



North Dallas

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Campaign Launched to Put
Economic Pressure on Corporations
to Defend Democracy and Freedom

(Black PR Wire) ATLANTA – Recently, Black Voters Matter (BVM), Indivisible and Until Freedom launched ‘We Ain’t Buying It’, a multi-racial and multi-generational consumer-led campaign to demonstrate to corporations that there are consequences for not standing up loudly for freedom and core democratic principles of fairness, justice, and liberty by hitting them where it hurts.

‘We Ain’t Buying It’ is a nationwide economic pressure campaign taking action against corporations that have colluded with this administration. Companies like Amazon, Target and Home Depot have caved to Donald Trump’s bigoted and anti-democratic attacks on our communities and our values. From cravenly abandoning their commitments to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) to enabling the terrorizing of our communities, corporate collaboration must stop. The ‘We



Black Voters Matter, Indivisible, and Until Freedom launched the “We Ain’t Buying It” campaign, a nationwide boycott urging consumers to withhold spending from corporations like Amazon, Target, and Home Depot that they say have enabled Donald Trump’s anti-democratic agenda, and instead support small, minority-, and immigrant-owned businesses to demand corporate accountability and defend civil rights. (NDG Composite)

Ain’t Buying It’ campaign brings together a collective of progressive groups and individuals that have successfully demonstrated over the past few months the power people

have to push corporations to stand up for what’s right — and notably, the backlash to inaction.

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People In The News ...



Rev. Dr. Everett Kelley



Cheryl Proctor-Rogers

NDG Quote of the Week:

"One day our descendants will think it incredible that we paid so much attention to things like the amount of melanin in our skin or the shape of our eyes or our gender instead of the unique identities of each of us as complex human beings."

- Franklin Thomas

Rev. Dr. Everett Kelley

The Rev. Dr. Everett Kelley, President of the over-800,000 member American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), joined Make It Plain with Rev. Mark Thompson on WP-FW-FM 89.3 Pacifica Radio to call for an end to the 34-day government shutdown in the midst of Trump nullifying the AFGE collective bargaining agreement, effectively locking out federal employees, earlier this year.

"I have members of my union going to work and not getting paid, and another large majority of them just sitting at home on furlough," said Kelley.

"These are people that provide a service for the



American people. They make sure the air we breathe is good air, the food that we eat is inspected. These are people that make sure that the skies we travel in are safe. These are people that make sure that, you know, while we're sleeping at night criminals are not roaming the streets, but

they're not getting paid," he added.

Kelley provided specific details of one service where the public is suffering because of the shutdown and the attack on the federal workforce.

"Whether it be through a shutdown or just firing a mass number of people that means that the meat that we are eating is not being inspected adequately," Kelley said.

"I represent those employees and what I already know is that only 50% of the meat that we were eating was being inspected prior to the shutdown," he added.

So now if you start talking about laying off massive amounts of people, who's

gonna do that inspection? We're gonna leave it up to the [meat-packing] plants to do that? That's the fox guarding the hen house," said Kelley.

Kelley said the impact of the shutdown, layoffs and furloughs on federal employees has been traumatic.

"Remember [OMB Director] Russell Vought was saying that he wanted federal employees to be traumatized," Kelley said.

"More and more [federal employees] are standing in lines to get food than what I would've ever imagined," he said.

Thompson asked Kelley about his perceived break with Democrats and other

unions over ending the shutdown being tied to Affordable Care Act (ACA) extended tax credits which expire at the end of the year and which lower monthly health insurance premiums for millions of Americans who buy coverage through the ACA marketplace.

Kelley said, "You know, when you start talking about medical, I'm also a recipient of that. Okay?"

"I'm not saying that that's not important, but what I am saying, though, is that the members that I represent. Have suffered enough," he added.

Kelley also said, "The [majority of the] members that I represent are not get-

ting paid. And they just like the rest of America, they live from paycheck to paycheck. Standing in line to get food, worrying about how they're going to pay their mortgage. They're worrying about how to provide medical care for ailing children, pregnant mothers calling me crying."

Kelley also discussed AFGE's litigation against the Trump Administration.

"We got a preliminary injunction [preventing mass layoffs], and that injunction has been extended at this point," he said. "[The Courts] have determined that the action that [the Administration] is taking is completely illegal," he said.

Cheryl Proctor-Rogers

(Black PR Wire) SAN DIEGO — The International Coaching Federation (ICF) has recognized Cheryl Proctor-Rogers, MCC, APR, Fellow PRSA, with its prestigious ICF Coaching Impact Award for Coaches – Distinguished Coach during the ICF Global Conference and 30th Anniversary Celebration in San Diego, California.

The award celebrates Proctor-Rogers' extraordinary global impact, visionary leadership, and commitment to elevating the coaching profession and ICF. With more than 40 years of public relations experience and 25 years in coaching, Proctor-Rogers is a globally respected executive coach, communications strategist, and former ICF Global Enterprise Board officer. She has guided more than 2,000 senior leaders worldwide, helping



them unlock their potential, transform their organizations, and lead with authenticity and impact.

For more than four decades, Cheryl Proctor-Rogers has been a transformative force in both executive coaching and public relations, two distinct professions that define how leaders grow, and organizations thrive. She has now earned the highest individual honor from each field's premier global organization, a testament to her enduring impact and excellence. Proctor-Rogers has designed

innovative programs that integrate leadership development, inclusion, and organizational transformation. Her thought leadership continues to shape the next generation of coaches and communicators, advancing both professions through her vision, integrity, and unwavering belief in the power of human potential.

"I'm deeply honored to stand alongside such distinguished award recipients—each of whom demonstrates the power of coaching to transform lives, organizations, and communities," said Proctor-Rogers. "This recognition affirms that when we share what we learn, we help others grow and expand the reach of this work we all believe in."

Proctor-Rogers expressed heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Gail Baker McCarty for her nomination and to Tracey Edwards, Shawn

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Democrats' Collapse and the Theater of Courage

By Frederick Joseph

Tonight, while much of the country slept, the Senate struck a deal to reopen the government. By the time you read this, the headlines will celebrate this as relief. Commentators will call it a win for stability. The markets will lift. There will be applause for the return of "function." But anyone paying attention knows this is not a victory. It is a moral and strategic humiliation.

The deal restores government operations but strips out the guaranteed extension of the enhanced Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) subsidies that have kept healthcare "affordable" for more than twenty million Americans. These subsidies were not luxuries. They were lifelines. Without them, families will soon see their monthly premiums rise (into the thousands of dollars in many instances), and millions of people will once again find themselves priced out of basic medical care.

The Democrats held every card. They had the moral high ground, the political momentum (flipping multiple red strong holds and Zohran Mamdani to name a few things), and public support. And still, they folded.

This is not compromise. It is collapse.

I am a Democrat, and I am disgusted. I am someone who has spent the past few weeks raising money to help families who lost SNAP during the shutdown. I have heard from parents who could not afford groceries, to federal workers

visiting food banks, to elders deciding which prescription they could skip. I have seen the pain this shutdown caused, and to know that it all ended in surrender makes me furious.

Chuck Schumer led this deal, and he should lose his position immediately as Senate Minority Leader. His leadership has been defined by fear disguised as pragmatism. Once again, he has proven that he is more interested in being seen as a negotiator than in being remembered as a leader. Every Democrat who voted for this deal should be primaried. They have failed the very people they swore to protect.

The argument that reopening the government was the responsible choice is hollow. Responsibility without conviction is not leadership. It is cowardice. The same families who were forced to endure this shutdown will now face rising healthcare costs because their representatives lacked the courage to stand firm. What good is a government that reopens if it immediately abandons the people it governs?

This is not strategy. It is surrender performed as governance.

The Democratic establishment has once again mistaken survival for success. The logic is always the same. They fear being blamed for chaos, so they rush to end it, no matter the cost. They convince themselves that "normalcy" is the goal, even when normal means inequality, suffering, and an endless cycle of the

same failures. The result is predictable: they enter every battle with conviction and leave every battle with an apology.

The moral failure here is staggering. Democrats spent weeks telling the public that this shutdown was about protecting working people, healthcare, and stability. But the deal they accepted does none of those things. It offers temporary calm at the expense of long-term harm. It rewards obstruction and teaches the opposition that the party can always be pressured into retreat.

Schumer's defenders will insist that the public wanted the government open, that there was no choice but to yield. That is nonsense. The public also wanted lower healthcare costs, reliable wages, and leadership that stood for something. A party that claims to represent working people cannot keep abandoning them whenever the pressure rises.

Reopening the government without protecting people's access to healthcare is not relief. It is betrayal.

Every Democrat who supported this deal should have to explain to the families who will see their premiums spike why they thought this was acceptable. They should have to explain to the workers who went weeks without pay why they chose the path of least resistance. They should have to explain to every young voter why courage only seems to exist in campaign speeches and never in the moments when it actu-

ally matters. They should have to explain to the millions worried about feeding their children because they lost SNAP and WIC, what the point to their struggle was.

This is not about one negotiation. It is about what the party has become. The Democrats are now a coalition of people who know how to speak about justice but rarely fight for it. They know how to tweet outrage, how to fundraise off empathy, how to sound compassionate on television. But when it is time to use power, they shrink from it. They confuse civility with strength. They confuse maintaining the system with improving it.

The Democrats did not end a shutdown. They ended the illusion that they still possess courage.

Chuck Schumer should step aside. Every Democrat who voted for this deal should face accountability. And the rest of us, the ones who still believe that politics can be something more than survival, have to decide if we are going to keep pretending that this version of the party deserves our trust.

The government will reopen, but something far more important closed. The belief that moral conviction still has a place in the current Democratic "leadership."

And that is not a policy loss. That is a spiritual one.

Frederick Joseph is a freelance writer and author. His work can be found at frederickjoseph.substack.com

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O N L I N E

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Mayo Clinic Scientists Create Tool to Predict Alzheimer's Risk Years Before Symptoms Begin

(Newswise) — ROCH-ESTER, Minnesota — MAYO Clinic researchers have developed a new tool that can estimate a person's risk of developing memory and thinking problems associated with Alzheimer's disease years before symptoms appear. The research, published in *The Lancet Neurology*, builds on decades of data from the Mayo Clinic Study of Aging — one of the world's most comprehensive population-based studies of brain health.

The study found that women have a higher lifetime risk than men of developing dementia and mild cognitive impairment (MCI), a transitional stage between healthy aging and dementia that often affects quality of life but still allows people to live independently. Men and women with the common genetic



variant, APOE ε4, also have higher lifetime risk.

Predicting Alzheimer's disease

Alzheimer's disease is marked by two key proteins in the brain: amyloid, which forms plaques, and tau, which forms tangles. Drugs recently approved by the Food and Drug Administration remove amyloid from the brain and can slow the rate of disease progression for people with MCI or mild dementia.

"What's exciting now is that we're looking even earlier — before symptoms

begin — to see if we can predict who might be at greatest risk of developing cognitive problems in the future," says Clifford Jack, Jr., M.D., radiologist and lead author of the study.

The new prediction model combined several factors, including age, sex, genetic risk as associated with APOE genotype and brain amyloid levels detected on PET scans. Using the data, researchers can calculate an individual's likelihood of developing MCI or dementia within 10 years or over the predicted lifetime. Of

all the predictors evaluated, the brain amyloid levels detected on PET scans was the predictor with the largest effect for lifetime risk of both MCI and dementia.

"This kind of risk estimate could eventually help people and their doctors decide when to begin therapy or make lifestyle changes that may delay the onset of symptoms. It's similar to how cholesterol levels help predict heart attack risk," says Ronald Petersen, M.D., Ph.D., neurologist and director of the Mayo Clinic Study of Aging, who is a co-author of the study.

The research stands apart because it draws from the Mayo Clinic Study of Aging, a long-running effort in Olmsted County, Minnesota, that tracks thousands of residents over time. The analysis for this study included data from 5,858 participants. Unlike most

studies, Mayo researchers are able to continue following participants even after they stop actively taking part, using medical record data — ensuring nearly complete information about who develops cognitive decline or dementia.

"This gives us a uniquely accurate picture of how Alzheimer's unfolds in the community," says Terry Therneau, Ph.D., who led the statistical analysis and is the senior author of the study. "We found that the incident rate of dementia was two times greater among the people who dropped out of the study than those who continued to participate."

The study elevates the significance of MCI, which is the stage targeted by current Alzheimer's drugs that slow but do not stop progression.

While the new tool is

currently a research instrument, it represents a major step toward more personalized care. Future versions may incorporate blood-based biomarkers, which could make testing more accessible.

The work was supported by the National Institute on Aging, the GHR Foundation, Gates Ventures and the Alexander Family Foundation.

The research is part of a larger effort at Mayo Clinic called the Precure initiative focused on developing tools that empower clinicians to predict and intercept biological processes before they evolve into disease or progress into complex, hard-to-treat conditions.

"Ultimately, our goal is to give people more time — time to plan, to act and to live well before memory problems take hold," says Dr. Petersen.

← PRESSURE, from Page 1

Ahead of the holiday shopping season, "We Ain't Buying It" urges all consumers to avoid shopping at Target, Amazon and Home Depot until these major retailers cease collaborating with and enabling this administration's harmful policies. We will invest our collective dollars in Black-, minority-, and immigrant-owned businesses, small and local shops and retailers that have stood firm for the rights and freedom of the American people.

"From the day he stepped foot into office, Donald Trump has done everything he can to tear apart the fab-

ric of our communities and strip us of our power and the necessary tools to help us resist his fascist agenda. Instead of fighting back and supporting the very people who put money in their pockets, corporations and retailers have bowed at Trump's feet. But we ain't buying it," said LaToSha Brown, Co-Founder of Black Voters Matter. "We ain't buying that the wealthiest country in the world will punish the poor during the holiday season by withholding SNAP benefits. We ain't buying that families can be torn apart and people kidnapped off

the streets by masked ICE agents. We ain't buying that DEI and racial justice commitments can be tossed aside at the whims of political convenience. And we ain't buying that corporations are powerless in all of this."

The campaign was launched ahead of the holiday shopping season, which typically starts on the Friday after Thanksgiving. As two of the biggest shopping days of the year, Black Friday and Cyber Monday sales are expected to reach \$80 billion, and U.S. online sales are expected to hit \$253.4 billion between Nov. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025.

The groups are calling on

consumers to make clear to retailers that communities, not corporations, hold the power. Together, we'll take part in the economic action and solidarity campaign by pausing our shopping at retailers that are backpedaling on DEI commitments, standing silently by or aiding Trump's decimation of our democracy. The campaign joins a chorus of progressive organizations channeling collective consumer power to stand up for freedom and civil rights.

"These corporations can't keep cashing in on working people and pretending their hands are tied," said Tamika Mallory, Co-Founder of Until Freedom. "They get

billions in tax breaks while their executives pocket record paychecks and bonuses, but when it's time to stand up against fascism and racism, they go silent. We see it, and we ain't buying it."

In the face of rising authoritarianism, fascism and Trump's anti-American agenda, fear has been weaponized to make people feel powerless. The truth is, we have power as consumers, citizens and voters. This holiday shopping season, consumers are closing their wallets to make change.

The campaign urges consumers to use their collective purchasing power to demand corporate respon-

sibility and ensure DEI practices are protected and implemented.

How To Take Action

- Full Black Out: Don't buy anything from major stores capitulating to this administration's policies during the week of Nov 28 – Dec 1. Use the time and money to connect with those you love and rediscover what matters.

- Redirect Spending: Skip the companies undermining democracy. Shop small, local, or with businesses affirming our humanity.

- Take the Pledge: Pledge to be a conscious consumer.

- Amplify: Spread the word. Share the message in conversation and online.

NTFB ramps up as SNAP Benefits Linger in Political Spat

As the federal government shutdown continues, the North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) is preparing for higher food demand across the region.

The organization is working with more than 500 food pantries and community partners to ensure families can access nutritious food as federal workers miss paychecks and many Texans face losing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits in November.

Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Agriculture warned that SNAP funding could run out if the shutdown extends beyond October 27. In Texas, benefits could end by Novem-



Joel Muni / Unsplash

ber, affecting about 3.5 million residents—nearly half of them children. Within NTFB's 12-county service area, roughly 460,000 people could be impacted.

"The North Texas Food Bank is deeply concerned about the impact an extended government shutdown could have on families," said Sarah Burns, vice

president of external affairs at NTFB. "A prolonged shutdown could force many neighbors to choose between paying rent, keeping the lights on, and putting food on the table. We want everyone to know that we are here to help."

NTFB and its partners are ensuring local pantries stay stocked and mobile food

distributions continue during the shutdown. Anyone needing food can find assistance at ntfb.org/get-help. In partnership with Dallas College, NTFB is offering food assistance to federal employees and nearby residents. During the shutdown, food pantries will be open on Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at:

- Brookhaven Campus: 3939 Valley View Lane, Farmers Branch
- West Dallas Center: 3330 N. Hampton Road, Dallas
- North Lake Campus: 5001 N. MacArthur Blvd., Irving

NTFB also supports mobile food distributions to reach families struggling to

make ends meet.

Dallas College Richland Campus, 12800 Abrams Road, Dallas, will host a distribution on Wednesday, Oct. 29, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Catholic Charities Dallas operates one of the region's largest outreach networks, serving food at more than 115 sites across nine counties. Details are available at ccdallas.org/mobile.

Additional mobile locations can be found at ntfb.org/food-assistance/mobile-pantry. Food is distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. No ID is required, but participants must provide their name, household size, and zip code.

"Hunger is already high

across Texas, and a prolonged shutdown will increase uncertainty," Burns said. "Even in difficult times, our community can count on the North Texas Food Bank."

NTFB partners with the Texas Department of Agriculture to operate the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), locally known as People and Nutrition (PAN). Eligible seniors age 60 and older receive a monthly box of about 35 pounds of USDA-provided food.

NTFB also helps families apply for SNAP benefits. Despite the shutdown, Texans can still apply or check benefits at ntfb.org/snap-information.

A Texas-Sized Feast: Thomas J. Henry Leads Statewide Holiday Food Drive

GARLAND — Thomas J. Henry launches the second annual Feast of Texas to combat hunger. The initiative will provide holiday meals to families experiencing food insecurity

across Texas. After the 2024 event served over 3.5 million meals the campaign expands statewide.

Moreover it continues Henry's mission to uplift communities. Feast of

Texas partners with local food banks in Austin Dallas Houston San Antonio and Corpus Christi. The program focuses on rural and urban communities often underserved by traditional

food relief efforts.

Additionally it ensures meals reach those in need efficiently. Henry stated the holidays can be difficult for many Texans. Therefore Feast of Texas provides

comfort dignity and nourishment for families.

Central Texas Food Bank will serve 12,000 families with a \$125,000 donation supporting holiday meals. Coastal Bend Food Bank

receives \$150,000 for whole chickens helping 6,300 families celebrate with dignity. North Texas Food Bank uses a \$125,000

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Moments of Greatness



Joyce Foreman
Dallas ISD
District 6

The season of gratitude is here, and I am inspired by the many ways our Dallas ISD community continues to support one another. As we enter this season, I'm reminded of these words from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: *"If I can't do great things, I can do small things in a great way."*

In Dallas ISD, we see excellence in both great and small acts every day. I encourage each of us to

make the most of every opportunity to contribute to the academic success and well-being of our students, because even the smallest action, done with intention, creates a lasting impact.

Teachers reaching great achievement: Dallas ISD was recently recognized by the Texas Art Education Association. High distinctions were awarded to Yolanda Burton, art teacher at David W. Carter High School, for leading a visual arts program that is ranked in the top 8% in the state. Burton believes art prepares students for success in all career fields, including math and science. Dallas ISD has



Chara K. Pace
(Courtesy photo)

received this honor four consecutive years, and this year's recognition continues that legacy of excellence. Congratulations to Burton for over 10 years of dedication to art education.

Honoring District 6 leaders: Many of our staff in Dallas ISD are proud

products of the district. One of our District 6 principals, Chara K. Pace, was recently featured during National Principal Month. From attending elementary school as a student in South Dallas to now leading a campus in the same community where she grew up, Pace represents the heart of what it means to serve at home. Under her leadership, Clinton P. Russell Elementary School maintained an A rating from the Texas Education Agency. She is one

of many great leaders in District 6.

Thank you, Principal Pace, and thank you to all our principals for your impact, both large and small.

In the **Oak Cliff Classic**, Carter High School faced Justin F. Kimball High School in an annual game celebrating community and tradition. Congratulations to Carter for a close win, 50-43, and to Damarion B. for scoring a 25-yard run in overtime that led to the final score.

Dallas ISD Resource Centers are available to families and campuses throughout the district. Thank you to resource center volunteers and to

the parents, guardians and community liaisons who give their time on campuses to help build a culture of care and connection. As we approach Thanksgiving Break, Nov. 23-28, I hope you take the time to rest, reflect and enjoy quality moments with your loved ones.

National HBCU Orator Competition Open to Current HBCU Students

(Black PR Wire) The HBCU Oratorical Challenge, a national competition that showcases the voices of students attending historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), is open for submissions. The deadline to register is Dec. 15, 2025.

The competition encourages students currently enrolled at HBCUs to express their ideas, engage in thoughtful public discourse, strengthen communication skills, build leadership capabilities and hone creativity through public speaking. "Rooted in the rich rhetori-

cal tradition of the African American experience, this challenge provides a platform for emerging leaders to sharpen their voices, think critically and engage with the pressing issues of our time," according to a press release from the Dream-House Make A Difference Foundation—a nonprofit dedicated to empowering youth, young adults and their families through education, mentorship and comprehensive support services—the sponsor of the competition.

The HBCU Oratorical Challenge provides HBCU students with a platform to

showcase their eloquence, intellect, passion and deep understanding of issues through four distinct categories:

- prepared public speaking
- extemporaneous public speaking
- spoken word recitation
- public debate

Contestants may deliver a polished speech, respond on the spot to a current event or social issue, compose spoken word poetry or participate in structured debate. View the Participant's

See ORATOR, Page 7




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A Week Later: A Dire Need in Jamaica

By April Ryan

The United Nations reports that Hurricane Melissa has scattered nearly 5 million tons of debris across Western Jamaica, hindering crews from delivering aid and restoring critical services promptly.

According to reports, crews are still working to clear roads, attempting to reach 27 communities cut off by landslides and flooding. Many of those communities are still without power and Wi-Fi. The category five storm killed at least 32 people in Jamaica and another 43 in nearby Haiti, where 13 people remain missing. Here in the United States, the head of the Congressional Black Caucus,



Image via NNPA

New York Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, is working feverishly with the State Department to ensure help is coming from the United States to the affected Caribbean nations, particularly Jamaica.

Both of the New York

Congresswoman's parents immigrated to the United States from Jamaica. Clarke has been a strong advocate for Caribbean issues and serves as co-chair of the Congressional Caribbean Caucus. According to a State Department website,

"Within hours, Secretary [Marco] Rubio deployed a regional Disaster Assistance Response Team, including urban search-and-rescue teams, to assess needs and provide search and recovery assistance.

The State Department

also indicates it "is collaborating with UN agencies, NGOs, and host governments to deliver food, water, medical supplies, hygiene kits, temporary shelter, and search and rescue support." Iconic and award-winning actress, activist, and Jamaican native Sherly Lee Ralph said on The Tea with April, "It is exactly one week later, and there are some people who have not had anybody come to help them, nobody!"

Ralph emoted, "It's rough. We need help there now." She is calling on all the people who have "enjoyed the beaches in Jamaica" to help by finding trusted places you know and making a donation, as the storm's destruction

has halted the normalcy of life on the island." Ralph provided an update on some areas that hold personal significance for her. "The school that my parents helped build lost their roof. They're trying to figure out where we're gonna put these kids, how we're gonna get them back into school, all of these things, and it's like I can see where we're going afterwards, but how do we start to get the help there now?"

The actresses' children have also started a donation center at their facility, Walk Good LA, to help address some of the dire needs in Jamaica. Her family used the same space for donations to help the victims of the L.A. fires earlier this year.

ORATOR, from Page 4

Guidebook and Ambassador's Operating Manual for more information.

The national finals will be held on April 18-19, 2026 in Atlanta, GA. Scholarships

and prizes will be awarded to national winners in each category.

UNCF encourages students attending our member institutions to participate in

this competition, hone their public speaking skills and become the next great orators of this nation.

UNCF is not a partner, sponsor or owner of the HBCU Oratorical Challenge.

ROGERS, from Page 2

Mattar, Preeti D'Mello, Boris Dobis, Rochelle Ford, and Ahmad Sultan for their thoughtful video tributes. She also extended special thanks to her husband, Terry Rogers, for his unwavering love, patience, and partnership throughout her journey.

Reflecting on the trans-

formative nature of coaching, Procter-Rogers shared a story of one client who told her: "You helped me get closer to par." "That phrase captures the essence of coaching," she explained. "It's not about transforming someone into something they are not—it's about helping them

bring forward the very best of who they already are."

Widely celebrated for her commitment to inclusion and excellence, Cheryl Procter-Rogers continues to shape a future where coaching is accessible, credible, and catalytic—driving meaningful change within individuals, across organizations, and throughout communities.

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Remembering Wallace 'Jack' Jackman: A Life Of Leadership, Laughter and Legacy

By Jasmine McBride
Missouri
Spokesman-Recorder

Wallace "Jack" O'Neal Jackman, known affectionately as Jackie or simply Jack, passed away peacefully on October 27, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of leadership, mentorship, and unwavering dedication to community. A loving father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Jack's life was a master class in combining heart, hustle, and humor.

Born in Des Moines, Iowa, Jack moved to Minneapolis at the age of 13, growing up in a family whose roots ran deep in service and community. The son of Launa Quincy (Jackman) Newman and Wallace O'Neil Jackman, he was also guided by Cecil E. Newman, the legendary founder of the Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder. Newman became a father figure, mentor, and model for young Jack, a bond that would later inspire him to co-publish the newspaper with his sister, Norma Jean Williams.

Jackman brought a visionary approach to the MSR. While Norma focused on writing and administration, Jack oversaw operations, modernizing the newspaper's technology and infrastructure at a time when many Black newspapers were still using typewriters. Under his guidance, the MSR transitioned to computers and modern printing systems, giving staff the tools to produce quality journalism efficiently. He even orchestrated a major remodeling of the building, converting space that had once housed a printing press into offices



equipped with the latest technology, investments that continue to benefit the MSR decades later.

"He was friendly, enthusiastic, and no-nonsense," recalled longtime colleague Jerry Freeman. "He encouraged us to pursue stories that mattered, trusted us to deliver, and fiercely defended us from unjust criticism. Jack's loyalty was unmatched."

Jack's influence extended far beyond the newsroom. Known as a connector and a bridge-builder, he helped strengthen Minneapolis' ties with the African diaspora. His work with the International Leadership Institute took him to Eldoret, Kenya, where he joined a delegation of Minneapolis firefighters to train local emergency responders and deliver much-needed equipment, including fire trucks and an ambulance.

"Jack served as a cultural bridge," said retired Judge LaJune Lange. "He helped the firefighters immerse themselves in African work culture, stayed in touch, encouraged donations, and ensured that our work had lasting impact. His commitment never wavered."

Colleague Michael Chaney, who worked with Jack on numerous initiatives, called him "the ultimate outreach person. Always seeking the next

connection, Jack brought people together, amplified the voices of the Black community, and carried the MSR's influence far beyond Minneapolis."

Yet for all his vision and ambition, Jack was beloved for his warmth, humor, and signature "Jack-isms," quick, sharp one-liners that could ease tension or fill a room with laughter. He had a rare gift for turning strangers into friends and reminding everyone that life's challenges are lighter when faced with good humor and good people.

Those who knew him best remember Jack as a man who lived by principle and purpose. He poured his heart into his family and community, always ready to help, to mentor, and to lead. His children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren carry forward his lessons in integrity, humility, and compassion.

Jackman is survived by his children, Dauhn J. Jackman, Thomas D. Jackman, Christjon Jackman (wife Jennifer), and Dr. Tonya Jackman Hampton (husband Phillip); his companion Ruth Ann James; 13 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and a wide circle of family and friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Wallace O'Neal Jackman, his mother and step-father, Luana and Cecil E. Newman; his beloved wife Lynda D. Jackman, and his sister Norma Jean Williams.

A Celebration of Life will be held Friday, November 14, 2025, from 1:00–4:00 p.m. at the Wilder Foundation, 451 Lexington Parkway North, Saint Paul, MN. The program runs from



Photos Courtesy Jackman family (2)

1:00–2:30 p.m., followed by grazing and fellowship.

In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations to the American Cancer Society in Jack's name.

Wallace "Jack" Jack-

man's life was a testament to leadership grounded in kindness, vision tempered with humor, and a steadfast belief in the power of community. He leaves behind a legacy that continues to in-

spire, reminding us to live generously, laugh often, and lead with heart.

Jasmine McBride welcomes reader responses at jmcbride@spokesman-recorder.com.


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By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

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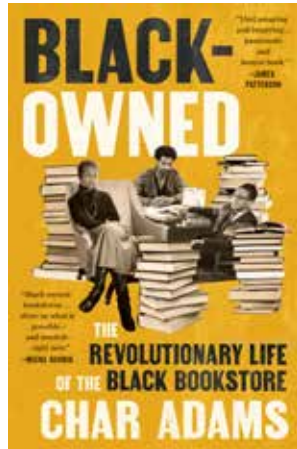
NDG Bookshelf: 'Black-Owned' is a great read for great readers

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You're not planning on being shelfish.

But seriously, you've been waiting months for the release of your favorite author's newest book and it's in stores NOW. You have your copy, you'll be the first one to open it, your easy chair is ready, no book-marks needed. As in the new book "Black-Owned" by Char Adams, you knew just where to find it.

For many people, it's a dream: owning a bookstore, talking about books



all day, putting good reads into people's hands. These are the kinds of stories Char Adams says she likes tell-

ing, and she was surprised when she started researching for this book. The tales of Black bookstore owners is one that's rarely told.

David Ruggles, for instance, was a Black abolitionist in New York, and he had quite a reputation for his ability to "inspire almost any crowd to action." In 1834, he opened what would be America's first Black bookstore, using it "as a home for both anti-slavery literature and his activism."

A century later, Harlem's Lewis Michaux became the

first person to make a career with a bricks-and-mortar bookstore when he opened National Memorial African Book Store in 1933. He was a man of determination, having gotten his start "selling periodicals... with a bullhorn outside his shop" every day.

During the Civil Rights Movement, Black-owned bookstores such as the Drum and Spear in Washington D.C. Vaughn's Bookstore in Detroit, and Liberation Bookstore in Harlem hand-picked their stock to reflect the battle for Black rights –

and sometimes, that meant violence visited their stores. Hue-Man Experience in Denver became a home for Black authors to launch new books and nurture careers; in the 1970s through the 1990s, Black publishers began to partner with America's Black bookstores to further those careers and mainstream publishers eventually followed suit.

Today, Black-owned bookstores likely have a digital footprint to reach readers. Digital, however, "will not be the end of Black-owned bookstores..." says

Adams.

"As long as the fight for Black liberation exists, so will these shops."

Before you start reading "Black-Owned," be sure you have a pen and notebook close. You'll need them to write down all the bookstores you'll want to visit, places you'll regret missing and places you'll learn about inside this fascinating volume.

But that's just a part of what you'll find here. Author Char Adams also tells

See BOOK, Page 13

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Writing the Book on AI Ethics in Business

University of Iowa faculty write first textbook examining the ethical use of AI in business

(Newswise) — Patrick Johanns was preparing a reading list for his students in Fundamentals of Business Analytics, one that would address the use and ethics of artificial intelligence in business.

But he found nothing useful, as nothing had been published in any textbooks. He realized the technology is moving so fast, it's leaving discussions about ethics and responsible use in the dust and he had nothing to use.

So he wrote the book himself.

"AI in Business: Creating Value Responsibly," by Johanns and James Chaffee, both associate professors of business analytics, and Jackie Rees Ulmer, dean of the college of business at Ohio University, will be published in January 2026 by McGraw-Hill Publishers. It will be one of the first business texts to address ethics and responsible use of artificial intelligence in business.

Johanns said the authors didn't approach the topic with the assumption that AI is bad or inherently dangerous. They see it as something that can be incredibly helpful in building strong, healthy businesses and more productive employees.

"It's more than just a tool, it can be a trusted collaborator if used properly," he said.

The book is designed for non-technical students who expect to be using AI in their jobs but won't be doing the coding. It reviews AI's history, the different types of AI, the basics of how it works, and the ways that businesses have used early iterations.

The book also highlights how businesses are using AI for the good. For instance, a nonprofit in Hong Kong that uses AI to sort used clothing based on its condition, or an agricultural sprayer equipped with an AI-enabled camera that determines whether something is a weed or a plant, reducing the use of herbicides.

It has more than 100 other examples, drawn from companies large and small, across industries and geographies, and spanning both successes and failures. He said they were guided by the core insight from their years of teaching that when students see the relevance of a topic to their own lives and futures, they engage more deeply. Weaved throughout all of it are lessons intended to spark discussion of how it can be used ethically.

"We didn't want to treat ethics as an afterthought," Johanns said. "Rather than put it in a separate chapter that students can bypass, we incorporate ethics throughout so it has to be considered, prompting students to think critically about the societal impact of AI as they encounter each new concept."

Ethical conundrums that Johanns and Chaffee explore include worker displacement and how organizations choose to implement AI to minimize or maximize lost employees; the AI divide, in which wealthier people and more economically developed nations have greater access to AI, leaving impoverished countries even further behind; and sustainability issues, as the servers that run AI platforms require enormous amounts of power to operate and water to keep them cool.

Johanns said the growing use of ChatGPT is a good example of ethical knots the technology can tie. While the platform can be a great time saver and help people more easily understand difficult concepts, its priority is to provide an answer. Accuracy is secondary, so it often gives wrong

See ETHICS, Page 13



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The U.S. Black Chambers, Inc. Acquires Historic Former BET Campus, Launching a New Era of Black Business, Innovation, and Economic Power

(Black PR Wire) Washington, D.C. — Recently, U.S. Black Chambers, Inc. (USBC) proudly announced the historic acquisition of the former Black Entertainment Television (BET) Campus, a 7.88-acre landmark once home to Robert L. Johnson's groundbreaking media empire. With an investment of more than \$38 million, USBC will transform this iconic site into the USBC Innovation Campus — The

Epicenter of Business and Commerce.

This monumental achievement marks a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reimagine the future of Black enterprise. The new campus will serve as a national engine for business growth, innovation, and community impact rooted in Washington, D.C., extending its influence nationwide.

More than a milestone for USBC, the acquisition

represents a transformational investment in the city's economic future. It strengthens Washington, D.C.'s position as a hub for innovation, entrepreneurship, and cultural advancement, driving job creation, small business expansion, and generational wealth for years to come.

For over 16 years, USBC has been the national voice of Black businesses. With this milestone, USBC enters a new era as the global

voice of Black enterprise.

Ron Busby Sr., President & CEO of the U.S. Black Chambers, Inc., stated: "When I reflect on the journey of the U.S. Black Chambers over the past 16 years, I see a story of resilience, vision, and progress. This campus is the next chapter of that story — not just a building, but a living symbol of what happens when we claim our space, own our future, and build institutions that outlast

us. The USBC Innovation Campus is about more than today's entrepreneurs; it's about ensuring that generations to come inherit a place where their ideas, voices, and businesses can thrive."

Leadership & Vision

The successful acquisition of the historic BET Campus was guided by the strategic leadership of Ron Busby Sr., President & CEO; Antwanye Ford, Vice Chair of the Board of

Directors; Necole Parker, CEO of The ELOCEN Group and USBC Board Member; Rashad Jenkins, Chief Operating Officer of The ELOCEN Group; and Alisa Joseph, Chief Operating Officer of the U.S. Black Chambers, Inc. Their collective vision and steadfast commitment united public and private partners to bring this once-in-a-generation investment in Black enterprise to fruition.

FOOD, from Page 5

donation to provide 375,000 meals for children seniors and families.

Houston Food Bank distributes 300,000 meals with funds for fresh produce pantry staples and holiday favorites. San Antonio

Food Bank will deliver 500,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables feeding 20,000 families. Feast of Texas grew from Henry's 30-year.

Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway in the Coastal

Bend region. With the ongoing government shutdown many families lack SNAP benefits. Consequently this initiative fills a critical gap. Henry believes true success is measured by the ability to uplift others. Thus Feast of Texas reflects his broader philanthropic mission.

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"Anybody interested in Dallas' Black community and an its culture - North Dallas Gazette's inaugural season of 'Black Dallas: Hallowed Ground' is a MUST SEE"

- The Publisher

FILM, from Page 9

the script couldn't top this awkward moment. But in minutes it does. Painstakingly.

One night, a play at the National Theater in Oslo is about to begin. Nora, the lead, waits back stage for her big entrance. The house is packed outside with eager theatergoers. An announcement is made, the curtain is ready to go up, and Nora freezes. Try as the stage crew may, they can't get the nervous, mortified actress to move. She takes a step forward. Two steps back. Runs back to her dressing room for courage, a fleeting emotion. Seconds, then minutes go by as the awkward stalemate continues, and the audience gets restless. Nora is paralyzed, willing to try anything to break the impasse. But none of her old tricks

are working. Time ticks by. She rips her costume off in total frustration—yet, nothing is alleviating the abject fear that constrains her. Will the show go on?

This sequence has to be one of the most uncomfortable and nerve-racking scenes ever filmed in a drama. She looks lost in her anxiety. And as a viewer, you're embarrassed for her and wonder what happened in her life that pushed the talented thespian to the brink of insanity. That's where the rest of the brilliant screenplay by Vogt and Trier comes in. The storyline shows the depth of pain that a neglectful dad, who ignored his daughters for way too long, left behind.

The older and now reflective Gustav wants to worm his way back into

his offsprings lives by filming a movie in their house. Filmmaking is the one skill he has that could become an instrument of reconciliation. It's like a baseball player asking his adult estranged children to play ball with him or go to a game as a way to forget the past, live in the moment and mend fences. The overture doesn't go well. He can't read the room. Doesn't comprehend the depth of resentment, animosity and mistrust his daughters hurl his way. They're not making it easy. Forgiveness is not on the menu. Particularly for Nora. Gustav, "You two are the best thing that's ever happened to me." Nora, "Then why weren't you there!"

The parent/adult child conflict builds and builds. Every overture fails. Even offering his testy daughter a lead role is not enough

to win her affection. Then casting an American actress (Fanning), instead, becomes one more insult on a pile of grievances. Wisely as the family drama boils to a head, the writers have a bunch of surprises instore for the viewers. A final shocking turn of events that puts all the weird motives that came before it into context. Warning. Sit through the entire 133 minutes of this drama to feel it's real impact. Then get ready to be awed.

The footage is a joy to watch, as filmed by cinematographer Kasper Tuxen, who was also behind the camera on *The Worst Person In the World*. He lights the home well, film festival scenes in Deauville, France couldn't be more beguiling and the intimate scenes, whether capturing love or hate, are perfectly staged and composed.

The weighty narrative's twists and turns are based on psychodrama and not action. That means its success relies heavily on the performances making an impact. Reinsve superbly handles that responsibility as the guarded little girl who became the obstinate adult daughter determined to make her feelings known to a man who has none. She carries her wounds like medals and puts across a debilitating angst in the most realistic ways. Her antithesis is Lilleaas, who plays the go-between daughter who smooths out the wrinkles, with a very conservative charm. Skarsgård is extremely effective

as the dad, whose motivation seem suspicious almost throughout.

Adult audiences will be fascinated by this intriguing case of Scandinavian melancholia. Learning why an actress would walk away from a role that could change her life, just to spite her father, will be an engaging experience. Like group therapy. Between a neurotic thespian, a very difficult person and those who observe.

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

Visit Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrownInk.com.

ETHICS, from Page 11

or misleading answers that sound authentic.

"Part of using ChatGPT is understanding that it makes stuff up and it's your responsibility to check to make sure that what it's telling you is accurate," he said. "When you get in the weeds you see so many eth-

ical issues that we include in the book."

The book is not available in print and will be online only, so he said it's more of a resource than a traditional textbook. Johanns said the format will make the book more accessible to students. It will also be

more relevant, as he and his co-authors can update it in a matter of weeks or even

days to reflect the latest developments in the rapidly changing field of AI.

BOOK, from Page 10

the long story of Black authors and publishers, and the struggles both had – and sometimes still have – to get their books into readers' hands. It's a surprising journey that seems intuitive now, but it wasn't so in the not-so-distant past. Bookstores and authors had to learn, by necessity, how to work together, which was an offshoot of the ac-

tivism found in 1960s-era bookstores and which still continues today. It's a nice, round circle of time that readers will appreciate.

Absolutely, this is a book meant for anyone who has a sky-high TBR pile and who's heading to the bookstore this week. Find "Black-Owned." It's just what you want when you have a need for read.



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Truth Is As The Truther Says

By Dr. James L. Snyder

One thing I have learned in life is that for many people, truth is a relative thing. The truth is what they say it is, and you can't convince them otherwise.

I wrestle with telling the truth all the time. If you tell the truth, you do not have to remember what happened. But when you lie, you have to have a good memory of what the last lie was. Unfortunately, I do not have that kind of memory.

What I do remember is good old Uncle Dan. Now, he was not a biological uncle in that sense. But he was so much a part of our family and our family gatherings that everybody treated him like an uncle.

Everybody in the family really loved Uncle Dan. He had a charm about him that nobody could really refuse. He wasn't married and had no siblings, so, apart from my family, he had no family. We gladly welcomed him into our family circle.

What most of us liked about Uncle Dan was his humorous stories. He never ran out of stories to tell, and they were all hilarious. He was so funny I believed he could have been a comedian, but we accepted him and enjoyed his comedy.

Uncle Dan has been gone now for at least 20 years, but I still remember quite a few things about him. Of course, my memory is focused on his stories. For ev-

ery family gathering, he had at least one story to tell.

As soon as Uncle Dan began one of his stories, he had our attention.

We all laughed almost uncontrollably while he told his story. We didn't know at the time, but we laughed because he told different versions of the same story. It was when he went fishing at the lake. I don't know where it all started, because it was always a different lake.

At the time, nobody realized he was telling the same story, just different versions. Every time he told the story, it turned out differently from the story before.

My cousin and I were the first ones to realize what good old Uncle Dan was doing. Whether Uncle Dan knew he was doing it or not, I will never know.

After one of his storytelling episodes, my cousin and I were together, I looked at him and said, "Wasn't that similar to the story he told the last time?"

My cousin looked at me, scratched his chin, and then said, "You know, I think you're right. That was similar to the one he told last time, and the one he told before that, and the one he told before that one. They all were similar."

Together, we laughed as only cousins could. We couldn't wait until the next family gathering with Uncle Dan. We wanted to see if anybody else caught on to what Uncle Dan was doing.

My cousin and I agreed that Uncle Dan probably did not know he was changing these stories every time. To him, it was like he was telling the story for the very first time.

Several years after he passed away at our family gathering, I brought up the subject. "I sure miss Uncle Dan stories. They sure were very entertaining." Then the family group laughed together and smiled.

I could not help it, but I had to take it one step further: "Do any of you know what Uncle Dan was doing with his stories?"

Nobody understood what I was saying. One person said, "They were very funny stories and I enjoyed every one of them."

I then presented another question, "Can anybody tell me how many stories Uncle Dan told?"

A silly chuckle ran through the crowd, and finally someone said, "He told us a new story every time we got together. I don't remember how many stories he told us."

I looked at my cousin and said, "Mike could you answer that question?"

With a hearty chuckle, he looked at the family group and said, "Uncle Dan only ever told one story throughout the years."

Nobody in that crowd understood what we were saying. But as we pursued in that direction, one family member said, "You know,

that thought occurred to me about 10 years ago when he was telling his story. They all sounded similar and I couldn't put it together."

My cousin and I laughed together, and soon everybody said a profound "awe."

The rest of that family gathering was very interesting as people began to remember similarities in Uncle Dan's stories. Everybody thought he was telling a different story every time we gathered.

I don't believe Uncle Dan was lying to us; he didn't

understand the truth as it really was.

Remembering Uncle Dan and his "story" helps me see truth differently. Was he telling the truth? And was that truth from his perspective?

In thinking about Uncle Dan's stories, I was reminded of what Jesus said about the importance of telling the truth.

"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall

know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32).

Uncle Dan's stories were just entertainment. However, the Word of God is not entertainment but the basis of all truth. When I know God's truth, it will set me free from everything else.

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 http://www.jamesnsnyderministries.com.

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Things to Retain on Life's Journey



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

Work on your weaknesses until they become your strong points. Bear in mind that a great effort is usually the result of a great attitude. Learn to accept your winning battles with humility, and your losing battles with grace.

Ignore those who discourage you, they don't know "your story." Mark Twain once said, "Keep away from People who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that..."

Remember that talent is God-given; learn to be humble and thankful. Fame in life is man-given; and con-

ceit is self-given, therefore be very careful; and understand the difference.

Do what has to be done, when it has to be done, and as well as it can be done. Always give your best; a successful life is built one day at a time. Tough decisions that you make will test your courage, improve your strengths and reveal your weaknesses.

The importance of a lesson learned is not what you get from it, but what you become because of it. Do not allow yourself to get like concrete—all mixed up and permanently set.

In real life, people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. Henry Ford once said, "Even a mistake may turn out to be the one thing necessary to a worthwhile achievement." Some life changing inventions are of-

ten the result of an error.

You may not be able to change the world you see around you, but you can change the way you see the world; you will be measured by your reactions to life's inequities.

Never accept the negative until you have thoroughly explored the positive. People that never do any more than they get paid for, will never get paid for any more than they do.

My maternal grandfather, Mr. James Baker once said, "You can't pay a man enough money to do a good job, the good job that he will do comes from within."

Make happiness a habit. Enjoy life even when troubles spring up. Take one day at a time. Learn to accept large and small victories. It has been said that no one is born happy. Everyone makes his own happiness.

Accept change. Realize that change and problems will come whether we want them or not. Learn from the problems in life. At times what looks like a disaster may turn out to be the best thing that happened to you. Don't give up. Survivors do what has to be done, no matter how overwhelming the odds are.

Reach out to others. Cherish involvement with others. Be a giver. Duke University researchers found that one of the best predictors of health, happiness and long life is the tendency to reach out to people.

Live in the present. "Life lies in letting go, in giving up your grievances," writes Mildred Newman and Ber-

nard Berkowitz in *How To Be Your Own Best Friend*. They warn that if we spend our energies being angry with the people who once disappointed us, we won't have any left over for what we need now.

"Not one of us can bring back yesterday or shape tomorrow," adds Fredrick Buechner in *The Hungering Dark*. "Only today is ours and it will not be ours for long; and once it is gone, it will never in all time be ours again."

Do not afraid to dream. People go about their tasks without weariness if they have a goal and a belief in what they are doing. They have a purpose, a dream.

There are people that con-

tinue to live in spite of their disappointments and trials. When they find themselves in tough circumstances, they bravely overcome them.

They not only survive, they confront their stresses and sorrows in ways that deepen their lives. They go on with grace, distinction and courage.

It has been said that the trials of life are far less important than how one deals with them. By adopting a special outlook on life, many others can learn to be a survivor.

It is always worth the effort to be a survivor. This longing to beat the odds, to conquer our own weakness, has carried humanity through its long history. It is the cry of the heroic in all of us.

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