

Noted Business Leader Sticken with Cancer



John Raye

This year's winner of Phi Beta Sigma's Marshall Bass "Bigger And Better Business Award", John Raye, has successfully undergone treatment for colon cancer according to a statement from his ComproTax office in Winston-Salem.

Widely known for his efforts to increase Black business ownership, Raye underwent cancer surgery two weeks ago and is expected to make a "full and complete recovery," according to the statement. The statement also noted that Black men have the highest rate of colon and prostate cancer.

When he regains his health, Raye plans to become an advocate for early screening for colon and prostate cancer among Black men, and "to become just as passionate about this as I am about support for black-owned businesses", the statement said.

A longtime advocate for Black entrepreneurship, Raye pioneered the opening of ComproTax offices in the Dudley-Lee Shopping Center in Greensboro and the Northside Shopping Center in Winston-Salem. Based in Beaumont, Texas, ComproTax is the nation's largest African-American owned income tax preparation and bookkeeping company.

Raye achieved national prominence in the mid-eighties when he pioneered the establishment of a federal credit union in Washington, D.C. with a record-breaking opening of more than \$100,000.00 raised in a single day. He later spearheaded a drive that raised more than \$30,000 to save the home and national headquarters of famed historian, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the creator of Black History Month.

Now in partnership with Dudley Products and ComproTax, Raye has launched the National Black Alliance Network (www.thenban.com), a weekly internet program designed to promote Black business development and to help redirect Black consumption spending which now exceeds eight hundred billion dollars annually.

AC PHOENIX NEWS BRIEFS

Hotel Business Is 'No Sweat'

On Feb. 14th, R&B singer Keith Sweat officially welcomed all travelers to Atlanta, during the grand opening ceremony of his brand new four-star hotel named S Hotel, located at 395 Piedmont Ave. in Midtown. Each of the 294 rooms of the hotel, designed by Mr. Sweat, includes flat screen televisions, CD/DVD players, high-speed wireless internet and an en-suite bathroom with bath and separate walk-in power showers, some complete with a view of the downtown area. S Hotel also offers meeting rooms, a business center, club lounge with complimentary breakfast, 220 car parking spaces and leisure facilities, including a gym, sauna and steam room. The ceremony, which included live performances by Kut Close, Silk, Charlie Wilson and many more were filmed for a DVD.

Tuition Costs Reduced At HBCU

Knoxville College, an historically Black college located in east Tennessee, has reduced its tuition costs from \$5,000 to \$1,400 per student, which includes room, board and books. Funded by corporate sponsors, the reduced tuition program guarantees a college education where students can graduate debt-free. All students will need is \$600 for the enrollment deposit, with the balance paid in four monthly installments of \$200. The only enrollment requirements are a high school diploma and a 2.0/4.0 scale. If a student has below a 2.0, they still may be considered if they provide three letters of recommendation from educators who will support their potential. For more information, contact the admissions office of Knoxville College at 1-800-743-5669 or online at www.knoxvillecollege.edu.

History-Maker To Be Portrayed By Legendary Actor

According to published reports, esteemed actor James Earl Jones will portray the late Supreme Court justice Thurgood Marshall in the stage play Thurgood in May. This is the actor's first return to the stage since leaving the Broadway production of On Golden Pond last summer due to an illness. Thurgood will tell the story of the man who became the first Black person to win a case before the Supreme Court and the first to be appointed to the Supreme Court.

Soul Singer's Life Documented In New Film

The last three years of the life of soul singer Marvin Gaye will be portrayed by Jesse L. Martin (the movie Rent and NBC's "Law & Order") in a new film entitled after one of the singer's best-selling recordings. The independent drama will take on the singer's battle with drugs and depression leading up to his death in 1984. Written and directed by Lauren Goodman, production will begin in May in Hungary and Germany.

CDBG Budget Cuts Threaten Local Level

Bush administration budget cuts totaling \$1 billion to grants that benefit public works and infrastructure, decent affordable housing, public services and economic development on state and local levels has prompted a coalition of organizations to request Congress to put a stop to it. These devastating cuts to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program are proposed for the administration's FY 2007 budget, and are expected to be the lowest level of funding for CDBG since 1990. The coalition, made up of local elected officials, cities and counties, as well as housing and community development organizations, are trying to rally hundreds of thousands of their members for support in upcoming months. Coalition members believe the administration's touting of "reform" is only a guise for their desertion of communities, and that 25 percent reduction in funding to the CDBG program will seriously threaten the country's citizens in ways of services and economic recovery. Those most threatened by these cuts are construction contractors, plumbers and electricians of private companies and non-profit community-based providers on the local level.

New Rule Allows Drug Offenders To Receive Federal Aid

Thousands of adult drug offenders may be able to regain eligibility for federal aid for educational pursuits under a new rule will allow offenders to apply for aid who were not enrolled in school and receiving taxpayer support at the time of their conviction. However, students receiving federal aid will lose their eligibility for a certain amount of time if convicted under certain circumstances—one year for a first possession offense; two years for a second; and indefinitely for a third, with harsher penalties for selling. Drug offenses committed as a juvenile do not prevent students from receiving federal aid and many can regain eligibility after taking drug treatment programs. According to the group Students for Sensible Drug Policy, at least 175,000 people have been denied federal financial aid due to their drug records since the government began asking for the information on its financial aid forms in 2000.



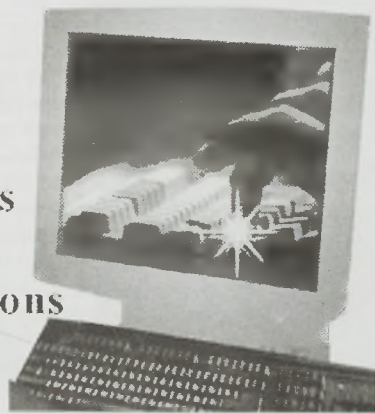
Miles Computer Services

Professional Website Development
from Conception to Completion

www.milescomputerservices.com

Phone: 336.788.1665 or
336.253.6847

Churches
Businesses
Non-Profits
Special Events
Wedding
Family Reunions



Specializing in
Affordable Church
Web Sites