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Bad Bunny Breaks Every Rule While Defending His Culture and His Home

By Lori Lee
NDG Contributing Writer

After quickly growing into an urban music sensation, Bad Bunny has taken on a global platform, as he agrees to sing in the Super Bowl Halftime show next February.

His cutesy name, stemming from a childhood photo donning a bunny costume, hides an oddly serious side of an extremely talented artist. Bad Bunny breaks every rule, combining elements of soul, punk, rock, and salsa, as he refuses to sing in English. Challenging his audiences to learn Spanish, he dedicates himself to his home of Puerto Rico.

Before Bad Bunny came Jose Feliciano, also from Puerto Rico, who sang his own bluesy rendition of the national anthem during the 1968 World Series. As he expressed his appreciation for his country, Feliciano received booing and backlash, some radio stations even blacklisting his work.

Now, at a time when anti-Hispanic sentiment has been very loud, Bad Bunny's performance is already



The choice of Bad Bunny as the halftime entertainer for the Super Bowl has raised disapproval from many on the right, noting that at a time when immigration issues are on the forefront of the news cycle the artist will be performing in Spanish. (Bad Bunny photo: Glen Francis / Wikimedia, NDG Composite)

receiving backlash, said Antonio Mejías-Rentas, managing editor at *Boyle Heights Beat*, at an October American Community Media briefing. His assertion to do it in Spanish during the campaign to expel undocumented immigrants gives rise to FCC complaints even prior to halftime, added award -winning filmmaker, writer, and scholar, Frances Negrón-Muntaner, who also spoke at the briefing.

During the 80s and 90s, the way to crossover into the American mainstream was to record in English, said the former entertainment editor

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The Threat of the Cashless Conspiracy

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Breakthrough for Cancer Screening

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People In The News ...



Russell Vought



Atiya Henley

NDG Quote of the Week:

"Defining myself, as opposed to being defined by others, is one of the most difficult challenges I face."
- Carol Moseley-Braun

Russell Vought

ProPublica's in-depth investigation reveals that Russell Vought, Donald Trump's former budget director, is the real power inside this White House.

Vought is the principal author of Project 2025, a racist and authoritarian blueprint that reshapes government around a single goal: to make America a white Christian nation.

While Trump holds the title of president, it is Vought who drives policy, using the machinery of government to wage war on equality and democracy. ProPublica's reporting shows that Vought has consolidated power through the Office of Management and Budget, controlling federal spending, freezing funds,



and shutting down entire agencies.

He has used his position to block aid for the poor, cancel education programs, and dismantle health and environmental protections that serve Black and brown communities. Inside Washington, even senior officials describe the government as one where Vought, not Trump, is calling the shots.

Vought calls himself a Christian nationalist and says America was "meant to be a Christian nation." In speeches and documents, he has vowed to "traumatize" civil servants who he sees as part of a liberal "regime."

His chapter in Project 2025 outlines a plan to let the president control agencies that have traditionally been independent, including the Justice Department. The League of Conservation Voters notes that Vought's section of the plan pushes mass firings of federal employees and the suspension of funds Congress has already approved.

When Trump asked Vought during his first term to "find a way to counter Black Lives Matter," he delivered. As OMB director,

he ordered the cancellation of federal contracts that mentioned white privilege or systemic racism. He replaced diversity and equity training with a new ideology that celebrates racial hierarchy.

That order became one of the first building blocks of Project 2025. ProPublica's reporting shows that Vought now uses his control over the budget to punish opponents and reward those who fall in line. He has paused or canceled more than \$400 billion in funding for programs that support education, public housing, and medical research. Many of these programs are lifelines for

low-income families and for Black Americans who have fought for decades to gain access to them.

The League of Conservation Voters calls Vought's agenda a direct attack on democracy.

"Vought has promised to traumatize civil servants and shut down agency funding to carry out his dangerous Project 2025 agenda," said Matthew Davis, the organization's vice president of federal policy. "We will fight him at every step and stand with these public servants who protect our communities."

What Vought describes as restoring order is instead the construction of a

new Jim Crow system. It strips rights, silences dissent, and rewards loyalty to an ideology that centers white Christian power. ProPublica's reporting makes clear that Vought is not a bureaucrat carrying out policy but the architect of a plan to reverse more than half a century of civil rights progress. Vought is the man behind the curtain, a figure who uses faith as cover for cruelty and government as a weapon against the vulnerable.

As long as he directs this regime, Black America and every community that depends on fairness in government will remain in his crosshairs.

Atiya Henley

It did not come as a surprise to Atiya Henley's parents, alumni of Head Start, that she would become a published author before the age of 10.

"Atiya has a BIG imagination," said her mother, Amy Deanes. "This isn't her first book, but it's the first one that we published. She wrote this book because of no experience of her own, but because of her passion to help others."

Atiya is a former student of the Institute of Community Services (ICS Head Start) of Mississippi and the author of the "Mean Girls: A Bunch of Bullies," a powerful story about the impact of hurtful teasing, taunting, and aggressive behavior.

Her former teacher, Mrs. Dorothy Gaston, is proud of her learning process and progress.



"During her year at Head Start, Atiya exemplified good social skills with her peers," said Mrs. Gaston. "Early learning is a must when it comes to helping students gain social skills early in life. It helps them to interact with others and not be a bully to get what you want."

In her book, Atiya imagines students being pushed around by others and not being treated with kindness. She drew on the social skills she developed with

Mrs. Gaston to write about how to stop bullying.

"When a child leaves home and gets on the bus ride to school, they should know that this is their second home and nothing bad will happen to them. Bullies are everywhere, but even a bully can be stopped," said the young author. "I am also working on the second part to show how bullying doesn't just stop because the bully gets caught, especially when the bully becomes more crafty."

Bullying can have lasting impacts on everyone involved: the person being bullied, bystanders who witness the bullying, and the person who bullies others.

In fact, bullying is considered an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE). ACEs are potentially traumatic events that can have

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Clinique Hill

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Production

David Wilfong

Editorial Assistant / Writer

De'Shane Frye

Contributing Writers

Jamal Baker
Katherine M. Brown
Allen Gray
Jackie Hardy
Lori Lee
Terri Schlichenmeyer



Publisher's Office:

publisher@northdallasgazette.com

Sales Department:

marketing@northdallasgazette.com

Editorial Department:

editor@northdallasgazette.com



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P.O. Box 763866 - Dallas, Texas 75736-3866

Phone: 972-432-5219 - Fax: 972-509-9058

The Cashless Conspiracy: How Trump's Economy and Musk's Data Grab Threaten Freedom

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

The Trump administration's economic experiment, rooted in chaos, crony capitalism, and unchecked digital surveillance, is pushing America toward a dangerous new frontier.

It is a crypto-driven, cashless society that threatens to erase financial freedom for millions, particularly Black Americans and the working poor.

As the economy contracts and inflation rises, President Donald Trump's aggressive tariff regime has already sent shockwaves through every sector.

According to *Fortune*, Trump's reckless tariff decisions have wiped nearly seven trillion dollars in market value, decimated small business confidence, and driven consumer prices to levels not seen in decades.

Senator Brian Schatz of Hawaii warned that Trump is ruining the economy on purpose, pointing to middle-class families now paying an average of five thousand dollars more each year for basic goods such as cars, homes, groceries, and clothing.

While Americans struggle with higher prices and shrinking savings, the Trump White House has quietly advanced a sweeping new financial system that merges state power, private crypto interests, and invasive data collection.

In early 2025, Trump authorized a Strategic Bitcoin Reserve, incorporating the volatile cryptocurrency into official United States financial infrastructure. *The Conversation* reported that this hybrid model privatizes the issuance of money while keeping control of reserves under the executive branch.

It undermines the Federal Reserve's independence and centralizes power in the Oval Office. Trump described bitcoin as freedom money, but in practice, it represents state-aligned crypto dominance and an economy where wealth and access depend on government loyalty.

Behind the scenes, Trump's Department of Government Efficiency, once run by Elon Musk, came under scrutiny for uploading massive federal databases containing the personal information of hundreds of millions of Americans, including Social Security data, to unsecured cloud servers.

A whistleblower revealed that the team requested its activities not be logged and even deleted records of access, behavior that cybersecurity experts compared to criminal hacking operations.

Sensitive information tied to union members, workers' rights cases, and corporate secrets may have been exposed, with traces of suspicious activity linking back to Russian IP ad-

dresses.

By the spring of 2025, Musk left DOGE and the government under a cloud of suspicion after a public spat with Trump. He has gone mostly silent since his departure, but multiple people believe he took large volumes of data with him. The full extent of what was removed or copied remains unclear, leaving major concerns about the safety of sensitive personal and governmental information.

At the same time, Trump's allies have opened new financial avenues for the wealthy through Erebor Bank, a cryptocurrency-focused institution backed by conservative megadonors and approved with unusual speed by Trump's Treasury Department.

Its mission is to serve ultra-high-net-worth individuals and tech firms, signaling a parallel financial system that privileges the rich while ordinary citizens are pushed into algorithmic surveillance economies.

These developments align with global moves toward digital ID systems such as the United Kingdom's One Login and digital wallets, which *The Telegraph* described as a real nightmare that centralizes personal data and is riddled with security flaws. In the United States, REAL ID enforcement now allows the federal government to link biometric data to digital identification across states. Officials claim it enhances security,

yet many Black Americans have long viewed REAL ID with suspicion. Without it, citizens cannot board domestic flights, enter federal buildings, or access certain public facilities. Critics warn that REAL ID creates another layer of exclusion and control, particularly for those who already face bureaucratic and systemic barriers.

An expanded picture of what is happening around the world makes this moment appear even more calculated than coincidental. In the United Kingdom, Prime Minister Keir Starmer's digital ID program has been exposed as a security disaster that relied on unsecured workstations in foreign countries, leaving millions of British citizens vulnerable to data theft and foreign manipulation.

In the United States, whistleblower Charles Borges revealed that the DOGE team copied and uploaded the Social Security Administration's database containing hundreds of millions of Americans' personal records to unmonitored cloud servers. He resigned after filing complaints, claiming he was harassed and isolated by the administration. Meanwhile, cybersecurity analysts detected data activity linked to Russia at the same time DOGE engineers were transferring files.

When taken together,

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Digital Self-Service Program Boosts Lung Cancer Screening Rates

By Myra Wright

(Newswise) — A new study led by researchers at Wake Forest University School of Medicine, in collaboration with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and MD Anderson Cancer Center, has found that a direct-to-patient digital health program can significantly increase lung cancer screening rates among people at high risk.

The study has been published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA).

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death



worldwide, but early detection through screening can improve outcomes and save lives. Despite this, less than 20% of eligible Americans are screened for lung cancer each year. Barriers include lack of awareness, confusion about guidelines and limited time for shared

decision-making during doctor visits.

“Our goal was to address these barriers by testing a digital program that reaches patients directly, outside of traditional clinical encounters,” said David P. Miller, M.D., professor of implementation science

in the Division of Public Health Sciences at Wake Forest University School of Medicine and corresponding author of the study.

Researchers conducted a randomized clinical trial at two large academic health systems in North Carolina. Over 26,000 individuals with a history of smoking were invited to participate. Those eligible were randomly assigned to either the new digital health program (mPATH-Lung) or to enhanced usual care.

The enhanced usual care group received a message letting them know they were eligible for lung can-

cer screening and were encouraged to talk with their primary care doctor about it. They also watched a short video about lung health. This approach provided more information and support than what patients might typically receive but did not include mPATH-Lung.

The mPATH-Lung program included a brief educational video, a decision aid and the option to request a screening appointment, all delivered online, outside of a clinic visit. The main outcome measured was whether participants completed a chest CT scan

for lung cancer screening within 16 weeks.

Key Findings

- 24.5% of participants using the digital program completed a screening CT scan, compared to 17% in the usual care group.
- The program increased screening rates across all demographic and socioeconomic groups.
- The digital approach allowed patients to learn about screening, weigh the benefits and risks, and easily request appointments.
- There were no complications from screening-

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these events suggest a global pattern of governments and private actors concentrating power by controlling not only digital money but also personal identity and access to daily life. Globally, other nations have already begun shifting toward cashless societies.

Sweden and Norway have reduced physical currency use to historic lows, and while the move is framed as progress, even their governments are now warning about the vulnerability of fully digital economies to war, cyberattacks, and authoritarian abuse. The convergence of Trump's crypto policies, REAL ID enforcement, the global cashless push, and Musk's suspected data exfiltration raises the specter of a coordinated effort to centralize control over citizens' finances and personal freedoms. It suggests that the line between economic policy, surveillance, and political domination is disappearing.

As the physical dollar

fades, major institutions warn of who will be left behind. Brookings predicted years ago that cash will soon be obsolete, with digital currencies becoming the new norm. While central banks promote benefits like efficiency and transparency, they also introduce total traceability, enabling governments or corporations to freeze, restrict, or program how citizens spend money.

J.P. Morgan and Loughborough University both note that a cashless system risks excluding the poor, the elderly, and the unbanked, groups disproportionately represented by Black and minority Americans. Digital payments must be designed with inclusion and convenience at their core, said Loughborough economist Markos Zachariadis, warning that without oversight, we risk leaving vulnerable groups excluded. In the United States, those same groups are already being priced out of basic participation in the economy

as Trump's tariffs, inflation, and anti-worker policies strip away safety nets like Medicaid and food assistance.

For Black America, the stakes are especially high. The march toward a cashless economy threatens to replicate the structural inequalities of the old banking system under the guise of innovation. Access to digital money will depend on data verification, credit history, and digital ID compliance, areas where Black Americans have historically faced discrimination and surveillance.

With tech billionaires like Musk controlling the digital rails, privacy and autonomy may soon become luxuries reserved for the elite. As Global Finance observed, nations like Sweden are reassessing their nearly cashless economies after realizing that wars, natural disasters, and crises reveal vulnerabilities in fully digital systems. In America, those vulnerabilities may soon look like total control, where the same ad-

ministration that tanked the economy gains the power to decide how and where citizens can spend what little they have left.

In the end, Trump's version of economic freedom is not about liberty. It is about ownership of currency, of data, and of people. If

this cashless, crypto-fueled dystopia becomes reality, Black America and the poor will once again be first in line to pay the price.

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A New Black Migration Rises Under Trumps America

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

As the Trump administration renews its assault on social safety nets—from mental health care to housing and education—young Black Americans are migrating to cities that promise not only economic opportunity but community and freedom. The movement, experts say, reflects a modern Great Migration shaped by politics, culture, and survival. According to Apartment List's 2025 Best Cities for Black Professionals report, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, San Antonio, Houston, and Dallas lead the nation in economic and professional prospects for Black Americans. The study, developed with the Black employee resource group Black@A-List, used data on employment, income, homeownership, and representation across key professions to determine



Jacob Wackerhausen via NNPA

where Black professionals thrive despite national headwinds.

Washington, D.C.:

Power and Prosperity

Apartment List found that Washington, D.C., ranks first nationwide for economic opportunity among Black professionals, with a 92 percent employment rate and a median Black income of \$52,988, the highest in the country. Roughly 28 percent of D.C.'s population is Black, and 51 percent of Black households own their homes, placing the

District third nationally for Black homeownership. The report also noted that more than one-quarter of businesses in D.C. are Black-owned. With Howard University and the University of the District of Columbia producing a steady stream of graduates, the capital remains a key center for Black leadership and innovation, even as federal policies threaten to dismantle the very programs that sustain progress.

Atlanta: The Black Mecca Holds Its Crown
Atlanta earned the No. 2

ranking for best cities for Black professionals, leading the nation in "community and representation," according to Apartment List. The city's Black population makes up 36 percent of all residents, with a 93 percent employment rate and a 50 percent homeownership rate. Atlanta's strength, the report said, lies in its deep infrastructure of Historically Black Colleges and Universities that include Spelman, Morehouse, Clark Atlanta, and Morehouse School of Medicine, all of which have cultivated generations of Black scholars and leaders. About 37 percent of local businesses are Black-owned, a number that continues to climb despite rising housing costs and gentrification pressures.

Houston and Dallas: Texas's Twin Engines of Growth

In Texas, both Houston and Dallas ranked among the top five destinations for

Black professionals. Houston's business environment ranked third in the nation, with 21 percent of local businesses Black-owned and a strong representation of Black professionals across industries; 21 percent of the city's teachers and doctors are Black. Apartment List noted that the median Black income in Houston is several thousand dollars above the national average. Dallas, with an 18 percent Black population and a 93 percent employment rate among Black residents, placed fifth nationally. Its Black median income of \$43,632 and increasing share of Black-owned businesses—now 19 percent—shows the city's growing reputation as a professional hub for young talent.

The Carolina Renaissance

Charlotte and Raleigh, North Carolina, also earned spots among the top ten. Charlotte ranked tenth

overall for Black professionals, driven by job growth in banking, energy, and technology. Raleigh, part of the Research Triangle, continues to draw younger generations thanks to affordable housing, rising tech jobs, and the presence of HBCUs like Shaw University and St. Augustine's. A Home & Texture analysis of the top cities for Black renters in 2025 similarly highlighted the Southeast as a magnet for young professionals, citing Atlanta, Raleigh, and Huntsville, Alabama, for their affordability, cultural richness, and expanding Black business scenes.

Chicago: Culture, Legacy, and Resistance

While Chicago faces economic challenges, it remains a beacon for Black culture and political engagement. The city's deep legacy, from Bronzeville's jazz clubs to the organ-

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negative, lasting effects on a person's development, the way they interact with others, and how they perform in school. Research has shown that children reporting more ACEs may be more likely to exhibit bullying behavior.

"We always ask our

teachers and staff to listen attentively to what our children are saying. If we do not listen, we will miss the message," said ICS Head Start Executive Director Eloise McClinton. "We are proud to know that one of our own had a vision during this time in her life to pen

such a powerful story and to share her experience of bullying with her teacher."

Parents, caregivers, teachers, and schools all play an important role in preventing and addressing bullying and its harmful effects. Wise beyond her years, Atyia is an example of how students can also help prevent bullying and

trauma at school and contribute to a positive school culture for both fellow students and staff. Preventing bullying and building a positive culture is Atyia's specialty. Not only is she helping kids to understand bullying, but she is also modeling how to treat others with kindness and respect.

Because of Head Start's programmatic focus on social-emotional health, Head Start children are more prepared to participate in kindergarten classrooms. "Alum like Atyia makes me so elated to be a Head Start teacher," said Mrs. Gaston. "I would not have it any other way."

"We thank ICS Head

Start for being a great part of her early childhood education," added her mother. "Strong and powerful teachers are everywhere, but most certainly in Head Start, where children get the best formal education and the ability to grow into their childhood. Mrs. Gas-kin to this day is still her favorite teacher."

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related procedures in either group.

"Our study shows that reaching patients directly with digital tools can help overcome barriers to lung cancer screening and potentially save lives," Miller said. "By empowering individuals with information

and easy access to screening, we can make a real difference in early detection of lung cancer."

According to Miller, the findings demonstrate that digital health interventions can modestly but meaningfully increase lung cancer screening rates, even

among groups that have historically faced barriers to care. Early detection is crucial, as patients diagnosed at an early stage have much higher survival rates. The study's approach could be adapted to other preventive health services, helping more people benefit from life-saving screenings.

The researchers noted

that further studies are needed to test digital lung cancer screening programs in a wider range of health care settings and populations. Future research will also explore the best ways to keep patients engaged with digital health tools over time.

To extend the impact of this work, Miller and co-

investigator Ajay Dharod, M.D., associate professor of internal medicine, launched mPATH Health, a startup spun out of Wake Forest University School of Medicine, to make the program widely available and improve lung cancer screening and other preventive care needs. This effort reflects Advocate Health's

academic learning health system model, which emphasizes translating research into real-world solutions that benefit as many people as possible.

Miller, Dharod and Wake Forest University Health Sciences have ownership interest in the mPATH technology used to conduct this research.

Together Toward Tomorrow



Joyce Foreman
Dallas ISD
District 6

I am grateful to our school administrators, teachers, and families in Dallas ISD, but I am especially thankful for your dedication in District 6.

Your involvement continues to be the foundation

of a promising year for our students. As Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson reminds us: "We must trust the path we choose to walk, anchored by a firm sense of our potential, inspired by the people with whom we surround ourselves, and bolstered by our willingness to keep on." To sustain our momentum this year, we lean on the reasons why we chose this work as educa-

tors and community leaders — the children and their success. Let those reasons inspire us to continue our work as schools pursue their goals and to provide them with the resources they need.

National Principals Month: In October, we take time to honor principals across Dallas ISD. I want to recognize school leaders in District 6. Your quiet mo-

ments of service and your resilience echo across your campuses every day. We see the ways you carry the responsibility of providing an outstanding education with grace and confidence, and I thank you for your leadership.

Discover Dallas ISD: I am excited to invite you to the largest school fair in the city! Join us from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 1, in

the Automobile Building at Fair Park. This is a wonderful opportunity to explore all the outstanding programs at our Legacy schools, as well as the Montessori, personalized learning, P-TECH, magnet, STEAM/STEM, project-based learning, transformation, visual and performing arts, and dual language schools in the district.

All of our schools offer

an outstanding education, and Discover Dallas ISD is a great opportunity for your family to become familiar with those available in District 6. For more information, visit www.DallasISD.org/Discover.

Together, we are working to shape a brighter tomorrow for our students, and I can't wait to see all we accomplish in the months ahead.

The Art of Everyday at Booker T. Washington (Arts Magnet)

By Jenna Carpenter
Dallas ISD

At Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, inspiration doesn't just walk the halls; it sings, sketches, and dances through them.

"It's a community of one mind. Everyone thinks alike," said Lucas S. "No one judges you and accepts you for who you are."

Lucas, whose older



Dallas ISD

brothers all graduated from Booker T., initially came thinking he would follow in their footsteps as a painter.

Over time, his focus shifted to 3-D art, where he uses scrap metal to create sculptures of Texas wildlife

At Booker T., there are four conservatories students can choose from: dance, music, theater, and visual arts. But for Lucas and his classmates, an education at Booker T. is well-rounded.

"I came here for visual arts, but I started to learn instruments and play guitar," Lucas said.

He said it's common for students to broaden their horizons and express themselves in all kinds of art,

regardless of their conservatory.

Ben S. is an example.

A member of the music conservatory, Ben is a talented visual artist and said his parents encouraged him to check out Booker T. when he was in eighth grade.

"They thought I was going to go for drawing," he said. "My dad took me on a tour, and once I was in the building, I knew I wanted to

try it out."

At Booker T., he studies the saxophone, and he also plays the piano and guitar.

"I can never leave instruments alone. I find myself playing around with stuff," he said. "Once you learn one, it's easy to pick up others."

While his favorite genre is jazz, Ben said his teachers introduced him to differ-

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TexasWorks Hosts Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for New Tuition-Free Adult Education Campuses in Fort Worth

TexasWorks, the only statewide tuition-free diploma and career certification program for adults, will celebrate the opening of three new Fort Worth campuses with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Acting Comptroller Kelly Hancock will speak on the importance of TexasWorks

in providing adult learners with education and career opportunities while building a skilled workforce for Texas industries.

"This expansion is about opening doors," said Dr. Elizabeth Camarena, Brand Superintendent of TexasWorks. "Each campus offers adults a chance to

complete their education, earn certifications, and step confidently into meaningful careers."

New Campus Programs:

- Fort Worth (Main) Campus: Business, Certified Medical Assistant, Graphic Arts, Law Enforcement, Phlebotomy
- Jacksboro Campus:

Business/Accounting, Certified Medical Assistant, Drone, Graphic Arts

• Southside Campus: Certified Medical Assistant, Education, Entrepreneurship, Phlebotomy

TexasWorks provides flexible learning for adults ages 18-50, enabling high school completion and ca-

reer advancement through specialized career and technical education (CTE) pathways. Students gain real-world experience via partnerships with local businesses and organizations.

Event Details:

Who: TexasWorks Leadership, Acting Comptroller

Kelly Hancock, County Judge Tim O'Hare, Local Business Leaders

What: Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony and Celebration

When: October 21, 10:00 a.m.

Where: TexasWorks - Fort Worth (Southside), 319 Lipscomb St., Fort Worth, TX 76104



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From Boston to Paris, Art Keeps Disappearing into the Dark

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National
Correspondent

It was just after dawn in Paris when the sirens began to wail through the narrow streets surrounding the Louvre. Soldiers with rifles guarded the courtyard, tourists were turned away, and the great glass pyramid stood silent under a gray sky. Inside, the world's most visited museum had been



Image via NNPA

stripped of eight priceless jewels once belonging to Napoleon III and Empress

Eugénie. The thieves were gone, and the crime had already become legend. Police

say it was fast and flawless. Less than seven minutes from entry to escape. Security footage shows figures dressed in black, moving with precision. They knew what they wanted and how to take it. When the alarms rang, it was already too late. The jewels, pieces of France's royal past, vanished into the dark.

Experts say the thieves may be caught, but the jewels will not return. Once the

gold is melted and the diamonds cut, there is no trail left to follow.

"Once they're gone, they're gone," said Christopher Marinello of Art Recovery International.

For investigators, time is the enemy. For thieves, time is the perfect disguise. The Louvre's director has been called before lawmakers to explain how it happened. Security, already under criticism, failed at the worst pos-

sible moment.

In France, where art is faith, this robbery has become a national wound. Half a world away, Myles Connor watched the story unfold. Once the most famous art thief in America, Connor stole a Rembrandt from a Boston museum in the 1980s. When asked about the Louvre heist, he said it was "damn close" to

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ing power that gave rise to Barack Obama, continues to inspire young professionals determined to preserve and rebuild historically Black neighborhoods rather than abandon them to gentrification.

A New Great Migration

The pattern of movement

is part of what House Beautiful described as a generational shift in its report *The Cities Young People Are Flocking to in 2026*.

The publication noted that Gen Z and younger millennials increasingly choose cities that align with their values, prioritizing in-

clusion, sustainability, and community over corporate prestige.

The trend mirrors the Great Migration of the 20th century, when millions of Black families fled the South for industrial jobs and personal safety. But this time, the exodus is less about geography and more about autonomy.

"Young Black professionals aren't running from the South. They're reclaiming it," said one researcher familiar with Apartment List's findings.

"They're moving where they can live, build wealth, and be free from the systems that have historically worked against them."

As the Trump adminis-

tration doubles down on policies rolling back diversity efforts, health access, and economic equity, young Black Americans are charting a new map of resilience.

Cities like Atlanta, Houston, D.C., and Raleigh have become what one new resident called "freedom zones," or places where

opportunity, community, and Black excellence are not just preserved but expanded.

In a country veering toward authoritarian rule, this migration is both a strategy and a statement. It's the next chapter in the long journey toward self-determination, one city at a time.

Cowboys Bounce Back with Statement Win Over Commanders

By Jamal Baker
NDG Contributing Writer

After not playing up to their standard in last week's disappointing loss to the Carolina Panthers, the Dallas Cowboys defeated the Washington Commanders 44-22 on Sunday at AT&T Stadium.

Franchise quarterback Dak Prescott and the Cowboys' offense put on a masterful performance against a helpless Washington defense.

Prescott completed 21 of his 30 passing attempts for 264 yards, three touchdowns and no interceptions.

"It was great. It was explosive. It was fun," Prescott said. "You saw the big plays; saw some drives we put together. Our



standard expectations for ourselves is very high. We understand we've got guys that, the playmakers that we have, the offensive line, the love that we have for one another, and you see it just the way that guys finish plays, guys cover the ball and defense played very well tonight.

"When you do that, I think more of our games

are going to look like this."

In his first game back since suffering a high-ankle sprain in Week 3 against the Chicago Bears, Cowboys star wide receiver CeeDee Lamb put on his usual show stopping performance.

Lamb recorded five catches for 110 yards and a touchdown—becoming the fastest wide receiver in

franchise history to reach 7,000 scrimmage yards (85 games).

"It's exciting, man," Lamb said when asked about returning. "Watching my dog (George Pickens) go crazy for the last few weeks, I'm pretty sure he enjoyed it. But just taking the load off of him a little bit, making him play true to the offense and what we've got going. It's fun..."

"I'll always be motivated, but I love to see him do his thing. That's why we brought him here. I feel like he's having so much

fun here."

The dynamic duo of Lamb and Pickens is arguably the best in the entire league, and will cause opposing defenses to constantly pick their poison—you can't double them both.

Pickens had 84 yards on four receptions, including a 44-yard deep shot that helped the Cowboys score before halftime.

"This one is the best one I've been on, and I've been on some great ones," Lamb said about the Dallas offense. "It's just the way that

we can move around these pieces, these players, and everybody everywhere. We can line up faster than any. It's tough."

With the offense firing on all cylinders, let's talk about the defense.

If the Cowboys get the type of performance they received from the defense on Sunday every week, they will always have a chance to win.

The defensive unit recorded five sacks, forced two turnovers and scored a

See COWBOYS, Page 9

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Film Review: 'Frenkenstein' is visually stunning, otherwise tepid

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

(**) In the end, why is such an overwhelming production an underwhelming experience?

The legend of Frankenstein dates back to the 1818 book by Mary Shelley. A novel that told the story of a mad scientist, Victor Frankenstein, who built a creature from reanimated body parts. An act that forced the book's readers to consider the ethics of such a deed and how blind ambition



Courtesy Toronto Film Festival

can make men do callous, uncaring and dehumanizing things. (Fact, the creature was never called Frankenstein; it had no name.

But many to this day think that's the case.)

That's the lure that attracted Thomas Edison's company to produce a short

film of the same name in 1910. However, most horror genre aficionados will point to the OG 1931 film Frankenstein, which starred Boris Karloff as the monster, and was a scary, gothic and haunting production. Since then, successors have

included Bride of Frankenstein (1935), satires like Mel Brooks' Young Frankenstein (1974) and British actor/director Kenneth Branagh's artsy Mary Shelley's Frankenstein (1994). There's been around 50+ versions. So, how will a

new one breakaway from the pack?

In Oscar® winning writer/director Guillermo del Toro's (The Shape of Water) mind, the strategy is to harp on the creator/

See FILM, Page 11

COWBOYS, from Page 8

defensive touchdown.

Pick-Six King Daron Bland made history on Sunday with his sixth career pick-six. The Fresno State product now has more pick-sixes than any NFL player throughout the first four seasons of a career.

"I was like, 'Oh, I got it, We'll get this one,'" said the All-Pro cornerback.

"Even though the sun was beaming in my face a little bit, it was good. ... I was more so just telling myself to not drop it because it was just me and the end zone."

The Dallas defense just needs to be average and not be a liability, as Dak Prescott and the offense have proven they can take over games.

With the 21-day practice windows now open for linebacker DeMarvion Overshown and rookie cornerback Shavon Revel, the defense might—dare I say—actually be above average?

The Cowboys will look to keep their momentum rolling this Sunday against a tough Denver Broncos team at Mile High Stadium.

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NDG Bookshelf: 'Fearless, Sleepless, Deathless' is an Odd Look at Mushrooms That is Definitely Worth Delving Into

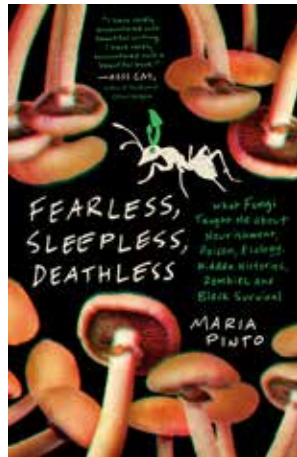
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Something weird is growing on your kitchen sink.

It wasn't there last night but today? Yeah, and it's not intentional. You need to get rid of it somehow, wipe it off, kill it, eliminate it altogether or, as in the new book "Fearless, Sleepless, Deathless" by Maria Pinto, maybe study it and eat it.

Junjo or duppy umbrella.

When Maria Pinto was studying a mushroom species she found in a Target parking lot, her mother scoffed. In Jamaica, she said, there were just two kinds of mushrooms, which sent Pinto off on a search. The word "junjo" sounded like something else, which led to another thought, which took her further down the mushroom hole.



room hole.

As a "melancholic" kid, "weird, queer... a child destined to stay strange," Pinto'd always been fascinated with dirt and the things growing in it. For awhile, she liked to taste dirt, to know its saltiness. Eventually, she realized that, in eating soil, she

was also eating a considerable amount of fungus.

Self-taught, her laboratory extended out her front door, surrounding her house, and out on nearby trails. She began spending time in wooded areas, face to the ground, photographing and getting to know the fungi that she found.

Fungi does not have a "season," although mushroom-hunting does, and Pinto enjoys the taste of what she finds, experimenting with ways to make each fungus palatable. The smell of one kind of mushroom can vary from the next; sometimes, mushrooms smell like something you'd never want to eat, but in an oddly mouthwatering way.

Fungus, especially in mushroom form, are tainted

by race, says Pinto. They were often used as a meat substitute when slaves were underfed - and when they were inedible or even poisonous, they were quite possibly instruments of revenge on overseers or slave masters.

All mushrooms, Pinto points out, are edible. Some just once.

Dirt. You scrub it off your

shoes, tumble it from your clothes, wipe it off your hands and watch it swirl down the drain. And after you've read "Fearless, Sleepless, Deathless," you'll want to look at what's in it a little closer.

A mycophile is a person who's interested in mushrooms and fungi, and author Maria Pinto may create a few more of them with her

guileless obsession with all things mushroom. She's unabashed in sharing her biography in this book, which fits with the lessons learned, and she adds history where appropriate but the body of this book teaches readers to want to open their eyes wide to the tiniest things that surround us. Pinto encourages

See BOOK, Page 12

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FILM, from Page 9

created father/son aspects of the legend. Then pour on excess amounts of artful, stagey production elements. Like dousing a small story with lots of perfume. From the first images of a snowy, freezing Arctic, bombastic music blares (Alexandre Desplat, *The Shape of Water*), the sets, indoor and outdoor, feel gigantic (Tamara Deverell). The dazzling cinematography (Dan Lausten, *The Shape of Water*), not hiding like a fly on the wall, is so obtrusive it should command second billing. That's the approach. Aesthetics as a sledgehammer, not as subtle assistance. And add in incessant voiceover narration that becomes a crutch.

In 1857, the scientist Victor Frankenstein (Os-

car Issac) seeks refuge on a boat stuck in the freezing Arctic. He's hiding from something. A scared crew and its Scandinavian captain (Lars Mikkelsen) shield him. A tall and menacing figure, with brute strength, approaches the vessel. Not bothered by the ammunition, firepower and manpower thrown its way. The entity advances. Frankenstein shivers. What's before him is an enraged creature (Jacob Elordi). A freak he created from bits and pieces of humans and one that's out for revenge and to set the story straight. A recollection emerges and it's hard to believe. It's filled with blind ambition, a disregard for human life, attempted murder and abandonment. "My maker told his story... and I will

tell you mine."

For the next 150 minutes, del Toro retells one of the most famous horror narratives of all time. At his film's core, is a struggle between two adversaries: A callous, narcissistic smart guy (a la Elon Musk). A creature struggling to harness feelings, command its power and go after the guy who done him wrong. That vindictive spirit is the only plot device that provides momentum. Exploring Victor's warped childhood is interesting, but not fundamental. Adding in a young brother (Felix Kammerer) doesn't amount to much. Though the brother's wife (Mia Goth) comes in handy as a woman who finds the soft sensitive side of a monster shunned by its maker. It's a romance that has some staying power.

All is in place for a pe-

riod drama of operatic proportions. Little of it speaks to the scare factor and action that fans of the genre will expect. Too much talking and fancy scenery. Not enough movement that's exhilarating. Except for a battle with wolves, who turn out to be toothy, growling but fuzzy-looking canines that give CGI a bad name. The monster gets in some fights, runs from burning buildings, but none of it gets the heart racing, continuously. The grainy black and white 1931 film left audiences mesmerized by a haunting feeling. That eeriness is absent, here.

Also, the central protagonist isn't imposing

or spooky. Not like Boris Karloff. Elordi is too thin and willowy to be threatening. He's handsome, lanky and poised like a supermodel on a Paris Fashion week runway wearing blue makeup and swathed in designer shawls.

His physicality is all wrong. In the least, he needed a bodysuit. Dwayne Johnson wore one in *Moana*, to bulk up his musculature. It can be done. In his defense, Elordi knows how to shape a believable character, that doesn't look like him. He did so as Elvis in the movie *Priscilla*. At a skinny 6'5," he didn't have the same physical attributes as the rock icon who was

6." Yet he created a persona so convincing, it felt like Elvis' soul was on the screen.

This film's visual spectacle is impressive. Wish the same attention to detail had been channeled to the horror and action elements. The kind that genre fans (teens, adolescents, twentysomethings) expect. This *Frankenstein*, a stagey adult art film, is underwhelming. A movie that will leave some as cold as the Arctic.

For more information about the Toronto International Film Festival go to <https://tiff.net/>.

Visit Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrownInk.com.



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ART, from Page 7

the most expensive museum theft in history.

"They will be vilified," he said, "but they'll also be remembered." The Louvre is not the first to fall.

In 1990, two men dressed as police officers walked into Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. They overpowered the guards and stripped thirteen paintings from the walls. Rembrandt. Vermeer. Degas. Manet. Gone without a trace. The museum's founder had written that nothing inside could ever be moved, so the empty frames remain, haunting the gallery like ghosts. More than thirty years later, the paintings never returned.

In 1911, the Mona Lisa disappeared from the same

Paris museum that now mourns its jewels. She was not yet famous then. When she vanished, the world learned her name. Two years later, police found her in Florence, hidden by an Italian handyman who claimed he wanted to bring her home. When she was returned to the Louvre, she was no longer just a painting. She was a legend.

In 1972, three masked men descended through a skylight into the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. They tied up the guards and escaped with 18 paintings and dozens of jewels, including a Rembrandt worth \$1 million. No one was ever caught. None of the art has been found. Some say the

Montreal mafia helped hide the works in private collections. Others believe they were destroyed.

In 2010, Paris faced another betrayal from within. A man known as "Spider-Man" climbed the walls of the Musée d'Art Moderne and slipped inside. He took works by Picasso, Matisse, and Modigliani, choosing his prizes with an artist's eye. When he was arrested, the paintings were gone. Some believe he destroyed them rather than let them be recovered. He said he stole them for beauty. Beauty, he learned, does not survive the dark.

And in Scranton, Pennsylvania, a different kind of art theft unfolded. It was not the work of masked strangers in the night, but of a crew

that operated for more than twenty years. Their crimes stretched across states and generations. The Everhart Museum in Scranton lost two priceless works in 2005, "Le Grande Passion" by Andy Warhol and "Springs Winter" by Jackson Pollock, stolen as part of a conspiracy that reached from small towns to national landmarks. Nine men were involved. They took art, trophies, jewelry, and history. They also stole a Christy Matthewson jersey, Yogi Berra's World Series rings, and Roger Maris's MVP trophy. They stripped museums bare, melted down the gold, and sold what was left for a fraction of its worth. One of them, Nicholas Dombek, even burned "Upper Hudson" by Jasper Cropsey, a

painting worth half a million dollars, to keep it from being used as evidence. The smoke from that fire carried more than the scent of oil and canvas. It carried the loss of American history.

Investigators called it a twenty-year trail of destruction. The Everhart's stolen works remain missing, ghosts of American art that vanished not for beauty, but for greed. When the thieves were finally caught in 2025, after decades of evasion, they were convicted in federal court. Their sentences may bring justice, but not restoration. The ashes of "Upper Hudson" cannot be pieced back together. The Warhol and the Pollock may never be seen again.

Now the Louvre stands scarred again, its name

added to a list of crimes that span centuries. Investigators search every corner of Paris, but the city knows how easily beauty disappears. The jewels of Napoleon's court may already be gone, scattered into fragments, melted into history. Every thief tells the same story. Desire and genius intertwined. Each painting, each jewel, pulled from the hands of time by someone who wanted to possess the unattainable. The Louvre heist is only the newest verse in that song.

Somewhere tonight, gold glows beneath the wrong light. Somewhere, a thief admires the sparkle of what can never again belong to the world. And somewhere else, an empty frame waits in silence, holding the shape of what was lost.

BOOK, from Page 10

readers to get low, to get know nature's hidden things dirty, to smell and touch and that many of us might nor-

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If you love to eat mush-

rooms, you enjoy a light-hearted science book, you need a new hobby, or you've

noticed fungi and wondered about it, this book gives you permission to find out. Truly,

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BAD, from Page 1

at La Opinión Mejías-Rentas. Julio Iglesias of Spain started a crossover in 1984, sharing duets with American stars, which helped to establish him in the U.S. Yet, Selena of Texas, after recording mainly in Spanish, was just starting her crossover album in '95, when tragically her family and EMI Records were forced to release a mixed language album posthumously after her death.

Recording in English is not necessary anymore, said Mejías-Rentas. Bad Bunny is using the Spanish language as a tool of resistance, interesting, considering the Supreme Court recently approved use of the language by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to identify those who are undocumented.

Negrón-Muntaner noted, Bad Bunny's success is part of a long history and demographic changes as youth, important to advertisers, have grown increasingly Latino, and as migrations of Spanish speakers grow elsewhere in the world. This is also happening due to changes in technology and the new ease with which artists can communicate with their audiences.

"They have become a lot more savvy, so they amass a certain type of economic power, and as a brand, they have more agency than

prior generations," added Negrón-Muntaner. In the long history of struggling to get heard, it seems cultural capital is shifting, she said. While art previously came out of New York or Hollywood, you can now have a superstar out of any number of places.

Bad Bunny comes from a place that sits culturally at a crossroads, its people exposed to the world in a particular way, said Negrón-Muntaner. It may seem interesting that a song in Spanish about belonging can resonate in countries where few even speak Spanish. Yet, Bunny's social commentary on issues like the cost of living, forced migration, and the LGBTQ community, amplify how people are feeling as the same tensions happen elsewhere in the world.

"Because neoliberal capitalism is taking over the entire housing stock, the feeling of forced migration is actually resonating worldwide," she added.

Predictions of U.S. Latinos becoming a powerful number have finally come true, added Julio Ricardo Varela, senior producer and strategist for D.C.-based Free Press. Bad Bunny is indeed a product of the current prominence of social and digital media, alongside the strong reaction

against him, which, in itself, makes him powerful.

There are rumors of a petition to remove him from the lineup in order to honor only American artists, this though Bad Bunny is an American citizen from Puerto Rico. Despite the effort, Varela explained the NFL wants to make money and thus needs to diversify its audiences. "I don't see a lot of questions about when Kendrick Lamar was here last year, he said. It comes down to mostly white owners who want to make billions of dollars and want to associate themselves with the best global brand in music right now." They need global audiences because they want to be a global sports league on the same level as the Premier League and the World Cup, he iterated.

Though Puerto Ricans are not immigrants, Bad Bunny resists anti immigrant sentiment, in a German magazine responding he's not having concerts stateside in the U.S. because he doesn't want ICE at his concerts, explained Varela. This, though he chose to do his residency in Puerto Rico for other reasons, said Mejías-Rentas, including a desire to help the local economy and to bring attention to Puerto Rico. He is most seen as an advocate for Puerto Rican identity and nationality, said Mejías-Rentas.

you how to fully prepare, and they love doing that."

In the visual arts conservatory, teachers work on their own projects alongside their students, Lucas added.

Both seniors, Lucas and Ben are looking ahead to life after high school. Ben plans on pursuing a music career, while Lucas wants to become an electrician.

Puerto Ricans hold the second largest Latino population in the United States, he added, as most Puerto Ricans live in the continental U.S. Yet, advocates of Puerto Rican independence, say Puerto Rico is really just a colony, citizenship being imposed on it by invasion in 1898.

Awareness about Puerto Rico has increased dramatically since Hurricane Maria, added Negrón-Muntaner, when Trump, who was President at the time, was widely criticized for his response to the crisis. With much of the coverage being too focused on the hypercritical, she commented, the coverage should have dived deeper into Puerto Rican experience.

With its own constitution, yet as a U.S. territory, Puerto Rico is neither a state nor a nation, its citizens lacking the right to vote, yet serving in all U.S. wars.

"There are nation-states that have multiple national groups within, said Negrón-Muntaner. The nationality of Puerto Ricans is the product of imagining ourselves as part of a national community, whether we have a state or not. ... How is it that culture plays a role in a group imagining themselves as cohesive, as a nation, as an ethnic group, as a group with a shared past, a present, and a desire for a shared future?" she asked.

"Being here taught me how to work with my hands," Lucas said. "I started looking at trade schools, and everyone here is really supportive of it."

To learn more about Booker T. and how students can launch their legacies, attend Discover Dallas ISD on Saturday, Nov. 1, at the Automobile Building in Fair Park.



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EVERYDAY, from Page 6

ent types of music, opening his eyes to the world of opportunities.

"This school does a really good job expanding skillsets. I've learned how to play classical music here, and I've learned to appreciate it," he said. "It's beautiful to see everything as art, because it is. Booker T. does

a good job teaching that."

Since many of the teachers have work experience in their field, students learn how to become working artists.

"They are actually doing the thing we want to do," Ben said. "All music teachers were former performing musicians. They can tell

Oh No, Not Another Day

By Dr. James L. Snyder

I thought got over the problems I had two weeks ago. I thought I stepped onto new ground and everything was going to be fine.

Very few times am I right, and this wasn't one of them.

A couple of weeks ago, I had a terrible day. Our electricity was off for over six hours. My printer died, and I needed to get a new one. A scam artist called and said my daughter was in prison and I needed to give him \$2500 for her bail.

What a day that was. I'm still not fully over it, but I'm slowly getting away from it.

While getting over it, I experienced another terrible day. I don't believe in karma, but I do believe in coincidences.

It was a Sunday, and The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I did our ministry at an assisted living facility, and then on Sunday night, we went to an evening service at another church.

In the middle of the afternoon, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage got hit with one of her famous migraines. She has migraines, ugly headaches, and regular headaches several times a week. For many years, I thought I was her only headache, but as it turns out, I'm not her headache. I guess I'm going to have to try harder.

I was getting ready to go to church, and my wife said that she could not go because she had a terrible migraine headache.

The problem was that when I went out and got in my truck to start it, it wouldn't start. The battery had died on me. There was nothing I could do to get it started.

I sat in the truck for a moment, sighed deeply, and realized that I had only one other option.

I went into the house and told my wife about my truck, saying I would have to take her sissy van to church. I'm not sure, but I think I heard her giggling as I walked out the door with her sissy van keys.

There is nothing I hate doing more than driving that sissy van. After all, I am a fully grown man and that sissy van cannot handle a real man.

To get in on the driver's side, I have to move the seat back as far as it can go. Believe me, it doesn't go back far enough for me. Then, I have to wiggle and wiggle to get into the seat behind the steering wheel. That took almost forever to get seated there.

The next thing to do was move the steering wheel up as far as I could get it so I could sit in that seat. Then I had to adjust all of the mirrors so I could see behind me and on each side. There

are three mirrors, and each is very difficult to rearrange.

It took me quite a while to get everything arranged so that I could drive that sissy van. Finally, after quite a while of frustrating twisting and turning, I got seated behind the steering wheel and was ready to start up the engine. The next challenge was buckling the seat belt.

As I looked at the key, the thought that danced in my head was, "This battery is going to die on me too." Fortunately, that did not happen in the sissy van, which started up right away.

I took a deep sigh and backed out of our driveway and headed down the street toward the church. It's about a 20-minute drive to our church, and so I was a little late, but I would get there in time.

Then I got there, and discovered another problem. Getting into that sissy van was difficult, but now getting out was even more difficult. I couldn't get my legs out under the driving wheel, and it took me a while, giggling and twisting. Finally, I got my legs out.

I stood up, shut the door, locked it, and walked into the church.

After the service, I went out to the sissy van with a heavy heart. I couldn't let anybody see me wiggling and squirming, trying to get into that sissy van. I wasn't quite sure what to do, so I

went to the sissy van and unlocked the door.

I took a deep breath, opened the door, and then wiggled and twisted my way in behind the steering wheel. It took several minutes for me to drag my legs in at their proper position. Finally, I got in my seat, started the engine, and was ready to go home.

With a grateful heart, I drove out of the parking lot, thankful that I got this far. Then I remembered

that when I got home, I had to get out of that sissy van one more time.

It took me a few minutes to wiggle my way out of that sissy van, but I finally did.

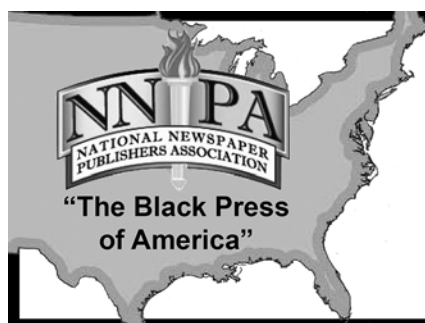
As I recovered from that trip I thought of a Bible verse. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with

the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

There is no problem or struggle in my life that God doesn't make a way to escape. Praise the Lord.

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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Voting, a Right, a Privilege and a Responsibility



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

Recently, I read an article, 50 Years ago/Voting by Charles E. "Chuck" Siler. It is such an inspiring story that should compel many people, young and old to learn what a right, a privilege and a responsibility it is to vote.

In Texas, 149 years ago, Black people became free men, women and children; and five years later, in Texas, my great grandfather, Nicholas Demus, had a new name, was a property owner and he was a registered voter by paying a "Poll Tax Fee."

Freestone County Re-

cords in Fairfield, Texas, verifies that my great grandfather Nicholas was one of over 300 Black men in the County with a letter "c" after their names to indicate that they were "a Colored" voting man.

My great grandfather, Nicholas, my grandfather, Deacon David N. Demus and my father, Lloyd David Demus, had to go to a Court House, pay a Poll Tax fee before they could register to vote; therefore it was most important to each to vote in elections.

Consequently, my entire family was taught the importance of voting, that it was a "Right, a Privilege and a Responsibility" to register when they turned 18 years old and become an "informed voter." I was in school at Prairie View A & M University, in Prai-

rie View, Texas, "55 Years Ago", when I registered to vote and I have voted in every election since that time.

This is the same responsibility that I taught my children, Jarrell and Sheila. You should never get too busy to pass on to future generations the importance of voting.

At 18 years old, I was sure that studying the candidates were not important to my children to research the candidates and vote, so, I discussed the candidates with them and explained why I was voting for that particular candidate.

However, I did tell them that one day when they were paying school, property, road, county and city taxes; and voting for school board members, elected officials in each area, that voting for the right candidate

would be major choice and they would do their own research before voting.

Today, there is no fee to register, one does not have to go to a Court House to register, any legal citizen of the United States, can fill out an application, mail it in, and wait for their Registration Card to be mailed to them.

Yet, while we have more registered voters, because of certain events, especially during a "President's Election Year", we have less people voting. In reality, it is more important to vote in school board, city, county, state and nation elections than in a "President's Election Year" because they have a direct effect on your

pocket books more than anything else.

Why do we have more people voting during a "Present's Election Year" when all that they are doing is giving the candidate a "popular vote?" It doesn't affect your pocket book directly, but it does in the long run, because we have three branches of government and each branch has its own responsibility.

It is a "Right," as a legal citizen of the U.S; your Constitution guarantees you that right. Men and women have died for your right to vote your conviction.

Voting is a "Privilege." A freedom, an advantage, an honor, a benefit, a great

opportunity to pick your choice for that office. God gave mankind, a choice when Jesus Christ, my Lord and my Savior died on the Cross over 2,000 years ago.

Voting is your "Responsibility." Accountability, blame if things go wrong, authority to act and to make an informed decision.

It is time for every legal citizen of the U.S. to study the issues, study the candidate and then exercise your "Right, Privilege and Responsibility" vote in Early Election or November 4th and in every election thereafter for the good of your nation.

(Editor's Note: This Column originally ran in October 2014.)



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