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Florida Police Officers Seek 'Stand Your Ground' Protection

Police officers in Florida are seeking to invoke Stand Your Ground protection to defend against excessive force claims.

The original version of the Stand Your Ground law was passed in 2005 to provide legal protection to civilians who shoot first in situations where they feel their lives are in imminent danger.

Application of the law has been the subject of controversy in high-profile cases such as the 2012 shooting death of unarmed, Black teenager Trayvon Martin at the hands of George Zimmerman. Zimmerman's defense team successfully utilized the Stand Your Ground law to convince jurors to acquit the self-appointed neighborhood watch.

Marissa Alexander, of Jacksonville tried to use the Stand Your Ground - **Continued on page 3**

Lawsuit Alleges Walmart 'segregated' Locked Up Black Hair Products

Attorney Gloria Allred has announced a lawsuit against Walmart over discrimination allegations stemming from African-American hair products.

The famed attorney held a news conference with Essie Grundy, who said she was discriminated against based on her race at a California Walmart on Jan. 12. Allred alleges Walmart is in violation of California's Unruh Civil Rights Act, prohibiting businesses from discriminating against customers based on race.

Gundy discovered that the cream and other hair products meant for African Americans had been locked away behind glass shelves and were segregated from products for non-African Americans. She was told she had to be escorted to the cash register to purchase the products and was told by a Walmart employee the products were locked under a "directive from corporate headquarters."

Walmart has noted before that the protective measures are part of a normal practice to minimize product thefts of at-risk items.

NAACP Sues Homeland Security on Behalf of Haitians

The NAACP is asking a federal judge to void a decision by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to end temporary protections for nearly 60,000 Haitian immigrants who until last year had been allowed to remain legally in the United States following a deadly earthquake.

In a lawsuit filed last week in the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund argues that Acting Homeland Secretary Elaine Duke's November decision to end Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, for Haiti as of July 2019 is "irrational and discriminatory," and influenced by President Donald Trump's "public hostility toward immigrants of color."

The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund's suit was filed on behalf of the NAACP and the civil rights group's Haitian members. The legal defense fund and the NAACP became two separate entities in 1957. The lawsuit names DHS, Duke and current Homeland Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen as defendants. All denied Haitian immigrants their right to due process and equal protection under the Fifth Amendment as DHS departed from its "normal decision making process in regards to whether or not Haitians should still receive the humanitarian protection," the lawsuit alleges.

In addition to Haiti, DHS has also terminated TPS for nationals of Nicaragua, El Salvador and Sudan. It extended the designation for South Sudan and delayed a decision for Honduras, which automatically gave the Central American nation a six-month extension.

O.J. Wins Against Goldmans Again

A Los Angeles judge has sided with O.J. Simpson in an attempt to collect on the millions he owes from a 1997 civil court judgment.

Fred Goldman, the father of the slain Ron Goldman, and his attorney seldom miss an opportunity to try to collect on the $70 million dollar judgement against him for his son's death. This latest attempt to cash in stemmed from the ex-football star selling autographs after his prison release in October for armed robbery. The money he earned from the autograph sales went to pay off legal bills, one of Simpson's lawyers told the court. The court denied Goldman's request to get paid from the autograph sale because he could not identify who paid Simpson.

One of Goldman's lawyers has described Simpson's legal team as masterful at protecting his assets from collection. The lion's share of The Juice's remaining wealth is in pension funds that Goldman cannot touch. The lawyer also speculated that Simpson's team has set up offshore accounts to hide money. However, over the two decades since the judgment, Goldman seized some of Simpson's money, such as royalties from video games and the rights to a ghostwritten book.

Death Row Inmate With Dementia Gets Stay of Execution

The U.S. Supreme Court has halted the execution of an Alabama inmate whose attorneys argue that dementia has left the 67-year-old unable to remember killing a police officer three decades ago.

Justices issued the stay last week the same evening that Vernon Madison was scheduled to receive a lethal injection at a southwest Alabama prison. The court delayed the execution to consider whether to further review the case.

Madison was sentenced to death for the 1985 murder of a Mobile police officer. Prosecutors have said that Madison crept up and shot him in the back of the head as he sat in his police car.

Madison's attorneys argued that strokes and dementia have left Madison unable to remember killing Schulte or fully understand his looming execution. The Supreme Court has previously ruled that condemned inmates must have a "rational understanding" that they are about to be executed and why.

The Alabama attorney general's office opposed the stay, arguing that a state court has ruled Madison competent and Madison has presented nothing that would reverse the finding.

Madison's attorneys also have asked for a stay on the grounds that a judge sentenced him to death, even though a jury recommended life imprisonment. Alabama lawmakers in 2017 changed the law to no longer allow a judge to override a jury's sentence recommendation in death penalty-eligible cases.

Shown enjoying 2018 Pro Bowl festivities at ESPN Wide World of Sports is the Robinson Family: Tourea, Jonathan, Jeremy and Lenard.

Fans Still Lauding Jags at Pro Bowl

The 2018 Pro Bowl was held this past weekend in Orlando at Camping World Stadium. As a prelude to the event, the NFL hosted Pro Bowl Week Festivities across the Orlando area including the Pro Bowl Skills Challenge and the Pro Bowl Experience, all located at ESPN Wide World of Sports. Jacksonville had five players participating in the game, all on the defensive side of the ball: CB Jalen Ramsey, CB A.J. Bouye, DE Yannick Ngakoue, LB Telvin Smith, and DT Malik Jackson. During a series of separate drives, particularly in the first half, all five were on the field at the same time. The Jaguars and their fans were happy to garner some respect following their cinderella year that almost ended with a Super Bowl visit. Everyone is already looking forward to next year for the big cats. *Barlow photo*

Jax Sigmas Rouse State Members to Action

Shown is Roy Edmonds, Phi Beta Sigma Southern Regional Director, Keynote speaker Brother Chris V. Rey, National Director of Social Action, Jacksonville Chapter Nu Beta Sigma 1st Vice President Dr. Randy Woods, MD and Ms. Phi Beta Sigma Brianca Wright.

Nu Beta Sigma Alumni Chapter of Jacksonville hosted the 2018 Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity's Florida State Conference held in downtown Jacksonville over the weekend at the Lexington Hotel. The yearly conference is a gathering of members of the fraternity from across the state of Florida. Fraternity brothers participated in several workshops throughout the day geared towards developing their leadership skills to become more effective and empowering leaders in their chapters.

William Raines Alumni Celebrate Rich Legacy by Giving Back Through Scholarships

Shown l-r are WRNAA Board Members: Jesse Wilcox, Larry Dixon, Earl Kitchings, Alexis Barnes, Justine Redding, Venus Highsmith, Kenneth Covington and David Thomas.

The William M. Raines National Alumni Association, Inc. held their 2nd annual "Black & White Ball" scholarship fundraiser at the Omni Hotel bringing hundreds of alumni together to benefit their beloved alma mater. The event raises monies for scholarships through pledges and donations. This years reunion honored the class of 1968 for their 50th year high school reunion. Raines is the oldest historically black high school in Duval County still in existence.

In 1964, with an increase in Jacksonville's African American population, Duval County School Board decided to send African American students to Jean Ribault High School, but the all-white faculty and students rejected the idea. The school board then decided to build a new facility, costing two million dollars. School No. 165 opened its doors at 3663 Clarkson Avenue on January 25, 1965. The opening of Raines brought about the reassignment of 1,305 black high school students in grades nine through twelve from Northwestern Junior-Senior High School to the new school. The school opened unnamed and was referred to as School No. 165. On June 10, 1965, the school was officially named William Marion Raines Senior High School after a noted educator.

The school was the first of its kind bringing a new excellence to its student population including everything from a strict dress code to etiquette classes.

Raines currently serves as Duval county's Science, Math and Engineering Magnet School and is still celebrating winning the state high school football championship for the second time.

Alvin Brown

Former Mayor Launches Bid for Congress

Former Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown filed papers this week to challenge U.S. Congressman Al Lawson for the 5th Congressional District. Lawson, a first time representative, won the seat over 12 term incumbent Corrine Brown in 2016.

"As mayor, I prided myself on the fact that City Hall was the 'people's office' and believe the same should apply in the U.S. Capital," said Brown. "I am committed to giving the people a real voice and representation in Washington."

Alvin Brown has made his quest for the seat no secret. Former Congresswoman Brown escorted candidate Brown to meetings with members of the Congressional Black Caucus last fall.

In announcing his candidacy, Brown has his history of developing initiatives to create jobs, build affordable housing and spur business development as mayor.

Deltas Stomp Down the Competition

Shown holding their winning trophy is Greek Division competition winners, the Superheroes of Delta Sigma Theta Jacksonville Alumnae Chapter.

Ballinger Productions and Entertainment brought the nation's largest step show competition to Jacksonville, Florida entitled "The Stompdown". "The Stompdown" step show is comprised of the nation's elite step teams from high school, independent, and Greek teams from all over the country. The competition provides an opportunity to display their gifts and talents through the art of stepping and dance. The Florida Theatre was sold out and packed to capacity as competitors stepped to the stage and enthralled the crowd with their stepping routines Over 10 teams competed for the coveted "stompdown' trophy.

Do You Have a Cold or the Flu?

The flu isn't playing around. Experts say it's been particularly severe, with more than 60,000 Americans testing positive for influenza since October 1, 2017.

Why is this flu season so rough compared with some others? It all comes down to the type of flu that's spreading, according to Margarita Rohr, a clinical instructor of medicine at NYU.

"This season is different because H3N2 is the predominant strain of flu," she told HuffPost. "This is important because historically, this strain of flu has been associated with higher intensity of symptoms, more frequent hospitalizations and deaths."

Given that, the first signs of the sniffles might induce panic. But there are distinct differences between a cold and flu symptoms, and there are ways to manage both to get you feeling better as soon as possible.

Below, experts break down the warning signs that distinguish whether you're dealing with the flu versus a cold, plus tips on how to nurse yourself back to health.

The Difference Between a Cold and Flu

Flu symptoms are more intense.

A cold and the flu have symptoms that overlap, such as a sore throat, fever, cough, headache, congestion, sneezing. However, the severity of the symptoms is usually what sets the flu apart, Rohr said.

She added that "a major symptom of the flu is muscle and body aches, which can be severe. Body aches or muscle aches may be mild, if present at all, with a common cold."

Flu symptoms also appear quickly.

If you feel fine at the office and suddenly feel sick when you walk through your front door, chances are you might be coming down with the flu. Colds usually take a little more time to develop, according to Ian Tong, chief medical officer at Doctor On Demand.

"You can go from well to sick within just a few hours [if you have the flu]," Tong said. Symptoms may start with a cough but then will rapidly progress to a high fever, body aches and fatigue, he said.

Your body will feel more run down with the flu.

Are you feeling under the weather but could force yourself to go to the office? You're probably dealing with a cold rather than the flu.

"Extreme exhaustion could also be indicative of the flu," Rohr said. "This symptom can sometimes last for weeks, whereas with the common cold, this symptom is usually mild and limited, if present at all."

Get lots of rest.

Congratulations, your bed is now your new best friend.

"One of the most important things you can do for yourself is to allow your body to rest while you are feeling under the weather," Tong said. "Resting gives your body a chance to fight off the infection and can help boost your immune system."

Stay hydrated and eat good.

This goes for the flu or a common cold. You tend to get dehydrated due to fever sweats or lack of appetite, Tong said.

"Drinking warm and hot liquids can aid in rehydrating your body and [alleviate] symptoms such as congestion, sore throat and coughing," he said. "Healthy soups and broths may also help in feeding your body the nutrients it needs while recovering."

Use home remedies to help ease your symptoms.

Items you already have on hand in your medicine cabinet or at home may help abate some of the nasty side effects of your illness.

"Using a humidifier may make it easier to breathe," Rohr said. "Fevers can be treated with acetaminophen or ibuprofen. Cough drops may soothe a dry or sore throat and help lessen the cough."

Take a bath or shower.

"If you are experiencing a chill or a fever, taking a warm bath or cool shower could offer some comfort," Tong said. "Adding shower or bath bombs containing eucalyptus, menthol or other essential oils could make the experience more pleasant."

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Notice Under Fictitious Name Law Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes Notice is Hereby Given that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of **TINHOMME GROUP** located at 11815 Alden Rd., in the county of Duval, city of Jacksonville, Fl 32246, intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporation of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.

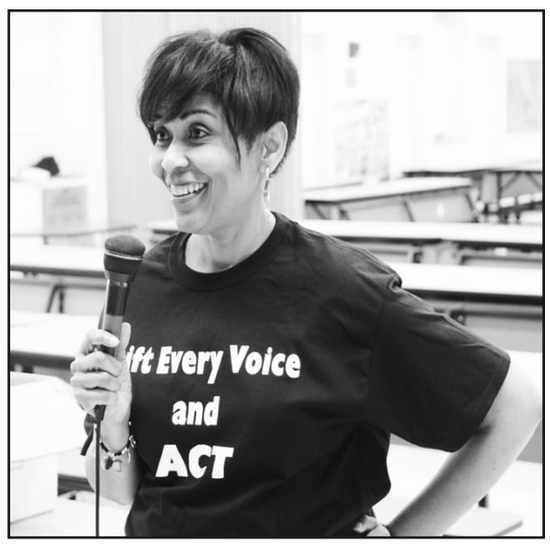
Participating Hyde park Elementary students shown above

Hyde Park Teacher Channels James Weldon Johnson for the Lift Every Voice and Act

Jacksonville native and Hyde Park Elementary School teacher Valarie Esguerra is an accomplished writer, educator, and creative consultant. She grew up writing, directing, and producing plays for her church with the sentiment that the available productions were not entirely reflective of her community. Esguerra continued to cultivate her talent for getting to the heart of the matter through her involvement with the local community theatre circuit by participating in the Atlantic Beach Experimental Theatre.

Esguerra is one of four Jacksonville artists to participate in the pilot year of Lift Every Student, a collaborative arts integration program between Any Given Child Jacksonville, the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, and Duval County Public Schools (DCPS). Joined by musician Lucy Chen, visual artists Sarah Crooks Flaire and Erin Kendrick, they are working as teaching artists in residence in Duval County's newly appointed arts integration schools during the 2017-18 academic year.

Esguerra applied for the opportunity and was selected as one of ten artists to go through a two-day training workshop facilitated by The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. As part of that workshop, she developed her residency plan, Lift Every Voice and Act, which relies on theatre arts to teach students language arts while specifically addressing Duval County's English Language Arts curriculum standards.



Valarie Esguerra

Lift Every Voice and Act will culminate with a live performance for parents, teachers, and the community. The production, which Esguerra is writing with the students, focuses on Jacksonville's native son, James Weldon Johnson. It examines Johnson's developmental years as a child in Jacksonville and draws similarities between the students and the man who has served as inspiration for so many.

"To say I am utterly impressed by JWJ would be an understatement. He was so much more than the writer of Lift Every Voice and Sing. He was a lawyer, Broadway lyricist, book author, newspaper editor and publisher, diplomat – and the list continues, each job more impressive than the last. He grew the membership of the NAACP by leaps and bounds before becoming the organization's leader," said Esguerra

Full Scale Health Centers Open at Ribault Schools

Health access just got a little bit closer for northside residents.

Two school-based health centers located on the campuses of Ribault Middle and High Schools will provide a comprehensive pediatric medical home and health care to public school students and those under age 21. The health centers will be staffed by licensed health care professionals, who will be available weekdays to assist students.

With aid offering more than just a school nurse, the School-Based Health Center services will be provided under the direction of a dedicated pediatrician and full-time nurse practitioner. It also establishes a "medical home" within the geographic area for those who need it.

When health care is accessed in schools, students benefit because they don't have to seek out clinical care. Parents benefit because they don't have to take time off work, and the schools benefit because students spend more time in the classroom. "We know that wellness is critical, not just because of its inextricable link to academic success among our students, but also for the improved quality of life it provides to our children and communities," said DCPS Superintendent Dr. Patricia Willis.

Nurse Practitioner Christie Johnson will work full time at the facility. She is shown in the exam room.

"The things that make kids healthy are not always effectively addressed in a clinical setting," said Mikah Owen, MD, MPH, who specializes in pediatrics at UF Health Jacksonville and serves as the medical director of the school-based health centers. "We feel fortunate to be able to help these kids with whatever they are dealing with — whether it's toxic stress or access to fresh groceries." said nurse practitioner Christie Johnson.

Florida Police Officers Seek 'Stand Your Ground' Protection

Continued from front

law in her own defense for shooting at her estranged, abusive husband in 2010. But in 2012, she was convicted and sentenced to 20 years in prison.

A year later, Zimmerman was acquitted for shooting and killing Trayvon Martin. The same prosecutor, Angela Corey, oversaw both cases.

Alexander eventually took a plea deal that significantly reduced her sentence and put her under house arrest. She was finally freed from her ankle monitor in February 2017.

This seemingly uneven application of the Stand Your Ground law has sparked national debates about how certain legislation disproportionately impacts vulnerable populations, and if the color of the person pulling the trigger is a determining factor for a successful defense using the law.

How officers are standing their Ground

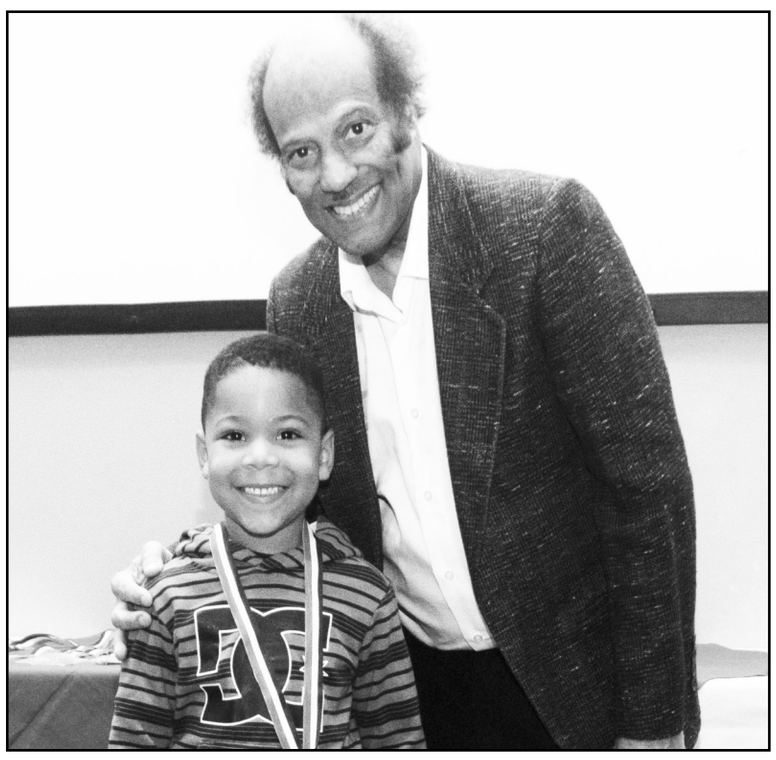
Recently, Florida police officers have attempted to use the Stand Your Ground law to defend themselves against excessive force claims. Michigan, Texas, Arizona and nearly two dozen other states have a law similar to Florida's, but so far Florida is the only state where police officers have attempted to use it in regards to on-duty incidents.

In 2017, two Miami police officers successfully invoked Stand Your Ground to avoid paying for damages involving the beating of a man in a wheelchair. The law protects against civil and criminal proceedings.

In 2012, a judge rejected an Orlando area cop's attempt to be shielded by Stand Your Ground for the beating of a 63-year-old man. The officer's case went to trial and he was acquitted.

Benjamin Crump, who has served as counsel for Trayvon Martin's family and the families of other victims of fatal encounters with police, told the New York Times that officers using Stand Your Ground is a bad idea.

"To extend it to police officers on the street gives them a license to kill just by saying they felt fear — no standards, no objective check and balance," said Crump.



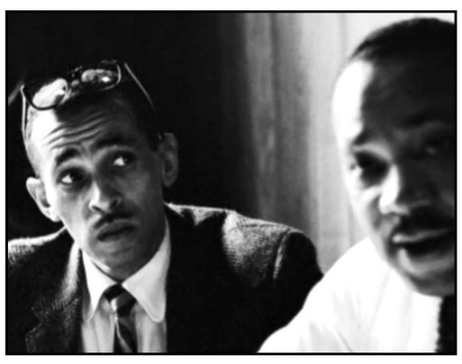
Nyzir Hooks with Dr. Simmons

Local Dentist Lauds Honor Role Patients With a Fun Day

Dr. Charles E. Simmons, III and the staff of Simmons Pediatrics saluted honor students for excellent achievements in 2016-17 by making the A/B Honor Rolls at their various schools. This year's event marked the 13th annual celebration and was held at Dave & Buster's Restaurant. Parents and their children received game cards to enjoy the entertainment venue and the youth also received medals for their grades and hard work.

"We are very proud of our children's success, realizing that without God and the help of their parents, it is impossible to achieve. However, with both God and good parents, and we are looking forward to greatness in 2018. We salute our scholars, small and large." said Dr. Simmons.

Civil Right Leader Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker Passes at 88



Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker Jr. did all he could to advance civil rights during his long life. He is credited with being the key strategist behind many of the civil rights protests that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led in seeking to end the racial injustice of Jim Crow in the 1960s.

During his four years as Dr. King's chief of staff, he helped raise the money for and orchestrate major civil rights protests. Dr. Walker came to Dr. King's attention after leading protests against segregation in Petersburg that resulted in his repeated arrests. At the time, he was pastor of Petersburg's Gillfield Baptist Church, which he led for seven years.

On New Year's Day in 1959, he led a "Pilgrimage of Prayer" in Richmond against school segregation. Dr. Walker's contributions to justice and freedom in America are being remembered following his death in Chester, Va. where he lived for the last 14 years. He was 88.

The Rev. Al Sharpton, a family friend, announced the death of Dr. Walker, who also was the first board chairman of Rev. Sharpton's National Action Network.

"A true giant and irreplaceable leader," Rev. Sharpton stated in releasing the information on Dr. Walker's death on Twitter. "A huge tree has fallen."

"America has lost a great civil rights leader," said Henry L. Marsh III, a retired civil rights attorney who served as Richmond, Va.'s first African-American mayor and later as a state senator. "He was a Virginia civil rights leader who earned a place on the national stage. The world is a better place because of his presence," said Mr. Marsh, who was deeply engaged in attacking segregation and racial injustice in the courts.

City Chronicles

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

What Does it Mean to be a Black Man in America?

This Black History Month I have decided that it is more important than ever that we do more than reflect on our past. As African Americans we also need to critically evaluate our present economic and social status in the United States in relation to our past. In other words, what tangible gains have we made since slavery, the Reconstruction Era and Civil Rights Movement?

"Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, where ignorance prevails, and where any one class is made to feel that society is in an organized conspiracy to oppress, rob, and degrade them, neither persons nor property will be safe,' said one of the greatest American civil rights activist ever, Frederick Douglas.

It almost sounds like Douglas was predicting the Trump presidency – especially where poverty is enforced and ignorance prevails.

But this article will not be about The Donald and his shenanigans, but I really want to start this month focusing on black men and the roles we play in America. Yeah, I have written about this before, but sometimes you have to preach the same sermon until it settles in.

The first and perhaps most important role is as fathers. James Baldwin once said, "Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them."

We cannot afford to continue allowing ours sons to grow up without fathers or strong father figures in their lives. There is a direct correlation between single mother households and the number of black men in prison that grew up without their fathers around. Black men have to change that narrative.

Douglas also famously said, "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men." Amen.

Michael Fletcher is a writer with the *Washington Post* and wrote an article titled, "At the Corner of Progress and Peril" some eight years ago.

The piece centered around one question, "What does it mean to be a black man?" Arthur Ashe said, "Being a black man in America is like having another job."

Ashe was talking about the additional life obstacles many blacks faced during his era. And sure there are still many challenges today, but nowhere near as many as those faced by people like Arthur Ashe.

Here is a critical question – with exceptional leaders like Frederick Douglas, W.E.B. Dubois, A. Phillip Randolph, Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King and Barbara Jordan laying the foundation for black equity and opportunity, why have so many Black men decided to take a back seat. And I am not just talking about taking a back seat in this country. I am talking about taking a back seat in their homes, and not playing a role in their children's lives and essentially not being the leaders that they should be?

The most profound statement made by Fletcher was, "Being a black man in America can mean inhabiting a border area between possibility and peril." Or as James Comer once said, "Being black in America is often like playing your home games on your opponent's court."

You can still win the game when you play on your opponent's court, but you have to work a little harder to win. Unfortunately, not enough young black males realize to the need to work harder to be successful.

Sometimes it hurts to turn on the light and look at the man in the mirror and that what we have to do. Fletcher's column also talked about "The dueling realities of our history – steady progress and devastating setbacks – continue to burden many black men in ways that are sometimes difficult to explain." I can personally attest to that dueling reality.

My editor will say, well Reggie what can we do to fix the problem? And of course I don't have all of the answers, but we really have to figure out a why to install a strong sense of pride back into our black males at a young age.

Education and constant reinforcement is the key. It's time for us to start being the mentors and leaders that we should be. And we have to stop using the racism crutch, yes, sometimes there are discriminatory issues, but as Arthur Ashe once said, "Racism is not an excuse to not do the best you can."

Clearly there are thousand of well-educated successful black men so I am not trying to paint a story of complete doom and gloom.

Black men are exceling in corporate America and through entrepreneurship. There are African American men who are slowly trying to change the way black males are often times viewed. Bernard J. Tyson, the black CEO of Kaiser Permanente, said in an article in Fortune, "I have the opportunity and the obligation to change the narrative around race."

But the challenge for Blacks in general is not intellectualism or talent based – it's opportunity.

According to a corporate diversity survey released last June by the office of Sen. Bob Menendez, a New Jersey Democrat, black men and women account for only 4.7 percent of executive team members in the Fortune 100 (the top 100 U.S. companies by revenue), a share that hasn't budged since the survey was first conducted in 2011.

How do we increase those numbers, change the negative socioeconomic data surrounding black men and even alter perceptions? I certainly don't have all of the answers, but we have to start having positive dialogue followed by real action on this issue. And who is going to lead the charge? Not sure, but I would like to nominate President Obama to take the helm.

But I can't blame him for not wanting to come out of retirement for such a daunting task.

Signing off from a Black History Program rehearsal,

Reggie Fullwood

EDITORIAL

What Could Be Worse?

By Dr. E. Faye Williams, Esq.

Political right/Republicans have given nearly every bad excuse possible for their own bad behavior. Truth and objectivity seem to escape their ilk. Since the swearing-in of #45 and his one-year hijacked occupancy of the people's house, strange stories that oppose the truth emerge at every turn. After hearing one bad excuse, it's hard to believe that an even worse excuse could materialize, but it can. Here are my nominees, in order of bad to worse, of recent right-wing idiocy:

FOUR: Despite owning a majority in both the Senate and House of Representatives and occupying the White House, Republicans blame Democrats for the government shutdown! Blaming Democrats, they have ignored their rejection of the overwhelming will of the American people and the legislative votes of several 'principled' Republicans who joined with Democrats against their own party.

THREE: Senators Dick Durbin and Lindsey Graham exposed racist and profane statements made by #45 during a White House meeting related to the shutdown vote. Of the others present, one Cabinet Officer could only remember #45 using strong language, but didn't say what that language was. Republican Senators from Arkansas and Georgia originally feigned failure to hear the comments and/or forgetfulness, but, as the fallout of #45's comments became more heated, they remembered that he "absolutely" did not make the statements of which he was accused. Never mind that they were meeting to avoid a government shutdown -- between not hearing and not remembering, one wonders why they were there.

TWO: After the Democratic Senate Minority Leader, unbelievably, agreed to give #45 money he'd requested to build his "Mexican Border Wall," #45 reneged on that agreement which led to the shutdown vote. Although claiming he wanted to resolve the DACA crisis, #45 disappeared from public view, but published photographs showing him at his empty Oval Office desk hoping to make us believe he was actively working for resolution. When Democrats reached agreement with Republicans to reopen the government, #45, and many of his fellow Republicans, rewarded them with disparaging tweets and comments accusing them of "caving" to Republican pressure. Seemingly, Republicans have conveniently forgotten that democratic legislation is a process of give-and-take in order to achieve a plan with which both sides can live -- even when that compromise is objectionable or disappointing to supporters.

ONE: Finally, the week's worst rears its ugly head! Pennsylvania Republican Congressman Pat Meehan is the "hands down" winner of my "What Could Be Worse" award. Meehan is accused of sexually harassing a female staffer he obsessively labeled his "soulmate." His infractions include creating a hostile work environment after he learned of the staffer's involvement with a male (outside of work) other than himself and the probability that she would be leaving his office. Disappointed and angry, Meehan engaged in practices that caused his staffer to charge him with sexual harassment.

While admitting that, after learning of her serious relationship with another, he sent the young woman an emotional letter. Meehan denied that he sexually harassed her. He did, however, offer an excuse for his workplace behavior that flows straight from the right-wing Republican playbook. His excuse was that he blamed President Obama!!! He said that he worked so hard to repeal the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), that his efforts stressed him out, and that he was so stressed that any bad behavior with which he was charged had to be blamed on that Obama person! We never heard from Republicans calling for his resignation or repayment of taxpayer dollars used to pay hush money to the young woman involved. On his own terms, he announced he won't run for re-election.

These truths are stranger than fiction. I really worry about what could be worse and when that shoe will drop!

Easy to See Countries That are Not a US Priority

by Dr. Julianne Malveaux

Our 45th President has traipsed over to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, planning to rub elbows with world leaders, repair some relationships, and possibly shred even more.

He had hardly landed before he started threatening to cut off aid to the Palestinians unless they participate in peace talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Palestinian leaders are justifiably angry that 45, without a conversation with them, said he would move the US Embassy to Jerusalem, the city that both Palestinian and Israelis consider their capital.

Since 45 has been President, the world has been losing respect for us. According to a November Gallup poll, approval of US leaders among 134 countries has hit a new low of 30 percent, down 18 percent from the 48 percent approval rate in President Obama's last year, and even lower than the low of 34 percent in George W. Bush's last year.

Only Liberia, Macedonia, Israel and Belarus increased their approval rating of the US, while Portugal, Norway, Belgium and Canada saw approval ratings plunge by 40 points or more. 45 has been currying Israel's favor, so it is no wonder that they are more approving of him. But US leadership lags behind support for leadership in both Germany and China. Only Russia has a lower approval rating than we do.

Meanwhile, 45 is ignoring most of the rest of the world. A year into his Presidency, he has not appointed ambassadors for fully half of the world. The Bureau of African Affairs, part of the State Department, has no leader. There is an "acting" Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, Donald Yamamoto, a career foreign policy professional who has worked for both Presidents Bush and Obama.

There is no ambassador to the African Union, which is perhaps a blessing because that person may have had to defend 45's ignorant remark about s***hole countries. But 45 didn't have to make such an ignorant statement in order for us to know how he felt about people of African descent. He illustrates his disdain every time he opens his mouth. He did not have to compare Haiti to Norway, all he had to do was fail to appoint an ambassador to Brazil, which is home to the largest population of Afrodescendents outside of Africa.

There is no US ambassador to Belize, Bolivia, Burkina Faso or Cape Verde. No ambassador to Cote D'Ivorie or Cuba, Guinea or Ghana, Jamaica or Kenya. Neither Madagascar nor Mali, Mozambique nor Nigeria, South Africa nor Tanzania, Togo nor Trinidad have US Ambassadors. Blessedly, 40 percent of 45's appointees are career foreign policy experts. Some, like Calista Gingrich's appointment as Ambassador to the Vatican, are clearly political plums. But how can 45 justify having no ambassadors to two of the most important countries on the African continent, oil-producing Nigeria, and economically advanced South Africa? I guess he will be forced to pay attention to these s***hole countries if there is an oil crisis and we need some Nigerian oil!

Africa and the Caribbean are not the only parts of the world that have been ignored by this administration. Highly desirable appointments, like those to Canada, France, the United Kingdom, and Germany have been filled. Even as 45 has squabbled with North Korea, he has appointed no ambassador to South Korea.

This could have been completely avoided if 45 had allowed Obama appointees to stay in place until he found people to replace them. Instead, people had to come home in the middle of the school year, hurriedly making arrangements for new schools, housing, and more. Why did 45 demand resignations so abruptly when he had few replacements, breaking precedent and also thumbing his nose at the world?

Our NATO allies look askance at him because of his obnoxious and belligerent behavior. He has made strange remarks about terrorism in the UK, taken swipes at France and Germany, and generally behaved like an overgrown child when gathering with other world leaders, pushing the Prime Minister of Montenegro aside so he could get in front of a group photo at a NATO summit in May. Incidentally, there is no US Ambassador to Montenegro.

Actually, staffing the government is not a priority of this administration. When he was elected, he indicated that he thought some agencies were "huuuuge", and there were positions he would not fill. He has been much slow. By the end of their first calendar year (2001 for Bush, 2009 for Obama), Bush had 139 State Department confirmations, with 14 pending. Obama had 119 confirmed and 18 pending. 45 has 61 confirmed and 28 pending!

We who are connected to s***hole countries can rest assured that foreign policy is not this administration's strong suit. 45's failure to appoint ambassadors to African countries perhaps reflects the disdain he feels for us. But his disdain is yet another reflection of his ignorance.

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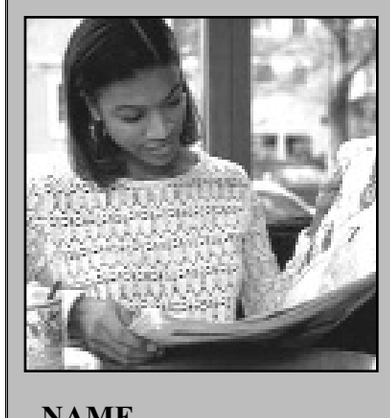

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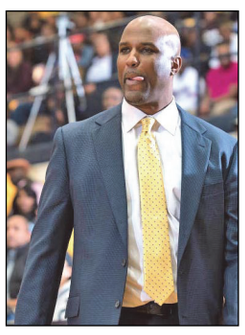
FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 5, 2018

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE™



NC A&T Sports Photo

TASTING VICTORIES: Head coach Jay Joyner has NC A&T In first place in MEAC at 6-1 after positng just three wins in 2016-17 season.

HOW SWEET IT IS

TEAMS AT THE BOTTOM, RISING TO THE TOP; LEONARD GETS OFF AT SENIOR BOWL

HOOPS SCHEDULE

SAT., FEB. 3
CIAA
Fayetteville State @ Saint Augustine's
Virginia State @ Lincoln
Virginia Union @ Chowan
Bowie State @ Elizabeth City State
Johnson C. Smith @ Shaw
Winston-Salem State @ Livingstone
MEAC
Bethune-Cookman @ Coppin State
Delaware State @ NC Central
Hampton @ North Carolina A&T
Florida A&M @ Howard
Savannah State @ South Carolina State
Morgan State @ Norfolk State
SIAC
Wilberforce @ Central State
Clark Atlanta @ Benedict
Paine @ Fort Valley State
Spring Hill @ Kentucky State
Tuskegee @ Lane
Miles @ LeMoyne Owen
SWAC
Alabama State @ Mississippi Valley State
Texas Southern @ Prairie View
Alcorn State @ Jackson State
Southern @ Grambling State
Alabama A&M @ Arkansas-Pine Bluff
INDEPENDENTS
Lincoln @ Missouri Western
Millersville @ Cheyney
Tennessee State @ Eastern Kentucky
West Virginia State @ W. Va. Wesleyan

MON., FEB. 5
CIAA
Johnson C. Smith @ Elizabeth City State
MEAC
Hampton @ NC Central
Norforlk State @ Bethune-Cookman
Coppin State@ South Carolina State
Delaware State @ North Carolina A&T
Florida A&M @ Maryland-Eastern Shore
Howard @ Morgan State
SIAC
Miles @ Lane
Morehouse @ Benedict
Tuskegee @ LeMoyne Owen
Morehouse @ Benedict
Paine @ Albany State
Clark Atlanta @ Claflin
Spring HIll @ Central State
SWAC
Alabama State @ Arkamsas-Pine Bluff
Alabama A&M @ Mississippi Valley State
Alcorn State @ Grambling State
Southern @ Jackson State

TUES., FEB. 6
CIAA
Mid Atlantic Christian @ Elizabeth City St.
Tusculum @ WSSU
SIAC
Auburn Montgomery @ Tuskegee

WED., FEB. 7
CIAA
Elizabeth City State @ Chowan
Lincoln @ Bowie State
Fayetteville State @ Johnson C. Smith
W.-Salem State @ Staint Augustine's
Virginia Union @ Virginia State
Livingstone @ Shaw
SIAC
Morehouse @ Claflin
INDEPENDENTS
Bloomsburg @ Cheyney
UDC @ Bridgeport

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

MOREHOUSE MOVES UP IN D2 POLLS?:

The ladies of **Virginia Union** remained in fourth place in the WBCA Div. II national rankings while the undefeated men of **Morehouse** should move up in the latest NABC D2 national poll.

Gilbert

After losing its season opener to Edinboro, VUU (19-1) under head coach **Ann Marie Gilbert**, has now run off 19 straight wins including double-digit **CIAA** wins last week over **Lincoln** (68-51) and **Elizabeth City State** (88-54).

The Lady Panthers are still chasing undefeated No. 1-ranked Ashland (20-0), the team VUU lost to in last year's Div. II national championship game. Fellow CIAA member **Virginia State** (15-2) moved up from 25th to 23rd in the poll.

VUU is at **Chowan** Saturday before travelling to VSU for a Wed., Feb. 7 return date. VUU defeated VSU in their earlier meeting on Jan. 13, 65-56.

As of press time Tuesday, this week's NABC men's Div. II national poll had not been released.

Lonnie Blow Jr.'s Virginia State (17-2) team was ranked eighth in last week's poll before suffering a 65-55 loss in CIAA play Saturday to **Bowie State**. With the loss, the Trojans' CIAA record dropped to 7-2 while their Northern Division record now sits at 3-1, tied for first with BSU. VSU is likely to fall out of the top ten based on the loss.

Morehouse (18-0), should move higher from its tenth place position in the poll after it remained undefeated with a 83-73 win over **Paine** Saturday. West Liberty (17-0) out of the Mountain East Conference in the top ranked team in Div. II men's basketball.

There's no reason that **Clark Atlanta**, 19-1 under head coach **Darrel Walker**, has not moved into the national top 25. The defending **SIAC** tournament champions were four places out of the top 25 last week and should slide in to the top 25 this week. The Panthers received 10 points in the voting last week.

Walker

CAU's last win was a 77-56 decision over **Lane** on Monday.

They are back in action at **Benedict** Saturday and at **Claflin** Monday.

SCORES

MEN
MON., JAN. 29
CIAA
Livingstone 75, Eliz. City State 62
MEAC
Hampton 80, Bethune-Cookman 69
Coppin State 108, Md.-E. Shore 104
SC State 74, Morgan State 59
Norforlk State 80, Florida A&M 71
SIAC
LeMoyme-Owen 100, Kentucky State 81
Lane 85, Central State 67
Miles @ Spring Hill
Clark Atlanta 77, Paine 56
Albany State 71, Claflin 62
Benedict 84, Fort Valley State 66
Spring Hill 64, Miles 58
SWAC
Texas Southern 97, Alabama State 82
Ark.-Pine Bluff 60, Jackson State 58
Prairie View 88, Alabama A&M 67
Grambling 92, MVSU 89

SAT., JAN. 27
CIAA
Fayetteville State 74, Shaw 72
Lincoln (Pa.) 58, Chowan 45
St. Augustine's 75, Livingstone 69
Elizabeth City State 84, Virginia Union 80
Bowie State 65, Virginia State 55
J. C. Smith 76, W-Salem State 75
MEAC
Norfolk State 71, Bethune-Cookman 70
Florida A&M 75, Hampton 71
NC A&T 70, NC Central 64
Howard 85, Md.-E. Shore 75
Savannah State 106, Delaware St. 86
Coppin State 73, SC State 65
SIAC
Morehouse 83, Paine 73
Fort Valley State 69, Claflin 58
Central State 76, LeMoyne-Owen 62
Benedict 80, Albany State 78
Spring Hill 74, Tuskegee 59
Lane 79, Kentucky State 63
SWAC
Prairie View 86, Alabama State 80
Miss. Valley St. 72, Jackson State 67
Texas Southern 58, Alabama A&M 56
Southern 61, Alcorn State 48
Grambling 69, Arkansas-Pine Bluff 68
INDEPENDENTS
East Stroudsburg 103, Cheyney 62
UDC 63, Queens (NY) 60
West Virginia State 94, Urbana 79
Tennessee State 50, Eastern Illinois 47
Lincoln (MO) 82, Nebraska Kearney 79

WOMEN
MON., JAN. 29
CIAA
Eliz. City State 84, Livingstone 57
MEAC
Bethune-Cookman 61, Hampton 56
Coppin State 69, Md.-Eastern Shore 63
Morgan State 65, SC State 55
Norforlk State 70, Florida A&M 49
SIAC
LeMoyne.-Owen 71, Kentucky State 55
Central State 67, Lane 57
Spring Hill 78, Miles 63
Clark Atlanta 77, Paine 60
Albany State 55, Claflin 49
Benedict 92, Fort Valley State 57
SWAC
Texas Southern 71, Alabama State 39
Jackson Sttate 60, Ark.-Pine Bluff 54
Prairie View 55, Alabama A&M 48
Grambling State 64, MVSU 62

SAT., JAN. 27
CIAA
Fayetteville State 86, Shaw 59
Chowan 72, Lincoln (Pa.) 60
St. Augustine's 77, Livingstone 62
Virginia Union 88, Eliz. City State 54
Virginia State 67, Bowie State 59
W-Salem State 83, J. C. Smith 75
MEAC
Coppin State 56, SC State 39
Delaware State 93, Savannah State 79
Md.-Eastern Shore 58, Howard 52
NC A&T 67, NC Central 64
Hampton 66, Florida A&M 65
Bethune-Cookman 58, Norfolk State 51
SIAC
Lane 72, Kentucky State 59
Claflin 72, Fort Valley State 52
Central STate 75, LeMoyne Owen 64
Benedict 76, Albany State 70
Spring Hill 87, Tuskegee 67
SWAC
Grambling State 66, Ark. Pine Bluff 57
Southern 64, Alcorn State 56
Miss. Valley St. 72, Jackson State 61
Alabama State 70, Prairie View 68
Texas Southern 55, Alabama A&M 49
INDEPENDENTS
E. Stroudsburg 79 Cheyney 70
Queens (NY) 61, UDC 60
W. Va. State 87, Urbana 74
Tennessee State 86, Eastern Illinois 68

MEN'S 2017-18 BLACK COLLEGE BASKETBALL (Standings and Top Players)

CIAA
Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association

	DIV		CONF		ALL	
NORTH DIVISION	**W**	**L**	**W**	**L**	**W**	**L**
Virginia State	3	1	7	2	17	2
Bowie State	3	1	5	5	10	11
Virginia Union	2	2	6	3	11	10
Lincoln	2	2	5	5	10	10
Elizabeth City State	1	3	2	7	7	11
Chowan	1	3	2	7	7	11
SOUTH DIVISION						
Johnson C. Smith	4	0	5	2	12	7
Shaw	3	1	6	3	13	7
Saint Augustine's	2	2	7	3	10	11
Fayetteville State	2	2	3	6	6	14
Livingstone	1	3	5	5	7	9
Winston-Salem State	0	4	2	8	4	15

CIAA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK
PLAYER
Willie Gilmore, 6-0, Sr., G, **FSU -** Had 22 points in win over WSSU, 20 in win over Shaw. Helped break 8-game losing streak. Shot 14 for 22 in the games.
ROOKIE
Aujameq Daniels, Fr., **ECSU -** Had 9 points in loss to VSU, and 18 points in win over VUU.
NEWCOMER
Danzell Hosch, So., G, **FSU** - Canned 7 3s and totalled 27 points including game-winning 3 vs. WSSU. Had 12 points in win over Shaw.
COACH
Ken Spencer, FSU - Led Broncos to S. DIv. wins over WSSU and Shaw after 8 straight losses.

MEAC
Mid Eastern Athletic Conference

	CONF		ALL	
	W	**L**	**W**	**L**
North Carolina A&T	6	1	13	9
Savannah State	6	1	9	13
North Carolina Central	5	2	11	10
Bethune-Cookman	5	2	11	11
Norfolk State	4	3	6	16
Morgan State	4	4	8	13
SC State	4	4	8	15
Coppin State	4	4	4	19
Howard	3	4	6	17
Florida A&M	3	4	4	19
Md. E. Shore	1	8	5	19
Delaware State	0	8	2	21

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK
PLAYER - **Jermaine Marrow**, 6-0, So., G, **HAMPTON -** Went for career-high 35 points with 10 rebounds and 9 assists in win Monday over B-CU. Just 15 points in loss to Florida A&M.
Kyle Williams, 6-4, Sr., G, **NSU -** Had 13 points and 8 rebounds in win over B-CU, 12 points and 4 boards in win over Florida A&M.
NEWCOMER - **Karon Davis**, Sr., G, **CSU -** In two wins, got 12 pts., 9 rebs., 7 assists vs. UMES, 21 pts., 4 rebs. 6 assists vs. SCSU.
DEFENSIVE - **Alex Long**, 6-8, Jr., F, **NSU** - 14 points, 17 rebounds and 2 blocks in win over B-CU, 6 points, 2 rebounds and 1 block in win over FAMU.
ROOKIE - **R. J. Cole**, 6-1, Fr., G, **HOWARD -** MEAC scoring leader had game-high 28 points, 6 rebounds and 3 assists in win over UMES.

SIAC
Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

	CONF		ALL	
EAST DIVISION	**W**	**L**	**W**	**L**
Morehouse	13	0	18	0
Clark Atlanta	13	0	19	1
Benedict	10	4	17	5
Claflin	10	4	17	5
Fort Valley State	8	7	11	12
Albany State	3	10	3	18
Paine	3	10	4	16
WEST DIVISION				
Lane	7	7	9	10
Spring Hill	6	7	9	13
Central State	6	8	7	14
Kentucky State	5	9	6	15
LeMoyne-Owen	4	10	8	13
Miles	3	8	4	14
Tuskegee	2	9	3	16

BCSP PLAYERS OF THE WEEK
PLAYER
Kendarius Ash, 6-7, Jr., F, **LANE -** Had 24 points, 16 rebounds, 6 assists, 6 steals and 3 blocks in win over CSU, 20 points, 11 rebounds 4 assits and 1 steal in win over KSU.
Brandon Morris, 6-8, Sr., F, **BENEDICT** - Had 25 points, 12 boards, 7 assists and 2 blocks in win over FVSU, 17 points, 7 rebounds, 1 assist and 2 blocks in win over Albany State.
NEWCOMER
NA

SWAC
Southwestern Athletic Conference

	DIV		ALL	
	W	**L**	**W**	**L**
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	8	1	8	15
Jackson State	6	3	9	13
Texas Southern	6	3	6	16
Grambling State	6	3	10	12
Southern	5	4	9	13
Alabama State	3	6	3	18
Prairie View A&M	5	4	8	15
Alcorn State	3	6	7	15
Alabama A&M	2	7	2	20
Miss. Valley State	1	8	1	21

BCSP PLAYERS OF THE WEEK
PLAYER
Ivy Smith Jr., 6-0, So., G, **GSU -** Averaged 22.0 points, 6 rebounds and 4.5 assists in two big wins. Scored game-high 26 points with 9 rebounds and 5 assists in 3-point win over MVSU. Got team-high 18 points with 3 rebounds, 4 assists and 5 steals in one-point win that handed UAPB its first SWAC loss.
NEWCOMER
Donte Clark., 6-4, Gr., G, **TSU -** Tallied team-high 30 points in win over Alabama State, added 14 in taking down Alabama A&M.

INDEPENDENTS

	W	**L**
W. Va. State	12	7
Lincoln (Mo.)	11	10
Tennessee State	8	11
UDC	3	16
Cheyney	2	16

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK
PLAYER
Robert Fomby, 6-3, Sr., G, **WEST VIRGINIA STATE -** Averaged 21 points and 11 rebounds in two wins Tallied 29 points and pulled down 13 rebounds in win over Urbana, 13 points and 9 boards in win over Notre Dame (Ohio). Yellow Jackets have won six straight.
Christian Mekowulu, 6-7, Jr., F, **TENN. STATE** - Averaged 26 points and 9.5 rebounds in 1-1 week. Had double-double of 27 points and 10 rebounds in win over E. Illinois, 25 points and 9 rebounds in loss to SIU-Edwardsville.
Terrance Smith, 6-8, Jr., F, **LINCOLN -** 23 points in win over Nebraska-Kearney, 30 in win over Ft. Hays State.
NEWCOMER
Pat Johnson-Agwu, 6-5, Jr., F, **WVSU -** Made 23 of 31 shots and averaged 26.5 points in two wins. Shot 12 of 14 from the field and had 28 points with six rebounds in win over Urbana, 25 points on 11 of 18 shooting with 5 rebounds vs. Notre Dame (Ohio).
Amariontez Ivory, 6-3, Jr., G, **LINCOLN -** Scored 21 points in win over Ft. Hays State, 33 in win over Nebraska-Kearney.

Topsy-turvy races head into final month

LUT WILLIAMS
BCSP Editor

Savannah State and **North Carolina A&T** lead the men's **MEAC** race with 7-1 records.

Arkansas-Pine Bluff is the **SWAC** men's leader with an 8-1 conference mark.

Morehouse is one of only two undefeated teams in NCAA Div. I or II basketball (No. 1 ranked West Liberty is the other) and currently is tied for first in the **SIAC** (with **Clark Atlanta)** with a 13-0 conference mark.

Who would've thunk it? None of these teams was picked to be near first place when the season started.

Aggie Pride, SSU biding its time

A&T was coming off a woeful 3-29 2016-17 campaign and was picked by conference coaches to finish 13th (last) in the MEAC race.

Second-year head coach **Jay Joiner** however brought in seven new players including a new starting five that has combined with five holdovers to vault the 13-9 Aggies into the first-place tie. The Aggies are spreading the wealth so much that only new 6-8 center **Femi Olujobi** (18.1 ppg.) is averaging double figures.

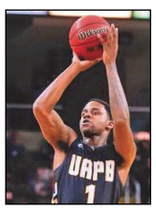
Head coach **Horace Broadnax's** squad at Savannah State was picked to finish in fifth as it prepares to exit Div. I and the MEAC. If so, the former Georgetown defensive wiz has decided to send his team out with guns blazing.

The Tigers are tied for first place with A&T while averaging a league-best 83.0 points per game. They lead the MEAC and all of Div. I putting up 898 3s in 22 games, a whopping 48.2 shots from behind the arc per game. SSU has scored 659 points in seven MEAC games (94.1 ppg.) including topping the 100-point mark in its last three contests. SSU has three double-figure scorers led by **Dexter McClanahan's** 15.7 ppg. and two more that average above 9 points per game

Broadnax

McClanahan

Ivory



Jackson

Brewer

Alston

A&T is home this week to take on **Hampton** Saturday and **Delaware State** Monday. SSU is on the road at **South Carolina State** Saturday.

How 'bout them Golden Lions

Guess where Arkansas-Pine Bluff was picked to finish in the 10-team SWAC race? Eighth, just ahead of **Mississippi Valley State** and **Alabama A&M**.

Instead, the 8-15 Golden Lions under **George Ivory** are setting the pace in the SWAC behind league-scoring leader and juco transfer, 6-6 guard **Martaveous McKnight's** league-leading 18.8 points per game. Six-five junior guard **Charles Jackson** (10.0 ppg.) is the only other player scoring in double-digits.

After starting the season losing their first 14 games, the Golden Lions won seven straight SWAC contests before being nipped by **Grambling** (69-68) Saturday. They came back to beat second-place **Jackson State** Monday (60-58). They host Alabama A&M Saturday and **Alabama State** Monday.

The 'House is on Fire

Morehouse was considered the fourth best team in the SIAC East in the preseason behind **Clark Atlanta**, **Benedict** and **Claflin**. Instead, the Maroon Tigers under **Grady Brewer** have run off 18 straight wins to not only top the SIAC race but move into the national spotlight ranked 11th last week in the NABC Div. II poll.

The Tigers have three double-figure scorers in **Tyrius Walker** (23.4 ppg.), **Martravious Little** (13.7) and **Omar Alston** (11.3). Alston pulls down 9.1 rebounds per game, third-best in the league, and tops the league shooting 65% from the floor. Walker also hands out 3.9 assists and gets 2.1 steals per game. The Maroon Tigers are back in action at **Benedict** on Monday and then travel to **Claflin** on Wednesday.

BCSP Notes

South Carolina State's Darius Leonard turns heads at Senior Bowl

South Carolina State linebacker **Darius Leonard** distinguished himself in workouts and at Saturday's *Reese's Senior Bowl* in Mobile, Alabama.

Leonard

Leonard was joined on the South team, which routed the North 45-16 Saturday, by **North Carolina A&T** offensive tackle **Brandon Parker** and **Southern** defensive back **Danny Johnson.**

Performing before over 1,000 scouts representing all 32 NFL teams, Leonard was reported to be one of the favorite players all week long. He was all over the field again on Saturday, recording a game-high 14 tackles, with five solo stops in the game. Several scouts likened him to Jaguars outside linebacker Telvin Smith for his speed and ability to get to the ball.

> *South Carolina State's Darius Leonard was, by far, the springiest, most active linebacker in practice and was credited with 14 tackles in the game. At 6-foot-2 and 230 pounds with plenty of speed and athleticism, he has a chance to be one of the first few off-ball linebackers taken in this draft in a class without many sideline-to-sideline second-level tackling-machines.*

"Going against the bigger talent and showing the scouts and everybody that I can play with any competition," Leonard told Fox Sports of the Senior Bowl opportunity, "and actually show that I'm a great player like any other big name or any other big-school guy."

Leonard measured at 6-2, 229 pounds during the physical portion of the workout. He is a two-time **MEAC** defensive player of the year and a first-team selection on the 2017 STATS FCS All-America Team, totalled a school-record 394 tackles in his career. His sideline-to-sideline range made its mark in a big way Saturday.

Parker and Johnson both had good workouts and played in Saturday's game but did not have the kind of accolades thrown their way as did Leonard.

The NFL Draft will be held April 26-28 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

Texas Southern/Southern football game takes on new name, moves to the Cotton Bowl

With the release of **Texas Southern's** and **Southern's** football schedules, a new classic game has been added to the HBCU football landscape.

The *Texas State Fair Football Showdown* is scheduled for October 20, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas and becomes the third rivalry game hosted during the 2018 Fair.

The event was announced in October, 2016 with the stipulation that the teams play during the third week of the Fair. The current agreement covers two years with the possibility of an extension beyond 2019.

The Cotton Bowl Stadium in partnership with Lone Star Sports (promoter), the Texas State Fair and the City of Dallas wanted a third football game to complete a three-week "extravaganza" in conjunction with the State Fair. **Grambling** will meet **Prairie View A&M** in the *State Fair Classic* on October 6 and Texas plays Oklahoma on October 13. The Texas Southern vs. Southern contest will complete the football games scheduled during the Fair.

"This is a major deal to be selected to play in the Cotton Bowl." Southern Athletics Director **Roman Banks** told the *Baton Rouge Advocate*. "It takes some steps, but the SWAC office also knew this was a great opportunity to showcase not just the two schools — it would also showcase the **SWAC** and the sponsors that play a part in it," Banks said.

Traditionally, the game between these HBCUs rotated between the two campuses

WOMEN'S 2017-18 BLACK COLLEGE BASKETBALL (Standings and Top Players)

CIAA
Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association

	DIV		CONF		ALL	
NORTH DIVISION	**W**	**L**	**W**	**L**	**W**	**L**
Virginia Union	4	0	10	0	19	1
Chowan	3	1	7	2	15	4
Virginia State	2	2	7	2	17	2
Lincoln	2	2	7	3	12	6
Bowie State	1	3	6	4	13	6
Elizabeth City State	0	4	2	6	8	11
SOUTH DIVISION						
Fayetteville State	4	0	4	5	8	9
Winston-Salem State	3	1	4	6	9	10
Johnson C. Smith	2	2	4	4	12	7
Saint Augustine's	2	2	3	7	6	13
Shaw	1	3	2	7	5	16
Livingstone	0	4	0	10	5	15

CIAA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK
PLAYER
Alexis Johnson, Sr., F, **VUU -** Set school record with 8 blocks to go with 22 points and 9 rebounds in win over ECSU. Had 12 pts., 8 boards vs. Lincoln.
NEWCOMER
Nori Kuumba, Jr., G, **SHAW -** Had 26 points in win over WSSU, 22 in win over Shaw
ROOKIE
Taylor Perkins, Fr., F, **LIV -** Had 9 and 16 points in losses to JCSU and St. Aug's.
COACH
James Richmond & Wendell Holmes, SAU - Had 2-0 week with wins over Shaw and Livingstone.

MEAC
Mid Eastern Athletic Conference

	CONF		ALL	
	W	**L**	**W**	**L**
Bethune-Cookman	7	0	15	4
North Carolina A&T	6	0	11	7
Norfolk State	5	1	12	6
Hampton	4	2	8	11
Coppin State	5	3	6	14
Morgan State	4	4	11	10
Howard	3	4	7	13
North Carolina Central	3	4	5	15
Delaware State	3	5	4	17
Md. E. Shore	3	6	6	15
Florida A&M	2	5	4	16
SC State	2	6	7	13
Savannah State	0	7	2	16

BCSP PLAYERS OF THE WEEK
PLAYER
Chance Graham, 5-11, So., C, **CSU -** Had two double-doubles, getting 17 pts., 11 boards in win over SCSU, 21 pts. and 20 rebs., in win over UMES.
Angel Golden, 5-8, Jr., G, **B-CU** - Had 23 points and 7 rebounds in win over Hampton, 10 points, 4 rebounds in win over Norfolk State.
DEFENSIVE PLAYER
Chassimee Brown, 6-0, Jr., F, **B-CU -** Got 10 points, 7 rebounds, 2 blocks and 3 steals vs. Hampton, 11 points, 10 rebounds vs. NSU.
ROOKIE
NA

SIAC
Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

	CONF		ALL	
EAST DIVISION	**W**	**L**	**W**	**L**
Clark Atlanta	11	2	13	7
Claflin	9	4	13	9
Albany State	8	5	12	11
Benedict	7	6	7	14
Fort Valley State	3	11	3	20
Paine	0	11	0	17
WEST DIVISION				
Central State	11	2	17	4
Spring Hill	9	3	16	6
LeMoyne-Owen	7	6	10	9
Kentucky State	6	7	7	14
Lane	4	9	4	17
Miles	3	7	6	12
Tuskegee	3	8	4	15

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK
PLAYER
Elise Reilly, 5-7, So., G, **SPRING HILL -** Averaged 23.5 points in two wins. She had 29 points, 3 assists, 2 steals in wn over Miles, 18 points, 3 rebounds in win over Tuskegee.
NEWCOMER
NA

SWAC
Southwestern Athletic Conference

	DIV		ALL	
	W	**L**	**W**	**L**
Southern	8	1	9	9
Texas Southern	7	2	12	8
Jackson State	6	3	11	7
Grambling State	6	3	9	11
Alcorn State	5	4	9	11
Prairie View A&M	5	4	7	13
Alabama A&M	3	6	8	12
Alabama State	3	6	5	15
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	1	8	3	16
Mississippi Valley State	1	8	1	20

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK
PLAYER
Shakyla Hill, 5-7, Jr., G, **GRAMBLING -** Averaged 15.5 points, 9.0 rebounds, 6.5 steals and 6.5 steals in two wins. Scored 11 points, with 9 rebounds, 6 assists and 8 steals in win vs. UAPB, 20 points, 9 rebounds, 7 assists and 5 steals in win over MVSU.
Joyce Kennerson, 5-4, Jr., G, **TEXAS SOUTHERN -** Averaged 27 points in two wins getting 26 points in win over Alabama State and 28 points in win over Alabama A&M.
NEWCOMER
NA

INDEPENDENTS

	W	**L**
W. Va. State	8	12
Cheyney	5	15
Tennessee State	4	15
Lincoln (Mo.)	3	18
UDC	2	17

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK
PLAYER
Jasmine Davis, 5-11, Sr., F, **W. VA. STATE -** Had 20 points and 12 rebounds in win over Urbana.

Greater Macedonia Celebrates Pastor's 42nd Anniversary

The Greater Macedonia Baptists church of Northside located at 1880 West Edgewood Avenue will celebrate the church and pastors anniversary in February. The church was established in 1914. Dr. William's pastorate commenced in 1976 to the present. Celebration dates are February 11th, 4 p.m. with guest churches: Philippian Community Church (Bishop Virgil Jones, Sr.), Mt. Vernon Baptist Church (Dr. Kelly Brown), (Mt. Bethel Baptist Church (Dr. Robert Herring); and February 18th, 4 p.m. with guest churches: St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church (Bishop John Guns), First Missionary Baptist Church, Jax Beach (Dr. Marvin McQueen, Sr.), Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church (Reverend Brian Campbell). For more info contact the church office at (904) 764-9257.

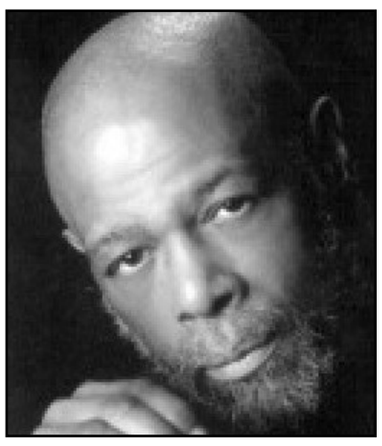
Southside Church of God in Christ, Revival with Apostle Lakesha Savage

"Revival Revival," with Apostle Lakesha Savage of Mobile, AL at Southside Church of God in Christ, Wednesday, January 31st and Feb 1-2 at 7:30 p.m. All services will be held at 2179 Emerson Street. Southside Church of God in Christ is under the leadership of Bishop Ed Robinson. For more info visit www.southsidecogic.com.

NOTICE: Church news is published free of charge. Information must be received in the Free Press offices no later than Monday, at 5 p.m. of the week you want it to run. Information received prior to the event date will be printed on a space available basis until the date. Fax your information to 904-765-8611, e-mail to JFreePress@aol.com or bring by our offices located at 1122 West Edgewood Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32208.

- - - SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING - - -

Guilt & Fear, The Faith Killers



By James Washington

Another word about forgiveness, if you don't mind. This is a critical concept in the life of any so-called Christian who professes faith as their spiritual cornerstone. I read a book that I highly recommend by Beth Moore, Jesus, the One and Only. It continues to be highly impactful for me. My prayers are answered with each chapter and is indeed the impetus for this column.

Now back to forgiveness! How many of you repent, but remain in a guilty, fearful state of mind because you really don't believe God will forgive? If there was ever a challenge of faith, this is it. Deep down inside, you can't really live a life of spiritual freedom, because you have never thought God would really forgive you for all that 'sinnin' you used to do and sometimes long for, even today. I bring this up because I believe you and I are dealing with another clever trick of the devil. If you really don't believe you've been forgiven, you keep asking God to forgive you.

If you keep asking for something that is already done, the mere prayer insults the God who took care of this for you. Enter the devil. Since you cannot accept your own forgiveness, you cannot stand on the faith you profess in God. Hence, you cannot live the life God has cleared for you to embark upon. That's a hypocrite. Enter Jesus. He took care of that. You are forgiven. Your faith in Him allows you to accept that forgiveness and move on in freedom, which brings you courage for the testimony (yours) that undoubtedly will help others. The ensuing behavior change in you lets the world know your faith is real. That's a believer. Some might say that's a soldier for the Lord. Anyway you look at it, the basis rests in the belief in who Jesus was, what He did, why He did it and who He did it for, i.e. you and me and anybody who looks like us. Face it. You are forgiven; not because I say so, but because Christ says so. Deal with it please. With this truth comes a peace that defies understanding and a peace that surely will set you free.

It does not matter your degree of sin, your quantity or your perceived propensity to sin again. Christ did not and does not discriminate on that basis. Remember, you had nothing to do with this. God's grace is what I'm talking about. That forgiveness thing should resonate in the soul when it collides with that grace thing. It's up to us, you and me, to accept it. And when we do, something wonderful happens. You begin to see yourself as God sees you. You begin to understand the beauty of salvation and oddly enough, you truly want others to understand this gift also. Your testimony takes shape and your words are then shaped around the blessing that is Jesus Christ. Reread Luke and the tears that washed the Savior's feet. "Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven, for she loved so much…" Luke 7:47. The answer to your being able to forgive yourself lies not within you but within the One who has already forgiven you.

May God bless and keep you always.

Michael Vick Shares How the Bible Got Him Through Prison

Former NFL Star Michael Vick shared with Liberty University students the Bible verse that gave him a "reason to believe" when he was jailed for nearly two years during the prime of his playing career.

"My mom told me before I went in, 'Psalm 23 will get you through,'" Vick remembered.

The 37-year-old pro-bowl quarterback, who was jailed in 2007 for his involvement in a dog fighting ring in which dozens of dogs were victimized, spoke about his journey back to God during Liberty University's recent convocation.

Vick, who did not come from an overly religious family, explained that he first picked up the Bible around the age of 12 because he thought it would give him the "edge" he needed to fulfill his goal of one day becoming an NFL player.

Although he didn't fully understand what he was reading in the Bible, Vick said that he tried his best to make sense of what he was reading and even slept with his Bible under the pillow.

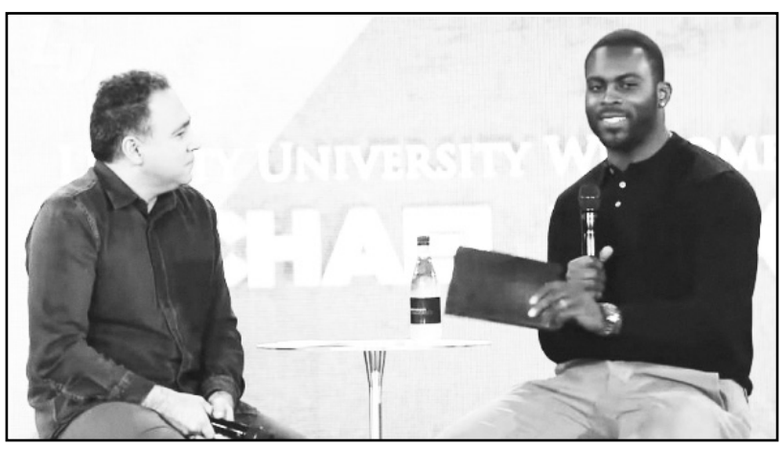
After having an illustrious high school football career and a great career playing football at the Virginia Tech University, Vick became the first player selected in the 2001 NFL draft by the Atlanta Falcons and would later sign a 10-year, $130 million contract with the team.

It was with the Falcons that Vick became a household name, appeared on the cover of EA Sports' Madden NFL 2004 video game and signed a multimillion dollar shoe deal. However, Vick said that the the one thing that he did not bring with him to Atlanta was the Bible.

"When I got drafted and I got that $100 million deal and when I went to Atlanta, this didn't come with me," Vick said as he held up his Bible. "I must have left it under the pillow in the neighborhood that I grew up in. I really felt like I did it on my own. I totally forgot about the prayers that I had at night — numerous prayers, numerous nights where I asked God to forgive me for all my sins."

Despite Vick's devotion to reading the Bible from the age of 12, he explained that he did not read the Bible at all from the time he was drafted to the NFL in 2001 until he was placed in federal prison at Leavenworth, Kansas, in 2007. He may have only said a total of 10 prayers during those six years.

"The correlation is that I lost sight of everything that I felt that I needed in order to become the man that I wanted to become," Vick said. "From all the role models that I had from my high school coach to my uncles to [former Virginia Tech head football coach] Frank Beamer, I just left everybody behind."



Former NFL quarterback Michael Vick (R) speaks during Liberty University's convocation in Lynchburg, Virginia

Having spent a total of 548 days behind bars, there was plenty of time for Vick to analyze where he went wrong. It didn't take long for Vick to return to the Word of God for comfort and strength.

"All those years I was going through the Bible and trying to interpret what was being said and trying to understand it. When I went to [prison], it gave me strength. It gave me a reason to believe," he said. "It empowered me in such a way where empathy and sympathy became important and perseverance became important and being a role model became important — all these things that I forgot about, all these things that was unimportant to me all of a sudden became important again."

Liberty University English Professor Karen Swallow Prior wrote in response to Vick's convocation comments that it is "fitting" that Vick, who was convicted of leading dogs to their death, would find solace and strength in the words of Psalm 23 — which refers to the Lord as "my shepherd."

"The way we, as human beings, relate to helpless creatures dependent upon us can teach us a great deal about our dependence upon God," Prior, a research fellow at the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, wrote. "This is precisely the picture drawn in Psalm 23. It's a picture of human humility in the face of our helplessness, the very opposite of the arrogance, Vick said, that was the root of his animal cruelty and his abandonment of God."

In trying to get back on the right path, Vick was also mentored by former Indianapolis Colts head coach Tony Dungy, a devout Christian and an NFL hall of famer. Vick recalled meeting Dungy in 2009, about four months before Vick was to be released from prison.

"We sat in the visitation room. He wanted to know that I was remorseful and he wanted to know that I was willing and ready to accept the fact that I did wrong and the fact that there were going to be different people in my life, different mentors, different role models that I would have to embrace at the age of 27 after going five or six years of thinking I knew everything and I had all the answers," Vick said.

"The conversation was very surreal. He was talking and I was digesting every word that came out of his mouth because Tony is real. He has this subtle type of personality but everything he says means a lot. I just wanted to soak everything in and get away from him as fast as I could and get back into my unit and just digest every word that he had said."

Vick was released from prison in July 2009. He returned to the NFL and played seven more seasons with teams such as the Philadelphia Eagles, the Pittsburgh Steelers and the New York Jets. Last August, Vick was hired to serve as an analyst for Fox NFL Kickoff on FS1.

High School and College Students Urged to Apply for Shannon Smith McCants Memorial Scholarship

The Jack & Jill Shannon Smith McCants Memorial Scholarship application period is now open through April 6th, 2018.

In May 2018, Jack & Jill will award two high school scholarships and four college scholarships for current students with a minimum of $1,000. Criteria includes student(s) who have been accepted or currently enrolled in the PharmD program at FAMU and for high school students majoring in STEM disciplines.

To apply online visit www.jackandjill-jaxs.com.

Greater Macedonia Baptist Church

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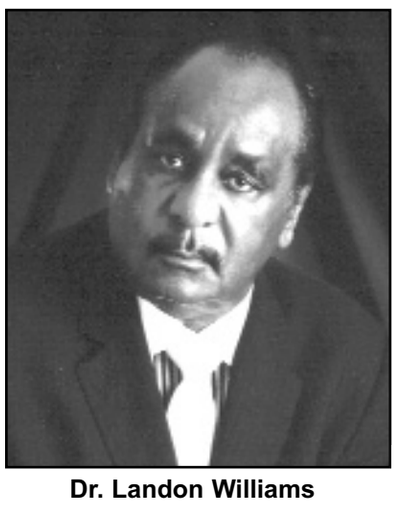
Seeking the lost for Christ

- Matthew 28:19 - 20



Dr. 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.

Radio Weekly Broadcast - WCGL 1360 AM
Sunday 2 PM - 3 PM

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Senior Pastor

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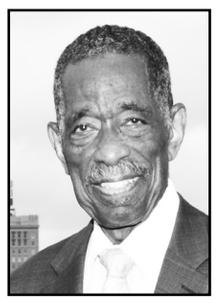
Sunday Morning Worship
8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Church school
9:30 a.m.

Bible Study
6:45 p.m.

Midweek Services
Wednesday Noon Service
"Miracle at Midday"
12 noon - 1:00 p.m.



Bishop Rudolph McKissick, Sr..
Pastor Emeritus

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FREE PRESS BOOKSHELF

Incognito by Michael Fosberg

It is altogether fitting that Michael Sidney Fosberg calls his memoir Incognito: "*An American Odyssey of Race and Discovery*" since his story is as old as time.

Once again we are reminded that art mirrors life. Mr. Fosberg's story is about, in his 30's, finding his father. Raised in Waukegan, Illinois by his Caucasian mother and stepfather who adopted him, Fosberg grew up in a comfortable home with two siblings several years younger than he. (His artist sister Lora provides beautiful illustrations to this book.)

Raised in a working-class white family by his biological mother and an adoptive father, at the age of 30, Michael Fosberg,tracks down his birth father and discovers his father is Black. In a provocative and gripping tale of identity, race, and family history, Fosberg probes his past, his family's reaction, and our country's difficulty in understanding and discussing identity, race, and heritage.

He always felt that something was just not quite right as he was growing up, but he was unable to pin the problem down. When he learns that his parents are getting divorced, he asks his mother for the name and possible city where he might find his birth father. He knows nothing about his father except that he and his mother divorced years ago.

Armed with 7 names from the Detroit telephone directory, he calls the first name on the list, and in a beautiful twist of fate, the man turns out to be his dad: "I have always loved you and thought of you a lot," his father tells him and also that he is African American. What follows is a roller-coaster ride of discovery as Mr. Fosberg finds and meets his relatives from his father's side of the family.

Mr. Fosberg's odyssey is not without pain. His task is to somehow navigate the often difficult waters between his mother, his brother and sister, his adopted father of Swedish heritage, his mother's family and his newly discovered Black relatives. You would have to love his newly-found grandmother in particular.

It is important to note that there are no family villains here. To a person, everyone in Fosberg's two families are decent people. On the other hand, he on a trip to Wilmington, North Carolina to visit a now-married friend whom he had a crush on as a teenager comes face to face with her husband, an unreconstructed bigot, who unaware of Fosberg's heritage, tells him a racist joke. Unfortunately many of the stereotypes about the South are often grounded in truth.

T Mr. Fosberg's story ought to resonate with many people. While it is of course unique to him, the implications are universal. As he reminds us of the advice a wise second cousin gave him: "Because it seems to me that to be robbed of a parent and thus that parent's family and history, as you were at an early age, is in fact to be every bit as crippled as a person who is missing an arm, or a leg, or an eye. . . You can never know who you truly are until you have some sense of where you and your kind have been." Mr. Fosberg on diversity and discrimination: "More often than not people of color, along with other minority ethnic groups, are viewed as a racial group, rather than as individuals. Those who can't pass for white learn to live with the common occurrence of being pulled over while driving black or being watched by sales clerks when shopping. It's not just a black/white thing: it permeates the whole of our richly diverse society." He goes on to lament the fact that so many people with the means to travel to another country and embrace another culture choose not to do so. "After all, as Americans, we're all from someplace else."

It would be a great shame if a major publisher does not pick up this privately-published book and provide the large readership that a book of this quality so richly deserves.

No Equity in Adoption for Black Children

By Chris Levister

The numbers for Black foster children is glaring. There are more than half a million children in the foster care system in the United States, and African-Americans make up nearly 40 percent of that number. U.S. Census data shows Black children in foster care, especially older ones, are less likely than White children to be adopted.

Although studies show there is little difference, according to racial group, in the incidence of abuse and neglect that would lead to a child or youth's placement in foster care, Black children are more likely to be steered into foster care at disproportionate rates than Whites, and are often "negatively characterized and labeled" by child welfare workers, explained U.C. Riverside Professor of Psychology Dr. Carolyn Murray during a recent lecture series on the "Psychological Development of Black Children".

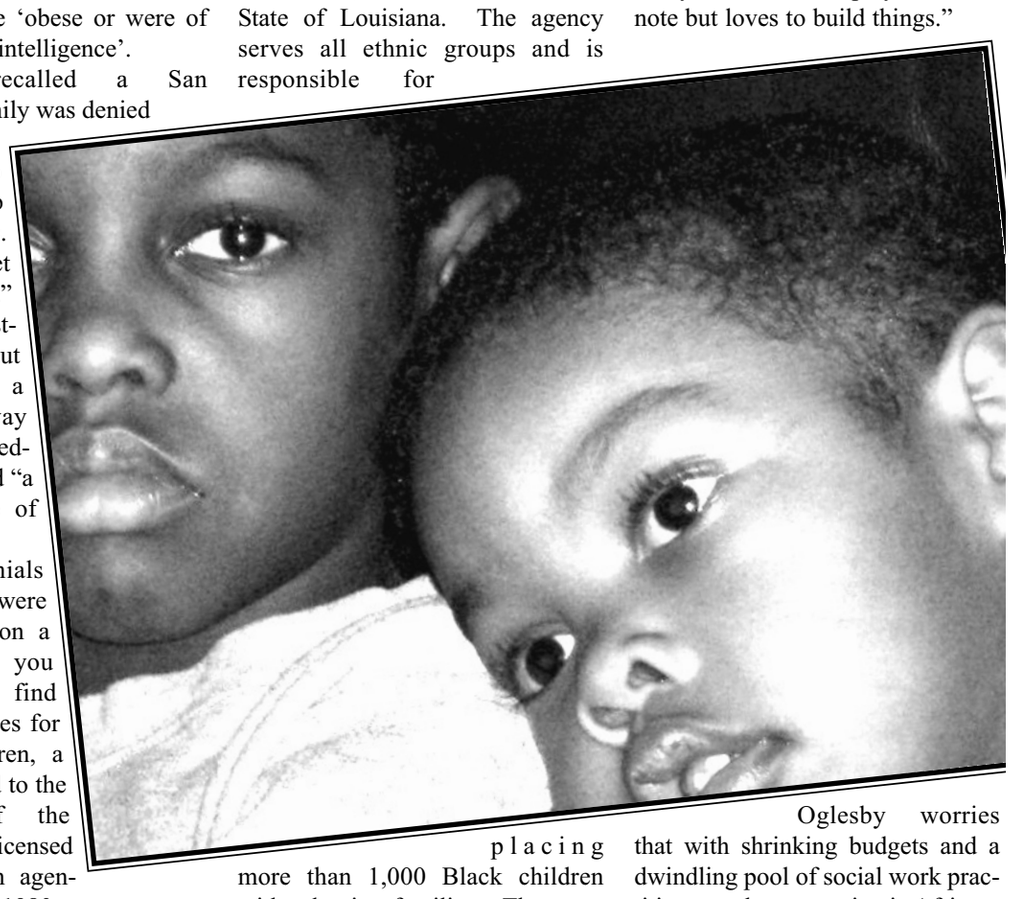
"Here is where racism comes in – situations among Black families are more reported, substantiated, and investigated, and Black children are removed and placed at higher rates," said Murray. The circumstances of an overburdened foster care system compounded by institutional racism and cultural ignorance bring them more attention."

Zena F. Oglesby Jr., MSW, director of the Institute for Black Parenting (IBP) asserts that Black families face many of the same obstacles they did 35 years ago. Most agencies still operate under guidelines and practices developed from a White middle-class perspective. Outside of large cities, most public agency staff members are White. Some White workers are uncomfortable venturing into Black parts of town to recruit families, and some Black families are equally reluctant to approach a White agency.

Oglesby, a respected author, speaker and founder of (IBP) claims that the greatest barrier to adoption is workers' belief that Black families "don't have what it takes" to adoped from foster care.

He cited several studies including a 1988 federal study of 800 Black families targeted for recruitment as adoptive parents. Of these only two were approved. According to the study, the mostly White recruiters gave reasons for denial such as the applicants were 'obese or were of below average intelligence'.

Oglesby recalled a San Bernardino family was denied because the mother had to drive to her job in Los Angeles. "She had to get up too early." Another suggested a blown out light bulb in a home's hallway leading to the bedrooms signalled "a family culture of neglect".



The denials Oglesby said were largely based on a theory that you could not find minority families for minority children, a theory that lead to the formation of the nation's first licensed Black adoption agencies in the mid-1980s.

Since the Multiethnic Placement Act (MEPA) was passed in 1994, workers have also struggled to understand what placement practices are now legal. High rates of worker turnover and fear of government reprisal hamper understanding of the law. Some workers even believe that MEPA prohibits agencies from placing Black children with Black families.

When another student asked why Black children were not equally promoted by White agencies Oglesby responded. "The system was not designed for Black children or Black families. The reality is slavery and Jim Crow are difficult facts of life for American descendants of Africans. If you believe you can't find families, you can't," he said.

In 1988 Oglesby created the nonprofit Institute for Black Parenting. IBP is the first licensed private, full-service adoption, foster care and family preservation agency serving four Southern California counties, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, and Riverside and the State of Louisiana. The agency serves all ethnic groups and is responsible for placing more than 1,000 Black children with adoptive families. There are no fees.

"We don't sell Black children. ...For poor families, for young, unwed mothers, that creates untoward pressure," he said. "That's not the way adoption is supposed to work. When money's involved, ethics can go out the window," he added.

"We regularly have single Black women, aunts or grandmothers come in and ask for what I call a "Cadillac" description: Light-skinned, gray-green eyes, good hair, musically inclined. That's cultural ignorance," Oglesby told the students.

But there's a positive side to this, "in most cases when they lay eyes on the children they fall head over heels in love – often with the little chocolate boy with big brown eyes, kinky hair who can't play a musical note but loves to build things."

Oglesby worries that with shrinking budgets and a dwindling pool of social work practitioners whose practice is African-centered, the adoption process will become even more dysfunctional as "old road warriors" pass on.

He urged the students – many of whom are pursuing careers in psychology and social work, not to become disillusioned by obstacles.

"Social work remains one of the world's most exciting and personally rewarding practices. There are yet many challenges that Black families and children must confront and overcome. But, the broader community must not ignore Black families' historical strength, determination, and capacity to care for Black children," said Oglesby.

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.

Call 634-1993 for more information!

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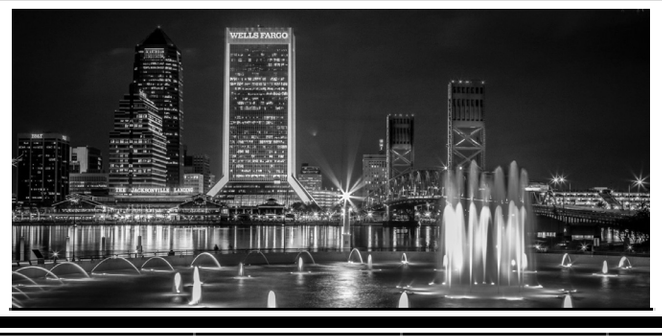

AROUND TOWN

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

Disney's The Lion King

Disney Theatrical Productions and The FSCJ Artist Series announced long-awaited return engagement of Disney's The Lion King will leap onto the Times-Union Center's stage located at 300 Water Street, **Wednesday, January 31 - February 11th**. For tickets, show times and more info visit www.fscjartistseries.org.

Pink Goes Red for Stroke & Heart Disease

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. in partnership with Alpha Clay Pearls, Inc., presents "Pink Goes Red for Stroke and Heart Disease Awareness," event scheduled for Friday, **February 2nd** at 5 p.m. at the Orange Park Mall, 1910 Wells Rd, Orange Park, FL. Come and enjoy a fashion show, Zumba, blood pressure, HIV screenings and more! Come step in style toward a healthy heart. For more info email: alphaclaypearls@gmail.com.

EFIG Gala

The Equality Florida Institute Greater Jacksonville Gala is scheduled for Saturday, **February 3rd,** 7 - 10 p.m. at the Florida Yacht Club located at 5210 Yacht Club Rd. This event will celebrate the organizations 20th anniversary and honor the state of equality in the State of Florida! For tickets and more info visit www.eqfl.org.

Free Dental Services for Kids

Florida State College at Jacksonville and the Jacksonville Dental Society 2018 Give Kids a Smile free dental services for kids will be held on Saturday, **February 3rd** 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Free fillings, extractions and cleanings for children up to age 18. Pre-screenings are recommended to reserve an appointment and will be held Wednesday, January 31st and Thursday, February 1st from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the North Campus Dental Clinic. For information contact info@jaxdentalsociety.com.

All-Stars Food Truck Takeover

Battle of the All-stars Food Truck Takeover will take the stage Saturday, **February 3rd,** 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Academy Sports and Outdoors located at 11901 Atlantic Blvd, Building 300. Premier food trucks will battle it out in a judged food competition, kids play zone, vendors and more! For more info (904) 564-5010.

Mary Wilson of the Supremes

It was a vision of musical stardom as a Detroit teen that inspired Mary Wilson, along with Diana Ross and Florence Ballard, to found one of the most successful female singing groups in recording history. Come see Mary Wilson of the Supremes, Saturday, **February 3rd,** 8 p.m. at the Ritz Theatre, located at 829 N. Davis St. For tickets visit www.jax-events.com/venues/ritz-theatre-and-museum.

GENNOW Day of Service

The Generation WORKS volunteers Dedicated Day of Service led by women and girls (men and boys are welcome too), will take place Saturday, **February 3rd,** from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., at The Children's Home Society of Florida, 3027 San Diego Rd. Volunteers will wire, weld, wash, and work their magic to transform the city for the greater good. For more info and other locations visit www.genwnow.com.

Girl Power Self Love Workshop

Girl Power 1440 Self-Love Workshop will take place Saturday, **February 3rd** at 12:30 p.m. Enjoy a black history program and an empowering evening learning about self love. Location is the WellCare Bldg located at 5115-1 Normandy Blvd. For more info contact Angie Nixon at (904) 610-7103.

Flying Ace Screening

Jacksonville University's College of Fine Arts will share a Black History Month presentation of *The Flying Ace* (1926), an African American silent film made by Richard Norman at Arlington's Norman Studios located at 6337 Arlington Rd., Sunday, **February 4th** at 7:30 p.m. The film features an all African-American cast. This event is free and open to the public. For more info visit www.normanstudios.org.

Civic Cinema

The Florida Theatre located at 128 E. Forsyth Street new project "Civic Cinema" next screening is Tuesday, **February 6th,** 7 p.m. featuring the movie *"Do the Right Thing,"* followed by a panel discussion on the state of race relations in Jacksonville. For tickets and more info visit www.floridatheatre.com.

Historic Brewster Hospital Dialogue

Join the Historic Brewster Hospital Nurses for "Triumphs and Challenges of Brewster Nurses" in the Duval County Community, Tuesday, **February 6th,** 11 a.m. -12 p.m. in the Zeke Bryant Auditorium, FSCJ North Campus, 4501 Capper Rd. Special Guests included the graduates of Brewster-Duval School of Nursing, Chi Eta Phi Nursing Sorority and the First Coast Black Nurses' Association. For more info email: francesandjack@aol.com.

Jumbo Shrimp Food and Beverage Job Fair

The Jumbo Shrimp will hold a Food and Beverage Job Fair on Wednesday, **February 7th,** 5:30 - 8 p.m. at the Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville located at 301 A Philip Randolph Blvd. For more info visit www.jaxshrimp.com.

Girl Scout Cookies Time!

Local Girl Scouts will begin selling cookies Wednesday, **February 7th.** For locations and more info call Mary Jacobs at (904) 421-3488.

Women at Heart

Florida Blue and Volunteers in Medicine presents 'Women with Heart" Wednesday, **February 7th,** 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. inside the Florida Blue Conference Center located at 4800 Deerwood Campus Pkwy. Attend a luncheon honoring 12 amazing ladies for their leadership, philanthropy, advocacy and personal commitment to improving the lives of families in Northeast Florida. For more info contact Cindy Cooper at (904) 254-5075.

LISC Community Development Awards

The Local Initiatives Support Corp (LISC) Community Development Awards breakfast recognizing leaders or agencies who have made significant contributions to comprehensive community development in the urban core neighborhoods, Wednesday, **February 7th**, at 7 a.m. at the Jessie Ball duPont Center, 40 E. Adams. For more info call (904) 353-1300.

Diana Krall is back!

Award-winning jazz pianist and singer, Diana Krall will return to Jacksonville for her "Turn Up The Quiet World Tour," Wednesday, **February 7th,** at 8 p.m. at the Florida Theatre located at 128 E Forsyth St. For tickets visit www.floridatheatre.com.

Flight to Freedom 2018

Many people do not know that the first Underground Railroad in the U.S. didn't head north, it headed south to Florida. Come tour the "Freedom Trail" with guided tours, military demonstrations and period culinary demonstrations, **February 8th, 9th and 10th,** 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Fort Mose Historic State Park, 15 Fort Mose Trail, St. Augustine. For more info visit www.fortmose.org.

Magnet/School Choice Program

Now is the time for parents and students to check out schools' websites, visit campuses, go on school tours and talk with principals and school staff to determine the schools and programs that best fit the student's interest, talents and strengths. Next session is **February 8th** at 8:30 p.m.; Application deadline is February 28th. For more info visit www.duvalschools.org.

The Langston Hughes Project

The Langston Hughes Project is a multimedia concert performance of Langston Hughes's jazz poem suite. *Ask Your Mama* is Hughes's homage in verse and music to the struggle for artistic and social freedom, home and abroad, will appear Saturday, **February 10th,** 8 p.m., at the Ritz Theatre, located at 829 N. Davis St. For tickets visit www.jax-events.com/venues/ritz-theatre-and-museum.

Royal Vagabonds Sweetheart Dance

The Royal Vagabonds presents their annual "Sweetheart Dance" scheduled for Saturday, **February 10th,** 7 p.m., at the Double Tree Hotel located at 1201 Riverplace Blvd. Enjoy performance by the Special Formula Band, food drinks and scholarship award presentation. Formal attire required. For tickets and more info contact Seabon Dixon at (904) 859-5229.

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

People Reading for Inspiration, Discussion and Enjoyment (P.R.I.D.E.) will meet Saturday, **February 10th**, 3 - 5:30 p.m. at the Jacksonville Main Library located at 303 N. Laura Street in the Lounge (1st floor). The book "Faithful Servants" by Marc Curtis Little will be the topic of discussion. For more info email marccurtis.little@gmail.com.

26.2 With Donna

The 11th annual 26.2 With Donna National Marathon to Finish Breast Cancer, the only marathon in the U.S. dedicated to breast cancer research and care will run the course, **February 10-11** at ATP Tour Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach. To register and for more info www.breastcancermarathon.com.

Valentine's Day Dance

American Legion Post 197 is hosting a Pre-Valentine's Day Dance on Saturday, **February 10th** at 7 p.m. Post 197 is located at 2179 Benedict Road. For more info call Anna Matthews at (904) 768-1206.

Black LGBT Feedback Session

The UNF LGBT Resource center will hold four community events to hear from residents about the needs and views of the local lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community, Saturday, **February 10th,** 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. The LGBTI African American Feedback session will be held at the Community Foundation, 45 Riverside Ave. For more info sessions visit www.unf.edu/lgbtrc.

Mardi Gras New Orleans Style

Mardi Gras celebration will take place at the Black Finn restaurant located at 4840 Big Island Dr., Saturday, **February 10th** at 8 p.m. Come celebrate Mardi Gras New Orleans Style with live music, drink specials and more! For more info call Black Finn at (904) 345-3466.

Jazz at Breezy's

Jazz musicians Phil Morrison and Joe Watts will pay tribute to Black History Month at Breezy's Jazz Club downtown located 119 W. Adams St., Saturday, **February 10th** at 7 p.m. For tickets visit www.breezyjazzclub.com.

Blues Traveler Tour

The Blues Traveler 30th anniversary tour is scheduled for Sunday, **February 11th,** 7 p.m. at the Florida Theater located at 128 E Forsyth St. The band is comprised of singer/harmonica player John Popper, guitarist Chan Kinchla, bassist Bobby Sheehan and drummer Brendan Hill. For tickets and more info visit www.floridatheatre.com.

Guided Bird Walk

Come meet the birds at Anastasia State Park on this monthly bird walk! Participants will observe a diverse variety of birds. It will be held on Sunday, **February 11th,** 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. at Fort Mose Historic State Park, 15 Fort Mose Trail, St. Augustine. For more info visit www.fortmose.org.

Boots to Business Workshop

Boots to Business at NS Mayport, Building 1 Massey Avenue will take place, Monday, **February 12th**, at 8 a.m. For more info visit www.myjaxchamber.com. ;

Toastmasters Club Meeting

The Lillian Bradley Toastmasters Club celebrated its 40th Anniversary in 2017! Start off 2018 and attend their next regular club meeting Tuesday, **February 13th,** 6 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. at the Ritz Theatre. Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month. Toastmasters is an international public speaking organization which enhances one's communication and leadership skills. For more info email ekitch22@aol.com.

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Jack and Jill Kicks Off 50th Year of Family, Service and Community with Day Party

The 50th Anniversary Steering Committee: (FRONT) Cassandra Barlow - Co-Chair, Pat Gillum Sams - President, Monique Brown - Chair, LaTisha Thompson - Co-Chair, (BACK) Gloria Belton - Associate, Latasha Garrison Fullwood - Vice President, Pat Mitchell - Associate.

The Jacksonville Chapter of Jack & Jill

Gayle Hardy, Pat Mitchell, Gloria Belton and Betty Cody

Joy Willis, Marti Forchion Chapman and Kathryn Huyghue

Chandra Adams, Colin Adams, Pat Warren and Cleve Warren

Kia Kemp, Vanessa McNair, Nicole Rodgers, Terri Stepter, Shantel Davis, Shelita McGowan, Cynthia Nixon, Nicole Holmes, Shameka Brown

Tim & Shameka Brown

The crowd enjoys a line dancing favorite

Darryl Brown, Darrell Perry and Clement Hall

Marilyn Wilkerson, Elizabeth Gillum and Shigeko Sams

The Jacksonville Chapter of Jack and Jill of America Inc. kicked off the year long celebration marking their 50th Anniversary with a "Country Club Chic" Day Party at the TPC Sawgrass last weekend. More than 300 members and their guests strolled the pink carpet, sampled signature cocktails and enjoyed cigars. Attendees also shopped custom bow ties and refreshed their make up at the event, which featured live entertainment provided by Akia Uwanda and the Katz Downstairs.

Jack and Jill of America, Inc, whose motto is "The Power to Make a Difference," was founded in 1938 and is a national non-profit family organization dedicating its resources toward improving the quality of life of children. Since 1968, the local chapter has been dedicated to the organizational mission of nurturing future African-American leaders by strengthening children through leadership development, volunteer service, philanthropy and civic engagement.

The Jacksonville Chapter has initiated many educational, civic and culturally enriching community programs over its 50 years. One of their longstanding benchmark contributions is the Shannon Smith McCants Memorial Scholarship (SSMM). Through this philanthropic initiative, the SSMM Scholarship enables future local pharmacists an opportunity to advance their education.

The scholarship was created in memory of a chapter member who attained her Pharmacy degree from Florida A & M university, and went on to become a Pharmacy Manager at a local hospital; she was fatally shot and killed by a patient in 2006. Since the inception of the scholarship in 2008, the organization has awarded more than $74,000 in scholarships to deserving students attending FAMU pursuing a career in Pharmacy. In addition, they also have the Leaders Emerging As Dreamers Scholarship for students who plan on majoring in a S.T.E.M discipline to attend a college or university of their choosing,

Training young men for adulthood is also a component for their programming. Since 1986, the chapter has hosted the biennial Les Beautillion Militaire (similar to a female cotillion). Over the past 30 years, hundreds of "Beaux" have completed community service projects, hours of ballroom dancing lessons with their Belles, and experienced a journey to manhood through six months of self improvement workshops, before being "presented" to society in a black tie affair.

In 2015, the chapter launched an empowerment mentoring initiative for girls ages 12 to 19, entitled "Brown Girls Rock." Over the past three years, the chapter has hosted a series of educational hands on workshops and cultural events for more than 200 girls, focusing on self image, hygiene, social skills and providing real world insight into a variety of careers, primarily in the S.T.E.M. professions.

The Jacksonville Chapter of Jack & Jill of America, Inc is currently 63 mothers strong, and at 50 years in the community they are still as relevant as they were in 1968 with a track record to prove it. Many families in Jacksonville have been a part of this rich legacy of growing future leaders and improving the lives of children.

Jack and Jill of America was formed during the Great Depression in 1938. Today, the organization boasts more than 230 chapters nationwide, representing more than 40,000 family members.

* * * * * WHAT TO WATCH * * * * *

Black History Month Programming Guide

Saturday, February 3rd
BET at 11 p.m.
NFL Super Bowl Gospel Clebration: In its 19th year, the Super Bowl Gospel Celebration will feature gospel artist from around the globe. Hosts: Yvonne Orji and Pastor John Gray.

Sunday, February 4th
CW17 at 2:30 p.m.
CW17 at 12:30 p.m (2/8/18)
Panther: A dramatized account of the history of The Black Panther Party for Self-Protection. Cast: Courtney B. Vance, Marcus Chong, Bokeem Woodbine, Angela Bassett, Joe Don Baker.

Monday, February 5th
HBO at 1:45 p.m.
Good Hair: Chirs Rock seeks answers to his young daugthers questions in this documentry examining the truth about the cost and shocking chemicals endured to attain straight and smooth hair.

Monday February 5th / March 2nd
CW17 Every Friday at 10:00 p.m.
For Love of Liberty: The Story of America's Black Patriots: The Story of America's Black Patriots. This four-part special salutes the contributions of African American men and women throughout our nation's history.

Friday, February 9th
WJCT at 9 p.m.
B.B. King: American Masters: Explore B.B. King's challenging life and career through candid interviews with the "King of the Blues," filmed shortly before his death, and fellow music stars, including Bono, Bonnie Raitt, Carlos Santana, Eric Clapton, John Mayer, and Ringo Starr.

Friday, February 9th
WJCT at 10 p.m.
Fats Domino: American Masters: Discover how Fats Domino's brand of New Orleans rhythm and blues became rock 'n' roll. As popular in the 1950s as Elvis Presley, Domino suffered degradations in the pre-civil rights South and aided integration through his influential music.

Friday, February 9th
WJCT at 11 p.m.
Smokey Robinson: The Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song: Join host Samuel L. Jackson for an all-star tribute to singer and songwriter Smokey Robinson.

Friday, February 9th
HBO2 at 9:45 a.m.
Hidden Figures: A three-time Oscar-nominee including one for Best Picture, this acclaimed film chronicles the true story of three African American women who would become the unlikely heroes in launching astronaut John Glenn into orbit--and America back into the Space Race.

Saturday, February 10th
WJCT at 12 p.m.
Independent Lens / Winnie #1909: Explore the life of Winnie Mandela and her struggle to bring down apartheid, with intimate insights from those closest to her and testimony from the enemies who sought to extinguish her radical capacity to shake up the order of things.

Saturday, February 10th
WJCT at 5 p.m.
Finding Your Roots/ We Come from People #206: Trace three guests' roots into the heart of slavery, Hip Hop artist NAS, actress Angela Bassett and presidential advisor Valerie Jarrett.

Saturday, February 10th
WJCT at 6 p.m.
Classic Gospel / A Tribute to George Younce #1213: An unforgettable look at one of gospel music's most influential personalities; a voice that made a difference in the lives of countless individuals across the globe.

Saturday, February 10th
WJCT at 7 p.m.
Finding Your Roots / In Search of Freedom #303: Learn how the ancestors of Maya Rudolph, Shonda Rhimes and Keenen Ivory Wayans struggled for freedom, and how each cultural trailblazers gains a new understanding of how they fit into this proud trajectory.

Saturday, February 10th
WJCT at 8 p.m.
Independent Lens / A Ballerina's Tale #1709: Explore the rise of Misty Copeland, who made history as the first African-American female principal dancer with the prestigious American Ballet Theater.

Saturday, February 10th
WJCT at 9 p.m.
Black Ballerina: Set in the over- whelmingly white world of classical dance, it tells the stories of several black women from different generations who fell in love with ballet.

Saturday, February 10th
WJCT at 10 p.m.
America Reframed / Gentlemen of Vision #601: Gentlemen of Vision (GOV) follows a year in the life of coach, counselor and founder, Marlon Wharton, and his 2015-2016 class of young Black students as he strives to rewrite their future prospects. While striving for excellence in school and in step, the team is persistently challenged by the violence and poverty of the streets that surround them.

Saturday, February 10th
SUNDANCE at 12 p.m.
Roots: The most watched miniseries of all time, will kick off the month-long celebration with the remastered version.The complete saga tells the epic story of author Alex Haley's ancestors, from Kunta Kinte's enslavement to his descendants' liberation to integration in the 20th century.

Sunday, February 11th
SUNDANCE at 11 a.m.
Roots, The Next Generations: The sequel to the original groundbreaking series. The complete saga tells the epic story of author Alex Haley's ancestors, from Kunta Kinte's enslavement to his descendants' liberation to integration in the 20th century.

Friday, February 11th
TV One at 7 p.m.
Behind The Movement TV Premier: Featuring the actual bus where Rosa Parks' refusal to give up her bus seat to a white passenger on December 1, 1955 spiraled into the historic Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Sunday, February 11th
WJCT at 4 a.m.
AfroPop / The Ultimate Cultural Exchange 10 Days In Africa / A Home Movie #1004: In a textured narrative style, African-American filmmaker Regi Allen makes a sojourn to three West African countries - Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal - to separate truth from myth about the differences between black identity in Africa.

Saturday, February 11th
WJCT at 5 a.m.
Bridging The Divide / Tom Bradley and the Politics of Race: Takes a look in American politics and Tom Bradley's 1973 election as Mayor of Los Angeles: the first African American mayor of a major U.S. city with an overwhelmingly white majority.

Saturday, February 11th
BOUNCE at 9 p.m.
Trumpet Awards- Since 1993, these awards honor those who have achieved great things against huge odds. Actors Erica Ash and Larenz Tate will host this year's awards.

Monday, February 12th
BOUNCE at 1 a.m.
Raisin In The Sun: After moving to Chicago's South Side in the 1950s, a black family struggles to deal with poverty, racism, and inner conflict as they strive for a better life. Adapted from the play by Lorraine Hansberry.

Monday, February 12th
WJCT at 7 p.m.
Independent Lens / Wilhemina's War #1711: A Southern grandmother struggles to help her family through the scourge of HIV, but may be unable to save those she loves. AIDS is one of the leading causes of death for black women in the rural south, where living with HIV is a grim reality.

Monday, February 12th
BOUNCE at 4 a.m.
Sounder: Black sharecroppers during the Depression fight to get their children a decent education.

Monday, February 12th
BOUNCE at 12:30 p.m.
Selma, Lord, Selma: Recounting of two little girls' memories of the tumultuous times leading up to one of the most historic events of America's civil rights movement: the signing of the Voting Rights Act by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1965.

Monday, February 12th
BOUNCE at 2:30 p.m.
Panther: A dramatized account of the history of The Black Panther Party for Self-Protection. Cast: Courtney B. Vance, Marcus Chong, Bokeem Woodbine, Angela Bassett, Joe Don Baker

Monday, February 12th
SUNDANCE at 11:30 p.m.
Rosewood: Based on historic events of the 1923 Rosewood, Florida massacre, the film stars Ving Rhaames as an outsider who comes to the African American town to inspire residents to defend themselves against angry lynch mobs.

Tuesday, February 13th
SUNDANCE at 7 p.m.
The Color Purple: The Pulitzer Prize-winning book by Alice Walker, spans 40 years to tell the story of an African American Southern woman, Celie Harris (Whoopi Goldberg), who is sold into a life of servitude to an abusive husband, sharecropper Albert (Danny Glover), enduring a life of brutality, racism and rape.

Tuesday, February 13th
SUNDANCE at 10:30 p.m.
Ghosts of Mississippi: The courtroom drama is based on the true story of the 1994 trial of white supremacist Byron De La Beckwith for the 1963 assassination of civil rights activist Medgar Evers.

Friday, February 16th
SHOWTIME at 10 p.m.
Word is Bond: This documentary film examines the transformative power of lyrics in the world of hip-hop music.

Friday, February 16th
WJCT at 11 p.m.
Eddie Murphy / The Mark Twain Prize: Salute to comedian/actor Eddie Murphy, the latest recipient of the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor.

Sunday, February 18th
SUNDANCE at 2 p.m.
Queen: Based on the story of Alex Haley's grandmother Queen Jackson Haley and her struggle with being biracial in the Post American Civil War era. The three-part miniseries stars Halle Berry as Queen.

Monday, February 19th
SUNDANCE at 12 a.m.
Roots, The Gift: The third installment follows the journey Kunta Kinte and Fiddler take as they accompany their owner to another plantation and devise a plan for escaping. Louis Gossett Jr. reprises his role as Fiddler along with LeVar Burton as Kunta Kinte.

Monday, February 19th
WJCT at 11 p.m.
Independent Lens / Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities #1911: Is a documentary and interactive project that explores the pivotal role historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) have played in American history, culture, and national identity.

Tuesday, February 20th
WJCT at 8 p.m.
We'll Meet Again / Freedom Summer #105: Join Ann Curry for the dramatic reunions of people who lost touch after the civil rights movement. Fatima hopes to thank Thelma for her courage in the face of racism, and Sherie searches for the friend who inspired her commitment to social justice.

Tuesday, February 20th
WJCT at 11 p.m.
In Their Own Words / Muhammad Ali #102: Follow Muhammad Ali's path from a gym in Louisville to boxing successes, conversion to Islam, opposition to the draft, exile from the ring, comeback fights, Parkinson's disease and his inspirational re-emergence at the Atlanta Olympics.

Saturday, February 24th
WJCT at 8 a.m.
The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution - Independent Lens: Revisit the turbulent 1960s, when a new revolutionary culture emerged with the Black Panther Party at the vanguard.

Saturday, February 24th
WJCT at 11 p.m.
Austin City Limits / Ms. Lauryn Hill #4208: Enjoy a career-spanning performance by R&B icon Ms. Lauryn Hill in a rare television appearance. The Grammy-winning singer and songwriter performs a set of solo hits, new songs and Fugees classics.

Saturday, February 24th
WJCT at 10 a.m.
Liberty & Slavery: The Paradox of America's Founding Fathers: America's founding fathers were men yearning for a nation of individual liberty and unprecedented independence. Liberty and Slavery features stunning imagery and interviews with scholars that explore the paradox of America's Founding Fathers being champions of liberty - and yet simultaneously champions of slavery

Sunday, February 25th
SUNDANCE at 7 p.m.
Malcolm X: This biographical drama stars Denzel Washington in the title role as activist Malcolm X, telling the story of the controversial and influential Black Nationalist leader – from his defining childhood experiences to his career as a small-time gangster to his ministry as a member of the Nation of Islam and to his ultimate assassination.

Monday, February 26th
HBO at 5 a.m.
Loving: A mixed-race couple in 1958 take their fight against Virginia's ban on interracial marriage all the way to the Supreme Court in this stirring true story, where they spend the next decade battling in court to overturn the laws in what would become a landmark case in the civil-rights movement.

Monday, February 26th
HBO at 8 p.m.
Oscar Nominated Movie "Get Out": Meeting your girlfriend's parents for the first time always marks a big milestone in a relationship. But for Chris Washington, the encounter soon feels like a terrifying trip into the "Twilight Zone" in this hit horror film.

Tuesday, February 27th
HBO at 8 p.m.
Bessie: She was the "Empress of the Blues," an immense talent whose love for music took her from anonymity in the dog-eat-dog world of vaudeville to the 1920s blues scene.

Mary J. Blige

Mary J. Blige Makes Oscars History

Mary J Blige has, rather surprisingly, become the first person ever to be nominated for an acting performance and an original song in a single year.

The R&B icon, who already has nine Grammy awards, stars as an impoverished farmer's wife in Mudbound, earning her a best supporting actress nomination.

Her theme, Mighty River, is a rallying cry against racial division, and a front-runner for the best song award.

In previous years, Oscar-nominated actors have performed songs in the best original song category - most recently Jennifer Hudson, for her Dreamgirls anthem Love You I Do - but the award itself is given to the songwriters.

Blige, who co-wrote Mighty River with Raphael Saadiq, therefore becomes the first person to score a double nomination.

"I couldn't write while I was filming," she told Entertainment Weekly, but "after I saw it at Sundance, I was like, 'Okay, I gotta write a song for this!'"

The lyrics are a plea for understanding and reconciliation at a time of hate - giving them a chilling relevance in 2018.

"It's like, 'Come on, enough of this already! White flag in hand, I don't want to do this. I'm tired of doing this. Aren't you tired of doing this?'" said the singer.

The nominees for the 90th Academy Awards were announced last week by *Girls Trip* star Tiffany Haddish and *Black Panther* star Andy Serkis.

Get Out picked up several big nods, including Best Picture, Best Original Screenplay and Best Director for Jordan Peele and Best Actor for Daniel Kaluuya.

Along with Mary J. Blige (*Mudbound*) was Octavia Spencer (*The Shape of Water*) who were both nominated for Best Supporting Actress, Mudbound scored a Best Adapted Screenplay nomination for writer/director Dee Rees and co-writer Virgil Williams, and Denzel Washington was also nominated for Best Actor for *Roman J. Israel, Esq.*

Jimmy Kimmel will host the award son March 4, and it will be broadcast on ABC.

Terry McMillan: Life, Success, Takes Time

by Julie Muhlstein

Terry McMillan has a message for young people, or any of us striving for a better life: It takes time.

She was 14, growing up north of Detroit, when she worked as a library page shelving books. The pay was $1.25 an hour. One of five siblings, she remembers a household with just one book — the Bible.

Driven by a mother with goals for her kids, McMillan earned a bachelor's degree at University of California, Berkeley. She is now included in that venerable institution's Wall of Fame.

The best-selling author of "Waiting to Exhale" and "How Stella Got Her Groove Back," McMillan was 36 when she published her first novel, "Mama."

By then, she'd had lots of jobs. She worked as a word processor and for an insurance company. At 18 or 19, she didn't yet dream of writing stories about strong black women.

McMillan's latest novel is "I Almost Forgot About You." It centers on a new phase in a professional woman's life.

The author said young people can't expect overnight success.

"They don't understand how life really is. It doesn't all happen to you at 21 or even 31," said McMillan, whose 33-year-old son is a Stanford University graduate. "It's hard. Everybody is interested in being either rich or famous."

She blames that partly on social media. "So many young people are self-absorbed. I don't know how many selfies you can take," she quipped.

McMillan is encouraged by what she sees as an awakening of activism, from the Black Lives Matter movement to women's marches that have brought crowds into the streets. "They're realizing their lives can be affected by what happens in the White House," she said.

Success can't be measured by money alone, the author said. "I know people who went to law school or have an MBA and are working for corporations on the 30th floor, but they are bored to death," McMillan said.

Money matters, but following one's heart and finding work "that means something is almost as important," she said. "You can do both. They should stress to kids at the middle school level to find out their real interests, talents and skills."

The author of nearly a dozen books knows that a seemingly impractical career path can bring fortune and fame. McMillan is also a screenwriter. Her novels "Waiting to Exhale" and "How Stella Got Her Groove Back" became feature films, both starring Angela Bassett. Other books were made into TV movies.

The book is always better than the movie, if you ask me. McMillan said that so far, she's pleased with how Hollywood translates her stories for the screen.

At what some consider retirement age, she keeps on writing — three to four hours most days.

"I just wake up at the crack of dawn. I'm up every morning by 5," she said.

Is Mo'Nique Really Worth $20 Million

Mo'Nique

Besides being a comedienne on-cam, Mo'Nique has been known for her strong-willed personality. In her latest issue, she asks her fans and supporters to boycott Netflix as she claims that its executives have discriminated her because of her gender and race.

In a series of Instagram posts, Mo'Nique has called out the multi-billion dollar company for allegedly discriminating her for offering significantly less money than the other male and white actors.

"I am asking that you stand with me and boycott Netflix for gender bias and color bias," she stated in the first video. "I was offered a $500,000 deal last week to do a comedy special. However, Amy Schumer was offered $11 million, Chris Rock and Dave Chappelle $20 million."

She continued explaining that when she and her team asked Netflix to "explain the difference" between her offer and the aforementioned names, they immediately responded that they believe "this is what Mo'Nique would bring." Even after putting forward her broad work history and impressive awards, she said they "don't go off of résumés."

She also said that Schumer negotiated for an additional $2 million which Netflix had given.

Shortly after the initial video, Mo'Nique posted another one after knowing that Wanda Sykes received an offer from Netflix to do a comedy special for only $250,000. She said, "But how is it that when it comes to these two black female comedians that are still at the top of their game after 50+ years being in this business be offered $750,000 collectively?" she said. "Make that make sense."

In the most recent video she posted on Instagram, she stood together with her husband Sydney in front of a shelf filled with her numerous awards, including her Oscars award for the movie Precious.

She did some math with the information they got from Box Office Mojo. She said, "In 2017, Amy Schumer did a film called Snatched. That film made $45 million domestically. In 2016, I did a film called Almost Christmas. That film made $42 million domestically. Amy Schumer's budget for Snatched was $42 million… and it was in 3,511 theaters. Almost Christmas's budget was $17 million and it made $42 million — a $25 million profit — and it was in 2,379 theaters."

She continued, "Could somebody please make it make sense? And can you see the disparity in that number and what bankability really is?"

She already clarified that she has nothing against Amy Schumer but it seems that she cannot just let another issue of "pay disparity" based on gender and race pass.

Netflix, however, said in a statement, "Netflix does not comment on contract negotiations."

By the time she's ready to attend college, the majority of all jobs will require education and training beyond high school. Jobs in healthcare, community services, and STEM will grow the fastest among occupational clusters. To be ready for these jobs of the future, students in grades K-12 need learning experiences that meet them where they are, engage them deeply, let them progress at a pace that meets their individual needs, and helps them master the skills for today and tomorrow.

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Alfred L. Cralle invents the ice cream scoop.
2018
Maya D. Jones scoops her own ice cream for the very first time.
This Black History Month, take time to celebrate the achievements of African Americans, from the lesser-known inventions that helped weave the fabric of our day-to-day lives, to the more widely-known achievements that revolutionized our culture. All of these accomplishments come together to pave the way to a bright—and sweet—future.
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