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After months-long homeless study, HOPE Task Force delivers findings and recommendations to council

By Lori Lee
NDG Contributing Writer

On January 18, Dallas City Council met with the Task Force on Homelessness Organizations, Policies, and Encampments (HOPE) to discuss their recommendations to reduce homelessness in Dallas. Council chambers were filled with people who care about or are involved in the City's effort to reduce homelessness.

Jesse Moreno opened by asking, "When we walk outside or drive to work, what world do we want to see around us? I want to see unsheltered folks receiving the support and help away from the elements and away from the situations in which they could endanger each other or other residents."

Almost a year ago, the HOPE Task Force was tasked with deciphering root causes that drive homelessness, while considering the effects of the housing shortage, mental health and substance abuse and domestic violence--potential causes suggested at the February 2023 meeting. The task force was also charged with assessing current efforts and making recommendations to improve local efforts to reduce homelessness.

The two co-chairs took turns



Robert Ceccarelli speaks to City Council at the Thursday night meeting on January 18. (Photo: Lori Lee / NDG)

presenting the HOPE findings, Peter Brodsky, Chair of Housing Forward, describing the over 20 hours of meetings and discussions with national experts in review of the data.

Brodsky graphed steep increases in homelessness from 2014 to 2020, noting Dallas had far outpaced nationwide growth, with the exception of the past three years, when Dallas was one of the few markets in the country to show reductions in homelessness.

Brodsky explained that despite common assumptions that the homeless have mental health or drug issues, only 58%, in fact, suffer from these issues. Though

many do need health care, he said, the one thing they all have in common is a need for housing.

Co-Chair and CEO of Family Gateway, Ellen Magnis discussed Dallas' cumbersome zoning and permitting practices and the city's deep shortages of affordable housing. With a 33,000-unit deficiency to serve those 50% below median income, the shortage will continue to drive people into homelessness, Magnis said.

The City should change the processes that slow down its response, including the processing of permits for new construction. Creating a

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Reporter reflects on King, his son

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Weight loss intervention for diabetes

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Black soldiers killed in Jordan

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Gaining new insight on exoplanets

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People In The News ...



Dexter Scott King



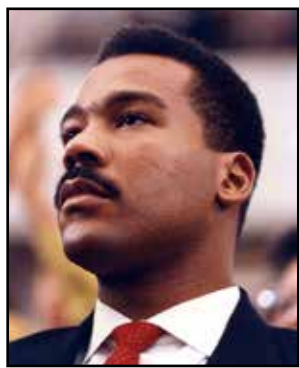
Branford Marsalis

NDG Quote of the Week: "It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences."
- Audre Lorde

Dexter Scott King

Dexter Scott King, the youngest son of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., has died at 62. The King Center, along with statements from the family, confirmed Dexter's death on Monday, January 22, just one week after the nation observed his father's holiday. King's family said he died after a valiant battle against prostate cancer.

Family members said King, a tenacious civil rights activist in his own right, passed away peacefully in his sleep at his Malibu home. Leah Weber King, Dexter's wife, shared the



news through a statement from the King Center.

"He gave it everything and battled this terrible disease until the end," she wrote. "As with all the challenges in his life, he faced

this hurdle with bravery and might."

Martin Luther King III, Dexter's older brother, also expressed deep sorrow, urging everyone to keep the entire King family, especially Dexter's wife, Leah Weber, in their thoughts and prayers.

Reverend Al Sharpton later shared his condolences. "I am heartbroken to hear that Dexter King left us this morning, but I was comforted by the knowledge that he is reunited with his parents and sister," Sharpton stated.

Dexter's mother, Coretta Scott King, died in 2006, and his sister, Yolanda De-

nise King, died in 2007. Dexter, born on January 30, 1961, carried his father's legacy forward. According to a King Center bio, he attended Morehouse College, majoring in business administration, and in 2005, he took on the roles of chairman, president, and chief executive officer of the King Center.

Dexter's vision for his father's legacy was clear: to educate the public about and perpetuate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s message of nonviolence globally. Beyond his activism, Dexter made significant contributions to media and

entertainment. He starred in and produced films, records, and television specials focused on the civil rights movement. His animated movie, "Our Friend Martin," received an Emmy Award nomination, and he authored the intimate memoir "Growing Up King" in 2003.

Recognized as one of Ebony magazine's "100 Most Influential Black Americans," Dexter Scott King worked along with his family to keep his parents' legacy alive.

"On behalf of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), rep-

resenting the Black Press of America, we pause to mourn and to celebrate the life of Dexter King, who in his own way strived to exemplify the outstanding legacy of his father, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," said NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., who worked under Dr. King in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. "We express our sympathy to the King family, and we rededicate the Black Press to keep Dr. King's dream alive, not only for all Americans but for people throughout the world."

Branford Marsalis

Grammy-winning jazz musician Branford Marsalis has embarked on a new chapter in his illustrious career by assuming the role of artistic director at the Ellis Marsalis Center for Music in New Orleans. This significant appointment follows a period of introspection for Marsalis, who felt a compelling inner voice guiding him back to his roots.

Marsalis will take over the position from his late father, the legendary Ellis Marsalis, who died in 2020 due to COVID-19 complications. Dignitaries from the philanthropic world, including Ford Foundation



President Darren Walker, are expected to attend the event.

The Marsalis family's influence in the realm of jazz is deeply ingrained in the cultural fabric of New Orleans. Wynton Marsalis, Branford's brother and

a Grammy-winning trumpeter, currently serves as the director of the Lincoln Center. Delfeayo Marsalis, an acclaimed trombonist, tours with the Uptown Jazz Orchestra, while Jason Marsalis is a prolific session musician known for his drumming and vibraphone skills.

Wynton Marsalis highlighted his father's dedication to creating a more conscious world through jazz and expressed confidence in Branford's ability to carry on this high-minded spirit in the Crescent City.

"He is a fantastic teacher, dynamic musician, and engaged thinker," Marsalis told ABC News about his

father. "We all sleep better knowing that Branford will continue in the high-minded spirit we were taught in the Crescent City."

Having Branford step in "is a dream come true. I can think of no one more suited, talented, or qualified," added Harry Connick Jr.

Ellis Marsalis, primarily known as a jazz educa-

tor, left his mark on multiple generations through his teaching roles in the city's public school system, the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, and various local universities. Renowned jazz figures such as Connick, Terence Blanchard, Donald Harrison, and Nicholas Payton credit Ellis for his profound

influence.

The Ellis Marsalis Center for Music, situated in the 9th Ward—an area still recovering from Hurricane Katrina—opened in 2012 with a deliberate focus on delivering music education to underserved communities. Marsalis emphasized

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Stephanie Childs

Stephanie Childs, Executive Vice President of Corporate Relations at Diageo North America, took a seat at center stage during an informative fireside chat at the National Newspaper Publishers Association's (NNPA) annual Midwinter Training Conference in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, where the spirit giant stood as a major partner.

Founded in 1997, Diageo is a relatively young company, but many of its brands are steeped in rich heritage, with some dating as far back as the 17th century.

The company's portfolio spans the spectrum of tastes and occasions, with over 200 brands and sales in



nearly 180 countries. That includes the world's best-selling Scotch whisky brand (Johnnie Walker), the most celebrated gin (Tanqueray), the world's best-selling premium distilled vodka (Smirnoff), the world-leading iconic stout (Guinness), and the world's best-selling cream liqueur (Baileys).

With a focus on responsible drinking and the power of public and private partnerships, Childs shared insights on the spirit company's commitment to crucial initiatives, including partnering with the Black Press of America.

"First of all, NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. is such a committed advocate and understands the mission we're on, the importance of spreading the language of moderation, and the importance of public and private partnerships. We need to work together, and we need to reach out to organizations that have reach and to communities of color," Childs stated. "The

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Dexter King died believing that the truth of his father’s killing will someday rise

By Dr. Barbara Reynolds

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Not another King dying far too soon. This was the immediate reaction of many at the news that Dexter Scott King, the youngest son of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King had died from prostate cancer at age 62. In 2007 his sister Yolanda died at age 52.

At the time of his death, Dexter had served as both chairman of The King Center and President of the King Estate. In that capacity he engaged in legal intellectual property fights with corporations, federal agencies, and court suits with family members to protect his parents’ legacy. His strongest crusade, however, was his battle to bring to justice those responsible for his father’s murder.

Born in Atlanta on Jan. 30, 1961, he was named after Dexter Avenue Baptist

Church in Montgomery, Alabama, where his father served in his first pastorate and helped launch the famous Montgomery Bus Boycott. He was the second-born son of Dr. King and Mrs. King and was only 7 years old when his father was assassinated in Memphis on April 4, 1968.

For years, Dexter King—who has an amazing resemblance to his globally acclaimed father, confessed that when he “looked in the mirror he saw his father’s face trapped in mine.” In his memoir “Growing Up King,” he spoke of gazing upon the writing on his father’s crypt, “Free At Last,” and feeling that same sense of freedom. Yet he was freed in a different way- not in death - but in the resolution of living his best life on his own terms and not becoming a prisoner of the King name.

As a journalist and later biographer of Coretta Scott

King, I was in and out of the King household since the seventies watching their becoming years. As a teenager Dexter used to love talking about one day becoming a businessman and he started his first enterprise, a music company where he hired himself out as a disk jockey for weddings. In later years, his zest for business skills took root at the King Center, where he sometimes took the reins of the King Center with his siblings helping it to become a Beloved world house of peace and non-violence.

Coretta King said all four siblings—Martin III, Yolanda, Dexter, and Bernice had inherited specific qualities from her and their father. Yolanda had a love for the performing arts and became an actress. Martin III, a social justice activist; Bernice, a Call to ministry and pastoral and organizational leadership; and

Dexter, a drive to master the complexities of life by pushing forward, overcoming the most difficult problems, even when at the very root he had to overcome himself.

Confronted with the fear of death, instead of running from it, he freed himself by running into it. At age 16, he started working at a funeral home, the same one that buried his father. The experiences in the mortuary he attributed to his quest to come to terms with death and dying. To understand the intricacies of the criminal justice system, in 1982, for a short spell, he became a police officer in Atlanta. His stance to wear a uniform with a sidearm shocked the principled non-violent, anti-gun workers at the King Center. But he was determined to understand the system from the inside out.

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Patients Over Profit: Congress can improve 340B

By Ed Towns and Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

Congressman Mike Johnson, the new Speaker of the House has an opportunity to work in a bipartisan manner with Minority Leader, Hakeem Jeffries and follow the lead of a group of six U.S. Senators John Thune (R-S.D.), Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.), Jerry Moran (R-Kan.), and Ben Cardin (D-Md.), who formed a bi-partisan working group to find solutions that would provide stability and appropriate transparency to ensure the 340B program can continue to achieve its original intent of supporting entities serving eligible patients. Recently, the Senate HELP Committee Chairman Bernie

Sanders (D-Vt.) released a report in which the senator called into question many of the practices we see today in the non-profit hospital industry. Referring to their tax-exempt status, the report observes that non-profit hospitals could play a significant role in delivering necessary care to Americans while also satisfying their charity care obligations. Instead, too often we learn that some of these hospitals are not directing these discounts to the patients they serve.

It takes decades to get anything big done in Washington, DC. That’s not something politicians there like to admit, but it’s true—nowhere more than in the complicated field of healthcare policy. When I first became a congressman in the early 1980s, I

worked with Ben Chavis on Health Care issues for example, we didn’t have a prescription drug benefit for seniors. When I left the House a decade ago, seniors had access to lifesaving drugs, but the government lacked the power to negotiate prices with manufacturers. Last week the Biden Administration announced the first steps to setting up negotiations in Medicare made possible by the Inflation Reduction Act. There is more that can be done, and Congress has an obligation to do more when it comes to making sure everyone has access to prescription medicines at affordable prices. Back in the early 1990s (with my support) Congress passed a law known as “340B” to do just that. Drug manufacturers are required by law to make med-

icines available to charity hospitals and pharmacies at a steep discount, with the idea that these healthcare centers would in turn make the medicines available to local patients for free or nearly for free (regardless of ability to pay).

Believe it or not, Congress is still trying to make the 340B program work three decades later. Hospitals today are rarely stand-alone concerns. They are usually part of broad, corporately owned networks consisting of healthcare facilities in neighborhoods ranging from poor to rich, and from urban to rural. If one hospital qualifies to get discounted 340B drugs, this shouldn’t matter—the local patients are the intended beneficiaries. But that’s not

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Keep up with the news

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Weight loss intervention in people with Type 2 diabetes influences cancer-associated proteins

(Newswise) — A weight loss intervention in people with type 2 diabetes was found to alter levels of cancer-related proteins, according to the findings of a new University of Bristol-led study. The study, published in *eBioMedicine*, is the first to show that weight loss in people recently diagnosed with diabetes can change the levels of cancer-related chemicals circulating in the blood.

According to Diabetes UK, over five million people in the UK live with diabetes and over 600 million people could be afflicted worldwide by 2045. Weight loss is now a key



Matt C / Unsplash

intervention thanks to the Diabetes Remission Clinical Trial (DiRECT), which found a dietary weight loss programme could put type 2 diabetes into remission.

Despite this positive development, individuals

with type 2 diabetes face an increased risk of developing several types of cancer. Previous studies have found that having increased body weight alters the levels of circulating proteins with a known link to cancer. Motivated by these findings,

researchers from Bristol Medical School collaborated with colleagues from the universities of Glasgow and Newcastle who led the DiRECT trial. They sought to evaluate whether the benefits of weight loss in people with type 2 diabetes also impacts their risk of developing cancer.

To investigate this, the team used data from 261 patients with type 2 diabetes who were enrolled in the DiRECT trial. The team analysed their blood samples from before and after weight loss to find out if proteins known to be related to cancer were altered

by the weight loss intervention.

Nine cancer-related proteins in blood samples were found to be changed by the weight loss intervention compared with the control group who had received standard care for diabetes treatment.

Emma Hazelwood, one of the study's lead authors from the University of Bristol's MRC Integrative Epidemiology Unit (MRC IEU), said: "Results from this study help us gain insight into potential mechanisms linking type 2 diabetes and body fatness with cancer development. These

findings offer encouraging evidence that the increased cancer risk seen in people with diabetes might be reduced with weight loss interventions. This has important implications for both diabetes treatment and cancer prevention.

"The next step for this research is to find out whether the short-term changes we identified really do result in longer-term reduction in cancer risk in people with diabetes."

The study was funded by Diabetes UK, Cancer Research UK, World Cancer Research Fund, and Wellcome.

Antipsychotic injections linked to a sharp drop in hospital readmissions

(Newswise) — Antipsychotic injections upon hospital discharge were associated with a 75 percent reduction in 30-day rehospitalizations when compared with oral antipsychotics, according to a Rutgers Health study.

The findings, published in the *Journal of Clinical Psychopharmacology*, support the use of long-acting injections over daily pills for both medical and financial reasons.

"Controlling symptoms to avoid hospitalization is even more important with schizophrenia than other conditions because each relapse makes the condition harder

to treat going forward," said Daniel Greer, a clinical assistant professor at the Rutgers Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy and lead author of the study.

Standards of care for schizophrenia treatment already call for long-acting injections over daily oral medication but still list pills as an acceptable treatment option, said Greer, adding that patients still choose pills over injections for reasons ranging from insurance coverage to fear of needles.

For the new study – which compared 30-day readmission rates for all patients discharged from a single academic hospital with schizo-

phrenia or schizoaffective disorder from August 2019 to June 2022 – 240 patients opted for oral medication when they left the hospital, while 103 chose long-acting injections.

After 30 days, the readmission rate was 8.3 percent among patients who received oral medication and 1.9 percent among patients who received long-acting injections, which can last anywhere from two weeks to six months.

The researchers analyzed existing treatment data rather than randomly assigning patients beforehand to the different treatments, so the different outcomes could

reflect factors other than treatment efficacy, but other trials have also tied long-acting injections to superior outcomes.

"I suspect the lower readmission rate that has been observed with long-acting injections has more to do with people forgetting to take a pill each and every day than with any inherent superiority of the injectable medication," Greer said. "Other studies on the use of antipsychotic medication have found that roughly three-fourths of patients do not take oral medications exactly as directed, and it's much easier to get a shot every few months than it is

to take a pill every day, even though the shot requires a trip to the doctor."

The authors of the study chose to compare one-month readmission rates because the 30-day window is both medically and financially important. For patients, the risk of severe symptoms requiring readmission declines significantly after they successfully control their condition for 30 days. For hospitals, compensation for their services often requires that patients not return to the hospital less than 30 days after their initial discharge.

Historically, many insurers have refused to cover

long-acting antipsychotic injections because they cost more than oral treatments, even in generic formulations, Greer said. Coverage has improved, however, as more studies find that injections produce superior outcomes.

"The cost of the injections is far lower than the cost of hospital treatments," he said. "And each additional visit to the hospital increases the odds that there will be more visits in the future. Every time someone experiences psychosis, they lose gray matter, and they suffer damage that never heals. That's why it's so vital to minimize psychotic episodes."

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how hospital networks are using 340B. As seen recently in Richmond VA, too often hospital networks are happy to use their branches in poor areas to get 340B drugs into the pipeline, but then re-route these medicines throughout the hospital network to be sold at full price to patients of all

income levels. As someone who voted for the original 340B law, I can assure you this was not Congressional intent. We wanted the drug companies to get affordable medicines to the patients who need them—we never intended for hospital networks to profit off this using clever redirection tactics.

Maybe that's why a bipartisan group of U.S. senators recently requested information from stakeholders about how the 340B program is working. I was pleased to see so many traditional civil rights, and other healthcare leaders weigh in on these and make health care disparities a key civil rights issue. We applaud leaders such as

Rev. Al Sharpton, Delegate Kathy Tran, Virginia House of Delegates, Linda Goler Blount, Black Women's Health Imperative, Kevin Kimble, Southern Christian Leadership Global Policy Initiative, Bishop Dean Nelson, Frederick Douglass Foundation, to name a few for their advocacy efforts on this issue. We want to improve the 340B

program Democrats and Republicans agree that the program should work the way Congress intended it to. The Biden Administration should ensure that hospitals and other entities are using the savings they obtain from the 340B program to help the patients who are supposed to be helped. Fixing 340B is the next step in ensuring health equity re-

garding prescription medicines.

Mr. Ed Towns, a civil rights activist, and a former Member of Congress from New York who served on the Congressional Black Caucus.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is presently the CEO & President of the National Newspaper Publishers Association.



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Three Black U.S. Army reservists killed in drone attack near Syrian border

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Three Black American reservists from the 926th Engineer Brigade, based at Fort Moore, Georgia, lost their lives in a drone attack on a U.S. base near the Jordan-Syria border. Pentagon Deputy Press Secretary Sabrina Singh identified the fallen soldiers as Sgt. William Jerome Rivers, 46, of Carrollton, Georgia; Spc. Kennedy Ladon Sanders, 24, of Waycross, Georgia; and Spc. Breonna Alexsondria Moffett, 23, of Savannah, Georgia.

The tragedy occurred at the logistics support base at Tower 22 of the Jordanian Defense Network, where approximately 350 U.S. Army and Air Force personnel are stationed. That base plays a crucial role in providing support for the coalition's efforts against ISIS, according to Central Command.



Sgt. William Jerome Rivers, 46, of Carrollton, Georgia; Spc. Breonna Alexsondria Moffett, 23, of Savannah, Georgia; and Spc. Kennedy Ladon Sanders, 24, of Waycross, Georgia. (Photos via NNPA)

The attack marks the third drone strike on the outpost in the past six months, with the first two occurring in the latter half of the previous year being unsuccessful. Lt. Gen. Jody Daniels, chief of the Army Reserve and commanding general of the U.S. Army Reserve Command, said the murders of the three Black reservists cut deeply.

The U.S. government has determined that Iran was

responsible for the attack, prompting President Joe Biden to vow a response. "There will be a response," Biden declared.

In her last conversation with her mother, Sanders reportedly expressed aspirations to elevate her military career upon returning home from the Middle East. She also revealed her intention to purchase a motorcycle. Sanders was actively in-

involved in coaching soccer and basketball in her hometown of Waycross, Georgia, and worked at a pharmacy. She was pursuing college courses to become an X-ray technician.

Sanders' parents shared that she volunteered for deployment to experience different parts of the world. With a history of military service in the family, Sanders had previously deployed

to Djibouti and later volunteered for Kuwait, including a stint in Jordan near the Syrian border.

Rivers enlisted in the Army Reserve in 2011 as an interior electrician, according to the U.S. Army Reserve Command Public Affairs Office.

He served "with courage, honor, and a deep sense of duty, embodying the best of New Jersey and our nation," said Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.). "His death is a profound loss to his family, friends, colleagues, and our entire country, and a reminder of the heavy debt we owe to our military families for their sacrifice."

U.S. Rep. Andy Kim (D-N.J.), who represents Willingboro, said in a statement that Rivers served this country and local community with great honor and bravery. "We are indebted to him and his loved ones for their service and sacrifice," Kim stated. "We will never forget what Sergeant Rivers

and his fellow fallen soldiers, Spc. Kennedy Ladon Sanders and Spc. Breonna Alexsondria Moffett, gave for our nation. May their memory live on in our continued service to our military families."

Moffett reportedly was no stranger to the military as both of her parents were veterans.

"I was like no you should, but you know she went anyway, because of her dedication to her county, she really really honored her job," Saryha Truell, one of Moffett's lifelong friends, told WTOG-TV.

"We are reminded that the brave men and women who defend our great nation put their lives on the line each and every day to keep our country safe," said Brig. Gen. Todd Lazaroski, Commanding General of the 412th Theater Engineer Command.

"Their service and sacrifice will not be forgotten," Daniels stated.

NNPA's historic town hall sparks dialogue on strengthening Black-Jewish relations amid rising hate

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

The National Newspaper Publishers Association

(NNPA) orchestrated a transformative Town Hall between Black and Jewish leaders at the African American Research Library and Cultural Center in Ft.

Lauderdale, Florida, creating a pivotal moment during the trade association's 2024 Midwinter Training Conference. The NNPA is a trade association repre-

senting the more than 250 African American-owned newspapers and media companies that comprise the original Black Press of

America. The objective of the Town Hall was to delve into and fortify the relationship between Blacks

and Jews in America, an initiative conceived well before the October 7 attack

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2210	\$100 Frenzy Overall Odds are 1 in 4.71	\$2	3/20/24	9/16/24
2414	10X The Money Overall Odds are 1 in 4.48	\$2	3/20/24	9/16/24
2489	\$50,000,000 BLOWOUT! Overall Odds are 1 in 3.93	\$10	3/20/24	9/16/24

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UC Irvine-led team unravels mysteries of planet formation, evolution in distant solar system

(Newswise) — A recently discovered solar system with six confirmed exoplanets and a possible seventh is boosting astronomers' knowledge of planet formation and evolution. Relying on a globe-spanning arsenal of observatories and instruments, a team led by researchers at the University of California, Irvine has compiled the most precise measurements yet of the exoplanets' masses, orbital properties and atmospheric characteristics.

In a paper published today in *The Astronomical Journal*, the researchers share the results of the TESS-Keck Survey, providing a thorough description of the exoplanets orbiting TOI-1136, a dwarf star in the Milky Way galaxy more than 270 light years from Earth. The study is a follow-up to the team's initial observation of the star and exoplanets in 2019 using data from the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite. That project provided the first estimate of the exoplanets' masses by clocking transit timing variations, a measure of the gravitational pull that orbiting planets exert on one another.

For the most recent study, the researchers joined TTV data with a radial veloc-



David Menéndez / Unsplash

ity analysis of the star. Using the Automated Planet Finder telescope at the Lick Observatory on California's Mount Hamilton and the High-Resolution Echelle Spectrometer at the W.M. Keck Observatory on Hawaii's Mauna Kea, they could detect slight variations in stellar motion via the redshift and blueshift of the Doppler effect — which helped them determine planetary mass readings of unprecedented precision.

To obtain such exact information on the planets in this solar system, the team built computer models using hundreds of radial velocity measurements layered over TTV data. Lead author Corey Beard, a UCI Ph.D. candidate in physics, said that combining these two types of readings yielded more knowledge about the system than ever before.

“It took a lot of trial and error, but we were really happy with our results after developing one of the most complicated planetary system models in exoplanet literature to date,” Beard said.

The large number of planets is one factor that inspired the astronomy team to conduct further research, according to co-author Paul Robertson, UCI associate professor of physics & astronomy.

“We viewed TOI-1136 as being highly advantageous from a research standpoint, because when a system has multiple exoplanets, we can control for the effects of planet evolution that depend on the host star, and that helps us focus on individual physical mechanisms that led to these planets having the properties that they do,” he said.

Robertson added that

when astronomers try to compare planets in separate solar systems, there are many variables that can differ based on the distinct properties of the stars and their locations in disparate parts of the galaxy. He said that looking at exoplanets in the same system enables the study of planets that have experienced a similar history.

By stellar standards, TOI-1136 is young, a mere 700 million years old, another feature that has attracted exoplanet hunters. Robertson said that juvenile stars are both “difficult and special” to work with because they're so active. Magnetism, sunspots and solar flares are more prevalent and intense during this stage of a star's development, and the resulting radiation blasts and sculpts planets, affecting their atmospheres.

TOI-1136's confirmed exoplanets, TOI-1136 b through TOI-1136 g, are categorized as “sub-Neptunes” by the experts. Robertson said the smallest one is more than twice the radius of Earth, and others are up to four times Earth's radius, comparable to the sizes of Uranus and Neptune.

All these planets orbit

TOI-1136 in less than the 88 days it takes Mercury to go around Earth's sun, according to the study. “We're packing an entire solar system into a region around the star so small that our entire planetary system here would be outside of it,” Robertson said.

“They're weird planets to us because we don't have anything exactly like them in our solar system,” said co-author Rae Holcomb, a UCI Ph.D. candidate in physics. “But the more we study other planet systems, it seems like they may be the most common type of planet in the galaxy.”

Another odd component to this solar system is the possible yet unconfirmed presence of a seventh planet. The researchers have detected some evidence of another resonant force in the system. Robertson explained that when planets are orbiting close to one another, they can pull on each other gravitationally.

“When you hear a chord played on a piano and it sounds good to you, it's because there is resonance, or even spacing, between the notes that you're hearing,” he said. “The orbital periods of these planets are spaced similarly. When the exoplanets are in reso-

nance, the tugs are in the same direction every time. This can have a destabilizing effect, or in special cases, it can serve to make the orbits more stable.”

Robertson noted that far from answering all his team's questions about the exoplanets in this system, the survey has made the researchers want to pursue additional knowledge, particularly about the composition of planetary atmospheres. That line of inquiry would be best approached through the advanced spectroscopy capabilities of NASA's James Webb Space Telescope, he said.

“I am proud that both UCO's Lick Observatory and the Keck Observatories were involved in the characterization of a really important system,” said Matthew Shetrone, deputy director of UC Observatories. “Having so many moderate-sized planets in the same system really lets us test formation scenarios. I really want to know more about these planets! Might we find a molten rock world, a water world and an ice world all in the same solar system? It almost feels like science fiction.”

See PLANET, Page 13

KING, from Page 3

Dexter also wanted to test his acting abilities. With his uncanny resemblance to his father, he portrayed him in the 2002 television movie “The Rosa Parks Story.” His love for the creative arts drew him to relocate to California but he also continued his work with the King Center and commitment to the King family legacy,

As deftly as he helped free himself from fear and tradition, he also took responsibility for freeing his family, especially his mother, from digging their graves with their forks. He

became a strict vegetarian, giving up sugars and starches until his body craved natural foods. He said he was bothered that his grandfather, Daddy King, might have lived a longer life had he eaten differently. At her son's insistence, Coretta, who had mastered the art of rich Southern style cooking, became a vegetarian. Once when I traveled with her to a Florida spa, I was dismayed that for a week, they served nothing but raw vegetables and veggie smoothies. Yet, she also believed her strict regimen

eased her pain from gout and other discomforts prolonging her life. She died at the age of 78.

Both mother and son shared an intense determination to prove to the nation that James Earl Ray did not kill Martin Luther King Jr, that his murder was the result of a conspiracy involving the U.S. government and the assassins should be held accountable.

In the early 1990's I picked Dexter up at the DC airport and took him to the National Press Club where I had helped arrange a briefing on the assassination. He spoke about his plans to meet with Ray

and that he believed Ray's claim of innocence and, based on other evidence, felt along with other family members that Ray was not the lone assassin.

On December 8, 1999, Dexter and Mrs. King, on behalf of the family, pursued a civil suit in Memphis. A jury of six Whites and six Blacks unanimously implicated U.S. government agencies in the wrongful death of Dr. King. The shocking evidence convinced the jury that Dr. King had been the victim of assassination by a conspiracy involving the Memphis Police Department as well as local, state,

and federal government agencies, and the Mafia. The Jury also concluded, just as Dexter had argued all along, that Ray was not the shooter, but had been set up as a patsy to take the blame.

This news, where both Dexter and Mrs. King testified, should have rocked the world, but unfortunately it landed like the noise of a feather hitting the ground. The verdict and shocking testimony were virtually ignored by the media - as it is today.

Dexter was often criticized for his insistence on following up on details ignored by the press, but he

argued that it was hard for him to believe looking into his father's murder was somehow illogical.

Yet, even in this failure, Dexter believed as his mother did, that they had both freed themselves of the guilt of not pushing for the truth. So many times, they had heard their father and husband say, “Truth crushed to Earth Shall Rise Again.”

And they left this world believing that one day it would.

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Reynolds is co-author of the memoir, Coretta Scott King: My Life, My Love, My Legacy.

Biden-Harris campaign appoints Director of Black Media for enhanced outreach to Black voters

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

With hopes of strengthening its connection with Black voters, the Biden-Harris 2024 campaign has hired Jasmine Harris as the Director of Black Media. Jasmine Harris, who previously held a similar role for Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer.

Harris, who announced via email, will spearhead the campaign's efforts to engage and mobilize Black communities.

The decision follows the Biden-Harris reelection campaign's significant investment in early ad purchases targeted at Black communities, more than a year ahead of the upcoming Election Day on Nov. 5.

However, despite tens of millions in ad buys directed at African Americans, the campaign still hasn't included the Black Press of America, one of the major catalysts in Biden's 2020 campaign victory over the twice-impeached and four-

times indicted former President Donald Trump. The trade association, the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), represents the 250 African American-owned newspapers and media companies that comprise the Black Press of America, founded before the end of slavery in 1827 in New York.

The Black Press of America, which includes the Washington Informer, has reached out on multiple occasions to the Biden-Harris campaign, the Democratic National Committee, and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Still, Quentin Fulks, the Principal Deputy Campaign Manager, emphasized to the GRIIO the importance of mobilizing the diverse Biden-Harris coalition that secured their victory in 2020. "Black voters are a critical part of that winning coalition," Fulks stated.

He also highlighted the campaign's historic and early investment in Black

media, starting in August 2023, and its on-the-ground organizing initiatives in key communities.

"There's no one better equipped to continue to build on that work and communicate the stakes of this election directly to Black voters across the country," he said of Harris, who expressed gratitude for the opportunity to work with the campaign.

"Black reporters and outlets must always have a seat at the table as it relates to our nation's political leadership, especially when the

stakes are as high as they are this election," Harris affirmed.

Democratic strategist Joel Payne praised the party's commitment to engaging with core constituencies and applauded the Biden-Harris campaign's decision to appoint a Director of Black Media. "These types of investments in experienced staff show that the president and his team understand what it will take to keep their coalition together for 2024," Payne stated.



The decision to hire Jasmine Harris follows the Biden-Harris reelection campaign's significant investment in early ad purchases targeted at Black communities, more than a year ahead of the upcoming Election Day on Nov. 5. (Photo via NNPA)

Asthma rates climb for high school students as cannabis use increases

(Newswise) — Asthma is more common among high school students who use cannabis, relative to those who do not and the prevalence of asthma increases with the frequency of its use among the students, according to a new study at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health and the City University of New York. The findings are published in the journal Pediatric Pulmonology.

The paper entitled "Asthma prevalence among US 9th-12th graders who report past 30-day cannabis use in 2019" sheds light on the correlation between recent cannabis use and asthma prevalence among American high school students, adjusting for demo-

graphic characteristics and cigarette use.

Data were drawn from the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, a CDC national high school survey, which collects data from students in grades 9-12 across the U.S. bi-annually. The research team, led by Renee Goodwin in the Department of Epidemiology at Columbia Public Health utilized logistical models to examine the prevalence of asthma with past 30-day cannabis use, current cigarette, alcohol, state-of-residence cannabis legal status, adjusting for sex, race and ethnicity, thus providing a valuable contribution to the understand-

See ASTHMA, Page 12

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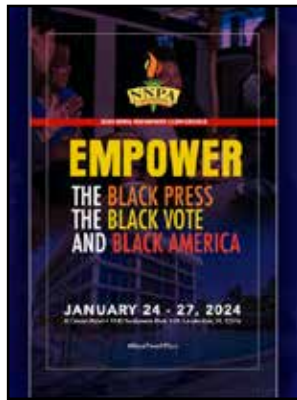
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Empowering in 2024: NNPA Conference concludes with praise, prominent sessions, and invigorating outlook

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) concluded its 2024 annual Mid-Winter Training Conference on January 27 at the B Ocean Resort and Hotel in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where publishers, editors, sponsors, partners, and visitors shared four days of workshops and fellowship that promise to strengthen the iconic Black Press of America as it heads toward its bicentennial.

Representing 250 Af-



rican American-owned newspapers and media companies in the United States, the NNPA's theme for this year's conference was "Empowering in 2024: The Black Press, The Black Vote, and Black America."

The conference provided attendees with valuable insights into performance-driven tools and methodologies aimed at expanding and monetizing their businesses. Workshops, presentations, and discussions featured prominent figures from various fields, making it a comprehensive and enriching experience for participants.

Reflecting on the conference, NNPA Chairman and Westside Gazette Publisher Bobby R. Henry Sr., said he's expecting bigger and better things for the Black Press. "As the Chairman of our beloved association,

hosting the NNPA members—the Black Press of America—in Florida's Broward County in Fort Lauderdale was a true honor," Henry stated. "In these challenging times, the Black Press confronted bigotry and hatred, understanding the need for collective action. The Westside Gazette and the NNPA, through the NNPA's National Town Hall Meeting, aimed to reaffirm the historic bond between Blacks and Jews in America, rooted in the shared struggle for civil rights and freedom."

Henry emphasized the importance of re-engaging

and strengthening the significant relationship between Blacks and Jews, noting, "Remembering we marched together, fought together, and died together for civil rights."

NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, members of the Anti-Defamation League, and others took part in the historic Town Hall, which included U.S. Reps. Deborah Wasserman Schultz and Sheila Cheflus-McCormick, ADL Senior Vice President National Affairs Max Sevillea, and professor emeritus of the Department of Psychology at Florida

International University, Dr. Marvin Dunn.

The highly anticipated event took place at the African American Research Library and Cultural Center in Ft. Lauderdale, and Chavis and others noted that they planned the Town Hall well before Hamas' October 7 attack in Israel.

"We knew that, with the rise of anti-semitism and with the rise of hatred in America, particularly against Black people in America, we needed to do something," Chavis proclaimed.

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MARSALIS, from Page 2

the center's goal of using music as a gateway to intellectual curiosity and providing mentorship and guidance to young individuals.

The center's curriculum, designed to engage students after school and throughout the summer, aims to inspire complex and curious thinking. While not seeking to

turn all students into musicians, Marsalis envisions providing a liberal arts education through music, leveraging the full spectrum of skills in the industry, from sound engineering to computer coding.

Highlighting the piano as the fundamental instrument at the center, Marsalis

explained its significance in offering a comprehensive view of music. He stressed that everything needed to understand music is directly in front of the pianist, fostering a unique and holistic learning experience.

Marsalis, relocating with his family from Durham, North Carolina, compared forming a vision for the center to the philosophy of jazz

improvisation. He plans to spend the next few months observing classes, working with teachers, and shaping a vision that serves the best interests of the students.

Marsalis emphasized the

value of letting people's passions drive them rather than forcing them to be enthusiastic about music, reflecting on his father's philosophy. He recalled his father's guidance: "Only

do it if you're compelled to do it." This philosophy, he believes, is crucial for navigating the challenges of a profession that demands genuine dedication and love.



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Film Review: 'Lift' is enough to satisfy a heist movie fanatic's appetite

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(**1/2) Any film that begins with an elaborate, broad daylight heist deserves viewers' attention. It's what comes between that intro and the film's adrenalin-pumping final hour that may give Netflix audiences reasons to take a refrigerator break.

Comedian and comic actor Kevin Hart tries to ditch his funny, smart-mouth persona to play a suave international thief. Hart showed he can stretch from his comic roots in the drama *The Upside*. But can he, with the aid of action film director F. Gary Gray (*The Fate of the Furious*), handle an Idris Elba type role in a film that should have *Ocean's Eleven*-style intrigue? We shall see.

Cyrus (Hart) and his band of sophisticated thieves are in Venice, Italy at an auction



Úrsula Corberó and Kevin Hart in *Lift* (Courtesy Image)

where they intend to swindle away a famous NFT artwork (aka Non-fungible token, or a digital asset stored on a blockchain that represents content or even physical items). Its creator is the very popular AI artist named N8 (Jacob Batalon, *Spider Man: No Way Home*). An Interpol agent named Abby (Gugu Mbatha-Raw, *Belle*) and her boss Huxley (Sam Worthington, *Avatar*) surveil the nattily dressed dude

who tries to outbid everyone for the AI images.

Cyrus is confident he can pull off this caper because his international crew specializes in identity fraud, money laundering and thievery: Camila the pilot (Úrsula Corberó), Mi-Sun the hacker (Yun Jee Kim), Magnus a safecracker (Billy Magnussen), Luke the engineer (Viveik Kalra) and Denton a master of disguises (Vincent D'Onofrio). It's

a great surprise when someone blackmails the gang into a mission to thwart a possible disaster masterminded by a crimelord ecoterrorist (Jean Reno). What's on the line? \$500M in gold!

The premise has merit. The director has a filmography (*The Italian Job*) that shows he can make this project work. What about the script? Screenwriter Daniel Kunka is fine with outlining events, far less accomplished with establishing three-dimensional characters, memorable dialogue and a storyline not burdened with unnecessary backstories. A lot of the

film's wrinkles and glaring mistakes could have been ironed out in a table read where the cast and crew aired their opinions. However, there's plenty of evidence from what's on the screen that that kind of fine-tuning never happened.

Starting the film in picturesque Venice (cinematographer Bernhard Jasper) and ending with steady doses of action was a smart choice. Shooting so many interiors ((production design Dominic Watkins, *Dolittle*) and exteriors in funky ways that telegraph the use of green screen trickery, was not so smart. Brawls inside a jet

look particularly fake.

Gray's direction is decent, but you wish he'd taken more time to develop a heady, intricate, death-defying crime thriller style. Something in the vein of Guy Ritchie's *Snatch* or Steven Soderbergh's *Ocean's Eight*. The lack of clever slights of hand, or cheeky dialogue makes *Lift* look like it came off an assembly line.

Hart is funny. Cyrus is meant to be debonair. Either hire someone like Elba for the role, or let Hart bring the cray cray his fans love.

See FILM, Page 10

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Hip Hop star Memphis Jelks drops new track 'The 89th Day,' inspired by Bill Cosby's mentorship and workforce realities

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

Memphis Jelks, the hip-hop luminary signed to Chuck D's Spit Slam Record label, has unveiled his latest track, "The 89th Day," drawing inspiration from a conversation with legendary comedian Bill Cosby. The release follows Jelks' previous viral hit, "The Cosby Dance," which caught the attention of Cosby himself, leading to a statement praising Jelks as a "prolific rapper" contributing to the restoration of Cosby's legacy.

Jelks discussed the inspiration for "The 89th Day" in a recent phone conversation with Cosby, arranged by the comedian's spokesman, Andrew Wyatt. He related his experience of losing his job just before starting employment elsewhere. Cosby, known for his entertainment genius, suggested turning the story into a song, resulting in the creation of the new track. "The 89th Day" aims to



blend comedy and music while conveying the importance of education and credentials in the modern workforce.

Jelks expressed appreciation for Cosby's mentorship and acknowledged the vital role of education in his journey. "I salute everyone around the world involved in the education industry because I know how it feels to have a job that doesn't appreciate my hard work and will terminate my employment at the drop of

a dime," Jelks stated. He added that Cosby continues to inspire him.

In addition to his musical endeavors, Jelks anchors a podcast, "The Memphis Jelks Show," where he hopes to bridge worlds and unite communities across racial, religious, and political boundaries.

Listeners can download "The 89th Day" directly from Jelks' website, <https://www.memphisjelks.com>, or <https://www.memphisjelks.bandcamp.com>.



J Lash unveils iconic Hip-Hop moments at NNPA's 2024 Midwinter Training Conference

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

Renowned photographer Jeffrey K. Lashley, best known in the world of photography as J. Lash, brought a visual journey through hip-hop and pop

culture to the National Newspaper Publishers Association's (NNPA) 2024 Midwinter Training Conference in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. The conference became the backdrop for an exhibition of some of the most iconic photos ever captured in the realm of

hip-hop. Hailing from Inglewood, California, Lashley's journey in photography began at Cal State - Long Beach, where he was trained in photojournalism and eventually went to work for

See J LASH, Page 12

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Paris D'Amore

Flowers Communications Group continues its award-winning momentum with 22 new industry accolades

CHICAGO – Flowers Communications Group finished 2023 with an impressive list of top honors received from highly coveted industry award programs. The agency added 22 awards to its trophy case in 2023.

After being named PRNEWS Medium Sized Agency of the Year, FCG started 2023 strong with new wins. Throughout the year, the firm was recognized for its outstanding work not just in multicultural marketing, but in a number of other categories, including media relations, social media, experiential marketing, video/content development and government relations. The accolades signify Flowers Communications Group's continued excellence across industries and audience sectors.

"We pride ourselves on delivering innovative work



for and alongside our client partners. These accolades are a testament to our firm's longevity and ongoing success in reaching diverse audiences through culturally competent communications. We have forged impactful collaborations through forward-thinking strategies and new depths of creativity that resonate with consumers," said Michelle Flowers Welch, Founder

and Chairman of Flowers Communications Group. "Our people and partners are truly what make us great, and we could not be more honored to have our work recognized across the industry."

Standout campaigns from 2023 include Famous Amos Ingredients for Success, which was recognized by industry organizations in five categories

including 'Corporate Social Responsibility,' 'Multicultural Campaigns' and 'Multicultural Marketing.' The agency's Democratic National Convention video collaboration led to four acknowledgements in 'General Government Relations' and 'Best Use of Broadcast/Film/Video' categories, among others.

FCG's strong pulse on

the culture shone through additional industry wins in new media and community relations projects. The firm bested as gold winner twice in 'Best Use of Social Media' for American Honda Battle of Bands (HBOB), an annual exhibition showcasing Black collegiate talent. HBCU programs like HBOB are near and dear to FCG's agency leaders who are HBCU alumni. Flowers Welch is a graduate of Winston-Salem State University; Flowers Mazyck graduated from Spelman College; and Brinton Flowers is a graduate of Florida A&M University.

Two silver awards for 'Community Relations' and 'Best Visual Storytelling Campaign' were won for FCG's work with the Black McDonald's Operators Association. Awards for excel-

See FLOWERS, Page 12

FILM, from Page 9

He seems too reigned in. Mbatha-Raw is very adept at making her character more than what's on the page. Still these two leads lack chemistry, when they should set the screen on fire. Worthington is suitable as the Interpol stiff. D'Onofrio is fine. French actor Jean Reno plays the villain quite well with a believable sneer.

Thankfully for streaming fans, who've waited one full hour for the movie to find its footing, Lift eventually dials up the clashes, chases, fights and skirmishes until it ends at 1h 47m.

If you've never met a heist movie you didn't like, and that's a low bar, pull up a chair and indulge.

Visit *Film Critic Dwight Brown* at DwightBrownInk.com.

CHILDS, from Page 2

Black Press is a trusted messenger, and I couldn't think of better messengers on this journey.

In her role at Diageo, Childs is integral to the executive leadership team, overseeing a dedicated group of professionals in communications, government relations, and social impact programs. She sits on the boards of the American Distilled Spirits Association, the British American Business Council, and the Public Affairs Council, the leading professional development organization for corporate affairs experts. Child also counts as the executive sponsor of Diageo's African American employee business resource group.

With a background that includes roles at Kimberly-Clark Corporation, PepsiCo, and the United States Postal Service, Childs is equipped with a unique perspective on the intersection of business and social responsibility.

She shared her connection to the cause, having joined Diageo in 2021. She described the partnership with NNPA as a "signature accomplishment close to [her] heart," attributing its success to the dedicated leadership of Deborah Crew, former head of Diageo North America.

"We were committed to it and put the resources behind this partnership," Childs asserted. "I think the key message is that you have a choice in terms of how you think about alcohol and how you consume; there are low alcohol choices and no alcohol choices; we invite people to educate themselves."

She emphasized the role of education in responsible drinking and highlighted various tools available to the public, such as DrinkIQ.com, a survey designed to help individuals understand their relationship with alcohol.

"We have several tools:

something called DrinkIQ.com, a survey people can take to learn more about their relationship with alcohol; and a 'wrong side of the road' tool that educates people about the consequences of impaired driving and teaches people how to be intentional," Childs explained, stressing Diageo's commitment to responsible drinking. She urged individuals to be intentional about their drinking habits and expressed that it is not in Diageo's interest to have people misuse their products.

Further, Childs acknowledged the longstanding legacy of the Black Press, which in 2027 will celebrate its bicentennial as the trusted source of information for people of color.

"It's a testament to how this industry has persisted in the face of challenges; it is such a trusted avenue of information for people of color. I look forward to supporting the Black Press as you grow," Childs affirmed.



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Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. supports Ora Lee Smith Cancer Research Foundation in celebration of Black History Month

(Black PR Wire) BALTIMORE, MD. – As part of the Black History Month celebration, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., is supporting the Black tech-based cancer charity, Ora Lee Smith Cancer Research Foundation, with a special Social Media Takeover and launch on World Cancer Day, Sunday, Feb. 4, 10 AM EST, featuring Ora Lee Smith founder Dr. Hadi-

yah-Nicole Green live on Facebook, YouTube, and LinkedIn @apa1906network and @OraLeeOrg.

Currently, despite the best approaches, 9 million cancer-related deaths occur yearly.

The Ora Lee Smith Cancer Research Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is on a mission to change the way cancer is treated and reduce cancer-

patient suffering by providing a treatment that is accessible, affordable, and effective.

Dr. Green developed a new, revolutionary treatment using Laser-Activated Nano-Therapy (LANT) technology – specifically designed to destroy cancer cells while leaving healthy cells intact. LANT is designed as a multi-cancer platform therapy and has

implications for a variety of solid tumor types, including breast, prostate, colorectal, and brain cancers.

The Fraternity has committed to raising funds towards the \$10 million needed to begin human clinical trials with the LANT cancer treatment. For more information, to donate now, or become a monthly donor, visit OraLee.Org/Alphas/.

FLOWERS, from Page 11

lence in media relations were won for the Illinois Lottery, ComEd and the Poetry Foundation.

As the agency begins its 33rd year, multicultural storytelling continues to be the focal point of FCG's expertise and growing client portfolio. In addition to the industry awards, the agency has added several new national clients with work

in consumer goods and services, health, B2B, corporate social responsibility and experiential campaigns.

For more information on Flowers Communications Group and the award-winning work the firm produces, please visit explorefcg.com or connect via Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram.

J LASH, from Page 10

famed boxing promoter Don King. It was in the vibrant hip-hop scene of Los Angeles that he discovered his passion and started documenting moments that would later become pivotal in hip-hop history.

His unique approach to photography, often described as 'flash and dash,' showcases his ability to anticipate and capture the es-

sence of a moment before it unfolds. Lashley's body of work is more than a mere collection of images; it is a living chronicle of stories and historical moments personally experienced by the man behind the lens.

Lashley's talent goes beyond just capturing famous faces in hip-hop culture. His ability to identify and immortalize the "sure shot"

has earned him a well-deserved reputation as one of hip-hop's underground kings of photography.

"Everybody has their own journey," Lash remarked. "I'd tell young ones today to go with their passion. I have pictures of Diana Ross and so many others. I can pull back to the Slick Rick days, and Snoop, Run DMC, and Jam Master Jay became a good friend of mine, and more."

Among the captivating images shared with NNPA journalists were snapshots immortalizing legends such as Tupac Shakur, Biggie Smalls, and Mike Tyson. These photographs, originally published in iconic publications like Sports Illustrated and Time, continue to resonate with fans and enthusiasts alike.

J Lash's impact extends beyond the frames of his photographs. "I was the

one to start photographing at Venice Beach. I was the first to put a table on the boardwalk and start selling pictures," Lash asserted. "I would get to the beach at sunset, and when the sun was coming down, I'd photograph it. I would go print it and come back and sell them."

Clients and followers said his work is a testament to the profound influence of visual storytelling in

preserving and celebrating the rich history of hip-hop. As he continues to document and shape the narrative of this dynamic cultural movement, friends say J. Lash stands as a living legend in the world of hip-hop photography.

"You have to anticipate the moment," Lash stated. "I anticipated moments and have been blessed to be in situations where I could create the moment."

ASTHMA, from Page 7

ing of the potential health impacts associated with cannabis use among adolescents.

Cannabis use was more common among female (17% vs. 14%, male users), Non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic youth relative to Non-Hispanic White youth (17% and 16% respectively

vs. 14.6%). Cannabis use was much more common among the students who reported any past 30-day cigarette or alcohol use (45% vs. 6.5%, for non-users. Declines in cannabis use were observed independent of state-level cannabis law from 2013 to 2021 and cannabis use prevalence did not

differ significantly by state-of-residence cannabis legal status among the 24 participating states in 2021.

Commenting on the significance of the research, Goodwin and colleagues believe that the study adds to the growing body of evidence linking cannabis use to adverse health outcomes among young people. "Understanding these associa-

tions is crucial for developing effective prevention and intervention strategies to protect the health and well-being of our youth."

Goodwin, who is a clinical psychologist and expert in psychiatric and substance use epidemiology, continues: "The findings of this study have important implications for public health, education, and drug preven-

tion programs targeting high school students although more public health and clinical research is needed," said Goodwin, who is also a researcher in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy, The City University of New York. "Scientific data that can inform clinical guidelines

and public health policy, as well as parents and youth, on the potential relationship between cannabis use and respiratory health among youth, is critical and we urge that more studies like this one be a priority."

Co-author is Kevin D. Silverman, Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy, The City University of New York.

HALL, from Page 5

in Israel by Hamas. The event explored historical connections in the Black-Jewish relationship and laid the foundation for ongoing dialogue and collaboration, which NNPA President and CEO and event moderator Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. called a beacon of unity in the face of rising hate.

Bobby Henry, the charismatic NNPA Chair and Westside Gazette Publisher, set the stage, emphasizing the urgent need to address diversity, equity, and inclusion in Florida. Recognizing Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and state GOP lawmakers' divisive stance

towards various communities, Henry said he respected the decision of other organizations to boycott Florida but declared, "The Black Press will continue to call out injustice no matter where it is."

"In 2027, the Black Press will celebrate its 200th anniversary," Henry further noted. "The Jewish community gave Freedom's Journal financial support to help start that newspaper."

Panelist and U.S. Democratic Rep. Deborah Wasserman Schultz echoed the sentiment, emphasizing personal responsibility in strengthening the relation-

ship between the Black and Jewish communities. Drawing parallels to several historical instances, Schultz said, "Like Jews did when they came down to help in the civil rights; like HBCUs did when in the '30s and '40s, no universities in America would employ Jewish refugee professors who immigrated from Europe; HBCUs did; our fight continues, including the oppression that goes on under this government in this state."

U.S. Democratic Rep. Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick also proved an influential voice in the discussion. The Florida congresswoman highlight-

ed the necessity of coalition-building. She shared a personal experience. "When I was growing up and I had the first opportunity to go to law school, who gave me the opportunity to intern? It was one of my Jewish mentors," she asserted. "Somewhere, there's a disconnect with the generations. It's going to take a level of intentionality to fight back."

Max Sevilla, ADL Senior Vice President of National Affairs, delivered a compelling account of the alarming surge in anti-Semitism. Citing a 300 percent increase in incidents over the past three months, Sevilla underscored the in-

terconnectedness of hate and the need for collaborative efforts to combat it. "Anti-Semitism today is at record levels," he stated. "Since October 7, what we have measured is alarming. There have been almost 4,500 incidents of anti-Semitism over the past three months, which is a 300 percent increase."

Dr. Marvin Dunn, professor emeritus in the Department of Psychology at Florida International University, reflected on his childhood experiences and shared intimate anecdotes about racial dynamics and positive interactions with Jewish individuals. He expressed profound concern

about the worsening race relations in the state, particularly under DeSantis. "I'm 83; I served my country in the military, and here we are," Dunn remarked. "However bad race relations were in our state, it got worse when DeSantis was made governor. He went further than Trump."

Chavis concluded the event with a rallying cry, emphasizing the importance of the upcoming elections and the collective responsibility to bring about positive change. We need to get out the most significant vote in history," Chavis demanded. "The future of our country is on the ballot. We have work to do."

HOPE, from Page 1

faster and less expensive environment for development will support new housing to fill our long-term shortages, explained Brodsky.

Having considered Texas House Bill 1925 banning encampments, the task force recommended the City address the camping ban, while working toward a balance of short- and long-term solutions, she said. Displacing an encampment without resolving issues of homelessness “is just kicking the can around the city,” said Magnis. Further, interim solutions deplete monies that could be put toward solving long-term homelessness, she said.

Decommissioning encampments should be sought and violent encampments prioritized, said Brodsky. However, a systematic process is needed to move people into temporary and eventually permanent housing. A simple closure and movement of people from camps will lead to new camps arising elsewhere in the city, he said. After decommissionment of camps, they should then be fenced and monitored to prevent reuse, he said.

These efforts will require increased street outreach, which Brodsky gratefully said had been budgeted for.

Alternative temporary housing should include inexpensive hotels or expansion of existing shelters to maximize space, added Magnis. The task force recommends the City take a hard look at using the buildings already purchased for housing as temporary, hybrid or permanent housing solutions. The Miramar, she said, has been empty since it was purchased back in 2020, she said.

Magnis also recommends maximizing shelters, which are just coming on board, such as the Salvation Army shelter, whose capacity has been limited because the community didn’t want a large shelter. Magnis emphasized this \$120 million private investment should be expanded and the space fully utilized to make it safe.

Magnis emphasized that the community needs to share efforts to reduce homelessness, while spreading shelters and supportive housing across all districts and avoiding concentration of these uses in certain areas.

To prevent people from falling into homelessness, Brodsky calls for the allocation of current and future bonds to drive development of deeply affordable housing. He also recom-

mends making city-owned land available for affordable housing development, while calling for a wider array of different housing types, including more registered boarding homes, groups homes, and SROs.

Brodsky warns, however, that the efforts should not stop at housing but also include support for substance abuse and mental health. While the City cannot mandate housing be accompanied with behavioral support, it can encourage and prioritize collaboration to increase county and state support for substance abuse. There’s just not enough drug treatment for people who need it, he said.

The Harris Center has taken the collaborative process to the next level, and it should be used as a model, he said.

With only 1% of bond money allocated to fight homelessness, some people in the community have suggested Mayor Johnson does

not prioritize the homelessness issue. This, despite a recent public survey indicating homelessness is a top concern for Dallas residents.

Former school teacher, Robert Ceccarelli, who has experienced homelessness off and on, explained that he had avoided being on the streets through the jail system and other measures.

“Homelessness just takes you down all the way. You get sick. You can’t survive the cold ... People die in the streets,” he said.

Many homeless will not seek help in shelters, which have rules against drug use. Shelters also require residents to leave the premises first thing in the morning, which can make life uncomfortable.

Cumbersome paperwork can also lead to long delays in accessing permanent housing, he explained. What is worse, housing available to the homeless through government spon-

sored programs is also often located in low-income neighborhoods where drug use is prevalent. People who congregate near these facilities can also provide access to drugs, making breaking addictions difficult for those who have a problem.

The endorphins associated with drug use can be too tempting, explained Ceccarelli, making breaking drug habits difficult, especially since drugs can usually be accessed in shelters and where drug users congregate. For a person who is addicted to these substances, money needed for food and shelter is often diverted to support drug habits, making living a healthy life often next to impossible.

Ceccarelli suggests that in order to build trust and encourage the homeless to

seek help and shelter, city officials should go out and engage with the homeless. Letting them know the city cares about them and that their opinions are welcome could go a long way toward gaining useful information and encouraging their cooperation.

Ceccarelli also suggests case workers assign ratings to the homeless, assigning them credibility and helping them to gain public trust. After gaining a case worker’s stamp of approval, former homeless people could be accepted into job or housing programs and prove they can be responsible with their earnings, he said. Bus passes or other transportation should also be made available to get them to job interviews and help them reintegrate into society.

PLANET, from Page 6

Joining Robertson and Beard on this study were researchers from Spain’s Astrophysics Institute of the Canary Islands; the California Institute of Technology; Sweden’s Chalmers University of Technology; Maryland’s Johns Hopkins University; Spain’s University of La Laguna; Sweden’s Lund University; Poland’s Nicolaus Copernicus University; New Jersey’s Princeton University; Japan’s Ritsumeikan University; California’s SETI Institute; Maryland’s Space Tele-

scope Science Institute; the University of California, Santa Cruz; the University of California, Berkeley; the University of California, Los Angeles; the University of California, Riverside; the University of Hawaii; the University of Chicago; the University of Kansas; Indiana’s University of Notre Dame; Australia’s University of Southern Queensland; and Connecticut’s Yale University. Funding was provided by the W.M. Keck Foundation, NASA and the National Science Foundation.



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The Key To Life Is Forgetting The Right Things

Dr. James L. Snyder

The thing that has concerned me as I have aged was about forgetting things. How could I remember everything when I was crowding my brain with all kinds of new things?

In this regard, there is no comparison between The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and myself. I have a problem remembering, and her problem is forgetting. She can't forget anything. She remembers things that I don't think ever happened. How she does that is above my pay scale.

My concern has always been that I would forget things I needed to remember and it would cause a lot of difficulty in my relationships. My biggest concern is forgetting the names of people, especially relatives. I can never figure out why some people have such weird names, hard to remember.

Thinking about this,

something came to mind. When I was younger, I forgot a lot of things but all that forgetting did not keep me from growing older. In fact, I forgot some stuff on purpose just to get out of some jam. My aging had nothing to do with my forgetting.

I began to think that forgetting may result from something other than getting old. Maybe forgetting is a way of dealing with some of the issues of life.

In thinking about this, I have concluded that the key to a good life is knowing what to forget and what to remember. If I can master this, I will not have any problems.

I've been trying to develop the art of forgetting in my life. If I know what to forget, my life will be better.

Number one on my list of not forgetting is The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. That is the hard one. I must remember all of the right things regarding her and forget all the other

things.

When we started our matrimonial journey, I had no idea about this. My idea was to get along, just go along. That works with some people, but it doesn't seem to work with me.

I have to make a list of things to forget and then a list of things to remember.

The list of things to remember is pretty long, including her birthday, our anniversary, our children's birthdays and their anniversaries, and our grandchildren's birthdays. Along with that list are the names of all of those people.

If I had charge of things, which I don't, I would tattoo the names of our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren on their foreheads along with their birthday. That sure would help me a lot.

Another thing on the list to remember was everything she said to me. I can't tell you how many times she has asked, "Don't you remember what I said yesterday?"

Now, the problem with that question is that she said so much yesterday it is tough for me to remember anything she said yesterday.

My list of things to remember gets longer every year.

But the things to forget could be even longer. I sometimes get the two lists confused, and boy, do I get into trouble.

It boils down to this. I must always remember every time she is right. But then I also must forget every time she is wrong.

I must keep alert when we are with some friends because somewhere along the conversation, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will say, "My dear, do you remember...?" When that happens, I know that my sanity is on the line.

Or, another question would be, "My dear, remember our vacation last year?" Sometimes, I do have a little bit of a memory, but not often. With a

great smile, I will respond by saying, "Oh yes I do. It was the best planned vacation we ever had."

I'm all right for the rest of the evening if I can get away with that. Because she really doesn't want me to tell about the vacation just to go along with her idea of that vacation. If I could remember something about our vacation last year, it would be an unusual episode of whose clock is ticking.

The biggest challenge I have is to forget every time she is wrong. I don't know what it is about me, but these things I can never forget. She's not wrong often, but when she is, I take great delight in that. I can't reveal my delight to her in any fashion, but it's there.

Maybe I cannot forget them, but I am developing the discipline not to bring them up in any conversation. Sometimes, I want to bring one up just to take advantage of a situation, but thinking of that, I really do love living.

Knowing what to forget and what to remember has been an important key in my life. The big problem here is that I have a hard time choosing what to remember and what to forget.

I couldn't help but think of what the Apostle Paul said in Philippians 3:13-15, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Forgetting the right things makes room for me to remember the right things. If I'm going to press forward in my life I must forget some things in the past.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnsnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnsnyderministries.com.

NNPA, from Page 8

The Holocaust Museum of Southern Florida sponsored a lively reception one day after the Town Hall.

During the conference, Carolyn Fox, the managing editor of the Tampa Bay Times, discussed "Revenue Generating Strategies in the Publishing Digital Age" in a public session.

The fireside chat between Chavis and Stephanie Childes, vice president of Diageo, explored "Harnessing the power of community, the Black Press, and inclusive corporations," in which the popular spirits company reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the Black Press of America and educating all on responsible drinking. Pfizer Rare Disease conducted a lunch talk on "Sickle Cell and ATTR-CM" while another panel emphasized "The Black and Brown

Vote."

Google News Initiative led a discussion on "The Power of Audience to Generate Revenue," and Hyundai sponsored a breakfast and informational session, including a film presentation and a panel discussion.

Additionally, a panel sponsored by Reynolds held a poignant discussion on "The Importance of Racial Impact Studies."

An energetic Millennial Panel on "Digital Creative Storytelling" included Lafayette Barnes of the Bridge newspaper, Micha Green of the Washington Informer, NNPA social media correspondents DaNiesha Bell and Dawn Montgomery, and New York Beacon Publisher Ashley Smith.

Niele Anderson, the founder and CEO of PLB Media Inc., hosted a "Scaling - Moving from Print to

Digital" session discussing the importance of being relevant and profitable in a digital world and riding the 2024 election revenue wave.

The PGA TOUR demonstrated its commitment to education by providing two \$5,000 scholarships for HBCU students, Jasmin Ball and Victoria Gisel Montanet.

The NNPA 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award Gala went to Greene County (Alabama) Democrat publishers Carol and John Zippert. "The Black Press are storytellers," Carol Zippert said in accepting the award. "We tell our own story, and if we don't, folk are gonna tell it the way they want. If the lion told the story, it would be different from the hunter's story."

Chavis praised the conference as one of the best of his 10-plus year tenure. Publishers also took

the opportunity to salute retiring NNPA executive administrator Claudette

Perry, whose massive workload includes organizing NNPA conferences and

conventions, with a standing ovation during the association's board meeting.

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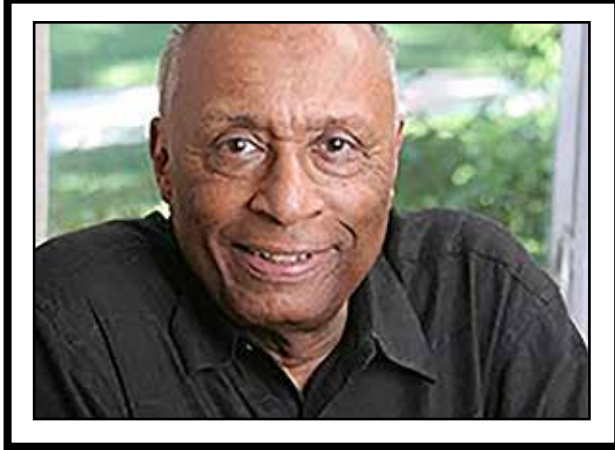
Dr. Henry T. Sampson is the inventor of the “gamma-electric cell” which pertains to Nuclear Reactor use. This technology is used in the cellular phone.

Dr. Sampson received a Master Science (MS) in Engineering from the University of California. He was awarded a MS and a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Nuclear Engineering from the University of Illinois.

He is the first Black person to receive a Ph.D in Nuclear Engineering. In 1971 he was awarded a patent for his “gamma-electric cell.”

During the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) Centennial Meeting held in Philadelphia in November 2008, Dr. Sampson was honored among the “Twenty Chemical Engineers in Other Pursuits.”

He is the recipient of a variety of awards includ-



ing the Atomic Energy Commission Award (1964-1967), Black Image Award from Aerospace Corporation (1982).

Dr. Sampson also was the recipient of the Blacks in Engineering, Applied Science and Education Award and Los Angeles Council of Black Professional Engineers (1983), and was named a fellow in the U.S. Navy (1962-1964).

In addition to his work in engineering fields, Dr. Sampson is a writer, film historian, and documentary film producer who focus on the African American presence in the film and entertainment industries.

He has written five books about the portrayal of Black

people in movies, cartoons, and on radio. Sampson is married to Laura Howzell Young-Sampson, a professor at California State University-San Bernardino.

On July 6th, 1971, according to Dr. Sampson, his Gamma Electric Cell, patented July 6, 1971, Patent No. 3,591,860 produces stable high-voltage output and current to detect radiation in the ground.

Born in Jackson, Mississippi, he received a Bachelor of Science degree from Purdue University in 1956. He went on to the University of California, Los Angeles where he graduated with a MS degree in engineering in 1961; University of Illinois Urbana-

Champaign, MS in Nuclear Engineering in 1965, and a PH.D in 1967.

Mobile Communications took a big step forward in 1983 with the invention of the Cellular System regulating the portable telephones, which use radio waves to transmit and receive audio signals.

Before this time, mobile telephone service in the United States, consisting mainly of car phones, was extremely limited because metropolitan areas had only one antenna for these purposes.

In addition, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) assigned only 12 to 24 frequencies to each area, which meant that only that many calls could occur at a time.

These limitations often meant a wait of up to 30 minutes for a dial tone and a five to 10 year waiting list just to acquire the service. With the invention of cellular phone service in 1983 personal communications no longer depended on

wires.

In the 1990s it would become possible to connect to the Internet from virtually anywhere in the world using a portable computer and a cellular modem with satellite service.

Technologies that developed from different fields, such as personal communications, computation, and space exploration often worked together to serve the constantly evolving human needs of the information age.

Dr. Sampson worked as a research Chemical Engineer at the US Naval Weapons Center, China Lake, California in 1956-61.

He then moved on to the Aerospace Corp, El Segundo, California. His titles include: Project Engineer, 1967-81, director of Planning and Operations Directorate of Space Test Program, 1981.

Dr. Sampson holds patents related to solid rocket motors and conversion of nuclear energy into electricity.

He pioneered a study of internal ballistics of solid rocket motors using high-speed photography.

He was also a producer of documentary films on early Black filmmakers and

See TARPLEY, Page 16

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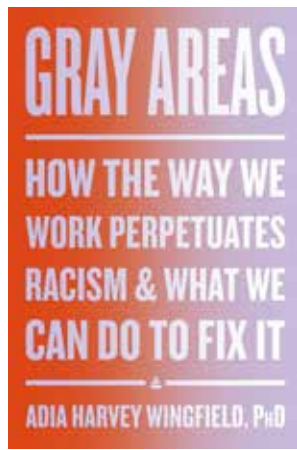
NDG Book Review: 'Gray Areas' offers solid advice for tackling racism

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Well. This wasn't what you wanted.

It was supposed to be better than this, wasn't it? But it's not anywhere close to what it should be. No, you expected different and that's not right. Read the new book "Gray Areas" by Adia Harvey Wingfield, PhD, and you might have to think about this again.

There you are, logged into your work computer after a long weekend and it hits you: an email or IM from a racist who uses vile words and hides behind a pseudonym. It happens, and for many Black employees in America today, it happens so often that it's become "a core part of the



Black experience..."

But hey, your jobsite established diversity programs and workshops on inclusion, right? Yes, but the truth, says Wingfield, is that they don't help; in fact, she believes that those well-intended workplace efforts actually "perpetuate and

maintain racial divides."

Part of the problem is that today's workplace thrives on "cultural, social, and relational aspects." These are things built into most workplaces, but that ignore Black experiences.

There are four classes of culture at work and, for various reasons, any or all of them can "make it hard for Black workers to fit in..." by subtly forcing them to hide their true selves. Social aspects in the workplace deal with connections, mentors, and relationships. It's not what you know, but who, and networking – something with which Black workers sometimes struggle – is key. And relational aspects relate to "soft skills" and leadership abilities,

although most top-echelon positions in corporate America are filled by white men.

So what can a supervisor or CEO do to make the workplace less racist?

End mandatory diversity training, Wingfield says, and hire diversity managers instead. Admit and anticipate racial issues. Don't let employees or customers to get away with bigotry against your workers. Start a mentoring program in your workplace and strive to promote workers of color to top positions.

With these, and other ideas, Wingfield says, "We

can do better."

Reading "Gray Areas" is a little bit of a struggle.

For an African American reader, author Adia Harvey Wingfield, PhD shares the lives and words of several people at various kinds of workplaces, but the case studies mostly repeat what you probably already know. It'll get your dander up, but it won't tell you much.

On the other hand, CEOs and supervisors need to absorb what's inside this book, to glean understanding from the various viewpoints and experiences and to uncover that which they may not see. Just know that,

aside from end-of-chapter bullet-points, advice is pretty well buried – although golden nuggets do exist. For instance, if you're a people-watcher, it's interesting to see how different folks deal with difficulties at work. On that, readers may come away wishing that Wingfield's subjects could've networked among themselves.

Should you decide to tackle this book and its information, taking extra time to think and absorb will help immensely. Do that, let yourself cogitate, and "Gray Areas" could be everything you've wanted.

TARPLEY, from Page 15

films and a member of the board of directors of Los Angeles Southwest College

Foundation
Dr. Sampson was a technical consultant to His-

torical Black Colleges and Universities Program.

(Editor's Note: This column originally ran in February 2017.)

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