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Texas Tech University
LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79409



God Bless America!

Southwest Digest

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50¢
Worth More!

902 E. 28th Street
Lubbock, Texas
Phone (806) 762-3612



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

Local News

American Legion Post 808 Sponsors Annual Christmas Party

As in past years, Santa Claus is coming to town! Or should we say he is coming to the Booker T. Washington American Legion Post 808, in yellowhouse canyon, on Sunday evening, December 21, 2003, beginning at 7:00 p. m.

All parents are asked to bring their children out for this annual Christmas Party. Come and have a good time with Santa Claus.

U Can Share Dive Still Rounding Up Donations to Ease Holiday Hunger

The spectacular part of the U can share drive -the crowds and trucks and live television coverage on the Market Street corner—is over for 2003; but the giving goes on.

Barrels of food are still being collected from outlying locations and new donations of food and money are still being accepted at the South Plains Food Bank 4612 Locust Ave.

The U Can Share goals are 500,000 pounds of food and \$100,000 in cash. Totals, as of latest count, are 461,499 pounds of food and \$102,176 in cash.

The food Bank's executive director, David Weaver, is extending thanks to the people of Lubbock and the surrounding area for their generosity in this year's 20th anniversary campaign to ease hunger. Distribution of holiday food baskets is scheduled from Saturday, December 20, to noon on Christmas Eve.

Estacado High School Matador Marching Band Invited to Participate in International Lion's Club Convention in Detroit

Last week, the Estacado High School Matador Marching Band was invited to participate in the International Lion's Club Convention in Detroit, Michigan. With this acceptance, Matador Band will be the official band that represents the Texas delegation at this international event in Detroit. This trip will include a performance at the

first general session, a breakfast for 600-800 Lions, and marching a parade with Lions from around the world as they will lead 1,000 Texas Lions through downtown Detroit.

This will be the first time the Matador Band has had an opportunity to perform at such a prestigious event, according to Jason Levin, band director. This trip will

be July 3 through July 10, 2004.

According to Mr. Levin, any 9th through 12th grade band student enrolled in the Estacado Matador Band for the 2004-2005 school year, plus 2004 graduates are to participate. An invitation has also been extended to the Estacado High School Army Jr. ROTC flag detail.

The cost of the trip.

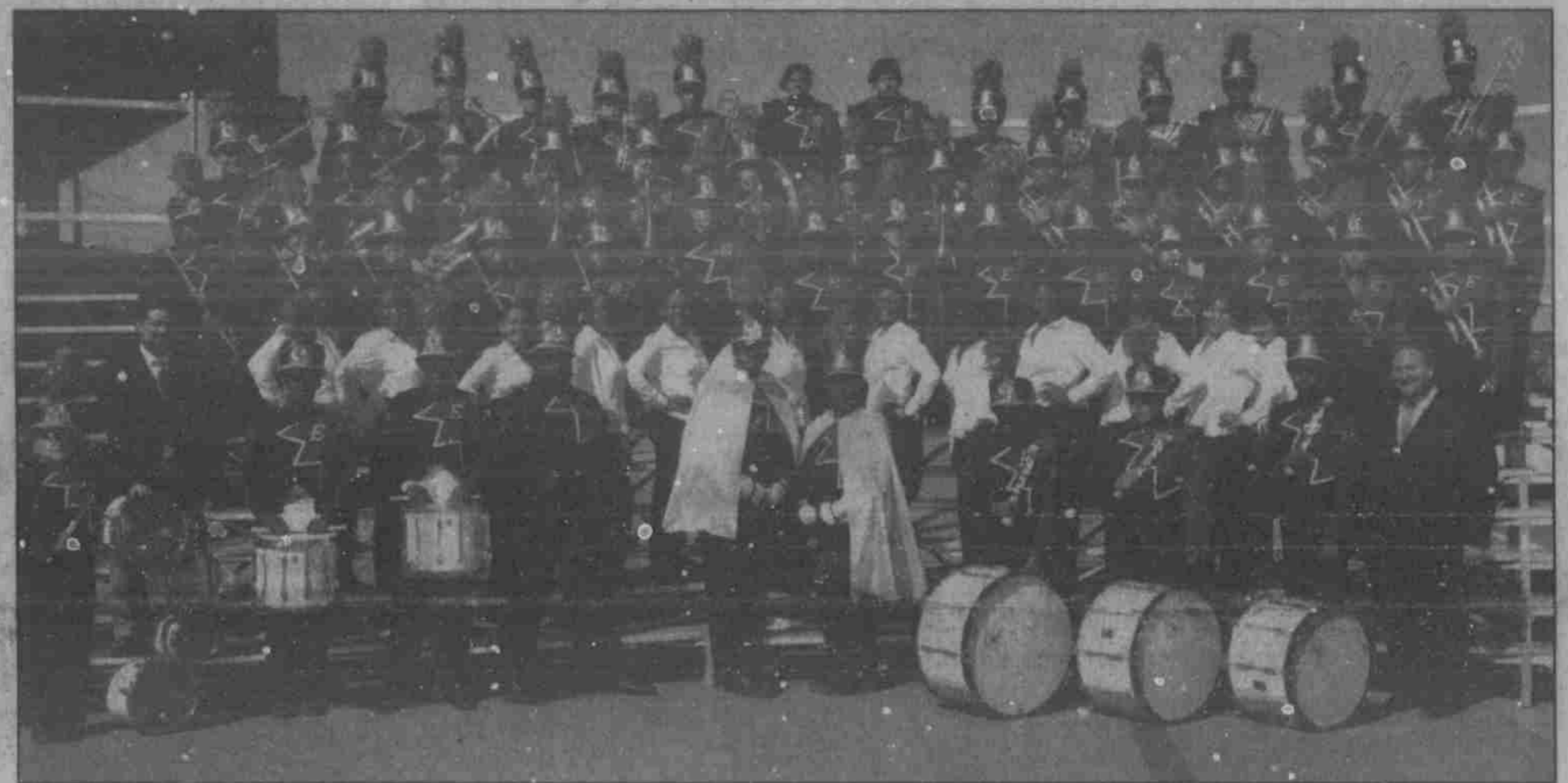
According to Mr. Levin, is approximately \$500.00 per student. This money can be paid by individual or fundraised throughout the year.

"A trip of this magnitude takes everyone working together to make this dream a reality for our students," says Mr. Levin. "So, we need you! We will need 20 parents and teachers to serve as

sponsors on this trip. The parents will be the ones who participate and organize fundraising activities," he concluded.

For more information, call Mr. Jason Levine or Mr. Anthony Wilson, and directors, at (806)766-1355, or you may send a fax to: (806) 166-1952.

E H S



First Black U.S. Secretary of Treasury Dies, Azie Taylor Morton

Austin, Texas-Azie Taylor Morton, former U. S. treasury secretary and the only African-American to serve in that post, died after a stroke. She was 67.

Mr. Morton suffered the stroke at her home in Bastop, Texas, and died Sunday December 7, 2003, at St. David's Hospital in Austin, according to a long time friend, State Rep. Dawnna Dukes, D-Austin.

Ms. Morton was appointed the 37th U. S. treasurer by former President Jimmy Carter on September 12, 1977, served until January

20, 1981.

She was born February 1, 1977, and was a graduate of Huston-Tillotson College in Austin in 1956 with a bachelor's degree in commercial education. Her first opportunity after college was teaching at a school for delinquent students. She served on President John F. Kennedy Committee on equal employment opportunity and was an observer for presiden-

tial elections in Haiti, Senegal and the Dominican Republic.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James Morton. She leaves to mourn her passing two daughters, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at noon on Saturday, December 13, 2003, at St. John's Tabernacle in Austin.

Another close friend of hers, Dr. Mae Jackson, city council woman of Waco, Texas, told the Southwest Digest, "She was an outstanding person and was always concerned about serving her fellow citizens."



Five Blessed Generations

This is the five generations of Modenia "Mother Dear" Roberson. She is shown holding Jazzmyne Jerkeysia. Standing, from left to right are: daughter, Bennie Veern Morrison; her son, Kyron Jerome Morrison; and his daughter, Kyrethe Latrice Morrison.

They came and visited over the Thanksgiving weekend from Dallas, Texas. Mother Roberson said: "I thank God for the family coming together once again, and there was not a death or sickness in the family."

Kyron said: "I thank God for the opportunity to bring the other four family loved ones together, and being part of this family!"

They all enjoyed the weekend with George and Mary Stevenson, B. J. and Jefferthel Morrison and other family members. (Photo Courtesy of B. J. Morrison, III, Kyron's Father)



Commissioner Flores Announces for Another Term as County Commissioner

Lubbock County Commissioner Gilbert Flores, a longtime resident of Lubbock County, announced in a press conference last week in the commissioner Court's chambers of his intent to seek another term as County commissioner.

Serving presently as Lubbock County Commissioner for Precinct #3, he pledges to serve his precinct with accountability, dignity, honesty, and integrity.



Lubbock Animal Services Asks People to Protect Pets During Cold Weather

The Lubbock Animal Services, the largest animal welfare organization on the South Plains, will be forced to close at 1 p.m. on Friday, December 12, so that electrical repairs and upgrades can be made.

"We just found out that these repairs were needed," says Jamey Cantrell, Animal Services Manager. "The needed repairs were of a nature that warrants immediate action to protect the citizens who visit and the animals we care for. Unfortunately, this means

giving people a short notice about closing, but considering the circumstances we really had no other choice."

The shelter will be without electricity while the repairs are being made and will therefore not be open to the public. The work should be completed over the weekend and the shelter will re-open for regular hours on Monday. Stray animals will be held an additional day to make up for the closure on Friday.

"Staff will still be here to care for the animals, just like

we are every other day of the year," adds Cantrell. "We're just going to have to use alternative lighting for certain areas of the shelter until we are back up and running again."

Animal Services field operations will not be affected and will still be available to citizens who call 775-2057.

For more information about the City of Lubbock E-News list server, see <http://e-news.ci.lubbock.tx.us/>

Merry Christmas to All of You!

Little Brayton Cagle, age one year, is smiling to all of us, and saying from his little heart, "Merry Christmas to all of you!"

He is the son of Reginald and Gerce Cagle; and grandson of Lovie Cagle. He was born October, 9 2002.



Community Meetings

- Lubbock Area Client Council, Second Saturday, 1:00 pm • Mac Simmons Community Center • High City Kiwanis, Every Tuesday Night, 7:00pm, 1708 Avenue G • Dabbar Alumni Association, 2nd Saturday, 4pm • Booker T. Washington American Legion Post 808 2nd Tuesday, 7:30 • Forgotten West Riders, Fry & Third Monday, 7:00 pm, T.J. Patterson Library • East Lubbock Chapter AARP, Every 1st Thursday at 1:00 pm, Mac Simmons Community Center • Oak and 8th St. • Lubbock Chapter of Black Alumni • 3 Tuesday, 7:30 am, T.J. Patterson Center • Dabbar Neighborhood Center Neighborhood • Mac Simmons Community Center • Thursday, 6:00 pm, 301 East 24th Street (at which meeting) • West Texas Native American Association, For Lunch • 2nd Saturday, 1:00 pm, 301 East 24th Street • Educational presentations and demonstrations • Texas Juvenile Criminal & Delinquency Commission • Lubbock Alliance Against Child Pornography • 1st Thursday, 7:00 pm • West Texas Native American Association meets 2nd Sunday, 1st month at Gross Library, 5520 19th Street, 7:00 • West Texas Chapter of 100 Black M, a meet the 1st Monday, evening at 7:00 pm at the Parkway Neighborhood Center • The Parkway Child Care & Cherry Point Neighborhood Association meets the 3rd Tuesday evening of each month at 7:30 pm at Parkway Neighborhood Center.

We would like to publish your monthly meetings. If you would like for an announcement to appear in this paper, please get it to us in writing by including it to:

Community Meetings C/O: Southwest Digest
P.O. Box 2553
Lubbock, Texas 79408
or bring it by the Southwest Digest office at 902 East 23rd Street

What's Inside....

Fashion Fun	page 2
Chalman Hills	page 2
Church	page 3
Obituaries	page 4
This N That	page 6
Classified	page 7

Fashion Fun

by Shirley Roberson

Great Gifts

Give a gift that warms the hart, brightens the night, or becomes an instant classic...

WARMS... Pink shearling coat, Novelty ski sweater,

Chunky knit scarf and mittens, wool knits hats

BRIGHTENS... Give inch, red heels, Chiffon ruffle blouse

With pink sequins, Black suede pumps with tortoise ornaments,

Large red leather tote, with contrast stitching in white.

CLASSICS... Black leather hand bag with tan stripes,

Lucky lace tuxedo shirt, Black Brazil detail scarf,

Large flowered ear-



rings that covers the ear,

Camel calfskin coat with Russian sable collar

Enjoy the Holidays!!!!

Tip...Always wear a smile

Fashion...Just for the fun of it

Community Coalition Seeks Volunteers for Upcoming Tax-Help Season

Since 1999, the City of Lubbock has been involved in the Tree City USA program. This program recognizes cities that are dedicated to planting and maintaining trees in our urban communities. With this in mind, the City of Lubbock created the Trees Across Texas program. Each year, the City of Lubbock has a symbolic tree exchange with another Tree City USA member in Texas. Each city plants a tree indigenous to the habitat of the partner city.

The first Texas city to participate with Lubbock was the City of Lufkin. A lighted image of the first tree planted in Lubbock in the Trees

Across Texas program on Arbor Day 2000 was dedicated at the Lubbock International Airport Terminal on Monday, December 1, at 1:30 p.m.

Participating in the dedication were Councilman T. J. Patterson and Dr. A.E. Quest, Jr., who played an important role in the Trees Across Texas program. Dr. Quest and his late wife, Audrey, have been long-time supporters of Lubbock's parks, and they established the A. E. (Gene) Quest Memorial Grove, a grove of

over eighty trees, located at the Buddy Holly Recreation Area off of North University on Canyon Lakes Drive.

As part of the dedication, Dr. Gerald Dolter, Texas Tech University School of Music, sang a song entitled, "Oh Lord, Look What Thou Hath Done," composed by the late Dr. Houston Bright, Texas A&M School of Music, with words written by Dr. Quest.

CHATMAN HILLS CORNER

by Clarissa Jay

The regular meeting of Pray Lubbock met on Wednesday, December 17, 2003, in prayer meeting at the Metro Tower on the 19th floor. Spouses of the pastors were invited to attend. All pastors and spouses were invited to a wonderful meal prepared by members of Cathedral of Praise and served at the Bridge, formerly Posey Elementary School. It was reported to be a wonderful program.

Congratulations to the winner of the Southwest Airlines Holidays drawing held on Tuesday morning, December 16, 2003, at the Mae Simmons Senior Citizens Center. The winner will be announced in next week's column. This is a marvelous way to celebrate Christmas with our many senior citizens.

There is something happening for one of our well known retired Lubbock Independent School District Music Instructors, Mr. J. T. Braxton. You see there will be a program called "Reminiscences With J. T. Braxton!", BEGINNING THIS WEEK THROUGH Sunday, December 21, 2003, and again Monday, January 5th through January 11, 2004. This program will be held daily at 9:00 a. m., 2:00 p. m. and 8:30 p. m. It will be seen over

LISD TV'S Cable Channel 12! Check out Brother Braxton. You will be glad you did!

We are still looking for news about things happening in your family, church or organization during the Christmas Holidays. Let us hear from you so we can publish what you are doing. You may call (806) 744-4127 or send it to "The Chatman Hill Corner, Attn: Clarissa Jay, P. O. Box 2553, Lubbock, Texas 79409. We'd love to have photos also

The women of the Women Missionary Society of New Hope Baptist Church are still talking about the Crimson and Silver Banquet held recently. Hopefully, they will continue next year. They are saying a very warm "Thank You!"

Services were well attended at the New Hope Baptist Church, the "Church Where The People Really Care," 2002 Birch Avenue, last Sunday morning. Rev. Billy R. Moton is pastor. If you are looking for a church home, then come and visit the New Hope Church. You will be glad you did so. Not only are the doors of New Hope open, but all churches in the community are open. If you are not a member, please consider joining some church family.

Services began with Sunday

School, and followed by the Meditation and Prayer. At 11:11 a. m., the Praise Team filled the house with spirit filled praising.

The morning scripture was read by Rev. Merrell McCutcheon. Prayer was offered by Rev. Chery Martin.

After, singing of several selections by the New Hope Choir, Rev. Moton delivered a powerful sermon. His subject was "Neighbor, Teamwork Gets Jesus' Attention." His scripture text was St. Mark 2:1-12.

Announcements of the morning were read by Sister Winnie Jackson.

Let us continue to pray for our sic, and shut in citizens. Among them are Brother Harry Stokley, Covenant Health System, Room 871-S; and Sister Pearlean McDaniel, University Medical Center, LCU. God is able!

Our prayers go out to the family of Mr. Fulton Berry who lost his mother last week. She was Ms. Marjorie Berry. Funeral services were held at the Smith Temple Community Church on Wednesday, December 10, 2003, with Pastor D. A. Smith officiating. Jamison Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

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Charles "HOP" Hobby
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Charles "HOP" Hobby graduated from the Legner Dunbar Senior High School in 1970. After graduating from high school, he attended the United States Air Force and served his country for three years. He attended college studying Family Studies. He became a counselor for ten years for the State of Texas. Charles is currently employed with Gene Messer Ford as a certified sales consultant, allowing him to sale thirteen different models of cars, located in Amarillo, Dallas and Lubbock. Charles says, "Regardless of your financial status, I will get you in a car." "You don't have to walk." Drop by Gene Messer Ford and give Charles the challenge to get you in a car of your choice.



CHURCH DIRECTORY



WE THANK GOD FOR JESUS

"XMAS WHAT'S IT TO YOU"

ISAIAH 9:6: FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, UNTO A SON IS GIVEN: AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS SHOULDERS: AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL, COUNSELLOR, THE MIGHTY GOD, THE EVERLASTING FATHER, THE PRINCE OF PEACE.

AS THE WOMAN BOUGHT STAMPS AT THE POST OFFICE; JUST THE OTHER DAY, A FROWN OF DEEP MADNESS; OVERCAME THE SMILE, THAT WAS ON HER FACE.

AS SHE LOOKED AT THE POSTED STAMPS, MARY HOLDING BABY JESUS, SHE SAID, THEY'RE PUTTING RELIGION IN CHRISTMAS; I DON'T BELIEVE IT!!!

MARK 7:6, JESUS SAID, WELL HATH ISAIAH PROPHESED OF YOU HYPOCRITES, AS IT IS WRITTEN, THIS PEOPLE HONOURETH ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR FROM ME.

(CHRISTMAS STARTED OUT BEING A CHRISTIAN FEAST, HELD ON THE DEC 25; WHICH WAS SUPPOSE TO BE CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF CHRIST. THE WORD MASS; IS PART OF A RELIGIOUS SERVICE WITH PRAYING, SINGING, AND TEACHING. IT WAS ADDED TO CHRIST NAME, MAKING IT CHRISTMASS, DROPPING ONE OF THE S' SO WHEN I WRITE THE WORD CHRISTMAS; I DROPPING CHRIST FROM MASS IT MEANS X-MAS).

THEN THE WORLD WANTED IN ON IT; THE GIFTS OF GIVING OF THINGS, ITS A SEASON OF FALSE LOVE, IT HATE, BRINGS SHAME, SHAME, SHAME!!!

***** THE WORLD ROB GOD *****

NOW THAT XMAS IS AN UN-GODLY, UN-GRATEFUL, UN-BELIEVING XMAS SEASON, WHY DO YOU OBSERVE IT? WHAT WILL BE YOUR XMAS DAY REASON?

JOHN 3:16, JESUS SAID, FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOSEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM(JESUS) SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.

WILL YOU ENTER THE STORES, FOR ONE THING; AND THAT IS STEALING, WITH NO MONFY; AND THINGS SO HIGH, IS STEALING YOUR XMAS REASON?

EPHESIANS 4:25, LET HIM THAT STOLE STEAL NO MORE; BUT RATHER LET HIM LABOUR, WORKING WITH HIS HANDS THE THINGS WHICH IS GOOD, THAT HE MAY HAVE TO GIVE TO HIM THAT NEEDETH.

WHAT IS YOUR REASON? TO DRINK, DOPE UP; THINKING YOU'RE HAPPY AND JOELIE THEN DRIVE HOME DUI, AND WIND UP KILLING OF A WHOLE FAMILY!!!

GALATIANS 6:7,8, BE NOT DECEIVED; GOD IS NOT MOCKED: FOR WHATSOEVER A MAN SOWETH, THAT SHALL HE ALSO REAP. FOR HE THAT SOWETH TO HIS FLESH SHALL OF THE FLESH REAP CORRUPTION; BUT HE THAT SOWETH TO THE SPIRIT SHALL OF THE SPIRIT REAP LIVE EVERLASTING.

WILL IT BE A RERUN; OF THE WORLDS SO CALLED THANKSGIVING DAY PLENTY OF FOOD, BEER, FOOTBALL; AND WONT EVEN BOW TO SAY GRACE!!!

PSALM 11 3:24, THIS IS THE DAY WHICH THE LORD HAVE MADE, WE WILL REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT.

WHO'S BIRTHDAY ARE YOU CELEBRATING; JESUS! THEN WHY A GIFT FOR SOMEONE ELSE???

WHAT THE WORLD IS DOING; TRYING TO SHOW LOVE AND PROVE THEMSELVES.

***** WILL XMAS ROB GOD? *****

WILL YOU BUY SOME EXPENSIVE THINGS; AND ALL KIND OF, AND TOYS FAKING THAT LOVE; YOU HAVE NOT SHOWED ALL YEAR TO GIRLS AND BOYS

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15; THANK BE UNTO GOD FOR HIS UNSPEAKABLE GIFT (JESUS CHRIST)

WRITTEN BY EVANGELIST BILLY B.J. MORRISON, III, YOUR BROTHER (IN CHRIST JESUS.)



from the Desk of Parson D.A. Smith
Being Able to Lead Under Stress

A recent story in the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal about the firing of an employee over misappropriation of funds by the City of Lubbock is serious and should not be tolerated. However, the charge of racial discrimination in the dismissing of the employee is very disturbing and is not an acceptable action in the 21st century.

It is alleged by the Interim City Manager, Tommy Gonzalez, that certain required actions were carried out by the Assistant City Manager, Quincy White. White has denied such actions. Our prayer is that "truth" will prevail. This community does not need to be reminded of the "do-nothing" City Manager and Council Members of

September 1999, who took the word "without any question" of the "white" City's attorney over a racial incident over 200 plus black leaders and citizens of the community. That incident still cuts like a knife in the heart of the blacks to get the "hello" out of Lubbock. What is it with these former military employees? Do they have the intelligence to distinguish between the military and the real world?

Most of us realize that these are stressful times. Everyone experiences stress. Sometimes through major life changes, more often through day-to-day hassles. We know jobs that require relating to people can be very difficult. People interrupt schedules; people fail to carry through on assignments; and people place huge expectations on their leaders.

But sometimes leaders seeking job security bring stress upon themselves. For example, leaders who seek constant control are apt to regard anything that occurs outside their sphere of influence as a serious hassle. Other leaders are always looking for approval from everyone, for people to see things only through their eyes and culture or they may view criticism as a personal attack.

Perhaps the greatest stress producer for leaders in most occupations is the inability to say no. Those who say yes to every invitation, opportunity, or assignment quickly overextend themselves trying to get everything done. Hence, chronic stress leads to burnout and things gets out of hand.

When one reads the life of Moses, they quickly discover he faced the prospect of burnout because he was trying

to judge all the problems of the Israelites. Concisely, he thought it was his duty to run the whole show. Thanks be to his father-in-law's advice, Moses delegated some of his duties to faithful helpers.

Moses appointed capable rulers to preside over varying numbers of people. If any issue could not be resolved at the lowest level with a judge who ruled over them, then the issue would move up to the next level, where the judge over fifty would rule, and so on, until Moses heard the most difficult cases.

Maybe the next City Manager of Lubbock will know how to delegate authority and hear and act upon the most difficult.

The Outreach Prayer Breakfast

As we enter the Christmas Holiday Season, the members of the Outreach Prayer Breakfast want to remind each of you of what the Christmas Season is all about. For your consideration, we thought of the topic so many of spoke and read about. "Jesus is the reason for the season."

Matthew 1:18-25 - Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise; When as his mother Mary was exposed to Joseph, before they came together, she found with child of the Holy Ghost.

Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus; for he shall save his people from their sins.

Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife; And knew her not till she had brought forth her first born son, and he called his name Jesus."

The birth of Jesus came about in a most extraordinary way! But the parents of Jesus were ordinary people whose faith served them well in extraordinary circumstances. They were obviously not expecting to meet such a challenge during those days when the happy couple 1/2 landed together sharing a life time of marriage. But their faith in the Lord was firm from the very start. As a result, their decisions could be made in the context of obedience to God's will as that will became progressively obvious to them.

Today, members of the Outreach Prayer Breakfast - as all of you who read us from week to week - also face challenges as we make decisions about important issues. Mary and Joseph teach us to trust in the Lord to guide us even as we wonder what is coming next. What is really around the next corner - no one knows! But what ever it is the Lord has in store for us, we can submit ourselves to Him. We realize that our God "Knows what he is doing." Often we will live to see how it all makes sense in light of

God's bigger plans. Saints, this is why we are insisting you look at this Christmas Season as the theme: "Jesus is the reason for the season!"

Let us continue to pray for one another. Regardless of what circumstance we are faced daily, prayer is the answer.

Don't forget those in our community who are ill at this time and are shut-in, do a nice gesture for them. Even a telephone call or visit will mean so much. Just let someone know you are thinking about them.

Don't forget your drive by prayers as you go to and from your daily activities. Make sure you pray for our schools and those playgrounds where our little people play. Even the path they walk home from school. Better still, go by a public school and walk the halls, after consulting with the principal, and let our young people see you. Make them feel good about seeing you on their campus. Even a noon meal will mean so much!

Thanks for reading, saints! SEE YOU next week if God says the same. Be careful!

Sister Dorothy Hood, president; Sister Christene Burleson, vice president; and Sister Elenora Jones, teacher.

St. Matthew Baptist Church News

Last Sunday morning, December 14, 2003, church services began at 10:15 a.m. with Sunday School.

The Sunday School lesson was taught and reviewed by Rev. Sister Nina Davis. It was another beautiful lesson.

The morning worship hour began at 11:15 a.m. with the morning devotional period and selections by the Senior Choir. What time in the Lord!

Pastor Edward Canady delivered the morning sermon. His subject was "Go wash in Jordan!" His scripture text was II kings 5:14. What a wonderful sermon for all in attendance. Thank you, pastor Canady for your continuing to teach you flock.

Rev. Canady brought the ordination message for Minister Ruby Doss and Minister Morgan at the Freewill Missionary Baptist Church in Slaton, Texas, where the Rev. J. Doss is pastor. Rev. Canady's subject was "Breathe on me!" His scripture was St. John 20:21-22. It was a most inspiring message. All in attendance enjoyed the service.

Thought for the week: "The Birth of Christ brought God to man; the cross of Christ brings man to God."

Be extremely prayerful as we enter into the Christmas Holiday season. Be thankful from whence we all have come. May God bless each of you until next week.

In the mean time, if you are not a church goer, think about it and join a church in our city. God knows what's best for all of us!

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

2202 Southeast Drive
806-744-7552

Pastor's study 806-741-0208
dpoebcthel@aol.com

Intercessory Prayer 8:30am
Church School 9:30am
Morning Worship 10:50am
Evening Worship 6:00pm
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12:00 Noon and 6:00pm



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In Remembrance...



Marjorie Berry

Funeral services for Mrs. Marjorie Harris Berry were held Wednesday morning, December 10, 2003, at the Smith Temple Community Church with Rev. D.A. Smith, pastor, officiating.

Jamison Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Pallbearers were Quincy White, Tim Williams, Gary Shipman, Dorian Berry, Stephon Shipman, and Floyd Price.

Mrs. Berry was born September 19, 1920, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to

the parentage of the late Mr. William and Mrs. Berdie Harris. She received her formal education at Westinghouse High School in Pittsburgh.

Marjorie Harris united in Holy Matrimony with Fulton Berry, Sr. on October 26, 1944. This 53 years of holy bond continued in a fulfilling love until his demise January 26, 1998, at St. Mary's Hospital (Covenant Lakeside) of Lubbock.

Mrs. Berry moved from Pittsburgh to Lubbock with her late husband. She was formerly a member of Bethesda Presbyterian Church located at 7220 Bennet Street in Pittsburgh where she served on the Altar Guild.

Upon moving to Lubbock, Mrs. Berry joined Smith Temple Community Church, located at 6508 Avenue P, by formal letter and

upon Christian experience from Bethesda Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Berry went home to be with the Lord on Saturday, December 6, 2003, at Mi Casita Care Center.

She is survived by a son, Fulton Berry Jr. of Lubbock Texas; a loving and devoted daughter-in-law, Faye Berry of Lubbock, Texas; three grandchildren: Darrell E. Berry and Dorian L. Berry, both of Lubbock, Texas and Latoya Bowser of Mesquite, Texas; great grandchildren: Shamedria Berry, Dakia Berry, Joseph F. Freeman, Donshea Murphy, Jererhy Pitts, Kevis Perry, Angelica Jones, Ronald McNeal, Unisha McNeal, Zamar Hereford, Travis Shipman and a host of other relatives and friends.

Southwest Airlines Discount for Seniors

The holidays are a time for memories, for sharing the love of family and friends, and for spending time at "home." But for many Lubbock area seniors, economic factors may prevent making that dream of travel a reality.

In an effort to assist the senior community, Southwest Airlines and the City of Lubbock Parks and Recreation Department are celebrating the 24th annual "Home for the Holidays" program, which will provide 12 Lubbock area seniors with complimentary airline tickets to visit loved ones over the holidays.

A special recognition ceremony for the "Home for the Holidays" ticket recipients took place December 16 at Mae Simmons Senior Center at 11 a.m. During this time, the seniors will tell heart-warming stories of holidays past and present. Along with Employees of Southwest Airlines and Lubbock Parks

and Recreation, members of Lubbock's City Council will attend the ceremony.

Since the program began in 1979, thousands of senior citizens have been given the opportunity to travel over the holidays. Southwest Airlines has reunited brothers and sisters, parents and children, and provided first-time introductions between grandparents and grandchildren. Along with the cheers of seniors everywhere, this worthwhile community service program has also earned several national and statewide honors.

Applications were distributed at several Lubbock Parks and Recreation centers, including Mae Simmons Senior Center. Recipients were chosen by Southwest and the City of Lubbock Parks and Recreation Department based on reason for travel and economic need. Recipients must be 65 years of age or older and complete their travel by March 31, 2004. Ground

transportation, accommodations, and other travel expenses are the responsibility of the recipient.

Camille Keith, Vice President of Special Marketing at Southwest Airlines, has nurtured the program through the years. "I have been proud to watch the 'Home for the Holidays' program grow tremendously as Southwest Airlines has expanded," said Keith, "and I am grateful for our loyal customers and hard-working employees who allow Southwest Airlines to continue to give back to the community."

For seniors 65 years of age and over who wish to purchase tickets for holiday travel, Southwest Airlines offers a limited amount of discounted, refundable Senior Fares. For reservations, please call 1-800-435-9792. Lower, restricted or promotional fares and holiday packing tips may be found at www.southwest.com

Here's Your Child's Chance To Win \$10,000 For College! The Make Kids Count \$10,000 Scholarship Giveaway For Newborns To 3-Year-Olds

It's easy! Fill out the coupon, provide a picture of the child and copy of birth certificate and mail to:

MKC Scholarship Giveaway
Newborn-3YO
PO Box 491
Lubbock, TX 79408

Hurry, entry deadline is Jan. 2, 2004!

SCOLARSHIP GIVEAWAY RULES

- 1) The Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, on part of its Make Kids Count project, will provide a \$10,000 U.S. Savings Bond to the winning child who meets all eligibility requirements as listed below.
- 2) The contest is open to all children born between January 1, 2001, and January 2, 2004, to parents (or parent) who are U.S. citizens and residents of the Lubbock-Avalanche-Journal's home newspaper delivery area, which includes 38 counties in West Texas and five counties in Eastern New Mexico.
- 3) Employees of The A-J and Harris Communications Corporation and their immediate families are not eligible to participate.
- 4) No purchase is necessary.
- 5) Official entry forms will appear regularly in the Avalanche-Journal through Jan. 1, 2004, or can be obtained at The A-J Information Center, 710 Ave. J, Lubbock, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- 6) A copy of a legal birth certificate and a reproducible photograph of the child must accompany each entry form. Also, entry forms must be completed in their entirety. Only one entry per baby will be accepted.
- 7) Deadline for entry is 2 p.m. Friday, January 2. Entries received after January 2 will not be accepted. Entries can be mailed to: MAKE KIDS COUNT SCHOLARSHIP GIVEAWAY, PO Box 491, Lubbock 79408, or dropped off at The A-J Information Center.
- 8) All contestants agree to allow their names, pertinent birth information and photographs to be published in The Avalanche-Journal without further compensation.
- 9) The Avalanche-Journal is not responsible for accidental entries that are forwarded, late, lost, misdirected, damaged, illegible, incomplete or postage due.
- 10) Contest winner will be determined through a series of random drawings. From the total number of entries, 64 names will be drawn at random. These 64 names will be taken (22, 16, 8, 4, 2, 1) weekly until the winner is announced on Tuesday Feb. 24, 2004.
- 11) In addition to the \$10,000 U.S. Savings Bond awarded to the winner, The A-J will present a \$5,000 Savings Bond to the runner-up, \$1,000 Savings Bonds to the other four quarter-finalists, \$500 Savings Bonds to the other four entries who make the round of eight, and \$100 Savings Bonds to the other eight entries who make the round of 16. All Savings Bonds will be issued in the names of the winning children after conclusion of the contest.
- 12) The Lubbock Avalanche-Journal may adopt or amend rules and regulations governing the procedures for drawing, displaying and supervising the awards.
- 13) By entering, each contestant or their representative acknowledges acceptance of the rules and agrees to be bound in them.
- 14) Decisions of the contest organizers are final.

Child's Name _____ Parents Name _____
 Parents Signature _____
 Child's Date Of Birth _____ Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Home phone _____
 Grandparents Name _____
 Grandparents Name _____

Mail to: Scholarship Giveaway
 Age: Newborn - 3 Years
 Lubbock Avalanche-Journal,
 P.O. Box 491, Lubbock 79408

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If you find mistakes in this publication, please consider that they are there for a reason. We publish something for everyone, and some people are always looking for mistakes.

"Are you at risk for glaucoma?"

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As a world renowned physician, specializing in the treatment of glaucoma, M. Roy Wilson, M.D., President of the Texas Tech Medical Center, has a personal concern and commitment for the prevention of glaucoma.

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What the new prescription drug benefit will do for you. No sound bites. No spin. No politics. Just the facts.

Congress has just voted to add a prescription drug benefit to Medicare. While the benefit isn't perfect, it's an important step forward that we can build on in the future. Here are some important ways that older Americans and their families will be helped by this benefit:

1. It protects traditional Medicare:

Nothing in the legislation undermines traditional fee-for-service Medicare. And anyone can stay in it if they choose.

2. All Medicare beneficiaries will have access to drug coverage:

This is a guaranteed drug plan for all beneficiaries, regardless of where they live.

3. This new drug benefit is

***voluntary:**

People can elect to keep any existing coverage they have, and no one will be forced to enroll in the new program.

4. It helps those who need it most:

The new benefit provides for comprehensive drug coverage for people with low incomes, at minimal cost to them.

5. It protects those with the highest drug costs:

After a beneficiary reaches the

\$3,600 out-of-pocket limit, the federal government will pay for 95% of prescription drug costs.

6. It protects retiree coverage:

The legislation provides financial incentives for employers (both public and private) so that people who already have good private coverage will not lose it.

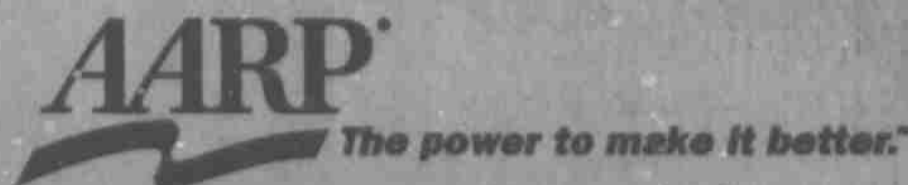
7. It provides new preventive services:

The legislation provides for new coordinated chronic disease management, preventive screening for heart disease and an introductory physical exam.

8. Discount card:

Beneficiaries can choose a Medicare discount card that will provide some immediate help with drug costs. In addition, many low-income beneficiaries will receive a \$600 subsidy on their card.

And we promise to keep fighting to make your prescription drugs more affordable.



www.aarp.org



Editorials • Comments • Opinions



We're Going Backwards Fast?

by Eddie P. Richardson

In an article in the Thursday, February 28, 1983 issue of the Wall Street Journal it is spelled out the need of Blacks not supporting Black businesses. This article has a lot of merit and shows what we must focus and refocus our minds; both Blacks and others.

"A Special Background Report On Trends in Industry And Finance"

OLDER-PRODUCTS look to blacks for rejuvenated sales growth. Blacks are still a relatively fresh audience for many products or brands whose overall markets are saturated or growing slowly, marketers find. Trying to squeeze more sales from Crest toothpaste (the leading brand among whites); Procter & Gamble tries harder to woo blacks (who prefer Colgate, P&G even retains Burrell Advertising, a black-owned agency in Chicago, to handle Crest-related work taken away from Benton & Bowles, a big New York agency. Says a Midwest seasonings merchandiser with an eye on blacks: "As our mature products reach the point where sales can't keep growing with the population, I have to turn to untapped areas for future customers."

Some aging products already are bought heavily by blacks - a fact recognized increasingly in ads - Instead of bottles of liquor,

the center attention in Bacardi Imports' latest ads is black and Hispanic drinkers. And Philip Morris' 7-Up unit has retained two minority ad agencies.

Marketers are aware that blacks' population growth rate is about 1.5% a year, vs. less than 1% of whites.

BLACK-OWNED BUSINESS-ES draw a declining share of black's money.

The revenue of black-owned companies, according to a Census Bureau estimate, last year equaled only about 7% of blacks' income. Back in 1969, that portion was much higher 13.5%. The decline will continue as black spending power rises, says Andrew Brimmer, a Washington economist. Most black-owned companies, out of excessive caution or for lack of capital, still haven't moved into important business segments - vacation travel, for instance - where black spending is surging as income rises.

The black-owned companies, moreover, are being attacked in their strongholds by mass merchants. According to a trade group, giants such as Revlon and Albarto-Culver now draw 70% of black dollars spent for hair-care products, up from 41% in 1980.

LARGE AND YOUTHFUL, black households spend big on some items. True, blacks are only 12% of the population and account for only about 7% of consumer spending. But blacks on a per-capita basis spend 28% more on baby products than whites spend, says Wellington Group, a Hartford, Heights, N. J., research concern. Other findings, Blacks spend 27%

more on cooking ingredients, 16% more on cleaning supplies, 12% more on breakfast foods.

Black families are larger (3.6 people per household, compared with 3.2 whites) and younger (the median age of blacks is 24, compared with 29 for whites). Tradition taste and style also account for spending habits peculiar to blacks. Spicy an cage, bought by only 13% of white women, is bought by 21% of black women, says Simmons Marketing Research Bureau in New York.

Marketers say blacks buy more than half of the cognac sold in the U.S.

DAILY NEWSPAPERS make little headway in recruiting nonwhites. According to the American Society of Newspaper Editors, more than 94% of dailies' journalists are white; six dailies in 10 employ no minority journalists.

BLACK HISTORY is the subject matter of Rise N Fly, a trivia game (about \$30) marketed by a Wilmington, Del., woman. Sample question: Who wrote "Go Tell It on the Mountain"? Answer: James Baldwin.

INTENSIFIED EFFORTS to increase endowments have drawn \$37.5 million to 24 black colleges since 1978. Combined endowments for 42 schools affiliated with the United Negro College Fund have climbed to \$201 million, from \$131 million in 1978. But debt also rises. They borrowed much of the money from insurance companies.

that most of us go through at some point in our lives. Far too many families face bereavement at this time of the year when they want to be happy and concentrate on the purchase or handcraft of certain presents for their family and friends.

Sometimes, the vision of the almighty dollar clouds the memories of some family members and they forget about the love that they had or should have for each other.

When a family member dies, regardless of the season or the reason, will or no will, there are those who are unhappy, evil-minded and set out to make other members of the family unhappy and uncomfortable when they should be showing and feeling love for those whom are left behind and still able to return their love. They are especially upset when a loved one leaves an item of value to someone other than themselves. They forget that people have a right to

give their belongings to whomever they choose, dead or alive. There is no need to be resentful of the beneficiary, especially to the point of destroying the property or causing bodily harm to the beneficiary.

When a person feels the urge to destroy what he cannot have, it is time for him to see a psychiatrist or a psychologist. Responsible family members should make it a point to see that such a family member receives the care that they need. What better time than the advent season to have this done. It is time for us to get "in cinque" and realize that "What is For Us is For Us" and violence has no place in the scheme of family things! If Uncle Joe liked brother John well enough to give him his Roll Royce, be happy for him, he may give you a free ride. "Let us make love instead of War."



In Cinque

by Renetta W. Howard

There is still room on this planet for a reason and a time to pray. This is the season of joy and giving; the time to make life worth living, because this is the time of year that the birth of the Christ child is said to have taken place, in a lowly manger, signifying the humble state of his birth.

This is the time to rejoice, but there is so much illness, physically, mentally and emotionally among us until the most peaceful thing to do is to pray for our loved ones and those persons who are far away from home on hostile battlefields. We need to pray for bereaved families everywhere.

Bereavement is something



WEST TEXAS TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP

Date: Group meets Last Tuesday of the month
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Place: McInturff Conference Center (UMC, 602 Indiana Ave., 2nd Floor, SW Entrance)
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For more information call: Nancia Jones (806)-495-2459

THIS N THAT

NEW NAME FOR PATTERSON LIBRARY! THIS N THAT ... is happy over a recent decision made by the ... LUBBOCK CITY COUNCIL ... in voting to rename the T. J. Patterson Library ... as its new name will be ... BOBBIE G. & T. J. PATTERSON LIBRARY ... who are husband and wife... This is a very good decision made by that city councils. This effort was initiated by CITY COUNCILMAN VICTOR HERNANDEZ... This is great! She is a deserving lady, mother and retired educator... Hopefully ... this upcoming dedication will be forth coming for all to attend and wish her well ... with this gesture... THANKS LUBBOCK CITY COUNCIL!

PENNY HASTINGS THE BARBER SAYS: "IT'S NOT A DISGRACE ... to not reach the ... STARS... but it is a ... DISGRACE ... not to have ... STARS!"

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT AT CHRISTMAS TIME THIS N THAT ... while returning home last Sunday evening ... read an article in the ... American Airlines ... "AMERICAN WAY" ... which would make us as parents want to take a very good look at how we are rearing our children... In the article entitled ... "THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS" ... December, 2003 ... here is a sample of what it is all about ... "We want the best for our children ... but in the wake of our ardor to enrich their lives ... certain things have been lost... Over the past ... 20 YEARS ... unstructured children's activities have decreased by 50 percent ... family dinners by 33 percent ... and family vacations by 28 percent... KIDS ... in 1950 ... had two and a half time more in FREE TIME, than kids today... True ... today's parents spend more time with their kids but one study showed that most of that time is ... SPENT CHAUFFEURING THEM ... about in the car... Negligible quality time is fostered with the ... BACK OF THE HEAD! - The author of this article is ... KEN MCALPINE. It is a very on time article for Christmas: ... What a present for the kids to take heed to what has been written ... and help our kids...

ESTACADO HIGH BAND NEEDS OUR HELP! THIS N THAT ... would hope those who can and will ... will help our ... ESTACADO HIGH SCHOOL BAND ... in the raising of funds to attend an event in Detroit, Michigan ... July 3 thru July 10th ... next year... For more info about this trip ... why not contact the band directors ... JASON LEVIN AND ANTHONY WILSON ... by calling ... (806) 766-1355... The community came to their rescue during their historical trip to the ... SUGAR BOWL ... last year in New Orleans, La... Let's give them another hands up... This is only preparing these young people to grow up and become viable citizens... The City of Lubbock ... has so much to gain ... when we invest in our young people...

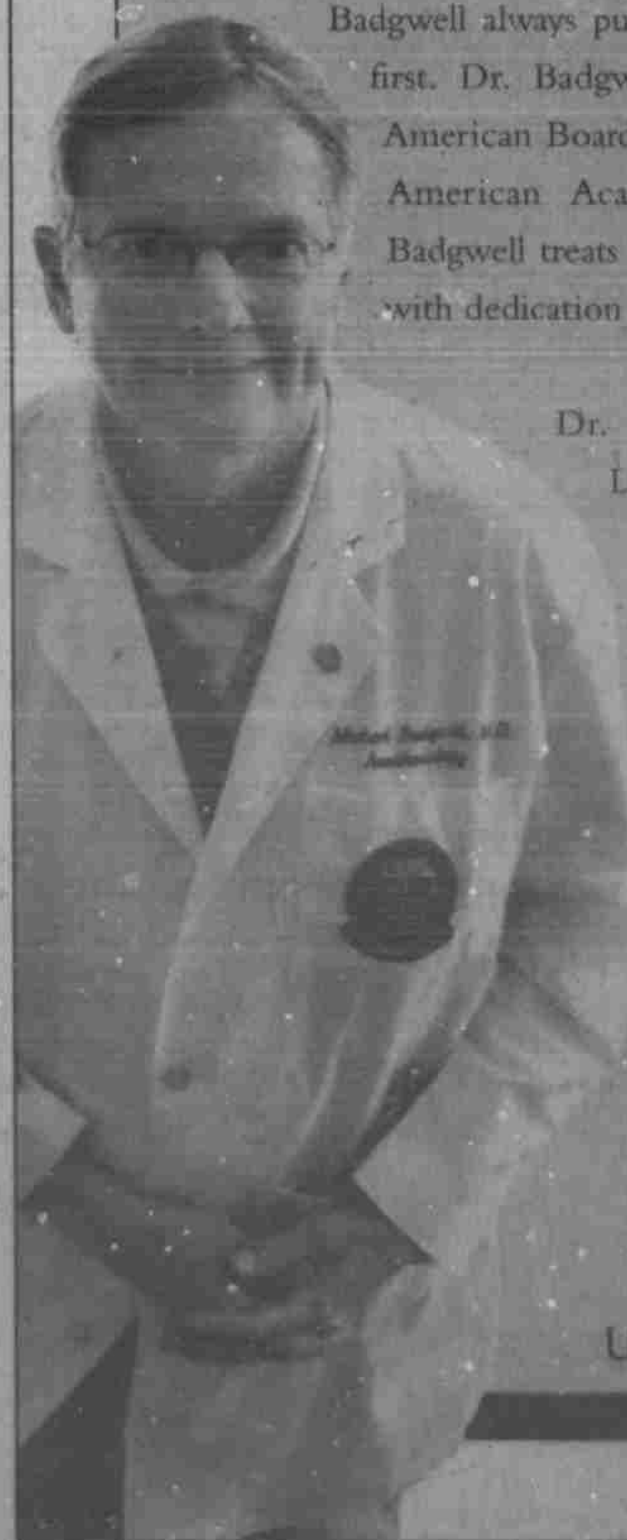
HAVE YOU VISITED A PUBLIC SCHOOL THIS SEMESTER? THIS N THAT ... is Still asking the question ... HAVE YOU VISITED A PUBLIC SCHOOL THIS SEMESTER? ... Hopefully, some of you have done so... By doing so ... it only makes our schools the better ... because citizens like you took time to do so... If you haven't done so ... at this time... then do so as soon as you can ... as this semester comes to a end next week. There's nothing wrong with even having lunch on the campus... These ... YOUNG PEOPLE ... in the Lubbock Independent School District, are beautiful young people... They only need to see MORE OF US!

EAST LUBBOCK LOOKING GOOD WITH CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS! THIS N THAT has had an opportunity of deriving around ... EAST LUBBOCK ... and have observed many areas which have decorated for the Christmas Holidays... At the corner of ... East 19th Street and MLK Blvd ... THE DR. JIM LOUD ESTABLISHMENT ... and across ... street is the new ... SONIC DRIVE-IN ... which is well lite a colorful corner in East Lubbock... Oh yes ... there are many others ... but it all shows that ... EAST LUBBOCK ... is still bouncing back ... and there is a lot more in store in the near future...

SERVICE IS OUR PASSION

Dr. Badgwell

and the team of Pediatric Subspecialists at UMC Health System are making sure all children get the best care possible. As a Pediatric Anesthesiologist, Dr. Jon Michael Badgwell always puts the needs of his patients first. Dr. Badgwell is a member of the American Board of Anesthesiology and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Badgwell treats each child and their family with dedication and compassion.



Dr. Badgwell and his wife, Lynn, have two children: Ashley, a Genetic Counselor and Christy, a medical school student. Dr. Badgwell, along with his associates, brings a new level of Pediatric care to the region.

Jon Michael Badgwell, M.D.
Pediatric Anesthesiologist



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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Compiled and Edited by Dr. Michael Ward
December 21 - December 27

It Happened ...

* Friday, December 25, 336: The first recorded celebration of Christmas took place in Rome. The celebration of the birth of Christ took over the pagan winter solstice holiday, and came to be observed at a holy mass, or "Christ's Mass." Christmas is celebrated in most countries on December 25th, sometimes called Yule (Anglo-Saxon) or Noel (French).

* Sunday, December 24, 1865: Several veterans of the Confederate Army formed a private social club in Pulaski, TN called the Ku Klux Klan. In three short years it had members in every former Confederate state.

* Friday, December 25, 1868: Over strenuous objections, President Andrew Johnson granted an unconditional pardon to all persons involved in the Southern rebellion which resulted in the Civil War.

* Tuesday, December 23, 1919: African American inventor Alice H. Parker of Morristown, NJ received a patent for a new and improved gas furnace that provided central heating.

* Saturday, December 21, 1929: The first US group hospital insurance plan was offered in Dallas, TX. An official at Baylor University in Dallas introduced a plan to guarantee schoolteachers 21 days of hospital care for \$6 a year. Other groups of employees in Dallas soon joined the plan, and the idea quickly attracted nationwide attention. The plan later became known as Blue Cross.

* Monday, December 26, 1966: The first Kwanzaa celebration was organized in Los Angeles, CA.

* Saturday, December 25, 1971: Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity) was organized by black civil rights leader Rev. Jesse Jackson in Chicago, IL. It is now part of the Rainbow/Push Coalition.

* Thursday, December 23, 1909: President Bill Clinton issued an unconditional pardon to Freddie Meeks of Los Angeles, CA, a black sailor court-martialed for mutiny during World War II when he and other black sailors refused to load live ammunition at the

Port Chicago Naval Magazine north of San Francisco, CA. African American seamen, working under segregated, "slave-laborer" conditions, refused to return to the dangerous job of loading bombs after an explosion on the night of Monday, July 17, 1944 killed 320 servicemen and wounded 400. Fifty black sailors were convicted at court-martial of making a mutiny during wartime, receiving dishonorable discharges and 8 to 15 years in prison. President Harry Truman released the 50 "mutineers" from prison in January 1946, but they still carried their felony convictions and were never granted any veteran's benefits. In 1948, because of the Port Chicago 50 and other pressures, President Truman gave an executive order to end segregation in the US military. Freddie Meeks died in June 2003, at age 83.

Born ...

* Friday, December 25, 1739: Chevalier de Saint-Georges, in Guadeloupe, West Indies. Son of an African slave, he was the first black musician to achieve international renown as a classical composer, violinist and conductor. He died in 1799.

* Monday, December 23, 1867: Madam C.J. Walker, on a Louisiana cotton plantation. Born Sarah Breedlove to former slaves, she became the first black woman millionaire, and probably the first self-made millionairess in America. She developed and marketed her own line of hair care products for black women. Madam Walker died in 1919, leaving thousands of dollars to schools and other organizations.

* Tuesday, December 21, 1948: Samuel L. Jackson, in Washington, DC. The Oscar-nominated African American actor's credits include "Pulp Fiction," "Star Wars," and "Eve's Bayou."

* Thursday, December 22, 1960: Controversial black hip-hop figure and rapper Luther Campbell, in Miami, FL.

In Sports History:

* Sunday, December 23, 1951: The first coast-to-coast televised football game took place, as the Los Angeles Rams beat the Cleveland Browns 24-17 in

the NFL championship game. The Dumont network (the first licensed TV network in the nation; it eventually became Fox) paid \$75,000 to the National Football League.

Sign of the Zodiac:

CAPRICORN is the tenth sign of the zodiac, symbolized by a mountain goat. Astrologers believe that people whose birthdays fall between December 22 and January 19 are born under the sun sign of Capricorn. The planet Saturn rules Capricorn, which is an earth sign. According to astrologers, Capricorns have responsible, disciplined, practical, methodical, cautious, serious, and sometimes pessimistic natures. Capricorns believe that anything worth having is worth working hard for, and they assign the highest value to things won through the hardest work.

It's A Fact!

In 1966, Dr. Maulana (Ron) Karenga, an African American professor and chairman of Black Studies at California State College at Long Beach, established Kwanzaa as a non-religious African American holiday. It was intended to celebrate family, community, culture and heritage for seven days, beginning on December 26 and ending on New Year's Day. The name Kwanzaa is derived from the African-language Swahili word, Kwanza, which means "first fruits of the season." Dr. Karenga added the extra "a" to distinguish the Afro-American celebration from the African tradition.

The seven principles of Kwanzaa are: Umoja (unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujamaa (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), Nia (purpose), Kuumba (creativity), and Imani (faith). Kwanzaa is not meant to be either political or religious, and despite some misconceptions, is not intended to replace Christmas. The Kwanzaa holiday is now reported to be celebrated by more than 18 million people worldwide.

BIOGRAPHY



Kelis

It's been four long, chaotic years since Kelis first captivated the worldwide public's ears, eyes and imagination when she beat up a cheating boyfriend and led an angry pack of women down the street, screaming, "I hate you so much right now! Aaaargh!" in the video for "Caught Out There," the lead single from her debut album, 1999's *Kaleidoscope*. Now, with the release of her hotly anticipated new CD, *Tasty*, the boldly original 24-year-old siren proves that creating a provocative modern classic not only takes time, but is also well worth the unbearable wait.

Buttressed by an indestructible foundation of superb tracks supplied by virtually all of today's hottest hip-hop and R&B producers—including the Neptunes, André 3000 from OutKast and Raphael Saadiq—*Tasty* represents a kind of "coming out" for Kelis. Her first two albums (the second, 2001's *Wanderland*, was never released in the U.S.) were created under the tutelage of the Neptunes' Pharrell Williams and Chad Hugo, who she's known since she was a teenager. And although their presence is felt in five cuts on *Tasty*, including the sensational "Milkshake," the album is a noticeably stronger reflection of Kelis's distinctly pro-female and sexually forthright vision. She co-wrote five of the album's 14 songs and further stepped up her game by serving as the album's sole Executive Producer.

Born Kelis Rogers (her name, pronounced "kuh-LEESE," is a combination of her parents' first names), the singer-songwriter was raised in a middle-class household in Harlem. Her Puerto Rican and Chinese mother, Eveliss, is a fashion designer, and her black father, Kenneth, who died two days before she inked her former deal with Virgin in 1998, was a jazz musician and a Pentecostal minister. As a child, Kelis sang in her church choir as well as the Girl's Choir of Harlem, and played violin, piano and saxophone while attending a prestigious private school on Manhattan's storied Upper East Side.

When she was 13, Kelis shaved her head and, after it grew back, dyed it a succession of colors (blue-black, blood red, green, orange, platinum blond and pink). By the time she had turned 16 and enrolled as a drama major at New York's renowned La Guardia School for the Arts (immortalized in both the movie and television series *Fame*), her parents, worn out from trying to control her, kicked her out of the house.

Although Kelis remembers those tumultuous years as a miserable time during which she struggled to support herself by working odd jobs, she stuck it out in high school rather than dropping out. At La Guardia, she formed an ill-fated R&B trio called BLU (Black Ladies United) that caught the attention of key players in the music business who helped her land gigs singing backup for fledgling rap groups such as the RZA side project, Gravediggaz. After graduation, a friend introduced her to the Neptunes, with whom she formed an immediate musical bond, and with their support, she subsequently landed the record deal that yielded *Kaleidoscope*.

Despite the popularity of "Caught Out There," *Kaleidoscope* failed to win over American listeners. The disc's vibrantly funky fusion of hip-hop, R&B, rock and soul (driven by the Neptunes' punctuated beats) was too imaginative to get played alongside the cookie-cutter R&B coquettes of the day. On the other hand, Kelis's innovative sound was too sophisticated and street-smart for pop radio. But while *Kaleidoscope* floundered stateside, it became an instant smash overseas, spawning three Top 40 hits ("Caught Out There," "Good Stuff" and "Get Along With You"), in addition to nabbing the Brit trophy for Best International Newcomer, the Q statue for Best Video ("Caught Out There") and the NME prize for Best R&B Singer. Backed by an all-girl eight-piece band, Kelis bolstered her international fame by putting together a galvanizing live show, in which she subverted expectations with her electrifying rendition of Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit."

Two years later, due to internal restructuring at Virgin, *Wanderland* was released only in Asia and Europe, where she made the rounds on the festival circuit for nearly all of 2000 and 2001. Aside from the delightfully brash single "Young, Fresh & New," in which Kelis taunts those who criticize her wild style, the poorly promoted disc's many highlights included "Perfect Day," a duet with Gwen Stefani co-starring the rest of No Doubt as the backing band; "Easy Come, Easy Go," featuring Fieldy from Korn on bass; and "Popular Thug," which was later re-recorded (with an additional verse from Nas) and included on 2003's *The Neptunes Present... Clones* compilation.

After playing gigs on both sides of the Atlantic for much of 2001—turning up stateside on Moby's Area One Tour and then supporting U2 on the European leg of the band's Elevation Tour—Kelis returned to the U.S., fell in love with fiancé Nas and set about squelching the American perception that she was a distant pop phenomenon who belonged to European and Asian audiences. Still, she refused to allow herself to be easily defined or pigeonholed by collaborating with artists as diverse and unexpected as Busta Rhymes ("What It Is"), Timo Maas ("Help Me"), Foxy Brown ("Candy"), Richard X ("Finest Dream"), OutKast ("Dracula's Wedding"), Guru ("Supa Love") and, of course, Nas ("Hey, Nas"). Meantime, she also relocated from Virgin to Arista under the Neptunes' Star Trak imprint, and began working on the songs that would form *Tasty*.

Recorded in New York, Los Angeles and Atlanta, *Tasty* finds Kelis matured yet youthful, seductive yet opinionated, and cocky yet vulnerable. She keeps the guest appearances to a refreshing minimum, with only Nas ("In Public"), Pharrell Williams ("Protect My Heart") and André 3000 ("Millionaire") making cameos. Of course, longtime fans may be surprised by the Neptunes' lack of creative input, however, their limited presence enables listeners to get to know—and hear—Kelis in a brand new and truly intimate light, thanks to an edgy assortment of flirtatious beats provided by Dame Grease, Dallas Austin and Rockwilder.

From start to finish, *Tasty* is a nonstop series of playfully profane gems that either match or surpass the irresistible flavor of "Milkshake," an impressive feat given that it's already ranked among the year's top party jams. "I'm no longer the rainbow-haired girl screaming through your boom box," Kelis proclaims. Indeed, the thoroughly unique 'round the way girl from uptown is all grown up. And *Tasty* is her most delicious album yet!

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