

Central Arkansas Alumnae Chapter, (501) 261-1650

Inside this Issue

Academy/GEMS Delta Spotlight	2
Hurricane Katrina Excuse-Proof your Exercise Plan	3
HIV/AIDS New State Coordinator	4

President's Message

Overcoming the Opinions of Others.....

No one's approval can affect us – unless we grant it credibility and status!

Ladies as the holidays approach there are many who anticipate its arrival. Some will celebrate with thanks in their hearts, gift giving, travel and or host a holiday gathering. Nonetheless many will participate in those activities that bring them joy during the season. Yet there will be a few that do not enjoy holidays, value others or life. It is these individuals that dwell in an arena of depression, envy and or jealousy towards others.

Yes, even the sister with the quintessential hair, impeccable dresser and owner of a home and car believes the world owes her a living. I, too wish we could put in our time and then kick back for the rest of our lives. She is totally oblivious to the fact that she has been given unique abilities and traits that make her special.

Each of us was born to make a difference and give the world something that no one else can. Make it a point to see the positive aspects of people and situations. Take inventory of self. Go down the list: (a) *Your tongue – do you gossip;* (b) *Your mental jury box – do you judge and* (c) *Your grudges –do you vow to even the score.*

If you find these questions personal...let everything you say be good and helpful...free yourself from the need to create an impression and get rid of the bitterness and stop malicious behavior.

Today, renew your commitment to creating your own true happiness. Get up each morning and be filled with the Spirit. Remember it is not about the religion but about the relationship. Repeat the following mantra: *Good morning Holy Spirit! Guide me, empower me, and help me to honor You in all that I do this day.*

Happy holidays!

Sisterly,
Latrine Robertson

CAAC Reminders

- Δ **CAAC Christmas Party:** The party will be held at Cajuns on December 16 at 7p.m. Please join us for food, fellowship, & fun.
- Δ **Kappa Gala:** December 16, 2006, 9p-2a. Details were emailed by Soror Singleton.
- Δ **Summit VI:** Health Issues that Impact Women of African Descent will be held in Montego Bay, Jamaica April 27-30, 2006. Registration will open Dec. 16 and close Jan. 16, 2006.
- Δ **Delta Dance:** West Memphis Alumnae Chapter will host a dance on Dec. 17, 2005.
- Δ **Statewide Meeting:** The deadline for early bird registration is December 19, 2005. Please mail registration form and payment to the address on the form.
- Δ **Ronald McDonald House Outreach:** Monday, Dec. 19, 2005, 5:30pm.
- Δ **Alpha Debutante Ball:** Dec. 30, 2005 at Peabody Hotel. Tickets \$50 RSVP by Dec. 23.
- Δ **Delta Days at Nations Capitol:** Registration deadline is January 7, 2006
- Δ **CAAC Founders Day:** January 28, 2006 at Pulaski Tech US Bank Community Room at 1p. Captain Jacquelyn Gilbert will speak. If you have not picked up your tickets to sell, please do so at the chapter meeting. Contact April Smith for more details.



Racial Profiling Feared at Wal-Mart

By: Angela Austin

GAF Materials Corp. is giving gift cards from Target as a reward to employees this holiday season after Wal-Mart called sheriff's deputies to apprehend a GAF manager on a bogus bad check rap.

Reginald Pitts, a human resource manager, went to Wal-Mart to pick up an order of 520 gift cards he had phoned in, valuing \$13,600. In the past a white, female administrator was sent to complete the task. Pitts encountered a hassle trying to exchange the check, issued by the accounting dept., for the gift cards. For two hours, store managers stalled on accepting the check for the already printed gift cards, while Pitts stood waiting at the customer service desk. He had handed over his GAF business card, driver's license and the toll free number to

GAF's bank. The accounting supervisor assured them GAF, the nation's biggest roofing systems maker with revenues of \$1.6 billion in 2004, was good for the check.

Pitts stated, "*For a while I thought I was going to prison. It was a totally humiliating experience.*" Dressed in khaki pants and a blue button-down collar dress shirt, Pitts finally got upset and asked for the check back so he could go to another store. Store managers refused to return it. Later, two Hillsborough County sheriff's deputies appeared. One grabbed Pitts by the arm. He objected to the rough handling and asked if he was being arrested. Deputies stated, "We need to talk with you about this forged check you brought in here."

Within 19 minutes deputies reviewed the evidence, determined there was no grounds for a criminal charge and learned Wal-Mart would not press the issue. Lt. Carmen Rivas stated, "Our deputies didn't see enough a case to write a report."

The Wal-Mart store manager, Mark Cornett, who could not be reached for comments, told Pitts he only "*did what he had to do.*"

There has been a string of news reports and lawsuits around the country alleging discrimination and racial profiling in Wal-Mart stores. A manager from the store has yet to call and apologize to Mr. Pitts for the incident.

This story appeared in St. Petersburg Times in Tampa Bay and was written by Mark Albright. For more information visit: http://www.sptimes.com/2005/12/02/Tampabay/Racial_profiling_fear.shtml.

The Red Hot Readers

Meets: Every 4th Sun. of the Month

Time: 6:30-8:30p.m.

Location: Pyramid Art, Books and Custom Framing

For More Information Contact:

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DELTA SPOTLIGHTS SOROR LACRESHA NEWTON

By: Angela Austin

Soror Newton was born in Helena, AR and is the oldest of five children.

She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Radio-Television in 2000 from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. She acquired a Master of Public Administration degree in 2004 from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

LaCresha is Director of Advancement for Girl Scouts of Ouachita Council. She also works at Lane Bryant

part-time "to keep the discount on her clothes."

LaCresha has experience in event planning, program development, and fundraising. She has a passion for community relations and volunteer with several organizations in Central AR. LaCresha serves as one of the Girl Scout Leaders for Troop 659. She is quite involved with church activities at St. Mark Baptist Church, where she teaches new membership orientation and is a group leader with one of the church's ministries. LaCresha also tutors in her spare

time.

Soror Newton was initiated into the Kappa Xi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority at Arkansas State University on Oct. 24, 1999. She presently serves as CAAC Arts & Letters Chairperson.

LaCresha is married to Dewayne and have a stepson, Khallil; she looks forward to being a mother one day.

Soror Newton enjoys writing thematic poems and hanging out with her husband and friends. Her motto: "*I always strive to be the greatest, if I fall short, I'm still among the best.*"



Merry Christmas or Happy Holidays



Bill O'Reilly has sparked a controversy with his statement about Sears/K-Mart and Kohls changing their holiday advertisement to read Happy Holidays instead of Merry Christmas. Public displays of the federal holiday are under attack and some department stores have told their employees to avoid saying "Merry Christmas".

After polling retail stores, the following were noted. J. C. Penney says its catalog is always called "Christmas catalog." Federated Department Stores - Macy's, Bloomingdales, Burdines - says the words "Merry Christmas" will be used in most advertising. May, Filene's, Lord & Taylor and Marshall Fields said the same. But Kohl's refused to define how the company will deal with Christmas. Dillard's, however, will use the slogan "Discover Christmas, Discover Dillard's." So, shop where you like the atmosphere.

O'Reilly in an interview with Philip Nulman, author of "Just Say Yes! Extreme Customer Service - How to Give it! How to Get It!" made the following statements: *"Alright, 85% of Americans say they're Christians. Christmas is a federal holiday, signed into law by U. S. Grant and we're living in a time when some retail outlets will not say 'Merry Christmas.' Insane?"* Nulman disagreed stating, *"It's good business practice and many organizations are desperately trying to be inclusionary. They feel the use of 'Merry Christmas' in their packaging, bags, messages, and environment exclude the 15 or 20 percent of customer who are not Christian."*

Many Christmas traditions were celebrated centuries before Christ was born. The 12 days of Christmas, the bright fires, the Yule log, the giving of gifts, carnivals(parades) with floats, carolers who sing while going from house to house, the holiday feasts, and the church processions can all be traced back to the early Mesopotamians.

In Scandinavia during the winter months the sun would disappear for many days. Scouts would be sent to the mountain tops to look for the return of the sun. When the first light was seen the scouts would return with the good news. A great festival would be held, called the Yuletide, and a special

feast would be served around a fire burning with the Yule log. In some areas people would tie apples to branches of trees to remind themselves that spring and summer would return.

The Romans decked their halls with garlands of laurel and green trees lit with candles. The masters and slaves would exchange places. They celebrated their god Saturn with a festival held in mid-December and ended January 1st called "Saturnalia," which included masquerades in the streets, big festive meals, visiting friends, and the exchange of good-luck gifts called Strenae (lucky fruits).

Christians thought it an abomination to honor the pagan god. Early Christians wanted to keep the birthday of Christ a solemn and religious holiday, not one of cheer and merriment as the pagan Saturnalia.

As Christianity spread they were alarmed by the celebration of pagan customs and Saturnalia among their converts. At first the Church forbid this kind of celebration. Eventually it was decided the celebration would be tamed and made into a celebration fit for the Christian Son of God.

The 25th was not only sacred to the Romans but also the Persians whose religion Mithraism was one of Christianity's main rivals at that time. The Church eventually was successful in taking the merriment, lights, and gifts from the Saturanilia festival and bringing them to the celebration of Christmas. The exact day of the birth of Christ has never been pinpointed. In 350 AD Bishop of Rome, Julius I, chose December 25th as the observance of Christmas.

Whatever your belief and traditions for celebrating Christmas, remembers those in need. Lift, laugh and love all those you hold dear.

Because Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was founded on Christian principles, I feel comfortable in saying, *"Jesus is the Reason for the season."*

Have a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

By: Angela Austin 

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Story Ideas*

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Healthy Life Styles

DST Mission

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated is an organization of college educated women committed to constructive development of its members and to public service with a primary focus on the Black community.