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## Trump repeatedly says 'The Blacks' in shameless exploitation of legal woes to woo African American voters

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

In a brazen display of political manipulation, former President Donald Trump took to the stage at the Black Conservative Federation Gala in South Carolina, using racially charged rhetoric and shamelessly attempting to forge a connection between his multiple criminal indictments and the historical struggles of Black Americans.

The twice-impeached and four-times indicted former president is facing 91 felony counts, including racketeering and conspiracy to obstruct justice. A New York jury determined that he should pay nearly \$90 million for sexually assaulting a journalist. A judge has ordered him to pay about a half-billion in penalties for committing massive business fraud. Yet Trump boasted about his legal battles, suggesting that the Black community supports him because they identify with the discrimination he claims to face.

"I got indicted a second time, a third time, and a fourth time and a lot of people said that that's why the Black people like me because they have been hurt so badly and discriminated against," Trump



The twice-impeached and four-times indicted former president is facing 91 felony counts, including racketeering and conspiracy to obstruct justice. (Photo via NNPA)

declared callously, drawing applause from the audience.

Attempting to equate his privileged legal battles with the systemic oppression endured by Black Americans throughout history, Trump asserted, "I think that's why the Black people are so much on my side now because they see what's happening to me happens to them. Does that make sense?"

Throughout the evening, Trump continued his disturbing narrative, pointing to his mugshot from the Fulton County election interference case as a symbol embraced by the Black population. "My mug shot; we've all

seen the mug shot. And you know who embraced it more than anybody else: the Black population. It's incredible," he remarked, exploiting the image for political gain and suggesting that African Americans are particularly familiar with mugshots.

In a tasteless attempt at humor, Trump made racially insensitive comments about the brightness of the lights on stage, stating, "These lights are so bright in my eyes that I can't see too many people out there. But I can only see the Black ones. I can't see any white ones. You see, that's how far I've come. That's how far I've come."

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### People In The News ...



Joy Ann-Reid



Tyler Perry

NDG Quote of the Week: "Just don't give up what you're trying to do. Where there is Love and inspiration, I don't think you can go wrong."

- Ella Fitzgerald

## Joy Ann-Reid

In an interview with the National Newspaper Publishers Association's Let It Be Known morning show, Joy-Ann Reid delved into the intricacies of her latest book, "Medgar and Myrlie Evers and the Love Story that Awakened America," which sheds light on the enduring love between civil rights activists Medgar and Myrlie Evers and their profound impact on the civil rights movement.

The conversation revolved around themes of courage and conviction and standing up for justice and



displaying bravery in the face of adversity. Reid, one of the most influential and outspoken voices in all of news, also touched on several issues including the book.

"What inspired me to do this piece was Myrlie Evers-Williams herself," Reid recalled. "Just meeting her in person for the first time in 2018 and hearing her talk about her late husband had been almost six decades, but she still spoke about him with this incredible and deep love."

The 352-page book relives Medgar Evers's central role in pivotal civil rights events, such as the Civil Rights Act and the March on Washington. "What I learned in doing the research for the book is just how central Medgar Evers was to the whole story, to

all the stories that we know more about, to the Civil Rights Act," she explained.

Regarding the relationship between Medgar and Myrlie, Reid emphasized, "They were an intellectual romance before they were a physical romance." She highlighted the challenges they faced but underscored the strength of their marriage, stating, "They stuck through it because, in the end, Merle Evers admired her husband. She admired his manliness, determination, and love for his people."

Reid praised individuals like Democratic Reps.

Ayanna Pressley and Cori Bush, and the two Tennessee state Reps. Justin Jones and Justin Pearson. "In the face of a lot of cowardice, you do have a lot of really strong, really powerful voices of courage," Reid asserted.

Regarding South Carolina Republican Sen. Tim Scott, Reid criticized his alignment with the twice-impeached and four-times indicted former President Donald Trump, expressing bewilderment at Scott's decision to associate with someone who "wants to tear down democracy." She blasted Scott's choice to

quote Fannie Lou Hamer in support of Trump, calling it "madness."

"This man had the nerve to quote Fannie Lou Hamer, who I also researched for this book. Fannie Lou Hamer, who quoted 'First Class Citizenship,' which was Medgar's line when she went to the Democratic Convention in Atlantic City and tore it up so much that Lyndon Johnson said, get this woman off the TV because her voice was so powerful as she demanded what Medgar Evers wanted," Reid stated, tear-

See ANN-REID, Page 14

## Tyler Perry

By Lauren Victoria Burke  
NNPA Contributor

Tyler Perry was planning an \$800 million expansion of his studio in Atlanta. Now the plans are on hold. Why? Because a new text-to-video artificial intelligence (AI) model. The new AI model by ChatGTP entitled "Sora" creates video from a text prompt.

In an interview with the Hollywood Reporter on Feb. 23, Perry, who is worth over \$1 billion, said that the new technology will cause job loss in the movie industry. The question of how artificial intelligence technology will impact em-



ployment across fields is a growing concern.

In the creative fields around special effects and animation design, artificial intelligence is all but certain to cause impact and create job loss. But there are other jobs that are likely to be im-

pacted.

With the rise of e-commerce and automated checkout systems, traditional retail roles may diminish. Cashiers: Similar to retail salespersons, automated checkout systems are reducing the need for human cashiers. Telemarketers: AI-driven chatbots and voice recognition systems are increasingly handling customer inquiries. Data Entry Clerks: Automation tools can handle routine data entry tasks more efficiently. Bookkeepers and Accounting Clerks: AI can automate many financial tasks, potentially reducing the need for manual bookkeeping.

Over the years, Tyler Per-

ry has expanded his talents from filmmaking, television production, and writing. He established Tyler Perry Studios, one of the largest film production studios in the United States, located in Atlanta, in 2006. Perry's films often explore themes of faith, family, and resilience, resonating strongly with Black audiences.

Some of Perry's notable films include: "Diary of a Mad Black Woman" (2005), "Madea's Family Reunion" (2006), "Why Did I Get Married?" (2007), and "For Colored Girls" (2010).

In addition to his film work, Perry has created successful television series such as "Tyler Perry's House of Payne" and "The

Have and the Have Nots."

Now like so many others in an ever-changing industry impacted by changing technology, Perry will navigate changes brought on by AI.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent investigative journalist and the publisher of Black Virginia News.

## Charles V. Hamilton

Austin Cooper recalled the first time he met Professor Charles V. Hamilton, a philosophical luminary and key architect of the Black Power movement. Cooper, who earned a Master of Public Administration from the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs under Hamilton's tutelage, said the professor wasn't simply an academic advisor. To Cooper and others, he was a mentor and friend. Mostly, though, Hamilton was "Doc."

"He hired me to be one of three research assistants at The Ford Foundation, where he headed a three-year project on 'Social



Welfare Policy and the American Future," said Cooper, the managing editor of the Our House DC newsletter and who, among other accomplishments, served as a state lobbyist (pension, education, and labor) to former New York City Mayor David N. Dinkins and Vice President of

Government Affairs for the Turner Broadcasting System, Inc.

Like many others, Cooper was saddened by the news that Hamilton had died at 94. Though his death occurred on Nov. 18, 2023, it was only confirmed and made public this week. Hamilton, a distinguished political scientist, and educator, played a transformative role in reshaping the discourse on racism in the United States through his groundbreaking work, "Black Power: The Politics of Liberation."

Hamilton's collaboration with Stokely Carmichael in 1967 produced a seminal piece that chal-

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# Assessments should be more inclusive to reflect all students’ cultures, experiences

(EdTrust) WASHINGTON – Soon, students across the country will take the annual federally required summative assessments. However, a new EdTrust report explains why these tests need to be more inclusive, with passages and questions that reflect the diverse cultures and experiences of the students taking them.

Statewide annual assessments are an essential tool for policymakers, parents, educators, and the public to understand how school systems are serving students, particularly Black and Latino students, who have long faced inequitable opportunities in school. By updating these assessments, students of color can more fully demonstrate what they know and can do, giving parents, policymakers, and educators a more accurate picture of how schools are serving all students. Right now, many assessment companies intentionally eliminate questions that involve cultural topics or themes, but by being devoid of any culture or context, these items inherently default to the dominant culture of Whiteness.

“Research tells us that learning is inherently cultural,” said EdTrust Assistant Director of P-12 Policy Nicholas Munyan-Penney, one of the report’s authors. “In other words, we connect new information to what we already know, including our experiences, social constructs, and personal perspectives. Attempts to remove culture from assessment questions in the name of objectivity not only privileges White

perspectives but is out of step with how students learn and demonstrate their knowledge and skills.”

EdTrust’s call for inclusive assessments comes at a time when diverse and inclusive curriculum is increasingly under attack. However, research shows that students are more engaged when they see people like themselves in materials at school, and that increased engagement leads positive outcomes in critical thinking skills, standardized test scores, course completion, school attendance, and graduation, as well as self-esteem and well-being — especially students of color.

“EdTrust’s ‘Advocates’ Guide to Demanding Racially & Culturally Inclusive State Assessments’ serves as a helpful resource to empower educators, policymakers, and advocates to address the issue of cultural bias and ensure proper cultural representation in assessments,” said Amalia Chamorro, director of education policy at UnidosUS. “This report is aligned with research conducted by UnidosUS and the National Urban League that highlights concerns about the lack of cultural representation and bias in assessments, and a belief that the design and administration of assessments should be more reflective of today’s racially and ethnically diverse student population. When 28% of the K-12 student population is Latino and 10% are identified as English learners, this call to action is a necessary shift to better

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## In Memoriam Dr. W. Larry Lundy



*(Editor’s Note: Dr. Lundy was very well known to the North Dallas Gazette, as he was one of our first advertisers and friends back in 1991 when we still published under the name “Minority Opportunity News (MON), which later became the North Dallas Gazette. He believed in us even when we didn’t always believe in ourselves, and we are forever grateful.)*

Dear Family & friends,

We want to thank you all for your love & support since the passing of our Father. Please find below details on the services of our Father Dr. W. Larry Lundy.

**Wake**

Friday March 8  
6:00-8:00 PM

**Memorial Service**

Saturday March 9  
11:00AM  
Both services will be held at  
Hamilton Park United Methodist Church  
11881 Schroeder rd  
Dallas, TX 75243  
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Watch for a special in-depth tribute to Dr. Lundy in next week’s edition of the North Dallas Gazette.

Keep up with the news

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# Research and customized care make aging with Multiple Sclerosis better

Newswise — COLUMBUS, Ohio — Physician scientists at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and College of Medicine are studying why multiple sclerosis (MS) worsens as patients grow older.

MS is a condition where the body's immune system mistakenly attacks the optic nerves, brain, and spinal cord, leading to inflammation. Initially, it may present as episodes of neurological symptoms that can often be controlled with medications, known as relapsing MS.

However, as time goes on, MS can transition into a relentless decline, becoming increasingly debilitating and less responsive to available treatments, known as progressive MS.

"What we're finding is that 'biological age' is the key to driving the evolution from relapsing to progressive forms of MS," said Benjamin Segal, MD, professor and chair of Ohio State's Department of Neurology who specializes in researching and treating patients with MS at Ohio State Wexner Medical Center. "The rate of biological aging can be influenced by a person's genetic background, as well as environmental exposures and lifestyle."

Biological age — as opposed to chronological age — measures lifelong damage to cells and organs.

"The goal of our research is to determine if biological aging plays a role in certain people having more severe disease in MS compared to others," said Yanan Zhang, MD, a neurologist specializing in multiple sclerosis and related neuro-immunological disorders of the central nervous system.

"By understanding more about the aging processes, we can then find the exact ways aging contributes to disease progression in



Vladimir Soares / Unsplash

MS," Zhang said.

Current drugs for MS make it less likely that patients will have future MS attacks or develop new lesions during the relapsing stage of disease. In some cases, these drugs may slow neurological decline, but they are less likely to do so the longer someone has progressive MS.

Trying to improve out-

comes for patients, Segal and Zhang conduct research at Ohio State's Multiple Sclerosis Center. It's one of the largest and most comprehensive MS programs in the country.

They've identified new biomarkers that give insight into biological aging and its effects on MS disease progression and continue to discover new

therapeutic targets through a grant from the National Institutes of Health.

"We use very sophisticated, cutting-edge ways to measure biological aging in people with MS. This gives us insights into the different pathways that underlie biological aging and how they could affect MS," said Segal.

Zhang also leads the Aging with MS Clinic that provides complete care for older adults with MS who are affected by overlapping symptoms of normal aging and MS.

The dedicated team of neuropsychologists, social workers, pharmacists, physical therapists and more manages issues related to functional capacity, gait and balance, bladder function, nutrition, cogni-

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**City of Dallas**

**Notice of Public Meeting**

The State of Texas requires all water suppliers who serve more than 3,300 service connections to produce a Drought Contingency Plan every five years.

City of Dallas Water Utilities will hold a public meeting to discuss the Dallas draft 2024 Drought Contingency Plan at Anita Martinez Recreation Center at 3212 N. Winnetka Avenue, Dallas, TX 75212 on Friday, March 1, at 5:30 p.m. The public is invited to provide input on the plan which is available at [bit.ly/3UMmwj1](https://bit.ly/3UMmwj1) or the QR code below until March 20. Any comments or suggestions regarding the plan should be sent no later than March 20 by email to [semu.moges@dallas.gov](mailto:semu.moges@dallas.gov) or by postal mail to the following address:

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# Dallas CASA's 'Cherish the Children' addresses state of child welfare

Dallas CASA will host the 2024 Cherish the Children luncheon Friday, April 19 at The Omni Dallas with a panel of important speakers addressing some of Dallas' greatest challenges facing children.

The luncheon's slate of speakers includes:

Latosha Herron Bruff is the Senior Vice President of Inclusion and Community Engagement at the Dallas Regional Chamber, where she brings more than 20 years of experience advocating for under-championed communities. Herron-Bruff previously worked at Dallas Area Habitat for Humanity, where she created a homeownership center with a digital education platform for homeowners and worked with community leaders and government officials to influence housing policy at the local, state and federal levels. She has served on the boards of Children's Health, DeSoto Economic Development Corporation and the Southern Gateway Deck Park.

Stephanie Elizalde is the Superintendent of the Dallas Independent School District, the second largest school district in the state serving 153,861 students in 230 schools with 22,222 staff members. A third-generation public school educator



Latosha Herron Bruff



Stephanie Elizalde



Stephanie Muth



Cynt Marshall

following in the footsteps of her father and grandmother, Elizalde has worked in both small and large urban school systems with diverse student populations and is committed to equity and excellence in education for every student. She has served students as a teacher, principal, assistant superintendent and deputy chief.

Stephanie Muth is the Commissioner of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), which she was

chosen to lead after more than 20 years in a variety of executive-level positions in the Texas Health and Human Services departments, including as director of Texas' Medicaid program. Among her accomplishments include modernizing an antiquated, paper-based eligibility system for Medicaid, SNAP and other social services programs, overseeing a large-scale reorganization of more than 4,000 staff and 120 programs in the health and human services

programs and managing the health care delivery system that provides services to more than four million Texans.

"Together, this power trio of speakers bring years of experience serving others, lifting people up and supporting them as they seek to live to their full potential," said Dallas CASA President and CEO Kathleen M. LaValle. "The speakers promise to inspire us, challenge us and motivate us as we work to make our community a safer, stronger and more supportive place for all children."

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## Speaker Johnson hastens end of critical program that bridges digital divide, threatening connectivity for millions

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

As the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) faces an imminent funding shortfall, the lifeline that connected more than 23 million disadvantaged and low-income American families to broadband hangs in the balance. Despite its critical role in bridging the digital divide, House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) has yet to bring a bill for ACP extension to the floor, putting millions at risk of losing affordable internet access.

President Biden's ambitious goal of connecting every American to affordable, reliable, high-speed internet by 2030 is now in jeopardy, as Johnson holds the key to the ACP's future. Despite bipartisan support, Johnson inexplicably hasn't brought a bill funding the ACP to the floor for a formal vote. The White House and lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have urged the Speaker to act.

Just last month, Biden urged more people to sign up for the ACP, noting that only 43% of eligible households had enrolled in the

program and highlighting the urgent need for its continuation.

The ACP, offering \$30 per month for qualifying families in most areas and \$75 on tribal lands, has been a game-changer, enabling participants to overcome financial barriers and access essential services like telehealth, remote schooling, and work.

A bipartisan group of lawmakers has proposed a bill to sustain the ACP through 2024 with an additional \$7 billion in funding, surpass-

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## College admission and financial aid decisions delayed amidst rollout issues

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

Delays in financial aid decisions have tempered the excitement of many students who have received acceptance letters from their top colleges in a year already full of uncertainties. The late release of a revised Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which schools frequently use to determine financial assistance, is the cause of this delay.

Traditionally, financial aid decisions accompany acceptance letters, but the delayed FAFSA rollout disrupted the usual process this year. Consequently, students and parents are postponing crucial college decisions. This comes at a time when the Department of Education unveils a comprehensive student



*The Biden administration is actively pursuing student loan relief following the Supreme Court's rejection of President Biden's initial debt cancellation initiative last summer. (Photo via NNPA)*

loan forgiveness proposal, offering numerous pathways to debt cancellation.

The Biden administration is actively pursuing student loan relief following the Supreme Court's rejection of President Biden's initial debt cancellation initiative last summer. The approach involves reforming existing options to broaden access for millions and creating a new plan for broader relief.

Draft plans from the Education Department outline a targeted student loan forgiveness plan for specific groups of borrowers. These include individuals in repayment for extended periods, those with increasing debt despite significant repayment time, and former students at certain schools. While the plan is not finalized, detailed proposals are reportedly undergoing

evaluation in a series of public hearings, after which officials expect the completion of governing regulations.

Last week, the Department of Education released draft regulations proposing new routes to student loan forgiveness based on 17 indicators of financial hardship. The updated FAFSA form aims to simplify the process for parents and

considers inflation in eligibility calculations. However, the form, initially unavailable in October, faced accessibility issues during a soft launch in December, leading to delays in schools receiving vital information for financial aid decisions.

Several institutions, such as Virginia Tech, have adjusted admissions deadlines due to the FAFSA challenges. Virginia Tech extended its admissions deposit deadline for first-year college students to May 15, acknowledging the concerns of families who need more time to make informed decisions.

"Understandably so, families are concerned about the FAFSA process this year, and they are telling us that they need more time to make fully informed decisions," Juan Espinoza, interim vice provost for enrollment management at Virginia Tech, said in a

statement.

More than 17 million students rely on FAFSA annually to secure financial aid for their college education. As of mid-February, over 4 million forms have been submitted successfully, according to the Department of Education. Despite assurances of the new application's simplicity, some students and parents need help filing.

Sophomore Jesus Noyola at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, expressed frustration to reporters over the unresolved error in the parent portion of his application. According to Travis Hill, the director of Dallas County Promise, a college success program in Texas, other problems, such as errors related to Social Security numbers, affect parents without legal immigration status and complicate the FAFSA submission process.

## New initiative bridges the digital divide for K-12 students in 10 U.S. cities

NORTH CONWAY, N.H., December 5, 2023 (Newswire.com) - A new impact report has been released by Digitunity, revealing the transformative success of a two-year, 10-city initiative to close the digital divide for K-12 students and their families. Led by Digitunity and funded as part of AT&T's Connected Learning commitment to address the digital divide, the project drew upon and featured the work of 11 top-tier nonprofit technology refurbishing

organizations. An effort to bridge what is known as the "homework gap" in the project's 10 markets, this collaborative effort surpassed its two-year target within the very first year, culminating in twice the projected impact by its conclusion.

Key outcomes include:

- 41,597 devices comprising laptops, desktops, and tablets
- 2,171 Wi-Fi hotspots ensuring connectivity
- 26,571 students equipped with digital lit-

eracy training

• An estimated 2,633,110 pounds of e-waste diverted from landfills

The initiative, launched in August 2021, was designed to foster long-lasting relationships between private, public, and social sectors within each community. This involved activating local nonprofit technology refurbishing organizations within Digitunity's practitioner network, alongside a wide and diverse range of local businesses and nonprofit

organizations. The project sought to source, refurbish, and deploy free or extremely affordable devices to underserved K-12 students. This initiative is being championed by organizations in 10 cities, including by Compudopt in Dallas.

In Atlanta, Nafeesah Burson, after receiving a computer from Inspiredu, enrolled in 100 hours of cybersecurity training and CompTIA certifications. Similarly, in the Bronx, New York, students em-

powered with personal laptops embarked upon job workforce programs, refining their resumes and exploring new job opportunities.

The "AT&T Pioneers" employee volunteer network also played an active role. They not only volunteered at local used electronic donation drives but also demonstrated practical environmental responsibility by upcycling t-shirts into pet toys and promoting "going green" through seedling distribu-

tions at some of this initiative's computer collection events.

"We've always believed in the necessity of connectivity and device accessibility for success. Working alongside Digitunity, we've been able to place devices directly into the hands of those most in need," stated Mylayna Albright, AVP, Corporate Social Responsibility, AT&T.

With hundreds of devices also being extended to

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## New CreateMyTest App generates tests from any content

TORONTO, February 22, 2024 (Newswire.com) - The CreateMyTest app is a new educational app powered by artificial intelligence that generates tests for students from any content. This app, recently featured on Product Hunt,

can help students test their knowledge as they learn across different media types and get the key takeaways from any content right away.

Students can take any YouTube videos, text or PDF documents, includ-

ing their class notes and more, and send them to the CreateMyTest app. In a few moments, the app will parse all relevant information and extract key points the student should know. The app will then generate different tests based on

the student's preferences, including Multiple Choice, True or False, Matching, and Fill-in-the-Blank quizzes.

Through this app, students can gain a powerful learning aid that helps them identify and retain

key takeaways from any content. Students can learn how to evaluate what information is essential and what is not, reinforcing key learning fundamentals that can make learning easier. They can also reduce test stress by acclimating them-

selves to the information they're learning in a testing environment, reducing a key source of poor test scores.

Students who study alone can greatly benefit from the

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# Whoopi Goldberg pioneering change with Blkfam, a groundbreaking, Black-focused streaming platform

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

Television history, marred by a narrow portrayal of non-white characters, witnessed a transformative journey from caricatures and racist depictions to the evolution of influential, Black-centered shows like the influential and groundbreaking “The Cosby Show,” in the 1980s, “A Different World,” “Living Single,” in the 1990s, and later “Black-ish.” The television landscape shifted as those shows emerged, challenging stereotypes, and showcasing diverse Black experiences.

Today, streaming is the biggest game in Hollywood and Whoopi Goldberg, an

award-winning actress and co-host of “The View,” is stepping into this legacy, aiming to redefine the narrative of Black representation in family-friendly streaming by investing in Blkfam. The outlet is already being hailed as the first-ever Black-owned and Black-focused family streaming platform. Launched on February 26 across multiple platforms, Blkfam could be a significant stride toward addressing the underrepresentation of Black families in the streaming market.

At its inception, Blkfam boasted a content library featuring over 20 syndicated series, encompassing over 1,000 hours of animation titles and dozens of animated characters of

color with diverse gender experiences. The platform also offers hundreds of hours of original music-driven content, signaling a commitment to fostering an authentic and inclusive narrative.

Goldberg, an equity investor in Blkfam, sits at the forefront of the groundbreaking initiative alongside Larry Adams, a digital media veteran and CEO of the platform. Goldberg, known for her roles in iconic films like “The

Color Purple” and “Sister Act,” has been a vocal advocate for positive representation. “I like the idea of being part of something that will grow,” Goldberg declared. “As I get older, I say, ‘Wow, things will outlast me.’ This is one of the things I hope outlasts me — I could be the Black woman, Walt Disney!”

Blkfam will stream over various platforms, including iOS, Android, and Amazon Prime Video Channels.



Today, streaming is the biggest game in Hollywood and Whoopi Goldberg, an award-winning actress and co-host of “The View,” is stepping into this legacy, aiming to redefine the narrative of Black representation in family-friendly streaming by investing in Blkfam. (Courtesy photo)

## APP, from Page 6

app, as it can help to summarize content succinctly while crafting questions that the student doesn’t have any immediate input on formulating. Students sometimes struggle to create challenging, illuminating questions about the content they are studying and aren’t sure what to focus on for their in-class tests. This app can help students anticipate the most important subject matter and develop a more comprehensive understanding before the test day.

With the CreateMyTest app, students also gain exposure to artificial intelligence technology, giving them a hands-on opportunity to see how AI can deliver value to their lives and helping them better leverage this technology in their academic and professional lives.

The app is also helpful in non-academic settings. Suppose there is a piece of content you are trying to remember. In that case,

the key points from the app can help you determine the salient information and remember it for your next meeting, project or conversation in a personal or professional setting.

The app is free for the first 5,000 words submitted but has a step-based price scale that requires only a one-time payment to unlock each new level, making it accessible for students without spending money to gain value. CreateMyTest also allows students to make more significant commitments the more they believe they will use the app across their academic careers.

CreateMyTest can be used at any grade level and by students of any age. The app uses its content to generate a test appropriate to the content’s sophistication. With its simple-to-use interface, students can use the app quickly while gaining value.

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# In celebration of Black History Month, PGA of America golf professional Ira Molayo leads by example

FRISCO, Texas — Ira Molayo was introduced to golf at seven by his mother at Cedar Crest Golf Course in Dallas, Texas. Today, 40 years later, he is a PGA of America Golf Professional, Director of Golf at Cedar Crest and the newly elected Vice President of the Northern Texas PGA Section (NTPGA).

He's the first Black PGA of America Golf Professional to serve as an Officer (Secretary, Vice President, President) for the NTPGA.



Ira Molayo PGA (at left), with I AM a Golfer Foundation participant. (Photo via NNPA)

He's in line to become President in 2026.

His focus on and off the course is based upon inclusion.

Molayo started getting more involved in the NTPGA in 2013. He joined the teaching & coaching committee, which led to his

involvement in the junior golf, education, awards and PGA HOPE (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere) committees.

"When I got on committees and started working with other PGA of America Members, it made the sport bigger in my head," Molayo said. "It wasn't just me and my facility, it was other talented people trying to do the same thing, all because we love golf."

When he ran for NTPGA Secretary in 2016, he lost.

"I was shocked I lost, because I don't like losing," he explained. "When I lost, it was really a good thing because it made me realize that I do love it. I wasn't doing it because I wanted notoriety, I really enjoyed serving and felt like I had something to contribute."

After serving three terms as an At-Large Director and working on various committees, Molayo ran again in 2022 and won. After two years as Secretary, he was elected Vice President on

February 5, 2024, during the NTPGA Annual Meeting.

"You don't get elected Secretary, honestly, if your peers don't see you as President. Those are telling moments in my life. The membership electing me means they see me as an equal, they see me, period. In golf, that hasn't always been the case. To elect me and give me the opportunity to be a steward in this position,

See GOLF, Page 10

## TRUMP, from Page 1

The remarks played into racial stereotypes, leaving some on stage uncomfortably laughing.

Trump's calculated appearance included Black political allies, such as Reps. Byron Donalds and Wesley Hunt, as well as

former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson, all of whom are Black but have little to no ties to fellow African Americans. The event has ignited widespread condemnation for its blatant attempt to ex-

plot racial tensions and manipulate the struggles of Black Americans for political gain.

The former president's shameless tactics at the gala underscored a troubling trend of divisive rhetoric and opportunistic exploitation, raising questions about the ethi-

cal boundaries of political discourse and the extent to which leaders are willing to go to secure support within specific communities.

"There's just so much

controversy," Ebony McBeth, a Columbia resident and transportation worker, told the Associated Press. "I would go for Biden just because Trump has his own agenda."

Isaac Williams Sr., a retired cook from Columbia and a lifelong Democrat, said he disliked both parties but found Trump to "have mobster tendencies. He's only out for himself."

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*"Voting is the foundation stone of political action."*

**- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**



# Film Review: 'Dune: Part Two' is a sandy, captivating film

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Film Critic

(\*\*1/2) How deep is the sand? How high is the sky?

Director/writer Denis Villeneuve knows how to make a throw-down sci-fi epic. He proved that with his captivating production *Dune* (2021), which won six 2022 Oscars® for cinematography, production design, visual effects, sound, editing and score. As audiences contemplate this sequel, they'll expect the visuals, sounds and pacing to be near perfect. But what about the storyline (script by Villeneuve and Jon Spaihts), will it be profound? And how will he treat that heady mix of pageantry and action. Will he reach higher than before? For the first hour, that's in doubt. Depth and exhilaration are missing. Trying to figure out who is who, who hates who and why the factions are so pissed off is a chore. But there's a big payoff. Wait for it.

Sometime in the far future, after a climate disaster, water is scarce and sacred. Paul Atreides (Timothée



Timothée Chalamet in *Dune Part Two* (Courtesy photo)

Chalamet, Wonka), the son of a murdered duke, and his mother Jessica (Rebecca Ferguson, *Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning*) duck and hide among the sand dunes on the remote planet Arrakis. They're being shepherd by a group of indigenous rebel fighters, the Fremen, led by the warrior Stilgar (Javier Bardem, *No Country for Old Men*). Meanwhile, Paul has a budding relationship with one of the tribe's members, Chani (Zendaya, *Spider-Man: No Way Home*). They

have love in their eyes, but she also has trust issues with the ambitious interloper.

First scenes depict the resistance fighters roaming the high hills and deep valleys. They're being hunted by militia from the House of Harkonnen, evildoers that exploit Arrakis for its coveted rare resource "spice," a drug that extends life. Minus a few skirmishes, the opening is heavy on setup, drama, landscapes and ceremony. Light on adrenalin-pumping action that could

break up the monotony or hint at any of the mindboggling warfare prevalent in the previous *Dune*.

At the one-hour mark, the protagonists, their idiosyncrasies and relationships are established. The Fremen's suspicions of Paul wane, and he takes on an entirely different role in their hierarchy. Even more important, the brutality of the Harkonnen evolves. Viewers are taken to their netherworld. Away from the earth tones of Arrakis, to the stark black and white images of a futuristic land run by the venomously evil and very

plump Baron Vladimir Harkonnen (Stellan Skarsgård, *Mamma Mia!*). The ruthless Emperor badgers his chief lieutenant Beast Rabban (Dave Bautista) to stop the Fremen from ruining his extraction of spice. Standing in the wings is the Baron's scheming nephew Feyd-Rautha (Austin Butler, *Elvis*), a heartless and conniving fiend who is so white, he looks like he doesn't have blood in his veins.

When the audience gets an extended view of the

See *DUNE*, Page 16

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# Bob Marley, One Love Film: A cinematic triumph transforming lives and communities across Jamaica and beyond

By Stacy M. Brown  
 NNPA Senior National  
 Correspondent

In an exclusive interview with the Black Press of America's Let It Be Known morning show, Ziggy Marley, the son of reggae legend Bob Marley, opened up about the profound impact of the hit new movie "Bob Marley, One Love." Beyond its role as a cinematic journey into the iconic musician's life, the film has emerged as a catalyst for transformative change, touching the lives of individuals and communities in Jamaica and extending its positive influence beyond geographical boundaries.

The 30-minute discussion delved into the meticulous process of selecting collaborators for the movie, with Ziggy Marley emphasizing the importance of humility and a community-focused approach. The quest for authenticity in portraying Bob Marley's life meant assembling a team that "respected the culture, ensuring a collective effort devoid of individual egos," Marley asserted.

"We were looking for people not run by ego, we were looking for humble people, really humble peo-



*The quest for authenticity in portraying Bob Marley's life meant assembling a team that "respected the culture, ensuring a collective effort devoid of individual egos," Marley asserted. (Photo via NNPA)*

ple who can work in a community with a community effort," Marley explained. "That was a key, I think, because it needed to be something that we have a voice in and that nobody could say, 'you know, it's my thing or it's hers.' So, yeah, the humbleness and the idea of a community working together, those were the traits that was very important for this project."

The oldest son of the reggae legend provided a thoughtful reflection on the emotional and psychological impact of the threats and challenges his father faced. He highlighted the challenge of balancing honesty and entertainment in depicting the life of a cultural icon, shedding light on the reflective character portrayed in the film.

"Something that we tried

to explore and that even while working on this film, it made me think about it, was what was the tool that this took on [Bob Marley] emotionally or psychologically? I don't think he's not the type of man to really show you, you know, like all of us, we put on a tough exterior," Marley remarked. "All the while we're really having some serious emotional things happening on the inside. And as a human being, we know that somebody is trying to kill you, you're going to exile, you're diagnosed with cancer.

"These things are not something that can easily be brushed off for anybody, anybody, no matter who you are. These are things that make you think about

**See MARLEY, Page 13**

## GOLF, from Page 8

makes me feel included."

On the course, he's helping youth in South Dallas learn to play golf, work in golf and earn scholarships to receive higher education.

Molayo's I AM a Golfer Foundation, was established out of necessity in 2018 to be a catalyst for community renewal and transformation in South Dallas.

In 2015, Cedar Crest had the largest First Tee program in Dallas, working with junior golfers six days a week. Then the First Tee program was moved to nearby Trinity Forest Golf

Club, leaving juniors wanting to stay at Cedar Crest in need of help.

"I had kids who could afford to pay for golf instruction and I had a group of kids who couldn't. I would always use the First Tee program to introduce golf to them. When that didn't exist, I did not have a way to engage those youth."

Molayo took action to create his Foundation to provide lessons, clubs and access for those who couldn't afford golf. It's grown exponentially ever since.

The Foundation addition-

ally helps preserve Cedar Crest and promotes the game through events like the Dallas Amateur Championship and the Southwest Airlines Showcase at Cedar Crest—a Black collegiate tournament televised on Golf Channel.

The Foundation's youth programs have three pillars: I AM a Golfer, I AM an Intern and I AM a Scholar.

Since the Foundation's inception, over 900 juniors have participated, 115 paid internships have been provided, \$300,000 college scholarships have been awarded and over \$1 million has been invested in Cedar Crest.

# Americans willing to pay more to eliminate the racial wealth gap, creating a new opportunity for Black business owners

(Black PR Wire) New York, NY – Unprecedented national research released today provides encouraging news that most Americans are willing to pay a premium price for products and services if they know that they are helping to reduce the racial wealth gap in the U.S. The study also explored consumer interest by geography and key demographic segments for a seal certifying Black-owned and operated businesses.



the driving mission for the Fund for Social Equity, a new nonprofit that has tested a seal to identify businesses owned and operated by Black Americans as a way to reduce the wealth disparity between Black and white Americans.

The research serves as

wealth gap between Black and white households continues to widen in the U.S. according to the latest research from the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve and now stands at \$44,890 and \$285,010, respectively.

When asked about their purchase likelihood of a product or service at a premium price with an identifying seal:

- 47% of all Americans surveyed definitely or probably would buy, and that rises to 78% among

Black Americans,

- 77% were neutral to positive on the concept, and,

- Alienation (rejection of the concept) at 23% was low.

“We approach the racial wealth gap with a marketing-first mindset and our research finds that nearly half of all Americans definitely or probably – top two boxes - would purchase at a higher price products and services identified as Black-owned,” said Mark Koide, co-founder of the

Fund for Social Equity (FSE) and a life-long marketer. “This is a potential game-changer for any business that is Black-owned and seeks to differentiate itself.”

FSE is led by an inclusive Board of Advisors also available at <https://fundforsocialequity.com>, which is comprised largely of marketing and nonprofit leaders who are committed to ending the racial wealth gap.

“In addition to finding large and scalable sub-

groups within the national general population panel which supported the distinguishing seal with top two box scores of 47%, there were very few concept rejectors,” said April Jeffries, who led the FSE team at global researcher Ipsos and serves as its global president of ethnography and immersion. “The bottom two boxes account for less than 25%. The concept is much less polarizing than we initially expected.”

See WEALTH, Page 13

## DIVIDE, from Page 5

ing the president’s initial request. However, without a floor vote, the Federal Communications Commission has initiated steps to wind down the program, instructing internet providers to notify users about its projected end.

The FCC halted new enrollments after February 7, with the program expected to end in April. The digital divide persists due to broadband infrastructure limitations, particularly in urban areas with limited coverage in low-income neighborhoods. Tribal lands also face challenges, with broadband access lagging behind the rest of the country.

“If Congress does not provide additional funding for the ACP in the near future, millions of households will lose the ACP benefit that they use to afford internet service,” FCC chairwoman Jessica Rosenwor-

cel said. “This also means that roughly 1,700 internet service providers will be affected by the termination of the ACP and may cut off service to households no longer supported by the program.”

Blair Levin, a senior fellow at Brookings and a former FCC chief of staff, lamented that “there are 15 Republican co-sponsors today of the ACP extension bill—meaning the only reason it’s not going to pass the House is because the Speaker will not let it on the floor. A minority of the House has decided we should not have it; it’s not a majority, and there’s a lot of political support for the extension.”

Even in Johnson’s Louisiana district, connectivity remains a pressing issue, with 29% of his constituents set to lose coverage because he fails to act. Johnson’s office didn’t return several

telephone calls and emails seeking comment.

The program is also good for business. In February, researchers at George Mason University in Virginia wrote that the ACP added \$3.89 to the U.S. GDP for every dollar spent.

Also, affordable broadband access led to more people working, increasing job rates and individual earnings. A recent poll of ACP members found that 78% said their internet connection helped them find better-paying work.

Low-income households will lose the discount the program offers, but officials and people in the industry say many will lose access to the internet because they can’t pay higher bills. Ninety-five percent of said it would be hard to handle the extra costs.

Civil rights activists have sent a letter urging Congress to act promptly, emphasizing the ACP’s role in clos-

ing the digital divide and ensuring equitable access to broadband services for low-income families and historically underserved communities.

National Urban League President Marc Morial, NAACP President Derrick Johnson, and other activ-

ists stressed in a letter to lawmakers the program’s significance in connecting Americans to the digital economy, expanding telehealth services, and supporting students in remote learning opportunities.

“Without the additional \$6 billion, millions of

Americans reliant on ACP will lose access to high-speed internet, a fundamental civil right in the 21st century,” the group wrote, urging Congress to secure ACP funding for 2024 and devise long-term solutions for equitable broadband access.

## MS, from Page 4

tion, mood, social support and medications.

“Our goal is to improve quality of life and prevent disability in older adults with MS through team-based care,” said Zhang.

“Patients can take home a couple of strategies to apply to their day-to-day lives, whether it’s a new set

of exercises or activities to improve cognition or even tips for diet and things like that,” he said.

What’s learned from the patients in the clinic is just as valuable in the lab as the scientists work toward new treatments, Segal said.

“This whole community at Ohio State really is

joined together in a collective mission; to better understand MS, to improve the lives of people with MS and, ultimately, hopefully to cure and prevent MS,” said Segal. “Our Aging with MS clinic is a model that can be adopted by other MS centers across the country to help more patients live their best lives.”



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# NAREB report cites significant economic, education, and homeownership gains for Black women

CHARLOTTE, NC – With significant gains in education, employment, and entrepreneurs, African American women emerged as leaders in Black homebuying, according to a report released today by the National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB).

NAREB'S 2023 Women Investing in Real Estate (W.I.R.E) report found that between 1990 and 2019, Black women increased homeownership by 5.6%. Moreover, Black women ages 45-54 and over 75 had a 2.9% increase during the pandemic, the largest among Black homeowners. In early 2020, when the pandemic onset slowed homebuying, Black women fared better than men.

"With the rise of Black women buying homes, there is hope for the future," exclaimed Dr. Courtney Johnson Rose, NAREB's President. "Black women are breaking down barriers in several areas, and homeownership is another example of the resilience and strength of Black



Dr. Courtney Johnson Rose (Courtesy photo)

ney Johnson Rose, NAREB's President. "Black women are breaking down barriers in several areas, and homeownership is another example of the resilience and strength of Black

women working to secure a financial foundation for themselves and their families and contributing to closing the racial wealth gap. By owning a home, Black women create paths

toward long-term financial stability and a legacy for their families. Homeownership among Black women is economic empowerment and serves as a catalyst for broader community development."

Dr. Rose added: "As homeowners invest in their properties, neighborhood revitalization often follows, impacting local economies and fostering community pride. This upward trajectory of Black female homeownership embodies the resilience and determination to overcome historical challenges and pave the way for social and economic progress."

Noting that Black female homebuyers rebounded faster and continued to outpace males during the economic recovery from the pandemic, the W.I.R.E report outlined the data demonstrating Black women's

growing status and strength in American society.

The advances by Black women will be celebrated at NAREB's 2024 Mid-Winter Conference in Charlotte, NC, February 28 – March 2. On Friday, March 1, Dr. Rose, Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles, and Wells Fargo EVP Georgette Dixon will participate in "A Fireside Chat with Women of Impact" at the Marriott Charlotte City Center at 11:15 AM.

"I'm looking forward to sharing my story, the triumphs and challenges, as well as hearing from my esteemed colleagues as we go on to discuss what's next for women leaders and entrepreneurs," Dixon said. "Wells Fargo is excited to be a leader in this space of supporting women's empowerment with a variety of programming through organizations like NAREB

and the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC)."

The W.I.R.E. report documented the economic gains that have paved the way for the success being enjoyed by Black women, who are 6.3% of the nation's population, 52% of the African American population, and 12.5% of all women. Further, 63.4% of African American women over 16 are active in the labor force, and 89.3% of Black women have graduated high school or its equivalent.

Black women are also making tremendous strides as entrepreneurs. According to recent data, businesses owned by Black women grew by 50% between 2014 and 2019, with Black Women accounting for 42% of all women who

**See NAREB, Page 13**

## STUDENTS, from Page 1

capture achievement data for historically marginalized groups and all students."

In the "Advocates' Guide to Demanding Racially and Culturally Inclusive State Assessments," EdTrust defines inclusive assessments as those that authentically reflect students' own cultures and identities and the cultures and identities of others, intentionally in-

clude important cultural and contextual information, reflect students' intersecting identities, and are honest about both the challenges and opportunities of students' realities.

The report lays out ways that assessment companies can include more diverse subject matter, which starts with diversifying the team of assessment item writers and updating bias and

sensitivity guidelines. The report also provides strategies for advocates to work with state leaders, who can then exert consumer pressure on the assessment companies who create the tests. State lawmakers, for example, can allocate additional funding to assessment companies specifically for the development of inclusive assessments, and state education agencies can use Request for Proposal application processes

to require these vendors to create inclusive items that offer a range of races, cultures, identities, and interests.

"EdTrust provides concrete solutions for advocates to address cultural and racial bias in assessments," said the National Urban League. "This vital work advances the field's vision of next-generation assessments necessary to create equitable accountability systems."

Today's report is a follow-up to a report released by EdTrust in August 2023, "Future of Assessments: Centering Equity and the Lived Experiences of Students, Families and Educators," which was informed by feedback from focus groups to four equity pillars of federal assessment policy, including one focused on encouraging relevant, inclusive assessments.

*EdTrust is committed*

*to advancing policies and practices to dismantle the racial and economic barriers embedded in the American education system. Through our research and advocacy, Ed Trust improves equity in education from preschool through college, engages diverse communities dedicated to education equity and justice, and increases political and public will to build an education system where students will thrive.*

## HAMILTON, from Page 2

lenged traditional civil rights approaches. Unlike Carmichael, known for his impassioned speeches, observers noted that Hamilton brought a quiet and dignified intellectualism to the movement. According to scholars and others who knew him, Hamilton conveyed his profound influence through the strength of his ideas.

He co-authored work that shifted the narrative

on racism, introducing the concept of institutional racism to the forefront. Prior discussions primarily focused on overt acts of prejudice, but "Black Power: The Politics of Liberation" redirected attention to the entrenched biases within American institutions. Hamilton's belief in self-determination and self-reliance for the African American community permeated his work, laying

the intellectual foundations for the Black Power movement.

A Wallace S. Sayre Professor Emeritus of Government at Columbia University, Hamilton made history as one of the first African Americans to hold an endowed chair at an Ivy League university. His extensive research delved into urban politics and the Civil Rights movement. Another of his notable contributions was, "Adam Clayton Powell Jr.: The Political

Biography of an American Dilemma (1991)."

Thomas J. Davis of the University of New York at Buffalo, who championed the book in a review for the Library Journal, wrote, "Probing Powell's rise and fall, Hamilton moves from the 1930s, when Powell became a New York City councilman, to his service starting in 1945 as a U.S. Representative, and then to his chairing of the House Education and Labor Committee, his expulsion from

the House in 1967, and his defeat at the polls in 1970."

Davis noted that Hamilton's "able analysis of the unapologetic, openly arrogant champion of civil rights reflects the race issues of the day within a prism of political theory of basic American values like majority rule and minority rights." He concluded that the book was "essential for any serious collection on black biography, civil rights, or political analysis.

Highly recommended."

Hamilton's legacy extended beyond academia and his writings; his ideas continue to influence discussions on racial equality and justice. "Doc loved not only teaching, but he inspired me and all of his students to become activists of history in our respective fields of profession," Cooper remarked. "I considered him to be not only my lifelong teacher, but also a mentor and friend. I will miss him."

## WEALTH, from Page 11

Arva R. Rice, CEO of the New York Urban League, added, "The New York Urban League commends the Fund for Social Equity on its commitment to decreasing the wealth gap between Black and other Americans."

Mark Winston Griffith, an advisor to FSE who is an award-winning journalist, professor of Community Economic Development at Pratt Institute, and co-founder of several New York-based consumer cooperatives, said, "The FSE is sharing our research and is interested

in collaborating with like-minded partners who believe the racial wealth gap can be addressed from a community-up perspective by driving more dollars to Black-owned businesses. FSE is promoting our research findings partly to help identify collaboration partners who can help us advance our mission. For FSE to become operational as a certifying organization – our next big step – requires infrastructure in the form of expertise for membership, certification, and marketing communications which might align with the

ambitions of other organizations. We welcome hearing from all interested collaborators."

More than 15 business sectors were tested and everyday purchases in food and consumer products scored the highest in appeal across expenditure categories. Additional analysis provides detailed breakdowns by regions and demographics of the U.S.

By region, the West South Central, Middle Atlantic, South Atlantic, Pacific, and East North Central Census divisions demonstrated greatest appeal. And among demographics, Millennials,

Blacks and Democrats demonstrated the strongest interest. To read and download the research summary, please visit: <https://fundforsocialequity.com/#research>.

The label is envisioned for use in all industries - B2B and B2C. It will also be featured at retail and employer sites as a badge indicating fulfillment and ongoing verification of the stringent FSE standards, which as tested include: Black American ownership of more than 50% of the company, and operated with more than 25% in all management positions identifying as Black

American.

Example of some of the findings from the research summary are found in the accompanying graphic, which shows that "Food and Grocery is the best category suited for the seal although most consumers aren't willing to pay over a 10% premium for the certification."

These are some findings from a Fund for Social Equity poll, with data collection done by Ipsos. For this survey, a sample of 4,000 adults ages 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English between March

29-30, 2023. The sample was drawn from Ipsos' online FastFacts panel. The sample for this study reflects fixed sample targets on gender, age, and region. Posthoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, and region. Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online, non-probability polls. Instead, the precision of these online polls is measured using a credibility interval. This poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.4 percentage points for all respondents, adjusted for the design effect of 1.5.

## MARLEY, from Page 10

life, make you think about mortality. And so, we feel like he went through all that internally. And in his own quiet space, you know, where he had to reflect on his inner self. And so, yeah, I mean, yeah, the outside stuff is what you can put up with, but the inside stuff is, you know, it's very rare that we can have a look at that or think about that."

Marley also discussed the movie's impact on Jamaica,

including its commercial success, job opportunities, and charitable contributions to the communities where it was filmed. He shared insights into the timing and inspiration for the film, underscoring the spiritual lineage of Bob Marley's music and its relevance in promoting unity and love in today's world.

The timing of the film's release became a focal point of discussion, with Marley

highlighting that it wasn't a premeditated decision but a response to the present moment. Despite difficulties like strikes that caused delays, Marley emphasized the family's trust in the universe's timing as they explored the idea of making a movie about Bob Marley.

"I know it was the right

time. No, not because of anything that I thought about years ago, but because I'm living in the present and I realized it's the right time," Marley said. "It wasn't planned like this. So, it's not like we foresaw this happening at this time. I like to put it this way, the spirit moved me to try to

explore the idea of making a film about my father and the family agreed with us and so we started to explore that and then everything fell

into place the right way. When the universe speaks, we just listen and be happy with what the universe has given us."

## NAREB, from Page 12

opened new businesses during that period. In 2021, 17% of Black women were in the process of starting a new business. - 7% more than White women and 2% more than White men.

The real estate industry is also witnessing a positive trend concerning diversity, with an encouraging number of Black women carving a niche for themselves in this sector.

The shift towards greater inclusivity is a win for Black women and the industry, with diverse perspectives fostering innovation and a deeper understanding of multifaceted market needs. It is widely recognized that the real estate industry has been working toward increasing diversity and inclusion within its ranks. Black women, in particu-

lar, have made strides in the field, with NAREB and others providing support and networking opportunities to encourage further representation.

"Despite these efforts, considerable work remains to be done to eliminate barriers to entry and advancement for underrepresented groups," said Dr. Rose. "Ongoing mentorship programs and targeted educational resources are critical for equipping individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed. "In response to the W.I.R.E. report, NAREB will host a pre-conference one-day event for Black women in real estate and finance as part of their annual convention on July 31, 2024, in New Orleans, LA.



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# Ice Cream Solves A Lot Of My Problems

Dr. James L. Snyder

Like everybody else, I face problems almost every day. Or maybe I should say, my problem faces me.

Every Monday, when I get up, I say to myself, "How many problems will I have this week? How many will I solve?" Unfortunately, myself never replies back.

Problems are part of life, but it's tough for me to get used to problems. Every time I almost solve one problem, two or three new ones pop up. There are times when I hesitate to get up on a Monday morning.

Recently, I discovered something related to my problems. No matter my problems or where they come from, I have dis-

covered that a bowl of ice cream solves most of them.

This is a recent discovery for me. I only wish I would've known it 50 years ago. Since I know it now, I will use it for my benefit. The more problems I have, the more ice cream I need.

Discovering that ice cream is my comfort food has really made a lot of difference in my life. And it has taken me quite a while to get The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage to understand this about me.

She knows much about me, even more than I know about myself. But this one thing about ice cream is relatively new, and she hesitates to acknowledge it.

Whenever a problem pops up, I usually get frustrated and bent out of shape

trying to figure out how to deal with it. Sometimes I do figure it out, but more often, I do not. Then I discovered something that has changed my attitude for all time.

That discovery is that ice cream is a way of helping me deal with a problem that I might have. Oh boy, this has been a learning curve for me.

I discovered this not too long ago when I faced a problem I just didn't know how to take. I was driving down the street when I noticed a relatively new ice cream store on my right side. Looking at it, I thought to myself, "What will it hurt if I stop and have some ice cream?"

I pulled into the parking lot, walked over, entered the store, and ordered some

ice cream. I looked at the menu for a while to order the right ice cream. I saw some mint chocolate chip ice cream on the menu. I haven't had mint chocolate chip ice cream, for I can't remember how long ago. So I ordered it, took it to the table, sat down, and began working on it.

I was only three bites in when it finally occurred to me that I wasn't even thinking about my problem at that time. All I was thinking about was how delicious this ice cream was. This mint chocolate chip ice cream was so delicious I couldn't think of anything else.

When I finished my mint chocolate chip ice cream dish, I couldn't remember my problem. Unfortunately,

ly, when I got in my car and started driving away, the problem finally came back to me. But when it did, it didn't seem as serious as it did before the ice cream. Something had happened.

It's not every day that I learn something new about myself, but this was one of those days.

I don't know how many kinds of ice cream there are, but I have worked it out so that every problem I face is associated with some flavor of ice cream.

The harder the problem, the darker the ice cream. If I have vanilla ice cream, that means I have a very easy problem to solve. But if I have a really difficult problem, I must have chocolate fudge ice cream.

When I got home that

evening, I updated The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage on my discovery.

"Guess what I learned about myself today," I said with a big smile.

Looking at me, she said, "I give up; what did you learn about yourself today that I don't already know?"

Clearing my throat, I said, "I have learned that I need ice cream to deal with any problem that comes my way."

"Well," she said sarcastically, "that's one good excuse to get your ice cream."

"Oh, no," I said enthusiastically, "I really mean that ice cream helps me solve my problems."

I tried to explain to her

See SNYDER, Page 16

## ANN-REID, from Page 2

ing into Scott. "She was in prison. When he was in jail, I should say, when he died. And she lamented that, and she carried forth this anger of Black folks, this demand, this righteous demand for the right to vote and the right to live dignified lives.

"For him to quote that woman, that great Black woman, that icon, and do that in favor of Don-

ald Trump, someone who wants to tear down democracy, who says he would unleash police on Black people and take away any limitations to the violence they could in part upon our bodies, for him to use that, it's madness to me. I see very wealthy hip-hop artists after Donald Trump is found liable for sexual assault and fined millions

for defamation, then they decide, now it's time to marry my brand to Donald Trump. I don't understand that. I don't understand anybody Black who, knowing all we now know, those of us who lived in New York, knew who Donald Trump was; we knew what he was. We knew the Central Park Five is the Exonerated Five, so we knew that story. I was a teenager when that happened, so I never

saw Donald Trump as anything other than a bigot and a madman."

Reid also revealed a surprising aspect of her research, emphasizing the close relationship and sisterhood bond among Dr. Betty Shabazz, Coretta Scott King, and Merle Evers-Williams. She de-

scribed it as "the group chat before we had group chats" and highlighted the joyfulness with which Merle Evers-Williams shared the story of her friends.

As the conversation encapsulated the profound love story of Medgar and Myrlie Evers and its impact on American history, Reid

concluded her thoughts with a powerful message: "They had no money. They had no power. What they had was conviction and love, love for each other, love for their people, love for their family, and even love for their state in this country. And that's all the armor that they needed."

## CASA, from Page 5

(DFPS), which she was chosen to lead after more than 20 years in a variety of executive-level positions in the Texas Health and Human Services departments, including as director of Texas' Medicaid program. Among her accomplishments include modernizing an antiquated, paper-based eligibility system for Medic-

aid, SNAP and other social services programs, overseeing a large-scale reorganization of more than 4,000 staff and 120 programs in the health and human services programs and managing the health care delivery system that provides services to more than four million Texans.

"Together, this power trio

of speakers bring years of experience serving others, lifting people up and supporting them as they seek to live to their full potential," said Dallas CASA President and CEO Kathleen M. LaValle. "The speakers promise to inspire us, challenge us and motivate us as we work to make our community a safer, stronger and more supportive place for all children."

## DIVIDE, from Page 6

recently arrived Ukrainian refugee families in Seattle, the initiative's reach is both deep and expansive.

Dr. Estelle-Marie Montgomery, Ph.D., Executive Director at the Faunteroy Center in the Washington,

D.C., area, added, "Basic computer skills are now fundamental for connectivity across all generations."

The alliances fostered by this project have paved the way for a brighter future, with stakeholders

from various sectors coming together behind a unified cause. As the pages of this initiative's success stories turn, they stand as a testament to the power of private, public, and social sector collaboration in creating lasting solutions to digital inequities.

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# Bringing in Women's History Month



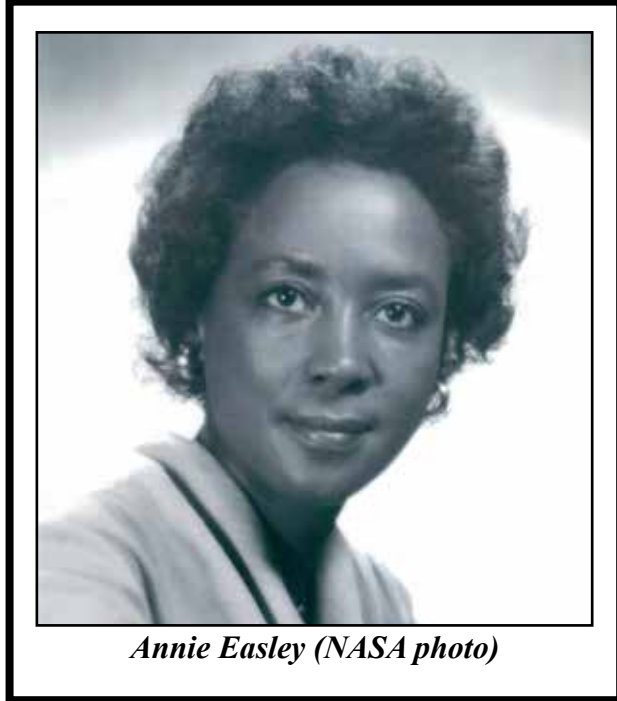
**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
Religion  
Editor

March is Women's History Month, here is a smattering of some Black women everyone should know.

**Annie Easley** (1933-2011) was a computer scientist, mathematician and rocket scientist. She worked on Centaur technology at NASA -- a high-energy rocket technology that uses liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen to boost rockets into space.

**Cathay Williams**, because of an error in correctly understanding her name, became William Cathay (a male soldier.) According to an Army doctor; William Cathay enlisted in the United States Regular Army as a Buffalo Soldier in 1866.

The Army surgeon examined William Cathay, the recruit, but failed to realize that William Cathay was a female and not a male; the surgeon determined the recruit fit for duty and as-



*Annie Easley (NASA photo)*

signed William Cathay to the 38th U.S. Infantry; it was established in August 1866.

Cathay Williams carved a small, but symbolically important place in the history of American women, in the history of Black women and in the history of the United States Army.

To date, she is the only documented woman who served in the U.S. Army prior to the official introduction of women.

**Nannie Helen Burroughs** was one of the best known and well-respected women of the early twentieth century. She was called 'The Black Goddess of Liberty'. She was an educator, institution and organization-builder and a major figure in the Black church and secular feminist movement.

Burroughs became a much sought after participant, particularly by the Republican Party. When

Herbert Hoover was elected President in 1928, he chose Burroughs to head a fact-finding commission on housing. In 1909, she founded the National Training School for Women and Girls, which was renamed the Nannie Helen Burroughs School in 1964.

**Annie Onieta Plummer** was dubbed "The Dictionary Lady". In 1992, she noticed that many school children in Savannah, Georgia were not carrying any books.

On her own initiative, she invested 50 dollars in 30 pocket dictionaries and proceeded to hand them out on the street corner. Her project gained nationwide attention and was emulated in other areas and mushroomed.

Always aware of the value of education, she went back to school at the age of 42. In each dictionary she handed out, she inscribed

the motto of the United Negro College Fund, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste," supplemented by her personal message, and "I challenge you not to waste yours."

Black women scientists, engineers and inventors have made important contributions to the science of chemistry.

**Patricia Bath** in 1988 invented the Cataract Laser Probe, a device that painlessly removes cataracts. Prior to this invention, cataracts were surgically removed. Patricia Bath

founded the American Institute for the Prevention of Blindness.

**Marie Daly** in 1947 became the first Black woman to earn a Ph.D. in chemistry. In addition to her research, she developed programs to attract and aid minority students in medical and graduate school.

Mae Jemison is a retired medical doctor and American astronaut. In 1992, she became the first Black woman in space.

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

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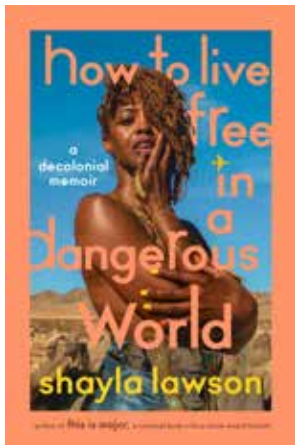
# NDG Book Review: 'How to Live Free in a Dangerous World'

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Do you really need three pairs of shoes?

The answer is probably yes: you can't dance in hikers, you can't shop in stilettos, you can't hike in clogs. So what else do you overpack on this long-awaited trip? Extra shorts, extra tees, you can't have enough things to wear. And in the new book "How to Live Free in a Dangerous World" by Shayla Lawson, you'll need to bring your curiosity.

Minneapolis has always been one of their favorite cities, perhaps because Shayla Lawson was at one of Prince's first concerts.



They weren't born yet; they were there in their mother's womb and it was the first of many concerts.

In all their travels, Lawson has noticed that "being a Black American"

has its benefits. People in other countries seem to hold Black Americans in higher esteem than do people in America. Still, there's racism – for instance, their husband's family celebrates Christmas in blackface.

Yes, Lawson was married to a Dutch man they met in Harlem. "Not Haarlem," Lawson is quick to point out, and after the wedding, they became a housewife, learned the language of their husband, and fell in love with his grandmother. Alas, he cheated on them and the marriage didn't last. He gave them a dog, which loved them more than the man ever did.

They've been to Spain, and saw a tagline in which a dark-skinned Earth Mother was created. Said Lawson, "I find it ironic, to be ordained a deity when it's been a... journey to be treated like a person."

They've fallen in love with "middle-American drag: it's the glitteriest because our mothers are the prettiest." They changed their pronouns after a struggle "to define my identity," pointing out that in many languages, pronouns are "genderless." They looked upon Frieda Kahlo in Mexico, and thought about their own disability. And they wish you a good trip, wher-

ever you're going.

"No matter where you are," says Lawson, "may you always be certain who you are. And when you are, get everything you deserve."

Crack open the front cover of "How to Live Free in a Dangerous World" and you might wonder what the heck you just got yourself into. The first chapter is artsy, painted with watercolors, and difficult to peg. Stick around, though. It gets better.

Past that opening, author Shayna Lawson takes readers on a not-so-little trip, both world-wide and with observant eyes – al-

though it seems, at times, that the former is secondary to that which Lawson sees. Readers won't mind that so much; the observations on race, beauty, love, the attitudes of others toward America, and finding one's best life are really what takes the wheel in this memoir anyhow. Reading this book, therefore, is not so much a vacation as it is a journey of discovery and joy.

Just be willing to keep reading, that's all you need to know to get the most out of this book. Stick around and "How to Live Free in a Dangerous World" is what to pack.

## DUNE, from Page 9

enemy, and its scheming palace intrigue, finally the clash between good and evil becomes fever pitch. The stakes in conflicts are clear. Action sequences intensify with arena fights, war combat and killings. On screen for all to view are impeccably choreographed stunts and battle scenes. Enough to make any sci-fi head, with a lust for movement and mayhem, salivate.

This desert world is as intriguing as the deep space in Star Wars or the sea world in Avatar. The settings, absence of water as an everyday element, are a haunting reminder of the dangers of climate change. In fact, when a character cries, a warning is given:

"Wipe the tears. Never give water away. Not even for the dead." The fight by free people against tyranny and the deference to false prophets is also a topical subject. Chani: "You want to control people? Tell them a messiah will come, and they'll wait for centuries."

All those important themes are side issues, subplots, background details. At the heart of the script are human feelings, impulses and passion. Young people in love. Family intrigue. Cunning Reverend Mothers. Good people fighting evildoers. Greed. Vengeance. Jealousy. Power grabs. Deep-seated animal instincts. Complex behav-

iors.

Villeneuve is a master at creating and controlling this futuristic world. Great tastes. A great sense of drama, passion and motion. This is adventure filmmaking at a very high level. Engaging, breathtaking, ambitious and filled with grandeur. It's like he's reaching for the sky.

The filmmaker is also skillful at tapping into his cast's keen abilities. Chalamet, a man/boy, evolves into manhood as the character—and as an actor. Final scenes depict a bravura reminiscent of a stoic Ben-Hur. Audiences couldn't have guessed that he had that in him. He does.

In her interpretation of the courageous Chani, Zendaya finds the conflict-

ing emotions and altruistic motivation that guide her. Baron is evil incarnate because Skarsgård makes him so. And it's hard to believe that the blached white evil nephew with the glistening bald head is Austin Butler. From the movie Elvis!

What a 180-degree turn. If the devil was a man, this is what he'd look and act like. Butler masterfully creates this trickery, aided by the voodoo magic of a top-notch makeup department.

An epic and spectacular sci-fi allegory with mass

appeal. Filmgoers making the pilgrimage to IMAX and ordinary theaters will want to know if Dune: Part Two has depth and high ambitions. It does.

Visit Film Critic Dwight Brown at [DwightBrownInk.com](http://DwightBrownInk.com).

## SNYDER, from Page 14

that every flavor of ice cream helps me solve a particular problem. I'm not sure she believed me, but I was going to prove that that was true.

Later that evening, after supper, we watched TV in the living room, and then she went out into the kitchen. When she returned, she had a bowl of chocolate fudge ice cream, and looking at me, she said, "I'm not sure if this is chocolatey enough to fix your problem

tonight."

Munching on my ice cream I thought of a Bible verse. Philippians 4:6-7, "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Nobody can live without problems. That's just life.

But, as a Christian, I have a special resource called prayer. My prayer connects me with God's peace "which passeth all understanding."

There is no problem that in anyway compromises God's peace that He has for me.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail [jamesnyder51@gmail.com](mailto:jamesnyder51@gmail.com), website [www.jamesnyderministries.com](http://www.jamesnyderministries.com).

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