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Section

LIFE

Lynch usage of n-word

By Andre Coe
THE DALLAS EXAMINER

DALLAS — "Before we begin, let me see the hands of all the niggas in the room. That's right. Put them up high.

"Let everyone see."

Dallas Carter High School teacher Curtis Ferguson begins many of his speeches to local elementary students this way. It ticks off many people, he says.

Everyone from parents to teachers, administrators to townsmen, "educated" to "uneducated" people tell him that he is encouraging bad behavior and that he ought not ask that question or say those things.

In their minds, he's setting a bad example.

They're wrong, he says. He's only showing them that, "Your kid thinks he's a nigger. I just proved that."

And that's a day in the life for Ferguson. For the past 10 years, he has taken it upon himself to combat, protest and educate any and everyone about the word nigger and all its various forms and associated mindsets.

For those who haven't gotten his message already, he's taken his mission a step further: From Jan. 8 to Jan. 18, Ferguson camped out in front of the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center and went on a hunger strike to campaign against and protest the use of the "N-word." He wanted to go further, but his doctor advised him not to.

Despite reaching some Dallasites, be they black or white, he doesn't think he achieved his goal. Ferguson and his students will launch a campaign beginning Feb. 1 to further combat and protest the word. He has already presented a proposal to the Dallas Independent School District to "totally ban" the word from its campuses among all its students and teachers, he said.

At tonight's 6 o'clock school board meeting, Ferguson will be there to speak on his proposal. He's encouraging anyone who supports the idea to come out and applaud when they hear something they support or just to contact their school board representative to let them know that they support the district wide ban.

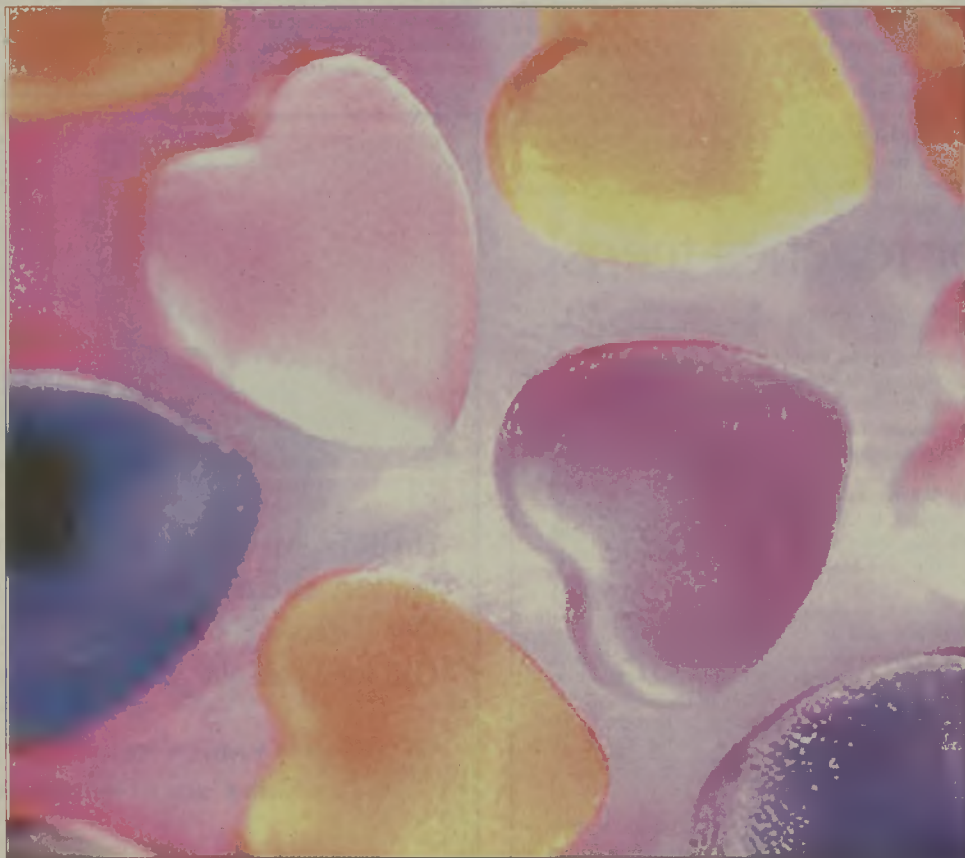
His actions have been noticed. He appeared on Oprah Winfrey's talk show in 1999 and 2000 after a student of his told the talk show host about him. The publicity is not what he is after though. He compares himself to a soldier in Iraq and says he's in a war against ignorance.

"Which word has more death and blood attached to it?" He asks. "What one word has the history of lynching attached to it?"

"That's what I tell so-called educated folks about," he said. "What amazed me when I was on the vigil, white people drove from Colleyville and Grapevine to shake my hand. They had [black] people tell them they could say the word, but they couldn't. Two white cops approached me to shake my hand also. They hear the word being used all the time in the South Dallas area, but if an officer like them uses the word they will lose their job right away."

It's with that same trepidation that some people fear the mere acknowledgement of a double standard concerning

Please see THE N/2B



Passion for reading

Love or hate it, books dig deep into Valentine's Day

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

To some, Valentine's Day means love and kisses. To others, it's a day they'd just love to kiss off.

But whether Feb. 14 sets your heart ablaze or simply gives you heartburn, you can probably relate to at least one of these recent books.

What is love? More than 350 answers to that tough question are in "Love Is ... a Wild Ride" (Abrams). This chunky hardcover is

a collection of Kim Casali's popular, syndicated "Love Is ..." cartoons that feature a childlike and usually naked (but innocently so) couple.

Answers to an infinite number of questions about love—which the reader must supply—are offered by "The Oracle of Love" (Simon & Schuster) by Georgia Routsis Savas. Readers' "questions of the heart" are resolved through the ancient art of

bibliomancy, that is, consulting a randomly selected page of a book to divine an answer.

In "Oracle," answers are derived from several sources, including numerology, astrology, the tarot and crystal ball. Each answer is illustrated by a woodcut.

"Happily Ever After" (Simon & Schuster), on the other hand, offers a collection of Charles Addams' cartoons with

ironic and darkly comic views of love and marriage "to Chill the Heart of Your Loved One."

Addams, whose work appeared frequently in The New Yorker magazine, died in 1988. This book's 150 cartoons include classics as well as previously unpublished pieces from his personal archives.

And even Prince Charming and Cinderella

See VALENTINE/2B

Super Bowl America's excuse to party

By Cheri F. Hodges
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So the Carolina Panthers didn't make the Super Bowl. That doesn't mean that you have to forgo the party.

Super Bowl Sunday is an unofficial holiday of fatty foods, trash-talking and drinking. But when your team isn't playing, does it mean that you don't have fun?

Up until the NFC Championship game, Steve Royster had planned to take Super Sunday off to cheer on his Panthers. Now, he's going to work.

"What do I have to celebrate? My

team isn't in the Super Bowl," Royster said. The avid Panthers fan said he's happy his team made it to the playoffs but he could care less who actually wins the big game.

"If I did go to a (Super Bowl) party, it would be for fellowship, not to cheer on a team," he said.

Beverly McDuffie, also a devout Panthers fan, said she's still going to watch the Super Bowl.

"I love the game," she said, admitting she would have been a little more excited if her favorite team had been playing.

McDuffie said if she goes to a Super Bowl party, she's going to do

her share of eating but not a lot of cheering.

If the Panthers had made it to the Super Bowl, like 2003, fans would have crowded uptown bars and pubs to cheer on the Cats. Bar owners, however, don't expect Super Bowl Sunday to be a total wash. After all, it is the Super Bowl.

Owners of the Gold Pepper Grill and Outer Bounds Sports Bar, two of Charlotte's African American owned-bars, weren't available to talk about what they expect Super Sunday. But it's safe to assume that the wings and beer should be flying.

Colon cancer on the rise among blacks

By Jimmie Briggs
NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

NEW YORK — Blacks are most likely to die from colon cancer than any other racial or ethnic group in America. Its incidence has increased 46 percent among black men and 10 percent among

Blacks over in the last several years.

Treatment and preventive therapies for the disease, which was estimated to kill 56,290 people last year, according to the American Cancer Society. Nevertheless, black patients have not received the best treat-

ment available for the disease, as their white counterparts.

An innocuous article titled "Adjuvant Chemotherapy for Stage III Colon Cancer," was published in the Dec. 7 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association. The crux of

its findings was chilling, but not entirely surprising. Black patients with colon cancer were given adjuvant chemotherapy with much lower frequency than patients of other racial groups.

"The word 'adjuvant' means somebody has Please see COLON/2B

Teen author has been where readers are

By Cheri F. Hodges
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UNC Charlotte sophomore B. Nicole Hunt, or B. Nicole to the literary world, has a message for teenagers she's put in writing.

The five-book series isn't about a little magical wizard - Hunt doesn't do Harry Potter. It's about a 15-year-old named Jana who experiences the ups and downs of life as she and her mother move to Connecticut.

The first book in the series, "Changes," was released late last year.

"Her mother is getting remarried



PHOTO/WADE NASH

Author B. Nicole Hunt

and she moved her from Virginia to Connecticut and she has to leave everything she's known. She has to deal with her absentee father and her brother's tragically murdered. She's dealing with all of that as well as being 15 years old," Hunt said.

Hunt said she decided to write the series because she had a story to tell and wanted readers to have something to look forward to with the release of each book.

And she wanted to deliver a message to her peers without preaching that there are other paths to

See COLLEGE/2B



Red's the color of health

By Cheri F. Hodges
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Heart disease is the number one killer of women, more than all forms of cancer and the next four leading causes of death combined.

But heart disease can be prevented. Through the American Heart Association's campaign, "Go Red For Women" women are encouraged to improve their health and fight heart disease.

In the State of the Heart report released by the organization Tuesday, doctors say death rates for women are down and there is more awareness about heart disease.

"This year's state of heart for women brings good news and bad news: Death rates are down and awareness is up, but there are still gaps in care," said Alice Jacobs M.D., immediate past president of the American Heart Association.

In 2003, 483,800 women died of cardiovascular disease, 6 million had coronary disease and 3.1 million suffered strokes.

According to a study reported in the special Circulation issue, more than half of women surveyed in the United States are now aware that heart disease is the leading cause of death in females. Several other studies also showed that if women are more aware of their risk, they are more likely to take action to improve their health. Those who knew that heart disease is the leading cause of death in women were 35 percent more likely to be physically active and 47 percent more likely to report weight loss compared to those with less awareness.

Women's awareness of CVD as the number one killer of women has steadily improved since 1997, when awareness was 30 percent compared to 55 percent today. However, this knowledge doesn't always lead to effective treatment. Other studies reported that women continue to be treated less aggressively than men.

"We need to make sure physicians are aware that women may need special tests and different diagnostic procedures to identify and treat cardiovascular disease," Jacobs said. "Future challenges will require more research to understand disparities in care."

The challenges, she said, include a need for more research to understand disparities in care at a time when national funding for research at the National Institutes of Health has fallen for the first time in more than 30 years.

In 1997, the American Heart Association launched a campaign directed specifically at women called Take Wellness to Heart. Today, the association continues to lead national efforts to educate women about their risk. This month marks the third year of the American Heart Association's Go Red For Women movement that helps educate women as well as healthcare providers, caregivers and policy makers about heart disease.

Go Red For Women connects with women and shares the tools and information they need to protect themselves and their loved ones. Specifically, Go Red For Women urges women to love their hearts, perform the Love Your Heart gesture and Go Red in their own fashion.

• Love Your Heart. By loving your own heart, you can save it. When women learn to love their

Please see HEART/3B

