

Tennis

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including the Golden Advance League for his age group at the Inner City Games held recently. "I like it because it's a fun sport, and you get to win a lot of prizes."

Pierre says he got started because of his brother and sister's involvement in the sport. "I think I want to go to school and play tennis," Pierre said of his future plans.

Pierre, like his sister, also entered the Pancho Gonzales Tournament this year. He won the first annual tourney a year ago, though he didn't perform as well this time around, finishing second. The Battons are currently preparing to begin entering Pierre, who William Jr.

says should be ranked in the top three for his age group when the state ratings come out in January, in several tournaments in the Los Angeles area beginning next summer.

"It's definitely flattering," Will said of his siblings following in his footsteps. "To see them start at a younger age and to watch them get better is flattering. I enjoy watching them play. I support their play. I wish them all the best. I hope they go much further than I have come or will go."

William Jr. is equally proud of his talented offspring and sees great things for the three of them in the future.

"We're all hoping that they

will continue to play tennis, William Jr. said. "It's been a very structured activity, and it's given them a lot of self-discipline. Tennis is the type of sport that builds a lot of character."

"We just hope that maybe they'll be able to get some scholarships out of it and continue on with their college educations."

Washington

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idea of appearing in a film that would be saying positive, upbeat things and also be fun to act in."

As an actor preparing for this role, Denzel was faced with a somewhat perplexing problem. "How do you prepare to be an

Houston

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completely correct — while at the same time making for unforgettable musical highlights in the film. "I recorded a lot of gospel for this movie," Whitney says. "And I'm really happy about that. It gave me the opportunity to sing with the Georgia Mass Choir, and sing the music that I love most — and to sing to the

angel?" he laughs. "Live right—that's the way I figure it. That's about all you can do. I mean, I didn't have anybody I could call for research. There was nobody to interview. So I did a lot of praying."

"Whitney sings some magnificent songs for the film with the Georgia Mass Choir," Denzel also notes. "We had such a great time making the film. I think this was the most fun I've ever had on a project."

Denzel's humanitarian perspective is expressed by the message he hopes audiences will keep with them when they see "The Preacher's Wife." "I want audiences to come out of the theater smiling. The picture is there to make you feel good, for people to have more faith in themselves and in their relationships."

Stereotype

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drug couriers are exclusively, or even predominantly, African-American. Instead, the evidence seems to suggest that what Maryland state police officials have described as a "profile" is really something far more pernicious — a stereotype which has deprived scores of law-abiding citizens of the United States who happen to be African-American of their right to a presumption of innocence.

That is injustice, not the law, at work, and it must be stopped.

Creator that I love most. That was very special for me. I waited a long time to do it."

In "The Preacher's Wife," Houston presents a richly textured, poignant and tender portrait of the wife of a pastor who only has time for his church and parishioners but not his own family. "My husband in the film (Courtney B. Vance) is so busy and I miss him," Whitney says of her character's plight. "And when someone else comes in and draws your attention, you can be taken in by that person. And," she says with a big smile, "Denzel is not a bad person to be taken in by!" Whitney clearly relishes the

Superstitions

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great advantage of not being nervous when they see a black cat, or walk under a ladder, or have to live through Friday the 13th, or break a mirror, or do any of the other things that are supposed to mysteriously make their lives miserable.

No one has ever proven that there is any connection between your behavior and any supernatural being. Don't forget that billions of people who live in other countries have never heard of these superstitions and would laugh at you if you crossed the

experience of working with the Academy Award winning actor Washington. "You have to watch Denzel because it's all in his eyes," Houston notes. "And in his movement and the way he stands. He doesn't have to say a word. Charisma and charm exude from Denzel. He sincerely communicates. Denzel is a pro."

Whitney pauses and reflects for a moment. "This movie is ultimately about faith. And how sometimes we lose it, because of trials and tribulations. We feel that God doesn't hear us. We feel he's not listening. But that's because we're not being straight up. This film is about joy."

street to avoid having a black cat cross your path.

Millions of people are manipulated by others who tell them how to remove their "bad luck." They often become wealthy by selling you a trinket, button, a piece of cloth, or anything that they can make you think will solve your problem and "chase away evil spirits." These people are unscrupulous. They know that this "stuff" will have no effect whatsoever.

If you are superstitious, you have given control of your life to someone else simply because you have accepted the myths. These myths may have been accepted hundreds of years ago by people who did not understand science. It is now time for you to take control of your own life; stop being controlled by others and drop these silly superstitions from your life.

Slavery

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Fessier has excavated a slave quarter on a plantation ironically called Utopia, where he also found artifacts suggesting that Africans kept their native spiritualism alive during the early 18th Century.

Andrew Jackson's home, the Hermitage in Nashville, yields unique finds from the 1820s: Dr. Larry McKee is the scientist who is excavating slave cabins on Jackson's plantation — and here there is a difference. The Hermitage was a wealthy plantation where Andrew Jackson treated his slaves "well," as a showcase for the institution of slavery. But even there, the slaves held on to a personal, hidden culture. Among other symbolic

artifacts McKee has found a charm in the image of a fist, reflective of the mysterious life that the slave holders could neither control nor understand.

In "Slavery's Buried Past," The New Explorer with Bill Kurtis shows how science is trying to piece together a history that was never written. The documentary sheds new light on one of the most elusive stories in American history, the personal lives of people held as slaves. By examining tiny things that someone at one time thought were important, spiritual or for practical use, science is learning that enslaved people stayed true to their own culture in spite of the systemic effort to eradicate their sense of identity and ties to their homeland.



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