

Facing Forward: Mel Warner
Route to the Top Starts at the Bottom *By Helena Kaufman*



Mel Warner

Mel Warner started at the best place possible for an entertainment industry entrepreneur - the bottom. From college and university days as entertainment coordinator, Warner went on to promote Latin, African and Caribbean rhythms for the next 30 years. On the way, he harmonized his dual passions of music and his career as chemical engineer. Everything he needed to know truly started with his back stage refreshment duties at Oil Can Harry's. "I started inside out and from the bottom up" says Warner. That's also when he met Ike and Tina Turner, Edwin Stars, Marvin Gaye and other soon to be legends. Then, assisting led to booking acts from round the world with work at the famed Cave Night Club and The Cedars and soon, out on his own. "Going out on my own af-

ter this, was indeed scary. I had to finance projects myself," said Warner. "It meant depriving myself to make things happen, because banks didn't lend money to such risky ventures." Today his name is known and his word trusted in an industry that swallows up many hopefuls. His company, Melo Productions, promotes major players and helps develop talent too. An early mentor, Commodore owner Drew Burns, advised "work hard to make your money and make sure your product is good because it's easy to lose money fast". For Warner it's also about keeping the reputation he enjoys for honesty, good management, quick response to situations and artists' needs as well as good communication with both media and the public.

In addition to his own ventures, Warner is grateful for his 20 year relationships with House of Blues, also known as Live Nation, in Canada and USA. "We realized the benefit early on of sometimes working as partners rather than competitors." His veteran status allows reflections and a wish list. "Never give up on your dreams and goals. And, don't take people for granted. Stay up to date with technology and the times." He'd like to see a forum for youth to explore leadership opportunities and community contribution. Warner's wish list includes venues of 6-700 persons to appeal to more live and smaller shows. And, he calls for vibrant community support not only for his events, but of all Afro and Caribbean initiatives like the annual summer Caribbean Days Festival. "Let's get active with youth and draw out our community year round!" He carries his St. Kitts roots and his enthusiasm for embracing life he says 24/7 and appears ready and equipped to link good people, good places, and good vibes! For more info check out <http://www.meloproductions.net/>.

Helena is a business writer & communications consultant in Vancouver. Mail your questions or profile ideas to helena.writer@gmail.com

Martin Luther King's words still hold a stunning power and grace more than 30 years after his death in Memphis on April 4, 1968. In honor of the holiday commemorating King's birthday, Afro News presents some of his quote by King's own words on nonviolence, race and his dream for the future of our world.



A man who won't die for something is not fit to live.

A nation or civilization that continues to produce soft-minded men purchases its own spiritual death on the installment plan.

A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual doom.

All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.

Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle. And so we must straighten our backs and work for our freedom. A man can't ride you unless your back is bent.

Have we not come to such an impasse in the modern world that we must love our enemies - or else? The chain reaction of evil - hate begetting hate, wars producing more wars - must be broken, or else we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made straight and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together.

Nonviolence is a powerful and just weapon which cuts without wounding and ennoble the man who wields it. It is a sword that heals.

I just want to do God's will. And he's allowed me to go to the mountain. And I've looked over, and I've seen the promised land! I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the promised land.

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Quest Travel - Bringing the World Closer
We Offer the Best Airfare to Africa and The Middle East



(at False Creek)

Daniel Abraham
Travel Specialist - Cell: 604-716-5110

800 Millbank
Vancouver, BC
V5Z 3Z4
Member IATA / ACTA

Tel: 604-875-9125
Fax: 604-875-6327
Email: daniel@questtravel.ca
airhighway@yahoo.ca

Listen to

La Palabre
Radio on 96.1 FM

and podcast at
theafronews.ca

Dig Your Heels In By Diane Hartman

When the going gets tough, when you've made a plan, when you've committed to investing your precious time, money and sacrifice. What is it about life that seems to rise up, ruffle your feathers, and stir the pot, to challenge your goals? You can count on obstacles to rare its ugly head to test the depth of your commitment. It is like nature seeks to confirm to self if you are really in for the long haul, or if you're all talk.

So, what's it going to be? You made a plan to get into shape at the beginning of this year – your intentions were solid, your fitness and nutrition plan in place, then you got side swiped by the cold and flu bug. Do you delay the plan? No, so you can't exercise, but you can still implement your proper nutritional eating!

You plan to begin saving extra money for a holiday, or large purchase then the pressure to splurge tugs at your pocket book. Will you dig deep and stick to

your budget or throw caution to the wind and spend, spend, spend?

You commit to spending more quality time with your loved ones or tackling a course instead of endless TV watching, but your favorite reality shows are hitting the screen faster than before, and can you keep up. You simply limit yourself to a certain amount of time for TV, and follow through on your promise. Bottom line? You made promises to yourself with every intention on keeping them. No one likes being lied to, or let down, so why lie to yourself? You have it in you to follow through on the promises made, don't disappoint and lie to yourself any longer. The fulfilling feeling you experienced while setting those goals will be over the top once those goals are kept and completed. So come on, dig your heels in and finish what you've started to build, it will turn out to be something wonderful

Colour Coded for Success

Asking and Answering: Who are You? By Helena Kaufman

ASKING: Who are you? I ponder this question when I look into the faces in a crowd. Am I looking at Afro News readers and of this communications column!?

I've searched for you on Robson Street after seeing Umoja. Did you leave early during the dancing at the First African Family Winter Celebration in Edmonds-Burnaby? Maybe our paths don't cross because you're working a night shift to put yourself through school. Or, you sip decaf and read the stock market report online while I'm at the library researching communications.

In .14 seconds, Google will deliver 331,000,000 links. Key word: communication. I'm thinking I don't know which one of those entries is of greatest interest or need for you. I invite you to share your top communications challenges - what's on your mind. For my part, I deal with client needs relating to writing, public speaking, public relations and personal and professional communica-

tion skills. I've worked at this for 25 years as a writer, coach and trainer. Now, tell me, how can I help? Mail editor@afronews.com with your comments and questions and tell me who you are out there!

ANSWERING "Who are you?" Consider your context.

A person asking in a social situation may simply want to meet you, or find you familiar but be missing your name. You may have said something a tad outrageous in relation to what is the norm for that group's behaviour or conversation. Often you're being asked to locate yourself in relation to the place and people you find yourself. You can choose to be fun, direct, or flirtatious in your answer.

In a work context, they may seek to confirm your status. Are you a superior, a new hire, an outside contractor? Their position in relation to you is key. Will you turn out to be a consumer or supplier of product? Of information?

Your responses transmit information about you in



layers. Your word choice ranks third on the scale of what people register as they absorb information. What is heard impacts them more and the top mode of information gathering is visual.

A combination of seeing and hearing fixes information in the minds of people most efficiently. So, when you answer, pay attention to the tone, strength and emotion in your voice. And as for the visual cues you send, are you dressed to impress, be accepted, stand out? How's your body language while you deliver your sound bite? One simple question, so many ways to answer!

Helena is a Vancouver based communications specialist working with individuals to be at their best in person, on the page, on line.

Subscribe Now!

To: The Afro News
610-825 Granville St.,
Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 1K9
www.theafronews.ca
sales@theafronews.ca

✓ \$30. enclosed for a 1-year subscription (please print)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTAL CODE _____

TEL: _____ FAX: _____

E-MAIL _____

We thank you for your support



**Do You Know
What Your
Home Is Worth?**
Call
ANTHONY IBHAHE
For a **FREE**
Market Estimate

ANTHONY IBHAHE 
Cell: 604-788-0179
Office: 604-472-0811
www.aibhahe.com
*Building Relationships...
Creating Results*

FLEETWOOD, SURREY **OPEN SAT. JAN. 26, 2-4** **★ 16483 93A AVE. \$1,390,900**
An exclusive yet elegant family oriented community. This home boasts 7 bdrms, 6 bathrooms, 3 gas fireplaces, vaulted ceilings and beautiful crown mouldings. Tile, rich hardwood floors and luxurious carpet throughout. Chef's kitchen include granite countertops, Brazilian cherry cabinet, top of the line appliances and a separate spice kitchen adorned with its own refrigerator and sink. This home is an impressive 6148 sq.ft. with a view of Mount Baker, a finished basement, large fenced yard with a covered deck and gas fireplace. An entertainer's dream home!

SURREY


10276 158th St. \$1,250,900
Subdividable property! You can build 3-5 single family lot homes on this property. Property currently has a custom built Spanish Hacienda rancher style home on it. 3 yrs old touch-on roof, new furnace, lots of greenbelt, air conditioning system, up to 15 person capacity hot tub/sauna, large kitchen with built-in, Jenn-air grill, built in cook top & much more.

DELTA

11705 72nd AVE. \$449,900
Gorgeous & ready for you to call home. Kick back & relax in this spacious 2 level quality built bsmnt entry style home, which offers over 2432 SF of living space & is located in Scottsdale in N. Delta, B.C. The paint colours throughout are calm & relaxing with plenty of windows allowing for tons of natural lighting. Home features 2 BR on main floor & 4 BR in bsmnt. Additional features include 1-yr old water tank & new kitchen in bsmnt. All located within a few blocks to Scottsdale Shopping Mall, rec centre, transit, all levels of schooling & so much more.

POCO

#15-2957 OXFORD ST. \$299,900
WELCOME HOME! Nice well-kept 3 bdrm townhome with possible den, large liv & din rm, kitchen w/eating area. Great location! Southern fenced backyard. Pride of ownership show! Close to transit, schools & shops.

SURREY

#203-10082 132 St. \$242,900
MELROSE COURT: Great sunny west exposure, 2 bedrooms, 2 bath home, second owners. Close to shops, services & transportation. Very clean bill of health for building. Shows very well. Flexible dates. Easy to show.