



# North Dallas Gazette

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## Mississippi lawmakers seek return to Jim Crow with separate White system of justice

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

Mississippi's Black community is outraged that state lawmakers are moving closer to establishing a separate justice system in Jackson for whites and African Americans.

According to Mississippi Today, the proposed new law would let the state's white chief justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court, its white attorney general, and its white state public safety commissioner appoint new judges, prosecutors, public defenders, and police officers to run a new district in the city that includes all the city's majority-white neighborhoods.

Such a move would create a separate justice system for whites in an area where whites are statistically the majority.

And it would happen without a single vote from any of Jackson's 80 percent Black residents for any of these officials.

"It makes me think of apartheid," Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba said.

Three of the bill's principal backers said on the floor of the Mississippi Legislature that "public safety" was the bill's primary



*uch a move would create a separate justice system for whites in an area where whites are statistically the majority. And it would happen without a single vote from any of Jackson's 80 percent Black residents for any of these officials. (Photo via NNPA)*

goal because of worries about the crime rate in Jackson.

But Newsweek reported that some legal experts said that what the Mississippi Legislature was trying to do was a way for white conservative politicians to try to hurt the Black vote in a way that hadn't occurred since the Jim Crow era.

Many Republican lawmakers who voted for the bill live in districts being fought over by groups like the American Civil Liberties Union because they make it harder for Black people to vote.

Bill Quigley, a retired law pro-

fessor at Loyola University-New Orleans and a former lawyer for the NAACP Legal Fund, told Newsweek, "I am shocked by this."

"I know of no other such legislation in judicial elections or selections in decades. This is not a step backward. This is a complete Olympic-level broad jump backward to Jim Crow era politics."

Quigley said that this kind of system was "the rule for decades" in the South until the Voting Rights Act passed in 1965 and formally prohibited arbitrary rules like poll

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### People In The News ...



Earnest Sims



Brent Jones

*NDG Quote of the Week:* "We have a wonderful history behind us...and it is going to inspire us to greater achievements."  
— Carter G. Woodson



## Earnest Sims

(Dallas I.S.D.) -- Words can have a lasting effect on people, something that Wilmer Hutchins Elementary School physical education teacher Earnest Sims learned in 1983 as he was preparing to graduate from his high school in Arkansas.

"I remember it like it was yesterday," Sims said. "I went into the counselor's office, and the counselor told me, 'You're not smart enough to be successful in college.' That stayed with me. So many things in life I refused to do because I was



afraid I was going to fail, just because of what one person said."

Even so, Sims worked hard and graduated from Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Ark., thrived

in the U.S. Army and the National Guard, and eventually joined Dallas ISD as a teacher through the alternative certification program. Now, after 26 years of striving for excellence first as a special education teacher and then as a PE teacher, Sims has earned the distinction of being one of Dallas ISD's 23 master teachers.

He achieved this goal by focusing not just on academic success but also on caring for his students every day. Sims keeps in touch with students years after they have left his class, whether he is attend-

ing their middle school basketball games or their graduation ceremonies. He even invited one former student to be in his wedding when he married Wanda Sims, whom he calls "my best friend and the love of my life," in 2019.

Sims understands that supporting students goes beyond emotional connections and academic support to physical needs. Growing up in a single parent household, Sims said he did not realize how impoverished his family was until he got older thanks to his mother and siblings' love. Yet, they did not have a bathroom,

running water or heat at home, and he started working in cotton fields over the summers as early as 13 to afford clothes for school.

As a result, Sims has made it his mission to ensure none of his students go without food or proper clothing. He runs his own "shoe store" on campus and helps students without hesitation when they come to school with torn shoes.

His students clearly see and appreciate Sims' efforts—he received a 97 percent positive response on the student survey—which has contributed to his designation as a mas-

ter teacher. Sims has been working toward being a master teacher for years, so when he heard the news, he said his world stopped.

"Everything came together," Sims said. "Those negative thoughts that I had all my life when people were telling me that I wouldn't be successful, it was like everything stopped at that moment. It was one of the most important days of my life."

Moving forward, Sims said he hopes to continue sharing his story to inspire his students and help them overcome whatever obstacles they may be facing.

## Brent Jones

STANFORD (Cal.) -- Brent Jones, whose successful single, "Nothing Else Matters (instead of complaining, praise him)" #1 most added song in the country, is a music educator and award-winning gospel artist.

Jones will serve as artist-in-residence at Stanford University starting February 8th, 2023.

Brent Jones is one of gospel music's preeminent recording artists whose critically-acclaimed new album "Nothing Else Matters" was recently named



one of the "Best Albums of 2022" by the prestigious Journal of Gospel Music, presented by the Department of Music & the Office for Religious & Spiritual Life, in collaboration with Cardinal Calypso, Af-

rican & African-American Studies, Black Community Services Center, and the Stanford Gospel Choir.

"I am always excited to share my musical gifts beyond the four walls of the church so what an honor to serve in residence at iconic Stanford University, one of the top universities in the world!" said Brent Jones.

JDI Entertainment artist Brent Jones is a singer/songwriter extraordinaire, who's pioneering work with his urban group Brent Jones & T.P. Mobb set the stage for Kirk Franklin and urban contemporary

gospel. His brand-new CD "Nothing Else Matters" is the highly anticipated follow-up to "Open Your Mouth and Say Something", which topped the Billboard charts for over 54+ weeks, earning widespread critical acclaim and multiple award nominations including the Dove

Award and Stellar Award.

One of the most prestigious universities in the world, Stanford was recently co-ranked #1 with Harvard University, MIT, and Oxford as the world's leading research and teaching institution (Higher Education Times).

With a diverse student

body of over 17,000 students and one of the largest campuses in US, Stanford boasts 85 Nobel Prize laureates, the alma mater of President Herbert Hoover, 74 living billionaires, and one of the leading producers of Fulbright Scholars, Marshall Scholars, and Rhodes Scholars.

## Denise Crittendon

(Black PR Wire) -- Denise Crittendon has recently authored a novel that uplifts black women and shines a spotlight on the Dogon Tribe of Mali, West Africa, best known for their ability to chart stars without telescopes or other devices. "Where it Rains in Color," (Angry Robot Books) plays with universal beauty standards and challenges the structure and system in which they live.

In describing her book, she says: "It elevates African culture and what it means to be black. I wanted to usher in a new black aesthetic and project people of African descent into a



future that doesn't strip us of our innate majesty. The inhabitants of my futuristic black planet are powerful, technological geniuses far removed from the misery of the past."

Listed by Literary Hub and denofgeek.com as one of the best sci-fi releases of December 2022, "Where it

Rains in Color," was number one on Amazon's Kindle for two weeks and was heralded by "Book Riot" as a novel that will have you "rethinking how you see beauty."

Crittendon was the first woman in the history of the NAACP to be appointed editor of their national magazine, "The Crisis." She was voted one of the "Most Influential Black Women of Metro Detroit." She also co-authored "Millionaire Moves: Seven Proven Principals of Entrepreneurship" with business mogul William Pickard).

For more information, contact Caroline Lambe at caroline@angryrobot-books.com.



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# The Supreme Court is poised to strike down affirmative action and student loan forgiveness

By Adewale A. Maye

In the wake of the decision to overturn Roe V. Wade, the Supreme Court is once again at the forefront of repealing sweeping legislative precedent that will change the lives of millions of Americans. Following arguments from Harvard University and the University of North Carolina on whether race-conscious admission programs are lawful, the Supreme Court is expected to overturn affirmative action in college admissions later this year.

Later this month, the Supreme Court will also hear arguments over President Biden's student loan debt relief plan that would forgive at least \$10,000, and up to \$20,000, for tens of millions of federal student loan borrowers. The Supreme Court will likely strike down the plan.

Both affirmative action and student loan debt forgiveness are critical measures for college access and completion for students of color. Sadly, these statutes, along with many others, have been targeted and threatened within the courts over the years—leaving students of color to bear more acute barriers to higher education and more disparate socioeconomic outcomes.

Despite the United States being over half a century removed from the Brown v. Board of Education decision outlawing segregation, the legality of affirmative action to broaden integration and diversity in colleges has consistently been a topic of dispute. In 1978, the Supreme Court upheld the use of race as one factor in choosing among qualified applicants for admission in the Regents of the University of California v. Bakke ruling. In the several decades that followed,

public and private universities have considered race and ethnicity as one of the many factors in admissions, but not without concerted efforts to roll back race-conscious admissions programs on the state level.

In 1996, California banned affirmative action in public universities, and now, seven additional states—Arizona, Florida, Michigan, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, and Washington, have followed. Consequently, college enrollment for racial and ethnic groups has decreased at selective universities and graduate programs. One study estimated that students of color experience a 23% decline in admissions to highly selective public colleges after an affirmative action ban.

While numerous studies have indicated state bans on affirmative action significantly hinder college diversity and hurt students of color the most, many policymakers believe race-neutral policy is key to avoiding further discrimination. These policymakers are wrong. Instead, race-neutral policy simply maintains longstanding inequities and operates within the parameters of existing inequality.

Many arguments against race-conscious decision-making negate the systemic and structural hurdles for students of color. For example, although college enrollment and completion rates over the past few decades have increased, Black and Latino students are more underrepresented at top universities than they were 35 years ago.

In many states, Black enrollment at flagship universities lags significantly behind the share of Black students completing high school. Overall, the percentage of adults age 25 and older who had complet-

ed high school increased for all race and Hispanic origin groups from 2011 to 2021. This included an increase from 84.5% to 90.3% for the Black population. Despite gains in high school completion, Black and Latino students continue to see double-digit differences in college completion compared with white and Asian graduates. In 2021, the percentage of adults age 25 and older with at least a bachelor's degree was 20.6% for Latino people, 28.1% for Black people, 41.9% for white people, and 61% for Asian people.

While students of color face structural hurdles to attending top universities, they are also more likely to face financial barriers to completing their degree. Compounding these pressures, the growing cost of college tuition and the crushing implications of student loan debt present intersectional implications for students of color.

While more than 44 million borrowers are struggling with student loan debt, Black college students are far more likely to take out federal student loans and owe an overall average of \$25,000 more in student loan debt than white college graduates.

The outstanding debt for Black students is also reinforcing the racial wealth gap. With less family wealth, Black and Latino students borrow more to fund college while taking longer to repay.

Women, especially Black women, bear the brunt of the student debt crisis, with American women holding \$1.7 trillion in student debt. Black women had the largest average student loan debt at \$41,466 in 2021, reports The American Association of University Women (AAUW), while Asian women owed the

lowest amounts at \$27,606.

Canceling student debt is as much a gender issue as it is a racial justice issue, and it is pivotal to address the intersectional inequalities these groups experience.

As the Supreme Court prepares to hear arguments on President Biden's student loan debt cancellation plan, Black and brown students, borrowers, and families hold their breath as they prepare for another blow to their access to higher education.

Communities of color would face widening gaps in college access and be further entrenched in a cycle of economic inequality if the Court rules against both.

Race-neutral policy will always fail to reverse the gaps and barriers of structural racism. Racial equity and racial justice must center the lived experience of systematically excluded communities and bear in mind the policies, programs, and institutions that continue to intentionally disempower these communities to this day. Policymakers and the U.S. judicial system have a responsibility to redress the attacks on equal access to higher education and create broader pathways to higher education and economic prosperity.

Adewale A. Maye is a policy and research analyst with the Economic Policy Institute's Program on Race, Ethnicity, and the Economy. He studies the root causes of racial economic inequality in order to advance inclusive and restorative policy solutions that build equity. His research interests are centered at the intersection of labor economics, the political economy, and inequality. Maye holds a B.A. in Economics, University of Maryland, College Park.

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# NIH study links specific outdoor air pollutants to asthma in urban children

WASHINGTON, (NIH) -- Children who live in low-income urban environments in the United States are at particularly high risk for attack-prone asthma. Asthma prevalence and severity have markedly increased with urbanization, and children in low-income urban centers have among the greatest asthma morbidity.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) recently funded a study, which found a tendency for certain types of air pollution to trigger these types of asthma attacks. The study matched illnesses that occurred to both air quality and to levels of specific air pollutants, as recorded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The study found moderate levels of two outdoor air pollutants, ozone and fine particulate matter, are associated with non-viral asthma attacks in children and adolescents who live in low-income urban areas. The observational study is one of the first to link ele-



Matteo Catanesi / Unsplash

vated levels of specific outdoor air pollutants in particular urban locations to distinct changes in the airways during asthma attacks not triggered by respiratory viruses, according to the investigators.

The study also identifies associations between exposure to the two pollutants and molecular changes in the children's airways during non-viral asthma attacks, suggesting potential mechanisms for those attacks.

"The strong association this study demonstrates between specific air pollutants among children in impoverished urban communities

and non-viral asthma attacks further augments the evidence that reducing air pollution would improve human health," said Hugh Auchincloss, M.D., acting director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of NIH.

Asthma is caused by chronic inflammation of the airways. During an asthma attack, the airway lining swells, muscles around the airways contract, and the airways produce extra mucus, substantially narrowing the space for air to move in and out of the lungs.

In the current study, in-

vestigators examined the relationship between air pollutant levels and non-viral asthma attacks among 208 children ages 6 to 17 years who had attack-prone asthma and lived in low-income neighborhoods in one of nine U.S. cities. The researchers validated the associations found in an independent cohort of 189 children ages 6 to 20 years with persistent asthma who also lived in low-income neighborhoods in four U.S. cities.

The investigators followed the children prospectively for up to two respiratory illnesses or approximately six months, whichever came first. Each illness was classified as viral or non-viral and as involving an asthma attack or not.

The researchers matched each illness with air quality index values and levels of individual air pollutants recorded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the relevant city on the dates surrounding the illness. The investiga-

tors subsequently adjusted their data for city and season to decrease the impact of these variables on the findings.

The scientists found that asthma attacks had a non-viral cause in nearly 30% of children, two to three times the proportion seen in non-urban children, according to previously published reports. These attacks were associated with locally elevated levels of fine particulate matter and ozone in outdoor air.

The investigators linked changes in the expression of specific sets of genes that play a role in airway inflammation to elevated levels of these two pollutants by analyzing nasal cell samples obtained from the children during respiratory illnesses. Some of the identified gene-expression patterns suggest that unique biological pathways may be involved in non-viral asthma attacks.

This increased understanding of the potential causes and distinct molecular mechanisms of asthma

endotypes can inform targeted interventional strategies and bolster the public health argument for policies that reduce outdoor air pollution.

Given the study findings, it will be important to develop and test different strategies to see if they prevent or reduce pollution-associated asthma attacks in urban children. These strategies may include treatments designed to counteract the harmful effects of elevated levels of outdoor air pollutants on airway inflammatory responses linked to non-viral asthma attacks, and devices for personalized monitoring of local outdoor air pollutant levels to inform asthma management.

While asthma attacks provoked by respiratory virus infections—a common trigger—have been studied extensively, those that occur independently of such infections have not.

The study, conducted by the NIAID-funded Inner

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## Make sure you don't miss a beat on your heart health

WASHINGTON (VA) -- Fifteen minutes of exercise a day can help prevent heart disease. This can be as simple as taking a walk, riding a bike, swimming, or even some strength training or stretching while you are watching TV.

Not only does exercise help you maintain a healthy body weight and lower your blood pressure, but it also helps you reduce stress and improve your mental health.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death among all adults in the U.S. Traditional risk factors for heart disease include high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, obesity and smoking. However, mental health conditions like post-traumatic stress disorder



Sai de Silva / Unsplash

(PTSD) and depression, can also increase heart disease risk.

Be sure to work with your primary care team to discuss your risk factors for heart disease, especially when coping with stress, PTSD or trauma.

Black or non-Hispanic African American women experience higher rates of

heart disease and related risk factors, such as diabetes, obesity, smoking and high blood pressure, than white and Hispanic women Veterans.

Your primary care team can discuss your risks with you, and together, you can make a heart healthy plan for your life.

A number of factors can

increase your chance of getting heart disease:

- Smoking (Women have an even greater risk for heart disease if they smoke compared to men.)
- Being overweight.
- A sedentary lifestyle (not moving enough throughout the day).
- High blood pressure.
- Too much stress in your life.
- History of high blood pressure or diabetes while pregnant.
- Having PTSD, depression or experiences of trauma.
- Having sleep apnea and/or not getting good sleep.

Fortunately, many of these risk factors can be addressed with lifestyle change—things you can

do at home. You can reduce your chance of heart disease and improve your heart health by getting enough sleep, taking your prescribed medicines as directed, eating more vegetables and less sugar, and exercising at least 15 minutes a day.

Exercising can be as simple as going for a brisk walk in your neighborhood.

Eating green leafy vegetables such as spinach, kale and collards is very healthy for your heart. In fact, people who regularly eat green leafy vegetables can prevent heart attacks and significantly reduce their chance of heart disease. If you don't like these vegetables, try mixing them up into a smoothie with some fruit.

Because of the effect it has on your heart, smoking throughout your life can shave 13-14 years from it. But it is not too late to quit. When you stop smoking, your risk for heart disease can be cut in half just one year later, and it continues to decline until it's as low as a nonsmoker's risk.

Commit to 15 minutes of exercise each day. And see your provider to check for high blood pressure, diabetes, or high cholesterol, all of which can affect your heart.

Remember to talk with your provider about your specific risk factors and make a heart health plan.

For more information, visit [news.va.gov/category/health/](https://news.va.gov/category/health/).



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# Leave No Trace Spotlight highlights efforts at Samuel Farm

The Dallas Park and Recreation Department is excited to announce that Leave No Trace, the nation's leading environmental advocate, has chosen Samuel Farm as a 2023 Leave No Trace Spotlight.

Leave No Trace believes communities are the solution to conservation issues and wants to shine a spotlight on the communities that are rising to meet our shared environmental challenges.

In March, 2023, Samuel Farm, a 400-acre City of Dallas park space, will



be the site of a youth and family-oriented conservation event featuring hands-on workshops to show how

everyone can protect and enjoy the outdoors.

The event, hosted by Dallas Park and Recreation

and Subaru/Leave No Trace teams, will be a multi-day event designed to bring attention to com-

munity conservation, to spread education, to build momentum, and to inspire involvement for the future.

Leave No Trace Spotlight programs will be taking place across the country, with each site is to receive 3 days of activation put on by the Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Teams, which can include service projects, staff and community training, community outreach, and youth programs.

Centered around stewardship, the project is aimed at reducing visitor-

created impacts and rehabilitating outdoor areas. The event will include training and a final meeting to build momentum for future needed efforts. The intended outcome is to strengthen stewardship efforts and partnerships by empowering stakeholders, land managers, volunteers, and outdoor enthusiasts through Leave No Trace education to ensure a sustainable recreation future for all," said Dana Watts, Executive Director of the Leave No Trace organization.

## A Black woman-owned business hits discrimination in quest to help Ukraine

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

Carolyn Davis, like many others, had an immediate reaction to the destruction in Ukraine caused by the Russian invasion.

"Those folks need help," said Davis, the CEO of the District of Columbia-based CDAG International.

To help, her construction company visited areas of the war-torn country where civilians and military personnel alike needed assistance.

Davis said her group had installed "living containers and living facilities" that provided families with things like furniture and bunk beds, as well as generators.

"We installed electrical systems and other mandatory features," she stated.

As the war's anniversary approaches, though, it appears that American impulses have also kicked in.

U.S. politicians, government organizations, The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and others have neglected CDAG's work, even though U.S. military aid and spending has reached over \$50 billion, and firms are pitching services to gain contracts to help reconstruct that Eastern European nation.



Davis has repeatedly requested that USAID allow the company to compete for contracts to provide relief in Ukraine, but USAID has routinely declined.

USAID counts as an independent agency of the government that's responsible for providing civilian foreign aid and helping development.

Legislators also have ignored CDAG's attempts to contact them.

Davis stated, "They do not recognize me. I'm just some Black woman who wants to lend a hand. And that's exactly what they perceive. I can't imagine why they wouldn't want to support a Black-owned business, but they clearly don't."

The American envoy to Ukraine also snubbed CDAG's request for a meeting, despite the Ukraine Ministry of Defense having

given Davis's firm a glowing recommendation.

The Defense Ministry expressed gratitude to the United States government in a letter dated December 30, 2022, for its support during Ukraine's conflict with Russia.

The letter addressed to Nathaniel Adler, the principal director of the U.S. Office of the Under Secretary for Policy at the Department of Defense, noted that Ukraine still requires urgent supplies, equipment, and logistical support.

Meeting such requirements would be impossible without access to necessary resources and a reliable support system, the defense minister wrote.

"Due to the intense fighting in several areas, it's very difficult to get these materials to our troops on the front line and other locations, and there are very

few companies that can accomplish this task," the letter continued.

"CDAG International has worked with our military and has proven that they can assist the Ukrainian government to acquire critical services and facilitate many of our requirements. CDAG has proven beneficial to our troops and had contributed to saving lives."

The letter is only one of many testimonials to CDAG's capabilities, according to Dwight Brown, senior managing partner for CDAG and a retired U.S. Army Sgt. Major.

"We've created enough housing to accommodate 3,000 people and we've done it in approximately eight months," Brown said.

CDAG has focused its efforts on the western side of Ukraine, where the war's destruction has forced many people to relocate, he said.

"There are people who left Ukraine and are trying to make their way back," Brown noted. "We see a lot of squatters and in villages there are people with tents on the side of the road. We want people to get back inside warm structures before it gets too far into the winter there."

The Ukraine government provided CDAG 60 acres of land, but without funding or even a token commitment from the American government, it will be difficult for the company to meet current demand.

CDAG managing partner Warwin Davis added that the firm has supplied heating, generators, and external stoves to aid Ukrainian forces.

Davis, who has managed

multinational supply chains for almost three decades, insisted, "We made history over there."

"Historically speaking, it was Carol Davis who made history," Davis demanded.

"It's incredible that we haven't been able to acquire a quarter from USAID despite what we've shown that we can accomplish."

CDAG hopes to meet with White House officials.

"The elephant in the room is we are a woman-owned and minority small business, and the U.S. government and USAID are giving all the dollars to the regular companies," Brown asserted.

"We're going not continue to ride the Office of the Secretary of Defense, USAID, and congressional offices. People with weaker constitutions than us would have thrown in the towel. That's not us. When they tell us 'No,' it just means next opportunity. We're coming to the table and not asking for special set asides, just an opportunity."

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we need to know about, give us an e-mail at:  
**editor@northdallasgazette.com**



# College tuition has outpaced inflation by more than 3x over the last 40 years

By Scott Winstead

In the 1982-83 school year, college tuition was just \$3,200. If the cost of going to college rose consistently with the U.S. inflation rate over the last 40 years, students would be paying an average of \$9,705 for a full year of attending a public university or \$21,623 for a year at a private college. Instead, data from the non-profit group College Board reveals the average annual price for attending a public college (tuition, fees, room & board, books/supplies) is currently between \$23,250 for in-state students to \$40,550 for out-of-state students. For students at private universities, the yearly cost has reached a



Ischan Shah / Unsplash

jaw-dropping \$53,430. In 1982, this was \$7,130 per year.

The cost of college has increased by as much as 649% in some cases -- over three times the rate of inflation during the last 40 years.

The 80s were a significant turning point. Between

1980 and 1990, the cost of going to college basically doubled -- rising 141% for private universities and 99% for public colleges. The 1980s decade saw some of the biggest year-over-year tuition increases of any decade.

In 1986, William Bennett, the Secretary of Edu-

cation, sounded the alarm on the rising costs of college, accusing institutions of "defrauding students [and] ripping off the American public" and warning that the fast-rising default rate on student loans was unsustainable.

Unfortunately, the trajectory of increasing tuition and fees that started four decades ago has continued to this day. Tuition prices have risen so much during that same 10-year period that total annual revenue for US colleges from tuition and fees actually increased by at least \$6.9 billion.

As the cost of going to college has soared, many young adults have simply

started to opt out of attending. We recently reported that enrollment across all two and four-year universities dropped by 3.1 million student from 2012 to 2022.

Students have started to explore alternatives to the traditional college education, turning instead to online course websites like Coursera, Udermy, Udacity, Linked Learning, and Skillshare, where they can take online certification courses from schools like Harvard and Yale at home and at a fraction of the price (or even free in some cases). Many of these online course sites like Coursera have reported huge increases in enrollments over the last couple of years.

Unfortunately, the trend of rising tuition costs and student debt for traditional college education shows no signs of reversing. Today, the average college graduate leaves school with about \$31,000 in student loan debt they'll have to pay back. The latest data shows that U.S. student loan debt totals about \$1.76 trillion.

During this prolonged time of astronomic spikes in tuition and fees, it's no longer realistic for students to work their way through college unless wages increase significantly.

Eventually, something has to give. The future of higher education might depend on it.

## Lewisville set to host 5th annual HBCU College Fair

Lewisville ISD is hosting their annual Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) College Fair on Friday, Feb. 17, 2023, from 12-4 p.m. at Lewisville High

School, 1098 W. Main St., Lewisville.

Students in the district will have the exciting opportunity to connect with other like-minded students and staff from

around the district to learn what kind of future these colleges can provide them. The students will be able to apply for admission on site to these institutions as well as

receive information on scholarships.

The event will bring together representatives and alumni representing over 20 of 107 of the HBCUs in our country as

well as various organizations. There will also be time to enjoy games, prizes and giveaways.

If you don't have children attending, you can still make a positive im-

pact in these students' lives by becoming a sponsor of the 5th annual HBCU College Fair. Donate through LISD's website: <https://www.lisd.net/Page/28883>

## Texas lawmakers discuss legislation that would affect education in the state

AUSTIN (Texas Democratic Party) -- Sen. Mayes Middleton recently sponsored Senate Bill 176, which would create a state education savings account allowing parents to pay for their children's private school, online schooling or private tutors. Sen. Middleton is a Galveston Republican and member of the Texas Freedom Caucus. The bill would provide Texas families who opt out of public schools the average amount of money the state provides to educate a child, currently about \$10,000.

Many state Democratic leaders argue the proposed

legislation would hurt public schools, particularly those in rural area and that raising teacher salaries is a better way to improve education in the state.

As good teachers increasingly abandon the teaching profession, public schools across the state, including rural, urban and suburban schools, are struggling to fill teacher vacancies, they explain.

Texas ranks 28th in the nation in teacher pay, \$7,652 less than the national average, according to the most recent National Education Association report. Forty percent of Texas

teachers work a second job, and according to a 2018 survey from the Texas State Teachers Association and a 2022 survey by the Charles Butt Foundation, this is not attributed to a desire for extra spending money but is needed to cover necessities.

In a state with the ninth-largest economy in the world and a historic \$33 billion surplus, rather than take money away from public schools, several state lawmakers have proposed bills that would offer incentives and pay increases for Texas education workers and scholarships for those pursuing careers

in teaching.

House Bill 1548, filed by James Talarico, a Democrat of Round Rock, would give teachers a \$15,000 pay raise.

"It's no wonder that thousands of educators are leaving the profession," the former teacher said at a Capitol press conference last week. "We have an emergency teacher shortage in the state, and it requires emergency action by the Legislature."

Talarico's bill would increase the minimum teacher salary from \$33,660 to \$48,660 annually. The average teacher's salary

would increase to \$73,887 annually. Support staff, including cafeteria workers, custodians, and bus drivers, would see a 25 percent pay increase.

Concerned about the potential costs of having to refill positions every school year, state Sen. Jose Menendez, D-San Antonio, has filed a bill that would create a retention incentive program. His Senate Bill 657 would offer teachers who stay in the profession and in the same district \$10,000 annually for four years. The bill also would give students a \$40,000 scholarship to pursue a

teaching career.

Similarly, State Rep. Donna Howard, D-Austin, has filed House Bill 882, legislation that would increase the amount schools get per student from \$6,160 to \$7,075, adjusted annually according to inflation. Her bill also would provide for pay raises, since school districts must use 30 percent of any additional revenue that they receive for employee salary increases.

In addition to the revenue bonanza, Abbott, Patrick and House Speaker Dade Phelan have voiced support for teacher pay raises.

## JUSTICE, from Page 1

taxes and literacy tests designed to prevent African Americans from voting.

Experts stated that the latest proposal from the Mississippi Legislature would likely be unconstitutional because it has a clear racial bias, which is against the 14th Amendment of the

U.S. Constitution.

In 2020, Lumumba said he wanted to make Jackson "the most radical city on the planet" by implementing policies like a universal basic income, a reformed police department, and other progressive policies.

Lumumba has been un-

der constant scrutiny from Mississippi's conservative establishment.

The Voting Rights Act would have helped Jackson in this case, but the U.S. Supreme Court removed many protections offered by that law.

State leaders had recently been very critical of Lumumba's government

and of the city's liberal leanings, leading to claims that the latest move is politically motivated.

Experts said the only problem is that, unlike other states, Mississippi does not have a clause in its constitution that says laws can't target one group, which would make this more difficult for the city to

challenge the law in court.

"In the absence of any evidence that this was done with a racial purpose—people don't tend to do things for racial reasons as much as they used to—and so the courts kind of often will conclude that their hands are tied," Fred Smith Jr., a scholar of the federal

judiciary at Emory University, told Newsweek.

"It's concerning to see from a perspective of democracy. While in some ways, it's not as bad as declaring secession, it also is in the sense people's taxes are being invested in a system they cannot democratically control."



## NTTA student / teacher design and video contest to award gift card prizes

PLANO — Distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention from driving. This, according to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), includes talking, texting, eating and drinking, fiddling with the stereo or navigation system, or anything that takes attention away from the safe driving.

Any nondriving activity increases the risk of crashing, they warn, yet texting is the most alarming distraction. According to NHTSA, if it takes



Hans Egler / Unsplash

your eyes off the road for five seconds or more, this would include both sending and reading a text. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football

field with eyes closed.

With 3,142 people killed in distracted driving crashes in 2020, taking one's eyes off the road is a seri-

ous activity.

The North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA) is seeking students in grades 2-5 and 6-12 and their teachers to compete in an artwork or video design contest as part of a safety campaign to discourage distracted driving. The winning student in each category will receive a \$250 VISA® gift card, and their teacher will win a \$100 VISA® gift card. Teachers with student entries will also be entered to win a \$50 VISA® gift card.

Selected artwork from

the competition will be featured in digital platforms that reach audiences across North Texas — including NTTA's newsletter, Customer Service Centers, social media and more.

Teens can be the best messengers with their peers, so NHTSA encourages them to speak up when they see a friend driving while distracted, to have their friends sign a pledge to never drive distracted, to become involved in their local Students Against Destructive Decisions chapter,

and to share messages on social media that remind friends, family, and neighbors not to make the deadly choice to drive distracted.

Artwork and video entries will promote the use of a "red thumb" as a reminder to avoid driving while distracted. The consequences of driving distracted are severe — no text is worth a life.

For details about student categories and how to enter, or for more information about our safety campaigns, visit NTTA.org.

## Tanya S. James Foundation plans to build a school in West Africa in partnership with ProSeed Foundation

CHARLOTTE (NC) (Black PR Wire) — The Tanya S. James Foundation and ProSeed Foundation last month announced they will be joining forces for a life-changing international endeavor this year — to build a school in the Kapakoko Village of the Divo, Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire) in West Africa. The project will affect more than 300 children Kapakoko Village.

Philanthropist Tanya S. James has a reputable history of successful humanitarian efforts. For nearly twenty years, prior to her foundation being established in 2022, James created a lasting impact amongst individuals, communities, and organizations. Some of her most notable projects include establishing a college scholarship, assisting with medical bills, adopting classrooms, funding mission trips, donating to study-abroad ventures, refurbishing homes damaged by natural disasters, and more.

She intends to make an even bigger impact through the Tanya S. James Foundation, starting with the launch of this school.

"Growing up, my family didn't have much financially. What we lacked in

that area, we made up for in love and service to others," says James. "Giving back has been my life's mission."

The ProSeed Foundation will lead the construction process, making this the non-profit's sixth school building project.

Since the West African government assigns teachers to each school as they become available, the school will start with a limited number of classrooms. It will begin as a three-classroom facility and will ultimately expand to six classrooms.

Upon its opening, the school will host more than three hundred children.

The foundations will also leverage local contractors to help fulfill the project, benefitting not only the village's children but its economy.

"Partnering with the ProSeed Foundation to build a school in West Africa is truly a dream come true," says James. "For years, I've impacted my local and national community through service, but I'm ecstatic to take my efforts international!" The school is scheduled to be completed

See AFRICA, Page 10

## Garland NAACP Hosts 22nd Annual Winter Ball

February 17, 2023 - 7:00 PM

*"Recognizing African American Health Care Professionals"*

**Hyatt Place Hotel**  
**5101 N. President George Bush Hwy.**  
**Garland, TX 75040**

**The Evening Includes:**  
**Dinner - Live Entertainment**  
**Introduction of Honorees**  
**Dancing - Photo Booth**

**Tickets: \$60.00 (Tables Seat 8)**

**Make your check payable to: Garland NAACP.**  
**Mail to: Garland NAACP (c/o Gwen Daniels)**  
**PO Box 460944, Garland, TX 75046-0944**

**Or, click the link below and purchase on Eventbrite:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/22nd-annual-winter-ball-tickets-507090921597>

**NOTE: Ticket sales end February 14, 2023 @ 9:00 PM**



# Master Plan for the new Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center unveiled before Dallas City Council last week

On Tuesday of last week, Visit Dallas CEO Craig Davis presented an updated version of the Master Plan for the new Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center to Dallas City Council.

The plan for the new facility will add to previous efforts to strengthen connections in Dallas given its central deck park that will allow pedestrians and bicyclists to cross the facility. In doing so, the project will connect downtown to South Dallas Cedars and allow potential future high-speed rail to connect to the project in the future.

The new center is to include 800,000 square foot exhibit hall space, a 1,000 square foot ballroom, and a deck park located on top



The new Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center will include a deck park that connects the north and south sides of Interstate Highway 30 (Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center Dallas)

of the convention center, reports WFAA.

While the center's efficient design will reduce the footprint of the facility and the need for additional land to complete the project, it will also allow for event flexibility and room for expansion into the future.

Among the goals for the project was the desire to create a self-sustaining, efficient, and flexible design that incorporates sustainable materials and emerging technologies. The design is also intended to create a vibrant space by incorporating commercial,

retail and residential uses within the project.

The Plan for the new facility was presented on Tuesday to Dallas City Council Committees, including the Transportation and Infrastructure and Economic Development Committees. The presenta-

tion included a restructured timeline and new video renderings. Davis touted improved planning for future convention center booking, a shorter total construction timeline, and the support of local hoteliers.

The expected completion date for the new center is

second quarter 2028, rather than the initially anticipated 2029 opening. The deck park is expected to be completed in 2030.

"The excitement about Dallas and our new world class convention center is just getting started," said Davis. "Our fantastic sales team and hospitality community has already booked this new center over 30 times before shovels have broken ground, and I am confident that will continue and increase with the shortened timeline."

The City will move forward with the plans presented last week, looking to solicit a project management firm in February, 2023 before a bond issuance and reimbursement solution to be presented later this year.

## Old City Park exhibit explores how Jim Crow and urban development shaped Dallas

Dallas's past is one of contradictions, of progress and development alongside suppression and destruction. From emancipation through the Civil Rights Movement, Black Dallasites strove to build thriving lives despite Jim Crow restrictions.

Seeking to capitalize on economic growth, the city and developers decimated these Black communities, eventually displacing residents and wiping neighborhoods from the map.

Yet, their history remains. Explore it in "History Resides Here: How Jim Crow and Urban Development Shaped a House, Neighborhood, and City," a temporary exhibit at Old City Park curated by Univ. of Texas at Dallas, History graduate students. The exhibit, located in one of the few "shotgun" houses rescued from the bulldozers that tore apart a North Dallas neighborhood, continues through Feb. 28, 2023 at Old City Park in Dallas.

The project, led by Dr. Whitney Stewart, as discussed here, explores Old City Park's ca. 1906 shotgun house and its original



Unseen Histories / Unsplash

surrounding North Dallas neighborhood. Shot gun houses were homes built to accommodate workers and designed to fit small, narrow lots, near places of business or along railroad tracks. Containing no hallways, its rooms were directly connected, with doors at the front and rear to allow a breeze to flow through the house. Typically constructed through mail-order catalogues to be affordable, shotgun houses represented freedom and opportunity for Black Americans to live, pray and work as they saw fit.

Taking note of Jim Crow laws and their impact on the construction of Dallas neighborhoods, the Univ.

of Texas at Dallas student project explores how de jure (legal) and de facto (social) segregation confined Black citizens to a North Dallas neighborhood and how local and federal governments, banks, and white citizens prevented Black Dallasites from buying or renting property outside what would become a Black, segregated community. The exhibit explains how instead of strengthening Black neighborhoods, city and federal government programs tore them apart.

The exhibit discusses nationwide efforts to build highways to connect burgeoning suburbs to city centers after World War II,

and it relates these trends to Dallas. The exhibit explores "white flight," affected by GI Bill-backed

home loans and the 1956 National Interstate and Defense Highway Act. These federal programs resulted

in widespread construction of U.S. highways and a

See EXHIBIT, Page 13

# DOING THE RIGHT THING

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**Dallas CASA needs more Black volunteers to serve our community's abused and neglected children living in foster care.**

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<b>Thursday, Feb 23</b> 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.	<b>Thursday, Mar 9</b> 6:00-7:00p.m.
<b>Friday, Mar 3</b> 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	<b>Friday, Mar 24</b> 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

For more information or to register for this event, please visit [dallascasa.org](http://dallascasa.org)



# African American Museum, Dallas announces top winners of Carroll Harris Simms National Black Art Competition and Exhibition

After receiving more than 400 entries from across the country, the top winners of the 27th “Best in Show – Carroll Harris Simms National Black Art Competition and Exhibition” were recently announced and will be on view through March 21, 2023, at the African American Museum, Dallas, in historic Fair Park.

Steve Prince of Williamsburg, VA – whose work of art is titled “Hallelujah Anyhow,” 2021 – was named “Best in Show” and best in printmaking by jurors of the biennial competition.

In addition, two North Texas artists were top winners. They include Assandre Jean-Baptiste, of Cedar Hill, whose artwork “Homecoming,” was the category winner in painting, and Inyang Essien, of Addison, whose artwork “Faded,” was the category winner in photography.

Other category winners were Austen Brantley’s, of Detroit, for “Three Graces” in sculpture/semblage; Manasseh Johnson Sr., of Converse, Texas, whose won for “Perseverance,” in drawing; and Mayowa



“Herald-Portrait in Quarantine,” 2020, the category winner in drawing (Jesse Hornbuckle).

Nwadike, of New York, who won for “Born and Reborn,” in mixed media.

The exhibition features paintings, drawings, photographs, sculptures and assemblages by 44 contemporary artists, including eight artists who hail from North Texas. In addition to Essien and Jean-Baptiste, North Texas artists selected include Atinuke Adeleke of Frisco, Stephen Adkins of Ovilla, Chelsea Emuakhagbon of Cedar Hill, Tyra Johnson of Irving, Kev’Ron Madden of Addison, and Nii Narku Thompson of Dallas.

The history of this initiative began in 1976 when the African American Museum, Dallas initiated the Southwest Black Art Competition and Exhibition. The purpose of the juried competition and exhibition stemmed from the Museum’s need to build a distinguished art collection and to provide Black artists in the region a venue to showcase their work.

Over the years, the Southwest Black Art Competition and Exhibition attracted the attention of artists beyond its geographical boundaries. In 1999, the Museum’s

board renamed the biennial competition to the “Carroll Harris Simms National Black Art Competition and Exhibition” in honor of Carroll Harris Simms’ outstanding contributions to art and art education.

Simms (1924-2010) was a master sculptor and ceramist, painter, jeweler and author. He was a distinguished professor and educator who helped shape Texas Southern University’s art department as well as the careers of many acclaimed Texas artists.

Season sponsors of the African American Museum, Dallas, are Atmos, Eugene McDermott Foundation, Fair Park First and Spectra Venue Management, Friendship West Baptist Church, Oncor, State Fair of Texas, and the City of Dallas’ Office of Arts and Culture.

The exhibit runs through March 21, 2023 at the African American Museum,

located at 3536 Grand Ave., Dallas 75210. The museum is open from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. Free self-parking is available in nearby lots.

Admission is free and open to the public.

Carroll Harris Simms was the chairman of the Art Department at Texas Southern University. In 1950, Simms joined the faculty of Texas Southern University (formerly Texas State University for Negroes) and became the co-founder of the Art Department. He served as Professor of Art until 1987. Professor Simms developed a unique program of ceramics and sculpture at the University.

The African American Museum, Dallas was founded in 1974 as a part of Bishop College. The Museum has operated independently since 1979. For more than

40 years, the African American Museum has stood as a cultural beacon in Dallas and the Southwestern United States. Located in Dallas’ historic Fair Park, the African American Museum is the only museum in the Southwestern United States devoted to the collection, preservation and display of African American artistic, cultural and historical materials that relate to the African American experience. The African American Museum incorporates a wide variety of visual art forms and historical documents that portray the African American experience in the United States, Southwest, and Dallas. The Museum has a small, but rich collection of African art, African American fine art and one of the largest African American folk-art collections in the United States.

Learn more at aamdallas.org.

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# Dallas Black Dance Theatre's Cultural Awareness highlights world premieres and timeless classics by master choreographers

Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) celebrates Black History Month by performing works that share slices of life, culture, and history in its Cultural Awareness Performance Series. The performances feature two world premieres by Gregory Dolbashian and Sean J. Smith and two modern dance classics by master choreographers Donald McKayle and Matthew Rushing.

Santander Consumer USA Foundation is the Black History Month Sponsor for all of DBDT's events during the month of February. DBDT's Cultural Awareness Performance Series is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, February 17-18, 2023, at the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora, Dallas, Texas in the Dallas Arts District.

The nostalgia of childhood is played out in "Games" by master choreographer Donald McKayle. You will flashback with your own childhood memories as the plot unfolds amid the serious business of child's play for the audience to experience pure joy and the terror that wipes away innocence. The dance is set to the a cappella voices of two DBDT dancers who sing throughout the work as dancers add layers of rhythm with their footwork and movements. The 68-year-old work is timeless. Dance Heritage Coalition named the award-winning choreographer Donald McKayle as "one of America's irreplaceable Dance Treasures." Games is supported in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Matthew Rushing, As-



Courtesy photo

sociate Artistic Director for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, choreographed "Tribute" for DBDT in 2016. Set to an original music score, the work is a collective testimonial that pays homage to the decades of generosity and inspiration by these extraordinary dance mentors who shouldered the foundation of modern dance. Tribute takes you back through 100 years of African American dance masters like Donald McKayle, Talley Beatty, Pearl Prius, Katherine Dunham, and Alvin Ailey.

Described by The New York Times as a "fluid and inventive" choreographer, Gregory Dolbashian creates a unique movement language that strives to uncover the body's inherent wisdom and its affinity for expression in the world premiere of Shatter. Dolbashian's work will explore human behavior and connection in audacious and vibrant ways.

The world premiere of "Swipe Left" by DBDT veteran dancer Sean J. Smith looks at the complicated mindset of a woman

desperately trying to find love in all the wrong places. The solo dramatizes a series of regrettable romantic misfortunes that force her to look inward to figure out why she can't find "the one." Swipe Left takes a hard look at the veneer of online dating and social media combined with the unachievable relationship standards set by society. Let the swiping begin!

The performances are scheduled for Feb. 17-18, 2023 at 7:30 pm at the Wyly Theatre Dee & Charles Wyly Theatre at 2400 Flora St. in Dallas.

The event is available in-person, live streaming and on-demand. In-person tickets are \$45 - \$65, Live streaming tickets, \$25 per household. Watch a live stream of the performance at 7:30 PM CST on Saturday, February 18, 2023, or on-demand from 10:30 PM CST Saturday - Monday, February 20, 2023, at 11:59 PM CST. For more performance details, visit [www.DBDT.com](http://www.DBDT.com).

Ann Williams founded Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 1976. The dance company is now under the

direction of Melissa M. Young. Dallas Black Dance Theatre's mission is to create and produce contemporary modern dance at the highest level of artistic excellence through performances and educational programs that bridge cultures and reach diverse communities. As the largest and oldest professional dance company in Dallas, DBDT is the fourth-largest Black dance company in the nation, the ninth-largest contemporary modern dance company, and ranked 40th among the nation's leading ballet companies. Located in the thriving downtown Dallas Arts District, DBDT has performed worldwide for over 4.5 million arts patrons and 2.7 million students in 32 states and 16 countries on five continents. The performances include two Olympics (1996 & 2012),

the nation's most prestigious venues (Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Broadway, Jacob's Pillow), and for such luminaries as Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and South African President Nelson Mandela. Since the pandemic began in 2020, DBDT performances have also been viewed virtually in 34 countries. The Company has been recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts as an American Masterpiece Touring Artist (2008) and received the Texas Medal of the Arts Award for Arts Education (2017).

About Dallas Black Dance Theatre's 2022-2023 sponsors: Legacy Sponsor, Harold Simmons Foundation 2022-2023| Catalyst Sponsors The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Ford Foundation, Texas Instruments, The Eugene McDer-

mott Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Anonymous; Season Sponsors, City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture, NBC 5, The Dallas Morning News, Texas Metro News, American Airlines, Oversee My IT, Shubert Foundation, Inc., DART, TACA, Dallas Weekly, and Texas Commission on the Arts, and its Season Supporters include The Rea Charitable Trust, Lexus, fyi50+, The Dallas Examiner, The Dallas Post Tribune, Elite News, Trendy Africa, and Arts+Culture.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre limits seating capacity to allow for social distancing in all performance venues. Because of the limited in-person ticket availability, DBDT will not offer discounts to groups. DBDT encourages the use of masks at its performances.



## Check us out on Youtube!

In case you've missed it, the *North Dallas Gazette* has begun producing videos. Our latest series, "Close Up" takes a deep dive into issues affecting the local DFW community. Episodes I and II are up now, with Jackie Hardy taking a look at criticisms surrounding the North Texas Tollway Authority's compliance with its stated goals of inclusion for Minority and Women in Business Enterprise firms. The first episode is a conversation with two accomplished professionals in the field, and the second features the NTTA's response to questions about its past performance. Check it out, subscribe to our Youtube channel and stay informed.



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By "liking" us, you will be entered into an upcoming promotional contest for tickets to area entertainment events!

## AFRICA, from Page 7

in September this year. The project broke ground on January 13th of this 2023, which, as Delta Sigma Theta's Founders Day, reached a new height of importance

to her. "As a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., it was a beautiful surprise to learn that the groundbreaking would take place on our Founders

Day. Our sorority was built on service, and I can't think of a greater way to honor our 22 founders and their legacy," says James.

More information can be found via [www.thetsjfoundation.org](http://www.thetsjfoundation.org).



# Survey shows strong bipartisan support for investing in research

ARLINGTON (Va.) -- According to data released today from a January 2023 survey commissioned by Research!America, Americans across the political spectrum agree R&D investment drives job creation, innovation, and global leadership. There is strong, bipartisan support for federal investment in our nation's science and technology enterprise.

• 91% of Americans agree it is important for the U.S. to be a global leader in science and technology.

• More than 3 in 4 Americans (85% of Democrats, 71% of Republicans, 73% of independents) say R&D investment is creating employment opportunities for people in this country.

• 63% of Americans are willing to pay \$1 dollar more per week in taxes in support of medical and health research.

Strengthening our nation's science enterprise is

a shared value for Americans," said Mary Woolley, Research!America President and CEO. "Robust support for R&D is critical to ensuring America remains a global leader in science and technology, equipped to out-innovate current and future health and economic threats. It is incumbent on the science community to meet public expectations and be responsive to public concerns to find solutions to the challenges we face – both as individuals, and as a society."

A slim majority of Americans (52%) believe the U.S. will be the world leader in science and technology in the year 2030. Notably, 77% of Americans are concerned that China will surpass the U.S. as the world's leading S&T power. That concern is reflected by the 6 in 10 Americans who believe Congress should invest more taxpayer dollars to advance S&T in the U.S.

Young people ages 18-24 are significantly less likely (74%) than all Americans (91%) to say it is important for the U.S. to be a global leader in science and technology.

Americans strongly support federal investment in research. More than 8 in 10 Americans (92% of Democrats, 78% of Republicans, and 76% of independents) agree basic research which advances the frontiers of knowledge should be supported by the federal government; younger respondents (ages 18-24) are less likely to agree (74%). Federally-supported vaccine research is strongly supported regardless of party affiliation, with 9 in 10 Democrats and 7 in 10 Republicans and independents in support. In addition, 8 in 10 Americans support public funds for scientific research at universities.

Confidence in health care providers and scientists

is very high overall, with nurses (89%), doctors (87%), and scientists (78%) ranked as the three professions most trusted to act in peoples' best interest – each up 8 to 10 points over 2022. However, while confidence in the military (85%), small business (80%), and police (70%) has remained steady, confidence in research institutions has dropped 9 points from 76% to 67% along with confidence in state governments (54%) and federal government (46%) each experiencing a drop.

There is robust bipartisan

agreement that scientists' job should include communicating their research to the public (86% of Democrats, 77% of Republicans, and 77% of independents say "yes"). In addition, 95% of Democrats, 89% of Republicans, and 87% of independents say it is "very or somewhat important" for scientists to inform elected officials about their research and its impact on society.

COVID-19 is no longer Americans' top health concern. The cost of health care (12%) was cited as the single most important health

issue facing the nation, with COVID-19 (11%), cancer (11%) and mental health (10%) coming in close behind. COVID-19 was far and away the leading issue (33%) on the same question in January 2022.

Other notable findings:

• Americans are concerned about the impact of misinformation/disinformation on public health (88%), climate change (79%), and stable democracy (85%).

• Nearly half (46%) of Americans say that opioid

**See RESEARCH, Page 12**



## Ed Bell Construction Company

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# Algorithms that adjust for worker race, gender still show biases

AUSTIN (Texas) — Even after algorithms are adjusted for overt hiring discrimination, they may show a subtler kind: preferring workers who mirror dominant groups, according to a new study from researchers at The University of Texas at Austin. For example, when recruiting in a field that has more men, algorithms may favor people who more closely resemble masculine stereotypes. This tendency, or “social norm bias,” compounds existing patterns in the workplace.

There may be a better approach for employers looking for technological fixes

to combat algorithm bias—the tendency for hiring and recruiting algorithms to screen out job applicants by race or gender, according to study author Maria De-Arteaga, an assistant professor of information, risk and operations management in the McCombs School of Business.

The research is online in advance in the Journal of Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery.

With Myra Cheng of Stanford University and Adam Tauman Kalai and Lester Mackey of Microsoft Research, De-Arteaga tested three common tech-

niques for making algorithms fairer.

The researchers used a data set with 397,340 biographies, spanning 28 occupations. Because the biographies were in third person, each biography had a “she” or “he” pronoun associated with it. An additional data set of biographies used nonbinary pronouns.

They then applied the three different types of interventions. The central question: Would the adjusted results display social norm bias when using someone’s biography to

predict the person’s occupation?

Unfortunately, the bias persisted. For male-dominated occupations, the algorithm looked for language associated with men. If it didn’t find such language, it was less accurate in guessing a person’s occupation.

For example, the algorithm associated the word “empowerment” with women. Female surgeons who used the word in their biographies were less likely to be identified as surgeons.

“When there is social norm bias, the individuals in the minority who benefit from an intervention will be those who most adhere to the social norms of the majority,” De-Arteaga said.

“The findings have widespread implications for correcting algorithm bias.”

Using current techniques, companies may think they have addressed gender discrimination. But because those techniques are based on rigid characteristics associated with a group, they don’t show the whole picture. They may penalize people who don’t fit stereotypes of the majority.

To help compensate for those problems, De-Arteaga and her colleagues propose a formula to directly measure the degree of social norm bias in an algorithm. Data science or machine learning departments could use the formula to guide algorithm selection, the researchers said.

Read the McCombs “Big Ideas” story.

For more information, contact: Jeremy Simon, McCombs School of Business

## RESEARCH, from Page 11

addiction has gotten worse in their community over the past 5 years. Respondents in rural areas are more likely (68%) to say “somewhat worse” or “a lot worse” than those in urban or suburban areas.

- Most Americans (82%) acknowledge the importance of funding the detection of infectious disease outbreaks on a global scale,

and two-thirds (65%) agree the federal government should invest in preventing and curing diseases wherever they occur.

The online survey was conducted by Zogby Analytics on behalf of Research!America in January 2023, among 1,000 adults. The survey has a theoretical sampling error of +/- 3.1 percentage points.


## ATHSMA, from Page 4

City Asthma Consortium, was recently published in the journal, The Lancet Planetary Health. The study was led by Matthew C. Altman, M.D., M.Phil., and Daniel J. Jackson, M.D. Dr. Altman is an associate professor in the department of medicine at the University of Washington School of Medicine and an associate scientist at the Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason in Seattle. Dr. Jackson is a professor of pediatrics and medicine in the School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

NIAID conducts and supports research—at NIH, throughout the United States, and worldwide—to study the causes of infectious and immune-medi-

ated diseases, and to develop better means of preventing, diagnosing and treating these illnesses. News releases, fact sheets and other NIAID-related materials are available on the NIAID website.

About the National Institutes of Health (NIH): NIH, the nation’s medical research agency, includes 27 Institutes and Centers and is a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NIH is the primary federal agency conducting and supporting basic, clinical, and translational medical research, and is investigating the causes, treatments, and cures for both common and rare diseases. For more information about NIH and its programs, visit [www.nih.gov](http://www.nih.gov).



### McKinney Housing Authority

#### 2023 ANNUAL PLAN & SIGNIFICANT AMENDMENT TO THE FIVE YEAR PLAN

#### PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

The Quality Housing & Work Responsibility Act of 1998 requires the McKinney Housing Authority to submit an Agency Plan each year.

The PHA Plan is a comprehensive guide to public housing agency (PHA) policies, programs, operations, and strategies for meeting local housing needs and goals. There are two parts to the PHA Plan: the 5-Year Plan, which each PHA submits to HUD once every 5th PHA fiscal year, and the Annual Plan, which is submitted to HUD every year.

Below is a list of meetings that are scheduled to review and discuss the Agency Plan documents for the 2023 fiscal year. Residents, the public and staff are encouraged to attend the meetings.

#### Autoridad de Vivienda McKinney

#### PLAN ANUAL 2023 & ENMIENDA SIGNIFICATIVA AL PLAN DE CINCO AÑOS

#### REUNIONES DARSE CUENTA

La Ley de Vivienda y Responsabilidad Laboral de Calidad de 1998 requiere que la Autoridad de Vivienda de McKinney presente un Plan de la Agencia cada año.

El Plan PHA es una guía completa de las políticas, programas, operaciones y estrategias de las agencias de vivienda pública (PHA) para satisfacer las necesidades y los objetivos de vivienda locales. Hay dos partes en el Plan PHA: el Plan de 5 años, que cada PHA presenta a HUD una vez cada quinto año fiscal de PHA, y el Plan anual, que se envía a HUD cada año.

A continuación hay una lista de reuniones que están programadas para revisar y analizar los documentos del Plan de la Agencia para el año fiscal 2023.

Se alienta a los residentes, al público y al personal a asistir a las reuniones.

Tuesday January 24, 2023	4:30pm	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Merritt Homes Community Center	1200 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX 75069
Tuesday February 28, 2023	4:30pm	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Merritt Homes Community Center	1200 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX 75069
Thursday March 16, 2023	Noon	Public Hearing	Newsome Homes Community Center	1450 Amcott St. McKinney, TX 75069
Tuesday March 28, 2023	4:30pm	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Merritt Homes Community Center	1200 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX 75069

A draft of the proposed ANNUAL Plan and Significant Amendment to the Five Year Plan is available for review at the MHA main office located at: 603 N. Tennessee St. McKinney, TX.

Comments can be submitted by hand delivery, mail, or email to McKinney Housing Authority Main Office; 603 North Tennessee Street; Attn: Roslyn Miller; McKinney, TX 75069 or [info@mckinneyha.org](mailto:info@mckinneyha.org). The final public hearing for plan adoption will be held on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 4:30pm – Merritt Homes community center.



## Biden-Harris announces new actions to protect renters and promote affordability

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

The pressure on the government to do something about rising housing costs has resulted in the Biden administration announcing major new initiatives to safeguard tenants and make renting more affordable.

Now, several federal agencies announced they would collaborate to compile data on discriminatory housing practices.

A non-binding "Blueprint for a Renters Bill of

Rights" is also included to provide clear instructions for tenants to continue living in moderately priced rentals.

In addition, the White House is issuing a rallying cry called the "Resident-Centered Housing Challenge," with the goal of encouraging housing providers and state and local governments to bolster policy in their respective markets.

"Since taking office, the president has taken substantial steps to promote fairness in the rental mar-

ket and ease the burden of rental costs for millions of American renters," administration officials wrote in a Fact Sheet.

Officials said the administration kept the national eviction moratorium in place until August 2021, which helped to prevent over 1.5 million eviction filings nationwide.

Further, the administration has delivered over 8 million rental or utility assistance payments to reduce renters' risk of eviction or housing instability.

The White House said

more than \$769 million has been provided for housing stability services by the Administration.

In 2022, the administration released a Housing Supply Action Plan, which set the goal of closing America's housing supply shortfall in five years.

The administration has been making progress advancing a long-term goal of providing housing vouchers to all eligible households: through the 2022 and 2023 president's Budgets, the administration has secured rental assistance to

more than 100,000 households through the 2022 and 2023 appropriations bills and the American Rescue Plan.

And, recently, HUD published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on its efforts to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing.

As the housing market remains a major issue for renters, administration officials pointed out that inflation has reduced, but rental prices have continued to rise.

The actions are the latest by the Biden administration to curtail evictions and to help make housing more affordable.

Reportedly, tenant unions, community organizations, and legal advocacy groups have called for an all-out strategy, preparing an executive order for the Biden administration, advocating for a housing emergency declaration, and investigating rent control options.

### EXHIBIT, from Page 8

housing boom, which made suburban homes attractive and enabled white Americans to buy homes on larger lots and build generational wealth. At the same, Black citizens were overwhelmingly excluded from such opportunities. This, due to segregationist practices that remained from earlier decades.

Given the displacement of businesses and homes due to the construction of Central Expressway and Woodall Rodgers Freeway, the community had been cut in two and isolated from downtown's vital services, which triggered a decades-long decline in the North Dallas neigh-

borhood. It also discusses how positive steps toward integration unintentionally exacerbated the neighborhood's demise and how it was affected by later redevelopment efforts and gentrification.

The exhibit also discusses the violence, including lynching, Ku Klux Klan activities and the bombing of Black homes during the 1940s and 1950s, which kept Black Dallas residents in the segregated neighborhood. Like other American cities during this time, Dallas witnessed rapid change and rising social tensions. The exhibit discusses how efforts to prevent Black migration to South Dal-

las failed yet resulted in increased white flight to suburban neighborhoods, which sapped capital from central areas that badly needed it.

Despite legislative victories of the Civil Rights Movement, including Brown v. Topeka Board of Education in 1954 and the 1964 Civil Rights Act, local parents and schools found ways to resist federal integration, as private companies perpetuated racist lending practices, as the city ignored the plight of these neighborhoods. Redlining (government maps drawn to indicate Black neighborhoods as risky investments) prevented businesses from borrowing to improve these areas. Also, lacking

public transportation, the residents became confined without access to sufficient job opportunities.

Sarah Crain, chief operating officer of Old City Park and Dr. Whitney Stewart, assistant professor of historical studies at the University of Texas at Dallas contributed to this article. It is hoped that the exhibit will initiate larger conversations about the lasting psychological impact of displaced and marginalized communities.

Please see <https://oldcityparkdallas.org/> for hours and general information on "History Resides Here: How Jim Crow and Urban Development Shaped a House, Neighborhood, and City."



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## Another Celebration in the Bank

This month The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I celebrate the 52nd anniversary of our engagement. In August, it'll be the 52nd anniversary of our wedding.

I can't believe we have been together for 52 years. But, alas, here it is.

I first met her in September of 1970 when I went to Bible college. Knowing

that God was calling me to be a pastor, I understood that I would need a wife to help me in this ministry.

Not being woman-wise, and no dating experience: I thought a date was simply a dried-up prune.

Not knowing what to do, I simply put it in God's hands. Before I went to this Bible college, my prayer was, "Heavenly Father,

make the first young lady I meet when I go to school be the wife you have chosen for me."

It sounds ridiculous, but not being woman-wise, it was my best choice.

My parents took me up to New York, where the college was, as we drove into the men's dorm driveway a young lady was coming out. This young lady had

her hair rolled up in tomato cans which was rather usual at that time.

When I saw her walk out, I quickly prayed, "Not yet, Father. My feet have not touched the ground."

I think God was chuckling. For some reason, I was never able to get away from her because it was a very small college, and everybody knew everybody.

Not being woman-wise, I did not know how to conduct myself in such a situation.

In December, we were on some date, and she happened to say, or so I thought she happened to say it, "Wouldn't it be nice to get married?"

Again, my not being woman-wise did not allow me to understand what was

going on. I simply replied to her, "I think it would be great to get married."

Foolish me, I thought that was the end of the conversation.

The next day in school, as I walked down the hallway, everybody looked at me, smiled, and said, "Congratulations." So I smiled

**See CELEBRATION, Page 16**

## Stop Worrying

By Daris Howard

One day, someone asked Lane why he seemed to excel at his engineering work. Lane smiled. "Years ago, my father taught me a simple but important lesson." Lane told how he had worked hard going through college. High school hadn't been easy for him, and at seventeen, he had married right after graduation.

It wasn't long before he and his wife had a little one come along. Lane worked hard to take care of his family. But with only a high school education, the jobs he found paid minimum wage, if he could find a job at all.

After being the first one let go when his employer had started downsizing, he was upset and discouraged. He had worked hard and put his heart and soul

into his job. But his sweet wife didn't look at it as a bad thing. She looked at it positively, saying that now he would be free to go to school.

He had been wanting to get some education, but the thought of going to college while having a family to take care of was daunting. But his wife had great faith in him, and her faith became the strength he needed to make it through. She supported him in every way she could, and the day finally came when he graduated with a degree in engineering. He hadn't started out in that area, but his interests helped him move in that direction. It was demanding work, but now he hoped it would pay off.

It wasn't long before he got a job at a prestigious computer company. He moved his little family and

started his new job. He was assigned to work with an older, more experienced engineer. But Lane found things weren't quite what he had hoped. The older man worked part of the morning but then disappeared for the rest of the day.

Instead of having the older worker there as a mentor, Lane had to find out what he needed to know on his own. This meant he was reaching out to others, studying the company manual, and doing whatever else he could to perform better in his job.

At the end of the year, when Lane went in for his performance review, he received outstanding marks and got an advancement. But it was much smaller than Lane had hoped, smaller than others in his same situation. It didn't take Lane long to realize

it was because the other new employees, working with their assigned mentor and colleague, had gotten more work done. It was evident to Lane why. There were two of them working together, and most of the time, it was just him working on his own.

He was pleased that he had gotten as much done as he had. Even so, he couldn't help but feel cheated. If the man that was assigned to work with him had gotten in and worked, together they could have been incredibly productive. That is when Lane complained to his father. What his father said to him made him think.

Lane's entire attitude changed after that. Instead

of complaining about not having someone to work with, he looked at the advantages. He was freer to decide about his project and do it the way he felt was best. In finding answers to questions on his own, he found he was getting to know more people across the organization and understood how things worked better than he would have otherwise. He used these advantages in his favor, and his work was far more innovative.

This didn't go unnoticed by his boss. Unknown to Lane, his boss was also aware that Lane's mentor was not doing his job. This all came out in his second-year review. When his boss

asked him how he was able to do so well on his own, Lane shared what his father had told him.

"If a person has time to worry about what someone else is doing or not doing, he doesn't have enough to do. And there is no challenge a person is given that doesn't have hidden opportunities if a person will look for them as he gets in and works."

Lane always excelled by keeping those ideas in mind.

*Daris Howard, award-winning, syndicated columnist, playwright, and author, can be contacted at [daris@darishoward.com](mailto:daris@darishoward.com); or visit his website at <http://www.darishoward.com>.*

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# Black History Month continues...



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
Religion  
Editor

Some facts and accomplishments of Black people. Various readers mentioned that they had learned a lot of Black History facts from reading my columns during the month of February. Other facts will be some that I didn't list last year.

**LITTLE KNOWN BLACK HISTORY FACTS:** (By Tom Joyner, Radio Personality and Dr. Henry L. Gates, Writer. These facts were published by McDonald's Corporation. (Copyright 2000)

On January 18, 1958, Willie O'Ree (a brilliant right wing hockey player) became the first Black man to play in the National Hockey League (NHL), playing with the Boston Bruins.

John Brown Russwurm was one of the earliest Black students to graduate from college, received a degree from Bowdoin in 1826; and with Samuel Cornish, founded the first Black newspaper, "Freedom's Journal." The first issue appeared on March 16, 1827 with a strong civil rights stand.



*Elijah McCoy, inventor of the automatic lubricating system used on trains and cars today, created a level of distinction which bears his name.*

Paul L. Downing invented the Mailbox on October 27, 1891. Langston Hughes, Poet and Playwright (1902-1967) (a postal stamp was made to honor Hughes).

Aaron Douglas painted extraordinary pictures, and sculptor Augusta Savage turned stone into portraits.

The whole country was moving to the rhythm of a Black dance called the "Charleston." In politics, Marcus Garvey was calling for Black self-reliance and identification with African heritage.

W.E.B. Du Bois was fighting against segregation and for civil rights for people of color. This much energy, talent, and creativ-

ity infused the whole nation with a unique new vigor and originality.

George Washington Carver was a prominent American scientist and inventor in the early 1900s. Carver developed hundreds of products using the peanut, sweet potatoes and soybeans. He also was a champion of crop rotation and agricultural education.

Reading this column today, it is good to know that The Stone Churches of Lalibela in Ethiopia is one of the architectural wonders of the world. A group of eleven buildings, they are hewn from volcanic rock.

But, they are not carved from stone standing above ground. Astonishingly,

they were cut into the earth, so that what one first sees is their roofs—level to the ground.

It is said that the churches date from the twelfth century. Their original purpose is unknown, but the network of underground passages suggests they could have been either palaces or fortifications.

The religious tradition is that they were built by angels in one night during the reign of King Lalibela, one of the early members of the Zagwe Dynasty. They now house Ethiopian Orthodox monks and a collection of Christian art treasures.

In the spring of 1721, when a smallpox epidemic erupted in Boston, killing nearly 1,000 people; Africa born Onesimus, a house slave owned by Cotton Mather, one of the leading ministers of colonial New England, told his master about "buying the smallpox."

The inoculation he remembered from Africa, in which people infected themselves with the disease in order to create immunity.

Does this remind you of our "Flu Shots" of today?

(Editor's Note: This column originally ran in February 2016.)

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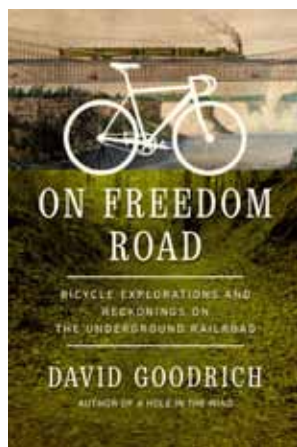
# NDG Book Review: 'On Freedom Road' is an odd but satisfying read

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

It's all in the balance.

You need to maintain that first and everything else comes next. Without balance, the wheels won't turn and pedaling is a wasted effort. Without it, you'd dream of a place with no chance of biking there. No balance, no movement – and, as in the new book, "On Freedom Road" by David Goodrich, forward, northward, is the only way to go.

In the early spring of 2011, while taking a rest from a cold bike ride, David Goodrich wandered into a museum. There, he was handed a large brass ring that was once a slave collar.



It reminded him of something he knew: one of his ancestors was a ship's captain in the "Triangle Trade." Holding the collar, and acknowledging that "white folks like" him have different ties to slavery than do Black Americans, he yearned to "discover how some... [African] descen-

dants later brought themselves to freedom.

In 2015 and 2017, he and a friend had taken trips from New Orleans and Jackson, Mississippi, respectively, on journeys reversing routes that enslaved people might've been forced to travel. He writes about those trips in later pages here, but he begins this book near the birthplace of Harriet Tubman.

To find Tubman's exact route north on the Underground Railroad took some effort, Goodrich says, because she was illiterate and written details could have been dangerous. Still, there were notes and clues indicating where she went; she tried not to attract attention but the owners of

the safe houses along her route knew her. Those facts helped shape the journey that Goodrich and two fellow riders took in the summer of 2019.

From Maryland to Canada, they biked up hills, through wooded areas and mud, following an app, notes, roadside signage, and the words of Frederick Douglass, who "traveled along many of the same roads..." that Tubman made repeatedly under cover of night, despite threats on her life and that of her passengers.

As for Goodrich and friends, "we would be trav-

eling by daylight, without dogs in pursuit, and with the benefit of Gore-Tex, shiny gears, and freedom."

"On Freedom Road" is a pleasantly odd read.

The timeline, first of all, is backwards: author David Goodrich opens this book with a recent tale, leaving a later journey for the back half. It's somewhat befuddling.

And yet, neither part lacks in excitement: because a bicycle isn't a car, Goodrich had a vantage point that's unique in travelogues, which is at least partly what this book is. Readers will find biking

and scenery inside here but it doesn't distract from history, which is the reason behind the ride. The nimbleness of the transportation mode helps Goodrich share the smallest, bravest, most impactfully-historic tales of danger, determination, and daring.

"On Freedom Road" is not filled with the tales you learned in school; no, it recounts the wild and violent and heroic, told between gentle accounts of weather, traffic, flat tires, and scenery. Readers who are looking for something unusual will find that to be a nice balance.

## CELEBRATION, from Page 14

back and thanked them.

I had no idea what I was being congratulated on, I thought perhaps I finally passed a test in school.

After a while, I stopped somebody congratulating me and asked what he was congratulating me for.

Laughing, he said, "Oh, you silly boy. I'm congratulating you on your upcoming wedding." Then he walked away.

I stood in the hallway for a moment, trying to process what he had just told me.

What wedding was he talking about? Who did they think I was marrying?

Later that afternoon, I met her in the cafeteria, she looked at me, smiled, and said, "I've told everybody, and everybody is happy for us. Isn't it wonderful?"

I then realized I was the last one in the college that knew I was getting married.

God was the first one to know whom I was going to marry, and I was the last one to know. That is chapter 1 in woman-wise psychology.

Although it's been 52 years, I still have not progressed to chapter 2.

Perhaps chapter 2 would begin with, "Do you want to

be right or happy?"

I am here to tell you that during those 52 years, I have been happy.

According to tradition back then, the next step was to get permission from her father to marry his daughter. So you understand I was rather nervous along this line because I had never met her father or mother.

Before the engagement, we traveled back to visit her family. It was then that I met her father.

I took him aside and said, "Sir, I would like to ask your permission for your daughter's hand in marriage."

He looked at me with a rather strange look and said, "No."

At this point, my flabber just got gasted, and I didn't know what to say.

He looked at me strangely and said, "Young man, you take my entire daughter or none of her. Not just her hand."

At this point, I realized I was also not father-in-law-wise. That was well beyond my pay scale. My heart sank, and I did not know the next step.

Looking at me, her father

finally broke down laughing. I had no idea what he was laughing about.

"Of course, you can have my daughter's hand in marriage as long as you take the rest of her."

I tried to laugh as best I could but had no idea what was happening in the world. If this is what I was marrying into, it will be a long voyage.

As we were driving back to school, the future Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked at me and said, "Well, what do you think of my family?"

I just smiled back at her and she said, "Welcome to my family."

I smiled and thought about my favorite life verse from the Bible.

Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

This verse has guided me throughout my entire life, especially in the area of marriage. Either I can lean on my own understanding, or, I can trust in the Lord with all my heart. If I'm going to go down the right path only God can lead me.

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