

the lifestyle voice of today's distinguished *urban* professional

KLAZZY

www.klazzy.com

we chat with

Tyler Perry's
Right Hand Man



Still Breathtaking...

...Still No Substitute



PORSCHE



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!!PARENTAL ADVISORY WARNING!!

This content contains LESS profanity than your child's favorite hip-hop song!

"Hope? Not the chick that I went to college with! Hope?! Not the chick on the soap operas! Hope!?! ...stands before me with her arms folded patting her right foot while gazing at me and occasionally looking at her watch. "Ok dude. Come on now! Pick up the pace!" Hope is the only REAL chick in my life right now. She knows that I really don't care for her, yet she has bamboozled me into a relationship. I tried to holla at Certainty, hell, even Possibility, but those chicks were just too good for me. So, I had to settle for Hope. Her sister, B.S., is always coming around with her lies. I have to admit that she tells great stories though. She causes me to drift off into space sometimes. Her best friends, Paranoia, Insecurity, and Fear always try to flirt with me on the sneak tip. Hope knows this but she says she "ain't" worried about them heffas. Hey, I'm human. They do get to me sometimes, but I try to stay faithful. Her distant cousins on her father's side are Failure and Success. Certainty told me one day, (after SHE dissed me) that one of them were interested in me. I asked her, "Which one is it?" "Is it Failure, or Success?" She said she was sworn to secrecy, but she could assure me that I will definitely end up with one of them one day. Come to find out, Certainty and B.S. are actually twins that were separated at birth. I knew they favored each other. So technically, Certainty is essentially B.S., just with a different name. More people are attracted to Certainty by her "presumable" benefits, yet, she still tries to act like Hope. B.S. is straight up, but Certainty will lure you in and then knock you down. Wow! Now Hope doesn't seem as bad. She will do for now, even though I'm interested in Success. We talk from time to time but she's always so vague, and she speaks in parables. She's extremely shy and enigmatic. Elusive even, yet I just can't understand my attraction. It doesn't matter either way. She has a man that nobody wants to mess with. His name is Perseverance!"

Countless battles rage within the depths of my mind. I sit up until 3 am (just like now) tapping out the play-by-play with my fingers on this music-LESS keyboard. A board of keys that ONLY open my imagination? I can't hear the music yet I feel the rhythms of the battles. Sometimes the blood overflows on the battlefield and runs out of my eyes. Since the battles are metaphorical, the blood is clear. Yeah, I cry. Sometimes. Like when I think about my Grandmother whom I didn't have time to visit; she passed away, or my cousin whose call I didn't have time to return; he was gunned down, or my father whose letters I ignored; he was killed, or my uncle that I never visited in the nursing home; he passed away, or my college buddy who lived right here in Charlotte; he died of cancer (this is becoming redundant)... My alumni e-newsletter seems to have a death report every month. I hear about Paris, Britney, and Lindsay for days with up to the minute coverage, yet it takes a year for me to hear about 6 boys being tried as adults for a "school fight". Al Gore's presidency was stolen, the stock market crashed, the US knew about 9/11 before it transpired, it became cheaper to run my car off of milk than gasoline, it became legal to be stopped by a Police Officer for no reason at all, Al Gore was threatened to not run again, it became illegal to have same sex marriages but ok to file your "partner" under your health benefits, Barry Bonds will have an asterisk by his name, but the Patriots will not, it became legal to have your phone tapped with no warrant, athletes are suspended for what they do OFF the field, but Bill Belichick was only "fined" for what he did ON the field DURING games, they create confusion with the top democratic presidential candidates being a black man and a woman, minimum wage hasn't changed since Mary Kate and Ashley were cute and innocent, they create more confusion with district numbers instead of county names and they "re-appoint" officials right before elections so you will just vote for whose already in office, hand sanitizers and anti-bacterial soaps are breaking down everyone's natural immune system then they "lower" your co-pay so you can visit the doctor more often to be injected with a "FLU" shot (yeah right), cruelty to animals (by an athlete) is more severely punishable than cruelty to a spouse (by an athlete) (unless you're hiding in a tree and shooting the animal with a rifle)... but I'm wrong for bitchin' and moaning because YOUR educational system produced another McDonald's employee that cant even get my freakin order right? Yet, what should I expect from a country that stole land from people to start a new society. What should I expect from a country that stole people from their land to build a new society. Corruption breeds corruption, and it's easy for us to get caught in it from day-to-day and forget about what's important. I would like to formally apologize to my ancestors for allowing myself to be caught up in a societal system today that de-humanized my people yesterday. Forgive Me.

God Bless America,
PLEASE!!

Welcome 2 Another Klazzy Experience!

The **USE OF**
Knowledge Is Power DANGEROUS!

THINK RESPONSIBLY!

Bobby R. Bowden, MBA
President
Bowden & Levi Publishing
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What is the
true meaning
of
"Boutique"



704 332 7463

I truly appreciate all of the positive feedback that you guys send in to klazzy. However, even though it's hard to believe, everybody doesn't like klazzy magazine, klazzy.com, or me! I know! I couldn't believe it either! Here are a few samples.

Bobby,

Please remove me from your mailing list. I requested to know who you were. Instead of just saying who YOU were or [my that] name was probably included on a mailing list, [your] decide to try to impress me with [you] title and educational credentials.

You blew an opportunity to build a relationship and have access to VC capital.

I live in [NYC, I] have been on Wall St since the age of 19. I have started various [business] and ventures. Some very successful. I know two industries, Entertainment and Financial Services. While I applaud entrepreneurialism and enterprise, I must let you know that you come [of] as very self centered and obnoxious. Established professionals see the MBA designation on business cards as very amateur indeed. I have a sports magazine based in NYC [include my portfolio].

Education is important, but the heart of a hustler is much more valued because it speaks to passion and not pedigree. The [most wealthiest] people succeeded from their ability to be a people person and articulate their vision. Not cockiness or "I am the man" posturing, but via true leadership and compassion.

Perhaps if you think about the contradiction of your titles and the name ["klazzy"] as a [brand. Its] juvenile slang, yet you purport to be "different".

I too visited your website. It has far too many bells and whistles. Visitors will not be focused on your brand or editorial mandate. Don't let your friends [or girls that want to be on your good side to stroke your ego], be the ones to give you site advice. The fonts are also weak and should be cleaner. Be sure to test on Mac and PC and Mobile environments or platforms. This ensures better subscribers and continued traffic.

I wish you luck and congrats.

RME
CEO- ECCG

~I really and truly hope you didn't write this terribly while on "Wall St". I paid lots of money for my education so you can bet your typographical errors that I'm gonna flaunt it. Hell, I might even put it on a t-shirt. Besides, I want my children as well as other children that I mentor to know that education is not only important but it's necessary. In addition, if you have a permanent tan all over you body, then it's MORE necessary. Also, I want children to see that an undergraduate degree is not enough.

"Juvenile slang". Now that's just plain funny. "Klazzy" is "classy", and "jazzy". "Klazzy" does what it's supposed to do. It's all about marketing, so the spelling "k-l-a-z-z-y" sticks in your mind. I guess "Word Up" was juvenile slang also. How about "Hype Hair", or "Cosmopolitan", or Vogue"? How about Chik-Fil-A?

You were probably educated in web design at the same institution that taught you grammar. There are no cleaner fonts than "Arial". That's why I use it. Every computer system and web browser recognizes Arial; except for YOUR prepaid cell phone.

You call me contradictory? Is klazzy "weak" or pushing "bells & whistles"? Make up you mind. However, since we are on the subject of websites Mr. Rob Eatman, here is your FREE plug for your site www.eatmangroup.com. After viewing it, I have nothing else to say.

*Thanks for your comments! :-)
Enjoy "Wall St", and get that site updated!*

Bobby R. Bowden, MBA

~HEY! You got something you want to say? It's probably not important but if you insist, log on to klazzy.com to submit your Feedback. But remember, I get the "Last Word". :-)

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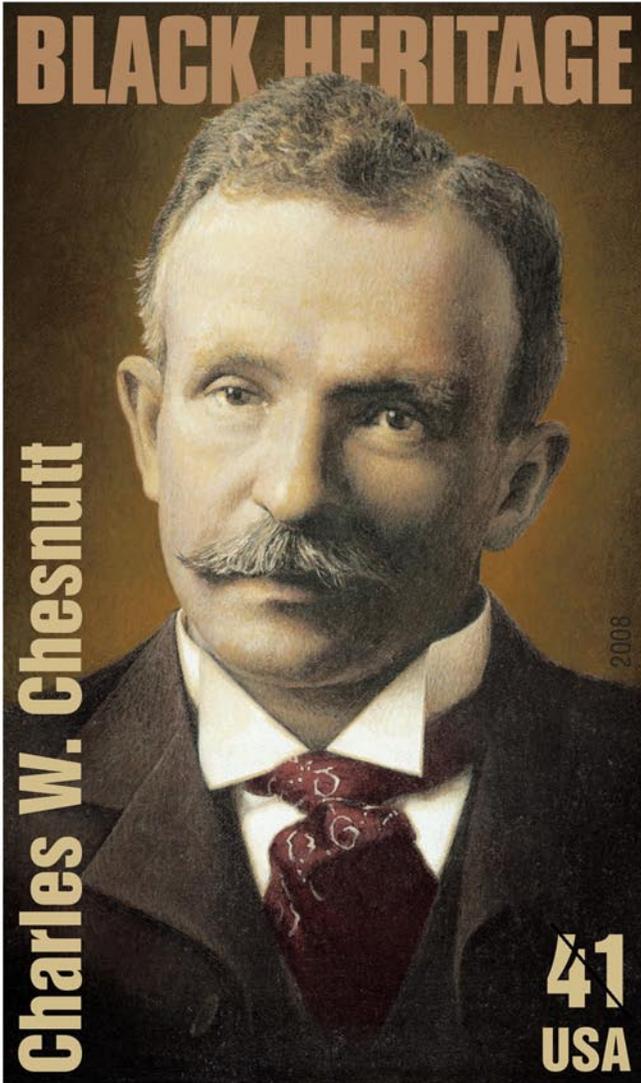
MY LIFE! I've been ripped off with "business loan" scams. **Classic!** People that I've dated are now friends with other people that I've dated. **Sick!** I got people "telling" me what I'm gonna print in "my" magazine. **Ignore!** There are people who don't understand that everything is last minute in the entertainment industry. **Patience?** I've had people who would uplift me on Monday and then kick me down and take cheap shots at me on Thursday. **Unstable!** Then there are the people that you only hear from when it benefits them. **Typical!** I love my job!!!

Once Again, Legal Crap In Tiny Print To Cover My A\$\$

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HEY, IT'S ALL IN GOOD FUN PEOPLE!

BRONCO PRIDE!!





Dividend Power

It wasn't so long ago that many investors regarded dividends as roughly the financial equivalent of a record turntable at a gathering of MP3 users--a throwback to an earlier era, irrelevant to the real action. But fast-forward a few years, and things look a little different. Since 2003, when the top federal income tax rate on qualified dividends was reduced to 15% from a maximum of 38.6%, dividends have acquired renewed respect. Favorable tax treatment isn't the only reason, either; the ability of dividends to provide income and potentially help mitigate market volatility also is attractive to investors. As baby boomers approach retirement and begin to focus on income-producing investments, the demand for high-quality, reliable dividends is likely to increase.

Why Consider Dividends?

Dividend income has represented roughly one-third of the monthly total return on the Standard and Poor's 500 since 1926. According to S&P, the portion of total return attributable to dividends has ranged from a high of 53% during the 1940s--in other words, more than half that decade's return resulted from dividends--to a low of 14% during the 1990s, when investors tended to focus on growth. If dividends are reinvested, their impact over time becomes even more dramatic. S&P calculates that \$1 invested in the Standard and Poor's 500 in December 1929 would have grown to \$57 by September 2005. However, when coupled with reinvested dividends, that same \$1 investment would have resulted in \$1,353. (Bear in mind that past performance is no guarantee of future results, and taxes were not factored into the calculations.) Dividends can be especially attractive if the market is producing relatively low or mediocre returns. If a stock's price rises 8% a year, even a 2.5% dividend yield can push its total return into the double-digit range; in some cases, dividends could also help turn a negative return positive. Also, many dividend paying stocks represent large, established companies that may have significant resources to weather an economic downturn.

The Corporate Incentive

Financial and utility companies have been traditional mainstays for investors interested in dividends, but other sectors of the market also are beginning to offer them. For example, investors are stepping up pressure on cash rich technology companies to distribute some of their profits as dividends. In June 2007, the number of companies offering dividends was 3% higher than the year before, according to S&P, though increases in the amounts paid have been slowing in recent years. Dividends are by no means guaranteed; a company's board of directors can decide to reduce or even eliminate them. However, a steady and increasing dividend is generally regarded as one sign of a company's ongoing health and stability. For that reason, most corporate boards are reluctant to send negative signals by cutting dividends.

Look Before You Leap

Investing in dividend-paying stocks isn't as simple as just picking the highest yield. Some dividends, such as those paid by real estate investment trusts (REITs) and master limited partnerships, don't qualify for the 15% maximum tax rate, and a portion may be taxed as ordinary income. If you're investing for income, consider whether the company's cash flow can sustain its dividend. Also, the 15% rate is scheduled to expire at the end of 2010, and there is no guarantee dividends will continue to receive favorable tax treatment. If you're interested in a dividend-focused investing style, look for terms such as "equity income," "dividend income," or "growth and income." Also, some exchange-traded funds (ETF's) track an index comprised of dividend paying stocks, or that is based on dividend yield; be sure to check the prospectus for information about expenses, fees and potential risks, and consider them carefully before you invest. A financial professional can evaluate the role dividends might play in your portfolio.

A woman with dark hair and purple eye makeup is sitting in the driver's seat of a car. She is wearing a teal, ribbed, one-shoulder dress and long, dangling earrings. She is looking back over her right shoulder towards the camera. The car's interior, including the steering wheel and dashboard, is visible in the background.

Just in case they're looking

BCBG // ATTITUDE

2 Ivy or not 2 Ivy

figuring out the college payoff



If you have a child or grandchild approaching college age, you may be wondering if an Ivy League education is really worth the steep price of admission. Will a diploma from an elite college guarantee your offspring a bright and prosperous future, or just a pile of debt?

Dollars and Cents

The cost of tuition, fees, and room and board at Harvard University for the 2007/08 year was \$45,620. (Source: Harvard Crimson, March 22, 2007) If your child entered the freshman class September 2007, that would translate into a total cost of \$196,628 for four years (assuming a rather tame 5% annual rate of college inflation). And this doesn't include money for books, transportation, and personal expenses! By comparison, the cost for the 2007/08 year at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a school widely regarded as a top-notch public college, was \$28,684 for out-of-state students and \$13,036 for in-state students. (Source: UNC Financial Aid Office) This equals a four-year cost of \$123,632 for the out-of-state student and \$56,187 for the in-state student (again, assuming a 5% rate of inflation). That's an out-of-pocket savings of \$72,996 and \$140,441, respectively, compared to the cost of Harvard.

The Debt Factor

The Ivies often note that, while their schools might be expensive, most students rarely pay the full sticker price. But even as Ivy League colleges dole out millions of dollars in need based aid each year from their huge endowments, non-Ivy private schools and public colleges distribute more merit aid, which is aid awarded on the basis of good grades or some special talent. Up-to-date college guidebooks can tell you how generous each college is in helping its students meet annual costs, and the breakdown of loans vs. grants. Still, you will never actually know what your child will receive in the way of "free" grant and scholarship money until he or she actually applies to a particular college. So you will not know for sure how much you or your child might need to borrow. But if your child does require student loans, here's an idea of what he or she will owe each month: As you weigh the cost factor, keep in mind that a high amount of debt might impact your child's future major life decisions on job opportunities, living arrangements, graduate school, getting married, purchasing different types of insurance, and/or starting a family.

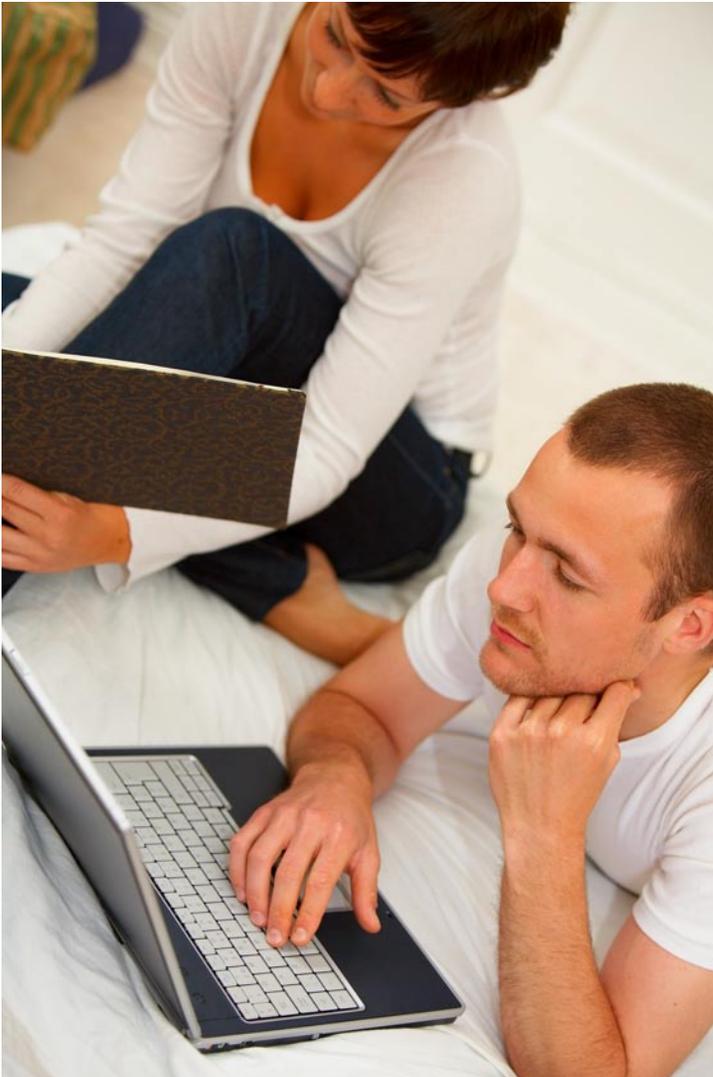
What About the Intangibles?

Putting aside cost, there are benefits to an Ivy education that can't be measured in nickels and dimes--the prestige of the name on your child's resume, strong mentoring that can lead to coveted jobs and graduate school spots after graduation, the opportunity to build friendships with future leaders, and an alumni network that can open doors throughout life. But critics of the "Ivy-at-any-cost" group point to excessive competition at the Ivies. They claim that students are more likely to get individualized attention at other colleges, and note that as time goes on, achievement in the workplace will matter more than the name on your child's resume. Indeed, Warren Buffett, CEO of Berkshire Hathaway and graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, once stated: "I don't care where someone went to school, and that never caused me to hire anyone or buy a business." What counts most, some CEOs say, is a person's ability to seize opportunities. (Source: Wall Street Journal, Any College Will Do, September 18, 2006)

The Bottom Line

To decide if an Ivy League education is worth it, weigh the cost with the potential long-term economic and life experience benefits. But keep in mind that highly motivated students who are independent thinkers and hard workers will likely do well in life no matter where they attend college. The important thing is to make sure that the match between your child and the college is a good one.

who should retire first



You and your spouse are both employed and nearing retirement age. Even if you've accumulated enough assets to allow you both to retire at the same time, however, you might not want to do so. The transition into retirement can often be difficult, and doubly so if you're both struggling through that phase simultaneously.

So, Who Should Retire First?

If one spouse is earning significantly more than the other, then it usually makes sense for that spouse to continue to work in order to maximize current income, ease the financial transition into retirement, and perhaps even increase your retirement nest egg. But what if your incomes are relatively equal? Here are some other factors to consider:

- **Pensions:** If only one of you is covered by an employer pension plan, it may make sense for that person to continue to work if he or she hasn't yet maximized that pension benefit. Similarly, consider how continuing to work would impact your Social Security benefits.
- **Insurance:** Are either of you eligible for retiree health insurance? If so, are you required to work to a certain age to get that important coverage?
- **Plans:** Do one of you have specific plans for your retirement years? Perhaps you'd like to concentrate on a hobby, or spend time volunteering, or even learn a new skill? If so, consider whether that person should retire first in order to pursue those goals.
- **Job satisfaction:** Do one of you find working more self-fulfilling than the other? Would one of you feel more lost without your current routine? One thing is clear--you'll need to discuss this with your spouse, preferably well ahead of time.



More Life Insurance

Term Life v/s Whole Life

There are two basic types of life insurance; term, and permanent. Term life insurance provides temporary insurance coverage for a specific term. There is no cash value in the policy, and the policy's death benefit is paid only if you die during the term of the policy. Permanent (cash value) insurance is designed to provide lifetime protection, as long as you pay the premiums to keep the policy in force. At the outset, premium payments are usually higher than premiums for comparable term insurance. The increased premiums are used to provide a cash value that you can access if needed. Caution: Any guarantees associated with payment of death benefits, income options, or rates of return are subject to the claims-paying ability of the insurer. If you need a large amount of life insurance protection at an affordable price to cover short- or intermediate-term needs, term insurance may be the most appropriate option. On the other hand, if you will have an ongoing need for protection, or want the flexibility of building a cash reserve that you can borrow or withdraw from, permanent insurance may be the better choice. Term and permanent life insurance each have distinct advantages and disadvantages. So, it's probably not surprising that sometimes the best option is to consider buying both.

Planning for a Young Family

Let's say you and your spouse each plan to work for another 25 years. You determine that if either of you died, the survivor would need \$250,000 to replace the lost income of the deceased spouse. One option to consider might be the purchase of a \$100,000 permanent cash value life insurance policy and a \$150,000 25-year term insurance policy on each of your lives.

Using this approach, you can potentially:

- Meet your need for income replacement now, largely with lower cost term insurance
- Address a need for more permanent insurance later by converting some or all of the term insurance to permanent insurance without the need for further underwriting or new medical extras
- Provide a foundation of permanent insurance that you will always have, and that will build cash values that you can use for future expenses (e.g., college funding or your retirement).

Planning for a Child with Special Needs

If you're the parent of a child with special needs, you might find that purchasing both term and permanent insurance can help provide the broad protection your family needs. For example, if you were to die prematurely, your family would probably need funds to pay off immediate debts and obligations and to replace your lost income; term insurance might be the most affordable way to provide a lump sum to cover those needs. However, your child will have other financial needs (e.g., specialized medical treatment, schooling, residential programs, care giving services, etc.) that will probably exist even after your death, and the death of your spouse. An additional permanent insurance policy--in this case a second-to-die policy, which would pay a death benefit upon the death of the last surviving parent--might provide the funds to meet these additional needs. And, because a second- to-die policy only pays a death benefit upon the death of the last surviving spouse, it generally costs less than buying individual life insurance policies for you and your spouse.

Business Owners

Typically, life insurance plays a role in funding a business succession plan (e.g., funding a buy-sell agreement that prearranges the sale of a partner's interest upon death or disability). In this context, combining term and permanent insurance can be an efficient and economical solution. For example, individual term insurance policies can be purchased on the lives of each partner based on the current value of each partner's share of the business, with coverage until retirement age. Permanent policies can be purchased to provide additional funds with the expectation that the business' value will continue to grow. The permanent policies add flexibility, in terms of additional life insurance coverage, and cash value which can be accessed if needed (for example, to buy out a partner who retires before death).

Talk To an Insurance Professional

The insurance policy or policies that are right for you depend upon your financial circumstances. A life insurance professional can help you evaluate your insurance needs and recommend appropriate insurance products.



Photography

- Awards Banquets
- Business (Head & Shoulders)
- Commercial
- Corporate Events
- Daycare & School
- Family Portraits
- Film/Digital Reprints
- Greeting Cards
- In Home/On Location
- Infants & Children
- Maternity Portraits
- Model Shoots
- Pets
- Portraits From Film & Digital Files
- Posters
- Post Cards
- Real Estate Photography
- Team Photos
- Weddings

Video

- Birthdays
- Churches
- Corporate & Training
- Digital Video
- DVD Creation
- Marketing
- Music Videos
- Online Video
- Photo DVD's
- Presentations
- Seminars
- Special Events
- Tape Duplication
- Tapes to DVD
- Video Editing
- Weddings

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the fitness queen

Hello All! I am Dawn Strozier, a Personal Trainer and Nutrition Consultant that has a passion for sharing with people how to be "Fit for Life" and live up to their fullest potential.

I have created a "Fitness Success System" that is designed to get lasting results through teaching you how to make "fitness...a life style."™ I have worked with a client roster that includes professional athletes, Hollywood executives, and "A" list actors. Client Comedian Steve Harvey states, "It's the best program ever"

My philosophy is simple "You'll win, if you don't quit!!!"

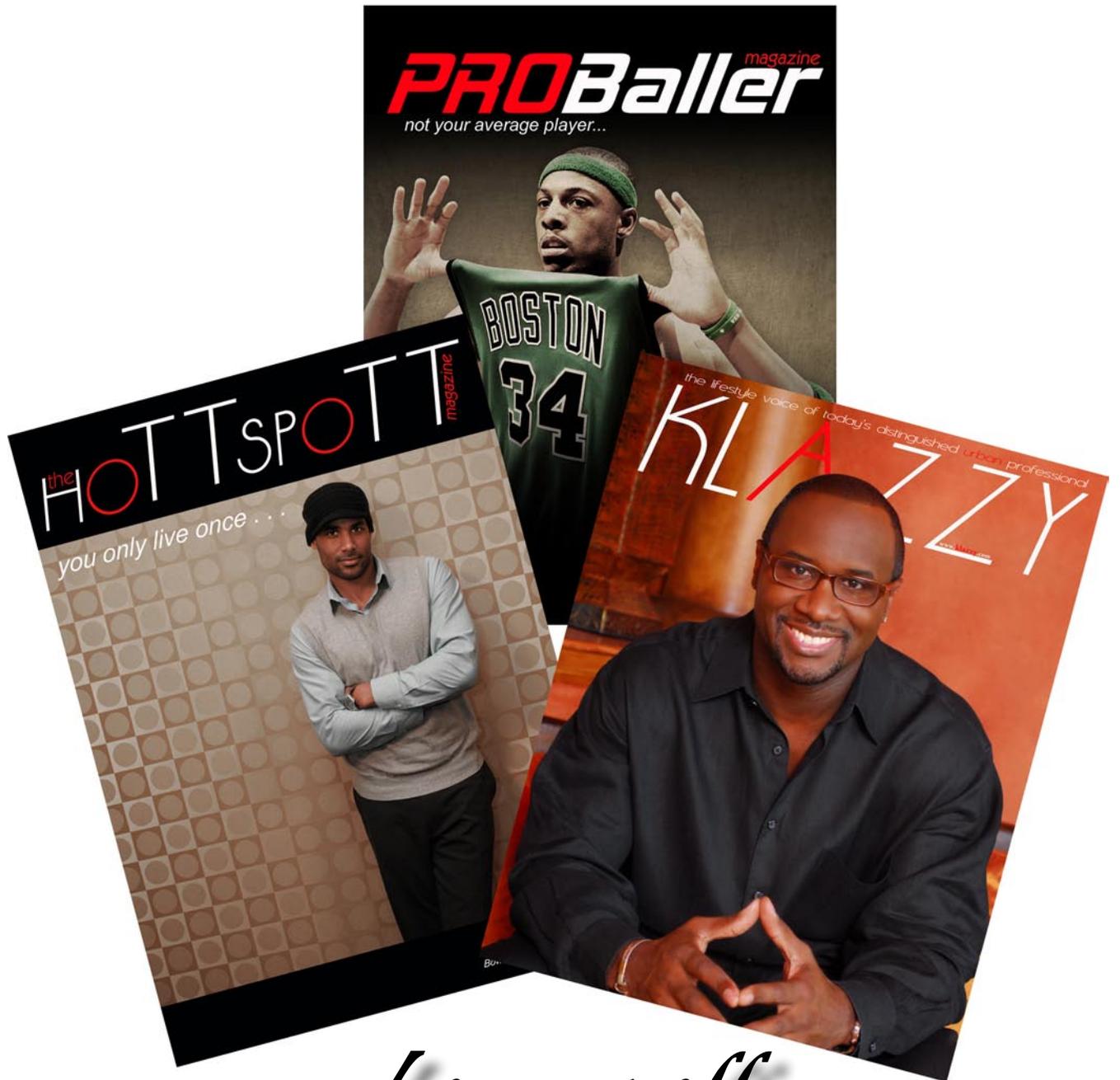
I believe once you're empowered with the proper understanding of what it means to be healthy, how to give your body the nutrients it needs and why practical movement in your everyday life is important, you will have the information you need to win. My goal with Klazzy Magazine is to offer you, in every issue, the best in nutritional ideas and fitness tips that will help you create your best body ever.

So, to get you started here are my Top Ten Tips to your fitness success.

- 1.) Eat six meals a day.
Eating more meals of smaller portion accelerates your metabolism and keeps it moving throughout the day.
- 2.) Combine carbohydrates, protein and good fats at every meal.
Simple fact - our body works better with a balance of carbohydrates, protein and good fats.
- 3.) Choose "appropriate" portion size.
Employ a common sense approach, to determine portion size use the palm of your hand or a clenched fist.
- 4.) Plan your meals ahead of time.
If you don't plan to win, you plan to fail. It's important to plan every aspect of your workout in order to achieve great success.
- 5.) Get containers to store your food.
Having nutritious meals within reach during a hectic day can keep you on track.
- 6.) Drink 10 8 oz. glasses of water everyday.
It's especially important to stay well hydrated when following a comprehensive training nutrition and supplementation program. Remember fat cells are released from the body through perspiration and frequent urination.
- 7.) Don't eat right before you train.
Scientific studies indicate that fat is burned much faster - up to 300 percent faster - when done on an empty stomach. This is why working out as soon as you get up in the morning provides amazing results.
- 8.) Take high quality products.
Research shows that most people do not consume an optimal amount of vitamins by diet alone.
- 9.) Find your "emotional reason" for staying the course.
People, who successfully transform their bodies have made up in their minds why it's important to accomplish this goal. And what it will mean in their lives if they don't.
- 10.) Strive for consistency not perfection.
There will be occasions when you fall off track of your daily goals. But when you do, don't allow it to slow you down. Enjoy the deviation, recommit to your goals, and get back on track the next day.

Dawn Strozier, fitness trainer to the stars, is a Certified Personal Trainer and Nutrition Consultant based out of Beverly Hills, CA. For more information visit www.thefitnessqueen.com, or Dawn@thefitnessqueen.com The Fitness Queen of Keeping you Lean!™, "You'll win if you don't quit!"

Bowden Levi PubLish^{ing}



...something different



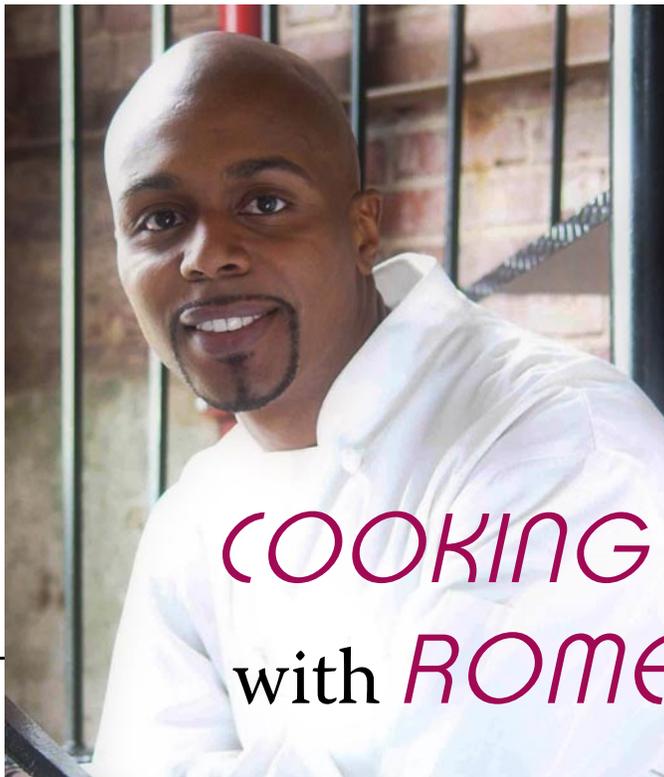
THE PEAR POTATO

Everybody loves mashed potatoes. They're great for dinner, but you always make too much and end up with left overs. Have you ever asked yourself, "What do I do with these leftover mashed potatoes"? I can recall having moments like that myself, and you hate to just throw them out. I wanted to have some fun in the kitchen, so this is what I came up with. It looks good, but trust me, it taste even better. Enjoy!

Ingredients

- 1 small pot (to use not to eat)
- 1 mixing bowl (same as the pot)
- 2 or 3 small saucers
- 1 ladle or large spoon
- 3 cups of vegetable oil
- 3/4 cup of leftover mashed potatoes
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup of milk or water
- 1 cup of all purpose flour
- 3 cups of Japanese bread crumbs
- 1 whole clove
- 1 bay leaf

Place the small pot with on the stove and turn on to medium high heat. Warm for approximately 5 minutes. Add the vegetable oil, and continue to allow oil to come up to temperature. This should take another four minutes or so. Test the oil by adding a pinch of flour. If it sizzles, then your oil is ready. Now for the fun part. You're not cooking unless your hands get messy! So, begin to form your potatoes in the shape of a pear. As you complete each one set them aside on a saucer. In the mixing bowl, beat two eggs well (like they talked about your mother. Add the milk or water to the egg mixture. Combine until well blended. Gently coat the potato in flour, and then gently add the potato to the egg and milk solution. Now add the potato to the bread crumbs and be sure that they stick all over. Using your ladle or large spoon, gently place the potato into the oil. Deep fry for about 20 seconds evenly. Remove from the oil and drain well on paper towels. Place a whole clove into the top of the potato (this represents the stem). Add the bay leaf next to the clove. Enjoy and serve immediately!



COOKING
with ROME

Alexis
Levi's
NEXT AMERICAN
SPORTS PRO



COMING SOON



the man... *sitting next to the man*

interviewed by: Pam Lawhorne

Roger Bobb of Tyler Perry Studios was kind enough to take time out of his seriously busy schedule to chat with us for a few minutes...

What's your official position?

I'm the supervising producer of Tyler Perry studios. I produce all of Mr. Perry's film and television projects.

Tell me a little bit about your background and education.

I attended Brooklyn college and the school of visual arts. I started off as an assistant director. I assistant directed about 30 films. Then I started producing smaller budget films. How I met Mr. Perry was I produced a film that appeared at the American Black Film Festival in Miami and Ruben Cannon was there. Mr. Cannon approached me to work on a new project that they were working on, Woman Thou Art Loosed, but I was not available. However, in 2004, I was available for their next project, Diary of a Mad Black Woman. So from that point I met with Mr. Perry, we kind of clicked, and I've been his right hand man every since.

How much work have you guys collaborated on?

Since then we've done 5 movies and 100 television episodes.

Are you living your dream right now?

I am absolutely living my dream. I feel like I'm the most blessed man on earth. I get to do what I love to do and I get paid very well to do it. Meanwhile sending positive messages of love and faith and redemption. So I am absolutely living my dream. If somebody asked me what I want to do, I'm doing it. So, not many people in life can say that.

When you came out of school was this the vision that you saw for yourself?

No. I knew I wanted to be involved in the film industry I just didn't know how. I was actually directing when I first got out of film school. So, kind of, directing was my passion. It's a funny story... What happened was I started directing a lot of low budget music videos and when you're doing videos at such a low budget you're kind of wearing all the hats. I was directing them, I was producing them, I was providing the catering, I was driving people... I was doing everything. And the artist and the development people that I would work with saw my hustle and what happened was I started to get more calls to produce then direct and that kind of led me onto my producing path. So I actually found out that I really loved producing. So it's funny how you never really know what God has planned for you.

So actually how long have you been doing this?

I've been working in film since 1993.

And that makes you how old? LOL!

40

Really? You don't look 40.

That's why I can say it! LOL! If I looked it then I wouldn't say it.

I know that you haven't been with Mr. Perry for your entire ride, but you do know his work very well. Has he deviated much from his original vision?

The funny thing is I don't believe he had a complete vision for all of this when he started out. He was very successful with theatre and the plays, so, he's a business man, and he had been approached by many studios. The first thing that you notice about Mr. Perry is that he's a do-it-yourselfer and he's like a sponge. So what he will do is learn your craft and your business and then he will find a way to do it himself in order to maximize profits. So he was approached by studios to do films, but he's the type of man who does not want to be told by corporate entities how to structure his films, television scripts, or basically be told what to do. So he decided to self finance his first film, and that's pretty much the way we have done all of his projects. We did a co-production deal with BET and LionsGate to shoot Diary of a Mad Black Woman, and we shot that here in Atlanta. In order to further fray costs we shot a bulk of the movie at his house.

So that's a free set right there which saves even more money. We're all very confident people so we did expect for the film to do well, we just didn't expect for it to do as well as it did. So after that film we did Madea's Family reunion. And from the success of the films he decided to branch into television with the idea to do House of Payne. Again, being the independent thinker that he is, he had lots of deals from major networks but they wanted to control certain parts of the show and say "You can't say this," or, "You can't do that." "You can't say Jesus!"; or, "You can't say God"; "We don't want the family to be too heavysset as African Americans." So again they tried to change his vision. So what he did was, and no one else had ever done this, he financed a 10 episode pilot himself. He wrote and directed them, I produced them, and we gave them to the network for free. We didn't charge a franchise fee, a licensing fee, or anything. So we told them to air these for free, but the money that you would give us, we want you to spend on advertising. So they did that and the ratings were through the roof. So based on the success of that the timing was actually perfect for us. What happened was that was the same time when UPN merged with the WB to form the CW which caused over 50% of African American programming to get cancelled. So in the midst of this TBS comes along and offers us a 100 episode deal, and here we are. We shot all 100 episodes by the end of 2007. Most of Hollywood shoots 1 episode a week and then take 3 months off we shot 3 episodes a week. Non stop. From February til the end of 2007. 100 episodes all while shooting two movies. So the complete 2007 includes premiering Daddy's Little Girls, Shooting Why Did I Get Married, Shooting Meet the Browns, Premiering Why Did I Get Married, and shooting 100 episodes of House of Payne and 15 episodes of the talk show.

Are there any additional projects in the works.

We have already shot episodes of Meet the Browns and we're gonna do the exact same thing with Meet the Browns as we did with House of Payne. He didn't have to do it that way, but once again, he independently financed 10 episodes, we're gonna give it to the networks for free and see who the highest bidder is. We also expect to finish shooting two movies by the end of the first quarter of 2008, and then after that we're gonna go into 100 episodes of Meet the Browns.

Wow! Do you still have a passion for small projects?

I still have a passion for it but since I'm a part of the Tyler Perry *Juggernaut* I just don't have time to do it.

You guys have expanded rapidly. Where do you see further expansion?

The sky's the limit. Take this studio for example. We originally started renting it to shoot the pilots of House of Payne. Then we shot Daddy's Little Girls here, and again, being the shrewd business man that he is, decided to purchase the studio instead

of continuing to rent it. So he purchased it, had it renovated, and we've expanded it to three sound stages, and now we shoot the movies and the television shows here. So we would shoot House of Payne in the morning from 8 am til 12 pm, and then we would literally walk into the next studio and shoot Why Did I Get Married from 1pm until 1 am.

Which parts of Why Did I Get Married were shot in the studio?

The entire interior of the cabin. It was all done where the talk show set is now. The exterior scenes were shot in Vancouver and all of the interior scenes were shot here in the studio.

What caused you guys to go away from the Madea character in Why Did I Get Married?

First of all Mr. Perry wanted to do something in which he could play a man. LOL! He didn't want to go through the costume and makeup. He has always wanted to make all of his plays into feature films and this play was next up. Plus we wanted to branch out from Madea and we wanted to do romantic comedy such as this movie, we wanted to do a drama, such as Daddy's Little Girls. We want spectators to experience the full spectrum that is Tyler Perry. So we knew we were going to do another one of his plays and Why Did I Get Married just really fit the bill right now. To me it's kind of a throwback to film such as Love Jones and The Best Man. Films that incorporate positive and successful adult African Americans in a way in which WE know that they exist. Affluent, intelligent. It was important for us because as we looked at some of the other films coming out they were either comedies, or gangster flicks. So we wanted to deviate from that and make a mature intelligent and fun film that still stuck to our core which is that of love, faith, and forgiveness. I really think this movie showed our progression as filmmakers and it was definitely our best work to date.

With such a demanding schedule how do you deal with the stress and unwind?

You don't. It's not really stressful. It's enjoyable. It's like organized chaos. We know in the back of our minds that with all of the things we're doing at Tyler Perry Studios we're making history. We're doing things that no one has ever done before. It's like we're involved in a movement. When you're involved in a movement you don't think about being tired because the movement kind of takes over your life. People do come and go, but the people who stay are the ones who have the same work ethic. He called me once at 5 am saying, "...I figured out how we can transition into this..." I'm thinking to myself why are you up thinking about this at 5 am, yet I was thinking about it myself. But I'm wondering why he's thinking about it because he has so many facets of his empire; television, film, plays, books, real estate holdings, etc. So it's a situation in which you love what you're doing so you never get tired of doing it. It's like taking

care of your kids. You may feel tired but you don't get tired of doing it because you will never stop doing it. That's how we feel. This is our child, and we need to nurture it and that pushes us through.

Klazzy gives its readers the full spectrum of living. Tell us about your health regimen.

I definitely have to stay in shape because we stand a lot. Mr. Perry, as well as myself, we do work out a lot. Me, I used to be a college athlete so I try to stay in shape. I get up in the morning, run for two miles, and then work out for 45 minutes. I try to do that at least 2 or 3 times a week.

What is your personal inspiration.

Besides being with Mr. Perry, he's an incredible man and I feel blessed to be working with him, is Spike Lee. He's the person that motivated me to get into this business. Prior to seeing She's Gotta Have It in 1986, I always had a love for film but I never thought that black folks did it. So here I am, this kid in Brooklyn, and to have a guy that lived in the same borough and he made this film, and the film was incredible, and with his success and his achievement, it kind of demystified the whole film process for a lot of African Americans. It showed us, "hey, we can do it. We have a message and we can put it out there and be successful. The thing about spike is there hasn't been one person in the history of film that has put more people to work in front of and behind the camera than Spike Lee. That's an incredible achievement. The majority of the working African American actors out here now have worked with him at one time or another. He's done a film every year for like 13 years now. I think he's an incredible talent. He's the one that gave me the motivation, along with my father, to pursue a career in this industry.

Where do you see yourself in the future.

I see myself continuing to do what we're doing, make better films and better projects, but I also think the next step is to help other film makers achieve their goals. To do other projects outside of the Tyler Perry Umbrella. To basically form a studio where we can develop and nurture and more importantly, distribute product from not just African American writers and directors but like –minded actors and directors who have positive messages to portray in their films.

Advice that you would give to aspiring actors. Lots of people want to get in the industry, they're paying for acting classes and other things.

The first thing is that you have to have a passion for it. If you don't have a serious passion for acting you will not be successful at it because it's an extremely difficult business to not have a passion for it. Really, that's for anything in life. But the thing about acting is that it's 99% rejection. I would not want to be an actor because you have to have the self confidence to know to not take it personally. Because you may or may not get a role based on things that have nothing to do with your talent. Too tall, too short, too dark, too light, your eyes may not be right, you know so you have to know that you have a voice and eventually that voice will be heard. Make sure you're passionate about the industry or that industry will eat you up and spit you out. Know who you are as a person. Because as an actor you're constantly putting your emotions out there for everyone to see so you have to have a certain amount of security about yourself to be able to know that you're not only as good as the last film or project you worked on. You're a complete person without necessarily working on something. Also, always develop your craft. 99% of actors are not working, so you need to make sure you're always developing your craft when your not working. Whatever type of work it is. I always encourage people to do



student films because for one it keeps your craft strong, and it also allows you to get a reel at somebody else's expense. Plus these students who are making these films, these are the people who you will be working for in a few years. So why not get in good with them at this point. So it's all about marketing yourself different ways to put yourself in a position to get work.

Do you feel that classes, such as the ones conducted by Tracy Marable, are useful (www.thespirtedactor.com).

I think they are. It's useful in terms of giving people motivation and seeing that there are people in this industry who are working and are successful and take the time to tell you their story. Then people can connect with their story and that motivates them to continue on. In that sense I think it is useful. You have to think, there's us and then there's Turner. So outside of that there isn't really a lot of work here in Atlanta, so you have to keep them motivated that if they're gonna be here that there's hope for them to continue working.

What type of work opportunities do you guys provide here in Atlanta?

Outside of actors, at any given time we have about 300 employees working for Tyler Perry Studios.

What type of community projects are you guys involved in that allow you to give back to the community?

For one we have a great internship program in conjunction with the colleges and universities in this area. We bring them in the studio. They learn the ins and outs of filmmaking, television production, and I'm really proud to say that 90% of the people who have come through this program we have been able to put them to work in this industry. So even though our organization donates money to various charities the internship program is the one thing that I'm really proud of because it allows us to give the gift of experience. It's like teaching someone how to catch a fish rather than giving them the fish. So I'm proud that we've been able to teach a lot of people to fish.



What advice would you give to aspiring producers and film directors.

Again, you have to have a passion for it and you have to learn your craft. Like for me I love watching film, I love reading about film, I love doing research, and I'm always reading different magazines of the film industry to see what's out there and who's doing what. There's so much information out there. So if you're an aspiring writer, or director, or producer you need to research the people who are successful in what you want to do and emulate them. It's so easy to do yet so many people don't think about it. Those positions are creative, and creative people are not necessarily the best business people. It's so obvious yet a lot of people are not doing it. So if I want to learn about Tyler Perry Studios then I'm gonna log on to Klazzy and find out what's going on. So we have to do all the research we can on the successful people so that I can make an informed and intelligent decision about what I'm doing and where my career is going.

Thank you so much for your Time!

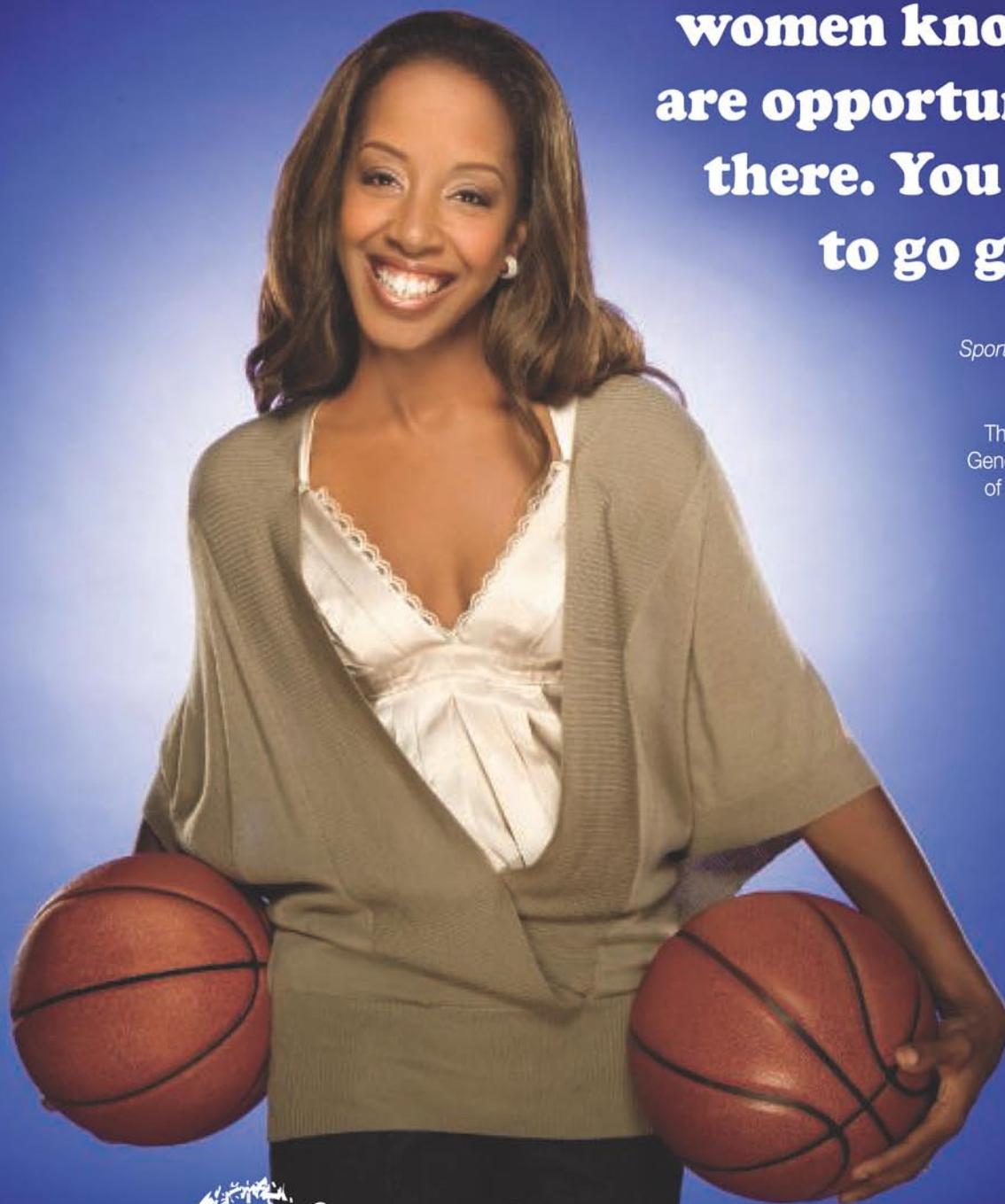
Thank you as well.



**“There’s a higher calling
for me to let other
women know...there
are opportunities out
there. You just have
to go get them.”**

*Alexis Levi-Scott
Sports Team Owner & Entrepreneur*

The first African American female
General Manager, CEO and Owner
of a professional basketball team



The Firsts of Many

This Black History Month, let's celebrate!

Join us as we honor African Americans who have bravely been the first in their family, their community or even the world to do something truly amazing.

Visit pepsifirsts.com to learn more about them or even submit your own “first” story!



ORDINARY PEOPLE

By Deena Knight

better place if each of us would contribute even the smallest portion of ourselves to a worthy cause. You don't have to be a saint. You don't have to be wealthy. You don't even have to be an expert at anything. You just have to care. You have to ask yourself: what talent, interest or gift do I have that could make the difference in the life of another individual? You may feel overwhelmed in your own life and believe that you just don't have it in you to take on somebody else's problems. But, the ironic beauty of the situation is that while you are helping them, you are the one who will be transformed.

What do movies like: *Pride*, *Freedom Writers*, *Coach Carter*, *Gridiron Gang* and *Take the Lead* have in common? Each is the story of an ordinary individual who makes an extraordinary impact on the lives of troubled kids. The formula is pretty tried and true in Hollywood: down-on-their-luck, frustrated individuals turn reluctant heroes when they encounter a group of hard-core teens and introduce them to discipline and self-respect by way of the arts or sports. When we meet the kids of these movies they are usually hopeless with very dim outlooks for their futures. Everyone else seems to have cast them off and left them behind until they meet the protagonists. At first they disrespect these well-intentioned individuals, often ridiculing and mistrusting them. Eventually, however, they stop fighting and begin to find their own light. The hero grows too. What once seemed insurmountable in their own life diminishes through their interaction with the kids. There is usually one more tragedy, just as things seem to look up, in order to remind us that this is real life. Then it's back to the feel-good energy and finally to the happy ending.

As an audience, we feel inspired by these movies, because these stories usually happen to be based on true stories. Yet most people leave the theater and do nothing. Even though they see the power of one ordinary person, they do not embrace the notion that they could make the same difference. But they can... you can.

It may sound cliché, but the world could be such a

The people in the previously mentioned movies used swimming, writing, basketball, football and dancing; very diverse talents that all made a difference. Perhaps you don't have any of those particular talents, but you have something. You can take baby steps. You can give an encouraging word, you can smile when you pass someone, or you can run ahead and get the door. You may never know the difference that these small gestures have, but that kindness will prepare your heart for more. You might find yourself doing a favor for a neighbor without expecting anything in return. You might decide to volunteer with an organization or a hospital. You might start a team or an interactive group with people in your own community. You might even decide to champion your own cause. At any rate, you will find that the more you focus on helping others, the better you'll be. I can say this for certain, because it happened to me.

To learn more about my cause you can visit www.assistbyknight.org.



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