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NAACP urges Black student-athletes to reconsider Florida Colleges amid DEI funding controversy

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

NAACP president and CEO Derrick Johnson has called on Black student-athletes to reconsider their decisions to attend public colleges and universities in Florida.

The call comes in response to a new state policy preventing institutions from utilizing government funds for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs.

In a letter sent to current and prospective student-athletes of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) on Monday, NBC News reported that Johnson urged them to "choose wisely" amidst the ongoing debate surrounding DEI funding in Florida.

He emphasized the crucial role of diversity, equity, and inclusion in ensuring equitable and effective educational outcomes, noting that Black athletes' value to large universities is unmatched.

The controversy stems from a bill signed by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis last year, restricting public colleges and universities from using state and federal funds for DEI programs. "If these insti-



The call comes in response to a new state policy preventing institutions from utilizing government funds for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs. (Photo via NNPA)

tutions are unable to completely invest in those athletes, it's time they take their talents elsewhere," Johnson declared, according to NBC News.

The University of Florida's recent decision to eliminate all DEI positions, complying with the state rule, drew condemnation from NFL Hall of Famer Emmitt Smith, an alum of the school. Smith emphasized the need for minority athletes to be aware and vocal about such decisions.

The trend against DEI programs

has heightened, with Republican politicians in more than 30 states introducing bills to restrict or regulate such efforts. Texas Governor Greg Abbott, for instance, signed a law last year ordering the closure of DEI offices at state-funded colleges and universities.

The NAACP's call comes on the heels of a similar message from Birmingham, Alabama, Mayor Randall Woodfin, who asserted that if his state passed a bill block-

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Low voter turnout is a death knell

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High rates of MS among Black women

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PVAMU set to inaugurate new president

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People In The News ...



Sec. Marcia Fudge



Rep. James Clyburn

NDG Quote of the Week: "Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations."

- Dr. Mae Jemison

Sec. Marcia Fudge

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Marcia Fudge, a former Congressional Black Caucus Chair and a staunch advocate for the Black Press of America, has announced that she's stepping down from her role in the Biden-Harris administration.

The 71-year-old Fudge disclosed that her last day in office would be March 22. After decades of public service, she'll return to her home state of Ohio.

"It's time to go home," she told USA TODAY. "I do believe strongly that I have



done just about everything I could do at HUD for this administration as we go into this crazy, silly season of an election."

Fudge, the second Black woman to lead HUD, has

been a key figure in steering the agency through housing crises triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic. She has also pushed for the federal government to include the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), on behalf of the Black Press of America, in its advertising spend.

"The NNPA salutes and forthrightly acknowledges the leadership, service, and commitment of the Honorable Marcia L. Fudge as the accomplished Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)," NNPA President and CEO

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. "The Black Press of America expresses our gratitude to Secretary Fudge in particular for helping tens of thousands of underserved Americans to increase their opportunities to become homeowners."

Fudge's departure comes amid the intensifying campaign season, with President Joe Biden facing off against the twice-impeached and four-times indicted Republican former President Donald Trump.

"It is not a red or blue issue," Fudge declared. "Everybody knows that it is an issue, so it's not one-sided.

It's an American issue."

Despite her efforts to enhance HUD's role in supporting families with housing needs, addressing homelessness, and fostering economic development, Fudge expressed concerns about inadequate funding. She highlighted the need for more than \$70 billion to address the demand for affordable housing and repair aging public housing developments.

President Biden echoed Fudge's call for bipartisan attention to affordable housing in a statement: "A fair housing market and access to quality and afford-

able housing are critical to the fulfillment of the American dream, and no one understands that better than Secretary Marcia L. Fudge," Biden said.

CBC Chair Steven Horsford (D-Nevada) and members praised Fudge's leadership and decades of service.

"Since her confirmation in March of 2021, Secretary Fudge has worked tirelessly to provide access to safe and affordable housing to millions of American families, with a particular focus on racial equity and addressing the gap in Black

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Rep. James Clyburn

Longtime South Carolina Democratic Rep. James Clyburn has announced his resignation from his House leadership position, effective immediately, while simultaneously committing to run for reelection. Clyburn, a staunch supporter of President Joe Biden, said he aims to focus on conveying the message of inclusivity and unity that defines the greatness of the United States.

During an interview on Sunday, Feb. 18, Clyburn, 83, expressed his continued disdain for former President Donald Trump's "Make America Great



Again" mantra, asserting that the country is already great but needs to ensure accessibility and affordability for all citizens. He encouraged Biden to emphasize his experience, wisdom, and commitment to maintaining connections

with the American people during the upcoming presidential campaign.

"I am fond of saying, this is a great country in no need of being made great. We just got to figure out ways to make this country's greatness accessible and affordable for all of our citizens. And Joe Biden is doing that. And we have got to stay focused on that," Clyburn stated emphatically.

Clyburn, who had previously announced his intention to seek reelection, also reiterated that he's only stepping aside as assistant Democratic leader, which marks the end of his influential tenure in House lead-

ership. The move comes amid years of speculation about Clyburn's retirement and the subsequent race to fill the void in the majority Black 6th Congressional District, covering substantial parts of the Interstate 95 corridor, Northeast Columbia, and North Charles-

ton. Expressing gratitude for the trust placed in him by colleagues throughout his career, Clyburn acknowledged the changing political landscape and his role in shaping it. Last year, he played a pivotal role in moving the South Carolina Democratic presidential primary to a leading

position. He collaborated with Republican Governor Henry McMaster to expand broadband access to rural South Carolina.

The departure of Clyburn from his assistant Democratic leader role represents a broader shift in leader-

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Jason Burroughs

By Je'Don Holloway-Talley
The Birmingham Times

Being a mentor comes naturally for business owner Jason Burroughs who has seen both sides of what it's like to help others and be helped.

Burroughs owns C & B (Carrier and Brokered) Transportation Systems, a flatbed trucking company that he started in 2020 and has since secured contracts with billion-dollar companies and become the single supplier for diversity, equity, and inclusion for pipe and valve manufacturing company, Consolidated Pipe and Supply, Inc. (CPS Inc.)



Between 2018-2020 he worked for The Dannon Project, a Birmingham-based a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that helps unemployed or underemployed at-risk youth and returning citizens reentering society], as a program navigator and instructor before being furloughed due to

COVID-19. Currently, he still serves in a mentorship and community partner role within the organization.

"I spent time going to prisons enrolling for The Dannon Project ... I've seen thousands of individuals over the last several years reintegrate back into society and become productive, purposeful individuals," Burroughs said. He's also taught financial literacy at Build Up school in Titusville, churches, and other nonprofit organizations.

But he's also been mentored. He's participated in federally funded initiatives such as the Alabama Department of Economic and

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Low voter turnout may be a death knell for Democrats

By Allen R. Gray
NDG Contributing Writer

As surely as curiosity will kill the cat, complacency born of the relative success of the 2020 elections will most certainly kill the Democrat.

Buncombe County, in Western North Carolina, has a population of about 269,452 residents according to the 2020 census. The county has all the factors that say its residents are going to get up and get out to vote for Democrats: approximately 77% of those residents are registered to vote; 39.63% have earned a bachelor's degree or higher; 51.77% are women; and the median age is around 43 years old. That's a little older than the national average of 38 years old—but Buncombe County residents are still considered young by voting standards.

Since 2004, when only 12% of the Buncombe County registered voters cast ballots during the primary, there has been a steady increase in voter participation. In 2020, over 42% of its registered voters participated.

Yet, in this year's primary not too many of these historically Democratic leaning North Carolinians made the trek to the Oakley-Murphy Community Center to vote in this past Super Tuesday. In the 2024 primary, only 28.5% of 208,204 Buncombe registered voters came out to vote. The alarming news is that Buncombe's voter participation was higher than many of the larger counties in North Carolina. The second most populous county, Mecklenburg, home to the city of Charlotte, had under 19% of its registered voters cast ballots.

What is happening in Buncombe County should be a wakeup call to Democrats and Republicans alike as this apathetic trend has been echoed in states around the country.

Super Tuesday saw the political cornerstone states of Texas and California along with thirteen other states determine head-to-head races for president, the House and the Senate.

When the dust had settled in Texas and the polls were closed, about 3.2 million registered voters had cast their ballots—2.3 million of those ballots were cast for Republican candidates. Only a paltry 975,000 Democratic ballots were cast.

During the 2020 primary, over 4 million registered Texas voters turned out. Back then the number of Democratic ballots outpaced the Republican voter turnout. Albeit, in 2020 Democratic voters were desperate and looking to defeat an ad hoc despot who had lorded over the nation for the past four years.

Funny things have happened on the way to the Texas primaries. Since 2020, the number of people registered to vote has gone up and the number of people who turnout to vote has gone down. The lack of Democratic participation has accounted for all that recent decline. Meanwhile, Republican voter participation has experienced a slight increase.

So, has created this inverse turnout at the polls in Texas in 2024?

It is not necessarily the case that Democrats have been outvoted. They simply did not bother to show up at the polls.

The lack of Democratic turnout could be a product

of the fear factor generated by Republicans zealots and is not necessarily a product of voter apathy.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and his minion, Atty. Gen Ken Paxton, have been wheeling around on a vengeful crusade, and hunting Democratic voters like they were Nazi war criminals.

After all the paranoia that Abbott and Paxton created about voting irregularities, mail-in voting deception, voter fraud—and the new Texas voting laws—the two Texas deceivers may have succeeded in scaring early Democratic voters away from the polls. The 1.8 million people that voted early or by mail-in vote in 2024 represented only 10% of registered voters. This year's early voting turnout fell 200,000 voters short of the early voting total for 2020 when at least two million people voted early.

Abbott and Paxton's fright campaign, it appears, had a greater impact in the state's most populous urban counties like Dallas, Harris, Bexar, and Travis counties considering the drop in the number of votes in those larger counties. The 24% of registered voters that showed up in 2020 fell to 13.9% in 2024. There is also a similar decline in voter turnout in Texas border counties.

Ironically, voter turnout in Texas' 216 mostly rural counties, those counties that traditionally vote strongly Republican, had the smallest dip in participation rates, falling only by about 4.1%.

In 2019, a Black woman named Pamela Moses sought to do her civic duty. Moses attempted to register to vote, which she believed she had a right to

do despite a felony being on her record. Moses was arrested and eventually sentenced to six years plus one day in prison for voter fraud. Her saga was fodder for national news.

That event gave Democrats something to think about. It is not a stretch to say that Moses's conviction had a negative but profound impact on voters who are not Republican. There are not too many people who are willing to risk going to prison for executing their inalienable right.

A recent article quoted Bob Stein, a political science professor at Rice University, who said, "Even the most frequent and hardy voters are confused about their state laws. I think Republicans are going to look at their laws and procedures in the next session. I think they are realizing that they are aggravating voters."

Not only are voters aggravated, but they are also, in too many cases, afraid of violating some newly contrived voting law they did not even know exists.

It could be that the fear tactics of Republicans are having an impact on the opposing party...Or it might be that Texas Democrats are not too concerned about the preliminary bouts and are more focused on the main event. It is a foregone conclusion that it will be President Biden duking it out with an all but banished Donald Trump for the presidential belt.

There was only one other race Texas Democrats were overly concerned about. That was the race between U.S. Rep. Colin Allred and Roland Gutierrez, the senator from San Antonio,

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Uncovering why more Black women than ever are being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis

Newswise — COLUMBUS, Ohio — Women are three times more likely than men to get diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS), an incurable disease that affects the central nervous system. Now, rates of MS are on the rise among Black women.

Research suggests that Black individuals may also be prone to more aggressive disease progression and greater disability, although the reasons are unknown.

“MS has historically been thought to affect white individuals, therefore there is a lack of awareness about the disease in other patient populations,” said Tirisham Gyang, MD, a neurologist at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and College of Medicine.

As a result, there has been a lack of recognition of MS in non-white populations leading to an under-



Neurologist Tirisham Gyang, MD, examines a multiple sclerosis patient at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. Rates of MS are on the rise among Black women. Gyang says recognizing symptoms in this population and ensuring they are adequately represented in clinical research is critical to finding a cure for all. (Photo: The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center)

diagnosis of MS in Black individuals. There is also an under-representation of Black people in clinical trials. Gyang said.

MS is a condition where the body’s immune system attacks the optic nerves,

brain and spinal cord, leading to inflammation. At first, it may present as episodes of neurological symptoms that drugs can often control, known as relapsing MS.

However, as time goes

on, MS become more debilitating and less responsive to available treatments. This is known as progressive MS.

The first step to finding a cure for MS is ensuring all patients are adequately represented in clinical research, said Gyang, who is also director of the Division of Multiple Sclerosis and Neuroimmunology in the Department of Neurology at Ohio State.

“We want, specifically, populations that have been underrepresented to come out and to be in clinical trials so that we understand better how MS affects them,” Gyang said.

Even before Black women can consider joining clinical trials, they must first recognize their symptoms and seek treatment.

During college at The Ohio State University, club soccer kept Paula Cole

busy. Then her first symptoms of MS appeared: vision problems, tripping and the sensation of pins and needles in her legs. One morning when she woke up, she couldn’t move her legs. An ambulance took her to the hospital where she soon learned she had MS.

“It felt like a death sentence,” said Cole, who was only 21 at the time. She eventually regained the ability to walk, and now more than 20 years later, she still plays soccer, along with running, biking and swimming.

Cole started seeing Gyang in 2021 and now takes medication to slow the progression of her disease. She has a new outlook on the future.

“I know, at times, my daughters must think ‘Mom has this incurable disease.’ In the past I’d get so down

about that,” she said. “Now it’s almost celebratory. We can think about a future where mom is there, and mom is walking, and mom is participating.”

Cole also advocates for people with MS. She uses her platform as a business leader and a member of the National MS Society, where she serves as an Ohio Board of Trustee, District Activist Leader, Strategic Planning & Metric Committee Member.

Her goal is to shed light on the growing prevalence of the disease in Black people. Cole relishes the opportunity to stand with all affected by MS as they support research to find a cure.

“I continue to hope and pray that, as I can, I will be able to help others,” Cole said. “And as long as I’m helping others, I am doing what I was put on this earth to do.”

Prostate Cancer: A Silent Killer No More (Op-Ed)

By Hamil R. Harris
NNPA Contributing Writer

Political provocateurs are determined to stir up controversy over Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin’s failure to tell President Biden about his treatment for prostate cancer. Yet, his desire to keep the matter private—and out of the public eye—is in line with what many men, particularly men of color, have done for decades. The reticence to share details of a medical condition is understandable, but prostate cancer is a silent killer in the Black community and the time has come to give it a voice.

In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whose son Dexter recently passed from prostate cancer, I ask: How long? How long will Men of color suffer in silence and die alone? How long will too many brothers hide their plight?

When he finally com-

mented publicly about his condition, Austin offered regrets about keeping silent and then made an important pledge. He said that by not initially disclosing his diagnosis, he “missed an opportunity to send a message on an important public health issue,” while noting the prevalence of prostate cancer, particularly among Black men. Encouraging all men to get screened, Austin promised, “You can count on me to set a better example on this issue today and for the rest of my life.”

Any cancer diagnosis is a private matter. But men like Dexter King and Austin can help so many others who are prone to prostate cancer. Keeping the surgery and treatment a secret would only have continued to add to the stigma surrounding prostate cancer. That would have been a disservice to the thousands of men of color diagnosed annually.

Indeed, data from Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City shows that more than 13 percent of African American men between the ages 45 and 79 will develop prostate cancer in their lifetimes. And Black men have a 70 percent higher rate of developing prostate cancer than White men. The American Cancer Society also shockingly predicts that Black men are more than twice as likely to die from prostate cancer than their White counterparts.

These figures are appalling when considering that prostate cancer is one of the most treatable forms of the disease with the five-year survival rate for men diagnosed with it being greater than 99 percent if the cancer is detected during the early stage.

While there are numerous reasons for why this disparity between Black and white men exists – de-

cadecades of structural racism, environmental issues, certain comorbidities, different molecular pathways in the body of Black men – a great deal of the reason comes down to the fact that Black men are disproportionately not being screened for prostate cancer as early or as regularly as White men.

A recent study published in JAMA Oncology by a team at the University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center found that Black men get fewer PSA (prostate specific antigen) screenings; they are more likely to be diagnosed with later stage cancer; they are less likely to have health insurance; and they have less access to high-quality care and other disparities that can be linked to a lower overall socioeconomic status.

Given his platform as Secretary of Defense, I am happy that Austin recog-

nized his duty to be open and honest about his battle with this disease. And in doing so, he now joins groups and individuals who are already working on spreading awareness for

prostate screenings who can act as guideposts.

For example, Mount Sinai Medical Center recently unveiled the Robert

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Senate and civil rights leaders unite to reinforce voting protections

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

In a press briefing on Thursday, February 29, Senate leaders, alongside civil rights advocates, announced the reintroduction of S.4, the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, aimed at safeguarding voting rights and fortifying the nation's democratic foundations.

According to U.S. Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL), the Senate Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing on March 12 to discuss the growing threats to voting rights and the need for federal voting safeguards.

Leaders said as the nation reflects on the sacrifices of civil rights champions like the late Rep. John



The leaders said as the nation reflects on the sacrifices of civil rights champions like the late Rep. John Lewis, the call resounds for every member of Congress to endorse pivotal democracy bills, including the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, the Freedom to Vote Act, and the Native American Voting Rights Act, ahead of the 59th anniversary of Bloody Sunday on March 7. (iStockphoto / NNPA)

Lewis, the call resounds for every member of Congress to endorse pivotal democracy bills, including the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, the Freedom to Vote Act, and the Native American

Voting Rights Act.

"This year's presidential election will be the first since Republican-led state legislatures passed a wave of restrictive voting laws," Durbin remarked. "As members of Congress, we

have an obligation to defend our democracy against these attacks on our fundamental right to vote."

Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York emphasized what he called the vital role of a robust demo-

cratic foundation.

"To make real progress on the issues we care about, the foundation of democracy must be strong," Schumer stated. "The hard right is trying to cut those efforts off at the knees, making it harder for people to participate in democracy and be represented."

Georgia Senator, the Rev. Raphael Warnock, underscored the legislation's importance in preserving democracy. "Let's protect the sacred right. We've got to get this done in the spirit and in the name of John Lewis and because our democracy itself is at stake," Warnock demanded.

Maya Wiley, President, and CEO of The Leadership Conference emphasized the non-partisan nature of the cause. "This

is not about partisanship; this is about people having power. That is why we need the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act," Wiley said.

Others from various civil rights organizations also weighed in, with John C. Yang of Asian Americans Advancing Justice-AAJC urging Congress to support the change, and Damon Hewitt of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law stressing the need for a democracy that works for everyone.

"Voters are demanding better from their representatives, and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act must be the response," added Deirdre Schifeling, Chief Political and Advocacy Officer of ACLU.

VP Harris joins annual Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

To help commemorate the 59th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, Vice President Kamala Harris stood alongside activists and community leaders on the iconic Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, where she used the occasion to mark history and to call for a ceasefire in the Middle East.

"People in Gaza are starving. The conditions are inhumane, and our common humanity compels us to act," the vice president declared to cheers. "The Israeli government must do more to significantly increase the flow of aid. No excuses." On the anniversary of Bloody Sunday, Israel pulled out of ceasefire discussions because the nation's leaders said Hamas would not release the names of living hostages.

"Hamas claims it wants a ceasefire. Well, there is a deal on the table," Harris asserted. "And as we have said, Hamas needs to agree



"Fifty-nine years ago, 600 brave souls marched from Selma. They crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge toward the promise of a future that was more equal, more just, and more free, said Vice President Kamala Harris, speaking to those gathered in remembrance of the sacrifices made on Bloody Sunday. "Today, the fight for freedom is not over. Together, we will continue to organize and make good trouble." (Photo: @vp / Instagram)

to that deal. "Let's get a ceasefire. Let's reunite the hostages with their families. And let's provide immediate relief to the people of Gaza."

She then turned her attention to the brutal attack on peaceful protesters who were calling for voting rights on March 7, 1965, noting it as a memorable turning point in the Civil Rights Movement. "The challenges we currently face are not unlike the chal-

lenges faced by those 600 brave souls 59 years ago," she said.

Fifty-nine years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights leaders led a nonviolent march from Selma to Montgomery to demand equal voting rights for African Americans. However, as the marchers approached the Edmund Pettus Bridge, Alabama state troopers brandishing billy clubs and tear gas violently disrupted their

peaceful procession.

Per the National Archives: "With Hosea Williams of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) leading the demonstration and John Lewis, Chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), at his side, the marchers were stopped as they were leaving Selma, at the end of the

Edmund Pettus Bridge, by some 150 Alabama state troopers, sheriff's deputies, and possemen, who ordered the demonstrators to disperse.

"One minute and five seconds after a two-minute warning was announced, the troops advanced, wielding clubs, bullwhips, and tear gas. John Lewis, who suffered a skull fracture,

was one of fifty-eight people treated for injuries at the local hospital. Less than one week later, Lewis recounted the attack on the marchers during a federal hearing at which the demonstrators sought protection for a full-scale march to Montgomery.

The televised brutal-

See SELMA, Page 6

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PVAMU to inaugurate President LeGrande with weeklong celebration

PRAIRIE VIEW – Prairie View A&M University will officially inaugurate its ninth president, Dr. Tomikia P. LeGrande, as the culmination of a week-long celebration, March 19-23. The campus will come alive with activities designed for students, faculty/staff, alumni, and the wider community to engage with Dr. LeGrande and commemorate this significant milestone in the University's history.

Signature events for the week will include the Presidential Investiture Ceremony on Friday, March 22, and a scholarship gala to be held later that evening.

Tuesday, March 19

Toni Morrison Writing Program Official Unveiling of "The Bench by the Road" at 10:30 a.m. in the Opal Johnson Smith Auditorium, Memorial Student Center

The PVAMU Toni Morrison Writing Program will unveil "The Bench by the Road," a project in honor of the Nobel Laureate Toni Morrison. The Bench will



Tomikia P. LeGrande (Photo: PVAMU)

be placed to memorialize Matthew Gaines and William H. Holland, Reconstruction Era legislators whose initiatives led to the August 14, 1876, establishment of the Alta Vista Agricultural & Mechanical College of Texas for Colored Youth, now Prairie View A&M University.

"Celebrating Our Legacy" Honoring PVAMU Retirees Luncheon at noon (by invitation only).

PVAMU will celebrate more than 400 former employees who retired from

"The Hill."

"As retirees from PVAMU, your talents played a vital role in the growth, success, and prosperity of this University. Excellence lives at PVAMU due to the seeds you planted during your time here," said Dr. LeGrande in a letter to the retirees.

Wednesday, March 20

Founders' Day and Honors Recognition Convocation at 10 a.m., William J. "Billy" Nicks, Sr. Building (Baby Dome)

The "GRANDE" Hump

Day immediately follows Honors Convocation

PVAMU's Founders' Day and Honors Recognition Convocation celebrates academic achievement and pays homage to the University's origins and traditions. Immediately following Convocation, "GRANDE" Hump Day will be a Hump Day like no other for the entire PVAMU community.

Thursday, March 21

"Conversations on the Hill" Kickoff of the President's Lecture Series at 2 p.m., A.I. Thomas Building

Auditorium

"Welcome to PVAMU" Campus History & Tours run from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The topic of "Conversations on the Hill" is "The Black President Experience and Future Pipeline," featuring panelists Dr. LeGrande; Dr. Ronald Rochon, president of University of Southern Indiana; Dr. Quinton Ross, president of Alabama State University; and Dr. Daria Willis, president of Howard Community College.

Also, on this day, representatives of "Welcome to PVAMU" will give campus history and tours.

Friday, March 22

Inauguration Ceremony at 9:30 a.m. in the William "Billy" J. Nicks, Sr. Building (Baby Dome)

Inauguration Scholarship Gala runs from 6 – 11 p.m. at the Westin Houston – Memorial City

The processional for the Investiture Ceremony begins at 9:30 a.m. It will include remarks from Dr. LeGrande, special guests, and visiting dignitaries, as well

as special performances that underscore the President's vision and theme.

Following the ceremony, beginning at 6 p.m., come celebrate alongside President LeGrande and Honorary Chair of the Gala Committee, renowned recording artist and PVAMU alumna Terry Ellis '88, and the entire PVAMU family at the glamorous black-tie Scholarship Gala.

Saturday, March 23

Staff, Faculty, Alumni and Community Day on the PVAMU campus

Come enjoy a dynamic gathering celebrating staff, faculty, alumni and the broader Prairie View community. With engaging activities planned, attendees can look forward to a day filled with camaraderie, networking opportunities, and a chance to reconnect with the University's rich heritage and vibrant campus life.

Get the Details

Visit the PVAMU website for more information on Inauguration Week.

SELMA, from Page 5

ity shocked the nation and propelled the urgent need for federal intervention. Later that year, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law, a significant legislative milestone in the ongoing fight for equal access to the ballot.

The annual Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee, spanning several days and culminating on Sunday, served as both a remembrance of the sacrifices made on Bloody Sunday and a call to action for contemporary civil rights challenges. Sunday's anniversary march, a central event in the jubilee, reenacted the steps of those who faced violence in their pursuit of justice and equality.

During a previous visit to Selma, Harris described the Edmund Pettus Bridge as "hallowed ground," and emphasized the significance of remembering the sacrifices made by those who fought for the fundamental right to vote.

The White House noted that Harris's speech would honor the civil rights movement's legacy and address the contemporary challenges in the ongoing quest for justice. Harris said she wanted to encourage Americans to remain steadfast in defending their fundamental freedoms, particularly in the face of current threats to voting rights nationwide.

The Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee also featured a pre-march public conversa-

tion, where National Newspaper Publishers Association President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. and the Rev. Mark Thompson shared insights into the historical struggles of the 1960s. Chavis, a member of the Wilmington 10 and a key figure in the civil rights movement, underscored the enduring nature of the fight for justice. "On the bridge over here, we were beaten down. That was 59 years ago, and we're still being beaten down," he declared. He expressed urgency and added, "We have to do something about it. We're tired of being beat down."

Chavis reminded those in attendance that, as the nation grapples with contemporary challenges to voting rights and social justice, the Selma Bridge

Crossing Jubilee remains a symbolic and substantive annual event, reminding

all Americans of the "historical struggles that paved the way for progress while

urging continued vigilance in the face of present-day challenges."

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The U.S. Senate border bill split hampers any action

By Ariama C. Long
Report for America Corps
New York Amsterdam News

U.S. Rep. Gregory W. Meeks, along with U.S. Rep. Greg Stanton from Arizona, recently took a two-day trip to the southern border to learn about the current asylum seeker backlog from the frontlines. Meeks favors the bipartisan Senate compromise bill on border security.

The federal government is fragmented when it comes to immigration reform. Republicans in Congress have been screaming to the heavens about the migrant crisis for a long time, which made it all the stranger when they came out against the recent \$118 billion Senate proposal on border security that included Ukraine and Israel aid, according to PBS NewsHour. The bill passed in the U.S. Senate with bipartisan support.

Meeks said he wants long-term immigration reform and doesn't feel like the answer lies in emergency executive orders from President Joe Biden. He



U.S. Reps. Gregory W. Meeks (far left) and Greg Stanton (middle) on a two-day trip to the Southern Border. They held a press conference on Wednesday, Feb. 28. 2. U.S. Reps. Gregory W. Meeks (far left) and Greg Stanton (middle) on a two-day trip to the Southern Border. They held a press conference on Wednesday, Feb. 28. (Photo contributed by congressman Meeks' office)

condemned House Republicans for pulling a "political stunt" and not following through on actual reforms.

"MAGA Republicans and Speaker Johnson don't really want to do anything to stop it as we saw when the Senate came up with a bipartisan bill," said Meeks upon his return at a virtual press conference. "We should do our job, and that's why you saw Democrats putting people over politics and trying to work together with Re-

publicans moving in the direction that Senator McConnell and other Republicans have said in a way that they've never seen before."

He added that compassion and coordination is needed on state and city levels for migrants that are already here as well.

The Senate border bill is technically called Senate Amendment 1386 to H.R. 815, under the Emergency National Security Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2024. Besides contro-

versial wartime funding to other countries, the bill aimed to move most new asylum cases to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Citizenship and Immigration Services instead of through immigration judges under the Department of Justice

(DOJ). The idea was to increase intake and speed up case reviews.

Other reforms in the bill include clear proof of persecution from asylum seekers at the initial interview, possible rejection if an asylum seeker has a criminal history or was living safely beforehand, a shortened 90-day hearing and appeals process, new detention beds, the removal of detention measure if someone arrives through an established port of entry, and a new "trigger"

border emergency authority based on the average number of migrant crossings. Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans are still under the humanitarian parole program and unaccompanied minors will be permitted into the country.

"We need to stop the surge. There are too many people crossing the border but we should be able

to do that. That's our job as members of Congress," said Meeks.

New York City has seen about 180,000 migrants and asylum seekers sent to the city over the last two years, according to city numbers. The situation has become so dire that dozens of migrants were found living on top of each other in an illegal basement apartment in the Bronx just last week. This comes after Mayor Eric Adams started sending out 30- and 60-day eviction notices to migrants in the city's shelter system.

Local organizations and the city are split on their views on the Senate border bill. Most nonprofits on the frontlines of the migrant crisis are dead set against the bill, while Adams is all for it.

African Communities Together National Policy Director Diana Konaté said

See BORDER, Page 8

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For more information on **DallasGo**, visit dallas.gov/DallasGo or call DWU Customer Service at 214-651-1441, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

State of Black America: Complex realities and persistent disparities

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

The National Urban League has unveiled its highly anticipated 2024 State of Black America Report, a comprehensive benchmark and thought leadership document offering profound insights into racial equality in the United States.

Established in 1976 under the visionary leadership of the late Mr. Vernon E. Jordan Jr., the organization's fifth president, the report remains a cornerstone for understanding the multifaceted challenges faced by Black Americans across crucial domains such as economics, employment, education, health, housing, criminal justice, and civic participation.

This year's edition continues the tradition of featuring insightful commentary from influential figures in various sectors, providing a comprehensive view of the complexities of the current landscape. Economic empowerment



The National Urban League said it remains steadfast in its commitment to closing the racial gap. (Photo: U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Urban League Marc H. Morial participate in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at the United States Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. (USDA photo by Tom Witham)

is central to the National Urban League's mission, and the Equality Index is a powerful tool to measure progress for Black Americans relative to whites.

Attributing the mission's core to economic empowerment, National Urban League President Marc Morial emphasized the nuanced progress revealed by the Equality Index. "Civic engagement and health show improvement among African Americans; however, significant work remains in the areas of eco-

nomics and social justice," Morial stated.

The Equality Index visually represents how Black Americans fare in economic status, health, education, social justice, and civic engagement compared to their white counterparts, utilizing whites as the benchmark due to historical advantages. The 2024 Equality Index for Black America stands at 75.7%, indicating that despite notable strides, African Americans still miss approximately 24% of the pie that

symbolizes full equality.

Breaking down the Equality Index, categories include economics, health, education, social justice, and civic engagement. Each category is carefully weighted based on its significance, and nationally representative statistics are employed to calculate sub-indices that capture the relative well-being of African Americans compared to whites. "Civic engagement and health are areas in which African Americans are doing much better," Morial noted. "However, economics and social justice still need plenty of work."

The report delves into the persistent racial income gap, which has remained virtually unchanged for over two decades. Black Americans earn, on average, 64% of the income of their white counterparts. "The Civil Rights Act of '64, the Voting Rights Act of '65, and the Great Society programs in the middle 1960s probably cut the American poverty rate in half in 15 years," Morial

remarked.

Civic participation among Black Americans presents a mixed picture, with increased voter registration (69% in 2020) but a decline in actual voter turnout (42.3% in 2022). Assessing President Joe Biden's performance, the report acknowledges achievements such as a record-low Black unemployment rate and efforts to expand healthcare access and affordable housing for Black Americans. However, it points to political opposition hindering the enactment of key policies, including voting rights and policing reform.

"We are in a world of deep attack by an ideological extreme that wants to erase so much of the civil-rights movement," said Maya Wiley, President of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and co-author of the study. Kristen Clarke, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in the Justice Department, assured, "We've been working across the country to reach

underserved communities so that we understand the problems that communities face."

Despite those challenges, the National Urban League said it remains steadfast in its commitment to closing the racial gap. Morial urged accelerated action, emphasizing unrestricted voting access, economic reforms to address poverty and wealth disparities, and crucial support for children, such as the expired child tax credit that significantly reduced child poverty rates.

He asserted that the 2024 State of Black America Report serves as a comprehensive call to action, urging the nation to confront systemic challenges hindering Black Americans' journey toward genuine equality.

"What's dramatic is that the Civil Rights Act of '64, the Voting Rights Act of '65, the Great Society programs in the middle 1960s, probably cut the American poverty rate in half in a 15-year period," Morial said. "So, can we? Yes, there are ways."

Iyanla Vanzant to headline EMERGE Live!, an immersive retreat for visionary Black women seeking rest, healing and renewed purpose

National Harbor, MD – Acclaimed spiritual healer and bestselling author, Iyanla Vanzant, is poised to take center stage as the keynote speaker for the highly anticipated EMERGE Live! Experience at the Gaylord Resort and Convention Center April 19 – 21, 2024.

Amidst escalating challenges, Black women confront a pressing need for healing and connection, particularly as statistics reveal that they are 20% more likely to experience serious mental health problems than the general population (Mental Health America).

EMERGE Live! offers a sanctuary for women to rest, recalibrate, and rediscover joy as they navigate stress and feeling overwhelmed in today's society.

As a cultural icon who has been described by Oprah Winfrey as "the most powerful spiritual

healer, fixer, teacher, on the planet," Iyanla's unparalleled wisdom, inspiration, and passion promises to energize attendees, guiding them on a path to healing and renewed purpose.

In addition to Ms. Vanzant, a dynamic roster of experts dedicated to empow-

ering women will guide attendees as they explore topics ranging from holistic healing and boundary setting to navigating change and conquering imposter syndrome. The Creative Visionary Lounge will serve as a hub for inspiration, while the Chic Boutique,

lively African dance class, and soothing sound bath session offer moments of relaxation, cultural celebration, and healing.

EMERGE Live! founder, Julian B. Kiganda of JBK Brand Design LLC

See EMERGE, Page 12

BORDER, from Page 7

that the organization is flat-out opposed to HR 815. She said they will oppose any attempts to restrict asylum at the borders. "While we were pleased that the border language ultimately failed to move out of the Senate, we were very disappointed to see many of our allies in the Senate support those cruel border provisions," Konaté said in a statement. "We are now alarmed at reports that the

Biden administration is considering executive actions as a way to accomplish what it couldn't do with Congress."

New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC) Director of Immigrant Rights Policy C. Marlene Galaz explained that the Senate border bill continues a troubling pattern of "elected officials scapegoating immigrant communities" and failing to provide hu-

mane solutions. She said the bill would virtually eliminate due process for asylum seekers by completely removing the asylum system from the judicial system. Additionally, she said it would dramatically raise the standards of asylum, making it virtually impossible for people seeking protection to qualify. Galaz suggested that immigration reform should create pathways to legalization and permanence for newly arrived asylum

seekers and established immigrant communities. She championed more humane treatment for those at the southern border.

"What is needed now more than ever from the Biden administration is to ensure that any border security executive actions protect due process for asylum seekers and provide resources for a fair, efficient, and humane asylum system," said NYIC Executive Director Murad Awawdeh. "The cruel

measures being proposed collectively create a government mandated asylum ban, which even border officials contend will only create more chaos at the southern border, while failing to address the real issue at hand."

Deputy Mayor for Communications Fabien Levy said at a press conference on March 5 that "far-right Republicans" refuse to do anything on immigration reform because it's a presidential election year, echo-

ing Meeks' sentiments.

Ariama C. Long is a Report for America corps member and writes about politics for the Amsterdam News. Your donation to match our RFA grant helps keep her writing stories like this one; please consider making a tax-deductible gift of any amount today by visiting <https://bit.ly/amnews1>.

The post The U.S. Senate border bill split appeared first on New York Amsterdam News.

Film Review: 'Rustin' is an homage to MLK's lieutenant

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(**1/2) He was the man behind the man. Martin Luther King's chief lieutenant. Why is he only getting attention now?

Bayard Rustin (Colman Domingo, Ma Rainey's Black Bottom) was gay at a time in the '60s when he was shunned by MLK's other associates. He regained his stature in the civil rights leader's camp when he imagined, developed and completed a March on Washington. Rustin: "Do this Dr. King. Own your power."

That assembly of like minds became the largest civil rights gathering ever. On August 28th, 1963, 250,000 people, who had a heightened sense of social consciousness, descended on D.C. and changed the course of history. Rustin: "A demonstration made up of angelic troublemakers."

The script by Julian Breece (When They See Us) and Dustin Lance Black (Milk) gives and in-depth portrait of the man



Bayard Rustin (Colman Domingo) was gay at a time in the '60s when he was shunned by MLK's other associates. He regained his stature in the civil rights leader's camp when he imagined, developed and completed a March on Washington. Rustin: "Do this Dr. King. Own your power." (Image from Rustin on Netflix.)

who endured continuous hazing, yet prevailed. Lovers, adversaries, arrests, achievements. It's all on screen, manifested in a stunning performance by Domingo. Meticulous research has been turned into an energizing screenplay. All the characters are in place. Yet, too often their dialogue seems more suited for a modern novel than the way everyday folks talked back then.

The most stirring drama is featured in scenes

played by veteran actors who embody strong-willed civil rights icons in the heat of verbal battles: Glynn Turman (A. Phillip Randolph), CCH Pounder (Dr. Anna Hedgeman), Maxwell Whittington-Cooper (John Lewis), Aml Ameen (MLK). Jeffrey Wright as the vindictive Adam Clayton Powell commands the screen and steers the proceedings to high-pitch levels. Chris Rock as the condescending NAACP leader Roy Wilkinson seems woe-

fully miscast: "The hell with Bayard Rustin. His attention-grabbing antics make him an easy target. And let's not mention the unmentionable."

Director George C. Wolfe (Ma Rainey's Black Bottom) gets many things right. The assemblage of historical figures is as magical as the one in One Night in Miami, when Sam Cooke, Jim Brown, Muhammad Ali and Malcolm X gathered. He makes Rustin's coalition building feat (black activists, college kids, union members) seem miraculous. And Wolfe

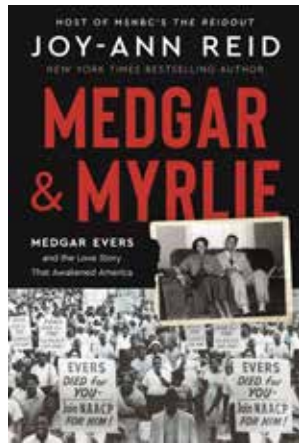
builds the tension and preparation to an exhilarating peak, getting solid performances from the very talented cast. Yet nothing distinguishes Rustin from other bio/history films, minus the milestone crowd shots at the Washington Monument.

Some will wish the film had steered towards authenticity and wasn't so polished. Tobias A. Schliessler's cinematography glistens. Toni-Leslie James' costumes look like they were just bought at

See RUSTIN, Page 10

NDG Book Review: 'Medgar & Myrlie is a romance to fall in love with

By Terri Schlichenmeyer



Romeo and Juliet
Abelard and Heloise. Be-
yonce and Jay Z. For cen-
turies, we've studied the
great romances, cried over
them, and dreamed of hav-
ing one of our own. Some
of the great romances are
educational. They impress
and entertain. And in the
new book "Medgar & Myr-
lie" by Joy-Ann Reid, some
can inspire.

When Medgar Evers
came home from World
War II, he figured that if
he was good enough to
be a soldier, he was good
enough to be treated the

same as a white man. He
was twenty-five years old,
outspoken, bold... and a
gentleman when he met
Myrlie Beasley.

He was at college on the
GI Bill. She was a fresh-

man, away from her grand-
mother and aunt for the
first time. She didn't know
quite what to think about
Medgar Evers. Mama and
Aunt Myrlie wanted "Baby
Sister" to get a good educa-
tion. They had big dreams
for her, and marriage
wasn't one of them.

Still, Medgar "intrigued"
her and their romance went
slow but "Myrlie didn't
dare tell Mama." It took
awhile for him to tell her
that he loved her. Medgar
was always ordering her
around and they argued
sometimes. After she told
her elders about this man
she was dating, Medgar had
to "court" Mama and Aunt

Myrlie almost as hard as
he'd courted their girl.

On Christmas Eve, 1951,
Medgar and Myrlie were
married. Much to her cha-
grin, they moved to Mound
Bayou, Mississippi, the
next summer, where he'd
taken a job selling insur-
ance – but just as often,
he was helping his people
escape debtors and dan-
ger, and Myrlie was afraid.
Even after they started a
family, after they moved
back to Jackson to a safer
neighborhood, she feared
for his life because of the
ties he had, the work he was
doing with the NAACP,
and the beliefs he'd held.
That was the kind of man

Medgar was, and she'd al-
ways known it.

And one summer's eve-
ning in 1963, she knew that
she'd have to live without
him forever.

In the early pages of
"Medgar & Myrlie," author
Joy-Ann Reid insists that
her book is a "love story."
She's right – it is, but it's
not like one of those cheap
paperbacks you find at the
grocery store. It's a boy-
meets-girl, a sweet tale
of two people who cleave
together, but also so much
more. More substance.
More history. More after-
ward.

More heartbreak.

Indeed, you know what

happens in this romance
and the fact that it does
and it did makes this love story
more poignant and more
terrifying. You know what
happened more than sixty
years ago, and you can't
go back and undo it. You
want a happily-ever-after
that never arrives, but in
the worst way. Do you even
want to be told that Reid
will rattle you time and
again, even before you get
to 1963?

The shining knight in this
story wears working man's
clothes. The maiden fears
a different kind of Dragon.
You can't miss their story,
so find "Medgar & Myrlie."
You'll love it.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre and the NBA Foundation empower youth of color through dance and education

Dallas Black Dance The-
atre (DBDT) and the NBA
Foundation are proud to
announce a strategic part-
nership aimed at promoting
school-to-career employ-
ment opportunities and
skills training for Black
youth and youth of color
ages 14-24.

This collaboration, made
possible by a generous
grant, will span the DB-
DT's entire 2024-2025 sea-
son, running from August
19, 2024, to May 31, 2025.

The grant, funded by
the NBA Foundation, will
have a transformative ef-
fect on the local arts scene
by benefiting Dallas Black
Dance Theatre's second
company, DBDT: Encore!,
and simultaneously fueling
the expansion of the Dallas
Black Dance Academy's
Adopt-A-School program.

Zenetta S. Drew, Ex-
ecutive Director of Dal-
las Black Dance Theatre,
expressed her excitement
about the partnership, stat-

ing, "This collaboration
with the NBA Foundation
is a significant step forward
in our mission to empower
young dancers and provide
them with the tools they
need for successful careers
in dance.

The grant will not only
impact the lives of our
DBDT: Encore! dancers
but also the communi-
ties we serve through the
Adopt-a-School program."

DBDT: Encore! serves as
a vital platform for emerg-
ing talent, providing young
dancers with professional
opportunities and mentor-
ship crucial for their artistic
growth.

Less than 15% of profes-
sional dancers in the nation
identify as Black, and the
NBA Foundation's support
will empower these young
artists, enabling them to
thrive and contribute to
the rich cultural tapestry of
Dallas as they gain profes-
sional dance experience.

In turn, these young pro-
fessionals will serve as role

models and mentors by
providing dance instruction
to aspiring dancers in mid-
dle and high school (age
14-18).

The Dallas Black Dance
Academy's Adopt-A-
School program has been
a beacon of hope, bringing
dance education to under-
served communities.

Thanks to the NBA
Foundation's grant, this
impactful initiative will ex-
tend its reach to three more
schools, providing students
with access to high-quality
dance education, fostering
creativity, discipline, and
self-expression.

"The arts are a crucial
pillar in the development of
young people," said Greg
Taylor Executive Director
of the NBA Foundation.

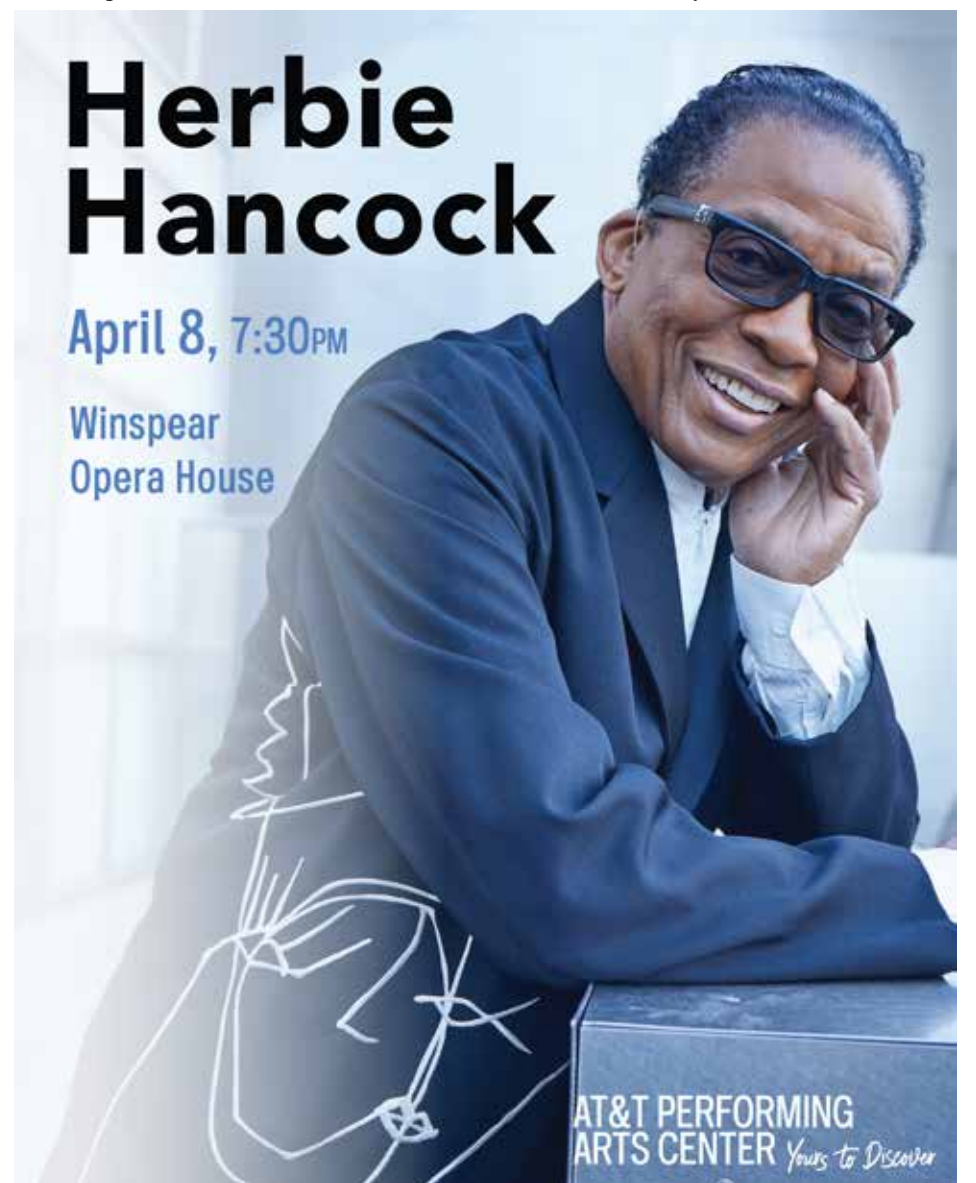
"Dallas Black Dance
Theatre has a distinguished
reputation of not only fos-
tering artistic growth but
also the life skills that will
benefit youth well into their
careers."

The strategic alignment

between Dallas Black
Dance Theatre and the
NBA Foundation exempli-
fies the power of combin-

ing arts and sports to drive
positive change in the lives
of Black youth and youth of
color.

The grant will leave a
lasting legacy, shaping the
future of the dance commu-
nity in Dallas.



← RUSTIN, from Page 9

SAKS.
It's hard to believe
you've gone back in time
when everything looks so
neat and tidy. That's the

rub. Fortunately, the sheer
gravitas of this historical
accounting outweighs any
imperfections.

Domingo, the screen-

writers and supporting cast
finally give the enigmatic
Bayard Rustin his props,
in the most respectful way.
He's no longer the man be-
hind the scenes. He's the
man.

Navy federal class action lawsuit brings calls for investigations of shocking mortgage discrimination claims

By Charlene Crowell

A mortgage discrimination case that began with two plaintiffs last December was consolidated in late February with seven others to form a class action lawsuit alleging that Navy Federal Credit Union – the nation’s largest with 13.4 million members and \$170.8 billion in assets – “systematically and intentionally discriminates against minority borrowers across the United States.”

The lawsuit alleges that Navy Federal, which serves current and former military members from all service sectors, denied loans for 52 percent of Black borrowers and 44 percent of Latino borrowers, while denying only 23 percent of white applicants for home mortgage purchase or refinance loans and Home Equity Lines of Credit.

Affidavits of affected borrowers told stories of the financial and emotional distressed caused by qualified loan applicants having to find alternative – and often more costly – financing after being denied by their member-owned credit union.

The lawsuit, led by nationally-known attorney Ben Crump and his associate Adam Levitt, said the lender’s own data show that Navy Federal approved loans for a higher percentage of white borrowers annually earning less than \$62,000 a year than for Black loan applicants earning \$140,000 or more.

And when Navy Fed-



Tovfiqur barbhuiya / Unsplash

eral did approve a loan to a Black or Latino applicant, they often were offered worst interest rates and loan terms than those offered to white borrowers with similar financial profiles. These activities are illegal under federal laws, including the Fair Housing Act and Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA).

“The outright discrimination that occurs when Banking While Black continues to reveal itself in the lending practices of many of America’s largest financial institutions,” said Crump. “It is shameful that Navy Federal, an organization that prides itself in helping the families of men and women who served their country, does not give their Black and Latino customers the same opportunities as white customers.”

“We hope this legal action will stop racial lending discrimination in its tracks and require Navy Federal to right their wrongs,” said Adam Levitt. “Home ownership is recognized as the cornerstone of the American Dream. We will not sit by while that dream is denied to hard-working and

deserving Americans based on discriminatory practices and algorithms.”

Navy Federal said in a December 2023 statement that its more than \$3.5 billion in mortgages to Black borrowers in 2022 shows its “longstanding commitment to expanding credit and economic opportunity to Black borrowers.”

But the number of people calling to hold Navy Federal accountable is growing, and now includes civil rights activist Rev. Al Sharpton, 10 U.S. Senators, over 20 Members of Congress, consumer advocates and others.

Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Ranking Member of the House Financial Services Committee called for federal agencies to begin investigations.

“Credit unions are owned by their members and while this type of discrimination may be par for the course for a profit-driven megabank, a member-driven credit union should know better,” said Waters.

“As a private institution that bears the name of an esteemed branch of the United States military,

\$177 million in revenue from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.

“If any institution is to reap the benefits of Black talent, it is only right that they completely invest in Black futures,” Johnson argued.

Navy Federal must explain both to Congress and their members how such practices took place, what immediate steps are being taken to correct the harm done, and who in management will be held responsible,” Waters continued. “These abuses will not be tolerated, and I urge the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, National Credit Union Administration, and other appropriate agencies to promptly investigate this matter.”

Consumers Union, a nonprofit advocacy group, added its support. “The large racial disparity found between loan approvals for applicants with roughly the same financial profile raises serious concerns that Navy Federal may be unfairly discriminating against Black and Latino applicants,” said Jennifer

Chien[, CU’s senior policy counsel for financial fairness..

In a joint letter on January 11, 2024, 10 U.S. Senators led by Senate Banking Committee Chair Sherrod Brown urged the CFPB Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and Department HUD to investigate the issue.

“As the regulators with primary responsibility for enforcing ECOA and the Fair Housing Act, we ask that you thoroughly review Navy Federal’s mortgage lending practices and outcomes for compliance with all federal fair housing and lending laws and regulations. Navy Federal’s members have made countless sacrifices in their service to our country. We must do all we can to ensure illegal barriers are not placed on their path to

homeownership.”

Even more lawmaker support came on February 28 in a joint letter from the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the New Democrat Coalition that called upon six federal agencies to investigate and report on their findings.

“[T]he federal financial regulators have a duty to ‘affirmatively further fair housing,’ which means they must take meaningful actions that overcome and do not further entrench patterns of segregation and systemic disinvestment, such as through redlining, based on protected classes under the law,” wrote the lawmakers.

Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

ATHLETES, from Page 1

ing funding for DEI in public colleges, he would encourage student-athletes to explore programs in other states.

Florida’s significance in Division I athletics and

its central role in college sports business are one issue the NAACP zeroed in on. According to the U.S. Department of Education, the University of Florida’s sports teams generated over



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March 1, 2024
Ed Bell Construction is a Dallas based heavy highway contractor doing business in the North Texas market since 1963. With clients such as TxDOT, Dallas County Public Works, and the Cities of Dallas, Fort Worth, Richardson, and Mansfield (plus many others), we have a strong backlog of work in the highway market locally.

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- Laborer (Paving, Earthwork)
- Loader Operator (Earthwork)
- Batch Plant Operator (Concrete)
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- Motor Grader Operator (Earthwork)
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Fanbase launches \$17 million equity crowdfunding campaign

(Atlanta, GA) – Fanbase, the next generation, user-owned social media app, has begun its \$17 million Reg A series equity crowdfunding campaign, allowing the public to invest for just \$399.

Founded by entrepreneur Isaac Hayes III, Fanbase disrupts the conventional social media model by introducing an innovative monetization approach. This approach enables creators to start earning from day one. Accumulating over \$10 million from three distinct crowdfunding campaigns via StartEngine, Fanbase demonstrates the powerful support and confidence from a community of users and investors. Fanbase empowers users to become investors and make money from the very platform they help become popular.



Fanbase's brand promise of "Be You. Without Limits," is a reflection of their company values in creating a space for authentic self-expression across diverse content creation functionalities, including photo/video sharing, audio chat, live streaming, stories, and both short-form and long-form video content. This model

not only champions creativity but also facilitates direct monetization of content, distinguishing Fanbase in the creator economy.

As Fanbase's journey unfolds, its trajectory is marked by significant milestones, reflecting the platform's growth and innovation. The community has grown to over half a

million users, stretching across 190 countries, showcasing the universal appeal and scalability of Fanbase's model. The introduction of more than 20 features in 2023 alone, such as Unlimited Subscriptions, AI Algorithms, Long-Form Video on the Web, and Chat Rooms in Fanbase Audio, highlights the platform's

commitment to continuous improvement and user-centric innovation. Furthermore, Fanbase submitted a patent for seven core functionalities, including Peer-to-Peer In-App Subscription and Revenue-Driven Audio conversations, putting them at the forefront of creator economy innovation.

The \$17 million raised in this equity crowdfunding campaign will be strategically invested in further enhancing the Fanbase platform, focusing on improving user experience, expanding feature sets, protecting IP, and broadening marketing efforts to reach even more users globally.

Fanbase is furthering its community-driven mission by partnering with Apple's HBCU Non-Profit Organization, Propel. Mentoring

and working with HBCU students nationwide to empower the next generation of content creators.

"This round is a big deal. It represents the shaking up of the creator economy and shows what equity crowdfunding can achieve. It demonstrates that when the opportunity for equity in social apps is made available, amazing things happen," says Fanbase founder and entrepreneur Isaac Hayes III.

"This raise isn't just a milestone; it's fuel for our journey to innovate without limits and empower creators with every tool they need to succeed."

Founded by Isaac Hayes III, Fanbase is driven by a mission to democratize social media, offering a platform where users can "Be You. Without Limits."

EMERGE, from Page 8

emphasizes the necessity for women to reclaim their joy: "After attending six funerals and navigating unimaginable grief and loss in 2022, I recognized that many of my sisters were going through similar struggles, often in isolation.

It made me realize how crucial it is for Black women to find spaces where they can authentically express themselves and find support and connection. EMERGE Live! is that space—a place to rediscover joy and create a new vision for personal

and professional fulfillment."

EMERGE Live! caters to women at every stage of their journey—whether seasoned professionals, budding entrepreneurs, or emerging leaders eager to embrace their potential. Registration is now open, with special rates available

for a limited time. Women are invited to secure their spot today for this must-

attend event of the year at www.emergeliveexp.com to embark on a transforma-

tive journey toward joy and purpose. Limited seating available.

BURROUGHS, from Page 2

Community Affairs, the Small Business Development Agency, the Minority Business Development Agency, Team Up Cohort, and the Birmingham Business Alliance Supplier Scale INTERISE.

"Continued education and personal development helped cultivate my leadership capabilities and ability to communicate a message," he said. "It expanded my mindset and my network, and increased my capacity to solve problems and manage projects..."

Most of what he teaches is rooted in and extracted from biblical principles which are practical frameworks that anyone can apply to their life..." he said.

For example, "the law of sowing and reaping [which

is found several times in the Bible.] Everything reproduces after its own kind so if you want money you should sow money. If you want friendship you should sow friendship. If you want a mentor then mentor someone," he said.

He knows the importance of mentorship and has since created a cohort called the Magic City Joint Venture (MCJV), which helps other minority-owned trucking companies secure multi-figure contracts with large corporations as well as Coach Jason Cultivates, a business coaching endeavor, which he established in October 2023.

"My coaching and mentorship program shows individuals how to become entrepreneurs through

personal development and skill stacking. You have to develop your mindset, skillset, and toolset in order to be an effective entrepreneur," he said.

Burroughs' plan is to "turn the world upside down for God," he said. "Every single person on earth was created with a purpose and assignment for their life. I want to help cultivate the seed of potential in entrepreneurs so they can make the impact they were put here for. The framework I'm teaching is the same framework that helped me evolve from a high school flunky to a CEO."

The post, "Trucking Company Owner Jason Burroughs Uses Mentorship to Help Many," was first published in *The Birmingham Times*.

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Chevy and NNPA offer summer internship: Discover the Unexpected Fellowship

In a bid to amplify Black voices and highlight diverse stories, Chevrolet, in collaboration with the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), invites budding journalists, content creators, and communications enthusiasts to embark on the summer internship of a lifetime through the Discover the Unexpected (DTU) Fellowship.

The DTU Fellowship is geared towards students of historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) who are passionate about

storytelling and eager to contribute to the media landscape. This opportunity offers a platform for aspiring journalists and provides financial support in the form of a \$10,000 scholarship and an \$8,000 stipend.

One of the key aspects of the DTU Fellowship is the chance to collaborate with some of the largest and most influential Black-owned newspapers in the community. The collaboration aims to bridge the gap between emerging talents and established media outlets, fostering an environ-

ment of mentorship and shared knowledge.

The selected DTU fellows will embark on a transformative journey beyond conventional internships. This experience promises exploration, learning, and, most importantly, amplifying their voices. The fellowship recognizes the unique perspectives of HBCU students and aims to provide a platform for these voices to be heard.

What sets the DTU Fellowship apart is the hands-on guidance and mentorship provided by industry

professionals who understand the power of diverse perspectives. Fellows can elevate content and gain career-building knowledge through interactions with seasoned journalists and media experts.

The importance of diverse storytelling has never been more evident, and Chevrolet, in partnership with the NNPA, is committed to empowering the next generation of storytellers. By offering this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, the DTU Fellowship seeks to make a lasting impact on

both the individuals selected and the media landscape.

As the application deadline approaches, interested individuals are encouraged to take advantage of this extraordinary opportunity. The application window for the DTU Fellowship closes on April 1, 2024. The tight deadline emphasizes the urgency and exclusivity of the opportunity, urging potential applicants to act promptly.

The Discover the Unexpected Fellowship by Chevrolet and the National

Newspaper Association represents a unique chance for HBCU students to receive financial support for their education and gain invaluable hands-on experience in collaboration with influential Black-owned newspapers. By taking part in this transformative journey, aspiring journalists have the opportunity to leave a lasting impact on the media industry. Don't miss out on the chance to elevate your content and amplify your voice – apply before the April 1, 2024 deadline!

FUDGE, from Page 2

homeownership," the CBC's statement read. "Under her leadership, the agency has supported nearly a quarter of a million Black people in purchasing a home and has taken significant steps to root out racial bias in the home appraisal process. She leaves her mark on the agency as a passion-

ate leader, the first African American woman to lead the department in decades, and only the second in our nation's history."

Biden praised Fudge's leadership, her dedication to rebuilding HUD, and her expanding efforts to build generational wealth through homeownership.

He expressed gratitude for her contributions and wished her well in her next chapter as she transitions from public service to private life.

"Under Marcia's transformational leadership, we have worked hard to lower housing costs and increase supply," Biden asserted. "We've proposed the larg-

est investment in affordable housing in U.S. history. We've taken steps to aggressively combat racial discrimination in housing by ensuring home appraisals are more fair and by strengthening programs to redress the negative impacts of redlining. Thanks to Secretary Fudge, we've helped first-time homebuy-

ers, and we are working to cut the cost of renting. And there are more housing units under construction right now than at any time in the last 50 years."

For her part, Fudge said

she's simply done with politics. "Don't look for me to ever be on another ballot or another appointee or anything like that," she insisted. "I really do look forward to being a private citizen."

CANCER, from Page 4

F. Smith Mobile Prostate Cancer Screening Unit, which will visit New York City neighborhoods where men could be at a higher risk of developing prostate cancer. The mobile home sized bus is named after the African American philanthropist and venture capitalist who donated almost \$4 million to launch the program. Smith, who has led many philanthropic endeavors aimed at supporting the African-American community, obviously realizes that it takes a preemptive approach to combat the scourge of prostate cancer by going directly into the communities most affected by the disease. In announcing the prostate screen-

ing initiative, Smith tied it to larger inequities in our society that leave African Americans behind. "It's unconscionable that in our great country and at this moment of technological breakthrough, Black Americans are still subject to staggeringly worse health outcomes," he said. "We can fix this."

Thankfully there are individuals like Smith and now Austin to use their platforms to spread awareness for this deadly – yet very treatable – form of cancer and ensure that more people don't die needlessly.

Hamil R. Harris is an award-winning journalist and contributing writer for the NNPA



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CLYBURN, from Page 2

ship dynamics, completing the transition from the era of former Speaker Nancy Pelosi, of California, to a younger generation led by Minority Leader Hakeem

Jeffries of New York.

"I am deeply grateful for the confidence my colleagues have placed in me throughout my career," Clyburn stated.

Why Does Monday Have To Follow Sunday?

Dr. James L. Snyder

The older I get, the more I wake up not knowing what day it is. That is particularly true on Mondays.

My favorite day of the week is Sunday. I enjoy attending church, fellowshiping with other Christians, and, of course, the Sunday worship services. I enjoy Sunday morning and evening like no other time of the week.

Since I became a Christian about 65 years ago, I have only missed a Sunday service when I was sick or had some emergency. Sunday is the most important day of the week for me, and it has been for years. I don't see it changing anytime soon.

As much as I love Sunday, I can't say the same about Monday. Sunday is filled with joy and, rejoicing and delightful fellowship. I get up each Sunday morning with great expectations. Monday is a different story, filled with gloom, doom, and a "What day is it?" mentality.

When I wake up on Monday morning, I often don't remember what day it is.



Monday is the kind of day that I can't remember anything that I've done for the week because I haven't done anything for the week yet. I often forget it's the first day of the week. Confusion seems to be my partner.

Tuesday is not so bad because I can somehow remember the day, some of the things I did on Monday, and my plans for the rest of the week. But on Monday, I have to start the week all over again, and who has the energy to do that?

I understand that Saturday is the day we prepare for Sunday. I get that, and I do it every week. There should be some kind of law

making Monday a day to recover from Sunday's activities and prepare for the week ahead.

Often, I'll wake up on Monday morning, look at The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, and say very soberly, "What day is it?"

Usually, she looks at me and says sarcastically, "I don't know; check your calendar."

By Wednesday, I will be in my regular work mode and get up every morning eager to start working on my weekly plans.

I've had a thought along this line. Sometimes, I'm going to sleep all day on Monday, get up Tuesday morning, and see if I re-

member what day it is. That might help me understand all this nonsense I wallow in every week.

I need to be very careful along this line. For example, if The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage knew I got up on Monday morning not knowing what my plans were for the day, she may make those plans for me. Believe me; she knows how to plan out every minute of every day.

That's one reason I need a calendar to schedule my plans for the week. It doesn't matter if I finish all those plans or not. It only matters that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage sees I have scheduled work for myself.

The problem is that on Monday morning, when I get up, I'm not even sure what day it is, and there is a certain danger that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage may come to my rescue.

After all these years, you would think I would have discovered a better way to plan my days.

The problem is that since my retirement, I have moved my office out of the

church and into our home. When my office was in the church, I could get up Monday morning and say, "I gotta get to the church office and get started on my work for the week." I then could figure out what I was going to do for the day and the week ahead of me. That worked for many years.

I must say The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has taken advantage of this weakness of mine. On a Monday morning, when I get up and shuffle out to the kitchen, she greets me by saying, "What plans do you have for today?"

At that time, I usually mumble and confess that I don't know. Then she says, "That's good because we need to go across town and pick up a few things." Where she got the "we," I don't know.

After hearing this for a few years, I discovered she was talking about a whole day of shopping. Who knew?

Maybe I could plan better for Monday if I didn't get so excited about Sunday. Perhaps I could have some things on my "to-do list" that would occupy me for

the whole day. Of course, even if I have such a list on Monday morning when I get up, I sometimes can't even remember my name.

It will be a shocking Monday when I get up very lucid, remember my name, and have a plan for the day all in my head. I don't think The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage would recognize me that day.

In all of my frustration, I was reminded of Philippians 4:6 – "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

My frustration only brings stress into my life. Each day, I need to discipline myself to give the elements of my life over to God. Only He can sort out my life in a way that glorifies Him. Learning to pray for everything solves my problems.

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.

TURNOUT, from Page 3

as they campaigned for a chance to get in the ring with U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz. After Super Tuesday, Democrats decided decisively that it would be Allred going toe-to-toe with Cruz.

The top of the ticket in the Democracy primary was much less competitive in 2024 than it was four years ago, when Joe Biden used Super Tuesday to surge to the top of a hotly contested Democratic presidential primary.

This coming November, though, the real battle will

be the younger voters versus the older voters.

The influx of new Texas residents—there was a 4% growth from January 2020 to January 2023—has lowered the median age for Texans to 35.5 years old. A 2023 U.S. Census report lists the national median age at 38.9 years old. There were around 75,000 people under the age of 30 who voted early this year. That is about the same number of people aged 85 years old (and older) who voted early, as reported by one

political consultant.

Voters in all demographic groups and identifiable gender classifications, who are younger, more educated and "woke" tend to shy away from the Republican rhetoric and minutia and vote Democratic.

In the final round, it is only over-zealous party activists and self-serving politicians who tend to place importance on primary races. To most everyone else election primaries are like a bigtime boxing match where no one really cares much about the preliminary bouts.

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Taking Flight in Women's History Month



Sister Tarpley
NDG
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For Mary Winston Jackson, a love of science and a commitment to improving the lives of the people around her were one and the same.

In the 1970s, she helped the youngsters in the science club at Hampton's King Street Community center build their own wind tunnel and use it to conduct experiments.

"We have to do something like this to get them interested in science," she said in an article for the local newspaper. "Sometimes they are not aware of the number of Black scientists, and don't even know of the career opportunities until it is too late."

Jackson's own path to an engineering career at the NASA Langley Research Center was far from direct.

A native of Hampton, Virginia, she graduated from Hampton Institute in 1942 with a dual degree in Math and Physical Sciences.



Mary Winston Jackson, NASA's first Black female engineer

She accepted a job as a math teacher at a Black school in Calvert County, Maryland. Hampton; at the time, it had become one of the nerve centers of the World War II home front effort.

After a year of teaching, Mary returned home, finding a position as the receptionist at the King Street USO Club, which served the city's Black population.

In 1951, Jackson was hired at the Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory's segregated West Area Computing section, reporting to the group's supervisor Dorothy Vaughan.

After two years in the computing pool, Jackson received an offer to work for engineer Kazimierz Czarnecki in the 4-foot by 4-foot Supersonic Pressure

Tunnel, a 60,000 horsepower wind tunnel capable of blasting models with winds approaching twice the speed of sound.

Czarnecki offered Jackson hands-on experience conducting experiments in the facility, and eventually suggested that she enter a training program that would allow her to earn a promotion from mathematician to engineer.

Trainees had to take graduate level math and physics in after-work courses managed by the University of Virginia, because the classes were held at then-segregated Hampton High School.

However, Jackson needed special permission from the City of Hampton to join her white peers in the classroom.

Never one to flinch in the face of a challenge, Jackson completed the courses, earned the promotion, and in 1958 became NASA's first Black female engineer.

That same year, she co-authored her first report, Effects of Nose Angle and Mach Number on Transition on Cones at Supersonic Speeds.

Jackson began her engineering career in an era in which female engineers of any background were a rarity. In the 1950s, she very well may have been the only Black female aeronautical engineer in the field.

For nearly two decades she enjoyed a productive engineering career, authoring or co-authoring a dozen or so research reports, most focused on the behavior of the boundary layer of air around airplanes.

As the years progressed, the promotions slowed, and she became frustrated at her inability to break into management-level grades.

In 1979, seeing that the glass ceiling was the rule rather than the exception for the center's female professionals, she made a final, dramatic career change, leaving engineering and taking a demotion to fill the open position of Langley's Federal Women's Program Manager.

There, Jackson worked hard to impact the hiring and promotion of the next generation of all of NASA's female mathematicians, engineers and scientists.

She and her husband Levi had an open-door policy for young Langley recruits try-

ing to gain their footing in a new town and a new career.

A 1976 Langley Researcher profile might have done the best job capturing Mary Jackson's spirit and character, calling her a "gentle-lady, wife and mother, humanitarian and scientist." For Jackson, science and service went hand in hand.

Jackson retired from the NASA Langley Research Center in 1985 as an Aeronautical Engineer after 34 years.

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

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