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## Voting rights on shaky ground following Supreme Court ruling

By Lori Lee  
NDG Contributing Writer

The Voting Rights Act was put in place to protect citizens from voter discrimination.

Nonetheless, the Supreme Court's ruling in *Robinson v. Callais* makes following that law a slippery slope considering the new notion that section II of the Voting Rights Act violates the 14th Amendment Equal Protection clause.

The Louisiana case was brought by a group identifying themselves as non-African-American voters who claimed the new district's odd shape was a racial gerrymander, violating the equal protection rights clause. This, after a federal judge found the state out of compliance with the Voting Rights Act, ordering a new Black majority district.

Now, the high court favoring the plaintiffs, has ruled the majority Black district, which Justice Gorsuch likened to a snake crossing the state, had focused too much on race, PBS



After decades of pursuing equal rights at the ballot box, a new Supreme Court ruling threatens to undermine all the progress made. (DWG Studio)

reports.

The March 24 decision defies the court's very own precedent set just two years ago in *Allen v. Milligan*, which required Alabama draw a second Black majority district to avoid diluting Black political power.

The flipped decision is stunning

considering it was made by the very same court and the very same justices as the *Milligan* case.

Are these wishy-washy decisions based on politics? Yes, according to the Brennan Center for Justice,

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### People In The News ...



Carl Jackson



Chelsey Maddox-Dorsey

*NDG Quote of the Week:* "Never underestimate the power of dreams and the influence of the human spirit. We are all the same in this notion: The potential for greatness lives within each of us."  
- Wilma Rudolph

## Carl Jackson

(Black PR Wire) When the Masters Golf Tournament begins its 89th edition on April 10 at Augusta National, filmmaker Maryilene Blondell – who never knew much about golf – might not be watching, but she will have forged an enduring bond with one of its legendary figures: Caddie Carl Jackson.



People who know the name know Jackson was “on the bag” for Ben Crenshaw when he won the Masters in 1986 and 1995. Blondell’s internationally award-winning film, “Rise Above: The Carl Jackson Story,” lets the veteran cad-

die step out of Augusta’s and Crenshaw’s shadows and into the limelight.

How Blondell made Jackson’s acquaintance and came to write, direct and produce a documentary about him, sounds like kismet.

Carl Jackson grew up adjacent to the course in the poverty-stricken African American enclave of Sand Hill and caddied at Augusta National for more than 50 years. His career began at age 11, when he dropped out of school and joined his Sand Hill neighbors as a caddie at Augusta National to support his family of 10. At the time, all of Augusta’s caddies were African American.

Learning at the knee of Pappy Stokes, who was on the Augusta National construction crew, young Carl soon became the leading expert at reading Augusta’s devilishly tricky greens. He first teamed with Ben Cren-

shaw in 1976 and, together, they won two Masters.

Jackson not only became the longest serving caddie in Augusta National history, he also worked 30 years for Jack Stephens, one of the wealthiest men in America and chairman of Augusta National. Jackson moved with his family to Little Rock, Ark., where Stephens ran a major private investment bank. Stephens invited Jackson to play Augusta as his guest, making him the first Black nonprofessional to play Augusta and the first to stay in one of Augusta’s 12 guest cabins.

Jackson retired in 2015, and all his stories went with

him. Then, about seven years ago, Blondell got a phone call that would eventually set the documentary in motion.

If anyone had reason to be filled with rage and anger over racism and poverty, it was Carl. “But he wanted to tell a love story, an inspiring story a story to bring people together, not tear them apart,” Blondell says.

And as with all production, “it all boils down to money.” This is where kismet came into play, when a Chicago financier, Paul Purcell, called and said, “I hear you’re making a documentary about my friend

Mr. Jackson.”

“The remarkable thing about Paul is that he had never done anything in entertainment,” Blondell says. “There would not be a ‘Rise Above’ without him.”

Since its release, “Rise Above: The Carl Jackson Story” has been a 10-time Official Selection in film festivals worldwide and won Best Documentary Feature at the Cannes Indie International Film Festival in 2024 and it is streaming on Apple+ and Prime Video.

“This is Mr. Jackson’s story and I am humbled to have the privilege of telling it.”

## Chelsey Maddox-Dorsey

(Black PR Wire) Chelsey Maddox-Dorsey, CEO of American Urban Radio Networks, the largest Black woman-owned radio network in the United States, has been named one of the U.S. Black Chamber of Commerce’s Power 50 Women of Influence, Radio Online reports.



LinkedIn

In 2018, she acquired American Urban Radio Networks (AURN) and Superadio Network, a top-ranked syndicator of audio content. Maddox-Dorsey later became a shareholder in Blackstar Communications. She is now president and CEO of Access 1 Communications, which owns more than two dozen radio affiliates

“The chance to lead a buyout of two well-known but neglected B2B brands was irresistible,” she said. “I loved the potential of

infusing new ideas and talent into AURN, which had become a shadow of its former self. I knew that between Superadio and AURN’s distribution network, we had a strong foundation.”

An Oberlin College graduate, Maddox-Dorsey champions the importance of preserving Black media spaces. Her acquisitions aim to keep Black audiences informed and engaged across multiple platforms.

“Media remains a vital part of our country’s in-

frastructure, though the components continue to evolve,” she said in a statement. “Broadcasting’s reach in the African American community is still powerful and complements streaming, podcasting, and other forms of digital media.”

Through her leadership, Maddox-Dorsey helps some of the largest media networks speak directly to Black culture, from hip-hop to gospel audiences.

Maddox-Dorsey prioritizes mentorship and believes in empowering young talent, but she maintains that leadership starts at the top.

“Be a collector of talent as you build your team and your village,” she advised entrepreneurs and hiring managers. “You are responsible for the outcome of the people who work for you, so be serious and intentional.”

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# Senate gives big banks \$21B gift from consumers' wallets

205 million consumers will be harmed if House agrees to undo CFPB's overdraft rule

By Charlene Crowell

While news headlines continue to focus on the chaos, confusion and legal challenges caused by the new administration's recent changes, it could be easy to miss recent congressional actions that will cost consumers more than \$5 billion annually in unnecessary and excessive bank overdraft fees.

On March 27, a 52-48 Senate roll call vote the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) overdraft rule was overturned. It would have lowered the typical cost of an overdraft fee at very large banks (with at least \$10 billion in assets) from around \$35 to \$5. The measure now moves to the House of Representatives, where it is expected to soon pass, and then reach the president's desk for final action.

South Carolina Senator Tim Scott, who chairs the chamber's Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, sponsored a Congressional Review Act resolution that only required a simple majority to pass. Should the House concur with a second majority vote, large lenders could charge fees much higher than the actual cost of an overdraft to the financial institution. Following the Senate vote, Scott claimed a consumer victory – despite a wealth of research that documents massive and negative financial impact to consumers paying exces-

sive overdraft fees.

"This overdraft conversation is a critically important conversation if you are like me, a guy who grew up in poverty, a single parent household, who understands the difficulty, the challenge, of single moms making those ends meet," said Scott. "I want every single hardworking American to have access to our financial system."

But access on what terms?

It is curious that Sen. Scott's comments do not acknowledge how overdraft fees already disproportionately impact Black and Latino consumers.

"Black and Latino consumers are already four to five times more likely to be unbanked than white Americans," wrote the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) in a comment letter supporting the overdraft rule. "They are also disproportionately likely to be ejected from the financial mainstream. Ejection from the mainstream financial system can have long-lasting and negative systemic effects."

CRL urged senators to vote for the interests of consumers, not the profits of large banks.

"This legislation, which should be called the 'High Bank Fees Forever Act,' would block the type of price cut that Americans have been clamoring for," said Nadine Chabrier, senior policy counsel at CRL. "The measure would

deny hundreds of dollars of relief each year from reaching families living paycheck-to-paycheck while letting huge financial institutions perpetually price gouge these families."

CFPB's overdraft rule required bank fees to correspond with their actual costs and losses - instead of generating a revenue stream designed to boost bank profits. Also, by requiring bank account-opening disclosures, consumers would assured choices to compare offerings, and decide whether to pay overdraft fees automatically or manually.

A near 300-member coalition of national and state advocates in civil rights, labor, religion, higher education, and other areas are working to raise awareness about the need to continue CFPB's consumer protections.

"The CFPB is an agency of the people. From the protection from junk fees, to fighting excessive overdraft fees, providing assistance to impacted victims of natural disasters, and holding predatory practices accountable, the NAACP stands firm in bringing back the CFPB," said Keisha D. Bross, NAACP Director of Opportunity, Race, and Justice. "The NAACP will fight to hold financial entities responsible for the years of inequitable practices from big banks and lenders."

"It is shameful that Republicans are effectively

writing bonus checks to executives at the nation's largest banks while ordinary people struggle with high prices and increased costs of living," added Lauren Saunders, the National Consumer Law Center's associate director.

"Banking charters were never supposed to be a license to rip people off, but unfortunately, many banks rely on gotcha penalty fees to pad their profits, effectively diminishing the difference between insured depositories and payday lenders," noted Adam Rust, director of financial services for the Consumer Federation of America. "Reversing this rule is a gift to banks, and if the House goes forward with their version, it will harm people for decades to come."

As the measure advances to the House for further deliberation, California Congresswoman Maxine Waters, the Ranking Member of the House Financial Services Committee, posed an apt question to her colleagues:

"Whether you like the CFPB or not, it doesn't make any sense to hike bank fees on 23 million hard-working families," said the longtime lawmaker, "Why do you want to force them to pay \$5 billion in more fees every year?"

Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at [Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org](mailto:Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org).

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DWG Studio

## Two-thirds of U.S. adolescent minors are impacted by state abortion restrictions

By Patti Zielinski

(Newswise) — More than 7 million American adolescent girls ages 13 to 17 live in states with abortion bans, restrictive gestational limits or parental involvement requirements, according to Rutgers Health researchers.

Their study, published in JAMA Pediatrics, is the first to examine in detail the experiences of adolescent

girls after states enacted restrictions on abortion access following the 2022 Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization Supreme Court decision.

"As a result of Dobbs, two-thirds of girls ages 13 to 17 now live in states that ban or severely restrict their abortion access," said Laura Lindberg, a professor at the Rutgers School of Public Health and author of the study. "Minors are

often targeted by restrictive policies and less able to use routes to abortion care common for adults — traveling to another state or using telehealth — leaving them disproportionately impacted. Without access to abortion, these girls have lost the ability to control their lives and their futures."

As of December, 12 states have banned abortion entirely and 10 states have restrictive gestational

limits. As of Sept. 1, 2023, parental involvement in a minor's decision to have an abortion is required in the 10 states with restrictive gestational limits and 14 of 29 states (as well as Washington, D.C.) without bans or without restrictive gestational limits. New Jersey is a protective state for minors and does not require parental involvement.

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## Overcoming Nicotine Withdrawal: Clues found in neural mechanisms of the brain

(Newswise) — According to the World Health Organization (WHO), over 22% of the global population smokes, with more than 9 million smoking-related deaths reported annually. Effective treatments to alleviate nicotine withdrawal symptoms caused by smoking cessation are essential for successful smoking cessation.

Currently, approved treatments for nicotine withdrawal include Bupropion and Varenicline, but there is a pressing need for new therapeutic options to improve smoking cessation success rates.

The research team led by Dr. Heh-In Im at the Center for Brain Disorders of the Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST)

has identified a novel brain region and neural mechanism involved in regulating nicotine withdrawal symptoms. Building on this discovery, the team found that an existing Parkinson's disease drug can effectively alleviate nicotine withdrawal symptoms, thus increasing its potential for therapeutic use.

When smoking is

stopped, specific areas of the brain become hyperactive, causing physical withdrawal symptoms such as tremors and reduced activity. These symptoms significantly disrupt daily life and are major factors leading smokers to relapse. Therefore, understanding the internal processes triggered by nicotine withdrawal is crucial for

achieving smoking cessation.

The research team pinpointed the role of striatal cholinergic interneurons in nicotine withdrawal symptoms. Through experiments on mice, they selectively inhibited sodium channel expression in the striatal cholinergic interneurons to reduce neural activity. This intervention significantly

alleviated tremors caused by nicotine withdrawal. Using advanced multi-electrode array technology, the team confirmed that suppressing cholinergic interneurons completely blocked abnormal neural activity changes.

Additionally, microdialysis experiments showed

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## VOTING, from Page 1

which reported the current House majority rests on a shaky foundation of manipulated, gerrymandered maps, encouraged by the Supreme Court.

The high court has said the district was drawn based solely on race, noted NAACP voting rights attorney Victoria Wenger in a March American Community Media briefing. But this motivation was undergirded by a court order directing the state to consider race,

Voter dilution occurs where voters are packed into districts, rather than dispersing their influence, said Wenger. After celebrating the long-denied opportunity for Black voters to disperse

their power, the legislature was also able to accomplish its political goals, added Wenger.

The group's original, more strait laced map could have hurt Republican House representatives Julia Letlow and Mike Johnson, NPR reported. So the state legislature offered a compromise, which protected the Republican majority and according to Wenger, displaced Garrett Graves, a rival of the governor.

Under the clause, a district cannot be drawn to prioritize race while foregoing other principles or criteria, Wenger explained, "whether that's the shape of the district, the logic of it, the

communities it represents, or politics."

Yet, in decades of doctrine, the Supreme Court has easily found ways to balance race considerations, she said, and legislatures have prioritized race with good reason to comply with the Voting Rights Act.

It's about principles of legislative sovereignty and how we balance constitutional and statutory precedent, she said.

The new map balanced multiple considerations, she said, including various court rulings and politics.

"The citizens of Louisiana were really clear from the very beginning that they wanted fair maps and they wanted the ability to elect candidates of choice," added

Ashley Shelton, founder, president and CEO of Power Coalition for Equity and Justice.

Across the state, Louisiana has had unprecedented participation in legislative hearings and redistricting.

Here we are 60 years after the Voting Rights Act passed, and those rights are once again at stake. Civil rights leader Alanah Odoms recently joined in a march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge for the 60th anniversary of Bloody Sunday.

"Thousands more gathered with us from around the nation, she said, Black, White, Asian, Hispanic, Christian, Muslim, Jewish, each of us feeling the weight of history beneath our feet."

The group carried signs

and banners demanding their voting rights, said Odoms.

"It was impossible not to feel the energy of those who came before us, the foot soldiers, the civil rights activists, the ordinary people who put their bodies on the line for something bigger than themselves."

Sixty years later, we are still fighting, still litigating because while some things have changed, the struggle for voting rights is not over.

"Louisiana's history is a painful reflection of this truth," said Odoms. From Jim Crow laws and constitutional trickery that wiped Black voters from the rolls, to literacy tests and poll taxes, the Black vote has always been suppressed.

"Voting is about dignity. It is about power. It is about whether we are seen," added Odoms.

Sixty years ago, they marched and bled, and they litigated, and the Voting Rights Act became law.

But the law alone is not enough, she said.

"We have seen voting rights gutted. We have seen maps manipulated. We have seen democracy shrink before our eyes.

"And so we have to keep marching. We have to keep pushing. We have to keep litigating."

"We cannot forget what history has taught us--That justice only comes when we make it come, that power concedes nothing without a demand."

# Harris, Obama, and Booker step up as resistance against Trump takes shape

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

Is the resistance finally taking form?

As Kendrick Lamar asked during his powerful Super Bowl performance, “Are we really about to do it?” That question now echoes in the political arena as former President Barack Obama and former Vice President Kamala Harris have entered the public fray, joining voices like New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker and Texas Rep. Jasmine Crockett in confronting President Donald Trump and his administration’s sweeping changes head-on. After months of relative silence following her defeat to Trump last November, Harris returned to the spotlight Thursday during a rare appearance at the Leading Women Defined conference at a seaside resort in Dana Point, California. According to



Youtube

The Los Angeles Times, she didn’t mention Trump by name but spoke forcefully about the anxiety many Americans are experiencing under his new administration.

“There is a sense of fear that is taking hold in our country, and I understand it,” Harris said. “These are the things that we are witnessing each day in these last few months in our country, and it understandably creates a great sense of fear. Because, you know, there were many things that we knew would happen, many things.” “I’m not here to say, ‘I told you so,’” she continued. “I swore I

wasn’t going to say that.” The appearance marked a shift in tone for Harris, who has been weighing a potential run for governor of California in 2026 or waiting until 2028 for another shot at the presidency. Still, she clarified that her political silence hasn’t equated to surrender. “We can’t go out there and do battle if we don’t take care of ourselves and each other,” Harris told the crowd. “I’ll see you out there. I’m not going anywhere.”

Obama, meanwhile, broke his silence during an appearance at Hamilton College in New York, offering one of his sharpest pub-

lic critiques yet of Trump’s second administration. He condemned Trump’s attempts to reshape the federal government, stifle dissent, and punish those who oppose his policies. “So, this is the first time I’ve been speaking publicly for a while,” Obama said. “I’ve been watching for a little bit.” “Imagine if I had done any of this,” Obama added. “It’s unimaginable that the same parties that are silent now would have tolerated behavior like that from me or a whole bunch of my predecessors.” While calling Trump’s proposed tariffs bad for America, Obama said his larger concern lies with what he described as the White House’s alarming overreach.

“I’m more deeply concerned with a federal gov-

ernment that threatens universities if they don’t give up students who are exercising their right to free speech,” he said. “The idea that a White House can say to law firms, if you represent parties that we don’t like, we’re going to pull all our business or bar you from representing people effectively. That kind of behavior is contrary to the basic compact we have as Americans.” Obama, who campaigned for Harris during the final stretch of the 2024 election, had warned that a second Trump term would endanger the nation’s democratic norms. “Just because [Trump] acts goofy,” Obama said at the time, “doesn’t mean his presidency wouldn’t be dangerous.” With Trump’s second term underway, the

voices of resistance are growing louder.

Sen. Cory Booker added fuel to the movement by making history on the Senate floor. He delivered a 25-hour, 5-minute filibuster that broke the record previously held by segregationist Sen. Strom Thurmond. Thurmond’s 1957 filibuster—lasting 24 hours and 18 minutes—was aimed at blocking the Civil Rights Act. Booker used his record-breaking speech to denounce what he called a deliberate dismantling of government at the hands of Trump, Elon Musk, and Congressional Republicans. “It always seemed wrong,” Booker said, referring to the Senate room still named after Thurmond. “It

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# What parents think about childcare right now

By RAPID, Stanford Center on Early Childhood

The RAPID Survey Project, based in the Stanford Center on Early Childhood, is a program of ongoing national and place-based surveys designed to gather essential information on the needs, health-promoting behaviors, and well-being of young children and their caregivers. Our objective is to make timely and actionable data on the experiences of parents, caregivers, and young children available in an ongoing manner to support parent- and data-informed decision-making. Children's earliest years are a critical period when the foundation is built for lifelong physical health and emotional well-being. Research shows that consistent, responsive caregiving is conducive to healthy development during these early years. We asked parents of infants and toddlers (birth to age 3) to tell us about their childcare experiences and preferences. Using responses from parents of infants or toddlers who participated in national RAPID household surveys in January 2024 and November 2024, we aim to understand the types of childcare that families with infants and toddlers use and what is most important to parents when selecting



Photo via NNPA

child care.

**Family, friends, and neighbor (FFN) care is the most common childcare choice for families with infants and toddlers.**

We asked parents of infants and toddlers questions about how much childcare they use, as well as their experiences using center-based care, home-based care, and both paid and unpaid family, friend, and neighbor (FFN) care. More than two in three (68%) parents of infants and toddlers use childcare for five hours or more per week. Among these families, and consistent with other national data, FFN care makes up the largest share of providers of infants and toddlers.

Responses from the survey show that, on a weekly basis:

—32% of parents use center-based care

—26% of parents use un-

paid FFN care

—13% of parents use paid FFN care

—12% of parents use home-based care in the childcare provider's residence

"Sometimes it is difficult to find relatives/friends who I trust and are available as sometimes their plans change." Parent in Wisconsin

"I'm relying on family and things arise that make them unable to help. I have looked into center-based care and considered going back to work, but it will cost me more for childcare than I can make in income to pay for it." Parent in Ohio

"I use babysitters, mostly teenagers, so their schedules are sometimes unreliable. They do their best, but they have other commitments, too. They also can't always work during the day, which is when I need

them." Parent in Texas

**Reliable access to childcare is a particular concern for many parents of infants and toddlers.**

The predictable schedules and routines that are associated with stable access to childcare support the positive well-being and development of children, families, and caregivers. In their responses to open-ended questions, parents of infants and toddlers spoke about the different challenges they experience securing childcare, including issues with affordability, hours, location, and trust in their provider. As indicated by the quotes in this fact sheet, parents mentioned concerns about providers meeting the specific and intensive caregiving needs of infants and toddlers, while at the same time families navigate high costs, low availability, and inconsistent schedules. Ad-

ditionally, many parents, particularly those living in rural areas, noted the limited childcare options near their home or work. This points to the barriers to reliable childcare access that families with infants and toddlers face, and these data can inform policies and programs that support families in meeting this critical need.

"In a rural area, childcare is very hard to find, and rates are not competitive because they don't have to be." Parent in Montana

"I had challenges finding other part-time care closer to where we live so I drive one hour twice a week for part-time care." Parent in Louisiana

"We had to contact this provider very early on. I was maybe five or six weeks pregnant. And she happened to have a spot. If we had waited much longer, we wouldn't have gotten in." Parent in South Carolina

"I am currently using backup care days offered by my employer as our primary form of childcare for our younger child. In March, I will run out of days to use, and we are struggling to find an affordable option nearby that has availability when we need it." Parent in Virginia

**Trust in their childcare provider is the most im-**

**portant thing to families with infants and toddlers.**

To understand families' childcare needs, we asked parents what factor matters the most when selecting childcare for their infants and toddlers. We provided a list of factors to choose from for each type of childcare used. Across all types of childcare, parents of infants and toddlers are most likely to say that trust and/or comfortability with their provider is the top factor when they select child care for their family. Parents are significantly more likely to endorse trust and/or comfortability with their provider than any other factor, including affordability, availability, location, or the hours the provider is available.

Factors for selecting childcare, in order of frequency endorsed by parents of infants and toddlers:

- 1-Trust and/or comfortability
- 2-Affordability
- 3-Availability
- 4-Location
- 5-Hours

"Finding a trustworthy and experienced caregiver who could handle our infant's specific needs was a major concern." Parent in New York

"Ensuring the caregiver has the necessary experi-

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# 'Target Fast' boycott nears end as Black shoppers speak out: 'I'm done for good'

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent

As the 40-day "Target Fast" draws to a close on Easter Sunday, thousands of Black Americans say the protest has sparked a permanent change in their spending habits—and in their view of corporate accountability. "I've been off of Target the last few weeks," said Wayne Shepherd of Fort Greene, New York. "Planning on making it a forever thing until I see real change. Same with Walmart, Amazon, etc." The boycott, organized by faith leaders including Atlanta-based Pastor Jamal



Image via NNPA

Bryant, began March 5 and is meant to protest Target's decision to scale back its diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs. While framed as a spiritual fast during Lent, many participants say the economic stand has evolved into something much more significant. "Haven't stepped in a Target since their roll-

back and don't intend to," said Hayden Towns of St. Louis, Missouri. "Also avoiding Walmart, canceled all of my Amazon subscriptions, and weaning myself off of all Zuckerberg apps."

Organizers launched the movement through TargetFast.org, encouraging Black consumers to

redirect their dollars to Black-owned businesses and hold corporations accountable for walking back racial equity commitments. The site has tracked more than 150,000 participants. Since the boycott began, Target's stock has dropped over \$13 billion in market value, and for the week of March 24, store foot traffic declined 3.8% year-over-year. Bryant noted that Black America stands as the world's 12th wealthiest nation in spending power. "We are strong consumers with astounding brand loyalty. To see companies that we've supported heavily—like McDonald's, Ford Motors, Amazon, Meta,

and Walmart—betray our long-standing relationship is beyond disheartening," Bryant declared. "The greatest insult comes from Target, which pledged to spend over \$2 billion with Black-owned businesses by the end of 2025, only to find out that Target stopped the program at the start of the year," he stated. Bryant said Black people spend over \$12 million a day at Target stores.

"Let's just keep spreading awareness in case some folks haven't got the message," said Bernard Spain of Temple Hills, Maryland. "I live right near Walmart and still see too many Black folks in and out of there."

Rachel Strong in Los Angeles has cut ties completely. "A boycott should function like a strike; making it last a certain amount of time will hinder its effectiveness," she said.

"I've permanently cut off Target—switching to local grocery stores and buying fewer things in general. I think we as a people would benefit from consuming a little less."

However, not everyone agrees on the long-term strategy. "My question is, if Target is really the second-largest employer of Black people in the country, isn't hurting them going to po-

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## CHILD, from Page 6

ence and qualifications to care for an infant adds another layer of difficulty." Parent in Iowa

Predictable and nurturing caregiving contributes to positive early childhood development, and more work is needed to support fami-

lies with infants and toddlers looking for childcare. RAPID data show that there is an unmet need among families with infants and toddlers for reliable, affordable, and trusted sources of childcare and that families are using a patchwork of

childcare arrangements to find trusted sources of care for their infants and toddlers that they can afford and rely on. Parents themselves are experts in selecting the sources and settings of childcare that will best support their family and foster their child's development, and they are placing an em-

phasis on selecting providers that their family trusts and feels comfortable with. These findings can inform

policies and programs that address parents' childcare concerns and experiences, so they are better supported

in providing the healthy, responsive caregiving that is essential to their young children's development.

## STEP, from Page 5

seemed wrong to me when I got here in 2013. It still seems wrong today."

The New Jersey senator, a descendant of both enslaved people and slave owners, framed his marathon speech as a moral plea, reading letters from

Americans affected by deep cuts and policy threats to Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and SNAP. "This is a moral moment," Booker declared. "It's not left or right; it's right or wrong." With Booker's record-setting stand, Harris's

reemergence, and Obama's warning shots, what once felt like fragmented frustration among Democrats may now be coalescing into something more deliberate: a resistance that is finally, visibly, on the move. "I'll see you out there," Harris said. "I'm not going anywhere."

## MINORS, from Page 4

The researchers relied on population estimates from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, numbers that reflected the U.S. 2020 Census. They found that 66% (7,080,485 of 10,666,913) of adolescent girls live in states with

an abortion ban, restrictive gestational limits (six to 22 weeks), parental involvement requirements or a combination of the three.

In addition, the researchers found that 42% of adolescent girls live in the 24 states where abortion isn't

banned but that require parental consent or notification. Lindberg said, "twenty-four states protect abortion access for adults but don't afford the same rights to minors forcing them by law to involve a parent, adding an unnecessary and harmful barrier to care."



# The new NCAA basketball champions have been crowned

By Jamal Baker  
NDG Contributing Writer

The Men's and Women's NCAA Basketball Tournaments have concluded and yet another exciting season of college basketball is in the books. On the women's side, the University of Connecticut defeated the University of South Carolina 82-59 in a dominant victory. In the men's bracket, the University of Florida bested the University of Houston 65-63 in a thrilling matchup that came down to the wire. Let's take a look at key takeaways from each game and what the future looks like for each program.

Where do you even begin when it comes to the sustained greatness of UConn head coach Geno Auriemma? Auriemma has now won 12 national championship titles with the Huskies and is the winningest coach in both men's and women's college basketball history. The legendary head coach had his team ready to play and they looked sharp from start to finish. Azzi Fudd



scored 24 points and Paige Bueckers chipped in 17 to lead UConn to an overwhelming victory. Auriemma will look to continue his dominance in college basketball as he continues to surround himself with an impactful village of people.

"I think when you have the kind of work experience that I have, every day I'm surrounded by people who are alive, they're young, they're moving, they're growing, and you get swept up in all that," Auriemma said. "I'm 71 by numbers, but I don't know that I feel that because every day I'm surrounded by

young people.

Auriemma has a foundational piece to build around in standout freshman Sarah Strong who will certainly continue to bring youthful energy to the program.

For the University of South Carolina, they simply were defeated by a team who had everything clicking. The Gamecocks without a doubt have a talented roster and special program that will be right back in contention next year. Leading scorer in D-I last season Ta'Niya Latson recently announced on social media she is transferring next season to South

Carolina from Florida State. Head coach Dawn Staley continues to retool and will look to bounce back next season.

Florida head coach Todd Golden became the youngest head coach to win a men's title in March Madness history since Jim Valvano in 1983. At 39 years

old, Golden is trying to build Florida into a powerhouse the same way Billy Donovan did 25 years ago. Florida won its 3rd NCAA men's basketball national championship and Walter Clayton Jr. was named Most Outstanding Player. Clayton was held scoreless at halftime but credits his teammates for picking him up.

"We've been saying all year our motto is, 'We all can go!' We've got a team full of guys that can go. It's not just about me," Clayton said after the game about his sluggish start. "We've got multiple guys that can go get a bucket and do anything. My team helped me hold it down until I was able to go get a bucket."

The Gators trailed by as much as 12 but rallied to

comeback and get the win.

The Houston Cougars ended their historic season in heartbreak after coming so close to winning the national championship. However, Houston should not hang their heads or be discouraged—the program is bringing in an elite recruiting class next season that features three top 20 recruits. ESPN already ranks the Cougars No. 1 heading into next season and head coach Kelvin Sampson appears to be on the cusp of building something special.

March Madness never disappoints, and this year's edition lived up to the deserved hype—it will certainly be a busy offseason as teams will look to add talent from the transfer portal. Buckle up and stay tuned.

## ← WITHDRAWAL, from Page 6 →

that suppressing cholinergic interneurons restored dopamine levels in the striatum, which had decreased by over 20% during nicotine withdrawal, to normal levels. Based on these findings, the team explored the potential use of Procyclidine, an FDA-approved drug for Parkinson's disease, for nicotine withdrawal treatment. Procyclidine mimics the inhibition effect on the neural activity of cholinergic interneurons, making it a promising

candidate for alleviating physical symptoms of nicotine withdrawal.

Notably, administering a single low dose of Procyclidine to mice prior to inducing nicotine withdrawal reduced tremors—a primary physical withdrawal symptom—by over 50%. This study demonstrates the potential of repurposing a safe and established drug for nicotine withdrawal treatment, significantly shortening the clinical trial process. This

approach could improve access to smoking cessation therapies and effectively reduce health issues caused by smoking.

Dr. Im stated, "This study presents new possibilities for smoking cessation treatment by mitigating the disruptions caused by withdrawal symptoms. It provides an additional treatment option alongside Bupropion and Varenicline. Moving forward, we aim to deepen our understanding of addiction mechanisms, including nicotine, and develop effective therapies."




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# Film Review: 'The Friend' should satisfy its core audience just fine

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Film Critic

(\*\*\*) Damn that's a big dog. A big sad dog. So, what's his problem? Well, he's in mourning...

The novel *The Friend*, by Sigrid Nunez, doesn't tell this lives-after-death story from the canine's point of view. Instead, it shares the perspective of his new shell-shocked owner, the person who inherits him. In the book, much of the narrative is in people's heads, and the characters have no names. In this film adaptation, by writers/directors Scott McGehee and David Siegel, people have names, they talk and spill the beans.

Often the target of their anecdotes and gossip is Walter (Bill Murray), the deceased patriarchal figure of their extended clan. His passing unites them. He's either their father, ex-husband, ex-lover or in the case of Appollo (Bing) the Great Dane, his dear and departed master. In his day, Walter had one foot in the world of literature, the other in academia and all the women he wanted. He was a player.

His former wives and present widow bear witness to his philandering: Wife #1, Elaine (Carla Gugino, *Spy Kids*), is oh so woeful. The very cranky second ex named Tuesday (Constance



Wu, *Crazy Rich Asians*) is crushed by all. While Barbara (Noma Dumezweni, *Dirty Pretty Things*), who's British, is all business and the last wife left standing. The exes have gotten off light. Walter's mentee will suffer the most.

That's Iris (Naomi Watts, *21 Grams*), a petite English teacher who was Walter's protégé. She gets stuck holding the bag. Or more specifically, Walter's 150-pound black and white Great Dane, Appollo. Hard for her to fit the beast in her cramped 500-sq. ft. New York City studio apartment. Adding insult to injury, the ungrateful, bogarting pooch appropriates her bed and the no-dogs-policy landlord is so upset Iris may be evicted. Now the poor put-upon woman is coping with her mentor's death, learning how to be a dog whisperer and riding on the edge of homelessness.

As Iris tries to find her bearings, the audience gets

pulled into a storyline that gets sweeter and tenderer by the second. Be forewarned, if you didn't like big dogs before you saw this film, you'll be admirers by the time it ends. You'll become partial to this regal, behemoth canine. You'll appreciate his majestic gait and strong, silent persona. Appollo's doe eyes, mammoth paws and the deep sighs pull you into his dilemma. As he grieves, adjusts to new surroundings and deals with a woman who prefers cats, your empathy isn't given, it's stolen away.

Iris's ever-evolving adaptation to her new circumstances doesn't get old. It's a learning process viewers will savor. The emotional hooks pile up and life lessons do too as the four-legged friend becomes a blessing for all. Wisely McGehee and Siegel's script keeps the drama in the present with a few flashbacks. Their one mistake is

a scene towards the end that has Iris and Walter talking, long after he's been dead. It's a blunder that messes up the well-established and charming day-to-day reality and kills momentum.

Yes, this is a love letter to the canine community. It's also one of the warmest de-

pications of New York in recent memory. A wishful image of present-day Gotham. Clean streets. Few to no homeless folks living desperate lives. An absence of belligerent people. A calmness that doesn't exist. It's almost like a Woody Allen film, only there's a talented

Black actress in a key supporting role, and that's how you know it's not. This is an elongated (editor Isaac Hagy, Atlanta), 1h 59m "I love New York" commercial masquerading as an indie film. Disarming in a

See FILM, Page 14

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## TARGET, from Page 7

tentially hurt us?" asked Theresa Banks of Macon, Georgia.

"Doubly so, since the current admin is cutting fed jobs as much as possible." Still, the pressure continues to mount. In addition to grassroots action, civil rights groups, including the NAACP and the National

Newspaper Publishers Association, have launched their own public education and selective buying campaigns. The NNPA represents the 198-year-old Black Press of America, which consists of more than 250 African-American-owned newspapers and media companies. The

Target Fast also includes demands such as restoring DEI initiatives, honoring a \$2 billion pledge to Black businesses, investing in HBCUs, and depositing \$250 million into Black-owned banks. As Easter approaches, many say the movement is just getting started. "I'm not fasting," Wayne Shepherd said. "I'm finished."



**MAY 3, 2025, GENERAL ELECTION  
CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES  
COUNCIL DISTRICTS / BALLOT ORDER**

**Council District 1**  
1 Jason Vanhof  
2 Katrina Whatley  
3 Chad West

**Council District 2**  
1 Jesse Moreno  
2 Sukhbir Kaur

**Council District 3**  
1 John Sims  
2 Jeseca E. Lightbourne  
3 Zarin Gracey

**Council District 4**  
1 Kebran W. Alexander  
2 Maxie Johnson  
3 Avis Hardaman

**Council District 5**  
1 Jaime Resendez  
2 Elizabeth Matus

**Council District 6**  
1 David Blewett  
2 Monica R. Alonzo  
3 Gabriel Kissinger  
4 Tony Carrillo  
5 Laura Cadena  
6 Machelles Wells  
7 Nicolas "Nico" Quintanilla  
8 Linus Spiller  
Write-in Candidate

**Council District 7**  
1 O'Neil Hesson  
2 Lamar "Yaka" Jefferson  
3 Adam Bazaldua  
4 Cydney Walker  
5 Jose Rivas Jr  
Write-in Candidate

**Council District 8**  
1 Erik Wilson  
2 Ruth Steward  
3 Lorie Blair  
4 Davante D. Peters  
5 Subrina Lynn Brenham  
6 Eugene Ralph

**Council District 9**  
1 Paula C. Blackmon  
2 Ernest P. Banda  
Write-in Candidate

**Council District 10**  
1 Serrano Keith Baldeo  
2 Kathy Stewart  
Write-in Candidate

**Council District 11**  
1 Kendal Richardson  
2 Mona Andy Elshenaw  
3 Bill Roth  
4 Jeff Kitner

**Council District 12**  
1 Cara Mendelsohn  
2 Marc Rossouw  
3 Jose Cavazos

**Council District 13**  
1 Diane Benjamin  
2 Gay Donnell Willis

**Council District 14**  
1 Paul E. Ridley



**DALLAS COUNTY EARLY VOTING DATES / TIMES / LOCATIONS**

<b>*April 22-25</b>	Tuesday-Friday	8a.m. to 5p.m.
<b>April 26</b>	Saturday	8a.m. to 5p.m.
<b>April 27</b>	Sunday	12p.m. to 6p.m.
<b>April 28-29</b>	Monday – Tuesday	7a.m. to 7p.m.

VC#	Location	Voting Area	Address	City	Zip
E0004	Elections Training / Warehouse	Vote Center	1460 Round Table Dr	DALLAS	75247
E0012	Glenn Heights Family Center	multpurpose rm	1932 S Hampton Rd	GLENN HEIGHTS	75154
E0021	Islamic Association of North Texas	Brothers & Sisters Ent Foyer	840 Abrams Rd	RICHARDSON	75081
E0022	Vietnamese Community Center	Front and Back Room	3221 Belt Line Rd	GARLAND	75044
E0023	For Oak Cliff	Multipurpose Room	907 E Ledbetter Dr	DALLAS	75216
E0024	North Garland Branch Library	Program Room	3845 N Garland Ave	GARLAND	75040
E0025	Kiest Recreation Center	Small Rm	3081 S Hampton Rd	DALLAS	75224
E0029	MLK Jr Branch Library	Auditorium	2922 MLK Jr Blvd	DALLAS	75215
E0030	Northway Christian Church	Fellowship Hall	7202 W Northwest Hwy	DALLAS	75225
E0038	Royal Lane Baptist Church	Vickrey Hall	6707 Royal Ln	DALLAS	75230
E0041	Makkah Masjid IDEA	Back Multipurpose Room	3301 Buckingham Rd	GARLAND	75042
E0043	Ministerios Charisma	Large Side Room	740 Melrose Dr	RICHARDSON	75080
E0049	Dallas County Mesquite Gov Ctr	Community RM L101	500 S Galloway Ave	MESQUITE	75149
E0050	Dallas County Records Bld	Lobby	500 Elm St	DALLAS	75202
E0051	Addison Athletic Club	Community Rm	3900 Beltway Dr	ADDISON	75001
E0052	Methodist Richardson Medical Center	Suite 100	403 W. Campbell Rd	RICHARDSON	75080
E1022	Oak Lawn Branch Library	Auditorium	4100 Cedar Springs Rd	DALLAS	75219
E1029	Richland Campus-Dallas College	LeCroy Center R012	9596 Walnut St	DALLAS	75243

VC#	Location	Voting Area	Address	City	Zip
E1052	Lochwood Branch Library	Black Box Theater	11221 Lochwood Blvd	DALLAS	75218
E1071	Lakewood Branch Library	Auditorium	6121 Worth St	DALLAS	75214
E1074	Samuell Grand Recreation Center	Game Room 112	6200 E Grand Ave	DALLAS	75223
E1088	Skyline Branch Library	Auditorium	6006 Everglade Rd	DALLAS	75227
E1096	Pleasant Grove Ctr-Dallas College	Community Room 108/109	802 S Buckner Blvd	DALLAS	75217
E1116	Harry Stone Recreation Center	Multi-Purpose Room 104	2403 Millmar Dr	DALLAS	75228
E1301	Florence Recreation Center	Event Room	2501 Whitson Way	MESQUITE	75150
E1708	Garland Center-Dallas College	Conference Room A&B	675 W Walnut St	GARLAND	75040
E1723	South Garland Branch Library	Program Room	4845 Broadway Blvd	GARLAND	75043
E2005	Marsh Lane Baptist Church	Fellowship Hall	10716 Marsh Ln	DALLAS	75229
E2052	Fretz Park Library	Black Box Theater	6990 Belt Line Rd	DALLAS	75254
E2060	Audelia Road Branch Library	Auditorium	10045 Audelia Rd	DALLAS	75238
E2220	University Park UMC	Parlor RM 101	4024 Caruth Blvd	DALLAS	75225
E2305	Farmers Branch Manske Library	Community Hub	13613 Webb Chapel Rd	FARMERS BRANCH	75234
E2407	Josey Ranch Lake Library	Meeting Room 150	1700 Keller Springs Rd	CARROLLTON	75006
E2604	Valley Ranch Library	Meeting Room	401 Cimarron Trl	IRVING	75063
E2805	Coppell Town Center	Atrium	255 E Parkway Blvd	COPPELL	75019
E2927	Rowlett Community Centre	Room C & D	5300 Main St	ROWLETT	75088
E2941	Sachse City Hall	Courtroom	3815-B Sachse Rd	SACHSE	75048
E3043	Paul L Dunbar Library	Auditorium	2008 E Kiest Blvd	DALLAS	75216
E3064	Friendship West Baptist Church	Banquet Hall Foyer	2020 W Wheatland Rd	DALLAS	75232
E3073	Highland Hills Library	Auditorium	6200 Bonnie View Rd	DALLAS	75241
E3106	A E Sims Cedar Hill Rec Center	Bluebonnet Room	310 E Parkerville Rd	CEDAR HILL	75104
E3202	Duncanville Library	Meeting Rms 1-3	201 James Collins Blvd	DUNCANVILLE	75116
E3400	Balch Springs Civic Center	Big Room Area	12400 Elam Rd	BALCH SPRINGS	75180
E3500	Sunnyvale Town Hall	Council Chambers	127 N Collins Rd	SUNNYVALE	75182
E3605	Disciple Central Comm Church	Sanctuary	901 N Polk St	DESOTO	75115
E3809	Lancaster Veterans Memorial Library	Meeting Room	1600 Veterans Memorial Pkwy	LANCASTER	75134
E3921	Seagoville City Hall	Foyer	702 N Hwy 175	SEAGOVILLE	75159
E3940	Wilmer Community Center	Main Room	101 Davidson Plz	WILMER	75172
E3950	Hutchins City Hall	Council Chambers	321 N Main St	HUTCHINS	75141
E4029	West Dallas Center-Dallas College	Room 141/142	3330 N Hampton Rd	DALLAS	75212
E4050	Mountain Creek Library	Auditorium	6102 Mountain Creek Pkwy	DALLAS	75249
E4064	Martin Weiss Recreation Center	Large Room	1111 Martindell Ave	DALLAS	75211
E4071	Oak Cliff Government Center	Main Lobby	702 E Jefferson Blvd	DALLAS	75203
E4081	Jaycee Zaragoza Recreation Center	Area in Lobby/Hallway	3114 Clymer St	DALLAS	75212
E4086	Grauwylar Park Recreation Center	Room A	7780 Harry Hines Blvd	DALLAS	75235
E4113	Mountain View Campus-Dallas College	E. Bldg., East Foyer	4849 W Illinois Ave	DALLAS	75211
E4502	Betty Warmack Library	Empower Room	760 Bardin Rd	GRAND PRAIRIE	75052
E4514	The Summit	Ballroom 1	2975 Esplanade Dr	GRAND PRAIRIE	75052
E4516	Crosswinds High School	Room 104	1100 N Carrier Pkwy	GRAND PRAIRIE	75050
E4607	Irving City Hall	Main Lobby	825 W Irving Blvd	IRVING	75060
E4642	Irving Arts Center	Suite 200	3333 N Macarthur Blvd	IRVING	75062

**Dallas County Early voting and Election Day locations:**

<https://www.dallascountvotes.org/voters/election/may-3-2025-joint-special-election/>

**\*\*Those City of Dallas residents who are in Denton County, please access the following website for Denton County Early Voting and Election Day locations:**

<https://www.votedenton.gov/election-day-information/current-and-upcoming-election-information/>

**\*\*\*Those City of Dallas residents who are in Collin County, please access the following website for Collin County Early Voting and Election Day locations:**

<https://www.collincountytexas.gov/Elections/polling-locations>

**\*Note for Early Voting: Because Monday, April 21, 2025, is San Jacinto Day, which is a legal holiday, early voting will not be conducted on this date.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE:**

**Biliera Johnson (214) 670-5654 or Miroslava Martinez (214) 670-3809**

# The drive for Black homeownership

By Dr. Courtney Johnson Rose

My grandparents, despite many barriers, worked, saved, and eventually bought a house. My grandfather was forced to drop out of school in the fifth grade to work and help care for his younger siblings. But their determination to own a home, a dream shared by many in their generation, was unwavering. Families worked, prayed, and, like my grandparents, many others managed to turn their dreams into reality and own a home.

Today, too many Black

families and individuals have the means to purchase homes but are discouraged by the limited inventory and high interest rates. I understand their frustration: they defeat the odds and get approved for a loan, only to discover that there are few homes on the market and none that meet their specific needs. For too many Black consumers, that has been a signal to back off, and they get stuck at that point.

At the National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB), we refuse to stand idly by as our community faces challenges in homebuying. My grand-

parents, despite having only limited formal schooling, owned a home. This is the kind of inspiration NAREB aims to instill today, especially among Black millennials. We're here for the 1.75 million of them who earn over \$100,000 a year but haven't yet bought a home.

Our community needs to understand the significance of homeownership in wealth building. It's much more than just a place to live. It's also the best way to save for retirement, the most effective savings plan you can set up, and the most efficient way to pay for your children's

college education. If you want to start a business, the equity in your home is a quick way to become an entrepreneur. These are the many financial benefits that homeownership can bring, and it's crucial for our community to be aware of them.

Yes, buying a home is more complicated than it was four years ago. However, it remains just as vital as it was 60 years ago. That's why NAREB isn't

a passive observer. We are on an active mission to increase homeownership in Black communities. We are

here to support the Black community, and we believe

See NAREB, Page 13



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## NAREB, from Page 12

that with the right resources and knowledge, homeownership is within reach for families and individuals in our community.

On April 12, 2025, NAREB will present its second annual National Building Black Wealth Day in 100 cities nationwide. Seminars, workshops, and one-on-one sessions will empower communities with steps towards homeownership, property investment, starting a business, and other wealth-building opportunities.

To register for the local events around the country, visit [www.nareblackwealthtour.com](http://www.nareblackwealthtour.com). There will also be virtual sessions on Zoom.

The Wealth Tour is designed to provide guidance on how to start the journey towards homeownership for those who need assistance. But we are also there for those with the financial means to buy a home but haven't taken the leap. We are also reaching out to these Black consumers. Our partners in the Wealth Tour, including organizations like the Divine Nine sororities and fraternities, help us connect with this demographic. It's our biggest challenge.

We teach people how to improve their credit scores, explain how to obtain renovation loans, and help them assess their housing needs. But changing the mindset? Convincing them of the importance of homeownership is the real challenge.

However, our partners step up and lend a hand. We collaborate with the National Baptist Convention and the Divine Nine fraternities and sororities. Many of their members are millennials, the target

audience we aim to reach. Our partners are providing platforms for us to connect with demographics that have the means to be homeowners.

Often, millennials don't realize the pain and struggle that their parents or

grandparents endured in their quest for homeownership. They remain unaware of issues like redlining or government programs that discriminated against Black individuals, such as the GI Bill and the Federal Housing Administration.

Additionally, with owner-financed notes, there

was the pressure that a missing or late payment could jeopardize the sale, risk your investment, or lead to eviction.

These struggles are often overlooked by younger generations. We want them to understand the past and open their eyes to the future. Homeownership

communities are locations where they and their families can thrive. That's the reality NAREB strives to create.

*Dr. Courtney Johnson Rose is a developer in Houston and President of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers.*

  
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# Sir Procrastinate-A-Lot Rules My Day

Dr. James L. Snyder

I must admit that I procrastinate a lot. The biggest example is when I get up in the morning. I wait until the very last minute to get up. My goal is to get up before lunch.

This is the primary difference between me and The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. She couldn't procrastinate even if I gave her a thousand dollars. Of course, I would procrastinate in giving over that thousand dollars because that's how I operate.

My "to-do list" is put together with this understanding; I put things on this list that I know will be affected by my procrastination. If I want to get three things done in one day, I have to make a list of 25 things to do.

That may not make sense to some people, but if you have that procrastination virus, it does. It is not how much I can do in a day but how much I actually do.

Unfortunately, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has not learned this about me. As long as we have been together which is something like 54 years, she doesn't get the notion that I'm a procrastinator. I'm not even sure if she knows what

that means, and I'm not going to be the one to tell her. At least, I won't tell her today. Maybe tomorrow.

She believes that when she gives me a list of 45 things to do, I will jump up and finish them as soon as possible. But as a high-level procrastinator, that's not how it works.

When I get a list from her, it takes me all morning to read it.

Usually, at lunchtime, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will say, "Well, did you get the list done yet?"

I will look at her with a blank look on my face and say, "What list?"

With a bit of growling in her voice, she responds, "You know, the list I gave you this morning of things I wanted you to do."

"Oh, that list. I'm still working on it."

She doesn't understand that when I have a list of things she wants me to do, I have to meditate on that list and really get into its vibe. She doesn't realize that it takes me quite a while to get into a certain vibe when it comes to things I need to do. I must admit that I never get into some things' vibe.

The last time I did not procrastinate was August 14, 1971, when we stood

before a minister who said, "Do you promise..." And with a nervous stutter, I responded immediately, "I do."

I think that was the first time I didn't procrastinate, and I believe it was the last time. I'll think about that later.

It's hard for me to jump into a project and get it done. Sure, I like completing a project, but it takes me a long time to get to the end of it.

I learned years ago that procrastinating on certain things and actually not doing them is a blessing. If I had done what I was supposed to do, I probably would've been in trouble.

Over the years, I have earned the title, Sir Procrastinate-A-Lot.

Occasionally, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will ask, "Are you acting like a procrastinator?"

"No, my dear," I will say as calmly as possible, "I'm not acting."

Even as a procrastinator, I'm the real thing. I'm not lying; I'm just dragging my heels along the way.

I suppose that if I had cleaned up my procrastinating, I could have accomplished twice as much in my life as I have. But then,

"I feel like my life story is being written by somebody else." Appollo does too: "How can you explain death to a dog?" And so, they'll learn about loss and coping, together. And if they try really hard, the big sad dog may become the big well-adjusted dog. And that will suit adult audiences just fine.

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

where would that have gotten me?

That is the difference between The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and her marvelous husband. It took me a few years to understand this difference. But once I did, I was able to use it to my advantage.

If I asked The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage to do two things, she would jump to it and begin doing it before I finished my sentence. Within a few moments, those two things are accomplished.

If I asked her to do five things again, she would jump up and do all five as fast as she could without even taking a break.

I think she is the most anti-procrastinator I have ever known. She can never procrastinate; she always must get everything done before

the time. If she has 60 minutes to do something, she will do it in 50 minutes or less.

In a marriage such as ours, we cannot both be procrastinators. That is why I stepped up to the plate and chose to be the procrastina-

tor in our house. I've done a great job of it all these years.

Of course, there is a cost that comes with procrastination. Solomon hit it on the head when he said, "Yet

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## FILM, from Page 9

beguiling way.

Bing steals 50% of the scenes, without saying a word. It's all in his eyes, though some may wish at some point he'd let go and howled at the moon. Watts steals the other 50% from him. Her Iris possesses a wondrous naiveté. As she goes on a voyage of self-discovery, that excursion becomes increasingly

charming. Watts makes each of her cathartic moments worth the wait: "I am the emotional support human and it's the dog that can't cope." Her best scene is inside a shrink's office, on a couch, where emotions get the best of her. A river of tears flows. It's a cleansing. A turning point Watts mines it like a champ.

Iris has a lot to learn:

## Let Someone Know You Care



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
Religion  
Editor

*The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of His unfailing love. Psalm 33:5*

A loved one died, and on that clear, cold morning, in the warmth of the day the other person was struck with the pain of learning that sometimes there isn't anymore.

No more hugs, no more special moments to celebrate together, no more phone calls just to chat, no more "just one minute."

Sometimes, what we care about the most gets all used up and goes away, never to return before we can say, "good-bye," before we can say, "I love you."

So while we have it. Its best we love it, care for it and fix it when it's broken . . . and heal it when it's sick.

This is true for spouses, children, other family members, friends, marriages, aging parents and grandparents. We keep and love them because they are worth it, because we are worth it.

Some things we keep -- like a best friend who moved away or a classmate we grew up with. There are just some things that make us happy, no matter



what.

Life is important, like people we know who are special; and so, we keep them close! Suppose one morning you never wake up, do all your family and friends know you love them?

I was thinking . . . I could die today, tomorrow or next week, and I wondered if I had any wounds needing to be healed, friendships that needed rekindling or three words needing to be said.

Let every one know you love them. Even if you think they don't love you back, you would be amazed at what those three little words and a smile can do. Live today to the fullest because tomorrow is not promised.

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow: There are two days in every week about which we should not worry, two days which should

be kept free from fear and apprehension.

One of these days is YESTERDAY with its mistakes and cares, its faults and blunders, its aches and pains. Yesterday has passed forever beyond our control.

All the money in the world cannot bring back Yesterday. We cannot erase a single word we said. Yesterday is gone forever.

The other day we should not worry about is TOMORROW with its possible adversities, its burdens, its large promise and poor performance. Tomorrow is also beyond our immediate control.

Tomorrow's sun will rise, either in splendor or behind a mask of clouds—but it will rise. Until it does, we have no stake in Tomorrow, for it is as yet unborn; and its no guaran-

trate on doing what I can do.

*Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamestryder51@gmail.com, website www.jamestryderministries.com.*

tee that we live to see Tomorrow.


This leaves only one day – TODAY – Any man or woman can fight the battles of just one day! It is only when you and I add the burdens of those two other eternities – Yesterday and


Tomorrow that we break down.

It is not the experience of Today that drives men and women into a state of depression and worrying—it is remorse or bitterness for something which happened Yesterday which is forever

beyond our control; and the dread of what Tomorrow which is yet unborn and beyond our immediate control, may bring.

Let us, therefore, live but one day at a time. Let Us Pray and Learn to Keep An Open Mind.

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### ← SNYDER, from Page 14

a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man" (Proverbs 24:33-34).

As my father used to say,

"You can't kick a can down the road forever. At some point you need to stop and pick it up."

My problem is I think I can do more than I can really do. Maybe I should be more realistic and concen-



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# NDG Book Review: Poetry Books by various authors

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

A, B, B, A.

That's not only how you spell the name of a popular music group. That's also how a poem might be structured, if it rhymes, or it might be created in other ways. That's the thing about poetry: it's all how you perceive it when creating it and reading it. So why not think about putting these great poetry books on your shelf this month...?

When you spend time with poetry, you expect a certain kind of relationship between author and reader. That's only part of what you get in "The Space Between Men" by Mia S. Willis (Penguin Poets, \$20). It might also change the way you feel.

Here, Willis – a poet, historian, and educator – explores culture, Black history, and what it's like to be Black, Southern, and queer. When those various experiences come together in poetry here, it invites readers to consider the width and depth of the spaces, and their mere existence.

If short but image-fueled poetry appeals to you, this book is worth a good look.

Poetry can take your thoughts in many directions, including thoughts about yourself. If you're hungry for soul-searching, then try "Is This My Final Form?" by Amy Gerstler (Penguin Poets, \$20).

Life doesn't follow a straight line. Some things are two things at once and situations can change, which are two points that seem to be everywhere inside this book. Is this a se-



ries of biographical poems with a twist of imagination, or are the poems in here a collection of new perceptions and ways to embrace what could be? Read, and think about it because it's up for a reader's interpretation. However you perceive these poems, you may chuckle sometimes. For sure, you'll want to read them again and think anew.

And finally, if your child loves the beauty of poetry and wonders how to create poems, then "The One and Only Rumi" by Rabiah York, illustrated by Maneli Manouchehri (Penguin, \$18.99) is a book to bring to the table.

Here, children will learn the story of Muhammad, a wise young boy whose life changed when Genghis Khan came to his village. Muhammad was only allowed to fill a bag with possessions and he knew

he'd miss the birds and the friends he'd made at home. His father said it was unlikely that they'd ever return.

Yes, there were other birds and other friends in his lifetime, but Muhammad never forgot the first ones and "he never stopped listening" to the wind or the sound of the leaves or the laughter of others. He grew to become a man, a teacher, and a poet, as your 8-to-12-year-old will see in this beautifully illustrated, beautifully told book.

If these collections about poetry and life don't quite fit what you need, be sure to ask your favorite bookseller or librarian for more. They can help you find poetry, silly rhymes, great biographies, and collections of verse that are perfect volumes with which to spend hours. In the meantime, give these poetry books an "A."

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