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Southwest Digest

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Worth More!

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NATIONAL NEWS

Drug-Related Emergency Room Cases Decline Nationally
Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Donna F. Shalala released data late last year showing an overall six percent decline nationally in drug-related emergency room cases from 1995 to 1996 (from 517,800 to 487,600). The number of cases had steadily increased from 1990 through 1994 and remained level in 1995. "These results are another hopeful sign of progress in our efforts against drugs. But they also signal that our work to prevent substance abuse and treat addiction is far from finished," said Shalala. The data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN), an ongoing national survey of hospital emergency departments, provided emergency department estimates from 21 metropolitan areas. Between 1994 and 1996 decreases were seen in five cities: Boston (20 percent--15,200 to 12,100), Denver (28 percent--5,000 to 3,600), New York (10 percent--43,100 to 35,400), San Francisco (12 percent--11,800 to 10,400) and Washington, D.C. (20 percent--14,200 to 11,300). On the other hand, increases were seen in two cities during the same time period: New Orleans (19 percent--4,700 to 5,800) and Newark (seven percent--9,400 to 10,100). Fourteen cities were statistically unchanged: Atlanta (9,800), Baltimore (15,400), Buffalo (3,100), Chicago (22,700), Dallas (5,000), Detroit (20,200), Los Angeles (19,200), Phoenix (7,200), St. Louis (6,100), San Diego (5,300) and Seattle (8,300). Nationally, the most frequently recorded reason for a drug-related emergency department visit was "overdose" (239,100).

National Alliance of African-American Athletes To Host 1998 Empowerment Day

The National Alliance of African-American Athletes (The Alliance), will host its 9th annual African-American Male Empowerment Day on Sunday, Feb. 1, 1998 with a kickoff in Washington, D.C. The event first began in 1990 when The Alliance sought to bring attention to the dilemmas facing African-American males. Its goal remains the same: To create a political mandate via events and educational programs to encourage public officials, schools, corporate America and individuals to initiate activities to address issues facing African-American males as well as activities that will ultimately empower them. Participating cities include: Harrisburg, PA; Indianapolis, IN; Baltimore, MD; Philadelphia, PA; Chicago, IL; Cleveland, OH; New York, NY; Erie, PA; Dallas, TX; Boston, MA; Dayton, OH and Atlanta, GA. For details about the day's events call F. Willis Johnson at 317-233-3854 or Nathan Pringle at 717-783-2590.

Magazine Probes 'State of Black Health in America'

When it comes to the health of African Americans, there is more cause for worry than celebration. The news worth applauding is that African Americans have experienced a general improvement in their health in the 1990s, compared to a decade ago. The bad news is that Blacks still find themselves lagging behind Whites in almost every health category, according to the cover story in the Jan./Feb. 1998 issue of *Health Quest: The Publication of Black Wellness*. The article, titled "The State of Black Health," examines the similarities and differences between the health of Black and White Americans. For both groups, the leading causes of death are heart disease, cancer and stroke. The similarities end there. Deaths associated with HIV/AIDS have become a more prominent health issue for Blacks than for Whites, according to the article. The HIV/AIDS-related mortality rate declined to the second leading cause of death for White men between 25 and 44 years old and the fifth leading cause of death among White women in the same age group. However, it ranks as the top killer of Black men and women in the same age group.



One Day, a one-hour original special celebrating Black History month and the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., world premieres on Disney Channel Saturday, February 7, 7:00pm ET/PT. Directed and Executive Produced by Emmy Award-winning actress Debbie Allen, and featuring film star Loretta Devine, *One Day* examines Dr. King's legacy through the eyes of four youngsters. Clockwise, left to right: Loretta Devine, Schyler Whitney, Christopher Aguilar, James Williams, Debbie Allen and Orlando Brown.

DISNEY HONORED FOR WORK WITH MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESS



BURBANK, Calif.-- The Southern California Regional Purchasing Councils (SCRPC) and its Minority Business Enterprise Input Committee (MBEIC) today presented its first Corporation of the Year Award to The Walt Disney Company, in recognition of Disney's leadership role in working with minority-owned businesses.

SCRPC is one of 42 regional councils in the National Minority Supplier Development Council network. The criteria for Corporation of the Year selection were established by the national MBEIC. Local minority entrepreneurs selected Disney from a large field of prominent multinational organizations, which comprise the SCRPC member roster.

"The Walt Disney Company has been a major supporter of programs to encourage development of minority-owned businesses and has created a very effective outreach program to assist in that effort," said Hollis Smith, SCRPC president.

"Today's is the first of what will become an annual award presented by the Purchasing Councils' Minority Business Input Committee. This special recognition of The Walt Disney Company reflects the high regard suppliers have for Disney's outreach and supplier diversity programs." The Corporation of the Year Award was presented to Michael Eisner by Ruben Garcia and John Ward, Co-Chairs of the Minority Business Enterprise Input

Committee. Michael Eisner, Disney's chairman and CEO, noted that Disney does business with more than 900 minority-owned and more than 600 women-owned businesses, and has operated a Minority and Women Business Enterprise Program for more than 15 years.

"We have found that developing business with minority-owned and women-owned organizations increases competition and provides employment opportunities for a greater number of people," said Eisner.

"Having a diverse supplier base also helps us gauge the needs of our diverse customer base. Many such firms have shared their creativity with us, provided us with new and successful products and shown us new ways to get things done. We are committed to providing opportunities for all people to share their products and services with us. We are most honored to have been selected for this award."

SCRPC's membership includes 225 major corporations and large-scale purchasers throughout a 13-county area. Formed in 1975, SCRPC seeks to stimulate economic growth and help develop enterprises that can provide useful goods and services at competitive prices, increase employment for underemployed groups, and help bring disadvantaged enterprises into America's market economy.

AMISTAD



DreamWorks new film, "Amistad," opening nationwide December 12th, tells the story of a dramatic courtroom battle that marked a turning point in the history of this country and in the African-American experience. The pivotal trial struck a major blow for freedom a quarter of a century before the Emancipation proclamation, yet a vast majority of people—black and white—have never even heard of the case nor of the courageous rebellion that led to it.

In the summer of 1839, on a stormy night off the coast of Cuba, 53 Africans held captive in the cramped cargo holds of the Spanish slave ship *La Amistad* break free of their shackles. Led by Cinque (DJIMON HOUNSOU), they arm themselves, take control of the ship and reclaim their freedom. They have one goal: to return to Africa.

Without the navigational skills to guide them home, the Africans are forced to rely on the two surviving members of the crew. But they are tricked. After two months on a ragged course up the Eastern seaboard, the *Amistad* is captured by an American naval ship off the coast of Connecticut and the Africans put on trial for the murder of the crew.

In the beginning, the Africans are championed by abolitionists Theodore Joadson (MORGAN FREEMAN) and Lewis Tappan (STELLAN SKARSGARD), and a young real estate attorney named Roger Baldwin (MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY). However, as the case becomes the symbol of a nation divided, two great Americans lock horns in the debate. Pro-slavery President Martin Van Buren (NIGEL HAWTHORNE), seeking re-

election, is willing to sacrifice the Africans to appease the South, as well as Queen Isabella of Spain (ANNA PAQUIN). But his will is challenged by former President John Quincy Adams (ANTHONY HOPKINS), who comes out of retirement to fight the Africans' cause in the United States Supreme Court.

It is a case that challenges the very foundation of our legal system, but for the African captives on trial, this is not a clash of politics or ideologies. This is a fight for the basic right of all mankind... freedom.

"Amistad" began its journey to the screen over 13 years ago. In 1984, producer Debbie Allen came across two volumes of essays and articles, titled *Amistad I and II*, written by African-American writers, historians and philosophers. She couldn't imagine why she had never even heard of the landmark incident, or of the courage of the leader of the rebellion, Sengbe Pieh, whom the Spaniards called "Cinque."

Allen set out on a personal quest to bring the story of the *Amistad* to the big screen, but was met with little interest from the filmmaking community. After seeing Steven Spielberg's *Shindler's List*, however, Allen's hopes were renewed. "I realized that here was a filmmaker who could embrace this project and help me get it done," she offers.

Co-heads of DreamWorks Pictures, Walter Parkes and Laurie MacDonald set up a meeting for her with Spielberg. "Steve wanted to know everything about the story. Allen relates, 'We had a fantastic, emotional conversation, and I knew we were going to make this movie. After all those years, it happened so quickly.' Not long after Spielberg signed on, Colin

Wilson came aboard as a producer. Screenwriter David Franzoni, who had previously penned the acclaimed HBO telefilm, "Citizen Cohn," was hired to shape the multi-faceted story into a dramatic screenplay.

Spielberg, Allen and Wilson then assembled an outstanding international cast, including three-time Academy Award® nominee Morgan Freeman, Academy Award® nominee Nigel Hawthorne, Academy Award® winner Anthony Hopkins, Matthew McConaughey, Academy Award® nominee David Paymer, Academy Award® nominee Pete Postlethwaite and Stellan Skarsgard.

However, the filmmakers knew that it was integral to the success of the film to find the right actor to portray Cinque. Spielberg recalls, "I was not prepared to make the movie without a Cinque who would be utterly believable. We were very fortunate that in the middle of the casting process, we came across Djimon Hounsou."

A native of West Africa, Hounsou notes, "Cinque refuses to be taken as a slave. He will go to any length to free himself. There is no experience in my life that I could draw on to play this part. I had to make it believable for myself that I was actually being treated like that, so people could look at me and understand and feel the pain that Cinque must have endured."

One significant casting hurdle still remained for the filmmakers: finding the *Amistad* Africans. From the start, they sought to cast real African actors in those roles. They began by seeking Africans from the Mende, Temne and Kisi tribes, all of which are represented in the film.

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Is it Time for a Black Computer Company?

By John William Templeton

SAN FRANCISCO -- Sometimes you can't see the forest for the trees. That is the case with one of the most amazing trends in the African-American consumer market.

Beginning in 1995, African Americans spent more on computers than they did on televisions, according to the Current Population Surveys of the U.S. Census Bureau -- \$589 million to almost \$500 million for televisions.

They also spent another \$180 million on computer software -- equivalent to the amount spent on CD-Roms and other recorded music. When statistics for 1997 are released, the total amount spent on hardware and software is likely to top \$1 billion.

Marketing research indicates that most of these computers were bought for students so that they can stay competitive in school. An Apple Computer Inc. executive confided that its studies indicate that single Black mothers index highest of any group in a willingness to buy a computer for their children.

The ironic aspect of this trend is that it is a total gift to the computer industry, which has done worse than nothing to market technology to African Americans, even though some of the biggest breakthroughs were pioneered by Blacks. Did you know that the lead engineers for the first IBM PC, Windows 95 and the Macintosh disk drive were Black?

In the spirit of the recently passed Kwanzaa, perhaps it is time we do something for ourselves. As much as the Black computer market has grown, it still only scratches the surface. When President Bill Clinton gives his State of the Union address, he will open the doors to an even greater opportunity by committing funds to the rejuvenation of schools in school districts with a high proportion of children living in poverty.

The mid-March deadline to qualify for the e-Rate's 90 percent discount for schools will also force educators to begin addressing their technology needs.

Black parents are being forced to buy computers for their children because their schools are not equipped with them. There is a 14 percent gap in computers per student at the 4,200 schools with 75 percent or more African-American student bodies compared to the national average, reports QED's Jeane Hayes in Denver.

If the president is serious -- always an open question -- it would mean a substantial commitment to buying the 1.2 million computers that it would take to reach the national goal of five students per computer by the year 2000 for the seven million African-American K-12 students.

Even if the feds do not follow through, we as a community should require our local school boards and charitable organizations to come up with the dough.

Now, if you're still with me, somebody needs to make those computers and somebody needs to make software that mines the rich oral tradition of the African experience and the creativity of

today's artists. Although computer purchases are going up, software purchases are going down as Black buyers find an even worse situation than the book and movie markets when they go to software stores.

There is nothing for Black children and a void in practical resources geared to the specific needs of adults. In our imitable fashion, we've been taking that imperfect environment and adjusting it to meet our needs. That's where the business opportunity lies. Practically all American computer companies have sourced their manufacturing off-shore in Asia. That means much of your hard-earned dollars spent for computers floated away.

Given that technology is one of the boom fields for the 21st century, it provides an opportunity to create a company based on meeting the specific demands of African-American computer buyers, either as a stand-alone firm or in alliance with existing manufacturers here or offshore.

None of the existing firms have any sales channels in inner cities nor in Africa or the Caribbean. There is not only a demand for a manufacturer but also a retail company that would focus on these markets.

During the recent conference, "African-Americans in the Digital Age: Learning and Earning on the Internet," Dr. Frank Greene, one of the pioneers of Silicon Valley and managing member of New Vista Venture Capital, discussed how his group is putting \$40 million into developing the next wave of Black computer companies. He was joined by Carl McCarden, a vice president of Centerex, which arranges deals with Japanese firms.

Part of the opportunity is created by the availability of new operating systems like Java, Be and Oracle's NC. In each case, the developing company is openly seeking licensees to manufacture the end user machine. The current two leading operating systems, Windows and Macintosh, are problematic for new companies to license. The three new entries have "open architectures" that allow them to communicate with all current operating systems.

The Asian financial crisis also means the cost of components is dropping. Finally, the Caribbean nations have identified information technology as a priority and are offering generous incentives for new manufacturing companies.

In the post-affirmative action environment, our entrepreneurs need to surpass the subcontractor mentality and begin supplying basic needs. We've already done this well in the personal care market and are making strides in health care delivery.

Building an information manufacturing infrastructure in black communities can reduce our reliance on outside economic forces and spark the kind of creativity that Motown brought to the record industry.

As Marvin Gaye might say, "Let's get it on!"



The New Hope Baptist Church, 2002 Birch Avenue, is the "Church Where The People Really Care," and the Rev. Billy R. Moton is the proud pastor. If you don't have a church home, you are always invited to come and worship with the Saints of New Hope.

Services began last Sunday morning with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. with the Youth Department Superintendent Henry High presiding. Class study was held for thirty minutes. All teachers were present. All classes reassembled at 10:15 a.m. singing "Must Jesus Bear The Cross Alone." Class No. 2 brought the high points of the morning lesson. Sister Dorothy Kinner was the messenger. She did a wonderful job in presenting the facts about the morning lesson. Wonder if you let any of the subject rub off on you. Think!

An invitation to discipleship was extended. There was one visitor. He was Brother Jeff Austin.

The Secretary's Report: Youth Department - Intermediate Class received both banners - Attendance and Offering Banners. They had an offering of \$32.00. Thank God! In the Adult Department: Class No. 4 lost both banners to Class No. 1. Their offering was \$372.92.

The morning devotional period was done by Brother and Sister R.J. Givens. What a spirit filled devotional.

The Senior Choir marched in the processional singing "We Come This Far By Faith." The altar prayer was offered by Rev. Jeff Brown. A song, "To A Great Creation" was sung and led by Sister Elnora Byers. She sung out of her heart. Scripture was read by Sister Lucille Jackson who read Psalms 121. Prayer was given by Sister

Ruby Jay's Corner

Annie Taylor, and it was a fervent prayer. Another song, "I've Found Me A Solid Rock," was sung.

Responsive reading was done with the congregation standing and led by Sister Beverly Ross. The morning hymn was "Love Lifted Me." Pastoral observations were made by Pastor Moton. It was also fellowship time and all members shook the hands of someone next to them. After the singing of "Look To The Light House," the next selection was the hymn of preparation, "Near The Cross."

Pastor Moton preached on the subject "How To Deal With Disturbing News." His scripture text was II Chronicles 20:1-13. If you had only be present. It just shows us that every Sunday gets better and better. What a message! No one came forward for invitation to discipleship.

Let us keep on praying for our sick and shut in citizens. Our sick list increases each week. Among those who are ill and shut-in includes Sister Vickie Kendrick who is a patient at University Medical Center. Brother Ulysses Kelly is a patient at Methodist Hospital.

Others ill include Rev. Clarence Weatherspoon, pastor of Carter Chapel C.M.E. Church, who is home and is recuperating. Brother Willie Turner, vice president of the Federation of Choirs and proud member of St. Matthew Baptist Church, is home recuperating at this report. It apparently became ill at Mae Simmons Community Center last week.

Sister Celestine Kyle is home from the hospital after an eye surgery. Brother Davie Sanders, a member of Greater St. Luke Baptist Church, is in the hospital. Brother Samuel Curtis is home from the hospital. The wife of Brother J.H. Wilson is reported to be ill at this report.

Let us keep praying for those who are ill in our community.



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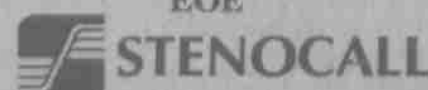
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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO INVESTIGATE DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES BY MISSISSIPPI STATE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Today, United States Representative Bernie G. Thompson (D-MS) announced that the Office for Equal Employment Opportunity Programs at the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has agreed to conduct an investigation into alleged incidents of discrimination perpetrated by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP).

In a letter addressed to Dr. Sam Polles, Executive Director of the MDWFP, the agency said that "a sufficient nexus exists between possible discriminatory employment practices and possible inequitable delivery of benefits and services" to warrant an investigation into "both a comprehensive examination of the equitable delivery of benefits and services, and an examination of the pattern and practices of employment."

"There are many people in Mississippi, as well as the rest of the nation, who are questioning the necessity of affirmative action in 1998," said Congressman Thompson. "The actions of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks clearly illustrate the need for both proactive minority hiring policies and the continued need to monitor programs receiving federal funds to ensure they comply with these policies."

In 1996, a racially offensive photograph was published on the cover of "Outdoor Digest," a MDWFP magazine. The picture depicted a black man chauffeuring four white men in a mule drawn carriage. At the time, Dr. Polles would not give the name of the MDWFP employee responsible for choosing the photograph, but assured Mississippians that the problem had been handled internally.

Upon further investigation by Congressman Thompson, the internal composition of the MDWFP proved to be one of the problems. Documentation from the

36% of the residents of Mississippi are African American, only 8% of the MDWFP employees are black. The majority of the African Americans employed by the state agency have been relegated to position of "Park Worker" or "Park Worker Aide."

"Of the 204 managerial and supervisory positions at MDWFP, only two are held by blacks," Congressman Thompson went on to say. "It is difficult for me to believe that the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks could not find enough qualified African Americans to fill more than 65 out of the 860 agency positions in a state that is 36% Black. It is statistically impossible unless you maintain a pattern and practice of racial discrimination."

In a letter dated June 21, 1997, addressed to U.S. Secretary of Interior, Bruce Babbitt, Congressman Thompson officially requested an investigation into the allegations of discrimination and the conspicuous absence of opportunities for promotion raised by African-American MDWFP employees, the Chairman of the Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus, and the Executive Director of the Mississippi Office of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Battling Black Farmers Gear Up for Jan. 26 Court Date

By Ken Morgan

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- On Jan. 26, African-American farmers will get another day in court, when U.S. District Court Judge Paul Friedman assesses the progress of settlements between Black farmers and the U.S. government, as well as the adequacy of the mediation process between the two.

Last month over 70 Black farmers and their supporters filled Friedman's courtroom in proceedings on the issue. Then, Friedman gave the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) 30 days to develop a speedy way to resolve hundreds of discrimination complaints lodged by Black farmers or be confronted with a trial date. He also approved a government request that the 1000-plus cases being mediated be done on a case by case basis, as opposed to being dealt with as a group within six months.

Black farmers and their lawyers, however, contend that it will take at least two years, not six months, to hear and mediate complaints individually. Aggrieved farmers will have the option to have their cases heard through a process set up by USDA to hear complaints or by Michael Lewis, the court appointed mediator.

Last Aug. 28, Black farmers filed a \$2 billion discrimination lawsuit against the USDA. Pigford, et al. vs. the U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman contends that Black farmers have been the victims of racial discrimination after repeatedly being denied loans and other management and technical services by USDA.

It also asserts that from 1983 to 1997, the USDA, failed to investigate hundreds of discrimination complaints filed by Black farmers. (A request to have Black farmers discriminated against before 1983 included in the suit was denied).

According to the farmers, discrimination took the form of "stretching the review process out many years - or conducting vacuous or ghost investigations - or failing to take action." These practices led to foreclosures, bankruptcies and other serious economic problems for

Black farmers, they said.

Alexander J. Piro, Jr. is the lead attorney for the plaintiffs and Michael Sitcoff of the U.S. Justice Department is the lead attorney for the defendant. The judge has allowed two other lawyers representing Black farmers in Alabama and Mississippi to join the mediation negotiations.

Friedman has not yet ruled on significant points in the case, including whether or not the statute of limitations can be invoked by the justice department. Its implementation would mean that about 95 percent of plaintiffs would not be able to receive damages for their ill-treatment at the hands of local USDA officials. Sitcoff said farmers may only be able to receive forgiveness of their debts and top priority for new loans. However, echoing Black farmers' sentiments, Everett Greer of Yazoo, Miss., said, "We want debt relief and compensation for our suffering."

The National Black Farmers Association led by John Boyd, Gary Grant, and Tim Pigford first called national attention to their plight Dec. 12, 1996. Then a determined group of 50 Black farmers protested in front of the White House against discriminatory USDA practices. They also demanded a meeting with President Clinton.

They returned to the nation's capital to protest at the USDA, April 23, 1997, two months after the agency released a report acknowledging the discrimination problem and vowed to develop a plan of action. Over 250 Black farmers and their supporters protested the inadequacy of the plan and the inaction of USDA in resolving the problem.

Black farmers are losing 9000 acres per week, according to reports. Between 1920 and 1992, Black farms decreased from 925,000 to 18,816. Government statistics show that Black farmers are going out of business at three times the rate of their White counterparts. The average income of a Black farmer is one third that of Whites, while poverty rates for the Black farmer are 20 percent higher than Whites.

As far as financing goes, an Associated Press (AP) analysis looking at lending practices between 1980 and 1992, revealed that Black farmers receive 51 cents for every dollar loaned to Whites. Over that period, the number of loans

dropped by 66 percent for White farmers and 82 percent for Black farmers.

In 1982, the U.S. Civil Rights Commission wrote a report entitled, "The Decline of Black Farming in America," in which it said that "unless government policies of neglect and discrimination are changed, there may be no Black farmers by the year 2000."

According to several advocacy groups and agriculture experts, some of the Black farm loss can be attributed to the devastating conditions confronting small family farmers such as government policies favoring corporate, big business farmers, low prices, and natural disasters. USDA Secretary Dan Glickman said "the heart of the problem is economic." However, Black farmers are adamant that insidious racist practices of the USDA and private sector lending sources have been, at least, an equal reason for the disappearing Black farmer.

Now, Black farmers are looking to President Clinton to help solve the problem. On Dec. 17, a meeting took place between the group and the president, but not without controversy. Instead of a Black farmers' meeting, it was turned into a small farmers' meeting and Clinton limited the number of Black farmers attending the meeting to 40.

But, according to an AP wire report, Clinton promised, "I will do everything I can within my legal authority to accelerate the settlement of these outstanding cases. I will do everything I can to bring moral and political pressure to bear when possible."

Earlier in the day, Secretary Glickman also announced plans to seek new money through the 1999 budget request for minority farmers. "This is a day late and a dollar short," stated Walter Powell, a Louisiana farmer.

"We are going to again give President Clinton another chance to do the right thing. On the morning of January 26, we will present him a petition signed by Black farmers and their supporters saying 'do what you said you were going to do,'" said farmers' spokesperson Grant. For more information, contact Gary Grant at 919 826-3017. Black farmers who want to be a part of the suit should call 1-800-448-FARM.

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Obituary



MRS. GIEBRETH H. DAVIS

Final rites were read for Mrs. Giebreth H. Davis on Monday, January 6, 1998, at the New Hope Baptist Church with Rev. Billy R. Moton, pastor, officiating.

Interment was held in the City of Lubbock Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Deacons and Trustees of New Hope Baptist Church. Flowerbearers were the New Hope Baptist Church Sunday School Class No. 4 and the New Hope Women Missionary Society.

Mrs. Davis was born in Maner, Texas to the parents of John and Laura M. Chandler on May 6, 1904. She received her education from the Maner

Public Schools and attended Oklahoma College. She was a Dean of Women at Kentucky State College.

She was married to the late Rev. I.W. Holt who pastored in Kansas City, Mo. She also married the late Harrison "Bull" Davis on August 30, 1948.

Mrs. Davis passed Wednesday, December 31, 1997 in St. Mary Hospital.

She is survived by three step-daughters whom she raised; Gracie Ann Bruner of Chicago, Ill., Mary Ann Jones of Dallas, Texas and Shirley Ebone of Riverside California; seven nieces: Johnnie M. Derrough and Ernestine Moore, both of Lubbock, Texas, Gerene Powell and Dorothy Hall, both of Ft. Worth, Texas, Brittie Burse of Denver, Colorado; and Jewel Williams and Ruth Wright, both of Los Angeles, California; three nephews: Shirley Lockhart of Denver, Colorado and Nathan and Charles Wright, both of Lubbock and Dallas, Texas and many beloved friends and church members.

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THIS N THAT

MLK SPEAKER AGREED WITH THEME: "TIL VICTORY IS WON!" THIS N THAT...must admit the speaker for the...24th Annual Celebration of the...DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION...was on target...and did bring substance to the program... The...REV. STANLEY T. HILLARD...pastor of the St. Luke Baptist Church of Houston, Texas...no doubt about it...made a lot of sense with his message... He talked about...ETHICS AND PURPOSE...and invited all of the young people who were present to...DO SOMETHING WITH THEIR LIVES...and to...QUIT COMPLAINING ABOUT LIFE... In other words...he invited young people to do something with their lives... He did commend the local organization...MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMEMORATIVE COUNCIL OF LUBBOCK, INC...for doing a splendid job... He said..."WISH WE COULD DO THE SAME THING IN HOUSTON...WHERE THERE ARE MANY MORE AFRICAN AMERICANS..." All in all...this was a very good celebration...and...prayerfully...this effort will continue next year...and many more years to come...THANKS TO ALL...who made it possible... And...lest we forget...THE SINGING...of the various choirs were great...as is every year... But this year's selections were great! OUR YOUNG PEOPLE...who sung on Friday evening...did their best... The...MEN'S CHORUS...and...the...WOMEN'S CHORUS...did same... May God continue to bless the...YEARLY EFFORT... Wouldn't it be nice...if this would happen each week...and even better...if more of our...ANGLO AND HISPANIC CITIZENS...would attend... Something to think about... This is why the speaker...touched on the many problems which exist in America... Let's keep praying...for Lubbock, Texas...Texas...and...America...

MORE COMMITMENT IS NEEDED TO FIGHT

DRUGS IN COMMUNITY!! THIS N THAT...is receiving...TELEPHONE CALLS...about various places in the community...who are alleging selling drugs... It is about time...to bring back those...MARCHES AGAINST DRUGS AND GANGS...in the community... There have been...SIXTY FOUR MARCHES...and now it's time to do what has been done in the past... More will be coming on this effort... If you would like to participate...then let us hear from you by calling...762-3612... It is a must to continue those marches against the evils in our community...

HAVE YOU VISITED A SCHOOL YET?? THIS N THAT...is still asking the question as to how many of you have...VISITED A SCHOOL...lately... Would make a lot of sense if we would take the time to do so... Our young people need us to do so... If we would just take time...to STOP BY FOR A LITTLE WHILE...and let our young people know we are interested in what they are doing while a student in school... If you have time...then do so this week... Let us hear from you when you do so...OKAY??

SHIRLEY CANADY THE BARBER SAYS: "MEN...like the late...DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR...are valued...not for what they are...but for what they...SEEM TO BE..."

LUBBOCK HABITAT FOR HUMANITY LOOKING REAL GOOD!! THIS N THAT...enjoys driving around the...2400 BLOCK OF HICKORY AVENUE...to see the works of the...LUBBOCK HABITAT FOR HUMANITY...who is making a...TREMENDOUS DIFFERENCE...in the City of Lubbock... This organization is putting people back...on their feet through home ownership... May you continue to do what is best for the good people of Lubbock...

IN CINQUE

By Renetta W. Howard

As we move closer to the twenty-first century, there is a continuously growing concern about the lack of progress and achievement among minority students who reside in the inner-city. It is known that most of these students are living on or below the poverty level. Consequently, they are often the recipient of rent subsidy such as Section 8 administered by the Housing and Urban Development Agency (HUD). They generally are also recipients of USDA food stamps which renders them eligible for the free lunch program at public schools, or for a reduced price lunch program. On the bottom line, many of these students receive, in addition to the aforementioned items, a monthly check federally funded, often matched by the state government in the form of Aid to Dependent Children or SSI (Supplemental Security Income). The benefits do not stop there. If one receives the ADC or SSI checks, one is also eligible for health benefits, called Medicaid.

Medicaid is not to be confused with Medicare. Medicare comes in two parts, A and B for recipients of Social Security benefits once they have reached the ripe old retirement age of 65 years and have either paid for the coverage or signed up to pay before retirement. There is a deductible to pay for use of this coverage and there are limitations to how much coverage one can obtain. In addition, one needs a supplemental health insurance coverage policy to avoid further out of pocket expenses. On the other hand, the Medicaid recipient spends about \$1.00 at best for health services. The Social Security recipient has spent a good part of his life earning an honest living working on a job. While employed, he paid for an expensive health insurance policy to cover himself and his family and still had an expensive deductible to pay before he received any benefits from his insurance. The Medicaid recipient is eligible for benefits any time he is eligible to receive a welfare check of any kind.

With all of the benefits of welfare, why would a recipient who feels comfortable and satisfied wish such a lifestyle want to prepare to work? For those young people who know no other lifestyle, the traditional classroom will not change their way of thinking. It may add to their ability to be better street pharmacist. It is time that we get in cinque and work to change the values that our children are growing up with. Our school curriculum need to be adjusted to accommodate the kind of minds that our inner-city children are taking to the classrooms. They are not exactly what Jean Piaget and Ralph W. Tyler had in mind.

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DR KING'S LEGACY AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF RACISM

by Dr. Lenora Fulani

Dear Publisher,

Below is Dr. Lenora Fulani's column for Dr. King's birthday and the kickoff of Black History Month Run in its entirety, it is 1,300 words. If its length requires breaking in two installments, please note the designation for Part 1 and Part 2. The next This Way for Black Empowerment column will be published next week, on our regular weekly cycle.

The civil rights movement of the 1950's and 1960's ended structural racism in America. That movement was an independent movement, a grassroots movement led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and enlivened by thousands of activists, attorneys, and students. Dr. King was not a Democrat -- with a capital "D" -- and it was not a Democratic Party movement, though the Democratic Party did succeed in coopting it and taking credit for its achievements.

Throughout the struggles which led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1964 (which were propelled through Congress by Lyndon Baines Johnson -- not by the liberal establishment) the Democratic Party was ambivalent. The Democrats, after all had constructed an electoral coalition that relied heavily on Southern white voters. But once the civil rights movement -- independently led -- galvanized the country, the Democratic Party figured out how to consolidate it and opportunize off of it.

The success of Dr. King and the civil

rights movement meant that structural racism had been eliminated. Race discrimination was outlawed and participation in the political process was secured for Black America.

With racism ended, the issue for the country became what to do about the consequences of racism. We had lived for 300 years with racism as an institutionalized element of everyday life. Slavery had been abolished only 100 years earlier. The social fabric of our society was deeply corroded by this social/political/cultural experience. America needed to go through a healing process to deal with the residual anger and outrage of Black America and to create a unified country that could move forward in the national interest.

But the 30 years that followed the elimination of structural racism were years -- not of healing -- but of wheeling and dealing. The Democratic Party was eager to translate all of the social movements of the 1960s into its political subsidiaries and so it nurtured identity politics -- the elevation of and competition among fractured segments of the population based on racial, cultural, gender, ideological and sexual identity -- in order to do so.

This modus operandi served the interests of the Democrats -- and the Republicans as well, who quickly learned how to play this game on the "right" -- but not the interests of the country. As the Democrats promoted

various oppressed grouping for their own political purposes, the Republicans organized the backlash against it, playing on the incomplete social/cultural process left in the wake of the structural elimination of racism and elevating their own identity groupings, e.g., Christian fundamentalists, veterans, pro-lifers, etc. The country needed to have spent the last 30 years creating a new post-racist political culture that could bring the country together. Instead, the two parties spent the last 30 years tearing the country apart, while taking extreme measures to preserve and institutionalize their own political power and that of the corporate and special interests which run America.

This 30 year bipartisan gambit, however, is losing its grip on the American public. There is still much unresolved outrage on the part of Black America which, though still loyal to the Democratic Party, is showing signs of breaking out of its monolithic allegiance. In 1997, Black voters stayed home from the polls in record numbers and sought out Republican and independent options in discernible numbers. There is also a new generation of young Black adults without the civil rights era experience to tie them to the Democratic Party. Black America is communicating a new message, a question that has remained unanswered for 30 years. What do we do now? Where do we go next?

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

BY RENETTA W. HOWARD

Dear Editor,

As a lifelong African Methodist Episcopal Church member, I feel that there needs to be some clarification of the statement made by John William Templeton in his article, "The Trap of Being Non-Profit" in the December 4, 1997 issue of the Southwest Digest.

While I do not deny the fact that Absalom Jones and Richard Allen had earlier founded the Free African Society, it was not the Free African Society which founded the A.M.E. CHURCH (Benjamin Quarles, The Negro In The

Making of America, 1964, Pp.99-100; John Hope Franklin, From Slavery to Freedom, 1967, P. 162). It was the incident wherein Absalom Jones, Richard Allen and William White were pulled from their knees while praying in St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia and ordered to get themselves to the rear of the gallery, without being permitted to complete their prayers, that led to the founding of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church whose desire was to be independent rather than separate. Though Jones

helped Allen to lay the ground-work for the A.M.E. CHURCH, he split with Allen and founded the St. Thomas Episcopal Church because he favored the Anglican Church more than he did the Methodist Church.

Sincerely
Renetta W. Howard

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EDITORS/PUBLISHERS
T.J. PATTERSON--EDDIE-P. RICHARDSON

The Southwest Digest is an independent newspaper serving the Lubbock, West Texas, South Plains of Texas and Eastern New Mexico areas printing the news impartially supporting what it believes to be right without opposing what it believes to be wrong without regard to party politics.

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

We may be critical of some things that are written, but, at least you will have the satisfaction of knowing they are truthful and to the point.

People will react to that which is precise, and we will publish the articles as precisely and factually as is humanly possible. We will also give credit and respect to those who are doing good things for the Lubbock Area and the people. We will be critical of those who are not doing as they have said they would, and this, we think, is fair.

So, this is our resolution to you. "Feel free at any time to call this office for information concerning this newspaper or any other matter that is of concern to you."

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TAWANA TO WORLD: 'I WAS RAPED...I DO NOT LIE'

By Charles Bailou

As her former defenders, the Rev. Al Sharpton and attorney Alton Maddox, Jr. face a multi-million dollar defamation lawsuit, Tawana Brawley flanked by the now suspended Maddox and her stepfather, Ralph King, recently stood in the pulpit of Bethany Baptist Church in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn. "Thank you for believing me," she told a group of over 500 gathered there.

Nearly nine years ago, the young woman, stayed in the same church for 40 days with her mother, Glenda Brawley. She was offered refuge there by its pastor, the Rev. William A. Jones, to avoid being served a contempt citation.

"It is most fitting that Tawana Brawley's return should occur at this church,"

Maddox told ebullient supporters. "Many of us see this as a homecoming."

When Maddox introduced Brawley, who has not set foot in the sanctuary since early 1989, the audience gave her a standing ovation and chanted, "We believe Tawana!"

"Thank you for believing me. I believe in Alton Maddox," said Brawley, who embraced Maddox tightly for over a minute before she approached the press' microphones.

Asserting that her mother, Glenda is a strong woman who maintains a close-knit family, Brawley said her parents had lost their jobs and homes because she charged that several White men had abducted and raped her for several days in Wappingers Falls, NY, in late November, 1987.

Obviously still bothered by the mainstream media's acceptance of Attorney General Robert

Abrams' report that a grand jury found her charge a hoax, Brawley said, "If I had read what I have seen written about me for the past 10 years, I would say it was a hoax too."

Maddox said he believes Brawley because of his personal experiences in southern Georgia.

With its horrible history of lynching and terrorizing Black people as late as the 1950s, Maddox said he remembers Black men being ordered out of their houses, leaving their wives behind. White men would simply say: "Boy, get out of here. I've some business to take care of," he said.

Of Brawley, Maddox said,

"We still love her. We still believe in her - because the story of Tawana Brawley is the story of Black women in America."

According to Maddox, the case in New York's Dutchess County in which Steven Pagones, a former county assistant district attorney charged defamation of character, "is about whether White America has the will to place White men in jail for raping Black women." Brawley claimed that Pagones and several of his alleged accomplices raped her.

A confident Maddox predicts that the defamation suit will fail. "To demonstrate how weak Pagones' case is, he's calling me as one of his witnesses," he said.

A Series on "Blacks Organizing for Economic and Social Success"

by William Reed

if blacks would get together we'd be a powerful group in this country. However, the reality is we only give lip service to the concept of unity remaining the second poorest ethnic group in the nation. To gain full status in America, Black People are going to have to stop whining about the past and start to pull their own economic weight.

Predominantly-black, Urban America is fraught with problems that hamper and stigmatize all African Americans. Crime, wanton violence drugs and lack of

hope plagues the 40 percent of Black Americans who reside in Urban America. Urban black voters, thinking they are "empowered" because they are participating, in "democratic" elections, continue to elect politicians who are 80 percent funded by people who live outside their districts. It's distorted thinking to believe someone else other than people who live there, have interest, or family and friends there are going to fund our inner-cities. I o get off the bottom rung and actually gain the American Dream, Black Americans will have to understand, organize around and master this nations' system of free-market capitalism.

Blacks are being bamboozled into believing that power is in politics. The truth is that only with money and property do you have power. Throughout American history the business franchise has always controlled political franchise. The quicker African Americans admit to being politically-dependent and economically-dysfunctional can we begin to organize our wealth-building abil-

ities and strategies. Black Power will be factual only when we fully organize around issues of economic development.

Moving to organize among ourselves has both short- and long-range benefits. In the short run it's effective for getting important things done: improving our schools; increasing our cash flow; establishing rights on the job; improving government relations and responses; improving transportation and health care; and protecting and defending our neighborhoods. Most of the problems African Americans face everyday can be dealt with by organizing our economic power.

But organizing has other benefits that in the long run will be even more important. Through organization we'll learn new things about ourselves and each other. We'll find dignity in place of mistreatment. Self-respect instead of lack of self-confidence. We'll stop letting just a few people speak for us and collectively work with other blacks, to influence, speak up and be heard. Through organizing around issues of Black

Economic Empowerment. African Americans will build businesses and economic-oriented coalitions. We'll define issues for ourselves and meet not to glorify elected officials, but to plan strategies for personal and collective economic applications.

We can develop broader and better black leadership at all levels of America's social and economic systems. establish stronger communication systems, and take direct and persuasive action around economic and social issues, when we organize.

We need to stop fooling ourselves about political power. We've had voting equity for 30 years, while our per capita income, compared to whites, had declined. Black wealth building doesn't come from politics and can be achieved only when we own more American real estate, accumulate capital investments, savings and deposits in black-owned institutions; have increased our purchases of products and services from each other; and, increased empowerment opportunities and ownership of businesses at all levels.

The "Business Exchange Newsletter" outlines many wealth building opportunities, concepts and lists of organizations at the forefront of Black Economic Empowerment. Obtain a complementary issue from the International Exchange Network, 2045 National Press Building, Washington, D.C. 20045 (Include \$3, for handling and shipping) - William Reed is publisher of Who's Who in Black Corporate America. 2054 National Press Building Washington, D.C. 20045 - Nominations being accepted

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JOHN 20:21,23, JESUS SAID, PEACE BE UNTO YOU: AS MY FATHER HATH DENT ME, EVEN SO SEND I YOU. WHOSE SOEVER SINS YE REMIT (FORGIVE), THEY ARE REMITTED UNTO THEM; AND WHOSE SOEVER SINS YE RETAIN, THEY ARE RETAINED.

JESUS SENT THE CHURCH INTO THE WORLD, TO PREACH FORGIVENESS OF SINS; BUT THE CHURCH DIDN'T DO THAT; THEY WERE DISOBEDIENT; LIKE

IN THE GARDEN'S SIN

JAMES 4:16,17, BUT NOW YE REJOICE IN YOUR BOASTING: ALL SUCH REJOICING IS EVIL. THEREFORE TO HIM THAT KNOW TO DO GOOD, AND DOETH IT NOT, TO HIM IT IS SIN.

GOD TOLD ADAM IN THE GARDEN, OF WHAT TREE HE WAS NOT TO EAT; GOD TOLD THE CHURCH, TO TELL THE WORLD OF HIS SALVATION; AND HOW TO BE FREE.

MATTHEW 28:19, JESUS SAID, GO YE THEREFORE, AND TEACH ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY GHOST.

NOW THE CHURCH WANTED TO BE LIKE ADAM; A RIGHT TO DO THEIR OWN THING; NOW LOOK AT THE WORLD AND IT RIGHT'S; ITS A SHAME, SHAME, SHAME!!!

ISAIAH 1:4, AH SINFUL NATION, A PEOPLE LADEN(WEIGHTED DOWN) WITH INIQUITY, A-SEED OF EVILDOERS; CHILDREN THAT ARE CORRUPTERS: THEY HAVE FORSAKEN TH LORD, THE HAVE PROVOKED THE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL(THE CHURCH) UNTO ANGER, THEY HAVE GONE AWAY BACKWARD.

*****DID THE RIGHT'S ROB GOD???*****

(THE DEVIL RIGHTS; GAY RIGHTS, RUN AWAY RIGHTS, ABORTION RIGHTS, BLACK RIGHTS, WOMAN RIGHTS, NO SPANKING RIGHTS, WHITE RIGHTS, MO PRAYER IN SCHOOL RIGHTS, DRUGS IN SCHOOL RIGHTS, RUN AWAY FROM HOME RIGHTS, DRIVE BY SHOOTING RIGHTS, CONDOMS OR RUBBERS IN KINDERGARTEN RIGHTS, SHACKING RIGHTS, BLACK RIGHTS, KKK RIGHTS, BOMB THE FEDERAL BUILDING RIGHTS, BLACK SUICIDE RIGHTS, KILL THE ABORTION DOCTOR RIGHTS, CLONING RIGHTS, KILL THE FAMILY RIGHTS, AND MANY MORE; THEY ARE OF THE DEVIL!!)

(I THANK GOD FOR MY GRAND FATHER: REVEREND EVANGELIST BILL MORRISON, OF BRYAN, TEXAS, HE TOOK 350 ACRES OF THE WORSE OF TIMBER LAND, IN 1924, AND ASK THE LORD TO BLESS, HIM AND HIS WIFE AND THEIR SEVEN CHILDREN TO MAKE IT WORK. HE DIDN'T WANT RIGHTS; HE WANTED TO WORK, AND IT TOOK HARD WORK; BUT THE LORD BLESS IT TO TURN OUT COTTON, SWEET POTATOES, A DAIRY, AND A TURKEY FARM; ALL FROM THE HELP OF THE LORD!!! TODAY IT HAS TWO OIL WELL ON IT AND FOUR GOOD FISHING TANKS. OUT OF ALL HIS CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN, GREAT, AND HIS GREAT GREATS, YOU CAN TAKE THEIR LAND THAT THEY GOT UNDER: "THE MY RIGHTS PLAN"; YOU CAN SET IT OVER IN HIS; AND HAVE MUCH ROOM OVER. HE TRUSTED IN GOD AND GOT HIS BLESSINGS!!!)

JEREMIAH 9:23,24, THUS SAITH THE LORD, LET NOT THE WISE MAN GLORY IN HIS WISDOM, NEITHER LET THE MIGHTY MAN GLORY IN HIS MIGHT, LET NOT THE RICH MAN GLORY IN HIS RICHES; BUT LET HIM THAT GLORIEETH GLORY IN THIS, THAT HE UNDERSTANDETH AND KNOWETH ME, THAT I AM THE LORD WHICH EXERCISE LOVING KINDNESS, JUDGMENT, AND RIGHTEOUSNESS, IN THE EARTH: FOR IN THESE THING I DELIGHT, SAITH THE LORD.

DIDN'T NOBODY HAVE TO GIVE UP THEIR SEAT: WHILE RIDING ON THE CITIBUS; MY FREEDOM CAME FROM UP ABOVE; GOD SAID, THAT IS ENOUGH.

DIDN'T NOBODY HAVE TO GET HIT; WITH A POLICE-MAN'S BILLY CLUB; MY FREEDOM CAME FROM UP ABOVE; AND GOD SENT IN THE FORM OF HIS LOVE!!!

DIDN'T NOBODY HAVE TO GET BIT; BY THE POLICE-MAN'S ATTACK DOGS; MY FREEDOM CAME FROM JESUS DYING, OUT ON THAT OLD RUGGED CROSS!!!

****FREE AT LAST; FREE AT LAST, THANK BE TO JESUS, I'M FREE AT LAST****

JOHN 8:36, JESUS SAID, IF THE SON(JESUS CHRIST) THEREFORE SHALL MAKE YOU FREE, YE SHALL BE FREE INDEED(Truly), GOD IS NOT THROUGH WITH US YET. SO LET'S PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER ALWAYS, WRITTEN

BY EVANGELIST BILLY B.J. MORRISON, IN YOUR BROTHER IN CHRIST JESUS ALWAYS!!!



from the Desk of Parson D.A. Smith

THE QUESTION OF AUTHORITY

The question of authority is foundational in all relationships between God and man. It is just as crucial in relationships between man and man. In an age such as ours in which there has been widespread rebellion against all kinds of authority, it is important that we monitor just what is involved in authority.

The usual response to the matter of authority is to raise questions about who or what is at the apex of the power pyramid. Our first concern is about who wields the power over others. But authority deals with many issues beyond this (A practical example in our community was the issue of the defeated three-eight cent sales tax increase.). The question of authority deals with objectives or goals. Whoever has the power to determine the goals of a society or a life largely determines the nature of that society or that life. Authority also determines the methods that are used in achieving objectives. The authority may be dictatorial, in which case the methods used to reach goals may be harsh and repressive. We see this demonstrated in Communist regimes like China, North Korea, and our neighbor to the south, Cuba. A point of caution needs to be enlarged upon here for the good of the economic disadvantaged people of color and whites to all take a stand against communism. There are those among us who allegedly would with subtlety employ a much refined version of communism-clothed under capitalism to control the poor. Remember, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in the Communist Manifesto 1845 advanced the theory that human society, having passed through successive stages of slavery, feudalism, and capitalism must advance to communism. They

believed that capitalism had become a barrier to progress and needed to be replaced by a dictatorship of the proletariat (working class) which would build a socialist society.

Others claiming for authority in our society may be more democratic, allowing people greater freedom; or externally imposed authority may be almost completely absent, allowing each person to become his own authority, a situation that can lead only to anarchy. People respond to authority in different ways. Some have been so conditioned from infancy they meekly submit to any authority that is imposed upon them. Like so many sheep, they can be led easily by anyone who asserts himself over them.

Others may submit to authority so long as no serious demands are made upon them or so long as their desires are met. Some seem rebellious by nature and oppose any kind of authority. Their only authority is their own whims, which may change as frequently as the wind changes its directions.

There are still others, hopefully more than a small minority, who recognize that authority is necessary if people are to live in an orderly, rational world. These persons also recognize that this authority must come from someone or something beyond themselves, for they understand their own limitations as to power and knowledge.

As we prepare to enter the twenty-first century we need to recognize that authority that is beyond us and that command our highest loyalty. That authority is Jesus Christ!

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The Outreach Prayer Breakfast

The members and friends of the Outreach Prayer Breakfast met last Saturday in fellowship at the Lubbock Health Care Center at 10:00 a.m. What a blessing this meeting was to all in attendance. Those who are residence of the home had inspiring testimonies. Sister Patricia Faulk read the opening scripture which was II Chronicles 7:14. Prayer and praise went forth. We also were very happy to have Sister Rosie Lawson who made sure we arrived on time. Sister Mary Ward, who is one of the founders of the Outreach Prayer Breakfast had a tremendous testimony about what happened to her and how God brought her through. She pushed her wheel chair to the meeting. Our God is able to do the impossible if we only would believe. Sister Quennie Ester Giddings was present. She also gave a testimony as well as Mr. Mason and others.

All of the people present were so beautiful on last Saturday morning. Sure wish many of you would have shared this day with us. What a blessing!

"Humility"

Humility is the most needed virtue of the Christian. Jesus spoke of this in his sermon on the mount when He blessed us by saying "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Kindness should be reflected in all we do or say. Man's biggest problem is man himself. Man is self centered in his own virtue. This is his very nature. We see this in the nations of the world as well as in ourselves and others. When a person is more interested in what he wants than what God wants, or when he puts himself first and God second. He is committing a sin.

Man is a proud creature. Proud of his accomplishments and achievements. Yet, man does not own anything. He owes everything to God who made us, and who supplies our needs. We come into this world with nothing. We will leave this world with nothing. All that we are, all that we have is given to us by God, our Maker. Our lives should be one continuous "Thank You", God for all our many blessings. There's something in humility that lifts the heart. These qualities in a person is no reason for him to become weak and spineless. These qualities should be recognized as being channeled and directed energies whose source and being are conscious and loving obedience to the will of God. Meekness and humility should permit a person to lose the capacity for indignation. In the presence of evil and sin, rather, they are the very qualities that should enable him to retain his clear reasoning and his capacity to deal with harshness and injustice without resorting to retaliation through anger, meekness and humility will not spare a person from adversity, loss, hardship and injustice or from any of the other evils of life, but they will give him the strength, courage and understanding to triumph over these things. The person with humility considers himself to be a simple child of God, and there is deep embodied in his beings the knowledge that with God all things are possible.

For our sick and shut in, read II Chronicles 7:14 and Mark 11:22-26. God cares, just believe.

Thoughts of the Week: "Forget about our past, God cares about our future." "We will rise again on the wings of a dream and a prayer." "Satan is not doing as well as people are saying he's doing, he can't make much progress under our feet."

Keep smiling and pulling ourselves together in unity and love, and watch this year, and our people. We are going to fly. Write to us: Outreach Prayer Breakfast, P.O. Box 1223, Lubbock, Texas 79408.

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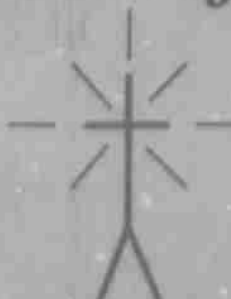
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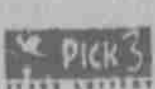
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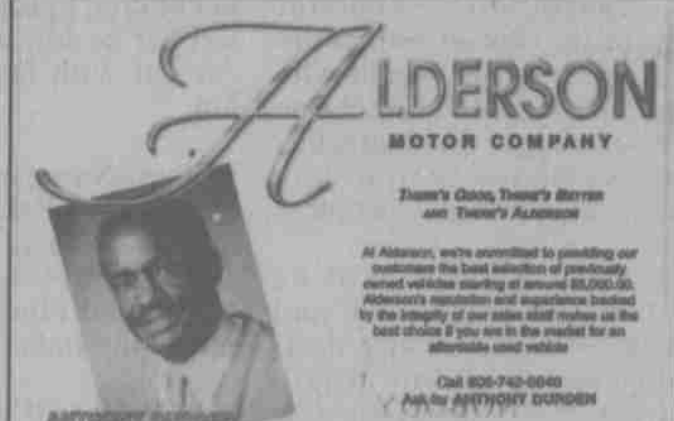
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ELC Staff Honored

Brenda Beck was named Employee of the Year at the Early Learning Centers Annual Staff Appreciation dinner in December.

Joanne Cotter, ELC Executive Director, said, "She (Beck) really cares about the children and the center. It's not just a job to her. She cares about the future of ELC." The Employee of the year is chosen from the Employees of the Month at Early Learning Centers.

Ruby Phenix and Erma Martinez were honored with a dozen roses and plaques for 35 years of dedicated service to the children of ELC. La Gloria Lewis, Brenda Beck and Debbie Starr were hon-

ored with bouquets of flowers for 20 years of service.

Ruby Dov, Ruby Joiner, Lola Byrd, Mattie Lindzey, Hazel Roberson, Johnnie Garner, and Doris James were recognized by the ELC staff and Board of Directors for their time and dedication to the children through the Foster Grandparent Program. Other staff received recognition for years of service and continuing their education through college classes.

About 100 people attended the dinner and many walked away with unique door prizes. All staff and foster grandparents will receive gift certificates to United Supermarket in appreciation of the hard work they do year round.

Nationally-known Metaphysician Predicts Challenges for Earth and Its Inhabitants

The close of the 20th century will bring both challenges and opportunities to the planet and its inhabitants, predicts the Rev. Hazel Cassell, a metaphysician based in Dale City, Va. In her annual release of predictions for the new year and beyond, Rev. Cassell, who has offered predictions since 1968, sees for the near future:

People

- Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein will cause international panic by setting off toxic weapons before he is permanently disarmed.

- Golf champion Tiger Woods will travel the lecture circuit, earning millions of dollars. He will become a best-selling author and spiritual guru, but he must mature and learn how to control his emotions.

- Basketball superstar Shaquille O'Neal will retire and increase his wealth with investments in the Caribbean. He will begin a manufacturing company employing many disadvantaged people.

- Dennis Rodman will be sidetracked by injury and depression. An unwise decision may land him in jail. Rodman will publish new books that bring him wealth, but much criticism. He may also be accused of an alleged sex crime.

- George Foreman's ministry will grow and generate funding for his projects. Foreman is developing into a wise businessman who will attract great wealth. Two of his sons will become famous.

- Mike Tyson will suffer a nervous breakdown and heart condition, and leave the Muslim faith. He also may move to another country.

- Oprah Winfrey will take on new projects in Africa and Asia that will be wise investments. Health problems in 1998 and 1999 will cause her to cancel many personal appearances. Winfrey's movie productions will take on new positive energy.

- A dark cloud continues to hover over the lives of Whitney Houston and Bobby Brown. Rev. Cassell sees both entertainers in handcuffs. Houston will baffle depression, and may attempt suicide. Circumstances for her improve after August 1999. Brown will face a car crash and other dangers, including repeated clashes with the law.

- Vanessa Williams will remarry and have more children. She will exhibit new energy and renewed interest in children's projects. To protect her health, she should be careful with her knees and hip.

- Jimmy Swaggart, Jim Baker and Tammy Baker will make headlines. There will be dark clouds relating to failing health and other difficulties in Tammy Baker's life.

- 1998-99 will see the resurrection and expansion of a Jerry Falwell project.

Events

- A massive electrical power outage will affect one-third of the earth and last three days.

- The U.S. is heading for an oil shortage and must develop a new source of energy.

- Acts of terrorism will occur in California, Connecticut and Delaware. Many people will be killed or injured.

Black History Parade Set Here

The annual Black History Parade, which is sponsored by the Lubbock Black Chamber, will be held February 21, 1998, beginning at 12 noon. The theme for this year's parade will be: "These Who Served Our Veterans."

The Chamber requests all Blacks who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces to participate in the annual parade. The Chamber is also encouraging family members of deceased veterans to participate. Other organizations, businesses, churches and oth-

ers are encouraged to participate in this parade with entries recognizing our veterans.

Monetary prizes will be awarded to the best two entries in the parade. This is the first notice, so please begin thinking now as to what type of entries you will put in the parade. Why not go all out -- yes, make a fleet!

Entry deadline will be February 14, 1998. For further information, please contact Dwight Pierce, Black Chamber, (806) 741-1353

HAS THE SEASON OF GIVING COME TO AN END?

As children are back in school and adults put away all that remains from a holiday season, does this mean the season of giving has come to an end? People across the world would like to hope the answer to that question is no. Giving is possessing the ability to yield ones self for the betterment of another. Many people across Lubbock have given of themselves not only this holiday season, but throughout the year.

Guadalupe-Parkway Neighborhood Centers (The Centers) and Norwest Bank are pleased to announce a new Lubbock tradition - the Founders Award for Outstanding Service to Youth. The first Founders Award will be presented on April 4, 1998 at the McInturff Conference Center to an individual in Lubbock who has demonstrated outstanding service and concern for youth.

The award is in honor of Barbara Somerville, the founder of the Centers. Barbara served the young people of Lubbock for 32 years prior to her retirement. Barbara laid the foundation which has enabled the Centers to provide a safe and stimulating environment for thousands of young people in Lubbock since 1962.

Members of the community were asked (are asked) to nominate an individual or individuals whom they believe is deserving of recognition for their work with youth. Those nominated for the Founders Award should exhibit those characteristics which made Barbara an outstanding

youth leader - selfless dedication, enthusiasm, optimism and concern and caring for young people. Of particular interest are those individuals who quietly go above and beyond the call of duty but whom never seem to get the recognition they deserve. Barbara had one goal in 1962 when she found the Centers and that goal remains the same today. Barbara believes, "It is important that we invest in the children and youth. We must invest our time, creativeness, and our education." Barbara was motivated by one image she holds in her heart. The image is of a young person, "a young person who feels they have nothing. The Centers (all of the youth centers in Lubbock) must provide a place to feel loved and accepted. My mission in life is prove to them that no matter what they (the children) were told by their parents, grandparents, peers or community they do have something going for them and I will work to make them see all they have to offer. Keep the kids as the focus. Provide them a future when the rest of the world tells them they don't have one. That is what I have to tell all the centers in Lubbock."

Now as the Centers celebrate 35 years of serving youth, we honor Barbara for her outstanding service to youth. The 1998 Founders Award for Outstanding Service to Youth is in honor of Barbara Somerville - a woman that gave of herself to her community and to the lives of over 35,000 young people. One Lubbock

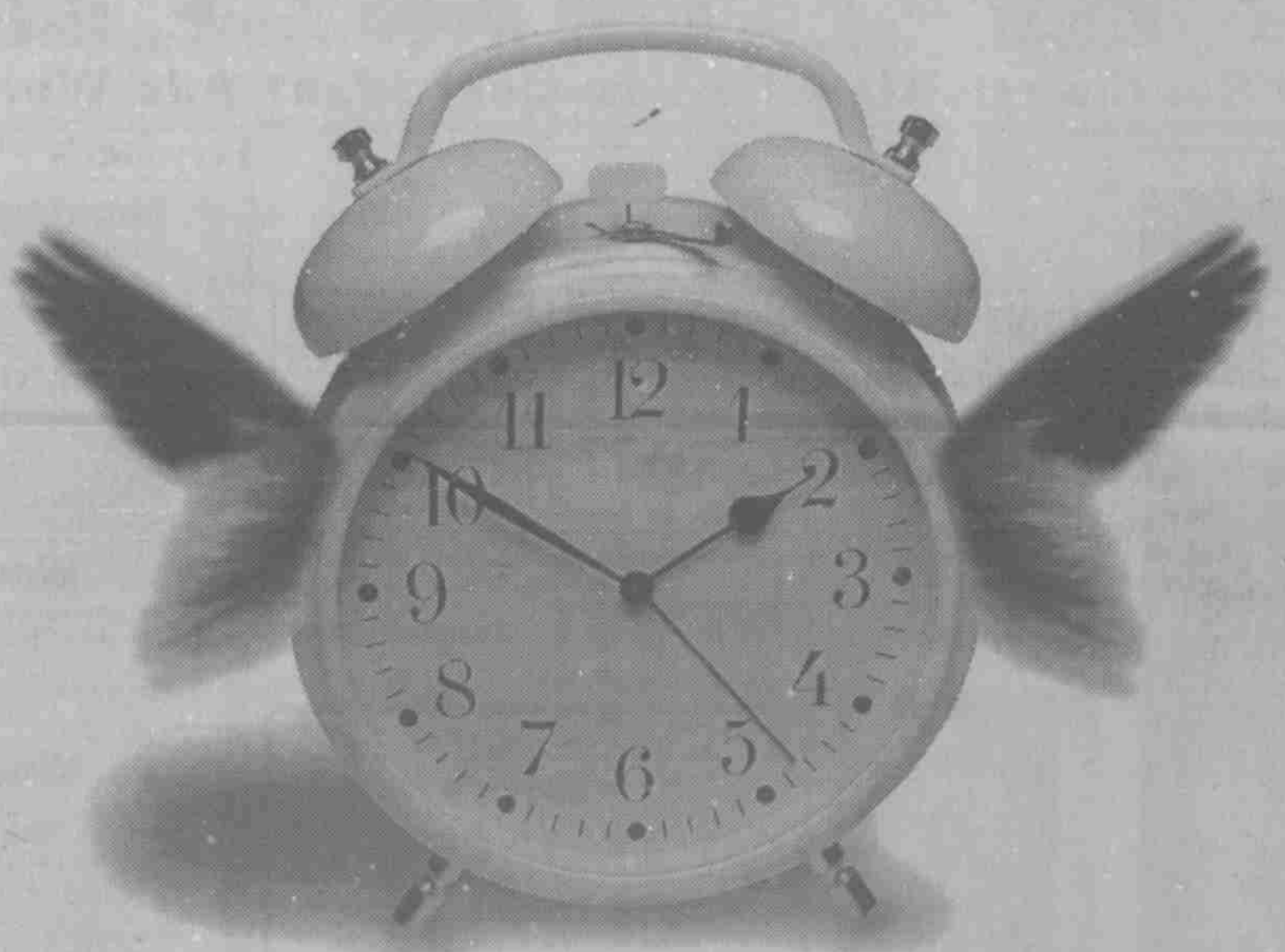
citizen will be recognized for their outstanding service to youth. When asked what she felt about this award Barbara simply said, "It is great idea, and I am honored to be part of it." Barbara feels there are a lot of people in the Lubbock community who give of their time and effort for kids and they need to be recognized for their work.

Nominees can be an individual of any age, from any setting and any walk of life. You may nominate an individual for work they did as a volunteer or a paid employee. You may nominate someone for work they did in one setting or a variety of settings. However, nominees are required to have performed their service in the city of Lubbock.

The recipient of the Founders Award will be chosen by an award committee composed of Center staff and board members, community members, Norwest employees and Barbara Somerville. All nominees will be recognized at the dinner which will also feature as entertainment a roast of Barbara and performances by the Parkway Academy of Dance students and music by First United Methodist Church. The award itself will be presented by Barbara Somerville.

For more information or a nomination application call Roy Mendoza, Community Development Director at 806/763-3963. Nominations must be received by Friday, February 6, 1998.

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