



North Dallas

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Hate and chaos rise in
Trump's America

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

The Southern Poverty Law Center has identified 1,371 hate and anti-government extremist groups operating across the United States in 2024.

In its latest Year in Hate & Extremism report, the SPLC reveals how these groups are embedding themselves in politics and policy-making while targeting marginalized communities through intimidation, disinformation, and violence.

"Extremists at all levels of government are using cruelty, chaos, and constant attacks on communities and our democracy to make us feel powerless," said SPLC President Margaret Huang.

The report outlines how hard-right groups aggressively targeted diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)



Tactics ranged from local policy manipulation to threats of violence. The SPLC documented bomb threats at 60 polling places in Georgia, traced to Russian email domains. (Jorge Villalba via NNPA)

initiatives throughout 2024. Figures on the far right falsely framed DEI as a threat to white Americans, with some branding it a form of "white genocide."

After the collapse of Baltimore's

Francis Scott Key Bridge, a former Utah legislator blamed the incident on DEI, posting "DEI = DIE."

Tactics ranged from local policy

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People In The News ...



Charlie Rangel



Pres. Cyril Ramaphosa

NDG Quote of the Week:

"When I found I had crossed that line, [on her first escape from slavery, 1845] I looked at my hands to see if I was the same person. There was such a glory over everything."

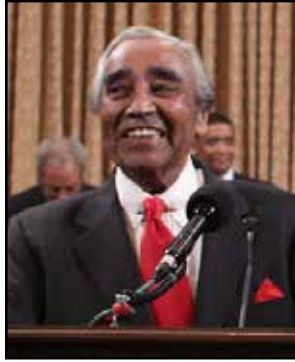
- Harriet Tubman

Charlie Rangel

By Lauren Burke

Charlie Rangel, the long-term Congressman and a heavyweight in New York politics as a member of Harlem's "Gang of Four", has died at 94.

His colorful and charismatic personality, bowties, and raspy voice made him a character on Capitol Hill who was impossible to forget. Rangel was simultaneously larger than life but also approachable and engaging. Rangel was the last living member of the "Gang of Four" made up of powerful African American leaders in New York: David



Dinkins (1927-2020), Basil Paterson (1946-2014), and Percy Sutton (1920-2009).

The four dealmakers were powerbrokers at a time when political decisions were made in smoke-filled rooms over poker games. In 2010, President

Obama suggested that Rangel resign from Congress "with dignity" after he was targeted by an ethics investigation that would eventually mean he had to give up the Chairmanship of the Ways & Means Committee.

"This guy from Lenox Avenue is retiring with dignity," Rangel would later tell reporters as he departed Congress on his terms and at the time of his choosing.

Rangel ignored Obama and remained in Congress for another six years with an aura that made many forget about the ethics investigation.

Before serving Congress, Rangel did about

every job in politics that existed. In 1961, Rangel was appointed by Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy to be an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York. Rangel was also a legal counsel for the New York Housing and Redevelopment Board. Charlie Rangel was born in Harlem in 1930.

He would go on to represent one of the most storied parts of Manhattan for 46 years in the U.S. Congress. Along with the late John Conyers, Rangel was also a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

"We all have a large stake in preserving our

democracy, but I maintain that those without power in our society, the black, the brown, the poor of all colors, have the largest stake not because we have the most to lose, but because we have worked the hardest, and given the most, for what we have achieved," Rangel once said.

Rangel was the first African American to serve as Chairman of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee. As chair and as a member of the Committee, Rangel played a central role in shaping U.S. tax legislation. He advocated for progressive tax reform, closing corporate loopholes, and increasing tax

equity. Rangel was also a strong supporter of Social Security and Medicare and defended and expanded programs aimed at reducing poverty and supporting working-class families.

The legendary Harlem Congressman also championed federal investment in affordable housing and urban infrastructure, especially for Harlem and other underserved communities.

In a noteworthy policy move, Rangel also pushed to reinstate the military draft during the Iraq War—not to promote it, but to spark debate on the fairness of who bears the burden of

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Pres. Cyril Ramaphosa

By April Ryan

The build-up for the Oval Office meeting between South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and President Donald Trump resulted in a spectacle of a Presidential show and tell.

President Trump worked to support the alleged claims that thousands of white South African Farmers have been killed with nothing done to remedy the situation.

Leaders from both countries, Elon Musk, world-renowned white Golfers from South Africa, and reporters attended the highly publicized press event in the Oval Office. Before the president showed a video, a reporter in the Oval Office sternly questioned Trump, asking, "What would it take for you to be convinced that there is no white genocide in South Africa?"

President Ramaphosa immediately answered the question as President



Trump said, "I'd rather have him answer."

"It will take President Trump listening to the voices of South Africans, some of whom are his good friends," said the South African president. Ramaphosa also emphasized it would have to take place at a "quiet" table so he could hear the facts.

Another telling moment in the meeting was when President Trump could not answer South Africa's president's question about the location of some parts of the video he showed in the Oval Office.

Ramaphosa said calmly with concern, "I would

like to know where that is. Cause, this I have never seen."

However, Trump continued his assertion that white farmers are being killed throughout the meeting and warned the president of South Africa that before the November G-20 summit in South Africa, the issue must be handled.

Ramaphosa said, "There is criminality in our country; people who do get killed, unfortunately, through criminal activity are not only white people. The majority is Black people."

Trump, in a passing moment in that press event, recognized the wrong of the deadly apartheid system in South Africa when the country was white minority rule from 1948 to 1994.

During the deadly apartheid system, the white-led government enforced strict racial segregation rules against the Black majority in housing, employment, government, social gatherings, and facilities.

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Trump's anti-immigrant cruelty is a national scourge

It would be made worse by the MAGA budget bill



**Ben
Jealous**
Sierra Club
Exec. Dir.
and U. Penn
Profeswsor

"Our neighbors are living in fear. And that's what the administration wants. They want people to be scared. So, we're combatting that by bringing the neighborhood together and saying, 'You're not going to frighten us into complicity; you're not going to frighten us into hiding; we're one neighborhood, regardless of anyone's immigration status, and we're going to stay one neighborhood.'"

That is how Gabe Gonzalez, an organizer in Chicago's Rogers Park, described how his neighborhood has responded to Trump's immigration crackdown—both during his first administration and throughout the first months of his current one.

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day this year, I gave the keynote at the Rainbow PUSH Coalition's annual MLK Day breakfast. It was Inauguration Day. The contrast between the hope in that room and the fear outside—especially among Chicago's immigrant communities—was sharp. Reports had already confirmed that Donald Trump's new administration would make Chicago ground zero for an intense national sweep by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Raids were imminent.

The mass day-one sweep did not materialize quite as advertised by Trump's border czar Tom Homan.

But thousands of people were still swept up across the country that first week of the current Trump administration. The fear these actions are still creating is very real. And for good reason.

Since then, the Trump administration's deportation campaign has spread. What started in Chicago has become a national scourge. Families are being separated from Denver to Worcester. Parents arrested in front of their children. Kids coming home from school to find their homes ransacked and caregivers gone.

When armed agents grab someone without a warrant, haul them away from their family, and disappear without explanation—that is not just cruel. It is lawless. That is why community groups like Gabe Gonzalez's have set up rapid response teams, legal observers, and know-your-rights trainings. In some cases, their efforts have stopped ICE in its tracks.

The cruelty of these raids is matched only by their chaos. ICE has arrested green-card holders. Detained US citizens. Deported people who know the US as their only real home to countries they barely remember—or had fled for safety. All of this is meant to send a message: No one is safe.

The message is loud. And so is the silence that often follows it.

People are afraid to report wage theft or unsafe working conditions. Parents fear school pickups, or taking their kids to church

on Sunday. Victims of domestic violence stay silent, worried that asking for help will get them deported. And even documented immigrants live in fear.

This is not security. It is terror. And it is why so-called sanctuary cities like Chicago—and sanctuary states like Illinois have put policies in place making it illegal for local law enforcement to participate in immigration crackdowns. Police already face enough trust barriers with many of the communities they work in. That makes their job harder. Being part of Trump's anti-immigrant terror campaign would in some cases make it virtually impossible.

It also could be about to get even more dangerous. The Republican budget bill moving through Congress would supercharge ICE with \$80 billion in new funding. More agents. Fewer guardrails. And a leadership culture that seems more interested in punishment than justice.

And the strategy is broader than immigration. This is a movement that spreads fear, then exploits that fear to divide us—Black from brown, citizen from immigrant, neighbor from neighbor. But as Gonzalez and other organizers in Chicago have shown, solidarity still wins.

This fight is about more than policy. It is about who we are. It is about remembering that every person—no matter where they were born—deserves dignity. Deserves due process. Deserves safety.

The poem engraved on

the base of the Statue of Liberty reads "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." It makes no mention of any race, religion, or country of origin. It speaks to immigration making our country what it is. Making us stronger. Making us what Frederick Douglass called the most "perfect national illustration of the unity and dignity of the human family that the world has ever seen." That is the American way.

Back in January, at Rainbow PUSH, I said that when a nation is divided, we stop seeing our own reflections in our neighbors. But our neighbors are still there. They are helping care for our kids, growing our food, rebuilding our towns after floods and fires. They are us.

So, all of us must respond as if it were happening to us—because one day, it could be.

That means fighting the cruelty with clarity. Standing shoulder to shoulder with immigrant communities—and sometimes, in front of them. Supporting Congress to pass good bills and reject bad ones that undermine due process. Organizing nonviolently. Voting. Showing up for our neighbors and the rule of law.

And it means calling this what it is—immoral, unjust, and defiantly at odds with the real American way.

Ben Jealous is the executive director of the Sierra Club and a professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania.

Keep up with the news

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Biden's diagnosis renews focus on prostate cancer risks

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Former President Joe Biden has been diagnosed with an aggressive form of prostate cancer that has spread to his bones, according to a statement released by his office on Sunday.

The statement said Biden's diagnosis was characterized by a Gleason score of 9 (Grade Group 5), indicating a high-grade cancer with bone metastasis.

Physicians noted that while the disease is advanced, it is hormone-sensitive, which allows for treatment options that can help manage the cancer.

Biden, 82, had undergone further medical evaluation after a small nodule was discovered on his prostate. His office said he and his family are currently review-



Photo via NNPA

ing treatment plans with his doctors.

Prostate cancer remains one of the most common forms of cancer among men, second only to skin cancer, according to the Cleveland Clinic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that 13 out of every 100 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer during their lifetime, with age being the primary risk factor.

Cancer specialists say

that despite the seriousness of Biden's diagnosis, advancements in prostate cancer treatment have led to improved outcomes, even for those with advanced diseases.

"There are a number of highly effective treatments available," said Dr. Tanya Dorff, an oncologist at City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center in Los Angeles. "Even with aggressive or late-stage prostate cancer, patients can often

live many years with good quality of life."

Biden's diagnosis comes at a time when attention is increasingly focused on racial disparities in prostate cancer outcomes. According to ZERO Prostate Cancer, a national nonprofit dedicated to supporting patients and families, Black men in the United States are 1.7 times more likely to be diagnosed with prostate cancer and more than twice as likely to die from it compared to white men.

One in six Black men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime—compared to one in eight men overall. They are also more likely to be diagnosed at an advanced stage of the disease.

While no single explana-

tion exists for these disparities, research has shown that systemic inequities contribute to poorer outcomes.

Black men are less likely to be offered PSA (prostate-specific antigen) tests during routine screenings and, when diagnosed, less likely to receive timely or effective treatment.

A recent study reported by ZERO Prostate Cancer revealed that Black men with early-stage prostate cancer are significantly less likely to receive any form of treatment compared to white men. Socioeconomic factors also play a role. Racial inequality in the United States continues to affect access to care, insurance coverage, and overall health outcomes, particu-

larly for Black and African American communities. Biden, who concluded his term in January, was the oldest person to serve as president.

His successor, Donald Trump, assumed office at age 78. While the former president and his doctors continue to explore treatment options, Biden's diagnosis has cast a new spotlight on addressing both men's health and the racial disparities that remain embedded in cancer care.

"Too many Black men are dying from a disease that can be detected early and treated," ZERO Prostate Cancer officials posted on its website. "We must ensure that awareness, access, and action reach every community."

Questions and answers for parents of children with disabilities

By Maureen Samms-Vaughan

As a parent, what can I do to support my child with a disability? Why is it important to focus on a child's abilities?

Every child with a disability has strengths. These may be in doing artwork, in their personality, or in their motor skills. Every child has strength. It's more important for us to focus on what children can do, and their abilities, rather than their disability. We can use children's abilities to assist the areas that they have most challenges with right now.

How can I communi-

cate with my child with a disability and how do I know when he/she wants to communicate with me?

Some children with disabilities will be able to speak with you. Others will not be able to speak. But they do communicate, even though they don't speak. For example, when a newborn baby comes into a family that baby communicates without speaking. You learn the baby's likes and dislikes by whether they smile, laugh, or whether they cry. The same occurs with children with disabilities who can't speak. They tell you what they like by smiling or laughing, and they tell you what

they don't like by crying or making an upset face.

What can I do in my day-to-day to make sure I'm stimulating my child and his/her brain development?

Children are stimulated by everything in their environment: by the sounds, by the interactions, by your smile. So, if your child with a disability is around you, you should make sure that you spend time talking with them, explaining in simple language what it is you're doing, smiling with them, telling them all about their environment, making noises around them so

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Remembering George Floyd

By April Ryan

“The president’s been very clear he has no intentions of pardoning Derek Chauvin, and it’s not a request that we’re looking at,” confirms a senior staffer at the Trump White House.

That White House response results from public hope, including from a close Trump ally, Georgia Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene. The timing of Greene’s hopes coincides with the Justice Department’s recent decision to end oversight of local police accused of abuse.

It also falls on the fifth anniversary of the police-involved death of George Floyd on May 25th. The death sparked national and worldwide outrage and became a transitional moment politically and cultur-



Mural showing the portrait of George Floyd in Mauerpark in Berlin. To the left of the portrait the lettering “I can’t Breathe” was added, on the right side the three hashtags #GeorgeFloyd, #Icantbreathe and #Sayhisname. The mural was completed by Eme Street Art (facebook name) / Eme Free Thinker (signature) on 29 May 2020. (Wikimedia Commons)

ally, although the outcry for laws on police accountability failed.

The death forced then-Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden to focus on deadly police force and accountability. His efforts while president to pass the George Floyd Justice in

policing act failed.

The death of George Floyd also put a spotlight on the Black community, forcing then-candidate Biden to choose a Black woman running mate. Kamala Harris ultimately became vice president of the United States alongside Joe Biden.

Minnesota State Attorney General Keith Ellison prosecuted the cases against

the officers involved in the death of Floyd.

He remembers, “Trump was in office when George Floyd was killed, and I would blame Trump for creating a negative environment for police-community relations. Remember, it was him who said when the looting starts, the shooting starts, it was him who got rid of all the consent decrees that were in place by the Obama administration.”

In 2025, Police-involved civilian deaths are up by “about 100 to about 11 hundred,” according to Ellison.

Ellison acknowledges that the Floyd case five years ago involved a situ-

ation in which due process was denied, and five years later, the president is currently dismissing “due process.”

“The Minnesota Attorney General also says, “Trump is trying to attack constitutional rule, attacking congressional authority and judicial decision-making.”

George Floyd was an African-American man killed by police who knocked on his neck and on his back, preventing him from breathing. During those minutes on the ground, Floyd cried out for his late mother several times. Police subdued Floyd for an alleged counterfeit \$20 bill.

SPLC, from Page 1

manipulation to threats of violence. The SPLC documented bomb threats at 60 polling places in Georgia, traced to Russian email domains.

Similar threats hit Jewish institutions and Planet Fitness locations after far-right social media accounts attacked them for trans-inclusive policies. Telegram, which SPLC describes as a hub for hate groups, helped extremists cross-recruit be-

tween neo-Nazi, QAnon, and white nationalist spaces.

The platform’s lax moderation allowed groups like the Terrorgram Collective—designated terrorists by the U.S. State Department—to thrive. Militia movements were also reorganized, with 50 groups documented in 2024.

Many, calling themselves “minutemen,” trained in paramilitary tactics while

lobbying local governments for official recognition. These groups shared personnel and ideology with white nationalist organizations.

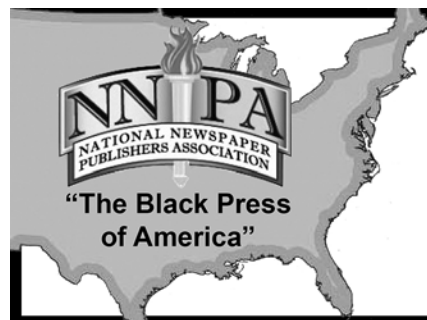
The manosphere continued to radicalize boys and young men. The Fresh & Fit podcast, now listed as a hate group, promoted misogyny while mocking and attacking Black women. Manosphere influencers used social media algorithms to drive youth toward male-supremacy content.

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Dallas College drama students earn national acclaim at Kennedy Center

Dallas College students and faculty won more than a dozen awards at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) in Washington, D.C. Camilo "Milo" Ramos Viamont, who attends North Lake Campus, won the KCACTF Stage Management Fellowship for his work on their production of "Real Women Have Curves" by Josefina López. He was awarded a full scholarship to attend the Broadway Stage Management Symposium, May 17-19, in New York City.

Twelve national awards and six commendations recognized the cast and crew of Richland Campus' production of "Emilia" by Morgan Lloyd Malcolm.

Production Awards

- Outstanding Perfor-



Dallas College

mance and Production Ensemble

- Distinguished Production of a Play or Musical
- Citizen Artist Award
- Facilitation of a Brave

Rehearsal Space

Student Awards

- Distinguished Stage Management, Kazimir Faridi
- Distinguished Perfor-

mances in a Play or Musical

- Matilda Felton
- Evelyn Yanes
- Andrea Ortiz
- Anna Townsend

Faculty Awards

- Distinguished Scenic Design, Jennifer Owen
- Distinguished Costume Design, Amy Otto
- Outstanding Direction of a Play or Musical, Emily Gray

A total of 36 Dallas College students traveled to Abilene for the regional KCACTF, including 20 who were in the company of "Emilia." The national awards recognized the performance there, where they received a standing ovation and were lauded by their peers, many from four-year schools.

"The awards I was most delighted with were Out-

standing Production and Outstanding Ensemble," said Dallas College Professor Emily Gray, director of "Emilia." "Collaboration and collective responsibility for storytelling are the most important and beautiful parts of a theater production. These students each brought their own talents to the production, but more importantly, they shared and cared for each other, which ultimately shone through."

Ramos said that the best part of traveling to the national competition in Washington was meeting and working with people he had never met before. "I felt like everyone was a new friend; I really met some amazing people," he said, adding that he even had the opportunity to shadow the

stage manager at the famed Ford's Theatre.

His first trip to Washington was followed by his first trip to New York City last week to attend the Broadway Stage Management Symposium. "This award is not a final curtain — it's an opening night. What I've learned behind the scenes has prepared me to lead with heart, create with intention and step boldly into a future built on gratitude, growth and the stories yet to be told," said Ramos.

Ramos hopes to build a career in theater, through both acting and technical work. He's pursuing an Associate of Arts degree as well as a Theater Technician certificate at Dallas College.

'Fragments of Us' project creates art out of memories at Collin College

Collin College is working with Garage Arts Project, ArtCentre of Plano, and Plano Public Libraries to collect stories and sentimental objects related to broken relationships for a multidisciplinary community art project called "Fragments of Us." The project will culminate in October with an exhibition and theatre performances at Collin College and a special performance at the Bridges Festival in Plano.

From now through July 31, organizers will work



with ArtCentre of Plano to collect photos, poems, memories, or objects from community members about relationships that changed,

ended, or otherwise left their mark. Artists will transform these personal stories and mementos into music, dance, theatre performanc-

es, and more, as a way to open up dialogue about "the complexities of human experiences and relationships, exploring the broken and the whole and the pursuit of health and wellness through art," according to Renuka Rajagopalan, Garage Arts Project president.

"Fragments of Us" represents a unique opportunity to harness the power of art and community engagement to address a universal yet often stigmatized aspect of the human experience," Rajagopalan said. "Through

this project, we aim to create a space where healing, empathy, and resilience can flourish, ultimately strengthening the fabric of our community."

Theatre performances at Collin College will run from Oct. 8-12 in the college's Black Box Theatre. Collin will host an exhibition of selected artifacts and art pieces curated by ArtCentre of Plano from Oct. 8-29 in The Art Gallery at Collin College, with a special reception on Oct. 11. The performance at The Bridges

Festival will be on Oct. 18 in collaboration with the Plano International Festival. More information about the exhibition and theatre performances will be available soon.

Visit www.garageartsproject.org/fragmentsofus for more information on the project and ways to become involved.

Collin College serves more than 60,000 credit and continuing education students annually and of-

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Dallas CASA's 30th annual Parade of Playhouses returns to NorthPark Center June 13-29

Dallas CASA will celebrate the agency's 30th annual Parade of Playhouses, June 13 to 29 at NorthPark Center.

Parade of Playhouses, which features custom-built children's playhouses, has become the agency's signature event, spreading awareness about the needs of children in foster care and the transformative power of volunteer advocacy. Local architects, builders and organizations design, build and donate the playhouses, which are then displayed for 17 days at NorthPark Center and available to the public to win by raffle. This year's event is sponsored by Crest Cadillac. Parade Grand Marshal is KDC. All funds raised go to support children who have experienced abuse or neglect.

Since the inception of Parade of Playhouses in 1996, 370 playhouses have been distributed with 11 more houses planned for this year's event. The event began as a way to raise awareness about Dallas CASA, whose volunteers are community members trained to advocate for the needs of foster children in court. CASA volunteers are often a child's only consistent, caring adult during a frightening time.

"The children our incredible volunteers serve don't dream of backyard playhouses. They dream of simpler things – a home where they are safe, protected and loved," said Kathleen LaValle, president and CEO of Dallas CASA. "But the playhouses represent something ingrained in all

of us – a desire for a place to call home. That sense of home, acceptance and love is something we want for every single child."

Dallas CASA Board Member Dave Kroencke, an advertising executive, brought the idea for the event to the Dallas CASA board in 1996.

"I couldn't be prouder to have been part of the creation of Parade of Playhouses thirty years ago," said Kroencke, one of the founders of Plot Twist Creativity. "It's the perfect event – it brings awareness of Dallas CASA to the general public, serves as a recruitment tool for volunteers and donors and allows partner builders and architects to show off their creativity all while supporting a great cause. To see how it's evolved and grown to be even more special is so fulfilling. I'm such a proud parent!"

Playhouses have run the full gamut of creativity, including castles, rocket ships, a movie theater, a car wash, a windmill, a barn, a submarine, a safari tent and many more. Some houses have challenged the boundaries of the definition of a house with bold modern designs that excite the senses. Other playhouses take a more traditional approach, with cozy cottages featuring details like metal roofs, hardwood floors, arched doors and full electrical. Some of the playhouses planned for the 2025 Parade of Playhouses include a gas station, a house inspired by Dr. Seuss' book *The Lorax*, a farmhouse and a house for cartoon

character Bluey.

Over the years, some builders and their subcontractors have repeatedly returned. LRO Residential and Amy Butscher with Butscher Construction will both build their 16th house this year. LRO, a residential home builder in the Park Cities, builds the firm's house in the yard or garage of a new build under construction, with subcontractors working on it as they

have time. Butscher, who works in advertising, partners with her entire family, including her brother, who owns Butscher Construction, making their creative playhouses a family affair.

Much of the event's success can be attributed to NorthPark Center, which has hosted it for all 30 years. More than a million visitors see the Parade of

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Dallas CASA



More Than an Athlete

By Jamal Baker
NDG Contributing Writer

The term “More Than an Athlete” was a phrase popularized by NBA superstar LeBron James in response to Fox News Host Laura Ingraham telling him “To Shut and Dribble.” In today’s day and age, the court is more than just a place of competition—it is a venue where athletes can use their platform for change. Cailan Hale, a talented women’s basketball player at Wiley University, uses her athletic platform to advance and advocate for social change. Professional organizations like the WNBA and NBA have set precedent by embracing the power of sports in local communities and inspired Hale to positively express herself both on and off the court.

“I’ve been inspired by WNBA players like Maya Moore and collegiate athletes who use their platforms for justice and empowerment, reminding me of the importance of giving back. Their commitment to service motivates me to uplift those around me,” Hale said.

Hale is from Cedar Hill, Texas, a Dallas-area suburb, and is a faithful member of Canaan Baptist Church, where she has led and been a part of many community engagement activities. She organized a men’s versus women’s basketball event in the Oak Cliff community of Dallas in an effort to prove female athletes deserve fair and equal pay by showing she and her teammates can hold their own against men. The women who participated in



the event more than held their own by winning two out of three games against men.

“It’s always nice to bring the community together for a cause we’re all passionate about. The wage gap is an issue not only in sports or basketball but a universal issue that needs to be rectified. We’re so proud Cailan brought that event to life and enjoyed every moment,” Canaan Baptist Church Pastor Jarvis Baker said.

Although Hale has been a pillar of altruism and activism, dedicating and balancing time between being a collegiate athlete and activist comes with its own set of challenges.

“Balancing training, competition, and community work has been challenging, especially when time and energy are limited. Yet, the reward of making a difference makes me feel grounded,” Hale said.

Hale’s commitment to community engagement is what allows her to overcome the challenges associated with her passion for service. She is entering her third season as a combo guard and has served as a mentor to younger players and students throughout her collegiate career. Hale is always looking for ways to

make an impact—whether it’s hosting basketball clinics, championing events to register students to vote, or organizing food drives on campus.

“Cailan is the type of leader and person every community needs. Someone who is compassionate, intentional, and purposeful in everything she does. We know the type of basketball player she is, talented and gifted in every way but she’s more than a hooper. She uses her platform and voice to uplift others,” Canaan Baptist Church First Lady Angie Baker said.

During her collegiate career, Hale is averaging 6.4 points and 4.5 rebounds while shooting 50 percent from three-point range and 72.1 percent from the free throw line. Her former basketball trainer Kehlani Brown describes her as a quiet storm and is not surprised by the work Hale is putting in on and off the court.

“When I started working with Cailan, I knew it was something special about her. She would show up to our training sessions, wouldn’t say much but ran every rep with passion and intensity. We see the same type of intensity and passion through her community service and social jus-

tice efforts off the court,” Brown said.

As Hale looks toward the future, she hopes to leave a lasting impact on the lives of those who come from underserved and under-represented communities. She is currently in the process of developing a youth program that focuses on mentorship, athletics, and public speaking. Targeting a launch date during the summer of 2026, Hale will encourage high school girls in the Dallas area to join and contribute to her program, which has an initial but not finalized title of “Dream Girls.”

“I will continue advocating for equal opportunities and using my voice to challenge systemic barriers in both sports and society,”

Hale said.

Hale uses her voice to challenge a system and society that has often overlooked and disrespected Black women. The increased media attention and growing viewership of women’s basketball have allowed Hale to use her platform to shine a light on causes she is passionate about.

Hale is taking the initiative and responsibility to be an asset to her community. She represents the new wave of athletes who use their reach and influence to advance social causes. Hale is redefining what it means to be a star athlete by being more than her basketball stats and averages. She is fueled by a desire to uplift others and

committed to being a leader for young Black girls who may not always see themselves reflected in positions of power.

Cailan Hale’s journey is just beginning but she is clearly laying the foundation for something greater than herself. She sees the words “More Than an Athlete” hanging on her dorm room wall every day and reminds herself that she has a calling to do more than compete as a basketball player. Hale’s mentality allows her to go about everything she does with a purpose and spirit of appreciation for those she has inspired. She is trail blazing a path for others to follow in her footsteps and continues to make the world a better place.



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Film Review: 'October London' is the rebirth of cool

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(****) “Make me, make me wanna get down to-night...” October London sang what was on the minds of his audience during his entire performance at the Beacon Theatre. On New York’s Upper Westside, on May 25, 2025, that’s what his aura did to them.

London’s path was created by Marvin Gaye, Teddy Pendergrass, Luther Vandross and others. Artists who made music folks could make love by. Songs, melodies and rhythms that touch the soul and libido. Song by men who held the room key and were inviting lovers into their boudoir.

October London took up that mantle with his 2023 album *The Rebirth of Marvin*. A tribute to Gaye that brought his vibe back into the light and updated it with a 2020s feel that’s bits of classic R&B, neo soul and jazz for this generation. And so, the young and the old made the pilgrimage to the Beacon theater to see, hear and feel the new king of hearts. The love messenger. And he didn’t disappoint.

Jared Samuel Erskine was born October 17, 1986, in South Bend Indiana. Mom was a singer and dad played guitar. Playing piano from age five started his musical journey. After taking the moniker Sam London, then October London and honing his craft, his career took off when he signed with what would become Snoop Dog’s Death Row Records. He knew his career had grown when he played a fictionalized version of himself on the TV



Photo via NNPA

series *Empire*. The song “Back to Your Place” started his rise up the Billboard charts and reached #1 Adult R&B song. Subsequent singles, EPs, albums, TV appearances, etc. have led to him selling out the Beacon theater on a warm spring night.

As the audience took their seats for “The October Nights: Calling All Lovers Tour,” there was great anticipation for London’s first time leading a concert as the main act. His show opened with Joe Leone, from L.A., whose soulful voice is reminiscent of Robin Thicke and Justin Timberlake’s. He sang *Over Under* and wowed the women. Next, Ro James brought a hip hop vibe to the night with his hit “Permission,” which evokes Curtis Mayfield.

That led up to Tamar Braxton. Having honed her skills on WE tv’s *Braxton Family Values*, she knew how to work the audience. She had a running conversation with the crowd and campily stalked around like she was a refugee from *The Real Housewives of Atlanta*. The youngest Braxton sang some of her hit songs with her sultry voice and a melodramatic style. The place went nuts when she invited two couples on

stage to talk about their marriages. She was funny, bawdy and exhibited a comic sense that makes her a prime candidate for a TV sitcom. Her performance peaked with the classic song, “Superwoman.”

By the time October London hit the stage, the audience was primed by the opening acts. A drummer guitarist, bassist, keyboardist and three backup singers named the “Shendellas” took the stage. The bareboned group made it clear that authentic music would ensue. London came on stage leaving an air of coolness in his wake. The purple and white plaid summer suit, blue turtle neck and sunglasses set the tone. Then he sang, and that voice, which entranced music lovers on *Rebirth of Marvin* and beyond, sounded exactly the same as it does on your high-priced, high-quality sound bar at home. As he would put it later in his act, “I ain’t autotuned. Not me!”

He crooned into the microphone and the sound that came out the speakers evoked Gaye and consummate live performers at their best. “Back to Your Place,” was as sensual as “Mulholland Drive” was evocative. “Make Me Wanna” and “Touch On Me”

hit a Motown groove. His guest appearance on the Boney James jazz album *Slow Burn* yielded the very sexy, I’m in the mood song “All I Want Is You”: “Efferescence is your essence. When my confession, it’s

like you set me free. Pre-conception, indiscretion. Teach me lessons, let me know your boundaries....”

The guitarist and bassist each took solos. The singers did a song too as London generously gave them

time to show their talents. He also displayed a quick wit and a love for basketball. The New York Knicks are in the playoffs; London was clearly aware. He in-

See FILM, Page 12

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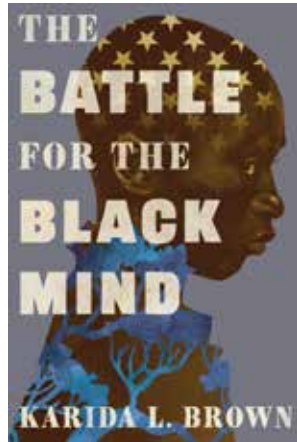
NDG Book Review: 'The Battle for the Black Mind' might be a motivator

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

"Use your brain!"

If you had a dime for every time a teacher, parent, or supervisor told you that, you'd be rich. Stop fooling around. Consider what you're about to do. Act with resolve, not impulse. It's the best way to work, the optimal method for learning and, as in the new book "The Battle for the Black Mind" by Karida L. Brown, it's what so many have fought for.

In the months after the



Civil War ended, it became apparent to both Black and white people in both North

and South that education for four million suddenly-freed former slaves was "a matter of national security." It was obvious that those citizens would require formal learning soon, maybe job training – but what kind and how much?

While Mary Smith Peake had "laid the foundation" for Hampton University already by then, two white men with vastly different intentions traveled south after the war to seize control of Black education. Edmund Asa Ware,

who became the first president of Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University) built schools that "aimed at nurturing Black intellectualism and potential," while General Samuel Chapman Armstrong, who was the first president of Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute (now Hampton University) had plans to "civilize" formerly enslaved people through physical labor and farm work.

Booker T. Washington was one of Armstrong's

best-known proteges.

In 1881, Washington became the first president of Tuskegee Institute and was later instrumental in forming the "Tuskegee Machine" which, says Brown, didn't altogether help "Black families and shoved a singular curriculum down their throats." There were forty-five Black colleges and universities in America then, though education for most Black children was still lacking.

It remained so in the Jim

Crow era when, although literacy rates grew, education beyond a few years of elementary school was "rare" for Black Americans. By then, says Brown, Black women had stepped up to do the work, becoming teachers, bookkeepers, experts in strategy, fundraisers, staffers, managers, and marketers – sometimes, all at once...

Blending personal observations and experiences with good backgrounding,

See BOOK, Page 13

PARENTS, from Page 4

they can respond to noises. Everything that you do, as you are moving about the house, as you are doing your housework, involve and include your child in it. Move your child into the room in which you are working. Tell them what you are doing: you are washing the dishes, you're dipping the dishes in the water. Tell them exactly what you are doing. All of that will stimulate them. You can also stimulate them by directly playing with them, by making little toys in the home, putting stones in a bottle and shaking it, by waving ribbons in front of their eyes, different colored ribbons. There are many things that you can do with just things around your house.

Can I breastfeed my child if he/she has a disability?

Breastfeeding is important for all children but is especially important for children with disabilities. Breastfeeding is important for children's growth, nutrition, and brain development. Many children with

disabilities can breastfeed, but only a few are not able to breastfeed. And those who can't and can be fed expressed breastmilk, because breastmilk is the best.

Why are the early years of every child's life so critical?

The early years of every child, whether they have a disability or not, are critical because when we stimulate the brain during these early years we are ensuring that the brain develops to its full potential. We are making sure that children have the best development that they can have and this happens for children with disabilities and children without disabilities.

How do I play with my child with a disability?

Children with disabilities enjoy being played with just like any other child. They enjoy you reading to them, showing them pictures, tickling them, hugging them, cuddling them. They respond to you with laughter and smiles. If they don't like a particular play that you are doing, they will tell you. They will stop

laughing, they'll stop smiling. Try something else. You will find something because you know them best.

If I don't have time to play or money to afford toys, what can I do?

If you don't have a lot of time to play with your child, there may be other family members in your home who will be able to play with your child with a disability. Brothers and sisters are great around children with disabilities. They stimulate them because they talk to them a lot and they play with them. They don't seem to be concerned about whether a sibling has a disability. They play with them just like anyone else.

What is your advice to parents who suspect that their child has a disability?

If you have a concern that your child has a disability, go to your nearest health provider and let them know your concerns. Some concerns may turn out not to be a problem at all, but some may, and your child may be identified as having a disability. It's just as important to provide children with dis-

abilities with a loving environment. Children who are shown warmth and love grow up to be loving, warm people. A child with a disability who is shown warmth and love will grow up to be an adult who may

have a disability, but who is a wonderful person to be around.

Maureen Samms-Vaughan is a Professor of Child Health, Child Development, and Behavior at the University of West

Indies in Jamaica. She is an advocate for vulnerable children, particularly children with disabilities and those impacted by violence, and has published significant research in these areas.

Tariffs, boycotts slam Target's bottom line

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Target Corporation is projecting a decline in annual sales and profits for 2025 as the retail giant struggles with fallout from its decision to end its diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs, pressure from new tariffs, and organized boycotts by Black consumers and media.

The company reported first-quarter net sales of \$23.8 billion, a 2.8% drop from the same period last year, and revised its full-year outlook downward, now forecasting a low single-digit decline in sales and adjusted earnings per share of \$7.00 to \$9.00.

Adjusted earnings for the quarter fell nearly 36% year-over-year to \$1.30 per share, down from \$2.03, when excluding a one-time \$593 million pre-tax gain from a credit card interchange fee settlement.

"Our team navigated a highly challenging environment and focused on delivering the outstanding assortment, experience, and value guests expect from Target," Chairman and CEO Brian Cornell



Douglas Rissing via NNPA

said during an investor call. "While our sales fell short of our expectations, we saw several bright spots in the quarter, including healthy digital growth, led by a 36 percent increase in same-day delivery through Target Circle 360, and our strongest designer collaboration in over a decade, Kate Spade for Target."

Cornell also acknowledged the backlash, saying, "We're not satisfied with current performance and know we have opportunities to deliver faster progress on our roadmap for growth. This morning, we announced the establishment of a multi-year acceleration office led by Michael Fiddelke and several leadership changes. These

steps forward are intended to build more speed and agility into how we operate and position key capabilities to drive long-term profitable growth."

Yet those changes are landing amid heightened scrutiny and organized resistance. In addition to financial pressures from tariffs, Target is now the focus of a national selective buying campaign launched by the Black Press of America after the company announced in January that it would phase out its DEI commitments.

In a joint op-ed made available to millions of readers, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association

(NNPA), and Bobby R. Henry Sr., NNPA Chair and publisher of the West-

side Gazette, issued a searing indictment of the company's direction.

"As far back as October 2024, we sent a formal letter to Target CEO Brian Cornell detailing the company's persistent refusal to invest in Black-owned newspapers and media outlets. That letter was met with silence. Silence, in the face of truth, is complicity. By ignoring our appeal, Mr. Cornell and Target have made clear that they do not value the voices, institutions, or the economic power of Black America," they wrote.

"Let us be clear: we will not shop where we are disrespected. Our dollars will not finance our own marginalization." Tanya Milton, Vice President and Advertising Director at *The Savannah Tribune* who said the boycott is making an impact and that Target's disengagement speaks volumes.

"Their continued silence could mean them hoping not to draw attention to their losses," Milton said. Asked how Black consumers should interpret

See TARGET, Page 13

RANGEL, from Page 2

war. Rangel earned a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star for his service in the Army during Korea.

Rangel served as a member of the New York State Assembly from 1967 to 1971 and went on to defeat another New York political legend — Adam Clayton Powell Jr. in a primary, before winning in the general

election in 1970. Rangel retired from Congress in 2016 at 86 years old.

At a time when many are discussing the age of members of Congress and the many who have died in office over the past two years, Rangel was an exception who departed on his terms. Rangel's seat in Congress would go to

Dominican-born Adriano Espaillat.

The moment represented a shift in Harlem's demographics and the power of the Latino community in the Bronx.

Rangel's wife Alma Carter, passed away last year. The two met in the 1950s at the famous Savoy Ballroom in Harlem. They married in 1964 and have two children.



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True unemployment rate soars past 24% — Black workers hit hardest

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

Despite federal reports suggesting a stable labor market, new data from the Ludwig Institute for Shared Economic Prosperity (LISEP) reveals a far grimmer reality for American workers—particularly Black and Hispanic Americans.

The institute's April report on the True Rate of Unemployment (TRU) shows a functional unemployment rate of 24.3%, compared to the official Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) figure of 4.2%.

The numbers mark the third consecutive month that functional unemployment has surpassed 24%, according to LISEP, which



Image via NNPA

defines functional unemployment as the combined total of those without jobs, those unable to secure full-time employment, and those earning poverty-level wages—less than \$20,000 per year adjusted for inflation.

“We are facing a job market where nearly one in four workers are functionally unemployed, and current trends show little sign of improvement,” said LISEP Chair Gene Ludwig. “The

harsh reality is that far too many Americans are still struggling to make ends meet.”

Racial and gender disparities remain wide.

Black workers saw a 1.4 percentage point increase in their TRU to 26.7%, while White workers experienced a slight decrease to 23%. The rate for Hispanic workers climbed to 28.2%, maintaining the highest among reported groups.

A persistent gender gap

also emerged in the data: functional unemployment for men rose to 20%, while women—though showing a slight improvement—still face a significantly higher rate at 28.6%.

Beyond labor force disparities, BLS statistics further indicate a disproportionate impact on Black Americans.

The unemployment rate for Black men remains at 6.3%, more than double that of White men. Meanwhile, since September, approximately 181,000 Black women have dropped out of the labor force entirely, even as participation rates among women of other racial groups have increased.

The origins of this exodus stretch back to 2020 when millions of working moth-

ers—particularly women of color—left the workforce amid the collapse of child-care infrastructure during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many have yet to return due to ongoing issues with affordability and accessibility. LISEP's white paper, “Measuring Better,” outlines significant flaws in headline economic indicators such as GDP and BLS unemployment rates, labeling them misleading and outdated.

Instead, LISEP advocates for measures that reflect the lived economic realities of most Americans—particularly those in working- and middle-class communities that have long been left behind by policy and prosperity.

According to the paper,

the methodology behind TRU includes only those working full-time and earning above poverty wages as “employed.”

It excludes part-time workers who would prefer full-time employment and those earning less than \$20,000 per year. This approach, LISEP argues, provides policymakers with a more accurate understanding of economic well-being and informs better decision-making for resource allocation.

“The public would be well served by a commitment from economic policymakers to adopt a stable course of action, based on real-world metrics, that better serves the interests of working Americans,” Ludwig said.

ART, from Page 6

fers more than 200 degrees and certificates, including a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), a Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT) in Cybersecurity, a Bachelor of Applied Sci-

ence (BAS) in Construction Management, a Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) in Clinical Operations Management, and a new Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT) in Software Development.

opment. The only public college based in Collin County, Collin College is a partner to business, government, and industry, providing customized training and workforce development. For more information, visit www.collin.edu.

FILM, from Page 9

vited the audience to check the score with their phones, making a funny remark at the same time. “My money’s on the Knicks tonight. Smartphone users take a look. Android users we’ll wait on you....?” That funny comment should make Apple’s CEO Tim Cook happy, because the singer was passively praising iPhones and the audience was in hysterics. Then he sealed the deal, “Knicks in six!”

The friendly banter was almost counter intuitive to the ultra-cool appearance and the sophisticated sound that all were experiencing. This is how you head your first tour. How you make an impression and build a rapport with your fans. Sing like your momma made you just for that. Don’t bring an entourage of twenty, when a basic band will let you shine. Sound better than you do on your records and let your fans leave the

auditorium feeling upbeat about life and in the mood for love.

That was the assignment for the kid from Indiana who had just picked a New York basketball team over the Indiana Pacers. Know your audience, give them what they want. In return, they’ll wanna get down tonight and see your rebirth of cool.

Visit *NNPA News Wire* entertainment critic *Dwight Brown* at *DwightBrownInk.com*.

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Verna's HELP Foundation hosts 10th Living Legends Brunch

Verna's HELP Foundation will be hosting its 10th annual Living Legends Brunch, a truly significant event recognizing Dallas' 1st Black History Makers & Leaders on June 7, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 1p.m. at Royal Oaks Country Club (7915 Greenville Ave., in Dallas).

The Pre-Father's Day Brunch Celebration will honor Mr. Terry Allen, Robert Ashley, Karl Berry, Dwaine Caraway, Ken Carter, Marvin Crenshaw, Attorney Domingo Garcia,



Rev. Peter Johnson, Willis Johnson, Atty. Ron Kirk, Rene Martinez, Attorney William "Bill" Mahomes, Arthur Melton, Fred Moses, Attorney Sol Villasana, Fred Walker, Senator Royce West, C.W. Whitaker, Dr

David Willis, and Travis Wortham Jr.

With Guest Speaker Dr. Michael Thompson, CEO of Sikhona's global technology and communications, special Guest Presenter National Host Letitia Ow-

ens, and the Legendary Dwayne Dancer—Emcee. Ticket information can be found at www.vernashelp-foundation.org.

The event on June 7 will conclude the public filming for all the Black 1st History Makers and Leaders.

Verna's H.E.L.P. Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit resource information center and business incubator that provides education, legal pro bono services, and business training to help individuals become self-sufficient and independent citizens.

CASA, from Page 7

Playhouses each summer.

"NorthPark Center has been with us since the beginning, and we couldn't do this without them," Kroencke said. "A 30-year partnership is very special."

In 2024, Dallas CASA served 2,042 children removed from their homes due to neglect or abuse,

with factors like poverty, addiction, instability and violence impacting their young lives. Judges assign Dallas CASA's volunteers to ensure the educational, emotional and therapeutic needs of children are being met. Volunteers work closely with all stakeholders on the case, including

the child's family, case-workers, attorneys, educators, medical professionals and more, to ensure the child can grow up both safe and loved.

"For us, we don't see children, or their families as defined by their pasts or where they come from," LaValle said. "Instead, we all see them as full of potential. We want all chil-

dren to have the best possible chance to reach their full potential."

Raffle tickets to win a playhouse can be purchased during the event for \$5 each or five for \$20 on the Dallas CASA website at dallascasa.org or at NorthPark Center. Winners will be randomly selected on the final day of the event on June 29.

TARGET, from Page 11

the company's decision to end its DEI programs, she added, "If they just got on board three years ago, then it's not a big deal to them. Black consumers shopped there before they were on-board."

She also addressed the broader consequences of Target's failure to invest in

Black-owned media.

"Being visible helps to make your brand a household name," she said.

Target's troubles continue to ripple through Wall Street. Shares fell nearly 7% after the earnings announcement and are down 33% year-to-date.

Despite its digital gains

and successful designer collaborations, Target reported a comparable store sales decline of 5.7%, even as digital sales grew 4.7%. Cornell told investors the company has "many levers" to mitigate the effects of tariffs, and that raising prices would only come as a "very last resort."

Still, for many, the damage is already done.

"We therefore announce the continuation and intensification of the target-TARGET national selective buying campaign," Chavis and Henry stated. "We call upon all freedom-loving people from across all segments of society who believe in economic justice, media equity, and corporate accountability to join us."

BOOK, from Page 10

author Karida L. Brown tells this story in a conversational tone that invites readers to peek down the halls of history's HBCUs and into classrooms. She writes to readers, rather than at them, which helps to open minds for what's

inside "The Battle for the Black Mind."

You may not need to be reminded about racism in Black American education, but the secrets she shares and the lines she draws are highlighted to seem like new information.

Here, readers can see more clearly the connections between the early twentieth-century and now, and how Project 2025 could change the trajectory. Fortunately, Brown also offers advice and ideas for taking action and ensuring that upcoming generations can win the next "battle."

"The Battle for the Black Mind" is a lively book that you can read for information, history, or just because. But beware: it might make you want to get up, contact your Representative or Congressperson, and act. It's the kind of book that'll make you think.



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Who Has The License to Drive Me Crazy?

Dr. James L. Snyder

I will confess that I am crazy, but I didn't get there by myself. Somebody has been driving me crazy. When I use the word "somebody," I mean a lot of people.

I didn't always know I was crazy until a few years ago The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked at me and said, "Are you crazy or what?"

I did not know what led to that declaration. Reflecting on the past, she was likely correct. I am crazy, but I am not the one behind the wheel driving me crazy.

Over 30 years ago, a friend and I went to New York City. We took a train there, and he picked up a taxi when we arrived. We spent the rest of the day driving around in a taxi. I've never been in a taxi before. I was impressed by how much the taxi driver knew. He could negotiate traffic better than anybody I've ever seen before. I wish I had his skills.

If you've ever been in New York City, you know how crazy the traffic is. That was over 30 years ago, and I'm sure it's much worse today. That taxicab driver got us to where we wanted to go, and we had nothing to worry about.

I thought about that the other day as I was driving across town. Our town used to be small and quiet, with not much traffic. We had snowbird traffic in the wintertime, but then the traffic almost died in the summer. I enjoyed those

days.

That has changed in the last few years. I can't tell the difference between snowbird time and summertime. The traffic is just simply crazy.

Almost every day, we hear news of a traffic accident within the scope of our neighborhood. The other day, somebody drove into a daycare center, and several children were killed.

The lady driving was drunk.

How do crazy people get a license to drive in our community?

Every time I drive across town and return, I'm slightly crazier than when I started. The fact that I'm still alive is almost a miracle.

Each time I come back, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage sees I've gotten a bit crazier. She often replies, "You seem a little more crazy than when you left. Is everything okay?"

If she thinks I'm crazy, she should ride with me across town. It's been a long time since she rode with me. Usually, she drives her Sissy Van, and I ride along with her.

I wouldn't repeat this out loud, but I've recently noticed that drivers stay clear of her as much as possible. They don't want to cross paths with her.

Last week, we drove across town to our Sunday morning ministry. The traffic was a bit jammed, slower than usual, and some people behind us seemed to be in a hurry. They couldn't get around us, so

they beeped their horns to get us to hurry up.

They did not know that the person driving the car was The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. You don't cross her and live to tell about it.

The more the person behind us blew their horn, the slower The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage went. I could see that one driver was very anxious and blowing his horn.

Finally, the traffic eased up, and he could drive around us. As he did so, he shook his fist in the air and pointed us toward heaven. He used the wrong finger, but everybody makes mistakes. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked in his direction and gave him one of her signature smiles.

I would've loved to have been a fly on the wall when he got home.

As for me, I just kept quiet, tried not to smile too much, and pretended I didn't see what happened.

If The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage thought I was crazy, she should sit in my seat and see things the way I see them.

Driving to our Sunday ministry, I wondered, "Where did she learn that kind of driving?"

I almost blamed it on her father. Then the truth hit me smack in the face like a pie. I was the one who taught her how to drive after we got married. I sighed deeply and thought, "How did I get it all wrong?"

We finished our Sunday morning ministry and were

driving back home.

It is very hard to keep quiet around my wife. She seems to know what I'm thinking before I even think it. Halfway home, she glanced at me and said, "What are you thinking?"

This can go either way. Either I get in trouble, or I say nothing.

"Are you thinking," she finally said, "about the nice service we had this morning?"

Very few times, I have had an open door out of a situation. I smiled at her and said, "I loved your piano playing while we sang hymns this morning. It was wonderful!"

I'm not sure, but I think I dodged a bullet. That doesn't happen often.

I was reminded of a Bible verse along this line.

Ecclesiastes 7:9, "Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools."

This is seen on highways across town. Why can't people just rest and not be hasty in their lives? A hasty spirit leads to anger, which

never solves any problem.

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

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Once I attended a high school graduation at The Inspiring Body of Christ Church (IBOC) where Dr. Rickie G. Rush is the Senior Pastor; he also gave the Commencement Address that year.

Looking at the students and the happiness on their faces, anyone could guess that it was very special to them. I can imagine that in spite of the hardships, tragedies and tears that came into their lives the students

had made it through their high school graduation. This was one major landmark in their lives; their future plans may include graduating from college or a Trade School.

There will be other milestones they will face, but they can take great comfort in knowing that God was with them every step of the way and He will continue to be with them.

It was a very unique graduation from start to finish, instead of the normal "pomp and circumstances" graduation ceremony, these seniors marched in and out of the auditorium as they were singing, "Thank God We Made It."

—by Dr. Rickie G. Rush

There are times in life that in order to be successful, things must happen outside the box. By completing this milestone in their lives, the 2014 Graduating Classes all over the world are already thinking outside the box. Because up to this point in their lives, there were many world events

as well as the regular problems of growing up that they had to face.

Long before they were born or shortly after they were born, someone said a prayer (a prayer is simply talking to someone you can't see or prove that they are there, but you believe, you have faith that what you said was heard.)

The result of that prayer is what is happening all over the country with our graduates at this time. Think of these graduates' lives as going through a drive-through fast food restaurant.

The prayer of the parent or guardian was him/her driving up to a menu

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Longfellow gathers for heartfelt farewell

(Dallas ISD) On Friday, May 23, the Henry W. Longfellow Career Exploration Academy community came together one last time to say goodbye to a campus that has served generations of Dallas ISD students and families.

Throughout the afternoon, students, alumni, current and former Dallas ISD team members, families, and neighbors visited the campus to walk its familiar halls, reflect on cherished memories, and take part in the farewell celebration.

Some students marked the moment by writing messages and memories on the walls, leaving behind a living tribute to their time at Longfellow.

Longfellow has been honored three times as a National Blue Ribbon School—in 2007, 2014, and 2020—highlighting its legacy of academic excellence and impact on generations of students.

“We had great times here, with the most wonderful teachers,” said Gary Brower, class of 1948. “Some of my best teachers were at Longfellow School, and we made such great friendships.”

As part of the 2020 Bond Program, a new Longfellow campus is set to open in August 2025, ushering in a new era of exploration and achievement while honoring the school’s enduring legacy.



Dallas ISD

TARPLEY, from Page 15

board and placing an order with God about that child. By faith, God assured the parent or guardian that this order was possible, yes, you can have it, He probably said.

The order caused an appetite in the graduate and he/she was asked to drive to the next window to pick up the order.

There are an assortment of things that happens between when the order is placed and when it is picked up. What happens between the order and the pick-up is what tests your trust and faith in God.

In between you will experience some tragedies, you may have a serious illness, the death of a mother, father, a sister or brother, a grandmother or grandfather, a favorite aunt, uncle or friend.

There may be a divorce in the family, sexual, physical or even mental abuse between the order and the pickup to discourage the graduate. There are times that you will look back because you are miserable and tired of things that seem to happen only to you.

But when you look back, God will give you valor and you will say to yourself, that at least I’m

further up the road than when I started. I might not be as far along as I want to be at this time in my life, but thank God I’m farther up the road than I thought; it’s not a good choice to turn back now.

You can say that to yourself because once the order was placed, God placed someone behind the scene that is responsible for helping to get your order ready for pickup. Someone to give you encouraging words, someone to smile at you, to give you a pat on the back, to teach you, to pray for you, etc. You can’t see that person but you know that someone is helping to fill the order for your pickup.

Before you get to the pickup window (your status in life) there’s a price that you, the graduate, must pay, there are the tragedies and misfortunes in your life that you must overcome and there are the other grades in school that you have to pass prior to your senior year. That’s why it is important that you surround yourself with people that will help you get to your order.

Some prayers were special orders and they won’t get picked up

as soon as others. Some graduates had to watch from the side as others passed them by before they could get to the pickup window. There may be adoptions, learning disabilities, neglect and other storms in your life along the way.

When you finally get to the pickup window for a particular milestone in your life, you may ask yourself, “How do I know this is God?” You will know it is God because no one else will know of your pain, your headache, your tears and your goals because you didn’t tell anyone else about the order that was placed long ago.

You are very unique to God. When He made you, He put something in you that you will need for the storms in your life. He made you with your storms in mind.

Some of you had a rough start but you have made it to this landmark in your life, don’t quit, don’t get out of the pickup line, you have somewhere to go, something to do, something to accomplish in your life. Remember it’s not how you start out, but how you finish in life that’s important.

(Editor’s Note: This column originally ran in June 2014.)

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