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Is the American dream relevant to a privileged few, or to all Americans?

By Lori Lee
NDG Contributing Writer

What is the American dream? The concept has different meanings for different people. For immigrants, it may mean the land of opportunity, while others may dream of a life that is better for their children. And while many associate the dream with monetary attainment, others most certainly focus on more personalized definitions of success.

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the American dream is for every citizen to have an equal opportunity to achieve success and prosperity through hard work, determination, and initiative. But is that the story of America? Does the dream apply to every American man or woman, Black or White?

In the midst of economic threats posed by inequality, artificial intelligence, and other threats, is the American dream still alive?

What we've seen for decades in America is a story of inequality, said Austin Clemens, senior fellow at the Washington Center for Equitable Growth. Though wage gaps have been discussed for decades, they persist between men and



2023 Department of Labor figures show men earn \$62,500 annually compared to women at \$52,000. That's 84 cents for every dollar earned by a man. (DWG Studio)

women and between the diversity of races in the great American melting pot. Despite some shrinkage in the racial wage gap over the last six years, the median Black worker still earns considerably less than his White counterparts, the *New York Times* reports. And though the gender gap has narrowed some since the movements of the 60s, recent data demonstrates little real improvement, reports the Economic Policy Institute.

2023 Department of Labor figures show men earn \$62,500 annually compared to women at

\$52,000. That's 84 cents for every dollar earned by a man.

The gap is even larger between Black and White workers, said Dr. Michelle Holder, associate professor of economics at City University of New York. Whites earn \$59,000, while Blacks earn \$48,000 on average. What is more, Black women, among the lowest paid in the country, make just \$46,000, almost a third lower than White men at \$63,700. That's a "double gap" for Black women, said Holder.

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A chance for real heroism

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St. Luke to host mental health symposium

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ACLU warns against second Trump term

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Community invited to 'Moon-Day'

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NMWHM to induct new Hall of Famers

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People In The News ...



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez



Tanner Adell

NDG Quote of the Week: "We have learned to fly the air like birds and swim the sea like fish, but we have not learned the simple art of living together as brothers. Our abundance has brought us neither peace of mind nor serenity of spirit."

- Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

New York Democratic Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, renowned for her unyielding and fiery approach to governance, has taken unprecedented steps against Supreme Court Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito by introducing articles of impeachment on Wednesday. This decisive action comes as accusations of corruption fly along with a deepening constitutional crisis.

Ocasio-Cortez arrived in Congress in 2019 with



a flare, temperament, and youthful enthusiasm not seen in a long time. She also arrived as part of “The Squad,” and the 34-year-old firebrand, better known as AOC, has taken a no-holds-

barred approach to governing, something rarely seen in Democrats. Now, she’s leading the charge against a heavily right-leaning and potentially corrupt U.S. Supreme Court.

“The unchecked corruption crisis on the Supreme Court has now spiraled into a Constitutional crisis threatening American democracy writ large,” Ocasio-Cortez declared in a press release. She condemned the justices for their “pattern of refusal to recuse” from cases involving their personal and financial interests and their “fail-

ure to disclose” millions of dollars in gifts spanning decades.

The impeachment resolutions are rooted in allegations that Thomas and Alito have repeatedly failed to disclose significant financial gifts and have refused to recuse themselves from cases with clear conflicts of interest. Thomas faces additional scrutiny for not recusing himself from cases involving his wife’s legal and financial interests. At the same time, Alito is accused of presiding over cases where he had a personal bias.

Ocasio-Cortez’s bold move follows a contentious 6-3 Supreme Court ruling that granted presidents broad immunity from criminal prosecution, a decision that favored former President Trump amidst his multiple felony charges related to his efforts to overturn the 2020 election results. “Today’s ruling represents an assault on American democracy. It is up to Congress to defend our nation from this authoritarian capture,” Ocasio-Cortez wrote on social platform X.

Their affiliations with the “Stop the Steal” move-

ment, which questioned the validity of the 2020 election, have made the allegations against Thomas and Alito worse. Thomas’s wife played a significant role in the movement, and Alito faced criticism for a flag associated with the movement flying over his home. Both justices have refused calls to recuse themselves from related cases, raising serious concerns about their impartiality.

In parallel with Ocasio-Cortez’s impeachment resolutions, Democratic

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Tanner Adell

(Black PR Wire) New York, NY – BET Music and Nissan are teaming up to shine a spotlight on rising Black stars in the music world, and they’re kicking things off Cali-bred Country sensation, Tanner Adell. Fresh off of an electrifying debut performance on Nissan’s BET Amplified stage during Culture’s Biggest Night, BET Awards 2024, Tanner Adell also takes the BET Amplified Artist of the Month crown this July, bringing her fresh, unapologetic take on Country music to the forefront.

Tanner Adell burst onto



the scene last year with her debut mixtape Buckle Bunny, earning major props from The New York Times, NPR, Billboard, MusicRow, and more. With hits like “I Hate Texas,” where she spills the tea on a messy

breakup, to viral favorites like “Buckle Bunny,” Tanner’s got a knack for mixing raw honesty with infectious beats. Her unique sound is set to take her straight to stardom, and BET and Nissan are here for it.

Tanner’s roots are as diverse as her sound. From summers in Wyoming learning to drive four-wheelers and cars at a young age, to belting out Phantom of the Opera, her childhood was a blend of wild freedom and deep musical passion. And, Tanner’s humble beginnings have cultivated an artist whose musical prowess has taken her from the country all the way to Cowboy Carter, receiving the

ultimate cosign singing on Beyonce’s blockbuster album of 2024.

Tanner Adell can now add BET Amplified Artists to her list of accolades. And, what better way to celebrate than performing on the BET Amplified stage on Culture’s biggest night, BET Awards 2024? Recently

signed to Atlanta-based label LVRN, Tanner Adell is poised to continue taking her country roots outside the walls of Nashville and onto the world stage.

As a BET Amplified artist, Tanner Adell will receive BET Music’s support across multiple BET campaigns and platforms, including

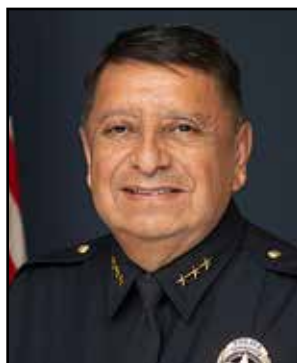
BET, BET Her, BET Jams, BET Soul, BET.com, BET Socials, and BET’s Official YouTube Page.

Previous BET Amplified artists include 41, Ambré, Armani White, Asake, Big Boss Vette, BossMan Dlow, Coco Jones, Connie Diamond, Fridayy, HDBeenDope and many more.

Chief Ruben Puente

Following an exhaustive nationwide search, Dallas College announced the appointment of Ruben Puente as chief of public safety and security. Chief Puente brings a wealth of experience in higher education and municipal law enforcement, as well as corporate security.

At Dallas College, Puente is responsible for managing and directing public safety operations and initiatives, including campus safety programs, risk and threat management, campus policing, emergency medical response, emergency preparedness and continuity of operations programs. He oversees a



force of more than 150 officers as well as policing at all seven main Dallas College campuses and 15 additional centers and offices.

Puente most recently served as assistant director of police for the University of Texas (UT) System, demonstrating a deep understanding of the safety

needs of a higher education environment with multiple campuses. He looks forward to his continued work in campus policing.

“In campus policing, there are many positive interactions with the community we serve,” he said. “The work allows for police visibility, relationship-building and positive results. Campus police make a difference that is felt, not just perceived.” Puente hopes to improve Dallas College policing through new technologies and strategies.

Born and raised in Dallas, he held leadership positions with the Arlington Police Department and the

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Biden offers a chance for real heroism: 'When we get knocked down, we get back up!'

By Dr. Barbara Reynolds

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Following the fallout from his one-night debate debacle some big media have led the call for President Joseph Biden to abort his run for president. Ironically, most of the press did not lead a similar crusade against Trump - twice impeached, twice convicted of sexual crimes, found guilty by a jury of his peers of 34 felonies involving paying off a porn star - who, in the debate, continued adding to his record of the 30,000 documented lies during his four-year presidency.

In his own defense, Biden threw back: "When we get knocked down, we get back up." Those short nine words have touched the hearts and souls of many Black Americans. With this one liner, Biden moved his candidacy into a space from which real heroes could rise. In one tight sentence, he summed up our DNA. As a people, we have been ruthlessly and brutally knocked down. But this special fighting spirit in our culture and religion has worked to propel our determination to get back up.

Biden's call for support was to the left out, the lost, and the locked out. It resonates in the eyes of those who remember him as a decent guy who has lifted the elderly, low waged workers and those needing affordable health care. These are the people that the GOP has demoralized by a system awarding the hellish and punishing the good folks who believe there is nobility in telling the truth.

If pollsters would focus on Black churches, civil and workers' rights groups instead of spineless, cry-baby Democrats and those who want Biden- Harris

out, so they can get in, they could see a different narrative unfolding. A poll taken before the debate showed 72 percent of registered Black American voters prefer Biden over Trump. It is doubtful that Biden's one bad night measured against four terrible years of Trump would show a mass departure.

Being knocked down and getting back up is the unwritten national anthem of many unfavored groups, especially Black Americans, who will - no doubt - show their colors for Biden because their enemies are also Biden's enemies. There is a formidable common enemy in Trumpism, which is pushing voter suppression, especially in the battleground states, destroying the protections of affirmative action and pushing a conservative agenda that punishes women in need of reproductive health care and ensuring big tax breaks for the rich and heartaches for the poor.

This common enemy has sanctioned some of the name-calling judgementalism that historically has kept groups fighting each other rather than focusing on the White privileged groups that - despite representing about one percent of America's population - hold enough power to buy our Supreme Court. It recently gave Trump immunity over most acts, including his role in the January 6th, 2021, insurrection that included an attack on the U. S. Capitol.

On the other hand, the belief that "When We Get Knocked Down, We Get Back Up," makes room for the guys with the sagging pants, the straights and gays with their purple and rainbow hair, the hungry families in rural America, suburban and urban wom-

en, who want to eject the Trump politicians out of their wombs, and the workers without a livable wage. Perhaps it would even open the eyes of the White political Christians who are working to put the Ten Commandments in public schools, while ignoring Trump's adultery.

Going forward, Black men, who pollsters claim are voting up to 25 percent for Trump, must see what Donald Trump has said of Black people. According to Trump, Black and Brown people are from "sh*t-hole countries", and he called Black NFL players who protest police brutality "sons of bitches." In 1989 Trump took out full-page ads in New York City calling for the execution of five young Black men falsely accused of raping a White woman. After 13 years of civil rights protests, they were found not guilty. But Trump never apologized to them. Trump and his gang also plan to institute an assault on families from top to bottom by instituting voter suppression laws and reducing Social Security payments and child-care credits.

Trump and his MAGA Republicans must think their Black male supporters are fools, since once in office their rhetoric and policies could revert to 1857 when the Dred Scott Supreme Court decision decreed that Black people in America had "no rights which the White man is bound to respect."

It is also possible that Trump surrogates, while working to ban books about African-American, history have made the infamous Willie Lynch theory required reading for their White supplicants. The story goes that in the 1700s British slave owner Willie

Lynch taught slaveowners in America how to control slaves unto future generations.

In short, it called for first, keeping the slave ignorant for knowledge is power and power is dangerous; secondly, instilling fear in Black people to make them believe other Black people are their enemies; thirdly, by any means necessary, making enslaved people forget their true identity and heritage; fourthly, injecting them with the poison of self-doubt, self-hatred, and inferiority to the extent that they become slaves so docile and submitted that they will try to prove their worth by being even more oppressive to Blacks than Whites themselves. Could this define the Uncle Toms of today?

African-Americans have made great gains by leading from the bottom to make massive changes at the top. In this regard, Black Trump supporters have a blood covenant with all the Black and White martyrs who have shed their blood to gain our voting rights.

One final reminder to those who still find little hope at the bottom: The same New York courtroom where the Central Park Five were wrongly convicted is where Trump was successfully prosecuted on 34 felony charges by a Black District Attorney, Alvin Bragg. Yusef Salaam, one of the exonerated and freed Central Park Five, is now a New York city councilman. The Black Vote helped make that happen.

This year, the severity of Trumpism has moved more Black pastors to urge their congregants to vote. Playing it safe by ignoring politics is not and has never been an option. As the Bible says: "Faith without works is dead."

Keep up with the news

O N L I N E

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St. Luke Community UMC hosts mental health symposium on decriminalizing mental illness in the justice system

St. Luke Community UMC is hosting its 9th annual Mental Health Symposium from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (CST) Saturday, July 20, 2024, virtually on Zoom. The symposium, held in conjunction with National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, addresses the intersection of mental health and the criminal justice system, and advocates for crucial reforms and community-based solutions.

The Honorable John Wiley Price, commissioner of Dallas County District 3, is the keynote speaker. The Honorable Lela Lawrence Mays, presiding judge of Dallas County's 283rd Criminal District Court, leads a panel of six distinguished speakers who will



explore pivotal topics such as the impact of mental health crises on 911 calls, decision-making processes for first responders, the role of deflection centers as alternatives to incarceration, mental health services within jails, probation challenges, and future initiatives to improve mental health outcomes.

"We are committed to

fostering dialogue and action around the urgent need to reform how our justice system addresses mental health," said Richie Butler, senior pastor of St. Luke Community UMC. "Our symposium serves as a platform to educate, empower, and advocate for equitable mental health care solutions that prioritize compassion and support."

The symposium is free and open to the public. Interested participants can get complete information and register at <https://slcumc.org/mentalhealthsymposium-2024>. Three Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available for free to mental health pro-

fessionals through Hickory Trail Hospital in DeSoto, TX.

St. Luke Community UMC will also host a special mental health workshop celebration at 10 a.m. Sunday July 21, 2024. This service will include the presentation of the Lavana Porter Mental Health Trailblazer Award to Rev. Velda Turnley and Rev. Dr. Paula Dobbs-Wiggins for their exemplary leadership in promoting mental health awareness within faith communities.

"We recognize the critical need to destigmatize mental illness and advocate for systemic change," added Pastor Butler. "Through initiatives such as our Men-

tal Health Ministry Scholarship, we support future mental health professionals who will provide culturally competent care to underserved communities."

About St. Luke Community United Methodist Church: Since 1933, St. Luke Community UMC has served as a beacon of hope and healing in North Texas. The church is dedicated to promoting social justice, mental health advocacy, and spiritual growth. The church's Mental Health Ministry strives to educate, support, and empower individuals and families affected by mental illness.

For more information about St. Luke, please visit slcumc.org.

Survey finds Black adults develop unique coping skills for racism

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Black adults in the United States often develop distinctive coping skills by adulthood to handle the chronic stress of racism, according to a new survey by Duke University researchers. The study, as reported by Duke Today, suggests that these coping mechanisms are not typically found in their white counterparts, highlighting the unique resilience cultivated through lived experiences of racial discrimination.

The study identifies that social support and religion are among the most common coping strategies employed by Black Americans. Social networks and religious communities offer emotional support and a sense of belonging, which buffer against the negative psychological impacts of racism.

Additional strategies include avoidance, substance

use, positive reframing, and activism. Some respondents reported using avoidance techniques, such as disengaging from stressors or using substances like alcohol and tobacco, for temporary relief. Cognitive strategies like positive reframing—focusing on positive aspects in difficult situations—and working harder to overcome obstacles help maintain a sense of control and purpose.

The study also reveals gender differences in coping strategies. Black women are more likely to engage in activism and use social support, whereas Black men often employ passive strategies like ignoring racism. They determined that physical activities are more effective for men, reflecting social and cultural influences on coping behaviors.

The findings have crucial implications for mental health practices, researchers assert. Mental health professionals are encouraged to recognize and vali-

date these coping strategies, tailoring their support to enhance their effectiveness.

However, the study emphasizes the need for more comprehensive research. The study found that there remains a call for research exploring coping strategies across different ethnic groups and intersecting identities, such as LGBTQ+ and disabled communities. Further research is needed to understand the overall effectiveness of these strategies in reducing racial stress and improving well-being, the authors noted.

They concluded that the survey highlights the resilience of Black adults in the face of racism, underscoring the necessity of culturally informed mental health support. The findings also "emphasize the importance of recognizing diverse coping mechanisms and call for continued research to better support marginalized

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ACLU Warns of threats to civil liberties under potential second Trump term

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

As mainstream media and some Democrats zero in on President Joe Biden's recent debate missteps, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is drawing attention to Donald Trump, the 34-times convicted felon and twice-impeached former President. The ACLU released its memo, *Trump on Surveillance, Protest, and Free Speech*, as part of its 2024 election policy series. The study, written by ACLU experts on the First Amendment, surveillance, and privacy, details the dangers posed by a potential second Trump administration and provides a road map to combat them.

The memo highlights what it calls an unprecedented threat to democracy, pointing to Trump's promises to criminalize dissent,



The ACLU released its memo, *Trump on Surveillance, Protest, and Free Speech*, as part of its 2024 election policy series. The study, written by ACLU experts on the First Amendment, surveillance, and privacy, details the dangers posed by a potential second Trump administration and provides a road map to combat them. (Photo via NNPA)

suppress free speech, expand government surveillance, and target political opponents. "The Trump presidency, with its false declarations of national emergencies in service of discrimination and total disregard for the rule of law, demonstrated what we've always known—that

relying on unwritten norms for presidential behavior is grossly insufficient. Trump is now threatening to be even less constrained if given a second chance," said Cecillia Wang, deputy legal director of the ACLU.

According to the memo, a second Trump administration would likely:

- Leverage federal law enforcement to attack journalists and protesters, violating First Amendment rights and possibly deploying the military in urban areas to suppress protests.

- Exploit executive powers to spy on Americans using authorities like Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and Executive Order 12333, leading to the mass collection of private data.

- Target political opponents through investigations and prosecutions, replacing civil servants with loyalists, and demanding employee loyalty pledges.

The ACLU's roadmap for protecting civil liberties includes litigation to defend those wrongfully prosecuted, mobilizing public support to limit executive power, and state and local advocacy to enact strong data protection laws. "Donald Trump has made no secret of his disregard for

the rule of law and his intent to corrupt the immense powers of the federal government to target his opponents and break the institutions that could pose checks and balances to presidential power," said Mike Zamore, national director of policy and government affairs for the ACLU. "In a second term, unleashed and feeling invulnerable from legal and political repercussions, he would pose an unprecedented challenge to our constitutional values. But the ACLU is ready. If Trump is elected and comes for our First Amendment rights, we'll stand with the people of this country to defend our freedom."

The memo is the sixth in a series of seven the ACLU plans to release ahead of the Republican National Convention. Other memos address key issues such as immigration, LGBTQ rights, abortion, the criminal legal system, DEI (di-

versity, equity, and inclusion), and voting rights. In the run-up to the Democratic National Convention, the ACLU said it would release another series focusing on a potential second Biden presidency.

"Trump has stated his intent to trample historical checks and balances on the office of President, and there is an apparent willingness of many within and outside of government to help him do so," ACLU officials concluded in the memo. "When the people disagree with the policies and actions of the President, it will be more critical than ever for the American people to exercise their rights of free speech—including through protest and dissent—so that Trump's excesses are met with the direct power of the people. When our civil rights and civil liberties are in danger, the ACLU will always be there to lead the defense."

Op-Ed: What if Thomas Crooks had been a Black man?

By Hazel Trice Edney

(TriceEdneyWire.com) – Can you imagine what would have happened to a Black man who showed up at a Donald Trump rally acting "suspiciously" around the metal detectors?

It is no secret to any conscious American why the 20-year-old shooter of former President Trump was not stopped although police and security deemed him to be acting "suspiciously" around the metal detectors at the entrance of the July 13 Trump event in Butler, Pennsylvania.

There is a reason that the 20-year-old Crooks was reportedly not interrogated for identification. He was not chased, not followed; not heavily surveilled as he climbed to the roof of a building and aimed an AR-15 styled rifle only about 130 yards away from where former President Trump was speaking.

It is evident by only a brief review of recent



Thomas Crooks

American history that the reason Crooks was not stopped at the gate and caught before he pulled the trigger was because he was White. Period. Once again, it was the lone White male syndrome.

There is no question that had Crooks been a Black man, he would have been commanded to show identification. Had he not concurred, he would have been wrestled to the ground and likely shot dead or choked to death like D'Vontaye Mitchell, who was killed by hotel security June 30 right there in Milwaukee, Wisconsin where the Republican National Convention is

being held this week.

Unlike Trayvon Martin, 17, out for Skittles and ice tea in Florida; Tamir Rice, 12, with a toy gun in Ohio; or Airforce Senior Airman Roger Fortson, 23, in his own apartment in Georgia, among dozens of other household names, Crooks was somehow given the benefit of the doubt, allowed to slide on by.

It ultimately ended with Crooks shooting and wounding former President Donald Trump in an assassination attempt, killing firefighter husband and father Cory Compechello and critically injuring two other people before he was killed by a police sniper.

As authorities now intensely investigate, the debacle has been described as an "epic failure" of security, mainly the Secret Service. But we all know what it really was. The failure of security was catastrophic because Crooks was White.

As President Joe Biden quickly took authority, met

with Homeland Security, the FBI and Secret Service and promised the nation a thorough investigation.

But, Americans have witnessed this all too familiar scenario many times before. When thousands

of predominately White Confederate flag-waving Trump supporters headed for Washington, D.C. on January 6, 2021, none of the federal law enforcement agencies responded with the appropriate level

of force, resulting in the violent January 6 attack and insurrection.

Clearly, had those rioters been Black, the Capitol Police and other security

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PVAMU champion of HBCU health joins prestigious national board

(PVAMU) Dr. Tondra L. Moore, executive director of Health Services at Prairie View A&M University, has been appointed as a member-at-large on the Board of Directors for the American College Health Association. Dr. Moore's leadership journey with the ACHA began in 2019, and she has steadily risen through the ranks since then.



Tondra L. Moore, PhD, JD, MPH (PVAMU photo)

Dr. Moore's involvement with the ACHA has been notable. As part of the HBCU Coalition, she joined the ACHA COVID Task Force, which provided national guidance for colleges and universities during the pandemic. She was a vital member of the team that produced the COVID-19 guidelines, significantly influencing national policy and rein-

forcing ACHA's status as a leading authority on college health in the U.S. Following this, she served as chair and immediate past chair of the HBCU Coalition until her recent transition to the Board at the Annual Meet-

ing on June 1, 2024. Dr. Moore's focus is on increasing resources for HBCUs and similarly situated institutions. She recognizes that college health in North America encompasses a wide range

of institutions with diverse resources, all dedicated to improving campus health and wellbeing.

"During the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for the expansion of the national discourse around college health and wellbeing became clear," said Dr. Moore. "College health professionals are charged to achieve the same goal but use different strategies to achieve it based upon a myriad of institutional factors. The guidance was being written to serve only the larger, well-funded schools. Therefore, I began within the COVID-19 Task Force to help write and revise the guidelines to ensure all schools had the guidance needed to continue opera-

tion during the pandemic."

As chair of the HBCU Coalition, Dr. Moore made significant strides, including creating the annual ACHA HBCU Summit, restructuring the pricing model for national assessments to boost HBCU participation, and hosting the first HBCU Coalition national webinar. Her efforts culminated in being appointed guest editor for a 2024 special edition of the Journal of American College Health titled "The Heritage and Excellence of HBCUs in Serving Underserved Populations in College Health."

"My cup is full, and I am excited to serve the Board as a member-at-large," said Dr. Moore. "During this

past meeting, colleagues gave me my flowers by sharing how I had helped them in the past few years with new members. I was totally overwhelmed and grateful to know my efforts were appreciated."

"People often take for granted how simply feeling appreciated for the hard work done can propel an individual to do even more. And after this past meeting, I met new talent—connected with colleagues—and I am energized and excited to serve the association as a member of the Board."

Dr. Moore's dedication and leadership continue to impact the landscape of college health, particularly for HBCUs and underserved institutions.

PUENTE, from Page 2

Dallas Area Rapid Transit Police. In the private sector, he has overseen corporate security for Frito Lay North America and Major League Baseball.

Puente has a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice from the University of Texas at Arlington, a Master of Liberal Arts from Southern Methodist University (SMU) and a Master of Professional Development,

criminal justice, from Dallas Baptist University. He is a certified court mediator and completed advanced graduate studies in dispute resolution at SMU. He is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy and attended the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas Leadership Command College, Texas Police Leadership Series and Institute for Law En-

forcement Administration (ILEA) School of Executive Leadership.

A dedicated volunteer mentor, Puente says it was his own positive interaction helping the police apprehend a criminal as a young teen that led to him becoming an officer. "The officer commented that I might have what it takes to make a difference. The incident resonated with me, and I'm still trying to make a difference," he said.

AOC, from Page 2

lawmakers have proposed reforms to increase accountability within the Supreme Court. These include imposing term limits on justices, establishing an enforceable code of ethics, expanding the number of judges, and enhancing congressional oversight.

This week, Senators Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) called on Attorney General Merrick Garland to

appoint a Special Counsel to investigate Justice Clarence Thomas for potential violations of ethics, false statements, and tax laws. They highlighted solid evidence of Thomas's failure to disclose over \$267,000 in forgiven debt for a luxury motorcoach and numerous other undisclosed gifts from billionaire benefactors.

The senators stressed the need for thorough investigation and accountability,

noting that no government official should be above the law. "Presented with opportunities to resolve questions about his conduct, Justice Thomas has maintained a suspicious silence," they wrote.

Ocasio-Cortez underscored the gravity of the situation, concluding, "The integrity of our democracy is at stake. We must act decisively to uphold the rule of law and ensure that no one is above it, not even Supreme Court Justices."

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Frontiers of Flight Museum celebrates the 55th anniversary of National Moon Day with space-themed activities for the community

- In celebration of the 55th Anniversary of National Moon Day, the Frontiers of Flight Museum will host its 16th Annual Moon Day event. Taking place Saturday, July 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., this enriching and engaging day of space exploration will feature interactive activities, one-of-a-kind exhibits and space-themed presentations for the entire community to enjoy. Tickets for this highly anticipated signature event are on sale now on the Frontiers of Flight Museum's website.

In 1969, history was made, and the world was changed when Apollo 11 became the first spaceflight to land humans on the Moon. This monumental milestone, known as National Moon Day, marked the beginning of endless possibilities for space exploration and has been commemorated by the Frontiers of Flight Museum since 2009.

"We are extremely proud to host our annual event to celebrate the past, present and future of space exploration, while inspiring the next generation of space explorers," said Abigail Erickson-Torres, CEO of the Frontiers of Flight Museum.



Courtesy photo

seum. "It is the perfect day to explore the history and progress of space and aviation, in a fun and welcoming environment."

For the first time ever, attendees of the 16th Annual Moon Day event will have an exclusive opportunity to view a unique exhibition called "Legends of Space Innovation: David Clark Company," which will feature two rare prototype space suits and headsets designed and manufactured by the David Clark Company based in Worcester, MA. On loan from the David Clark Company, the pieces

are the newest addition to the Frontiers of Flight Museum and will be available for viewing through December 31, 2024. Additionally, art and exploration will unite with the premier of a commissioned life-sized painting of 10 Apollo astronauts by Polish-born Maciej Maga, who has lived in Dallas nearly 20 years. The painting will be available for viewing through October 31, 2024.

This year's event will also feature a special keynote presentation from Colonel Gregory H. Johnson, retired US Air Force

officer, aerospace engineer, and NASA astronaut. He'll share colorful and inspiring stories from his aviation and spaceflight experiences including his time as pilot of the STS-123 Endeavour. The STS-123 Endeavour crew performed a record five spacewalks and the mission was accomplished in 250 orbits of the Earth, traveling more than 6 million miles in 15 days, 18 hours and 10 minutes.

"The keynote presentation is a highlight for our guests as we have hosted several astronauts throughout the years," said Rosalie Wade, Director of Education for the Frontiers of Flight Museum. "It is truly an honor to offer our visitors new one-of-a-kind components to our signature Moon Day event and to have Colonel Johnson share insight and wisdom from his astounding career."

The Frontiers of Flight Museum's 16th Annual Moon Day is a public event that focuses on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and space-themed activities and displays for the young, young at heart and avid aviation aficionados. Additional highlights include a

book signing by Jim Keyes, author of "Education is Freedom: The Future is in Your Hands," as well as over 20 exhibitors, seven speakers, autograph signings, educational hands-on activities, food trucks and music. Guest speakers will also discuss a variety of topics ranging from "Pioneering the Path to the Moon" to "The Voyager Spacecraft: Humanity's Farthest Journey."

While enjoying the many Moon Day festivities, families are encouraged to explore the rich diversity of aviation and flight history throughout the two-level 100,000-square-foot space. The Frontiers of the Flight Museum is home to more than 40 aircraft and space vehicles including the Apollo 7 command module, 16 galleries and displays and more than 35,000 historic artifacts. Among the many exhilarating exhibitions are "Dreamers and Early Flyers," "Lighter than Air," "Modern Air Power" and "Golden Age." In addition, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts can earn badges and K-12 Educators can earn CPE credits while attending the Moon Day event.

Tickets to attend the 16th

Annual Moon Day event are \$15 for children and \$20 for adults and are free for children two years of age and younger. To purchase tickets, learn more and view the complete schedule of activities, please visit www.flightmuseum.com/events/moonday.

The Frontiers of Flight's 16th Annual Moon Day event is made possible through gracious sponsors: The Dan and Gena Hamilton Family Fund and PlainsCapital Bank.

The Frontiers of Flight Museum has over 40 space vehicles and aircraft from a replica of the Wright Flyer to the one-of-a-kind "Flying Pancake," the Apollo 7 spacecraft, 16 galleries, and over 35,000 historical artifacts on display. The Museum is conveniently located just north of downtown at 6911 Lemmon Avenue on the southeast side of Dallas Love Field Airport, north of Mockingbird Lane. Housed in a modern 100,000-square-foot facility, the Museum provides a focal point to explore the history and progress of aviation and spaceflight as the human race continues to pursue going higher, faster, and farther.

DSNDP volunteers from Texas participate in storm water markings event

On July 14th, 2024, Texas State residents joined hands as volunteers of the global non-profit organization Dr. Shri. Nanasheeb Dharmadhikari Pratishtan (DSNDP), undertaking a Storm Water Markings event in collaboration with the City of Richardson in Collin County at 3411 Custer Pkwy.

This event by DSNDP drew seven volunteers at Collin County who completed 30 Storm Markings for a 2 mile stretch along

the Custer Pkwy.

Earlier in Texas, the organization also carried out 26 cleanliness activities that included Adopt-a-Road, Adopt-a-Highway, Storm Drain marking across seven cities involving a total of 309 volunteers who worked for around 537 volunteer hours, collected 194 bags of waste resulting in approx. 2910 pounds of trash.

Within the North Amer-

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Oscar award-winning actor Morgan Freeman among the 2024 National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum Hall Of Fame inductees

(Fort Worth) The National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum (NMWHM) has announced the inductees into the 20th annual Hall of Fame Induction and Banquet! The star-studded ceremony will take place Saturday, July 27th at the Worthington Renaissance Hotel located at 200 Main Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102. The VIP reception begins at 6 PM and the banquet commences at 7 PM.



LaMonica Garrett (left) and Morgan Freeman (right) are among the honorees slated to be honored at the 20th annual Hall of Fame induction to be held by the National Multicultural Heritage Museum in Fort Worth. (Courtesy photo of Garrett, Navy photo of Freeman)

This year's honorees also include: actor and former professional Slam-ball player Lamonica Garrett, Western artist Gladys Roldan-de-Moras and National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum co-founders Jim and Gloria Austin. Cowboy and Indian Scout Britt Johnson and Native American activist and social worker Wilma Mankiller are being inducted posthumously.

20th year of honoring and celebrating the men and women who have preserved, protected and continue to cherish the Western way of life," says NMWHM Co-Founder Jim Austin. "Our honorees represent the very best of those who work tirelessly to carry on the legacy of those who help build this nation. My wife, Gloria and I, are especially hon-

ored this year to have been selected by the nominating committee to be inducted into the Hall of Fame with this incredible class of men and women." In addition to the awards presentation, the banquet will feature a silent auction. Longtime Dallas radio and television personality Scott Murray, who was inducted into the museum's Hall of Fame in 2017, returns as event em-

cee.

In conjunction with the Hall of Fame Induction Banquet and Ceremony, the NMWHM will present the 20th Annual Western Heritage Symposium from

10 a.m. to noon at the museum located at 2201 Dotie Lynn Parkway, Suite 115, Fort Worth, TX 76120. Award-winning author, educator and historian for the National Multicultural

Western Heritage Museum Art T. Burton will present a symposium titled "Bass Reeves: The Texas Lawman." This event is free to attend, but pre-registration is requested.

To purchase tickets or for more information on vendor and sponsorship opportunities, or to RSVP for the Western Heritage Symposium, contact Executive Director Gloria Austin at gaustin@cowboysofcolor.org, visit www.nmwhm.org or call the National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum Business Office at 817-922-9999.

Tickets are \$200 for individual tickets. Banquet Tables and Sponsorships that include other benefits are also available.

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Method Man in *Bad Shabbos*. (Photo courtesy of Tribeca Film Festival)

Method Man is the fixer in 'Bad Shabbos,' the 2004 Tribeca Film Festival Audience Winner

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(***) When the 2024 Tribeca Film Festival ended June 16th, the audience had spoken. It named the zany, dark comedy *Bad Shabbos* its Audience Award Narrative winner. And this movie can thank a breakout performance by the 53-year-old rapper Method Man (Wu-Tang Clan) for pulling it across the finish line.

Shabbos is the day of rest for Jewish culture. Seventh day of the week, and it falls on Saturday, though traditional Shabbat meals generally happen on a Friday evening. That's the day of the week this family gathers as it welcomes a non-Jewish person into their Upper West Side apartment. Meg (Meghan Leathers), from Wisconsin, is joining them because her fiancé Dave (Jon Bass) is the eldest son. The meal will also include the introduction of her gentle parents (Catherine Curtin, John Bedford Lloyd) to the new in-laws. She doesn't know it, but Meg is walking into a hell storm.

Dave's Dad Richard (David Paymer, Mr. Saturday Night) is a tad flakey. His over-controlling mom Ellen (Kyra Sedgwick) can't hide

her disappointment that her son is marrying outside their culture. Abby (Milana Vayntrub), Dave's sister, is in attendance with her sadistic, unfaithful boyfriend Benjamin (Ashely Zuckerman), who's in finance. That bastard loves needling the baby of the family, the teen boy/man Adam (Theo Taplitz), who can't keep a job to save this life and has mental-emotional problems so vast he masks them with prescription pills. What could go wrong? Everything!

The very clever and sardonic script by writer/director Daniel Robbins and cowriter Zack Weiner takes viewers inside a Jewish New York City home. The footage starts with what should be a normal occasion, which turns it into a hysterical train wreck of events in about ten minutes. As the members of the clan badger each other, some audience members will relate that dynamic to their own family's issues. While others will be happy just to smirk, laugh and observe. The introduction of the outsider and her parents is similar to a white women introducing her parents to her Black fiancé's kinfolk at a meal in their home,

on their territory. There's a natural awkwardness as they iron out details, learn customs, innocently offend, apologize and try to build a new relationship.

That's about where any normalcy ends, and the crazy stuff begins. There's an accident and a crime coverup that leads to scheming, planning and unsuccessful maneuvering. All staged by inexperienced oddballs who haven't a clue how to be cool and get the job done. They're funny, whiney and neurotic. Denial, blundering and failing to call the authorities compounds any possible consequences. What are they to do?

This is where the filmmakers had a moment of genius. Throw an interloper into the mix. Insert the gatekeeper, the doorman Jordan (Method Man). Or better yet, let him insist on interjecting himself into the mayhem as he vies to be the savior, guardian angel and fixer. It's a smart move casting a rapper in a pivotal role that some wouldn't suspect he'd do. Credit the musician for daring to take a cliché role and making it all his own. Jordan is a smart, determined guardian with

See FILM, Page 11

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NDG Book Review: 'Sharks Don't Sink' is a book worth biting into

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Oh, those teeth! Your finger practically bleeds just looking at them: three rows of perfect, razor-sharp white triangles that you know are gonna hurt. They're inside a mouth made for swallowing you whole, that's obvious, but when you think about it – are sharks really as bad as they seem? As you'll see in the new book "Sharks Don't Sink" by Jasmin Graham, maybe dentism isn't the problem. In studying them, maybe racism is.

Growing up near the ocean by Myrtle Beach, Jasmin Graham fell in love with the water early in her



life. She fell in love with the creatures there when she was ten, with her father, fishing – something her forebears had done on local piers for decades.

She knew then that she wanted to be a "shark sci-

entist." She was eighteen when she first held a live shark, and that cemented her dream.

Not long afterward, though, Graham felt like she "had burned out completely." She'd been trying to make it in "a toxic, white, male-dominated... environment laced with... casual and overt sexism and racism..." and it was harming her well-being. She was about to quit when she found a few other Black women who were shark scientists, too, and who were going through the same thing. Graham received instant support and it was life-changing.

Two weeks later, the new friends had decided to mobilize. They met a Miami investor who lent resources and who helped them found Minorities in Shark Science (MISS), an organization that gives BIPOC young women an introduction to shark science. By then, Graham had decided to become a "rogue scientist" – one without academic backing, but whose research on sharks is essential in the field.

Sharks, says Graham, are not always the fearsome creatures that Hollywood wants us to believe. Yes, some sharks attack humans, but others are "kinda silly" sometimes, and some are "cutie-pies." And there's

still a lot we don't know about them.

Says Graham, "So many questions. But that's where science begins: with questions."

Alright, here it is: the STEM book you can share with your young adult, a book that's not stuffy or academic but that'll teach you something truly interesting. Here: all the things you wanted to know about all kinds of sharks, in plain words that are friendly, thorough, smart, awed, and easy-to-understand. Right here.

And if the shark science doesn't fascinate you enough, author Jasmin Graham uses "Sharks Don't

Sink" to draw analogies between freedom and bias and between shark lives and Black lives. That's done in the sweetest of ways, through Graham's own story and that of her ancestors who steadfastly, fiercely stood up to racism and big business through the years. We also meet Graham's father, an easy-going man who makes you want to sit on a quiet front porch with some sweet tea and a church fan. Ahhhhh.

Find this book for yourself, loan it to your 14-to-18-year-old, and be sure to ask for it back. "Sharks Don't Sink" is the kind of book you'll want to bite into twice.

CROOKS, from Page 5

agencies would have been prepared in advance with military force, dogs and high-powered rifles.

They were unprepared for the destruction that occurred that day for the same reason that they were unprepared for the attack on former president, Donald Trump's life in Butler, Pennsylvania. They have yet to become fully sensitized to the danger of the loan White male syndrome.

The spirits of racism and White supremacy in America have trained authorities that the Black man should be treated as a threat and the White man should be

given a pass.

Fortunately, the would-be Trump assassin did not succeed although a family man took the bullet and died. Donald Trump, shot across the top of his right ear, escaped serious injury and was given a hero's welcome at the Republican National Convention this week. In an iconic photo seen around the world, he pumped his fist seconds after the shooting, shouting to the crowd, "fight, fight, fight!"

But fight for what?

Ironically, it has been Donald Trump himself who has been a ringleader

in fanning the fumes of racism and White supremacy in America.

- He implied that the Central Park Five, Black and Latino men who were ultimately exonerated of rape after a wrongful conviction, deserved the death penalty. Trump has never apologized.

- He led the birther movement claiming President Barack Obama was not born in the U. S.

- He called Haiti and African nations "sh*thole countries."

- He called football players protesting wrongful police killings of Black men and women "sons of bitches."

- During the Charlot-

tesville "Unite the Right" rally that drew White supremacists from across the country in 2017, Trump said there were "very fine people on both sides."

- And most recently, during the CNN debate

against President Biden, he referred to "Black jobs", apparently espousing a stereotype that he has yet to explain.

Thankfully, Donald Trump survived the assassination attempt. But

the fact is that the so far unrepentant former president was nearly killed by the same evil that he has helped to perpetuate.

Hazel Trice Edney is editor-in-chief of the Trice Edney News Wire.

DSNDP, from Page 7

ica continent, DSNDP continues to collaborate with 18 states and 73 cities across the United States for nationwide cleanliness drives including 23

different programs such as Adopt-Highway/Park/Beach/ Street/ River etc. During these cleanliness drives, DSNDP has successfully engaged 2109 volunteers, actively collecting more than 34000 pounds of trash, resulting in significant cost savings for the government. The organization has received accolades from various state

and county governments in the form of 53 certificates and 51 signboards within the nation.

To learn more about the

initiatives of DSNDP and get involved, visit <https://www.dsndp.com> or contact DSNDP representative Abhijeet Shinde at abhijit.shinde@yahoo.com.



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SCOTUS decision seizes power to decide federal regulations

Hard-fought consumer victories now at risk

By Charlene Crowell

The Supreme Court issued several consequential rulings in its recently concluded term. One such decision reversed a 40-year precedent commonly known as the Chevron doctrine, that gave federal agencies the authority to write rules that enforced and implemented laws passed by Congress.

But on June 28, a sweeping majority opinion authored by Chief Justice John Roberts ignored judicial precedent to hold that only the courts would decide regulation. In the SCOTUS majority view, judges alone would now decide highly specialized rules crafted to maintain reliable consumer safety standards governing our food, public health, occupational safety, clean water, higher education and more, bypassing the high-level

expertise of civil servants in affected agencies.

Roberts' opinion included: "Perhaps most fundamentally, Chevron's presumption is misguided because agencies have no special competence in resolving statutory ambiguities. Courts do... Courts must exercise their independent judgment in deciding whether an agency has acted within its statutory authority."

For Black and Latino Americans, this power-grab by the court throws into doubt and potentially weakens current agency rules that sought to bring us closer to the nation's promises of freedom and justice for all. In two particular areas – fair housing and financial regulation – many hard-won victories aimed at addressing inequalities could be opened up to review and reversal.

In a scorching dissent,

Associate Justice Elena Kagan, joined by Justices Soniya Sotomayor and Ketanji Brown-Jackson, outlined the consequences of the majority ruling.

"In one fell swoop, the majority today gives itself exclusive power over every open issue—no matter how expertise-driven or policy-laden—involving the meaning of regulatory law," wrote Kagan. "As if it did not have enough on its plate, the majority turns itself into the country's administrative czar... Today's decision is not one Congress directed. It is entirely the majority's choice."

For example, the 1968 Fair Housing Act was strengthened by a HUD rule known as Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH). Originally a 2015 initiative of the Obama administration, an updated version was proposed in 2023 by the Biden admin-

istration that according to HUD would "achieve integrated living patterns, overcome historic and existing patterns of segregation, reduce racial and ethnic concentrations of poverty, increase access to homeownership, and ensure realistic and truly equal access to opportunity and community assets."

Central to the rule was the development of written local 'Equity Plans' that incorporated citizens' concerns into a meaningful plan of action.

Similarly, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), created by 2010's Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform & Consumer Protection Act, implemented in 2017 a payday lending rule that required lenders to determine whether consumers had the ability to repay before approving predatory loans like payday, vehicle

title and certain other high-cost installment ones.

But two years later, a change in administration and agency director led to a court-ordered stay in rule implementation. In response, a coalition of advocates that included the Center for Responsible Lending wrote then-CFPB Director Kathleen Kraninger with warnings of how the agency was abandoning its consumer protection mission.

"[S]ince its 2017 leadership change, the CFPB has repeatedly failed to support the August 19, 2019, compliance date the agency established for these important provisions," the coalition wrote in part. "The Rule's payments provisions will protect consumers from significant harm by restricting an unfair and abusive practice: payday and vehicle-title lenders' repeat attempts to debit borrowers' bank accounts,

after two consecutive withdrawal attempts fail due to insufficient funds... These safeguards are important under any circumstance, but even more so because the agency has delayed and is proposing to undo the ability-to-repay protections."

With yet another change of administration, in 2020 and under current President Joe Biden, CFPB updated the rule, to include emerging predatory loans like longer-term loans with balloon payments, and other consumer loans that charged 36 percent annual percentage rates (APR) or higher.

Strong and swift reactions to the Chevron reversal came from academicians and advocates.

"When I went to law school, the most conservative legal scholars railed

See SCOTUS, Page 12

FILM, from Page 9

all the answers: "We've crossed the Red Sea. No turning back now."

The ensemble of Jewish and gentile family members is universally well-played by the cast. But Method Man rises from the fray and steals the movie. The casting director could have gone in two other directions. Hire an outrageous, eccentric rapper (Lil Wayne, Flava Flav) who would make the role even more nonsensical. Or book a seasoned comedy actor (Kevin Hart, Martin Lawrence) who could've milked each comic moment to death. Method Man proves to be a nice in-between option.

Robbins has directed several indie films. Notably Citizen Weiner, which is also based in New York. Most of this new movie was shot (cinematographer Matt Clegg) in an apartment on West 81st Street on the 16th floor. But lobby scenes (production designer Lily Guerin)

were filmed in a building on Riverside Dr., the same one used for Tom Hanks' movie You've Got Mail. The setup, atmosphere and fated gathering are never in question. Though, Robbins' sense of timing (editor Kait Plum) seems off at points. Why does it take so long for members of the gathering to notice that someone is missing? They're in an apartment, not a 12-room haunted mansion! Any extended absence would've been noticed immediately.

The film's style fluctuates between that of a funny indie, boisterous TV sitcom episode and a wordy character-driven Broadway farce. Which isn't a compliment, more an observation. Even with that odd mix and some lulls, Robbins hits most of the beats he needs to keep viewers engaged. As a director, he needs more polish. As a writer, his instincts for humor, odd situations, dialogue and characters are sharper. Good

enough to enthrall a Netflix audience. Iffy for a theater audience who can easily see the film's seams.

When the chips are down. When Dave and Meg's families can't find their way out of a colossal mess, a lawyer, rabbi, Superman, Batman and the Jewish mafia don't show up. The answer to their prayers, if they'd thought to pray, is a middle-aged rapper, moonlighting as an actor, playing a crafty doorman who is smarter than everyone in the room.

No wonder Bad Shabbos won the Audience Award, even though it isn't perfect. That's because Method Man helped director Daniel Robbins get his hilarious comedy its flowers by being the one member of the Wu-Tang Clan who could tie up all the loose ends.

For information about the Tribeca Film Festival go to: <https://www.tribecafilm.com>

Visit Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrownInk.com.



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DREAM, from Page 1

Income inequality is also evident when racial groups show higher rates of unemployment, Holder adds. Though Black unemployment is at an all-time low, the current 6.3 percent is almost twice as high as the national average at 3.7, according to Department of Labor data.

Why do these gaps persist? Discrimination, said Holder. However, the racial gap can be partly explained by differences in education, White Americans achieving higher levels statistically than Black and Latinx workers.

Department of Labor data consistently shows the more education Americans have, the higher their wages. Yet, an education will only get you so far, warns Holder. Comparing those with equal educational attainment and experience, white men still earn more than both women and people of color.

American culture now encourages an education, even for females and for Black men and women, each group having been discouraged from achieving an education for decades. Yet, despite increasing education rates, women continue to be overrepresented in low-wage administrative jobs, earning less than White men, even when they have more experience.

One justification has been that women choose lower wage jobs to be flexible for their families. It is true, says Holder, that all over the world, women are

the primary caregivers. Yet, the data can't be denied, which shows that comparing equally educated and skilled workers, men continue to earn more than women for the same jobs.

A much talked about concept related to the American dream is absolute intergenerational mobility, explains Austin Clemens, senior fellow at the Washington Center for Equitable Growth. The measure compares adult incomes to their parents at the same age, gauging economic progress, while capturing aspirations for the next generation. If America is truly a land of opportunity, one might assume a child's wellbeing should not be tied to their parents' success.

One variable that affects the level of mobility is distribution, Clemens explains. Intergenerational mobility was high during the 40s and 50s, when about 90% of children were earning more than their parents at the same age. During this time, economic growth flourished, generating new income and spreading wealth to the younger generations.

Such growth can be a key generator of mobility, said Clemens. In a strong economy with a strong labor market, like today's, incomes rise and many people benefit.

On the other hand, when most of the wealth is concentrated in high wage earnings, such growth is fixed. Mobility declined dramatically to just 50%,

for example, during the 80s, when economic growth was concentrated among high income earners. The pattern continued for several decades.

Amid the distribution of wages, race also affects mobility. Black men continue to suffer discrimination in education, income, and in the judicial system. In turn, Black males tend to experience lower mobility than other races, adds Clemens.

Mobility also varies geographically, he says. Place is an important variable. The current administration has been bringing high-quality manufacturing and construction jobs to various communities, for example. These measures will bring good job prospects to these areas, thus boosting intergenerational mobility, explains Clemens.

Immigrants have done well in the U.S. historically, he says, their data demonstrating more upward mobility than those who were born here, despite being undervalued relative to their skills when they first arrived. One reason is immigrants tend to migrate to locations where mobility is high.

Recently, many immigrants have found themselves working as contractors for app companies like Uber, Lyft and DoorDash. The number of gig delivery drivers has grown rapidly, especially since the pandemic, says Reich. Surveys tell us the gig economy is composed of young men from lower-income families, with lower levels of

turning decades of settled law, this extreme Court has given itself the power to second guess even the most complex regulatory decisions. This decision will result in chaos and undermine our ability to protect the health and safety of all Americans."

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

education, as well as immigrants.

Many immigrants lacking the skills or connections to get better jobs, find it easy to settle in as a gig worker. Yet, many get trapped in the low-benefit, high cost work. They're kind of a captive labor force, says Reich, effectively earning around \$11 or \$12 an hour. This, considering gig drivers spend 30% of their shift waiting for work, while putting thousands of miles on their cars, requiring frequent replacement. The workers are not compensated for these costs, he said, nor do they have employee protections like unemployment or workers compensation.

Another threat believed to have the potential to hurt the labor force by killing wages and millions of jobs is artificial intelligence (A.I.). Yet, as Heidi Sheirholz, president of the Economic Policy Institute explains, new technology can change the mix of jobs without shrinking the workforce. Where in the past, it took many people with shovels to dig a ditch, it now takes one with some sort of hydraulic machine. And though this does mean fewer ditch diggers, it doesn't mean overall jobs will decline. When employers adopt productivity enhancing technologi-

cal change, they can create goods more cheaply, meaning people will have more money to spend on something else. The new purchases can then generate new jobs, which may churn labor markets but not necessarily reduce jobs overall.

Further, A.I. has the potential to detect and guard against employee abuses, she explains.

Also, policies can be put into place to protect the labor force. Adding new taxes on capital income might help redistribute income gains from A.I. more broadly, for example. Sheirholz warns still that such policy decisions may offer little buffer against the effects of A.I. on the millions of affected workplaces across the country.

Social democratic policies that protect unions and labor standards offer more hope for worker leverage and for holding employers accountable, while more general goals like maintaining protective social insurance and achieving tight labor markets can play an even bigger part.

Federal incentives put in place during the pandemic led to wealth building at the bottom of the distribution, adds Clemens. Other policies that have brought inflation mainly under control post pandemic are proof positive that we can change

the wage gap and achieve a more equal distribution of wages.

Clemens suggests now might be a good time for the Federal Reserve to consider cutting interest rates to keep the job market running hot, so that lower wage earners might continue to see benefits.

Policies that reduce discrimination could also help distribute income more equitably, says Clemens.

Despite some progress that has shown up over the last several years, discrimination continues to operate at functional levels throughout the American labor market, adds Holder. She suggests that when women and people of color are in a position to negotiate, they should research pay scales, while adding five to ten percent on top of salary requests. This, despite that women often get backlash from employers after hard negotiations, according to the data, she adds.

As it stands, a certain number of people are able to get ahead, buy a house, take vacations, afford retirement, and send their children to decent schools, said Holder. It is up to policy makers to do the kinds of things that ensure a safety net while making more American dreams within the realm of possibility.

SCOTUS, from Page 11

against just such creep of judicial policymaking," said Deborah A. Sivas, a chaired professor at Stanford Law School in a recent Q&A blog. "Now they basically embrace it."

"Beyond the SAVE repayment plan and student loan forgiveness, this ruling could also have an impact on other regulations from the Education Department including gainful employ-

ment," according to a statement by the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA).

"This is a seismic shift," noted Senator Amy Klobuchar, a member of that chamber's Judiciary Committee. "Congress passes laws and then federal agencies use their deep knowledge and expertise to implement them. In over-

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HUD and The Appraisal Foundation forge historic deal to tackle racial inequity in real estate appraisal

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

To address systemic racial disparities in the real estate appraisal profession, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced today a historic Conciliation Agreement with The Appraisal Foundation (TAF).

TAF, the organization responsible for setting standards and qualifications for

real estate appraisers, faced allegations of creating discriminatory barriers that prevent Black individuals and other persons of color from entering the profession, violating the Fair Housing Act.

Recent data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics highlights the stark lack of diversity in the appraisal industry, with 94.7% of property appraisers and assessors being white and a mere 0.6% being Black, making it the least racially

diverse among 800 surveyed occupations. The Interagency Task Force on Property Appraisal and Valuation Equity (PAVE) warns that this homogeneity contributes to the persistent undervaluation of properties in communities of color, further entrenching the racial wealth gap.

Fannie Mae's 2021 research underscores this issue, revealing that 12.5% of appraisals in majority-Black neighborhoods and 15.4% in majority-Latino

neighborhoods were valued below the contract price, compared to just 7.4% in predominantly White neighborhoods.

The HUD complaint against TAF identified the experience requirement for appraisers as a significant barrier to entry for people of color. This requirement often forces aspiring appraisers to secure supervision from a licensed appraiser, typically someone they know personally, thereby perpetuating a cycle of exclusion.

The new agreement aims to dismantle these barriers by providing increased funding for alternative pathways to meet experience requirements, making the profession more accessible and inclusive.

HUD Acting Secretary Adrienne Todman hailed the agreement as a significant victory in the fight against racial bias in home appraisals. "To eliminate racial and ethnic bias from home appraisals, we must

ensure that the industry reflects the diversity of America," Todman stated. "This historic agreement will help build a class of appraisers based on merit rather than connections, bringing us closer to eradicating housing discrimination and opening doors of opportunity for all."

Diane M. Shelley, HUD's Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Op-

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Age Is Just a Number...Or Is It?

Dr. James L. Snyder

Recently, one of our granddaughters reached the magical age of 16 and was applying for her driver's license.

When I learned of that, it brought back so many memories of my own. I remember when I turned 16 and was going for my driver's license. What a day that was.

I can't remember how long ago that was. I don't have a calendar in front of me.

The time leading up to my 16th birthday was exciting because I couldn't wait to turn 16 and get behind the wheel. That was the great goal of my life as

a teenager. At 16, my life would change, and it did.

When I reached 16, my next goal was 21 because I would be an official adult, and my parents couldn't tell me what to do.

I'm not sure what happened, but I never really became the official adult I dreamed about. I just became older.

Some people attach great significance to age. I remember my grandfather saying, "Son, age is just a number. Don't you worry about it."

Grandfathers can't be wrong, or can they?

It's been hard keeping up with my age because it changes every year. Why does my birthday have to

come so often? There was a time when I couldn't wait for my birthday. It was like it took five years for my birthday to come.

Now, my birthday comes every other month. How old am I really? Honestly, I don't want to know.

Several years ago, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I celebrated birthdays at a restaurant. Her birthday is two days after mine.

As we ate our birthday dinner, she looked at me and said, "So, my dear, how does old feel?"

Without even thinking, which is my MO, I reached across the table, grabbed her arm, started squeezing it, and said, "It feels rather

nice."

Well, there went my birthday present.

One day this past week, I was searching through my library for a book I wanted to read. As I was searching, I found my high school yearbook. I don't remember the last time I saw that book.

I pulled it out, took it to my seat, sat down and started looking through that album. I saw things I had long ago forgotten about.

As I looked at the photographs, I remembered some of my friends from way back then and wondered how they might look today.

Then, I came across a name I recognized: James Snyder. I recognized the

name, but I did not recognize the picture. Who was that person there using my name?

I stared at that picture for a while and did not remember anything. There it was, a young boy with lots of hair and rather skinny. I was tempted to go to the mirror and check out what I looked like today, but then I declined. Why ruin a good thing?

When my grandfather said that age is just a matter of numbers, I was beginning to think he was way off his rocker. What I looked like in 1969 when I graduated high school is far from what I look today.

I tried to remember back in those days, and some

things came to me. I had a lot of fun playing baseball at school, and I did a lot of things that I wouldn't have the energy to do today.

One of the things I remember was how hard it was to go to sleep at night. My parents had a curfew at 10 o'clock at night, which is when we were supposed to be in bed sound asleep. I remember those times and how hard it was to sleep at 10 o'clock at night.

Now, right after supper, I look at The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and say, "Are you thinking what I'm thinking?"

She will laugh and nod her head. One of the things

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COPING, from Page 4

communities," experts said.

An earlier study by the University of Georgia found that the negative effects of racial discrimination and the unfair or prejudicial treatment of individuals based on race on Black Americans are well documented. Researchers said "experiences with racial discrimination are associated with negative mental (e.g., depression, anxiety, hopelessness, violent behavior) and physical (e.g., hypertension, thickening and calcification of the arteries, and heart rate

variability) health outcomes." These detrimental effects on health are found independent of socioeconomic status, age, and gender, the university reported. Moreover, over 60% of Black Americans endorse at least one experience of racial discrimination in their lifetime, and findings suggest that the links between experiences of racial discrimination and negative health outcomes are stronger for Black Americans than for any other group.

University of Georgia researchers added that while

individuals of all racial-ethnic minority groups (i.e., Latinx, Indigenous peoples, etc.) are at risk of experiencing racial discrimination and racial trauma, Black Americans are especially at risk, as anti-Black racism is individual, systemic, and historical. Additionally, researchers noted that it is important to consider the compounding impact of belonging to multiple marginalized and oppressed groups, including (but not limited to) race, gender, and sexuality, and how these intersections interact and increase susceptibility to experiences of

racial trauma.

Researchers noted that the toll of racial trauma and stress is not limited to psychological outcomes. The negative effects of racial trauma also affect physical health outcomes. The common lack of access to quality medical care for people of color as a result of institutional racism frequently makes these symptoms

worse.

Further, the study found that there's a "clear positive relationship between racial discrimination and poor psychological functioning." Racial discrimination is also associated with low infant birth weight, lower self-esteem, self-worth, and adaptation. In a sample of African American college students at predomi-

nantly white institutions, experiences of racism and racial discrimination were associated with subsequent increases in sleep difficulties. Furthermore, greater levels of internalized racism (i.e., believing racist messages like Black Americans are "lazy" or "criminals") are associated with a stronger relation to sleep difficulties.

MCKENZIE, from Page 2

portunity, emphasized the agreement's significance in promoting inclusivity. She thanked Demetria McCain, who initiated the investigation and secured the conciliation. "HUD's agreement requires policy changes that expand pathways to becoming an appraiser, promoting greater inclusion of Black people and other persons of color," Shelley said. "This groundbreaking agreement addresses systemic issues that have perpetuated unacceptable inequities in the appraisal industry."

Under the terms of the

Agreement, TAF will establish a \$1.22 million scholarship fund to cover costs for aspiring appraisers attending the Practical Applications of Real Estate Appraisal (PAREA) programs. These programs provide an alternative pathway to meet state licensure experience requirements. The agreement also includes:

- Provisions for marketing the PAREA program and scholarship fund to diverse communities.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of this marketing.
- Collaborating with

state and territory appraiser regulatory agencies for the program's adoption.

Although HUD did not issue findings before the agreement and the deal does not constitute admissions by TAF of any violations, it represents an enforceable resolution to dismantle long-standing barriers and foster greater diversity and equity within the appraisal industry.

Individuals who believe they are victims of housing discrimination can contact HUD at (800) 966-9777 (voice) or (800) 927-9275 (TTY). Additional information is available at HUD's fair housing website.

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Giving Jesus the Key



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with Me.

Revelation 3:20

Recent graduates, this is something to ponder. A friend of mine tells the story of an encounter he had with a very important govern-



ment official - the head of state for a country.

In the course of some meetings with my friend,

the official came up to him and said, "I perceive that there is a difference between you and me.

Is it because I come from a different denomination?" My friend began to explain why there was a difference.

"If you were to come to my home, I would invite you in as an honored guest. As my guest, you would enjoy everything I had in my home.

However, you would still be a guest. You would not have the keys to the home, and your authority in that home would be merely as a guest.

But, if I said to you that I am turning over my home to you and you now have the keys to my home, I would be your servant."

My friend continued, "This is the difference between you and me. You have merely invited Jesus into your home as a guest. I have given Jesus the keys to my home [heart] and I am His servant."

"How can I do this too?" The man replied. "All you have to do is invite Him in as the new owner."

The man did this and is now allowing Jesus to rule and reign in every detail of his life.

Is Jesus a guest in your home or a ruler? So often many of us enter a relationship with God that brings us salvation. This is the gospel

of salvation.

But what God really desires for us is to experience the gospel of the Kingdom.

He wants us to experience His power and presence every day of our lives and to see His hand at work in us.

This only happens when we give Him the key to our life; He must be more than an honored guest.

Where are you today? Has your life with God been more like an honored-guest relationship, or does He have the key to your life?

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

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that we try to find an excuse to go to bed early, like right after supper.

I couldn't keep up with all the activities I did back then. In the morning, when I get out of bed, walk to the living room, and sit down, I need to rest for a moment because of all that activity. It doesn't take very much to get me tired.

Thinking about this the other day, I wondered what my life would be like if I

had the energy today that I had 50 years ago. But the more I thought about it, the more I realized that if I had that kind of energy today, I probably would be getting into trouble.

What I fail to remember about those days of endless energy is that it always got me into some kind of trouble.

Now that I'm old, I don't have the energy to get into trouble. When you think of


it, that's a good thing. Getting old isn't as bad as I once thought.


As I pondered this I was reminded of what good, old Solomon said. "Say not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not enquire wisely concerning this" (Ecclesiastes 7:10).

I may have some good things in my past, but my best day is today. I don't have any guarantee for tomorrow. All I can be sure of

is today, so I need to make today the best day of my life.

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, website www.james-snyderministries.com.

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