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Tennessee's First Black Female Publisher "We add wisdom to knowledge. - Kalenjin ..." Voted Tennessee's Number One Black Newspaper

NASHVILLE IRS SAYS OVER 20,000 TENNESSEANS DUE REFUNDS MAY NOT HAVE FILED IN TIME



From left are Margaret Irvine, Ana Brown and Judy Barnes, three of the Taxpayer Assistance Center workers offering tax help

Many due refunds, or having failed to file, may be eligible for assistance - Tips on late filing, e-filing, tax credits and appeals

By Howard M. Romaine, Attorney, Tribune writer

Dan Boone, a spokesman for the Internal Revenue Service, located in the Nashville Metro area in the Kefauver Building, at 801 Broadway, just down from the FRIST Center, said that earlier this year the IRS reported over 20,000 (22,000 to be exact) Tennesseans appeared to be due refunds for the 2006 Tax Year, ending in December, 2006, but had not filed.

When a three year deadline for refunds based on tax returns filed passed in April of this year, those refunds were lost to the taxpayers, barring some legally obtained extension or exception.

He also said that for taxpayers making less than \$49,000 a year, there are volunteer tax advisers available, after the first of the year, to assist in filing of current year tax returns. For those overdue on filing, whether one year or ten, the local staff is most helpful in aiding delinquent taxpayers to get back on track. Those seeking volunteer assistance can call United Way at 2-1-1, to find a near location assistance place.

In a lengthy interview, Mr. Boone reviewed IRS rules on credits, (amounts which can directly reduce taxes, or even qualify the taxpayer for case refunds), as well as tax procedures, tax assistance at the downtown office or informally, and IRS procedures for late tax payers, taxpayers who haven't filed for some time, and tax-payers who want to use the available credits, or electronic filing procedures, but may have not kept up with developments.

See IRS Page 4 A

The College Trust Fund's Annual Martin Luther King Banquet Features Dr. Michael L. Lomax

Nashville, TN. The College Trust Fund's January 14, 2011 annual Martin Luther King Banquet will feature Dr. Michael L. Lomax.

Since 2004, Dr. Michael L. Lomax has been president and chief executive officer of UNCF, the nation's largest private provider of scholarships and other educational support to minority and low-income students. Before coming to UNCF, Dr. Lomax was president of UNCF member-institution Dillard University in New Orleans, and a literature professor at UNCF member-institutions Morehouse and Spelman Colleges. He also served as chairman of the Fulton County Commission in Atlanta, the first African American elected to that post.

Throughout his career, Dr. Lomax has worked to provide educational opportunities for under-represented Americans. As president and CEO of UNCF, he oversees UNCF's 400 scholarship programs, including the UNCF Gates Millennium Scholars Program, a twenty-year, \$1.6 billion program whose 14,000 low-income minority re-



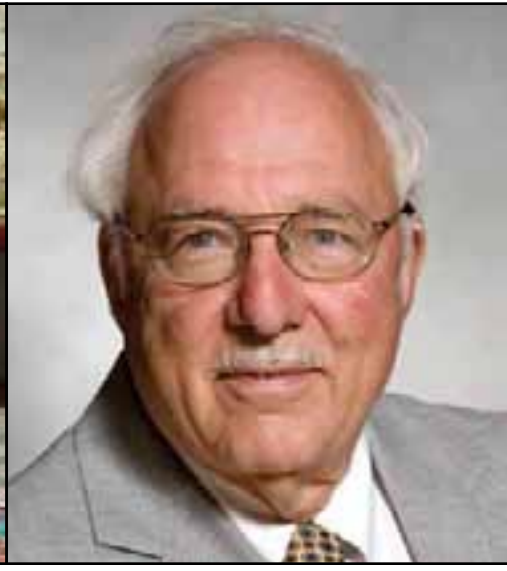
Dr. Michael L. Lomax, Ph.D. Martin Luther King Banquet Speaker. Photo: Timothy Greenfield-Sanders

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Tennesseans to be Honored on International Human Rights Day



Jocelyn Wurzburg



Rev. Dr. Don Beisswenger



Dr. Tommie Morton Young

Nashville, TN. Three Tennesseans, Jocelyn Wurzburg, Rev. Dr. Don Beisswenger, and Dr. Tommie Morton Young, were presented with the Human Rights Advocate Award at a celebration of International Human Rights Day on December 9, 2010 at the Nashville Main Public Library. This award is given annually to individuals who have dedicated their lives to ending discrimination and promoting human rights.

Wurzburg, an attorney and civil rights activist, drafted Tennessee's first anti-discrimination law in employment and public accommodations in the 1970s. She founded the Memphis Panel of American Women, a project to address religious and racial prejudice, served President Gerald Ford on the International Women's Year Commission.

Beisswenger, a retired Vanderbilt University Divinity professor, was imprisoned in 2004 for his act of civil disobedience against the School of the Americas. He is a respected author who has co-edited five volumes of Theological Field Education and was instrumental in registering disenfranchised voters in the South during the Civil Rights Movement.

Morton-Young is an author, scholar and activist that has been advocating for women, minorities, and the disadvan-

taged throughout her distinguished career. She initiated hearings by the US Commission on Civil Rights on pay equity for women and minorities and school placement of students. She was the first African American to graduate from the Vanderbilt University Peabody College for Teachers.

The theme of International Human Rights Day for 2010, designated by the United Nations, is "human rights defenders who act to end discrimination." Human Rights Day began in 1950 when the General Assembly of the United Nations declared December 10th as official day of recognition. The purpose of the day is to celebrate the anniversary date of the assertion of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to promote efforts to improve human rights. The Tennessee Human Rights Commission has joined with the Metro Human Relations Commission, Church of Scientology, TN AFL-CIO, the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition and other non-profit human rights organizations to hold the annual celebration in recognition of the day.

For more information, visit www.nashvillehumanrights.org.



Former Tennessee Tribune Intern Launches

"BReaKiNG iNTo HoLLyWooD" Book Nationwide to Inspire Artists to Pursue Their Dream

Los Angeles, Calif. - The book, "BReaKiNG iNTo HoLLyWooD," is now released nationwide and is written by author Angela M. Hutchinson, a former Tennessee Tribune intern. The comedic memoir is based on Hutchinson's colorful experiences while pursuing her entertainment career in the glitz n' glam capital of the world. From her solo cross-country road trip at 22-years-old from Chicago to Los Angeles, to her crazy roommates, to establishing success as an industry insider, to marriage and motherhood, Hutchinson's vibrant journey will pique your interest, ignite your dream, and make you LOL. No matter what your dream, "BReaKiNG iNTo HoLLyWooD" will inspire you to achieve it. The official book signing and author Q&A will take place at The Writers Store in Burbank, California on Wednesday, December 15, 2010 at 6:00 P.M. With the holidays around the corner, this is a great gift for anyone with passion for a dream. Read the book today, break into Hollywood tomorrow! To purchase the book, visit Amazon.com.

Book Reviews

"BReaKiNG iNTo HoLLyWooD' changed my life. I made my 'Lights, Camera, Action Plan' as soon as I finished reading the book!" -Actress/Singer, Los Angeles
 "Even though I have no affiliation with entertainment, the book gave me the confidence and courage to pursue my dream of starting my own business." - Loan Officer, Chicago

"EXCELLENT... A very informative industry resource that I highly recommend for all artists!" -Director/Writer/Producer, Hollywood

About the Author

Angela M. Hutchinson has over eight years of experience in the entertainment industry. She has worked for Warner Bros., MGM, and the Grammys. Hutchinson is a scriptwriter, casting director, and former talent agent with RPM Talent Agency. Inside her comedic memoir, "BReaKiNG iNTo HoLLyWooD," Hutchinson shares her personal stories, industry resources, and insider tips



Angela M. Hutchinson

to breaking into Hollywood. As a talent agent, Hutchinson helped actors get their SAG card and land roles in films, TV shows, commercials and plays. As a writer, she received \$20,000 for her first paid writing assignment, and served as the first African American president of the Scriptwriters Network, since the organization was founded in 1986. As founder of the Los Angeles-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Breaking into Hollywood, Hutchinson has helped hundreds of industry professionals pursue their entertainment careers with integrity, creativity and enthusiasm. Hutchinson earned her B.S.E. in Industrial Operations Engineering from the University of Michigan and a Cross-Media Journalism certificate from USC. She resides in Los Angeles with her husband and two young children. To learn more about Angela, explore www.bih-ent.com.

Buy Your Book Today!
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In case you forget, the gas cap is on the right.

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2011 LTZ as shown, \$29,315³

¹ EPA estimates for FWD models. ² EPA estimated MPG highway (2WD): CR-V, 28; RAV4, 28; Escape Hybrid, 31. ³ MSRP. Tax, title, license, dealer fees and optional equipment extra. The Best Buy Seal is a registered trademark of Consumers Digest Communications, LLC, used under license. Chevrolet and Equinox are registered trademarks and Chevy is a trademark of General Motors. ©2010 General Motors. Buckle up, America!



Game-Day Express to Operate Today, December 9

NASHVILLE – The Regional Transportation Authority's (RTA) Game-Day Express service is available for NFL fans needing transportation to Thursday's game at LP Field. The RTA runs one Music City Star train on game days. Cost is \$15 for an advance single-game ticket or \$20 for a game-day purchase on the train. Parking is free at all of the outlying stations. Please note that regular weekday Music City Star tickets are not valid on the Game-Day Express train. For Thursday's game, the Music City Star will operate the schedule listed below:

- Depart from Lebanon Station 3:55 p.m.
- Depart from Martha Station 4:06 p.m.
- Depart from Mt. Juliet Station 4:15 p.m.
- Depart from Hermitage Station 4:22 p.m.
- Depart from Donelson Station 4:35 p.m.
- Arrive at Riverfront Station 4:50 p.m.

The return train to Lebanon leaves Riverfront Station 45 minutes

after the game. Passengers may tailgate at the outlying train stations prior to the game and also may tailgate on the train. In addition, they may bring small coolers onboard and leave them on the train upon arrival at Riverfront Station.



Game-Day Express tickets are available at the following locations:

- Online at musiccitystar.org (credit card only)
- At the Donelson Hermitage Chamber of Commerce, Lebanon City Hall, Lebanon Chamber of Commerce, Mt. Juliet City Hall, Music City Central and Riverfront Station
- By phone at (615) 862-5950 (MasterCard and Visa accepted)
- By mail to the RTA office, 130 Nestor St., Nashville, Tenn.
- Game day on the train (cash only)

A handling fee of \$2.50 (\$5 for certified mail) will be applied to all mail, phone and online orders. More information about Game-Day Express service as well as an electronic version of the new Game-Day Express brochure is available online at musiccitystar.org. For additional information, contact Customer Care at (615) 862-5950 weekdays from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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HOURS MAY VARY BY STORE. VISIT MACYS.COM AND CLICK ON STORES FOR LOCAL INFORMATION

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 LIMIT ONE PER CUSTOMER. CANNOT BE USED ON SPECIALS OR SUPER BUYS

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TJC Calls on State to Honor Its Promise to Children after Court Ruling in TennCare Case

Nashville, TN -- The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals has rejected TennCare's long effort to get out of its promise made in 1998 to improve health care for the 700,000 Tennessee children who are enrolled in TennCare. The federal court refused to set aside a 1998 court agreement in which the state promised to bring TennCare up to minimum federal quality standards for children. The case now goes back to the lower court to enforce the agreement, and to hear further state arguments that limited parts of the agreement should be modified. "This decision should be a wake-up call for state officials who had hoped TennCare would get a pass on meeting its moral and legal obligations to our children," said Michele Johnson, of the Tennessee Justice Center, a public interest law firm in Nashville. Johnson is the lead attorney representing the children in the case.

She said, "The state has spent millions of dollars in legal fees paid to lawyers in Washington, D.C. while battling to avoid its commitments to our children. It is our hope -- now that it is clear that the consent decree and the federal courts are not going away -- that state officials will focus their priorities on improving care for children. It is tragic that money that should have been spent taking care of children was wasted on this failed legal effort."

According to public health data, Tennessee ranks near the bottom nationally in infant mortality rates and in status of children's health. The low income mothers and children enrolled in TennCare are most at risk.

Johnson noted that courts found in 2001 that TennCare had not met any of the major federal requirements, and that children across the state were suffering as a result. In 2007, a panel of independent monitors said the state was still unable to show meaningful improvement. The federal court asked the state in 2006 for its plan to comply with the federal standards, but officials instead demanded that the case be set aside. That demand was finally rejected in the Court of Appeals' ruling this week.

Johnson explained, "TennCare pays its HMO contractors each month in advance, whether they meet the standards or not. This lawsuit is not about asking the state to spend more money. It's about requiring TennCare to demand value for the taxpayer dollars already spent."

The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals criticized the lack of progress in addressing an August 2004 request on behalf of TennCare children for further court relief and ordered that the case be reassigned to a new judge.

Johnson praised the diligence and dedication of the lower court judges who have presided over the case and blamed the lack of progress on what she called a "scorched earth" legal strategy by the state's out-of-state counsel. In a 2007 ruling, a Sixth Circuit judge stated:

It is clear that the district court's focus has been to assist the parties in forging a solution that would ensure that Tennessee's children receive the benefits owed to them under the Consent Decree and federal law. Defendants' continual noncompliance and acrimonious litigation practice has unfortunately steered this case away from such goal, with the costs borne by the judicial system and the citizens of Tennessee.

In this week's ruling, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals said that the Washington lawyers hired by the state "... have pursued a strategy of contention that contributes substantially to the complexity of this litigation and creates challenges for the court."

Johnson stated, "It is time for state leaders to get serious about TennCare failings that every day hurt children who have serious disabilities or who suffer from cancer, asthma or mental illness. When you talk about children's health, you are not just talking about their wellbeing right now, but about Tennessee's future for years to come. Failing to meet the needs of children now will only cost us more as they grow up."

A Weekly Column by Judge Greg Mathis



JUSTICE FOR BLACK FARMERS

After decades of struggle, it appears that Black and Native American farmers will finally receive compensation – in the form of nearly \$4.6 billion - from the

federal government for injustices carried out against them.

In 1997, 400 black farmers joined in a class action lawsuit against the United States Department of Agriculture, alleging they were unfairly denied governmental loans and other support. The farmers ultimately won their lawsuit but over \$1 billion of that settlement was never paid out. \$1.2 billion of the \$4.6 approved by Congress will finish paying off that debt.

Native American farmers have waited just as long for financial justice. In 1996, a group of Native American farmers sued both the U.S. Department of the Interior and the Department of the Treasury. In their suit, they alleged the government cheated approximately 300,000 Native Americans out of royalties owed to them from leases on tribal land, used to harvest oil and other resources, dating back to 1887. The settlement approved by Congress provides \$3.4 billion to the farmers: \$1.4 billion will go directly to them, the government will use \$2 billion to repurchase Indian land and another \$60 million will be used to fund scholarships for Native American students.

Though there were dissenters, the settlement received support from both Democrats and Republicans... and rightly so. This country has a long and storied history of social and economic discrimination – against both African Americans and Native Americans. No amount of money can begin to repay the psychological debts caused by social injustices. But this settlement will help repair the financial damage that economic injustice causes.

Like most things, this fight for justice took some time to win. Let's hope – as President Obama does – that the settlement will be used as a basis to resolve similar suits.

BUSINESS EXCHANGE

DID YOU SEE THE NOVEMBER UNEMPLOYMENT NUMBERS? “Are These Great Days Or What?”



William Reed

Are you concerned in any way that the economic plight of Blacks in America remains such a low priority for the Barack Obama administration? The numbers tell a story that needs to be heard. According to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, in November 2010 the number of unemployed African American increased to 2.8 million. Be it a Black American President, or White, Black Americans are always languish in employment. November's numbers show the nation's unemployment rate having climbed to a seven-month high - 9.8 percent. Fifteen million Americans are currently out of work: 7.3% of them are Asians, 8.7% are Whites, 12.4% are Hispanic and 16.1% are African Americans.

Black Americans have been out-of-work so long they willingly accept the Obama Administration's benign neglect. Blacks support Obama 90 percent, yet their employment opportunities have suffered the worse of all. When Obama took office in January 2009, Black employment stood at 12.6 percent. By December 2009, African American unemployment had increased to 16.2 percent and to the highest rate since July of 1984. The nation's jobless rate has now topped 9 percent for 19 straight months. The lack of activity and job production is causing the majority of Americans great angst, but there's few complaints among African Americans about Obama sad performance.

A recent Associated Press poll showed 61 percent of people believe the economy has “stayed the same” or “gotten worse” under Obama and are “frustrated with the slow rate of progress”. Less than half of Americans approve of Obama's handling of the economy. Republican National Committee (RNC) Chairman Michael Steele says that “President Obama's agenda of out-of-control spending, higher taxes, and bigger government has the economy moving in the wrong direction”. Obama says that recovery is coming slowly but surely. “A lot of it is like recovering from an illness. You get a little bit stronger each day”. Obama asserts that we are moving in the right direction. The economy is getting stronger”.

When will Blacks cease being political partisans and call Obama out and tell him that “the economy is not going in the right direction for us? Look at these numbers: according to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Black unemployment under George W. Bush was lower than it has been at any time during Obama's presidency. Those actually interested in improving economic conditions for Black Americans will have to sever political alliances unproductive to us.

Since slavery, “unemployment” has been a major part of the African-American experience. The numbers show Obama's administration disturbingly silent on this important economic issue. When will Blacks pose questions regarding Obama's personal competency on these issues and ask “why” that key Obama economic advisors are unable or unwilling to process and empathize with the depths of Black economic misery in America? Most of Obama's people don't relate to economic inequality and seem to have little or no desire to make this a priority issue.

Unemployment is when a person is willing and available to work but is lacking work. The unemployment rate is defined by the percentage of people in the labor force who are currently unemployed. According to history and national statistics, the unemployment rate among Blacks is traditionally twice higher to that of whites. Throughout history, African Americans have been discriminated against in workplaces and in cases when they are able to gain employment it is normally at lower pay rates.

The numbers say Blacks are being played by Obama and the Democratic Party. If Blacks keep voting in mass for Obama, maybe in his second term, he will lend presidential powers toward confronting economic inequalities in America. But in reality, how long will it take for Black Americans to demand the creation of White House initiatives which provide much-needed national conversations and actions on race? There needs to be economic policies targeted to deal with chronic unemployment among Black teens and the nation's African American communities. Chronic Black unemployment cannot be ignored because it undermines community safety and deteriorates African American families.

(William Reed is available for speaking/seminar projects via BaileyGroup.org)

Santa Restructures



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PERSONAL COMMENTARIES

Dear Editor:

Are we living in a 21st Century “one-drop” rule? Many decades ago in America, there was a rule that stated, if you have one drop of “negro” blood, you're “negro”.

Today both black and white America seems to have acquiesced to the notion that if one parent is black, it doesn't matter what the race is of the other parent, you're black.

Our President is called black by mainstream America. Do you think that's a courtesy call? I've always had trouble with the context of this label. I have without reservation, smelled a flavor of the old “one-drop” rule!

I consider our great President to be Afro-American because I'm acknowledging his African father and his white American mother. It's all about context!

When white America refers to the President as afro-American, in most cases, he's seen as black.

If the president was just an ordinary citizen walking down the street and I came upon him of course I would think he's black, but America you know his mother is white and yet he's still black.

Yes, black America wants our President to be black because it's an emotional attempt to claim him as representing our race!

If the President's parents were Indian and Chinese, do you think main stream America would choose the race of one of those parents over the race of the other parent as the President's race? No!

To add a little humor, isn't it amazing that America can get it right with plants, but can't get it right with human beings! When you cross a tangerine with a grapefruit, you don't get a tangerine or a grapefruit, you get a tangelo! So how can you cross a white person with a black person and get a black person?

Historically, the black race was considered inferior. How can an inferior stock become so dominant, when paired with a different race?

I ask this question to a world renowned professor of psychiatry at Howard Medical School. He said, “For the majority of Americans, both black and white, the one drop rule still holds which is racist and defines so-called black blood as a dominant taint!”

I've attempted to get the national media to address this issue without success. Why? Because it's indefensible and it's too embarrassing to admit!

Irvin W. Howell, MS. MD. - Author

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Torrance, CA 90502

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Why it pays to invest in advertising and promotion

I have fond memories as a young advertising account executive attending a Martha White flour sales meeting. Martha White executive Cohen Williams, whom I addressed as “Mr. Williams,” expressed his philosophy for a successful year by saying, “Early to bed, early to rise, work like hell and advertise.”

Some of the world's most sophisticated stock market analysts have confirmed Mr. Williams' homespun philosophy, at least the advertising part. Deutsche Bank has decided that consistent advertising and promotion spending is a key predictor of corporate profitability over the long term, according to a recent Research Insights published by the American Association of Advertising Agencies.

Deutsche Bank analyzed the advertising investment, sales and financial performance of 30 firms selling consumer staples over a 15-year period. They concluded:

Brands are the lifeblood of consumer packaged-goods companies, and advertising and promotion build and protect the value of consumer brands.

Companies that increase their marketing spending relative to sales have 30 percent faster growth and increase profits 50 percent faster than companies that do not.

Companies that cut marketing spending in tight times may enjoy an immediate financial gain, but they will need to spend so much more to regain ground later that it is ultimately a losing proposition.

Firms that increased advertising and promotion spending over the last nine years have a sales base 25 percent higher than their peers. The research cited numerous examples of advertising investments that resulted in jumps in sales and increases in market share.

Winners stand out

Consider these sales gains: Audi's sales have grown 25 percent so far this year after a 15 percent advertising boost; Healthy Choice increased ad spending by 9 percent, and sales grew the same amount; General Mills increased advertising by 18 percent in 2009 and got an 11 percent growth in sales.

New York Life increased its market share from 3.6 percent to 5.4 percent after a 24 percent increase in ad budgets.

At Wal-Mart Stores Inc., Chief Marketing Officer Stephen Quinn offered a good explanation for his company's 14.2 percent advertising increase even in the teeth of 2009's miserable economy.

“Wal-Mart is a pretty tight ship when it comes to costs, and there is no way anybody would have approved the spending if they hadn't felt it was going to pay out,” he observed.

While not many brands have the marketing budgets of the major consumer packaged-goods companies studied, here's a smaller example: D'Agostino, a family-owned New York grocery chain, increased its media budget from \$9,000 in 2007 to \$168,000 in 2009 and garnered impressive results.

“Saving yourself to prosperity” is a fallacy. It always has been, and it always will be.

Thanks, Mr. Williams, for making the case for investing in advertising.

David Bohan

From IRS Page 1 A

Delinquent Taxpayer Interviewed - shocked and relieved at services and attitudes of IRS agents

One very delinquent taxpayer interviewed for this article, found the level of assistance available at the Kefauver tax office “more helpful than a car salesman, and as patient as a helpful relative.” This particular person had not filed in a number of years due to loss of records, anxiety about late filing, and plain old avoidance behavior. This particular taxpayer had not filed in over 5 years, and found that the IRS could supply him with records of all amounts paid him by prior employers, and other business payments, which he could then use to get his taxes current.

He also found that the employees at the local office were willing, able and glad to help him get these records, and work with him in explaining how to fill them out. As he made less than \$49,000.00 a year, he found he was also qualified to get special assistance in filing out the forms and filing for future years, and that the workers locally at 801 Broadway gave great assistance in completing overdue forms.

Dan Boone noted that the goal of the IRS is to “help people get current and in position to take advantage of a number of tax credits, tax incentives, and just the peace of mind of knowing that one's finances are current with the government.” The goal is not to burden the taxpayer un-necessarily but to make filing, collecting refunds, or paying overdue amounts as smooth and easy as possible, said Boone.

Personnel at Local Office

Many of the front line employees at the Nashville office have been working here for twenty years or more, and have a business-like, not-judgmental attitude toward the taxpayer, many of whom have been struggling because of the bad economic conditions. Accompanying this article is a photo of three of the workers there. The office opens early at 8:30 AM and is busy until close at 4:30 PM.

Check out December Events at

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Black Medical Schools Outperforming Their White Counterparts, Study Finds

NNPA - As the nation's healthcare system braces for an influx of newly insured patients, a new study published in the June 15 issue of *Annals of Internal Medicine* examines the record of the nation's medical schools in graduating physicians to meet this new public need. The study, the first to score all U.S. medical schools based on their ability to meet a social mission, reveals glaring differences among institutions with regard to their production of physicians who practice primary care, work in underserved areas, and are minorities.

The George Washington University study of 141 U.S. medical schools found that historically Black medical schools had the highest social mission rankings. In a Top 20 list of medical schools with the highest social mission rankings, Morehouse College, Meharry Medical College and Howard University ranking first, second and third respectively. Many of the institutions generally considered to be the most prestigious medical schools did not even make the Top 20 list.

In fact, many of the nation's most prestigious medical schools - including Duke University, Stanford University, Johns Hopkins University, Boston University and Columbia University - finished in the Bottom 20.

- The study also found that:
- Medical schools in the Northeast generally performed poorly on all three measures and, as such, had the lowest regional social mission scores.
 - Public medical schools graduated higher proportions of primary-care physicians than their private counterparts.
 - Schools with substantial National Institutes of Health research funding generally produced fewer primary-care physicians and physicians practicing in underserved areas, and thus had lower social mission scores overall.
 - Several large research institutions (notably the University of Minnesota and University of Washington) defied this trend, ranking in the top quartile for overall social mission score.
 - Osteopathic schools produced more primary-care physicians than allopathic schools but trained fewer minorities.
 - Schools in progressively smaller cities produced more primary-care physicians and physicians who practiced in underserved communities but graduated fewer minorities.

With medical schools expanding for the first time in over 30 years, the findings bring attention to the role that medical schools play in determining the makeup of the U.S. physician workforce. "Where doctors choose to work, and what specialty they select, are heavily influenced by medical school," lead author Fitzhugh Mullan, MD, a professor of health policy at George Washington University, said. "By recruiting minority



Meharry Medical College

students and prioritizing the training of primary-care physicians and promoting practice in underserved areas, medical schools will help deliver the health care that Americans desperately need," he says. The study was funded with a grant from the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation.

To determine the true outcomes of medical education rather than the intermediate preferences of medical students and residents, Mullan and his team studied physicians in practice after the completion of all training and national obligations (such as military service or National Health Service Corps placements). The researchers examined data from medical school graduates from 1999 to 2001, which provided a very different picture than previous studies. Previous analyses, such as the popular U.S. News & World Report rankings, have relied on the initial residency selection or reported specialty preference of students. The George Washington University study pinpoints where graduates are and what type of medicine they actually practice. The study provides a real-time and real-place report on the actual career selections of medical school graduates and the health care they currently provide.

The Top 20 schools with the highest social mission scores are: Morehouse College; Meharry Medical College; Howard University; Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine; University of Kansas; Michigan State University; East Carolina University Brody School of Medicine; University of South Alabama, Ponce Medical College; University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine; Oregon Health & Sciences University; East Tennessee State Univ. Quillen College of Medicine; University of Mississippi; University of Kentucky; Southern Illinois University; Marshall University; Joan C. Edwards University; University of Massachusetts Medical School Worcester; University of Illinois; University of New Mexico; and University of Wisconsin.

The 20 schools with the lowest social mission scores are: Johns Hopkins University; Stanford University; Duke University; Texas A&M University; Columbia University; Albany Medical College, Columbia University; Medical College of Wisconsin; University of Pennsylvania; Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine; Boston University; Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University; Stony Brook University; Thomas Jefferson University; Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences; University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey; New York University; University of California Irvine; Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine; University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center; and Vanderbilt University.

The authors of the study noted that these findings are important in the context of U.S. health care today.

"The social mission of medicine and medical education should be important to everyone. It isn't just about rural areas or just about poor people, it's about the entire fabric of how we deliver care," says Mullan. "As patients are insured through health reform, the first place they will go is the primary care office. Medical schools need to be mindful of the nation's requirements for primary care, for doctors prepared to work in underserved communities, and for minority physicians to help meet the growing and changing needs of the country."

Staff Reports

Special to the *The Tennessee Tribune* from the *Louisiana Weekly*

Accreditation Rulings for FISK and TSU

By Reginald Stuart

Fisk and Tennessee State universities were this week placed on "warning" status by the principal regional higher education rating agency, after it found both schools had failed to meet several areas of established criteria used to judge a school's abilities to carry out its mission.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), the Atlanta-based higher educa-



tion accrediting agency, issued the tough news to both schools at the conclusion this week in Louisville of its four-day annual meeting. Ten other HBCU seeking "reaffirmation" of their accreditation got the organization's stamp of approval, an endorsement that last for 10 years.

SACSCOC has more than 80 specific criteria schools must meet to win its prized endorsement which the federal government looks to in determining what schools can participate in a



variety of federally funded programs, including student aid. Private donors also look to such regional rating agencies for guidance on whom they will provide funds.

While the tedious SACSCOC reaccreditation process is based on 10 year cycles of measurement and reporting that oftentimes become outdated by "reaffirmation" time, as in the case of Fisk, they are still relied on more heavily by funding agencies than such popular ratings as the U.S. News and World Report annual survey and similar polls.

This week's ruling by SACSCOC maintains the full accreditation of both schools, although the "warning" status makes

See Accreditations Page 11 A

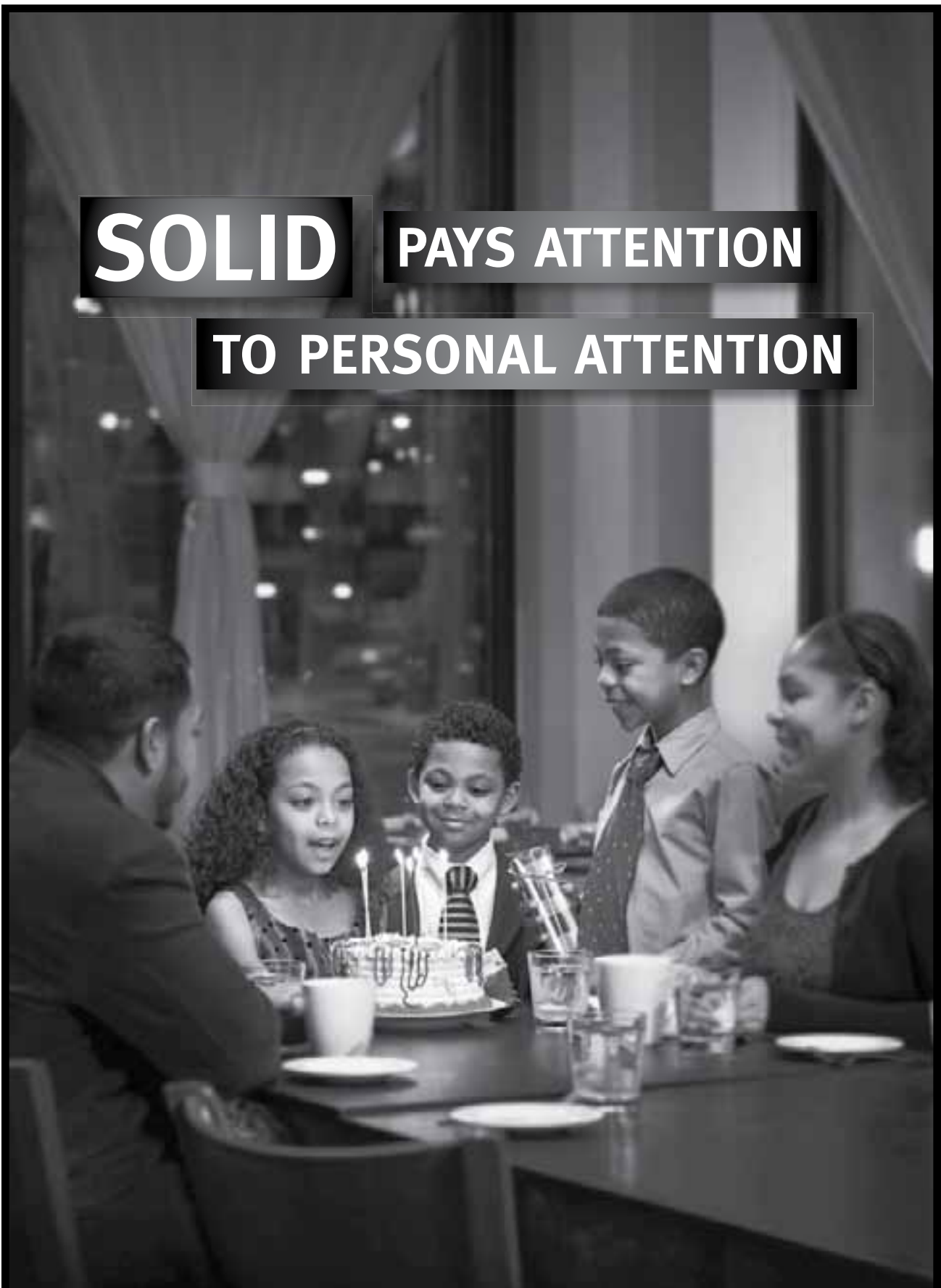
From College Page 1 A

Participants have a 90 percent college graduation rate. He also launched the UNCF Institute for Capacity Building, which helps UNCF's 39 member historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) become stronger, more effective and more self-sustaining in such critical areas as fundraising and building strong academic programs that prepare their students for careers in the global economy.

A leading advocate for the importance of cradle-through-college education for all Americans, Lomax is co-chair of the Education Equality Project, a member of the Aspen Institute's Commission on No Child Left Behind, and a member of the governing boards of Teach For America, the KIPP Foundation, and the National Alliance of Public Charter Schools. He is also a frequent contributor to the *National Journal's* Education Experts blog and author of the "MorehouseMan" blog at *Essence.com*. Lomax also serves on the board of the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of African American History and Culture and the Studio Museum of Harlem. He founded the National Black Arts Festival.

Rev. Marcel Kellar, Chairman of the Board of Directors stated that the College Trust Board of Directors has raised thousands of dollars for scholarships for students from Fisk, TSU, ABT and Meharry Medical College primarily from Churches and organizations in the Nashville Community. Rev. Kellar has appealed to every civic and social organization in Nashville to support this cause by sponsoring a table. Graduates from the 4 institutions are urged to attend and support their scholarship winners. Tables may be purchased at the College Trust Fund Office, Suite A, Tennessee Tribune Bldg., 1501 Jefferson Street. Invitations are \$75.00 or \$750 a table.

The banquet will be held at the Millennium Maxwell House Hotel 2025 Rosa L. Parks Boulevard The Grand Ballroom Time: Reception 6:30 PM Dinner Program 7:00 PM DATE: 14 January 2011 ATTIRE: Business



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Entertainment



COVER STORY

Minister Offers a "Music City Christmas" Invitation

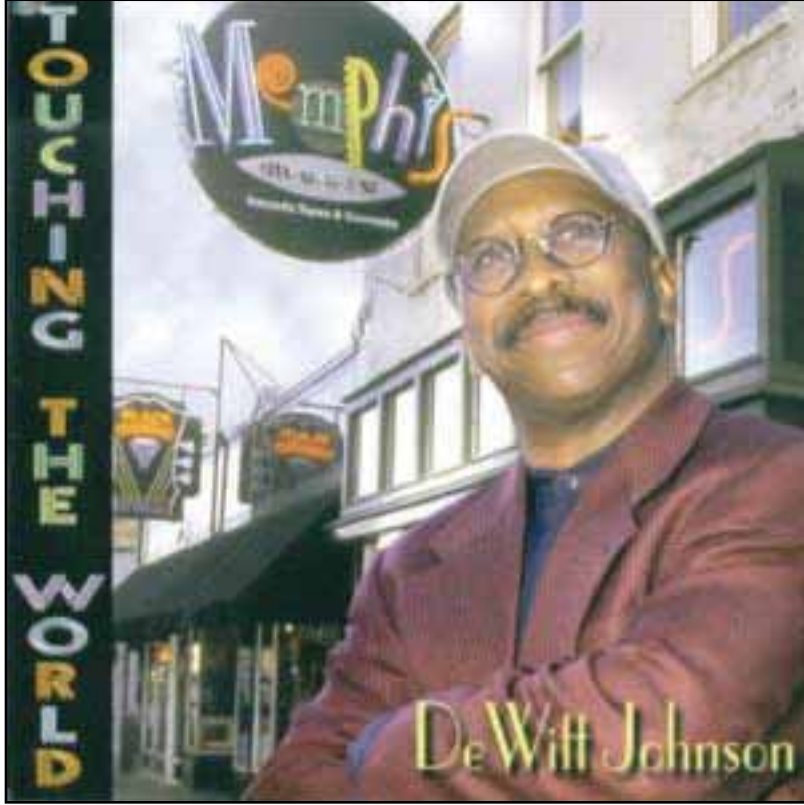
By Janice Malone

Gospel singer/songwriter and recording artist DeWitt Johnson and Touching The World Ministries, Inc. invites everyone to the television taping of their Music City Christmas. The show's theme is "God Gave Us His Very Best." Minister Johnson's weekly television show, "Touching The World," airs on Fox 17 (5:30 - 6:00 a.m.) on Sundays; and on News Channel-Plus on Saturdays from (12:30 - 1:00 a.m.)



DeWitt interviews guests during recent TV taping

The taping will take place December 12, 2010 at Jefferson's Restaurant 1036 Jefferson, from 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. "This is our annual Music City Broadcasting taping concert that will feature a wide variety of gospel artists from throughout the country," says Minister DeWitt. "We are especially excited this year because we are now airing the show on two major television stations. The public is invited and encouraged to attend the taping concert. The taping will feature an array of some of the most talented singers, locally and from around the country. Guests include:



One of Minister DeWitt's previous CD covers

Minister DeWitt says the taping will feature giveaway prizes for children and the community. Johnson will soon be celebrating his one year anniversary of his weekly gospel showcases at the popular Jefferson's eatery. He says, "I consider the gospel showcase shows that I do at Jefferson's as an extension of my ministry. It allows customers to come to the restaurant, enjoy good down home food, while we minister to them the gospel through music and songs." This will be the first time the TV show will be taped at Jefferson's. The weekly program has been taped at various churches and other locations around the city. Minister Johnson offers an invitation to other gospel groups, choirs, and solo artists who are interested in being a guest on the show to contact them for scheduling. (see contact information at end of story).



DeWitt Johnson & the Touching The World Singers

James DeWitt Johnson is considered by many to have been a child prodigy. Mr. Johnson believes his talents for playing and writing music is a God-given gift. The fourth of 11 children, he co-organized his first gospel group, The BC&M Choir, while he was still in high school in Nashville, Tennessee. For the last 12 years he has toured and recorded with such gospel greats as, The James Johnson Ensemble, along with numerous other choirs and groups. He has seen many of his original songs become standards in the music department of churches nationwide. "I just can't sit down and write," says DeWitt. "It has to be by Divine Inspiration. A song idea usually comes all at once, and I keep going over it until I come up with a title."

Several of his programs are used as themes for television and radio gospel music programs, including "Glad to be in God's Service," "I've Been Touched," "Nothing Gonna Hinder Me," and "Things Have Got To Get Better." In 1974, The James Johnson Ensemble's album, "The Harvest is Plentiful," won a gold record and was nominated for a Grammy Award. It remained on Billboard Magazine's Gospel for more than 100 Weeks. No list of credits can convey the kind of electricity DeWitt Johnson generates in his live performances.

Minister Johnson arranges and writes his own music and according to the multi-talented music minister, it all comes to life as Gospel music should when sung by true believers. If performing with choirs or background vocalists, the close harmony of high-voiced male and female voices, coupled with Johnson's masterly piano playing, creates irresistible excitement. This combination of fresh, sensitive material and superb delivery has made James "DeWitt" Johnson a sought after artist who has shared stages in every major U. S. city with Gospel icons such as: The Edwin Hawkins Singers, Shirley Caesar, Dr. Bobby Jones, Reverend James Cleveland, to name just a few.

Minister Johnson sang at the Summer Olympics in Barcelona, Spain headlining, Gladys Knight and The Pips. He also sang at the Montreaux Jazz Festival in Switzerland with Quincy Jones. And he's headlined with Gladys Knight and The Pips, Andre and Sandra Crouch, Take 6, Tramaine Hawkins, and as a back up singer with The Atlanta Super Choir. Johnson also took part in the 350-year anniversary in Montreal, Canada. He shared the stage with Mariah Carey, Joe Cocker, and Peabo Bryson when He sang his original song "Sing That Jesus Song." The song went on to become a hit in Europe. Minister DeWitt recently played a leading role in the Gospel Production, "You Gotta Believe It." Johnson says being a part of this productions has provided him even greater experiences in his ministerial outreach for Jesus Christ.

He presently maintains his Music Ministry touring throughout the world, through his concerts, his own local television program, and his music recordings. His dynamic style is emulated by other musicians in virtually every segment of the gospel world. For more than a decade he has been reigning favorite among religious music lovers. "DeWitt has received a number of awards to include a Gold Album for the album The Harvest is Plentiful and The Arkansas Traveler from the Governor of Arkansas.

He's been invited to perform in Nairobi, Kenya. DeWitt says, "A group of pastors in Kenya have heard about the ministry we're doing here with the TV show and they've invited me to come to their country to sing and minister to the wonderful people of Kenya. We plan on taking our television cameras and showcase some of their gospel singers back here to people in this country. We are now working on getting an official date to make the trip." Sometime next month, Minister Johnson will be back in the studio to record a new single, "From The Bottom To The Top," an original song that he wrote that encourages listeners God's power to take believers through the struggles of life back to success again.

Want to be a guest on Minister DeWitt Johnson's weekly TV show? For any gospel talent who wants to be a guest on his TV show they need to contact Jimmy Bender at 615.589.4900 or Peaches-7 at 615.509.0469. Or visit his website at www.dewittjohnson.com.

A Joyful Noise

You are invited to "A Joyful Noise," the Bosch Institute's Annual Community Concert. See flyer below (In case the flyer doesn't appear, the date is Sunday, December 12 at 4PM at Woodbine United Methodist Church, 2621 Nolensville Pike in So. Nashville. Admission is FREE, donations accepted). No need to RSVP, just show up if you can and feel free to spread the word. Hope to see you in the audience!



The Gift of the Magi

Street Theatre Company presents the famous tale The Gift of the Magi, an O. Henry classic story. His stories are known for their wit, wordplay, warm characterizations and clever twist endings. Set in the 1930s, audiences will meet Gran and Papa as they remember tales of living in the city before the turn of the



20th century. So bring the kids and grandparents, too. A caroling choir, warm apple cider, and these tales of love, sacrifice and mercy are sure to make your season bright! FOUR SHOWS ONLY, DECEMBER 10-18 and FRIDAYS at 7 p.m. and SATURDAYS at 2 p.m.

New Year's Eve Quest for Father Time

December 31, 2010 at 7:00 pm. Looking for unique and fabulous fun this New Year's Eve? Come join Ravenchase Adventures for the Fifth Annual Quest for Father Time adventure race and after-party! Get the complete details at www.fathertimerace.com Contact: (888) 702-9039 or at (615) 509-7055. If there's a wocket in your pocket and a zain in your brain, you may indeed have what it takes to win this golden game. Come join us for this fantastic holiday event. This driving event is for beginner and advanced levels. The Ravenchase staff will meet teams at the beginning of the race with instructions, antiqued treasure maps, clues, and gadgets to use throughout the race. Teams will race to solve as many clues as possible and meet at the end location where fabulously tacky prizes including the ever fabulously wonderful Golden Grinch, will be awarded to the top three teams. \$20 per player. Contact: (888) 702-9039 or at (615) 509-7055. http://ravenchase.com/public_events/index.php



Everything Kerry

PAGE 8 A



Duty is Young & Fun

PAGE 8 A

It's a Wonderful Nashville

PAGE 10 A



Buble Rocks Nashville

Page 10 A



Kam's Kolumn

Kerry Washington: On Everything from Films to Family to President Obama

By Kam Williams

Winner of the 2005 NAACP Image Award as the "Outstanding Actress in a Motion Picture" for Ray, Kerry Washington is a versatile, talented and fearless actress who has built an impressive list of credits over the course of her relatively brief career. She has also garnered critical acclaim for recent roles in Mother and Child, The Last King of Scotland, The Dead Girl and Lakeview Terrace. Kerry made her feature film debut in Our Song in 2000, and has since co-starred in Fantastic Four and its sequel Rise of the Silver Surfer, I Think I Love My Wife, Little Man, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, She Hate Me, Against the Ropes, The Human Stain, and Save the Last Dance for which she received a Teen Choice Award for Best Breakout Performance. She will soon be seen opposite Eddie Murphy in A Thousand Words and then in We the Peeples, an ensemble comedy featuring Craig Robinson, David Alan Grier, Tyler James Williams and S. Epatha Merkerson. She currently has two films in theaters, For Colored Girls and Night Catches Us. Kerry is an active member on the Board of Directors for The Creative Coalition, a group dedicated to raising awareness of First Amendment Rights and to the support of the arts in education. Plus, she's a member of the V-Counsel, a group of advisors to V-Day, the global movement to end violence against women and girls (www.vday.org). As for endorsement deals, Kerry is a spokesperson for both L'Oreal Paris and Movado.

KW: Thanks. I told my readers I'd be interviewing you, so I think we should get right to their many questions. Children's book author Irene Smalls asks: What attracted you to the role of Kelly in For Colored Girls?

Kerry: I really just wanted to be a part of the production. I had heard a rumor that Tyler [Perry] was directing it, I so I approached him at one of these industry parties, and said, "If it's true, I want in, because it's such an important piece of literature."

KW: Irene says: This play was written some time ago. Do you think it is still relevant to today's black woman?

Kerry: I do. I do. I think the play is still relevant to all human beings, not just black women.



Actress Terry Washington in dressed in red in a scene from the new film Night Catches Us

KW: FSU grad Laz Lyles asks: What is it about Tyler Perry that enabled him to assemble such an accomplished cast?

Kerry: He's a very inspiring person, when you look at the empire that he has created and built on his own. He wasn't born into it.

KW: FSU grad Laz Lyles asks: With a text this powerful, what was the self-discovery factor like? Were there any dormant traits that unexpectedly came to the surface?

Kerry: It was really fun for me to do this because I was coming off doing the David Mamet play "Race," on Broadway. And that character was so forceful and angry and smart and sharp and verbally articulate. Kelly is almost the opposite. She's very vulnerable and soft in a good way.

See Washington Page 9 A

Rych's Corner

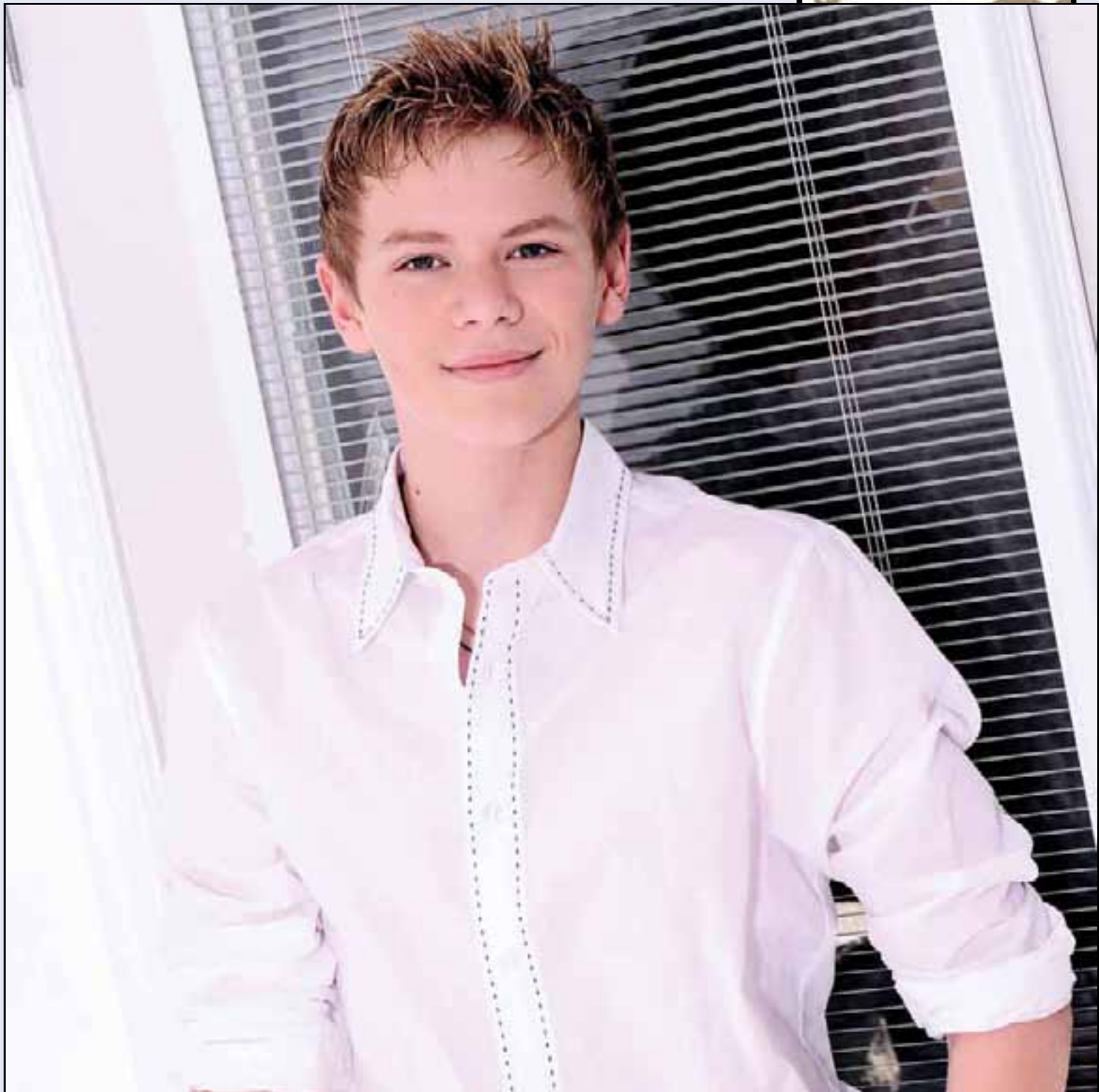
Kenton Duty—Young And Keeping It Fun!

By Rych McCain

Being young in Hollywood is not the cake walk most people perceive it to be. It takes sacrifice and hard work to get there and even more of the same to stay there. Fifteen year old Kenton Duty is a teen actor who has proven to be made from the right stuff, so to speak, to earn and keep a place in tinsel town. This columnist was very impressed with the ease and confidence that Duty exhibited during the interview for this print photo feature. The Plano, Texas native began acting at age nine with a role in The Dallas Theatre Center Stage Production of "A Christmas Carol," and later appeared in the stage production of "Ragtime." He was discovered by top Hollywood children's agent Cindy Osbrink while completing a workshop in Dallas. Soon after, Duty started to commute between Dallas and L.A. to shoot commercials. His parents were confident their son had the discipline, drive and determination to make it so they relocated the entire family to Los Angeles.

Their decision paid off as Duty began to book more TV commercials, and skits on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," along with TV show guest roles. Duty's big break came in the form of a role on the mega-hit TV show "Lost!" He played the island boy Jacob but no one knew who he was (not even Duty himself) until almost the final episode. Duty then signed on to co-star on the new Disney Channel show "Shake It Up." The show debuted to a record 6.1 million viewers and became an instant smash hit! When he thinks back to his parents making the decision to relocate to L.A. and it actually worked, what is his reaction knowing that many parents wouldn't have made that kind of move? Duty is quick with that answer, "What you just said is completely true and I am really grateful that my parents have enough faith in me and had enough faith in me to say, 'You know what, we're going to do this. We're going to try it and if it doesn't work out, it doesn't work out but if it does, we'll be really ecstatic about it.' That was our mental thing. So when I didn't get a job there was no pressure, which was really nice.

On "Shake It Up" Duty plays as Gunther, who has a fraternal twin sister named Tinka. In describing his character Duty says, "Gunther is a very confident person. He thinks he's the best at everything. That's just because he not only trained really hard, but he's trained with the best and he's worked very hard to get to where he is. I think he's got that nice competitive edge. The show is shot in front of a live audience, which Duty loves. He lights up, "It's so much fun because they give you that really positive energy and they give you the feedback when you're in the middle of filming. It reminds me of when I was doing theatre because it is pretty much the same way. Everybody was always there for everyone else and it was

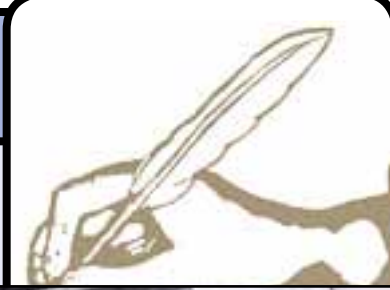


Teen actor Kenton Duty co-stars on the teen hit show Shake It Up

just a really good time and you had a blast doing it."

Is Duty preparing for the stage when he'll have to make the transition from child actor to adult actor which many don't get through? He responds, "My parents are definitely keeping me grounded no matter what has happened. Whatever I have gotten they have kept me humble and I know that is going to stay with me my entire life. Even after they have gone they will always be in my heart so that stage will be much simpler for us."

feedbackrych@sbcglobal.net
Photo by SBPR



TERRI'S REVIEW

“The Night Before Christmas in Africa” by Jesse, Hannah, and Carroll Foster, illustrated by Jean Christodoulou

Review by Terri Schlichenmeyer

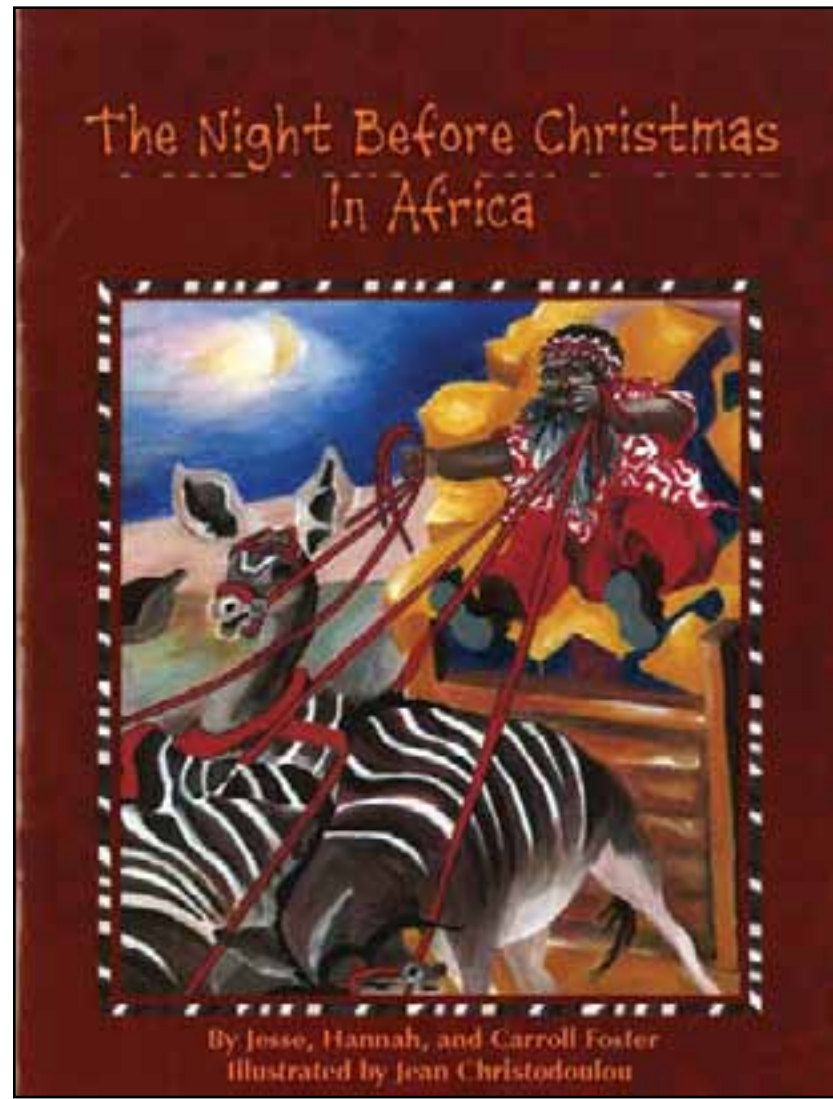
At about this time every year, you begin to worry and wonder about some very important things. Have you, for instance, been a good kid – good enough for a visit from St. Nick? Will Santa be able to find your house? Does he prefer chocolate chip cookies, sugar cookies with sprinkles, or is he more of a peanut butter cookie kind of guy? And if you don't have a chimney, how in the world can he ever leave presents? The good news is that you can stop worrying. As you'll see when you read “The Night Before Christmas in Africa” by Jesse, Hannah, and Carroll Foster, illustrated by Jean Christodoulou, Santa Claus can arrive anywhere, anytime, and he might look very different.

Twas the night before Christmas, and it was dry on the African plain. The cattle were thirsty, there wasn't a cloud in the sky, and there was certainly no snow. Monkeys chattered in the treetops. Maybe they were thirsty, too? The children were settled down for bed that night, sleeping on mats on the hard, dry ground, while Mama brought pots inside. Her eldest son waited outside, hoping for rain, when he heard a sound from far away. What could that be? He listened...And then he saw an incredible sight! It was a donkey cart being pulled by six kudu and a black rhinoceros, and it was piled high with presents. Inside the cart was a man with a long, flowing beard, wearing red from his ankles to the duku on his head. He stopped the cart, stepped out, and opened

his heavy sack. And oh, the most amazing things were in that sack! There was candy for the children and piles of toys, a chair for Gogo, chickens for Mama, and a hat for Kulu.

The old man laid the presents out and asked the young man what he wanted for his gift. Candy and toys were nice for children, and chickens were a good choice for Mama, but what the young man wanted more than anything was rain. Lots of refreshing rain.

Silently, the man in red returned to his sled as a rumble of thunder came from afar. The young man stood. What, to his wondering ears, did he hear? Sometimes, despite the fact that we love old holiday favorites, it's easy to become a little tired of them. If that's the case, you'll find “The Night Before Christmas in Africa” is a nice twist on the usual. As the story goes, author Carroll Foster's children wondered why they never heard African Christmas stories, so Foster simply created one for them. In this re-release of a book once chosen by Oprah as one of her “favorite things”, you'll get Foster's cute rhyming story with a bonus: you'll also be treated to beautifully lush, colorful illustrations from South African artist Jean Christodoulou. If your little one is getting antsy about Santa's visit, this book is a nice diversion. “The Night Before Christmas in Africa” is perfect for their ho-ho-holidays.



c.2004, 2010, Pelican Publishing Company \$16.99 32 pages

The Nutcracker @ TPAC

The Nashville Ballet preparations are well under way to present Nashville's Nutcracker, the beloved local take on the holiday classic. To get ready for the magic that you will soon see on stage, join us in this retelling of Nashville's Nutcracker, complete with the local history that inspired its production. Nashville's Nutcracker starts like no other—in Nashville! In the autumn of 1897, a young girl named Clara Stahlbaum and her favorite uncle, the magician Dr. Drosselmeyer, visit the Tennessee Centennial Exposition. This fantastic festival celebrating the 100th anniversary of Tennessee statehood featured magnificent displays from people and cultures from around the world. According to The Nashville American newspaper, it represented “nearly every race and nationality...their quaint costumes present a kaleidoscope panorama ever intensely interesting to the Centennial visitor.”

While the real Centennial Exposition was located in Centennial Park with its Parthenon, the setting for Clara and Drosselmeyer's adventure in Nashville's Nutcracker also includes Nashville's historical treasures such as the

Tennessee State Capital, U.S. Customs Building, Christ Church, Belle Meade Mansion and the Hermitage. During her visit to the exposition, Clara is entranced by the magic of the fair and is inspired by the many cultures she discovers there. She meets a Spanish vendor selling hot chocolate and a French Bonbonniere (bon bon maker) giving out candies. Clara also encounters a Russian doll maker with nesting dolls, a Chinese puppeteer with a dragon stick puppet and a Swiss shepherdess with a little lamb. Lastly, Clara spies a German toymaker with a Nutcracker doll, which Drosselmeyer presents to her. But just as soon as he gives it to her, he makes it disappear!

Look for the characters in the exposition to appear later in the show. Tune in to the next three installments of the Nutcracker story to learn more about their roles and the inspiration for the production. In the meantime, follow Clara, Nutcracker and their friends Sugar Plum Fairy and Mouse King on Twitter to learn what happens backstage before their stage appearances!



Kam's Kolumn

From Washington Page 8 A

Her role is to be a witness of these women and their journeys. It was a wonderful challenge for me as an actor to have to immediately exhibit the opposite qualities of those that I had been cultivating for almost a year.

KW: How was it having Hill Harper play your husband?

Kerry: It was great to have the opportunity to work with Hill, since he's a friend, and we've traveled together along this political/artistic path. It was also nice to be able to tell this story of supportive, positive love between a black man and woman. I know that was important to Tyler and we felt very blessed to take on that responsibility.

KW: Reverend Florine Thompson asks: Even though the film is specifically about “Colored Girls,” would you say it explores themes which resonate with all women?

Kerry: Absolutely! On the set, we even talked to each other about how universal the journeys of these characters are. So, the spectrum of colors that we're referencing really reflects a rainbow of human emotions. We're talking about being sad and blue, or red with rage, or green with envy. Those are the colors that we girls are embodying.

KW: Editor/legist Patricia Turnier is wondering: What African-American icon would you like to portray in a movie?

Kerry: Angela Davis is somebody I have my eye on. Also Diahann Carroll.

KW: Yale grad Tommy Russell asks: What do you struggle with as an actress: honesty in your roles, diving into the depth of your characters, or just navigating the crazy landscape of Hollywood and auditioning?

Kerry: D, all of the above! [Laughs]

KW: Marcia Evans asks: How do you feel about the recent backlash against President Obama? Why hasn't there been a massive pushback by the Democratic Party against all the recent unfair rhetoric?

Kerry: It's exciting to me that people know that I'm someone who's very political. For full disclosure, it's important for me to say that I'm a member of the administration now because I'm on the President Obama's Committee for the Arts and Humanities. So, I'm not unbiased. I'm really proud of everything that he's accomplished in his first couple of years. I think it's great that all of us Americans were inspired to work so hard get him elected. But now, the most important thing people can do in this representative democracy is to stay active and interested, if we want to continue the momentum of change.

KW: The Teri Emerson question: When was the last time you had a good laugh?

Kerry: About 15 minutes ago. I loooooove to laugh! [Chuckles]

KW: What is your guiltiest pleasure?

Kerry: Popcorn and massages.

KW: What is your favorite dish to cook?

Kerry: Baking and decorating cakes, but I don't even eat them, because I try to stay away from wheat. I just made my own icing from scratch the other day, but it didn't come out very well. I'm working on refining that.

KW: The bookworm Troy Johnson question: What was the last book you read?

Kerry: Jane Alexander's memoirs called “Command Performance.” <http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0306810441?ie=UTF8&tag=thslfofire-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=0306810441>

KW: The music maven Heather Covington question: What was the last song you listened to?

Kerry: Hot Tottie by Usher and Jay-Z. <http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B004018T9C?ie=UTF8&tag=thslfofire-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=B004018T9C>

KW: The Boris Kodjoe question: What do you consider your biggest accomplishment?

Kerry: I don't know. I really don't know. If I ever have a family one day, everything else will pale in importance to that.

KW: When you look in the mirror, what do you see?

Kerry: I see an ever-unfolding process.

KW: If you could have one wish instantly granted, what would that be for?

Kerry: For a million more wishes.

KW: The Ling-Ju Yen question: What is your earliest childhood memory?

Kerry: Being in my stroller in the elevator in the building where I grew up in the Bronx.

KW: What advice do you have for anyone who wants to follow in your footsteps?

Kerry: Study! Study! Study! Get an education.

KW: Have you ever wished you could have your anonymity back?

Kerry: No.

KW: The Laz Alonso question: How can your fans help you?

Kerry: It would be super if people visited my new website, www.KerryWashington.com.

KW: The Zane question: Do you have any regrets?

Kerry: I do. I do. I think everything in life happens for a reason. I always think there's room for me to improve as a person.

KW: The Flex Alexander question: How do you get through the tough times?

Kerry: Through prayer and meditation. And I have really good friends and family, and a great therapist.

KW: The Tavis Smiley question: What do you want your legacy to be, and where are you in relation to that at this point in your life?

ADVICE

Ask Gwendolyn Baines



I Can't Take Being Dumped – I Get Revenge!

Dear Gwendolyn:

I am 34 years old and I have a problem. I have had this same problem since my teen years. I am desperate to find a solution. When I was 17, my girlfriend at the time broke up with me for someone else. I was upset and told her that I was going to kill her. We made up and became friends, but Gwendolyn, I thought about it later and decided to take revenge. I went over to her house around 3 a.m. and set the house on fire – and also punctured the tires on her father's car, her mother's car, and her brother's car.

I was arrested and had to serve time. Then, would you believe it – another girlfriend dumped me and I told her that I was going to kill her. She called the police and I was, again, arrested and served time. Yes, I am now in my 30's and I am serving time and due to get out within the next six months.

Gwendolyn, how can I overcome this anger? I am tired of being behind bars. What's wrong with me?

Andrew

Dear Andrew:

You have a problem of not accepting rejection. This is a serious thing. Men and women attend popular classes of Anger Management. You may need to consider counseling as well. However, when a person like yourself is quick to state “I will kill you,” - think about it, no woman will spend time with a man of that character. It does not matter if you would have gone through with the murder, it is the fact you made the threat. No man has the right to insist that a woman love him. That makes no sense whatsoever. Snap out of it. Women experience rejection 24/7. This problem could possibly stem from your mother. Too many mothers make their son think he is all of that --- and a bag of chips. Think about it. You are not momma's little boy anymore. Grow up and learn to take the hurt and take the pain of being rejected. --- Sorry, but that's life.

***Got a problem? Write to Gwendolyn Baines at: P. O. Box 10066, Raleigh, N.C. 27605-0066 or email her at: gwenbaines@hotmail.com or visit her website at: www.gwenbaines.com

Kerry: I'm not really sure. I don't think in those terms, exactly. I just want to keep having the courage to raise the bar for myself, and to keep striving for excellence in artistic integrity and public service. And to continue to challenge myself to move outside of my comfort zone, personally and professionally.

KW: Thanks again, Kerry, and I look forward to speaking to you again soon.

Kerry: Likewise, Kam, bye.

To see a trailer for For Colored Girls, visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YbklqYMaYGg>

To see a trailer for Night Catches Us, visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hgtAhGOLC-Y>



Jazz and Jokes Lounge (3rd Avenue North Downtown Nashville) will be the talk of the town. It's Chic, Grown, and extra sexy! This is NOT a Dance Club. This is a pure Adult lounge--somewhere to get a good drink, good food, great music and comedy. Make it your business to stop by and check it out!

Monday Night Football - Every Monday, it's Monday Night Football at the Bentley House of Soul with the \$500 Swimsuit Contest at Halftime. Go to www.kenny-online.net to check out pics from previous contests! Super Hot!

Fashion Week - Join me on December 19 at the Hutton Hotel for Rip The Runway, the biggest fashion/beauty awards show of the year with fashionista and hair stylist Tanya Davis. I'll be one of the presenters and they'll be plenty of celebrities on site. Log on to www.ripherunwayawards.com for more details.

Christmas Skate Jam - After kicking it with the family on Christmas day, bring them all out Christmas night for the 3rd Annual Kenny Smoov Christmas Skate Jam. It's a great event to plan for the entire family at the Rivergate Skate Center. Bring your skates and prepare to have a great time!

Usher Concert - What a way to end the year! Usher and Trey Songz shut down the Sommet Center on December 27. Simply text the letters "92Q" to 68255 and you could be the next big WINNER!

Isley Brothers - The first major concert I will host in 2011 will be probably the biggest until the Soul Food Festival in July: The Isley Brothers and The O'Jays kick off the 92Q concert year at the Municipal Auditorium on January 16! Log on now to www.92qnashville.com for more details.

Kenny Smoov Program Director WQQK-92Q "GOOD is the Enemy of GREAT!"

Great Music – The Buble' Way

By **Matthew Maisano**
Photos by **Earl Flippen**

Michael Buble performed an amazing concert to a capacity crowd at the Bridgestone Arena last weekend. Buble is not only a power house of a singer, but an overall amazing personality and entertainer. Combining today's modern sound with yesterday's standards, Buble is the complete package. Crisp clean vocals delivered with the accuracy of a well tuned piano, Buble kept the crowd in the palm of his hand the entire night. His most recent album "Crazy Love," provided a backdrop for many of the songs for the evening. His rendition of the classic Hoagy Carmichael song "Georgia on My Mind," and his new single "Hollywood" written by Buble himself, were definite crowd favorites.



Michael Buble takes command of the stage, the song and audience during his recent concert at Bridgestone Arena

After his last song, the crowd demanded an encore performance, welcomed warmly by Michael returning from backstage with his rendition of "Feeling Good," a powerful and energetic blast from the past.

He finished the evening with a few more songs, including a classic Christmas tune and a final performance of the Leon Russell hit "A Song for You." Buble finished the last 30 seconds of the show without a microphone, making for an extremely intimate connection with the artist and his crowd. The concert was amazing to say the least. His vocals were 100% on track, and the production was exactly what it needed to be in order to bring Nashville the Buble experience it deserves. Michael left Nashville "Feeling Good!"

Popular Nashville Tradition For Families, Friends; Special Winter Concessions

The Belcourt Theatre will present IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE for a brief run, Dec. 17-26, 2010. For the last seven years, the Belcourt has offered audiences a chance to see this holiday classic on a large screen. For families with visiting relatives or friends, IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE is the perfect family-friendly activity to celebrate the holidays, while showing out-of-towners an historic Nashville venue. Tickets are available at



It's A Wonderful Life Summary: An angel helps a compassionate but despairingly frustrated businessman by showing him what life would have been like if he never existed. Starring Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed. Directed by Frank Capra, 1946, 130 minutes. The Belcourt Theatre is located at 2102 Belcourt Avenue, Nashville, Tenn. 37212, 615.383.9140 www.belcourt.org

The Belcourt Theatre is a nonprofit cultural institution dedicated to presenting the best of independent, documentary, and world cinema; promoting visual literacy; and making film a vibrant part of the community while serving as a regular and important home for independent voices in music and theatre. Housed in Nashville's last historic neighborhood theatre, the Belcourt Theatre provides opportunities for people of all ages to discover, explore and learn through the power of film, music and theatre. Opening in 1925 as a silent movie house, the theatre was home to the Grand Ole Opry from 1934-36. Since the re-opening of the theatre in 1999 more than 650,000 people from Middle Tennessee have come here to see nearly 1,000 films from every corner of the globe, musicians both long established and newly emerging and theatre from some of Nashville's most creative and imaginative artists.

Screening times will be announced in December. "Since we started screening this classic tale, we've seen it grow into a vibrant Nashville holiday tradition," says Stephanie Silverman, managing director at the Belcourt Theatre. "Families come in full force to capture that holiday magic at an event that's both celebratory and affordable. This film is such a demonstration of the power of a great movie with ideas that resonate through generations, and there's nothing like seeing it just as director Frank Capra intended it—on a large theater screen." Special wintry treats offered at concessions will set a cozy atmosphere for patrons, including Hot Chocolate and Handmade Vanilla Bean Marshmallows, half-dipped in dark Belgian chocolate with a sprinkling of peppermint dust.

Book Signing Featuring Southern Hospitality

Please join us for a celebration of folk art at Ibiza Fine Gifts on Harding Road. We have distilled the Southern hospitality of Mississippi in a collection of art, food and life in the works of Irene Phelps Terry. A book signing will be held at Ibiza 5-8 pm, Wednesday, December 15 at 4231 Harding Road (across from St. Thomas Hosp.).

From dusty roads and hot fields, a beloved land and people are revealed in Mississippi Sistas a collection birthed from conversations of the "ones gone by while settin' an watchin' Southern secrets unfold."

Irene Phelps Terry is the author of Faulkner, Ghosts and Local Folk, artist, lecturer on the Blues, songwriter, publisher, teacher, and "most n'all" she is a cherisher of people – being a direct descendant of King Cotton, named so for his invention of the 100 seed and one of the largest purveyors of cotton futures. Mississippi Sistas follows the catty and boastful 1920s correspondence between Aunt T, Aunt Hattie, Mattie Lee, Miss Mattie, Boor, Pearl, Weesie and, of course, depictions of all those beautiful hands that planted, picked and preached this culture that became known as Southern Hospitality in the Mississippi Delta. Miss Irene's outsider works embody the teachings of her beloved household caretakers, Eliza, Ada, and Blue, from a day gone by. Eliza asked a promise: "tell all the chil'en comin' on how us wuz. Love Jesus, love us country, your family and frens an – if you wanna keep somethin' – share it baby, so it won't run off. Hell loves greedyfolks. An' that's what I'm trying to do for you chiluns, show what to love!"

For more information contact publisher Chad Hollingsworth at 615.456.8580, or missirene@take121.com, or Ibiza Fine Gifts at 615.279.8000.

The Winter Wonder Slam Delivers Message of Purpose

The Winter Wonder Slam had the crowd groovin' and movin' in the Awake Tonight tour at Bridgestone Arena on Fri. Dec. 3. The packed show delivered a message with a purpose, combining rock, rap, dance.

Opening for Toby Mac were Shonlock and Skillet. Hip hop artist Shonlock jammed the venue with a superb performance. His positive music promoting his faith in Jesus was well received by fans. As a former dancer and choreographer for Arrested Development and R&B diva Aaliyah, Shonlock offers a full range of talent and put on a solid show. The crowd embraced the rapper with his positive lyrics.



TobyMac had the packed arena singing along

Grammy nominated band Skillet was a brilliant contrast to the hip hop opener. What made the show amazing was, first the raw talent of the performers and then the mix of musical instruments. A cello and violin were incorporated with traditional rock instruments, creating a unique blend of dramatic sounds.



The Diverse City Band rocks the crowd

Lead singer John Cooper has a contagious energy that was felt throughout the arena. What added to the show were the bursts of firework displays and unique stage sets. Near the end of the show, a giant skull slowly rose from below the stage, carrying Cooper inside. It was the dramatic intro to the hit song "Monster."

The awaited lead act, Toby Mac, hyped the crowd as the techno countdown hit zero before he was spotlighted on stage. The crowd roared as TobyMac began the show with "Tonight." The multi-platinum selling artist offers a musical blend of hip hop, rock and dance. The prior hip hop and rock acts were the perfect segue to TobyMac's style. Attendees were promised a quality show by TobyMac as he appreciated them coming out, and that is exactly what he and the Diverse City Band delivered. From the acoustic performance of "In the Light" to funky rock sounds of numerous major hits, TobyMac delivered a hit show, moving the soul and feet of the audience.

TobyMac shared the following in an exclusive interview with The Tennessee Tribune:

Did you think you would perform when you were young?
I loved performing in a garageband but never dreamed of a professional career. I used to write rap songs and enjoyed rap and hip hop. I then got into college performances.

What message do you have for today's youth?
I actually thought I was going to get into real estate. I told my dad, a realtor in DC, that I would join him after the release of the first album. He's still waiting!... as I did not expect to be so blessed in being able to continue my musical career.

How do you balance fame and faith?
There are many places to search for answers and they leave you empty, and continuously searching. My faith is Jesus is where my search stopped.

Do you have a favorite song?
I do not see them as separate. I write music and lyrics from my perspective. Success to me is connecting people to faith.
I enjoy performing "Boomin'" live. "Made to Love" is my struggle with myself.

Lanplighter's Theatre Company partners with Truck-fil-A, Cool Springs Business Group, and the Nashville Art and Whole Family, to bring you a special holiday season and journeys to paradise.

Christmas Carol

Dec 10th, 11th and 12th
Dec 17th, 18th and 19th

Share time on Saturdays, Sundays at 7:30 pm, and on Sundays at 4:30 pm.
To purchase tickets go to www.lanplighters.com. For more information call 615-253-0400.
Admission Adults: \$18.00, Children (13 and up): \$10.00, Children (6-12): \$7.00
Reservations to be held at Springhollow World and Arts Center (formerly Springhollow Arena), 1000 Nashville Highway, Spring, TN 37081

www.lanplighters.com

NAACP: NC County is Example of US School Problem

By The Admin

The country's most prominent civil rights group has come to Raleigh to draw attention to what it calls a growing erosion of the gains made since a 1954 Supreme Court decision made segregated schools illegal.

Using Wake County's ongoing debate over school diversity as a backdrop, the NAACP is holding a national conference on education in Raleigh to argue that schools around the country are, in essence, returning to Jim Crow-era patterns of segregation.

"Resegregation is on the rise," said the Rev. William Barber, chairman of the state NAACP chapter. "The rates now are worse than in the 1970s."

Wake County has been the scene of acrimonious dispute since the school board voted to scrap a decade-old policy that used busing to achieve socio-economic balance in public schools. The NAACP and other groups have staged protests and marches and filed a federal civil rights complaint. Barber is among several who have been arrested in demonstrations against the end of the policy.

"School boards across this country are rolling back the clock to the time before Brown vs. Board of Education," NAACP national president Benjamin Todd Jealous said in a statement. Jealous was

scheduled to address to the conference Friday.

But that sentiment is out of touch with both the reality of public education and recent Supreme Court rulings, according to Roger Clegg, president of the Falls Church, Va.-based Center for Equal Opportunity.

A 2007 decision by the court found that school districts can't pursue integration policies by using students' race as a basis, which Clegg argues is what busing for diversity amounts to.

"Even if you think there's something desirable about having a politically correct racial and ethnic mix, it doesn't justify the enormous costs of engaging in racial discrimination," he said.

Clegg also challenges the claim that schools are becoming more segregated, arguing that falling percentages of white students matches the declining number of whites in the population overall.

The term "segregation" doesn't refer to demographic change, but to legal policies explicitly designed to keep people of different races separated from each other, Clegg said.

"If you use that definition, not only is there no resegregation in the United States, there is not a single segregated school in the United States," he said.

Tom Breen, AP

From Accreditations Page 5 A

clear that top standing could be in jeopardy.

Tennessee State, in Nashville, was denied reaffirmation of its accreditation due to numerous questions about its ability to clearly delineate the effectiveness of some of its efforts in planning, student assessment and learning outcomes. That caused the agency to place the popular school on "warning" status for one year.

The decision gives Tennessee State one year to address several questions about these "core requirements," those that apply to the whole institution, and "comprehensive standards," those that measure specific departments or programs. The SACS decision does not affect Tennessee State's accreditation during the one year "warning" status.

Tennessee State President Melvin N. Johnson said the school has already addressed many of the SACSCOC issues since the organization's accreditation team visited its campus earlier this year. He said "...the 12-month period will give TSU an excellent opportunity to provide additional documentation demonstrating a fully integrated institutional effectiveness model that includes assessment and evaluation processes that link to our mission and goals."

In a statement responding to the SACSCOC "warning" Johnson itemized a number of steps he said Tennessee State has already taken to assure compliance and improvement in institutional quality:

- * Established an integrated institutional effectiveness plan that centers on an assessment and improvement model that links program activities to university mission and planning documents and requires intense training in assessment and the use of assessment results to make improvement in student learning and performance outcomes.

- * Established a common assessment and improvement framework that utilizes a six-step process to document assessment and improvement activities, including the use of an online documentation system utilizing Compliance Assist! software, to ensure compliance and uniformity of the integrated institutional effectiveness plan.

Johnson said Tennessee State has also implemented a strengthened administrative arrangement for management of assessment planning and improvement at the university, with professional development opportunities for faculty and staff that includes measures of accountability for institutional effectiveness at the University.

Since summer 2010, his statement said, more than 200 faculty and staff from academic and non-academic units have participated in these professional development workshops on assessment planning and quality improvement, with leadership and guidance from the division of institutional planning and accountability

"As part of the university's final reaffirmation, at the conclusion of 12 months, TSU will submit a monitoring report to SACSCOC," said Johnson, who is set to leave his post at the end of this month. "This report must demonstrate that our ongoing compliance and institutional effectiveness activities are fully implemented and documented."

Johnson said documentation of these activities began after a March 23-25, 2010 SACSCOC onsite visit.

Fisk, meanwhile, failed for a second time in 12 months to win

a clean endorsement from the SACSCOC for the same reasons the agency initially refused last December to give Fisk an unconditional reaffirmation—Fisk's finances.

The SACS Commission gave Fisk until April 1 to file additional information about its financial resources and stability. Failure to satisfy SACSCOC when it reviews the school's updated report next spring could result in Fisk being placed on "probation." The SACS panel's mid-year meeting, at which it will again review its ruling on Fisk — is set for June.

Fisk, whose enrollment has fallen to less than 700 students, has repeatedly cost operating costs, including salaries, mortgaged all of its real estate and is running an annual deficit of some \$2 million. It has, has hinged its financial revival on using proceeds from a proposed sale for \$30 million of part ownership in its valuable 101-piece Alfred Stieglitz Collection of art and photographs. The collection is valued at more than \$70 million.

Using money from the ownership sale has been key element in every plan Fisk has put forth for solving its short and long-term solvency plans and its accreditation bid. Fisk envisions taking possession of all the proceeds from the proposed ownership sharing agreement to revive its fortunes.

The school has been blocked in its five-year effort, however, by a series of court rulings holding the collection is essentially a trust governed by rigid restrictions and cannot be sold like property.

Most recently, Judge Ellen Hobbs Lyle of the Chancery Court of Tennessee, Davidson County, in Nashville, ruled the sale plan could move forward, if Fisk placed two-thirds (\$20 million) of the envisioned proceeds from the proposed sale into an independently managed endowment whose earnings could only be used to cover the costs of maintaining and exhibiting the art and photographs collection in Nashville. Fisk said last week it objected to Judge Lyle's decision and was appealing it this month to the Tennessee Court of Appeals.

"Fisk's work to improve financial stability is the key to removing the SACS warning," said a Fisk statement quoting Fisk President Hazel R. O'Leary. "The path to financial stability includes three elements: a successful outcome with each annual fundraising effort; increasing Fisk's net assets base which requires that Fisk increase its endowment; and a clean financial audit. This is why the board-approved sharing agreement with Crystal Bridges Museum of Art for undivided half-interest in the Stieglitz Collection in exchange for \$30 million is vital to Fisk's future."

Absent an expedited decision by the court of appeals or a sudden avalanche of income, observers say it is not likely Fisk will have much new to say by the SACSCOC April 1 reporting deadline.

Aside from its questions about Fisk's financial resources and financial stability, SACS maintains Fisk remains in good standing.

The Commission on Colleges placed its 10-year stamp of approval on Alabama State, Bethune Cookman, Grambling, North Carolina A & T, Prairie View, South Carolina State, Southern University-Baton Rouge, Xavier of New Orleans, Virginia Union and Winston Salem State University in North Carolina. Stillman College in Alabama was denied "reaffirmation."

MNPS Virtual Program Spring Enrollment Deadline December 15th



Enrollment Deadline December 15

The Metro Nashville Public Schools Virtual Program is currently accepting enrollment for spring courses. But you may want to act quickly; the **deadline to register is Dec. 15.**

The Virtual Program provides credit recovery and full content courses in a virtual setting. The program enables students to take classes in addition to the ones offered at their regular high school. Students must have a 2.5 GPA to enroll.

The MNPS Virtual Learning Office provides quality education in a virtual environment. Students will be taught online by highly qualified, certified teachers. Instruction will be aligned with the Tennessee State academic standards.

MNPS students will have access to Virtual Learning courses at no cost. Students who are not residents of Davidson County may incur a tuition fee.

Full Time Students Currently Enrolled in Davidson County Schools

- * Must possess and maintain a 2.5 minimum grade point average
- * Contact School Counselor at school of record to determine if full time seats are available at Virtual Learning
- * Discuss your needs with your School Counselor
- * Once confirmation of seat availability is obtained and approved from Virtual Learning Office, withdraw student from current school of record
- * Inform school that you are enrolling in MNPS Virtual school program
- * Contact Virtual Learning Office, 298-8456 x2216, and enroll
- * Contact MNPS Middle College High School Counselor, Teresa Chandler (email teresa.chandler@mnps.org) to conduct credit check and schedule course(s)
- * Ms Chandler will create student's schedule
- * Virtual Learning Office notifies course vendor of enrollment
- * Student(s) and parent(s) must attend scheduled orientation

Part Time Students Currently Enrolled in Davidson County Schools

- * Must possess and maintain a 2.5 minimum grade point average
- * Meet with Counselor at current enrolled school to check for eligibility and credit needs
- * Counselor will send Virtual Learning Office completed registration form
- * Once registration completed with vendor, Virtual Learning Office will email counselor to notify that student's registration is complete
- * Student and parent will also receive an email from Virtual Learning Office about getting started
- * Students and parents will have access to an online orientation to assist in navigating the course as well as the requirements

Mission Statement:

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools Virtual Learning is committed to a student-centered environment that allows students to learn 21st Century skills and knowledge enabling success in higher education, work, and life.

To view a full list of courses offered, visit <http://www.mnps.org/Page72732.aspx>.



Belmont University Lean Healthcare Certificate Program "For Quality, Safety and Efficiency"

In Conjunction With: Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative & Healthcare Performance Partners

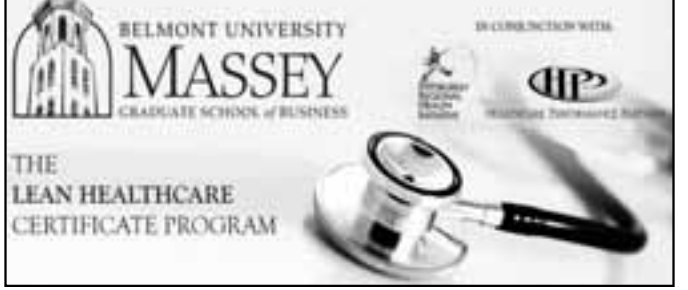
The Jack C. Massey Graduate School of Business at Belmont University in conjunction with Healthcare Performance Partners (HPP), and The Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative (PRHI) present the Lean Healthcare Certificate Program. This Certificate Program is designed for leaders who desire to understand the tools and knowledge necessary to drive Lean Healthcare throughout their entire organization. The program will be taught in Belmont University's state-of-the-art Gordon E. Inman College of Health Sciences and Nursing.

This intense one-week Lean Healthcare Certificate Program will give participants a hands-on, learn-by-doing experience applying Lean Philosophies and Tools in a healthcare environment. The training, exercise and simulations build the foundation throughout the week for the participants to apply them in a Mini-Kaizen Event Lab Exercise and develop a roadmap for their organization. This life-like healthcare experience using real healthcare examples is taught and facilitated by Lean Practitioners, Leaders and Coaches each with multiple years of successfully applying Lean in healthcare organizations.

The Lean Healthcare Certificate Program is only minutes from Downtown Nashville, the Gaylord Entertainment Center, Nashville's Music Row, and the Country Music Hall of Fame.

For more information visit <http://www.bulean-course.com>.

- 2011 Course Dates:**
February 7-11, 2011
April 11-15, 2011
August 1-5, 2011
October 17-21, 2011



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Former Pastor Teaches Eye-Opening Moves At The Clarksville Mixed Martial Arts Academy

By A.J. Dugger III

John "The Saint" Renken is a former preacher and professional Mixed Martial Arts fighter. Amazingly, he did both jobs at the same time. The former fighting preacher has traveled the world and won numerous championships. He and his wife own the Clarksville Mixed Martial Arts Academy, where "feet, fist and faith collide." The Academy doubles as a worship service on Sundays.

Renken stands out to many people because it is rare to find a professional fighter who used to read scripture on Sundays and owns a Church. "There's no disparity between mixed martial arts and Christianity," said Renken. "The Bible tells us that The Lord trains our hands for battle and our fingers for war. Exodus 15 says the Lord our God is a warrior. We need to know how to defend ourselves. We don't live in a safe world." Renken has a very raspy speaking voice that is the epitome of what a southern preacher sounds like.

Renken used to routinely find himself in fights when he was growing up. He was always victorious, but one day, the inevitable happened. "I got in a fight in school and got my butt whooped," Renken said with a laugh. "So I started training in Martial Arts. When I turned

20, I joined the Army." Shortly after Renken joined the Army, the UFC premiered on TV. After three years in the Military, Renken left in 1996 to prepare for a professional career as a fighter.

Renken fought his first professional fight in March, 1997. The encounter ended at 1:03 seconds when Renken got a submission victory over a fighter named Mark Nelson by using an Armbar take-down. Over the course of his career, he has witnessed the evolution of the sport. "It's evolved so much," he said. He explained that these days, anyone who wants to fight in Mixed Martial Arts combat needs to master a good take-down defense, and excel brilliantly in boxing, kick-boxing, grappling and Jiu Jitsu.

"MMA (Mixed Martial Arts) is where you can do all those skill sets together in a competition," said Renken.

Renken's fighting name is John "The Saint" Renken. However, he had to endure a slight name change when he fought in Japan. Once there, he discovered that there is no word for 'saint' in Japanese, so he was nicknamed 'the Fighting Preacher.' Renken graduated from North Central University in 2000 with a degree in Theology and Bible.

Right after the 9/11 Terrorist Attacks in 2001, Ft. Campbell shut down its post to civilians. "It moved me in such a way to open this facility," said Renken. In 2002, he and his wife opened the Clarksville Mixed Martial Arts Academy. The school also sets out to teach fighting skills to people who are not in the Military. "The deployment schedule is so brutal. We're trying to really open up to the civilian population to let them know we're here for them too," said Renken. His wife, Jennifer, is also a fighter. "My wife won the ringside world amateur boxing championship in Kansas City, Missouri. She's had one MMA fight. She's had a few boxing and tai fights, too," said Renken.

The instructors can modify the program according to whatever their clients' physical structure may be, whether the student is overweight, old, suffers joint problems, or whatever the case may be. There was once a student who had Cerebral Palsy. This was no problem for Renken. "By the time he left us, he wasn't using his cane anymore," Renken explained.

For 10 years, Renken was the pastor of Xtreme Ministries, the worship center located in his studio. He stepped down last year. "I resigned from the church a year ago," he said. The worship services take place on Sundays at 9 a.m. at the Clarksville Mixed Martial Arts Academy. To this day, Renken still gets raised eyebrows from both Christians and professional fighters when they discover that he was a fighting preacher. "A lot of people think it's odd. They don't quite grasp it," he said. With a grin, he added, "If I get lucky I get to fight and preach at the same time."

The instructors don't overwhelm their students with impressive eye catching moves

on the first day. "We introduce you to things slowly. As you get good at grappling, we'll let you box, and slowly start to introduce all the different skills sets to you, and let you set your own course," Renken explained. Although many would expect it, there are no Bible lectures or testimonies at the Academy. "We're a Christian-based organization. We don't preach at the students or anything, but everybody knows the Academy is Christian-owned and operated." There are no age differentials. Currently, the school has students ranging from ages 4 to 73. The Academy is open on Monday through Saturday from 4 pm to 8:30 pm.



The Clarksville Mixed Martial Arts Academy Opened Its Doors In 2002 after the 9/11 Attacks

Renken once made headlines preaching the gospel on Fox News, and has been promoted in other national news outlets including The New York Times and NBC's Nightline.

Many outsiders assume that Mixed Martial Arts is a complicated form of combat. After all, it's the fusion of so many different styles of fighting. However, Renken says that with practice, one can master the art. "It's like anything else in life. If u do it often enough and set your mind to it and practice, it's really not that difficult."

Renken has a record of 19 wins, 28 losses and 3 draws with one 'no contest.'

The Clarksville Mixed Martial Academy is located on 1596 Fort Campbell Blvd, Clarksville, TN 37042. The telephone number is (931) 906-2941.

Matthew Walker's Pharmacy Uses Personal Approach To Help Patients

By A.J. Dugger III

The Pharmacy at The Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Clinic is the most desirable option in town for people with low income or no insurance. "Since we're able to purchase our prescriptions at such a low price, we pass that savings onto our patients," said Nikia Bennette-Carter, the Pharmacy Director.

Carter, a 2002 graduate of Xavier University College of Pharmacy in New Orleans, LA, has always dreamed of saving the world through pharmacy, and is accomplishing this goal little by little each day.

"I take it serious about my patients getting their medicine," she said. "I have in mind that everyone needs their medication, and I'm going to make sure that they get it."

The Pharmacy staff routinely fills around 250 prescriptions a day for people, regardless of their ability to pay. "We're really, really much more inexpensive than everybody else. We're able to provide these medications. We're a pretty good safety net for the people out there who can't afford medicine," said Morris Haddox, a staff pharmacist. "There are some prescriptions that would be \$60 elsewhere, but only \$4 here." Carter's mind is always racing to help people who cannot pay for their medicine. "Most pharmacies are trade off. Well here, it's not that cut and dry because we really want to get you the medicine. Most of our patients don't have any options outside of us. Some people are out of work, or have limited income or no insurance. When they come here, they really do need us. We've got to do our part," said Carter.

The Pharmacy has been located in the Matthew Walker Clinic for 10 years. The Clinic has a Pharmacy in the Murfreesboro, Nashville, and Clarksville. On December 1, a Pharmacy was launched in Smyrna, TN. Diabetic counseling is available at the Clarksville location.



Dr. Nikia Bennette-Carter

There are free samples available, as well as a Patient Assistance Program which makes use of software that enables access to every other Patience Assistance Program in the nation. Another useful benefit is the Pharmacy Care Fund, which is composed of donations by employees and patients. This fund was established to help patients who can't afford medications. "We have a lot of different types of programs that we utilize to help patients afford their medications," explained Carter.

The patients who visit the clinic belong to a very diverse population, so interpreters are available to cross the language barrier. "Everybody gets the same amount of quality care," said Haddox. "It's almost like a one stop shop." The Pharmacy fills prescriptions from doctors, dentists, and other health officials.

Carter explained that although a visit to the doctor is important, receiving the prescription is more imperative, and that's one of many areas where the Matthew Walker Clinic excels. With the programs and other available options, the Pharmacy makes sure that the patient gets the medicine in some way. "There's a certain amount of grace that comes in this thing," said Maddox. "We can improve the quality of life in a lot of different ways. It's really rewarding."

The Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center is located at 1035 14th Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37208. To reach the pharmacy by phone, call (615) 329-1900.

MTA, RTA Now on Twitter Social Network

NASHVILLE – Customers and transit supporters can now access more up-to-date information on detours, service changes, public meetings, special events, and more by following the Nashville MTA and RTA on Twitter.

MTA and RTA are using this tool to reach out to their mobile customers by making transit information available through yet another source. This provides an opportunity to communicate and share information even more quickly and easily with those who are interested in the transit systems of Middle Tennessee as Twitter is a real-time information network that connects people to the latest information about what they find interesting.

Customers can access the MTA and RTA twitter accounts at twitter.com/Nashville_MTA or twitter.com/MiddleTN_RT. If you have an account, sign in and type Nashville MTA in the search bar and click people. Look for the Nashville MTA logo. From there, you can click to follow us to receive our updates and find RTA from MTA's account as well.

Those who don't have access to the internet but want to stay connected with their mobile device may get twitter updates via SMS by texting follow Nashville_MTA or follow MiddleTN_RT to 40404. Standard text messaging rates apply.

Additional ways to get connected are by going to nashvillemta.org to receive MTA eNews alerts, or rtarelayandride.com to receive RTA eNews alerts or by using one of our partner services Google Transit or RouteShout.



IRS Expands Use of Twitter to Help Taxpayers, Tax Professionals



NASHVILLE – With tax filing season right around the corner, the Internal Revenue Service today announced the availability of local and national Twitter feeds to share tax updates with the public and tax professionals.

“For the latest local IRS news and tax tips on Twitter, follow me at @taxdan,” said Dan Boone, IRS spokesman for Alabama & Tennessee.

Nationally, the IRS Twitter news feed – @IRSnews – provides the latest federal tax news and information for taxpayers.

Another important nationwide IRS Twitter feed – @IRStaxpros – is designed for the tax professional community.

IRS also tweets tax news and information in Spanish at @IRSenEspanol.

The IRS Twitter feeds work in conjunction with www.HYPER-LINK “http://www.irs.gov” \o “http://www.irs.gov” IRS.gov and the IRS YouTube channels to bring IRS information direct to taxpayers, including multilingual and American Sign Language versions. Since August 2009, IRS videos on YouTube have logged more than a million views.

In addition, the IRS provides other social media tools to inform and assist taxpayers and has an extensive set of e-news subscriptions.

The IRS reminds taxpayers that it will never send personal tax account information or ask for it via e-mail.



ROMAINE'S LAW

AMY TOTENBERG NOMINATION TO GO TO SENATE FLOOR THIS WEEK - FED JUDGE GEORGIA - SISTER OF NPR COURT COMMENTATOR, NINA

By Howard M. Romaine, Attorney and Tribune writer

Long time Atlanta progressive attorney, Amy Totenberg, has been nominated for a Federal Judgeship and her nomination will go to the Senate Floor this week. According to press reports, Amy M. Totenberg – a former general counsel of Atlanta Public Schools – and candidate for one of four open federal judgeships in Georgia’s Northern District moved another step forward today as the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee voted to send her nomination to the floor of the U.S. Senate.

The judiciary committee reported on its website that Totenberg’s nomination was approved by voice vote. The committee postponed a vote on the nomination of Clarke County Superior Court Judge Steve C. Jones for a second seat in the Northern District.

Jones appeared at a confirmation hearing before the committee last month. Totenberg, who was nominated last March, appeared before the committee in July.

Harvard Graduate, Worked with Nashville ACLU lawyer, Vanderbilt graduate, Reber Boulton, of the Boulton, Cummings firm

*Amy Totenberg, sister of the well-known Public Radio legal commentator, Nina Totenberg, both Harvard law graduates, have had vivid, high profile careers in the law, one using her training to become an analyst of the U.S. Supreme Court, and other courts for public radio, the other doing basic employment, civil rights and educational litigation in Georgia for many years.

Early in her career, Amy Totenberg worked with the Vanderbilt graduate and former Nashville Attorney Reber Boulton. Reber the younger moved to the Atlanta ACLU during the height of the civil rights movement to work with Charles Morgan, then ACLU regional director. Boulton the younger was engaged in some of the most high profile cases of the era, including the seating of Rep. Julian Bond, the defense of Cassius Clay, and many other high profile civil rights cases of the late sixties.

Boulton’s Father, also named Reber, was a partner of one of Nashville’s leading firms, Boulton Cummings, now merged with another firm, and found on the web at , http://www.babc.com/ and proudly announcing on its web page that in standing up for the sovereign state of Alabama, and some coal companies, in defeating environmental regulation. Plus a change, Plus the same!!!

2011 Nissan Sentra -- A Very Good Fit



There are a good number of certainties about Nashville I think we can all agree on. Just to name a few, varied, items I believe are on that list: Fisk University will survive - I have strong belief that the collective “content of our character” will not allow anything less; our local economy will remain stable - the quality of our pillar industries are strong enough to withstand the ups and downs of shifting national levels; the weather will change, just wait 30 minutes - I’ve been hearing that one since I got here 30 years ago.

Now, we must add a new item to the list of certainties about middle Tennessee..... Nissan manufactures a strong, admirable, line of quality vehicles. From top to bottom, the Nissan stable of products more than passes muster. And for those of us in the middle class looking for that “everyday car”, Nissan’s 2011 Sentra is a very good fit.

Made to be affordable, yet inclusive of the comfort and convenience features that help set it apart, the Sentra is a compact vehicle that feels and acts more than compact. This 5-passenger “starter” vehicle is very reasonably priced at \$ 15,500. And for that budget-fitting price tag you purchase a 2.5 liter, 4 cylinder engine which produces 140 horses of power; power windows and door locks; leather-appointed seats; airbags everywhere you need them; keyless entry and keyless engine start; 60 / 40 split fold-flat rear seats; Nissan navigation system by Bosch; BlueTooth connectivity; Vehicle Dynamic Control (VDC); Anti-lock Braking System (ABS); an extra large glove compartment you can even fit your laptop computer in; CD audio system with auxiliary input jacks; a rearview camera whose picture is displayed on your 5 inch dashboard monitor; and.....and..... and..... 27 miles-per-gallon in the city and 34-miles-per-gallon on the highway.

On Nissan’s website the tag-line next to the Sentra reads - “Sensible has a sense of style”. After test-driving the 2011 Nissan Sentra....., I wholeheartedly agree.

Review and photo by Steve Benson, The Tennessee TRIBUNE

2011 Nissan Juke -- If You Want To Play



You can tell the Nissan engineers were feeling frisky as they designed their new addition to the Nissan stable. The 2011 Juke is the kind of automobile you feel youthful in as you zip around in it. Even the top front fender mounted turn signal lights have a mischievous look to them.

Equipped with a 1.6 liter Direct Injection Gasoline (DIG) DOHC 16-valve turbocharged 4-cylinder engine, which kicks up 188 horses of power and 177 pounds of foot torque and a Xtronic Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) with Sport Mode, the Juke has an Integrated Control (I-CON) system which (with the push of a button) can adjust the engine performance up to sport mode or down to Eco mode. A feature ripe to play with.

Physically resembling the luxury level Infiniti EX35 Journey model....., lighter, shorter and smaller than the Journey, the Juke performs like any other more energetic younger brother. Handling turns and cornering like the affordable sports model it is made to be.

Nissan did not skimp though on adding the comfort features to make this more affordable sibling appealing. Standard features on the Juke include; speed sensitive power-assisted steering; speed sensitive door locks; power windows with driver’s side one-touch auto up and down feature; tilt steering wheel with mounted Bluetooth Hands-free phone system and audio control switches; AM / FM / CD, Auxiliary, MP3 capability with 6 speakers; Interface System for iPod; 6-way manual adjusted driver’s seat; remote keyless entry; Nissan vehicle immobilizer system with vehicle security system; Nissan Advanced air bag system; Vehicle Dynamic Control (VDC); Traction Control System (TCS); 4-wheel Anti-lock Braking System (ABS); 60 / 40 fold-flat 2nd row seats; and just in case you don’t want your stuff shifting about as you motorsport around, there is storage under the rear cargo floor.

Nissan kept it real for us. The Juke’s city miles-per-gallon is 27 and it’s highway miles-per-gallon is 32. All for just under \$ 19,000. All in all, with the 2011 Juke, Nissan has given us reason to play.

Photo and review by Steve Benson, The Tennessee TRIBUNE

REMEMBER: Cell Phone Numbers have gone public and released to telemarketing companies and you will start receiving sales calls...

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Ethics in Fundraising

Imagine this: Your non-profit organization is short on funds. A former co-worker tells you she knows someone looking to give \$25,000 to an organization like yours. She says, "I'll introduce you and facilitate the process if you give me 10 percent of whatever she gives you. You know, a finder's fee."

Or consider this: Your neighbor says your organization is a perfect fit for grants being made by the Obama administration. He says "I'll write the grant. If you get it, you pay me 10 percent. If you don't get it, you don't have to pay me."

What do you do?

On the one hand, these scenarios might seem ideal. You don't have to do anything and your organization will financially benefit. You don't have to hire staff, engage board members, or spend a lot of your own time trying to secure a gift that may or may not come through.

But on the other, you can sense that it's not quite upright. As appealing as these offers may seem, they violate the Association of Fundraising Professionals Code of Ethical Principles. That's right. Fundraising is a profession and fundraisers have a professional association that develops ethics and monitors adherence.

Ethical standard 24 from AFP's Code of Ethics states Members shall not pay finder's fees, commissions or percentage compensation based on contributions, and shall take care to discourage their organizations from making such payments.

Here is the reasoning. Raising funds for a non-profit is about obtaining the resources needed to advance the organization's charitable or social mission. Importance is placed on retaining the trust of donors and ensuring that funds are used to fulfill the agreed upon social mission. Percentage based compensation and finder's fees can give rise to betrayal of philanthropic trust in an attempt to secure a larger gift and related fee.

Also, most people don't give because of the skill and talent of your fundraiser. They give because they had a positive interaction with someone associated with your organization, or because of a belief in your work. For the above scenarios, ask your co-worker if she would volunteer to make the introduction because she believes in the value and impact of your organization. Ask your neighbor if he would write the proposal for a flat fee or hourly rate. Fundraising relies on volunteers and paid staff or contractors. It's okay to pay fundraisers. Just don't pay percentages.

Learn more about fundraising ethics at www.afpnet.org/ethics.

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Mel and Pearl Shaw are the owners of Saad & Shaw. They help non-profit organizations and institutions rethink revenue sources. They are the authors of *How to Solicit a Gift: Turning Prospects into Donors*. Visit them at www.saadandshaw.com or call (901) 522-8727.

Karen K. Tenfelde Joins Barge Waggoner Sumner and Cannon

Nashville, TN – Karen K. Tenfelde has joined the corporate marketing staff of Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon, Inc. (BWSC), as senior proposal writer/leader with responsibility for supporting business development and marketing activities for the firm's practice areas in energy and environment.

Tenfelde has over 25 years of experience in marketing, sales, and customer service for products and professional services. She brings an expertise in business development planning, proposal writing, and client relationship management. Most recently she was marketing team leader and senior proposal writer at Stantec Consulting Service, Inc., Lexington, Kentucky.

Tenfelde graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

"We are delighted to have Karen join our team to support the growth and further development of our key service areas in the energy and environment marketplace. She brings to the position a technical background coupled with extensive experience in marketing design services for the built environment," stated Paula E. Harris, chief marketing officer for the firm.

Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon is an engineering, architecture, planning, landscape architecture, and surveying firm. Celebrating over 50 years of service, BWSC is among the top 200 engineering and design firms in the United States. Visit BWSC's web site for more information: www.bargewaggoner.com.



Karen K. Tenfelde

Creating a Financial Plan of Action

Local Advisor Peggy Rouillier Releases New Book That Provides Financial Planning Tools for Improved Decision Making

Nashville, TN– Yes, it is important to create and stick to a financial plan. The problem arises in transforming that advice from theory into action. In her new book, *Plan of Action: Strategies to Help You Build and Preserve Wealth* (\$24.95, CreateSpace Publishing, October 2010), Peggy Rouillier, an independent financial professional based in Nashville, helps introduce readers to various financial planning tools and techniques. *Plan of Action*, a collaboration of Financial Professionals from Securities America, offers thought-provoking conversations about money, choices, relationships and life.

Rouillier's chapter, "Planning with the Power of Visual Thinking" discusses the use of mind mapping as a means to help individuals grapple with complicated concepts associated with wealth management.

"I am happy to have been part of a book that can help investors make more informed decisions that can lead to long-term financial security," says Rouillier. "The first step towards financial freedom is to make – and stick to – a solid plan and this book is that plan."

Plan of Action is written in accessible language and is designed to engage any reader seeking sound advice about a variety of personal and business financial issues that can work in any economic environment. The chapters in *Plan of Action* cover a wide range of financial topics including:

- Re-defining wealth, success and happiness
- Tax-advantaged estate planning strategies and ideas for leaving a legacy to the next generation
- Tips for successful retirement income distribution

Plan of Action: Strategies to Help You Build and Preserve Wealth (\$24.95, 192 pages, paperback, ISBN: 9781453788394) is now available at amazon.com. Link: <http://amazon.com/1453788395>.

About Peggy J. Rouillier

Peggy Rouillier has been in the financial services industry since 1987. As an investment advisor representative with Securities America Advisors, Inc. and a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional, Peggy specializes in comprehensive financial planning and wealth management for clients in the entertainment business and a niche of clients for a tribal American Indian reservation.

After graduating with a bachelor's of science degree in business administration and an emphasis in finance/real estate and office administration, Peggy joined the Guardian Life Insurance Company as a licensed insurance and securities representative. She was recognized in 1992 and 1995 as the company's Associate of the Year, ranking in the top 13 for group life sales. Other professional recognition has included the 1996 Star Producer Equities Award winner for Tennessee Financial Group; recognition in 1997 by Life USA Shareholders Club; the Success Five Year Award and Leadership Counsel Award Winner for Hartford Leaders in 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006; as well as the 2008 Securities America Partners in

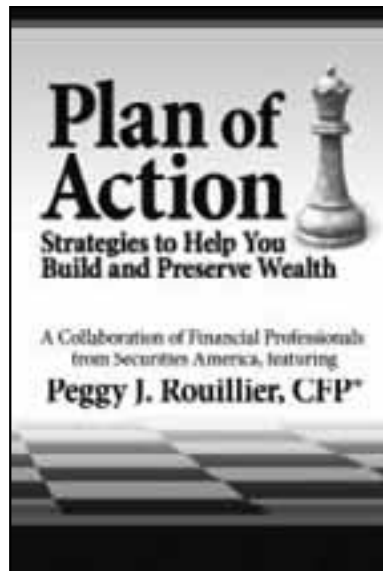
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Peggy Rouillier



Success 10-year recognition.

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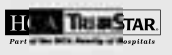
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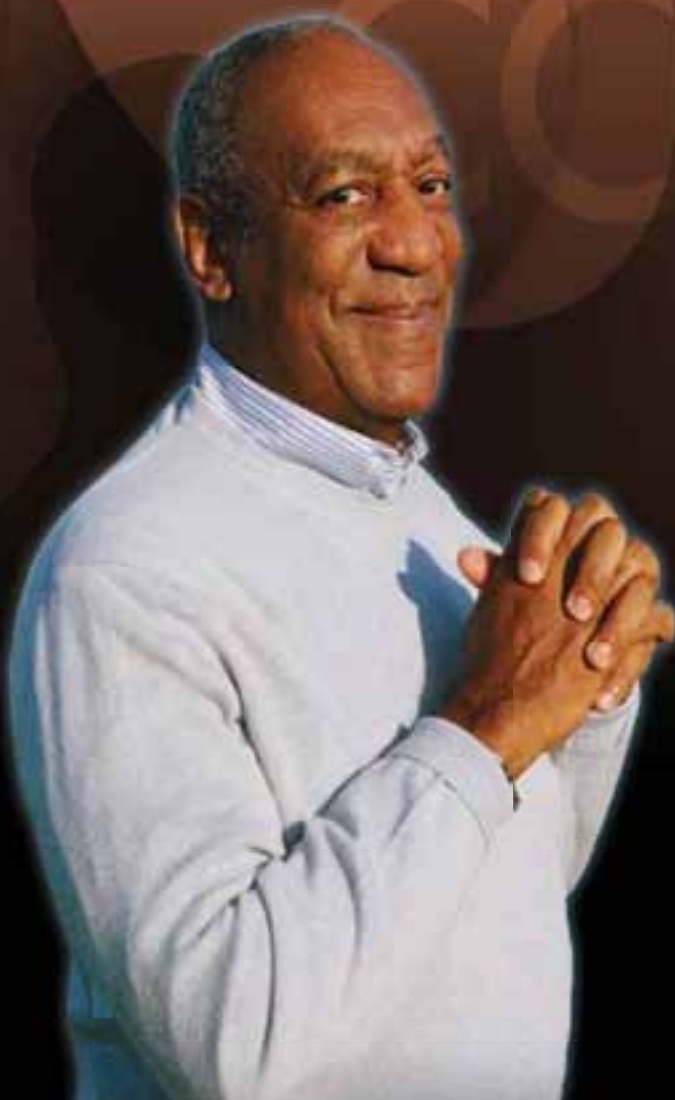
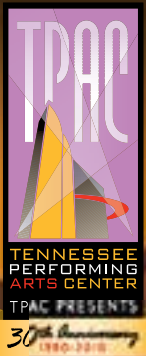
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