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VOLUME 35 NUMBER 15

December 12 - 18, 2002

25¢

## St. Anthony's Health Care Presents ....It's Sistahs!



**Maria Scruggs-Weston,**  
Project Director for the  
Sisters For Breast  
Health Program

ST. PETERSBURG - St. Anthony's Health Care's Sisters For Breast Health program has embarked on the holiday season with glee and good tidings. We are continuing our efforts to promote the gift of life by inviting Sistahs and of late, Brothers, to host Sistah parties for the holidays.

For the holiday season we wish to share a little insight on the women who work tirelessly and unselfishly to promote the message... "early detection is the best protection."

**Maria Scruggs-Weston,** Project Director for the Sisters For Breast Health Program is driven by a calling to help save sisters lives. Stricken personally by the disease when her college room-



**Vivian Scott**

mate, Melvina Denise Harris was diagnosed shortly after their graduation from Florida State University. Maria jumped at the opportunity to develop a strategy to help educate African-American women residing in south St. Petersburg about the importance of mammography, clinical breast examinations and self breast examinations. While not trained academically as a health care provider Maria knew she could utilize her community planning skills to design a program that would be appealing to African-American women. A mother of two daughters, aunt to many, and godmother to many more young women, Maria knew what Black women liked. While Maria is excited about the success of the program she knows it has a



**Yvonne Smith**

long way to go before reaching the 10,000 African-American women residing in south St. Petersburg.

**Vivian Scott,** a semi-retiree was the first to respond to St. Anthony's advertisement for a Sistah Facilitator. A mother of six and grandmother of many, Vivian rose to the occasion when seeing the advertisement for a Sistah facilitator. Full of energy and zeal about the prospects of saving Sisters lives was all it took for Vivian to commit to this awesome task. She also serves on the evaluation team for the program.

**Yvonne Smith,** a benefits specialist for the Baycare Health system had a slightly different reason for wanting the job as a Sistah Facilitator. While not the highest paid position in the world, Yvonne



**Terri Johnson**

had a personal investment...she was diagnosed with breast cancer approximately one year ago. However, due to the early stages in which it was diagnosed, Yvonne has had minimal interruption in her life. A mother of one daughter, Yvonne lives every day to its fullest and finds time among her career and educational pursuits to work as a Sistah Facilitator spreading the word about early detection...the best protection.

**Terri Johnson,** a parking supervisor for the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg campus, Terri epitomizes why St. Anthony's saw the need to develop such an exciting program. A single African-American female, over 40 years of age with no children, Terri has some risk factors associated with



**Ruby Hope**



**Melissa Roland**

breast cancer. However, due to her fear of what a mammogram might detect, Terri allowed her fear to overcome her faith. Terri attended the 4th Sistah party held at a friend's home. Excited by the presentation and caliber of the program Terri engaged the project director in a lengthy discussion about why she shouldn't get a mammogram. She then went on to host a Sistah

**Sistahs**

continued on pg. 7

## Second Annual Challenger Black History Essay Contest

*This Year Our Prizes Are Bigger!*

by Barry A. McIntosh  
Challenger General Manager

During each week of the month of February 2003, *The Weekly Challenger* will again publish the winners of our Black History Essay Contest.

Last year we received 151 entries from schools in South St. Petersburg to Tarpon Springs. We're excited to bring you our Second Annual Black History Essay Contest. As in the first year, the rules are pretty simple. You must be an elementary, middle, or high school student. One winner each week during February will be chosen from each school level. The deadline is January 15, 2003 for submittals directly to *The Challenger*. However, entries can be submitted directly to the Office of Community Services and Human Relations, Largo Administration Building, as late as January 17, 2003. This is where an independent body will judge the papers.

The topic must be an African-American who has made some significant contribution to a person, a group, or the world. The writer must then express

how this contribution affected them personally. The other rules, and awards are as follows:

- The essays must be either typed or computer generated.
- Each essay must have the writer's name, grade, age, name of school, and home phone number
- Scoring will be based upon:

1. Grammatical structure
2. Punctuation use
3. Spelling
4. Word count
5. How well the writer expresses how they were affected by the subject's contribution

• Each of the above are worth a possible 10 points except for item 5, which is worth 20 points

• The word count for each level is:

1. High school - 650

2. Middle school - 500
3. Elementary school - 300
- Four winners from each level will receive:
1. High School - \$250
2. Middle School - \$175
3. Elementary School - \$125

One change this year is that we have increased the prize amounts for every level. We encourage every student to enter. You'll find your experience to be not only a rewarding one as you look for personal connections with people who have made some sort of contribution, but it'll be fun! Don't miss out. Be a part of *The Weekly Challenger's* Annual Black History Essay Contest!

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## BET Cancels Ed Gordon's Show, Plus "Lead Story" and "Teen Summit"

by Artelia C. Covington  
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National Correspondent  
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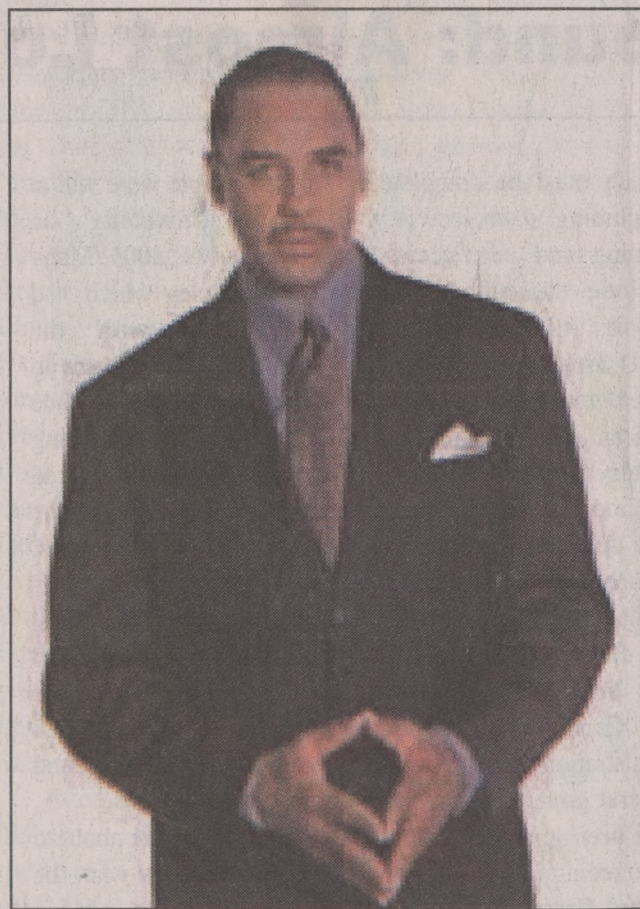
WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Black Entertainment Television is canceling most of its popular public affairs programs, including "BET Tonight with Ed Gordon," "Lead Story" and "Teen Summit." BET officials told the NNPA News Service that both "Lead Story," the panel of journalists that appears each Sunday, and "BET Tonight with Ed Gordon," will be off the air by the end of the year. Because of the backlog of programs already taped, "Teen Summit" will

remain on the air until early 2003.

The only remaining public affairs program on the network is the nightly news program hosted by Jacque Reid, a former CNN anchor. BET insiders say the news program was spared because it has a production contract in place with CBS News, whose parent company also is Viacom.

"This was obviously not Bob Johnson's decision because these were his favorite programs," says one longtime BET executive. Another one added, "It was time to pay the piper and Bob's no longer the piper."

Johnson, the founder and chief executive officer



**Ed Gordon**

of the company, sold BET to Viacom on Jan. 23, 2001, for \$3 billion—\$2.5 billion in stock and \$500 million in assumed debt. He owned 63 percent of BET, the company he started in 1979.

Viacom already owned CBS, MTV, VH-1 and UPN. Purchasing BET, the first and largest Black-oriented cable network, gave the company entry into the important African-American community.

Johnson, who became

the second-largest owner of Viacom with the sale but gained no board presence, signed a five-year contract to remain as chairman and CEO of the BET unit. BET's chief operating officer, Debra L. Lee, also agreed to serve in her same capacity for five years.

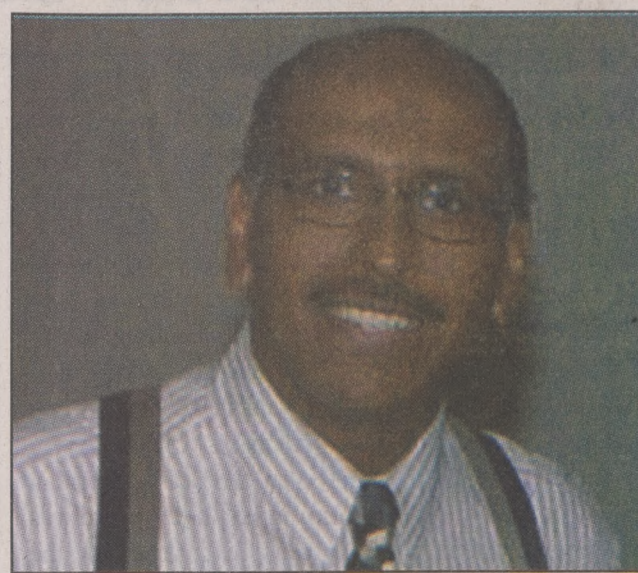
At the time of the sale, Lee said: "The acquisition will have no impact on the voice of BET. BET will continue to be run by Bob

**BET**

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## Man of Steele - The GOP's Great Black Hope

*Death Penalty, Black Media breathe new life into Maryland's Republican Party*



**Michael Steele**

by De Carla Livers

2002 © blackpress.org  
WASHINGTON - With the recent win by the Ehrlich/Steele campaign, the GOP now has all of the Beltway states locked up. So how will this effect the decisions made by the governors in Maryland and Virginia? Even more importantly, how will these historic wins effect the lives of African Americans around the country?

So why does Steele feel his campaign to be Maryland's first Black Lt. Gov. was so successful? For starters, he credits the role that Black newspapers and other minority media played for helping him to make history over favored challenger, Kathleen Ken-

nedy Townsend..

We have spent a lot of time working with Black media. In fact, I'm looking forward to spending more time cultivating a relationship with African American newspapers in Maryland and in the region. We're going to have regular meetings with them. We're going to advertise. We're going to promote because they provided a real service in this campaign," Steele vowed.

"Many of [the Black media organizations] really presented 'an unwanted view' of what [Governor-elect Robert Ehrlich] and I were talking about. All we wanted was an opportunity and a chance. They gave us that and I think people for

the first time had an opportunity to really see and hear our message. That was really powerful and we appreciate that," Steele said.

Whether or not Steele and the GOP will succeed remains to be seen, but one thing is for sure, there are big changes in store for the state of Maryland. Steele and Ehrlich have promised that their first decision made in office will be to repeal the state's moratori-

um on the death penalty. The state had sought the moratorium because of the "disproportionate" amount of African Americans and Hispanics who are put to death in the state. Maryland was one of just two states nationwide to institute the moratorium, although other states are seriously looking into craft legislation of their own.

Steele, who Black

**Steele**

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# OPINIONS

## A Living Memorial to Cleveland Johnson, Jr.

### "Black People Must Sell As Well As Buy Else Remain A Beggar Race"

by Barry A. McIntosh,  
General Manager

Few individuals make a major impact on others during their lifetime. Even less accomplish things that remain in memory after they pass. Mr. Cleveland Johnson is an exception to both. His philosophy was clear and simple. One could not argue about his focus and how it was the catalyst that influenced the vision of countless people who met him.

Mr. Johnson was an entrepreneur in the truest sense. He created a successful newspaper, *The Weekly Challenger*, out of virtually nothing, and in doing so he controlled his

destiny, and helped others do the same. That is what he preached incessantly; be in control of your own destiny. To achieve that sort of freedom, one must sell, and even more importantly, sell what belongs to them, not someone else's product or service. In other words, find yourself a business, work it, be successful at it, and thus dramatically reduce your dependence upon others for support. Working for someone else, and having them control your income, has relegated many African-Americans to a beggar race, in some cases more severely than others. Nevertheless, as Mr. Johnson experienced it,

working for someone else, and buying and spending more than selling has perpetuated some level of subjugation.

An often-repeated story from those who tried as they could to write stories for him was his response to essentially "go sell an ad, and keep your story." He promoted the participation in commercial enterprise, controlling your destiny. In addition, he backed up what initially seemed like a harsh request by taking so many under his wings and training them to "sell." This town is filled with people who took his advice, and are forever indebted to Mr. Johnson for

the success they've achieved.

For those of us who were not privileged to meet Mr. Johnson and fully understand his philosophy, it does us well to understand the import of the words, "Black People Must Sell As Well As Buy, Else Remain A 'Beggar Race.'" This is critically important when we look at this equation from the buying side. For example, the National Urban League reported that during the decade of the 90s, "African-American buying power increased almost 73 percent." The challenge we face with that increase in disposable income is the problem with

too much spending.

Moreover, a 1997 U.S. Census Bureau report showed that Blacks spent from .5 - 15% more money, on average, than all American consumers for necessities like Food, Telephone, Utilities, Clothing, and Major Appliances. Another study by the National Tour Association showed that the Black family median income was 54% - 65% of white families in the four age groups 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, and 65+. Conversely, the same study reported that a Black family earning \$30,000 a year spends as much as a white family earning \$50,000. No wonder that

Mr. Johnson stressed "Selling" over "Buying." The net result: a negative net worth for a significant majority of African-Americans when compared to white Americans with comparable incomes.

"Cleve," as many affectionately called him, is no longer here, but the stark reality of our plight remains. It thus does us all well to reflect heavily on what motivated him, his legacy: "Black People Must Sell As Well As Buy, Else Remain A 'Beggar Race,'" lest we find ourselves failing to heed Mr. Johnson's warning issued out of love and respect for all of us!

## The Weekly Challenger

Cleveland Johnson, Publisher  
(1967 - 2001)

Barry A. McIntosh ..... General Manager  
Yonda Powell ..... Administrative Assistant

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## The Gantt Report

by Lucius Gantt

Is Santa Claus a white racist?

All the little children in the ghettos and barrios all across America are wondering the same thing.

African-American kids ask me, "Why can't I have the toys that my white friends have?" "Why can't I have the designer clothes that my friends get for Christmas?"

Is the answer to the question because Santa Claus is a white racist? Maybe. Maybe not.

All I know is, whenever I see a picture of Santa, Santa is white. Santa has a white beard and white hair. When I shop for Christmas cards, on the front of the Christmas cards, Santa is white. When I go to the mall and see children getting pictures taken with Santa, Santa is white.

Yes, I have seen Black

men in Santa Claus suits here and there, but I have never seen white children rushing to take a picture with a Black Santa. I've never seen a Black Elf or Black Santa helper. I've never seen a Black Mrs. Claus. I've never even seen a Black reindeer!

Children want to know if Santa Claus is a white racist because their white Jewish counterparts in grade school come back after the holidays and tell how their holiday lasted for eight days instead of one day and how they received a different gift for all eight days.

Black kids are glad to get one gift on one day!

When I was growing up in Atlanta, I could only ask for one toy. I had to say, I want some skates or I want a bike. My sister would have to say I want a doll.

One gift is all we

by David Almasi

A New Visions  
Commentary paper

E-mail is a wonderful thing. These days, it's more efficient and reliable than the Post Office, and it's virtually free. I find it useful for keeping in touch with people I might not otherwise have the time to talk to and helpful for confirming details that sometimes seem too insignificant for a phone call. Through e-mail and the Internet, information about virtually everything has become easier to find and share.

However, the Internet is also rampant with scam artists seeking to deprive the innocent of their hard-earned money. One of the biggest scams around is

based in Central Africa. Black Internet users should not let their interest in and affection for what some call "the African homeland" be used against them.

When so many are taking steps to cross the "digital divide" and hook up to the Internet, it's a shame there are people out there setting traps that may deter technological newcomers from benefiting from technology.

One should be on the lookout for e-mails from people claiming to be government officials or businessmen from Nigeria, Sierra Leone or other African countries seeking assistance in clearing up a financial problem. In return for your assistance, they

claim that you'll get a payout that could total in the millions. It seems too good to be true. It is.

This scam has been around for years through regular mail and fax, but e-mail has made it even easier for the scammers to tempt us. This scam is called "The Nigerian Connection," "Advance-Fee Fraud" and "419." 419 is the Nigerian Criminal Code designation for the scam. In Nigeria, it is one of the country's top industries and has conned Americans out of billions of dollars.

I get several of these e-mails every month. I got one recently from someone claiming to be the wife of the late former president of Nigeria. She told me she

had \$50 million hidden from the current Nigerian government, and would cut me in for ten percent (\$5 million!) if I'd help her get the money out of Nigeria. I was assured it was a "humanitarian service" I'd be doing for her and her countrymen and that it was "100 percent risk free" for me.

Had I replied, I most likely would have been asked to provide things like my bank account information. Later on, I might have been asked to forward money to grease the skids for all that money that would later be coming my way. After all my money was gone, I would probably never have heard from them again. In the worst-

case scenario, I'd actually have been invited to Nigeria to seal the deal and been robbed, beaten and possibly killed.

According to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Americans were cheated out of \$100 million in 1996 and 1997 alone. One alleged victim was swindled out of \$400,000 before reporting the fraud. There are undoubtedly many additional thefts that have gone unreported because those who are duped have been too embarrassed to report it.

Black America stands to lose a lot by not participating in the technological revolution sweeping our nation and the world. At present, what's left of the

perceived digital divide between black American and technology is the gap made by those who are afraid to take advantage of the free or low-cost computer access provided by businesses, schools and charities. It's an understandable problem, but one that must be overcome.

Once that technological gap is breached, however, people need to be aware of scams like the Nigerian Connection. There is too much awaiting black America on the Internet to allow this to be a deterrent. Just be aware and be informed.

David Almasi is the director of Project 21. He can be reached at [DAAlmasi@nationalcenter.org](mailto:DAAlmasi@nationalcenter.org).

## African Burial Ground: Almost Lost For The Third Time

by Bernice Powell Jackson

After elected officials and community activists from the African-American community forced the federal government to halt the construction of a federal office building in lower Manhattan when they discovered a burial ground for Africans in colonial America, the remains from this burial ground were taken to Howard University for study, with the understanding that they would eventually be re-interred near the site where they had been found. But the government continued to erect the building and now, a decade later, the remains have yet to be returned to New York.

Almost from the moment they were discovered, these sacred remains have been caught in a swirl of politics and economics. It was only because the community insisted that the building be halted that it was, despite government guidelines about what to do in such a situation. It was only because the community insisted that these remains of Africans be sent to an African-American university that Howard was given the contract for the study.

Howard researchers have been studying the remains and have already learned much about the life of African people in colonial America. For example, they have found that the death rate for these African people was about twice that of white Americans, a statistic that sadly remains true today, 300 years later. The three scientific reports

which must be completed (including data recovery, writing and peer review) include skeletal biology reports, historical reports and archeology reports. The completion of this significant research will cause history books to be re-written and may enable present day African-Americans to search for their ancestral birth countries.

But a political battle has been raging between the General Services Administration (GSA) of the federal government, which had been given the role of overseeing the African Burial Ground project and the research staff at Howard. We all are the losers in this power struggle.

The good news is that partially because of this battle, the remains of these

African people were still at Howard University on September 11, 2001. Many of the articles which had been found with the remains, however, were in a vault at the World Trade Center site for safekeeping and the researchers feared that, after surviving in the ground for three centuries, they had been lost. But several weeks after the attacks, these vaults were found and the miracle is that these articles had now survived being lost for the second time.

Even as we are about to enter another new year, the remains of these African people seem to still be caught up in a battle between the GSA and Howard University. The government's director of the project has declared that the

remains will be re-buried soon, but the question is whether adequate time and funds will be set aside to complete this critical research.

Moreover, the question is will the remains be buried in consultation with the community that has so diligently protected them over the past decade. Will they be buried on a day of significance to the African-American community or just rushed into the ground after so many years? Will members of the African-American faith communities be consulted and included in the planning and interment? If it is true that one of the key GSA positions dealing with the African American community has been eliminated as a full-time job and that the

consultant hired is not working full-time and is no longer even living in New York, the question is how can all those issues listed above possibly be addressed?

Those who were buried in the African Burial Ground were lost when the city covered over this site as it grew beyond its original lower Manhattan boundaries. They were almost lost again on September 11. Will they be lost once more in institutional differences? Will the federal government officials heed the advice of the African-American community or will it go its own way? Those are questions that should haunt us all.

Heritage  
Is Important

Christmas holiday.

No, Santa Claus is not a white racist. He is a figment of the imagination of

white racists!

Peace on earth and best wishes to all from The Gantt Report for a very

merry holiday season! (The Gantt Report book, "I Talked About The Beast," will be available soon.

Contact Lucius Gantt at [lbgant@att.net](mailto:lbgant@att.net)

On December 05, 1895, Elbert Frank Cox was born in Evansville, Indiana. He became the first Black to hold a doctorate degree in mathematics which he received from Cornell University, Ithaca, New York in 1925.

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# TAMPA BAY AREA NEWS

## St. Petersburg Branch NAACP Seeks Diversity

On August 20, 2002 the Executive Board of the St. Petersburg Branch NAACP met with Andy Barnes and members of the St. Petersburg Times Board, to discuss the issue of diversity of the Executive Board of the Times. It was the request of the NAACP that by Black History Month, February 2003, a Black be placed on the board, however Mr. Barnes stated it would happen before he retires in 2004. This is unacceptable to the St. Petersburg Branch NAACP and the Mid Town Community. We stand by the deadline date of February 2003.

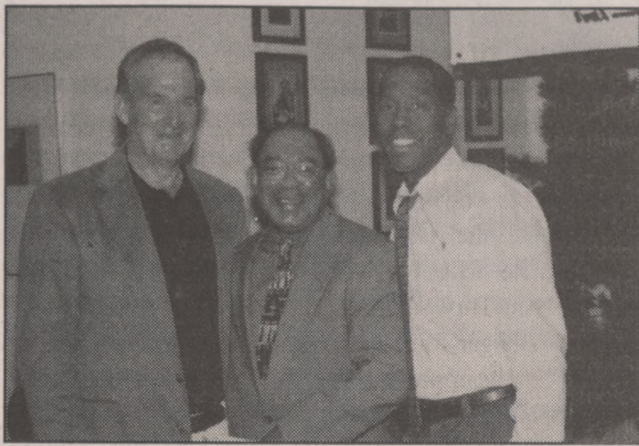
It was promised to the community in 1994 and somehow the promise was misplaced, so what should have happened eight years ago, we requested to happen in eight months. The St. Petersburg Times was first contacted by Darryl Rouson in June of 2002, and given the deadline of February, 2003.

On December 3, 2002 the Executive Board of the St. Petersburg Branch NAACP met with Sheriff Everett Rice to discuss the same topic "Diversity" of the Pinellas County Sheriff Department. Members of the board sat through an hour and half meeting of questions and answers with Sheriff Rice. He made us a promise that by June he would announce the promotion of a Black to the rank of captain. He stated in the 14 years he has been sheriff there was no reason a Black has not been promoted either from within or outside the department. The NAACP Board made it clear that it is past the time of reason as to why not and now is the time to act. Rice agreed to do all within his power to promote and that he has the final say-so on promotions. The NAACP challenged him to keep his promise.

Yet another challenge of Diversity - AJAX Building Corp. is under fire by the St. Petersburg Branch NAACP. The largest high school rebuilding project the county ever has tackled must have more African-Americans and minorities working on it. The project to rebuild Gibbs High School is \$41-million, which is in the preliminary stages, is more significant, because of its deep ties to the African-American community.

Gibbs' greatest treasure is its heritage, and its story is the story of the Black community from which it was raised. Gibbs Senior High School is one of the oldest public schools in Pinellas County.

Gibbs is named after Jonathan C. Gibbs, a Black man who served as Florida's Secretary of State in 1868 and State Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1873. Gibbs believed that a good public school system could do more for the people of his state than any other institu-



L-R: Sheriff Everett Rice, William Puller, Director, Fiscal Affairs, Sheriff's Dept., and Darryl Rouson, President, NAACP, St. Pete Branch



L-R: Harry Harvey, Membership Chair, NAACP, Juliet Warnke, Asst. Secretary, and Sheriff Everett Rice

tion, according to Leedell W. Neyland, author of 12 Black Floridians. Gibbs, a powerful orator, died suddenly and mysteriously after speaking at a Republican meeting in Tallahassee. The cause of death is unknown.

Prior to the opening of Gibbs High School in 1927, there was no high school in St. Petersburg for Black students although a very modern high school for white students had existed as early as 1910. According to building records, in 1920 when Mary McLaughlin graduated from the eighth grade at Davis Elementary, she left the only school for Blacks in St. Petersburg. Also according to records, Davis opened in 1910.

While Davis was under construction, students attended school in two old houses in South St. Petersburg. The children met at an old house on Second Avenue South for morning devotionals, according to Mrs. McLaughlin. The older students remained in that building for class, while the younger ones went over to another house on Third Avenue South for their classes.

According to Mr. Ernest Ponder, by the time Gibbs was built, a small number of Black students were taking high school level courses at Davis. In 1927, students from grades five to eleven were moved to Gibbs High School. Mr. Ponder was in the seventh grade when Gibbs opened.

Gibbs' opening in 1927 was a humble beginning. It was an eight classroom school costing \$49,490, according to the Golden Anniversary of Pinellas Schools. It was built as an elementary school for white elementary school children living in the area.

During the first 43 years, Gibbs educators and students prevailed despite impoverished conditions. Students suffered from overcrowding, insufficient materials, and phlegmatic school officials. Many

chose to ignore Gibbs even though it was a model Black school. According to Emanuel Stewart (principal from 1958-1970), Gibbs offered the same curriculum as the white schools, "we had old textbooks that had been discarded and were outdated, old sewing machines and typewriters. The vocational shops were deplorable."

Both Ponder and Stewart remember finding an English teacher, O.B. McLin, who insisted that the kids read Chaucer and Shakespeare and all the classics. She made the kids get the highest caliber of literature; anything that would add to their culture perspective.

According to the St. Petersburg Times dated January 1981, the following statement was made "teachers such as Olive B. McLin, Ernest Ponder, Ruby Wysinger, Lena Brown, Corinne Young, Eloise Perkins, Margaret Hartland and T. C. Stockton were determined to prevent Gibbs students from being hampered by the school's inadequate facilities. So were coaches like N.L. "Love" Brown, William Wysinger and Freddie Dyles, and principals like George W. Perkins and Emanuel Stewart."

After several years of indecision and uncertainty, the drive to renovate Gibbs was based upon parents and students, Black and white alike, petitioning the School Board for improvements, additions, and a commitment to excellence that students who attended deserved. Due to the actions of those concerned parents and students, the County School Board committed \$8 million for the renovation of the school to the community. Staff, parents, and students committed their time and effort.

In May 1976, the first stage of renovation was initiated. Properties were acquired east of 34th street from 9th to 11th Avenue and from 34th Street to just east of 32nd Street, in June of the same year, 17 hous-

es were condemned, with the acquisition of this new land, Gibbs constructed a football field, track, tennis courts and student parking lot.

The second phase of construction saw many internal and external improvements of the campus. Construction included a new cafeteria, a business education wing, and a \$160,000 addition to the home economics building, dressing rooms, elevators, ramps and one of the finest performing arts stages in the county. Closed circuit television was installed and most of the school's interior was revamped.

The third and final stage of construction saw \$575,000 worth of further improvements of the performing arts stage and the addition of a \$75,000 parking lot on 31st Street South.

Gibbs High School has a special meaning to the African-American community, and for AJAX Building to rebuild our school without considering hiring minority sub-contractors is a slap in the community's face.

NAACP President Darryl Rouson has found 186 contractors involved, and fewer than four were African-American. The small number makes it imperative to be more inclusive during the Gibbs work. The NAACP and the community is extremely serious about this issue.

No policies or laws are in place to require a level of minority participation on school building or remodeling projects, said Tony Rivas school district facilities director. He stated "it's up to Ajax to wrestle with the issue."

The St. Petersburg Branch goes on record as saying the "DIVERSITY" is the word of the day. The magic day is December 19, 2002. On December 21, 2002 the (Gibbs) class of 1968 has the largest social function in the Black community, the Christmas Dance, at the Coliseum. President Rouson is on the agenda to speak that night. He will either announce a victory or mobilize the troops. That means "we will use all lawful methods that may include some civil disobedience to make a strong statement that the Black community and the Gibbs Alumni will not allow this project to happen without significant participation and substantial inclusion of this community," said Rouson.

The St. Petersburg Branch is very serious about the word Diversity and this will be the commitment of the officers for the coming 2003-2004 year.

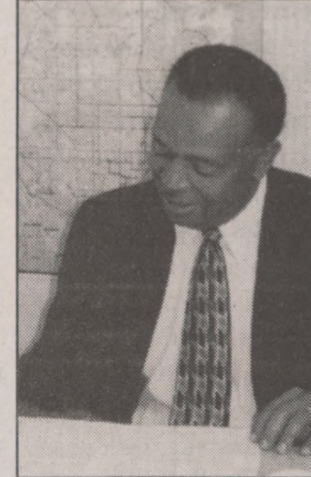
**There Is A Reason To Read The Weekly Challenger!**

## Walter Hall Joins Lou Brown Realty

ST. PETERSBURG - Walter Hall, the former Principal of Lakewood High School, couldn't stop for long.

After retiring from the school system at the end of last year, Walt has joined Lou Brown Realty as a Realtor-Associate. Walt, working full time from the main office located at 2900 - 18th Avenue S., can assist you with all of your real estate needs.

Call him at (727) 327-1234 or 866-3317 to obtain the finest in real estate service. Mr. Hall will be



Walter Hall

happy to help you "Come Home to Lou Brown Realty".

## Weed And Seed Celebration

ST. PETERSBURG - The City of St. Petersburg Weed and Seed Program will sponsor an Evening of Celebration on December 13, 2002 from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Enoch Davis Center, 1111 18th Avenue South.

The highlight will be a fashion show featuring creations by the Weed and

Seed Sewing Circle. The Sew What Club and performances by youth groups. Please contact Janis Ford, Weed and Seed Coordinator at 727-893-9841 or Trudy Popoola, Safe Haven Coordinator at 727-893-9842 for additional information. Refreshments will be served.

## People That Love Mission

ST. PETERSBURG - Monday, December 23rd, 11 a.m. will be a time of great joy at the People That Love Mission, 817 - 5th Ave. N., St. Petersburg.

The Mission will hold their annual Free Toys for Kids event. Children accompanied by a parent or guardian will receive non-violent toys and video games, stuffed animals, ice cream and other cool

items.

The Mission serves those children that are not able to attend other similar events and is supported entirely by local donations.

Please help to give needy kids a spectacular Christmas by bringing new toys and games for all ages to the Mission anytime.

For more info, contact Phyllis Sterner, (727) 525-4789.

*Presents...*

**COMMUNITY BILLBOARD**

**Upcoming Events**

- Weed and Seed Program's Evening of Celebration, Friday, Dec. 13, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m., Enoch Davis Center, 1111 18th Ave. South. For more info, call 893-9841 or 893-9842.
- Circus Exhibit (now through January 12) and Family Fun Day (Saturday, Dec. 21) at Museum of Science and Industry (sponsored by MOSI and Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey). For more info, call (813) 987-6100.
- Free Toys for Kids Event, Monday, Dec. 23, 11:00 a.m., People That Love Mission, 817 Fifth Ave. North.

For more information about Community Billboard, call us at (727) 896-2922

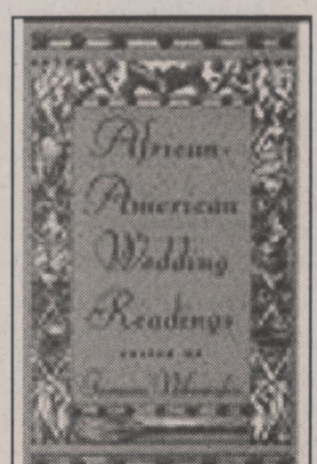
**For Your Reading Pleasure**

Syndicated feature column by Valder Beebe

As the year ends, many engaged couples are planning Holiday weddings and many will have plans for a wedding in the upcoming New Year. A collection of books to plan, celebrate and enjoy your wedding day.

**Put Soul in your Bridal Shower** offers ideas for your pre-wedding celebration. Ideas to incorporate into celebrating your special day; **African American Wedding Readings and The Nubian Wedding Book: Words and Rituals to Celebrate and Plan an African-American Wedding.** Ideas from these books will become treasured memories for a lifetime.

Valder Beebe, Editor  
**Put Soul in your Bridal Shower**



special day. Tamara Nikuradse has collected poetry, songs and bible verses of love to fill your special day with words of magic. Use **AA Wedding Readings** as a guide to inspire your unique words as vows and commitments on your wedding day.

**The Nubian Wedding Book: Words and Rituals to Celebrate and Plan an African-American Wedding**



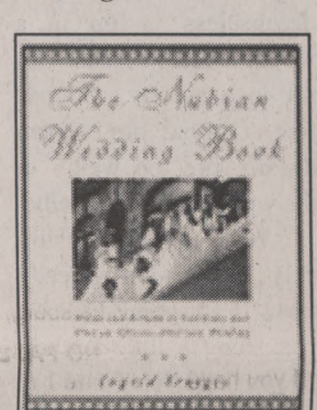
Author, Tonya D. Evans 2002 (4 of 5\*\*\*\*)

**Put Soul in your Bridal Shower** is just what the wedding industry wanted and needed! As an Editor, I have been waiting for a book that was written from Tonya Evan's perspective. Tonya Evan's book is EXCELLENT and I anticipate it having a long print demand.

Note: Put Soul in your Bridal Shower is fast becoming a best seller. Tonya Evans is working on her next wedding book. [www.tonyadevans.com](http://www.tonyadevans.com)

**African-American Wedding Readings**  
Tamara Nikuradse-Penguin Putnam Inc. (1999) (3 of 5\*\*\*\*)

A collection of beautiful words to share on your



Ingrid Sturgis-Crown Publishing (1997) (3 of 5\*\*\*\*)

The evocative event of a wedding is a spiritual encounter. Ingrid Sturgis book captures the essence and details of the spiritual experience of a wedding. Filled with ideas; making the toast, the non-traditional experience of "tasting spices" and infusing the spirituality of jumping the broom into your ceremony. Sturgis' book has successfully impacted the market since its release in 1997.

Valder Beebe, CEO of [www.photography-by-james.com](http://www.photography-by-james.com), a Dallas newspaper Editor and syndicated column writer. "Living the life of her dreams: with her husband, James and their four kids."

The Weekly Challenger thanks Badcock Furniture, the Verizon Foundation, and the Tampa Bay D-Rays for their contributions benefiting students at John Hopkins Middle, Gibbs High, Boca Ciega High, St. Petersburg High, and Academy Prep.

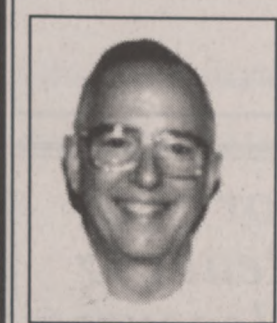
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## OPINION

by Fenn Ellery

### The Real Islam - Democratic, Not Violent

An intelligent and important person spoke about Islam and the Quran concerning 9/11/01 and its aftermath: "The American people and their leaders must understand that those who would use violence and terror in the name of Islam are HERETICS AND HYPOCRITES. They are CRIMINALS, NOT CLERICS."

"Their actions contradict the teachings of the Holy Prophet of Islam, who wrote: 'Whenever the prophet of God sent forth a detachment he said to it, Do not cheat or commit treachery, NOR SHOULD YOU MUTILATE OR KILL CHILDREN, WOMEN, OR OLD MEN.'"

"And there is a specific prohibition in Islamic law that bans killing by stealth and targeting a defenseless victim in a way intended to cause terror in a society." Sounds like Osama bin Laden doesn't fare too well - in the words of this top lady.

Who is this Muslim lady? If you don't already know, I am going to tease you along a little further. Because she has "paid her dues," and her father paid the higher price. Her words appear in a publication below the words "Views on Islam."

The publication is Imprimis (Oct. 2002, Vol. 31, No. 10), the national speech digest of Hillsdale College. They say that it has 1,100,000 readers monthly. It is a very conservative digest and, on this occasion, it was hosting a seminar: "How to Think About Islam."

BENAJIR BHUTTO is the lady, the former Prime Minister of Pakistan. She tried to rule Pakistan as democratically as possible, but the generals... She made a timely relocation here - and she is still alive. A different world! She has more to say.

"...in Islam, dictatorship is never condoned. Nor is cruelty...those who commit cruel acts are condemned to destruction." The legitimacy of the state depends upon the extent to which state organization and power reflect the will of the Muslim people.

"Now, this is the exact opposite of the fanatical, ignorant message that is spread by Bin Laden, the Taliban and their allies in hate...not fighting for Islam. THEY ARE FIGHTING FOR THEMSELVES."

Their goal is to establish Interlinked Theocracies of ignorance that they can control for their own "political ends". Theocracies? Religion-run governments, opposite to Separation of Church and State!

"...terrorists will ultimately be defeated by

basic and universal human nature." After East Berlin fell Vaclav Havel (the former Czech president) said: "Communism was not defeated by military force but by the human spirit, by conscience, by the resistance of man to manipulation."

To get onto a less serious track for a moment, I wish Man would be joined by Woman in a Resistance To Manipulation by the form of home invasion we see every night in TV commercials. Capitalism, in some ways, is screwing up Democracy.

It is more than home invasion and far too many ads. The TV ads run over and over again with the same crummy mechanisms for manipulation: Since we can pay to be on TV our claims must be true. (Don't think critically, let us snow you.) Buy now - limited time offer. (Admen seem to say) These "duduses" will buy anything if we put puppies, kitties, cute kids, and half-naked babes around it!

Why did this column spend so much time on Islam? Because great numbers of excellent people - Muslim-American ACTs (American Citizen Tax-payers) for decades if not generations, predominantly Black ACTs - are caught in the cross-fire.

And Homeland Security will - whether by "accident" or profiling - be viewing too many of them as Hostiles and Terrorists. No one needs to tell Black ACTs about being used as a Monolith, and stereotyped!

Another reason for spending the time is the columnist's belief that many ACTs are very confused about Islam. The recent news added to this in its coverage of Nigeria, slated to host the Miss World Pageant. Some rioting ensued from a newspaper article and more than a hundred (and climbing) were killed and many hundreds injured.

Before we had been hearing that suicide bombers had been primed for Jihad martyrdom with a promise of many dozens of virgins after they blew themselves up. Hard to believe! Now the Nigerian uproar seems to involve a newspaper story rather callously linking the Muslim deity with a Miss World candidate or winner. Good grief!

No wonder we get confused. But all the more reason to hear from a very informed and authoritative lady like Ms. Benazir Bhutto.

Fenn Ellery, ACT - (727) 866-2540. Email: patfenn@aol.com

### Williams-Jordan Wedding

ST. PETERSBURG - Jasper Williams, Jr., and Patricia Ann Jordan were Married October 26, 2002, at Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church in St. Petersburg.

The bride is the daughter of Joyce J. McBride and Daniel McBride of St. Petersburg and the late Jimmie Lee Jordan, Sr.

The bridegroom is the son of Naomi Hutchins and Jasper Williams, Sr., of Deerfield Beach, FL.

The bride is a graduate of Lakewood High School, St. Petersburg College and FAMU in Tallahassee, FL.



Mr. and Mrs. Jasper Williams, Jr.

She is an Accountant for Premier Community Bank of Florida.

The bridegroom is a graduate of Blanche Ely High School in Pompano Beach, FL, RCA Institute

in New York City and a retired TSGT Sergeant from the U.S. Air Force. He is a Security Supervisor for Berkshire Realty Holdings, Lynn Lake Apartments.

### Telephone Freedom For Those With Disabilities

TAMPA BAY-- Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. (FTRI) is pleased to announce that the Friends of the DEAF SERVICE CENTER, Inc. in Pinellas and Hillsborough

County, is now providing complete FTRI services.

Local residents of Florida who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf/blind or speech-impaired can receive specialized tele-

phones and ring signaling devices at no charge.

For more info, call (813) 933-4858 or (727) 399-9983 for local service.



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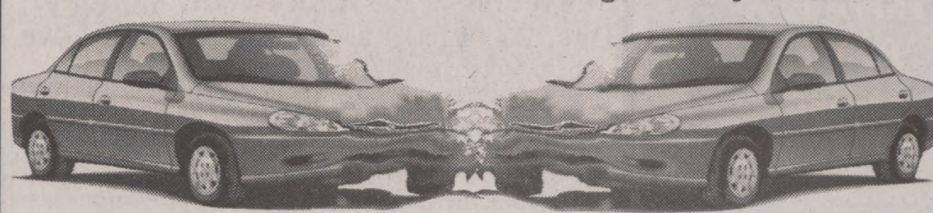
- Need A Ride To The Doctor?
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### THIS & THAT

(823-6092)

by Mabel Cooper

#### THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION 'O GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD'

The Thanksgiving dinner at the home of George and Ada Edwards of 1525 - 15th Street S. was one to be remembered. Ada, recovering at home from recent surgery, was not physically able to attend a dinner in Atlanta, GA, so the family decided to bring the dinner already prepared to George and Ada's home in our town.

Three cars loaded with relatives from Atlanta drove to St. Petersburg with food for the great Thanksgiving dinner. They decorated the dining room with little miniature turkeys, pumpkins, etc.

The food was blessed by nephew Kuta Kunta. The menu consisted of fried turkey, honey baked ham, yams, collard greens, pole beans, squash, corn pudding, rice, fried chicken, macaroni and cheese, dressing, cranberry sauce and corn bread. For dessert there was cream cheese, sweet potato, sour cream, vanilla wafer cakes. Also, other decorated Thanksgiving cakes by a niece, Aries Flowers, who is a professional cake decorator. Apple cider and no name punch. Sweet potato and apple pies and peach cobbler. Other drinks, egg nog and believe me, water.

Out of town guests enjoying were John and Gardenia Edwards, Jana Edwards, Aries Flowers, Norris Nunley, Mary Austin, Rev. Vernice Austin, Leron Austin and Santrez Howard. Also enjoying were John and Debra Daniels, Deanna Daniels, James Daniels, Thomas and Merlen McCloud from Brunswick, GA, Keath Murphy from Lynn Haven, FL. So, too, were Sylvester Murry from Warwick, RI, Charles and Bonnie Bel-ford and daughter Candra, Braden, FL.

Our town relatives were Haspard and Birdie Murphy, Eugene and Phyllis Chukes, Olivia Simpkins, Miller and Eunice Burgess, Gloria Simpkins and Harry Simpkins, and last but not least Lacy Jackson.

The celebration ended on Friday, Nov. 29, with a big fish fry held in the back yard on the patio. Menu was fried catfish, whiting, hush puppies and spaghetti.

Ada said everyone had an enjoyable time. Thanks to her relatives for the best and blessed Thanksgiving ever. And thanks to God everyone returned home safely.

#### SHE WON TRIP TO CALIFORNIA

On Dec. 9, well known Dorothea Miller of 15th Ave. and 8th St. S. jetted by way of Southwest Airlines to Palmdale, CA, for a two week vacation

compliments of an unknown person or persons. According to the lucky lady Dorothea, she learned that her name was submitted to "wherever" for doing voluntary work in the community and she won.

This is the second time, if memory serves me correctly, that she has won giveaways. Congrats, Dorothea. We hope you, are having fun. While in California she is bedding down at a niece's home. After all the thrill of the trip is gone, she, along with her niece Valerie Smith, will jet home. Her niece, a former Suncoaster, will spend her vacation here during the festive holiday. They will arrive December 18.

#### ON THE SAD SIDE OF LIFE'S LEDGER

Man about town Horace R. Woodard of 45th St. and 19th Ave. S., after a brief illness, passed away in Bayfront Medical Center Dec. 5, 2002. Horace is the son of Willie and Helen T. Woodard of 45th St. S., the father of five children and the brother of Ricky, Darryl, Garra and Larry Woodard, and he is my nephew. Creal's Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Horace's parents' wedding anniversary is December 7. They were united in marriage Dec. 7, 1947 - 55 years ago.

The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. Funeral arrangements have been made for a funeral on Saturday, December 14, 2002, at 3 p.m. at Creal Funeral Home, 7th Ave. S. and 20th St.

#### ON THE FLIP SIDE Continued from my last write-up on December 5. A WHALE OF A BIRTHDATE CELEBRATION

We wrapped up our Thanksgiving celebration on Saturday, November 30, at a huge joint b'date party at the Union St. S. home of Cora Pittman. In an informal setting, she and her daughter Jackie Pittman Wright threw one whale of a celebration that will be hard to follow.

The mother and daughter were born in December under the astrological sign of Sagittarius. Things started "heating up" at 12 noon and didn't let go until 12 midnight Sagittarius. They mingled, sipped distilled spirits, danced to recorded music with Earl Clark spinning the sides (some of the guests dancing will make the cable TV sizzle), and some guests guzzled beer that flowed from a keg like the Johnstown flood. In other words, they had a ball. It was, after all, a special occasion. A b'date party to celebrate b'dates of two amicable people they love.

Guests feasted on a lip-smacking, rib-tickling, tongue-tickling plate full of two bar-b-que hogs basted in a tangy sauce which gave everyone a conversation piece.

Also, deer, coon, pigs feet and quail and with every kind of vegetable and other soul food trimming to go with them. There was a large beautiful birthday cake for dessert lovers.

The ladies received many gifts, cards and scratch. The wind chill failed to deter some party goers but not nearly 30 party goers. From the Tampa side of the bay were Candice Averhoff, Teela Echeveria, Irene Matthew, Brenda Harrison, Doris Cumming and Calvin Simons. Also, Lillie Mae Russ from Quincy, FL, Charles Harrison, Sandra Harrison and Charletta Noble, all of Tampa. The St. Pete guests are too numerous to name at this writing. Time and space is running out, but, believe me, they were there and kept coming the next day, Cora said, to finish what was still there.

#### A BIRTHDATE AND RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

The autumn of one's years is a time to really enjoy life. It is a time to abandon the mental alarm clock that has been ticking from birth until it runs down or out. For friendly and attractive Dorothy Dunbar this was true on December 6, 2002. She abandoned the alarm clock and called it quits again (this time for good) after ten years as a foster grandparent with Foster Grandparents Program at Melrose Magnet School. The first retirement was in 1987 after 18 years of service from St. Anthony's Hospital. Each retirement was on her birthdate, December 6.

The surprise celebration was one of life's happy surprises for Dorothy. Highlighting the well-attended party was when her family members and co-workers bestowed praise and adoration to her, which kept piling up like the interest on a 10 million dollar savings account compounded daily.

Dorothy received many gifts and cards from her many well wishers, including this writer. Sponsoring this glorious affair were her sons Nate Lewis and Isaiah Dunbar of Orlando and dear relatives and some friends, I think. Out of town relatives attending were Steven and Hazel Green and Jessie Hope of Dayton, OH, Juanita Delose and Alice Debose, Mildred Ricks, Latasha, Arthur and DD, Darlean Adrion, all of Gainesville, FL.

After the celebration at the church was over, the out of town guests finished celebrating at the Comfort Inn on 31st St. S. where they all bedded down while here.

My deadline must be met, and I have to stop somewhere, and here is just as good a place as any. STAY LOOSE!





## SERENDIPITY

by Hugh Clay Paulk

Q. What play will soon become the second longest running play on Broadway?

A. "Les Misérables."

Q. On what writer's work was it based?

A. Victor Hugo's. It is the musical adaptation of the classic Victor Hugo novel about the French revolution.

Years ago, my friend Evelyn Erlandson taught school in South Bend. Her students loved it when she read to them. They especially liked the story of Cosette, the little girl in Les Misérables. Evelyn invited their attention to the fact that they could read other books by Victor Hugo. "He also wrote The Hunchback of Notre Dame," she said. One little boy shyly "corrected" her. "Miss Erlandson, don't you mean The Halfback of Notre Dame?"

Q. What are the three best movies ever made?

A. According to critics, they are:

1. Casablanca (1942)
2. The Godfather Part II (1974)
3. North By Northwest (1959)

The public chose these:

1. Star Wars (1977)
2. The Godfather Part II (1974)
3. Pulp Fiction (1994)

Q. What subject featured in National Geographic brought in the largest response in the magazine's history?

A. The articles about the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in the edition or May 1985.

Q. Who designed it?

A. Maya Ying Lin, landscape architect, sculptor. She was born in Athens, Ohio. At age 21, and a graduate student at Yale's School of Architecture, she conceived her design as creating a park within a park -- a quiet protected place unto itself, yet harmonious with the site. To achieve this effect she chose polished black granite for the

walls. Its mirror-like surface reflects the surrounding trees, lawns, monuments, and the people looking for names. The memorial's walls point to the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. The 58,191 names are inscribed in chronological order of the date of the casualty, showing the war as a series of individual human sacrifices and giving each name a special place in history. Lin said "The names would become the memorial."

Q. What is the name of the only sunken pirate ship ever discovered?

A. The Whydah Gally, which was said to be heavy with treasure stolen from at least 53 ships when it sank in a storm about a quarter mile from Cape Cod on April 26, 1717. The story has become a TV series produced by Gale Anne Hurd (Terminator, Aliens, The Abyss, Tremors, Relic, Armageddon, etc) is inspired by the life and work of Barry Clifford. In 1984, a team of divers led by Clifford, discovered the watery grave of this legendary ship, and over 100,000 artifacts have been recovered so far in this ongoing archaeological excavation of the only pirate ship ever salvaged.

Q. Today we spell the word "catalog" instead of "catalogue." Who was responsible for that change?

A. Noah Webster. He believed in establishing cultural independence from Britain and as such emphasized a distinct American spelling and pronunciation. His dictionary listed various unusual and shortened spellings of the words. Now more British and Australian children spell "color" instead of "colour." Webster's suggestion of using "tung" instead of "tongue" didn't stick, though.

hughcpaulk@aol.com

## Louise Graham Regeneration Center Celebrates Gloria Dandy Day

ST. PETERSBURG — Twenty-five years of loving service is what Gloria Dandy has given to Louise Graham Regeneration Center. Starting on December 5 in 1977, she worked at the Center when it was at 1900 - 12th St. South. That facility is now the home of the William Fillmore Head Start Center.

When Louise Graham Center changed its model from a classroom model to a warehouse work model and moved to 2301 Third Ave. South, Mrs. Dandy wholeheartedly and cooperatively made the change, too.

Technically, Gloria is employed by the Pinellas County Schools and is assigned to Louise Graham Regeneration Center. According to Dr. Leeds, the Center's director, Mrs.



Gloria Dandy

Dandy is the root system. "She embodies to values of the late Mrs. Graham both in her memory and in her attitude. Gloria is at her best when our spirits are low and someone has to keep the faith for everyone else. We have been through some brutal times, but Gloria has always been there to cheer us on."

While talking with Dr. Leeds on December 4, she quoted the late Mrs. Graham, who when asked how she was doing, would

say, "I am still kicking but not too high. I am still alive but not too spry..."

Just a few minutes after that, Beatrice Donaldson came to the Center and delivered a gorgeous plant for the office. When she asked Dr. Leeds how he was doing, he said, "I am still kicking but not so high. I am still alive but not too spry."

Everyone had a great laugh that Dr. Leeds was so familiar with the sayings of Mrs. Graham. How did he know that? Gloria Dandy.

Roots are important, and the Center has been blessed with the presence of Gloria Dandy and other employees who have been at the Center a long time.

Thank you, Gloria Dandy.

## Project Alpha Helps Young African-American Males Find Guidance

ST. PETERSBURG — Project Alpha, sponsored by the Theta Eta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., located in St. Petersburg, is a program that targets 9th and 10th grade African-American males for support and success. The focus of the program is personal development and self-esteem, enhancing quality "education" for African-American youth.

Through a referral process involving high school counselors and administrators, 15-20 young men are identified and selected for participation. With the help of Project Alpha's programs, African-American males are helped to identify and overcome obstacles that obstruct their achievement, development, and opportunity.

Meetings are held on Saturday mornings at St. Petersburg College's All-state Center, and in outdoor areas adjacent to Lake Maggiore. With every session, participants deal with topics such as anger management, survival in school, and conflict resolution. Activities include team and confidence building, as well as problem-solving scenarios. As well, male responsibility for teenage pregnancy

prevention and abstinence and social skills are discussed.

General characteristics of males participating include but are not limited to the following:

- 9th or 10th grade African-American male
- average to high average intelligence
- low academic achievement when compared to ability
- evidence of low self-esteem
- low to moderate income or single-parent home
- some evidence or expression of a desire for success or self-improvement

Since its founding in 1906 at Cornell University Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. has always viewed education as the key to success. The chapter's belief lies in the fraternity motto: First of All, Servants, of All, We shall transcend All, is best typified by efforts to instill in our youth ethnic pride, a sense of educational purpose and the tools for success.

Applications are available at *The Weekly Challenger*, 2500 Dr. M.L. King St. So., Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The completed appli-

cation should be mailed to Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., P. O. Box 15024, St. Petersburg, FL 33733.

For additional information, please contact: Charley J. Williams, Jr., Chapter Director of Education Activities at (727) 327-9869 or (727) 892-5507.



## GOOD HEALTH TO YOU!

by Bettye Burnett-Scott, R.N., M.S.

## Nutrition and Self Empowerment

Reflections from my past bring to mind one of many statements made by my grandmother Lizzie Fields who frequently responded to the misbehavior of a youth saying, "training starts in the home". This same adage is true today. Ironically, it also applies to adults. African Americans, according to research and studies done by the American Diabetes Association, The American Heart Association, The Cancer Association and the National Institutes of Health, are increasingly at higher risk than persons of other ethnicities. It's time to stop and begin to make decisions about your health. Nutrition is a major factor that contributes to

healthy balance. "Nutritional empowerment begins at home". This means self-management of your dietary intake. Empower yourself by taking control. \* Establish a nutritional meal plan, which includes foods that you like most. Your diet need not be tasteless; especially during a time or season of celebration.

### What Can You Do About It?

Simply cut down on the portions that you eat. Identify what causes you to lose control when eating and take the challenge to make a preventive change.

It is well known that behavior plays a big role in an individual's health status. That's very good news because eating behavior is

something that people can control. This means being conscious about what you eat, the amount and frequency of eating as well as the time or you eat. Poor eating habits such as late at night or prior to bedtime is an unhealthy practice. There are few people who can resist an extra chunk of chocolate cake at festive events -vs.- a portioned slice. If you have a similar problem with any type of food or drink, you must make a decision. Deprivation does not work very well according to research (and personal experience) because you end eating more of the "forbidden" food than you normally would. Another strategy might be to substitute the problem foods with things that are healthy and taste good. For example: fresh fruit, salads, Tofu. Take a food splurge only occasionally. Your body is a temple and life is a gift. Lengthen your life by shortening your meals. Choose to eat nutritious/ wholesome foods in the appropriate amounts every day. **FEEL THE POWER!!!!**

On December 01, 1955, Rosa Parks refused to change seats on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus. On December 5, Blacks began a boycott of the bus system, which continued until shortly after December 13, 1956, when the U.S. Supreme Court outlawed bus segregation in the city.

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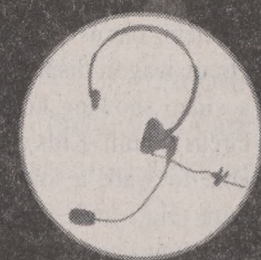
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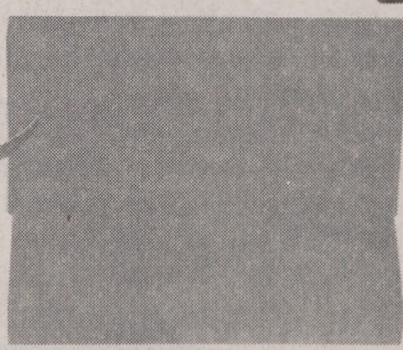
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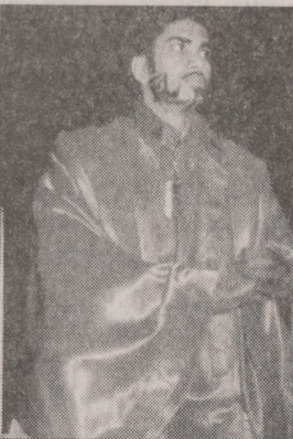


## A QUESTION OF BEAUTY

by Deanie K. Victor



The Bronner Brothers  
L-R: Nathaniel, James and Elijah



L-R: Nathaniel, James and Elijah Bronner

The Bronner Bros. International Beauty Show brought an all new holiday show to Orlando at the Orange County Convention Center November 9-11. Over 30,000 hair designers were expected.

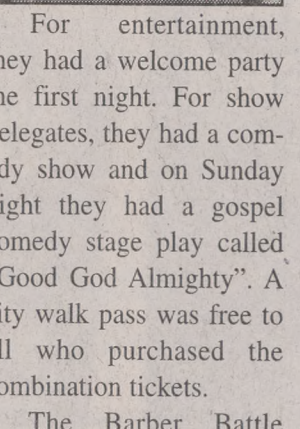
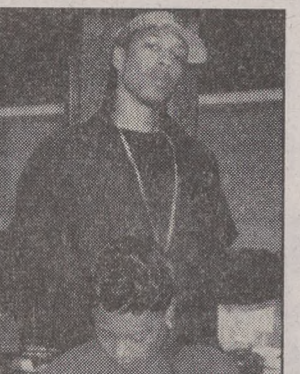
Almost everyone who has been in the cosmetology industry any length of time is familiar with the immense popularity of the Bronner Bros. shows in Atlanta held in February and August. Of course, the numbers in attendance swell to 50 to 75,000.

To bring a regional show to the Orlando area and to host the show themselves was most appreciated by those who did attend.

They organized the trade show with various vendors selling their products as well as demonstrating them. They came from across the country.

They offered classes in hair, skin, makeup, nails, as well as business as it related to the beauty industry.

On Sunday morning, church service was traditionally rendered and blessed those who came for inspiration. The Rev. Charles Elijah Bronner brought the message. He is co-pastor of the Ark of Salvation Christian Outreach Ministries in Atlanta, along with his brother, Rev. Nathaniel Bronner, Jr.



For entertainment, they had a welcome party the first night. For show delegates, they had a comedy show and on Sunday night they had a gospel comedy stage play called "Good God Almighty". A city walk pass was free to all who purchased the combination tickets.

The Barber Battle 2002 featured barbering at its best in artistry with six extremely talented young barber stylists. The winner took home a trophy and \$5,000. The rest received trophies.

Those who failed to attend missed an excellent opportunity to find another answer to the question of beauty.

## Crane Topples Over and Closes Roadway—

CLEARWATER — A crane delivering cinder block to the construction site of Clearwater's new Main Library, 100 N. Osceola Ave., toppled over Wednesday morning, forcing the closing of part of Osceola between Cleveland and Drew streets for several hours. No one was injured in the accident.

North-and southbound traffic on Osceola between Cleveland and Drew streets was temporarily rerouted.

The 10-ton crane truck was blocking the roadway and a portion of the parking lot for the temporary main library. The subcontractor, who was operating the crane truck, is responsible for minor damage that occurred to the parking lot and truck. Another crane truck will be brought in to lift the truck, which is on its side. This will not impede construction of the library. Crews continued to work.

## SCLC Completes Plans for MLK Parade, Banquet

ST. PETERSBURG — All non-profit organizations and agencies that are still interested in participating in the 2003 Southern Christian Leadership Conference's (SCLC) 18th Annual National Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major for Justice Parade can pick up their applications at the Enoch Davis Center, 1111 18th Ave. S., Campbell Park Recreation Center, 601 14th St. S., or Wildwood Park Recreation Center, 1000 28th St. S.

Businesses who wish to be in the parade should call Sevell C. Brown, III, National Coordinator, at 727-327-0085. The parade line up will be completed

on January 5, 2003.

Those agencies, organizations, businesses and individuals seeking reservations for SCLC's Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major for Justice Awards Banquet should call 727-327-0085 to secure tickets. Last year was sold out early. The Banquet is scheduled for Friday, January 17, 2003 at the downtown St. Petersburg Hilton Hotel at 7 p.m. The keynote speaker is former Congressman Walter E. Fauntroy of Washington, D.C.

## MOSI, Ringling Bros. And Barnum & Bailey Sponsor Circus Exhibit, Family Fun Day

TAMPA — MOSI and Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey are combining their talents for a holiday circus exhibit and Family Fun Day at MOSI. The exhibit is on display from now until Jan. 12, 2003. Family Fun Day takes place Dec. 21.

The exhibit includes a Red Band Wagon, costumes, horse blankets, banners, circus posters, a circus wagon display, and a video showing how the circus is built. Kids will be able to walk a low tight wire rig, and compare their foot size to that of an elephant.

On Family Fun Day, guests will be treated to clowns, juggling, face painting, puzzles, and many other hands-on activities. MOSI's High Wire Bike will also be open. "The North Pole" exhibit, including the ride aboard train for kids, continues through Jan. 5 and is a festive accompaniment to the circus exhibit and activities.

MOSI is located at 4801 East Fowler Avenue, Tampa, opens daily at 9 a.m., is wheelchair accessible, and offers free parking. For more information, visit MOSI's Web site at [www.mosi.org](http://www.mosi.org) or call (813) 987-6100. For more information about Ringling Bros. please visit [www.ringling.com](http://www.ringling.com).

## The DIPPER Connection

ST. PETERSBURG — So you have diabetes! Have you had your flu shot? For people who have diabetes, the flu can mean longer illness, hospitalization, even death.

Diabetes makes the immune system more vulnerable to severe cases of flu. During flu epidemics, death among diabetes increases 5-15%. People with diabetes are six times more likely to be hospitalized from flu complications. Each year, 10-30,000 deaths among people with diabetes are associated with influenza and pneumonia.

Information provided by CDC (Center for Disease Control) answers some questions that sometimes cause individuals to hesitate taking a flu and/or pneumonia shot.

Q. Can a flu shot give me the flu?

A. No. Flu vaccine does not contain a live virus, so they cannot infect you. Note, some persons coincidentally catch a cold a week or two following im-

munization. This is not a result of the flu vaccine - the flu is not a cold.

Q. Do I need a flu shot every year?

A. Yes, flu viruses vary from year to year. So it's important to get a shot every year to be sure you're protected.

Q. Does my family need flu shots, too?

A. Yes. The flu is highly contagious, so immunizing your family not only keeps them healthy, it decreases your chances of catching the flu from your loved ones.

Pneumonia - just as people with diabetes are more susceptible to flu, they are also high risk of developing pneumonia.

Ask your doctor about getting vaccinated against pneumococcal disease, the cause of the most common form of pneumonia. It is safe to have a pneumonia vaccine along with a flu vaccine, and in most people one dose provides lasting protection.

Ask your doctor today about vaccines to prevent

the flu and pneumonia disease. Prevention is control, and control is your life line.

D.I.P.P.E.R. is in your neighborhood to help educate you and make better choices in maintaining good health care for diabetes.

Free screening and nutrition class - Monday, 6-8 p.m., Enoch Davis Center, 1111 - 18th Avenue S., St. Petersburg; and Tuesday and Wednesday, DIPPER Office, 1621 - 16th Street S., St. Petersburg.

Free flu shots - Monday evenings at Enoch Davis Center, 6-8 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday from 10-3 p.m. at 1621 - 16th Street S.

Remember: Although November was Diabetes Month, concern yourself every month - 80% of people surveyed said they had never discussed diabetes with their doctor and 61% said they had never been tested for the condition. Talk. Ask questions. Learn all you can.

The Weekly Challenger thanks our sponsors for the I.M.P.R.E.S.S. program - Edward White Hospital and AmSouth Bank. Their contributions allowed 12 Pinellas County students to showcase their writing talents.

## BET from pg. 1

Johnson and myself in the way we have always run it for the past 20 years. So we will continue to have an independent Black voice."

Obviously, that's not the case.

"An African-American company gains a considerable amount of capital when it sells out to a powerful conglomerate," says George E. Curry, editor-in-chief of the NNPA News Service and a panelist on "Lead Story" for more than seven years. "But it also loses something important. Regardless of how BET tries to spin it, the loss of these important programs represents a major setback for the Black community."

In a two-page news release issued last Wednesday afternoon, BET portrayed the removal of the popular TV news shows as a needed "restructuring" to make way for more program acquisitions. The news release did not even identify the dropped programs by name.

"Like any network preparing for an influx of new programming, a few BET shows already in our lineup will eventually be cancelled," says Lee who also is BET president. "There will be more specific announcements about the extent of our lineup changes over the next several months."

BET also announced that effective immediately, 40 employees—12 percent of its 350-person workforce—will be dismissed. Those losing jobs work in New York, Los Angeles and the Washington, D.C., corporate office. Some of the employees were given a few minutes to gather their belongings last Wednesday and were escorted off the company property by security guards.

"It's always difficult to lose people as part of a business process, but these changes are our effort to support our new programming direction at BET," Lee says.

There were many critics of BET even with its old programming direction. Still, the airing of the public affairs programs such as "Lead Story" provided it with a defense against being a Black version of MTV. Even with its videos, the old BET provided more Black-oriented public affairs programs than all of the other cable networks combined.

When the network was still owned primarily by Johnson, BET was roundly criticized for its abundance of sexually explicit videos, its decision to discontinue the Friday news roundup program once hosted by Ed Gordon and getting rid of Bev Smith, a popular talk show host.

Once the majority owner of "Emergence: Black America's Newsmagazine," Johnson allowed the magazine to fold in 2000, along with "BET WeekEnd," another well-respected magazine.

Then came a very public and bitter split with Tavis Smiley when Johnson decided last year not to renew Smiley's contract. Smiley had been a popular host of "BET Tonight" with Tavis Smiley" for five years. Johnson made a rare appearance on-air to defend his decision, saying they had a "somewhat difficult" relationship.

Although it was not generally known at the time, the "BET Tonight" format had been created for Ed Gordon, the former host of "Lead Story." However, after Gordon's exclusive interview with O.J. Simpson in 1995, he

was hired away by MSNBC-TV and the new program went to Smiley.

After three years as an anchor and correspondent at MSNBC, Gordon returned to BET to again host the show. He anchored "BET Tonight with Ed Gordon" from New York.

In the meantime, Smiley, a staple on the "Tom Joyner Morning Show," landed his own program on National Public Radio and serves as a special correspondent on other network programs.

It is not clear what role, if any, Gordon will continue to have at BET. Gordon has been the public face of BET since its inception and top executives are discussing how best to re-deploy its hottest on-air talent. Everything is being discussed, from having him bump Jacque Reid, the host of the nightly news program, to finding a role for him at CBS News.

Gordon also will have other options outside of BET, including the possibility of syndicating his own celebrity interview program.

Bob Johnson has often said that "Lead Story," originally telecast in September 1991, was his favorite program on the network.

However, the journalists' roundtable had begun to lose some of its edge, some suspect deliberately. In January, Cheryl Martin voluntarily resigned. For some inexplicable reason, Amy Holmes was hand-picked by Johnson to be the regular "guest host," even after it became clear to viewers that she did not have the depth or polish of Martin.

Another substitute host was Cassandra Clayton, an accomplished former NBC network correspondent. Although Clayton was the

clear choice of the journalists that appeared on the program, BET had already decided to award the permanent job later this year to another substitute host, Beverly Kirk.

When it became clear that BET would not replace Cheryl Martin with a journalist of equal talent, DeWayne Wickham, a columnist for "USA Today" and the longest-serving panelist on program, quietly resigned. Although he was unwilling to criticize the show publicly, Wickham let it be known to friends that he was dissatisfied with the direction in which "Lead Story" was headed.

When Martin quit as host, BET executives decided to rotate the journalists rather than retain the regulars: Clarence Page of the Chicago Tribune, former "Emergence" editor George E. Curry and conservative columnist Armstrong Williams.

While the show became a vehicle for more journalists, it lost much of its fire, especially the acerbic exchanges between Curry and Williams. It did not help matters that its time slot was changed to 11:30 a.m. Sundays, when many would-be viewers attend church.

"Teen Summit" also experienced a change of character when its operations were shifted from Washington, D.C., to Los Angeles. The brainchild of Johnson's ex-wife, Sheila, the 13-year-old program had won numerous awards for its excellence, including seven NAACP Image awards.

"What this means is that BET will have virtually no programming," says one former BET official. "We were already down to skin and bones and now we don't have that."

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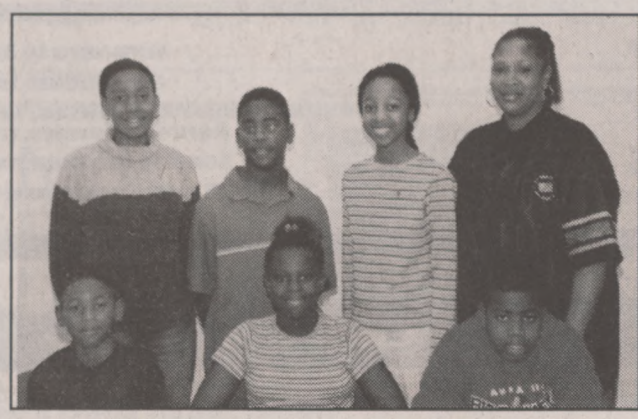
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## African Fashion Show and Luncheon

ST. PETERSBURG — On Saturday, December 14th, the Black History Pageant of Bethel Community Baptist Church will have its 4th Annual African Fashion Show and Luncheon in celebration of 25 years of service to youth in the Tampa Bay community. The affair is at 11 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort, 6800 Skyway Lane S.

The fashion commentator will be St. Petersburg's own Terri Scott who, besides her duties with City Council, always takes time for community service - this time for children and teenagers. She will be joined by the modeling group of Rita Wesley, Jenee Isaac, Erika Davis and Ann White.



L-R: Aquaiel Troupe, Ben Jenkins, Alesia Davenport, Gayle Sims, Riji Cubby, Alexis Pitts, and Frank Peterman

Performing at the fashion show and luncheon will be Alexys Cobb of the

Gibbs Performing Arts Center. Also, the dance ministry of Genesis Worship Center, consisting of Shama and the Liberty Adult Dance Ministry will perform. Minister Christa Douse is in charge.

Recitations will be made by pageant participants Danielle Roberts, Kwameka Romero, D'Andre Williams, Ben Jenkins, Rayla Allen, Alesia Davenport, Desiree Roberts, Frank Peterman and Aquaiel Troupe.

For 25 years, the Black History Pageant has been teaching drama skills along with coping skills and respect for authority. More than 700 children and teenagers have participated in the program. Some have returned to assist, and others are now sending their children.

Pageant models will include some of the alumni. Some 15 young people participated in the very first pageant 25 years ago in Fellowship Hall of Bethel Community Baptist Church, and some of them will model on Saturday, including: Gregory Seay; Representative Rev. Frank Peterman who is also assistant pageant director; and Denise Walker.

Other alumni models include: Kim Hayes and Darius Carter. Participants

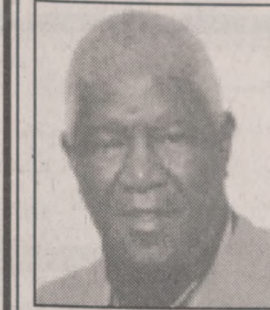
modeling from the pageant production for 2003 will include Alexis Pitts, D'Andre Williams, Desiree Roberts, Daniel Roberts, Kwameka Romeo, Rayla Allen, Ebonique Jones, Alesia Davenport and Ben Jenkins.

The committee will present this year's "Angels" to the community at the luncheon. These are people who are raising money for the Black History Pageant this year. They include: Catherine Jones, Evelyn Thompson, Ella Mary Holmes, Elnora Florence, Joyce Spence, Jacob Fuller, James Edwards, Rosie Peterman, Representative Frank Peterman and Ella Lawson.

The 2003 production theme is "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing: African-Americans at the Crossroads" and will be held 4 p.m. Sunday, February 9, 2003, at Bayfront Center's Mahaffey Theater. The production is free to the public. Alumni from the past productions will be recognized in a procession.

Frances Williams, the assistant pageant coordinator, is in charge of the luncheon. Peggy Peterman is founder/director. Committee members include: Janet Fitzsimmons, Rhonda Rembert, co-pageant coordinators, Janice Andrews, Janice Wiggins, Carolyn Hobbs, Melvina Randall, Teresa Riggs, Donald Jackson, Janice Hughes, Fred Winters, Jr., Rev. Inella Paris, Mary Calloway, Gayle Sims and Latrice Blankumsee. Spiritual advisors include the Rev. Manuel L. Sykes, Belinda Sykes and Apostle Clarice Pennington.

For further information, call 822-7674 or 327-9869.



### RAMBLING

"Yesterday has gone, forget it. Today is here, use it. Tomorrow may not come, So don't wait on it."

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by Charles Howard

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commodes, walkers, crutches and hydraulic lifts and participation in their recreational programs.

For further information: How to Get Money for: Youth, the Elderly, the Handicapped, Women and Civil Liberties, Human Resources Network, Radnor, PA, Chilton, 1975.

It's that time again when we share with you newsy tidbits about past happenings, and I apologize to the ones who did not see my picture last week, thinking my article was not there. The article was there, but the picture wasn't. A simple mistake, I'm sure. Just read on, and perhaps you could recognize my writing.

Sorry!

\*\*\*\*\*

### SIMPKINS/WILLIAMS FAMILY REUNION

The second Simpkins/Williams family reunion

was held November 27, 28 and 29, 2002, at the beautiful Kingston home of Essie Mozell Simpkins Norton who, at the diamond age of 87 years, is the oldest known living member of this clan. She is the descendant of John and Essie Simpkins who preceded her in death. Ms. Morton is the mother of Lois Norton Bryant, Sylvester Norton, Jr., and the late Cornelius Wilbert Norton.

This special gathering was most unique as it exemplified the spirit of love and unity with praise and thanksgiving to God. This momentous event was co-hosted by numerous family members including: Rev. and Mrs. O.C. Williams, Valdosta, GA; Evangelist Eunice W. Abney, Eatonville, FL; Jimmy Norton Bennett, St. Pete, FL; Joseph and Mabel Jones, Tampa, FL; Minister John and Venelean Simpkins, Riviera Beach, FL; Valensi (Shawn) R. Simpkins, Gainesville, FL; Cynthia Williams, Spring Hill, FL; Anthony and Kim Norton, Tallahassee, FL; Annie Laura Norton and daughters, St. Pete, FL; Lois N. Bryant and Sylvester Norton, Jr., St. Pete, FL; Todd and Sadique Williams, Valdosta, GA; Rodney and Twanda Norton, Tampa,

FL; Edith Williams Washington, Miami, FL, the niece of Essie Simpkins Norton and the daughter of the late Mansfield Williams.

Prayer service, mini sermonettes by Pastors O.C. Williams and John D. Simpkins, individual testimonies, song fest, a memorial tribute and presentation of Simpkins/Williams family members in attendance.

Educational and recreational activities and tour of our city was also a highlight of the reunion. Approximately 60+ family members were in attendance and several family friends.

Special thanks to Charles Howard for his assistance in the area of food preparation. Also, good friend "Evangina" of our city for her overall support.

The Simpkins/Williams third family reunion is scheduled to be held Thanksgiving 2003 at the home of Otha and Eunice Abney, Eatonville, FL.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Selfishness makes Christmas a burden; love makes it a delight. Christmas living is the best kind of Christmas giving.  
\*\*\*\*\*

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**Sistahs from pg. 1**  
party and even facilitate a party prior to the official hiring of Sistah facilitators, but wouldn't get a mammogram until one year later. A believer, Terri has returned willingly and in a timely manner, to repeat

her mammogram one year later.

**Ruby Hope**, a registered nurse, mother of two, wife of a St. Anthony's team member, Ted Hope and a Home Interiors Consultant, she still finds time to help promote the

message "early detection is the best protection." Being a registered nurse, Ruby sees first hand the results of women prolonging and ignoring their health needs. Even though Ruby manages her life with a planner she sees the value of this

cause and has made it a priority in her already busy life. She therefore finds it quite disturbing when she confronts a Sistah and asks them to commit just 1 1/2 hours of their time and she receives a response such as...not right now or I'm so busy. However, because of her perseverance and persistence she keeps right on plugging along.

**Melissa Roland**, a St. Anthony's oncology nurse, mother of three, adoptive mother of one, and wife of firefighter, Gary Roland, Melissa has accepted her calling to work as a Sistah Facilitator. A fitness buff, Melissa saw an opportunity to promote her overall beliefs about wellness and fitness through the Sisters For Breast Health Program. She utilizes her serene persona and compassion for God to educate women on the importance of routine mammograms with style and compassion. A go-getter Melissa refuses to allow negativity which can emerge in our community to halt her calling. While sometimes frustrated she can't commit to the program 24/7 she knows and understands the time she is allowed to commit at this point is all the time God has carved out for her to do at the moment. He is merely laying the groundwork for her to continue to promote "early detection is the best protection" and other wellness education.

St. Anthony's would like to thank all of these women for their commitment and ask that if you're interested in helping them save Sistahs lives by hosting a Sistah party, just call 825-1056.

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If we go back a couple hundred years, it would have been hard to imagine today's promise. For African-Americans, this country offered very little hope, recognition, and prosperity. However, so much of what we have today is here because of the heroic efforts of African-Americans. This feature is dedicated to their spirit which could not be denied despite very little opportunity. Today, opportunity abounds. Learn about their stories, learn from their determinedness, and be inspired to take advantage of opportunities. We pray the inspiration is contagious.

## Thomas Stewart - Inventor

by Barry A. McIntosh  
Challenger General Manager

Over a hundred years ago, what did aching backs, sore knees, rough hands, unsanitary conditions, resulting in unhealthy people have in common? The lack of a mop. That's right. It might seem small, but try it yourself. The next time you go into the pantry, and you're ready to reach for the mop, pull back. Think about cleaning the floor on your hands and knees. You notice I say, think, because you probably won't give it a second thought. You'll keep reaching for the mop, and pull it out.

Now, imagine having to scrub a floor on your hands and knees day in and

day out. It must have especially difficult for slaves who did this their whole lives. Over time, the toughness of the job was a natural prohibitor to keeping homes as clean as they could be.

In the 1800's, relatively speaking, cities were growing and people lived in crowded areas, making it even more difficult to keep things clean, thus negatively affecting people's health. The year was 1893, and the place was Detroit, Michigan, a large city. The time was ripe for the invention of Thomas Stewart. He invented the first mechanical clamping mop. No doubt there were rudimentary mops before, but this

one was special. In fact, it was so special, it hasn't changed much in over 100 years. It is very similar to what we use in our homes, a true testimony to Stewart's practical innovation. Back then, it allowed people could stand up to wash their floors, with a highly efficient and effective mop, making it easier keep their floors clean, maintaining sanitary homes, contributing to good health.

Here's what was so special about Stewart's invention. He created the mechanism to have a replaceable mop head, the cloth part of the mop being able to be replaced when it became nasty and worn out. This initial clamping

mechanism was quite complex. Nevertheless, the improvement made mopping the floor even more clean and healthy.

Stewart's invention, on July 11, 1893 (U.S. patent #499,402) was also a mop that could wring the water out of itself by the use of a lever.

The following is what was submitted in the patent extract: 1. A mop-stick, comprising a stick proper, provided with the T-head having the grooved ends, forming one portion of the clamp, the rod having a straight portion forming the other part of the clamp and from thence converging rearwardly to the sides of the stick, a lever to which

the free ends of said rod are pivoted, a ring loose on the stick, to which the forked ends of the lever are pivoted, and a spring between said ring and the T-head; substantially as set forth.

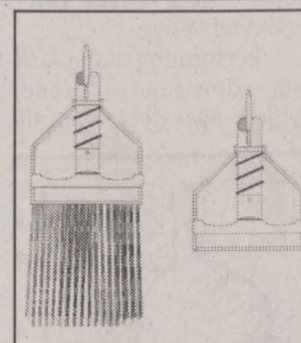
2. The combination of a mopstick provided with a T-head, forming one part of the clamp, a moveable rod forming the other part of the clamp, a lever to which the free ends of said rod are pivoted, said lever being fulcrumed to a moveable support on the stick, and a spring exerting a resistance against the lever when the latter is thrown back; substantially as set forth.

Thomas Stewart also invented along with William Edward Johnson, a

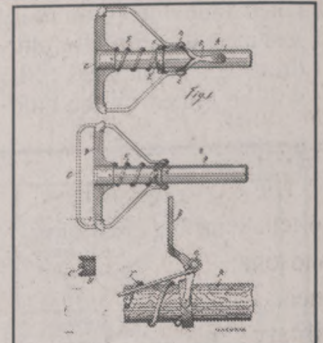
very important device, an improved station and street indicator in 1883. It was used with railways and street cars to signal what road or street the vehicles were crossing. Their indicator would automatically activate a signal by means of a lever on the side of the track.

Later on Thomas Stewart invented a device again, with an improved oscillating metal bending machine in 1887.

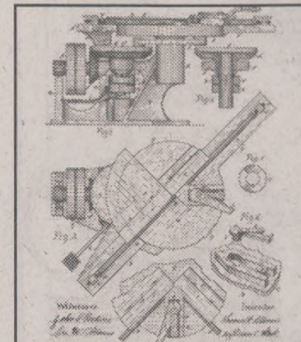
Sources:  
www.ncat.edu,  
www.inventors.about.com



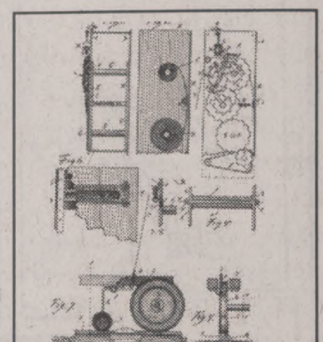
Drawing of Thomas Stewart's invention



Patent submission of Thomas Stewart



Thomas Stewart and William Edward Johnson invented an improved station indicator



Another Thomas Stewart - the metal bending machine

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### My Holiday Recipe

- Grandma's slammin' cornbread dressing
- Some old-school Christmas LP's
- Kayla and Sharise messing with their toys
- Tavis home from college
- A serious feast with holiday flavor
- The men mad into the game
- Some belt-loosening and kickin' back
- And a lot of thankfulness for another year together

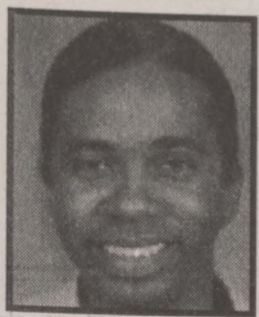
Add Coke. Mix it all together. Chill. And serve.

peace

Coca-Cola



# NORTH CENTRAL NEWS



## LIGHT OF THE WORLD

by Rev. Daniel Banks

"For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away." (1 Corinthians 13:9,10)

The Lord would have me tell you that there is a handsome, light complexioned, Black man in the military, name Wayne, who will not receive any jail time! Something of significance in your situation, Wayne, is a shirt bearing a cross-hatching design. The Lord is going to bless you with what you want. Your family and friends and you should be grateful for this move of the Holy Spirit! If you need to contact me with a praise report, you can write me at 547 Midway Track Pass, Ocala, FL 34472.

I prayed with a woman in my church about a month ago. We went before God with her unspoken request. Later, she informed me that she knew she deserved prison time but she was given three years on "paper" (probation)! God is a good God! I was surprised because I did not know anything about the matter when I prayed!

I prayed with another woman at my church recently. With my eyes closed during the prayer, I could see the Spirit of Christ as it joined our midst. The woman's eight-year-old daughter, who was standing nearby, proclaimed that she could see Jesus standing behind me. There was no way she could have known what I'd seen in the Spirit but I told everyone that she was correct. The Holy Spirit had entered the room at the exact time she stated! Her mother said she "sees" things at home all the time and asked what to do for

her. I told her that the child has a gift from God and that she needs moral support and keen direction that her gift not be used for the devil. Parents must be good Christian examples before their children and encourage the children in Christ whether they are "gifted" or not!

Paul said in one of his letters to the Corinthian church, "I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except that he interpret, that the church may receive edifying." (1 Corinthians 14:5)

I prophesied last month that the 24th and 30th were dangerous days. Many crude spirits were assigned to those days. People in and associated with our church died, were buried, or had car wrecks on those days. God allows us to partially see into His storehouse of knowledge. Won't you make Jesus your choice today? God bless you and keep you is my prayer.



## OCALA NEWS

by Jim Thorpe

### "STILL HOLDING ON TO MY FAITH"

I am so depressed since my wife died and now the holidays are coming, I don't have the energy to try and celebrate like we use to; I don't feel like it. I just want to get through this as quickly as possible, but I know it's important for the children to celebrate. So who do I help them experience some of the happiness of the season?

Adopting a family in need and buying gifts or preparing a meal for them in memory of that special one who has died? As you share in these holiday celebrations of remembering, be prepared for emotional highs and lows. Grief can often feel like you are riding on a roller coaster, especially so during the holidays.

Accepting my feelings as well as the children's feelings during this time is important. Be honest about how and what you feel and allow the children the same opportunity. Allow yourself the pain, while remembering that it won't be like this always. If you wish to

cry, cry. Allow yourself to laugh; allow a period of questions; allow yourself to be who you are, and to feel. Such honesty brings these feelings to light and this allows for healing to take place.

Holidays are indeed a special time of year and for families who are grieving, know that it is possible to experience some of the hope of the season. There is hope that my family and I will not only get through this time, but that we will even have moments of peace and joy again. There is hope that we will heal; the pain will lessen and we will feel better again. There is hope that our faith will see us through and we will receive new strength that we never knew we had. During this special holiday season, may we find peace, joy and love with family and friends which forever connects us together.

\*\*\*\*\*

### MLK COMMITTEE MEETING

MLK Committee will hold their weekly meeting, Tuesday, December 16 at the Ocala Police Depart-

ment on South Pine at 5 p.m. You are welcome to come and join us. For more information contact James Thorpe (352) 629-2948.

MLK Commemorative

Commission Male Chorus practice will be on Saturday, December 14 at 5 p.m. At the Theological Seminary (11105 NW 4th Street).

### Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church

BROOKSVILLE — Greetings to all of our readers. Pastor Lowery and the Mt. Zion Mondon Hill members would like to thank everyone who worshipped with us this second Sunday of the Advent season. After a very interesting Church School lesson, our worship service began with music by a combined Mass Choir, accompanied by Mrs. Cook, Minister of Music.

Rev. Lowery preached from Luke 17:26-29. His text was "Business as usual is no longer acceptable." It gave all of us something to think about this coming week. It's a scripture you should all read (if you haven't already) and if you missed today's sermon.

The second candle was lit by a youth from the Jr. Church, under the direction of Sis. Beulah Lawson, Director of Christian Education.

On Sunday, Dec. 15, the Sons of Allen with Bro. Cook, Bro. Lawson and Bro. Chesteen, along with the other men who have been working diligently with this group of young

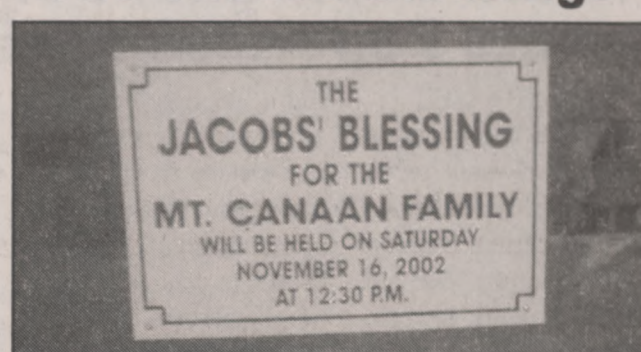
men will be in charge of the service. We are all proud of the progress they have made in such a short time since their organization. The music will be furnished by the Male Chorus; the third candle will be lit for the Advent season. Pastor Lowery will bless us with another dynamic sermon. You don't want to miss it!

Don't forget our Watch Night candlelight service on Christmas Eve, as we gather to celebrate the real reason for the season, the birth of Christ. The service will begin at 10 p.m. The final candle of Advent, the "Christ Candle," will be lit, as the choir sings "Joy to the World". We will remind you again next week.

In the meantime, have a blessed week, and remember to attend our church on the hill at any time, where Love Makes the Difference. (352)706-1955; Pastor Lowery can be reached at (727)866-0126.

Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church is located at 8160 W.P.A. Road, Brooksville.

### "The Jacobs Blessings"



by James Thorpe

OCALA — Every 3rd Saturday in November each year Deacon Moses and Althea Jacobs sponsor a food giveaway to the public. They purchase the food and then distribute it at Mt. Canaan Baptist Church on Baseline Road in Ocala.

The items given away this year included mustard and collard greens, can beans, tomatoes, sweet peas, corn, paper towels, toilet tissue, oranges,

grapefruit, grapes, candy apples, sweet potatoes, orange juice chicken, hamburger and turkey wings to name a few.

Even with the rain on Saturday, the crowd was still there. When the Jacobs started this program they would only give out oranges by the truckload, but they said the Lord laid on their hearts to do more.

What a mighty God we serve! May God keep pouring out His blessings on them.

On November 21, 1654, Richard Johnson, a free Black, was granted 100 acres of land in Northampton County for importing two persons.



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# STATE NEWS

## Florida Department of Education Debuts Paperless Assistance

TALLAHASSEE — The Florida Department of Education recently to the State Board of Education a new paperless online school reporting Web site for 64 currently low-performing schools with grades of F and double F. Under the Assistance Plus initiative, the principals of these schools are required to report to the State Board of Education on their school's progress in implementing changes to raise student achievement.

The Web site, <http://osi.fsu.edu/aplus> includes information on the activities-to-date each school has begun, the assistance each school needs from the Department of Education

and a summary of student success at each school.

"Details on school improvement measures are now readily available thanks to this new Web-based reporting," said Education Secretary Jim Horne. "I am proud to see our accountability standards up to speed for the paperless 21st century."

The 10 schools that have received an F for the second time in a four-year period must report monthly to the State Board. The other 54 schools report quarterly. The new online system is an efficient method that allows for more frequent reporting, eliminates annual reporting on paper documents

and provides a history of each school's improvement plan.

Through Assistance Plus, all low-performing schools are receiving financial assistance and targeted help for school improvement from additional reading, writing and math tutors.

"Parents and students in low-performing schools can see firsthand what improvements are being made in their schools with this easy, user-friendly online reporting system," said Education Commissioner Charlie Crist. "This is a great vehicle to help educators further develop academic opportunities for Florida's students."

## Virginia Resident Elected Mr. Maroon and Gold at Bethune-Cookman College

DAYTONA BEACH — As a part of Bethune-Cookman College's Homecoming festivities, the student body elected Davon T. Bagley as Mr. Maroon and Gold 2002.

A native of Suffolk, Virginia, Bagley is a senior Business Administration/Marketing major and a member of the Marching Wildcats. Bagley is the president of the Black Executive Exchange Program (BEEP), and an intern for

both Black Entertainment Television and Elektra Records. Upon graduation, he plans to attend American University in Washington, D.C. to obtain his masters in Business Administration.

Bagley, son of Larry and Brenda Bagley, stated, "Bethune-Cookman College has impacted my life in such a way that it is indescribable, and I thank the B-CC family and friends for the support."

On December 07, 1885, seventy-four Blacks were reported lynched in 1885.

## FAMU Trustees OK Leave for Dean, But Balk at \$100,000 Chair for Ex-President

by Monica Stewart

Capital Outlook Staff Writer

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TALLAHASSEE — When Henry Lewis III completed his tenure as interim president of Florida A&M University on June 30, part of the deal was he'd get a year's sabbatical leave with pay. Then he would return to his original job as dean of the FAMU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

But apparently that was not to be as simple as it first seemed.

Lewis has been back in his old pharmacy role since Sept. 9, after only a two-month break from his stint as interim president.

Under Lewis' leadership, FAMU's College of Pharmacy has become one of the nation's leaders in securing grants. While Lewis was out his college continued to move forward in its quest for more research dollars.

The college is competing for various projects and grants, including two grants estimated at \$17.6 million and a key program accreditation.

"With all these events and activities going on, the dean of the College of Pharmacy needs to be on board," FAMU President Fred Gainous told the university's board of trustees last week.

Lewis also thought it was important he return. "I am the principle investigator for both grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH)," he said. "It was important that I come back and at least be available for them."

The NIH grants, one for \$2.684-million and another for \$15 million, would break the current university record for grants funding. The record was set at \$11 million by the College of Pharmacy.

The key accreditation program would permit the use of live animals for research. The Association for the Assessment and Accreditation for Laboratory Animal Care just completed its site visit and, according to Lewis, things look

promising.

The association has accredited 640 programs nationally, only three of them historically black colleges or universities.

At the Nov. 21 board meeting in Orlando, Gainous urged trustees to pay for the remainder of Lewis' sabbatical. Without discussion, the board approved the recommendation, agreeing to pay Lewis \$52,000 for giving up about 10 months of leave and returning to take charge of his college.

But the trustees were reluctant on a proposal from the FAMU Foundation's president to grant former FAMU President Fredrick Humphries a \$100,000 leadership award. "It is not clear to me," Trustee James Corbin said. "I think that \$100,000 is like a million dollars to this university. I think we set an awful precedent by doing this."

Before the Board of Regents was dissolved, it said Humphries would be given

a chair at the FAMU law school, Corbin said. "I don't see how we can do it," he said.

Trustee Castell Bryant said she recalled this issue at the first board meeting of the academic year. She said then she requested more information on the award. "It would be very helpful to me if the criteria along with the selection process for this award were in front of me," she said.

Trustee R.B. Holmes said Humphries should be appreciated for his leadership.

"I encourage support for his 16 years of outstanding leadership," he said. "It is right to do it, it is a leadership gift."

Board chairman Art Collins told the board he received a letter from the newly-appointed board member Judge Joe Hatchett urging approval. Collins added that Humphries had forgone his sabbatical salary. Collins said the foundation had sent a message that it would be extremely disappointed if

the Board went against its recommendation.

"The only reason the foundation exists is because of Florida A&M," Corbin said. "I am not concerned about them being upset. It is not the Foundation's money."

Bryant said the foundation cannot raise money in the name of FAMU then do whatever it wants to do with it. "All the money in the Foundation is raised in the name of FAMU," she said. "The motion was tabled until this month's conference call meeting. For that meeting, each trustee will have a copy of all correspondence among the foundation, board members and the Florida Department of Education."

On December 08, 1933, Clerow Wilson was born, later known as Flip Wilson. He was the tenth in a family of twenty-four children, eighteen of whom survived.

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# RELIGIOUS NEWS

## Shiloh MBC

"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord." - Psalm 122:1

We, the Shiloh Church family, regret to inform you that the dedication service of our new sanctuary and fellowship hall has been delayed. Due to unforeseen circumstances, this project will not be completed as

scheduled.

We will announce the new date of the dedication service at a later time.

Please continue to submit your ads, as the souvenir booklet is a work in progress.

We thank you for your support, and may God continue to smile upon you with his grace.

## Trinity Presbyterian Church

The Celebration of Service to honor the retirement of Dr. Frederick D. Terry, Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church, will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2003, at

Fox Hall, Eckerd College. This Celebration will start at 6:30 p.m. with Hospitality Hour and dinner at 7 p.m. Please RSVP at (727) 327-8560.

## Moore's Chapel AME Church

Pastor James T. Blount, Officers and Members of Moore's Chapel AME, cordially invite you to worship with us. Moore's Chapel AME, the green church on the corner of 31st Street and Fairfield Avenue South, is a place of worship, "where the Word of God is Changing Lives."

Last Sunday, Pastor Blount, continued in his series of sermons, entitled "A Conversation with Paul." His scriptural reference was Romans 1:11-16, and the sermon topic "The Power of Preaching." It was well delivered and received by the congregation.

Sunday, December 15 will be observed as "Youth Day." The Young People Department (YPD), under the direction of Sister Genorice White, will be in charge of the 11:00 a.m. service. The Youth will carry out all the tasks in the order of service, except the sermon.

The message will be

delivered by Reverend Fharis Gibson. Reverend Gibson is the pastor of "Mother" Midway AME Church, the oldest AME church in the state of Florida. He and his wife, Blondie and child Phedra, reside in Jacksonville, FL.

Reverend Gibson has been anointed, appointed and elevated by the Holy Spirit. We ask that you come out and help us encourage our Youth as they continue to "grow and glow" for the Lord, and listen as Reverend Gibson brings us the word, "thus saith the Lord."

Date to Remember  
Tutoring- Monday & Thursday- 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.- Fellowship Hall (Annex)

Noon-Day Prayer-- Wednesday- 12:00 p.m.

Bible Study- Wednesday - 7:00 p.m. Theme for study "Journey to A Practical Faith."

YPD Meeting-December 15, immediately after 11:00 a.m.

Feeding and Clothing of

## Praise Our King Celebration



Some of the cast members take time to pose

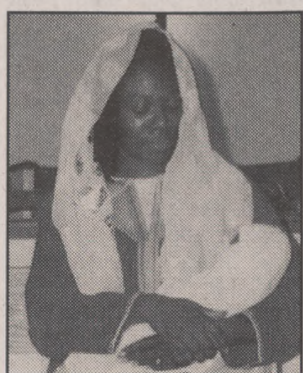
Stewart-Isom Memorial Church invites you to attend its "Praise Our King" celebration on Sunday, December 15.

Begin the day with us at our 9 a.m. Prayer Service, 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and 11 a.m. Worship Service.

A special performance, "Night of Miracles" will be presented in the sanctuary at 3:30 p.m.

Come explore the idea of miracles, past and present, as you enjoy this warm retelling of the Christian story. Through pantomime, experience the enactment of the story through narration and

scripture readings. Jackie Hopkins, Stewart-Isom's first lady, will be featured as one of the soloists.



Anita Allen portrays the mother of Jesus

the Homeless- December 14-10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. - Fellowship Hall (Annex)

For transportation needs to church school, worship

services, bible study- please call Sister Bridget Keeley @ 321-9273 or Brother Frank Bryant at 894-6067 by 6:00 p.m.

## All Nations

During a powerful testimony, we heard again of the ever-present power of God and His mighty works. We found that rumors come and go in haste, but we can't afford to miss our blessings following foolishness. In spite of how it looks to others, the body of Christ does not and will not condone sin. We know who is in charge, and when we encounter it (sin) in any form, we take it to the Lord and leave it there. I thank God that He alone is the forgiver of sin, and He washes it away to be remembered no more. Amen!

We come to the house of the Lord God for one purpose - to sing praise and worship to our true and living God. As we sang (I got rid of my heavy load), one of our young Elders, A. Williams, came with a power-packed message from God entitled "I came back" and we all gave full praise to God for the message and the messenger. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

We know that Mary was chosen to bare or bring forth the Son of God whose name is Jesus. We know that Mary was not the only virgin at that time, but she was the chosen virgin. Praise God. Like she was the choice of God, many of us are the same, the choice of God. Amen.

As we venture into our holiday season, I pray that we remember to give thanks for every day and to extend the gift of love to everyone at all times. From II Thess. 2:13, Eph. 1:16 and Luke 17:11-21 - "If we practice giving thanks for a good night, we can expect to have a good morning. We should teach our children to give thanks to God for all things so that it becomes a natural part of their makeup to be thankful simply because God is so good to us."

He indicated that some seek to learn a new foreign language, but it's far more important to learn a language called the prayer language. Amen! Amen!

It starts with praise God, Hallelujah, thank you, Jesus, glory to God and Jesus is Lord. When we see ourselves as we really are, when we admit to ourselves that we need help and only God can help us, we see the importance of having a prayer language at that time, because it's the only time we need to contact God in the name of Jesus for our souls sake. When we come to the end of our road, we can count on God to take us back and just as He does it for us, we can be sure that He will do the same for others, and we all at that time can say with truth, "I came back. Thank you, Jesus."

## Lighthouse Cathedral of Faith

Lighthouse Cathedral of Faith presents a weekend of praise. The theme for this weekend is "It's in Your Praise".

On Friday, January 17, 2003, at 7 p.m., there will be a banquet catered by Delores Ross.

A free Men's and Women's Seminar will take place Saturday, January 18, 2003, at 8:30 a.m. with Bishop Ronald and Alfreda Moten as Seminar

Facilitators.

A free Jessie Dixon Concert will take place Sunday, January 19, 2003, at 7 p.m. with the featured speaker, Archbishop Willie Bolden.

All events will be held at Pasadena Community Church, 227 - 70th Street S., St. Petersburg.

For ticket information, contact Delores Ross at (727) 864-3428 or Renee Miller at (727) 824-5640.

## Prayer Tower COGIC

Supt. Elder Clarence Welch and the entire Prayer Tower family welcomes you with open arms to fellowship with us at any time. We invite you to share with us at any of our spirited services, where we fully believe in lifting up the name of the Lord!

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a SON is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

Mission Itinerary:

On December 14, at 9:00 a.m., the Boy's Club will have their regular meeting.

On the 21st, the CWC will meet at the church and

the Sunshine Band will meet at the South Heritage Nursing Home, at 10:00 a.m.

On December 22, Prayer Tower's Drama Guild will present the Christmas Play "Too Wrapped-Up for Christmas", at 5:30 p.m. Participants don't forget about the Saturday meeting from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. The YPWW will have its Christmas program on December 23, at 7:30 p.m.

In addition to our weekly verse, Ephesians 4:25, we ask your continual prayers for our nation, world leaders, sick and shut-in members and saints of God everywhere! Pray without ceasing. Prayer Tower COGIC, 1137 37th Street So. St. Petersburg, FL, 727-321-0670 33711

## Greater St. Paul MB Church

Union #1, an auxiliary of Union Foreign Baptist Association, will convene December 17-21 at Greater St. Paul M.B. Church, 532 - 33rd Street S. Various churches and pastors will render service nightly and all day-Saturday, December 21.

A great big thank you goes out once again to Scott Buick, who donated turkeys for our Thanksgiving baskets. Scott Buick donated the turkeys in memory of the late Deacon Robert Lee, Sr. May God bless each one of you for helping us to bless needy families during this holiday season!

The man of God really preached the Word all to the glory of God and to declare the name of Jesus that He came back.

We thank God for all that was said and done, and we pray God's blessings upon you all in the name of Jesus. From the hearts of Pastors J. and J. Williams.

We invite you to share with us our Youth Revival from Dec. 17th-20th at 7:30 p.m. nightly. Come out and bring your children to fellowship with our children, and together we will glorify God, because we are going somewhere.

## Advent As Adventure At New Philadelphia

Jesus did say to His fishermen/disciples to launch out into the deep. Upon faithful obedience, the result was a catch of fish so enormous that the fishermen stood in awe. The CDC of New Philadelphia will likewise obediently "launch out into the deep".

The Advent season at New Philadelphia will be occasion to announce its first public venture into the community. A "Freedom Camp" will be launched during the school holiday recess. Faith-

filled fun, activities, and adventure will be offered children daily at this God-inspired venture of church's CDC.

Annette Long will serve as camp director. She will be assisted by Joyce Robinson and Barbara Bolden. A public announcement will be forthcoming which will address all "particulars" about the camp. The church family eagerly anticipates prayerful, public participation in this initial faith-based, "not for Profit but for Prophet" adventure!

## Good Samaritan Baptist Church

1820 - 18th Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33712  
Ph: (727) 821-3265



The Rev. Larry Williams, Pastor

The congregation would like to invite you and your family to worship with us. Come as you are!

Sunday Service ..... 8:45 A.M.  
Wednesday Bible Study ..... 7:00 P.M.

"The Church of Love, Healing and Restoration"

## New Philadelphia Community Church

The Reverend Don A. Gaskin, Pastor

2335 - 22nd Avenue South  
P.O. Box 15935 • St. Petersburg, FL 33733  
Wisdom School 9:50 AM • Morning Worship 10:30 AM  
Bible Study Fellowship 6:30 PM (Wed.)



Deacon Ministry ..... Deacon Edward Nesbitt  
Finance Ministry ..... James Robinson  
Children & Youth Ministry ..... Joyce Robinson  
Clerk Ministry ..... Wyonna McGee

"A Church With Passion for God and Compassion for People"

## 10th Street Church Of God

207 - 10th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL

Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting/  
Bible Study ..... 7:15 p.m.  
Evening Worship (1st & 3rd Sunday) ..... 6:00 p.m.

International Headquarters, Anderson, Indiana

## New Faith Free Methodist Church

2427 Irving Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL  
Phone: 824-2814, Pastor • 323-1290, Church

THEME: Looking Upward, Searching Inward, Striving Onward

### SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

SUNDAY SCHOOL ..... 9:30 AM  
MORNING WORSHIP ..... 11:00 AM  
YOUTH BIBLE STUDY ..... Wed. 6:30 PM  
ADULT BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER SERVICE WED. 7:00 PM



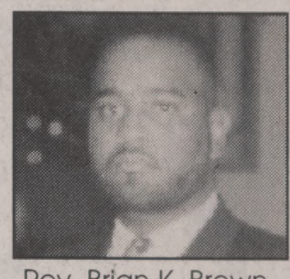
Rev. Curtiss L. Long, Pastor

## ST. MARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

1301 - 37th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL

### Schedule of Services

Church School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship ..... 11 a.m.  
Baptist Training Union ..... 5 p.m.  
Evening Worship ..... 6:30 p.m.  
Prayer Meeting  
Thursday ..... 7 p.m.



Rev. Brian K. Brown

"One week from church makes one weak."

## Greater St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church

532 33rd Street S. • St. Petersburg, FL

Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship ... 6 p.m.  
Baptist Training Union 5 p.m.

Tuesday Night  
General Bible Study  
Thursday Night Prayer  
Meeting & Teachers Meeting

Rev. Clyde Williams We welcome you at all times.

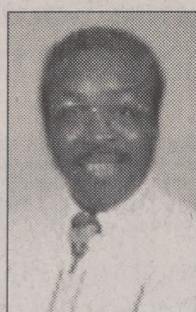


## Emmanuel Christian Fellowship Inc.

3501 37th. St. So. • St. Pete, FL 33711  
Church: 867-4144

Pastor: Elder Franklin Evans  
Co-Pastor: Sis. Rebecca L. Evans  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:15 a.m.  
Bible Study (Monday) 7:00 p.m.  
Youth Bible Study (Tuesday) 6:30 p.m.  
Prayer (Wednesday) 6:30 p.m.  
Prayer (Tues. & Thurs.) 11 a.m.- 12 p.m.  
Prayer (Sat.) 6:00 a.m.

"All Are Welcome" • "Bring A Friend"



You are hereby invited to fellowship with



"...let the one that is thirsty come."  
(Revelation 22:17)

For more information, contact  
Pastor Jerome  
& Pastor Kisha  
Jordan at  
727-327-2849 or  
Fax: 866-1896

Sunday Worship Service  
10:30 A.M.  
Sunday School 9:30 A.M.  
Bible Study, Tues. 7-8 P.M.

527 49th Street South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33707  
www.wateroflifechristianchurch.org

## FIRST BAPTIST INSTITUTIONAL CHURCH

3144 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH  
ST. PETERSBURG, FL  
PHONE: 323-7518

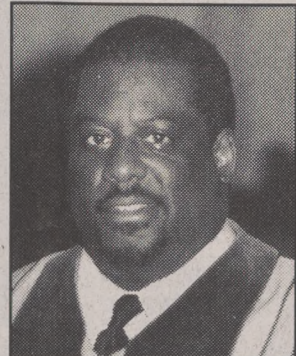
REV. WAYNE G. THOMPSON, PASTOR

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:30 A.M.

MORNING WORSHIP - 11:00 A.M.

COME WORSHIP WITH

THE FIRST BAPTIST FAMILY



## WINGS OF FAITH CHRISTIAN CENTER

309 - 15th Avenue North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33704  
Telephone (727) 893-1741

Bishop Ronald Moten, Pastor  
Alfreda Moten, Co-Pastor

Bishop Ronald Moten and the Wings of Faith Church Family would like to extend to you a personal invitation to worship with us during our scheduled times:

Sunday School 9:30 A.M.  
Morning Worship & Children's Church 10:45 A.M.

Prayer/Fasting Tuesday  
Intercessory Prayer & Bible Class Wednesday, 7:30 P.M.



## BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

"We're Busy as Bees -  
But Sweet As Honey"

912 Third Avenue North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33705  
Phone: 727-822-2089

Church School ..... 9:00 A.M.  
New Member Class ..... 9:00 A.M.  
Morning Worship ..... 10:30 A.M.



Rev. Roosevelt Hardy  
Pastor



## Bethel A.M.E.

"The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called, the Son of God.'" (St. Luke 1:35)

Bethel A.M.E. Church located at 912 3rd Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL continues to celebrate the Season of Advent, which is the beginning of the Church Year for most churches in the Western tradition. In celebration of the Advent Season, the various organizations within Bethel have been responsible for lighting a candle in recognition of the season. Last Sunday during morning worship service, the Steward Board lit the first candle of HOPE or EXPECTATION. The second Sunday, December 8, the Stewardess Board lit the second candle of Advent in recognition of

PEACE. The remaining candles of Advent may be associated with different aspects of the Advent story in different churches, or even in different years. The sequence for the remaining two Sundays might be Bethlehem, Shepherds, Angels, or Joy and Love.

Advent is one of the few Christian festivals that can be observed in the home as well as at church. With its association with Christmas, Advent is a natural time to involve children in activities at home that directly connect with worship at church.

On Sunday, December 8, the Music Department presented a seasonal concert, Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! The event was very well attended and featured the voices of the Youth and Adult choirs of Bethel, as well as visiting voices from the commuting area. The church was

filled with the Spirit of the Lord as we lifted his Name in Praise.

On Sunday, December 15, at 9:00 a.m., the Church School invites the community to witness its Christmas presentation entitled "Around the Manager." This presentation will feature holiday recitations, poems and songs of the season.

The Bethel family also provides the following church ministries to the local community on a weekly and monthly basis:

- Breakfast and Bible Study (BBS Ministry) each Sunday morning beginning at 8:00 a.m.

- Church School, Sunday 9:00 a.m.

- Sunday Morning Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.

- Tuesday evening Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.

- Music ministries, Wednesday evening, 6:00 p.m. (Youth) and 7:00 p.m. (Adult)

- Junior Church

- Transportation and Homeless Feeding ministry

If you are without a church home, or away from home during this holiday season, we invite you to attend our celebration of the Spirit. Thank God for you.

For additional information, you are encouraged to contact the church office, Monday- Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at (727) 822-2089. "Praise God, Praise God, Praise God"

### All Nations Church of God By Faith 3000 - 4th Avenue S. • St. Petersburg, FL 327-5926 • 327-2656

Sunday School . . . . . 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship . . . . . 11 a.m.  
Night Worship . . . . . 7 p.m.  
Tuesday Bible Class . . . . . 8 p.m.  
Wednesday Prayer Meeting . . . . . 8 p.m.  
Friday Tarry Service . . . . . 8 p.m.  
Saturday Sabbath School . . . . . 11 a.m.

Rev. Johnnie Lee Williams, Pastor



### Moore's Chapel AME Church

Rev. James T. Blount - Pastor

Sunday Worship - 8:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School (all ages) - 9:30 a.m.

Noon Day Prayer/Bible Study - Wednesday - 12:00 p.m.

Bible Study - Wednesday - 7:00 p.m.

3037 - Fairfield Avenue south  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33712  
(727) 321-3545

"Where The Word Is Changing Lives"

### Prayer Tower Church Of God In Christ 1135 37th Street South, St. Pete, FL

Elder Clarence Welch, Pastor

Sunday School 10 a.m.  
Morning Service 11:30 a.m.  
YPMW 5:30 p.m. Sunday  
Church Service 6:30 p.m. Sunday  
Night Services 7:30 p.m.  
Tuesday Services 7:30 p.m.



### GRACE FELLOWSHIP CENTER

4240 Central Avenue • St. Petersburg, FL 33711 • (813) 328-9412

GRACE  
FELLOWSHIP  
CENTRAL

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Except God build the  
house they labor in  
vain that build it.  
Ps. 127:1

GRACE

CENTER

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Phone  
(813) 328-9412  
NURSERY AND  
CHILDREN'S  
CHURCH  
AVAILABLE

Pastor Leonard Wilson • Phone: 536-1890

### ELIM Seventh-Day Adventist Church

801 - 6th Avenue S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
(727) 894-5246 / 823-1619

SATURDAYS

Sabbath School: 9 am  
Morning Worship: 11 am  
Youth Hour: 1 Hour Before  
Sunset

WEDNESDAY

Prayer Meeting: 7:30 PM

ELIM Junior Academy & Day Care Center

### Friendship Missionary Baptist

3300 - 31st Street South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
(727) 906-8300



Pastor John A. Evans

Sunday 7:45 AM and  
11 AM Worship  
Sunday School 9:30 AM  
Wednesday  
Noonday Bible Study and  
Bread of Life  
Prayer and Bible Study 7 PM  
also Youth Enrichment Hour

## Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

The Friendship Missionary Baptist Church family, under the leadership of Pastor John A. Evans, Sr., extends to you a warm invitation to join us in Sunday worship this Sunday and to all church-related activities and events during the week.

Services begin at 7:45 a.m. with the Deacons Ministry leading the Devotion. The Fellowship Choir will render the Song Service, the Ushers will greet you and Pastor Evans will preach the unadulterated Word of God.

Church School begins at 9:30 a.m. with the Superintendent in charge. A second service is held at 10:45 a.m. opening with the Praise Team.

It's the time of year to show our love for some special children who otherwise might not have a Merry Christmas. There are two Ministries here at the "Ship" that help make this happen - The Brotherhood Ministry and the Angel Tree Ministry. For additional information, see Brother Crum and any Brotherhood member, also, Rushon Gillette.

The Annual State of the Church Address and Volunteer Recognition Banquet will be held on Saturday, December 21, at 5:30 p.m. in

the Fellowship Hall. Please plan to attend this wonderful Christmas Fellowship. Sign-up sheets are on the resource table in the Atrium.

Weekly events:

Thursday, December 19, 7 p.m., Prayer/Praise Service and Bible Study; also, Youth Enrichment Hour.

Because of the Christmas holidays there will be no Noonday Bible Study on Wednesday, December 25. Also note there will be no Bread of Life Ministry this month.

Thank you for your support this year. Have a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year - the Bread of Life Ministry.

"Behold a Virgin shall be with child and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name EM-MAN-UEL, which being interpreted is God with us."

We are remembering in prayer this week the many members who are in bereavement by the loss of loved ones. They are - Doris Ferguson, Dorothy Hollis, Arnold Hill, Mattie Macon, Mary Perry and Floyd Wade. We know that there is power in prayer to help us make it through the dark days.

## PRAYER HELPS

GOD  
BLESS

### Galilee Missionary Baptist Church

505 - 35th Street S. • St. Petersburg, FL • 327-3186  
Morning Worship . . . . . 7:45 a.m.  
Sunday School . . . . . 9:15 a.m.  
Mid-Morning Worship . . . . . 10:50 a.m.  
Baptist Training Union . . . . . 5:00 p.m.  
Mid-Week Worship . . . . . Wednesday 7:00 p.m.  
Bible Study/Prayer Service . . . . . Thursday 7:30 p.m.

Come join us at the Church where everyone is Welcome!



Rev. Earnest Jones,  
Pastor

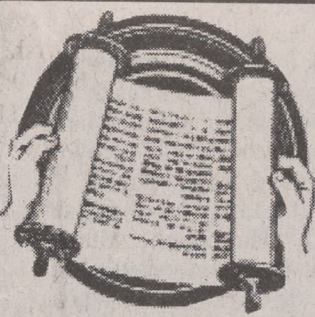
### Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church

3700 22nd Avenue S. • 321-0020  
Elder Clarence L. Warren, Pastor

Sunday School . . . . . 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship . . . . . 11:00 a.m.

The church where everyone is welcome & the Spirit of Christ lives.

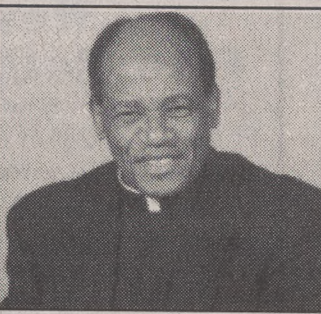


### St. Joseph Church

2101 - 22nd Ave. S., St. Petersburg

Sunday Masses Are At:  
9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Gospel Choir 9 a.m.  
Traditional Choir 11 a.m.



Father Callist Nyambo, Pastor

### TRAVELER'S REST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

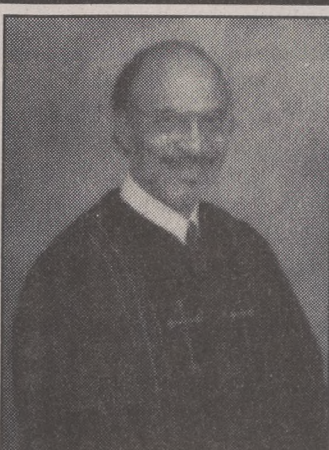
2183 - 22nd Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
Church Phone: 822-4869  
Residence: 824-6021

Mid-Morning Worship Service . . 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School . . . . . 9:30 a.m.

Prayer/Praise Service (Weds.)

Rev. Donald  
F. Browne



"WE ARE THE CHURCH WHERE CHRIST IS THE CENTER OF ATTRACTION"

### Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church

955 - 20th Street South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33712

Phone: 894-4311  
www.mzprogressive.org

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service: 8:00 a.m. • 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, Prayer Meeting: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Bible Study: 8:00-9:00 p.m.

(Adult and Youth)



Pastor Louis M.  
Murphy, Sr.

## Mt Zion Progressive



Photos of various youth who participated in  
"Chaste With A Purpose" Ceremony

Chaste With A Purpose

Program

The Girls and Boys Ministry Leadership of Mt. Zion hosted a special wedding ceremony, the First Annual "Chaste With A Purpose" Ceremony, on Sunday, October 13 at Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church.

The ceremony was the

celebration of a commitment

made to Jesus Christ by more than 40 youth to abstain from sex until marriage. The audience comprised of 500 family members and friends witnessed the youth being "ringed" with golden wedding bands by their parents and saluted in prayer by Rev. Louis Murphy, Sr., and Rev. Jon Matthews. Rev. Willie

Whiting officiated the ceremony by performing the vows of commitment.

The 31 young ladies and 15 young men studied a curriculum for six months that included Biblical instruction, speakers, video presentations, activities, and activities that promoted and illustrated the spiritual, emotional, physical and social benefits of abstinence and the consequences of premarital sex.

The young ladies culminated their study by attending the Girls of Grace Conference at Carpenter's Home Church in Lakeland, FL October 4-5. The conference focused on four areas: sex and dating, family relationships, friendship, and intimacy with God. There was also a make up session and fashion show demonstrating how to dress in style and still look like a godly young woman.

The Girls Ministry Leadership comprised of Alfreda Brown, Kanga Clark, Jenee Isaac, Melissa Roland, Glencia Walker, Dora Williams, and Rita Wesley, were responsible for the creation production of the event made possible with the assistance of Tampa Bay Best Magazine, Signature Announcements Le Cheesecake, Lawrence and associates Photography, After Hours Formal Wear, Rent All City, Nova Discount Florist and Richard T. Wilkes. The next ceremony will be in the spring of 2004.

Forget not the Lord and His many blessings!

### NEW HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH 2120 - 19th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712 (727) 896-5228

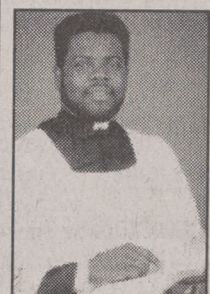
Sunday Services:  
Church School . . . . . 9am  
Praise & Worship Services . . . . . 10:30am  
Tuesday Services:  
Prayer Service . . . . . 6:30pm  
Bible Study . . . . . 7pm

Join us as we lift up the name of Jesus

### Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ

2230 - 22nd Street S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
(727) 894-6764 • (727) 550-0388

Elder William E. Anderson, Pastor



Sunday School . . . . . 10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship . . . . . 11:30 a.m.  
Community Bible Study . . . . . 7:30 p.m.  
Prayer & Bible Study . . . . . Wednesday 7:30 p.m.  
Intercessory Prayer . . . . . Saturday 5:45 a.m.

"A church working together for the upbuilding of God's Kingdom"

With Allah's Name, The Merciful Benefactor, The Merciful Redeemer

## Masjid Al-Muminin

Islamic Services

Jumuah Prayer - Friday 1:30 p.m.

Qur'anic Study - Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Taleem - 12:00 p.m.

Imam Wilmore Sadiki  
3762 - 18th Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33711  
(727) 327 - 8483



### BREAKTHROUGH CHRISTIAN CENTER

2900 - 34th Street South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33711

(727) 867-4600/888-447-PRAY (7729) • Fax (727) 867-4662  
Website: www.breakthroughcc.com • E-mail: pastor@breakthroughcc.com

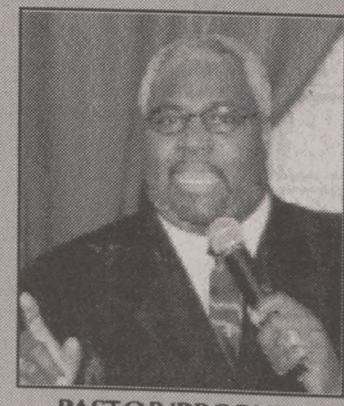
Sunday Services:  
Power Breakthrough Service @ 11:00 am  
A Night of Prophecy @ 6:00 pm

Tuesday Services:  
"Word Explosion" @ 7:30 pm

Friday Services:  
"Miracle Service" @ 7:30 pm

RADIO MINISTRY:  
WRXB-1590 Saturdays - 5-10am  
(Prophet Glenn Miller's Gospel)  
WRXB-1590 Sundays 9:30-10:00 am  
WINB-13570 KHZ - Wednesdays 4-4:30pm  
(Shockwave Radio)

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Rev. Fleming Tarver and  
The Original Florida Spiritualaires



The Mighty Sons of Zion

Together we stand, Ministries and TBP Records presents an evening of Christmas cheers showcasing the new releasing of Rev. Fleming Tarver and the Original Florida Spiritualaires, The Mighty Sons of Zion, showcasing their new CD release. Also appearing on the program - The Spiritual Mag-

nifiers of St. Petersburg. This showcase will take place at Galilee Missionary Baptist Church, 505 - 33rd Street S., St. Petersburg, with Rev. Earnest Jones, Pastor, on Sunday, December 22nd, at 6 p.m. Giveaways and cheers - ham, turkey and bikes.

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Church School & Prayer 9 a.m.  
Weekly Bible Study Tuesdays 7 p.m.  
Ministerial Class Thursdays 6 p.m.

2611 5th S. • St. Petersburg, FL 33711  
Church Phone: (727) 323-3210  
Pastor's Office: (727) 895-9591  
Rev. Constance D. Samuels - Pastor  
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Enlarge Our Coast.....Join us for the  
Feast/Nightly Services Sept. 20th thru  
Sept. 28th, 2002 @ 7:30 PM  
Saturday services @ 2:30 PM

House Of God, PGT  
930 18th Street South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33712

For additional information, call 550-2521 or 866-0643  
Pastor - Bishop James W. Paschal  
Guest Evangelist - Evangelist Irene Crawford of Cincinnati, OH



Bishop James W. Paschal  
and wife, Lavern

### PEACEFUL ZION M.B. CHURCH

2051 - 9th Avenue South,  
St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
Clifford F. Cannedy, Sr., Pastor  
(813) 822-2455

Church School.....9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.  
B.T.U.....5:00 p.m.  
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.  
Tuesday Evening  
Bible Class.....7:30 p.m.

Wednesday Youth  
Rehearsal.....5:30 p.m.  
Thursday Prayer & Church  
School Study.....7:30 p.m.  
1st & 2nd Saturdays SR.  
Choir Rehearsal.....11:00 a.m.

## 20th Street Church Of Christ

820 20th Street South  
St. Pete, FL  
Home: 896-8006



Bro. Robert Smith

Sunday Morning Bible Class ..... 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.  
Ladies Bible Class Monday ..... 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship ..... 5:00 p.m.  
Monday Evening Bible Class ..... 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Evening Bible Class ..... 7:00 p.m.

## Christ Gospel Church

2512 22nd Ave. S.  
St. Pete, FL 33712  
327-0997

Rev. P.D.H. Leonard  
Pastor



**SUNDAY**  
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:45 a.m.  
Evening Worship 7:30 p.m.  
**TUESDAY**  
Bible Study 7:30 p.m.  
**FRIDAY**  
Evangelical Service 7:30 p.m.  
**PRAYER TIMES**  
Tuesdays, Fridays & Sundays - half an hour before service.  
Mondays & Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.  
Friday nights at midnight.  
**RADIO BROADCAST**  
Sundays 7:45 a.m.  
If you would like to come to church and do not have a way, call 327-0997.  
The Church Where Everyone Is Welcome

## Pleasant Grove

Pastor Joseph Gordon and the Pleasant Grove Church family invite you to worship with them on Sunday, December 15th. The Senior Male Chorus will render Song Service, and Usher Board #3 will serve in the 7 a.m. Early Morning Worship Service.

Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m. with Superintendent Deacon Philip Carter presiding.

Mid-morning worship begins at 10:50 a.m. The Mass Choir and the Gospel Chorus will render Song Service, and Usher Board #3 will serve.

Also at 3 p.m., we will worship at the Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church where the Rev. Ronald Gibson is host Pastor. Pastor

Gordon is requesting the Mass Choir and Usher Board #3 to serve.

The Youth Choir will bring Christmas greetings in song at the Regency Retirement Center on Saturday, December 14th, at 4 p.m. Parents are urged to bring your child/children to the church no later than 3:30 p.m. to be bused to the Center. Tempie Etheridge is Supervisor.

Also, the youth Christmas fellowship dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m. Sarah Anderson is Youth Director. The adult Christmas fellowship dinner will be held on Saturday, December 21st, at 6 p.m.

Don't forget - the last day to order Christmas poinsettias

is Sunday, December 15th. Please see any member of the Hospitality Ministry to place orders. Mary Green is President.

Pleasant Grove is sponsoring two tours for the summer of "2003" - a seven-day Caribbean cruise from May 25th-June 1st and a land-lovers bus tour to New York City and the Pocono Mountains from July 11th-17th. Please contact Kay Curry at (727) 864-2937 after 7 p.m. for details.

Thought for the week: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." - Isaiah 9:6.

May His peace be with you till we meet again. "Merry Christmas".

## Mt. Zion AME

The Greater Mt. Zion AME Church family, under the leadership of Pastor Clarence Williams, invites you to join us this third Sunday in December at our 7:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Worship Services for a Hallelujah-good time. The Male Chorus will render praises in song throughout the day. Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m. with the Superintendent in charge.

We continue to lift high the name of Jesus on Wednesday evenings during our "Hour of Power" worship at 7 p.m. We invite one and all to come as you are and join in this Spirit-filled service.

The stars are here as we prepare for our Christmas dramas to be held Saturday, December 21st, at 3 p.m. at the main library at 3745 - 9th Ave. N. Make plans to partake in the celebration

as we encourage and share love with our youth.

As we await that "Blessed Christmas Morn", our Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held on December 24th at 6 p.m. We cordially invite you to join us for this beautiful unified celebration celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior.

"Unity" - that's the theme for our "Annual Super Bowl Tea". It's time

to choose your team, and we'll see who comes in first place on January 24th. You don't want to miss this event, which proves to be great fun and provide great fellowship.

We're preparing for our 78th Church Anniversary and Founders Day celebration coming Sunday, February 9, 2003. The Planning Committee meets every Tuesday evening at 7 p.m.

Bible Holiness Church of God in Christ  
419 - 5th Street S., St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
Phone: 898-3838

The members would like to invite you and your family to worship with us. Our services are:  
Tuesday Morning Prayer 9:00am  
Weds. Family Worship 7:00pm  
Sunday School 10:00am  
Sunday Morning Worship 11:15am  
Sunday Evening Worship 7:00pm  
Pastor: Elder B.O. Walker



## GREATER MT. ZION AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

919 - 20th Street S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712

Early Morning Worship 7:30 a.m.

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

All Male Bible Study Weds. 6:30 p.m.

Prayer Meeting Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

Bible Study Monday 6:00 p.m.

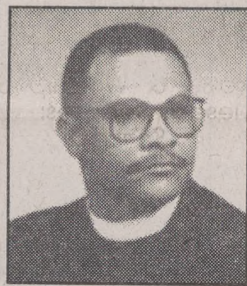
Vintage Bible Study Wednesday 11:00 a.m. - 12 noon

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Rev. Clarence Williams,  
Pastor

## Queen Street

### Church Of God In Christ

1732 9th Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33712  
(727) 896-4356

Elder A.P. Conage, Pastor

8:00 A.M. - Sunday Service  
9:30 A.M. - Sunday School  
11:00 A.M. - Morning Service

9:00 A.M. - Tuesday Prayer  
7:00 P.M. - Tuesday Bible Study  
7:30 P.M. - Thursday Pastoral Teaching

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Each Month after Morning Service

Dear Father, You Have Given So Much; Give One Thing More - A Grateful Heart. Amen

## TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2830 - 22nd Avenue South • St. Petersburg, Florida 33712  
(727) 327-8560

9:00 AM. .... Prayer Time  
9:30 AM. .... Sunday School  
11:00 AM. .... Worship  
12:30 PM. .... After Service Fellowship  
Wednesday 6:30 PM Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

You are invited to share spiritual nurturing, preaching of the Gospel and a Christian community for everyone



Dr. Frederick D.  
Terry

## Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church

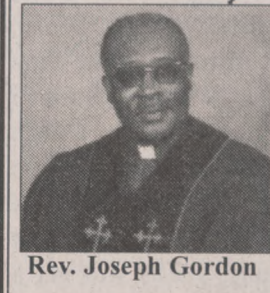
2550 9th Avenue S. • St. Petersburg, FL

Early Morning Worship.....7:00 a.m.  
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship.....10:50 a.m.  
Baptist Training Union.....4:30 p.m.  
Communion.....7:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Prayer Meeting & Bible Study

Wednesdays.....7:30 p.m.

"The Church Where Everybody Is Somebody"



Rev. Joseph Gordon

## STEWART-ISOM MEMORIAL CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1820 Walton Street S., St. Pete, FL 33712  
(813) 327-0593

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.

Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

"To God Be The Glory"



Rev. Calvin Hopkins

## St. John Missionary Baptist Church

1500 N. Pennsylvania Avenue  
Clearwater, Florida 33516  
Church Phone: 443-1945 Parsonage: 446-6056  
Rev. Fleming Tarver, Pastor  
Sunday Services

Sunday Service.....8:00 a.m.  
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.  
Baptist Training Union.....5:00 p.m.

Weekly Services  
Bible Class Monday, 7:00 p.m.  
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study, Wednesday 7:00 p.m.  
The church where everybody is somebody and Christ is all.



## Macedonia Freewill Baptist Church

930 - 18th Street South St. Petersburg, Florida

Morning Worshi.....8:00 a.m.  
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.  
Mid-Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.  
Prayer Meeting and Bible Class Wed.....7:00 p.m.

Elder: Tony Smith

Transportation to Church: 727-743-3993 or 727-798-4430

Communion is observed quarterly

the first Sunday after every 5th Sunday.

The Church Where Everyone Is Welcome

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Archbishop Willie Bolden, D.D., D.D.  
Pastor Glenda Bolden, PH.D., D.D.  
Delores Ross, Resident Pastor



Willie & Glenda  
Bolden

Sunday Morning Prayer.....8:00 AM  
Sunday School.....8:15 AM  
Sunday Worship Service.....9:00 AM  
Intercessory Prayer - Wednesday.....6:30 PM  
Bible Study - Wednesday.....7:30 PM  
Intercessory Prayer - Saturday.....6:00 PM

"Arise shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee." (Isaiah 60:1)

"Soaring Higher in  
Christ Jesus"

## Saint Mark

African Methodist Episcopal Church

• Sunday- Church School, 9:45am  
• Sunday- Worship Service, 11:00am  
• Tuesday- Operation "BIG EAR", 6:00pm- 7:00pm

Spiritual Counseling  
• Wednesday- Prayer Meeting & Bible Study, 7:00pm- Until 6:30pm- 7:30pm

• Thursday- Tutoring for K thru 5th, 6:30pm- 7:30pm  
• Friday- Great Book Review for Youth, 7:00pm

• Saturday- Young Men's Bible Study, "Teen Word" 9:00am- 10:00am  
Each 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month



Pastor Keturah  
D. Pittman

2232 62nd Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33712  
(727) 867-2400

## Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church

3455 - 26th Avenue South • St. Petersburg, FL 33711  
(727) 327-0554

"Church of The Open Door"

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship:

8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Wed. NBC/AWANA/Bible Study/

Praise & Prayer 7:00 p.m.

Thurs. Midday Bible Study

12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

Sat. Noon Day Prayer Hour

12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

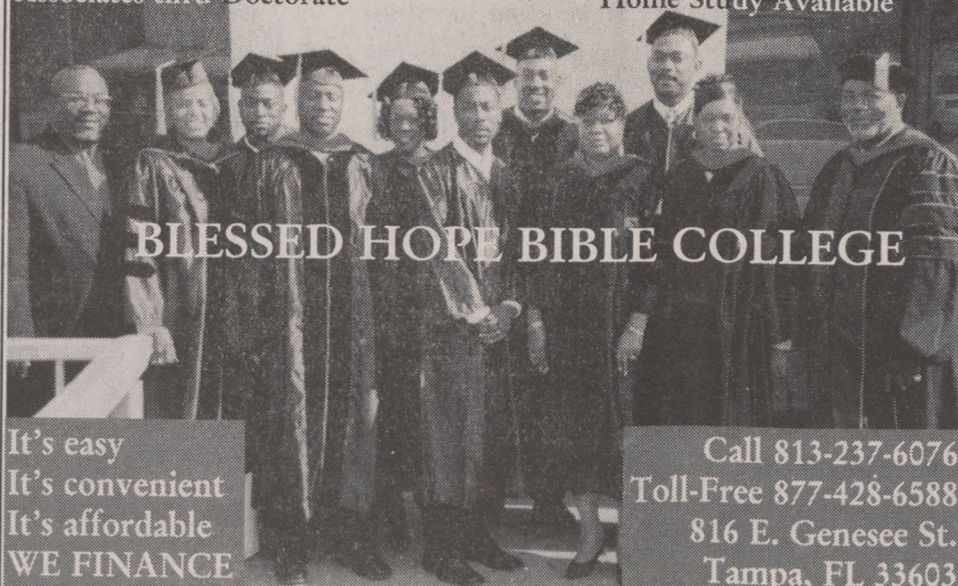


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# SPORTS NEWS

## Wrestling Returns To Entertainment Hall At Florida State Fair

TAMPA -- Championship wrestling will be back at the Florida State Fair this February in Tampa.

February 10, 2003, the Florida State Fair will host Jimmy Hart's All Star Wrestling event, surrounded with a cast of former WCW and WWE professional wrestlers.

There to supervise this stable of wrestlers will be none other than manager Jimmy "The Mouth of the South" Hart. Hart began his wrestling career in his hometown of Memphis, where he managed Jerry "The King" Lawler. Hart's

most famous feud in wrestling was with comedian Andy Kaufman.

Known for his colorful jackets and megaphone, Jimmy Hart has managed mega-stars including Hulk Hogan, Bret Hart, The Nasty Boys, Meng, even the governor of Minnesota Jesse Ventura.

Jimmy Hart first gained fame as a singer for the Gentrys, with the top BILLBOARD hit "Keep on Dancin'". Hart's musical success carried over into wrestling, where he writes and produces musical hits of wrestling superstars.

General admission

tickets for the 7:00 PM, February 10 event go on sale December 7. At \$15 each, plus Fair admission, folks can see Jimmy Hart and the All Star cast of wrestlers including Buff Bagwell, the Nasty Boys, The Road Warriors, Conan, the British Storm, the Shane Twins, Norman Smiley, the Cuban Assassin, and Hacksaw Jim Duggan. Before the action starts in the ring that evening, guests will get a chance to do some rockin' and rollin' too, with Jimmy Hart and the Gentrys.

New World Marketing Company will present the

February 10 event in climate-controlled Entertainment Hall.

Tickets will be on sale starting this Saturday at the Fairgrounds Box Office (no service charge) and all Ticketmaster outlets; or charge-by-phone at 813-287-8844 in Tampa, 727-898-2100 in St. Petersburg; or online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). Ticketmaster service charges apply. For more complete concert and ticket information call 813/621-7821, 800/345-FAIR (3247), or visit the Fair website at [www.floridastatefair.com](http://www.floridastatefair.com)

## Ten Star All Star Basketball Camp

CHARLOTTE, NC -- Applications are now being evaluated for The Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp. The Camp is by invitation only. Boys and girls ages 10-19 are eligible to apply.

Past participants include: Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan, Vince Carter, Jerry Stackhouse, Grant Hill and Antawn Jamison.

Players from 50 states and eight foreign countries attended the 2002 Camp. College basketball scholarships are possible for players selected to the All-American Team.

Camp locations include: Babson Park, FL, Thousand Oaks, CA, Atlanta, GA, Dubuque, IA, Champaign, IL, Macomb, IL, Greencastle, IN, Atchison, KS, Owensboro, KY, Amherst, MA, Hillsdale, MI, Saint Paul, MN, Hickory, NC, Hamilton, NY, Bluffton, OH, Lock Haven, PA, Lebanon, TN, Commerce, TX, Blacksburg, VA, and Olympia, WA.

For a free brochure, call (704) 373-0873 anytime.

## Golf Tournament to Benefit American Lung Association

ST. PETERSBURG--Humana MarketPoint will sponsor a four-person scramble golf tournament to benefit the American Lung Association on Friday, January 10 at the Bay Palms - South Golf Course on MacDill Air Force Base.

Registration for the scramble will start at 11:30 a.m., with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. An awards party and dinner will follow the tournament. All players must enter MacDill AFB through the Bayshore Gate.

This scenic bay-side

course is teeming with wildlife and is surrounded by mangroves. Golfers enjoy the secluded haven without any visible man-made structures as they play.

Cost is \$65 per person, which includes golf, cart, prizes and choice of rib-eye steak or chicken dinner at awards party.

Foursomes may sign up together, and singles or twosomes will be matched up with a team.

Space is limited, so please sign up early. For reservations and forms, please call 727-547-1108.

## A Win And A Loss For SPC's Teams On The Road

Weekend road games produced mixed emotions for St. Petersburg College's basketball program as the women's team won a squeaker and the men's team lost in overtime.

Coach William Smith's Lady Titans traveled to Webber International University in Babson Park and avenged a season-opening home loss with a 57-55 victory. Sophomore forward Janielle McCullough, formerly of St. Petersburg High School, was SPC's leading scorer with 16 points. Forward Tiffany Jones backed her up with 13.

The Lady Titans improved their record to 6-7.

The men's team, coached by Earnest Crumley Sr., visited Central Florida Community College hoping to sweep after the

Titans beat CFCC in their opener last month. But the Patriots hung tough on their home court and won in overtime, 67-64. Cavin Cummings and Carl Jenkins shared high-point honors with 14 each.

The Titans, 6-6, have completed their schedule before the holiday break. Next home games are December 28 against Broward Community College and December 30 against St. Johns River CC. Both games are at 4:00 p.m. in the gym on the St. Petersburg/Gibbs Campus at Fifth Avenue N and 66th Street. They'll also host Pasco-Hernando CC Jan. 4 at 7:30 p.m.

The women's team has one game remaining before the break, Friday against Clark State CC of Ohio. Tipoff is at 6:00 p.m. in the St. Petersburg/Gibbs gym.

The Lady Titans will play three home games in a row after break - December 30 against Macomb CC of Michigan at 6:30 p.m., January 3 against Florida CC at Jacksonville at 6:00 p.m. and January 4 against Middle Georgia College at 5:00 p.m.

All SPC home games are free.

## Now Recruiting Florida Baseball and Softball Players

MARIETTA, OH -- The Coast to Coast Amateur Stars are now seeking 11-18-year-old baseball and softball players from Florida who would like the opportunity to represent the United States at tournaments in Puerto Rico, Australia, Hawaii and Europe.

"Selected players will have the chance to compete

against some of the world's best teams, explore famous sights and learn about a distinct culture," said Kevin Ritter, program director. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!"

Team age groups include 11-12, 13-15 and 16-18 for the boys and 14-15 and 16-18 for the girls. The squads are led by top col-

lege coaches and pro scouts who provide a unique perspective on what it's like to play at the game's highest level.

For more information, call toll free 888-356-4455 or visit the web site at [www.coasttocoastathletics.com](http://www.coasttocoastathletics.com).

**Did you ever meet the slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., or any other national civil rights leader? Was it a brief conversation? A chance meeting? If you've had any kind of communication with national civil rights leaders, especially with Dr. King or those who associated with him, The Weekly Challenger would like to hear your story. Please call 727-822-8996.**

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People tend to exist within their areas of comfort. While that certainly appears satisfying, one fact remains; we don't know how much more enjoyment we can get out of life, if we don't expand our horizons. The same is true when it comes to understanding. What keeps people from understanding others is ignorance. When ignorance is erased, hatred, bigotry, and prejudice vanish with it. In its place is understanding and appreciation, and when that occurs, we open the path for tolerance and acceptance. This feature is dedicated to the need for understanding, bettering ourselves, the exploration of the world around us, and the goal of tolerance and acceptance. And at times, just for fun, we'll just look at topics that are not commonly discussed.

## If We Were a Village of 100 People

by Barry A. Mc Intosh

Challenger General Manager

We live in a global community. At no other time has this been more apparent than in our day and age. We can log onto the internet, and within seconds communicate with someone on the other side of the world, engaging in conversation as instant-

aneous as talking to a friend in your living room. Or we can flip open a cell phone, and see the face of someone we haven't seen or talked to in years, all in real-time. The global communication network is phenomenal, all controlled by satellites.

The global positioning system (GPS) is comprised

of 24 satellites approximately 10,900 miles above the surface. Each satellite circles the planet once every 12 hours, and they combine to give near-total coverage of the globe.

All of this makes what used to be a world too large to appreciate, a "small world" after all. The piece you are about to read is

taken from the works of Donella H. Meadows' "If the World Were a Village of 1,000 People" which is included in an anthology called Futures by Design edited by Doug Ashley. She is a professor at Dartmouth. We've condensed her calculations and mathematically arrived at the same numbers, as if the world

were made up of 100.

Some of these numbers may surprise you. Others should elicit outrage. Ms. Meadows' works follows:

If we could shrink the earth's population to one village of precisely 100 people with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look something like the following:

57 would be Asians  
20 would be Europeans  
14 would be from the Western Hemisphere, both north and south  
9 would be Africans  
52 would be Female  
48 would be Male  
72 are Nonwhite  
28 are White  
70 are Non-Christian  
30 are Christian

89 are Heterosexual  
11 are Homosexual  
6 People would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth,  
5 would live in the United States.  
80 would be living in sub-standard housing  
70 would not be able to read  
50 would be suffering

from malnutrition  
1 would be near death  
1 would be just about ready to be born  
1 is College educated  
1 is a Computer owner.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Songwriter-Producer Michele Vice-Maslin Is Helping Nick Carter & An American Idol To Become "King Of The Hill"

Songwriter-producer Michele Vice-Maslin is wrapping 2002 the way she entered it: on top in a variety of media. Last year, Vice-Maslin co-authored the #1 single "Get Over Yourself," which was one of the best-selling singles of the year and served as the theme song to the WB Network's television series "Popstars." On the radio now is the Vice-Maslin co-penned song "Help Me," the debut single from Backstreet Boy Nick Carter (Jive Records). Vice-Maslin contributed material to the debut album from "American Idol" winner Kelly Clarkson, which is due for release on RCA Records early next year. The veteran tunesmith also has two cuts coming out in

January by Nobody's Angels on Hollywood Records. For the debut album by Jive recording artist Nikki Cleary, Vice-Maslin has co-written and is co-producing a song.

In other media, Vice-Maslin wrote three songs that were featured in the season premiere episode of the Fox Network's animated comedy hit, "King of the Hill." She's also scored a major television commercial campaign for the legendary Barbie doll line.

"What keeps things interesting to me is constantly growing and expanding my craft," said the energetic and enthusiastic Vice-Maslin. "I pride myself on being able to write in a variety of styles for a variety of different

artists, outlets and situations. Not only does that challenge me to come up with fresh melodies and lyrics, but also it keeps me flexible and provides the freedom to explore various genres. It really doesn't matter if you dress a song up to fit pop, R&B, adult contemporary, dance, Latin or even smooth jazz projects. Once you strip away the production, it's all about the quality of the songwriting that either works or doesn't."

Since the mid-eighties Vice-Maslin has collaborated with an eclectic array of artists, producers, and songwriters including Jonathan Butler, Nile Rodgers, Robbie Buchanan, Mica Paris, Irene Cara, and Sam

Moore. On the small screen, Vice-Maslin has placed songs on such shows as "Resurrection Boulevard," "Mad About You," "Sabrina The Teenage Witch," "MTV Cribs," "Models, Inc.," "That's Life" and the soap operas "The Young & The Restless," "Guiding Light," "Another World," "As The World Turns" and "Passions." She's also placed music in the movies "SWF," "Car 54: Where Are You?," "Avalanche," "White Wolves 2" and "Tapeheads" amongst others.

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Singer Will Downing (center) provided the entertainment during the National Newspaper Publishers Association's (NNPA) 175th Anniversary of the Black Press. Others pictured left to right: Terry Jones, first vice president, NNPA, Ronald Coleman, senior manager, public and media relations, Coca-Cola North America (CCNA), Lori George Billingsley, director, regional communications, CCNA and Bill Marks, vice president, public relations CCNA.

## Hip-Hop Summit Action Network Challenges Slick Rick's Deportation By Calling On President Bush To Halt INS Action

NEW YORK (BLACK PR WIRE) (BUSINESS WIRE)-- The Hip-Hop Summit Action Network is issuing an urgent alert to millions of supporters of hip-hop music and culture across the United States and throughout the world.

It is imperative that all persons of good will join us today in calling upon the President of the United States, George W. Bush, to take executive action to end the unjust 6-month federal incarceration of hip-hop icon, Slick Rick, and to take further action to stop the Immigration and Naturalization Service from executing Slick Rick's imminent deportation. The HSAN is working closely with Congressman

John Conyers, Dean of the Congressional Black Caucus and the ranking Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, to call for a fair court hearing on this case.

Slick Rick, formerly named Rick Walters, is known as one of the greatest storytellers in hip-hop. A United States resident since 1976 and a graduate of New York City's High School of Music and Art, Rick has had a successful career since his debut 1988 album, "The Great Adventures of Slick Rick." He has been a tireless contributor to and performer for numerous charities for disadvantaged youth.

"We in the hip-hop community stand in res-

olute solidarity today with Slick Rick and his family," commented Russell Simmons, Chairman of the HSAN. "We want the federal government to bring justice to this case by releasing Slick Rick."

"President Bush should not permit this gross violation of human rights to continue," added HSAN President, Dr. Benjamin Chavis. "We call upon the President to act immediately to bring a just resolution and to stop this unfair deportation."

Mandy Aragones, wife of Slick Rick, added, "My husband is being mistreated by the U.S. government. I personally feel that we have been abused as a result of six months of

unfair imprisonment. And now, the INS is taking imminent steps to deport my husband without the benefit of a court hearing." Bill Adler, longtime family-friend and associate of Slick Rick, states, "I have known and worked with Slick Rick for many years. There is no justification for deporting a person who has made such positive contributions to our society."

Concerned supporters can call the White House directly at 202-456-1111.

GOD  
BLESS  
AMERICA

MIAMI (AFRICAN AMERICAN NEWSWIRE)-- The Proverbs 2003 Calendar and Proverbs Greeting Card Collection is a vibrant collection of thoughtful proverbs that inspire, motivate, and soothe the spirit.

Published by Carmen Morris, President of Carmen Morris & Associates, Inc., a leading African American communications firm in Miami, the glossy, four-color Proverbs 2003 Calendar showcases a special proverb for each month. These monthly words of wisdom give an opportunity for inward reflection and space to keep note of birth days, doctor's appointments, important meetings, and other items. The Proverbs Greeting Card Collection is an assortment of 12 colorful, glossy cards spotlighting individual Proverbs. Each greeting card has a blank interior for personal messages. All of the Proverbs have been selected from the Old

Testament.

Be patient and you will finally win, for a soft tongue can break hard bones.

Proverbs 25:15

This is just one of the selections to be found in the calendar.

Spiritual reflection has always been a part of Morris' life. Almost ten years ago, not long after the birth of her son, she had a mild stroke. A single parent, she found healing and comfort in the power of Proverbs. Then, her mother had a massive stroke. Proverbs and God's direction through them gave her hope to share with her mother's healing. When Morris was laid off from her job as a vice president of communications, Proverbs gave her encouragement and strength. "I could list circumstances after circumstance where Proverbs have been a powerful part of my life," she explained. "The message of Proverbs gave me such comfort, consolation and

direction that I thought they might also be helpful to others."

The Proverbs 2003 Calendar and Proverbs Greeting Card Collection were a "divine inspiration" for Ms. Morris. Her company balances publishing the Proverb products with full communications services for with clients like Colgate-Palmolive, Miami International Airport and the Performing Arts Center. This marks the third year she has produced and self-published the Proverbs calendar. It is the second year for the greeting cards.

"I use cards a lot for different occasions, but couldn't find anything with this inspirational value," said Morris, a former radio and television news journalist. "Due to devastating events that have happened just in the last year, people are seeking inspiration and comfort. Many of us need a sense of assurance and steadiness, and the only place we can find that is in the word of God. I believe the Proverbs calendar and greeting cards are a good source of inspiration and motivation. People seek them as gifts to encourage their friends, loved ones and associates."

Magnificent forests, majestic mountains, coral reefs, and delicate flowers are backdrops to the Proverbs 2003 Calendar and Proverbs Greeting Card Collection. These pictures were diligently

chosen. Morris selected photographs that both soothe the spirit and complement the message of the proverb. "Nature is some of God's finest work," she observed. "So, what better alliance between His words and pictures of His creation. It's harmony."

Proverbs are a source of spiritual, emotional and mental rejuvenation. "I believe that we can renew ourselves every day by looking to the Lord for our daily motivation," said Morris. "Many people are too busy or tend to be too intimidated if they need to search the Bible. This way the words of inspiration complimented by beautiful pictures are readily accessible and easier to digest."

The Proverbs 2003 Calendar retails for \$15.00 and Proverbs Greeting Card Collection retails for \$8.00. A combination set of both the Proverbs calendar and the card collection is available for \$20.00. In 2004, Carmen Morris & Associates, Inc. will introduce a Proverb CD and a proverb daily devotional, in addition to the annual calendar and greeting cards. The Proverbs 2003 Calendar and Proverbs Greeting Card Collection can be purchased online mail order at [www.carmenmorris.net](http://www.carmenmorris.net). For additional product information please contact: [cmorris@bellsouth.net](mailto:cmorris@bellsouth.net) or Carmen Morris & Associates, Inc. at (305) 278-2395.

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The Weekly Challenger thanks Badcock Furniture, the Verizon Foundation, and the Tampa Bay D-Rays for their contributions benefiting students at John Hopkins Middle, Gibbs High, Boca Ciega High, St. Petersburg High, and Academy Prep.



# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## World Bank Drops Nigeria From "Education for All" Fast Track Initiative

ABIDJAN (GIN) - Nigeria received the bad news recently that it would be excluded from the highly-touted Education for All Fast Track Initiative of the World Bank and other donors - a program granting \$400 million to struggling schools in the developing world.

Countries that will immediately receive Fast Track aid are Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mauritania and Niger, the World Bank reported. The other countries are Guyana, Honduras and Nicaragua.

"This agreement under the Education For All Fast Track Initiative will begin the process of ensuring that

developing countries reach the UN millennium development goal to provide every girl and boy with a complete primary school education by 2015," the bank added.

The program is expected to educate 4 million girls and boys who are currently out of primary school, support those who could otherwise drop-out, finance teacher training, pay teachers' salaries, build new schools, help education systems respond to HIV/AIDS and ensure quality primary education for all children.

The Bank declined to include India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, DR Congo,

and Nigeria because of their large numbers of out-of-school children, especially girls. These 5 countries account for 50 million of the estimated worldwide total of 113 million children out of school."

Fast Track aid is available to countries "willing to prioritize primary education for all children and embrace policies that improve the quality and efficiency of their primary education systems."

Still, the initiative has drawn fire from some local activist groups who say that the educational plans were devised without a genuine participatory process.

"The criteria and the conditionalities inherent in the fast track documents remain merely a new face of the Structural Adjustment Policies, which as we all know, had negative consequences on education, health and other social services in the program countries," noted the Global Campaign for Education on its website.

"Fine words and fancy rhetoric calling for fairer South-North trade terms are all well and good but until they are backed up with action to tackle trade distorting subsidies they ring hollow."

## Canada: Police Sue Over Racial Profiling Accusations

by Paul Weinberg

TORONTO (IPS) - A newspaper expose of racial profiling by local police officers has provided fresh political ammunition for a beleaguered black minority, which has long had a bad relationship with the largely white police force in Canada's largest and most multicultural city.

Relying upon city police arrest data, the Toronto Star found that people of African origin, who make up eight per cent of Toronto's three million people, are stopped, interrogated, searched and detained more frequently by officers than whites, estimated at about 63 per cent of the population by the 1996 census.

Facing a charge of simple drug possession, whites are more often released at the crime scene than blacks, while blacks are twice as likely to be held overnight for a bail hearing, reported the paper.

This is old news for Torontonians of color. "The Star lent credibility to what we already know. It is good to see it in black and white," says Erica Lawson, policy and research analyst for the African Canadian Legal Clinic. Black community leaders expressed a lack of confidence in Toronto Police Chief Julian Fantino, who initially denied the conclusions of the Star reportage and then tried (without success) to enlist a veteran judge to conduct a study of police-minority relations.

Instead, the Legal Clinic

and other black groups want the Ontario government, which regulates municipal policing in the province, to implement recommendations of past studies of police-minority relations. Some involve basic police procedures, such as forcing officers to explain on a standard form why a suspect has not been released, pushing them to justify their decision.

Lawson says police reform should begin with replacing the current system where police investigate, police officers for alleged misconduct. Veteran black civil rights lawyer Charles Roach is more "optimistic" now that the influential and widely read Toronto Star is taking city policing seriously.

In the past, he says, "they have backed off the police and this is the first time there has been a head-on situation like this". Roach is also encouraged by Toronto city council's unanimous vote in favor of amending the current police complaint process. The motion also criticized the initial "denials and defensiveness" displayed by Fantino and others towards the Star's findings.

Until recently, it was almost political suicide for local politicians to criticize or oppose the police in Toronto, says Roach. Nonetheless, the tough union representing Toronto police officers, which has been known to monitor and target politicians deemed anti-police, is suing the Star for about two billion

Canadian dollars (\$1.3 billion in US).

The Toronto Police Association wants an apology and a retraction from the paper for the series on police racial profiling. But the newspaper's managing editor Mary Deanne Shears stands by the reporting.

A major newspaper like the Star has deep enough financial pockets to be able to fend off the charge, which has little chance of succeeding in the long run in the Canadian courts, says libel lawyer Brian Rogers. But the costly litigation process that the newspaper will still have to undergo could discourage less financially endowed media outlets or even citizens from overly criticizing police policies, he fears. "It has a chilling effect on free expression."

Some local commentators say that racial profiling by police makes perfect sense. They point to police statistics quoted in the Star that demonstrate that Toronto's small black minority accounts for nearly 27 per cent of charges for violent crime, including homicide, attempted murder, sexual assault, gun related offenses and assaults.

Black community leaders like Dudley Laws, head of the Black Action Committee and among the police's severest critics, acknowledge the problem of violence in Toronto's poorest neighborhoods. "The issue of our youth has been sidelined for many, many years," he told the National Post newspaper. "We know

about it, we try to address it, we acknowledge the violence. Our youth need counseling, they need skills training and they need to be motivated so they can go back to school or stay in school."

But those problems do not justify stereotyping an entire ethnic or racial group, the majority of whom are law-abiding citizens, says University of Toronto assistant professor of criminology Scott Wortley, the author of various studies of police-minority encounters.

Police crime statistics are often biased, says Wortley. He notes, for instance, that people charged with drug possession or trafficking are overwhelmingly black or members of a racial minority. Yet, the majority of users of illegal marijuana, crack cocaine or alcohol (if the person is under age) tend to be white, he adds. "Police are looking for these types of crimes in the black community and not looking for them to the same extent in the white community," says Wortley.

At the same time, Torontonians view crime with a double standard. For example, serial killers and pedophiles are overwhelmingly white. Yet, says Wortley, "when white males commit heinous crimes, we tend to think of them as pathological individuals". But if a black person murders, he adds, "we look at it as a problem in the black community."

## Ivory Coast: Renowned Writer Lashed for Anti-War Views

ABIDJAN (GIN) - Nationally renowned author Ahmadou Kourouma was the target of scathing editorials around the country after he called for an end to ethnic fighting in a published press interview. Kourouma, Ivory Coast's leading novelist, urged "elections for all" in the press interview. The media promptly accused him of "foreign roots" and misplaced loyalties as he may have parents not from the Ivory Coast.

The country has been wracked by an internal war triggered two months ago by soldiers who refused to accept layoffs by newly elected President Laurent Gbagbo. Approximately half the country is now in the hands of the soldier rebels, who stronghold is in mostly Muslim communities of the north. The local

press has been questioning not only the sympathies but also the nationality of the author -- the latter a sore point in Ivory Coast politics.

Kourouma was born in 1927 near Boundiali in the Muslim majority north of the country, which swiftly fell under control of the rebels after they took up arms on Sept. 19. He is the author of "The Suns of Independence", "Waiting for the Vote of the Wild Animals" and the still untranslated "Allah n'est pas obligé" (Allah is not Bound), which won France's Renaudot literary prize in 2000. His novels are satires on the ills of modern African states and he is particularly scornful of misrule by despotic leaders and servitude to old colonial masters.

Recently, the govern-

ment daily Fraternite Matin ran a full-page article by Communication Minister Sery Baillly vilifying the author. Kourouma has, the minister wrote, become a victim of his roots as a member of the Malinke, a mainly Muslim ethnic group in northern Ivory Coast.

"The Malinke world informs the stance Kourouma adopts in his works. At this time of ethnic division, we can see clearly how he always takes a critical position based on his culture."

"Is he foremost Malinke or foremost a writer? How should we view his writing and how does it serve us as a nation?" Not long ago Baillly's predecessor as communications minister Dramane Kone, referred to Kourouma as "our brother" and "the pride of Ivory Coast."

A similar tone was taken by the independent daily L'Inter last week which asked: "Why is Ahmadou Kourouma supporting the rebels?" The newspaper answered its own question by suggesting the author feared he would be exposed as a foreigner since the country's leadership had again seized on the notion of Ivoirite - a nationalist policy of exclusion introduced by former Henri Bedie to keep his opponents out of office.

"Kourouma, the keeper of our consciences, is angry because people are asking who are true Ivoirians and who are not. He risks becoming an outcast."

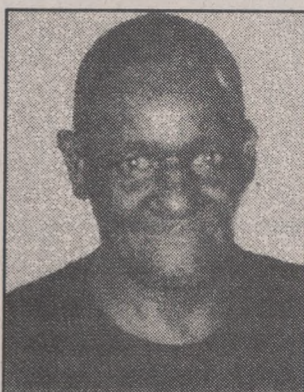
"The author has for some time been hiding the fact that his parents come from Guinea. It appears that he is ashamed of this," the newspaper concluded.

On December 3, 1964, the Academy Award for best actor of the year was presented (April 13) to Sidney Poitier for his performance in Lilies of the Field.

The Weekly Challenger thanks Badcock Furniture, the Verizon Foundation, and the Tampa Bay D-Rays for their contributions benefiting students at John Hopkins Middle, Gibbs High, Boca Ciega High, St. Petersburg High, and Academy Prep.

# OBITUARIES

## ST. PETERSBURG RITES



JONES, ARTHUR C., SR., 51, died November 27, 2002. Survivors include his companion, Joyce Burke; two sons, Arthur C., Jr., and Alton; two daughters, Rosemary Jones and Tina Robinson; his wife, Delores; three brothers, Sammie B. Jones, Sr., Robert B. Bennett and David Bennett, all of St. Petersburg; five sisters, Dr. Maxine D. Jones, Tallahassee, Deborah (Edward Woods) Jones, Sharon Kelty, Sandra

(Richard Harrington) McDonald, Cynthia Jones, all of St. Petersburg, and Joann (Willie) Bowles, Jasper; two Godbrothers; one Godsister; 22 grandchildren; and several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. McRae Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.



TURNER, DOLORES B., 58, died December 2, 2002. Survivors include two sons, Robert (Angelita) Turner and Javan C. (Carolyn) Turner, both of St. Petersburg; two daughters, Terri E. Turner, White Plains, NY, and Sabrina N. Turner,

St. Petersburg; her mother, Minnie Jackson, Harleyville, SC; two brothers, Bernard Jackson, Summerville, SC, and Andrew Brown, Portland, OR; one sister, Nissa Priden, Long Island, NY; 11 grandchildren; and several other relatives and friends. McRae Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

**Every Word of God is pure: He is a shield unto them that put their trust in Him. - Proverbs 30:5**

**"The Lord is great and is to be highly praised; His greatness is beyond understanding." - Psalms 145:3**



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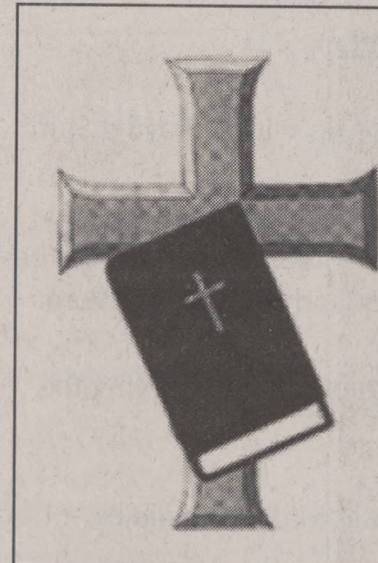
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The report is available for  
review at the City's Housing  
and Community Develop-  
ment Department, 440  
Second Avenue North, St.  
Petersburg, Florida be-  
tween the hours of 8:00 am  
and 4:30 pm.

Written comments may be  
submitted to the Housing  
and Community Develop-  
ment Department, 440  
Second Avenue North, or  
P.O. Box 2842, St.  
Petersburg, Florida 33731  
on or before December 26,  
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A summary of all written  
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## Your HOROSCOPE

**ARIES (Mar. 21-April 20)** You won't get the reaction you want from your mate this week. Your high self esteem will benefit others by example. Friends will be loyal and caring. Socially, you need a fast paced form of entertainment. Your partner may make you feel jealous and unloved.

**TAURUS (Apr. 21-May 21)** Travel will stimulate your need to experience exciting new things. This is a wonderful week to look into courses or hobbies that interest you. You will have to watch out for minor health problems related to stress. You should be on the road.

**GEMINI (May 22-June 21)** Try not to discuss important matters with colleagues. Property investments will payoff. Something is causing upset and confusion on the home front. You can't lock your partner up and if you keep restricting their freedom you may be left out in the cold.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22)** Be careful when dealing with loved ones. Don't let friends or relatives make you feel guilty if you're not able to attend one of their affairs. Keep an open mind when dealing with youngsters. Make changes to your living quarters that will please the whole family.

**LEO (July 23-Aug 22)** Erratic behavior at home may be hard to handle. Money can be made if you use your ingenuity. Your communication skills are at an all-time high. Be sure to question any detail that you feel could leave you in a precarious position at a later date.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 23)** Travel will stimulate your need to experience exciting new things. Don't let someone try to bully you into doing things their way. Compromise if you wish to have any fun at all. Try not to overspend on friends or family.

**LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)** You can gain approval, get kudos, and ask for help if you put a little heart into your speech or request. You may find yourself in the midst of a pretty good deal. You could make extra cash through creative hobbies. Changes regarding your career direction will payoff handsomely.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** Organize your house and be sure to include the whole family in the projects you have set out to do. Get out and get active. Make sure all of your travel and driver's documents are in proper order. Look for something entertaining to do. You've got that competitive edge.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** Social events will be favorable. Get back into a routine that promises a better looking, more aware individual. You can enjoy the company of others and come in contact with an ideal mate, if you get out and mingle. Keep tabs on your spending.

**CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan. 20)** Financial limitations are likely if you take risks. You will have extra energy; put it to good use. Romance may be likely if you travel. Verbal abuse could lead to carelessness.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)** Your ability to relate will close the generation gap. Your ability to converse with charm will entice someone you may have had an interest in for some time now. You need to look into new philosophies. It might be best not to spend your money on luxuries this week.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)** Don't be too quick to let friends and relatives know what you're up to. Your ability to stand out in a crowd will bring you the recognition you desire. Think about your budget before booking a trip.

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## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BID SOLICITATION NOTICE Advertisement No. 1

Sealed bids for work included in this notice will be received until 10:30 A.M. (Tallahassee Local Time) on Wednesday, January 29, 2003 at the Central Office, 605 Suwannee St., Rm. 60, the Mail Room or the DOT Auditorium in Tallahassee, Florida and other district locations as indicated in the DOT Bid Solicitation Notice.

Bids submitted for the subject letting must be received by 10:30 A.M., January 29, 2003 at any of the above referenced locations. Bid totals for each bid submitted, regardless of location submitted, will be read aloud at 11:15 A.M., January 29, 2003 in the DOT Auditorium Tallahassee, Florida.

The sealed bids received in the District locations will be publicly opened on Thursday, January 30, 2003 at 10:00 A.M. in Room B1 of the DOT Building in Tallahassee. If the bid amount is greater than \$250,000.00, the Contractor must be prequalified as required by Florida Statute 337.14(1) and Rule Chapter 14-22.

Proposal Forms will not be issued after 10:30 A.M. (Tallahassee Local Time) on Tuesday, January 28, 2003.

Bidders are hereby notified that all bids on any of the following projects are likely to be rejected if the lowest responsive bid received exceeds the engineer's estimate by more than ten percent (10%). In the event any of the bids are rejected for this reason, the project may be deferred for re-advertising for bids until such time that a more competitive situation exists. In addition, award of all federally funded projects will be subject to Federal Highway Administration concurrence.

Orders for these documents should be directed to the Manager, Contracts Administration Office, Mail Station 55, Room B1, Florida Department of Transportation, 605 Suwannee Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0455. Phone: (850) 414-4000. Checks should be made payable to the State of Florida Department of Transportation. No refunds will be made.

Unless otherwise notified by express delivery, return receipt or by fax transmission, receipt acknowledged, the Summary of Bids will be posted with the Clerk of Agency Proceedings, Florida Department of Transportation, 605 Suwannee Street, Mail Station 58, Room 550, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0458, on February 20, 2003 or March 10, 2003. By calling the Clerk of Agency Proceedings, Florida Department of Transportation, (850) 414-5393, during each posting period, information concerning the posted projects can be obtained.

Interested parties can visit our Internet web site at <http://www.dot.state.fl.us> (Doing Business with The Department Contracts Administration); information regarding projects posted with the Clerk of Agency Proceedings, proposal holders, plan and special provisions holders, unofficial letting results, and other noteworthy information is provided on this web site. Please note these listings are confidential, per 337.168, Florida Statutes, two working days prior to the deadline for obtaining bid documents. FOR INQUIRY ON PLANS SHIPPING PLEASE CALL (850) 414-4050. This advertisement has been modified. Please call (850) 414-4000 to request a complete version of this advertisement, or visit our web site at <http://www.dot.state.fl.us> (Doing business with The Department of Contracts Administration.)

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
LNTC/QA  
PAGE: 42  
BID SOLICITATION NOTICE AND APPROX. QUANTITIES  
(NOT FOR BIDDING PURPOSES)**

LETTING ID: CT030129 CALL ORDER: 015  
PROPOSAL ID: T7007 DISTRICT: 07  
COUNTIES: PASCO

ROAD NAME: (ALICO PASS SIDEWALKS)  
LIMITS: FROM RIVER CROSSING BLVD TO WELLFIELD RD

FINPROJ NO(S): 40875315201 (\*) FEDERAL AID NO:  
8888859A WORK MIX: SIDEWALK

TOTAL ROADWAY LENGTH: 0.947 MILES  
CALENDAR DAYS: 35  
TOTAL BRIDGE LENGTH: 0.000 MILES  
LETTING DATE: 01/29/03  
TOTAL PROPOSAL LENGTH: 0.947 MILES  
ACQUIS. TIME: 15

PROPOSAL BUDGET ESTIMATE: \$138,409.00

PROPOSAL PACKAGE FEE: \$5.00

DESCRIPTION: Lump Sum

The improvements under this contract consist of sidewalk reconstruction along Alico Pass Road.

(12-5-02, 12-12-02)

## Do you suffer from Arthritis?

Radiant Research is conducting a clinical research trial evaluating an investigational medication in patients with osteoarthritis or rheumatoid arthritis.

To qualify, you must be 50 years of age or older and have been diagnosed with osteoarthritis or rheumatoid arthritis.

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Call Mon-Fri for more information  
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## High Blood Pressure Patients Needed

Volunteers are needed for a clinical research study evaluating a medication to help in the treatment of mild to moderate hypertension.

Participants must:

- \* Be men or women over 18 years old
- \* Be diagnosed with high blood pressure

If eligible, participants receive study medication, study-related physical exams, and compensation for time and travel.

Call Mon-Fri for more information

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# WOMAN'S WORLD

## Toni Braxton Releases Her Fifth Album, "More Than a Woman"



Toni Braxton

"This time around, we're going to give people something different, something that's not familiar. Sometimes, artists can get confined by what they've done in the past. I'm ready to show other sides of what I can do musically."

Multi-award winning global hitmaker Toni Braxton is talking about her fifth album, "More Than a Woman", now in stores, which finds her working with some of today's hottest music producers including The Neptunes and Rodney Jenkins among others.

"This record is more 'in your face' than my previous albums," she explains. "My first love has always been R&B, and I've been into hip-hop since it first started. On each of my albums, I've done things to introduce people to other aspects of what I'm about musically. It's so funny - when people hear I'm working with The Neptunes, they're like 'I wonder what that will sound like?' because they think of songs like 'Breathe Again' and 'Unbreak My Heart'. The truth is I'm just being a part of my own generation...and we grew up with rap and hip-hop as well as R&B!"

"Hit the Freeway", the infectious hard-driving Neptunes-produced first single, is already shaping up to be one of Toni's biggest hits. She recalls, "When I first heard the track, I knew it was hot. I tailored the verses to work for me, and the final record combines our two approaches to the song."

Other producers involved with "More Than a Woman" include Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds and Toni's husband Keri Lewis, who co-executive produced the album with her and Arista President and CEO Antonio "LA" Reid. Toni collaborated on several of the tunes on the set with Lewis and with sister Tamar, among others, giv-

ing the album a particularly personal touch.

"I guess you could say I'm the 'musical mistress of heartache' because of the sad songs I've done on my previous albums," Toni reflects. "Well, we do have one happy love song, 'Always' (co-written with singer Brandy's husband Big Burt) but I have quite a few other tunes that have typical Toni Braxton themes. Take 'Let Me Show You the Way (Out)' which I co-wrote with Tamar, who I've always known is a good writer, something everyone else is just discovering. It's a traditional Toni angry kinda song about me showing a guy that I have the strength to put him out! The lyrical theme behind 'Selfish' is simple: I don't want no girls paging my man, no chicks e-mailing him. While it's not something that I'm dealing with right now, it is definitely something I can relate to from when I was single."

The hypnotic "Me and My Boyfriend" (which uses a sample from the late Tupac Shakur's "Me and My Girlfriend") was co-written with Ashanti and sister Tamar among others, while the haunting acoustic-flavored "Rock Me, Roll Me" was a collaboration with husband Keri (with whom Toni is expecting another child in 2003). "That song is really addressed to men. I know how guys get together and talk about us women, and I know a guy might say something like, 'as beautiful as she is, she's crazy!' In the song, I'm trying to explain what makes us crazy, what makes us insecure. Like if a man would just spend a little more time with his woman, you know, maybe that craziness would disappear."

"More Than a Woman" reflects Toni's love and passion for her work, although she admits that being a mother - to son Denim, born in December 2001

- and wife of producer/songwriter Keri Lewis (formerly of the group Mint Condition) have created new priorities for her: "Having a child has totally changed my life. Recording isn't the same anymore," says Toni, who is expecting her second baby in 2003. "Keri and I were working on songs at home for the new album, and there were a few occasions when I was holding Denim and singing at the same time! And we resurrected that old tradition of recording in the bathroom because the acoustics are so good in there!"

Now that she has a family, Toni's future plans include further growth as an actress and entertainer. Music is still the central theme as Toni embarks on the second decade of her illustrious career with the release of "More Than a Woman".

"I had total freedom to go where I wanted to go musically on this album. LA Reid has always let me express myself creatively."

And while she continues to reinvent herself with her music, Toni Braxton can proudly look back at ten years of solid success. "It's been a fabulous career, but I've still got so much more to do, so many possibilities to pursue..."

## Katherine Dunham to be Honored at Int'l Conference of Blacks in Dance

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AFRICAN AMERICAN NEWSWIRE) - A special tribute to legendary dance pioneer, choreographer and educator Katherine Dunham will be one of the highlights of the 15th Annual Conference of the International Association of Blacks in Dance (IABD) scheduled for January 16-19 in Washington, DC. Ms. Dunham, a 1983 recipient of the Kennedy Center Honors, is best known for her anthropological work with dances of the Caribbean.

The IABD conference has become the Mecca for Blacks in dance, bringing together prominent artists, dance companies, directors, choreographers, college students and educators in an international forum of dance artists to promote artists, demonstrate new techniques and address issues and concerns in the world of dance.

Host for the 2003 conference is Dr. Sherrill Berryman-Johnson, Chair of the IABD Executive Committee, Dance Major Coordinator at Howard University, and Artistic Director of Images of Cultural Artistry, Inc. in Washington, DC. Dr. Johnson brings

both Meccas for Blacks (IABD and Howard University) together as each represent people of African descent building institutions with missions to educate and demonstrate the highest level of excellence and quality within the mainstream arenas of arts and sciences.

The luncheon tribute to Katherine Dunham and Joan Myers Brown, founder and honorary chair of IABD, will celebrate the official opening of the conference on Friday, January 17 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington. On Saturday, January 18, Ms. Dunham will conduct a special master dance class in passing the information of dance onto the next generation of artists.

Other conference highlights include a pre-conference symposium on January 15 at the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts with master artists Carmen DeLavallade, Donald McKayle, Ann Williams, Cleo Parker Robinson, Eleo Pomare, Baba Walter Nicks, Baba Chuck Davis and established dance artists Ronald K. Brown, Debbie Blunden-Diggs and Lula Washington, followed by a con-

cert featuring historically black colleges and universities.

The concert will honor Black College Dance Exchange founders Inez Howard, of Norfolk State University, Nancy Pinckney, of North Carolina Central University, and Dr. Ianthia L. Tucker, of Morgan State University. Other featured events include performances by international, national and Washington, DC area artists and choreographers at various venues in the city.

Dr. Johnson said, "The conference theme - 'Timekeepers of the Flame... Passing on the Torch' - honors our dance pioneers of African ancestry, by featuring the choreography of emerging and established artists, symposiums with dance legends, as well as presenting performances by artists of the future generation. This conference speaks to the evolution of change and time that we all must address."

A complete schedule of IABD conference events is available on this website: [Howard.edu/CollegeofFineArts/2003IABDConference/Home.html](http://Howard.edu/CollegeofFineArts/2003IABDConference/Home.html)

## Prominent African-American Dance Legend Visits Tampa Bay

PINELLAS PARK - The Savoy South Dance Hall and Strickly Swing proudly present an Afternoon with Norma Miller on Saturday, December 14. Norma Miller is one of the original Whitey's Lindy Hoppers (1930's) from the Savoy Ballroom in Harlem.

Miller was discovered at the age of 14 and began her performing career at 15. She wrote a book 'Swingin' At the Savoy', which talks about some of the odds she faced, not only as a performer, but as a person of color and a woman. At 83 years young, she remains busy as a choreographer, lecturer, comedienne, and living historian of what was great the Harlem Renaissance of the 1930's.

Miller has been interviewed by many publications, radio and TV. You can view her in Ken Burns' JAZZ, episode V, with Frankie Manning as they talk about the Savoy Ballroom.

From 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., the Savoy South Dance Hall will feature a lecture, video and book signing with Miller. From 4:30-6:00 p.m., the Lindy Hop Workshop will take place. From 8:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m., the dancing begins with DJ Steve and his awesome vinyl collection.

The Savoy South Dance Hall is located at 7200 U.S. Hwy. 19, #708, Pinellas Park, FL 33781. For more information, please call (727)528-6885, or log on to <http://savoyouth.com/>

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