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Blacks Urged To Enter \$7 Billion Gaming Field

Los Angeles - Minority opportunity in the \$7 billion gaming industry was the topic of a recent breakfast workshop chaired by Leonard Manning, 42-year-old chief executive officer of Lottery Technology Enterprises (LTE).

The forum, which attracted several black legislators attending the National Black Caucus of State Legislators Conference, served as a briefing for participants in identifying areas of minority participation as more states eye lotteries as viable generators of revenue.

LTE, which was awarded the District of Columbia's daily numbers game contract, is the only minority-owned firm in the U.S. or in the world to operate an on-line lottery system. According to Manning, his firm's success in penetrating the gaming industry was possible only through the city's commitment to minority participation.

The D.D. government, under the leadership of Mayor Marion Barry, required full minority participation," explained Manning. "We are the first firm to have the opportunity to operate a lottery system and there are considerable more areas."

LTE, he added, contracted 120 percent of its supplies and services to minority companies. Minorities, he suggested, with interests in paper products, equipment leasing and sub-assembly manufacturing, to name a few, can take advantage of industry opportunities.

Senator Diane Watson, of the California Black Caucus, questioned the process for ensuring minority participation in her state where the lottery initiative passed November 6.

"As in the District, California must make sure that the language commits the state for minority participation," responded Manning.

LTE sales for its first year of operation peaked at \$68 million, \$28 million of which was contributed to the District's general fund.

Alzheimer's Family Support Service

Meetings Set

Beginning Tuesday, January 8, "Arthritis Water Therapy Program," Harris YMCA, 5900 Quail Hollow Road. A Licensed Physical Therapist will direct the 12 week class and evaluate progress of each participant. A Physician's referral is required. To learn how you can benefit from this program, call Shirley Rodgers, Arthritis Patient Services, 375-0172.

Thursday, January 10, "Anorexia Nervosa, Bulimia & Associated Disorders Support Group" will meet at 7:30 p.m., Community Health Services Building, 1401 East Seventh Street. For more information, call Mike Farmer, 375-0172.

Thursday, January 17, "Arthritis Patient Services Support Group" will meet at the Community Health Services Building, 1401 East Seventh Street. A film presentation, "Wherever You Are" will be shown. Persons with arthritis and their family members are urged to attend. For details, call Arthritis Patient Services, 375-0172.



Jennifer Alexander Beauty of the Week

Jennifer Alexander Is An Active Young Lady!

By Jalyne Strong Post Staff Writer

She's a dancer and a musician, athletic and a good student. At only 11 years old Jennifer Alexander is an active young lady.

She attends Our Lady Of Consolation and is in the sixth grade. "I like the way the teachers instruct class. I think we learn more," reflects Jennifer. "My favorite subjects are math and science," she tells.

Concentration on these subjects are sure to help Jennifer in her long range goal of becoming a doctor. "I want to be a pediatrician because I like working with children and I'm good at it," she admits.

For right now Jennifer's interests include dancing and music among other things. She attends Miss Donna's School of Dance where she studies ballet, tap and jazz. After eight years of lessons, Jennifer reveals she's become very good at her dancing. "I like jazz best," she confesses, "I enjoy the music we dance to." She explains that in jazz dancing they use popular music such as Michael Jackson's and Prince's.

Jennifer developed her musical ability on the clarinet and plays in her school's band. "I want to learn to play the piano also," states Jennifer. She says it will be easier to learn now that she has two years experience with the clarinet. Her interest in piano was perked by her noticing pianists on television. She's looking forward to the time when she will be able to play before an audience. "I like being in recitals," relates Jennifer, who has participated in a few with her dancing class. "I like to show other people what I've learned."

One other interest of this week's beauty is baseball. She plays with the Grayson Center during the summer months. Jennifer commands third base and she and her team must do some pretty fancy ball playing because the Grayson team won every game last year.

When she has time out from her many activities Jennifer says she does a little needle point. Her mother taught her this craft and Jennifer says she is still a novice at it. Other time is spent talking on the phone to her many girl friends.

Her best friends are her parents, Ralph and Kay Alexander. Jennifer points out. She also has two older brothers, Ralph and Vernon, who are in their twenties. What is it like to have two big brothers? "Boring," laughs Jennifer. "They've both gone away."

The people she most admires are her grandparents. She says both her grandmother and grandfather are handicapped. "But they take the

time to come and get me from school every day." After school Jennifer stays with her grandparents until her parents come home. "I help them clean up and I pick up groceries for them," she reveals.

Jennifer participated in the Pre-Teen Cotillion sponsored by the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority last year. "We wore yellow gowns with yellow shoes and we modeled bathing suits. We had escorts and danced as a group," she describes the affair. Part of the festivities presented each young lady who introduced herself and stated what they like to do, recalls Jennifer. She admits that she is anticipating being in another cotillion this year.

Back on the subject of her ambition to be a doctor, Jennifer claims she is not nervous about the intense education required. "I do good in school work," she states. Her parents are proud of her aspiration, Jennifer adds. "They think it's good that I'm going to take the time to help other people."

Jennifer attends Our Lady Of Consolation Catholic Church.

Men In Untraditional Careers

By Loretta Manago Post Staff Writer

Women who were fighting for equal rights made headlines when they worked on jobs as construction workers, mechanics and other male-dominated professions. While these bold steps were being made in the work force, quietly and without much ado, men were treading into professions that were long considered "women's work." It has long been accepted that most chefs are men and even now, the area of cosmetology is seeing an influx of male hairstylists.

For these men, doing the type of work that they enjoy overrides the stigma of the job title their duties entail. For Rodney Page, an AT&T operator, Ahmad Daniels, a male stripper and James Mazzyk, a nurse's assistant, they do what they do because they enjoy it and they're good at it.

Rodney Page has worked with Southern Bell-AT&T for five and a half years, and even he admits that when he was first informed that he qualified for the position of telephone operator, he was a bit leery.

"I thought that once I started working that I would be the only male operator, but on my first day on the job, there were about eight other male operators working in my department," recalled Page.

It wasn't Page's idea to become the operator. He came to Southern Bell, in search of a job with an

Economists Predict Tough Year Ahead For Black America!

Special To The Post

A slowing economy, growing federal deficits, a volatile labor market, and a wider gap between rich and poor is the forecast of the Black Enterprise Board of Economists in its "Annual Economic Outlook for Black America: 1985" in the January issue of Black Enterprise.

The report of the nine-member Board, composed of economists from academia and the private sector, looks at overall economic prospects for black America and explores such specific components of the economy as income, employment, trade policy, fiscal policy, and the stability of the dollar worldwide.

"The largest single economic and social problem facing America today is the ever-widening economic gulf between the races," says Black Enterprise Publisher and Editor Earl G. Graves, summarizing the Board's findings. Although blacks represent 11.7 percent of the population in the U.S., 36 percent are among the poor. This is especially true among the elderly where 21 percent of all elderly poor are black. The gulf between the black-middle class and the black poor is a separate and equally difficult issue, further aggravated by the lack of quality education available to most black children and the increasing



Earl G. Graves

Summarizes board findings

number of single-parent households in the black community.

The black middle class is in a more precarious position than its white counterpart, says the Black Enterprise Board. Dr. Glenn C. Loury, Harvard economist and Afro-American studies professor, remarks, "The black middle class is far more dependent upon two earners, and the differences, of course, is the income level of the men within the two communities."

Black Economists Alarmed By Widening Class Division

Special To The Post

A widening gap between the economic status of the races - and between the black middle class and the black poor - poses major social problems for America's future warns the Black Enterprise Board of Economists in "The Annual Economic Outlook for Black America: 1985" in the January issue of Black Enterprise magazine.

"One of black America's greatest problems has been that of class division. But never has the distinction between the haves and have-nots been so marked as in recent years," concludes the Board of Economists, a nine-member panel of leading black economists from the

academic and private sectors.

"The largest single economic and social problem facing America today is the ever-widening economic gulf between the races," says Black Enterprise Publisher Earl G. Graves, a member of the Board of Economists. "If current economic trends are not redirected in a manner that will more equitably distribute our nation's resources, more black Americans could find themselves on the lower rung of the economic ladder."

In 1970 blacks made up 29.7 percent of the people living below the poverty line. Today, while blacks represent 11.7 percent of the population, 36 percent are among the

poor. Since a large proportion of blacks are employed by the manufacturing sector, America's increased purchasing of imported steel, automobiles, and textiles is hurting the black labor force. Although U.S. Trade Representative William Brock has said that the U.S. may be forced to impose tariffs on steel imports, Economist Dr. Andrew Brimmer, a Washington-based consultant and former member of the Federal Reserve's Board of Governors, believes that tariffs would hurt black consumers by forcing them to purchase higher-priced domestic goods.

One solution the Black Enterprise Board has proposed would be for American industry to take advantage of technological innovations to lower production costs but maintain black employment.

Many blacks are trying to start their own businesses, but the Board acknowledges that securing venture capital can be an uphill battle. "There is capital available for firms that already were financed, but almost without exception, new firms - unless they are spectacular deals or well connected - just can't break in," says Dr. Alfred E. Osborne, Associate Dean and Director of the M.E.A. Program at UCLA.

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Ahmad Daniels Male stripper

opportunity for advancement. "Before I came to Southern Bell, I was in a dead end position and a friend of mine suggested I try the utilities companies. Working here, there's more chance for advancement, great benefits and good people to work with," cited Page.

As a telephone operator, Page's duties are varied. He handles emergency situations, credit card and coin calls, collect calls, person-to-person calls, brief telephone problems and line verification calls. As soon as he has completed servicing a person and disconnects, the telephone computer switchboard he



Rodney Page AT&T operator

works with is lit with another person needing help.

"When people find out I'm a telephone operator they have the notion that I just sit and answer the phone all day. I have to look at each incoming call as a different person with a unique situation," stressed Page.

What makes being a telephone operator a great job for Page is his attitude. He takes the position that as an operator he is the company's contact with people and that he really is reaching out to touch.

"It gives me a great deal of See MEN On Page 13A

poor. The state of the black family and the lack of adequate education are the major factors keeping blacks at poverty level. About 50 percent of U.S. black children are being educated in the 12 largest inner-city school systems, and, in 1980, three out of five black children were being raised by a single parent, 96 percent of the time by the mother.

The impetus for solving some of these problems will have to come from the black community itself, says Dr. Glenn C. Loury, Professor of Economics and Afro-American Studies at Harvard and a member of the Black Enterprise Board. "The welfare state cannot be the sole solution to the problems of these families as we're going toward the end of the 20th century. The services that are delivered through the Department of Human Services are inadequate."

The black middle class itself is in a precarious position, warns Dr. Loury. It is far more dependent on two wage earners than the white middle class, and more vulnerable in the movement away from traditional manufacturing jobs towards more technological and service-oriented occupations.

Dr. Phyllis A. Wallace, Professor and Co-director of the Industrial Relations Section, Sloan School of Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, believes that the number of jobs available for blacks will begin to shrink even further as manufacturers automate their plants.

"To some extent," says Dr. Wallace, "black workers are in the wrong place. The timing is wrong. In addition to the young people who are unemployed, you will have a lot of middle-aged black workers who will not be able to find a spot in the private sector as rapidly as it's moving."

The Black Enterprise Board of Economists concurs that education is the way for blacks to improve their position. Parents must become more involved with their children's education and demand quality from the school system. The black community should strengthen its ties with corporations that give financial aid to institutions like the United Negro College Fund and black alumni programs.

TURTLE-TALK



Start a kind word on its travels. There is no telling where the good it may do will stop.