

Contract

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that offers a bachelors degree in petroleum engineering. Data concerning the number of gallons delivered and the identification of each truck in the fleet is electronically transferred to Texas Southern, then processed and up-linked to a technology firm in Tennessee, under contract with FedEx, that tracks the company's entire fuel purchases.

Next month, OMO will begin servicing a contract to provide heating oil for the state of Maryland through the General Services Administration, including the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Since his humble beginnings, Jones has overcome a number of daunting barriers to become the first African-American wholesale inde-

pendent oil company.

"There was no precedence for a Black-owned oil company performing at this level," said Jones. "There were no African-American mentors in this industry that I could talk with or confide in, which made the journey even more challenging. Access to capital was a major impediment to getting the business started, and I also had to learn the technical and political aspects of the petroleum industry."

Along the way, Jones has never forsaken his roots or his commitment to giving back to the community. Jones created the OMO Science, Energy and Technology Foundation, a non-profit corporation that has adopted Carver Vocational and Technical High School in Baltimore. The foundation has also

provided a group of local, at-risk youth with a weekend at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn., and a visit to the Freedom Schooner Amistad in New Haven.

"It is incumbent upon every African-American professional to give back to his

community and to uplift the race. We must build on our successes and pass that knowledge onto the next generation. We can't close the door once we have passed through," said Jones.

Roderick C. Willis writes for the AFRÖ-American Newspapers.

Hopkins

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development.

Hopkins explains that our community creates millions of dollars of wealth, but fails to parlay this money into a lifetime income: He makes the distinction. "The rich buy assets; the poor buy luxuries."

The struggle with economic empowerment is compared to a hamster on an exercise wheel. "The faster he runs the faster he has to run to keep up with himself, going nowhere fast," Hopkins wrote.

Throughout his book, Hopkins takes a hard-nosed approach to some of Black America's recurring problems. This book is sure to cause numerous ripples in all of its readers' minds.

Taylor

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friends, we swim, play volleyball, shop, read, etcetera."

KW: Have you read the new Harry Potter Book or others in the series?

GT: "I haven't read any of those books, but at the current time I am reading The Lemony Snicket series: 'A Series of Unfortunate Events.' These books are kind of sad, but exciting and sometimes very funny."

KW: What are your favorite TV shows?

GT: "My favorite TV shows are Sister, Sister, Smart Guy, Even Steven, Disney and Nikolodeon shows, also Style Channel-Look for less and Fashion-Trance, which my mom tapes for me because it comes on at 11:00 pm."

KW: Did you watch American Idol? Did you ever call in to vote for anybody?

GT: "Yes I watched it sometimes. I never called in, but I enjoyed the show."

KW: Do you enjoy modeling or is it just a job?

GT: "Modeling is fun, it's not a job to me; it's a hobby and a small part of my life."

KW: What's the best thing about modeling?

GT: "The best thing about modeling is to learn about makeup and design, to meet people, traveling, to save for college, and the free designer clothes are really cool."

KW: What TV commercials have you been in?

GT: "Kohl's Department Store, Volvo."

KW: How do you feel when you suddenly see yourself on TV or in a magazine?

GT: "It's very exciting and rewarding to me, because my

dream is coming true."

KW: When's your birthday?

GT: "I was born July 6."

KW: You just turned 13. Are you excited about being a teenager?

GT: "I'm not that excited about becoming a teenager, it feels the same."

KW: What do you want to be when you grow up?

GT: "A supermodel would be fun, but after that, I am also interested in becoming a veterinarian, animal rescue and fashion design. I may go to a fashion design college."

KW: How has life changed for you since becoming famous?

GT: "Life really hasn't changed for me; besides getting recognized. It's just another part of my life. I am the same person, just a little busier."

KW: Can you still go to a mall or a supermarket?

GT: "Yes, I can still go everywhere I use to."

KW: "Who's your favorite designer?"

GT: "All of the designers that I have worked for have had things that I have liked. There isn't one favorite."

KW: And who's your favorite model?

GT: "Tyra has been like a role model since I was younger. I like Gisele's walk, Alek Wek's personality, Carmen Kass' funky attitude."

KW: Who taught you how to model?

GT: "Modeling for me is a gift from God. I haven't taken any classes, it comes very natural."

KW: Have any supermodels shown you the ropes?

GT: "I haven't met any famous models yet."

KW: Are you on a special diet to stay thin? What do you eat?

GT: "I am not on a special diet to stay thin. I love to eat. I love tacos, enchiladas, grilled cheese sandwiches, rice pudding, apple pie, peach cobbler, ice cream, pizza, Caesar salads' etc. etc... No diet for me."

KW: Do you have any sib-

lings?


GT: "No siblings."

KW: What advice do you have for girls wanting to follow in your footsteps?

GT: "My advice to girls wanting to follow in my footsteps is: Stay confident, no extreme diets, stay natural, be yourself and don't try to copy someone else's style, don't smoke or do drugs, only get into this industry if you love it."

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