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INNOCENT PRISONER FIGHTS FOR FREEDOM WHILE PENNING NOVELS AND TEACHING THE CRAFT

(Edgefield, S.C., August 22, 2008) African American males make up the majority of the national prison population, which exceeds 2,000,000; the recidivism rate plunges forward because there are few opportunities to learn productive trades and skills behind bars. However, Oasis is making an effort to decrease the statistics by giving felons an alternative with novels.

"Being sentenced to 15 1/2 years for a crime I didn't commit caused me a lot of anger. Seven years ago, I decided to turn this negative situation into something positive by channeling my anger in a constructive direction," says Oasis, a 36-year-old federal prisoner. "The prison system does not rehabilitate, and the education department is substandard. I spent my prison earnings—\$22.00 a month—buying countless books to master the craft of novel writing. I studied diligently between the hours of dissecting law books and filing briefs to the courts. Once I became proficient with the elements and techniques of novel writing, I began teaching it to a diverse group of *so-called* criminals so that they could have the same opportunities that I have created for myself."

Oasis' debut novel, *PUSH COMES TO SHOVE*, (Voices Books & Publishing, August 22, 2008) examines the pitfalls and struggles that an honest family faces to survive the perils of financial woes. It also proves that Oasis' incarceration is a gateway to greater things for him in the world of literature.

Oasis is a certified creative-writing instructor and a copyeditor for Docuversion. He is currently pursuing an MA in Communications and creating his fifth novel. To learn more about Oasis, visit www.oasisnovels.com.

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Pub. Date: August 22, 2008; *Push Comes To Shove* by Oasis; Trade paperback, 264 pages; published by Voices Books & Publishing; Price: \$14.95; ISBN: 10:0-9800512-4-x; 13:978-0-9800512-4-7; www.oasisnovels.com

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**CONTEMPORARY ARTIST AND NOVELIST TEAM TO MAKE
CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT**

Edgefield, S.C., September 23, 2008. The attention given to our children in schools on the subject of writing is at an all-time low. According to a survey conducted by the National Commission on Writing, our nation's grade schools have weakened with the academy of writing. Approximately one of five 4th, 8th, and 12th graders writing skills is substandard; one of two barely made standard; and only one of every five is skillful with managing the elements and techniques of writing. These are the same students who will seek jobs in American companies, which will employ them to be responsible for some form of writing.

"Being an employer and having grade-school children myself, the statistics bothered me as they did my friend Oasis—a career novelist," says Tyrone Clary, owner and curator of Atlanta's Parousia Gallery Art. "We were brainstorming on how to raise the bar of teaching comprehensive writing in schools. At the time, I was stretching a canvas for *SISTER FRANCINE'S BABY*, a 30 x 40 oil painting; Oasis was creating *Push Comes To Shove*, (Voices Books & Publishing, August 22, 2008) a multicultural suspense. As a result of our problem-solving, *SISTER FRANCINE'S BABY* was written into the story," says Clary. It is an uncommon practice for a visual artist and a novelist to cross genres, with the exception of the sixteenth century's great masters painting's finding their place in some of today's novels. "I'm honored to have my painting and gallery referenced in the framework of literature before I've passed. However, our sole purpose for joining forces in this unconventional way is to auction *SISTER FRANCINE'S BABY* to advocate proficient-writing skills by giving

a portion of the proceeds to the National Writing Project," says Clary.

African American artists fall short with national exposure compared to their white counterparts; however, with the current explosion of African American literature, Clary's goal to support the NWP. has another effect: It is an innovative way to let the world know that artists like Clary exist through literature.

To learn more about the artist and auction, visit www.oasisnovels.com/art.

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