portrait and landscape using medium oil. The workshop will start on Friday, February 5 from 6-9 p.m., Saturday, February 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Sunday, February 7 from 1-5 p.m. The cost is \$75 per person. Please call for a supply list. Also, call the Garden & Arts Center for a Milosevich workshop value package.

Registration is now until the start of the class, and all classes will be conducted at the Garden & Arts Center located at 4215 University Avenue. For more information or to register for a class, please call the Center at 767-3724, fax 767-3726, or email at psimpson@mail.ci.lubbock.tx.us.

City Environmental Compliance Department To Co-Host Seminar

The Panhandle/West Texas Chapter of the Texas Environment Health Association, along with the City of Lubbock Environmental Compliance department, will be hosting a Multi Media Environmental Sampling seminar. The conference will provide information and examples of the latest procedures for sampling air, water, and waste media.

The scope of the program will include discussions of wastes, food, waste waters, solids, water, and air. Leading environmental health experts produced the programs, which will be presented. Among the list of presenters will be Dr. Ronald Kendall from Texas Tech Institute of Environmental and Human Health who will deliver the keynote address.

The seminar will take place February 11 and 12th at the Holiday Inn Civic Center. The sampling seminar program is expected to bring in more than 100 individuals from all over

Texas. For more information, Website at: <http://www.geohi.com> / Home please call Steve Claybrook at 776-2119 or visit the Panhandle Springs/Villa/8210.

Interested in College?

St. John Baptist Church
Free College Financial Aid Workshop
Monday, 02/08/99, 6:00 p.m.
1712 E. 29th Street

St. John Baptist Church will be hosting a college financial aid workshop on Monday, 02/08/99 at 6:00 p.m. Texas Tech University's Office of Cultural Diversity and Office of Financial Aid together with representatives from LEARN Inc., a federally funded organization assisting students in completing their college and financial aid applications will be here to assist you. The workshop is free and open to anyone interested in college financial aid programs. Applications for various scholarships will also be available. Personal assistance in completing the federal financial aid forms will be provided. Please bring your 1998 Income Tax returns with you even if you have not filed your 1998 return yet. Information from your return is needed to complete the financial aid forms.

For more information, contact Janie Ramirez or Doris Henderson at Texas Tech University, 806 742 6671.

Bring 1998 Income Tax Return

The financial aid forms and most scholarship applications will be applicable to any college or university.

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Mari Johnson

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JUNETEENTH INFORMATION

Texas has once again made history in being the first and only state to establish a Juneteenth Cultural and Historical Commission. During the 75th Legislative Session, House Bill 1216, sponsored by Rep. Al Edwards of Houston, was signed into law by Gov. George W. Bush, thereby creating the Texas Emancipation Juneteenth Cultural and Historical Commission. The Commission consists of commissioners appointed by Gov. Bush of which one being Eddie Richardson of Lubbock, Texas; two state senators appointed by Lt. Governor Bob Bullock; two house representatives appointed by Speaker Pat Laney; and the executive director of the Texas Historical Commission.

The purpose of the Texas Emancipation Juneteenth Cultural and Historical Commission is to erect monuments and markers, raise funds, establish a National Emancipation Cultural and Historical Museum, and establish a headquarters. In addition, the Commission was also established to develop objective historical and cultural programs; educate citizens on the effects and significance of emancipation; and develop leaders and role models for the citizens of Texas.

Anyone interested can be a part of the local activities. Here are the meeting dates you may look forward to: November 9, January 11, February 8, March 8, April 12, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and June 7 and 14.

All meetings will be held at Mae Simmons Senior Citizens Center, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Everyone interested in making a positive contribution to this program is invited to attend and bring their ideas and input.

All area and South Plains Juneteenth Programs are urged to contact Commissioner Richardson at 902 E. 28th St., Lubbock, Texas or 806-762-3612 to become part of the statewide and national effort. For information or to participate, call Eddie Richardson 762-3612.

If you are interested in becoming a part of the local effort please fill out the following and send to Eddie Richardson at 902 E. 28th St., Lubbock, Texas.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Day Phone (____) _____ Night Time Phone (____) _____

ATTENTION

All past or present African American Farmers, your rights may be affected by a nationwide class action lawsuit. You may be entitled to compensation and damages.

You may be a potential class member if you farmed or attempted to farm between January 1, 1981 and December 31, 1996, and applied to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for participation in a federal farm credit or benefit program and believe that you were discriminated against based on race. Settlement of the lawsuit has been preliminarily approved by the Court.

The Deadline to Opt-Out of the Class is 120 days from date of final approval of settlement.
The Deadline to file a claim is 180 days from date of final approval of settlement.
The Hearing before the Court for final approval is March 2, 1999.

If you wish to obtain more information about this case, obtain a claim package, or obtain a form to opt-out, call toll free:

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IN JESUS NAME

"WATCHMAN'S OFF THE WALL;
SIN COMES IN FROM ALL!!!"

ISAIAH 53:1, THE LORD SAID, CRY
ALoud, SPARE NOT, LIFT UP THY VOICE LIKE
A RUMPET, AND SHEW MY PEOPLE THEIR
TRANSGRESSIONS.

LORD, THAT WATCHMAN GOT HOMOSEXUAL; SINGING TO
THE CHOIR, SAYS; HE IS PRAISING YOU WITH SONGS; BUT THAT
IS A LIE!!!

AMOS 5:21-23, THE LORD SAID, I HATE, I DESPISE YOUR FEAST
DAYS, AND I WILL NOT SMELL IN YOUR SOLEMN ASSEMBLIES,
TAKE THOU AWAY FROM ME THE NOISE OF THY SONGS; FOR I
WILL NOT HEAR THE MELODY OF THY VOICES.

THE WATCHMAN LET THE MISSIONARY LIVE IN A SIN
CALLED SHACK; LORD, YOUR WORD CALLS IT SIN; AND THAT'S
A KNOWN FACT!!!

1 CORINTHIANS 5:2,3,5, AND YE ARE PUFFED UP, AND HAVE
NOT RATHER MOURNED, THAT HE THAT HATH DONE THIS DEED
MIGHT BE TAKEN AWAY FROM AMONG YOU. FOR I VERILY, AS
ABSENT IN THE BODY, BUT PRESENT IN THE SPIRIT, HAVE JUDGE
ALREADY, AS THOUGH I WAS PRESENT, CONCERNING HIM THAT
HATH SO DONE THIS DEED, TO DELIVER SUCH AN ONE UNTO
SATAN FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF THE FLESH, THAT THE SPIRIT
MAY BE SAVED IN THE DAY OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

LORD, THE WATCHMAN HAS MUSICIANS; SAYING THEY
DON'T WANT TO BE SAVED; BUT EVERY SUNDAY THEY COME
WITH INSTRUMENTS; AND THEY DO PLAY!!!

MATTHEW 15:7-9, JESUS SAID, YE HYPOCRITES, WELL DID
ESAI'AS PROPHECY OF YOU SAYING, THIS PEOPLE DRAWETH
NIGH UNTO ME WITH THEIR MOUTH, AND HONORETH ME WITH
THEIR LIPS; BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR FROM ME. BUT IN VAIN
THEY DO WORSHIP ME, TEACHING FOR DOCTRINES THE COM-
MANDMENTS OF MEN.

THE WATCHMAN LET SIN; AS IF TO SAY; PAY YOUR TITHE;
FOR YOUR SINS; IT FOR THE LOVE MONEY; AND TO PAY FOR HIS
MERCEDES-BENZ!!!

MICAH 6:7,8, WILL THE LORD BE PLEASED WITH THOUSANDS
OF RAMS (\$\$\$) OR WITH TEN THOUSANDS RIVERS OF OIL (\$\$\$)?
SHALL I GIVE MY FIRST-BORN FOR MY TRANSGRESSION, THE
FRUIT OF MY BODY FOR THE SIN OF MY SOUL? HE HATH
SHEWED THEE, O MAN, WHAT IS GOOD; AND WHAT DOETH THE
LORD REQUIRE OF THEE, BUT TO DO JUSTLY, AND TO LOVE
MERCY, AND TO WALK HUMBLE WITH THY GOD?

AND HE TELLS THE MEMBERS: LEAVE THEM ALONG; I'LL
SAVE THEM; BUT BLIND LEADING THE BLIND; LORD, PLEASE
SAVE HIM!!!

ROMANS 1:21,22, BECAUSE THAT, WHEN THEY KNEW GOD,
THEY GLOREFIED HIM NOT AS GOD, NEITHER WERE THANKFUL;
BUT BECAME VAIN IN THEIR IMAGINATIONS, AND THEIR FOOL-
ISH HEART WAS DARKENED, PROFESSING THEMSELVES TO
WISER, THEY BECAME FOOLS.

LORD, THEY COME UP WITH THEIR OWN IDEALS; AND THEY
ARE PLENTY; THEY'RE NOW MARCHING, "HOOTING UP AND
BOMBING; THE ABORTION CLINICS!!!

ISAIAH 56:10,11, THE LORD SAID, HIS WATCHMAN ARE BLIND;
THEY ARE ALL IGNORANT, THEY ARE ALL DUMB DOGS, THEY
CANNOT BARK; SLEEPING, LYING DOWN, LOVING TO SLUMBER,
YEA, THEY ARE GREEDY DOGS WHICH CAN NEVER HAVE
ENOUGH, AND THEY ARE SHEPHERDS THAT CANNOT UNDER-
STAND" THEY ALL LOOK TO THEIR OWN WAY, EVERY ONE FOR
HIS GAIN, FROM HIS QUARTER (ANNIVERSARY)?

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



From the Desk of Parson D.A. Smith

Persistence Faith

"O woman, great is thy faith! be it unto thee
even as thou wilt." And her daughter was made
whole from that very hour.—Matthew 15:28

The Bible shows many kinds of faith in action, including that of
the Canaanite woman who accosted Jesus when he was seeking to be
alone to pray and seek God's help and strength for the terrible
encounters that were coming.

Toward the end of His two-year Galilean ministry, Jesus contin-
ued to teach and performed a great miracle, the feeding of the five
thousand. The pressure of the job was of such that He would often
go to a place of solitude for refreshment and prayer. On this occasion
He went to the district of Tyre and Sidon, going north of Galilee into
the country of the Phoenicians.

However, even in the North Country, He could not escape the
pleas of the hurting public. A deeply hurting woman found out that
Jesus was in her neighborhood. That was all she needs to know. She
came and begged Him to heal her demon-possessed daughter.

The woman has been identified as a Canaanite. Her ancestors
had been bitter enemies of the Jews for centuries. Despite this she
persisted and simply overcame the racial, religious, and political bar-
riers that could easily have forestalled her. She simply had faith in

Delinquency

By Rev. Robert Adam,
Pastor, Unity Baptist Church

The one word that has been used
so much to express disappointment,
surprise and disgust in some young
people for the last few years, is
delinquency.

It has referenced to the immoral
and dangerous outbursts of young-
sters all over the land, indicating
someone has failed to carry out the
instructions given in the Bible, to
"train up a child in the way he should
go, and when he is old, he will not
depart from it."

But have we thought seriously
of the impact of the word delinquency?
How can a child be delinquent when
he has been made to believe that
everything he does is smart? How
can he fail to, or neglect to perform
a duty when he has never been
taught what his duty is? How can he
learn and practice respect to others,
when he has never been taught to
respect himself or those nearest him?

What is the hope of a child who
is not wanted from time of concep-
tion, throughout all his young life?
Who longs for someone, not to tell
him to get out and fight for himself,
but for one who will give him the
love and attention he so much needs
and deserves, where is he to go in
search of happiness, when there is
none in the home?

Delinquency — a good word to
use for this present-day situation, but
it is not preceded by the right adject-
ive.

Instead of Juvenile
Delinquency? It should read Adult
Delinquency, when fathers and
mothers will take time to chart the
course of their children, to help them
to be able to help themselves.

When the first duty of the par-
ents becomes the child, in place of
themselves — then and only then will
there be a solution to this startling
problem — delinquency, mothers,
whose lives are open books to their
children, who live as examples for
them.

Who give them the benefit of
the errors they made when young,
but placing the best before them, are
the ones who are able to look with

pride, in later years, that which hath
been entrusted to their care.

What has happened to the moth-
er who solicits the aid of neighbors
and teachers in the training of her
children? What has happened to the
fireside training that was once given.

As soon as the child becomes
old enough, he is given free rope. To
find his friends wherever he can; to
learn to make it the best way he can;
to learn to do others before they do
him. To leave when he cares to and
return at will.

The child who sees disloyalty,
distrust, and little or no religious
inclinations around his home. Who's
hopes are shattered by parents who
are sorry he's in the way; who has no
clean fun, nor has ever learned the
way to the church school, nor any
character-building organizations;
these are the children who's souls
cry out within them.

Who, not being able to feel
wanted, go out and start something
to attract attention. An attention they
think should have long since been
theirs.

The prison bars, the institutions
and homes, these places all that have
prepared for misguided young,
would need never to have been built
if mothers and fathers, guardians and
all would accept the responsibility of
bringing up a child in the way he
should go.

Would that parents could visual-
ize the errors in their own children as
keenly as they do in other people's
children. How much straighter a tree
grows if it is properly shaped while a
sapling.

Leisure time schedule, play-
ground, in every vicinity, activities
within the church, together with
instructions concerning downward
roads and where they lead — all this
with more that could be added would
serve as a panacea for the ills of the
young today.

Within their hearts harbor great
possibilities that will, if not aroused
and chartered, remain dormant until
awakened by some thoughtful adults.
We as adults, are being and will
always be responsible for whatever
happens to our youth.

Jesus.
Jesus inspired such faith. For the people of His time, faith meant
believing that what He said, He could do, so He would do it. This
was faith based on evidence. The Lord Jesus gave ample proof that
He was both loving and powerful. Therefore, despite being a Gentile
this woman clung to Jesus for help. This same Jesus urges us to day
to trust Him to release our burdens.

Again, this woman's faith in Jesus was so simple and steadfast
that she would not be deterred by even the most serious theological
and social considerations. The story reveals she agreed with the truth
of what Jesus said, but came back anyway. Her persistent faith drove
her right through opposition. Faith simply does not give up, no mat-
ter what.

For such a faith Jesus dropped a bombshell on the woman, his
disciples, and the crowd. He declared her "great faith" and healed
her daughter.

In our African American environment we have many social
problems: drug addiction, alcoholism, murder, rape, domestic vio-
lence, divorce and even abuse and abandonment of our children. It
seems, as though we have lost faith in that what is good, holy and
right. The faith our fathers and mothers knew as courage, boldness,
and persistence we scoff at. The OLE person admonishes you to
make Christ the object of your faith.

In your dark hours you make reach Parson Smith at Smith
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The Outreach Prayer Breakfast

"What Do You Believe?"

We believe God is very much alive in his universe, in
this world, and in our lives. God is greater than the best
things men have said about him. God seems to have imi-
tated the experiment of seeing whether the human species
can grow up from a Jewly, crude beginning into mature
men and women who will learn. Not only to love the
forces of nature and land on other planets, but also will
learn to live together in harmony, brotherhood, justice and
peace. In spite of all the strife among men in our world
today, there is a remnant of believers in every state or
county, and this group is like the leaven in the bread. It is
spreading the good news throughout the earth.

Jesus Christ is what God has done for us to bridge the
gap between what we are and what we ought to be. We
believe he is with us at all times. He sees all we do, and
hears all we say. In him, we live, move and have our
being, without him, we could do nothing.

We believe every person can experience the power, love
and companionship of God and his Son. We believe in the
Bible is the written word of God. Why not turn our mis-
takes, our failures and our doubts over to God. Accept his
forgiveness. Jesus never fails and never forget that. Trust
him, REPENT - REPENT - REPENT! It works for all
people. Read II Chronicles 7:14 and Mark 11:22-26.

Thought for the day: "Let my people go." Tell them,
Moses, to Let my people go!

Please join us in drive by prayer, in all areas of this city.
Become intercessory.

Continue to love all mankind even if they are unlovable.
God bless you!

Write to us: Outreach Prayer Breakfast, P. O. Box 1223,
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