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Commissioner Rashad Q. Mims relected to Palestine Precinct 2.  
see page 15



Senator Barack Obama, presidential candidate, assigned federal security.  
see page 6



# TEXAS INFORMER

**May 2007**

**Volume XII, Number I  
Since 1995**

**P. O. Box 332 - Rusk, TX, 75785**

**Serving Rusk, Jacksonville, Alto, Palestine, Crockett, Henderson, Lufkin, Bullard  
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**Cecil A. Roy, Sr., Jacksonville, Texas native, former employee of the Food And Drug Administration (FDA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency(FEMA) , and Civil War book author returns to make Jacksonville home again. (See page 5)**



Above, Frenchie Henderson votes . Early voting for local elections began April 30, 2007. The last day to vote is election day, Saturday, May 12th when the election polls will be open from seven o'clock A.M. until seven o'clock P. M

Controversy surrounds the Martin Luther King, Jr. Foundation's choice of artist to sculpt King Memorial. The Foundation is to choose a Chinese artist to sculpt the image of Martin Luther King Jr., for the first ever national memorial to an African American man. The work is to be done in China and transported to Washington D. C.

See page 19.



Sarah Robinson, long-time, Kids R Us educator, runs for Place 2 on Jacksonville ISD Board of Trustees.

See page 13



## What's Inside

What's Cookin' .....	9
Hollywood's Time.....	17
Commissioner Mims .....	5
Weddings/Anniversaries .....	10
College Prep Information .....	6
Youth .....	11
Speak Out.....	19
Religion.....	4
Obituaries.....	3

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Maxine Session

May is always special to us. It is the month we celebrate the *Informer* anniversary. The past twelve years we have documented extensive history of African American people, events and communities in and around East Texas. We have provided an affordable source of advertisement for new and small businesses. Regularly I meet people who share their success story about an ad they have run.

You can pickup a magazine or newspaper anywhere and read about dignitaries, Hollywood Stars and famous people like Beonce, Joel Oltine or Oprah. How often can you pickup a book or a newspaper and read positive news about your neighbors or someone you know?

*The Informer* has documented true history through interviews published in more than one hundred thirty-seven cover stories.

## Informer twelfth anniversary celebrated

## Editorial

These stories document history and successful accomplishments of those who are written about and to those who read them.

Thank you again to our advertisers, to those who take the time to share their ideas and opinions on issues.

Those of you who share your poetry, your recipes, birthday celebrations, weddings, family reunions and much much more with our readers, thank you! We encourage you to continue sending send your news, poetry, church announcements and especially your phone calls letting us know how much you enjoy reading what we print. We look forward to printing another twelve years.

May god bless you all and "Happy Mothers Day to mothers everywhere!



*Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow.  
Don't walk behind me, I may not lead.  
Just walk beside me and be my friend.*

~ Author unknown

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## TAKS replacement approved by Senate

AUSTIN — The Texas mandated very much dreaded standardized exit exam would be history for high schoolers under a bill the Texas Senate unanimously approved Thursday. The legislation would replace the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills with exams in four core subjects for students in grades 9 to 11. Younger students would still have to take the standardized exam. The high-stakes nature of the TAKS has been lambasted by teachers and parents, who argue that too much classroom time is spent on preparing students for the test. Students take the exit-level test as juniors and must pass to graduate. The proposal would be phased in over several years, starting with students who are in ninth grade in 2009-10. It now goes to the House, where the public education committee approved a similar bill on Tuesday. "For a long time, we've all heard the public outcry, we've all heard the frustration," said Sen. Florence Shapiro, a Plano Republican who sponsored the bill. "End of course assessments will go a long way toward addressing many of these concerns." The end-of-course exams would be given in English language arts, math, science and social studies. Each test would be worth 100 points and students would have to earn 840 points — or 70 percent of a possible 1,200 points — to graduate.

That means a student who struggles with one subject could make up points by excelling in another. Each test grade would also count as 15 percent of the student's course grade. Students who perform well on Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and SAT subject tests could have those scores counted toward the end of course exam requirement. Teachers' groups gave the bill a cautious thumbs up, saying it is a step in the right direction but does not really change the state's accountability system. "There is still much that has to be done to ensure that these new exams don't become the monster that TAKS did," said Cindy Chapman, a high school math teacher from the Panhandle who is state president of the Association of Texas Professional Educators. A handful of states, including New York, Tennessee, North Carolina and Maryland, already use end-of-course exams in place of high-stakes tests. End exams can be used to fulfill the No Child Left Behind requirement for testing if they are standardized. In addition to eliminating the exit exam, the legislation would direct school districts to administer the PSAT to eighth and 10th graders every year at state expense. Juniors and seniors also would be able to take the SAT or ACT once at state expense.

## The Tongue

Your words, your dreams, and your thoughts have power to create conditions in your life. What you speak about, you can bring about.

If you keep saying you can't stand your job, you might lose your job.

If you keep saying you can't stand your body, your body might become sick.

If you keep saying you can't stand your car, your car could be stolen or just stop operating.

If you keep saying you're broke, guess what? You'll always be broke.

If you keep saying you can't trust a man or woman, you will always find someone in your life to hurt and betray you.

If you keep saying you can't find a job, you will remain unemployed.

If you keep saying you can't find someone to love you or believe in you, your very thought will attract more experiences to confirm your beliefs.

If you keep talking about a divorce or in a relationship, then you might end up with it.

Turn your thoughts and conversations around to be positive and packed with faith, love, and action.

Don't be afraid to believe you can have what you want and deserve.

Watch your thoughts, they become words.

Watch your words, they become actions.

Watch your actions, they become habits.

Watch your habits, they become character.

Watch your character, for it becomes your destiny.

## The City of Rusk, Texas

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## Hollywood's Time Crockett & East Texas News

by Billy "Hollywood" Grooves

I got to witness and participate in some long overdue "real history" recently in Austin, at the State's Capitol. African American schools that existed before integration closed them in the late 60's, were formally recognized by the State of Texas, for what they were and their historical significance. State Representative Dr. Alma Allen of Houston, a graduate of Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School in Livingston, Texas and Dr. Lynn Ray Ellison of Texas City, Texas, a graduate of Booker T. Washington High in Texas City, who also went to a closed Black school put this great event together. Dr. Ellison, a former educator, Galveston County Commissioner, Journalist, state and community leader called the historical Resolution "a wonderful thing" for African Americans. He went on to say that Governor Perry had one of his top people, Tom Braddock and Representative Allen read his words commending former Black High Schools and the historical Resolution on the floor of the state legislature. Although I was late getting on the floor of the Capitol because of the large number of African Americans participating in the event Dr. Ellison said AAN&I and I were mentioned and given credit for getting the Resolution movement going with my newspaper articles about Black Schools. State Representative Allen showed the visiting former students and teachers a great time. Anneliese G. Vogel is the chief of staff for Representative Allen and a native of Houston. She made our stay in the Capitol a rewarding and unforgettable experience. Dr. Allen was all smiles and when she told the large crowd of former students to "take over the Capitol", at the outside group photograph session. Dr. Helen King of Huntsville, a Ralph Bunche High graduates of Galveston Central High were also there. Mr. Ross said the recognition is late coming for Black schools, but

he was glad this day came. Griggs Owens of Fort Worth, a 1961 graduate of Booker T. Washington High school of Texas City, who excelled in football and track had this to say. "Black kids of today need to know about the history of their people and their schools, it is very important to their future."

Billy Ratcliff of Dallas is former educator and current candidate for a City Council seat in Dallas. Ratcliff, the grandson of famed East Texas educator, Sibbie White of Crockett, told me he went to an all Black High School and was glad to see those institutions recognized. Johnny Lee Roberts of Wharton, attended Wharton Training High School, a Black high school that was closed for integration, told me he was there to support the Resolution. Patricia Wiggins of Bay City, Texas attended Hilliard High in Bay City, she told me she was proud of the Resolution. Boris L. Miles of Houston was there greeting former students and teachers of Black schools. He gave me this advice for young. "Concentrate on the job ahead of you, develop a work ethic, the work has to be put in."

Lee Phillips of San Antonio is a retired high school principal. He spoke to the former students about the importance of recognizing the history of Black schools and encouraged the group to do more in the future. Harold Adams of Texas City, a Booker T. Washington graduate was elated when he told me he was enjoying himself at the state Capitol. Rev. Joseph Daniels of LaMarque, advised former students to use the momentum from this

## Attorney General

con't from page 3.

that Boroski never led any acting classes at the retreat and said most scheduled classes were later canceled. Although Boroski claimed to have secured more than 400 auditions for clients in 2004-2005, former clients revealed that they did not receive any auditions despite their participation in the retreat. The TWC held a formal agency hearing pertaining to Boroski's conduct at The Actor's Place and issued a cease and desist order to Boroski. He failed to appear at the hearing and ignored the order. The TWC then referred the case to the Attorney General. The lawsuit, filed under the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act, seeks a court-ordered injunction stopping Boroski from operating a career school without the proper state certificate. The Attorney General also asked the court to order Boroski to provide restitution to harmed consumers, as well as to pay civil penalties of up to \$20,000 per violation of the DTPA and \$1,000 per day for violations of the Texas Career Schools and Colleges Act, which protects students.

Happy Birthday  
Jessie(J. L.) Burley  
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## Send Us Your News

The Texas Informer is eager to share your news with the rest of the community. Club news, social events, charitable activities and service organizations are welcome. We publish your news and announcements at no cost to you. Birthday announcements are published. Picture can be included at a cost of \$5.00 to defray production cost. Pictures can not be faxed. News contributions can be faxed or mailed to P. O. Box 332, Rusk, Texas 75785 and should be typed, if possible.



## Caesar A. Roy, Sr. author, retired college professor, FDA and FEMA Executive returns home to Jacksonville

*Cover Story*

*written by Maxine Session*

Caesar A. Roy, Senior returned in 2004 to a Jacksonville much different from the one he left behind in 1950 when he went away to Prairie View College to get an education.

Caesar's parents were Robert Roy and Vaucie Seals Roy. He was born in Nan Travis Hospital February 15, 1934, the first person in his family to be born in a hospital. Black babies were delivered at home by a mid-wife. He was raised by his maternal grandparents Ceasar A. Dial and Lexie Criss Dial, never having met his mom because his was a caesarean delivery and she died from complications at his birth.

At the age of four he remembers traveling alone on a train from Jacksonville to Brinkley, Arkansas to spend time with his aunt Etherine and uncle George Rogers. He never noticed just how bleak the surroundings in Jacksonville were in the early forties until he moved away for a few years and returned. Many black people lived in "Shotgun houses" - three rooms aligned in a single row. When you opened the front door and the back door at the same time you looked thru the entire structure. The house he and his grandparents lived in had two bedrooms a livingroom and a kitchen. A number three washub in the kitchen served as their bathing room. The other part of the bathroom was an outhouse in the backyard. The streets were all unpaved, but covered with iron rich, red colored clay-like soil. The dust generated from the streets covered all the houses causing them to have a redish hue. Clothes hung out on the line to dry, all developed a red tinge even after being boiled in a washpot.

When he was about thirteen the family moved into a sandstone vaneer (rockhouse) house that had five rooms, a bathroom and real running water with an indoor bathroom. About this time they got a telephone. It was a partyline which meant that several families were on the same line. You might pickup the phone to use it, and hear someone else talking.

The family spent all day Sundays in church. They attended Benson CME. This was the only social outlet his grandparents had other than visiting relatives. Church was one place other than home where black men were honored and treated with respect. Their responsibilities in the church had no relation to the jobs they held in the real world. His grandfather worked as a laborer at a white funeral home, but in the church he was "somebody".

His paternal grandparents lived close by so growingup it was common to spend time in the home of both sets of grandparents. His paternal grandfather owned a black semi-pro baseball team. Caesar remembers that black newspapers were a part of his life early on. Nina Marie Mosely

a friend, and he delivered the Kansas City Call Newspaper every Saturday evening. He does not remember what they earned, but it was enough to pay their way to see the "Picture Show" at the Realto Theater, where they could sit only in the balcony.

Caesar attended elementary thru high school at Fred Douglass. He says, "Students, teachers, local newspapers and everybody referred to the school as Fred Douglass. 'I'm sure someone must have known that it was named for Frederick Douglas, but no one let on', he stated. There was no playground equipment so the boys played games like "Dump the Ground". Anybody left standing was wrestled to the ground.

His first glimpse of a real library came when Caesar got to high school. He had never seen so many books in one place, but decided to read them all...and he did, especially Andy Hardy, The Bobbsey Twins and Tarzan.

In 1950 he graduated Fred Douglass-number three in a class of twenty-seven.

He graduated Prairie View in 1954 with a BS degree in chemistry and ROTC 2nd Lt. Commission. He came back to Jacksonville to get a job and wait for orders for active duty. Caesar applied for a job as cashier or assistant manager at a pharmacy downtown. He recalls, "The people I applied to looked at me as though I was crazy...thinkthey were thinking...black boys didn't and couldn't do that kind of work."

He went into active duty in the U. S. Army spending time in the U. S. and in Germany. He and Delores were married in January 1954. She returned to Prairie View and completed her Senior year to become a teacher.

After the military he began teaching on the high school and college level at Dule High School, Texas Southern, Arizona State, Texas University, and Loretto College and Academy, he worked for the Food and Drug Administration in the Dallas, Washington DC, and New York offices as an Analytical Chemist, Division Director, and Regional Director. After fifteen years with FDA he went to work for FEMA in the Emmitsburg, Maryland office as Deputy Associate Director of Training.

Just before retiring to Jacksonville, Caesar worked as a consultant for CARoy & Associates in Italy, Indonesia, Malawi, Zambia, Jamaica, Honduras, Panama, and Costa Rica.



*Delores and Cesar Roy celebrate their fifty-second anniversary January 12, 2007 onboard a cruise.*



*Picture taken January 13, 1955 at the wedding of Caesar A. Roy and Delores Eubanks Roy.*



*Caesar's great grandfather Cesar Dial and his great grandmother. Mr. Dial sat on the board of businessmen who planned the development of cuney as a town.*



College can be affordable,  
if you plan

*By Krystal Ward-Carter*



### *Counseling for Career Choices and Degree Plans*

Today's youth are faced with many educational options after graduation from secondary school and the process for sorting through those options can be confusing. New services from outside the traditional school counselor model are available to students and families as they move through the college admission process. The term "educational consultant" is used to describe both independent counselors and educational consultants. If you have not made a career choice member, there is a great shortage of skilled and certified workers in the Health Care field and the law enforcement field.

If at this date you have not done so, one of the better things to do is plan a visit to the campus of the college or university you plan to attend. Go to the registrar's office, housing department and the counselor's office. Remember at this time you should have already applied for housing, either a dorm room or apartment, scheduled placement tests, applied for acceptance and registered

for freshman orientation and talked with a counselor about your fall schedule.

If you have not decided on a career, go online and do research on what areas have shortage of skilled workers. Remember, you are never too old to go to school.

Here are just a few career where the shortage of skill trained and certified people is critical. I hope this helps!

Advanced Practice Nurses are Registered Nurses (RNs) with additional training and responsibilities. The following list came from the Advanced Practice degree programs (Masters and PhD) from WA State Universities and Colleges:

Anesthetist (CRNA)  
Bio-behavioral Nursing  
Care & Outcomes Manager: Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS); Nurse Educator; Nurse Administrator (Case Manager, Utilization Review Coordinator, Risk Manager, Nursing Informatics)  
Care Systems Management  
Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS); Forensic Nurse Specialist; Infection Nurse Specialist; Perinatal Nurse Specialist  
Community Health Nurse: Administration (Managers); Care Management; Education

Community Health Systems Nursing:  
Cross Cultural Nursing; Healthy Aging;  
Occupational Health Nursing; Policy & Program Development  
Educator  
Family & Child

Internet Security Specialist  
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Assistant LAN Manager  
Computer Repair Specialist  
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Massage Therapy  
Media Arts  
Medical Office  
Photography  
Recording Arts  
Trade  
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Beauty  
Computer Training  
Criminal Justice  
Culinary Arts  
Fashion Design  
Graphic Design

## **Careers With Texas Department of Public Safety**

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DPS instituted a new internship program for trooper recruits

The first interns have been selected for a new program that will help the Texas Department of Public Safety retain trooper applicants until the next recruit school begins. In the past, we would often lose qualified recruits to other law enforcement agencies because of the wait until a recruit school begins. Now, we have the ability to employ them immediately and begin their training before the recruit school," said Cot. Thomas M. Davis Jr. The new program will provide the intern with a broad overview of the Department. The first part of the internship program is a weeklong orientation at DPS headquarters in Austin. Interns then go to a field office for the remainder of the internship, learning more about the Texas Highway Patrol, the Driver License Division, the Criminal Law Enforcement Division and the Texas Ranger Division.

"This paid internship program will allow our recruits to learn more about DPS and its various responsibilities before they go through the 27 week recruit school in Austin, Col. Davis said. "We are pleased that we will be able to keep these qualified recruits onboard until we can place them in a class." Two recruits, one from Laredo and one from McAllen have already begun internships and will be part of the recruit school scheduled to begin on Sept. 30, 2007. Anyone interested in applying to the DPS Training Academy should contact DPS recruiters at 1-866-TXTROOP (898.7667). Additional information is accessible on the DPS Web site, [www.txdps.state.tx.us](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us), and application packets can be picked up any DPS office.

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# M.I.L.E.

## Step Up to The Plate

Hello. Once again I come to you with a few words of understanding and love. First, let me thank God for bringing me safe this far with boundiful blessings. I often ask my mother why it is that I am the one willing to step up to the plate first. Her answer is, "Son, God has a plan for you." I often struggle with myself in trying to find an avenue through which to motivate my people to step up to the plate and become more involved in the voting process, in community affairs, and yet many young adults either lower their heads and accept the discrimination and unfairness that regularly disrupt their lives or just refuse to deal with it until it hits them square in the face. Since I was in my early twenties I have tried to make a difference by stepping up to the plate and running for elected positions. And I opened a community center to help the young people. Within a 12 year period of time I have put my name on the ballot for several positions and failed because those who backed me were few in number and the others

refused to take place in the voting process. Many of us have failed to educate ourselves on how to pull together and work with others as a team.

It's time to stop, look in the mirror and see the real problem. Reading the headlines and listening to national news we must acknowledge that a lot of the problems the young people (both black and white) are having can be prevented.

As men we must step up to the plate and get involved with our young men. As I write this to you I say we must continue to pray for guidance and patience. We must find a way to mentor them... even those who are not in our families, but those in our community... take them by the hand and talk to them. We must make them understand that sagging pants, and \$1500.00 rims don't make you a man. There is an ad that comes on television and it asks the question, do you know where your kids are? There has been a lot of problems with gangs in Alto lately. The only gang the young people need is the family. The mothers and fathers and grandparents who feed clothe and provide shelter for them. There is a crisis in our county with the number of young people, many under the age of sixteen, going to jail. It's time that we not only come together to talk about this problem, but come together to find a solution. There is no counseling available for those families who are dealing with children in jail, no job find programs to help those who have been in jail find and keep a job.

Somewhere there are solutions and we must not give up nor give in.

MARK GREEN...936-635-9411

Caesar A. Roy Continued from page 5

While Working for FEMA Caesar was located close to Gettysburg and became very interested in the Civil War. He attended management decision making seminars in Charlottesville Virginia. They toured Civil War battlefields to analyse the decisions that the generals made. This turned into seventeen years of touring Battlefields, attending Civil War seminars at least once a year and doing research on black soldiers and the Civil War. He wrote a book on black soldiers and the Civil War and articles that were published in the "Civil War Times Magazine".

Caesar said that black soldiers who were free and owned slaves formed themselves to fight in the Battle of Fort Hudson but did not fight. He told of southern slave masters who carried their slaves to war with them, but would not let them fight. Many ran away. "If anybody ever tells you that blacks fought for the Confederacy in the Civil War, ask them for the unit number, the name of the battle and the location."

Caesar and Delores have two children. Their daughter Sabrina Roy Woods lives in Garland and will graduate with her PHD on May 11, 2007.

Caesar Roy, III lives in Culpepper, Virginia. Jacksonville is a much different place now from what it was when he left in 1950. They purchased a beautiful new home and are enjoying the peaceful beauty of it and East Texas. He still writes and has recently written his autobiography. He spends time golfing with his good friend Preston Meador, volunteering, in the community and keeping his lawn immaculate.

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Democrats declined to say how they plan to get the bill back to the White House: as a separate bill or, more likely, as an attachment to the next Iraq war spending bill they intend to get to Bush by Memorial Day. The latter, they maintain, would give them a little more leverage by forcing Republicans to vote against money for American troops to block the minimum wage package. "We will take whatever steps are necessary to get a minimum wage increase enacted into law as quickly as possible," said Tom Kiley, spokesman for Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., chair of the House Education and Labor Committee. The White House has complained the tax cuts are too small in the minimum wage measure as now written. Fratto said Bush's advisers might recommend he veto it. A veto may be more difficult if other measures in the Iraq spending bill are to the president's liking. Increases in the minimum wage are often leveraged against something, or used as leverage for something else. For example, Democrats last year killed a proposed minimum wage increase after Republicans paired it with a cut in inheritance taxes on multimillion-dollar estates. Republicans easily muscled the legislation through the House but Senate Democrats refused to allow it to go to the White House for approval. The last minimum wage increase was in 1997. This has been the longest stretch without the federal pay floor rising since the minimum wage was established in 1938. Currently, a person working 40 hours per week at the current minimum wage of \$5.15 makes about \$10,700 a year. An increase to \$7.25 would boost that to just over \$15,000 a year. More than two dozen states and the District of Columbia have minimum wages higher than the federal level. Minimum wage workers are typically young, single and female and are often black or Hispanic.

The bill is H.R. 1591.

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## Iraq Lies, the Media, and Misplaced Trust

~ by James W. Breedlove

Four years ago on May 1, just 42 days after initiating the Iraq war, Commander-In-Chief Bush landed on the aircraft carrier USS Lincoln dressed in a combat flight suit and delivered a speech in front of a giant "Mission Accomplished" banner that included the assurance, "Major combat operations in Iraq have ended." He was hailed by media pundits, using approved White House scripts, as a breathtaking example of presidential leadership in toppling Saddam Hussein. At that moment questions over the failure to locate weapons of mass destruction and the increasing violence in Baghdad seemed to be forgotten. The elite members of the press were all too eager to confirm the White House's claim that the war was won. MSNBC's Chris Matthews declared, "We're all neo-cons now," NPR's Bob Edwards said, "The war in Iraq is essentially over," and Fortune magazine's Jeff Bimbaum said, "It is amazing how thorough the victory in Iraq really was." Four years after shock-and-awe was unleashed, the press has yet to come clean and explain its role in enabling the Bush Administration to go to war based on completely false pretenses.

Venerable journalist Bill Moyers, after a two year absence, has reappeared on PBS hosting an indicting video documentary that chronicles the lies told by the Bush administration and supported by a complicit lapdog media to manipulate the American public into supporting the Iraq war.

"Buying the War" aired on April 25 and through the skillful blending of video clips and interviews the viewer experienced a virtual personal shock and awe while witnessing the sickening horrors of death and destruction caused by the war's facilitators who are still trying to rationalize it as justified, moral, and legitimate.

Absurd administration and media announcements were the order of the day during the lead up to the war and afterwards. For the most part these ridiculous claims were neither challenged nor proof demanded. The administration's media cabal simply continued to beat the war drums and vilify all dissenters. Contrary opinions aren't very popular in Washington. It is not only unfashionable but also extremely risky to dissent from the official White House line regarding the war. Talk show host Bill O'Reilly stated, "Anyone who hurts this country in a time like this well let's just say you will be spotlighted. I will call those who publicly

criticize their country in a time of military crisis, which this is, bad Americans." Freedom of speech must be passé.

The Bush administration's propaganda machine is every bit as ruthless and efficient as that organized by Joseph Goebbels during Hitler's reign.

Their truth squads sought out dissenters and labeled them as anti-American or unpatriotic. Dan Rather said fear was in every newsroom in the country. They [the administration] had and they have a very effective slam machine. You either report the news the way we want it reported or we're going to hang a sign around your neck. Many prime time journalists surrendered their independence and skepticism to join with the administration in its grand march to war. Indicative of the media mindset in late 2002 was the reaction when two top democrats dared to go against the grain. West Virginia Senator Byrd and Massachusetts Senator Kennedy both demanded more documentation and persuasive evidence on the threat potential of Saddam's chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. Kennedy predicted, "War with Iraq before a genuine attempt at inspection and disarmament, without genuine international support, could swell the ranks of Al Qaeda with sympathizers and trigger an escalation in terrorist acts." The WASHINGTON POST gave Kennedy's concerns just one sentence, 36 words.

From August 2002 until the war was launched in March of 2003 there were about 140 front page pieces in THE WASHINGTON POST, 27 editorials, and about 1,000 articles making the administration's case for war but there were only a handful of stories that ran on the front page that made the opposite case. Network executives knew dissent was bad for business.

Six weeks before the Iraq invasion, with the debate over the relevant facts intensifying, Secretary of State Colin Powell placed his impeccable reputation on the line and went before the United Nations to make America's case for war.

Following Powell's 90 minute presentation some of the most discerning and sophisticated journalists in the country bought what Powell was selling without question. Some of their lead lines were, "A Masterful Legal Summary", "A Strong, Credible and Persuasive Case", "An Ironclad Case... Succinct and Damning Evidence", "A Persuasive, Detailed Accumulation of Information." Obvious flaws in the Powell case went unchallenged. The lack of WMD evidence, the biological weapons that had been destroyed, and the heralded British intelligence report that in reality was a graduate student's plagiarized thesis.

As Bush's ship of state begins to crumble and the once loyal supporters desert to save themselves, it should become clear to the chief malefactors and their media cohorts that in the end integrity, honor, and trust is what really matters. Most of the administration's media lapdogs are still in place. They are named in "Buying the War". The message is Americans need to reassess the trust placed in misguided political leaders and compromised media pundits.

North Bolton Street

Christian Church

### Father's Day Service

Speaker, Evangelist Charlvn Doty

New Life Christian Center

Austin, Texas

Sunday, June 17, 2007



## Mrs. Myrtie Sanders-Johnson

On August 14, 1924 Myrtie Sanders was born in Cherokee County, she was the baby girl of the late Curtis and Treva Sanders. Her beautiful life came to an earthly end on April 14, 2007. Services were held Saturday, April 21, 2007 at Elm Grove Baptist Church with Rev. Timothy Bircher and Elder Ray. C. Williams Officiating. As a child, she was reared up in a small community outside of Rusk called Elm Grove. She also received her education from the Elm Grove Community School. As a member of this Community she touched many lives. She fed those who were hungry, comforted those who were sick or in sorrow and prayed without ceasing for every life that she touched. She also worked and retired from the Rusk State Hospital after thirteen years of service. She accepted Jesus Christ at a very early age and began a pulpit driven life of service to her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Being obedient to God, she united with the Church of the Living God #75 in Elm Grove Community fifty years ago. She was a very active Leader and member in the church and served in every capacity in her church "Except in the pulpit" until her health failed. Even from her bed of affliction she continued to serve her Lord by praying for us all and encouraging us all in the faith. Her courage was overwhelming and an inspiration to us all. She met and was united in Holy Matrimony with her husband the late Sunny Johnson on December 16, 1941, in Rusk, Texas. To this union three sons and one daughter was born. One son preceded her in death Runny 'Red' Johnson. Those left to cherish her memory are Two Loving Sons, Sherman Johnson and Dwayne (Gwendolyn) Johnson all of Dallas, Texas. And a Loving and Devoted daughter; Barbara Gail Johnson of Rusk, Texas. Brothers, Carl "Boy" Sanders and Travis (Dedra) Sanders all of Rusk, Texas. Sisters Gladys Barnett, Felma Session and Eva Jo Hughes all of Rusk, Texas, Lula Mae Washington of Odessa, Texas and Mathis Irving of Midland, Texas. A host of grandchildren, their descendants, nephews and nieces, other relatives and friends. A special friend and devoted nephew Johnny Avant and her loving J. caregiver Miss Annie Landon.

Interment was at Plainview Cemetery Ponta, Texas under the direction Mercy McGowan Funeral Home.



**Ruby Nell  
Pinson  
Wofford**

Sis. Ruby Nell Pinson Wofford was born on June 22, 1939 in Palestine, Tx to the union of Lela and Otto Pinson. She departed this life for eternal rest on April 14, 2007 at Southwestern University Medical Center in Dallas, Texas.

She accepted Christ at an early age at the Brown Spring Baptist Church Palestine, Texas under pastor, Rev. R.L. Littlejohn. She was a Choir member who loved to sing. She was loved by all who knew her. She had a witty sense of humor. She was always able to express herself very well with others. She graduated from AM Story High School in Palestine.

She married L. C. Wofford of Frankston, Texas on May 9, 1964 and together a union of five children were born. Her son, Otto Bernard Wofford preceded her in death. She was able to love him and cherish him for 45 years of his life.

She leaves to cherish her memory husband, L.C. Wofford; children, Rodney Wofford of Dallas, Tx., Jacqueline Rachelle Darnell (Phillip) of Dallas, Tx., Detra Yvette Berett (John Michael) of Little Elm, Tx., and Pamela Wofford Peoples (Reginald) of Dallas, Tx.; eleven grandchildren; one sister Helen Ray of Dallas, Tx.; three brothers, Bruce Pinson of Palestine, Tx., Benjamin Pinson (Tracy) of Palestine, Tx. and Sterlin Pinson (Sharon) of Lake Jackson, Tx.; a host of neices and nephews.

## Booker T. Washington All School Reunion

June 16, 17, 18, 2007  
Alto, Texas

## Oscar Lee Bradley

**was born June 3, 1935.**

He received Christ and was baptized at an early age. He was a member of Mt. Olive Baptist Church under the leadership of Reverend Bartley in Rusk, Texas. He remained a member until death. He attended Bradford School. He enjoyed entertaining his friends and love ones until his health prevented him from doing the one thing, he enjoyed the most being around people. He was willing to do what ever to help anyone in need. On April 26, 2007 at 2:30 a.m. Oscar journey on this earth ended and he crossed over into eternity. His life is full and complete begin with Jesus Christ. For to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. His father and mother; also two (2) brother and one (1) sister to precede him in death.

To cherish his memories, seven (7) sons and two (2) daughters, grand-children, and great-grandchildren, (1) sister, (2) brothers, nieces, nephews, relatives and a host of friends.

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**St. Paul Celebrates  
Rev. & Mrs. Sedrick Moore  
Pastor & wife Anniversary**



Jacksonville, TX - Pictured above are Rev. and Mrs. Sedrick Moore, pastor and wife of St. Paul Baptist Church, 558 North Main Street, Jacksonville, Texas. On Sunday, May 20, 2007, the church family will celebrate their Pastor and Wife Anniversary. The public is invited to attend.

**Happy 23rd Birthday  
Coach Mac!**



Reginald Joel McGowan, II  
May 22 nd

North Bolton Stree Christian Church  
Father's Day Service  
3:00 PM  
Sunday, June 17, 2007

Evangelist Charles Doty  
Speaker, New Life  
Christian Center, Austin, Texas

**Overstreet - Hart  
to exchange Wedding Vows**



Frona Overstreet and Delian Session announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter Tangie Roshelle Overstreet to Jerry Don Hart. The ceremony will take place at Mt. olive Baptist Church Rusk, Texas on Saturday evening May nineteenth at 6:00PM. The reception will be held immediately following at the VfW Rusk Texas. Jerry Don is the son of Ira Hart and the late Calvin (C. S.) Hart.

**Terri's Cakes Etc.**



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**Happy Birthday "Moma Mary"  
Mary Session  
May 3rd!**



**Happy Birthday "Krissey"  
Krystal Ward-Carter  
May 1st!**



## Local High School Graduation Schedule

Rusk High School Graduation, May 25, 2007  
7:00 PM at the Rusk High School Football Field  
Please call (903) 683-5401 for additional information.

Jacksonville High School Graduation - 7:00pm May  
25, 2007 The Tomato Bowl.

Crockett ISD High School Baccalaureate May 27,  
2007 4:00PM - First Assembly of God Church .

Alto ISD High School Graduation 8:00PM at Jacket  
Stadium.



The Laneville High School Junior Senior Prom was held Saturday, May 5, 2007 at The Park in Carlisle. Pictured here are students who attended.

## House Passes Landowner's Bill of Rights Act

Rep. Hopson Glad To Co-author Act  
That Supports Land Owners Rights

AUSTIN — On Thursday, the Texas House of Representatives gave its final approval to House Bill 1495. The bill, formally entitled the Landowner's Bill of Rights Act, provides landowners with full notice of their rights and options during the condemnation process. Representative Hopson co-authored the bill with Representative Bill Callegari of Houston. "A landowner faced with having their land taken away deserves thorough disclosure about what they're up against," said Representative Hopson. "Currently, landowners don't receive a shred of information about their rights and options when their property faces condemnation. This leaves many

feeling helpless and confused." The HB 1495 also requires that the bill of rights statement be written in plain language that can be easily understood by the average property owner. The statement must also be printed in an easily readable font and type size. As approved by the House, the Landowner's Bill of Rights Act requires that governmental entities seeking to condemn private property provide affected landowners with a "Landowner's Bill of Rights" statement. The statement must inform landowners of their rights to notice, fair negotiation, compensation, and to appeal a condemnation judgment. The written statement must also describe the condemnation process, the condemning entity's obligations

The fact that someone's home may be condemned through the power of eminent domain should not be hidden in fine print that can only be deciphered by a lawyer," said Representative Hopson. "This Act requires that landowners affected by a proposed condemnation receive a fair, easy to read and easy to understand explanation of their rights and the condemnation process." Representative Hopson continued, "The idea of having someone's home taken away by their government is disheartening and a little scary. There are very few legitimate reasons for condemning private property, and the affected landowner deserves a complete understanding about what is happening. This bill helps landowners protect their property. It lets them know their rights and what they can do to defend the place they call home."

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## Representative Chuck Hopson Casts Supports East Texas School Districts and Voting

AUSTIN — Representatives Chuck Hopson and Harvey Hilderbran successfully amended House Bill 2136 which



directs school counselors to report student referrals to the school districts administration. The school district would then have to make that information public. The Hopson amendment exempted school districts that have an enrollment under 5500 students, which includes all the school districts in Hopson's

legislative district.

"Texas school counselors tell me that up to one-third of their time is spent filling out paperwork, not helping our students," Hopson said. "Many of the counselors in my district called me on this one and told me that the bill, as written, would prevent them from spending needed time with students and would cause some students not to seek help based on fear." That fear is one that Rep. Hopson's wife, Billie, a former school counselor expressed Monday afternoon.

Unfortunately, there is still a stigma about getting counseling. This bill would continue that stigma and stop families and their children from seeking valuable help," said Mrs. Hopson. "In small towns and communities, it is likely that everybody knows what everybody else is doing. Or at least, they think they do." The Texas House also heard House Bill 218 requiring a voter to present certain forms of identification in order to vote. This bill would make it more difficult for Texas senior citizens to vote. Hopson joined leaders from the AARP, the League of Women Voters, and other groups Monday in opposition to an assault on Texans' voting rights. "Let's be clear about this: there is no voter impersonation problem or voter fraud epidemic in this state," said Rep. Hopson. "This is an effort by a small group of legislators to keep seniors from voting. I voted against House Bill 218 in order to protect the rights of thousands of voters in East Texas." Unfortunately, the voter suppression bill passed the House on Monday night. If it passes the Senate, it will require voters to present a photo ID card at the polls, in addition to a valid voter registration card, in order to vote. As a practical matter, this requirement would disenfranchise thousands of elderly Texans by denying them the right to cast a ballot because they no longer have a valid drivers license. The Senate has pledged to keep the bill from final passage if changes are not made. In 2006, the non-partisan Brennan Center for Justice found that 18% of seniors over 65, do not have a government-issued photo identification. For many seniors and even working families, getting a photo ID takes time, money and mobility that others may take for granted. "HB 218 is a poll tax—photo IDs are not free," stated Hopson. "This bill will particularly hurt seniors, but it will also place an extra burden on many Texans, effectively limiting their right to vote." Please contact our offices at 1-866-233-5100 or 512-463-0592 should you have any questions or concerns

## Temporary restraining order protects consumers against product marketed as street drug alternative

DALLAS — Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott today filed a legal action against a Nevada company and its three Texas distributors for the marketing and selling of an energy drink as an unapproved drug, claiming it is a "legal alternative" to illicit street drugs. The Dallas County District Court issued a temporary restraining order halting all Texas marketing and distribution of the drink, "Cocaine." Redux Beverages touts the canned drink as "speed in a can" and "liquid cocaine," with "warnings" that consumers who drink the product may succumb to "excess excitement, stamina, fun and possible feelings of euphoria." "Texans will not tolerate the peddling of unapproved drugs," said Attorney General

Abbott. "This advertising campaign entices young people with illegal drug references and false claims of health benefits.

The Office of Attorney General will continue to aggressively enforce this state's consumer protection laws to ensure that Texans will not be deceived by the marketing of unapproved drugs." A temporary injunction hearing in the case is set for Wednesday, May 16, at 9:30 a.m. in the 44th District Court of Dallas County. The Texas Department of State Health Services recently detained a large quantity of the drink, valued at almost \$200,000, at several warehouse locations in the Dallas area. The agency then referred the



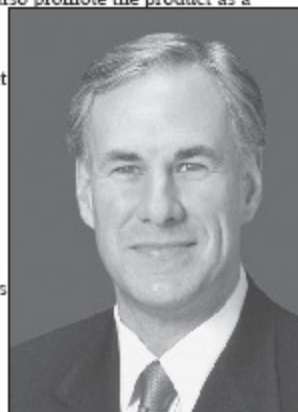
case to the Office of Attorney General for legal action. In a warning letter issued to Redux, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) noted that because the company markets Cocaine as an alternative to street drugs, including claims that it mimics the effects of recreational drugs, then Redux cannot also promote the product as a dietary supplement.

Furthermore, the FDA considers street drug alternatives to be unapproved new drugs that are prohibited in the marketplace.

According to the Attorney General's filing, the company's claims that users can get high and feel euphoric make the product a drug, yet the FDA has

not approved it for use as a drug. Without scientific proof as required by the FDA, the company also makes health claims that Cocaine lowers cholesterol, prevents hardening of the arteries, protects nerve fibers from glucose damage, and may be used in the treatment of depression or anxiety.

The Attorney General brings this action under the Texas Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act and the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act, which allow for penalties, respectively, of up to \$25,000 and \$20,000 per violation.



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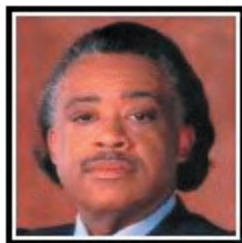
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\* References available

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## Sharpton participates in decency march



May 3rd Rev. Al Sharpton was among a group of activists attending the National Action Network (NAN)'s march protesting sexism, racism, and homophobia in music and images perpetuated in the recording industry tomorrow. We need to deal with N-word and the misogyny of calling our women b\*\*\*hes and hoes," Sharpton told AllHipHop.com. "No other community is disparaged by these record companies, but us." Sharpton pointed to an incident in which Michael Jackson offended members of the Jewish community when he sang "Jew me/sue me" and "Kick me/Kike me" on his hit song "They Don't Care About Us." "They took the CD's [Jackson's HIStory] out of the stores. When police felt offended about Ice-T, they froze that," Sharpton continued. "It's almost like they are being cajoled and other cases rewarded to denounce Black people. If you can have a limit to what artistic freedoms you give other people, you ought to have it for Black people and women." The march kicks off at 5:30 p.m. at the Sony Music building on 55th and Madison and will be led by NAN decency initiative director Tamika Mallory and Councilwoman Darlene Mealy of Brooklyn's 41st District. Marchers will then head to the Warner Music Group building, located at 75 Rockefeller Plaza, as well as the Universal Music Group building on 49th and 8th radio personality Don Imus, over offensive comments he made toward the Rutgers women's basketball team. Sharpton also pointed to the case of "Fat Nick"

Minnucci, who was sentenced to 15 years in prison in June 2006 for viciously assaulting a black man with a bat and fracturing his skull. and the Time Warner Building on 58th and Broadway. NAN will then host a rally, which is scheduled to take place at the event's final stop at Columbus Circle. have brought attention to the music industry's role in promoting degrading images and language used by artists. During the march, NAN will also call for record companies implement a code of conduct for artist in their lyrics. under scrutiny, following the firing of Lyrics in Hip-Hop music in particular have come "I'm not trying to censor people, but I'm saying it's got to be equal across the board," Sharpton told AllHipHop.com. "If you can't go into a studio and talk about Italians or Jews, how can you go in and talk about Blacks?" "I am leading this march as a mother and as a young black woman who is part of the Hip-Hop generation," Mallory said. "We must reshape the positive culture in music, and redefine images of women in media."

The event is the latest in a string of recent events that Minucci allegedly called his victim a "n\*\*\*\*er" as the assault took place in the Howard Beach.

Minucci, who was charged with robbery and assault as a hate crime, argued that he used the word as a greeting and not as a racial slur. "Fat Nick was indicted and his defense in court is, 'I used 'n\*\*\*\*er' because Hip-Hop uses it,'" said Sharpton. "He almost beat the case."

After Imus, I said instead of just beating down the rappers... that's like beating down the drug dealers, without beating down the source...the source is the record companies. They are the ones that stop them from saying to others but put it out when they [degrade] themselves. We're going to go to the source of the problem and that's the record companies."



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## State of Black America: Future of Black Men Critical to American Family

By Hazel Trice Edney, NNPA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – National Urban League President Marc Morial, in NUL's annual State of Black America address, this week, describes the underachievement of Black males as being among America's greatest crisis. "This state of underachievement, with its devastating and far-reaching ramifications, is the most serious economic and civil rights challenge we face today," Morial says in his report, "The State of Black America 2007: Portrait of the Black Male," a 260-page document, released this week. "It's a problem with a major rippling effect. Not only does it impact individual Black men. It also hurts their families and communities. It's not just a problem for the African-American community. It's a problem for everyone in this nation."

The SOBA report, an annual measurement of Black progress, outlines egregious statistics: Black men are more than twice as likely to be unemployed as White men and make only 74 percent as much a year.

Black men are more than six times as likely than White men to be "The absence of the Black man in the Black family will only lead to greater poverty for our community as a whole," states Morial. "It incarcerated and their average jail sentences tend to be 10 months longer than those of White men. At the end of 2001, 16.5 percent of the Black male population had been to prison compared to 7.7 percent of Hispanic and 2.7 percent of White men. Young Black males between the ages of 15 and 34 years are nine times more likely to be killed by firearms and nearly eight times

as likely to suffer from AIDS. Of single parent Black households in 2005, only 12 percent were led by men. More than two-thirds of Black children live in one-parent households in 2005, the majority headed by women. More than 42 percent of female-headed Black households with children were poor, compared to slightly more than 9 percent of married Black households. "It helps exacerbate the disparities already existing between minorities and Whites in the United States." The SOBA report includes op-eds by author, speaker and educator Michael Eric Dyson, and national child advocate Marian Wright Edelman. It also includes essays by NAACP Legal Defense Fund General Counsel Theodore Shaw and noted researcher Silas Lee as well as a foreword by Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill. Black America is like two stories, states Obama, a leading Democratic candidate for president whom many view as a symbol of success. But, his forward tells two sides. "One story celebrates the extraordinary fact that some of this country's top financial institutions have Black chief executives, that a Black woman is president of an Ivy League university, that the current and previous secretaries of state are Black Americans, that a Black coach led his team to victory in the Super Bowl, that the college graduation rate of Black women has never been higher, that homeownership by Blacks is as high as it has ever been, and that Blacks have penetrated nearly every barrier in law, business, medicine, sports, education, politics and public service," the senator writes in the SOBA foreword. "But, another story must also be told about the state of Black America," he states. "A quarter of

all Black Americans live below the federal poverty level, a poverty rate about twice the national rate.

"More than a third of all Black children live in poverty and almost two-thirds grow up in a home without both parents. In some cities, more than half of all Black boys do not finish high school, and by the time they are in their 30s, almost six in ten Black high school dropouts will have spent time in prison. Half of all Black men in their 20s are jobless, and one study a few years ago found more Black men in prison than enrolled in college. "The typical Black household earns only about 60 percent of the earnings of White households and has a net worth only about 10 percent that of Whites. The HIV/AIDS rate is highest for Black Americans and Blacks are more often the victims of inadequate healthcare and preventable health maladies." This year's SOBA focuses on the Black male, but it says Black America in general has made little progress since last year. Last year's SOBA reported that Black America's "equality index" was at 73 percent of Whites. This year it's at 73.3, the report states. "In other words, Blacks made minimal progress on the equality front in the past few years," the report states, but it was dismal for Black males. "While there are Barack Obamas and Lovie Smiths out there to prove just how far Black men can go, there are many whose futures are far from bright," says Morial. "The equality index shows us that Black men continue to lag behind their White counterparts in every major category; a disproportionate number of Black men are underperforming in our society in a variety of areas for a variety of reasons."



Pictured left to right Rusk City Councilman

Walter session, Andrew Melontree, Tyler Citizens 1st Bank, James I perkins, Citizens 1st Bank President and Cody Glenn, former Rusk High School Running Back, former Rusk Citizens 1st Bank Employee and current University of Nebraska Running Back. They are viewing a thank you note to Mr Perkins from Rusk State Hospital for all he and Citizens 1st Bank does for Rusk State Hospital. The Thank you note is signed by each member of the RSH Staff and Superintendent Ted Debs.

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## Bircher family is family of the month



Pictured left are Timothy and Betty Smith Bircher and their three sons. The Birchers have been chosen family of the month. Reverend Bircher is the pastor of Elm Grove Baptist Church, and Betty is the church musician. He is a native of Tyler and she is a native of Jacksonville. The past two years she has been enrolled as a student at Texas Southern University, Houston working toward a degree in Pharmacology. Their sons Timothy, Josh and Jordon are attending schools in HISD.

The Bircher family lives temporarily in Houston but plan to return to East Texas when Betty completes her degree. She is the daughter of Bobby Smith of Jacksonville.

## No Carbon Copies

God made each of us as an original.

He made us what he wanted us to be.

We are each to be ourselves.

Finding the perfect life won't mean finding the person within that he

He wants us to be.

If we accept and become what He created us to be we receive blessings from Him.

We are to be ourselves and not a carbon copy of someone else.

Situations that we find ourselves in come because of the choices we make.

God gives us His best and we give Him less.

He will direct our steps if we let Him. He will put the right people in our lives at the right time.

Look in the mirror and ask yourself how long can this last.

Wherever we go we should invite Jesus.

Go no place He will be ashamed to be.

Say no words he would be ashamed to hear.

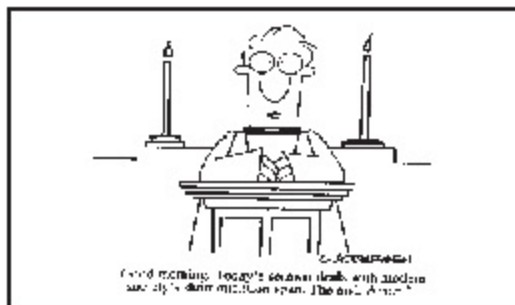
Do nothing he would be ashamed to see.

~Genell Hicks

## Commissioner Rashad Mims, I

from cover page.

Commissioner Mims was elected commissioner for Palestine, Texas Precinct 2, in November 2006. He was sworn into the position on January 1, 2007. His opponent filed a lawsuit in December 2006 alleging that ballots were not properly locked in a box during the weekend break in the recount process. Mims ended up with a total of 909 votes (65.5 percent) in the specially-called election compared to 479 (34.5 percent) for Coker.



## Southern Banana Pudding



Heat oven to 350 degrees F. Stir pudding mix into milk in medium saucepan. Add egg yolks. Stirring constantly, cook on medium heat until mixture comes to full boil. Remove from heat.

Arrange layer of cookies on bottom and up sides of 2-quart baking dish. Top with 1/2 of the banana slices; top with 1/3 of the pudding. Repeat layers, ending with pudding.

Beat egg whites and salt in medium bowl with electric mixer on high speed until foamy. Gradually add sugar, beating until stiff peaks form. Spoon lightly onto pudding, sealing edges well. Bake 10 to 15 minutes or until meringue is lightly brown. Cool on wire rack. Serve warm or refrigerate, if desired.

- 2 packages (4-serving size) Jell-O vanilla or banana cream flavor cook and serve pudding & pie filling
- 4 1/2 cups milk
- 3 egg yolks beaten
- 42 round vanilla wafer cookies (1/2 of a 12 ounce package)
- 2 large bananas, sliced
- 3 egg whites
- Dash of salt
- 1/3 cup sugar

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## Calif. Democrats warm for Clinton, wild for Obama

Washington DC-Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois wowed California Democrats at their annual convention on Saturday, drawing a more passionate welcome than Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton received hours earlier in this state that carries new clout in the presidential primaries. More than 2,000 party activists frequently rose to their feet in cheers as Obama, who has served just two years in the U.S. Senate, talked about his desire to end the war in Iraq and usher in a new political era in Washington. "It is time to put an end to this war," Obama, of Illinois, said at the convention center in San Diego shortly before many started chanting his surname. Even Clinton supporters recognized Obama's speech -- full of generalities such as the need to "turn the page" -- had tapped into the crowd's emotions. "It was the same thing in 2003 for Howard Dean," said Andrea Dew Steele, 38, referring to the former Vermont governor who made a strong showing early in the last presidential race largely because of his opposition to the war. "We have a very progressive left-wing constituency here in California. Obama's extremely talented, but this is Hillary's time," said Steele, who wore a Clinton sticker on her lapel. Democrats were making their pitch to a state that has become key in the primaries since California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger last month signed a law moving up its primary to February 2008 from June to give the state a greater role in the presidential selection.

In recent years, California has served as a vital source of fund-raising, but the national contest was already decided by the time the state held its primary. New York has also moved up its primary to the same day in February 2008, which could make it the earliest and biggest test of candidates' strength. California Democrats gave Clinton a warm if not overly effusive welcome, with a few shouting out for an immediate end to the Iraq war. "The first thing I will do upon taking office is to end the war in Iraq," Clinton said. During her speech, a small minority held signs or called out for the U.S. Congress to cut off funding for the Iraq conflict, a move that could undercut President George W. Bush's plans to continue military involvement there. "She is pro-war," said Patrick Tate, 59, who loudly booed the New York senator. Clinton has refused to apologize for her 2002 vote authorizing the war or call it a mistake. "I am proud that I stood up in 2002 when it wasn't popular to take a stand and urged our leaders not to take us down this dangerous path," Obama said, contrasting himself with Clinton and others. Obama was not in the Senate at the time. Clinton, considered a front-runner in the primary contest, got cheers with calls for universal health insurance and support for what she termed the invisible people of society. At a news conference, the wife of former U.S. President Bill Clinton said the crucial early contests in California and New York have changed the dynamics of the campaign. "It's added to the mix in an extraordinary way. You know, we've never had a primary process like this," she said. "It puts an enormous burden on me and my campaign. Obviously, you know we have to cover a lot more ground and raise a lot more money to be able to compete in all these states."

Caitlin Harvey, 20, a university student, said other candidates were stirring more passions than Clinton, adding she preferred Obama and former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards. "Obama, he's new and fresh, he makes people excited about politics again," she said. "Hillary, she doesn't excite people as much."

## War Bill Delays Minimum Wage Hike

WASHINGTON - Increasing the minimum wage should be easy for a Congress controlled by Democrats, especially with President Bush's pledge of support. But a \$2.10 boost for America's lowest-paid workers is again being delayed, this time in a tussle over whether to pull U.S. troops out of Iraq. It's been 10 years since the last minimum wage increase, and boosting it from \$5.15 to \$7.25 per hour over the next two years was a key element of Democrats' midterm election platform. They even added a sweetener for Republicans: \$4.8 billion in tax cuts for small businesses over 10 years. But Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., decided to attach the minimum wage provisions to the Iraq war spending bill. Normally that's must-pass legislation. Now it's certain to be the subject of Bush's second veto after Democrats loaded it up with a timetable for withdrawing U.S. troops. "That's just a temporary detour," said Alan Viard, a scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. He said Democrats will find a way to quickly move the minimum wage legislation back to the White House. Republicans say Democrats could have had a minimum wage bill passed and signed by now if they hadn't added it to the Iraq war bill. "This isn't about getting a minimum wage increase done, it's another political stunt that only further delays action," said White House spokesman Tony Fratto.

Continue page 8.

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## Rappers carry damaging message called “Stop Snitching”

In most communities, a person who sees a murder and helps the police put the killer behind bars is called a witness. But in many poor and African American neighborhoods in this country that person is called a “snitch.” “Stop snitchin’” is a catchy hip-hop slogan that embodies and encourages this attitude. You can find it on everything from rap music videos to clothing. “Stop snitchin’” once meant “don’t tell on others if you’re caught committing a crime.” But as CNN’s Anderson Cooper reports for 60 Minutes, it has come to mean something much more dangerous: “don’t cooperate with the police – no matter who you are.” As a result, police say, witnesses are not coming forward. Murders are going unsolved. Reluctance to talk to police has always been a problem in poor, predominantly African-American communities, but cops and criminologists say in recent years something has changed: fueled by hip-hop music, promoted by major corporations, what was once a backroom code of silence among criminals, is now being marketed like never before. **What do you think? The following people speakout.**



Alto, TX. -I think witnesses should speakup when a crime is committed. Put yourself in the other person's place. If the crime is committed against you, you want someone to be a witness for you.



I think they are sending the wrong message. A witness should tell what happened. There are ways to do that like using crime stopper 800 numbers.



Troup, TX. I think you have to stand for something. Speaking out is standing for what's right. If witnessess to crimes don't speak up, crime will takeove.

### Stop The Snitching from page 18

a “snitch” might have damaged Rhymes’ “street cred.” “One of the things that sells music is when the artist is looked at as someone who’s come up from the streets. Not just any streets, but the toughest, meanest streets of the urban ghetto. And that’s called ‘street credibility,’” Canada says. Busta Rhymes did put a tribute to Israel Ramirez on the video he was making when Ramirez was killed. “Just wanted to make sure people seen this so they know you ain’t die in vain. Love you and I miss you, Homie. Hope we make you proud,” Rhymes said in the video. “I think that’s horrid,” says Canada. “I ask you Busta, as a man, if that was your son and you watched someone kill your son, would you remain quiet or would you get justice for your son? This is murder. This is murder. This is watching someone getting murdered. How

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## African American Community Delima "Stop Snitching"

In most communities, a person who sees a murder and helps the police put the killer behind bars is called a witness. But in many inner-city neighborhoods in this country that person is called a "snitch." "Stop snitchin'" is a catchy hip-hop slogan that embodies and encourages this attitude. You can find it on everything from rap music videos to clothing. "Stop snitchin'" once meant "don't tell on others if you're caught committing a crime. But as CNN's Anderson Cooper reports for 60 Minutes, it has come to mean something much more dangerous: "don't cooperate with the police - no matter who you are." As a result, police say, witnesses are not coming forward. Murders are going unsolved. Reluctance to talk to police has always been a problem in poor, predominantly African-American communities, but cops and criminologists say in recent years something has changed: fueled by hip-hop music, promoted by major corporations, what was once a backroom code of silence among criminals, is now being marketed like never before. The message appears in hip-hop videos, on T-shirts, Web sites, album covers and street murals. Well-known rappers talk about it endlessly on DVDs. It is a simple message heard in African-American communities across the country: don't talk to the police. "When I was growing up, kids used to talk about snitching.... It never extended as a cultural norm outside of the gangsters," says

Geoffrey Canada, a nationally recognized educator and anti-violence advocate. "It was not for regular citizens. It is now a cultural norm that is being preached in poor communities." Canada has been working with children in Harlem for more than 20 years. He grew up poor in a tough New York neighborhood, but says the message kids are getting today is very different and dangerous. "People are walking around with shirts. People are going out making, making music. People are saying things that if you're a snitch it's like being an Uncle Tom was when I was growing up," Canada says. "It's like you can't be a black person if you have a set of values that say, 'I will not watch crime happen in my community without getting involved to stop it.'" growing up," Canada says. "It's like you can't be a black person if you have a set of values that say, 'I will not watch crime happen in my community without getting involved to stop it.'" The message appears in hip-hop videos, on T-shirts, Web sites, album covers and street murals. Well-known rappers talk about it endlessly on DVDs. It is a simple message heard in African-American communities across the country: don't talk to the police. "When I was growing up, kids used to talk about snitching.... It never extended as a cultural norm outside of the gangsters," says Geoffrey Canada, a nationally recognized educator and anti-violence advocate.

"It was not for regular citizens. It is now a cultural norm that is being preached in poor communities." Canada has been working with children in Harlem for more than 20 years. He grew up poor in a tough New York neighborhood, but says the message kids are getting today is very different and dangerous. "So this slogan, this 'stop snitchin'.' It now extends to rape, robbery, murder, really any crime?" Cooper asks.

"Any crime," Canada says. "It's like we're saying to the criminals, 'You can have our community. Just have our community. Do anything you want, and we will either deal with it ourselves, or we'll simply ignore it.'" Canada could no longer ignore it on Feb. 5, 2006, when Israel Ramirez, a student he had mentored and loved like a son, was shot to death outside a soundstage in Brooklyn. Ramirez was working as a bodyguard for the rap star Busta Rhymes, who was making a music video. A person who was there told 60 Minutes Ramirez was shot in front of Busta Rhymes. He died at the scene two days before his 29th birthday, leaving a wife and three children behind. "You know, I just think of him, being shot, falling down, probably thinking, 'This might be it.' And I just wonder, who held his hand? Who caressed his head? Who told him, 'I'm gonna be here?' Who stayed with him? Who made sure this man just didn't die alone for nothing?" Canada wonders. New York City Police Commissioner Ray Kelly says there were at least 25 people who may have witnessed the shooting. But he says nobody has come forward to testify. "The people that we've located, either were inside and didn't see anything. Or you'll get a version of, 'I have to work in this business. Ask Busta Rhymes what happened,'" Commissioner Kelly says. The police would like to ask Busta Rhymes what happened but, even though he talked vaguely about the killing on a cable TV show, he refused to talk to investigators, or to 60 Minutes. Geoffrey Canada believes it's because Busta Rhymes doesn't want to jeopardize sales of his music and videos; Canada says being labeled

*Continued on page 17*

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8. 1st. black police officer
9. 1st. black clerk hired at city hall
10. Safer streets for our citizens
11. Curtail drugs in our town
12. Kept taxes at a minimum
13. Maintaining the name Bradford Campus at Rusk Primary
14. Voted to keep the city bus in operation
15. Voted to keep the swimming pool open
16. Voted removal of junk cars/property cleanup and
17. Removal of 22 dilapidated houses in District 2 alone



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# "A CHINESE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

--By Gilbert Young

One of the greatest men in history once said if a man is not willing to stand for something he, he will fall for anything. I believe that to be true. In today's society, standing up for a belief—especially if it seems politically incorrect—can be the same falling. As a professional who just turned sixty-five, I know that to be true. Still, I'm willing to yell at the top of my lungs my disgust at the decision made by the King Memorial Foundation to choose a Chinese artist to sculpt the image of Martin Luther King Jr., for the first ever national memorial to an African American man.

Where are those who are supposed to protect the ideals and champion the cause? Among those pretending to be in charge are obviously too many who can not see the travesty of justice in having the "national treasure of China," Lei Yixin—that's Communist China—sculpt the center piece of the most important African American monument, in recognition of the most important African American movement in the history of the United States. A movement that never could have taken place in China. I am appalled. Is it that Alpha Phi Alpha, one of the country's oldest African American fraternities, and the executive staff of the King Memorial project—also all black, and the Memorial Foundation Leadership, could not find one African American sculptor good enough to create a likeness of King? That's crazy. You best believe, there is not ONE national memorial, not ONE monument to a leader or historical event in China, Russia, France, Italy, India, Germany—go ahead and name them all—that has the name of an African American artist engraved in its base. It's probably not that they don't like us or appreciate our abilities. It's that a commission of such importance is a legacy for a country and its countrymen. Why should the King Monument be any different?

Here was the opportunity for a national monument to a Black man in Washington D.C., to be created, developed, designed, and executed by the best that African America arts and culture and development has to offer, a testament to all our own achievements as Black people who benefited from Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement. There won't be a second chance to make our first impression. Yet once again our worth is kicked to the curb. So far, creating and developing the site of the King Memorial has gone to the ROMA Group, out of San Francisco, a group headed by Boris Dramov. The historic centerpiece of the King Memorial is supposed to be created by the Chinese guy. So let's see—that leaves the digging and hauling, which in some folks' eyes may be appropriate because this nation was built on the backs of Blacks. I, for one, am not willing to bob my head and grin over the fact that some Black subcontractor will be employed to move the dirt. Nor am I willing to allow my children's children to visit a memorial that will not reflect African American art and culture and artistry. What was the Civil Rights Movement all about?

Lei Yixin is politics, and politics was not King's way. We all know, as U.S. citizens, how much money our government owes the Chinese (and everybody else). But here's the thing: the artistic accomplishments of African Americans has long been celebrated. We too have national treasures, and low and behold some of them are sculptors. More importantly, politics should not be allowed to sell the legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the historic impact of the Civil Rights movement to the Chinese.

"The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by Lei Yixin" Whose artistry and history will that plaque honor 300 years from now? The answer is NOT OURS. As an artist, I stand against it—even if I stand alone.

~ Gilbert Young

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Annual Women's Day

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