

2004-12-02

The Weekly Challenger : 2004 : 12 : 02

The Weekly Challenger, et al

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/challenger>

Recommended Citation

The Weekly Challenger, et al, "The Weekly Challenger : 2004 : 12 : 02" (2004). *Newspaper collection*. 911.
<https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/challenger/911>

This is brought to you for free and open access by the The Weekly Challenger at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in Newspaper collection by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usf.edu.

The Weekly Challenger

We Value Diversity. We Value Education. We Value History.

www.theweeklychallenger.com

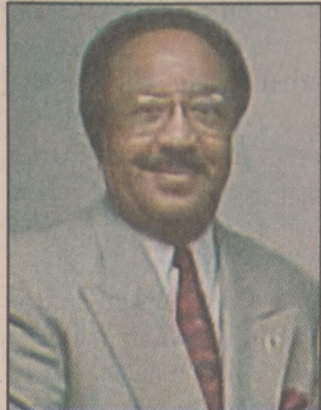
Presrt Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #2271
St. Petersburg, FL

VOLUME 37 NUMBER 13

December 2 - 8, 2004

25¢

New Urban League Grant Helps Make A Positive Change In The Community



This grant was the "icing on the cake" for Simmons in his last week as the Urban League president.

by Tracie Reddick
Challenger Correspondent
ST. PETERSBURG — A \$250,000 grant has been awarded to the Pinellas County Urban League to convert a former fire station into a community service center.

"This is a tremendous award that we received with assistance from Congressman (Bill) Young," said outgoing Urban League President James O. Simmons.

Simmons explained that the plans for the community center were dreamed up five years ago and the stage was set for it to become a reality back in March.

That's when he met with Young's local staff and later unveiled his plan to the Congressman during the "National Urban League on the Hill" Legislative Policy Conference in Washington, D.C.

In his final act as chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Rep. Young added the Urban League project to the budget.

"For him to call me during the last week of my job and tell me the funding

was approved was truly the icing on the cake," Simmons said during an interview on Tuesday, which marked his last day as president and CEO of the agency he has led since 1977.

Simmons said the funding will allow the agency to move its Low Income Home Energy Assistance program to a larger space.

The program, which annually distributes about one million dollars to help defer energy payments to economically disadvantaged residents, will move from its Central Avenue location to the proposed site at 2701 Fifth Ave. S.

The new site will provide more parking spaces, thus making it more convenient for the community to access.

In addition, it will become the home for Project Success, an education dropout prevention program aimed at motivating and assisting youth at-risk of dropping out of school to complete their education.

"They can go outside and enjoy the fresh air rather than being cooped up inside a classroom all day," Simmons said.

While the \$250,000 is a big boost, Simmons said it's not a done deal. The total cost of renovating the fire station will cost \$500,000.

"We're only half-way home," he concluded. "We'll still have to raise money. I'm hoping the community will be responsive to our needs when our capital campaign kicks off in the near future."

NAACP President Steps Down

BALTIMORE, Md. (AP) — Saying he needs a break, NAACP President Kweisi Mfume announced Tuesday that he's stepping down as the head of the nation's oldest and largest civil rights group.

The organization's legal counsel, Dennis Hayes, will serve as interim president while a national search is conducted.

"For the last nine years, I've had what I believe is both the honor and the privilege to help revive and to help restore this great organization, which has ... really become an American institution," Mfume said.

He said he wanted to spend more time with his family. "I just need a break. I need a vacation," he said. "I'm just not going to do anything for a while."

"In my heart of hearts, I know the job has been done, and I step aside willingly ... to find another challenge and another chance to make a real difference," he said.

Mfume, 56, has been president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People since 1996. Before that, he was a congressman for nine years.

He inherited an organization tarnished by scandal



"In my heart of hearts, I know the job has been done, and I step aside willingly," said Mfume.

and burdened by a \$3.2 million debt and is credited with steering it into an era of stability and growth with corporate-style management techniques, including cost-saving layoffs.

Last month, the organization's chairman, Julian Bond, announced that its tax-exempt status is under review by the government in an investigation he contends stems from a speech he gave that criticized President Bush. Bond said IRS agents were investigating his keynote address July 11 at the NAACP's

annual convention in Philadelphia.

For an organization to keep its tax-exempt status, "leaders cannot make partisan comments in official organization publications or at official organizational functions," according to an October 8 letter to the NAACP from the IRS office in Louisville, Kentucky.

In September, the group launched an advertising campaign aimed at combating what officials describe as stagnant membership growth. The civil

rights group, founded in 1909, wants to increase membership by 20 percent, Mfume said at the time.

The group claims 500,000 members, but it has not seen significant membership growth in recent years.

Mfume, whose adopted West African name translates to "conquering son of kings," began his career as a dashiki-clad popular radio talk show host and political activist in the 1970s and transformed himself into one of the nation's foremost civil rights leaders.

He served on the Baltimore City Council from 1979-1987 before winning a closely fought race to represent Baltimore's 7th district in the House of Representatives. Mfume was elected to four more terms in Congress and was leader of the Congressional Black Caucus before stepping down to head the NAACP.

"To serve as the president of the NAACP ... clearly has been the most rewarding and the most fulfilling experience in my life," Mfume said. "I walk away with more rather than less."

Telling It Like It Is

Sykes dishes on Dave Chapelle, her new show on Comedy Central, and the appeal of 'I Love Lucy'



Wanda Sykes

by Candace K. Clarke
Challenger Editor

TAMPA BAY — She isn't known for holding back her opinions, and she's got that distinctive voice — kind of nasally, with a bit of attitude to it. For Wanda Sykes, it's just another standout characteristic of her smart, irreverent style of comedy.

On Dec. 11, local residents will have the chance to catch her act live, as Sykes performs standup at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center as part of her "Cotton T-Shirt" comedy tour.

Sykes currently stars in "Wanda Does It," airing on Comedy Central every Tuesday night. Every week features the comedian's attempts to do everyday jobs outside show business, with an "I can do that" attitude. She is also the executive producer of the show.

For those who don't know her, the Emmy Award winning Sykes has a long list of credits that include everything from working on the "Chris Rock Show" as a writer and actress, to appearing on HBO's hit shows, "Inside the NFL," and "Curb Your Enthusiasm." Her voice can also be heard on Comedy Central's "Crank Yankers."

In 2003, the Ports-

mouth, Va. native had her own show on FOX, "Wanda at Large," playing a comic who lands a gig as an outspoken commentator on a local TV show in D.C.

Currently, Sykes also has a new book out; her jokes touch on everything from politics to sports, nothing is sacred in "Yeah, I Said It."

Add to that, she's just recently wrapped up shooting the comedy "Monster-in-Law," starring Jane Fonda and Jennifer Lopez, due out next Mother's Day. Without a doubt, she's definitely been busy.

Having confessed to spending much of her time on a plane five days out of the week (and slightly worn-out from her hectic schedule), Sykes took a few moments for a quick Q & A with *The Weekly Challenger*.

Q: As far as "Wanda Does It" goes, what are some of the more favorite situations you've had to deal with?

A: I don't know... it's funny, because I'll watch one episode and go, "Man, I really liked that," and then I'll watch another and like it just as much but for different reasons. It's kind of hard to say which one. I

Telling
continued on pg. 7

A Passion For Jazz

by Linda Young

Challenger correspondent

Some people get their kicks in the strangest ways. Rick Gee's passion for life explodes in enthusiasm whether the topic is jazz, his paintings, his sailing, his swimming and medals, his flute playing or even his old thesis on welding supply companies.

Say what???

Gee is well known for his newspaper column on jazz in *The Weekly Challenger*. Less well known is that he gets a "kick out of reading" books on finance the way some people enjoy reading magazines such as *People*.

"I would pick up a book on finance and say, 'O man, this is great,'" he says. An autumn afternoon breeze blew through the open doors and windows of his house, and jazz singer Acuna's voice flowed from a CD, as he pulled his graduate thesis — on successful managerial and financial techniques in welding supply companies — from a stack of papers.

At age 70, Gee still has an enthusiasm about the dry subject matter of his 1977 graduate degree in finance from American University, where he was the lone black face in a sea of caucasians. By then, he was used to being the first



Weekly Challenger columnist Rick Gee poses with a few of the medals he's received over the years.

or only black. In the 1950's he was the first black appointed to the staff of Senator Clifford B. Case, he worked on Capital Hill for two years and watched movies in segregated theaters.

He lived his first 17 years in Newark, N.J., where he attended Central High School and was a swimming star at a time when "there were no black men swimming," Gee said. "I broke a record that stood for 20 years in the 40-yard free style."

Medals came, and a modest scholarship to historically black Howard University rewarded him.

However, the scholarship didn't cover much of the cost. In his early years, his parents worked as live-in domestic help for

wealthy families. Therefore, his grandmother primarily raised him and his two cousins.

"You know, it was 'Yes ma'am,' 'No ma'am' when I was coming up," Gee said. With only a sixth grade education herself, his mom sat him down at the kitchen table before he could go out and play to "make sure that I could recite my times table."

His dad went as far as eighth grade, but his parents valued education and purchased a set of Encyclopedia Britannica Jr. to help him "get as much as I could out of my education," Gee said.

When he graduated high school, he wanted to enter the Air Force with his buddies from the projects. "My dad said 'well you

know what, if you don't go to college, you'll go with me to work,'" mopping and waxing floors at a day care center. With a shudder at the thought, Rick Gee says "Ohhh, I hated it. So, I said 'I think I'll take college.'"

Although he had a newspaper route as a child, he never thought about his future or was concerned about where money came from. Some of the kids at college had role models and knew they wanted to be doctors or lawyers because their parents and grandparents were.

"But my parents were common workers, and we didn't have any role models per se, and my cousins and

Passion
continued on pg. 7

WEEKLY CHALLENGER NOTICES

Subscribers:

Please send renewals directly to:
The Weekly Challenger, 2500 Dr. M.L. King Jr. St. S.,
St. Petersburg, FL 33705

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Opinions	2
Sarasota/Manatee	3
Tampa Bay Area	4-7
State	8
National	9
International/Obituaries	10
Religion	11-13
Sports	14
Classifieds	15
Woman's World	16



**Hats Off Tea with
the Links.**
see page 5

There is a Reason to Read *The Weekly Challenger*!

OPINIONS

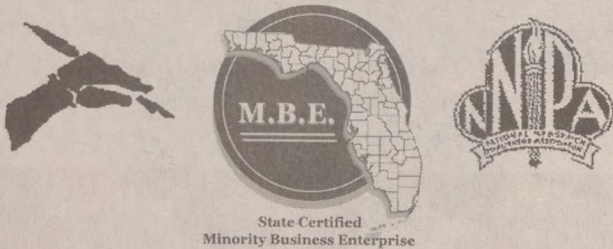
The Weekly Challenger

Cleveland Johnson, Publisher
(1967 - 2001)

Ethel L. Johnson Publisher
Ylonda Powell Manager
Shirley Morgan Advertising Manager
Candace Clarke Editor

The Weekly Challenger Office:
2500 M.L. King Jr. (9th) Street South
St. Petersburg, FL 33705
(727) 896-2922
Fax (727) 823-2568
email: tchallen@tampabay.rr.com
www.theweeklychallenger.com

THE BLACK PRESS believes that America can best lead the world from racial antagonism when it accords to every man, regardless of race, creed or color, his human and legal rights. Hating no man, fearing no man... the Black Press strives to help every man in the firm belief that all men are hurt as long as anyone is held back.



St. Petersburg Area
Chamber of Commerce

St. Petersburg Area
Black Chamber of Commerce

The Weekly Challenger

is distributed
in the following cities:

St. Petersburg • Clearwater • Tampa
Largo • Tarpon Springs • Safety Harbor
Crystal River • Inverness • Brooksville
Ocala • Dunnellon • Anthony
Marion Oaks • Shady Grove • Bellview
Bradenton • Sarasota • Palmetto

The Weekly Challenger

Published weekly on Thursdays by
The Weekly Challenger
2500 M.L. King St. S.
St. Petersburg, FL 33705
(727) 896-2922

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Mail
\$30 for 1 year

SINGLE COPY
25 cents

Continental United States, Hawaii,
Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands

ATTENTION POSTMASTER:
Send all address changes to
The Weekly Challenger
2500 M.L. King St. S.
St. Petersburg, FL 33705

NO PAPER?

If you have not received your paper during
delivery, phone (727) 896-2922

DEADLINES

All news items, advertising copy and related art
submitted for publication on Thursday must be
at the office of *The Weekly Challenger* no later
than 4 p.m. Monday

COLUMNIST'S DISCLAIMER

The views expressed by *The Challenger*
columnists/advice columnists do not necessarily
reflect the views of *The Weekly Challenger*. By
publishing such columns, *The Challenger* is not
advocating the following of any advice or
suggestion expressed.

SUBMISSIONS POLICY

Submissions to *The Weekly Challenger* may be
edited for reasons of space, clarity or for
considerations of liability. All submissions
become the sole property of *The Weekly
Challenger*. *The Weekly Challenger* reserves
the right to run all or part of any submission at a
later time. Some submissions may take
precedence due to timeliness or
newsworthiness.

Volume 37 • Number 13

Published Tuesday, December 2, 2004

16 pages • 1 section

©The Weekly Challenger

All rights reserved. No portions of this periodical
may be reproduced without expressed consent.

The Weekly Challenger Newspaper

We Value Diversity. We Value Education. We Value History.

A knowledge of
history brings a feeling
of fellowship that runs
through the ages - be it

a territory, a village, a
district, or a nation. To
live without history is
likened to living with-

out a form of memory.
To be without history
is to live without roots
or a past, with the

present having no real
foundation, and very
little meaning for the
future.

The *Weekly Chal-*
lenger is committed to
featuring articles of all
ethnic culture for the

reading enjoyment of
both the young and old
generations.

Ron Artest Ain't the Problem!

A revolutionary take on 'Fight Night in the NBA'

by Carl Dix

The replays have been
run so many times the
scene has become etched in
my brain. The Indiana Pac-
ers' Ron Artest laying a
hard foul on Ben Wallace
of the Detroit Pistons near
the end of the game. Wal-
lace coming back at him
with two hands to the
throat, and Artest walking
away from this potentially
explosive situation and lay-
ing down on the scorers'
table. (I'm told this is an
anger management tactic.)

Then a cup full of some liq-
uid comes flying out of the
stands onto Artest and the
brawl is on. Players going
into the stands, fans run-
ning onto the court. Beer,
chairs and punches being
thrown. Endless video re-
plays accompanied by
seemingly endless articles
and panels of talking heads
supporting the suspensions
NBA Commissioner David
Stern hit Artest and several
other Pacers with and talk-
ing about Artest as a trou-
bled young man who needs
to do to deal with his prob-
lems.

And I'm thinking what
problems are they referring
to--fans who douse you
with beer? NBA big wigs
who, with their eyes fo-
cused on their bottom line,
make an example out of
you? The talk about Artest's
problems or his previous
run ins with basketball's
authorities is a lot of crap.
Bush took the US to war in
Iraq based on lies about
weapons of mass destruc-
tion and Saddam's ties to Al
Queda. Before that as Tex-
as governor he presided
over a record number of
executions, including some
where the person put to
death was innocent. But
news reporters don't link
this to his past problems
with alcohol or to his cur-
rent addiction to Pat
Robertson style Christian
Fascism.

In announcing Artest's
suspension for the rest of
the season, (and Pacer
players Jermaine O'Neal
for 25 games and Stephen
Jackson for 30 games)
NBA commissioner David
Stern said that Artest had
broken the social contract
between players and fans.
What is this social contract
he's talking about here? It
doesn't include a clause
saying fans shouldn't abuse
players. Some NBA teams
institutionalize such prac-
tices. The Washington Wi-
zards (formerly the Bullets)
had a designated heckler
who was seated behind the

visiting team's bench. This
guy would do research to
determine the best way to
get inside the heads of vis-
iting players and coaches.
He'd recite rewritten ver-
sions of Shaq's rap lyrics,
read sections of Phil
Jackson's autobiography
and run down any run ins
players had with the law
among other things. In
places like Boston, instead
of having a designated
heckler, the whole crowd is
encouraged to get into the
act.

This social contract
rests on the way the NBA
has approached dealing
with a problem central to
its marketing strategy. The
NBA is serving up a sport
dominated by Black ath-
letes and featuring the edge
and attitude that Black
youth bring to the game,
and to life. But they are
marketing that sport to a
fan base that is largely
white.

The league knows the
game minus the power,
speed, aggression and agili-
ty these players bring to it
would be a pale imitation
of what draws the fans out
to the arenas and into the
stores to buy jerseys and
other paraphernalia with
players' names and num-
bers on it. To deal with this
contradiction, players are
allowed, even encouraged,
to show that spirit in com-
petition, and even some-
what in combat, among
each other. (Think of how
much less a story this
would've been if Artest had
responded to Wallace's
blow by throwing punches
at HIM. Both of them
would've gotten suspended
for one or a couple of
games at most.) But never,
ever, should a player even
think about responding to
anything done to him or his
team by a fan. Think of the
gladiators in the Roman
Coliseum, cheered or jeer-
ed for what they did against
each other, but never al-
lowed to respond to di-
rectly to the crowd for any-
thing it said or did.

The racism embedded
in this approach rests on a
lot of history. I'm not main-
ly talking here about how
this country's dragged Afri-
cans to these shores in
chains and stole the land
from the native inhabitants.
Although I could talk about
that because it's still very
relevant today. I'm more
speaking about basketball
history. Blacks were barred
from the NBA till the 50's.
The best Black ball players
in the country were limited

to playing for the Harlem
Globetrotters if they want-
ed to play ball for a living.
Most NBA teams refused
to even play the Globet-
rotters. (The Minneapolis
Lakers, who dominated the
NBA in the late 40's and
early 50's, did agree to play
the Globetrotters. They
ended up splitting several
games with them.)

Coming closer to to-
day, the NBA publicly ago-

This incident didn't happen
because of Artest's prob-
lems. Nor did it become a
major story for that reason.
Brawls at hockey games
involving one or several of
it's mostly white players
fighting with some of its
mostly white fans occur so
often they're treated as nor-
mal occurrences. Some-
thing for some sportscas-
ter's plays of the week list.
There have even been inci-

that he becomes the NBA's
public enemy # 1.

When David Stern and
others say that no matter
what was done to him,
Artest never, ever should
have gone into the stands,
they are applying to him a
standard that doesn't get
applied much in US socie-
ty--turn the other cheek.
Artest grew up in the
Queensbridge projects in
New York City. You don't
turn the other cheek there
unless you want to get hit
again. Artest's shot to get
out of the projects was thru
basketball, and he succee-
ded at it by turning himself
into one of the best players
in pro ball at his position.
The heart of his game is
giving his all every minute
he's on the floor, on offense
and defense. His competi-
tive style has led to clashes
with the NBA's hierarchy
and to a number of suspen-
sions. This itself got turned
into more reason to punish
him harshly. David Stern
noted that his previous sus-
pensions by the NBA were
taken into account in deter-
mining what punishment to
give him in this case. This
comes down to a retroac-
tive repeat offender policy
that has only been applied
to Ron Artest.

In commenting on all
this, Charles Barkley said,
"These guys (referring to
NBA players) have to un-
derstand the racial un-
dercurrent in the NBA. The
fans look at this stuff as
Black millionaires acting
stupid." This was a theme
that came up often in dis-
cussion of the brawl--fan
resentment of wealthy
Black athletes who lack the
proper gratitude or humili-
ty for their situation. A
number of newspaper ar-
ticles even noted the grow-
ing number of NBA stars wear
their hair in cornrows as
something that contributes
to this resentment! (The
authors of the articles
bringing up cornrows could
add that they are adding to
and whipping up such
resentment.) There is a
large gap in income be-
tween the fans and NBA
players. But there's an even
larger gap between the eco-
nomic status of the fans and
that of the almost all white
NBA owners. Yet the
media, sports or otherwise,
doesn't work to whip up the
kind of resentment against
them that's its pumping up
in relation to Black players.

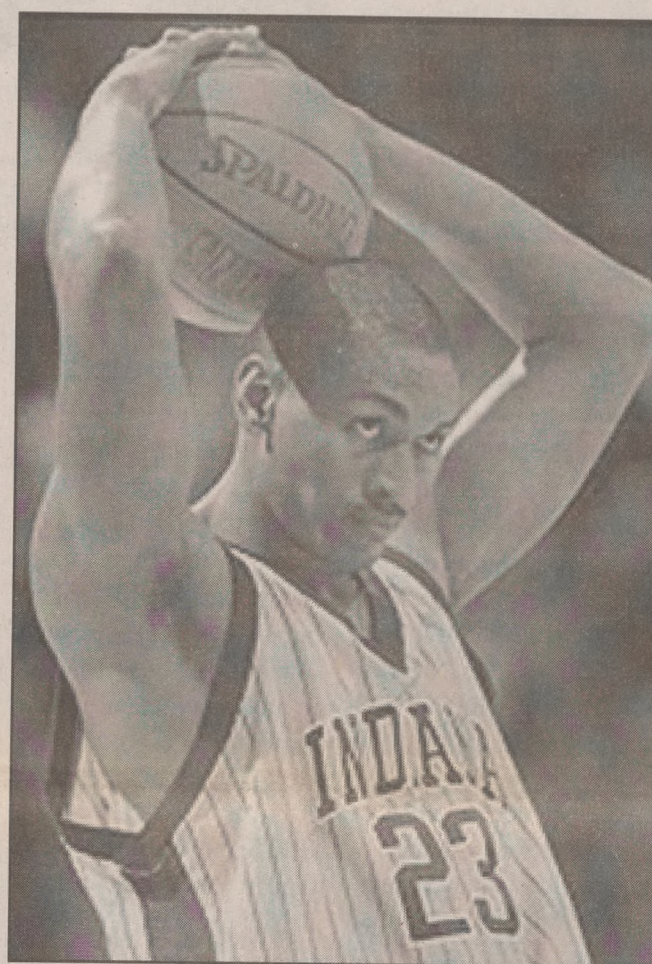
This theme of resent-
ment and hostility to Black
people who don't know
their place fits right in

what's being brought for-
ward in society overall.
Black youth are treated like
criminals in US society,
guilty until proven inno-
cent. This has gone so far
that recent studies report
that 1 in 10 Black men in
the US are in jail! Wide-
spread resentment among
whites towards uppity
Black people helps justify
outrages like this.

And we've just been
through a presidential elec-
tion where the party in
power tried to keep as
many Black people from
voting as they could. I
know the Republicans are
denying this, but the stuff is
pretty much out in the
open. Florida's Attorney
General drew up a list of
"felons" who would be
denied the right to vote.
This list consisted over-
whelmingly of Black peo-
ple, and it was full of peo-
ple who had never even
been charged with a crime.
Again in Florida, Black
people were visited by
armed police investigating
their involvement in regis-
tering people to vote.
Flyers were circulated in
Black communities in
Maryland and Michigan
telling people they should
vote the day after election
day. And I could go on and
on.

The NBA suspended
Ron Artest for the rest of
the season with an eye
toward shoring up the
league's bottom line thru
reinforcing a "social con-
tract" that rests on keeping
the Black athletes that give
their sport its heart and soul
in their places. The intense
debate this incident has
generated throughout soci-
ety is having the effect of
giving added weight to the
justifications used for all
the ways this society acts to
keep Black people in their
place overall. Some reality
needs to be injected into the
discussion around this, and
the terms of the debate
around it need to be
changed.

Carl Dix is a longtime re-
volutionary political activist.
Carl is the National Spokes-
person of the Revolutionary
Communist Party USA, and a
cofounder of the October
22nd Coalition to Stop Police
Brutality. A Vietnam-era ve-
teran, Carl was one of the Fort
Lewis 6-active duty GI's who
refused orders to Vietnam. To
contact Carl, e-mail him at
comradecarl@hotmail.com,
or call (866) 841-9139, ext.
2670.



The NBA's latest "bad boy" is Ron Artest.

nized in the 1980's over the
growing numbers of Black
players in the league and
wondered whether and how
it could sell a Black domi-
nated game to white fans.
Out of this agonizing came
two things: 1) A search for
and promotion of "white
hopes"--white players tal-
ented enough to stand out
in a game dominated by
Black players. (Sometimes
this worked, e.g., Larry
Bird, and sometimes it
flopped, like with Danny
Ferry); and 2) Attempts to
moderate the edge and at-
titude of the Black players.

I'm not exaggerating
when I speak of them try-
ing to moderate players'
attitude. During the 1984
NBA Finals, the L.A.
Lakers began one game by
giving each other low fives
instead of high fives.
League officials were hor-
rified and quickly told them
not to do that again. Laker
Michael Cooper said the
word to not do another low
five came from someone
"higher than the team and
lower than God." All this
forms the backdrop for the
widespread condemnation
of Ron Artest for his role in
his incident.

Let me be real clear.

dents where fans who ran
onto baseball or football
fields, interrupting games,
were beaten by players, and
it didn't get treated as major
stories like this did. But
this was basketball, with
it's mostly Black players
fighting with it's largely
white fans.

Artest walked away
from a punch to his face
and ignored a towel thrown
at him. But this largely gets
left out of the talk about
this incident. Instead the
discussion begins with
Artest's "hard" foul on
Wallace even though the
game was all but over and
skips to him going into the
stands after the fan who hit
him with the cup. As for the
foul, the game was all but
over, but Indiana's coach
still had his starting line up
on the floor. So he seemed
to want his players to keep
playing intensely. And in
going into the stands after
whoever threw beer on him
and punching a fan who ran
onto the court and got in his
face, Artest was responding
to what people did to him.
This is what gets talked
about and analyzed, or mis-
analyzed, in commentary
on this incident. He was
defending himself, and for

THE WEEKLY CHALLENGER WELCOMES YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

PLEASE E-MAIL TO: WCEDITOR@TAMPABAY.RR.COM OR YOU MAY FAX YOUR COMMENTS TO
(727) 823-2568, OR DROP BY THE CHALLENGER OFFICE: 2500 M.L. KING ST. S.

WESTCOAST BLACK THEATRE TROUPE

Gospel Musical Ushers In Holiday Season

Ring in the Holiday Season with Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe's (WBTT) Holiday Special **BLACK NATIVITY** playing at the Gompertz Theatre, 1247 First Ave., Sarasota, from December 16th through 23rd.

This song-play in verse, written by Langston Hughes, the legendary poet and writer of the Harlem Renaissance, retells the original story of the Nativity with a different perspective. When first performed in New York City in the 1950s, it broke ground as a black musical and then went on to achieve worldwide success and fame, achieving legendary status throughout the years.

This is the second year the WBTT has presented what may become a holiday tradition. Director Nate Jacobs has rethought and



Front from L-R: Porter Anderson, Aneysia Bonner as Mary, Beatrice Fletcher, Leon Pitts.
Back from L-R: Sherwood Davis as Joseph, Phyllis Banks

expanded last season's production. Langston Hughes' text remains the same, but

music, song, dance and costumes all have been expanded for a brand new

look to this age old story. Based on the Gospel of St. Luke, combined with the

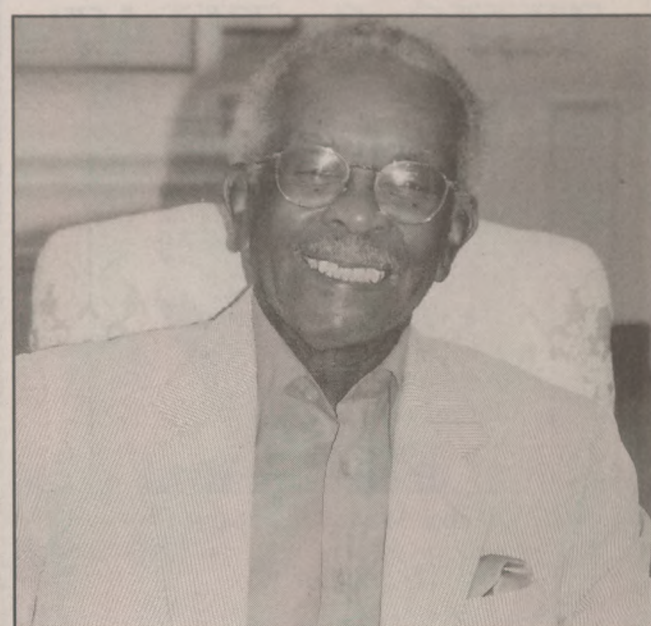
poetry of Langston Hughes, this song-play touches a special chord in

the hearts and souls of all, whatever their background or belief. The rousing gospel music both moves and inspires audiences to join in a finale which shakes the roof.

Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 16, 17, 18, 23 with a Matinee at 3:00 p.m. on December 19. Tickets are \$23. Student and group rates are available. Call (941) 954-4651



Nate Jacobs, Artistic Director



Elbert Wisner

The Board of the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe announces with great sadness the death of its President, Elbert Wisner, on Nov. 22.

Wisner, devoted husband of Lillette Jenkins-Wisner,

renowned jazz pianist and cabaret entertainer, has led the organization with great dedication. He shall be greatly missed by the Board, by Nate Jacobs, Artistic Director and by the Troupe.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Enoch Davis Center Serves as Location for Senior Clinic

ST. PETERSBURG--The Senior Law Walk-In Clinic will be open Dec. 15 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Enoch Davis Center, located at 1111 18th Ave. S.

Stetson Law College is offering legal counsel for senior citizens who feel they have been defrauded or have concerns about ser-

vices they have received for a service provider. Seniors over the age of 55 years old may make an appointment to talk with a lawyer. The clinic is made possible through a grant from the state of Florida.

For more information, contact Ms. W. Mitchell at (727) 893-7803.

USF Student Groups Sponsor World AIDS Day Events

TAMPA - Several months old, her daughter was severely ill. "I want to tell people it can happen to anyone," Correa said. "I never imagined I could give it to my daughter. I'm here to put a face on AIDS."

The Tampa Bay AIDS Network was also on campus providing free HIV/AIDS testing from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Student Health Services Annex.

The Delta's Host 'Breakfast with Santa'

ST. PETERSBURG - Each year, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, St. Petersburg Alumnae Chapter, Rings in the holiday season by sponsoring an enjoyable outing for our young ones and their parents. They will meet and greet an ethnic Santa and Mrs. Clause. There will be lots of games, pictures with Santa

months old, her daughter was severely ill.

The events were sponsored by Volunteer USF, PRIDE Alliance, University Lecture Series and Student Health Services.

World AIDS Day is observed annually since 1988 to address the challenges of the AIDS pandemic and to foster greater social tolerance and exchange of information on HIV/AIDS.

and Mrs. Clause, a hot and healthy breakfast, arts and crafts, door prizes, Christmas carols, grab bags and for the parents information from different organizations for keeping their little ones safe and healthy.

Chairperson for the event is Kathy Cason; Yvonne Alsup, Archie Ferguson, Gladys Gist,

Wanted: Unemployed Individuals, Motivated and Willing to Work!

The Pinellas County Success Training and Retention Services

(STAR\$) Program is now offering FREE employment skills and job training

workshops, along with job placement assistance and two years of continuing

support. No GED or High School Diploma required. Criminal record? No prob-

lem. Workshops are filling fast...CALL TODAY! St. Petersburg Office: (727) 453-6530; Clearwater Office: (727) 464-8486.

The AARP Seeks Assistance for its Tax-Aide Team

PINELLAS COUNTY--The AARP Tax-Aide is looking for volunteers to join their tax preparation team. They are the nation's largest, FREE, all volunteer tax preparation service. They serve low to middle income taxpayers with special attention to those 60 years of age and older. There are 44 preparation sites in Pinellas County.

Volunteers receive IRS-certified training and are reimbursed for all expenses. Volunteering is easy and rewarding and only requires a minimum commitment of four hours a week from Feb. 1 - April 15.

Call Richard Hook at (727) 344-4028 for further details.

Annual Festival of Hope at Eckerd College Features Senior Students' Service Projects

ST. PETERSBURG - On Wednesday, Dec. 1, the annual Festival of Hope was held from 12:30 - 3 p.m. in the Hough Center at Eckerd College (4200 54th Ave. S.). Each year, the Festival of Hope serves as the conclusion to a 40-hour service learning project conducted by Eckerd College seniors. Over 40 booths showcased the non-profit agencies in the community where senior students have volunteered. All proceeds benefited the American Red Cross of Tampa Bay for hurricane

relief. The Festival of Hope is the culmination of the Eckerd College Senior Class' Quest for Meaning Project. In the process of searching for their "Quest," the senior class of Eckerd College endeavors on service learning projects throughout the Tampa Bay community during the Fall semester. After their community service projects are complete, they present their projects and reflections to the Eckerd community.

Linda Mack-Bivens, Sandra Fletcher, Dorothy Taylor and Juanita Thompson, will assist her.

The event will be at PTEC, 901 34th St. S., from 8 - 11 a.m. It is co-sponsored by the city of St. Petersburg. Proceeds will

benefit community service projects. It is asked that a donation of \$3.50 per person be made.

Office DEPOT.

GREAT SAVINGS ON OFFICE ESSENTIALS

28⁴⁸
Reg. \$37.98

SAVE 25%



DAY RUNNER® ORGANIZER EBINDER
• Sewn vinyl binder with pad and zipper closure holds 8-1/2" x 11" pages
Black, 8-1/2" x 11" 732-681
Coupon Code 33137803*

21⁶⁵
Reg. \$27.65

SAVE \$6



OFFICE DEPOT® BRAND RECYCLED COPY PAPER CASE
• Contains 35% postconsumer fibers
8-1/2" x 11", Case 940-650
Coupon Code 41890779*
While supplies last. Available in store only.

BUY 1, GET 1 FREE!
Same Item Only



WILSON JONES® 1" ACTIVE-USE BINDER
1", Assorted Colors 425-525 \$5.97
1-1/2", Assorted Colors 231-031 \$7.27
Coupon Code 48997870*

FREE

GREETING CARD KIT
(362-976, a \$10.00 value)
With Purchase of ANY 2 Inks OR ANY Ink 2-PK**

Includes:

10 Greeting Cards

10 Envelopes

150 Labels



Coupon Code 13556983*

**Excludes HP

39⁹⁹
Reg. \$79.99

SAVE \$40



HAMPTON LEATHER EXECUTIVE CHAIR
• Lumbar cushioning supports your back
Black 800-695
Coupon Code 50746383*
Assembly required. Selection varies by location.

3⁹⁸
Reg. \$4.98

SAVE 20%



OIC® ASSORTED CLIP COMBO PACKS
Binder Clips, Black/Gold/Silver 90-PK 668-984
Combo, Assorted Colors 450-PK 582-216
Combo, Black/Clear/Silver 450-PK 582-360

ASK ABOUT OUR EVERYDAY LOW PRICE GUARANTEE

CALL

1.800.GO DEPOT
(1.800.463.3768)
fax: 1.800.685.5010

CLICK

office depot.com
AOL keyword:
office depot

COME BY

1.800.GO DEPOT
(1.800.463.3768) to
locate a store near you

Prices and offers good 12/2/04 through 12/8/04 (unless otherwise noted). Some products and offers may be available in store only. Quantities limited to in-stock items only.

*Present this original ad for in-store redemption. Gift Card offers good toward additional purchases and cannot be applied to current purchase. Offers cannot be used as a credit card payment. Coupon offers not valid for contract customers with a store purchase card or procurement card, or for purchases from www.techdepot.com. Photocopies and mechanical reproductions are not valid. Coupons are not transferable and not for resale. Quantities limited. We reserve the right to limit quantities sold to each customer. Coupons are good for one-time use only, and cannot be combined with any other coupon offers. Offers and prices available in store only.

TAMPA BAY AREA

THIS & THAT



by Mabel Cooper
(823-6092)

The department stores have been trying to convince us to start holiday shopping since Halloween, but it really is time now. It's a good idea to get a head start on the Christmas spirit and shop earlier than usual. Christmas is right around the proverbial corner.

Like millions across the country, many families celebrated Thanksgiving holidays in the traditional way: stuffing themselves with too much food and staring too long at TV screens.

Turkey is guest of honor on many tables Thanksgiving Day. We should all thank not only the family for the Thanksgiving Day fare, but also the cooks who worked hard to make it a success.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Willie Earl McCloud, a St. Petersburg native, but transplanted to California on Nov. 28, took to the friendly skies following a visit with his dear mother, long-time beautician, Beulah McCloud, of 14th Ave. S. and 25th St. Willie Earl is a regular air traveler to his hometown to visit his mother, sister and her family. It was not a direct trip. He and his wife, Aledia, jetted from Los Angeles to St. Thomas Island to join some friends for a few days. Then Aledia jetted home to take care of some important business and Willie flew to visit his family in our town. Following a week of fun in the sun and his mother, Willie took to the skies for California Nov. 28.

HAPPY BIRTHDATE TO

Arthur Beaten of our town. Arthur hit the nail on the head on Sunday, Nov. 21

when he turned the big "65." It was an unexpected pleasure when his family treated him to dinner at the Ponderosa Restaurant on 34th St. S.

His four children, Mandy B. Thompson, Angela, Audrey and Zelda Beaten, 13 grands and his best friend, Earl McCloud, and his twin goddaughters, Maggie and Chris McHenry.

After the celebration, they all left the restaurant with smiles on their faces.

Other birthdating are: Charisse McGrew, Nov. 21 and Annie McCarter, Nov. 25.

Your special birthdate is a day that is meant to be celebrated, because you're such a special person.

THERE IS NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Frednell Williams, a St. Pete native, took to the friendly skies Nov. 28 after enjoying the Thanksgiving holidays with her mother, Annie Mae Williams, of Graham Apts. on Ninth St. S., and other family members.

Nell, as she doesn't like to be called, traded the sun for the ice and snow in 1954 and has dwelt in the northern climes, especially where she lives now in Suitland, Maryland.

Frednell said she comes home more frequently now to visit her mother, who is "smart looking" 93 years old.

NOW

Dear Readers, As I counted my blessings this Thanksgiving, know that all of you are among them.

STAY LOOSE!

Pinellas County School News in Brief

The 14th annual Commitment to Nursing and Pinning Ceremony of the Pinellas Technical Education Centers department of nursing will be held 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3, at John Hopkins Middle School, 701 16th St. S., St. Petersburg. Thirty-two graduate nurses will be honored.

The event's theme is "On the Pathway to Excellence." Nurses will recite the Nightingale Pledge as a commitment to the nursing ideals established by Florence Nightingale. Each nurse then will receive a nursing pin from a family member or friend. The pin symbolizes the graduate's knowledge as a new provider in the health-care field.

Jadia Taylor-Herring, R.N., certified nurse midwife, from Bayfront Medical Center and Helen Smith-Ramsey, R.N., employee coordinator from All Children's Hospital, will be the keynote speakers.

For more information, contact Evelyn Gardner, R.N., nursing program department chairperson, (727) 893-2500, ext. 1071.

The period to accept a seat in a Pinellas County Schools countywide magnet, fundamental or high school career academy program opened at 8 a.m. on Dec. 1. Here is important information for parents about the process.

• Parents must use the automated phone system to find out their child's status and to accept or decline an invitation to a countywide program. They should call the same phone number used to submit the application, which is (727) 501-0871. Phone lines are open 24 hours a day until 5 p.m. Dec. 10. Parents will need the following:

1. The student's 10-digit student number.

2. The student's eight-digit birth date.

3. The code numbers of the programs for which the parent applied.

Note: The program code numbers are listed on the back of the application worksheet. A copy of the worksheet may be found on the magnet/fundamental website (www.pinellas.k12.fl.us/magnet) or at the program schools.

A series of telephone system prompts will guide parents when they call.

• The phone system is the only way parents will be notified about the status of the application for their child. A student will lose a seat to which he or she has

been invited if the seat is not accepted through the phone system by 5 p.m. Dec. 10.

• Tips on using the phone system:

1. If you get a busy signal, all lines are in use. You will need to call back. The busiest times may be during normal business hours.

2. Students who have been placed on a wait list automatically will remain on the wait list. No further action is needed while using the phone system.

3. You may change your invitation acceptance by calling back by 5 p.m. Dec. 10.

For more information, contact Andrea Zahn, coordinator, Choice Plan communication, (727) 588-5172, or Chris Lowry, supervisor, magnet and fundamental school programs, (727) 588-6432.

A Special Thank You



Bunny and Abe Katz

Bunny and Abe Katz were mistakenly identified in the Nov. 23 edition of *The Weekly Challenger*

Helping Preserve Financial Security During Uncertain Times



More than 125 years of serving our clients when they need us most.

The Prudential Insurance Company of America
Roy James - Premier Agent
4100 Central Avenue
St. Petersburg, FL 33711
(727) 327-4137

Prudential Financial
Growing and Protecting Your Wealth®

Prudential Financial is a registered service mark of The Prudential Insurance Company of America, Newark, NJ and its affiliates. IFS-A068097 Ed. 08/2003



Suncoast Dixieland Jazz Classic Rocks!

If ever there was an organization whose efforts personify the all too familiar saying, "Keeping Jazz Alive" it's the Suncoast Dixieland Jazz Society, Inc. Last weekend, on Nov. 19th, 20th, and 21st, the Society held its fourteenth Dixieland Jazz Classic on Clearwater Beach with jazz concert venues at the beautiful Sheraton Sand Key Resort and The Marriott Suites Clearwater Beach. Special discount housing arrangements were provided to local and out-of-town jazz fans at both beach resorts, including The Best Western Sea Stone Suites. After a review of the hotel rates and the many, many amenities made available, it was this writer's opinion that the charges could not have been more economical.

The Suncoast Dixieland Jazz Society is a non-profit corporation. Its efforts are directed towards encouraging the performance, preservation, and perpetuation of Dixieland Jazz music and to nurture the enhancement of this music as an American art form. Their work is totally accomplished by volunteers who organize and present jazz concerts and other jazz-related activities during the year. There's a publication, which is provided monthly to Society members concerning a multitude of jazz activities and pertinent news regarding the Society. Their volunteers are also involved within the school arena by offering their guidance towards the development, organization, and presentation of Dixieland jazz Activities in the local schools and colleges, and providing jazz scholarships to worthy young musicians. Last, but definitely not least are the Society's continued efforts at encouraging the presentation of Dixieland jazz programming on the local radio and television stations. In addition to providing support to those stations, the involvement of the local media is pursued to help promote interest in Dixieland jazz in the community.

Each year the Society showcases some of the nation's greatest jazz bands at their annual Suncoast Dixieland Jazz Classic. The bands at this year's event represented more than 600 years of musical experience in talent and dedication to high quality music and entertainment. This correspondent attended the Jazz Fest on Friday evening, and noted that starting at noon through about 11 p.m., more than 20 jazz bands performed at the different venues. Due to my schedule, I was able to attend only two of the concerts.

As President of The Al Downing Tampa Bay Jazz Association, Inc., I said a few words of introduction for the opening of the Al Downing Memorial Hall, located in the Marriott Suites. I also introduced Al Downing's widow, Bernice "Bonnie" Downing and her family who were also in attendance. Playing at the grand opening was The Original All-Stars, who were directed by John Lamb, and sponsored by Jim Young and Marilyn Heidtke. Some of the members of the band who at one time or another played with Al Downing included John Lamb, director and string bassist; Ernie Calhoun, tenor saxophone; Bob Switzer, trumpet; Frank Williams, trombone; Stan Hunter, piano; Vincent Simms, guitar;

Ron Gregg, drums and Rose N. Bilal the featured vocalist. As usual, this dynamite group performed tunes from the straight-ahead jazz era of Duke Ellington and Count Basie. They were simply outstanding.

Another group, I was able to enjoy was the Titan Hot Seven. This band is "tight" - not only do you get to hear great music, but also they provide the audience with a laugh or two. Their terrific audience rapport and between-tune shenanigans kept the audience begging for more. Making up this dynamic band was Jeff Barnhart, piano; Bob Draga, clarinet; Chuck Bond, trumpet; Jim Fryer, trombone; Jerry Krahn, banjo and guitar; Danny Coots, drums and Isham Harris III, bass. To summarize, the concert was a fantastic musical treat for which I'll be looking to enjoy the group again in the very near future. Catch them if you can.

At the finale of the Classic, each member of the Suncoast Dixieland Jazz Society, Inc. should be walking tall with their chests stuck out. It was truly a job well done. It was a pleasure to watch the volunteers manage the crowds in and out of the venue rooms without a hitch. As a suggestion to the Jazz Society, someone should approach the local universities and discuss bringing in students majoring in Entertainment, as on-the-job trainees. In this way, more volunteers would be available and the young students would learn how to manage festival and concert events. Students would receive college credits for the activity and the relationship would be a definite win-win situation. For additional information about Jazz Society membership and/or Jazz Society events, you can call (727) 896-1206.

Jazz fans - your feedback is welcomed. I would like to hear from YOU! Mail your comments to Rick Gee's Jazz Jamm, c/o The Weekly Challenger, 2500 ML King St. S., St. Petersburg, FL 33705.

A MIND IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE

We are born with limitless potential. Help us make sure that we all have the chance to achieve. Please visit www.adcouncil.org or call 1-800-332-8623. Give to the United Negro College Fund.

The Weekly Challenger Welcomes Your Articles and Pictures of Community Interest Events

Earn an Applied Technical Diploma in Maternal and Child Health at St. Petersburg College.

Improve the life and safety of Florida's children.

Help build healthy families. Become a:

- Community Health Worker
- Family Health Advocate
- Family Support Worker
- Outreach Educator

Other program options:

- Associate Addition Professional Applied Technical Diploma
- Associate's degree in Alcohol/Substance Abuse
- Associate's degree in Social Services
- Certificate programs
- Youth Development Professional

Credits earned may be used toward an Associate in Applied Science degree, an Associate in Science degree, or a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Apply now to begin making a difference! Classes start in January.

SPC
St. Petersburg College
Excellence in education since 1927

www.spcollege.edu (727) 341-3457

Links' 'Hat's Off Tea' a Salute to Success



The St. Petersburg Chapter of the Links celebrated its first 'Hat's Off Tea' recognizing the professional accomplishments of area African-American women. The women recognized during the program were:

- Evelyn Gardner, program director for Nursing at PTEC

- Deanna Sheffield, television reporter and fill-in anchor with Tampa Bay 10 News

- JayAnne Terry, director of community outreach/diversity initiatives at USF College of Business

- AJ D. Jemison, general manager of the International Plaza in Tampa

- Dorothy Whitlock, senior program consultant/community involvement coordinator for the Juvenile Welfare Board

- Jacqueline Gayle Kelly, Esq., corporate attorney with Danko, Inc.

- Nancy Johnson, reporter, Tampa Bay 10 News

- Dr. Karen Brown-Dunlap, president of the Journalism School at the Poynter Institute

- Jennifer Hill, meteorologist, Storm Team 8 WFLA

- Deiah Riley, news anchor, ABC Action News

- Rene Flowers, councilwoman, St. Pete City Council

- Honorable Peggy Quince, Justice, Florida Supreme Court

The newly renovated Boys and Girls Club was the site of the 'Hat's Off' affair on Sunday, Nov. 14. Links and over 100 guests adorned hats of varied styles and designers as they enjoyed "high tea" refreshments and a hat fashion show as part of the celebration.

The hats for the fashion show were provided by Aurora D'Borealis Designs, Aurora L. Jones, owner.

Committee members for the outstanding event were Shirley Davis, Kredelle Dendy, Lynette Edwards (chair), Alma Singletary, Faith Van, Delceda Thompson, Patricia Stewart and Theresa Goss. Mozelle Davis is the chapter president.

The Links, Inc. is a public service organization committed to sponsoring cultural, civic and social events aimed toward securing a Legacy of Friendship and Service to the community.



Pinellas County Health Department Offering Free Home Inspections to Combat Asthma

by Tracie Reddick

Challenger Correspondent

ST. PETERSBURG — When you walk into your bedroom, do you begin to cough for no apparent reason?

Or, do you have a sneezing fit when you're in the kitchen?

If so, it could be the indoor quality in your home has made you susceptible to asthma, a chronic inflammatory disease that obstructs airways and makes them oversensitive to irritants.

And you're not alone. According to the American Lung Association, 14.6 million people in the United States have asthma, which is a 61 percent increase over the last decade.

In addition, the asthma rate among African Americans is 22 percent higher than the rate for Whites. Also, the mortality rate from asthma is three times higher among blacks than whites.

While there is no explanation for the increased rates of asthma nationwide,

some critics attribute it to a lack of programs aimed at educating low-income and minority residents about the disease.

Locally, health officials are trying to reverse this trend through a public service campaign that will help under-served populations breathe a little more easier.

At a recent meeting at the Johnnie Ruth Clarke

Center, officials from the Pinellas County Health Department informed residents of a service available to them: free home inspections.

The program is available to apartment and home owners in south Pinellas County who want to identify indoor asthma triggers that impact their health.

Officials explained

triggers could include mold, secondhand smoke, pet's skin flakes, urine, saliva, dust mites, and droppings or body parts of pests such as cockroaches or rodents.

Although asthma can be life-threatening, in most cases it can be controlled at home or at the doctors office.

Children are particular-

ly vulnerable to asthma. It is estimated that 4 million children under 18 years old have had an asthma attack over the last year.

Families can seek comfort through a free support group sponsored by All Children's Hospital. For more information about this, call (727) 767-4376.

For information about the free, home inspections,

call (727) 507-4336, ext. 1336.

READ THE CHALLENGER BEFORE IT HITS THE NEWS STANDS.

VISIT
WWW.THEWEEKLYCHALLENGER.COM

ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!!

Do you have a few hours each week you would like to share? St. Petersburg College, Midtown Campus located in the St. Petersburg Housing Authority's Center for Achievement on the corner of 22nd Street and 10th Avenue South is in need of volunteer tutors in:

Reading
Writing
Biology
Mathematics
Elementary Algebra
Intermediate Algebra
College Algebra
Receptionists are also needed!

Hours are flexible Monday – Thursday from 9:30am – 8:30pm and Friday 9:30am – 4:00pm

Enjoy volunteer benefits including access to athletic facility and library privileges, bookstore discounts and access to college-sponsored events.

Give a few hours each week and become an important part of your community college.

Call St. Petersburg College, Special Services at (727) 341-4303.

Nexus - Paul Mitchell
Design Essentials - Menders
Revlon - T.C.B. - Bantu

HIRES HAIRSTYLING

3427 11th Avenue North
St. Petersburg, FL 33713
Telephone: 323-8649

PLATINUM GOLD

OVER 10 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN PINELLAS COUNTY

MOBILE AUTO DETAILING

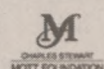
You've tried the Rest. Now try the Best!

"WE COME TO YOU"

Home Phone: 726-0877 • Mobile Phone: 710-2744
Owner - Falencia Robinson

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS.

IGNORE THEM AND THEY'LL GO AWAY.



AFTERSCHOOLNOW.ORG

1-866-KIDS-TODAY

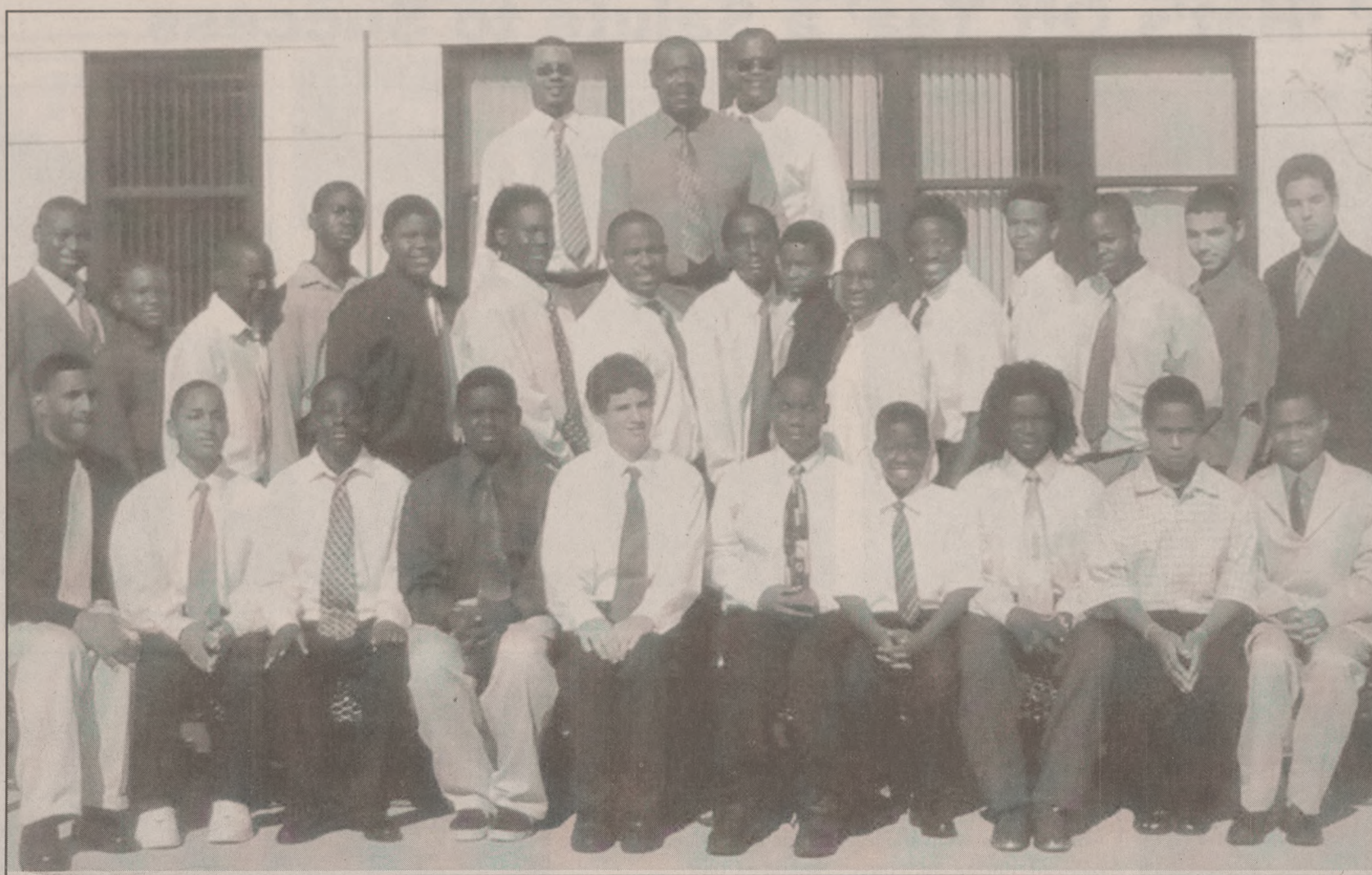


Afterschool Alliance

A Spotlight on the 500 Role Models of Excellence

PINELLAS COUNTY- Pinellas County Schools 500 Role Models of Excellence provides African American male mentors for many boys in schools throughout the county. Some schools require the young men to write simple essays that express their feelings about the program. The following are three essays that represent the group from Azalea Middle School. The mentors for these fine young men are Brian May, Lamont Allen, Scott Wilson, Keith Delaney, Fred Hinton, Warren Bennett and the Rev. Dr. Kevin James. Many thanks to these men for the valuable time, energy and commitment they have shown to this program.

For more information about this program, please call W. J. Bryant, County Coordinator, at (727) 538-7167, ext. 1154.



Azalea Middle School's 'Standout Students' with their mentors!

500 Role Models of Excellence Essay "Why I Want to Be Part of Role Models"

by
Pertrille Peters

Hi, my name is Pertrille Peters and I would like to be a part of the 500 Role Models. I would like to be a 500 Role Model because I think I am a good person. I feel this way because a lot of my young friends look up to me, and I don't want to set a bad example for those little faces.

If I have assistance with making the right choices in my life, then it would only be right to pass the same love, care, and understanding to someone else. There is good in everyone, even though it may be hard to tell, but I know that it's there. I also try to stay out of trouble because I only want to be remembered as a good person.

I also feel I should be a 500 Role Model because I am a good person. Some people would view me as a scary person, because I don't like to fight or go out on a dare. In that case, I guess I am a scary person. I am trying to get some positive motivation to help myself as well as my schoolwork. I think my mother would be glad if I would get involved in something positive and not just sit at home and play those TV games.

Let me have the chance to make not only myself proud, but my mother would be proud, as well!



L-R: Lamont Allen, mentor-teacher; Marquis Linder, Pertrille Peters, Darion Moss, and Brian May, mentor-teacher, Azalea Middle School

500 Role Models of Excellence Essay "The Reason Why I Should be Selected for 500 Role Models"

by
Marquez Linder, Azalea Middle School

Why should I be a part of the 500 Role Models, you ask? That's easy - just read what I have to say.

The reason why I should be in the 500 Role Models is strictly because of my grades and intellectual status. Ever since the third grade, I have always gotten Principal's List each grading period. So far, I have succeeded and my current GPA is a 4.0. I may not be the best student, but I am pretty close.

Another reason why I should become a part of the 500 Role models is because of my conduct grade. This grading period my conduct grades were better than I thought. I achieved three E's and three S's, and I am satisfied with that. As a student I know when there is a time to play and a time to work and seriousness, which helps my conduct grade stay up, although next time I will strive for all E's. Those are two simple reasons why I should be in the 500 Role Models. Now all you have to do is ask yourself, "Why not?"



500 Role Models of Excellence Essay "What Being a Good Role Model Means to Me"

by
Darion Moss, Azalea Middle School

A good role model is someone that does good deeds and has good intentions in life. A role model is also a person that people look up to. I believe that I could be that "role model."

My role modeling started when my little sister, Jakira, was born. I do my best to show her right from wrong. She follows my every step and repeats every word that I say. Therefore, I know that I have to be on my best behavior around her because I refuse to steer her in the wrong direction.

Secondly, I believe I can be a good role model because I have a mother for a role model to follow. She is a single parent raising both me and my sister, while working and continuing her career to be a RN at St. Petersburg College. I know that if I follow my mom's footsteps, I will be someone that other people will be able to look up to. These are some of the reasons why I know I will be a good "500 Role Model."

Mainstreet Business

by Robert Klein

Neighborhood News
Bureau

It was a dream that started on 24,000 quarters. Tired of the rat race, Robert Sauer, 39, and Chris Parker, 33, decided to go into business for themselves.

"I was sick of having a boss," says Sauer, a former skycaper at Tampa International Airport.

Together, they decided to bring to St. Petersburg a

new food product and sell it on downtown streets.

"Everyone sold hot dogs," says Parker, "We wanted to do something different." What they discovered was shaved ice.

According to Sauer, shaved ice is originally a product of Hawaii. It differs from sno-cones in that the ice crystals are thinner, allowing fruit syrup to be more evenly dispersed. The original method involved

shaving the ice by hand, but Sauer and Parker opted to use an ice-shaving machine. Once the crystals are shaved, the syrup is poured on top.

With little money and a great deal of apprehension, Sauer and Parker purchased a push cart and began peddling shaved ice in July 2001.

They focused on Williams Park in downtown St. Petersburg, but soon grew weary of the tough working conditions. "It was brutal," says Parker. "You weren't able to leave the cart to go to the bathroom." Even worse, when the weather turned bad, they weren't able to work at all.

Every day on the street, they noticed the many empty storefronts. They hoped one day to move into one of them.

Finally, by putting their life savings on the line, they leased a vacant unit at 3022 Central Avenue. Sauer cashed in the \$6,000 in quarters that he had been saving for years. Parker had to borrow \$50 from a friend just to put soda in the soda machine.

Both decided that the city's Grand Central District, near Tropicana Field on Central Avenue, would be a better location than right in the middle of downtown. "We wanted more of a community place," says Sauer. "Downtown is more for tourists."

"I like the concept of

the Grand Central District," says Parker. "How you can live and work in the same place."

The district has been

Street status in 2001, Grand Central has seen the opening of numerous restaurants, nightclubs and other new businesses.

spent \$125,000 for flowerpots, plants and irrigation along Central Avenue.

Sauer says that many of these kinds of additions

Shave Ice and More. Their humble dream had come true.

The first year was the toughest, they said.

Laundromat. "We spend almost 24 hours a day here," says Sauer.

A typical day starts at 7 a.m. and doesn't end until 11 p.m. Sauer does all of the prep work for the restaurant, while Parker goes off to his part-time job. In addition, both must keep the Laundromat clean and the machines operational.

Business falls off considerably over the summer months. "When the tourists go, it has an effect all the way down the line," says Parker. While their business does not cater to tourists, they believe their regular customers rely on the tourist industry for extra income.

"I think it's slow (in the summer) for everyone," says Longstreth.

Despite the hard times, Sauer and Parker are hopeful. Since they opened, they have expanded their menu significantly, and they have no intention of maintaining the status quo. They recently purchased a sandwich press.

But both say they will never stop making the item that has brought them this far. "People love shaved ice," says Sauer. "Some of them live on it."

Robert Klein is a reporter for the Neighborhood News Bureau, a program of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg.



Job, family, aging parents.

There's a lot on your plate these days.

On top of everything else, you realize your parents could use a little extra help. But this is new territory. Where do you begin? We're here to help you find local resources, support services, and solutions that work for your folks—and for you. Call our toll-free number and talk to a real person. Or visit www.eldercare.gov.

There's a way for older Americans and Caregivers to find help.

1-800-677-1116

www.eldercare.gov

A public service of the
U.S. Administration on Aging



Chris Parker, part owner of Bob's Shave Ice, pours mango-peach syrup on top of thinly shaved ice. Parker says the mango-peach combination is the most popular flavor.

designated a National Main Street Program by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. These communities are granted this designation by showing a commitment to economic development and historic preservation. There are over 1,500 Main Street communities nationwide.

This designation has helped create a boom in Grand Central according to James W. Longstreth Jr. a broker with Your Neighborhood Realty. Since it was given Main

"Main Street designation, did help," says Longstreth, because it enabled the city to explain why it was putting money into Grand Central and not other neighborhoods.

Tyna Middleton, the city's special projects manager for Grand Central, agrees with Longstreth. "Main Street has helped the revitalization," says Middleton.

The city's commitment to the area can be seen in the numerous improvements. Recently, the city

convinced them to move their business to Grand Central.

Once they moved in, though, they faced more challenges. With virtually no money for interior improvements, basic food service products or advertising, the two had to scramble for funds. The store interior decoration was done on a shoestring budget. Sauer laid the tile, painted the walls and installed all the cabinets.

Finally, in October 2002, they opened Bob's

Business was slow, and their advertising didn't seem to pay off. "We were both working part-time," says Parker, who used to work as a night manager at the Don CeSar Beach Resort & Spa. "We didn't realize what a struggle it was going to be."

But, once word started to get around, things started to improve. They stopped advertising, and business picked up. They moved into the apartment above their store and also purchased an adjacent

The Alumni Singers Celebrate 25 Years of 'Love and Harmony'

ST. PETERSBURG — The Alumni Singers, Inc. of St. Petersburg is busily preparing a year-long celebration to commemorate its 25th year of "singing in love and harmony."

The group was organized during the 50th anniversary of Gibbs High School, in May 1980. The nucleus of the group encompassed former members of the acclaimed St. Cecelia Chorus who treasured this part of their development and education.

There was an immediate sense of purpose at this rejoining. Consequently, the group decided to dedicate themselves, as a unit, and share with the community the beauty and profoundness generated through choral singing.

Over the past twenty-five years, the group expanded to include singers from other high school and college choirs. Weekly rehearsals are exciting and spirit-filled under the energetic direction of Robert L. Anders.

In addition, two retreats are held each year for



The Alumni Singers

more intensive work on the groups' repertoire.

The programs focus primarily on performing music that reflects the rich

musical heritage of the African-American experience. As a consequence, cultural enrichment is promoted and this heritage is

preserved. Concert renditions include the rich melodic sounds of spirituals as well as gospel, hymns, anthems and secular/popu-

lar selections.

In addition to performing throughout the Tampa Bay area, the Alumni Singers, Inc. has been fea-

tured for many years at the Bethune-Cookman Choral Music Festival in Daytona Beach Florida. The group also appeared in 1986 in an all-Gershwin program in the Florida Orchestra Super-Pops Concert series in the Porgy and Bess Suite under the direction of Skitch Henderson. During recent years, the group has made frequent appearances on Channel 13 holiday music presentations, at St.

Petersburg's Museum of Fine Arts and "First Night" celebrations.

The Alumni Singers, Inc. has received numerous commendations, including Official Sunshine Ambassador recognition from the city of St. Petersburg.

The 25th Anniversary celebration will officially commence with the annual holiday concert on Sunday, Dec. 12 (4 p.m.) at St. Joseph's Catholic Church,

2101 22nd Ave. S.

Performances and festivities, such as lecture/performance, choral clinics, and fund-raising galas are being integrated into the performance calendar from now through the fall of 2005. A few of the upcoming engagements include:

- Sunday, Dec. 5. American Church of the Beatitudes, 2812 Eighth Street North, St. Petersburg, 3 p.m.

- Sunday, Dec. 12. St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 2101 22nd Ave. S., St. Petersburg, 4 p.m.

- Sunday, Jan. 23. 2005. Allen Temple AME Church, 2101 Lowe Street, Tampa, 4 p.m.

- Sunday, Feb. 6, 2005. Lakewood United Methodist Church, 5995 Dr. M.L. King St. S., St. Petersburg, 4 p.m. (Festival of Spirituals)

In order to learn more about the Alumni Singers, Inc. (a 501C-3 organization), as well as to request engagements, the following individuals should be contacted: Business Manager: Carolyn Hobbs, ph: (727) 323-7004, e-mail: hobbsc@bbshouse@aol.com; Director Robert L. Anders, ph: (727) 867-9445, e-mail: randerslwd@aol.com.

Telling from front page

I guess the one when I worked at a chicken ranch. For the most part, it's just me being me though.

Q: Have you had any low moments while working on the show? Any bad experiences you want to talk about?

A: Um, not really any bad experiences. I think the hardest was when I was cooking in a Chinese restaurant - I was like, 'Good Lord, Could we go ahead and wrap this up?' It was really hard work. The woks were extremely heavy, you have flames shooting up in your face... Yeah, I didn't enjoy that too much.

Q: So how do you pick out what jobs to try?

A: Well, usually it comes from something out of real life. Lance Crouther (who is also the creator of the show) and I will go to different places and if we see something interesting, and looks like it would be funny to do, we go from there.

Q: You were on the Chris Rock Show for five years - how much pressure

were you under to produce good material?

A: I guess there was pressure because there was such a high standard. Chris is really funny, and we wanted to do a really smart, really funny show. Pressure-wise, I didn't really feel stressed out or anything because I loved it. It was a really good experience.

Q: So would you say you were naturally gifted as far as coming up with material?

A: Yeah, yeah - I mean I work hard at it. I will come up with something funny, but then I'll work hard at it as far as honing it to where it works for me.

Q: And you first started back in '87 out in D.C.? How was the scene when you were out there?

A: Oh, it was fun. When I first started, there were a lot of really good comedians. Like Dave Chapelle, Tony Woods, Martin Lawrence, Tommy Davidson... It was really exciting because we had people that left D.C. and were doing big things. We just had a nice little group - we were trying to get better and working hard; come up

with good jokes. It was good.

Q: Growing up, who were some of the comedians you admired and respected - the ones you thought were the best out there?

A: Well, Richard Pryor has always been the best, the greatest... As a kid, we always watched comedy in the house, except when "Roots" was on. I remember watching "The Carol Burnett Show," and Lily Tomlin and Richard Pryor's variety show, Flip Wilson. I still watch reruns of "I Love Lucy."

Q: As far as the writing, acting, the standup - which is the one you prefer the most?

A: Well, I love everything for different reasons, but standup to me is where it all started. It's my first love; that's how I got everything else. It gives me independence and freedom. I'm not edited, I'm not worried about being censored. Also, I get to create my own job. As long as the audience enjoys it and they come out to see me, it's pretty much my 'kiss my [butt]' job in the industry.

Q: Initially you worked

at the National Security Agency? Looking back, did you ever imagine this was the kind of career you would have?

A: Not at all... Looking back, when I was at NSA, I was just doing what I was supposed to be doing. It was just boring. I just knew there was something else. I wasn't taking it as seriously as most people were taking it.

I decided to go to this talent show and do standup. I wrote some jokes and that came easy to me, and then when I got on stage, it all just clicked. I was like, 'Okay, now I know, this is what I'm supposed to be doing.' I just stayed with it.

Q: Do you have any best and worst moments from over the years?

A: The best was probably winning the Emmy for the 'Chris Rock Show.' Uh... the worst moment was a one-nighter in Newark, N.J. I was playing this one little club, and this guy bent over and his gun fell out. It's like the thing is, everybody in the room checked to make sure it wasn't their gun. That was a bit scary. I was like, 'Alright, this is going to be

a really quick set tonight.'

Q: Do you have any advice for any young comedians out there struggling?

A: Just write - writing and getting on stage... If you love it, you'll stick with it and work to make it better.

Wanda Sykes will perform at 8 p.m. on Dec. 11 at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$32.50. For more information, please call (813) 229-7827.

"She's a very successful black woman."

Together we can stamp out prejudice. It only takes one voice to make a difference. Find yours at www.freedomcenter.org



Passion from front page

I, we talk about that now. 'We say hey, if we had role models man, we would have been something else,'" Gee says.

Still, coming from the Newark ghetto, Gee and his cousins Bill Payne and Donald Payne - who are like brothers - did well as accidental successes.

Donald graduated from Seton Hall, was elected to the U.S. Congress and chaired the black caucus committee for several years.

Bill graduated from Rutgers, became a New Jersey State assembly member, and deputy assis-

tant to the county executive of Essex County New Jersey.

Gee earned an accounting degree from Howard University and was one of the first athletes to win their varsity blazer. Three freestyle swimming championships for the U.S. Army followed, then induction into the Newark Athletic Hall of Fame in 1996. He donated 300 medals to the Newark Boys and Girls Club before moving here in 2001 and continues earning medals as part of the U.S. Masters Swimming Association.

Gee's resume includes administration positions at the Small Business Association, Union Car-

bide Association, United States Steel and Ciba-Geigy Corporation.

After retiring he began having 200 of his friends over twice a year for jazz concerts in the basement of his home in South Orange, New Jersey for jazz concerts. Many of them were close friends because Gee plays both classical and jazz music on flute.

Jack Kleinsinger - the promoter for the longest running jazz concert series in New York - mentored him.

Then he jumped into events in Tampa Bay. As a volunteer to assist disabled sailors, member of the Tampa Jazz Club, President of the Al Downing Tampa

Bay Jazz Association, and as a member of the Jazz Club of Sarasota where he served as chair of Jazz in The Park, and the Jazz Cruise and co-chairman of the 24th Annual Jazz Festival.

Because he lives in St. Petersburg and would like to see a jazz festival here and his dream is to organize one.

"With jazz being America's original art form, hey what better way to help it survive, we don't want to lose it. He loves jazz and his dream is to organize a jazz festival for St. Petersburg.

"So, I'm here to serve the community and because of my knowledge

in jazz, my background my connections with jazz musicians and stuff I feel as though that's one small thing that I can do."

"You go over to Europe, they love our music. They're into jazz more so than we are here. They revere our jazz musicians over there," Gee says.

Gee also reveres the musicians and has photographs of them performing in his old basement along with his original paintings. Many of them hang on the walls of his living room where he picked up his flute to play a jazz solo that turned the heads of smiling people walking on the sidewalk past his home.

2-1-1 Needs Resource Volunteers

Interested in computers and helping others in need? Sign up to be a 2-1-1 Resource Volunteer!

2-1-1 is seeking volunteers to commit to volunteering 2 hours per week, assign staff stay connected with over 1,400 health and human service agencies and programs in Pinellas and Hernando counties.

For more information about the 2-1-1- Resource Volunteer program, contact Micki Thompson, 2-1-1 Program Manager at (727) 562-1531 or e-mail her at micki@211tampabay.org.

For more information about 2-1-1- Tampa Bay Cares, visit www.211tampabay.org.

NO LIMITS.

Classes start Jan. 10

- Bachelor's degrees including Veterinary Technology **New**
- Associate in Arts degree
- Associate in Science degrees including Criminal Justice
- Certificates including Computer Integrated Design

At St. Petersburg College we put no limits on your education options. Neither should you.

(727) 341-4772

St. Petersburg College

Excellence in education since 1927

www.spcollege.edu

STATE NEWS

Florida Elections Agency Didn't Properly Watch Felon Database

by David Royse

Associated Press Writer
TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — The state Division of Elections failed to sufficiently oversee an outside company that created a database meant to check voter registration against lists of felons and dead people, but there wasn't any intent to disenfranchise anyone, an internal audit of the database found.

The audit by the Department of State's inspector general released on Nov. 22 concerns the state's now-cancelled contract with the consulting firm Accenture, which was paid \$2.3 million to create the database.

The idea behind it was to be able to help local elections officials purge voter rolls of people who shouldn't be there, mainly those who were convicted felons who hadn't had their civil rights restored and people who had died since the last election.

The project matched a list of registered voters with other lists of deaths and criminal records sent in by other state agencies.

But earlier this year Secretary of State Glenda Hood's office abandoned the project after acknowledging that 2,500 ex-felons were on the list even though their voting rights had been restored through the state's clemency process and that, due to a technical glitch, Hispanics were largely absent from the list of those recommended for potential purging. Hispanics often vote Republican in Florida, and



"There was nothing intentional, everyone was trying very hard," said Secretary of State Glenda Hood. "There were just some management controls that were not in place. That is not going to be the case in the future."

some critics questioned whether there was intent to purge some felons, but not others.

While finding that the database was unable to match felons and deaths with some registered voters of Hispanic origin, auditors said "there was no evidence to substantiate that the division intended for such disparities to occur."

Hood said she agreed with the inspector general's findings and that her office would take its findings into account as it created a new voter registration database required by federal law.

"There was nothing intentional, everyone was trying very hard," Hood said. "There were just some management controls that were not in place. That is not going to be the case in the future."

The main flaw in the project was that data that

was meant to be used to determine whether voters were eligible was incomplete and the Division of Elections didn't do anything to try and make it better, Department of State Inspector General Kirby Mole found.

Mole also found that the database wasn't able to be updated daily, as the law creating it envisioned, and that the database didn't fully comply with a settlement agreement the state made with the NAACP over how officials purge voters from the rolls.

The Division of Elections initially defended the database only a tool - not a list of people who should be purged from the rolls. Local supervisors were supposed to use it as a list of people who might need to be purged, but do further checking themselves.

But, "the division

should have performed an assessment on the data sources utilized...to ensure they were the best available for the purpose of making initial voter eligibility determinations," the report said. "The division should have also performed an assessment to determine if additional data sources were available to strengthen the initial voter eligibility determination process."

The audit noted that the glitch that caused Hispanics not to be identified in the database couldn't be changed without the consent of the NAACP because of the settlement agreement. But officials in Hood's office say the database won't be used again at all anyway.

It is to be replaced by a centralized voter registration system that is required by the federal Help America Vote Act.

The creation of that database will also be contracted out to a private vendor, but Hood outlined several changes she said will avoid some of the same type of mistakes in its creation.

In addition to finding a firm to create the centralized registration system, the state will also hire a separate vendor to perform checks on the program. And using some federal money, the Division of Elections will set up a separate bureau that will have the primary responsibility of overseeing compliance with the federal voting law, and will be focused on the voter registration system.

Marching Wildcats Invited for Repeat Performance at Honda Battle of the Bands

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Continuing a tradition of excellence, the Bethune-Cookman College marching band reaffirmed its status of being one of the nation's elite College bands by being selected to perform at the third annual Honda Battle of the Bands Invitational Showcase, January 29, 2005 at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, Ga.

As a representative of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference along with Florida A&M, B-CC will be in a select group of ten bands invited to participate. The honor also earned the B-CC band program a \$10,000 grant from Honda, who for the past 15 years has been highlighting the unique and unsurpassed education and cultural experiences found only at Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

This is the band's second appearance in the prestigious event and extends a run of honors that includes a cameo role in the movie "Drumline," a victory in the "Defeat The Beat" contest held earlier this year and a number one national ranking among HBCU bands.

"We take pride in returning to Atlanta because it shows our consistency in maintaining a standard of



Members of the Marching Wildcats join Bethune-Cookman College President Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed (fifth from left) and members of the College administration, band staff and Honda officials.

excellence," said Director of Bands Donovan Wells. "We have taken this program to a new level."

Band selection for the Invitational Showcase was based on an online fan opinion survey (33.3 percent), as well as opinion surveys completed by HBCU presidents and conference commissioners (33.3 percent) and band directors (33.3 percent). School officials were not allowed to vote for their own school.

"I appreciate our supporters and the strong results we had from the online poll," Wells said. "The word is out."

Bethune-Cookman

College President Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed was delighted as she officially accepted the invitation on behalf of the College.

"This is a testament to the dedication of our students and their educators in the quest for excellence," Reed said. "I see the band rehearse as I pass by the fields and I marvel at their persistence. I know they will represent Bethune-Cookman College in Atlanta in stellar fashion."

Tickets are now on sale for the Invitational Showcase and can be purchased through Ticketmaster and at the Georgia Dome box office. More than 60,000 fans from across the coun-

try are expected to attend the largest and only national showcase of HBCU marching bands in the country. Reserved seats for this fan-friendly event are \$10 each.

"In keeping with tradition, alumni and fan support of this one-of-a-kind event has been phenomenal," said Curtis Cason of Honda. "We're proud to celebrate not just the academic excellence and rich cultural heritage of these institutions, but to help provide an opportunity for the kind of unity and camaraderie that the Honda Battle of the Bands event promotes."

Convicted Child Killer to Return Home

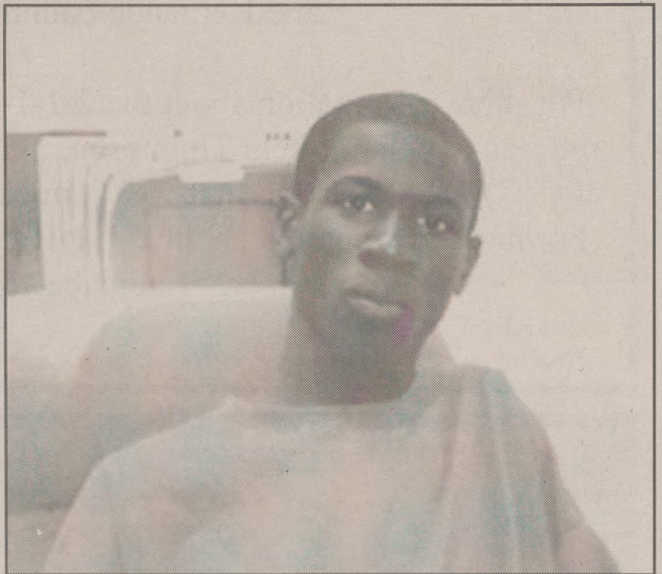
FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Lionel Tate, the Florida youth once sentenced to life in prison for the death of a playmate, can return to his mother's home while he serves probation, a judge ruled Monday.

Tate, 17, the youngest person in modern U.S. history to be sentenced to life in prison, was freed earlier this year, but then he was accused of violating probation in September.

He was moved to another home, but that family requested that he be removed because the frequent visits by probation officers were too stressful, authorities said.

On Monday, Tate's legal representative, Howard Greitzer, told the judge the teen wanted to return home.

Broward Circuit Judge Joel Lazarus asked Tate's mother, Kathleen Grossett-



Now, 17, Tate is the youngest person in modern U.S. history to be sentenced to life in prison.

Tate, if she would abide by Tate's probation rules. Grossett-Tate, a Florida Highway Patrol trooper, agreed.

Tate made headlines as a 12-year-old when he was charged with first-degree murder for killing 6-year-old Tiffany Eunick. He was convicted and sent to prison for life without a chance at parole, as re-

quired by state law.

But he won a new trial on appeal and went free in January under a deal that placed him under court supervision for 11 years.

He was arrested in September for violating his probation by being out of his home overnight following an argument with his mother. The terms of his probation called for him to remain at home except for school, work or church, unless he has permission from his probation officer.

Last month, a judge added another five years to the 10 years Tate had left on the original probation and warned him that any other problems would land him back in jail.

The judge also allowed Tate to move in with the unidentified Broward County couple because of the problems Tate was having at home.

Court Affirms Denial of Wal-Mart Workers' Class-Action Suit

PANAMA CITY, Fla. (AP) — An appeals court has refused to reinstate class-action status for a lawsuit that sought to represent 230,000 Wal-Mart employees across Florida over allegations the company forced many of them to work without pay during breaks and after hours.

But the ruling by the 1st District Court of Appeal in Tallahassee left the door open for another suit if the list of plaintiffs is narrowed.

Lawyers for several former Wal-Mart employees last year asked Circuit Judge Glenn Hess in Panama City to approve the suit

on behalf of all current and former hourly workers who had been employed on or after July 13, 1997.

The appeals ruled last Tuesday that the class action should be denied because the employee group is too broad.

"It includes members who never worked off the clock and therefore have no interest in the lawsuit," wrote District Judge Ricky Polston.

District Judges Peter Webster and Philip Padovano agreed, but the opinion added that the ruling could change if the class was culled.

Lawyers for Wal-Mart

and the workers who filed the suit did not immediately return messages for comment.

Class actions allow suits on behalf of people with similar claims and damages against the same defendant to be combined into one case, reducing the time and money that would have to be spent on many suits dealing with the same issues.

While the appellate court agreed the suit should be denied, the panel disagreed with Hess' reasoning.

Hess ruled in January that a class action so large would overwhelm the court

system as it tried to determine damages. He said if a jury decided that Wal-Mart cheated employees thousands of separate trials then would then have to be held to decide compensation for each worker.

Polston wrote that the "individualized nature of their damages claims should not bar certification of the class."

Requests to file similar lawsuits in other states have met mixed success. Minnesota and Indiana allowed class-action lawsuits. Seven other states - California, Georgia, Louisiana, Michigan, Ohio, Oregon and Texas - did not.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR PAPER BY SUPPORTING OUR ADVERTISERS

SCOTTIE
Bail Bonds
2523 34th Street South
St. Petersburg, FL 33711
(727) 323-1110
Fax (727) 327-6935

MID PENINSULA SEAFOOD MARKET & RESTAURANT
400 - 49th St South
St. Petersburg, FL
327-8309
328-8309
Mon.-Sat. 11 AM to 9 PM
Sunday ... Gone Fishin'
WHERE THE LOCALS BUY... FOR OVER 21 YEARS

LOOKING FOR A FRESH FISH MARKET?

- * Family Owned Over 25 Yrs.
- * Friendly Service
- * Huge Selection
- * Special Orders our pleasure!

Named in Honor of Mother "Dear" Johnson

The Original™
Irene Pridden & "Dear"

Dear Products, Inc.
Southeast Division
PO Box 13124
St. Petersburg, FL 33733
(727) 866-6139

AVAILABLE NATIONALLY AT → **ECKERD** **Publix** **HSN**

NATIONAL NEWS

Black-Oriented Channel Cites Cosby

Townsend says Black Family Channel entertaining, responsible

LOS ANGELES, California (AP) — Robert Townsend first caught the film industry's eye with 1987's "Hollywood Shuffle," a clever satire about black actors trapped in demeaning roles. Now he wants the country to pay attention to what he calls a new kind of television, entertaining but with a sense of responsibility, especially toward young black Americans.

Black Family Channel, which Townsend joined as president and chief executive officer of production five months ago, is starting an ambitious slate of eight new programs geared for children, teenagers and families.

"With this network, we want to give people a sense of quality, integrity programming that speaks to them," Townsend said. "We don't want to be an old-school network where people don't want to tune in, but we want to get back to some of those old-fashioned values."

He cites Bill Cosby as an inspiration, both for Cosby's groundbreaking '80s sitcom and for his provocative argument that black youth is being undermined by factors including poor parenting and attitudes toward language.

"Everything that Bill Cosby is saying about families working together ... (that) we've got to reprogram these kids and we've got to shake it up, that's what we're doing," Townsend told The Associated Press.



The Black Family Channel, which Townsend joined as president and chief executive officer of production five months ago, is starting an ambitious slate of eight new programs geared for children, teenagers and families.

AP Photo/Julie Jacobson

It's as big a change for the channel as it is for Townsend, who moves from writing, directing, acting and producing to steering a rare minority-owned and operated TV channel (co-founders include boxer Evander Holyfield, baseball's Cecil Fielder and attorney Willie E. Gary.)

The major competitor is BET, Black Entertainment Television, owned by media giant Viacom Inc. and criticized in the past for giving viewers more music programming flash than substance.

Townsend figures his eclectic body of work prepared him to run a network.

While the career change is abrupt for Townsend, the channel is undergoing a more gradual transition.

Begun in 1999 as the Major Broadcasting Cable

network, Black Family Channel will keep elements of the gospel programming that was part of its original mission. Music programs and documentaries also remain in place.

Following a plan of adding programming blocks, the channel launched five new Thursday night shows this week. An "urban kids programming block" of three new daytime shows debuted last Saturday.

Among the new series: a talk show about teenage issues; a series celebrating spoken-word artists; and "Souled Out," a critical look at the messages in music videos.

The channel also plans to reinstate and increase its coverage of football games at historically black colleges, temporarily dropped while the new schedule was developed.

Townsend, who has four children aged 4 to 14, is passionate about his belief that television can help kids make the right choices in life. He urged Gary, the channel's chairman, to bring him on board.

"My mother raised four kids on her own; my father was not there. I was watching 'The Andy Griffith Show' and Opie's lessons were my lessons. I think he taught me well," Townsend said. "He reinforced what mom was teaching me and the church was teaching me."

A chance to influence youngsters.

He cites one of the channel's new youth-oriented

shows, "Lisa Knight & The Round Table," as a chance to influence youngsters.

"If some young kid is thinking about having sex and watches a 'Round Table' discussion and hears, 'Watch yourself, don't give into peer pressure, I've done my job,'" said Townsend.

Black Family Channel is sure to grow with the continuing conversion to digital cable, which allows for carriage of more TV channels, Newberger said. Discussions also are under way for satellite distribution.

Industry analyst Larry Gerbrandt acknowledged there is concern among parents and others about the freewheeling content that is widespread on TV.

But Gerbrandt, head of the media and entertainment practice for Alix Partners, an operation and financial consulting firm, expressed skepticism about the growth prospects of a channel aimed at a defined audience.

"You want your programming to reach a maximum audience," said Gerbrandt. "The economics of television dictate that the bigger audience you can reach, the more successful you are. Limiting yourself up front limits your economics."

"Ultimately, we want it to be colorless. We want it to be the human channel - human emotions, comedy, drama. If you want something you can identify with, tune in," he said.

L.A. County to Close Troubled Trauma Unit

by Paul Chavez

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — The county Board of Supervisors voted last Tuesday to close a hospital trauma center in one of the city's poorest, most gang-ridden neighborhoods, despite pleas from politicians, residents and civil rights leaders.

Four of the five supervisors voted to close the unit at Los Angeles County's Martin Luther King Jr./Drew Medical Center; the supervisor who represents the area abstained.

The crowd in the meeting hall erupted in chants of "Save King-Drew!" and "No justice, no peace!" immediately after the vote.

"It's not a good day, it's a very somber day," Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke said afterward. "We can't change the fact that we have to do something. Accreditation must be saved for that hospital."

The county's health director, Dr. Thomas Garthwaite, estimated the county might be able to



Gladys Russell expresses her support for the trauma unit at Martin Luther King Jr./Drew Medical Center, Tuesday, Nov. 23, at a board of supervisors meeting in Los Angeles.

AP Photo/Ric Francis

reconsider restoration of trauma services in a year.

King/Drew is in South Los Angeles, a neighborhood plagued by gang violence, with shooting victims sometimes dropped off outside the hospital doors. Over the years, U.S. military doctors have trained at the trauma center because so many gunshot wounds are treated there.

County supervisors and health officials - including Garthwaite - had recommended the closing, saying the trauma center is draining money and manpower from the rest of the

troubled hospital.

The hospital overall has been hit with a litany of problems - including patient deaths blamed on poor nursing and lawsuits brought by patients who had medical objects left inside them. Officials have found deficiencies in the hospital's nursing and patient care, findings that jeopardize \$200 million in federal funding.

King/Drew, one of five hospitals operated by the county, is just south of Watts. It is the only public hospital in South Los Angeles, serving a 94-

square-mile area with about 1.5 million people. Its trauma unit treats 1,800 patients annually.

The emergency room will remain open. Paramedics and others have warned the closing of the trauma center will force them to take some of the most seriously wounded to other hospitals, costing precious time - and lives.

Services at the trauma center began decreasing Dec. 1, and it should be completely closed by Feb. 1, Garthwaite said.

The board's meeting was repeatedly interrupted by jeers from 200 people in the audience. Many shouted at board members and waved signs reading "Save trauma, save King."

The public hospital and medical school were constructed after the 1965 Watts race riots that ended in the deaths of 34 people and caused \$100 million in damage. A state commission found that among the factors contributing to the community's anger was a lack of public medical facilities.

Older Brother of Michael Jordan His Own Man in the Army

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. (AP) — Army Command Sgt. Maj. James R. Jordan has much in common with his younger brother, retired basketball star Michael Jordan. He loves his job, believes in helping his team and expects maximum effort from those around him.

And like his brother, James Jordan likes to leave on his own terms. He has asked to stay in the Army for a year beyond his mandatory retirement date so he can complete a full yearlong deployment to Iraq with about 500 other members of the 35th Signal Brigade.

"We are currently at war," Jordan said before the unit started shipping out Sunday. "We are doing things, and it requires leaders to do certain things. That's what I am, a leader." Under normal conditions, the 47-year-old Jordan would wind down his Army career in the spring as he approached the 30-year mark, but he has no intention of getting on an airplane April 29 and coming home.

"That's not the way



Command Sgt. Maj. James R. Jordan at Fort Bragg, North Carolina: 'That's what I am, a leader.'

you want to end a 30-year career," Jordan told *The Fayetteville Observer*.

"People ask 'Why?'" said Col. Bryan Ellis, the brigade commander. "The answer is, he is completely selfless. We all want to see it go well."

Jordan is a no-nonsense noncommissioned officer with a shaved head and a wry sense of humor. He stands 5-foot-7, while his younger brother is

about 6-foot-6. As the senior enlisted soldier in the brigade of 2,450 soldiers, he has kept a low profile at Fort Bragg and avoided calling attention to his family connection.

"If you don't believe in selfless service, you are not going to make it in this business," said Jordan, the oldest person in the brigade.

He was 36, wearing the stripes of a first sergeant,

when he went to airborne school, where most soldiers are in their teens or early 20s. He still runs eight miles and expects soldiers to be alongside him. Three years of Junior ROTC during high school in Wilmington helped convince Jordan that the Army was for him.

"I figured I wanted to be a soldier, plus I was the oldest of five kids," he said. "I wanted to get out of the house and do something myself."

He said some of his relatives don't really know what he does.

"They know I'm in the Army. That's about it," he said. "My immediate family and my wife, my kids, not extremely happy, but they are on the team. They say: 'Daddy, do what you've got to do.'"

"I've been doing this by myself for so long, being my own person, being my own soldier," he said. "I'm going to continue doing it the same way until the day I feel like I need to hang it up, not when they feel like I need to hang it up."

ENROLLING NOW!



PINELLAS TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTERS

NEW CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 3, 2005

"LEARN TO EARN"

Choose not to go to college and still earn a great living!

Train for 18 months or less at PTEC

Low tuition because we are part of the public school system

30+ Career Programs in the fields of Industry, Health, Business/computer technology, Childcare and Horticulture
Financial Aid / VA benefits available

Call or visit us today for more information:

Clearwater
6100 154th Ave. N.
Clearwater, FL
727-538-7167
Ext. 1095

St. Petersburg
901 34th St. S.
St. Petersburg, FL
727-893-2500
Ext. 1060



CARLA'S HAIR AFFAIR
321-6802
TODAY'S HAIR
323-9445
ANGELA'S HAIR SAFARI
323-4840
C & C HAIR DESIGN
447-3090

PROFESSIONAL HAIR CARE PRODUCTS
You Can Find These Products At These Locations:



TOTAL PERFECTION
321-5545
L'ORKE'S HAIR DESIGN
327-3354
ROBERT'S HAIR SALON
866-7070

ZA-LAVAR'S
321-1930
CENTER STAGE UNISEX SALON
327-4074
A PRECIOUS TOUCH
321-8146
MEME'S BEAUTY
322-1712

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Doping Violation Costs U.S. 2003 World Gold

MONTE CARLO, Monaco (AP) — The United States was stripped of its 1,600-meter relay gold medal from the 2003 world championships on Sunday because of Calvin Harrison's second doping violation.

The gold instead goes to France, with Jamaica getting the silver and the Bahamas the bronze, the world governing body of track and field said.

Harrison was found guilty of using the stimulant modafinil at the U.S. championships in June 2003. He had contended that modafinil wasn't specifically mentioned on the official list of banned substances at the time.

Harrison had a chance to appeal the ruling, but the International Association of Athletics Federations said he is too late.

"The deadline has passed and that means there is a new result in the relay final," IAAF spokesman Nick Davies said Sunday.

Ten years earlier, Harrison tested positive for the stimulant pseudoephedrine during the 1993 U.S. junior



Substitute Ahmed Douhou, and runners Leslie Djhone, Naman Keita, Stephane Diagana and Marc Raquil, from left, all members of the French relay team, pose with the silver medals they won in the Men's 4x400-meter relay final at the World Athletics Championships, at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, north of Paris, in this Aug. 31, 2003 file photo. AP Photo/Lionel Cironneau, file

indoor championships and served a three-month ban.

As a two-time offender, the 400-meter star was suspended for two years in early August this year and dropped from the American team for the Athens Olympics. The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency also ordered him to forfeit his relay gold medal from last year's worlds in Paris, and all his results from the time of the test have been nullified.

Harrison ran the opening leg of the relay final. That means the other three runners — Tyree Washington, Derrick Brew and Jerome Young — will lose

their gold medals, too. Instead, they will go to French runners Leslie Djhone, Naman Keita, Stephane Diagana and Marc Raquil.

Young has since been banned for life by the USADA for his second doping violation in a case that could result in the American 1,600 relay team from the 2000 Sydney Olympics — including Michael Johnson — losing its gold medals. The Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland, is yet to rule on that case.

Congo Responds to Rwanda Incursion Report

by Eddy Isango

Associated Press Writer

KINSHASA, Congo — Congo intends to send 10,000 reinforcements toward its eastern border with Rwanda, a presidential spokesman said Monday, after credible reports that thousands of Rwandan troops crossed into its territory, raising fears of reigniting a devastating five-year regional war.

A Western diplomat told The Associated Press Monday that thousands of Rwandan troops moved into the remote forested hills of east Congo — an account supported by park rangers and local chiefs near the border of the two neighbors and wartime enemies.

Rwanda refused to confirm or deny the reported incursion, and the U.N. mission in Congo said U.N. helicopter patrols and other sorties had failed to turn up any immediate sign of Rwandan troops.

The reports of a Rwandan incursion come just days after Rwanda threatened to send its forces into eastern Congo to hunt

down Rwandan Hutu rebels. Rwanda argued that a 5-month-old U.N.-led disarmament campaign there had failed to act aggressively enough.

In Kinshasa, Congo's capital, President Laurent Kabila told international diplomats he would send reinforcements toward the border to "assure the security of the civilian population and to contain the Rwandan aggression," presidential spokesman Kudura Kasango said.

Kasango and other Congolese authorities said they had received no official report of any Rwandan incursion.

The Western diplomat, however, citing his embassy's own sources, said "it is certain" that thousands of Rwandan forces had moved into territory north of Congo's main eastern city, Goma, since Friday.

The diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, cited what he said were accounts to his embassy from its workers and from aid groups.

No clashes between

Congolese and Rwandan forces had been reported, he said.

A ranger at Virunga national park bordering Rwanda and Congo told the AP he saw about 400 armed Rwanda troops cross into the park Sunday.

The troops were well-armed and traveled in a sport utility vehicle and on foot, the ranger said on condition of anonymity, adding they appeared to be heading north to remote volcanic mountains north of Goma.

The area is believed to hold some of the estimated 8,000-10,000 Rwandan Hutu rebels still in Congo.

In Goma, local chiefs also said their people reported seeing Rwandan troops in isolated hills since Friday.

In Kigali, Rwanda's capital, Rwandan special envoy Richard Sezibera said he would neither confirm nor deny that Rwandan troops have entered Congo. Sezibera said the Rwandan government would "do whatever is necessary to protect Rwanda's borders and people."

The Rwandan envoy specified the Rwandan Hutu rebels were "in the area" of the reported Rwandan incursions, including Virunga National Park and the small town of Rutshuru.

When asked directly about the reports coming from eastern Congo, he said: "I will not comment about rumors, reported sightings, innuendo, time-lines or projections."

Jacqueline Chenard, a spokeswoman for the U.N. force in east Congo, said U.N. helicopter missions and other patrols had not detected any Rwandan troops in the area.

"To our knowledge, there's no Rwandan presence," Chenard said in Goma. "It's a rumor."

The United Nations, overseeing peace and power-sharing deals that mandated the withdrawal of foreign armies.

The force is building to 16,000 as the United Nations steps up disarmament efforts of Rwandan Hutu rebels and other militias in the east.

Some other Western

diplomats in Congo's capital said they had no confirmation that Rwandan troops had entered.

Kabila met Monday with ambassadors of U.N. Security Council nations and leading African nations, Kasango confirmed. Kabila informed them he would send troops to North Kivu province. The province, with Goma as its capital, encompasses the areas of the alleged incursions.

Rwanda has invaded Congo twice since 1996 on the grounds of flushing out Rwandan Hutu rebels responsible for the 1994 genocide of a half-million minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus in the nation.

Rwanda's second Congo invasion, in 1998, touched off a five-year war that drew in the armies of four other foreign nations and split resource-rich Congo. An estimated 3.2 million people died in the Rwanda-controlled east alone, most through famine and disease.

Associated Press reporters Daniel Balint-Kurti in Lagos, Nigeria,

OBITUARIES

ST. PETERSBURG RITES



dren. McRae Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.



BROWN, MARILYN L., 45, died November 17, 2004. Survivors include her husband, Donnie Brown, St. Petersburg; two daughters, Tamethia Brown and Tangelia Brown, both of St. Petersburg; one son, Dontrell Smith, St. Petersburg; her mother, Pauline M. Wilson, St. Petersburg; two brothers, Anthony Munnerlyn and Johnny (Emma) Wilson, Jr., both of St. Petersburg; two sisters,

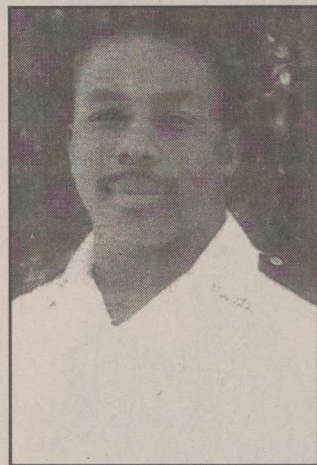
Antoinette Munnerlyn and Deborah A. (Scott) Wilson, both of St. Petersburg; her maternal grandmother, Willie Mae Munnerlyn, St. Petersburg; five grandchildren, Breasia Bradley, Randy Robison, Shaniah Robison, Dontrell Smith, Jr., and Nannia Smith, all of St. Petersburg; four aunts; and several nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends. Smith Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.



MANUEL, ALBERT

RALPH II, 29, died November 10, 2004. Survivors include his companion, Maya Callaway; one son, Albert, Jr.; one daughter, Aliya Manuel; his father, Albert Manuel, Sr.; his mother, Gwen (Naim) Snead; two sisters, Monica Snead and Kimberly Williams; three brothers, Terry (Kim) White, Kelvin White and Bill Simons III; his paternal grandmother, Queen Williamson; and several aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends. McRae Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

ROBINSON, WILLIAM LEE, 41, died November 3, 2004. Survivors include his mother, Mattie Robinson; his stepfather, Sylvester Manning; his father, Henry James Robinson, Jr.; three brothers, Calvin Lee Robinson, Henry (Linda) Robinson, Jr., and Sebastian Manning; four sisters, Teresa (Eugene) Rollins, Lisa



Butler, Sylvia Manning-Cannon and Dr. Susan (Earl) Gray; four children, Shavon Collins, Mitchell William Collins, Jordan William Collins and Amanda Lynn Collins; one granddaughter, Jaden Collins; and several nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles and friends. McRae Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

SNOW, CHRISTINA DELORES, 72, died recently.

Survivors include two sons, Rickey (Thomasene) Johnson and Clifford (Ada) Cooper, all of Miami; five daughters, Sylvia Vereen and Debra Cooper-Taylor, both of Miami, Cheryl (Larry) Butler, Rosalind (Travis) Hunter, St. Petersburg, and Dorothy (Willie) Cooper-Jackson, Lakeland; 11 grandchildren; 13 great grandchildren; and two aunts, Marion Asia, Miami, and Lillian Jackson, Brooklyn, N.Y.

TURNER, VINCENT PAYNE, 40, died November 19, 2004. Survivors include his companion, Mary Wilson; his parents, Rev. Bragg and Versie Turner; one

brother, Watson (Valerie) Haynes; four sisters, Joi M. McKnight, Barbara J. Driver, Rosa Lee Summers and Elnora (Charles) Scott; six sons, Matthew, Michael, Devon and Malcolm Turner, Tyrone Grant and Mark Allen; four daughters, Danielle, Sharron and Vilencia Turner and Tamika Somrani; eight grandchildren; and several aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends. McRae Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

WILLIAMS, RUTH THOMAS, 95, died November 26, 2004. Survivors include one son, Benjamin M. Williams; five car-



ing nieces, Marilyn Thomas Bernard, Jennifer Bernard, Alice Jones, June Huff and Betty Lusk; and several other relatives and friends. McRae Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

"It's all taken care of"



These were the words that brought calm to me when my family member passed away. She had already taken care of her funeral and burial expenses three years ago. We just placed one call to McRae Funeral Home and found out that not only was the funeral paid for — it was at prices that were in effect at the time she made the arrangements. What a savings — What a peace of mind.

So that your funeral is fully funded and won't be a financial burden on your family, contact McRae Funeral Home today and discuss how you can guarantee the future price at today's cost.

McRae Funeral Home
1940 Martin Luther King Jr. Street South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33705
(727) 895-6005

SMITH FUNERAL HOME

SERVING ALL FAITHS SINCE 1987
Traditional - Memorial and
Chapel Services
Cremation
World Wide Shipping
Monuments for All Cemeteries
We arrange Military Honors and
Serve All National Cemeteries
for Veterans



"Upholding a tradition of service from our family to yours"
Helping families to honor their loved ones in a truly personal way

727-894-2266 / FAX 821-8728
1534 18th Avenue South • St. Petersburg, FL 33705

Now Open in St. Pete Serenity Memorial Funeral Home, Inc.



Elder L. Lavelle Thomas, Sr.
Founder/
Executive
Director

"One Funeral Home
in Two Locations"
Serenity South
3301 - 5th Ave. S.
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
Phone: (727) 322-1670
Fax: (727) 322-1680

Serenity North
823 N.E. 5th St. (Hwy. 44)
P.O. Box 1334-34423
Crystal River, FL
Phone: (352) 564-1408
Fax: (352) 564-1401

Available
24 Hours

"The Community's Lighthouse
in the Time of Distress"



Pastor Daniel B. Savage III
Executive
Vice
President

Toll Free
North
1-866-890-1400
South
1-866-309-8297

Are You a Veteran? Then, This is For You!



We are offering
FREE CASKETS
for Veterans, their Spouses and
Immediate Family Members

This is not an offer of the Veteran's Administration.
This offer is good at Serenity Memorial Funeral Home, Inc.

RELIGIOUS NEWS

Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church

"Jesus, Jesus oh what a wonderful Child!"

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As we enter into that wonderful time of the year, "CHRISTMAS," let us be mindful of the reason for the season, which is keeping Christ in Christmas!

Pastor Clarence A. Williams and the Mt. Zion Church family cordially invite you to attend worship services with us at 919 - 20th St. S. this first Sunday in December or just at any time during the month. We also invite you to all our services in the upcoming week.

Our early morning service begins at 7:30 a.m. with praise and thanksgiving filling the sanctuary and the presence of the Holy Spirit leading and guiding our hearts, mind and soul into true worship. Followed by Church

School at 9:30 a.m., we encourage you to join us as we collectively learn more of the Word of God together.

Our contemporary worship service is at 11 a.m. Join us as we lift high the name of Jesus in song and have a good time in the Lord. The Richardson Special Chorus will provide ministry in song throughout the day. Pastor Williams will proclaim the Word of God, and Holy Communion will be served at both services. Come be blessed as we feast on the Word of God!

Other ministries include:

• **Monday** - Bible Study, 6 p.m.

• **Wednesday** - Early morning prayer 6:30 a.m.; Vintage Bible Study, 11 a.m. **Join us for our new services: Hour of Prayer, 6 p.m.; Hour of Power, 7 p.m.** If you're in need of a

mid-week lift, join us for two power-packed hours. Your heart will be encouraged, and your spirit revived and renewed!

Upcoming events:
• **Dec. 6 - Church Conference at 7:30 p.m.**
• **Dec. 10 - First Quarterly Conference at 6:30 p.m.**

• **Dec. 18 - Get ready for our annual Christmas production, displaying talent of all ages. Make plans to join Zion's stars at Catherine Hickman Theater of Gulfport.**

Looking for a church home? We extend an invitation to you to join the love of God, and the Holy Spirit reigns. We'd love to have you!

Thought for the week: "JESUS is the REASON for the SEASON."

Be blessed, and have a Jesus-filled week!

Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church

Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church extends an invitation to join us in the celebration, cultivation and communication of His Word.

Our doors are open for both the 8 and 11 a.m. ser-

vices on Sunday, Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. and Prayer Meeting and Bible Study on Wednesday at 7 and 7:30 p.m., respectively.

Bethel will observe the homegoing of members for the year 2004 with a

memorial service during the 11 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Dec. 5. Family members and friends are invited to join us for this service and our annual Holy Family Communion Service.

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor John A. Evans, Sr., the first family and the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church prayerfully invite you to attend worship services with us at 3300 - 31st St. S. We also invite you to all other church-related functions during the week.

The first worship service begins at 7:45 a.m. with devotion being led by the Deacons Ministry, the Voices of Friendship will sing and the first Sunday ushers will serve. The message will be rendered by Pastor John A. Evans, Sr.

A second service will be held at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m. with the superintendent and assistant in charge of devotion.

Tuesday, Dec. 7: Youth Bible Enrichment Hour, along with Youth Choir rehearsal, and usher practice resumes this week. Also, help us celebrate the First Lady's birthday.

Wednesday, Dec. 8: Noon Day Bible Study rendered by Minister Blanche Reedy. The subject will be 40 Days of Purpose. Come be blessed!!

Bread of Life: Free lunch served to the community at large/in need.

Wednesday evening Praise and Worship resumes this week with Pastor John A. Evans, Sr. rendering the Bible Study lesson.

Please be advised - the State of the Church address banquet will be held on Dec. 18. For more details, visit us at www.fmbctheship.org or contact the office at (727) 906-8300, Mon-Fri, 9a.m.-3 p.m.

We pray you all had a safe and happy and peaceful Thanksgiving. Give honor to GOD, for He is Great!!!!

Dottie Peoples to Host Radio Show

NEW YORK - Gospel music great Dottie Peoples has begun hosting a new show exclusively on SIRIUS Satellite Radio's commercial-free gospel channel Praise. Her first airdate was Sunday, Nov. 21.

"Dottie Peoples & Friends" will air the third Sunday of each month from 9 pm to 12 midnight ET. The show, hosted by vocalist and recording artist Dottie Peoples, will feature some of her friends and associates in gospel and other music genres, as well as a great deal of music.



People's has won praise and recognition throughout her career, receiving several Stellar and Dove Awards over the years.

"I'm praying and asking God to allow me to reach more souls with my music," said Peoples of her new SIRIUS program. "That's what I really want to do, to touch more lives with the sole purpose

Advent Season is the Focus of Church and Christian Academy

Anticipation, presence and celebration of Advent season is the joint focus of New Philadelphia Church and Bishop Academy School. For four weeks prior to the traditional "Christmas Day" celebration of the "birth of Christ," the church and academy will observe this holy season.

Children enrolled in the academy will be instructed daily in the relevance of Biblical theology and church tradition of Advent meaning. This instructional narrative will survey the birth, crucifixion, death, resurrection, ascension and advocacy of the Lord, Jesus Christ. The meaning of Advent symbols as the wreath, candles and 12 days of Christmas, will also be part of this seasonal study.

Pentecostal Temple C.O.G.I.C.

"Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits" (Psalm 103:1, 2).

Just the thought of God's goodness and greatness prompts us to give Him thanks continually.

Pastor William Anderson and the Daughters in Ministry were delighted to have guests during the holiday weekend. The presence of the Lord was real as Missionary Daisy Lawson served as the minister of worship and exhorted the congregation in praise. Missionary Marie Jackson delivered the Word of God from 1 Kings 17:1-16 as the scripture reference and "Provision By a Well-Able Provider" as her subject. She told us that even when we are connected with God and abiding in His will, we will sometimes face adverse situations. But we must remember that God is our source, and He will never fail us.

Missionary Jackquelyne Anderson sealed the message with prayer, and Pastor Anderson gave the closing remarks and benediction.

verse situations. But we must remember that God is our source, and He will never fail us.

She gave us several encouraging thoughts to remember: 1) to make provision means to make preparation beforehand; 2) because God is the source of our provision, He can use anything and anyone He chooses to meet our needs (as with the raven and the poor widow); 3) when we follow His leading, others will be blessed also; 4) when we act in faith and obedience, our giving can activate a miracle; and 5) God protects us and hides us from the enemy when we are acting in authority for His kingdom.

Missionary Jackquelyne Anderson sealed the message with prayer, and Pastor Anderson gave the closing remarks and benediction.

PRAYER HELPS

of having those same lives changed as they experience our God-inspired music."

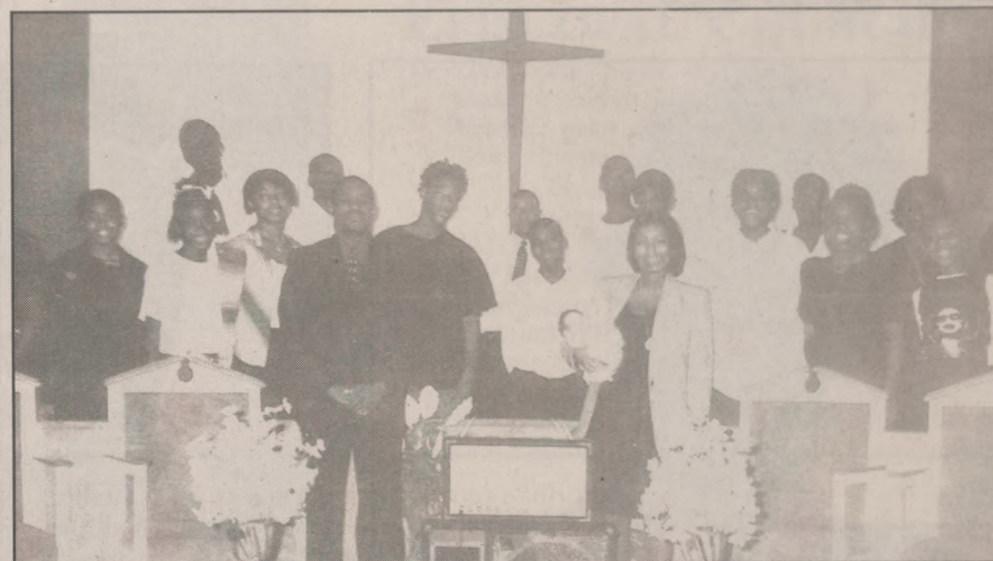
One of music's most honored artists, the Dayton, Ohio native's talents have been displayed in traditional gospel settings as well as non-traditional settings, such as singing the national anthem at Atlanta Hawks and Atlanta Braves games, and being featured as a solo vocalist with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.

A one-time protégée of gospel legend Shirley Caesar, Peoples has released 13 albums since

1984, and has been awarded the prestigious Vision Award from the Stellar Gospel Music Awards, among others. She has won several other Stellar and Dove Awards, and has been nominated for GRAMMY and Soul Train awards, among others. In 2003, she was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame. Peoples' most recent album is 2003's "Water I Give" (Atlanta International).

For more information about Praise, and about SIRIUS, go to www.sirius.com.

Christmas Concert to be Given at Stewart-Isom



The Stewart-Isom family invites the community to attend its Christmas concert, "Celebrating the Name of Jesus," on Sunday, Dec. 12 at 4 p.m.

The Children's Church

Choir will make its debut on this afternoon. The Voices of Unity and the adult choirs will also perform.

Please join us in celebrating the birth of Christ.

The church is located at 1820 Walton St. S., phone (727) 327-0593. Rev. A. Anthony Robinson III is the pastor.

Mt. Zion Progressive Musical to Tell the Story of Christ

Do you really know the story of Jesus Christ and the reason for the Christmas season?

Contrary to commercial belief, Christmas is not all about "catching a sale." Christmas is a time for all Christians to honor and pay homage to our Savior, to do so in fellowship and to reach out to others. It's not about what gifts we give to each other; it's simply about giving to others.

It is with this purpose in mind that the Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church presents the Christmas musical production, "Tell Me a Story." This powerful production will portray a modern epic of the birth of Jesus Christ through the art forms of drama, dance, mime, narration and inspirational songs.

"If you want to be blessed and enjoy a true spiritual awakening, you don't want to miss this performance," said Senior

Pastor, Louis M. Murphy, Sr. "Each performance will set your soul on fire and help you stay focused on the Lord."

"With overtones and genres from rap, hip hop, gospel, pop, classical and jazz, the sounds of this production will arrest your attention and free your spirit," said H.B. Samuels, minister of music. "The Mt. Zion singers and musicians will transcend the pens of musical geniuses such as Richard Smallwood, Stevie Wonder, Kirk Franklin, BeBe and CeCe Winans, to name a few. The music will lift you, and the message will keep you."

There will be three performances over a two-day span on Friday, Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 18 at 2 and 6 p.m. Interpreters for the hearing impaired will be available during each performance. Special accommodations for the elderly and handicapped will be available for

the Saturday matinee performance at 2 p.m.

While all performances are FREE, a ticket is required for admission to each respective performance. Seating is limited, cannot be reserved and is offered on a first-come, first-serve basis. Tickets may be obtained at Mt. Zion Progressive before and after Sunday worship services, before and after Wednesday Bible Study or in the church's administrative office.

This musical production, sponsored by Mt. Zion Progressive's Music and Performing Arts Ministry, will be held at Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church, located at 955 - 20th St. S., St. Petersburg.

For more information or to obtain your ticket, please contact Mt. Zion Progressive's Administrative Office at (727) 894-4311.

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

"Christians are becoming better, not bitter."

The New Hope family invites you to worship with us on Sunday, Dec. 5.

Sunday School begins at 9 a.m. Parents are urged to bring you and your children so you may learn more about the God we serve.

Our worship service begins at 10:15 a.m. with a Spirit-filled devotion led by the deacons. Praise and

worship begins at 10:30 a.m. with the Mass Choir rendering the music under the direction of Minister Tony Young, Minister of Music Vernard McKenny, accompanist Bobbie Tampa, directress, and Marcus Childs, percussionist. The Bread of Life will be served by our esteemed Pastor, the Rev. Carlos L. Senior. During this worship experience the Lord's supper will be observed.

Upcoming Events: NHMBC will worship with People of Christ Church, 2137 - Ninth Ave. S., the Rev. Tony Young Sr., pastor, Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m.

Prayer Meeting/Bible Study, Tuesday, Dec. 7, 6:30 p.m.

Prayer Band, Thursday, Dec. 9, 11 a.m.

Christmas Service, Dec. 19, 10:30 a.m.

No Jesus, No Peace. KNOW JESUS, KNOW PEACE!

GOD ANSWERS ALL KNEE MAIL

"Living in Hope When Hope is Difficult" will be the next program presented at Room for the Spirit, a Satellite of the Franciscan Center, Tampa, located at the James B. Sanderlin Family Services Center, 2335 - 22nd Ave. S., St. Petersburg, Monday, Dec. 13, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Morning presentation only (includes lunch) Presenter: Father Sam Vaccarella, T.O.R. Living out of hope is a gift we receive and one that we are invited to share with others. Please register by Friday, Dec. 10. Call (727) 460-0591 or (727) 825-1602. Cost: Love offering.

Gospel's Original Blockbuster Music Compilation, 'Wow Gospel' to Feature the Genre's Favorite Artists



The compilation's lineup includes the musical talents of CeCe Winans, Yolanda Adams, Hezekiah Walker and Shirley Caesar.

NEW YORK — The WOW GOSPEL project, entering into its eighth year, has truly become a hallmark project that launches the new release year. WOW GOSPEL is so popular and truly recognizable fans and stores alike look forward to its release every year. This year album will be available again in January, a month earlier than usual, hitting shelves on January 25, 2005.

The WOW Gospel concept was introduced in 1998 by the record label partnership of Verity Records; Provident Music Group; EMI Christian Music Group and Word Entertainment, with the goal in mind to create the ultimate collection in Gospel hits. Patterned after the successful Christian WOW series, WOW Gospel features the "Top 30 songs by the Top 30 artists"

- and has since become synonymous with the biggest hits & best artists in the Gospel genre.

WOW GOSPEL, the original 2-CD Gospel music compilation project, serves as the benchmark for genre recapping the year in music. WOW GOSPEL 2005 will feature selections from super-hot artists like Donald Lawrence; Smokie Norful; Vickie Winans; Deitrick Haddon; as well as

selections from artists you've come to expect and love like Bishop TD Jakes; Shirley Caesar; CeCe Winans; Hezekiah Walker; Donnie McClurkin; Yolanda Adams and Fred Hammond.

The double CD/cassette set will contain 30-tracks including the introduction Gospel's latest hot new talents Shea Norman and Kierra Sheard. This is their first appearance on the

WOW GOSPEL project and they join heavy hitters The Canton Spirituals; John P. Kee, Twinkie Clark; Bishop Eddie Long & the New Birth Choir; Rance Allen; Ricky Dillard; Bishop Paul Morton; Ted & Sherri and others on the 2005 edition.

As always WOW GOSPEL 2005 will be jam-packed with music and special highlights include the praise & worship jam,

"Glorious" from newcomer Martha Munizzi; the hit single, "Healed," from Donald Lawrence's Verity debut record; William Murphy on the sweeping worship ballad "Worship Experience," from Gospel Heritage Praise & Worship Volume 2; 2004's big hit "The Presence Of The Lord," by Byron Cage and the smash life-changing song "Make Me Over" from TONEX.

WOW GOSPEL 2005, the double CD set will be available everywhere on January 25, 2005 as well as an accompanying DVD featuring some of the year's best videos including performance clips from Marvin Sapp, CeCe Winans, Martha Munizzi, Tonex, Kirk Franklin and much more.

The sales history of the WOW GOSPEL projects has been nothing short of

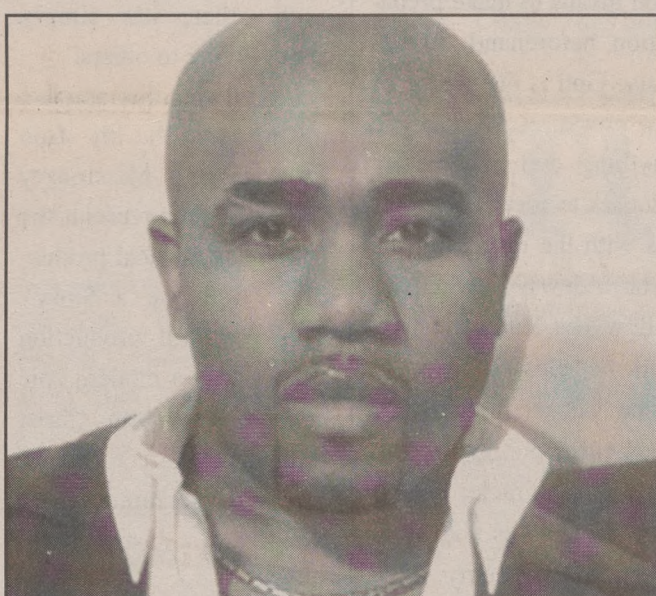
amazing. Since its inception in 1998, the brand has garnered phenomenal sales, selling over 3.5 million albums to date and is a perennial Number 1 Gospel release. Indications of the brand's impact include 6 Gold-Certified records and 2 Platinum-Certified records!

Gospel Artist on the Rise, Sean Simmonds

This soulful Toronto native is expected to release his first solo debut in a few weeks. He is formerly with Sharon Riley and Faith Carole, and also has worked with the contemporary gospel group, Chapter 5.

"Things are just real good right now but things weren't always this good," he has said. "The journey to

get to this point was just that, 'a journey.' There were some things I expected in this industry as far as setbacks, having experienced being in nationally recognized groups, but there were some things I didn't expect as an up and coming solo artist, especially being a part of a Christ-led industry."



Sean Simmonds

Visit Your House
of Worship This
Week - Where the
"Son" Always
Shines!



CHURCH DIRECTORY

Genesis Worship Center Church

1818 29th Avenue No., St. Petersburg 33713
(727) 898-5571 • Fax: (727) 898-5581 • gwcc@email.com



Sunday School • 10:00am
Sunday Celebration Service • 11:30am
New Converts Class, Wed. • 7:00pm
Home Cell Services, Thurs. • 7:00pm

Ministry Opportunities: Dance, Drama, Choir, Praise & Worship, Children, Youth, Men, Women, Step Team, Cheerleading, etc.

Senior Leader, Pastor Linda L. Sesler

*Real Love, Real People...
A Church That Makes A Difference!*

**Take Your
Burdens to the
Lord and Leave
Them There!**

Saint John Primitive Baptist Church

Elder Benjamin Adams, Jr., Senior Pastor

Church address: 1002 Palmetto Street, Clearwater, FL 33755
Mailing address: P.O. Box 1235, Clearwater, FL 33755
Church Phone: (727) 443-1861 • Fax: (727) 443-0431
Email: sjpbcc@tampabay.rr.com
Radio dial: 1340 AM 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Radio internet: tantalk 1340.com



Scheduled Services: Early Morning - 8:00 am
Church School - 9:45 am
Mid-Morning - 11:00 am
Mid-week Family Night Bible Study - 7:00 pm

Elder Benjamin Adams, Jr.,
Senior Pastor

Theme: "Movers of the Christ Purpose"
Edifying the Church; Evangelizing the Community (Acts 1:4-8)

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.

The House of God Pillar and the Ground of Truth

930 - 18th Street South • St.
Petersburg, FL 33712
(Near Tropicana Field)



James W. Paschal
Pastor

Fridays - 8:00pm
Sabbath Day (Saturdays)
Prayer - 10:00am
Sabbath School - 10:30am •
Afternoon Worship - 2:00pm
Come expecting a miracle!

For more information, call 727-550-2521
Home Phone: (727) 866-0643
email: jpaschal@verizon.net

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



Rev. Roosevelt Hardy
Pastor

Church School 9:00 A.M.
New Member Class 9:00 A.M.
Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.
Prayer / Bible Study . Tuesday 7:00 PM.
Youth Bible Study .. Thursday 6:00 PM.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

BETHEL METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH

3455 - 26th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33711
 Telephone (727) 327-0554 • Fax (727) 327-0240
 E-mail: bchurch5@tampabay.rr.com

Sunday Worship Services 8:00 am • 11:00 am
 Sunday School 9:30 am
 Prayer Meeting (Wednesday) 7:00 pm
 Bible Study 7:30 pm



Rev. Rickey L. Houston

"God's House In The City"



New Philadelphia Community Church

The Reverend Don A. Gaskin, Pastor
 3940 - 18th Avenue South
 P.O. Box 15935 • St. Petersburg, FL 33733

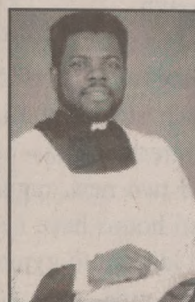
Wisdom School 9:50 AM • Morning Worship 10:30 AM
 Bible Study Fellowship 6:30 PM (Wed.)

The Reverend Aaron V. Gaskin Associate Pastor
 Finance Ministry James Robinson
 Children & Youth Ministry Joyce Robinson
 Clerk Ministry Wyvonna McGee

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

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



Morning Glory Sunday 9:00 a.m.
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
 Community Bible Study Tuesday 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"

Macedonia Freewill Baptist Church

Elder: Tony Smith

M
F
W
B
C



900 - 16th Avenue South • St. Petersburg, Florida 33705
 Office (727) 895-4900 • Fax (727) 895-4990
 Pastor (727) 895-2119

Sunday Morning Service 8:00 a.m. • Sunday Mid-Morning 11:00 a.m.
 Wednesday Nite Prayer Meeting, Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Communion is observed quarterly the first Sunday after every 5th Sunday.
 The Church Where Everyone is Welcome

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 9:00 A.M. - Tuesday Prayer
 9:30 A.M. - Sunday School 7:00 P.M. - Wednesday Bible Study
 11:00 A.M. - Morning Service

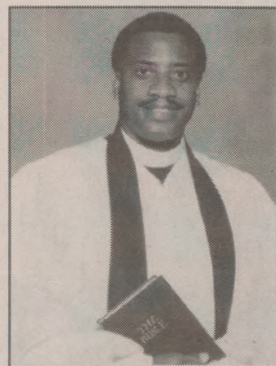
YPWW First and Third Sunday of
 Each Month after Morning Service

The Rock of Jesus Missionary Baptist Church

"A New Beginning In Christ"
 All Worship Services are held at:

4201 Sixth Street South • St. Petersburg, Florida
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14542 • St. Petersburg, FL 33733-4542
 Phone: 727.895.7700

Scheduled Services - Sunday
 Church Education Assembly (Church School) - 8:45 a.m.
 Prayer Time - 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship - 9:45 a.m.
 Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.
 Communion - Every First Sunday Bible Study - Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.



Rev. Frank W. Peterman, Jr.
 Pastor
 Rev. Inella Paris
 Assistant Pastor

On Christ the solid Rock, I stand - all other ground is sinking sand....

FIRST BAPTIST INSTITUTIONAL CHURCH

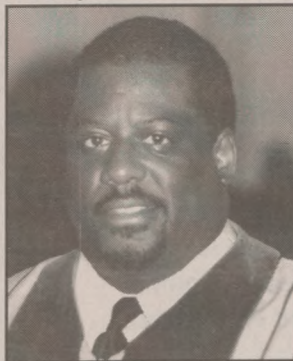
3144 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH
 ST. PETERSBURG, FL
 PHONE: 323-7518

REV. WAYNE G. THOMPSON, PASTOR

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:30 A.M.

MORNING WORSHIP - 11:00 A.M.

COME WORSHIP WITH
 THE FIRST BAPTIST FAMILY



St. John Missionary Baptist Church

1500 N. Pennsylvania Ave.
 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.

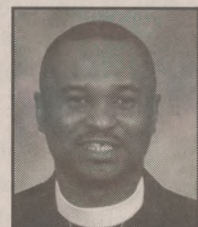
Weekly Services
 Bible Class Monday, 7:00 p.m.
 Prayer Meeting & Bible Study,
 Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
The church where everybody is somebody and Christ is all.

STEWART-ISOM MEMORIAL

CHRISTIAN

METHODIST

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Rev. A. Anthony Robinson III

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.

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

Phillipians 3:14 "I press towards the mark for the
 prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus"

Friendship

Missionary Baptist

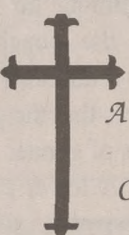
3300 - 31st Street South
 St. Petersburg, FL 33712
 (727) 906-8300



Pastor John A. Evans

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

Ordained Missionary
 Johnnie Mae Howard
 Call: 727 895-5239



A Woman After
 God's
 Own Heart...



Spiritually Connected
 Call for Prayers &
 Testimonies

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.

NEW HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

2120 - 19th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712
 (727) 896-5228



Rev. Carlos Senior
 Pastor

Join us as we lift up the name of Jesus

PRAYER HELPS!



Rev. Clarence Williams,
 Pastor

GREATER MT. ZION AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

919 - 20th Street S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712
 email: mchurch1@tampabay.rr.com
 Website: www.greatermtzioname.org

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.
 Bible Study Monday 6:00 p.m.
 Vintage Bible Study Wednesday 11:00 a.m. - 12 noon
 Live Broadcast WRXB (Every Sunday 8:30 a.m.)
 Tape Ministry • Bus Ministry
 Need a tape of a service or transportation - Dial 894-1393
 "The church with a heart in the heart of the city"

Lakeview Presbyterian Church

1310 22nd Avenue South - St. Petersburg, FL 33705

Sunday Worship - 10:30am (Nursery Provided)
 Sunday School (Adults and Children) - 9:30am
 Sunday Choir - 9:30am
 Gospel Choir - Mondays 6pm
 Bible Study - Wednesdays 6pm
 Home of Operation Attack



Rev. Todd and Ceska Sutton

"Doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with our God."

10th Street Church Of God

207 - 10th Street North • St. Petersburg, FL 33705

(727) 898-9407



Rev. Ronald L. Bell, Pastor

Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
 Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.
 Wednesday Evening Prayer.....6:30 p.m.
 Wednesday Night Bible Study.....7:30 p.m.

The church where what God's word teaches
 is practiced!

ST. MARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Schedule of Services

Church School 9:30 a.m.
 Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
 Baptist Training Union 5 p.m.
 Prayer Meeting and Bible Study
 Thursday 9:30 a.m. & 7 p.m.



Rev. Brian K. Brown

"One week from church makes one weak."

Greater King David International 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.



Rev. G. M. Curry

"The Church Where Everybody Is Somebody"

DOMINION WORSHIP MINISTRIES

"Come Take Dominion Over Your Life Now"

Sunday

8am, 11am Morning Worship
 9:45am Church School
 5pm Celebration

Monday

Noonday Prayer
 7pm Hour of Power Prayer

Wednesday

Noonday Prayer
 6-8pm Kid's Club
 6:30pm Ministerial Training
 7:30-8:45pm Bible Study

Thursday

Worship & Performing Arts Ministry

Monday, Wednesday, Saturday
 6am Prayer



Pastor & Lady Doyle P. Scott, Sr.
 Partners in Ministry

DOMINION WORSHIP MINISTRIES
 4016 - 12th Avenue South
 St. Petersburg, FL 33711
 727-321-8574 - dwc.tripod.com

Your Church Ad Could Be
 Here Working For You!
 Email Your Ad to:
 smfaith@tampabay.rr.com

SPORTS

Ron Artest: Despite the Ugliness of Fights, Fan Support Still Strong



An unidentified fan holds a sign referring to the season-long suspension of Indiana Pacers' Ron Artest during a game in Seattle between the Pacers and the Seattle SuperSonics Sunday, Nov. 28, at Key Arena in Seattle.

AP Photo/Ted S. Warren

Extortion Plot Targets Carmello Anthony

NEW YORK (AP) — Three men who allegedly tried to extort \$3 million from a Denver Nuggets star are behind bars in New York, and Carmello Anthony couldn't be happier.

New York police say the suspects tried to get Anthony to pay for a videotape which allegedly showed him being involved in a fight.

An undercover officer posing as Anthony's representative handed over a check in exchange for the tape last Tuesday night, and police arrested the trio near Central Park.

Authorities say 29-year-old Joubert Santos, 26-year-old Jason Pabon, and 36-year-old Rodrigo Sanchez face charges of grand larceny and criminal possession of stolen property.

Anthony acknowledged he's been worried about the scheme, saying it was "a lot to handle." Anthony's agent, Calvin



Nuggets star Carmello Anthony

Andrews, issued a statement calling the suspects "ill-intentioned," saying they were "trying to cash in" on the taped altercation.

Andrews says the suspects demanded money for the tape even though they

had "absolutely nothing to do" with the incident. But Anthony refused to give in to their demands, and turned the case over to authorities instead.

Gender-Equity Case Puts Alabama Coach in Nation's Highest Court

by Jay Reeves

Associated Press Writer

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — It didn't take long for coach Roderick Jackson to get tired of his girls basketball team practicing in the grimy little gym at Ensley High School, while the boys worked out in the nicer, newer one.

Built in 1908, the old gym was smaller than regulation, and its tan-and-white walls were covered with graffiti. The floor was slick, the hoops were the wrong size and the backboards were made of plywood, making it difficult for players to adjust to the Plexiglas ones used in games.

"There's not any bounce. It makes them throw it up there harder," Jackson said.

Jackson complained about those kinds of things and, he claims, was temporarily removed as coach for griping. He sued under the landmark law Title IX, which bars discrimination in schools, but lower federal courts ruled against him.

Tuesday, Jackson's case went to the U.S. Supreme Court — a dispute that asks whether Title IX protects people who blow the whistle on gender bias, regardless of their sex.

The Bush administration and a broad spectrum of civil rights groups have filed briefs backing Jackson in his lawsuit against the Birmingham Board of Education, while groups representing school administrators and nine states are opposing him.

Jackson, 39, never thought so much would come from his claim that the girls on his team weren't being treated fairly at Ensley High, a low-income, virtually all-black school a few miles from downtown Birmingham.

"I've been in the system, I figured it'd be worked out," Jackson said recently during a break between classes. "This has all amazed me. But if you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything."

The Birmingham School Board denies any discrimination occurred. It contends Jackson should lose because Congress didn't mean for Title IX to cover claims by people who say they suffered retaliation for reporting gender discrimination against others.

"The question that presents itself is, 'What did Congress intend when it passed Title IX? Did it intend to provide a right to a lawsuit by someone who is an advocate? We say the answer is no,'" said school board attorney Kenneth L. Thomas.

Jackson and his wife plan to attend the arguments, but at a price: He will have to miss a game for the first time in 18 years of volunteer and profes-

sional coaching.

Jackson started work at Ensley High in 1999 after leading a middle school team to a 13-1 season. He said the disparities between the girls and the boys were obvious from the start.

The old gym where the girls usually practiced was the most obvious problem, he said, but it wasn't the only thing: The girls sometimes had to ride to games in teachers' and parents' cars while the boys always used a bus, and the girl's team didn't get any money from ticket or concession sales. Also, the school axed the girls' junior varsity team while the JV boys kept playing.

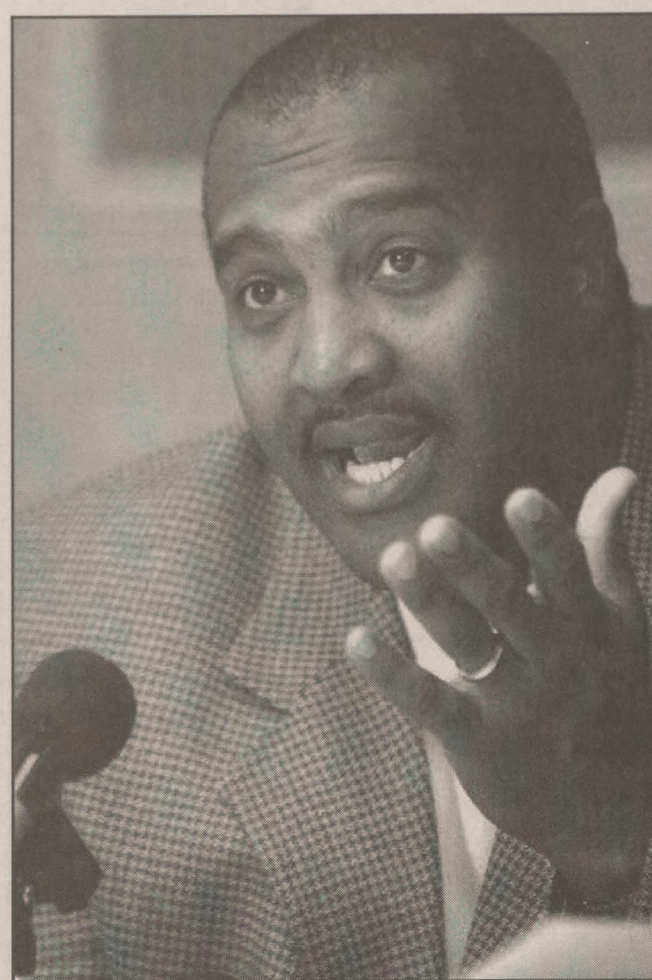
"I thought it would get better," he said. "It didn't."

Jackson began pushing for changes, writing letters and meeting with school officials all the way up to a deputy superintendent. He said he was met mainly with indifference, and colleagues warned him about pushing the issue.

"They said, 'You better hush your mouth. You're making problems for yourself,'" Jackson said. "They weren't kidding."

Jackson said his job evaluations began getting worse, and he was removed as coach in May 2001, costing him nearly \$7,000 annually in coaching pay. As a teacher with tenure protection, he was allowed to keep teaching health and physical education classes.

Jackson filed suit under Title IX claiming he was fired from the coaching position in retaliation for his complaints that the girls were victims of gender discrimination. A lower court threw out the case, siding with the board's argument



Girls basketball coach Roderick Jackson gestures during a news conference on Monday, Nov. 8, 2004 in Washington. Jackson says he was fired as girls basketball coach at Ensley High School in 2001 as retaliation for complaining of sex discrimination against his team. This week, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments in Jackson v. Birmingham Board of Education.

AP Photo/Evan Vucci

that the law doesn't cover claims of retaliation.

The 11th Circuit Court of Appeals backed the lower court, but the Supreme Court agreed in June to hear the case. That set the stage for the arguments this week.

Thomas, the board attorney, said he cannot discuss the reasons Jackson was removed as coach, a position he since reclaimed. "That would just be inviting another lawsuit," he said.

The Bush administration has sided with Jackson, arguing that people would be less likely to complain about gender bias if not protected by the law.

of School Administrators, Alabama and eight other states, argue that people don't have a right to sue for retaliation under Title IX.

Naomi Gittins, senior staff attorney for the National School Boards Association, said Jackson could have sued under the First Amendment or other civil rights laws, but not Title IX.

"Teachers and coaches have plenty of protections if they feel like they are being retaliated against. They don't really need Title IX," she said.

Jackson said things have gotten better since he sued, though.

He is back at court side after being rehired as the girls coach at Ensley High on an interim basis last year, and two new, regulation-sized hoops have been installed in the old gymnasium. The girls team now gets some of the concession money, too.

Jackson, meanwhile, has become an unlikely champion of gender equity. He traveled to Washington earlier this month to accept an award from the National Women's Law Center, which represents him in court. Tennis legend Billie Jean King and U.S. soccer captain Julie Foudy were honored at the same event.

But Jackson said his girls still have to practice in the chilly old gymnasium most of the time, and the boys are still in the nicer one.

"We don't want anything better than anyone else," Jackson said. "We just want the same."

Opponents, including the American Association

I control my diabetes so I'll be around to see the next Jackie Robinson.



Controlling diabetes makes a huge difference.

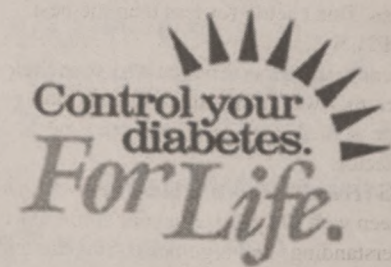
My granddaughter means the world to me. So I'm controlling my diabetes. That means I keep my blood sugar close to normal by watching what I eat and walking every day. I always take my medicine and test my blood sugar.

With my diabetes under control, I feel a lot better and have more energy. Best of all, I'm going to be around for my family... for my friends... for life.

Call 1-800-438-5383 to learn more. Or visit us at <http://ndep.nih.gov>



A joint program of the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



A PUBLIC SERVICE OF THIS PUBLICATION

WE WELCOME YOUR
ARTICLES AND RELATED PICTURES OF
COMMUNITY INTEREST

WOMAN'S WORLD

'Swinging Seniors' Dance into People's Hall of Fame

by Rebecca Kessler

NEW YORK (IPS/GIN) - The Swinging Seniors of Harlem are keeping the shim-sham shimmy and the dance traditions of the Jazz Age alive.

The group of African-American former chorus girls, ages 82-93, who worked in the jazz clubs of the 1930s, 40s and 50s came together in 1980 for a second twirl in show business. The Swinging Seniors have performed at community centers and schools as well as Radio City Music Hall, and on national television.

The group's members now include Thelma Prince, Ruby Riley, Ludie Jones, Tempy Fletcher, Eleanor McQueen, Myrtle Hawkins and Juanita Boisseau, all stars of the clubs of New York and beyond in the days of swing.

The Swinging Seniors and Tina Pratt, 69, their unofficial organizer and a dancer herself, were recently inducted into the People's Hall of Fame by City Lore, a New York-based organization that works to preserve the city's cultural traditions.

Since 1993, City Lore has honored, among others, artists, craftspeople, a juggler, jazz musicians, a quilter, preservationists and actors of many nationalities and cultural traditions by inducting them into the Hall of Fame.

Inductees are "ordinary people whose contributions have been extraordinary," and otherwise unrecognized, according to the group's criteria. They are awarded a "token of esteem," a large bronze cast of a New York City subway token.

"I didn't realize it was so great. Now as I look back on it, it was quite a bit of history," says Swinging Senior Eleanor McQueen of her dancing career. She has lived in her apartment in Harlem's Washington Heights - lined with sepia photos and news clippings of smiling beauties from her years on the chorus lines - since 1943, and grew up in the neighborhood.

McQueen began taking dance lessons at age two at the Grace Giles Studio on 131st and 7th Avenue, where she learned tap, toe, ballet and acrobatics. After graduating from high



These ladies keep the Jazz Age alive and well in Harlem.

school in 1941, she and a friend went to West End New Jersey, where she intended to become a waitress at The Plantation jazz club.

The club needed a dancer for their chorus line instead, and McQueen filled the opening, launching her career.

She and her fellow Swinging Seniors danced in the flourishing nightclubs of Harlem and Manhattan, including, she recalled, The Cotton Club, The Apollo, Club Harlem, The Paramount Theatre, Club Zanzibar with its chorus line, the Zanzibauts, and with the Savannah's

Savannah Peaches. Several of them performed in Broadway theatre productions.

Their dancing careers took the women to the country's jazz hubs, including on the circuit of the Theatre Owners Booking Association (aka "Tough on Black Actors," for its difficult working conditions) which included clubs in Washington D.C., Philadelphia, Baltimore and New York.

Jones and Riley also traveled internationally with USO shows, performing for members of the U.S. military during the Second World War.

The Swinging Seniors worked with the legendary entertainers of the jazz and swing era, including Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Billy Daniels, Cab Calloway, Sammy Davis Jr, Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, Ella Fitzgerald, Nat King Cole and Moms Mabley.

McQueen singled out Count Basie as an example of what good music meant to the dancers: "When you had him playing your music, he really had you dancing without a doubt."

Like many of the chorus girls, she stopped dancing as the jazz clubs faded. McQueen began a nursing

career in 1961, retiring in 1991.

The Swinging Seniors still perform together now and then, when their aging members are healthy enough. At 83, McQueen walks with a cane, but her passion for dance is undiminished.

"I can hardly walk now but if the music strikes up..." she kicks up her feet to an unheard beat, adding, "once a dancer, always a dancer."

According to Steve Zeitlin, a folklorist and the executive director of City Lore, "Culture emerges from the bottom up and not from the top down."

"We live in a world that is very dominated by celebrities," he says explaining the motivation behind the People's Hall of Fame, adding, "We wanted to create an event that honors people in a different way, and recognize that what makes New York great is not just the celebrated individuals who have become symbols of the city."

Founded in 1986, City Lore has a staff of folklorists, historians, anthropologists, and ethnomusicologists. This year the

group will also begin recognizing places of local significance city-wide, such as bookstores, vistas, parks, record stores and movie theatres, through its "Place Matters" program.

Pratt of the Swinging Seniors said being recognized by the Hall of Fame feels great: "I'm elated! I'm really elated!"

This year's other inductees included Aurelia Fernandez and Margarita Larios, honored for their efforts to preserve and promote their native Mexican culture.

As members of Mano a Mano, part of the Centre for Traditional Music and Dance, they have been holding Mexican folk-art and culinary workshops at libraries, museums and schools throughout the New York region and organizing traditional dances and celebrations for more than 10 years.

The pair helped organize and participated in the annual Halloween Parade, Day of the Dead festivities and Mexican holidays and celebrations such as las Posadas.

The Hall of Fame also honored the Rev. Deacon Edgar W. Hooper for his

work at St Augustine's Church on New York's Lower East Side, where he has labored to restore, preserve and interpret the "slave galleries," cramped rooms where African Americans were made to sit during church services in the 19th century.

St. Augustine's now has the largest African-American congregation on the Lower East Side.

Terry Marone and the Actors' Equity Association Committee on Chorus Affairs were inducted for keeping alive the tradition of the Gypsy Robe, which is bestowed on a Broadway chorus member during a production's opening night. The robe is elaborately embellished with mementos from the show and passed on at each opening night in an elaborate good luck ritual that dates to 1950.

"Mosaic Man" Jim Power has been creating mosaics from broken dishes and tiles on lampposts, walls and birdhouses throughout the Lower East Side and Greenwich Village for 20 years, and was also inducted into the People's Hall of Fame.

PUBLIX
DELI



MAKE YOUR HOLIDAY PARTY "ALL THAT" WITH A PUBLIX DELI PLATTER.

No party is complete without great guests, good music and Publix Deli Platters. And because all 47 varieties are custom-made to order from quality ingredients and come ready to serve, all you have to do is set out the plates. To get your holiday party started right, stop by or call your neighborhood Publix Deli and place your order today.

