

# An African-American Newsletter



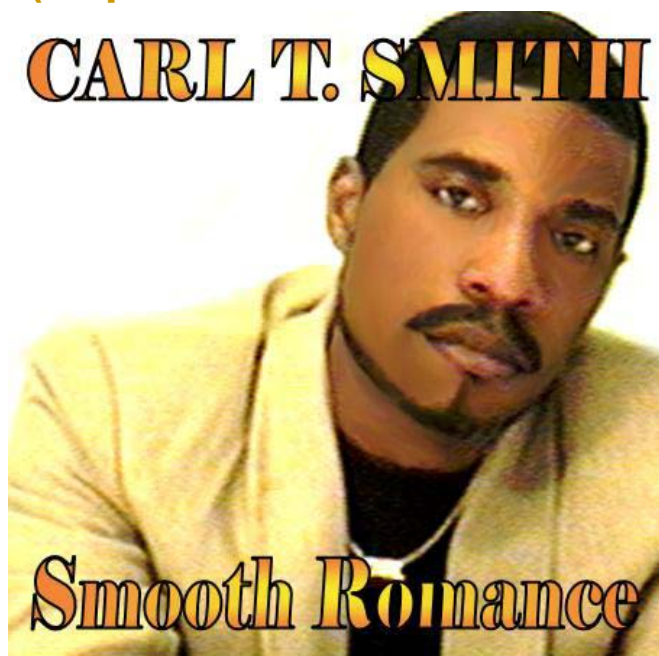
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(<http://tsoradio.smooth1.com>)



## CARL T. SMITH



very special someone. Carl writes, arrange, produce, does background and so much on his CDs as well as the other artists on PlayDees Records. Some of his recent works is on Jenee Evans and Pursuaes CDs displays the versatility of his talents.

Future plans are to sign tons of act create shows that would hopefully grow into tours for our artists. Work with other writers, producers and singers on some of the projects well release and make money. We're looking for clean, no curse words... "B"s or "N"s, original independent R&B, Soul, Funk, Jazz, Gospel, Pop, Hip Hop, Rap, Instrumentals, Dance, Reggae and Poetry for our radio broadcast, label and events.

To hear The Smooth1, Jenee Evans, Pursuae, other PlayDees artist and other great independent artist tune into TSO Radio. (<http://tsoradio.smooth1.com>)

Being All The He Can Be is The Smooth1 Carl T.

Musician, song writer, producer and performer are just fractions of Carl Ts capabilities. From studio work to going on the road he has done it all and then some. Carl T. Smith / CTS Productions, parent company of PlayDees Records, Its My Turn Publishers and TSO Radio,

was created to generate ways for independent artist to build careers and gain exposure.

As a performer The Smooth1 lives up to his nick name. His sweet downy ol' school sound sets the mood for romance and conveys the message to that

## Barack Hussein Obama, Jr.



(born August 4, 1961) is the junior U.S. Senator from Illinois. According to the U.S. Senate Historical Office, he is the fifth African American Senator in U.S. history and the only African American now serving in the U.S. Senate.[1] Obama delivered the keynote address at the 2004 Democratic National Convention while still serving

in the Illinois State Senate. In November 2004, he was elected to the United States Senate by a landslide in a presidential election year marked by Republican gains. An October 2006 opinion poll identified Obama as the second most popular choice among Democratic voters for their party's nomination in the 2008 U.S. presidential election.

# African-Americans celebrate the past and future



Kwanzaa, celebrated each year from December 26 to January 1, is a celebration focusing on African-American people, their ancestors and culture.

Decorating for this period of remembering and learning can be interesting and festive. Celebrants use items such as a Kinara (candleholder), a Mkeka (placemat of straw), Mazao (crops such as fruit and vegetables), Kikombe cha Umoja (unity chalice) and a Mishumaa Saba (the traditional seven candles).

Kwanzaa does not replace Christmas or New Year's but adds to the festivities of the

season while celebrating the unique history of African-Americans. The celebration can include drumming, reading of African history, educational gifts to the children, the candle-lighting ritual, and a feast.

The colors of Kwanzaa are red, green, and black. The black symbolizes the people, the red stands for the struggles they have endured, and the green shouts out for a glorious future.

The greeting for each day of Kwanzaa is "Habari Gani" in Swahili or "What's the News?" in English.

The seven guiding principles (Nguzo Saba) are the theme for 2006. For information on the seven principles and other interesting facts, visit the Web site [www.officialkwanzaawebsite.com](http://www.officialkwanzaawebsite.com).

The theme for Kwanzaa 2006 is Nguzo Saba (seven guiding principles). For more information on these seven principles and other interesting facts check the Official Kwanzaa web site at

[www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org](http://www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org).



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range of services to convert your family's visual history to today's video and DVD formats. We are your photo and film to video transfer experts!

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<http://www.pjwebdesignz.com/>



# How Abraham Lincoln built his team

At the 1860 Republican National Convention, a lawyer who had served only one term in Congress beat three prominent politicians to win the nomination for president.

After Abraham Lincoln took office, he asked his former rivals to join his administration. That decision is at the heart of Doris Kearns Goodwin's book, *Team of Rivals: The Political Gen-*

*ius of Abraham Lincoln* (Simon & Schuster).

Fortune interviewed Goodwin who says Lincoln chose William Seward for Secretary of State, Salmon Chase for Treasury Secretary, and Edward Bates as Attorney General because the country needed their services. He thought it was worth hiring them to have the best talent on his team.



Being a writer, singer, rapper and coming from the south knowing racism. I was always inspired by the Civil Rights Movement and the great Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. I was so inspired by his speeches that I began to write and record Black History Hip Hop Music. We did shows for the Parks Department and block parties in the South Bronx. We did black history songs like, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 'Let Freedom Ring', Malcolm X, 'By Any Means Necessary', Mahatma Gandhi, Marcus Garvey, Hannibal the Mighty Warrior, Shaka the Zulu Conqueror, The Epic of Bilal, King Tut and I, The Queen of Sheba

and like Imhotep I built my pyramid step by step.

Black History Hip Hop is a very unique way to get people to memorize their own history. You know what the young people like. Funky beats and rhythmic words and they will memorize the story. My theory is 'If you don't know your history then you don't know yourself.' I have been writing Black History Hip Hop Music for some years now and I'm getting better with age.

Dr. M. L. King Jr. inspired me to do research and write songs about our ancestors. I recorded these songs with well researched words and with good sounding

music. I put their true life story in my raps.

Dr. M. L. King Jr. spoke so well he painted a picture in our minds. We put ourselves in the picture that he painted. He was a very good speaker and educator. That is why I was inspired to make Black History music, art, wooden picture plaques and unique furniture also.

I am dedicated to Black History Hip Hop Music. I feel obligated to build a bridge from our ancestors to our young people of today. I have just finished recording my most recent songs which will be released in the very near future.



## What's Going On December 2006



## 'Passport cards' should be available by 2008

The State Department says passports take too long to process at high-volume checkpoints. They are developing a "passport card." The new card will have your information embedded on it electronically. It will communicate wirelessly with Immigration and Customs Enforcement computers.

The cards will work

much like a toll tag on the highway. By the time you get to the front of the line, the border inspector would have your information.

New passport rules: Beginning January 8, 2007, travelers to and from the Caribbean, Bermuda, Panama, Mexico, and Canada will be required to have a passport or other secure, ac-

cepted document to enter or re-enter the United States from another country.



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An African-American  
Newsletter



# CURTIS BLANDON

## Northern Soul Legend

<http://www.curtisblandon.com/>



Curtis Blandon was born in Birmingham, AL. He is the brother of the late Richard Blandon, the former lead singer of the world famous vocal group "The Dubs". Curtis started playing piano, singing and writing songs at an early age. Curtis left Alabama and came to New York to live in the early 60's. He has recorded on many record labels, his northern soul UK hit recordings of "In The Long Run" produced by Gene Chandler on the 'Wand' record label very popular and sought after by record collectors and fans throughout the world. "Mr. Imagination" on the 'Port' record label, "So Much to Give" on the 'Buddah' record label, "I Need You" on the 'Tower' record label, a subsidiary 'Capitol' records.

Some of these records sell on e-bay and other music sites for as

much as \$250.00. Curtis has also written many songs that was records by famous recording artists, one of them the Disco Queen Gloria Gaynor; Curtis wrote three songs for her album entitled "I've Got You", he wrote the hit single, "Lets Make A Deal" for Gloria Gaynor, "A Disco Symphony" for vocal group Camouflage, "Keep Doing It" for the vocal group Showdown, "Pleasure" for Sting on the 'ABC' record label just to name a few.

I would like to thank all the record collectors throughout the world and all my loyal fans that have supported my music over the years. I can not thank you enough.

I Love you all.

Yours Truly,

*Curtis Blandon*

