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The Black Press of America
Lighting the road
to Freedom

A newspaper for the 21st century, representing the Black community's views and ideas since 1977

February 107, 2007

VOL. XXIX, No. 21

Black history full of powerful stories that have changed our whole world



Community Meetings

This is a list of what is happening in Lubbock, to help complete the unfinished, community-building work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

African American Chamber of Commerce, Lubbock meets on the 3rd Monday of each month, from 5:30-6:30pm at the Parkway Community Center, 405 MLK Blvd., 806-771-1815

Lubbock Area Client Council meets on the 2nd Saturday, 1:00pm at the Patterson Branch Library

Hub City Kiwanis meets every Tuesday, 7:00pm, 1708 Avenue G

Dunbar Alumni Association meets 2nd Saturdays, 4:00 pm

Booker T. Washington American Legion Post 808 meets every 2nd Tuesday at 7:30pm, American Legion Building in Yellowhouse Canyon

Forgotten West Riders meets on the 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:00 pm, Patterson Library

East Lubbock Chapter AARP meets every 1st Thursday at 1:00 pm, Mae Simmons Community Center

Lubbock Chapter of Black Alumni meets every 3rd Tuesday, 5:30 pm, TTU Market Alumni Center

Dunbar/Manhattan Heights Neighborhood Association meets every 1st Thursday at 6:00 pm and every 4th Thursday at 7:00 pm at the Dunbar-Manhattan Heights Neighborhood Outreach Center at 1301 East 24th St.

West Texas Native American Association Pot Luck Supper meets on alternating months prior to meeting, meetings held on 2nd Saturday of each month at 7:00 pm, Educational presentations and demonstrations.

Texas Juneteenth Cultural & Historical Commission - Lubbock Affiliate meets at Patterson Branch Library every 3rd Thursday at 7:00 pm

West Texas Native American Association meets 2nd Saturday each month at Graves Library, 5520 19th Street, 7:30 p.m.

West Texas Chapter of 100 Black Men meets the 3rd Monday evening at 7:00 pm at the Parkway Neighborhood Center.

The Parkway Guadalupe & Cherry-Point Neighborhood Association meets the 3rd Tuesday evening of each month at 7:30 pm at Hunt Elementary.

Chatham Hill Neighborhood Association meets the 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm, at Ilce Elementary Cafeteria.

Estacado High School Alumni & Faculty Class Reunion meetings are held the second and third Sundays at the Patterson Library, 1836 Parkway Drive, beginning at 7:00 p.m. All Estacado Alumni & Faculty are invited for the 40th All Class Reunion.

If you have an announcement you want to appear in this paper, there are three ways to get information to us:

Southwest Digest
Community Meetings
902 E. 28th St.
Lubbock, TX 79404

Fax: (806) 762-6605

email us at:
swdigest@sdcglobal.net

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This is the first of several articles regarding Black history. We will continue these throughout the month of February and beyond.

February marks the beginning of Black History Month - an annual celebration that has existed since 1926. But what are the origins of Black History Month?

Much of the credit can go to Harvard Scholar Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who was determined to bring Black History into the mainstream public arena. Woodson devoted his life to making "the world see the Negro as a participant rather than as a lay figure in history."

In 1926 Woodson organized the first annual Negro History Week, which took place during the second week of February. Woodson chose this date to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln - two men who had greatly impacted the black population. Over time, Negro History Week evolved into the Black History Month that we know today - a four-week-long celebration of African American History.

EARLY IMMIGRATION AND SLAVERY

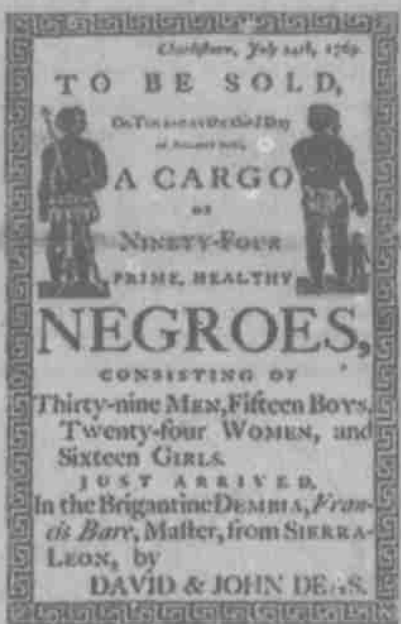
Most of the earliest black immigrants to the Americas were natives of Spain and Portugal - men such as Pedro Alonso Niño (1468-1505), a navigator who accompanied Columbus on his first voyage, and the black colonists who helped Nicolás de Ovando (1460?-1518) form the first Spanish settlement on Hispaniola in 1502.

The name of Nuflo de Olano (b. 1490?) appears in the records as that of a black slave present when Vasco Núñez de Balboa sighted the Pacific Ocean in 1513. Other black men served with Hernán Cortés when he conquered Mexico and with Francisco Pizarro when he marched into Peru.

Iberians

Estebanico (c. 1500-38), one

of the survivors of Pánfilo de Narváez's unfortunate expedition to Florida in 1527, was a black man. With three companions, he spent eight years traveling overland to Mexico City, learning several Indian languages in the process. Later, while exploring what is now New Mexico, he lost his life in a dispute with the Zúñi Indians. Juan Valiente (d. 1553), another black man, led Spaniards in a series of battles against the Araucanian Indians of Chile between 1540 and 1546. Although Valiente was a slave, he was rewarded with an estate near Santiago and control of several Indian villages. Between 1502 and 1518, Spain shipped out hundreds of Spanish-born Africans, called Ladinós, to work as laborers, especially in the mines. Opponents of their enslavement cited their weak Christian faith and their penchant for escaping to the mountains or joining the Indians in revolt. Proponents declared that the rapid diminution of the Indian population required a consistent supply of reliable workhands.



Ad for sale of slaves - 1769. Public Domain

Free Spaniards were reluctant to do manual labor or to remain settled (especially after the discovery of gold on the mainland), and only slave labor could assure the economic viability of the colonies.



Fig. 226. Slave transport in Africa.

This drawing from a German book shows a gang of African captives on the way to the coast of Africa.

Beginning of the African Slave Trade

By 1518, the demand for slaves in the Spanish New World was so great that King Charles I of Spain (who, as Holy Roman Emperor, was known as Charles V), sanctioned the direct transport of slaves from Africa to the American colonies. The slave trade was controlled by the Crown, which sold the right to import slaves (asiento) to entrepreneurs.

By the 1530s, the Portuguese were also using African slaves in Brazil. From then until the abolition of the slave trade in 1870, at least 10 million Africans were forcibly brought to the Americas: about 47 percent of them to the Caribbean islands and the Guianas; 38 percent to Brazil; and 6 percent to mainland Spanish America. About 4.5 percent went to North America, roughly the same proportion that went to Europe.

The greatest proportion of these slaves worked on plantations producing sugar, coffee, cotton, tobacco, and rice in the tropical lowlands of northeastern Brazil and in the Caribbean islands. Most of them came from

the sub-Saharan states of West and Central Africa, but by the late 18th century the supply zone extended to southern and East Africa as well.

Impact of Slavery

Slavery in the Americas was generally harsh, but it varied from time to time and place to place. The Caribbean and Brazilian sugar plantations required a consistently high supply of labor for centuries. In other areas - the frontiers of southern Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, and Colombia - slavery was relatively unimportant to the economy.

To tame the wilderness, build cities, establish plantations, and exploit mineral wealth, the Europeans needed more laborers than they could recruit from among their own metropolitan masses. In the early 16th century, the Spanish tried unsuccessfully to subjugate and enslave the native populations of the West Indies. Slavery was considered the most desirable system of labor organization because it allowed the master almost absolute control over the life and productivity of the laborer. The

rapid disintegration of local indigenous societies and the subsequent decimation of the native Indians by warfare and European diseases severely exacerbated the labor situation, increasing the demand for imported workers.

African slaves constituted the highest proportion of laborers on the islands and circum-Caribbean lowlands where the native population had died. The same was true in the northeastern coastlands of Brazil - especially the rich agricultural area called the Recôncavo, where the seminomadic Tupinamba and Tupiniquim Indians resisted effective control by the Portuguese - and in some of the Leeward Islands such as Guadeloupe and Dominica, where the Caribs waged a determined resistance to their expulsion and enslavement. In areas of previously dense populations, such as parts of central Mexico or the highlands of Peru, a sufficient number of the Indian inhabitants survived to satisfy a major part of the labor demands of the new colonists. In such cases African slaves supplemented coerced Indian labor.

Woman inspired to service after Katrina

After Hurricane Katrina did much damage in New Orleans, Louisiana, Latasha Goodwyn said she had to do something. She chose to become a professional volunteer.

Goodwyn, a resident of Gladewater, Texas, saw an advertisement for a position with Longview Community Ministries. When she called the organization, she was directed to the AmeriCorps Website.

She said, "I sort of fell into this inadvertently," with a

laugh.

AmeriCorps is a "corporation for national and community service," according to its Web site. The more she learned about AmeriCorps' Volunteers in Service to America program, or VISTA, she realized it was exactly what she wanted to do.

Goodwyn is a VISTA member. She is trained to build permanent infrastructure and capacities in non-profit organizations and communities to help bring people and communities out of poverty. This anti-poverty message struck a chord within Goodwyn.

She will tell you, "I have a strong passion for helping people in poverty."

After her training, AmeriCorps sent her resume to Longview Community Ministries, and she became one

of two VISTA members working with the organization. While she is working through VISTA, Goodwyn receives a stipend from the government.

According to the VISTA Web site, stipends range from about \$800 to \$1,000 monthly. Volunteers typically are offered a college scholarship between \$2,200 to \$4,500 or a one-time cash award after the completion of one year of service.

Goodwyn was put in charge of the organization's Learning Lab. The lab was started in Au

gust 2005 by volunteers and funding from an AmeriCorps three-year grant. The program aims to teach computer, job and life skills through a variety of classes.

Goodwyn said she would like some day to start her own non-profit organization to fight poverty. She admits she wants to reach to teens, single mothers, and men released from prison.

She is the daughter of Tonda Thomas of Lubbock, and the niece of Gayle Austin also of Lubbock.

Dr. Yearwood delivers graduation message



Dr. Brian Yearwood, principal of Iles Elementary School, is shown presenting the commencement address to the audience at the mid-term graduation ceremonies at Monterey High School.

Walking proudly across the stage Friday evening, January 11, 2007, 70 Lubbock Independent School District students received their diplomas and took the next step toward their future. The mid-semester graduation ceremony included four Lubbock high schools participating in the ceremony. Lubbock High School graduated 19 students, Estacado High School 29 and Monterey had 18 students graduate.

Superintendent Wayne Havena presented the graduating class and Board of Trustees President Gordon Wilkerson accepted the class with presentation of diplomas.

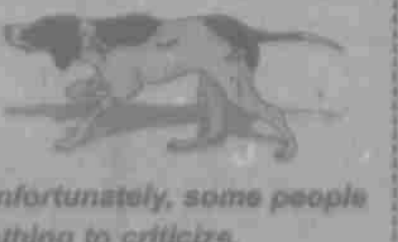
Jack Booe, Assistant Superintendent of secondary education, gave the welcoming and closing remarks at the graduation.

Sonja Harper graduates from Wayland

Congratulations are in order for Sonja Harper who graduated from Wayland Baptist University, Lubbock Branch, on Saturday, January 13, 2007, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Occupational Education.

A 1986 graduate of Estacado High School, she is the granddaughter of Lottie Harper of Lubbock and the daughter of Earlene Williams.

If you would ask her, she would advise any young person to never give up, because one can reach their goal in life. No doubt about it, Sonja Harper has reached one of her goals in life. We all wish Sonja and her daughters, Siesha and Jolesha, the very best in life.



If you find mistakes in this publication, please remember that the staff of this paper are only human. We publish things for all sorts of events, but unfortunately, some people are always looking for something to criticize.

Former Lubbock resident, Bryan Pillow completes Apple computer training

Bryan W. Pillow has completed training in San Jose, California for Apple Computer, Inc. He is now officially a Mac Genius for the company in Dallas.

Bryan graduated from O'Parry Walker High School in New Orleans, La. in

2000, and attended Delgado High School also in New Orleans.

He attended Dunbar Academy in Lubbock in 1994, and received Merit Award. In 1997, he received the Honor Roll and Citizenship Award as well as the United States Achievement Academy's All American Scholar.

He received the 1998-99 J.A. Taylor Audubon Society Male Award. Other awards include: 2000 Academic Achievement

Award, Outstanding Service to Student Council Award, and University of New Orleans Literacy Rally Award from the University of New Orleans.

Bryan is the son of Robert A. Pillow, IV of Little Rock, Arkansas and Rose Pillow Lubbock. He is also the grandson of the late Dr. Robert A. Pillow, III and Rosella Pillow, and Mr. and Mrs. Willie Pandgraf of Lubbock.

Fish Art contest calls for entries from youth

AITHENS - Texas students in grades 4 through 12 are invited to enter the ninth annual Wildlife Forever State-Fish Art Contest.

Contestants must create an illustration of an officially recognized state fish and write a one-page composition about its behavior, habitat and conservation. One Texas winner will be selected from each of three grade levels: 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. Those winners will then compete at the national level for best of show and art of conservation stamp

honors. Deadline for entries is March 31, 2007.

Texas entries are judged at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens. For details on the contest and how to enter, go to www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishart.

"Wildlife Forever strongly believes conservation education will ultimately determine the future of our fish and wildlife heritage," said Wildlife Forever president and CEO Douglas H. Grann. "The State-Fish Art Contest is a fun and innovative

way to introduce America's youth to the wonders of our natural world."

The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center is a facility of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department that incorporates a visitor center, educational programming and a production fish hatchery. It is located 75 miles southeast of Dallas and is open Tuesday through Sunday. For more information call (903) 676-2277 or visit the website at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fff.

City plans public meeting on environmental quality issue

On Monday, February 5, 2007, the City of Lubbock will hold a public meeting to discuss its plan to make an application to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to establish a Municipal Settings Designation (MSD) for property located in the immediate vicinity of 5th Street and Avenue J. The groundwater under this property has historical contamination resulting from past industrial activities. The groundwater in the described area is not being used, and there are no plans for future use. If

approved, an MSD would restrict the future use of groundwater from beneath the site.

Additional details regarding MSDs and this application will be presented during the public meeting at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 102 North Avenue P. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. on February 5th. Councilwoman Linda DeLeon and representatives from the City of Lubbock Environmental Compliance Department will be in attendance to answer questions.

How can you make exercise fun?

(SPM Wire) If your exercise routine isn't fun, you won't keep coming back for more.

Making your routine more exciting is possible by following some simple advice, asserts Chris Carnechia, a fitness trainer and co-owner of VIDA Fitness in Washington, DC.

"One of the most common problems is doing the same routine every time," he said. "Always mix up your routine and challenge yourself to learn new exercises for different muscle groups."

According to Carnechia, exercisers should consider "super sets" or "giant sets." A super set is when you do one exercise then immediately go to another exercise for a different muscle group with no rest. A giant set is the same, except you stay with the same muscle group. However, you should speak to a fitness professional for assistance before attempting these workouts because the order of exercises is important.

"It is also fun if you do plyometrics or cardio in between sets. Plyometrics is a free body movement using no weights or machines, but emphasizing calisthenics and repeated movements such as jumping high off the ground," he said. The perfect example is squat jumps.

"Finally, I would suggest getting a personal trainer. You don't need to break the bank and sign up for a year. Just do a few sessions with a trainer focusing on new exercises," Carnechia added.

In sum: expand your exercise repertoire to increase your fun.

FASHION FUN

by Shirley Roberson

ACCESSORY TREND REPORT

Classics redefined!
Modern takes on the pieces we love and will update any look instantly....



Large glossy red patent frame handbag with silver tone hardware, wide red patent leather belt with a pull-through golden ring buckle, high heel red patent leather sandal with contrasting plastic chain link details.

A little red patent heel goes a long way with pencil skirts.

One can never have too many accessories so shop till you drop! FOUND AT YOUR BETTER DEPARTMENT STORES.

FASHION TIP: Always wear a smile!
FASHION - Just for the fun of it!

Reyes-Solis retires

A retirement reception was held Friday afternoon, January 26, for Olivia Reyes-Solis at the Maggie Trejo Supercenter after 27 years of service to the City of Lubbock.

She retired as Director of the community center.

Lincoln/Douglass Committee

The Alliance for Human Relations & Social Justice would like to invite you to attend our annual tea

February 11, 2007
4:00-6:00pm
KoKo Palace
5101 Avenue Q
Lubbock, TX

Donations are \$20 and are tax deductible. Entertainment and food are provided, and there will also be a silent auction!

Tickets are available for purchase at
Paul's Barbera Shop - 1528 E. 19th - 741-1088
Caviel's Pharmacy 1719 Ave. A - 765-5311
Parkway Bronze Lady Salon - 1716 E. Broadway - 762-1206
Emma Jackson - 1312 E. 26th - 762-3850
Mary Cato-Denson - 2203 E. 29th - 781-7979/744-5050

Texas Tech University Employment Opportunities

The Texas Tech University Physical Plant Utilities section is currently accepting applications for:

Sr. Technician REQ#60438 Completion of High School or equivalent. Bachelor's degree and four years work experience preferred to safely supervise and perform skilled work in the installation, maintenance, and repair to electrical systems and equipment according to the National Electric Code at Central Heating & Cooling Plant I, II, International Textile Center and museum. Maintains electronic pneumatic and mechanical controls, sensing and switching devices designed to control flow and temperature of air, steam chill water, etc.

Sr. Tradesman REQ#62201 Completion of High School or equivalent. Four years skilled work experience in the maintenance of generating boilers, turbine, and large air conditioning equipment including supervisory experience OR specific experience in welding, pipe fitting or heavy industrial maintenance. Maintains boilers, turbines, refrigeration chillers, and all supporting equipment and associated systems. Competent verbal and written communication skills. Qualify for Universal Refrigerant Handling. Certification within six (6) months of employment. Must pass a drug screen, and background check. Competent verbal and written communication skills required. Valid driver's license and insurable to operate a university vehicle. Online application available at <http://jobs.texas-tech.edu>. Computer terminals are available at Texas Tech University Personnel Department, Room 143, Drane Hall or Physical Plant, Room 105. (806) 742-3851 ext 238. Jobline (806) 742-2211. Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action/American Disabilities Act Institution.

Chatman Hills Corner

By Doris Reynolds

It is great to see the Bobbie Gean & T. J. Patterson Library sponsor its 5th Annual African American History Month program and reception by recognizing our military personnel from all branches of the Armed Forces. This year's theme will be "One Nation We Stand!" If you have friends or family who you would like to have recognized at this event which will be held Saturday afternoon, February 24, 2007, at 2:00 p. m., then contact the Patterson Library at 767-3300 by February 12th.

If you need income tax assistance, then the Coalition of Community Assistance Volunteers are offering free income tax preparation and e-filing services to income-eligible taxpayers weekdays through April 16, 2007. These services will be held at the Lubbock Housing Authority building, 1706 Crickets Blvd, formerly Avenue G. For more information, call 687-2228.

If you want to compete for becoming a beauty queen, then you have an opportunity as applications are being accepted for the 2007 Miss Lubbock County. In order to be eligible, must be single, never been married or given birth and be between the ages of 19 and 29. If you the winner, you will represent Lubbock County in the Miss Texas Pageant May 4 thru 6, 2007 at the Scottish Rite Auditorium in San Antonio. If interested, call (210) 403-0589.

Looking for a god deal on books? If so, the Friends of the Lubbock Public Library will hold its annual half-price book sale on Saturday, February 10, 2007, from 9:00 a. m. until 5:00 p. m. in the basement of the Mahon Library, 1306 9th Street. For more information, call the Friends of the Lubbock Public Library at 775-2852.

Guess what? There will be a "Sweetheart Game Night" at the Hobbie Gean & T. J. Patterson, 1836 Parkway Drive, on Monday, February 12, 2007, beginning at 7:00 p. m. Ages 16 and up are invited to attend. There will be games, crafts and refreshments. Why not start your Valentine Celebration a day early?

Let us not forget those in the community who are sick and shut-in. Today you may not be on the sick and shut-in list, but thank God for your condition. Remember, God is able!

Among those on the list include Sister Jessie Evans, a patient at Covenant Medical Center, and Sister Gettis Williams, who is at home at this report.

The monthly meeting of the Federation of Choirs will be held Sunday afternoon, February 25, 2007, at the Greater St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church where Rev. J. H. Ford is the host pastor. The public is invited to attend the monthly meeting which will begin at 2:30 p. m. Sister Beanie Sims is the president of the Federation of Choirs.

The New Hope Baptist Church had wonderful church services last Sunday morning, January 28, 2007, where the proud pastor is the Rev. B. R. Moton. New Hope is the "Church Where The People Really Care."

Services got underway with Meditation and Prayer. The Praise Team was responsible for inspirational singing. The morning prayer and scripture was offered by Minister Charles Wilson. The New Hope Choir sung several inspirational selections.

The sermon of the morning was delivered by Ministered Michelle McCutcheon. Her subject was "It's Time To Take Off Your Mask." Her scripture text was Nehemiah 2:1-6. It was a very inspirational sermon. Thank God for the word.

After the invitation to discipleship, the morning announcements were read by Brother Napoleon Cooper, Brother Ronny Robinson welcomed all visitors.

Manhattan Heights Church of Christ

763-0582 · Tyrone N. DuBose, Minister
1702 E. 26th St. (corner of E. 26th St. and Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.)


Sunday:
Bible Class - 9:00am
Worship - 10:15am
Evening Worship - 5:00pm
Wednesday:
Bible Class & Devotional - 7:00pm

God's Plan for Saving Man
All have sinned - Romans 3:23
Jesus Christ died for our sins - 2 Cor. 5:21; Acts 2:38
We must do God's will and obey him to enter heaven - Matt. 7:21; Heb 5:9
How do we obey him?
Heed the gospel - Romans 10:17
Believe Jesus Christ is the son of God - Mark 16:16
Repent of your sins - Luke 13:3
Confess - Romans 10:10
Be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins - Act. 2:38
Be faithful until death - Rev 2:10

CARING FOR KIDS

Immunizations available for children!
Monday - Friday 8:30 - 11:00 AM
and 1:30 - 4:00 PM
Walk-Ins Welcome

CLINIC LOCATIONS



- CHCL Downtown Clinic**
1318 Broadway | 806.765.2611
- Parkway Community Health Center**
406 MLK Boulevard | 806.767.9744
- CHCL Community Dental Clinic**
1702 Parkway | 806.687.6259
- Chatman Community Health Center**
2301 Cedar Avenue | 806.749.0024

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER OF LUBBOCK

CARING FOR LUBBOCK

806.765.2611

We accept Medicaid, CHIP, private insurance, sliding fee scale available



Church News



We Thank God for Jesus "Let's All Pray"

Written by Evangelist Billy "B.J." Morrison, III - Your brother in Christ Jesus always.

1 Peter 4:7 - For the time is come that judgment must begin at the House of God, and if it first begin at us, what shall the end of that obey not the Gospel of God?

Heavenly Father, we're praying for the Preachers (they will not want the gold, but they will be about your business and that it is the Gospel winning of lost souls.

Mark 11:17 - Jesus said, is it not written, my house shall be called of nations the House of Prayer? But you have made it a den of thieves.

*** Yes, Preachers Rob God ***

Lord, we're praying for the Deacons who have been setting therein the Church so long, and not speaking up on God's word when they see the Church is going wrong!!!

Matthew 23:25-26 - Jesus said, woe (cursed) unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you make clean the outside of the platter. But within they are full of extortion and excess. You blind Pharisee clean first which is within the cup and platter that the outside of them be clean also.

*** Yes, Deacons Rob God ***

Lord, we're praying for the Missionaries that always thinking of the foreign lands, but haven't done their first works at home, where charity must first begin!!!

Matthew 23:15 - Jesus

said, woe (cursed) unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, Hypocrites! For you compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, You make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

*** Yes, Missionaries Rob God!!! ***

(America is the worse in the world, and when we complain about other countries killing for the crime. Well, if it fits, then it must be good, and they have less crime. America is filling up her prisons with a lie called "Thou Shall Not Kill." Thou - means you, and you shall not kill, but when a man kills his wife and four children and has a smoking gun, and the judge and twelve people found him guilty, then he must die!!! Said the word of God!! But America put him on death row for 15 to 25 years. But by killing that person, it will discourage crimes of that kind.)

Genesis 9:6 - God said, whoso sheds man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed. For in the image of God made his man.

Deuteronomy 21:18-21 - God said, if a man has a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and that. When they have chastened him, will not listen unto them. All the men of his city shall stone him with stones

(death penalty). That he die, so shall you put evil away from among you, and all Israel shall hear and fear.

*** What Is More Plain Of The Death Penalty??? ***

Now, look at the fools in Congress today saying don't spank our children. That lie call they have right have made America the worst in all the lands!!!

Proverb 26:3 - A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the fool's back (buddocks, hips).

*** Yes, Congress Is Robbing God??? ***

Lord, we're praying for the Church members trying to pay for his sins with gold. Tithes and offerings are not the thing. Jesus already paid his life to save their souls!!!

Micah 6:7-8 - Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my first born for my transgression. The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has seen you Old Man! What is good, and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justly, and to love mercy and to walk humble with your God.

*** Yes, Church Members Are Robbing God!!! ***

1 Peter 4:17 - For the time is come that judgment must begin at the House of God, and if it first begins with us, What shall the end be of them that obey not the Gospel of God?



From the Desk of Parson D.A. Smith Charged with Stealing

My heart grew heavy when I read a preacher was charged with the misuse of money intended for the less fortunate and children in our community. What burdened my heart even more is the fact the church he was given charge to pastor and oversee, as a shepherd will have painful moments that lie ahead of them.

I want to be a compassionate preacher, however, I have serious problems with a preacher who takes the bread out of the mouths of little children and uses the church to promote his or her agenda of wrong through the church.

I believe the courts, the community, and the church and people in general look over the foolish acts of youth. However, when one is nearing sixty years of age they should be over fool's hill. What one does at this age is more than likely not an error.

The eighth commandment explicitly states, "You shall not steal." This refers to any act by which a person wrongfully deprives another person of his property. It teaches private property. In other words, what is not yours do not bother it.

Oh, by the way let me qualify myself for little Lubbock preachers who may get upset over my writing about a preacher's sin. You do know federal time is real time. If you get 25 years for your crimes, that what it is! In other words if

you are 56 years of age when you are sentence you will be release at 85 years of age.

I grew up as a boy preacher. I announced my calling at twelve years of age. The African Methodist Church allowed me a chance to practice my gift as a pastor when I was eighteen years of age at Oliver Chapel A.M.E. Church in Jackson Community between Tyler and Kilgore, Texas. I was taught never to steal from the church or steal in general. I was taught that if you steal you had to lie to cover up what you had done. They informed me that one lie would lead to another and before long, you had a trail of lies. The church used the Decalogue in Sunday school and its abbreviated form in the worship services to remind its members the danger of stealing.

The old African Methodist Church had a policy of check and balances. The Presiding Elder would come quarterly and review the records of the church and had a report from each auxiliary.

At the Annual Conference, each pastor had to file his report and it had to balance with the quarterly report.

At the quarterly conference the question of the character of the officers were ask and if the character of the officer in the church was questionable he or she was relieved from their

office until the matter was cleared up.

At the Annual Conference the character of the Presiding Elder and the pastors were called up for question. Each preacher had to stand alone while the Bishop asked the conference of the character of the preacher; and if he or she was fit to continue as a preacher in the A. M. E. Church. The Bishop of the Conference would say: "Mr. Secretary called the name of each preacher by their district and let them stand to see if they are worthy to continue the work of the ministry." This I know because I was secretary in the San Antonio area, the Houston area and here in West Texas.

The point of the former is if one over fifty years of age and grew up in the old African Methodist Church he or she knows the danger of stealing.

My prayer is that this community will offer sincere prayers for this congregation. We, at Smith Temple support them in their effort for righteousness and truth. We remember when evildoers, not of the community, mistreated us (preachers of power for ill gain through the misuse of the church and its members stealthy) and we said NO! This community of believers supported us in our effort. Behind every dark cloud, there is an unseen benefit.

You shall not steal!

Outreach Prayer Breakfast

The members of the Outreach Prayer Breakfast are talking about the universal debt. There's a song which says: "They will know we're Christians by our love." This is a very true statement, because love is the mark of the Christian.

Many Saints will become debt free this year. As a matter of fact, it is the will of God for all of his children to be debt free. In this Covenant Promise made to Abraham says: "And thou shalt land unto many nations and thou shalt not borrow." God commands us to owe no man anything. He enlightens us of a perpetual debt that we all owe. That is, universal debt of Love. A debt which we are indebted to each other were required by God to make constant full (anointed) installments on this universal debt of Love. This is

power in love.

It was so powerful it held Jesus upon the cross he had the power to come down off that rugged cross, but Love would not let go. Love was powerful to redeem us from the curse of the law and translate us into the blessings of god. It's still powerful enough to serve, destroy yokes and bondages. The birth of forgiveness, and the mending of damaged fellowships and relationships are conceived by nothing more than or less than the seed of Love. Love is the power which heals a broken heart, and re-establishes shamble home. Love is that Supernatural Power which works in favor for all people. Love worketh no ill. Love is righteous. Love fulfills the Law of God.

Prayer, Faith, Hope, and Love - using these, You Will Make It!

Are you working some stuff against your neighbor? You can't get away with such things. Stop killings yourself. Read Mark 11:22-26.

Don't forget your drive through prayers for your Community, Church and Schools especially your Pastor and Family. Not only yours, but all Pastors. Pray, Saints!

Our next meeting will be held Saturday morning, February 3, 2007, beginning at 9 a.m. We will meet in the home of Sister Lula Spence, 4506 Chicago Avenue. We will be looking forward to seeing you.

Sister Dorothy Hood, president; Sister Christene Burleson, vice president; Sister Elnora Jones, teacher; and Sister Pattie White, secretary.

Lubbock Area Client Council Meeting rescheduled

The Lubbock Area Client Council meeting which was scheduled for Saturday, January 20th, will be held Saturday, February 3rd, from 12:30 p.m. until 4 p.m. at the Bobbie Gene & T. J. Patterson Library, 1836 Parkway Drive. Mr. Bruce Bower, Deputy

Director of the Texas Legal Services Center in Austin, will be the guest speaker. He will be speaking on House Bill 75 - "Allowing state court judicial review of final administrative decisions regarding Medicaid and Food Stamps."

State Representative Carl Isett

has confirmed he will be available and will be present at this meeting.

Rose Wilson is president; Frankie Hooper, vice president; Hazel Harris, secretary; Jean Anderson, treasurer; and Ms. Wilson serves as board representative.

City Wide Ushers meeting scheduled for next Saturday

The Ushers of the City Wide Ushers will meet Saturday after-

noon, February 10, 2007, at the St. John Baptist Church, 1712 East 29th Street, where Rev. Solomon Fields is pastor. The meeting will begin at 5 p.m.

Important business will be dis-

cussed, and all Ushers are asked to please be in attendance. Ushers who are not members are asked to join this group.

Sister Sarah Bunton is president; Sister Lucella Harris is reporter.

Poetry contest seeks entrants

A \$1,000 grand prize is being offered in a special contest sponsored by Christian Poets Guild, free to everyone. There are 50 prizes in all totaling \$5,000.

To enter, send one poem of 21 lines or less to Free Poetry Contest, 1638 Dogwood Ln., Ackworth, GA 30102-1820. Or enter online at www.freecontest.com.

The deadline for entering is February 14, 2007.

Poems may be written on any subject, using any style. "A typical poem," says Contest Director Cecilia Gica, "might be a love poem, or mature poem, one that inspires the reader."

Be sure your name and address appears on the page with your poem. If you wish a winner's list please enclose a return envelope.

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2 Cherry Pie	1.60

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St. Matthew's Baptist Church News

Church services last Sunday morning, January 28, 2007, at the St. Matthew Baptist Church, 2020 East 14th Street, were well attended. Rev. Edward Canady is the proud pastor.

Services got underway with Sunday School beginning at 10:15 a.m. with Superintendent Sister Luella Harris in charge. The morning lesson was taught by Sister Harris and reviewed by Pastor Canady. The morning lesson was entitled "Overcoming Darkness." The lesson text was St. John 8:12-20 and 12:44-46.

The morning worship hour began with devotion at 11:15 a.m. with Deacon Edward Williams and Brother Gerald Jackson in charge.

The St. Matthew Baptist Church Senior Choir sung out of their hearts and souls. Oh, what a wonderful time in God's house to hear his praises in songs.

Pastor Canady delivered a powerful sermon. His subject was "Well Done Servant." His scripture text was II Timothy 4:7. Oh, what a wonderful and uplifting sermon for all in attendance.

Let us continue to pray for all on the sick and shut-in list. If you know of someone who is ill, then continue with prayer and visits.

If you are looking for a church home, then come and

visit St. Matthew Baptist Church. You will be glad you did.

Thought For The Week: "While God is preparing a place for us, He is preparing us for that place."

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Daryl Davis to speak at Tech on his Klan-Destine relationships



Daryl Davis shows the hood and robe of the Ku Klux Klan that he wore while he was undercover inside the organization. He is scheduled to speak on his experiences on Friday, February 16 at Texas Tech.

music to bridge the seemingly uncross-able gulf between the Klan's hatred and the Black man's rage. Davis travels an uncharted road filled with gripping highs and lows. Among them bringing the Imperial Wizard to meet a Black woman upon whose lawn a cross burned, seeking out a self-proclaimed White Supremacist Grand Klaiif who, while claiming not to believe in violence, issues Davis a warning and predicts a race war saying, "Your uniform will be the color of your skin," and being attacked by two Klanswomen but defended in court by one Klansman. On the one hand, spat upon, kicked and threatened, and on the other, given a standing ovation at a Klan rally and deeded robes by those who decide to leave the organization, the determined Davis journeys on ... Davis' courageous quest into the heart of ignorance and hatred results, he believes, in

a ray of hope for history between the races and the future and the future on mankind.

As a race relations expert, Davis and his amazing odyssey have been featured on CNN, CNBC and Good Morning America.

Daryl Davis empowers you to confront your own prejudices and overcome your fears. He might even inspire you to find common

ground with your most unlikely adversary, forging a path for peace and understanding.

For more information, contact 742-3610. Tickets available at the Student Union Ticket Booth and all Select-a-Seat locations. Texas Tech University students free. General Public \$10.00. Other students: South Plains College, Lubbock Christian University and High School students \$5.00.

The Tech Activities Board and Student Union & Activities are pleased to welcome Daryl Davis to Texas Tech University on February 16, 2007 to the Student Union Allen Theatre at 8 p.m. to speak upon a Klan-Destine Relationships: Black Man's Odyssey into the Ku Klux Klan.

Daryl Davis has come in closer contact with members of the Ku Klux Klan than most white non-members and certainly most blacks ... short of being on the wrong end of a rope.

His stories of setting up dangerous, surprise meetings with Klan leaders unaware of his skin color and attending KKK rallies, have the suspense of a Hitchcock thriller, and will keep you riveted to your seat in disbelief.

"After 134 years of nothing but violence and hatred, it's time we get to know one another on a social basis, not under a cover of darkness," explains Grammy Award winning pianist Daryl Davis of his extraordinary journey into the heart of one of America's most fanatical institutions the Ku Klux Klan.

Having spent his early childhood in Europe and Africa, the son of a Foreign Service officer, Davis didn't experience racism until he returned to the United

States at age ten and was pelted with rocks, splintered bottles and debris while carrying the American flag for his all-white Cub Scout troop at a parade in Boston. At fifteen he was jeered at and told by another hate group he would be shipped back to Africa, and in his twenties, already an up and coming musician, Daryl was attacked by a racist.


Driven by the need to understand those who, without every having met him, hate him because of the color of his skin, Daryl decides to seek out the roots of racism. His mesmerizing story told in gritty words and startling photographs, is both harrowing and awe-inspiring. Finding that the Klan is entrenched not in the Deep South but in his own neighborhood, Davis sets out to meet Roger Kelly, Imperial Wizard of the Invincible Empire Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. After a cathartic first encounter at the end of which Kelly poses for pictures, as long as "we don't have to stand with our arms around each other," the two slowly formed as close a friendship as a Black man and a Klansman can.

Through Kelly and others, Davis begins to explore the Klan, gaining real insight into its workings and members' minds. Using

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"Reach For The Gold - Read!" begins at Lubbock Libraries

Lubbock Public Library launched its first annual reading program for adults on Monday with the theme, "Reach for the Gold—Read!" There will be weekly and monthly drawings for prizes held at each library location and the grand prize drawing will be held at Mahon Library, 1306 9th St., on March 23. Branch library locations are Godeke, 6601 Quaker; Patterson, 1836 Parkway Drive; and Groves, 5520 19th St.

Program participants fill out an entry form for the drawings each time they read or listen to a book. A bookmark is given to each participant to log the book titles read, and at least five books need to be read in order to enter the grand prize drawing. Participants may enter the grand prize drawing, which is for a "Day of Shopping" worth \$200, each time they have read five books.

The weekly and monthly prizes are courtesy of the following businesses: Starbucks, Hollywood Video, Sugarbaker's

Café and Bakery, Gristy's Dry Cleaning and Laundry, Hastings, United Supermarkets, Well Body Natural Foods, Rosa's Café, Candy Creations, and Dimba's Chicken and Seafood.

The Grand Prize is sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Linens 'N' Things, and Market Street (50th and Indiana.)

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New EBONY greeting cards available at Wal-Mart

Chicago — In celebration of Black History Month, the first series of EBONY Inspirations greetings cards will hit stands in select Wal-Mart stores Feb. 1. The cards will also debut in other select retail outlets including Jewel-Osco, CVS, Eckerd, Rite Aid and Kmart. This venture represents the first of many that will feature the EBONY brand.

Johnson Publishing Company, the world's largest Black-owned publishing company and home of EBONY magazine, announced the partnership with American Greetings to create greeting cards for the newly developed EBONY Inspirations brand.

The cards will reiterate the positive and inspirational spirit of

EBONY Magazine by honoring famous African-Americans from all walks of life. Classic and iconic EBONY cover images are used on the cards to capture the spirit of Black History Month. The images date back to 1948 and include a variety of notable African-Americans, including legendary baseball player Jackie Robinson, abolitionist Frederick Douglass, feature performer Josephine Baker, musical legend Duke Ellington and EBONY magazine founder, the late John H. Johnson.

"The creation of an EBONY greeting card line represents another opportunity to celebrate all that is beautiful about Black life. The cards inspire consumers to reminisce on special EBONY moments

while honoring African-Americans who have positively influenced our lives," said Linda Johnson Rice, President and CEO of Johnson Publishing Company.

Beyond the initial launch, EBONY and American Greetings will continue their partnership by introducing a co-branded line of greeting cards for various occasions such as birthdays, weddings and simple thank yous. Each will be inspired by EBONY's positive and uplifting image within the African-American community.

The deal was brokered by Santa Monica, California-based licensing agency TurnerPatterson. The newly formed licensing division plans to continue to build on the EBONY lifestyle brand in the African-

American community as well as reach out to a larger, diverse section of the population. The programs are designed to resonate with current readers and a broader demographic by introducing new EBONY brands such as EBONY Home™, the EBONY Collection™ apparel for men and women, and reintroducing EBONY favorites such as the EBONY Jr.™ brand.

"We are very excited about the alliance between EBONY and American Greetings. This program is the continuation of our commitment to create products to enhance the lives of EBONY readers every day," said Debra Turner, CEO of TurnerPatterson.

EBONY magazine, the No. 1 magazine for African-Americans, is

published monthly and reaches over 12 million readers. Published by Johnson Publishing Company, Inc., the largest Black-owned publishing company in the world, EBONY was founded in 1942 by the late Publisher and Chairman

John H. Johnson. Linda Johnson Rice is President and CEO, and Eunice W. Johnson serves as the company's secretary and treasurer. For more information on Johnson Publishing Company, visit www.johnsonpublishing.com.

Last Week's Crossword Puzzle Answers: The Grammys

C	L	E	F		R	E	M		H	A	S	H
R	E	T	E		K	A	L	E	S	O	L	T
O	V	A	L		I	B	I	S	T	U	T	U
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P	R	O	B	E		E	G	O		O	G	L
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City of Lubbock wins national community award

The City of Lubbock Community Development Department has won the prestigious Audrey Nelson Community Development Achievement Award given by the National Community Development Association (NCDA).

The NCDA recognized the Community Development's World Changers program that works with faith-based groups to bring teenagers from across the country to Lubbock to repair the homes of low-income and elderly people. More than 275 teens spent a week in June of last year working on 17 houses.

"It is a great honor to be recognized by an organization whose membership is made of our peers in the Community Development field," said Bill Howerton, Director of Community Development. "It is also important because it helps us bring attention to the projects within the City that are made possible through our CDBG allocation."

In addition to faith-based groups, like Lubbock's Calvary Baptist Church, the Community Development Department partners with other City departments, Keep Lubbock Beautiful, the Lubbock Independent School District, South Plains EMS, the Cement and Concrete Promotional Council, the Portland Cement Association, and Joyland to make World Changers possible.

"World Changers is more of a community effort," Howerton said, praising the groups that help make the project possible. "We work closely with many groups to make this project a success. Without the efforts of all of these groups, the success of the project would be in jeopardy."

The Community Development Department was one of 11 cities and urban counties honored this year by the NCDA. The ceremony took place on January 25th in Washington, D.C. In addition to



At left holding the award are Brad Reed and Nancy Haney; Pictured on the back row are Cory O'Gulvin, Scott Stevenson, Cardoll Cooper, Bill Howerton, and Gayland Barksdale.

City staff and a representative from Calvary Baptist, the Chief of Staff from District 19 Congressman Randy Neugebauer's office was present for the ceremony.

This is the second time in the last four years that the Community Development Department has won

the Audrey Nelson award. The Department previously won for its work on East Lubbock economic development.

The NCDA is a national non-profit organization comprised of more than 550 local governments across the country that administer federally-supported community and economic development, housing and human service programs.

ATTENTION!

If you received a letter announcing you were nominated as a participant in the Best Dressed Man and Woman program, this is your last chance to get your picture in the Southwest Digest.

All of the participants will be in next week's issue (February 8, 2007) with the time, place and all necessary information.

Please fill out the form below and send it in to us.

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Editorials • Comments • Opinions



THIS 'N' THAT

by T.J. Patterson

CAN'T SAY IT ENOUGH! THIS N THAT can't say it enough of how much we appreciate the MIGHTY EFFORT of those ESTACADO HIGH SCHOOL MATADORS BASKETBALL TEAMS. Both boys' and girls' teams are having an exceptional year. As of last Friday, their records were 20-5 (Overall) and 4-0 (District) for the LADY MATADORS. On the other hand, the MATADORS are 25-1 Overall and are 3-0 in District play. Both are ranked in state competition. The LADY MATADORS were rated NUMBER 17, while the MATADORS are rated NUMBER 5. THIS N THAT hopes both teams just keep on doing what they are doing - PLAY AS A TEAM! There is nothing you can't do if you continue to WORK TOGETHER!!

GO TO SEE IT! THIS N THAT is glad to see that the 5TH ANNUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH will be celebrated at the BOBBIE GEAN & T. J. PATTERSON LIBRARY, with a military theme "ONE NATION WE STAND!" This program, which is scheduled for Saturday afternoon, February 24, 2007 will recognize and honor military personnel from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. It will begin at 2 p.m. If there are members and friends you would like to see recognized, then

call the library by FEBRUARY 12, 2007. The telephone number is (806) 767-3300. There will be special music and community participation.

PENNY HASTINGS THE BARBER SAYS, "BE CAREFUL of what you may ask for because you just might GET IT!"

GOVERNMENT CAN'T SOLVE OUR BLACK PROBLEMS! THIS N THAT knows without any doubt, that the U.S. Government (better known to some as UNCLE SUGAR) can't solve the PROBLEMS IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY.

Nothing can be legislated to fix our problems. Actually, if we as BLACKS would go back to the teachings of our families, we could solve many of our basic problems. If we would only come together as a PEOPLE and not forget from whence we have come, we'd do much better as a people. Nobody owes us anything, so we had better get busy doing for ourselves so our young children will know the right road to travel. NO! Not even the City of Lubbock can solve our VARIED PROBLEMS, because we as a people can do that if we only would come together. No matter how difficult the mountain may appear, if we come together, THINGS will happen for the better. Just think of those who come to this country with nothing in their hands, and in a matter of a

short time, they excel! So my BLACK BROTHERS & SISTERS, can't we come together and make things happen for us? At the same time, we need to know where our help comes from, and that is our GOD!

SUPPORT THE LINCOLN/DOUGLASS TEA! THIS N THAT is still asking we SUPPORT the upcoming LINCOLN/DOUGLASS TEA which will be held Sunday afternoon, February 11, 2007 at the KoKo Palace, 5101 Avenue Q from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. DONATIONS are \$20 per person. This year's theme will be "GIVING OUR YOUTH A SECOND CHANCE". If you have any questions, call EMMA JACKSON at (806) 763-3850. THIS N THAT supports this program, and is hoping many will be in attendance.

UPCOMING TOP TEN CONTEST NOT FAR OFF! THIS N THAT is excited about the number of persons who were nominated for this special program. According to program coordinator, EDDIE P. RICHARDSON, this should be a very exciting program. Many of Lubbock's outstanding individuals have been nominated for this effort. The date, time and location will be forthcoming. If there are any questions, then call (806) 762-3612.



Think About It!

As We Approach Black History Month

by Eddie P. Richardson

As we approach the annual celebration of Black History Month, we will present bits of information from Carter G. Woodson's to try to make those who are not knowledgeable about why there is a Black History Month and who was responsible for it. The name of the book is "The Miss-Education of The Negro."

Carter G. Woodson was born December 19, 1875 in New Canton, Virginia. He was the oldest of nine children. The family was very poor. "This is no excuse for failure and not succeeding." Woodson spent much of his time working in the coal mines to help feed his family. Woodson loved learning and attending elementary and high

school when he was not in the mines.

He became a teacher and ultimately the principal of Douglass High School in Huntington, Virginia in 1900. Woodson began taking correspondence and summer classes at Berea College in Kentucky. His pursuit for a college degree led him to the University of Chicago. Woodson earned his bachelors degree in 1907 and masters in 1908. His thirst for knowledge continued and he became the second African American to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1912.

After W. E. B. DuBois, Woodson furthered his studies at the Sorbonne in Paris and spoke fluent French. He also studied in the Philippines and Africa. Dr.

Woodson had mastered all the Europeans could teach, but he had higher calling. His only desire was to return back to his and teach empowerment.

In 1915, Woodson founded The Association for the Study of Negro Life. The organization is still alive almost a century later as The Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (ASALH). A year later, he created the Journal of Negro History and The History Bulletin in 1937. In 1919, he became the dean of The School of Liberal Arts at Howard University, Washington, D. C.

Continued Next Week.

Closing Thought: "The only one who can save us from us is us."

Commentary: Increase in minimum wage more likely to harm than help

by Joseph C. Phillips

In her book "Open Wide the Freedom Gates," Dorothy Height, one of the doyennes of the civil rights movements of the 50's and 60's, describes a meeting wherein women of the Mississippi delta talked openly about the effects of certain federal programs on their lives. Discussing the minimum wage, one woman is quoted as saying, "When minimum wage came in, our hours were shortened. So now, instead of more adequate pay, we do double the work in half the time."

It is noteworthy that this meeting was not sponsored by a Republican club, but the National Council of Negro Women and was moderated by Fannie Lou Hamer, another elder of the movement. Neither was the woman quoted some ivory tower intellectual or partisan gum slinger. She was one of the real-life people actually affected by minimum wage laws, as opposed to so many of us that merely talk about such things in the abstract. In very plain language, the woman in Height's story gives testimony that economic laws remain true, and their effect on the lives of people are real, regardless of the pronouncements of politicians.

Amidst promises to lift legions of low wage workers out of poverty, the 110th Congress recently passed an increase in the minimum wage, a bill the president has indicated he will sign providing there are protections for business owners

included in the legislation. Let us put aside for the moment the fact that the overwhelming majority of minimum wage earners do not live in poverty, do not raise families on their salaries and do not work full-time. As the Mississippi woman's story attests, a minimum wage increase is more likely to actually harm those it is intended to help.

We may wish it differently, but the laws of economics, which are neither cruel nor kind, say differently. Federal and state governments are perfectly able to set the price of labor. They are, however, unable to change the value of labor, and business owners, like all consumers, seek value for their money. As Height's story demonstrates, a job whose real value has been overpriced by minimum wage laws will be eliminated, performed by those pricing their services appropriately or absorbed by other workers who must now justify their increase in wage with an increase in productivity.

It is ironic that this nugget of Mississippi delta wisdom now seems lost on a generation of blacks that now demands minimum and living wage laws that invariably end up locking low skilled workers - i.e. young black men - out of work.

If past is prologue, sometime in March, a major newspaper will publish a report describing the deepening plight of young black men. The story will detail a list of afflictions, including incarceration rates, lack of education and employment. What the story will

not discuss is the impact minimum wage laws have on black unemployment rates or low black men on the margins are now in competition for low skilled jobs with illegal labor that is not burdened by federal or state wage laws.

In 1954, the unemployment rate for both black and white teenagers was 14 percent. In the decades that followed, the minimum wage increased sharply, and the black teen unemployment rate followed suit. After a brief dip in the 1980's, the black teen unemployment rate currently stands at 42 percent.

Congressmen will continue to make impassioned speeches about how raising the minimum wage will be the hand that lifts the poor from destitution. More than likely, it will mean continued unemployment for black men living on the margins, fewer prospects for entry level employment and a hobbling of the opportunity to build job skills and an employment record that will lead to better paying jobs in the future. It will mean men marginally educated with few or no skills resort to the street hustle to make ends meet and end up in the prison system.

That is the more realistic result of minimum wage increases. None of us wishes it so, but as an anonymous Mississippi woman made plain in 1965, there are real life consequences to all our good intentions.

In Cinque

by Renetta Howard



We have been told what the 'state of the union' is. Congressmen listened with poise and dignity and were on the

whole very respectful of what President Bush had to say on last Tuesday. There seems to be unanimous approval of the need for improvement in health care in the United States, as well as the need to use less gasoline, but there is still overwhelming dissent regarding the build-up of more troops in Iraq. There are citizens who feel that No Child Left Behind also needs fixing.

There has been a need for some type of national health program for years. Mrs. Clinton tried to work with a committee to initiate a national health care program when her husband, Bill Clinton was president. Her efforts failed then. The Medicaid program, the health program for the indigent has suffered in the past six years, providing less service for more money. The rise in cost of Medicare, the health program for the elderly is really in a confused state and also needs fixing. Congress needs to take a long hard look at Medicaid and Medicare and rework them to provide maximum benefits to the recipients.

At the same time, Congress

needs to lay a foundation for health care for every person in this country as there are still too many working individuals who cannot afford health insurance and earn too much to be eligible for Medicaid or they are not old enough or sick enough to qualify for Medicare. Proper health coverage alone could reduce the use of gasoline.

It sounds plausible that car manufacturers should make vehicles that are more economical in the use of gasoline, thus reducing the need for the substance. Using bio-diesel sounds good, but how many people with cars that are not eligible to use bio-diesel will be ready to make the switch? Will auto mechanics be qualified to change older cars to use bio-diesel? Will bio-diesel be produced in the needed quantity? We need to know.

It is nothing new that the majority of citizens do not want

to see a build-up of more troops in Iraq. This is a no-brainer, but NCLB is a failure and as a result more students are being left behind. Attempts to raise test scores is what NCLB is really about.

Teachers are teaching what is on the test in hopes that their classes will raise their scores. It is time for us to get 'in cinque' and let our Congressmen and women know that we do not agree with some of his programs.



Howard



Letter Policy

The editors and publishers of Southwest Digest welcome your letters and encourage you to write to us. Share with us your concerns, praise, gripes and celebrations. It's what we want - to keep our Black community in Lubbock informed and in touch with one another. Your letter doesn't have to address something that's been in our paper, just what's been on your mind. Had an interesting discussion lately? Share it with us!

When you write to us, please provide your name and city so that we may know where you are from and so that our readers may see how far our publication reaches.

You can bring your letter to our office or send it through the mail to: Southwest Digest, Letter to the Editor, 1302 Avenue Q, Lubbock, TX 79401

You can also email us at: swdigest@steglobal.net or fax your letter to (806) 762-4605

(Th)ink

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

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BET celebrates Black History Month with special programming

Washington, DC (BlackNews.com) - BET takes a no-holds-barred approach to Black History Month this February by examining the people, artistic elements and events that shaped Black America and influenced popular culture with a series of hip-hop documentaries during *Hip-Hop History Weekend*, and a groundbreaking BET News special, *THE TOP 25 EVENTS THAT (MIS)SHAPED BLACK AMERICA*.

Kicking off *Hip-Hop History Weekend* on Friday February 23 at 8 p.m. is *Tupac Shakur: Thug Angel*, featuring interviews with friends, collaborators and scholars as they look back on Tupac and define his legacy today; *The MC: This is Why We Do It*, which explores the origins of MC'ing, as well as the environmental, spiritual and moral aspects to the art form airs Saturday February 24 at 11 p.m.; *Black & Blue: Legends of the Hip Hop Cop*, bringing to light hard evidence of the NYPD's controversial "rap unit" profiling premieres Sunday, February 25 at 1 p.m.; and closing out the weekend is *The Art of 16 Bars* in which some of rap's biggest MCs share their approach from free styling and writing, to how to hold the Mic and dealing with being on tour, airing Sunday, February 25 at 3 p.m.

Delving deeper into Black culture is the ground-breaking BET News special, *THE TOP 25 EVENTS THAT (MIS)SHAPED BLACK AMERICA* premiering Tuesday, February 20 at 10 pm. This special takes an intelligent yet irreverent look at black history thanks to commentary from top cultural critics, comedians and celebrities. Bringing it all together is host Paul Mooney, returning from the highly-rated 2006 special *TOP 25 WORST MOMENTS IN BLACK HISTORY*, with the brilliant and politically incorrect humor that has made him a comedic legend.

Following is a look at more special programming for February's Black History Month schedule on BET:

SPECIALS:

• THE TOP 25 EVENTS THAT (MIS)SHAPED BLACK AMERICA

From high historic crimes such as slavery and apartheid to misdemeanors like the jheri curl, this one hour special takes an intelli-

gent yet irreverent look at black history thanks to commentary from top cultural critics, comedians and celebrities. Hosted by comedian Paul Mooney, Tuesday, February 20 at 10 p.m. ET/PT

• CELEBRATION OF GOSPEL

BET's popular Celebration of Gospel is back for another round of soul-stirring, hand clapping and inspiring gospel music. Hosted by Steve Harvey, Special tribute honoree: Tyler Perry. Also featuring: Kirk Franklin, Pastor Shirley Caesar, Fantasia, Faith Evans, Coko (SWV), Lil Mo, Dr. Bobby Jones, Yolanda Adams, Smokie Norful, Fred Hammond, Blair Underwood, Louis Gossett Jr., Kelly Price, and Tonex. Saturday, February 3 at 9 p.m.; Wednesday, February 7 at 9 p.m.; Sunday, February 18 at 10 a.m. ET/PT

SERIES FINALE:

• ONE NIGHT ONLY

Catch the inspiring finale of the reality docu-soap that follows a group of high school kids and their drama teacher in New Orleans as they race to mount the Dreamgirls play. Within the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina, these kids are rebuilding their homes, school, and community while also trying to enjoy their

teenage years. Can the cast pull it off? Watch and you shall see. *Fame Comes and Goes, Stars Rise, but Dreams Live Forever!* Tuesday, February 27 at 7:30 p.m. ET/PT

• HIP HOP HISTORY WEEK: END:

• TUPAC SHAKUR: THUG ANGEL

Directed by Academy Award nominee Peter Spirer (*Rhyme and Reason*), "Thug Angel" takes you beyond the drama of Tupac's notoriety in the press through all-new interviews with friends, collaborators and scholars as they look back on Tupac and define his legacy today. Friday, February 23 at 8 p.m. ET/PT

• THE MC: THIS IS WHY WE DO IT

Documentary taking a look inside the world of Hip Hop and MCs to explore the origins of MC'ing, as well as the environmental, spiritual and moral aspects to this art form. MC's consider the past, present and future of their music, giving a unique insight into what drives these artists to continue spitting rhymes. Featuring 50 Cent, Common, Ghostface Killah, Talib Kweli, Method Man, Rakim, Twista, Kanye West and Mekhi Phifer Saturday, February 24 at 11

p.m. ET/PT

• BLACK & BLUE: LEGENDS OF THE HIP-HOP COP

Long the subject of rumors in the hip-hop community, this program brings to light hard evidence of the NYPD's controversial "rap unit" profiling, and features interviews with Detective Derrick Parker, who founded the unit following the killing of Notorious B.I.G. in 1997. Featuring 50 Cent, Damon Dash, Ice T, The Game and more. Sunday, February 25 at 1 p.m. ET/PT


• THE ART OF 16 BARS

For the first time, the world's hottest MCs show you how to do it. From their approach from free styling and writing to how to hold the Mic and dealing with being on tour. Featuring Jadakiss, Jay-Z, KRS-One, Talib Kweli, MC Lyte, Method Man, Kool Moe Dee, Rakim, Twista and Kanye West. Sunday, February 25 at 3 p.m. ET/PT

For additional information about Black History Month on BET, please log on to www.BET.com

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THEME: VALENTINE'S DAY

ACROSS

1. On the top
5. Something regarded as female
8. Performed with leis
12. Farm work
13. Sailor call
14. Bundled
15. Geological time periods
16. Coerce
17. Idealized image of someone
18. An affectionate couple?
20. Floor covering
21. Little hills
22. Right-angle building extension
23. Slanders
26. Court jokers
30. Politician
31. Spanky or Alfalfa
34. S-shaped molding
35. Young Montague
37. Bristlelike appendage on grass
38. Acute or obtuse
39. A holly
40. Entangle
42. Cupid's action
43. She sings "My Funny Valentine" in "Babes in Arms"
45. Valentine's Day offering, pl.
47. "___ my party, and I'll cry if I want too."
48. Prevents slipping
50. Rounded protuberance
52. Used to flatten
56. Something twisted and tight
57. October birthstone
58. Office communicate
59. A signature
60. Matchstick game, pl.
61. Fleur-de-lis
62. Opposed the Allies in WWII
63. Dental group
64. The center

DOWN

1. Cain's victim
2. Tropical tuberous root
3. Popular Norwegian name
4. Former Spanish monetary unit

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13					14		
15				16					17		
18			19						20		
			21						22		
23	24	25				26			27	28	29
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39			40					41		42	
43			44					45		46	
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56					57				58		
59					60				61		
62					63				64		

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5. Half step higher than given note
6. Carries
7. Target of lovebirds' gaze
8. Lord Nelson's mistress
9. ___ Bator, Mongolia
10. Child's building block
11. "Much ___ About Nothing"
13. Doctrine of non-violence
14. Buffalo's team
19. Donkey in Mexico
22. Unagi
23. Parsley amount
24. Loot
25. He hunts rabbits
26. Tarzan's Valentine
27. Moth with nonfunctional mouthpart as adult
28. Lit again
29. Gives a certain impression
32. Castle material
33. Semicircular basin in a mountain
36. Bookplate
38. In front
40. Half the width of ens
41. Found in #32 Down
44. Island with a circular coral reef
46. Deterrent weapon?
48. Romantic archer
49. Camel's cousin
50. Computer operating system
51. New Testament sages
52. ___ fide
53. Freezing in Celsius
54. Chieftain in Arabia
55. This is red and violets are blue
56. General Services Administration


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