

FORD HONORS GORDON PARKS

Ford is sponsoring a celebration of the life of world renowned photographer, filmmaker, poet and musician Gordon Parks. The exhibit, "Half Past Autumn," is currently in the midst of a 15 venue national tour and features a compilation of more than 200 photographs, documentaries and action films, including the popular movie, "Shaft", books, volumes of poetry, ballets, sonatas and concertos. Parks, 86, was the first African-American photographer for Life magazine and is best known for using his camera as a "weapon against poverty and racism." The exhibit will tour through December of 2002.



MITSUBISHI RECOGNIZES DEDICATED WOMEN

This year's Second Annual Unsung Heroines Awards, co-sponsored by Mitsubishi and PBS's To The Contrary, honored five women who offered their minds and hearts to help the less fortunate. Whether spending time with mentally ill and handicapped persons, or helping start and run a non-profit organization benefiting the Los Angeles community, each of the awardees dedicated her own unique talents and skills to making a difference.

Helen Bumbry and Earlene Mosby were among the women honored at the luncheon awards ceremony. In 1980 Bumbry and Mosby founded the Girls Club Chapter in Quincy, Ill. giving African-American girls in their community a chance to beat the odds and make positive strides in their lives. Other honorees: Ruby Bryant of the Mustard Seed residential home, Jackson, Miss.; Rev. Dorothy Moore, founder of the Reconciliation Outreach Ministries, East Dallas, Texas; and Beverly Davis of the Black Women's Forum, Los Angeles, Calif. Mitsubishi honored each with a \$5000 grant to help further the advancement of their individual causes.

FORD FREEDOM AWARD



Coleman A. Young

Ford and the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit formed a joint sponsorship to create the "Ford Freedom Award," an annual event celebrating past African-American heroes and heroines.

"Understanding is a key to shaping the future," said Gary Nielson, vice president and executive director of the Ford Motor Company Fund. "Ford is honored to support the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in its efforts to preserve the past and strengthen the future through its exhibitions and educational programs. The Ford Freedom Award will help distinguish individuals who have touched our community." The first recipient of the Ford Freedom Award was former Detroit Mayor Coleman A. Young. Young was chosen for his lifetime of achievements in politics, and civil and human rights. Ambassador Andrew Young, former mayor of Atlanta, was also recognized as the first Ford Freedom Scholar for his outstanding work in national and international politics.



Andrew Young

LEGISLATION ENACTED TO REFORM OUT-DATED AUTO INSURANCE POLICY

Auto insurance policy holders have something to smile about. The Auto Choice Reform Act of 1997 is currently under debate among prominent senators, representatives, lawyers, educators and business executives. The new measure will give motorists the option of choosing from two types of auto coverage: one similar to their present one (which carries high premiums and fails to fully compensate serious injuries) or one that provides a new personal protection insurance (PPI) option. This new option could annually reduce insurance bills by \$184 for each vehicle. A combined nationwide total of \$35 billion a year will be saved.

Specifically, this legislation will be instrumental for urban drivers and low-income families who spend a higher percentage of their income on insurance premiums compared with wealthy families living in the suburbs. For more information, contact them at 703-660-0799.

Compiled by Stacey R. Green, Shonda Hurt and Kimatni Rawlins