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## Martin Luther King, Jr. Healer, leader and revolutionary

He led a mass struggle for racial equality that doomed segregation and changed America forever.

By Jack E. White

It is a testament to the greatness of Martin Luther King Jr. that nearly every major city in the U.S. has a street or school named after him. It is a measure of how sorely his achievements are misunderstood that most of them are located in black neighborhoods.

Three decades after King was gunned down on a motel balcony in Memphis, Tenn., he is still regarded mainly as the black leader of a movement for black equality. That assessment, while accurate, is far too restrictive. For all King did to free blacks from the yoke of segregation, whites may owe him the greatest debt, for liberating them from the burden of America's centuries-old hypocrisy about race. It is only because of King and the movement that he led that the U.S. can claim to be the leader of the "free world" without inviting smirks of disdain and disbelief.

Had he and the blacks and whites who marched beside him failed, vast regions of the U.S. would have remained morally indistinguishable from South Africa under apartheid, with terrible consequences for America's standing among nations. How could America have convincingly inveighed against the Iron Curtain while an equally oppressive Cotton Curtain remained draped across the South?

Even after the Supreme Court struck down segregation in 1954, what the world now calls human-rights offenses were both law and custom in much of America. Before King and his movement, a tired and thoroughly respectable Negro seamstress like Rosa Parks could be thrown into jail and fined simply because she refused to give up her seat on an Alabama bus so a white man could sit down. A six-year-old black girl like Ruby Bridges could be heckled and spit on by a white New Orleans mob simply because she wanted to go to the same school as white children. A 14-year-old black boy like Emmett Till could be hunted down and murdered by a Mississippi gang simply because he had supposedly made suggestive remarks to a white woman. Even highly educated blacks were routinely denied the right to vote or serve on juries. They could not eat at lunch counters, register in motels or use



whites-only rest rooms; they could not buy or rent a home wherever they chose. In some rural enclaves in the South, they were even compelled to get off the sidewalk and stand in the street if a Caucasian walked by.

The movement that King led swept all that away. Its victory was so complete that even though those outrages took place within the living memory of the baby boomers, they seem like ancient history. And though this revolution was the product of two centuries of agitation by thousands upon thousands of courageous men and women, King was its culmination. It is impossible to think of the movement unfolding as it did without him at its helm. He was, as the cliché has it, the right man at the right time.

To begin with, King was a preacher who spoke in biblical cadences ideally suited to leading a stride toward freedom that found its inspiration in the Old Testament story of the Israelites and the New Testament gospel of

Jesus Christ. Being a minister not only put King in touch with the spirit of the black masses but also gave him a base within the black church, then and now the strongest and most independent of black institutions.

Moreover, King was a man of extraordinary physical courage whose belief in nonviolence never swerved. From the time he assumed leadership of the Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott in 1955 to his murder 13 years later, he faced hundreds of death threats. His home in Montgomery was bombed, with his wife and young children inside. He was hounded by J. Edgar Hoover's FBI, which bugged his telephone and hotel rooms, circulated salacious gossip about him and even tried to force him into committing suicide after he won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. As King told the story, the defining moment of his life came during the early days of the bus boycott. A threatening telephone call at midnight alarmed him: "Nigger, we are

tired of you and your mess now. And if you aren't out of this town in three days, we're going to blow your brains out and blow up your house." Shaken, King went to the kitchen to pray. "I could hear an inner voice saying to me, 'Martin Luther, stand up for righteous-

ness. Stand up for justice. Stand up for truth. And I will be with you, even until the end of the world.'"

In recent years, however, King's most quoted line - "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character" - has been put to uses he would never have endorsed. It has become the slogan for opponents of affirmative action like California's Ward Connerly, who insist, incredibly, that had King lived he would have been marching alongside them. Connerly even chose King's birthday last year to announce the creation of his nationwide crusade against "racial preferences."

Such would-be kidnappers of King's legacy have chosen a highly selective interpretation of his message. They have filtered out his radicalism and sense of urgency. That most famous speech was studded with demands. "We have come to our nation's capital to cash a check," King admonished. "When the architects of our Republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir," King said. "Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check; a check which has come back marked 'insufficient funds.'"

These were not the words of a cardboard saint advocating a Hallmark card-style version of brotherhood. They were the stinging phrases of a prophet, a man demanding justice not just in the hereafter, but in the here and now.

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

**Community Meetings**

- African American Chamber of Commerce, Lubbock meets on the 1st Monday of each month, from 5:30-6:30pm at the Parkway Community Center, 405 MLK Blvd., 806-771-1813
- Lubbock Area Choir Council meets on the 2nd Sunday 11:00am at the Patterson Branch Library
- Tri-County Kwanzaa meets every Tuesday, 7:00pm, 1708 Avenue G
- Dallas Area Association meets 2nd Saturdays, 4:00 pm
- Booker T. Washington, American Legion Post 408 meets every 2nd Tuesday at 7:30pm, American Legion Building in Yellowhouse Canyon
- Forgotten West Culture meets on the 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:00 pm, Patterson Library
- East Lubbock Chapter AARP meets every 1st Thursday at 1:00 pm, Max Simmons Community Center
- Lubbock Chapter of Black Alumni meets every 3rd Tuesday, 5:30 pm, TTU Mather Alumni Center
- Durban/Walnut Heights Neighborhood Association meets every 1st Thursday at 5:00 pm and every 3rd Thursday at 7:00 pm at the Durban-Melburn Heights Neighborhood Outreach Center at 1301 East 24th St.
- West Texas Native American Association 2nd Luck Supper meets on alternating months prior to meeting, meetings held on 2nd Sunday of each month at 7:00 pm, Educational presentation and demonstrations.
- Texas Intercultural Cultural & Historical Commission - Lubbock Affiliate meets at Patterson Branch Library every 2nd Thursday at 7:00 pm
- West Texas Native Americans Association meets 2nd Saturday each month at Orvis Library, 3020 19th Street, 7:30 pm
- West Texas Chapter of 100 Black Men meets the 1st Monday evening at 7:00 pm at the Parkway Neighborhood Center
- The Parkway Quilts & Cherry-Pond Neighborhood Association meets the 3rd Tuesday evening of each month at 7:00 pm at Hunt Elementary
- Chambers Hill Neighborhood Association meets the 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm at the Elementary Cafeteria
- Southwest High School African & Pacific Islander Student meeting and field trip every 2nd and 4th Tuesday at the Patterson Library, 1800 Parkway Drive, beginning at 7:00 pm. All Friends African & Pacific are invited for the 40th Anniversary.

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. 26th St.  
Lubbock, TX 79404

Fax: (806) 762-4003

Circle us at  
yadiga@earthlink.net

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### 36th MLK Celebration this weekend

The Martin Luther King Commemorative Council of Lubbock will sponsor its 36th Annual Celebration January 12 thru 15, 2007. This year's theme is "From Whence We Came? Where Do We Go From Here? Answer The Call!"

"We are looking forward for another outstanding celebration, because of people in Lubbock who support this effort each year," says Ms. Joan Y. Ervin, president of Martin Luther King Commemorative Council, Inc. The four day celebration will get underway Friday night, January 12th, with the Martin Luther King Commemorative Banquet at the McInturff Center, University Medical Center, 602 Indiana Avenue, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Guest speaker will be Dr. Gladys Whitten.

Saturday evening, January 13th, Youth and Young Adult Night will take place at the

Alderson Middle School, 219 Walnut Avenue, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The Annual Citywide Celebration will take place Sunday evening, January 14th, beginning at 5:00 p.m. at the Lakridge United Methodist Church, 4701 82nd Street. Dr. Lydia Jackson Waters, retired Pastor, will be the guest speaker.

Closing services will be held Monday night, January 15th, the official birthday of Dr. King, at the Greater St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church, 306 East 24th Street, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

"We want the entire community to know this celebration is for all citizens of Lubbock. We hope many from throughout the City of Lubbock will be in attendance," continues Ms. Ervin.

"We just want the word to get out in Lubbock, we support the efforts of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. There's no doubt

about it, the eloquent words spoken by Dr. King changed America, concluded Ms. Ervin.

#### Meet Pastor Beaty



The Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church members are inviting the community to attend a "Meet & Greet" Rev. Sorja J. Beaty, pastor at a reception at the Bobbie Gunn & T.J. Patterson Library on Sunday afternoon, January 21, 2007 from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

### Schedule of Events For Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

Theme: "From Whence We Came? Where Do We Go From Here? Answer The Call!"

**Friday Evening - January 12, 2007**  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Banquet  
Guest: Dr. Gladys Whitten  
McInturff Center, University Medical Center  
602 Indiana Avenue • 6:30 P.M.

**Saturday Evening - January 13, 2007**  
Youth and Young Adult Night  
Alderson Middle School  
219 Walnut Avenue • 6:30 P.M.

**Sunday Evening - January 14, 2007**  
Annual Citywide Celebration  
Lakridge United Methodist Church  
4701 82nd Street • 5:00 P.M.  
Speaker: Dr. Lydia Jackson Waters  
Greater St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church  
306 East 24th Street • 6:30 P.M.

**Monday Evening - January 15, 2007**  
Old Time Gospel Night  
Greater St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church  
306 East 24th Street • 6:30 P.M.

If you find mistakes in this publication, please remember that the publishers and writers 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.

# Chatman Hills Corner

By Doris Reynolds

The Martin Luther King Commemorative Council of Lubbock, Inc. will present the 36th Annual Celebration, beginning Friday night, January 12, 2007, with the Martin Luther King Commemorative Banquet which will be held at the McInturf Center, University Medical Center, 602 Indiana Avenue. This banquet will get underway at 6:30 p.m. The speaker will be Dr. Gladys Whitten.

With the theme "From Whence We Came? Where Do We Go From Here? Answer The Call!", the Youth and Young Adult Night will be held Saturday night, January 13, 2007, at the Alderson Middle School, 219 Walnut Avenue, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Among those who are invited to attend and participate is the Male Chorus of the New Hope Baptist Church.

Sunday, January 14, 2007, the Annual Citywide Celebration will be held at the Lakeridge United Methodist Church, 4701 82nd Street, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Guest speaker will be Dr. Lydia Jackson-Waters, retired Pastor of Crossroads/Nija Panda University Methodist Church of Compton, California. The occasion will be presented by Rev. Sonia J. Beaty, pastor of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

The four days of celebration will end Monday night, January 15, 2007, at the Greater St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church with an Old Time Gospel Night, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

This writer is hoping as many as can, will attend these activities. Let's just come out and celebrate by praising God from whence we have come.

Let us not forget those who are sick and shut-in in our community. Among them is Sister Eloise Smith, who has been a patient at Covenant Hospital. A resident of Snyder, she is the mother of Vera Newsome and Gwen Spires, both of Lubbock; and Ada Newsome of Fort Worth. All have been at the bedside of their mother. Sister Smith is a member of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church of Sweetwater.

Among some of the others who are sick and shut-in include: Brother Rudolph Belvin, Sister Dorothy Nash, Sister Bernice Wright, Sister Emma Rowe, Sister Lillie Carroll Eagles, Smith and Brother James Bibbs, Sr. Also, Sister Helen Hereford, Sister Annie Mae McBride, and Sister Odessa Long. There are many others who are shut in. Your precious prayers are appreciated. If you get a chance to visit or telephone, please do so.

Sister Annie Britt has recently returned from Ozark, Alabama, her hometown, where she visited family and friends including her daughter, Kim; and grandson, Zack, who is an outstanding basketball player for the Carroll Eagles. She reported a wonderful visit.

Services were well attended at the New Hope Baptist Church, 2002 Birch Avenue, where Rev. B. R. Moton is the proud pastor. If you are looking for a church home, then visit New Hope, the "Church Where The People Really Care."

Services began last Sunday morning with Meditation and Prayer. The Praise Team sung out of their hearts and souls. What a time! The morning scripture and prayer were offered. Several selections were sung by the New Hope Choir.

The morning sermon was delivered by Pastor Moton. His subject was "Giving Thanks Is The Key To Wholeness." His scripture was Hebrews 13:5-6. It was another splendid message, and was just right for the New Year! After an invitation to discipleship was extended, the morning announcements were read by Brother Napoleon Cooper. Brother Ronny Robinson welcomed all visitors.

## In Remembrance

**C. B. Benson**  
Chilton, Texas - Funeral services for C. B. Benson were held Sunday morning, December 31, 2006, for C. B. Benson at the St. Paul United Methodist Church with Rev. Leo Groen officiating. Rev. Norris Jackson was the eulogist.

Interment was held in the Mooreville Cemetery in Mooreville, Texas under the Paul Funeral Home of Marlin and H. W. Williams Chapel of Calvert.

Mr. Benson is the brother of Joe Benson of Lubbock. He was born to Bessie Fulbright Benson and Joe Benson on December 12, 1915 in Mooreville, Texas.

C. B. confessed Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior at an early age. He was a devoted member of St. Paul United Methodist Church where he served 35 years as Sunday School Superintendent.

He married Irene Freeman Benson. He and Irene were married for 68 years, and during this union four children were born.

A son, J. T.; two sisters; his loving wife, Irene; two grand sons and one great-grandson preceded him in death.

For several years, C.B. was employed by the Chilton I.S.D. as a bus driver. He was also employed by the turkey plant in Marlin. Later, he opened and operated his own business which was known as the "Café."

He leaves to cherish his memory: a daughter, Coala (Clemmie) Smith of Waco; two sons, Woodrow (Luda) Benson of Chilton and Homer Lee (Gaynell) Benson of Waco; three sisters: Opel Mae (James) Cornell of Harrison, Ruby (Edward) Humphrey of Dallas and Princeola (George) Jackson of Marlin; seven brothers: Leroy (Ida) Benson, Chester (Ruthie) Benson, James Benson, Freddie (Darlene) Benson and Jerry Benson, all of Dallas, Lonnie (Verda) Benson of Waco and Joe (Jessie) Benson of Lubbock; a sister-in-law, Aradie (G.B.) Johnson of Swallowwater; two brothers-in-law, C. L. Freeman of Lubbock and Archie Lee Freeman of Portland, Oregon; twelve grandchildren; thirty great-grandchildren; nine great-great-grandchildren; and a host of family and friends.

Active pallbearers were Tracy Johnson, Keith Smith, Tony Washington, Don Taylor, Michael Fields, and Davin Smith.

**Deacon Howard Morgan**  
Littlefield, Texas - Funeral services were held for Deacon Howard Morgan last Saturday afternoon, January 6, 2007, at the New Jerusalem Baptist Church with Rev. Raymond Foster, pastor, officiating. Interment was held in the City of Littlefield with McCarty Funeral Home of Littlefield in charge of arrangements.

Active pallbearers were Richard Morgan, Gregory Morgan, Thaddeus Morgan, Broderick Morgan, Brian Morgan, Willie Morgan, Clayton Morgan, Cory Morgan, Dedrick Morgan, and Gregory Scott.

Deacon Morgan passed away in his sleep on Tuesday morning, January 2, 2007.

He was born in Paris, Texas on May 6, 1916 to Mr. Henry and Mrs. Birdie Morgan. He was a carpenter by trade. He joined the U. S. Army and was honorable discharged. Deacon Morgan was a faithful member of the New Jerusalem Baptist Church until his health failed.

His mother, father, seven children, three brothers and three sisters preceded him in death.

He is survived by his wife, June Morgan; a sister, Ruby Morgan-Phillips of Paris, Texas; a nephew, rev. George Henry (Barbara) Morgan of Clovis, New Mexico; a sister-in-law, Joyce Wright of Lubbock; eleven sons and eight daughters: R. C. (Laverne) Morgan of Stayton, Oregon, Timothy Morgan of Los Angeles, California, Richard Morgan and Clayton (Marcy) Morgan, both of Lubbock, Gregory (Vickie) Morgan and Willie (Veronica) Morgan, both of Littlefield; Broderick (Tammie) Morgan of McDonough, Georgia, Brian (Maya) Morgan of San Diego, California, Thaddeus (Paulita) Hollis and Dedrick Morgan, both of San Antonio. Also, Mary Helen Williams, Charlene McCanick, Vivian Johnson and

Franzetta Morgan, all of Littlefield, Helen (LaeRoy) Danford, Clara Moody, both of Lubbock, Swainza (Weldon) Wormly of Arton, and Alesia (Jeremy) Morrison of New Port News, Virginia; and 55 grandchildren; a host of great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

**John D. White**  
Funeral services for John D. White were held Saturday morning, January 6, 2007, at the New Light Baptist Church with Rev. James Canavaugh, pastor, officiating. Burial was held in Resthaven Cemetery under the direction of

Griffin Mortuary and Funeral Home of Lubbock.

Mr. White passed away Sunday, December 31, 2006, at the University Medical Center.

## Concerned Citizens of Lubbock present gift certificate

Based upon information received from the Lubbock Avalanche Journal, the Concerned Citizens of Lubbock presented Jean Ragsdale a United Supermarket Gift Certificate. The certificate, more than \$100, was presented Saturday, December 16, 2006, by Concerned Citizens members Arthur "Gut" Jones, Dwanya Pierce and William Burrell. The certificate came from the United Supermarket Parkway

Drive unit. Since 1991, Mrs. Ragsdale has had to raise three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren due to unfortunate occurrences with the parents. She was surprised and very thankful there are people within the immediate community willing to assist her family.

"The Concerned Citizens of Lubbock was formed to aid and assist people like the

Ragsdales," said Arthur "Gut" Jones, who is a longtime friend of the family.

Clarence Denson is president of the Concerned Citizens of Lubbock, and may be contacted by calling (806) 744-5050.

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## Dr. King's Dream

Jeremiah 23:28  
By Katie Parks  
King's dream will come true,  
If you and I will help it too,  
Fight wrong Peacefully, hand in hand,  
Let everyone know, a man is a man.  
Be involved in your Community,  
Assist less fortunate Sisters and Brothers  
And all of the Vice, Crime and trickery  
Together we can smother.  
Climb to the highest Mountain,  
Open every door that's closed  
In the Minorities' face,  
But let God be the leader of the race.  
Yes, climb to the top of the Mountain  
As Dr. King wanted us to do,  
Open all closed doors, they walked proudly through.  
Stormy will be the road we trod  
Bitter will be the casting because it  
Was built in a day when hope was unborn had died.  
Medgar Evers, Sunday School Children  
Dr. King, and hundreds, died too.  
To make the dream of King come true, rest in Peace, Dr. King.  
The same God that led Moses across the Red Sea,  
The same that freed Nelson Mandela.  
The same God that tore down the Berlin Wall,  
The same God that led T.J. Patterson on his fight against drugs.  
The same God will lead us to Victory.  
That, and only that, we will not need to sing,  
We Shall Overcome, As we have in the past.  
We can sing, we have Over Come, and we are free at last,  
Oh, Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!  
Free at last, Free at last!

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Hamburger	.99
Combo Special #46 (3 Hamburgers)	4.85
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2 Apple Pies	1.60
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# Church News



## We Thank God for Jesus Free at Last, Free at Last!!!

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

**John 8:31-32** - Jesus said, if ye continue in word, then are ye, MY disciples indeed. And ye shall know the TRUTH (JESUS), and the TRUTH SHALL MAKE (NOT SET, MAKE) you free.

THE LORD had BLESSED THIS COUNTRY, when it had Prayer, FAITH AND RIGHTS; AND NOW IT'S A LAND OF BLOOD.

**Isaiah 1a** - THE LORD SAID, Ah sinful nation, a people laden (WEIGHED DOWN) with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, CHILDREN that are CORRUPTERS, they have FORSAKEN THE LORD.

It started in the 60's, when THE CHRISTIANS MARCHED FOR MAN'S RIGHTS. THEY DISOBEYED THE LAWS OF THE LAND. NOW THE CHILDREN DISOBEY, DAY AND NIGHT.

\*\*\* WILL THE CHRISTIANS ROB GOD??? \*\*\*

**Luke 20:25** - JESUS SAID, Render (GIVE) therefore unto CAESAR (THE GOVERNMENT) the things which be CAESAR'S AND UNTO GOD THE THINGS WHICH BE GOD'S.

The Christians follow this man; NOT FROM THE BIBLE, BUT FROM HIS DREAMS. NOW THE NATION IS OVER RUN WITH UNHEARD OF SINS THE NIGHTMARES OF THAT DREAM!!!

\*\*\* WILL A DREAM ROB GOD??? \*\*\*

**Jeremiah 23:25-28** - I have heard what the prophets said, that prophesy LIES in MY NAME, SAYING, I HAVE DREAMED, I HAVE DREAMED. How long shall this be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy LIES? Yes, they are prophets of DECEIT OF THEIR OWN HEART. Which think to cause MY PEOPLE TO FORGET MY NAME by their DREAMS which tell every man to

his neighbour, as their fathers have FORGOTTEN MY NAME FOR BA'-AL (THE DREAMER). The prophet that hath MY WORD, let him SPEAK MY WORD FAITHFULLY. What is chaff to the wheat? SAITH THE LORD.

And then ONE LADY RIGHTS SAID THERE WILL BE NO PRAYER IN THE SCHOOLS. Now there are DRUGS, GUNS, CONDOMS (RUBBERS); AND I ASK WHO IS THE FOOL?

**Romans 1-21-23a** - Because that, when they (THE CHRISTIANS) knew GOD, THEY (THE CHRISTIANS) knew GOD, THEY (THE CHRISTIANS) glorified him not as GOD, neither were THANKFUL; but became vain in their IMAGINATIONS, and their foolish heart was DARKENED. Professing themselves to be WISE. THEY (THE CHRISTIANS) BECAME FOOLS. And changed the GLORY of the INCORRUPTIBLE GOD into an IMAGE MADE LIKE TO CORRUPTIBLE MAN.

And even now, THE CHRISTIANS GOTO CHURCH, TO CELEBRATE THIS CORRUPTIBLE MAN, THEY'RE WORSHIPPING A DEAD MAN; AND THAT IS A GREAT, GREAT SIN.

**Mark 7:6** - JESUSSAID, wells hath E-sai as prophesied of YOU HYPOCRITES, AS IT IS WRITTEN, THIS PEOPLE HONORETH ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR FROM ME.

They knew there will be a BIG CROWD & BIG OFFERING. MONEY IS THE THING, THEY'RE NOT LIFTING UP THE LORD ANYMORE, SHAME, SHAME, SHAME.

**Galatians 6:7** - Be not DECEIVED, GOD IS NOT MOCKED (RIDICULED) for whatsoever a Man SOWETH (PUT OUT), that shall he also

REAP (COME IN).

I, Billy 'B. J.' Morrison, FOLLOWED this thing at one time, thinking changed, I MET JESUS CHRIST.

I let him into LIFE, AND NOW MY LIFE IS EVER SO SWEET. HE GAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND THE POWER TO PUT THE DEVIL UNDER MY FEET.

GOD, NOW BLESSES EVERYTHING AND ALL THAT I TRY TO DO. GIVE HIM YOUR rights. LET HIM IN YOU LIFE. HE'LL DO THE SAME THING FOR YOU.

**John 8:12** - JESUS SAID, I AM the light of the WORLD; he that FOLLOWETH ME shall not walk in DARKNESS, but shall have THE LIGHT OF LIFE.

For my FREEDOM, no one had to give up their SEAT ON THE CITY BUS. MY FREEDOM came down from HEAVEN ABOVE, AND THAT WAS ENOUGH.

FOR MY freedom no one had to get bit BY THE POLICE DOGS. My FREEDOM came from CALVARY, OUT THERE ON THAT OLD RUGGED CROSS.

For my FREEDOM, no one had to get HIT, WITH THE POLICE CLUBS. MY FREEDOM CAME FROM JESUS CHRIST DYING FOR ME, AND THAT WAS LOVE.

\*\*\* FREE AT LAST, FREE AT LAST, THANK GOD FOR JESUS, FREE AT LAST \*\*\*

**John 3:16** - JESUS SAID, for GOD so LOVED THE WORLD, that he GAVE HIS only begotten SON (JESUS), THAT WHOSOEVER (THAT'S YOU) BELIEVETH IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.

GOD is not through with US YET. So let's PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER ALWAYS!



## From the Desk of Parson D.A. Smith A Total Disregard of the Laws of the Land

I would appreciate my readers giving me some feedback through the "Letters to the Editor" of the Southwest digest on the following: Tyrone Williams, a black male born in Jamaica was convicted last month for his role in the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt. Williams was convicted on 58 counts of conspiracy, harboring and transporting immigrants in a sweltering trailer, which he abandoned near Victoria on the way from South Texas to Houston in 2003. Nineteen of the illegal Mexican immigrants died because they could not get out of the locked trailer. The juror is to decide for Williams's life or death. What is your opinion on the effect of how Williams's murderous inhuman behavior will have on American born black males who do not condone such behavior-black males who are red-blooded Americans that believe in sacredness of life and who do not believe in illegal immigration and making a fast buck from downtrodden lives? Your opinion is very much appreciated.

Here we go again! Government is infringing upon on the rights of American citizens by the stroke of the pen of George W. Bush. A signing statement attached to postal legislation last month may have

opened the way for BIG BROTHER GOVERNMENT to opened and read your mail without a warrant. The old law requires government agents to get warrants to open first-class letters. The only exception was if post inspectors suspected a letter or the like contained something dangerous, like a-bomb, hazardous chemical etc.

White House spokesman Tony Snow plays the act up as being nothing new by saying: "All this is saying is that there are provisions at law for - in exigent (requiring immediate aid or action or requiring or calling for much) circumstances - for such inspections. It has been thus. This is not a change in law, this is not new ... what the signing statements indicates is what present law allows, in making it clear what the provisions are."

Snow was referring to President Bush's statement about federal law that also gives the government authority to open the mail "for foreign intelligence collection."

A lawyer for the ACLU (the ACLU is a group of lawyers that white conservatives would just as well remember they would disappear from the face of the earth) said, "His (Bush) signing statement uses language that's broader than that exception. Bush uses the phrase 'exigent

circumstance'; the question is what does that mean and why has he suddenly putting this in writing if this isn't a change in policy."

According to the American Bar Association report, George W. Bush has issued at least 750 signing statements during his presidency, more than all other presidents combined.

To make it plain to you who are reading, whenever Bush signs one of these signing statements, Congress is like a newborn baby with a wet diaper. They cannot clean themselves or do nothing about it.

Bush's action is seemed to be befitting a dictator, for it is noted by the news media, he often reserve the right to revise, interpret or disregard laws on national security and constitutional ground.

If this is not enough, wait until I explain how the government through Social Security is planning to appease illegal Mexican nationals through making their social security checks more than yours in 18 quarters (a year and a half) and with perhaps your stolen social security number. Americans have to work 10 years. Who let the freaking dog out? I wonder what my conservative friends are going to say when their Social Security check comes up short.

## Outreach Prayer Breakfast

The Outreach Prayer members and friends met in the home of Rev. and Sister Larry Brooks last Saturday morning, January 6, 2007. It was the first meeting of the 2007 year. How blessed all were to be present. Sister Christene Burleson, Sister Patricia Harvest, Brother Haggerty and Sister Luella Spence were responsible for the devotion. All want to just thank God for the spirit filled women and men who were present.

The morning scripture lesson was taught by Rev. Brooks. His subject was "Prophecy, Be Ready!" The scriptures were II Thessalonians 2:9 and Revelations 10:11.

Then he told me, you must prophesy further about many peoples' nations, tribes and kings. There's an unholy trinity. There's a Christ and there's an Antichrist.

This man of sin will come as Satan's tool, full of Satanic power, and will trick everyone with strange demonstrations, and will do great miracles. He will completely fool those who are on their way to hell because they have said "No" to the truth. They have refused to believe it and love it and let it save them, so God will allow them to believe lies with all their hearts.

**Revelation 13:16-17** - He required everyone great and small, rich and poor, slave and free to be tattooed with a certain mark on the right hand or on the forehead. And no one could get a job or even buy in any store without the permit of that mark which was either the name of the creature or the code number of his name 666.

Thanks, Rev. Brooks for this scripture lesson. May God continue to bless you in the word. Also,

to all our guests, you're special to us. Please come again!

The delicious breakfast was prepared and served, with a lot of love, by Sister Brooks and Sister Elnora Jones. These are the best cooks in these parts.

We are praying for people who are not feeling well as this article is written. Also for those who have lost loved ones. Read the word and apply it to your situation: **Mark 11:22-26 & II Chronicles 7:14.**

**Thought:** "Make a New Years Resolution to love all people, regardless of color, rather they love you or not. That's their problem."

Thanks for reading, Saints! Sister Dorothy Hood, president; Sister Christene Burleson, vice president; Sister Elnora Jones, teacher; and Sister Pattie White and Sister Patricia Harvest, secretaries.

## St. Matthew's Baptist Church News

Church services again were well attended last Sunday morning, January 7, 2007, the 'first Sunday of the New Year' at the St. Matthew Baptist Church, 2020 East 14th Street, where Rev. Edward Canady is the proud pastor.

Services got underway with Sunday School beginning at 10:10 a.m. with Superintendent Luella Harris in charge. The morning lesson was taught by Sister Harris, and reviewed by Pastor Canady. The subject of the morning lesson was "Be Free." The scripture text was John 8:31-38; 48-56 & 58-59. These are some very good scriptures. It reminds us that if we sin we are a slave.

\*\*\*  
The morning worship hour got underway at 11:15 a.m. with Deacon Edward Williams and

Brother Gerald Jackson in charge of the morning devotion. The St. Matthew Baptist Church Choir sung out of their hearts and souls. Praise God for them!

Pastor Canady delivered a wonderful message. His subject was "The Only Way!" His scripture text was John 14:6. We thank God for the word.

\*\*\*  
Let us continue to pray for our

sick and shut-in members. Those members include Sister Shirley Jackson, who is a patient at Covenant Hospital; Sister Ethel Williams, and Sister Oretta Moore.

Let us always remember the homeless and hungry.

\*\*\*  
**Thought of the Week:** "Pride and lust are hidden stones over which many people stumble."

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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 sin - 1 Cor. 15:3  
We must do God's will and obey him in order to be saved - Matt. 23:1-10  
How do we stay there?  
Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17  
Believe Jesus Christ is the son of God - Mark 16:7  
Repent of your sin - Luke 13:3  
Confess - Romans 10:9  
Be baptized for the forgiveness of your sin - Acts 2:38  
Be baptized with - Rev. 2:10

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# Devotional: Looking at where you've been

This devotional was written by Kelly McFadden

*"Then I said to you, 'Do not be terrified; do not be afraid of them. The Lord your God, who is going before you, will fight for you, as he did for you in Egypt, before your very eyes, and in the desert. There you saw how the Lord your God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place.' In spite of this, you did not trust in the Lord your God, who went ahead of you on your journey, in fire by night and in a cloud by day, to search out places for you to camp and to show you the way you should go." Deuteronomy 1:29-33*

After living in England for a year, I had a new appreciation for rowing. One day, we convinced a friend to take us out on the boat to give it a try. We were assigned positions within the boat, and our coxswain was seated ready to guide and steer us through the River Thames. We learned how to stroke and move our bodies in rhythm with the other rowers. The hardest part for me, however, was not being able to see where we were going. My job was to row, it was the coxswain's job to watch where we were headed. "Life's a lot like rowing," a friend once told me. "You only know where you've been."

The Israelites had traveled through the desert for more years than they probably wished to count. Spies had been sent up to the land - the Promised Land. The journey would soon be over. Upon returning, the men reported that the people were larger and stronger, and the people of Israel were scared. They cried out to Moses and asked why God had brought them there to die. Then Moses said something that I often have to remind myself of: The gift of what he said was: Quit looking forward and being paralyzed in fear. God will fight for you! Look at all He has done in the past. He carried you in your time of need, He guided you in the darkness

when you couldn't find your way and was with you in the light when things seemed easier and clearer. *Trust in the God of blessings who sees all and knows all.* We may not know what lies ahead, but we know where we have been. Wherever you are in your journey, whether a time of light or a time of darkness, God is with you. As the Israelites demonstrated to us over and over, it is often too easy to forget how God has carried us in the past when challenges face us ahead. If you find yourself wondering where God is, or becoming paralyzed with fear over what is next, hold tight to this: *The Lord your God, who is going before you, will*

*fight for you, as he did for you in \_\_\_\_\_ (Fill in the blank). God will carry you as He has done before, as He always will.*

2. Make a list of at least three ways God has delivered you in the past.

**FURTHER READING:**  
Deuteronomy 1, Psalm 13; Romans 15:13

Have A Blessed Day!

## Nine tricks to help you if you're bad with names

Courtesy of CareerBuilder.com

Two strangers meet at a networking function. One person speaks up first. "Hi, I'm Laura Mulford," she says, offering her hand to her partner.

"Raj Babu," he responds with a handshake. "Nice to meet you." The whole exchange takes less than four seconds. Ten minutes later, neither person can remember the other's name.

Ah, names. Some people have gift for remembering them. But for far too many of us, they go in one ear and right out the other. Unfortunately, referring to everyone as "hey" or "you" can be suicide when it comes to networking. "In networking, names are the good stuff," say Anne Barber and Lynne Waymon, co-authors of 'Make Your Contacts Count' (Amacom). "It will be mighty difficult for you to initiate a relationship with someone if you don't know that person's name."

If remembering others' names is downright impossible for you, try out these tips from Barber and Waymon:

1. Repeat the first name or confirm the last name. Simply saying, "It's nice to meet you, Chuck," or "and your last name was...?" will help you register the name and give it a better chance to implant itself into your memory.
2. Ask a question or make a comment about the person's name. "Nice to meet you, Julia. My college roommate's name was Julia, so I'll have no problem remembering you."
3. Ask the person to spell his or her

name. "Abby, do you spell your name with a 'y' or with an 'ie'?"

4. Associate the name with a picture in your mind. If you meet a CEO named Arthur, visualize him as King Arthur with the knights of the Round Table. "Some people like this technique; others say it confuses them," warn Barber and Waymon. "Only use it if it's helpful."
5. Ask how the person got his name. "Savannah, were you named after the city?"
6. Tell the person what you have heard about him. "I heard you organized this whole event, Peter."
7. Keep your energy level high. Let your body language and tone of voice signal that you are honestly trying to learn the other person's name and teach her yours. According to Barber and Waymon, people say this is flattering.
8. Always say the person's name again as you leave her. "It was good to meet you, Jen."
9. Handle forgotten names with grace. No, whining about how bad you are with names is not graceful. Instead, ask a friend to remind you, or if you can recall where you met that person, say, "I remember meeting you at the conference in Seattle. I'm Sarah Ansari. Will you tell me your name again?" The person may have forgotten your name too, and will be grateful for your reintroduction.

Always remember: making small talk about a person's name may take time, but it could save you embarrassment later on!

## SPC announces Defensive Driving dates

South Plains College will be holding a defensive driving course on January 27 at the Levelland campus. All courses begin at 7:45 am through 3:00 pm.

Those attending must bring the course fee, driver's license and court information, if the class is for ticket dismissal. A driver's license is not required to take the class.

Courses are also scheduled for February 17, March 24, April 14 and May 5.

The course fee is \$25.00 and cash, check or money orders are accepted. All students must pre-register prior to the class. To pre-register, call 806-894-9611, extension 2291.

The six-hour National Traffic Institute Course discusses defensive driving, driving tactics, traffic rules and regulations, safety and proper operation of a motor vehicle on Texas highways. The

course meets the Texas Education Agency requirements for ticket dismissal or insurance premium reduction.

Course completion certificates are mailed from Austin for ticket dismissal 21-days following the class. Completion certificates for those individuals taking the class for insurance purposes will be issued after the completion of the class.

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There will be more information to come about this exciting event!  
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# Are God's People Sexual Beings?

## The Black Church and Sexuality

Part Two of a Three Part Series on The Black Church

By Angela Bronner, AOL Black Voices

Sex and sexuality permeate the fabric of our modern world - not only is it constant rotation on MTV and BET, but we talk about it everywhere - chat rooms, lunchrooms, boardrooms, in cozy corners with our girlfriends, even barbershop chairs with our boys.

Come Sunday morning, though, there is a deafening silence around sex, for a few hours at least. Whether deemed inappropriate or simply not relevant, the question must be asked, if Jesus the Christ, the most significant figure in Christianity, was conceived through an immaculate conception, then how and where does sex fit into church?

Asking may be blasphemous to some, but to others, long overdue, especially given how sex affects us. The black church historically has been a political, social and economic center for the black community, yet sex and sexuality have remained taboo within its confines.

In recent years, however, there has been a shift. We now stand at an interesting historical moment where sexual scandals (sometimes inside the church itself), the gay rights movement, a barrage of media coverage of "the DL" (Down Low) and the skyrocketing rates of HIV and AIDS in the black community, have all intersected and forced many churches to not only focus on the "spiritual" bodies of believers but the flesh as well.

"I think that the last five years, sexuality the discourse has become more normal within the black church context," notes Rev. Eboni K. Marshall, youth minister at the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem. "In terms of the rising AIDS rates in our community, homosexuality, and teenage pregnancy, we are discussing it more and trying to make the Gospel relevant to issues which are rampant in our community."

Marshall, a minister in her mid-20s, may represent a new way of thinking in the black church, though she shies away from terms such as revolutionary. With the blessing of long-time Abyssinian pastor Rev. Calvin O. Butts, Rev. Marshall last year introduced a program on sex and sexuality for teens in the congregation covering everything from emotions surrounding sex to relationships, teenage pregnancy, contraception, abstinence and "a lot of discussion around choices." "In light of my willingness and the pastor's willingness to broach the issue, the young people are comfortable speaking to me," Rev. Marshall says. Not only did the course open the youth of her church up to her, but she says that all the feedback was positive. "And they know that Jesus was not going to strike anyone down for talking about sex," she chuckles.

Yet, for all the positive aspects some see in discussion of sex and sexuality in the church, there are as many stories of sexual scandal within its hallowed walls. Apparently, sex combined with the power of the pulpit can be a lethal combination.

In the last three years, the Boston archdiocese of the Catholic Church alone has paid out over \$150 million dollars in legal settlements and costs related to sex abuse by its clergy. In terms of the black church specifically, one of the most prominent cases occurred in 1997, when the Rev. Henry J. Lyons, head of the National Baptist Convention USA, clumsily fell from grace after his wife set fire to the \$700,000 home he bought with his mistress. After being convicted of racketeering and grand theft, Lyons spent almost five years in prison.



Gospel great Donnie McClurkin says he's cured of "the curse of homosexuality. I am delivered and I know God can deliver others, too," the Grammy-winning crooner said of his past dealings in same-sex relationships.

Poet and author Haki Madhubuti, founder of Third World Press and seminal participant in the Black Arts movement, recounts in his recently released memoir 'Yellow Black' his mother's life as a sex worker for clergymen (and even a rabbi) throughout the Midwest during his childhood.

"I began to see how men of power and influence in the black community not only misuse that, but the canonical text of the Bible," Madhubuti says. "It was a very negative experience and really colored my whole view of Christianity. There were so many contradictions among its leaders." The Chicago-based publisher who says he never really returned to the church, does admit that he respects its place in the community. But he calls the black church to task for not taking on the issues of the day around sexuality.

"We need to be in the forefront in the fight against HIV and AIDS. The church should be there instead of condemning homosexuality," he says. "Homosexuality is not discussed at all. It is basically ignored but has always been a mainstay."

Author E. Lynn Harris, whose most recent book 'I Say A Little Prayer' deals with homosexuality

in church through its main character, Chauncey Greer, agrees that sexuality of any type is not really discussed in the church.

"I remember growing up in the church. It's not like they're just banning gays, it's not like they're flaunting heterosexuality either," he says.

Harris says he wants the dialogue to begin to open up around sexuality and homosexuality specifically. He feels that some anti-gay sermons are not only hurtful to people but may encourage dishonest behavior.

"It was always a sermon, if you're gay, you're going to hell. And sometimes the sermons were vicious. And I'd see a lot of gay men would be up there waving their hands and waving their handkerchiefs at the ministers, encouraging them, and then I'd see later that evening at Tracks [a gay club in DC]," said Harris.

"They're taking action doing marches and using words like sissy and faggot in the church and from the pulpit to show us how much you're not wanted there," he says. "Just two Sundays ago a black minister asked all the real men of the church to stand up and I don't mean no sissies and faggots. How hurtful is that? I'm a man. I believe in Christ. What

does that make me?"

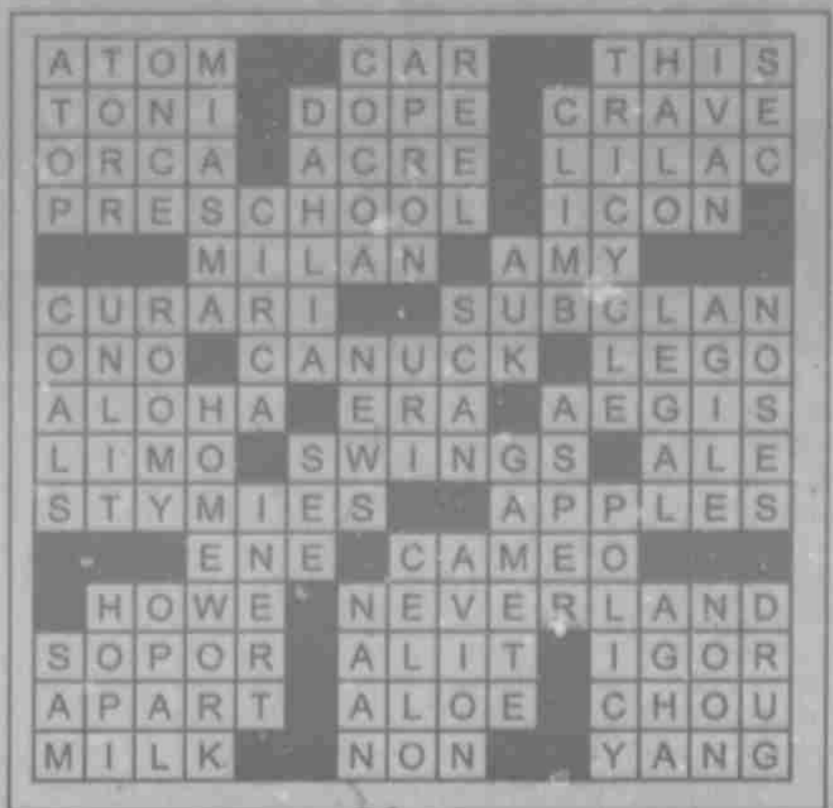
In recent years many high profile people in the black community have denounced homosexuality and feel that church is the place to castigate its scourge, not discuss it as a legitimate "lifestyle." Grammy-winning Gospel vocalist Donnie McClurkin, who has written about his struggle with gay relationships in his book 'Eternal Victor, Eternal Victim,' and whose 2004 documentary, 'From Darkness To Light' also explores the subject, and says that he vows to battle "the curse of homosexuality."

McClurkin, who said that his sexual orientation was caused by molestation when he was a child, says that homosexuality can be overcome by faith. "Love is pulling you one way and just is pulling you another and your relationship with Jesus is tearing you," McClurkin has said. Like many evangelical Christians, McClurkin is of the "hate the sin, not the sinner" school of thought. "If that's the case, we're applying that to everybody in the church because all of us are sinners," says Harris. "They make it seem like being gay is such a despicable sin, there's no way to recover. I could go more noble than the pope and Mother Teresa put together in my service to mankind, but this one thing is going to keep me out of heaven."

"I think that homosexuality is still an issue toward which the black church still struggles with in terms of how we talk about it," concedes Rev. Marshall. "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. It's not about hating sin, but acknowledging sin and all of us including pastors, lay people, deacons - we are all in this together."

"Just in recent times, we have come to find that our body and spiritual selves are irrevocably connected," she continues. "We're not just saving our souls but our bodies. It's about making choices and protecting ourselves."

Last Week's Crossword Puzzle Answers: Childhood



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# Editorials • Comments • Opinions



## THIS 'N' THAT

by T.J. Patterson

**LET'S SUPPORT 36TH DR. KING CELEBRATION!** THIS N THAT is asking the BLACK COMMUNITY to really SUPPORT the upcoming 36TH ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION, which will occur this week between Friday, January 12 and Monday evening, January 15. It will get underway with the annual MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMEMORATIVE COUNCIL, INC. BANQUET at the McInturf Center at University Medical Center. It starts at 6:30 p.m. and will feature a dynamic speaker, DR. GLADYS WHITTEN. There will be a special night for YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS on Saturday evening, January 13 at 6:30 p.m. at Alderson Middle School (located at 219 Walnut Avenue). Appearing on program, as we were advised, will be the NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH MALE CHORUS. Get this! The ANNUAL CITYWIDE CELEBRATION will be held Sunday evening, January 14, at the Lakeridge United Methodist Church, located at 4701 82nd Street at 5:00 p.m. Guest speaker will be DR. LYDIA JACKSON WATERS, former pastor of the Crossroads/Nija Panda United Methodist Church in Compton, California, and graduate of Dunbar High School. Also on the program Sunday evening will be REV. SONJA J. BEATY, Pastor of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, who will give the occasion. This should be an outstanding evening and very informative evening. Hopefully,

many of our WHITE & HISPANIC FRIENDS will be in attendance of the CITYWIDE CELEBRATION. Closing out the four day celebration will be Monday night January 15, which is the official birthday celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who would have been 78 years young this year. The celebration is capped off with an OLD TIME GOSPEL NIGHT. This event will take place at the GREATER ST. LUKE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, located at 2202 Birch Avenue beginning at 6:30 p.m.

**PENNY HASTINGS THE BARBER SAYS, "BE HUMBLE and you will not STUMBLE!"**

**GOOD TO SEE LADIES INVOLVED THIS ANNUAL CELEBRATION! THIS N THAT** is glad to see that our OUTSTANDING BLACK FEMALES are taking center stage in this upcoming 36th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. event. It is just good to see this take place. Let us salute the MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMEMORATIVE COUNCIL OF LUBBOCK, INC. for this initiative. Those outstanding ladies are DR. GLADYS WHITTEN, DR. LYDIA JACKSON WATERS & REV. SONIA J. BEATY. THIS N THAT wants to thank these ladies for their participation.

**LISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED! THIS N THAT** would hope some group in the LUBBOCK BLACK COMMUNITY would address our Lubbock Independent School

Board of Trustees about the PROPOSED DISCONTINUATION OF THE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY which is scheduled for JANUARY, 2008. This holiday and COLUMBUS DAY will be discontinued, as according to the proposal. THIS N THAT is hoping someone from the LUBBOCK BLACK COMMUNITY will address this issue. Surely there is an opportunity to find a way to find another holiday to increase instruction for our youth. This would be out of step with the national recognition of DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., especially considering the construction of a \$100 MILLION MEMORIAL for Dr. King that is being planned in Washington, D.C. Already, over 60% of the funds have already been raised. These funds are not tax monies, but monies from the private sector. PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH was one of many who attended the groundbreaking event in December. So the question is, WILL ANYONE STAND UP FROM THE LUBBOCK BLACK COMMUNITY?

**STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR MLK LITTLE LEAGUE! THIS N THAT** is still asking as many as can to VOLUNTEER for the Martin Luther King Little League, as it will not be long before the season will open at a new location on East 19th Street. If you are interested, then call QUINCY WHITE at the Lubbock Housing Authority at 762-1191. Let's get behind our young people!



## Think About It!

### Just The Best

by Eddie P. Richardson

2006 has come and gone! 2007 is now! On the scene all old things are now on the horizon. 2007 is now upon us now. So let's make the best of it. Welcome 2007.

Every year, the first of the year is one of the most lived season of every year. The New Year resolutions include some as stop smoking, stop drinking, lose a certain amount of pounds and you can be specific in the number of pounds. Some of us prepare to lose pounds instead of not saying "I am not, but I will do my best." "I can and try hard to stop hard, or lose by working at by commitment." You see, most of us, make the same resolution each year after year and never live up to them. We even abandon them almost as soon as we make them.

As for this writer, my personal goal for 2007 is to be the very best I can be everyday, and to be of assistance to those who are less fortunate than me. It is important for me to try to help and encourage others to be the best they can be. We need to try to correct wrong whenever it surfaces and be an example for good and right. We want to encourage others to do the same. We need to let others know how important their personal creed is to them. If it is to be, it is up to me and with the help of God we can live by and do the example of positive vibes. Make things so positive that others can feel us when we are in their presence.

The New Year's resolution for this editorial column is to do as I be truly what the Black press

was designed and founded to be and do. That is to inform the community of what is happening that involve or include good or bad. Our goal is to led the Community so it can or will take the appropriate action and even let the hammer down where ever it falls. And regardless of who it may involve!

We will inform the community of what is going on from the White House to, and even, the out house. This will be our pledge and we promise to you, our precious readers, and our subscribers. Happy New Year to all of you!

\*\*\*

**Closing Thought:** "Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity." - Martin Luther King, Jr.

## We Get Letters!

### Response to Parson D. A. Smith's Article

This letter is in response to Parson D. A. Smith's article December 14, 2006, "The State of Black America Males." Mr. Parson, your comments about the state of the status of our young black males in America and specifically that of most black young males in this city inventorying his futuristic role wherever life will lead them. I'd venture to say that less than 100 young men in Lubbock read and heeded a well-written message to save a generation that's headed for damnation and destruction. The same thing your article contained, I basically wrote a few years ago to the Avalanche Journal's editor. Yes, the letter was published, and there was a negative response

from a reader who said that I should have focused on teaching students in the classroom about the "American Dream and Apple Pie in the sky." In essence, this person felt I was out of line by requesting these unruly and disrespectful males to pull their pants above their waist before entering the place of learning. Sadly, they went to administrators in the building and began to lie and badmouth my character. Basically, some of these unconcerned administrators who sided with these young males, I hope that those administrators who sided with these young men find time to read this editorial comment. Many of you have enabled these young men to disrespect a black man who was educated and graduated from "Raiderland". My message to all of our young black males be it Lubbock or any city or state in America, when you are told that the majority that rule

and make and enforce the laws of this country dictate that mediocrity in your dress habits, lingo, educational skills, and so forth is unacceptable, don't say that I, Parson D. A. Smith, your Pastor, your Mom and Dad, and some of those teachers who really have your interest at heart didn't tell you so. Failure by an individual in America who can't heed the acceptable norms or mores is a thing of the past. If you think this writer is bumping his gums, the City Fathers who make and are bent on forcing and enforcing the laws from sea to shining seas are building the second largest jail in the state of Texas designed for us, blacks and Hispanics, who have tendency to step out of bounds. Again, Mr. Parson, your message was way above and beyond the line!!!

Maurice Williams, Lubbock

## In Cinque

by Renetta Howard



We have seen 2006 go and 2007 come. We have made the usual resolutions to clear out clutter, get onto a sensible weight loss diet, plan to stick to a budget better than in the past; organize our activities in a way not to have any that conflict; have more time for our families and friends; get involved with more positive people and avoid the negatives; things and people. We plan to make this a banner year of doing all of the right things.

It is so easy to say what we are going to do, even when we have a plan and attempt to follow it, but getting it done is not as easy as saying it. One reason

is the fact that January 1 of 2007 came right after December 31, 2006 and the activities of that day are usually always connected to the next day. So connected, that many of us were up and out partying with our friends and families and somewhere under the mistletoe when the clock stuck 12:00 midnight, making the transition from one year to the next.

We carried some 2006 baggage into 2007 and it has to be resolved before we can have a clean slate for the New Year. The pounds that we put on eating all of the holiday menus will not be as easy to take off as they were to put on, but we can take them off. We have to put on our best character to get our minds and hearts in gear to shed those unwanted pounds. The same plan to lose weight can be

used to set our minds in gear to get other things done in a positive manner. We need goals that are attainable. We need to write them down and keep them in a place where we can see them everyday to make sure we do not forget what we are striving to do.

Keeping our budgets in order is a task that many of us need to streamline and keep it that way in order not to have too much month at the end of the money. This resolution can be strengthened by cleaning out the clutter and everything negative in our lives and making a genuine effort to be a better Christian or whatever religious affiliation we choose. We need to get 'in cinque' and get closer to our Gods and pray for world peace. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### Colon cancer task force and survivors to meet

The Lubbock Colon Cancer Prevention Task Force and Survivors meeting will be held Friday, January 26, 2007, from 12:00 noon until 1:30 p.m. at the American Cancer Society office. All members are asked to be in attendance as February 1, 2007, Colon Cancer Prevention Campaign will kick-off with a press conference at the American Cancer Society office.

This year the campaign will expand to all counties on the South Plains of Texas.

For more information, call Center For Cancer Control, Davor Vurgin, MD, FACP, (806) 703-0988.

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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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You 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.

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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."

This is not a propaganda sheet made to chastise or vilify. This is a newspaper made to educate and not to agitate.

The opinions expressed by guest columnists or editors are not necessarily the opinions of the publishers/editors or those of the advertisers. Comments and pictures are welcome but the publishers are not responsible to return articles unless a self-addressed stamped envelope is submitted. All notices must be paid in advance. Story deadline is 5 p.m. on Friday. Advertising deadline is 12:00 pm on Monday, the week of publication.

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### 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@theglobal.net](mailto:swdigest@theglobal.net) or fax your letter to (806) 762-4605

(Gh)ink  
NEWS ITEM: A PENNSACOLA FL. SCHOOL TEACHER WAS CONVICTED OF ACCEPTING BRIBES TO ALLOW STUDENTS TO SKIP CLASS...  
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# Two new Disney shows showcase young actors

Disney is appealing to an even wider audience with two big premieres this week. Corbin Bleu, 17, star of the hit movie, *High School Musical*, Keke Palmer of *Akeelah and the Bee* fame and

White House. "That's So Raven" stars Kyle Massey and Rondell Sheridan will reprise their roles as the son and father, now adjusting to life in Washington after dad Victor is

Massey is the younger brother of Christopher Massey, who plays Michael on the Nickelodeon show, *Zoey 101*.

Kyle's first acting job came by accident. He was accompanying his brother Christopher, on an audition. Sitting in the waiting room together, Kyle was accidentally pulled in to audition. He'd heard his brother singing and had memorized the song, *Ding Dong the Witch Is Dead*. As a result, he was cast in *The Wizard of Oz*, which started him on his road to stardom.

In *Jump In!*, Corbin Bleu stars as a young boxer named Izzy Daniels who trains to follow in his father's footsteps by winning the Golden Glove. When his friend, Mary, played by Keke Palmer, asks him to substitute for a team member in a Double Dutch tournament, the young man discovers a hidden passion for jump roping.

Palmer gained notice with a small role in the feature film, *Barbershop 2 - Back In Business*, at the tender age of nine. She played the niece of Queen Latifah's character, Gina. She undoubtedly stole the scene from Cedric the Entertainer who played

curmudgeonly Eddie. Palmer first gained notice in *Barbershop 2* as the niece of Queen Latifah's (Gina). In her per-

formance, she raises the ire of Cedric the Entertainer (Eddie) during a barbecue. She has also been featured in movies such as

*Madagascar's Family Reunion*, *Akeelah and the Bee*.

Corbin Bleu is a multi-faceted performer with singing, dancing and acting on his resume, and has been on Broadway as well. Bleu was a student of Debbie Allen, who honed his dance skills. While in his freshman year Bleu was cast in his first lead role in the feature film *Catch That Kid* released in 2004. That summer, he became a part of the ensemble cast for the television series "Flight 29 Down", filmed on location in Hawaii.

His biggest project to date was Disney's *High School Musical* which premiered on television in 2006 and became a hit smash and is still going strong.



Kyle Massey stars in "Cory in the House" which premieres this weekend on the Disney Channel. The show is a spinoff of the hit show, "That's So Raven".

Kyle Massey from "That's So Raven" are ready to become this year's newest superstars.

The first is a television comedy called "Cory in the House". Disney Channel's first series spin-off, will feature characters Cory and Victor Baxter from "That's So Raven" and will be set in the

chosen as personal chef to the newly elected president, Richard Martinez. Living in the staff quarters of the White House with his father, teenager Cory has to contend with the antics of the president's 8-year-old daughter and adjust to life at an exclusive Washington school.

## Kids Carnival brings cheer to thousands



Free Raffle tickets were handed out to every child at the Willie E. Gary Kid's Carnival in Stuart, Florida. Gloria Gary and Jovita Williams present a young girl with a bike after her raffle ticket number had been chosen.

STUART, FL - Willie E. Gary, a lawyer in Florida, recently hosted the annual "Kids Carnival" at the Gary law offices in Stuart, Florida. Thousands of children from four counties attended the event to receive toys and enjoy food, pony rides, Christmas music, carnival rides and visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Each year, guests of the Friday night Willie E. Gary Christmas Extravaganza are asked to bring an unwrapped toy for an underprivileged child. Over 10,000 toys were collected at the entrance of the party, where they were greeted by volunteers who sorted the toys according to gender and age.

Many of the toys were distributed during the annual "Kids Carnival." Over 40 organizations from Martin, Indian River, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie counties were invited to bring boys and girls to the carnival to pick out a special gift and enjoy the festivities. The event was open to the public and hundreds of parents arrived early with their children.

Children held their parents' hands and waited eagerly for the Kids Carnival to open at the law offices of attorney Willie Gary. Carnival rides, a giant slide, Santa and Mrs. Claus were all within view, and the boys and girls could barely stand the excitement. Law

firm volunteers were rushing to get thousands of donated toys placed on tables under large white tents, before allowing the crowd in. The carnival is a highly anticipated event on the treasure coast and in most cases, the children who attend would otherwise, not receive any presents for Christmas.

"This is my favorite event," said Gary. "Christmas is about giving to others and making sure that children, who are less fortunate, can also enjoy the excitement of receiving toys. Kids being kids - that's what the carnival is all about," continued Gary. "Our job is to make sure they have fun, and don't have any worries for the day."

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THEME: THE 1980's

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Non-lethal police gun
- Choose instead
- Holier than who?
- Via
- Mark of a saint
- Preparation of hemp plant
- Right coast
- Hurry
- Author of "All Quiet on the Western Front"
- Sonny and Rico starred in this 80s TV hit
- Popular Mediterranean flooring
- Delete
- One of triad that includes Anu and Ea
- Teamed with Bush in 1980
- Popular 80s hairstyle, pl.
- Large coffee pot
- The Mishna and the Gemara
- Twelfth month of civil year
- A brother's daughter
- It is
- Garbo
- UN civil aviation agency
- Often used to describe weather
- "My" in French
- WWII Brigadier General, whose Raiders became famous
- Engistle
- In the preceding month
- Once more
- Typically accompanies an address
- Dr. Huxtable of 80s sitcom
- Dome-shaped dessert
- Type of passage into a mine
- Withered
- Brain-teasing cube inventor
- Refuse
- And elsewhere
- Dwarf buffalo
- Three ahead of PST
- Dance move

DOWN

- Glass stalk
- Asian cuisine, often spicy
- Major and minor
- Often sprinkled on eggnog
- Haven
- "There's no \_\_\_\_\_ like home"
- Drink too much
- 80s mega-hit album, song and video of same name
- Frozen rain
- Half as much as twice
- Exclamation of disgust
- Capital of Cuba
- Medicinal Asian pepper
- Angry
- Comes as a light or a lager
- Of ancient Scandinavian type, as literature or poetry
- American writer Jong
- Opposite of afar
- Any of 4 daughters of Zeus and Mnemosyne
- Fragrant resin used as incense
- Private instructor
- A biased perspective
- Right to another's property
- Originally hosted by VJs
- First launched in 1981
- Relating to a gene
- Chronic drinker
- Sold by a realtor
- Satiny
- Gnostic's intuitions
- Officer's assistants
- Flash of light
- A person, place or thing
- Pulpit
- Bid, past tense
- Cobblestone
- Slope or hillside
- High-pitch bark
- Woman's undergarment

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