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Southwest Digest

A newspaper for the last century, representing the black community's ideas and ideals since 1977

January 25-February 1, 2007

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50¢
Worth More!

902 E. 28th Street
Lubbock, Texas 79404
Phone (806) 762-3612



Two Black coaches make the Super Bowl for the first time



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, Mac Simmons Community Center
- Lubbock Chapter of Black Alumni meets every 3rd Tuesday, 5:30 pm, TTU Market Alumni Center
- Dunbar/MacLellan 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 Groves Library, 5570 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 Iles Elementary Cafeteria.
- Estacado High School Alumni & Faculty Class Reunion meetings are held the second and third Sundays at the Patterson Library, 1136 Parkway Drive, beginning at 7:00 p.m. All Estacado Alumni & Faculty are invited for the 40th All Class Reunion.

BlackNews.com

CHICAGO - It took 41 years for a black head coach to make it all the way to the Super Bowl.

Lovie Smith did it Jan. 21 on a snowy afternoon in Chicago. Four hours later, his good pal and mentor Tony Dungy joined him. Not one, but two black coaches meeting in the nation's biggest sporting spectacle.

It's historic. And it's about time.

Change has come appallingly slow. But now two of the most decent, deserving men have pushed the NFL forward.

And that is a very good thing. "It means a lot," Dungy said after his Indianapolis Colts beat New England 38-34 in the AFC title game. "I'm very proud of being an African-American. I'm very proud of Lovie."

And Smith equally so of Dungy.

"We have to play someone and, in my perfect world, I would like to see the Colts be that team," Smith said after his Chicago Bears pummeled the New Orleans Saints 39-14.

"Tony Dungy has done an awful lot for our game," Smith said. "He hasn't had a chance to coach in the Super Bowl. I would

love to see it."

Now he will.

It wasn't all that long ago that the NFL's best jobs were off-limits to blacks. Never mind that three-quarters of the league's rosters were filled with black players. Or that



Smith

there were qualified black assistants. When the time came to hire a new coach, they were passed over, time and again.

Meanwhile, white coaches who had done little to distinguish themselves in their previous jobs got additional chances. It was the old boys' network at its worst.

There's been some progress over the last two decades. It's been

far slower than it should have been, and it took an active hand by former commissioner Paul Tagliabue to pull it along.

Art Shell and Dennis Green paved the way in the modern era, and Dungy took it a step further. Low key and humble, he would never be the type to grandstand and blatter about injustice. But he was honest about the league's inequalities, and knew that his success would go a long way in opening doors for others.

One of those would be Smith, Dungy's protege in Tampa Bay. He, too, led by example.

When the Bears and Colts take the field in Miami on Feb. 4, men of color who dream of being in the center on the grandest stages will see that the door has been blown wide open. Men of color who have been held back, told in words or deeds that they weren't good enough; will have not one, but two role models as they fight for equal footing.

"Being the first black coach to lead this team, of course our players knew about it and they wanted to help us make history," Smith said. "So I feel blessed to be in that position."

"I'll feel even better to be the first black coach to hold up the world championship trophy."

If he doesn't, at least he'll have the consolation of knowing Dungy will.

Whether he wanted to be or not, Dungy has long been the standard bearer for minority coaches. He was just 25 when he became the



Dungy

NFL's youngest assistant, taking a job on Chuck Noll's Pittsburgh staff. Three years later, he was the defensive coordinator and the odds-on favorite to advance.

Oh, he got plenty of interviews. But somebody else - somebody white - always got the job.

Smith's odyssey was equally bumpy: Tulsa, Wisconsin, Ohio State, Tampa Bay, St. Louis. Those

were only a few of the stops he made in his 20-year journey to become a head coach.

Did both deserve shots before they were hired, Dungy by Tampa Bay in 1996 and Smith by Chicago in January 2004? Certainly. But instead of whining about life being unfair, they have done their part to make sure those who come after them will have an easier path.

"When you have an opportunity like this, of course you want to take advantage of it," Bears running back Thomas Jones said. "Any time you're the first person to do anything, regardless of your race or anything like that, it's special."

Smith and Dungy know the responsibility they carry. Unlike baseball or basketball, it is still news when a team hires a black coach in the NFL. Even bigger news when a black man is hired to run the front office.

With every big victory, they remove another thorn of prejudice.

"I'm happy for both coaches," Colts defensive end Dwight Freeney said. "I hope we get to the point we don't have to hear about it."

The day when a coach's skin is no longer an issue isn't here yet. But by making history together, Smith and Dungy have brought it a little closer.

Community gathers to "meet and greet" Rev. Beaty



Here are some photos of the "Meet & Greet" with Rev. Sonia J. Beaty, pastor of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Members of the community gath-

ered last Sunday afternoon, January 21, 2007, at the Bobbie Gean & T.J. Patterson Library.

This reception was sponsored by the Stewards of Bethel African



Methodist Episcopal Church.

Pastor Beaty expressed her appreciation for such a positive gesture. "I appreciate all who attended, and I am still looking

forward to meeting many other Lubbock citizens", she said.

Even though the weather was rough again this past weekend, the sun finally made the road.



passable on Sunday. We were pleased to see all of the people who ventured out. Many thanks to Hillary Hutchinson for these great photos!

Garden and Arts Center celebrating Black History Month

The Lubbock Municipal Garden and Arts Center will host a reception celebrating Black

History Month during the First Friday Art Trail on February 2 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. To enhance

our celebration, the Estacado Choir will be performing and there will be artist demonstra-

tions by Henry Salley. Featured in the Cultural Hall and Gallery will be African-American folk artist Betty Jenkins and ceramicist Rolando Shaw, both of Lubbock.

Ms. Jenkins thinks of her art as an extension of her self: of her thoughts, emotions and a celebration of her African-American heritage. Originally from Houston, Ms. Jenkins has exhibited for the Lubbock Art Association, the Texas Tech University Library and the Lubbock Regional Arts Center. Along with Ms. Jenkins, Rolando Shaw will be exhibiting selected pottery pieces. Mr. Shaw

is an MFA candidate at the Texas Tech University School of Art.

In our Lobby Gallery, visitors to the Garden and Arts Center will enjoy Willa Finley's photography. Ms. Finley has enjoyed photographing her way around the world while pursuing a career in agriculture. Her photography will feature works shot primarily in Africa.

The Lubbock Municipal Garden and Arts Center is located at 4215 University Avenue. For more information, please call (806) 767-3724, email grg@mylubbock.org or visit our web site at www.lubbockart.org.

Retirement reception scheduled for Upward Bound director, Eric Strong



Strong

The Texas Tech University Division of Student Affairs is hosting a retirement reception honoring twenty-five years of distinguished service for Texas Tech University Upward Bound Director Eric Strong. The event is scheduled for February 2, 2007, Groundhog Day, at the Tech's Market Alumni Center from 3:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m., with remarks scheduled to take place at 4:00 p.m. The public is welcomed and refreshments will be provided.

When asked what his plans are upon leaving the University, Strong said, "I plan to become active in community arts projects

through the Roots Historical Arts Council and to embark on a small publishing endeavor. I also plan to explore some storytelling avenues. I'll miss Upward Bound, but I'm looking forward to doing what I can in the community."

Strong first served Upward Bound as a program counselor in 1981 and went on to hold several positions within the department. In reflecting on what he would miss most about the job, he said, "I'll especially miss the people I've worked with; the students, their families, the staff, and the entire campus community."

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.



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
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What's Inside...

- Fashion Fun.....Page 2
- Chatham Hill.....Page 2
- Church News.....Page 3
- Obituaries.....Page 2
- Editorial.....Page 6
- Classified.....Page 7

Chatman Hills Corner

By Doris Reynolds

One of our local Pastors, Rev. E. W. Austin, New Jerusalem Baptist Church, will be traveling to Brazil with the other Southern Baptist Missionary person to build a 100 seat sanctuary. He will be the only Black in the delegation. Our prayers go with him and all on this endeavor. May God bless him and all in attendance.

The 4th Annual Educators Hall of Fame Banquet, sponsored by the African American Chamber of Commerce, will be held March 8, 2007, at the Science Spectrum, from 6:30 p.m. until 8:45 p.m. Reserved table for 8 is \$300.00, and individual tickets are \$25.00.

This year awards will be given to four educators. Twain's Creole House will cater the event. At this report, this writer has learned that Chancellor Kent Hance has been invited to speak. However, there is no confirmation at this report.

Federation of Choirs will hold its monthly meeting Sunday afternoon, January 28, 2007, at the St. John Baptist Church,

where Rev. Solomon Fields is pastor, beginning at 2:30 p.m. This is the first meeting of the New Year, and all Choirs are asked to be present and start the New Year off with a bang! Sister Bennie Sims is president.

Let us continue to pray for our sick and shut-in citizens who are on the sick and shut-in list. Among them include: Sister Dorothy Nacin, Sister Bernice Wright, Sister Emma Rowe, and Sister Lillie Smith. Also, Brother Rudolph Belvin, Sister Annie McBride, Sister Emma Jackson, Sister Octavia Givens and many more. Sometimes, we, as Christians forget those who are ill at this time. Today, they are on the sick and shut-in list, and tomorrow it could be you or this writer. So, let's not forget these and others with our prayers, telephone messages, and visits when possible.

Word comes to us of a former resident of Lubbock, R. D. Johnson, who apparently was fatally wounded in a car mishap in the Hamilton, Texas area earlier this week. More information

will be forthcoming upon receipt of you who knew him, remember his involvement with the 100 Black Men of Lubbock. Funeral services are pending.

Despite the inclement weather last Sunday morning, January 21, 2007, many New Hope Baptist Church members were in attendance. Services begun with Meditation and Prayer. The Praise Team began their special presentation with the singing of "Thank You, Lord!" After the morning scripture and prayer, the New Hope Baptist Church Choir several selections. Pastor B. R. Moton delivered the morning sermon. His subject was "Take God At His Word", with his scripture text being Genesis 12:1-4; Isaiah 13:7.

The morning announcements were read by Brother Napoleon Cooper. Brother Ronny Robinson welcomed all visitors.

Let us report that Tyrone Ervin had emergency surgery Monday, January 22, 2007, on his leg. Let us not forget him and his family, the Clarence Ervin family of Lubbock.

Brain exercises and video games can help keep your brain sharp

(SPM Wire) Not all exercise makes you sweat. We all know that physical exercise can help many people's hearts, circulation and bones, but now two new studies have found that brief "brain training" can have long-term benefits for seniors.

In a study recently published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), researchers have concluded that ten short sessions of mental exercises in hour-long memory and reasoning classes can help seniors keep their minds sharp for up to five years afterwards and lessen the decline in their ability to perform daily activities.

And if classes aren't your thing, try wresting control of those video games from your grandchildren. According to psychology experts at Canada's McMaster University, seniors who partake of action video games for just four hours a week improve on a host of mental and physical skills - including improved short-term memory, better reaction times, and even more awareness of

their environs. Declines in cognitive abilities among older Americans have been shown to lead to an increased risk of difficulty in performing activities of daily living that, in turn, can lead to increased use of costly hospital, outpatient, home health and nursing home services.

"This study is the first large-scale, randomized trial to show that cognitive training improves cognitive function in well-functioning older adults and that this improvement lasts up to five years from the beginning of the intervention," the JAMA researchers said.

The JAMA study included approximately three thousand men and women with an average age between 73 and 74. The subjects lived in six different cities throughout the country and were observed from 1998 to 2004.

Earlier research had suggested that such activities as crossword puzzles and reading can help keep the brain sharp as people get older. The new research indicates that

classroom activity, computer work and gaming can have similar positive effects on mind health.

FASHION FUN

by Shirley Roberson
GLAMOUR...
SHOW YOUR
INNER SPARKLE



A glamorous slip-on sneaker with sequins and rhinestone trim, shiny rhinestone buckle belt embellished with silvery grommets, stud-trimmed oversized bag, denim capris with rhinestone detailing at waist and thighs, ankle strap sandal with crisscross front straps and a 4 inch sequin embellished wedge, long sleeve crewneck tee with beads and sequins at the shoulders, shrunken leather jacket with rhinestone trim-tailored fit.

Remember ladies you can do a lot by adding a few exciting accessories!

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

Winter gala to benefit Hispanic girls

In an effort to increase the number of scholarships provided annually by the Hispanic Association of Women (HAW), the longest standing women's group in Lubbock that advocates on behalf of Latina women, the organization will be holding a winter gala event.

The gala will be held Saturday, February 10, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., in the banquet room of the Holiday Inn Towers located at 8th and Ave. Q. The event will feature dancing, live entertainment, dinner, and a cocktail hour.

"We (HAW) wanted to hold a formal event that would encourage folks to dress up and have fun, and inadvertently help us raise scholarship funds," said Renee Gonzales, HAW

President. Gonzales said that as a result of an increase in the number of scholarship applicants last year, and a decrease in the amount of scholarship amounts available, members decided to organize the event to generate more scholarship revenue. The proceeds from the gala will be circulated to deserving young women during the annual Hispana of the Year Awards & Scholarship Banquet scheduled in early spring.

Individual tickets for the

event are \$15, couples are \$25, and tables of eight can be reserved by calling Ruby Gonzales at (806) 781-1538.

The Hispanic Association of Women (HAW) is a non-partisan, non-sectarian organization that has been organizing the efforts of Hispanic women within the Lubbock community since 1983. HAW promotes education, defines issues of concern, forms coalitions and develops leadership skills, and strives to empower women and youth.

Hometown Military News

Army Spec. Robert C. Brown has returned to the 6th Infantry Regiment, Baumholder, Germany,



Brown

after being deployed to an overseas forward-operating location in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Operation Iraqi Freedom is the official name given to military operations involving members of the U.S. armed forces and coalition forces participating in efforts to free and secure Iraq. Mission objectives focus on force protection, peacekeeping, stabilization, security and counter-insurgency operations as the Iraqi transitional governing bodies assume full sovereign powers to govern the peoples of Iraq.

Members from all branches of the U.S. military and multinational forces are also assisting in rebuilding Iraq's economic and governmental infrastructure, and training and

preparing Iraqi military and security forces to assume full authority and responsibility in defending and preserving Iraq's sovereignty and independence as a democracy.

Brown, a food service specialist, is the son of Robert and Tanya Brown of N. Tulip Ave., Lubbock, Texas.

The specialist is a 1995 graduate of Roosevelt High School, Lubbock.

Estacado High School Class of 1992

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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|-----------------------|----------|-----------------------------|
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Jack was living in England when his doctor discovered he had a brain tumor. But because of England's socialized medical system, Jack wouldn't be able to get any sort of follow-up care for three months. Afraid to wait that long, Jack called an old friend who worked at the Joe Arrington Cancer Research and Treatment Center (JACC). He recommended that Jack fly to Lubbock as soon as possible. Once he arrived, an expert team of oncologists

confirmed the brain cancer diagnosis. Fortunately, JACC offers the region's most advanced cancer treatment methods. Using some of the newest technology available, JACC oncologists were able to remove all traces of Jack's tumor without making a single incision. Jack was thrilled by the quality of care he received—and touched by the warm welcome he got in the Lone Star State. Today he's cancer-free—and proud to call Texas home.

Jack thought his brain tumor meant the end of the line.

Instead, it heralded a new beginning.



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Church News



We Thank God for Jesus Jesus Is The Answer

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

Revelation 3:20 - Jesus said, behold (look), I stand at the door, and knock. If any man here will give an ear and open the door, I will come into him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

I, Billy "B.J.", was raised in a loving and strong, obedient Christian home. But when I became grown, and Black and proud, I left that old time religion along!!!

Luke 15:13b - The son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

As I played with sin, they became very great. Then became my daily delight. I then got a divorce. Left my children, and 23 years of being married to my wife!!!

Proverb 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your path.

***** Yes, I Robbed God!!!*****
I walked in the filthiness of this of this old world, playing with all its sin and shame. I one day did hear the voice of God. But I was busy. I was doing my own thing!!!

Proverb 22:6 - Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

I did love my life of sin: Beer, Cursing, Gambling, Women, and all the other sins. I know what it is all about and I'm telling it like it was when I

was in the hog pen!!!
Romans 3:22-23 - Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all of them who believe. For there is no difference. For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

The Devil then called me Dr. Blo-Fly, living in filth. He even changed my name. Where do you find flies? But around filthy things. I was there and had no shame!!!

***** I Was The Chief Of Sinners*****
(On my Pick-Up was Blo-Fly. It was written on my T-Shirts, and on my caps was the names of different names of Beer, Tobacco names, and Whiskey names. I did everything I could do to uplift the Devil. Him and I were serving!!! Now you know why my caps have things about Jesus. Down the side of my Pick-Up Truck is: "Lord's Will I Will". The tag on my truck is: "We Thank God For Jesus!!!")

My Cowboy Hats have a Cross. On the front of my house is a Texas sign with a Cross on it, not the Star!!!
Then I used to party almost every night. If it was not jumping, it was for squares. People liked the Blo-Fly and my kind. It was not cool, because we were not there!!!

Proverb 12:15 - The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he hearkens unto a wise counsel is wise.
After partying and drink-

ing, smoking and doping, it continued for ever so long. Then one day, the Lord spoke to me that's when I knew this is not where I belong!!!

Hebrews 12:6-7 - For whom the Lord loves he chastens, and scourgeth every son whom He receives.

Then one day I met Jesus Christ. He gave me a brand new life, and a new wife, Jeffothel. Now at the Southwest Digest, and go into the world, saved by God's Son. This I can tell!!!

Jesus' obedient to death. He went and hung a Cross of Calvary. I was a slave to sin and only sin. You see the White man didn't enslave me!!!

***** Free At Last, Free At Last, Free At Last!!! *****
Didn't nobody have to give up their seat while they were riding the Citi Bus. My freedom came from above, and with God's Blessings, said that was enough!!!

Didn't nobody have to get bit and kicked by the policeman's Billy Club. My freedom in the form of God only when God sent His only begotten love!!! Didn't nobody have to get bit in the butt by the Policeman's vicious dogs. My freedom came from Jesus dying on that old Rugged Cross!!!

Didn't nobody have to get sprayed by the Fireman's high pressure water hose. My freedom came early that Sunday morning when Jesus Christ arose!!!



From the Desk of Parson D.A. Smith The Dangers of Losing Your House: Home Equity Loans

Please allow me to digress from "The Man for the Time and Beyond" Part II for a moment. I want to reaffirm what I had written some time ago before Texans voted "yes" (my vote was NO) on borrowing off the equity of your home mortgage.

You may remember, I questioned the fact of how the language of the law encourage public acceptance which would allow low to moderate income homeowners borrow from the equity of their home which would if not carefully manage tempt and ultimately put them in a dire strait economically.

Let me clear the air before someone who is intellectual inadequate or predeceous challenge refutes my position. I work for a law firm that helps low income people whose boundaries extend from east of Dallas to the Oklahoma line north, the New Mexico line west and southward from San Angelo, northward of Austin as far east as I-45. Lubbock is a regional headquarter. The Law School at Texas Tech is a partner in kind with the firm. Pro Bono Attorneys give of themselves to help those who can least afford legal assistance. Law clinics are scheduled in the Lubbock Community at St. John United Methodist Church and Mae Simmons Community Center. A Night Court at Texas Tech by an Associate Judge through the Equal Justice Program offers legal assistance. The eight lawyers (Doctors of Juris-prudence) of the Lubbock office who are

license by the state and also practice in Federal Court are helping those who cannot or do not have the knowledge to help themselves through legal quagmire. The point is when knowledge is flowing like a mighty stream; some of it falls on me and I am sharing it with you.

The readers of this column must understand and tell others predatory lenders are alive and well. Here are some examples how you may own your home in the morning and be outdoors in the cold at night. Please remember all home equity loans put your house on the line since your property is used as collateral. Signing on the dotted line for an equity loan may mean singing like the late Ray Charles "hit the road Jack and don't come back no more" if you succumb to the following:

1. If you have a low payment, this may mean you have a balloon payment. Look at your terms. You might only be paying the interest each month. This means at the end of the loan you have to cough up the entire principal or hear "hit the road Jack, this shack ain't yours no more!"

2. If you decide to improve your home through a loan, you could pay higher rates and fees to finance the repairs and improvements. For example, if you get a contractor whose work is performed by an illegal from Peru, and who is in the bed with the lender you could be messed over. You may not know that it is an "an equity home loan" until the contractor has finished the job. If you find out before hand the con-

tractor may leave you house unfinished and pressure you to sign the note meaning you could possibly hear ringing in your ears "hit the road Jack this house ain't yours no more."

3. Another thing that could happen is "negative amortization." This means your monthly payment does not cover your home equity loan even though it cover all of the interest you have been stuck with. You have not paid in real money or zip on the principle and consequently you owe the principal, plus additional interest that has accrued over the term of the loan - meaning if you do not pay the principle, "Hit the road Jack. This house is not yours no more!"

4. A snake in the grass predatory lender has another way of biting you through "prepayment penalties." This means there are steep charges for pre-paying your equity loan off. For example, the predatory lender may charge you 10 percent of the amount borrowed or some other magical number. If you don't pay-up it mean "hit the road Jack this house ain't yours no more."

However, an able attorney can milk the fangs of predatory lenders. The fore-mention is mention due to the number of people, and especially senior citizens and Hispanics who don't understand the English language well and who are victims of "home equity loans" and who constantly receive mail promising pie in the sky loans because of the yes vote to a law that should never have been in Texas.

Outreach Prayer Breakfast

The members of the Outreach Prayer would like to remind you the "Big Day Is Over." God wants to jump start our ability, our strength, our faith, our money, and our time.

Some of us ran overtime getting gifts. Was it your birthday? No! How dare the world pitch a birthday party under false pretences. Singing "Jingle Bells" and "Frosty The Snowman" on our Lord's Birthday!

What a blessed Christmas we experienced this year. God's blessings don't always bring instant success, fame or favor. His blessings on Mary the honor of being the Mother of the Messiah would lead to pain. Her peers would slight her, her son. Her fiancée would come close to leaving her, her son

would be rejected and die on a cross, but through her son would come the world's only hope. This is why Mary has been praised by countless generations as blessed among women. Her submission led to our salvation!

If your blessings lead to sorrow, think of Mary and wait patiently for God to finish working out his plan for you. Don't limit God's choices. He can use anybody who trusts him. Mary was young and poor.

Today we're not celebrating ribbons and bows and jolly old Saint Nick, but the Saviour of this world. He's not in a manger, but in our hearts. Let's get down to really knowing who Jesus is, and "let's roll this year" for Jesus with power.

God bless you and yours in this New Year. Because of you and this Group, we will not let "EVIL WIN." We can do all things through Christ who gives us the strength.

A message to our children: the Devil's out to kill you. He's out there to still kill and destroy. He doesn't like you, "but guess what" God does. He so loved you that he gave his Life! "Think About It."

Don't forget your drive by prayers for your communities, your Preachers, Schools, and Churches, high officials of the City, and others, no matter the Color! Just Pray, Saints!

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

St. Matthew's Baptist Church News

Church services were well attended last Sunday morning, January 21, 2007, at the St. Matthew Baptist Church, 2020 East 14th Street, where Rev. Edward Canady is the proud pastor.

Sunday School was omitted because of the weather, but the morning service was a follows. What a wonderful time we had in the Lord.

The morning devotion was led by Deacon Edward Williams and Brother Gerald Jackson. The Spirit was very high.

The St. Matthew Baptist Church Senior Choir sung out of their hearts and souls for the Lord. God is able!

The morning sermon was delivered by our Pastor, and what a wonderful message it was for all of us who were in attendance. His subject was "Job Is A Just Person!" His scripture text was Job 1:21-22.

Let us continue to pray for our sick and shut-in members. Those members include Sister Shirley Jackson who is a patient

at University Medical Center; Sister Orelia Moore, and Sister Ethel Williams who are ill at home.

Let us not forget the Homeless and Hungry!

Thought For The Week: "Obeying the letter of the law is good; obeying the Spirit of the law is better."

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How do we obey him?
Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17
Believe Jesus Christ is the son of God - Mark 16:16
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Thank you to everyone who has sent in an entry so far, and GOOD LUCK to you all!

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Cedric the Entertainer cleans out theaters

By Kam Williams

Hollywood certainly didn't waste anytime in turning out its first insulting blaxploitation flick of 2007. Cedric the Entertainer stars as Jake Rodgers, a janitor for a video game manufacturer who ends up unconscious in a hotel room with a dead FBI Agent and a briefcase containing \$250,000 after being hit over head by a mysterious assailant.

The plot thickens right off the bat when Jake awakens with amnesia which leaves him very open to the suggestions of a couple of scheming women with diametrically-opposed intentions. First, Diane (Nicolette Sheridan) convinces him that they're married and whisks him away to a sprawling mansion equipped with a butler (Robert Clarke) ready to wait on him hand and foot. In truth, she's in cahoots with a gang of crooks who are after an altered computer chip that they think Jake has in his possession.

Later, a triangle of sorts evolves when a waitress named Gina (Lucy Liu) shows up claiming to be his mistress. Truth be told, she's actually an undercover agent trying who also out to find the aforementioned chip before it can be used for evil purposes.

This promising premise, which was lifted from both *The Bourne Identity* (2002) and *Memento* (2000), probably makes *Code Name: The Cleaner* sound, on paper, a lot better than the lousy fish-out-of-water comedy served up on the screen. Unfortunately, the movie is one of those pump-and-dump productions which puts all the best jokes in the trailers, hoping to milk the most it can opening weekend before word of mouth spreads.

So, if you've caught the commercial where Cedric explains his wearing clogs and lederhosen with "Haven't you heard of Dutch chocolate?" before yodeling "Ricola!" then you're already familiar with the film's funniest scene. Less amusing is the endlessly demeaning dialogue coming out of the mouths of black characters.

For instance, when Jake is offered a job as an FBI Agent, he declines, opting to remain a janitor because "Somebody needs to keep this place clean. That's what I do." Yet, he is simultaneously shown to have a serious



Lucy Liu, Cedric the Entertainer and Nicolette Sheridan star in *Official Code Name: The Cleaner*.

character flaw because in the end he still steals the quarter-million dollars he found.

Fellow custodian Ronnie (DeRay Davis) constantly raps about the virtue of attending to

toilets. And an African-American harridan named Jacuzzi (Niecy Nash) is heard complaining "a sister's not happy if her hair's nappy," implying that having straight hair is imperative to feel

good about yourself. This point is only emphasized by the fact that she's not a love interest, but merely an annoying loudmouth who gets locked in a trunk and forgotten.

Meanwhile, Cedric goes gaga over the seductive blonde, screaming euphorically "I'm rich and married to a white woman!" too aroused to figure out that he's being played by her. Plus, he's lusting after Gina, an attractive Asian, just as much. What message is a movie trying to send out when its black leading man is a bumbling buffoon who dismisses sisters out of hand and can't control himself around females of other colors, and when the rest of the black characters behave crudely and as if they hate themselves? Code Name: The Minstrel Coon Show!

Rated: Poor (0 stars), Rated PG-

13 for sexuality, crude humor, profanity; Studio: New Line and violence; Running time: 91 Cinema

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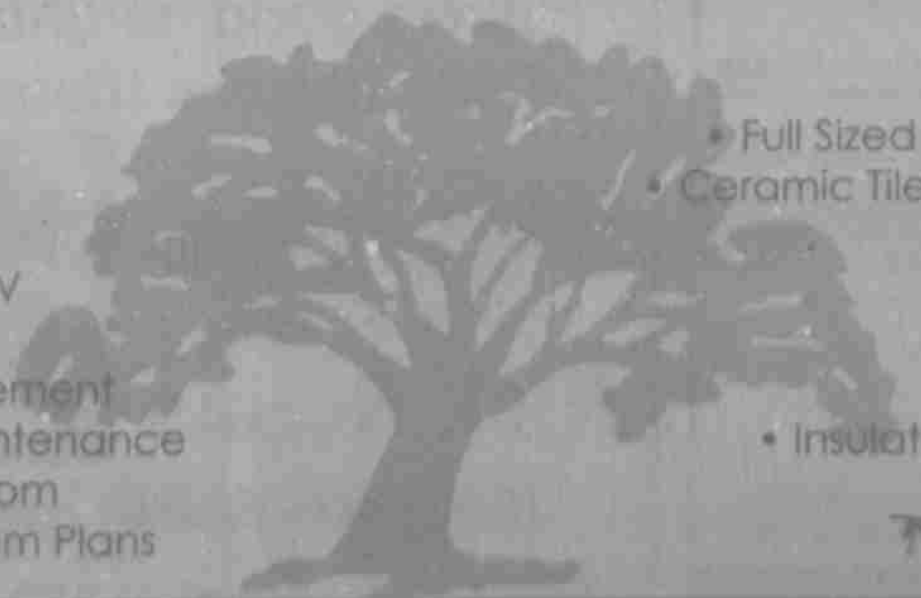
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Garden and Arts Center celebrating Black History Month

The Lubbock Municipal Garden and Arts Center will host a reception celebrating Black History Month during the First Friday Art Trail on February 2 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. To enhance our celebration, the Estacado Choir will be performing and there will be artist demonstrations by Henry Salley. Featured in the Cultural Hall and Gallery will be African-American folk artist Betty Jenkins and ceramicist Rolando Shaw, both of Lubbock. Ms. Jenkins thinks of her art as an extension of her self; of her thoughts, emotions and a celebration of her African-American heritage. Originally from Houston, Ms. Jenkins has exhibited for the Lubbock Art Association, the Texas Tech University Library and the Lubbock Regional Arts Center. Along with Ms. Jenkins, Rolando Shaw will be exhibiting selected pottery pieces. Mr. Shaw is an MFA candidate at the Texas Tech University School of Art.

In our Lobby Gallery, visitors to the Garden and Arts Center will enjoy Willa Finley's photography. Ms. Finley has enjoyed photographing her way around the world while pursuing a career in agriculture. Her photography will feature works shot primarily in Africa.

The Lubbock Municipal Garden and Arts Center is located at 4215 University Avenue. For more information, please call (806) 767-3724, email griff@mylubbock.us or visit our web site at www.lubbockgac.org.

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Workforce development, education keys to driving economic prosperity

by Diane Rath
Chair and Commissioner
Representing the Public Texas
Workforce Commission

AUSTIN – We Texans have good cause to be optimistic about our future. With our low taxes, booming population and excellent location, Texas is an attractive place to start or expand businesses. However, employers all across the state express concern about the work readiness of job applicants. Our most significant challenge to continuing our economic success is ensuring that our citizens are educated and trained appropriately for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

The skill and educational requirements of today's jobs are different now than in the past. Our economy has evolved from an agricultural one, to an industrial, resource-based one, and more recently, to a knowledge-based one. We are never going to win the battle of low wage jobs – nor should we want to. Therefore, it is imperative that we demand that our children receive stronger basic skills, including math and science, whether they are heading to college or entering the workforce.

In 1950, formal schooling – a rough proxy for skills – averaged 9 1/4 years, and with that, people could get good jobs. Sixty percent of jobs could be filled by unskilled

workers, and in those jobs, with a little bit of training, workers could spend the next 30 years earning a modest, middle-class standard of living and a decent pension at the end.

That path doesn't exist any more. Today, 80 percent of jobs require at least postsecondary training or a college degree, leaving only 20 percent of the jobs being created for unskilled workers.

Yet, the United States ranks 16th in the world in the percentage of high school graduates. In Texas, 4.4 million people who are out of school do not have a high school diploma or its equivalent. That is 28 percent of our workforce! This – at a time when 80 percent of all jobs are classified as "skilled," meaning that they require at least some education beyond high school.

To remain competitive in today's global economy, it is imperative that more people are completing high school and that those in high school are gaining the skills needed to make the next step into college or the workforce. A study of Texas high school graduates taking the ACT in 2004 found that only 18 percent had the foundational skills for college and work, but that another 46 percent could be made ready if they added a math course past Algebra II and completed the biology/chemistry/physics sequence.

Just as an individual must be

prepared to learn new skills, our workforce and educational systems must also be prepared to respond to the changing needs of the local economy.

Historically, the higher-education system has driven what is taught in our schools – with a focus on preparing students for college. We need to shift that mindset so that workforce demands play an integral role in what is being taught.

For adults who aren't finishing high school, we must connect them with adult basic education opportunities. Programs must be built on what employers say they need from their workers, as well as what students say they need to succeed at work. An ideal adult basic education system should have workforce adult literacy as its primary purpose.

While we need to substantially increase the number of graduates from Texas colleges and universities, employers tell us that their greatest needs can be met through a quality high school education, followed by either an associate's degree or an advanced certification program. Excellent opportunities are available through apprenticeships, internships, and/or certificate training programs for occupations such as electricians, mechanics, welders and other skilled crafts. Those are viable careers that pay good wages, and we need to work with parents and high school guid-

ance counselors to educate them about the jobs being created and the potential career pathways.

Keeping our state and national economies on the right track is going to require a coordinated effort on the part of our workforce systems and our educational systems – beginning with pre-kindergarten and extending all the way through post-high school education programs.

By working together to align our workforce and education programs with the demands of our workplaces, we can continue the vigorous growth our state has experienced in recent years. Together, we can forge a new economic era for our state, ensuring a prosperous new century for generations to come.

TWC Chair Diane Rath recently delivered a speech addressing this topic in Amarillo to the Panhandle Twenty/20 organization as part of its study on The Economic Implications of Educational Attainment.

The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the programs it offers in unison with its network of local workforce development boards call (512) 463-8556 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.

Last Week's Crossword Puzzle Answers: The Super Bowl

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LISD names new Athletic Director

The Lubbock Independent School District named Gary Gaines as the new Executive Director of Athletics for the district.

Gaines, currently the athletic director for Ector County ISD, has 36 years of coaching experience at the high school and collegiate levels. Gaines returns to Lubbock having been an assistant football coach at Texas Tech University from 1990-1994. He was the head football coach at Abilene Christian University from 2000-2004.

Gaines has been the AD in Odessa for the past two years. "I am sad to see Coach Gaines leave us," said Ector County Superintendent of Schools Wendell Sollis. "I enjoyed working with such a quality person. He has done a great job hiring coaches and building our entire athletic department. We wish him all the best; we will definitely miss him." Familiar with the Panhandle and South Plains, Gaines has also been the head coach at schools in Amarillo, San Angelo and Abilene.

Gaines and his wife, Sharon, have two children and five grandchildren. "Sharon and I are excited about the opportunities and challenges that await us in Lubbock. At the same time we are sad to leave some great friends both inside and outside the school district in Odessa," Gaines commented.

Gaines begins with LISD next week. He will take the reins from current Athletic Director Ines Perez who is retiring.

Estacado High School Class of 1992

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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| Kimberly Wynn-McConic | 441-7084 | kimmconic@bcglobal.net |
| Bobby Whitehead | 445-2980 | bobcal2732@msn.com |

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
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Parkway Bronze Lady Salon - 1716 E. Broadway - 762-1206
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Editorials • Comments • Opinions



THIS 'N' THAT

by T.J. Patterson

41ST SUPER BOWL WILL BE HISTORICAL! THIS N THAT, as well as many others who love the game of football and especially the upcoming Super Bowl Sunday, are very excited over this one. You see, it will be **HISTORIC**, because it will feature **TWO BLACK HEAD FOOTBALL COACHES** for the first time in the history of this event. The Super Bowl draws attention not only in these United States of America, but throughout the world. It has been difficult to have a **BLACK QUARTERBACK** in the National Football League, but there are some today. At one time, **BLACK COACHES** were like short necked giraffes. Today, there are at least five. It's a big accomplishment to have two Black coaches in the upcoming Super Bowl, which is set for Sunday afternoon, February 4, 2007 in Miami. The game starts at approximately 6:15 p.m. EST. Those history-making coaches are **TONY DUNGY**, Coach of the Indianapolis Colts. The Colts have a record of 15-4. **LOVIE SMITH**, Coach of the Chicago Bears, has a record of 15-3. Regardless of the outcome of the 41st Super Bowl, both should share the **"COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD."** Also, there will be the name of a **BLACK HEAD COACH** in the history book of the Super Bowl for the first time.

TWO WINNING MATA-DOR TEAMS! THIS N THAT is happy to see we have **TWO EXCITING BASKETBALL TEAMS** at Estacado High School. The **LADY MATA-DORS** have a record of 19-5 and 3-0 District play. Also, we have to

mention the fifth ranked **ESTACADOR MATA-DORS**, who have a record of 24-1, 2-0 in District play. These are two talented basketball teams, and they deserve our encouragement during remainder of the season. **THIS N THAT** is predicting they will continue to make an outstanding contribution on and off the basketball court. These are our young people, so let's stand behind them!

SUPPORT THE ANNUAL LINCOLN/DOUGLAS TEA! **THIS N THAT** remembers the hard work of one of former community workers. She was the late **SISTER ROBERTA THOMPSON**, who stood tall each February as she organized and developed a program for the **LINCOLN/DOUGLAS TEA**. It will not be long before the upcoming tea, which is set for **SUNDAY AFTERNOON**, February 11, 2007 from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at the **KoKo Palace**, 5101 Avenue Q. **THIS N THAT** is asking that each of you **SUPPORT** this annual event. Donations are only **\$20 PER PERSON**. Will you help? Hope so! This year's theme is **"GIVING OUR YOUTH A SECOND CHANCE!"**

PENNY HASTINGS THE BARBER SAYS, "SOME PEOPLE go through life STANDING at the COMPLAINT COUNTER!"

SENATOR BARACK OBAMA WILL BE HEARD! **THIS N THAT** is predicting that the young junior U.S. Senator, **BARACK OBAMA** will be heard loud and clear in the upcoming **PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION**. With prayer and patience, much

will come from his effort. It is just good to see what is taking place in this arena. My God continue to bless this young man and his family. When you lie down each evening, why not say a precious prayer for this young man and his family. You see, when God is with us, whom shall we fear.

PICTURES ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR DR. KING! THIS N THAT is advising there are a few pictures of the late **DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.** in the office of the **SOUTHWEST DIGEST**. For more information, call **EDDIE P. RICHARDSON** at (806) 762-3612. Also, while you have him on the telephone, ask him about the upcoming **"TOP TEN BEST DRESSED MEN & WOMEN CONTEST"** which will be held next month. There have been **THIRTY-NINE ENTRANTS** in this event, and **THIS N THAT** wants to salute this effort.

WHY NOT SUBSCRIBE TO SOUTHWEST DIGEST? THIS N THAT would like to see **ONE HUNDRED NEW SUBSCRIBERS** to the **SOUTHWEST DIGEST**. There are many who need to subscribe, and what a great time to subscribe than by doing so during **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**. There is no doubt about it! **THE SOUTHWEST DIGEST** has come mighty long ways, and come **SEPTEMBER 11, 2007**, this weekly Black newspaper will be **THIRTY YEARS YOUNG!!!** So will **YOU** subscribe? The Southwest Digest has kept its commitment, so will you subscribe? If you are interested in doing so, give us a call at (806) 762-3612! We will be looking forward to your telephone call.



Think About It!

Taser Yes! Taser No!

by Eddie P. Richardson

There is a new toy for police officers. Yes or no, the taser is relative new and one of the most controversial tools to come across the pike lately. Recent research and survey has shown that there appears to be more alleged racism than necessary a recent survey and article by the Houston Chronicle reported that across America over three thousand cases, mostly of the minority community of young males. And to top it off, there were no reports of major cases or felonies, just simple cases. This brings up a major problem as why minority males especially Black, and why petty cases?

Maybe or it appears to be race baited situation. In this writer's opinion, new toys such as the taser should have a training session with its officers, especially since the use of this stun gun could be perceived as or actually race involved. The training



should include sensitivity training since most of the cases appear to be minority based.

This problem is all across America, and Lubbock is not excluded. Two of the most noted cases in Lubbock is, you guessed it, minority males - one Black and one Brown. There was apparently more force than necessary. This proves Lubbock is America and what's wrong with America is wrong with Lubbock, as well as what's right with America. In the Black taser case in Lubbock which is a focal point is Officer March Blackmore who is accused of being an abuse person who

used more force than necessary. On his own police vehicle video, he asked his partner for help as he was seen asking: "I will need your help on this one." Why? Why would he need help when he did nothing wrong?

You see, sometimes the police video can work for the victim as well as the police officer. There will be more on this case in the near future after more research has been completed. We need to protect our police officers from violence, but on the other hand, we need to protect our citizens from unnecessary violence, especially young minority males.

See photo of L. J. McCallan, Jr. after tasing, shown above.

Closing Thought: "God bless America. God bless our police force when they do their just duty. On the other hand, bring the rafts down on them when they sin."

In Cinque

by Renetta Howard

Every ethnic group in the United States has a stake in the holidays which are celebrated in this country. Unfortunately, many school systems have decided to cut out some holidays, apparently to have more attendance days for which they can receive state funds. Some ethnic groups have very few if any national holidays, but nevertheless, those which have them, want to celebrate them. The major ethnic groups wish to keep the days they celebrate just for that purpose.

Some states tend to celebrate the holidays of the major group in that state which may or may not be a national holiday. I can remember working in Chicago in the Public Assistance Office, and because most of the board members were Irish, we celebrated St. Patrick's Day as a national holiday and had a day off from work. In Texas, we celebrated Cinco de Mayo Day, a Spanish holiday. Somehow, it was not until the Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. became a

national holiday, that states begin to feel the need to eliminate some holidays if the King birthday had to be added to the list.

Martin Luther King's birthday is the only national holiday celebrated in honor of a Black person. The only other day celebrated in relation to Black people is Juneteenth.

Juneteenth has been celebrated in Texas ever since the Black people there were informed that slavery had ended a year earlier. This particular holiday has now moved into other states in the South, especially, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. This is a regional holiday, not a national holiday, but it is growing as the Black ethnic group learns more about

it and why it is considered important.

There are individuals in all ethnic groups who do not see the need for schools to be closed for any holiday including Christmas. Many states do not celebrate Good Friday as a national holiday and students must attend school. Columbus Day and Veteran's Day are often ignored by many schools. What many boards of education fail to see is that holidays are a good addition to eliminate teacher or student 'burnout.' Teaching is a job and learning is a job. Jobs need outlets to prevent stress and 'burnout.' We need to get 'in cinque' and keep and celebrate all of our holidays and keep our American and ethnic holidays intact.

We Get Letters!

Colorless crime

Pastor Smith, while I realize the white community paints us (African Americans) with the same brush, in this case I think the only Color or National Origin that matters is the origin of the victims. Tyrone Smith, John Doe, any person USA, used Mexicans nationals to make a fast buck, and when faced with the alternative he, Tyrone Williams chose to abandoned them in sweltering heat and let them die. Not African American Tyrone Williams, but Tyrone Williams who happened to be African American and truly an in-human, human being.

What effect will this have on the Black Community, and young black males? In a perfect world, it should have none, but as we all know, this is truly not a perfect world.

On a separate note, as a footnote to the Government wire-tap program. Everyone, by that I mean every American should read the Patriot Act. Then you will find out what freedoms you have lost.

Jeanette Livingston
Mount Vernon, WA

Dangers of Ritalin

Please accept this letter as an addendum and a letter of clarification. Firstly, let or allow me to clarify my statement of many school administrators being guilty of being enablers of our (most, not all youth) little darlings who find it convenient to get in the hip pockets of most administrators who are more than willing to bow down to little "Ray Ray's" way of bad mouthing and telling untruths on a teacher who's not going to stand for that student's disobedience. Many parents, pastors, teachers and family members are certainly guilty of being enablers of "Ray Ray's" disrespectful ways. I'm tired of many enablers saying I need to be mindful of "Ray Ray" being on a mind-altering drug called Ritalin. Just the other day, several young men were being taught about the history of prominent Blacks in America both present and past. Do you think these young men were interested in what this elder saint was saying?? Noll! To top this off, when I become fed up with their disruption and disre-

spect behavior, and reported it to one of the "higher ups," that person's enabling statement was, "I think they are uninterested because they either forgot to take their Ritalin or their Ritalin has worn off!" My God, what a weak statement!! We must take the bull by the horn and teach manhood and womanhood, principles of the Bible, the history of us (black locally, nationally, and internationally), and stop making excuse of why "Ray Ray" can't learn.

Secondly, I feel God is looking at this whole picture of how an adult who knows the right way, but he or she isn't stepping up to the plate and leading in an exemplary manner!! Ray can learn, be a man, and Susie can learn meaningful things and the things of respectful womanhood things. Parents, please stop allowing facilitators to recommend that your child be zombified with this mind-altering poison called Ritalin.

Maurice Williams
Lubbock, Texas



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@bcglobal.net or fax your letter to (806) 762-4605

(Think) See here that gunmen are now dressing up in U.S. military uniforms & killing American troops.

Wow, I wonder what sick SOB came up with that idea?

See how he giggles. Send him to the troops!

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

By Keith Wright

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." - Martin Luther King, Jr.

Southwest Digest

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

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The opinions expressed by guest columnists or editorials 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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Bush less combative in State of the Union

WASHINGTON - President George W. Bush urged a rebellious Congress on Tuesday to give his new Iraq war plan a chance and insisted in his State of the Union speech it is not too late to shape the outcome.

Facing skeptical lawmakers and some of the weakest approval ratings of his six years in office, Bush said the best chance for success is to send 21,500 more U.S. troops to Iraq.

"On this day, at this hour, it is still within our power to shape the outcome of the battle. Let us find our resolve, and turn events toward victory," Bush said.

He did not back down even as Democrats and his own Republicans work on nonbinding congressional resolutions expressing opposition to the plan he announced two weeks ago.

"Our country is pursuing a new strategy in Iraq - and I ask you to give it a chance to work," Bush told the joint session of the U.S. Congress, the first time since he took office that he has faced a House of Representatives and Senate both controlled by Democrats.

With a Washington-Post/ABC News poll giving Bush a 33 percent approval rating, he faces a tough road ahead focusing America's attention on domestic issues with Iraq dominating the debate.

He sought to push an agenda at home against a heavy tide of criticism over Iraq, calling climate change a "serious challenge" that he would address by reducing U.S. gasoline consumption by 20 percent over 10 years and increasing use of alternative fuels.

He also called for expanding health care for Americans, and creating a guest-worker program for illegal immigrants that could repre-

sent the best chance for a bipartisan agreement.

"Like many before us, we can work through our differences, and achieve big things for the American people," Bush said.

In the audience of lawmakers, Cabinet officials, diplomats and Supreme Court justices were as many as 10 potential successors of both political parties jockeying for position to replace him.

A silence fell over the crowd as Bush reviewed the 2006 setbacks in Iraq. Some of the Iraq lines in his speech netted ovations only from Republicans.

Watching over his shoulder with a tight set to her jaw was the first woman speaker of the House, California Democrat Nancy Pelosi, who refused to stand and applaud during some sections of Bush's Iraq remarks.

"Unfortunately, tonight the president demonstrated he has not listened to Americans' single greatest concern: the war in Iraq," she said in a joint statement with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a Nevada Democrat.

Massachusetts Democratic Sen. Edward Kennedy said two of the best words he heard in Bush's speech were "Madame Speaker."

Bush rejected Democratic arguments for pulling American troops out of Baghdad. He said Iraq would be victim of an epic battle between Shi'ite and Sunni extremists and Iraq's government would be overrun if U.S. forces step back before Baghdad is secure.

"This is not the fight we entered in Iraq, but it is the fight we are in," he said.

'NEW DIRECTION IN IRAQ'

In the Democratic response, Virginia Sen. Jim Webb, a recently elected Vietnam veteran, said "we need a new direction in Iraq," a

policy "that takes our soldiers off the streets of Iraq's cities and a formula that will in short order allow our combat forces to leave Iraq."

The energy proposals by Bush, who has frequently been accused by critics of ignoring global warming, fell short of seeking mandatory caps on carbon emissions sought by some Democrats as well as Europeans.

He would achieve his goal through improved vehicle fuel standards and an increase in production and use of alternative fuels like ethanol.

Bush was not pushing for a specific increase in the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards, which many experts see as critical to reduce oil usage but which the White House fears would prompt manufacturers to build smaller, less-safe cars.

Instead, he asked Congress for authority to reform CAFE standards for cars with the goal of reducing projected annual gasoline use by up to 8.5 billion gallons.

Bush believes the projected growth in carbon emissions from cars, light trucks and suburban utility vehicles could be stopped in 10 years under his plan.

New York Democratic Sen. Charles Schumer dismissed Bush's proposal, saying "the quickest, most efficient way to reduce gas imports and bring down prices is to increase fuel economy standards."

Bush's health care plan - making health insurance taxable income and deductible up to \$15,000 a year for families starting in 2009 - could raise taxes for as many as 30 million Americans but he says it would lower costs for many millions more.

THEME: THE GRAMMYS

- DOWN**
- One-time backup singer for Michael Jackson and 9-time Grammy winner
 - Jeans maker Strauss
 - Et alibi
 - Agricultural laborer in Arab countries
 - Won Nobel Peace Prize with Peres and Arafat
 - Last 8 in college basketball
 - Encloses patie
 - "Ain't no friend of mine," according to Elvis
 - Lowest female singing voice
 - Nonlethal police gun
 - Her counterpart
 - Geisha's outfit
 - Red wine on a tablecloth?
 - Prissy to Scarlett O'Hara
 - West actress
 - Remove the pins
 - Lollygag
 - Goal of Manhattan Project
 - Opposes the cons...
 - Acrylic fiber
 - Superman
 - State in northeastern India
 - Vision aid
 - "Four score and seven years ago"
 - Top '90s R&B singer
 - Relating to the heaviest metal known
 - Diamond, e.g.
 - Spookier
 - Cowboy's rope
 - Different arrangements of atoms but same weight
 - As such
 - Clown's job
 - Argo's propellers
 - Dangerous race
 - Half a ticket
 - Nike's swoosh, e.g.
 - Medley
 - Empty when kids leave
 - No in Scotland

- Curly-leaved, cabbage-like vegetable
- He received most Grammys ever
- Race track
- Wading bird
- Anna Pavlova's skirts
- First Grammy recipient for Rap Performance
- In a little while, old-fashioned
- "Leave me _____!"
- Denotes the middle
- Resident of last U.S. state to host Olympics
- Don't open her box!
- Apprehend
- First Grammy Record of the Year recipient
- Miners' bounty, pl.
- Examine
- Big head
- Flirtatious stares
- Shirley MacLaine's 1963 character
- Gnostic's intuitions
- Spermatzoa counterpart
- Small bytes
- He won a Grammy and Oscar in same year
- Type of sweet potato
- A symbol of "The Simple Life"
- Awkward and stupid people
- 52¢
- Grammy Awards organization
- T on a test
- Spicy burrito sauce
- It is now AK Steel Holding Corporation
- CCCP
- Knight's breastplate
- German "Ich _____" for "I eat"
- Spelling competition
- Plant anchor

- ACROSS**
- Indicates pitch on musical staff
 - Its "Losing My Religion" won a Grammy in 1991
 - Meat and potatoes in the morning
 - Network of nerves

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