Local Students and Parents Learn to Dream Big with Steve Harvey and Friends at Annual Academy

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Once Great Political Phenom Witnesses Last Chapter in His Fall from Grace

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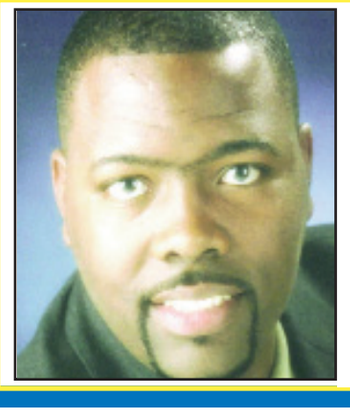

Bill Cosby's Life Should be an Inspiration

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Black College Sports Page

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FLORIDA'S FIRST COAST QUALITY BLACK WEEKLY

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City Tributes Black History Makers

Shown above at the Trailblazers Awards are (L-R): Cong. Corrine Brown, Brenda Jackson, Alton Yates, Dr. Alvin White, Nathaniel Glover, Judge Pauline Drake, Dr. Norma White, Mayor Alvin Brown, Dr. Adam Herbert, Dr. Arnett Girardieu, Dr. C.B. McIntosh, Rita Perry, Betty Holzendorf, Dr. Chester Aikens and Judge Henry Adams. Seated Gwendolyn Leaphart and Dr. Wendell Holmes. *FMP photo*

Black History Month may be over, but in the spirit of "living roses", Mayor Alvin Brown has shown that those who have written their name in the city's annals of history should be recognized. Last week, the Mayor recognized 17 community leaders who were the "first" African Americans in various fields such as business, education and public policy. Each received the inaugural "Mayor's Trailblazer Award" in City Council Chambers.

"Being a Trailblazer means setting the right example to influence greatness that goes beyond self," said Mayor Brown. "I'm proud of the accomplishments each of these Trailblazers has made, and I'm inspired by the paths they have set for the next generation of leaders."

More than 450 guests attended the packed ceremony to acknowledge and honor the local citizens for their contributions to society, both on the local and national stage. For more, see page 2.

Shown above are new Eta Phi Beta Members (L-R) Theresa Spencer, Jewel Turner, Nola Lester and Dianne Townsend.

Eta Phi Beta Adds Four to Sisterhood

The president, officers, and members of the Nu Chapter of Eta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., recently inducted four new sorors into their sisterhood. After completion of their three month initiation process, Theresa Spencer, Jewel Turner, Nola Lester and Dianne Townsend pledge their sacred oath in a private ceremony presided by membership chair Virginia Johnson.

Eta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. founded in 1942, is a professional and business women's sorority. Gloria Torrence Rhett is president of the local chapter, and Loretta Kirk-Adair is the national president.

Laverne Johnson Wins Free Press History Contest

Free Press Publisher Rita Perry presents Ms. Johnson with her prize money.

Laverne Johnson winner of the Jacksonville Free Press Black History Contest stopped by the Free Press offices this week to receive her $100 check. The contest consisted of 26 questions of notable local historical facts of African American people, places and institutions. The Raines High School graduate and teacher only missed one question. . When asked how she retrieved her answers and the copy of the contest, Laverne noted, "Dr. Pritchy Smith is a friend and he always brings a copy to me, so I researched the internet, talked to friends and on knew some answer from my own knowledge".

Michael Vick Cancels Book Tour After Death Threats

PHILADELPHIA - Michael Vick's book-signing tour has been canceled because of threats against him for running a dogfighting ring.

The Philadelphia Eagles' quarterback was scheduled to sign copies of his autobiography "Finally Free," at Barnes & Noble stores in Atlanta, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Vick served 18 months in federal prison for his role in running the dogfighting ring. According to court papers in the cases of Vick and his codefendants, Vick bankrolled the operation and joined others in killing dogs that didn't perform well.

While there will always be staunch animal lovers who will never forgive Vick's role in running a dogfighting ring, he has been largely embraced in Philadelphia. He revived his career and rehabbed his image without the protests and anger that followed immediately following his release from prison.

Since his release from prison in 2009, Vick has worked with The Humane Society of the United States to speak out against animal cruelty. He had made appearances at schools and spoken to students about the dangers of being involved in dogfighting.

Former FAMU Student to Plead Guilty in Hazing Manslaughter Case

ORLANDO, Fla. - A man charged in the hazing death of a Florida A&M drum major is going to plead guilty and cooperate with prosecutors. Caleb Jackson will plead guilty to felony hazing and manslaughter as soon as April, attorney Chuck Hobbs said at a hearing at the Orange County Courthouse.

Jackson currently is being held in the Leon County Jail for violating his probation.

Drum major Robert Champion died in November 2011 in Orlando after he collapsed following what prosecutors say was a savage beating during a hazing ritual. A dozen former Florida A&M band members have been charged with manslaughter and felony hazing.

Hobbs said no promises or guarantees have been made by prosecutors regarding Jackson's cooperation.

"It would be his hope that by cooperating, such would bode well when it comes time for his sentencing," Hobbs said.

Number of Hate Groups Reached All-Time High in 2012

There has been a sharp rise in anti-government "patriot" groups since the election of President Obama in 2008, according to a study issued last week by the Southern Poverty Law Center. The number of these organizations reached an all-time high of 1,360 in 2012.

There were 149 organizations before Obama took office in 2008. That amount shot to 512 by 2009, 814 in 2010, and jumped to 1,274 in 2011. The study attributes the rise of "hate groups" to Obama's presence in the oval office and the recent push for gun control laws following shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

The SPLC provides a "hate map" on its website, pinpointing the locations of organizations they categorize as hate groups. But some critics believe SPLC is too broad for including political organizations that oppose illegal immigration, gun control, gay rights and other issues.

Locally, the SPLC named Black nationalist Nation of Islam and the New Black Panther Party as hate groups.

College Tuition Stipends Suspended for US Airmen

RALEIGH, N.C. - The U.S. Air Force has joined other military branches in suspending tuition assistance that thousands of active-duty airmen rely on to pay for college classes.

Air Force spokeswoman Lt. Col. Laurel Tingley said airmen were notified in an email Tuesday that new applications for tuition assistance won't be accepted because of the $85 billion in federal spending cuts that went into effect March 1.

The U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Coast Guard suspended their assistance programs last week. A decision by the U.S. Navy is pending.

The tuition assistance programs pay up to $250 per semester hour for active duty personnel, up to $4,500 per year. Military personnel may still qualify for aid under the G.I. Bill, which is not affected.

Judge Strikes Down NYC Soda Ban

A judge has struck down a ban restricting the size of sodas sold in certain establishments in New York City that was set to go into effect this week. Known as the "soda ban," the legislation was instituted by the New York City Board of Health, a body appointed by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

A State Supreme Court Justice ruled that the ban was invalid in part because the Board of Health does not have the power to regulate portion sizes as a means of curbing obesity. Sugary drinks, such as soda, have been linked to obesity in numerous studies.

The edict would have restricted the largest soda portion to 16 ounces when sold at retailers controlled by the city, such as convenience stores and restaurants, in an effort to reduce obesity. The city claims obesity-related illnesses cost approximately $4.7 billion a year. Outlets such as 7-Elevens and grocery stores were exempt from the ban, because they are regulated by the state.

The Need for a Black Media is Greater Than Ever

by Johnahan Hicks

Long before the Civil War, a group of free African-American men founded a publication called Freedom's Journal. It was to be the first newspaper published in the United States by African-American journalists, starting in 1827. The objective of the newspaper, published in New York City, was to fight against the degradation of Black people and to call for an end to slavery.

The publishers of Freedom's Journal conveyed a special perspective of the news of the day. When mainstream publications were actively condemning abolitionists who called for the end of slavery, the Journal's writers took such views to task. They played an important role in helping to frame the public discourse on the topics of slavery and the role of people of African descent in America.

John Quincy Adams was president of the United States in the days of Freedom's Journal. But the need for vibrant African-American media is just as pronounced in the age of Obama.

The fact of the matter is that coverage of African-American life is at best an afterthought for mainstream media. For some of the prominent newspapers in the country, coverage of events in London, Berlin or Tel Aviv is far more of a staple than reports of important developments in LaVilla, Chicago's South Side or South Central Los Angeles.

Black media has led the way in the coverage of the Trayvon Martin shooting and its aftermath. They have led the way in chronicling the scourge of stop-and-frisk police practices in New York City. The Black press has been an important source of information in the effort by Republican-controlled legislatures around the country to disenfranchise African-American voters.

They are the news outlets that continue to revisit Hadiya Pendleton's tragic killing and the gun violence of which she was a victim — long after the national media have left for the next big story. They are the ones that help bring to prominence the tales of the so-called school-to-prison pipeline, in which young students, the overwhelming number of them Black, are reprimanded and even arrested by police for minor infractions.

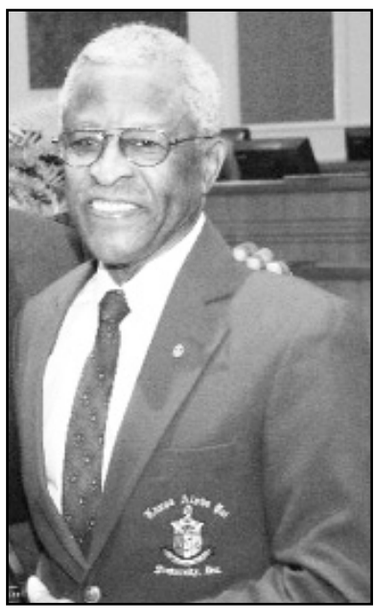
Even on the less weighty issues of the day, Black-oriented media have demonstrated they are on the forefront. The Black press remains an invaluable means by which to get the pulse on the music and culture of communities that are often ignored and marginalized.

Just as Freedom's Journal had its financial and other troubles – it closed within two years, publishing its last issue in 1829 — so, too, do the Black media organizations of 2013. The answer is for the public to be more supportive of these outlets and for the Black media organizations to find novel ways to present their coverage in more engaging and professional methods.

After all, a robust American media landscape takes all forms of players and should appeal to every realm of the country's news and entertainment appetite, particular in this fast-paced information world. It only helps to tell a more balanced story of American life.

2013 Mayors Trailblazers Awardees

Cong. Corrine Brown
1st African-American elected to the U.S. Congress from Florida since reconstruction

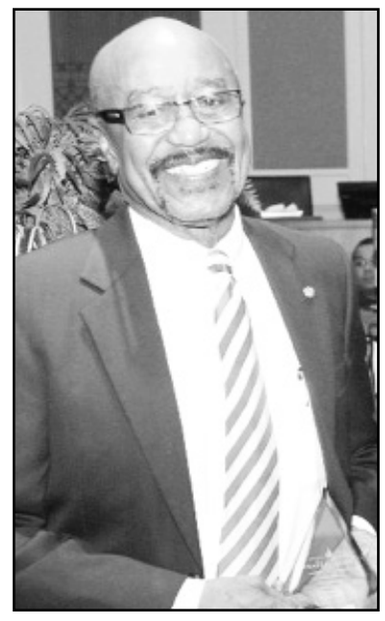


Lt. Colonel Alton W. Yates (ret.) - 1st African American from Jacksonville to be an Air Research and Development Volunteer for the U.S. Air Force.

Judge Pauline Drake
1st African-American female appointed to the Duval County Court

Dr. Norma Solomon White
First African American from Jacksonville be elected President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority,

Dr. Chester Aikens
1st African American from Jacksonville to be named National Dental Association President.



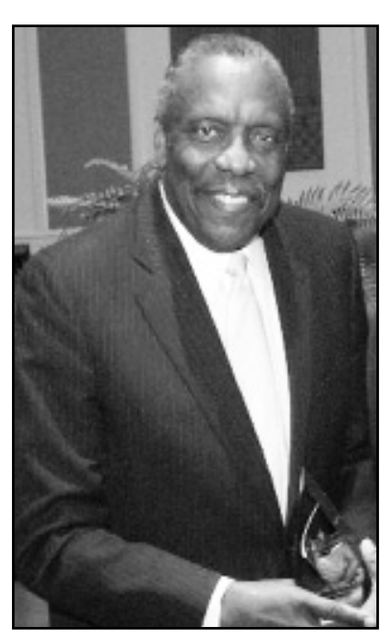
Dr. Alvin G. White
1st African American Chief of Staff of Duval County Public Schools

Dr. Landon Williams
1st African American International Vice President of the International Longshoremen's Association -

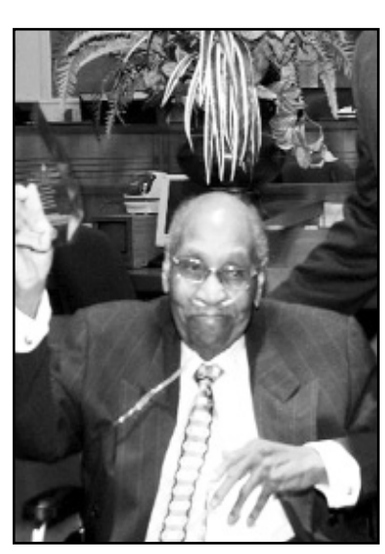
Dr. Adam Herbert
1st African American President of the University of North Florida, Chancellor of the Florida State University System,

Mrs. Brenda Jackson
1st African American to be named to the New York Times Bestsellers list and the USA

Hon.Gwendolyn Leaphart
First African American to be named to the Civil Service Board



Nathaniel Glover
1st African-American elected sheriff



Dr. Wendell P. Holmes, Jr.
1st African American in Duval County and Florida elected school Board Chairman.

Betty Holzendorf
1st African American female from Jacksonville elected to the Florida State Senate.

Dr. Arnett Girardeau
1st African American male elected to the Florida Senate and elected Senate Pro Tempore

Dr. Charles B. McIntosh
1st African American to practice Pediatric Medicine in Jacksonville

Judge Henry Lee Adams, Jr.
1st African American Judge for the Middle District of Florida

Rita Perry
1st African American founding female Publishers of a weekly newspaper in the state

Continued from front

The honorees were feted by family and friends along with the other invited guests that packed the Council Chambers. Each presentation was highlighted by a brief personal video that provided insight to the various honoree's journeys.

The Trailblazer's host was Channel 4 anchor Melanie Lawson who guided the evening's activities. Keynote speaker Ken Amaro set the tone for the by emphasizing the magnitude of each honoree's impact.

"There may be others," said Amaro, "but you will always be the first. The Mayor was also feted with a surprise gift of Presidential cufflinks from Cong. Corrine Brown and his own recognition of his triumphant political victory as Jacksonville's first African-American mayor. Following a benediction by Bishop McKissick, Sr., the honorees and their guests attended a private reception to continue their celebration.

Financial Freedom: Will Social Security Be Available For You?

By Ingrid M. Ellis

Have you ever read your Social Security statement? Most of my clients say, "No". Many people simply get it in the mail and stash it in the pile of papers for shredding at best or toss it I the trash as soon as it arrives. But the reality is, you need to know what it tells you. You should be kept abreast of what could potentially be available to you in your retirement years. Although I don't factor in Social Security benefits when I am creating a Financial Needs Analysis (FNA) for my clients, I encourage you to get familiar with the verbiage the next time you receive the paperwork from the Social Security Administration. Read it. There is a lot of valuable information stuffed within the four page fold out. Let me share a few key things on the Social Security Statement:

1."Social Security was never intended to be your only source of income when you retire. You will need other savings, investments, pensions or retirement accounts to make sure you have enough money to live comfortably when you retire."

2. "In 2016, we will begin paying more in benefits than we collect in taxes. Without changes, by 2037 the Social Security Trust Fund will be enough money to pay only about 76 cents for each dollar of scheduled benefits."

3.If you were born before 1938 your full retirement age is 65. Because of a change in the law, the full retirement age will increase gradually to 67 for people born in 1960 and later."

Most people don't plan to fail they fail to plan. And there is a high price to pay for waiting to create your family's financial solution. As a result, a lot of consumers are disillusioned to believe that they will be able to draw from the benefits of Social Security when they retire. The problem with that is although YOU may be contributing to the Social Security fund through regular payroll deductions, what YOU contribute isn't being banked for YOU when YOU retire.

It's a first-come-first-served program. And if there is nothing left for YOU when YOU retire, oh well. The crazy part is the Social Security Administration told you to find another alternative. But because most people haven't read the document, they haven't a clue.

Listen, no matter how old you are right now, you will retire one day-God willing. Because the retirement age has increased, people are having to work longer which means they enjoy less and less time spent in their "golden years."

If you haven't done so already, begin taking steps to create an incredible financial future for your family. Don't depend on Social Security or any other system to sustain your love ones. Make sure that you are dotting the "i's" and crossing the "t's" for yourself. Save! Invest! And do it aggressively so that you don't retire broke. In that way, if there isn't anything available for you with Social Security you would have already prepared yourself for the coldest days.

Love and Relationships in the African-American Community

By Kam Williams

"SBF Single Black Female. Walk through any major city in the U.S. on a Friday or Saturday night and you will find her. She'll either be alone or with her girlfriends, but almost never, EVER with a mate. The how and why of relationship status among African-Americans is a touchy subject. The black marriage gap has become such an open secret that it is now a source of endless bad jokes and fodder for primetime and reality shows such as "Basketball Wives" and "The Real Housewives of Atlanta." So what's going on? "Where Did Our Love Go?" explores the substantial issues surrounding relationships and marital status in the African – American community from the Baby Mama Syndrome to the more serious implications of what single parent households will mean for future generations."

Traditionally, the marriage rate has been a reliable indicator of the stability and vitality of a culture. For this reason, the decline in African American marital union is a very troubling sign.

The shocking statistics indicate that over 40% of black men and women are choosing to remain unmarried and that about a quarter of the brothers tying the knot are picking partners of another ethnicity. When you factor in the 75% Black illegitimacy rate, the black community's long-term prospects aren't exactly brilliant.

This grim reality wasn't lost on Gil Robertson, a veteran journalist with his finger on the pulse who examined AIDS and what it means to be African-American in his earlier books. His latest offering in the series, "Where Did Our Love Go?" takes a hard look at black love from the distinctly different perspectives of dozens of contributors, each of whom was given the freedom to expound on being single, engaged, married or divorced.

R&B crooner Anthony Hamilton identifies "having confidence and a willingness to want it to work" as the keys to a successful relationship. However, he also warns folks to forget about trying to find a "perfect mate" because "that keeps you blind from what's really real."

By contrast, marriage-minded Melody Guy has been patiently waiting to walk down the aisle since accepting a proposal from a fiancé' who not only has cold feet, but won't let her have a key to his apartment. Meanwhile at least he did "put a ring on it."

Amy Keith, a self-professed BAP (Black American Princess) is in no rush to pressure her Mr. Right, despite her fast-approaching 30th birthday, Why not? Because as a child, her own family was irreversibly fractured by her parents separation, so this wounded victim of divorce is cognizant of the high stakes associated with failure.

"Where Did Our Love Go?" devotes space to same sex and interracial relationships too. For example, NYC radio talk show host Clay Cane's chapter is structured in the form of journal entries recounting his frustrations with a passionate affair with a Broadway actor which failed to blossom into more.

He discusses the sometime awkward etiquette of gay dating and the stigmas attached. Later "Avery" declined to take an AIDS test expecting to be trusted on his word that he wasn't HIV+. Sounds a little risky.

Atlanta news anchor Veronica Waters entry, entitled "To Swirl or Not to Swirl?" refers to the mixing of vanilla and chocolate in soft ice cream. Veronica is a sister who readily admits that "It's white men who make me swoon" before issuing a call for recruits with "Let's get jiggy with it sisters!"

Overall, "Where Did Our Love Go?" proves to be a most informative and entertaining read, at least in terms of the individual contributors intimate experiences. I can't say that the diversity of personal opinion contained on the pages allows one to draw a conclusion about where African-American culture is headed but I don't think anybody's expecting the black community to share a monolithic mindset anymore anyway.

Where did our love go? Who knows? But it's apparently still leaving behind a trail of broken hearts with a "yearning, burning, yearning feeling deep inside" like The Supremes sang about a half century ago.

Pictured from left to right are: Sharon Peele, Helen Bargeron, Patrice Cushion, Barbara Hopkins(Chapter President), Tiffany Julia-Winkler, Julia Paul and Albertha Bevel.

Chi Eta Phi Welcomes New Members

On Saturday, March 9th, Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Sigma Chapter welcomed two new members, Patrice Cushion and Tiffany Julia-Winkler, into the organization. Chi Eta Phi is an international organization of registered nurses whose motto is "Service for Humanity".

Chi Eta Phi, Sigma Chapter has been providing service to the community for fifty-five years. Three of the chapter's charter members, Helen Bargeron, Albertha Bevel and Barbara Shuman, remain active participants in the chapter.

STARS' Student Learn Hands on Leadership Skills from Area Trendsetters

Seated (L-R) Penny Lewandowski (Lowe Foundation), Hon. Becki Couch, Hon. Connie Hall, Kim Ward (Michael and Kim Ward Foundation); Katie Ross (Senator Bill Nelson's Office), Carolyn Chatman (Cong.Corrine Brown's office); Standing (Row 1) Joshua Steen, Hon Ashley Smith Juarez, Superintendent Nikoli Vitti, Lt. Gov. Carroll, Jim Bailey (Daily Record); Garrett Denis (Supervisor of Elections Office); Betty Burney (I'm A Star Foundation); Back Row (L-r) Joel Mee (Chartwell Foods); Frank Denton (Florida Times Union); Hon. Bill Gulliford; Mike Williams (Sheriff's Office); Michael Ward (CSX); Levi Washington (St. Luke Baptist Church).

Betty Burney's I'M A STAR Foundation, Inc. held its 3rd Annual Leader to Leader Summit on March 9th. The room was filled with national, state and local leaders who came together to collaborate with student leaders. Lieutenant Governor Jennifer Carroll, Superintendent Nikoli Vitti, Senator Bill Nelson's Regional Director and Jim Bailey, publisher of the Daily record empowered students with priceless advice on leadership and success.

Students and leaders put their heads together to develop solutions and a game plan to assist homeless students in Duval County. The groups offered fantastic ideas that will be implemented by I'm A Star students in coming months to impact the nearly 1,500 homeless students in Duval County.

I'm A Star students attend middle and high schools throughout Jacksonville and have been trained to develop solutions to negative barriers that impact student success. City Council Vice-President Bill Gulliford and School Board members Becki Couch, Connie Hall, and Ashley Smith-Juarez were also on hand to work with the students.

"Students had an opportunity to strategize with our major decision-makers. More importantly, students had an opportunity to 'see' possibilities. My students can 'see' Lt. Gov. Carroll, Michael Ward, the CEO of CSX or Jim Bailey, publisher of the Daily Record and aspire to reach similar heights," said Burney.

STARS is an acronym for Smart, Talented And Resilient Students.

I'm A Star Students Pose With Superintendent Nikoli Vitti and Betty Burney after a successful Leader to Leader Summit.

City to Host Fair Housing Awareness Symposium

The City of Jacksonville Human Rights Commission is hosting its annual Fair Housing Symposium, which coincides with the Neighborhood Department's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Week. The event is free and a continental breakfast and lunch program will be provided for those who attend.

It will be held on Saturday, April 6 from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Prime Osborn Convention Center.

The theme of this year's event is "Living Free: Removing Barriers." Workshops will be provided for both citizens and industry professionals, such as home builders, realtors, property managers and homeowners. All workshops will be presented by attorneys and other experts in the field of fair housing and disabilities. Citizen workshops include the elements of a housing complaint, reasonable accommodations/modifications, landlord/tenant issues and code enforcement. The Professional's Workshop will focus on trends in design and construction, barriers to accessible housing and visitability. Those who attend the Professional's Workshop will receive certificates that may be used for obtaining continuing education credits.

Participating organizations include the Jacksonville Urban League, the MetroNorth CDC, the Jacksonville Housing Authority, the City of Jacksonville Disabled Services Division, Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Inc., and the City of Jacksonville Housing and Neighborhoods Department.

Advanced registration is required. Please email jhrcrsvp@coj.net or call (904) 630-1212 x3020 to register. Parking is free. Childcare for ages 4 to 12 will be available. Requests for special needs must be received no later than Monday, March 25, 2013.

At 48: Bernard Hopkins Becomes Oldest Boxer to Win Major Title

by Darren Rovell

How old is too old?

Apparently not 48 years old, as boxer Bernard Hopkins became a champion once again on Saturday.

Hopkins beat 30-year-old Tavoris Cloud for the IBF light heavyweight championship. In the process, Hopkins became the oldest boxing champion in history, beating his own record that he set two years ago.

"This victory is sweeter than honey," said Hopkins.

It was a moment that never would have happened had he listened to his mother's dying wish that came a decade ago: don't fight past 40.

"My mother would always say get the hell off the ring and don't go in again. I probably wouldn't be boxing, I would have been gone 10 years ago," Hopkins said.

When Hopkins was 17, he served 4 1/2 years in prison. Behind bars, boxing became his release and eventually his meal ticket.

"It's a lot of victories that I had over the years, but this one means more because I am older. And 50 is around the corner," Hopkins said.

City Chronicles

Diatribes on life in the African-American Diaspora by Rep. Reggie Fullwood

Cosby's Life Should Inspire Young African Americans

Sometimes you have to put the politics aside for a moment and talk about things or people that have made a significant impact on the lives of others. Often overlap exists between politics and those who have achieved greatly; these same people are alsoconstantly giving back.

A couple of weeks ago I had the great opportunity to meet a real American hero – Bill Cosby. He was in town in support of the Mayor's Summit on Education, and he didn't disappoint. Between his insight and openness when talking to small groups or his still funny stand-up act on stage – the man continues to be amazing.

And no he didn't fight in any wars or save children from burning buildings, but he has inspired and touched the hearts of so many. Growing up I always knew who Bill Cosby was, but it wasn't until the infamous "Cosby Show" did I get to see and appreciate him.

Mr. Cosby is not only an African American superstar, but has become simply an American icon.

The Cosby Show is now a TV legend. You can't talk about successful sitcoms without mentioning Cosby's hit production. The show probably meant a lot more to me and many other African Americans than whites could even imagine.

The show was about a successful black doctor (Bill Cosby) and his successful attorney wife (Felicia Rashaad), and their half a dozen or so children. It showed lower income families that blacks can be successful and have great professions, and live in wonderful houses.

It may seem like an exaggeration to some, but it is real. It was because of Cosby thatgrowing up I knew that blacks could go to college and become anything they wanted to be. His show was so different from Good Times, Sanford and Son, or The Jefferson's.

For most of us, we could identify not only with the show, but also with Cosby's life and success. Coming from a poor Philadelphia neighborhood, he saw little of his father, a mess steward in the Navy. He left school in tenth grade to join the Navy and finished high school via a correspondence course while still in the service. When he was discharged, he enrolled at Temple University in Philadelphia and the rest is history.

He used his life experiences and determination to fuel his drive. And yes, The Cosby Show was a sitcom or better yet entertainment; but it brought black people or better yet a successful black family into American households on a weekly basis.

Sure we had other shows in the past, but nothing that portrayed a strong black family structure like Bill Cosby's sitcom.

I remember watching an interview with Cosby several years ago and he said, "it is my duty to show America that blacks can have a functional, strong family structure."

Cosby has always had a since of "the bigger picture." In the 1960s, the hit show "I Spy" broke the racial barrier in television by featuring Cosby as the first-ever black lead of a weekly dramatic series. In the 1980s, Cosby raised the bar another notch with the show Coretta Scott King described as "the most positive portrayal of black family life that has ever been broadcast."

I have always admired him for being a longtime champion for the betterment of African Americans through education and access to opportunities.

Yes, Cosby used his good-natured, colorblind comedy to reach out to all races, which made him a major success. He approached his work like Martin Luther King in a sense,which I guess makes Richard Pryor more like an aggressive, in your face Malcolm X type.

In an interview several years ago, Cosby said that today's black comedian have tainted the legacy he left for them. He feels like today's African American comics are foulmouthed, unfocused, and too eager to reinforce the stereotypes of black people.

That was the beauty of "The Cosby Show," it didn't reinforce those negative stereotypes about blacks. "The fact that the family is black, without making a particular point of it," reported Time magazine, "is an encouraging sign of maturity in matters of race."

Cosby is much harder on the younger comedians because he feels that "their job isn't limited to getting laughs. Whether they know it or not, they are role models as well."

Cosby once said, "You can turn painful situations around through laughter. If you can find humor in anything, even poverty, you can survive it."

And for those who think that Cosby has retired "forget about it." His show in Jacksonville a couple of weeks ago wasn't unique – he still does shows on weekends and is still selling out crowds around the country or making fund-raising appearances at black colleges.

Yes, our young folks can learn a lot from Bill Cosby, especially African American males. From his strong educational beliefs to his entrepreneurship, he is a true role model and hero.

I'll end with one of my favorite Cosby quotes. He said, "A word to the wise ain't necessary - it's the stupid ones that need the advice."

Signing off from Tallahassee,
Reggie Fullwood

Business Exchange by George Curry

The Rich are Treated Differently

F. Scott Fitzgerald got it right when he said the rich are different.

We are witnessing that in the sequester fiasco and we heard it in another form last week when Attorney General Eric H. Holder offered an asinine reason for not prosecuting bankers/gangsters known as banksters.

Testifying before Congress, Holder said, "I am concerned that the size of some of these institutions becomes so large that it does become difficult for us to prosecute them when we are hit with indications that if you do prosecute, if you do bring a criminal charge, it will have a negative impact on the national economy, perhaps even the world economy."

Holder is not the Secretary of Treasury. While he, like all of us, might be concerned about the economy, that's not his area of responsibility. His job as the nation's chief law enforcer is to enforce the law. And that should apply to banksters like it applies to gangsters. But, as we know, the rich and institutions they control are treated differently.

This variation of banks being "too big to fail" is essentially telling us their CEOs are "too big to jail." If banks are too big to fail, we should remind ourselves who allowed them to grow that large. Each time big banks gobbled up smaller ones like ATMs suck in your check deposit, they had to first win approval from the federal government. That is the same federal government that bails them out when they get in trouble and the same federal government that now whines that their CEOs are two big to jail. Try explaining that to a first-time, non-violent drug user who is rotting away behind bars.

Even in clear-cut cases of gangster behavior, there is a double-standard. Take the case of HSBC, which signed a $1.9 billion settlement with the U.S. after CEO Stuart Gulliver acknowledged the bank's failure to catch at least $881 million in drug trafficking money that was laundered through the institution's accounts. Officials admitted their bank had facilitated illicit financial transfers on behalf of rogue nations, including Iran and Libya, as well as Mexican and Colombian drug cartels.

Their punishment? A fine that equaled 11 percent of last year's profits and a promise to do a better job of monitoring their accounts. And they avoided criminal prosecution.

Like other banks, HSBC will continue to benefit from American taxpayers underwriting its deposit insurance.

Senator Elizabeth Warren [D-Mass.] observed, "It has been almost five years since the financial crisis, but the big banks are still too big to fail. That means they are subsidized by about $83 billion a year by American taxpayers and are still not being held fully accountable for breaking the law."

The $83 billion a year Warren referred to represents the amount taxpayers pay in insurance to make sure U.S. bank deposits are guaranteed.

Think about that. Banks are profit making entities yet the public pays their insurance. Does anyone else pay for your homeowner's insurance? Health insurance? Car insurance? So why should the public share in banks' expenses, but not their profits? It is yet another example of the rich and their powerful institutions being different?

Contrast that treatment with what's happening in our nation's capital.

In the never-ending game of chicken, Republicans are threating yet another budget showdown. They are adamant that whatever comes out of the ongoing sequester and deficit debates, all cuts must come from the spending side, including Medicare and Social Security.

Although President Obama has used strong, protective language in his State of the Union and inauguration speeches, he has a tendency to cave in when negotiating with Republicans – and that has many Democrats worried.

Obama and his advisers have already stated that they are amenable to a "grand bargain" whereby the White House and Republicans will reach an agreement on budget cuts.

So far, 107 of the 200 House Democrats have signed a letter to the president threatening to vote "against any and every cut to Medicare, Medicaid or Social Security benefits – including raising the retirement age or cutting the cost of living adjustments that our constituents earned and need."

Continued on page 7

Is it Time for Blacks to Turn from Democrats ?

By William Reed

"*It is easily seen, that if every member of the race strove to make himself successful in business, he would contribute much toward smoothing the pathway of his own and future generations.*"

– Booker T. Washington

Isn't it time Black Americans turned the page on their political preferences? Republican National Committee chairman Reince Priebus has been holding meetings with designated community leaders to discuss how the GOP can become more appealing to minority voters. The party leader says he's listening to different perspectives on "how we can build and grow the GOP to win future elections." The Republican National Committee (RNC) effort seeks to "review past practices" and "make recommendations" for the future.

To be effective among African Americans, Priebus and Co., need to take public policy positions that have the potential to advance Blacks' interests. A suggestion is that Priebus form a task force comprised of Black business people that will mutually help all pursue American capitalism. It's worth noting that throughout the history of Blacks and Republicans, at the core has been Blacks' self-sufficiency interests. From Reconstruction until the New Deal, Blacks voted "Republican." Then and now, Republican values of market economics, strong families, and education have offered Blacks better paths, and more direction, to prosperity. During times of their engagements, Republicans have provided Blacks successful role models and resources toward their "piece of the pie."

Booker Taliaferro Washington is an example of a Black success story in capitalism, commerce and politics. During the late 1800s and early 1900s, Booker T. was the most celebrated Black of his time. Washington realized that slavery had taught Blacks many profitable skills and trades. Skills such as carpentry, cooking, farming, and tailoring were seeds for businesses that could be started at home and with little or no capital. Washington operated numerous schools through successful capitalists. Sears Roebuck President Julius Rosenwald helped in the construction and operation of more than 5,000 of Washington's schools. Washington created the Negro Business League (NBL), with the intent of creating a Black capitalist class. At a conference in 1910, Washington called on NBL members to "teach the masses to get property, be thrifty and economical."

Blacks have always done well economically with Republicans. The last time Blacks supported a Republican presidential ticket in any sizable numbers was when they gave Richard Nixon more than 30 percent of their vote. In turn, Nixon made a multitude of Black millionaires through his directive toward establishment of the Office of Minority Business Enterprise. Between 1969 and 1976, 500,000 new Black businesses were established.

Democrats have been running Black communities for the past 50-plus years. These socialist policies have turned many Black and urban communities into economic and social wastelands. But Priebus and Co., have to realize what an uphill climb it is to turn Blacks back to entrepreneurial pursuits and mindsets. In 2012, just 5 percent of African Americans considered themselves Republicans. To gain numbers among African Americans, Republicans need to be private sector partners with them to generate economic market share and prosperity. Republicans rolls can go up among the millions of African Americans that endorse and advocate laissez-faire economics, fiscal conservatism, and personal responsibility over welfare program paradigms.

Isn't it time for Republicans and Blacks to turn the page? Is it possible that after their disdain and distance from the Mitt Romney campaign, Blacks and Republicans can align toward mutual economic and political clout? Priebus should establish a task force comprised of Republican-leaning groups such as the NBL, the National Black Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Inc., to establish grassroots programs and structures. Such alliances were successful in the past and can repair and bring new successes to Black communities. To correct "past practices" the Republicans need to instill practices that "go back" to political gains made by Nixon and Booker T. The RNC will reap growth and national predominance with earnest efforts to tap into Black enclaves.

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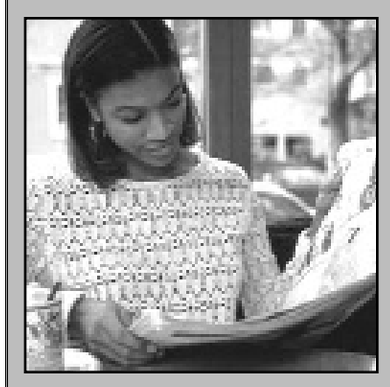

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FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 12 - 18, 2013

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE™

Bowie State Sports Photo

BYRON WESTMORELAND: CIAA Tourney MVP leads Bowie State into NCAA Div. II playoffs, one of seven black college teams in the field.

NOTHING BUT NET

MEAC/SWAC HOOPS TOURNAMENTS UNDERWAY; NCAA DIV. II PLAYOFFS BEGIN FRIDAY

2012-13 BLACK COLLEGE BASKETBALL (Results, Standings and Yearly Honors)

MEAC — Mid Eastern Athletic Conference

MEN (FINAL)	CONF W	CONF L	ALL W	ALL L
Norfolk State	16	0	21	10
NC Central	15	1	22	8
Hampton	11	5	14	16
Savannah State	11	5	18	13
Morgan State	10	6	14	14
NC A&T	8	8	15	16
Delaware State	8	8	13	16
Bethune-Cookman	7	9	12	19
Florida A&M	5	11	8	22
Coppin State	5	11	8	23
Howard	4	12	7	23
SC State	2	14	6	23
Maryland-E. Shore	2	14	2	25

MEAC PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

PLAYER

Pendarvis Williams, 6-6, Jr., G, NSU - Led Spartans to regular season title averaging 14.1 points, 4.6 rebounds and shooting .407 from 3-point range.

ROOKIE

Deron Powers, 5-11, Fr., G, HAM - Led Pirates in scoring (11.5 ppg.) while finishing second in the MEAC in FT % (.830) and fourth in assists (4.8 apg.).

DEFENSE

Austin Witter, 6-7, Sr., F, NC A&T - FInished fourth in MEAC in rebounds (7.2 pg.) and led in blocked shots (3.0 pg.).

MEAC — Mid Eastern Athletic Conference

WOMEN (FINAL)	CONF W	CONF L	ALL W	ALL L
Hampton	16	0	25	5
NC A&T State	13	3	21	8
Howard	12	4	18	10
SC State	11	5	19	8
Coppin State	10	6	14	15
Morgan State	9	7	12	17
Florida A&M	8	8	11	18
Bethune-Cookman	7	9	12	16
Delaware State	6	10	9	20
Md. E. Shore	4	12	8	19
Norfolk State	4	12	6	21
Savannah State	2	14	7	22
North Carolina Central	2	14	2	27

MEAC PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

PLAYER

Kieara Avant, 5-11, Sr., F, HAM - Led Lady Prates to regular season title averaging double-double (16.3 ppg., 10.3 rpg.), 19 double-doubles on season.

ROOKIE

Eboni Ross, 6-2, R-Fr., NC A&T - Led the MEAC in field goal percentage (.521), was 2nd in blocks (1.7 pg.), averaged 7.6 points and 5.4 rebounds per game.

DEFENSE

Alyssa Bennett, 6-2, Jr., F, HAM - Averaged 9.9 points, 6.6 rebounds and 1.7 blocks per game for Lady Pirates.

SWAC — Southwestern Athletic Conference

MEN (FINAL)	DIV W	DIV L	ALL W	ALL L
* Texas Southern	16	2	17	14
Southern	15	3	21	9
* Ark. Pine Bluff	15	3	16	14
Jackson State	9	9	10	17
Prairie View A&M	8	10	13	18
Alabama State	8	10	10	21
Alcorn State	8	10	10	23
Alabama A&M	6	12	10	19
* Miss. Valley St.	5	13	5	23
Grambling State	0	18	0	27

* Ineligible for postseason

SWAC PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

PLAYER

Omar Strong, 5-9, Sr., G, TSU - Finished second in SWAC scoring (17.0 ppg.) while leading in 3-pointers made (120, 3.9 pg.) and FT percentage (.848).

DEFENSE

Fred Sturdivant, 6-7, Sr., F, TSU - Led the league in blocks (99, 3.2 pg.) and field goal percentage (.602) while finishing second in rebounding (8.2 rpg.)

NEWCOMER

Malcolm Miller, 6-5, Fr., G, SU - Averaged 16.0 points per game, third best in league, 5.8 rebounds and was top 3-point shooter (.458), 3rd in 3s made (2.7 pg.).

FRESHMAN

Terry Rose, 6-4, Fr., G/F, GSU - Averaged 13.8 points with 81 treys.

SWAC — Southwestern Athletic Conference

WOMEN (FINAL)	DIV W	DIV L	ALL W	ALL L
Texas Southern	16	2	19	10
Southern	12	6	13	16
Miss. Valley St.	12	6	15	14
Prairie View A&M	11	7	14	14
Jackson State	9	9	12	15
Alabama A&M	8	10	9	19
Ark. Pine Bluff	7	11	11	17
Alabama State	7	11	9	20
Grambling State	6	12	8	22
Alcorn State	2	16	2	25

SWAC PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

PLAYER

Latia Williams, 5-10, R-Sr., PV - Finished second in scoring (12.9 ppg.) and rebounding (8.9 rpg.) while leading the SWAC in minutes played (35.7 pg.).

DEFENSE

Carolinsia Crumbly, 5-5, Sr., G, ALC - Finished second in steals (68, 2.5 pg.), scored 11.2 points per game.

NEWCOMER

Joanna Miller, 5-8, Fr., G, GSU - Led league in scoring (16.0 ppg.), shot .726 from the line (8th).

FRESHMAN

Te'era Williams, 5-10, Fr., G, TSU - Averaged 12.4 poings per game (4th), 6.3 rebounds (11th), 2.1 steals (4th), 2.8 assists (7th) and shot .488 from field (3rd).

UNDER THE BANNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

Strong L. Williams Sturdivant Crumbly

SWAC/MEAC HOOPS HONOREES:

Senior guard **Omar Strong** of **Texas Southern** (men) and **Prairie View** senior forward **Latia Williams** (women) were named **Southwestern Athletic Conference** Basketball Players of the Year as announced by the conference last week.

Strong finished the regular season second in the SWAC in scoring (17 ppg.), as the league's top shooter from 3-point range (120, 3.9 pg.) and led the league in free throw shooting percentage (.840). Williams was second in scoring (12.9 ppg.) and rebounding (8.9 rpg.) and led the SWAC women in minutes played (35.7 mpg.).

TSU first-year head coach **Mike Davis** and **Southern** second-year head coach **Roman Banks** shared men's Coach of the Year honors after tying in the voting. Davis led the Tigers to a 16-2 SWAC mark (17-14 overall)and the regular season crown. Banks led the Jaguars to a 15-3 league mark and second-place finish. **Nate Kilbert**, who led **Miss. Valley State** (12-6, 15-14) to a second-place tie with Southern, won the women's award.

TSU senior forward **Fred Sturdivant** was selected men's Defensive Player of the Year after leading the league in blocks (99, 3.2 per game) and finishing second in rebounding (8.2 rpg.). **Alcorn State's Carolinsia Crumbly** finished second in the SWAC in steals (68, 2.5 pg.) to take the women's award.

Malcolm Miller of Southern averaged 16.0 points per game, third best in the league, to grab the men's Newcomer award. In her first season at **Grambling**, **Joanna Miller** led the SWAC in scoring (16.5 ppg.), 3-pointers made (66, 2.4 pg.) and 3-point shooting (.390) to win the women's newcomer honor.

Grambling first-year player **Terry Rose** scored 13.8 ppg. and finished with 81 treys to claim the top men's freshman award. TSU's **Te'era William**s led the Lady Tigers in scoring (12.7 ppg.) to claim the women's honor.

MEN - FIRST TEAM - G - Omar Strong, Sr., TSU; Derick Beltran, Sr., SU; F - Malcolm Miller, Jr., SU; Fred Sturdivant, Sr., TSU; C - Terrell Kennedy, Sr., UAPB SECOND TEAM - G - Davon Usher, Jr., MVSU; Jourdan DeMuynck, Sr., PVAM; F - Demarquelle Tabb, Jr., AAMU; Davon Haynes, Jr., UAPB; C - Phillip Crawford, Sr., ALST THIRD TEAM - G - Marquiz Baker, Jr., ALCN; Ray Penn, Jr., TSU; F - LeAntwan Luckett, So., ALCN; Daniel Broughton, Jr., UAPB; C - Aaron Clayborn, Jr., TSU

WOMEN - FIRST TEAM - G - Joanna Miller, Jr., GSU; Kendra Coleman, Jr., SU; F - Alia Frank, Jr., MVSU; Chigozianyi Okwumabua, Jr., UAPB; C - Tiffany Kellum, Jr., JSU SECOND TEAM - G - Brianna Sidney, Jr., TSU; Joncyee Sanders, Jr., MVSU; F - Jasmine Sanders, So., AAMU; Latia Williams, Sr., PVAM; C - Quentori Alford, Jr., ALST THIRD TEAM - G - Kiara Etienne, Jr., PVAM; LaKendra Marsh, Jr., UAPB; F - Te'era Williams, Fr., TSU; Lechell Rush, Jr., SU; C - Larissa Scott (PVAM)

Avant Williams Bennett Witter

Senior forward **Keiara Avant** of women's regular season champ **Hampton** and junior guard **Pendarvis Williams** of men's champion **Norfolk State** were named 2013 **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** (MEAC) Basketball Players of the Year in voting by the conference's head basketball coaches and sports information directors.

Avant averaged a double-double (16.3 ppg., 10.3 rpg.), leading the league in rebounding and finishing fifth in scoring and field goal percentage (.470). Williams averaged 14.1 points and 4.6 rebounds while shooting .814 from the line and .407 from 3-point range.

North Carolina A&T forward **Eboni Ross** led the MEAC in field goal percentage (87-of-170, .512)) and was second in blocks (1.7 bpg.) to earn the top freshman award. **Hampton** guard **Deron Powers** was the men's top freshman as he finished second in free-throw percentage (.830), fourth in assists (4.8 apg.) while leading the Pirates in scoring (11.5 ppg.)

Hampton's **Alyssa Bennett** won the women's defensive award after averages of 6.6 rebounds and 9.9 points per game. **NC A&T** senior forward **Austin Witter** got the men's defensive award based on his league-leading 7.2 rebounds and 3.0 blocks per game.

Hampton head coach **David Six** and Norfolk State's **Anthony Evans** garnered coach of the year honors after leading their teams to 16-0 regular season marks.

WOMEN FIRST TEAM - Jasmine Grice, 5-9, Jr., G, FAMU; Nicole Hamilton, 5-8, Jr., G, HAM; JaQuayla Berry, 5-11, Sr., G, NC A&T; Saadia Doyle, 5-10, Sr., F, HOWARD; Keiara Avant, 5-11, Sr., F, HAM SECOND TEAM - Bianca Jarrett, 5-5, Sr., G, MSU; Tiarra Knotts, 5-4, Sr., G, SCSU; Alyssa Bennett, 6-2, Jr., F, HAM; Tierra Hawkins, 6-2, So., F, DSU; Rachel Gordon, Jr., F, NSU THIRD TEAM - Leola Spotwood, 6-0, Sr., F, CSU; Cheyenne Curley-Payne, 5-4, Sr., G, HOW; Amber Calvin, 5-8, Jr., G, NC A&T; Erin Hogue, 5-11, Sr., F, SSU; Trinese Fox, 5-9, Sr., G, SCSU

MEN FIRST TEAM - Jeremy Ingram, 6-3, Jr., G, NCCU; Pendarvis Williams, 6-6, Jr., G, NSU; DeWayne Jackson, 6-8, Sr., G, MSU; Stanton Kidd, 6-7, Jr., F, NCCU; Adrien Coleman, 6-5, Jr., F, B-CU SECOND TEAM - Tahj Tate, 6-4, So., G, DSU; Ray Willis, 6-6, Sr., G, NCCU; Preston Blackman, 6-0, Sr., G, SSU; Rashad Hassan, 6-7, Sr., F, SSU' Matthew Hezekiah, 6-11, Jr., F, SCSU THIRD TEAM - Adrian Powell, 6-6, Sr., F, NC A&T; Justin Black, 6-2, Jr., G, MSU; Jamie Adams, 5-10, Jr., G, FAMU; Rob Johnson, 6-8, Sr., F, NSU; Austin Witter, 6-8, Sr., F, NC A&T

ALL ROOKIE TEAM - Rashid Gaston, 6-8, Fr., F, NSU; Patrick Cole, 6-5, Fr., G, CSU; Bruce Beckford, 6-7, Fr., F, NC A&T; Deron Powers, 5-11, Fr., G, HAM; Darryl Palmer, 6-7, Fr., F, SCSU

Norfolk State, Hampton undefeated favorites

LUT WILLIAMS
BCSP Editor

The regular season and defending champion **Norfolk State** men and **Hampton** women enter this week's **MEAC** Basketball Tournament on quite a roll.

Head coach **Anthony Evans** and his Norfolk State Spartans are on a 15-game win streak and just finished an undefeated 16-0 run thru the MEAC regular season, the first team to do that since the 1993-94 **Coppin State** Eagles.

Hampton, the three-time defending women's tournament champ, is on a 16-game win streak and also posted a 16-0 conference record, the first time that's been done since the Coppin State Lady Eagles posted an 18-0 mark in the 2006-07 season. The Lady Pirates with head coach **David Six** have now compiled a 46-2 conference record (15-1, 15-1, 16-0) over the past three seasons.

Both the Hampton women and Norfolk State men are strong favorites to repeat as champions and earn automatic berths in this year's NCAA national tournaments as a result. The Hampton women however may be bigger favorites than the Norfolk State men.

WOMEN

Not only did Hampton run the table in the conference and win the regular season title by three games, but the Lady Pirates' average margin of victory against conference competition was 21 points. Only four games were decided by single-digits.

Second-seed **North Carolina A&T** (13-3, 21-8), who won 20 games in its first year under head coach **Tarrell Robinson**, did not face the Lady Pirates. Third-seed **Howard** (12-4, 18-10) came the closest to knocking off Hampton, losing 52-50 at home. Hampton was dominant, winning 67-45 in the rematch in Hampton.

Fifth-seed **Coppin State** (10-6, 14-15) played the Lady Pirates two tough games, losing 58-50 at home and 68-59 on the road.

It will take a supreme effort to dethrone the Lady Pirates.

MEN

Conversely, Norfolk State (16-0, 21-10) specialized in close wins. Eleven (11) of the Spartans 16 conference victories came by single-digits pegging them perhaps a little more susceptible to an upset in the tournament.

MEAC TOURNAMENT

GAME SCHEDULE

WOMEN

Monday, March 11
#4 S. C. State 50, #13 Savannah State 35
#5 Coppin State 44, #12 N. C. Central 41
#6 Morgan State 56, #11 Md.-E. Shore 49
Tuesday, March 12
#9 Delaware State vs. #8 B.-Cookman - 11 am
#10 Norfolk State vs. #7 Florida A&M - 1:30 pm
Wednesday, March 13
#1 Hampton vs. DSU/BCU - 12 n
#2 N. C. A&T vs. NSU/FAMU - 2:30 pm
Thursday, March 14
#3 Howard vs. #6 Morgan State - 12 n
#5 Coppin State vs. #4 S. C. State - 2:30 pm
Friday, March 15
Women's Semifinals - 12 noon
Women's Semifinals - 2:30 pm
Saturday, March 16
Women's Finals - 1 pm

MEN

Monday, March 11
#4 Savannah St. 59, #13 Md.-E. Shore 44
#5 Morgan State 61, #12 S. C. State 52
Tuesday, March 12
#9 Coppin State vs. #8 B-Cookman - 4 pm
#10 Florida A&M vs. #7 N. C. A&T - 6:30 pm
#11 Howard vs. #6 Delaware State - 9 pm
Wednesday, March 13
#1 Norfolk State vs. CSU/BCU - 6 pm
#2 N. C. Central vs. FAMU/NCA&T - 8:30 pm
Thursday, March 14
#3 Hampton vs. HOW/DSU - 6 pm
#5 Morgan St. vs. #4 Savannah St. - 8:30 pm
Friday, March 15
Men's Semifinals - 6 pm
Men's Semifinals - 8 pm
Saturday, March 16
Men's Finals - 5 pm

Like Hampton on the women's side, the Spartans did not face the second-seed, **LeVelle Moton's** Eagles of **North Carolina Central** (15-1, 22-8), whose only loss in their last 17 games was a 44-36 decision to fourth-seed **Savannah State** (11-5, 18-13) on Feb. 16.

Third-seed Hampton (11-5, 14-16) lost two close decisions to Norfolk State (62-59 and 74-67). Fifth-seed **Morgan State** (73-71) and eighth-seed **Bethune-Cookman** (62-61), who lost to NSU in last year's tournament finals, came the closest to knocking off the Spartans this season.

Excellent late-game execution has enabled Norfolk State to escape close scrapes all season long. They'll need three more of such performances to come away with their second straight title and NCAA Tournament berth.

Southern men, Texas Southern women favored

LUT WILLIAMS
BCSP Editor

The **Southern** men and **Texas Southern** women are favorites, but for different reasons, in this week's **SWAC** Basketball Tournaments in Garland, Texas.

WOMEN

The Texas Southern Lady Tigers (16-2, 19-10) are favored by virtue of their four-game bulge in winning in the league's regular season race.

But don't count out the **Southern** Lady Jaguars.

First-year TSU head coach **Cynthia Cooper-Dyke** has transformed a team that finished 5-26 overall a year ago, 2-16 in SWAC play and next-to-last in conference standings, into a juggernaut.

Last season the Lady Tigers were last in scoring (47.3 ppg.) and near the bottom in scoring defense (62.0 ppg.). Under Cooper-Dyke, the highly-decorated former NCAA and WNBA star and highly-successful coach (at **Prairie View** and UNC-Wilmington in previous stops), TSU is the league's top scoring team (61.5 ppg.) and is second in scoring defense (58.9 ppg.).

Cooper-Dyke added two difference-makers, freshman guards **Brianna Sidney** and **Te'era Williams**. Sidney (10.0 ppg.) was a second-team all-SWAC selection while Williams (12.4 ppg., 6.3 rpg., 2.8 apg., 2.1 spg.) was the league's rookie of the year.

But TSU could not get by **Sandy Pugh's** Lady Jags of Southern (12-6, 13-16) who handed the Lady Tigers their only two conference losses, 72-60 at Southern in early January and 55-53 at home two weeks ago.

MEN

For the men, Southern (15-3, 21-9) assumes the top seed and tournament favorite's role after both first-place regular season finisher **Texas Southern** (16-2, 17-14) and third-place **Arkansas Pine Bluff** (15-3, 16-14), along with ninth-place **Mississippi Valley State (5-13, 5-23),** were barred from postseason play by low APR scores. Two of Southern's three conference losses were to TSU (79-66) and UAPB (55-52).

That not only makes **Roman Banks's** Jaguars (16-2, 20-9) a strong favorite but catapults **Jackson State** (10-17), a team that finished only 9-9 in SWAC games, into the second seed.

Southern is led by all-SWAC selections **Malcolm Miller and Derick Beltran**

SWAC TOURNAMENT

GAME SCHEDULES

WOMEN

Tuesday, March 12
#10 Alcorn State vs. #7 Ark.-Pine Bluff - 5:30 pm
#9 Grambling vs. #8 Alabama State - 8 pm
Wednesday, March 13
Alcorn/UAPB vs. #2 Southern - 3 pm
GSU/ASU vs. #1 Texas Southern - 5:30 pm
Thursday, March 14
#5 Alabama St. vs. #3 Miss. Valley St. - 10 am
#5 Jackson St. vs. #4 Prairie View - 5:30 pm
Friday, March 15
Women's Semifinals - 12 pm
Women's Semifinals - 5:30 pm
Saturday, March 16
Women's Finals - 12 noon

MEN

Wednesday, March 13
#7 Grambling vs. #6 Alabama A&M - 8 pm
Thursday, March 14
#5 Alabama St. vs. #2 Jackson St. - 12:30 pm
#4 Prairie View vs. #3 Alcorn State - 8 pm
Friday, March 15
Men's Semifinals - 2:30 pm
Men's Semifinals - 8 pm
Saturday, March 16
Men's Finals - 3:30 pm

NCAA DIV. II BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS

MEN

ATLANTIC REGIONAL - Saturday, March 16 - West Liberty, WV
#2 **Winston-Salem State** (21-6) vs. #7 Slippery Rock (22-8) - 2:30 pm
#1 West Liberty (30-1) vs. #8 **Bowie State** (16-13) - 6 pm
#4 Fairmont State (22-8) vs. #5 **Livingstone** (22-6) - 8:30 pm

SOUTH REGIONAL - Saturday, March 16 - Lakeland, FL
#3 Eckerd (20-7) vs. #6 **Benedict** (23-6) - 12 noon

WOMEN

ATLANTIC REGIONAL - Friday, March 15 - Erie, PA
#3 **Shaw** (25-4) vs. #6 Glenville State (26-3) - 12 noon

SOUTH REGIONAL - Friday, March 15 - Fort Lauderdale, FL
#2 **Tuskegee** (19-7) vs. #7 Alabama-Huntsville (15-16) - 2:30 pm
#1 Nova Southeastern (19-8) vs. #8 **Clark Atlanta** (20-10) - 6 pm

BCSP Notes

Harrell

St. Aug's wins D2 Indoor title

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – Led by the strength of its sprinters, **Saint Augustine's** claimed the NCAA Division II Men's Indoor Track and Field Championship at the Birmingham Cross Plex last Saturday

The title is the latest achievement in the illustrious history of the famed St. Aug track and field program. The Falcons have won 12 men's indoor crowns and 32 national championships overall under legendary Head Coach **George Williams**.

The Falcons scored 72 points to earn the title. In the women's division, **Lincoln (Mo.)** finished third with 44 points.

The Falcons produced three national individual champions in the running events. **Moussa Dembele** won the 60 meter hurdles, **Dane Hyatt** captured the 400 meter dash and **Jermaine Jones** was the victor in the 200 meter dash.

It was Jones' victory in the 200 dash which helped the Falcons separate themselves from the pack. They entered the race tied with Ashland for the lead with 47 points, but Jones led three Falcon runners who scored in the event. Jones won in 21.03 seconds, **Josh Edmonds** was third in 21.36 and Hyatt was eighth in 24.36.

Howard's Harrell to take year's leave of absence

WASHINGTON (March 11, 2013) -- **Howard University** announced Monday that Head Football Coach **Gary Harrell** will take a personal leave of absence for the 2013 season. The University has named Associate Head Coach and Defensive Coordinator **Rayford Petty**, a former head coach of the Bison, interim head coach for the upcoming season.

Harrell said in a statement released Monday: "After much consideration and discussion with my family, advisors and several people at Howard University, it is with much sadness that I announce today that I will be taking a leave of absence for the 2013 season. In making this decision, I thought deeply about my extended family, my players and coaches. At this time, my personal and family issues make it impossible for me to give them 100% and anything less than that is unacceptable to me. However, as a man of deep faith in God, my family must take priority at this time. I want to stress that this is only a temporary leave of absence, and I look forward to returning to the sidelines in 2014 as the Bison continue to build a championship team. I want to thank Howard University for their understanding and compassion during this difficult time. Without their support it would not be possible for me to work these issues out so I may return to the University I love so much. I am proud to be an alumnus of Howard University and am excited about my future there."

In his second year, Harrell led the Bison to a 7-4 record and 6-2 in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference. The team recorded the most wins in a decade.

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Easter Exercise Service

Sweetfield Missionary Baptist Church located at 1365 Harrison Street where Dr. Richard R. Russ is Pastor, is inviting the public to attend their Easter Exercise Service at 7 p.m. nightly March 27th, 28th & 29th. The guest speaker will be Rev. Walter Scott, Pastor of Friendship Baptist Church of Waycross, Ga. For more info contact Nicolla Mack at 226-6437.

Church Fellowship Celebrates 15 Years

The Church Fellowship Worship Ministries and Bishop Bruce V. Allen will continue celebrating their 15th Church and First Family anniversary, through Sunday, March 17th. On Friday, March 15th Pastor Torin Dailey of First Baptist Oakland, will speak. On Saturday, March 16th it's the churches banquet being held at the Crown Plaza Hotel, 14670 Duval Road. Pastor Gail Hill of The Family Church of Springfield, MA will speak at Sunday Morning Worship at 10 a.m. At 5 p.m. evening service special guest will be Bishop Allen Wiggins of The Hope Church of Orlando, Florida. Everyone is invited to attend. If you have any questions, call the church at 924- 0000. The church is located at 8808 Lem Turner Road.

EWC Choir in Concert at St. Paul AME Church

The Edward Waters College Concert Choir, under the direction of Mrs. Barbara Bouie will appear in concert at St. Paul A.M.E. Church, Pastor, Dr. Marvin C. Zanders, II . The concert is Sunday, March 17th at 6 p.m. Friends and the community are invited to attend. For more info call 764-2755.

or email chreed10@bellsouth.net. St. Paul A.M.E. is located at 6910 New Kings Road.

One Great Month: 12 Great Days at Hope Chapel Ministries

Join the family of Hope Chapel Ministries with their pastor and founder Apostle Dr. Jeannette C. Holmes-Vann as they celebrate 40 years of ministry and community impact. The celebration takes place Saturday March 2nd through Sunday, March 24th. During the month of March, Hope Chapel Ministries will celebrate various events with a grand opening, a sports day, a 40th Ruby Jubilee Thanksgiving service, a VIP Night, a 40 minis tree planting celebration and a children's gala.

For more information visit www.hopechapel40.eventbrite.com or call 924-2000. Hope Chapel Ministries is located at 9850 Wagner Rd.

Summerville Missionary Baptist Celebrates Family & Friends Day!

Treat your family like friends and your friends like family because the family that prays together stays together! Summerville Missionary Baptist Church, Dr. James W. Henry Pastor will rejoice in its annual Family and Friends Day, Sunday March 17th at 11 a.m. The worship service is also dedicated to the sacrificial groups, the "Twelve Tribes of Israel." Trophies will be awarded to the sacrificial groups with the largest number of members, family and friends in attendance. For more information call the church at 598-0510. Summerville is located at 690 W. 20th St.

Champion Lodge No. 2, PHA Presents Health Symposium at St. Paul AME

A Health Symposium, "Concered About You," will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2013 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., on the campus of Saint Paul AME Church- J.M. Proctor Center, 6910 New Kings Road. The purpose of this Symposium is to arouse, educate and promote enthusiasm for maintaining good health. Break-out sessions on Breast, Colon, and Prostate Cancer;STD/HIV/AIDS and Community Hospice are slated to take place from 9:15 am - 1:45 pm. Sessions will be led by Drs. and resourceful persons from select health areas.

Vendors will be available with information relative to Mental Health, Alzheimers, American Lung Association, Sickle Cell Anemia and Healthy Start. Body Mass/Weight Examination, Blood Pressure/Cholesterol and Diabetes Screening and Flu Shots will be administered as per requests. Shots and all screenings are free to the public.

Contact the office of the St. Paul at (904) 764-2755 for more information.

2nd Annual Caregiver Expo

The Second Annual Caregiver Expo Saturday, April 20th, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Caregiver Expo 2013 will help caregivers refresh their spirits and find ways to better care for themselves and their loved ones. The Expo location is the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront Hotel, 225 East Coastline Drive. For more details call 407-6146 or visit www.communityhospice.com or email nreed@communityhospice.com.

Spiritual Play at Theater Jax

Z. Jones Productions presents the play "I need You Now Lord!" Saturday, March 23rd at 7 p.m. at Theater Jacksonville, 2032 San Marco Blvd. For more information call 534-3824 or email zjonesproductions@gmail.com.

EWC Choir to Appear in Concert at St. Paul A.M. E. Church

The acclaimed Edward Waters College Concert Choir will appear in concert at Saint Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, 6910 New Kings Road. This event will be held on Sunday, March 17th at 6:00 PM. Mrs. Barbara McNeely Bouie is the director of the reknowned choir. Friends, Alumni of Edward Waters College and the public are extended a special invitation to share in what promises to be a heart warming and enjoyable experience. The Rev. Dr. Marvin C. Zanders is the Pastor of Saint Paul.

Contact the office of the Church at (904) 764-2755 for more information, or the Church's website at stpaulamejax.com

Greater El Beth-el Divine to Hold Family & Friends Day Celebration

The pastors, officers and members of Greater El Beth-el Divine Holiness Church invite the community to worship and be their guest at their Family and Friends Day celebration, Sunday, March 17th, from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Reverend Beverly Clark from Bethel Institutional Baptist Church will be the speaker for the 11 a.m. service and Bishop Dr. Lorenzo Hall Sr. will be the speaker for the 3 p.m. service. Several civic and political leaders will be in attendance to share and inform the congregation about the surrounding community. For more information contact the church office at 374-3940 or email gospell75@aol.com. Dinner will be served after each service.
Greater El Beth-el is located at 723 West 4th Street.

Former Tallahassee Mayor Holding Book Signing at EWC

Meet former Tallahassee Florida Mayor Dorothy Inman Johnson on Thursday, March 21st at her book signing for her book, "Poverty, Politics and Race". The signing is from 6 – 8 p.m. in the Milner Auditorium at Edward Waters College, 1658 Kings, Rd. For more info, call 470-8000.

Mt. Sinai Hosts Gospel Extravaganza

Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church, Rev. R.L. Gundy Pastor and the Board of Director of the Civil Rights Museum of St. Augustine is inviting every church, choir, praise dance, and singing group to join them on Saturday, March 16th, from 6 - 8 p.m. for their Gospel Extravaganza Fundraising Event. For more information call the church at 354-7249. Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church is located at 2036 Silver St.

Greater Macedonia Baptist Church
1880 West Edgewood Avenue

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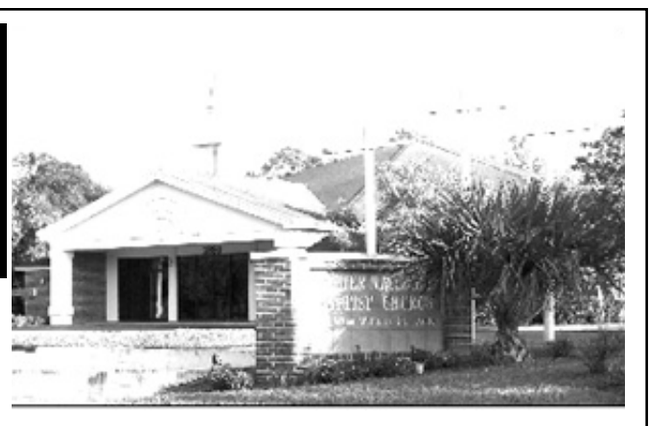
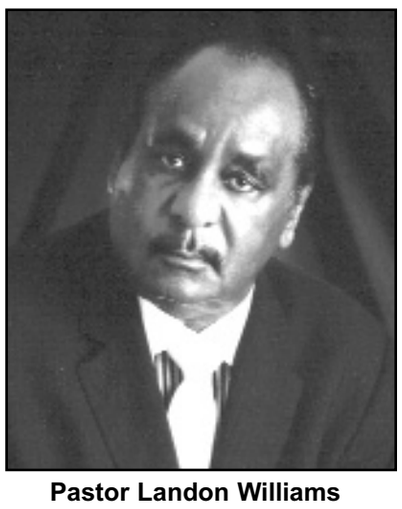
- Matthew 28:19 - 20




Pastor Landon Williams

8:00 A.M. Early Morning Worship
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
Tuesday Evening - 7 p.m. Prayer Service
Wednesday - Bible Study 6:30 - 7 p.m.
Mid-Week Worship 7 p.m.
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Unemployment May Worsen for Black Workers

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – The economy beat expectations in February by adding 236,000 jobs nearly, doubling 119,000 jobs created in January, according to the Labor Department. Overall, the unemployment rate dipped to 7.7 percent, but the Black jobless rate stalled at 13.8 percent, unchanged since January.

According to some labor experts, the numbers could signal a tough year ahead, especially if Washington lawmakers continue down the sequester path of cut-first and ask questions later.

Including February's report, the three-month average Black unemployment rate was 13.9 percent, more than twice the rate of White workers who posted a 6.9 percent three-month average jobless rate.

The unemployment rate for Black men at least 20 years old dropped from 13.4 percent to 12.9 percent in February and for White men looking for work, the number decreased from 6.6 percent to 6.3 percent.

For White women, the jobless rate also decreased from 6.4 percent to 6.0 percent. But Black women continued to lose ground posting 12.5 percent unemployment rate, an increase from the 12.3 percent the previous month. That represents the highest unemployment rate for Black women since October 2012.

"We're having a very weak recovery. We are creating jobs, but we're not creating jobs at a strong enough pace to dramatically decrease the unemployment rate," said Algernon Austin, director of the Race, Ethnicity, and the Economy program at the Economic Policy Institute. "That's why we need more stimulus activity not budget cutting at this time,

Even though the increase in the number of jobs added was a welcomed surprise, economists remained cautiously optimistic about the latest jobs report as the effects of the "never-gonna-happen" deep and punishing budget cuts, known as sequestration, threaten job growth.

"The only concern would be what happens over the next few months, because of the sequester," said Steven Pitts, an economist at the Labor Center at University of California at Berkeley, Calif.

The sequester and a number of measures planned by Congress and the president, could erase more than 700,000 jobs from the books, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Pitts said that sequestration and other policies designed to reduce the deficit will cause contraction in the economy and slow down any type of improvement.

Instead, Pitts said that, lawmakers should focus on targeted job programs for Blacks and addressing discrimination in hiring practices that often contribute to the 2 to 1 unemployment gap between Black workers and White workers.

In a recent brief for the Economic Policy Institute, a non-partisan think tank focused on fiscal issues affecting low- and middle-income earners, Austin wrote: "Unemployment projections show essentially no improvement from the high levels that prevailed at the end of 2012. However, this prognosis may prove overly optimistic, as poor policy choices by Congress could easily worsen the economic outlook."

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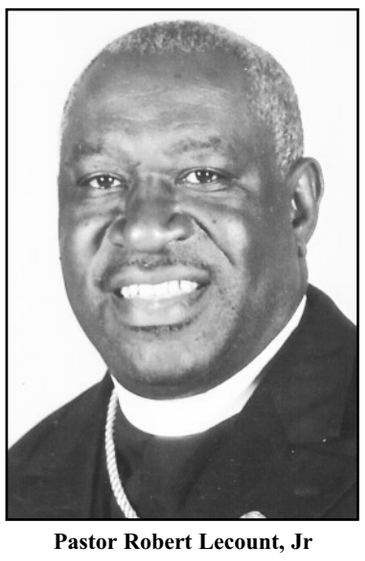
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"Miracle at Midday"
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The Word from the Sons and Daughters of Bethel
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Bishop Rudolph McKissick, Jr.
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Shown above are dreamers from Jacksonville who traveled to Orlando for the Dreamers Academy: Camille Burns with her son Marcus Burns Jr. (Douglas Anderson School of the Arts) and, Dwight James (Wolfson High School) and his mother Lisa James.

Local Students Dream Big with Steve Harvey at Disney

Each year in Walt Disney World Resort, 100 students participate in hands-on, full-immersion workshops related to a variety of career paths ranging from animation to communications and zoology. Each participant learns important skills such as communication techniques and networking strategies. The experience is all a part of the Disney Dreamers Acadaemy with Steve Harvey and Essence Magazine which just culminated its sixth year.

Motivational speakers and celebrities shared their stories and provided insight on how to achieve success and "DREAM BIG." Dreamers (students from around the country) have the opportunity to cultivate relationships with other students while they gain first-hand knowledge from Disney experts and world-renowned entrepreneurs and executives. The youth were entertained and educated by the likes of Yolanda Adams, Lamann Rucker, The Manns and top executives from all arenas.

Over 5,000 applicants wrote essays for a chance to become 1 of 100 finalists to win a trip to the Florida theme park and to participate in the Academy and the school of "Steve Harvey hard knocks." After the winners are announced, each student and parent/guardian receives an all expense paid trip to Disney World. Family members that accompany the winners are in awe as they are treated like royalty and feted with gifts and pearls of wisdom from celebrity guest.

The main dreamer that brought the audience to their feet was the event's host, Steve Harvey.

Steve left the dreamer with many words of wisdom and told tales of his journey from Ohio to Hollywood!!

"Don't let anybody tell you what you can't do. I didn't make it right away it took a long time. I wanted to be on TV since I was a young man. Now here I am giving back and making sure that your dreams become reality." he said. Steve also spoke to the audience on his own continued journey and had the crowd roaring with laughter when he spoke about his past, present, future. For more information visit www.disneydreamersacademy.com

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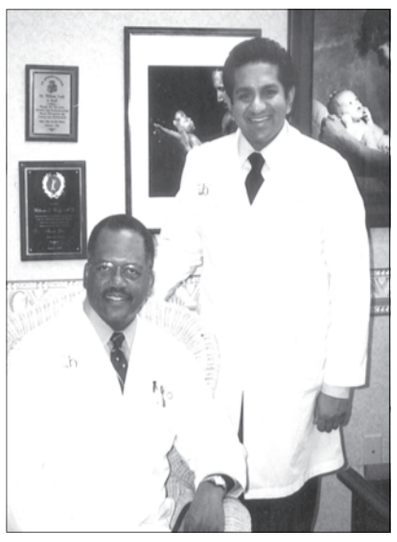

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Sights and Scenes

2013 Gate River Run and March Art Walk

Gate River Run finishers: Katherine Foster, Elaine Harrison, Kraytina Lawrence, Latara Davis, LaToya Daverport and NaKiya Binder. *FMP photo.*

EWC Classmates Loctavia Graham, Rina Nellon, Johuna Davis, Jajmine Thomas, and Dr D Stinson at the March Art Walk. *FMP photo*

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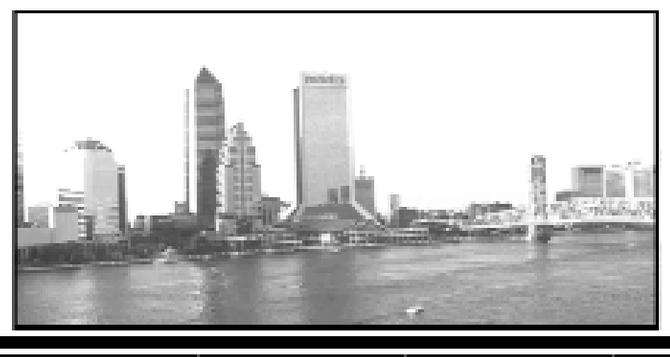

AROUND TOWN

What to do from social, volunteer, political and sports activities to self enrichment and the civic scene

JCCI Community Visioning Event

Mark your calendar for the next JCCI Community Visioning Event at the Prime Osborn, Tuesday, **March 19th** from 6-8 p.m. The visioning will focus on Measuring Change: How Will We Know We Did It? For more information email michelle@jcci.org or call 396-3052. The Prime Osborn center is located at 1000 Water St.

Ducote Celebrates 75 Years

Ducote Federal Credit Union will celebrate 75 years in operation as an African American owned and operated financial institution. The Celebration will kick off at the 75th Annual Membership Meeting, Tuesday, **March 19th** at 5:30 p.m. at the credit union located at 2212 North Myrtle Avenue. Members are welcome to attend. For more information call 354-0874 or email ducotecu@bellsouth.net.

Robert E Lee High School Marching Band Fashion Show

The Robert E. Lee High School Marching Band will present their first annual fashion show entitled: "Act Sharp, Look Sharp, Be Sharp" at the Robert E. Lee Gymnasium at 1200 S. McDuff Ave. Current fashions will rock the runway, and DJ Packjamz will add rhythmic vibes, hilarious skits with a meaningful message, Thursday, **March 21st**, at 7 p.m. For more details email fashion_show@aol.com or contact Terri at 777-6990.

Jack & Jill Les Beautillion Militaire

The Jacksonville Chapter of Jack and Jill Biannual Les Beautillion Militaire event featuring eight young men will be held Saturday, **March 23rd** at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront Hotel. To purchase tickets, contact Cassandra Barlow at c3barlow@bellsouth.net or call 504-8089 or visit www.jackandjill-jaxs.com.

Women's Awareness Conference

The Northeast Florida Women's Awareness conference will present "I am my Brothers/Sister's Keeper," a free awareness conference for men and women, Saturday, **March 23rd** from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Come be educated and receive free health screenings. For more information visit nefwac2013.eventbrite.com.

EWC Carnival

The Edward Waters College W.B. Stewart Tiger Athletic Boosters will present their 1st annual Spring Carnival, **March 22nd - 24th** on Edward Waters College Campus in the Adams Jenkins Sports Complex parking Lot, 1859 Kings Rd. For more information email c.hacht@ewc.edu or call 470-8050.

Viewing Race Through Art

The Museum of Science and History will present "Through Our Eyes: Racing and Erasing Art" with Dr. Melissa Hargrove, Thursday, **March 28th** 6 p.m. at the Museum of Science and History, 1025 Museum Circle. For more information visit www.themosh.org or call 396- 6674.

Florida Business Matchmaker Event

The Florida Department of Management Services Office of Supplier Diversity and the University of North Florida are conducting the Northeast Florida Regional MatchMaker event, Friday, **March 29th**, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the University of North Florida, Adam W. Herbert University Center, 1 UNF Dr. An array of informative workshops will be held, along with one-on-one sessions with state, local and private entities to afford you the opportunity to grow and market your business. For more information contact Denise Wright at 850-922-6850.

Fair Housing Awareness Symposium

The City of Jacksonville Human Rights Commission will host its annual Fair Housing Symposium on April 6th. The event is free with a continental breakfast and lunch included. The symposium takes place from **April 6th,** 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Prime Osborn Convention Center. Workshops will be provided for both citizens and industry professionals, such as home builders, realtors, property managers and homeowners. Advanced registration is required. For more information email jhrcrsvp@coj.net or call 630-1212 x3020 to register. Parking is free. Childcare for ages 4 to 12 will be available.

Domestic Violence Awareness Walk

Hubbard House wil host a Domestic Violence Awareness Walk, Saturday, **April 6th**. The walk starts at 8 a.m. at the Jacksonville Landing. For more information visit www.hubbardhousewalk.com or call Ashley Johnson-Scott at 354-0076 ext. 212 or email events@hubbardhouse.org.

Spring Gardening Workshop

The Duval County Extension staff are offering a workshop on spring gardening, Wednesday, **April 10th**, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Learn about the good, bad and ugly insects, landscape tips and keeping tools in shape. This is a free program, send pre-registration request to beckyd@coj.net or call 255-7450. The workshops will be held at the Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road.

Passing Strange at Players by the Sea

The play *Passing Strange* by Stew at the Players by the Sea, 106 6th St., Jacksonville Beach. The play takes place **April 12th – May 4th.** Passing Strange is the story of a young musician who travels to Amsterdam and Berlin to find ""the real" after being raised in a church-going middle-class Los Angeles neighborhood. For more information call 249-0289.

P.R.I.D.E. April Book Club Meeting

The next P.R.I.D.E. Bookclub meeting will be held Friday, **April 13th** at 7 p.m. Your host is Juanita Powell Williams and will be held at 2867 Lorimier Terrace. The book for discussion is Disintegration: The Splintering of Black America by Eugene Robinson. For more information call 647-7767 or email felicef@bellsouth.net.

2nd Annual Caregiver Expo

The Second Annual Caregiver Expo wil take place Saturday, **April 20th**, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Caregiver Expo 2013 will help caregivers refresh their spirits and find ways to better care for themselves and their loved ones. The Expo location is the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront Hotel, 225 East Coastline Drive. For more details call 407-6146 or visit www.communityhospice.com.

Racial Myths and DNA

On Wednesday, **April 24th,** part 3 of the MOSH After Dark series will present "Racial Myths: What Does Our DNA Say?" with Dr. Thomas Spelsberg of the Mayo Clinic, at 6 p.m. The free forum will be held at the Museum of Science and History, 1025 Museum Circle. For more information visit www.themosh.org or call 396- 6674.

Ribault Class of 1983 30th Class Reunion

Ribault Sr. High School class of 1983 will kick off its 30th Class Reunion with a 30 Shades of Blue Party, **Saturday, April 27th**, at 7 p.m. at the A.L. Lewis Center, 3655 Ribault Scenic Drive. Followed by a reunion cruise to the Bahamas, May 2-6.. For more information call Ms. Flanders at 764-9924.

Shrimp Festival

The Isle of Eight Flags Shrimp Festival will take place **May 3rd, 4th & 5th**. The festival kicks off Friday, May 3rd at 6:30 p.m. on the riverfront stage and fireworks scheduled at 9:45 p.m. On Saturday, May 4th from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday, May 5th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., visitors can enjoy more than 300 award-winning artists and craftspeople. For more info visit www.shrimpfestival.com.

P.R.I.D.E. May Book Club Meeting

The next P.R.I.D.E. Bookclub meeting will be held Saturday, May 4th at 3 p.m. Your host is Viola M. Walker and will be held at 5430 Gregg St., American Beach, FL. The book for discussion with the author is Sweet Escape, by Viola Walker. For more information call 313-410-4429 or email or email felicef@bellsouth.net.

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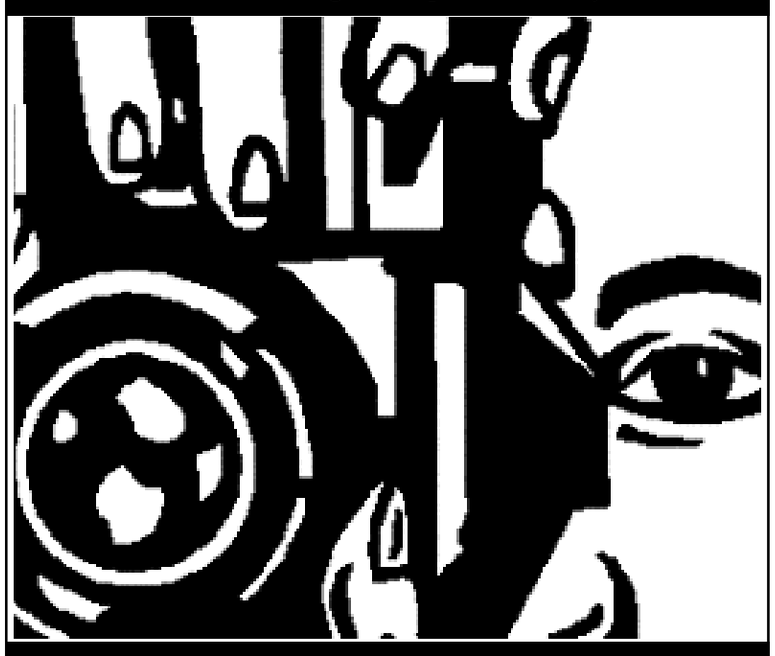

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Natural Hair Expo

North Florida Simply Natural Hair Beauty and Wellness Expo, Sunday, **May 12th.** Come celebrate your "Roots," 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Jacksonville Marriott, 4670 Salisbury Rd. For more information and vendor booths visit www.simplynaturalhairexpo.com or call (407) 733-0705.

Broadways' Chorus Line at TUCPA

The Broadway play the "Chorus Line" comes to the Times-Union Center's Moran Theater Wednesday, **March 13th** at 7:30 p.m. Chorus Line is the winner of nine Tony Awards, including "Best Musical. For more information call the box office at 442- 2929.
or visit www.artistseriesjax.org.

The Executives Book Release Party

It's the Burgundy and Brown's promotional book party for the book entitled, "The Executives," Saturday, **March 16th** at 7 p.m. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and dancing at the Jacksonville Airport Hotel (formerly The Clarion), 2101 Dixie Clipper Rd. For more information contact Vanessa at 314-8921.

Mayor's Walk for Senior Wellness

The annual Mayor's Walk for Senior Wellness event will take place Saturday, **March 16th** at 10 a.m. at Metropolitan Park. This free event is for citizens age 60 and over promotes a high quality of life through healthy lifestyle choices. Each senior who participates in the walk will receive a free T-shirt and a nutritious lunch. Registration forms are available through the City of Jacksonville, Mayor's Special Events for Seniors, 117 W. Duval Street, Suite 220 and online at www.coj.net/seniors. For more information call 630-7392.

19th Annual Miracle on Ashley Street

Join the Clara White Mission for their 19th annual Miracle on Ashley Street, Celebrity Chefs and Servers, **Friday, May 17th** . To participate call 354-4162 or visit www.clarawhitemission.org The historic institution is located at 613 W. Ashley Street.

Antiques Roadshow coming to Jax

Antiques Roadshow, PBS's highest-rated series will visit Jacksonville Saturday, **June 8th**, giving First Coast community members an opportunity to bring antiques and collectibles for free evaluation by some of the country's top experts. Complete furniture submission rules and ticket applications along with ticketing rules are available at pbs.org/antiques or by calling 1-888-762-3749.

EUR Hollywood GOSSIP SCOOP

Kenya Moore's 'Booty Boot Camp' Outsells Phaedra Parks' 'Donkey Booty'

Phaedra Parks and Kenya Moore

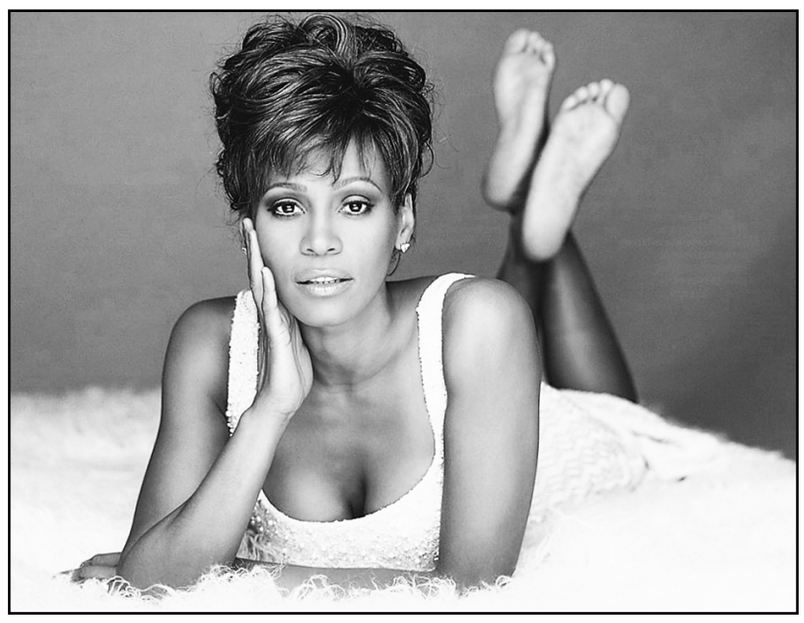
The battle of the "Real Housewives of Atlanta" booties is in full effect and the result are finally in: Kenya Moore's Booty Boot Camp has outsold Phaedra Parks' Phine Body in the first week of its release.

According to reports, the former Miss USA's DVD became an Amazon bestseller in just six hours after its release, currently ranking at #40 . Meanwhile Phaedra's video, released weeks before Kenya's, is holding down the #93 spot.

The reality stars began their butt-enhancing, entrepreneurial ventures together. Phaedra hired Kenya to help produce her "donkey booty" project, however their business relationship turned sour after both parties failed to reach an agreement on compensation. Kenya decided to make her own "stallion booty" fitness DVD –some argue out of spite– and Phaedra began to make claims that her co-star's behind was not real.

"She is a jealous, fake, evil, and most of all a hypocritical villain. My body is natural. I clearly work hard for it," Kenya wrote in response to Phaedra's allegations on her Bravo TV blog.

FBI Releases Files on Whitney Houston



The FBI has released 128 pages from its file on Whitney Houston, revealing details of an apparently successful blackmail plot, as well as an investigation into an obsessed fan.

Released in response to a freedom of information request, the FBI's documents cover 11 years of threats against the singer, from 1988 to 1999. But the pages are heavily redacted – in many cases, to the point of incomprehensibility.

Sometimes the redactions are tantalizing. In late 1992, an unidentified Chicago lawyer wrote to Houston's New Jersey-based production company stating that unless the singer paid $100,000 , his client planned to "reveal certain details of [Houston's] private life … to several publications". Later the blackmail amount was boosted even higher, to $250,000.

According to the FBI, this was extortion. But when agents met with Houston and her father, the singer said she knew the woman who was making the threats, and that she was "a friend … [who] would never do anything to embarrass her". Officers closed the case, even though Houston's father had apparently sent the blackmailer a confidentiality agreement and an unknown sum of money.

In addition to the extortion case, officers investigated several cases of over-devoted fans. One Vermont letter-writer claimed: "I start to shake … when I think about you."

"Over the past 17 months, I have sent … 66 letters to Miss Whitney," he wrote. "I have tried to stop writing the letters and to give up twice but after a few weeks I had to start writing again … I have gotten mad at [Whitney] a few times [for not replying] … it scares me that I might come up with some crazy or stupid or really dumb idea … I might hurt someone with some crazy idea."

FBI agents eventually questioned Houston's one-sided pen-pal in 1988. They decided he was harmless. The same was true for a Dutch or Belgian correspondent who insisted he had written some of Houston's songs. The writer further claimed that he was the president of Europe and had purchased the country of Brazil.

After selling more than 200 million records worldwide, Houston drowned in a hotel bathtub in February 2012. She was 48.

Facing a Minimum of 15 Years, the Downfall of a Once Great Mayor is Now Complete

Kwame Kilpatrick

by Mark Guarino, CSM

Former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick was found guilty this week of federal corruption charges of scheming to enrich himself and his close confidants during his tenure in public office.

The verdict, which was announced after 15 days of jury deliberations, concludes a saga that has gripped the destitute city for over two years and represents another chapter of the staggering downfall of Mr. Kilpatrick.

Kilpatrick, the youngest mayor in Detroit's history, was once heralded as a fresh face to politics in the city, which is saddled with debt and has seen its industry, population, and tax revenues plummet as crime rate soar.

The tales of personal excess resulting from systemic graft arrives one day before the city tries to make a last-ditch attempt to fight the takeover of its troubled finances by an emergency financial manager. Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder says that decades of corruption and mismanagement have created a financial burden for the city it cannot handle on its own and that the only way out is to cede temporary control to the state, which will allow it to create structural changes that would lead it to solvency.

The trial dates back to December 2010 when Kilpatrick, his father Bernard Kilpatrick, his childhood friend Bobby Ferguson, and former water department director Victor Mercado were charged with 45 counts of racketeering conspiracy, bribery, extortion and tax evasion.

Kilpatrick was convicted on 24 of 30 counts. On three counts, he was found not guilty, and on three no verdict was reached. Mr. Ferguson was convicted of 9 of 11 counts. Bernard Kilpatrick received a conviction of a lessor tax charge. Mr. Mercado struck a plea deal in November and awaits sentencing.

The primary thrust of the government's case, which resulted from a six-year investigation, was that all four conspired in what prosecutors described as "the Kilpatrick enterprise," a multi-year extortion scheme to strong-arm city contractors working for the city's water and sewerage department to funnel a total of $84 million in city contracts to shell companies operated by Mr. Ferguson.

Prosecutors described Bernard Kilpatrick as the middleman who contractors were forced to hire as a consultant in order to secure city contracts, some of which were for the biggest public work projects during Kilpatrick's tenure, such as the demolition of Tiger Stadium and the partial demolition of the Book Cadillac Hotel.

Kwame Kilpatrick, who was charged with the majority of the counts, was portrayed as the ringleader who wielded influence to reap millions of dollars in kickbacks. Kilpatrick served as mayor of Detroit between 2002 and 2008 after serving as a state representative between 1996 and 2001. Prosecutors said his wrongdoing spanned the tenure of both offices.

The case made in the trial against Kilpatrick and his cohorts was overwhelming. Prosecutors rested after four months of testimony. Witnesses included a roll call of former Kilpatrick friends or aides. In total, 90 witnesses took the stand in the trial for both sides.

The most serious guilty verdict for Kilpatrick is for the single racketeering charge, a felony that can bring 20 years in prison.

Most often used to target organized crime, the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) law is increasingly used in high-profile public corruption trials, including the federal case against former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich in 2011. While Kilpatrick's defense attorneys argued that their client was innocent because the gifts he received were unsolicited, or that others in his office approved the expenses, under the law, all the government had to prove was that Kilpatrick had knowledge of the bribe.

"Either you need solicitation of the bribe or the giving or receiving of something of value," says William Kresse, director of the Center for the Study of Fraud and Corruption at Saint Xavier University in Chicago.

"We know what a bribe is: When a politician asks for money in exchange he will grant the favor. But it doesn't have to have all of those elements, it needs one of them," Mr. Kresse says. "Part of the rationale for the law is it is so hard to prove all of the elements. All prosecutors needed to show was there was an acceptance of the gift."

One tool prosecutors used in their case were text messages between Kilpatrick and Mr. Ferguson and others that Assistant US Attorney Mark Chutkow says described "a crime scene frozen in time." The messages showed Kilpatrick knowingly held contracts to help Ferguson.

The trial documented Kilpatrick's opulent lifestyle, which was funded primarily by a foundation meant to support voter education and youth programs. Instead the fund was used to expense lavish family vacations, college tuition for relatives, and personal items. Several businessmen testified they were forced to provide Kilpatrick with expensive jewelry, suits, and vacations in order to maintain their multimillion dollar contracts.

Mr. Chutlow said in his closing arguments that Ferguson shared more than $125 million in spoils with Kilpatrick and that the mayor spent $840,000 past what his salary covered during his time as mayor.

"Mr. Kilpatrick lived way beyond the means of a public official," he told jurors.

Detroit Mayor Dave Bing released a statement shortly after the verdict saying he was "pleased that this long trial has ended," which will allow the city to "finally put this negative chapter in Detroit's history behind us. It is time for all of us to move forward with a renewed commitment to transparency and high ethical standards in our city government."

The guilty verdict is not the first in Kilpatrick's troubled political career. He resigned during his second term as mayor in 2008 to plead guilty to lying in a civil case involving a sex scandal with a top aide. He ended up serving a 14-month prison term in 2008 on two obstruction of justice felonies.

The Jacksonville Free Press would love to share your event with our readers.

We do have a few guidelines that need to be followed

1. All unsolicited photos require a $10 photo charge for each picture. Photos can be paid by check, money order or credit card,

2. Pictures must be brought into our office to be examined for quality or emailed in a digital format of .jpg or .bmp.

3. Everyone in the picture must be named.

4. All photos MUST be received within 5 days of the event. NO EXCEPTIONS.

5. Event photos must be acconpanied by a story/event synopsis including the 5W's of media: who, what, when, where and why. in addition to a phone number for more information.

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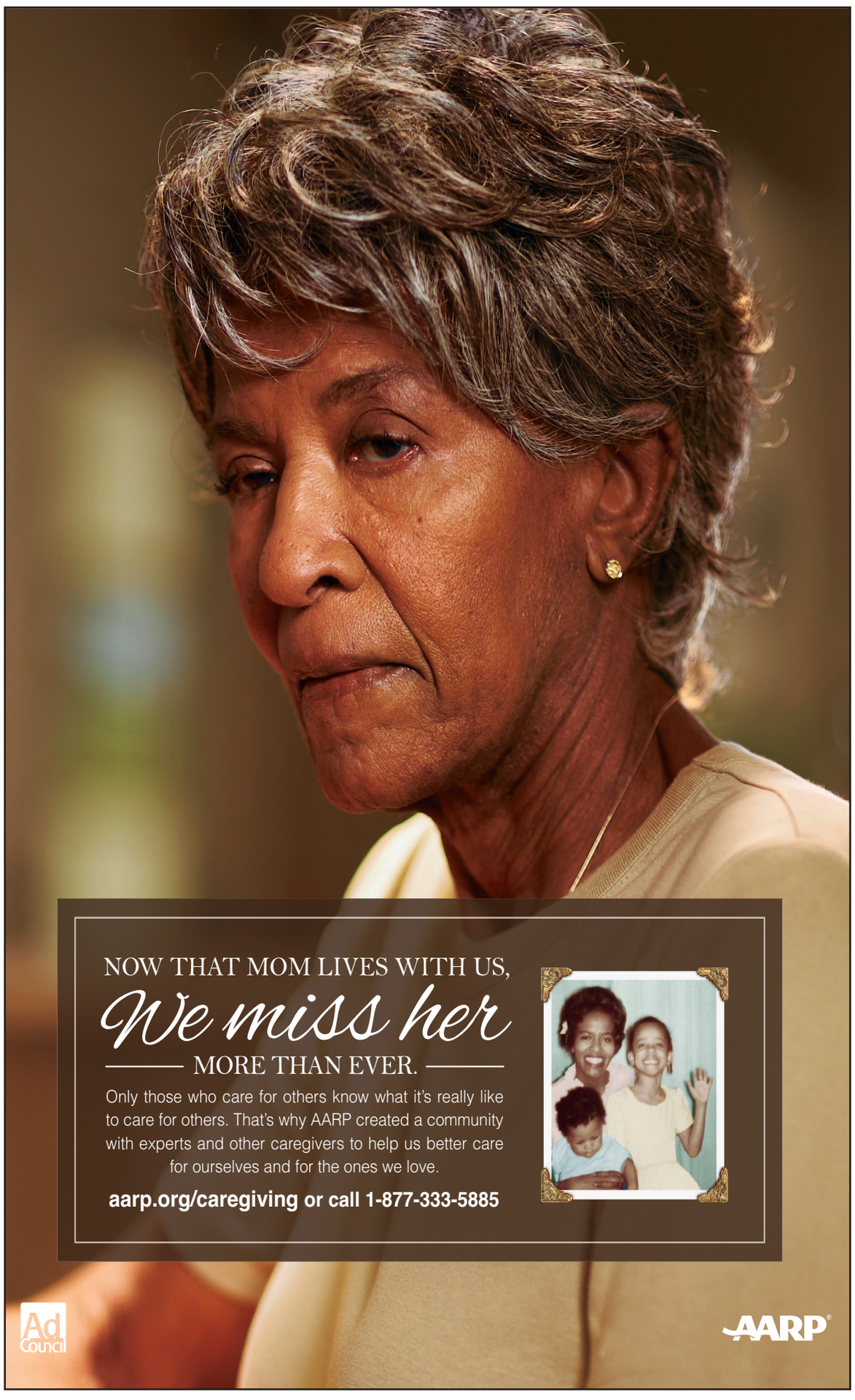
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