

# BUSINESS

## BUSINESS IN THE BLACK DEDICATION AND DEVOTION DELIVERS A LIFELONG DREAM

# AN AFRICAN ARTIST

By Charles E. Belle

She is so short, sincere, smart, attractive, perky, and perfect to spend a Sunday evening with that it is electrifying for young and old men and women. Everyone who is anyone in the world of art holds the highest esteem for Lois Mailou Jones. While hundreds of thousands were mourning the death of rock star impresario, Bill Graham, in San Francisco's Golden Gates Park, a birthday party was being held for the 86-years-young, teacher, educator, and world known artist Ms. Jones at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor last November 3rd. Ms. Jones, a prize winning graduate of the Boston Museum School, a recipient of a First Honorable Mention at the Salon des Artistes in Paris and an elected Fellow, Royal Society of Arts, London was in San Francisco to say a few words about hers and the life and works of the late fellow African American artist, Henry Ossawa Tanner (1859-1937) and others in her 47 years and growing artistic era.

At a time which is still taking her to the top of her chosen profession, she still displays her works for sale in both Los Angeles, as well as San Francisco's sophisticated Bomani Gallery. In fact, astute Asake Bomani, the gallery owner and incidentally the wife of Danny Glover reveals that Ms. Jones' show is the first soul person show for the 251 Post Street, San Francisco Gallery. "The Banjo Player"

portrait priced at a mere \$40,000 was one which we liked only to discover at the lecture that preceded Ms. Jones birthday party used the same model as the one in Ms. Jones incredibly famous portrait, "The Lynching." No stranger to racism, Ms. Jones for years in the beginning did not use her own name. Even now she says, "My life is dedicated to the success of my career. I hope the time will come when we are

no longer referred to as "Black Artists," but as "artists" in the broadest sense." Since the Consul General of France, Yvon Roe d'Albert was there to wish her happy birthday, she must be well on her way! Indeed, having travelled to Haiti, eleven different African countries, Italy, North and South America, as a respected artist, Ms. Jones' artistic works have already announced her acceptance in the

artistic world.

She was told to "go South and help your people" when she finished school in 1930 in Boston. Based upon her academic achievement alone as Professor Emerita of Design and Watercolor Painting, Howard University and successful students like Elizabeth Catlett (internationally known sculptress and print maker) and David Driskell, eminent scholar, writer and art

historian among others, she has got to be good! As good as her artist friend, Emile Bernard, the founder of the French school of Symbolism, who worked with Vincent van Gogh and Paul Gauguin, was a teacher and leader, Ms. Jones just did it better for her students. Stoic success shows in her work, the warm, earnest and love of life even as a Black man "fastens his eyes on the heavens" before death.



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Dark legacy is also present in the Henry Ossawa Tanner exhibition, funded by Ford Motor Company, which opened in Philadelphia, went to Detroit and Atlanta, and finally settles in San Francisco starting December 14th. Don't know if Tanner took the same model for his "The Banjo Lesson" as did Ms. Jones' "The Banjo Player," but both deserve to be seen.

## BUSINESS EXCHANGE NAME DROPPING

By William Reed

Can you name the five most powerful blacks in America? Who among people of color has any real authority and influence over large groups of people and/or institutions? If you named Jesse Jackson, Ron Brown, Bill Gray, or mayors David Dinkins, Sharon Pratt and/or Maynard Jackson, you've identified people who do have great influence over Black American thinking and political actions. But they're also people who should be held responsible for the current shape we're all in. These people hardly have any real authority and clout in the fundamental processes that impact day-to-day life and living in America. If you are looking to gain real "parity" in America you have to remember that "the business of America in business," and only when you have

the parity, prestige and power that will make you totally equal in this the land of the free.

If we all begin to take note of the bang that bucks have in American society, we will understand that the Speaker of the House of Representatives is not one of the five most powerful whites in America. Charles Brown of AT&T, Robert Stempel of General Motors, Harold Poling of Ford, Jack Welch of General Electric; and Allan Murray of Mobile are chief executives of five major U.S. businesses and have such authority that they delegate that their underlings meet with the Speaker of the House, and even The President. People who provide jobs, commerce and tax payment are real power brokers in the American society.

If we want to name, and recognize, blacks with authority and



WILLIAM REED

influence in America, we should get away from internalizing media stories about those blacks who seek out cameras and reporters and start to note black reference sources that put forth entrepreneurs and professionals who are really making meaningful contributions toward the commercial development of Black America. Publications such as Success Guide 1991; The African-American Blackbook Reference Guide; The National Register of Who's Who in Black Corporate America; and The Black Resource Guide are sources available to us for direct access to real Africa. (See *Business Exch.*, Page 17)

## TRAVEL with Bates

By Sandi Bate



If your dream vacation is skiing; this is the time for planning. Ski Tours are available in snow country from California to Canada from Mid-November to the last of March.

Bordering California and Nevada: Lake Tahoe is a winter recreation paradise. It's the largest Alpine Lake in North America and it is surrounded by some of the best skiing in the world. As a resort, Lake Tahoe is unmatched in quality diversity with gourmet dining, glamorous nightlife with big name entertainment and exciting casino's.

California offers many skiing wonders as Big Bear, Heavenly Valley, Alpine Meadows, Northstar and other Snow Cap Ter-

rains where your ski skills can be displayed and enjoyed.

If you've ever wondered where Hollywood celebrities go to ski, visit Aspen!! This jet-set resort upholds its image with trendy restaurants and upscale boutiques, as well as exhilarating runs on Aspen Mountain. Colorado has its own special blend of snow wonders. The Aspen Club Lodge is right in the Colorado Rocky Mountains. Colorado prides itself on having over 300 inches of snow fall per year with a variety of trails to choose from. Properties have been qualified and price rated by premier lodge rating system within three categories: Expensive, moderate and economy.

Where's the party? Your best bet is in Breckenridge where hot shot skiers and red hot nightlife go together. Once a ghost town, Breckenridge's Main Street has some of the most picturesque Victorian buildings in Colorado. Other ski wonderlands in Colorado are Cooper Mountain, Crested Butte, Steamboat Springs, and the favorite of all is Winter Park. Winter Park is tucked away among Colorado's magnificent evergreens, and the ski park area encompasses some of the Rockies' most advanced (See *Travel*, Page 17)

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