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SUPREME COURT TO HEAR CASE FOR BLACK MEDIA INCLUSION

BYRON ALLEN V COMCAST

Fear is this case could reshape racial bias lawsuits from the Civil Rights Act of 1866 that protected Blacks from discriminatory business practice.

If it decides in Comcast favor, it would determine that racial discrimination was the determining factor in Comcast's programming decision, rather than a contributing factor, page 3

Kamala Harris qualifies for December primary debate

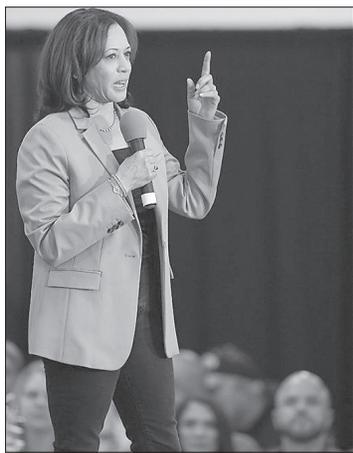
Newyorkbeacon.com

Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) has qualified for the December Democratic presidential primary debate hosted by POLITICO and PBS News. She is the fifth candidate to do so.

She joins Joe Biden, Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders and Pete Buttigieg as candidates who have made the stage for the December debate. The qualification call is based on POLITICO's analysis of the publicly released polling and donor numbers, and no candidate's qualification is official until the Democratic National Committee certifies it after the qualification deadline on Dec. 12.

To qualify for the Dec. 19 debate, candidates need to hit 4 percent in four DNC-approved polls — or 6 percent in two DNC-approved early state polls — and receive donations from 200,000 unique contributors.

Harris hit 4 percent in an NBC News/Wall Street Journal national poll released Sunday morning, one of the three national



polls released exactly a year out from Election Day 2020. It was her fourth qualifying poll, and her campaign has said she has over 200,000 donors. Fox News and The Washington Post/ABC News also released national polls on Sunday.

Harris' qualification for the December debate comes during a trying time for her campaign.

Over the past week, Harris has significantly reconfigured her campaign, laying off and reassigning staff and largely abandoning her efforts in New Hampshire as she goes all-in on Iowa.



Kamala Harris campaign cuts headquarters staff, moves some to Iowa

Newyorkbeacon.com

Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris is laying off several dozen staff members and transferring others in an effort to salvage her prospects in the Iowa caucuses.

The move, which comes roughly three months before the caucuses formally usher in the Democratic contest, make the California senator the most prominent candidate so far to announce a major campaign restructuring. Harris' campaign turned to history to make the case that in order to win the leadoff caucuses, candidates sometimes have to overhaul their operations.

"Plenty of winning primary campaigns, like John Kerry's in 2004 and John McCain's in 2008, have had to make tough choices on their way to the nomination, and this is no different," her campaign manager, Juan Rodriguez,

wrote in a memo to staff that was shared by the campaign Wednesday.

Politico was the first to report the overhaul.

Harris had already pledged to go all-in on Iowa, joking she was moving there, and earlier Wednesday her campaign touted the 15 days she spent in the state this month as the "October Hustle." It was more than any of her competitors spent there in October, but she's still polling behind leading candidates such as Joe Biden and Elizabeth Warren.

The latest changes come a full month after Rodriguez visited Iowa to evaluate the campaign's organization and on the eve of an important Iowa Democratic fundraiser. On Friday, thousands of party activists, donors and officials — along with more than 150 members of the news media — will be listening closely to Harris' speech for signs of new energy.

Katie Hill's downfall highlights stark generational divide among democrats

Newyorkbeacon.com

Rep. Katie Hill's colleagues were uniformly shocked and saddened by the collapse of the freshman star's political career. But that's where their agreement ends.

A stark generational divide among Democrats has emerged over what, if any, responsibility Hill should assume for the firestorm that led to her resignation this week, as well as whether the same standards would be applied to a male lawmaker. Some Democrats are also worried about the potential chilling effect on efforts to recruit younger candidates, particularly millennial women.

"This doesn't happen to male members in the same way — revenge porn in this respect. It's horrific," said freshman Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.), adding that "of course" it will deter some younger women from running for office. "I don't think we're really talking about how targeted

and serious this is. We're talking about a major crime... being committed against her."

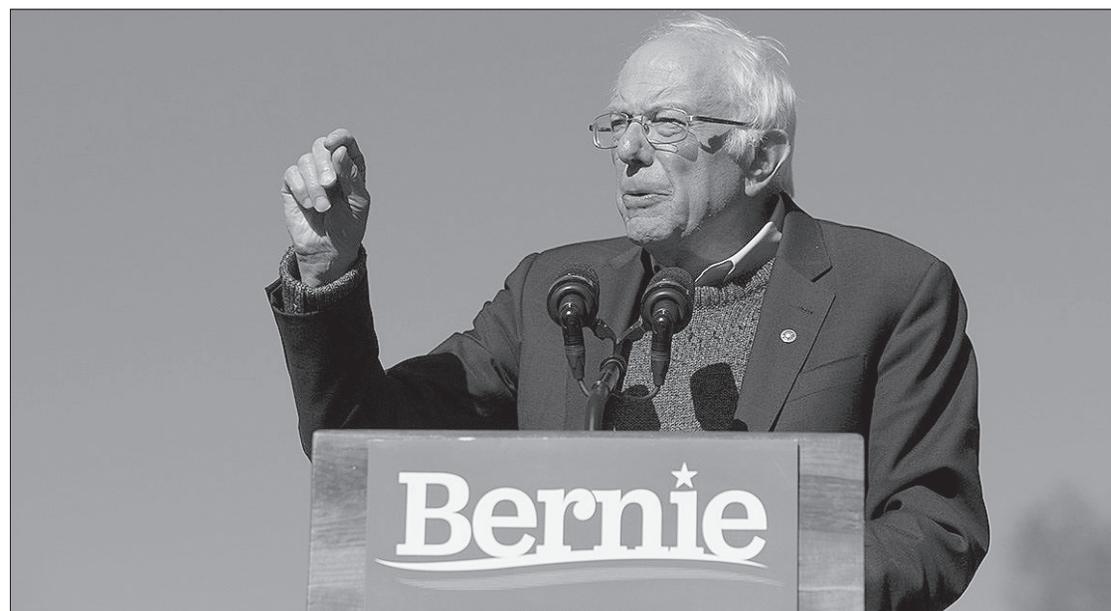
Hill's situation is complicated. The California Democrat vehemently denied an improper relationship with a congressional aide, allegations that prompted a House Ethics Committee investigation. But Hill acknowledged an "inappropriate" relationship with a separate campaign staffer. And she faced a barrage of nude photos published on conservative websites — allegedly at the hands of an "abusive husband" — and the threat of hundreds more to come.

Some senior Democrats, who came of age long before the proliferation of cellphone cameras, have privately suggested that Hill should have been more careful. Others have refused to comment on the issue, with some visibly uncomfortable when asked about Hill's private life.

Democratic leaders have not directly addressed the circum-



stances of Hill's resignation or the smear campaign against her to the full caucus since Hill made her resignation announcement. Her departure did come up at a weekly gathering of senior Democrats, which Hill used to attend as the freshman leadership representative.



The surprise voting bloc Bernie is banking on to win the nomination

Newyorkbeacon.com

DES MOINES, Iowa — Bernie Sanders has "barrio cred."

That might sound like a crazy thing to say about the 78-year-old senator from one of the whitest states in the country. But Latino activists say they hear all the time from voters in their community who are high on Sanders, and that's backed by polling showing him leading or tied among Latinos. Sanders won the highly coveted endorsement of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. His campaign co-chair is San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulín Cruz. Afro-Latina rapper Cardi B is a fan.

Sanders' star support from prominent Latinas "gives him barrio cred, street cred for this old white Jewish dude who is running for president," said Domingo Garcia, president of the League of United Latin Ameri-

can Citizens. Garcia backed the Vermont senator in 2016 but, as president of LULAC, has refrained from endorsing a candidate in the current primary.

The fact that Joe Biden is counting on strong support from African Americans to win the Democratic nomination is widely known. Less understood is the similar bet that Sanders is making on Latino voters: His campaign believes that by driving up turnout among Latinos, as well as young and working-class voters of all ethnicities, he can build out the electorate, bring new voters into the fold, and expand the 15 to 20 percent of Democratic voters who zealously support the democratic socialist.

There's also the reality that Sanders probably can't win the Democratic nomination without Latinos, since his campaign is relying on a strong finish in states

such as Nevada and California.

Speaking to a crowd of hundreds of Latinos at a LULAC town hall in Iowa last week, Sanders received the loudest welcome of any presidential candidate in attendance, rousing the audience as he took the stage. It was another promising sign for Sanders, whose team believes his message of "Medicare for All" and workers' rights has clearly struck a chord among Latinos.

"They're enormously important," Sanders said in an interview with POLITICO. "We are seeing the Latino population growing very significantly. We're seeing young people getting involved in the political process in a very important way. The challenge that we face is that, historically, voter turnout in the Latino community is not very high. So we are doing everything we can in a variety of ways to organize."

Lawsuit for black media inclusion to be heard by US Supreme Court Nov. 13

By Barrington M. Salmon
(TriceEdneyWire.com) –

In the 26 years that he's been building his media empire, co-median and businessman Byron Allen has seen first-hand the panoply of ways that African-American and non-white media entrepreneurs have been shut out of the game by their powerful White counterparts and other gatekeepers.

Allen, 58, a respected global business leader, sits atop a burgeoning media giant, Entertainment Studios, which includes nine digital cable networks, 43 syndicated TV shows, 21 regional sports networks, The Griot, the Weather Channel – which he bought for \$300 million – and other media properties said to value about \$1 billion.

Despite his successes, Allen, in his lawsuit, argues that Comcast refused to carry any of his company's channels because of his race. He filed suit in 2015 after being approached by Obama administration officials which asked if Comcast and Charter Communications were good corporate citizens.

"I didn't just tell them no, I said hell no," Allen has recounted in numerous interviews. "They said how do you figure? Well, the industry spends \$70 billion in licensing cable networks. \$70 billion and African American-owned media get zero. And that's not fair. They said we hear that a lot. They asked what I'm willing to do. They said people were afraid to speak up because of repercussions and I said I'll speak up and do it in a way that it wouldn't be a problem again. So, I filed a lawsuit."

Allen sued Comcast in federal court for \$20 billion and Charter Communications for \$10 billion. Judges on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals siding with him twice; that's when Comcast petitioned to Supreme Court. Justices will hear the case on November 13, 2019.

All he seeks, Allen has said repeatedly, is economic inclusion, a



chance to sit at the table and have an influential in determining the narrative and controlling the images that Black people see on their TV screens, tablets, cell phones or other devices.

"Comcast, which makes billions of dollars annually from African-American subscribers, has taken the position that a plaintiff must show that racial discrimination was the only, 100 percent 'but for' reason not to do business with African Americans," Allen said in an August 20 guest column in Deadline. "In other words, Comcast argues that an African American-owned business must show not only that the defendant considered race (which the statute forbids), but that the professed, hypothetical race-neutral reasons that could have motivated the defendant are false."

He said he is concerned that if the Supreme Court favors Comcast, the impact will make it much harder for him and 100 million other Americans to secure economic inclusion now or in the future.

Allen, chairman, founder and CEO of Entertainment Studios notes in his lawsuit the importance of Section 1981 of the Act, which says that all people should have "the same right ... to make and enforce contracts ... as is enjoyed by white citizens."

He has expressed confidence that he'll win in the Supreme Court but the decision by the Trump administration's Department of Justice to file an amicus (friend of the court) brief in support of Comcast and their reasoning for doing so has raised the stakes considerably

and ratcheted up concerns by Civil Rights organizations, legal scholars and other interested parties of the potential harm to African Americans and others who have been protected by this law for the past 153 years.

"This is an extremely consequential case. This law was the first action the nation took to give Black people access to economic power," said political commentator and author Dr. Avis Jones-DeWeever. "A White supremacist organization and the DOJ – which has inserted itself into this this case – wrote a brief that would kill our ability to fight discrimination."

"It's a big deal. The extent to which we can put pressure on Comcast, we must do so, so they agree to settle the case."

Cori Harvey, a Florida-based attorney who specializes in business law, economics and entrepreneurship, said the case could be consequential.

"This could represent a significant lowering of the barrier to justice," Harvey told Trice Edney News Wire. "It's a fundamental question of who has access to legal recourse. The defendant has information needed such as if anything happened in emails, correspondence, etc. The plaintiff is in the dark. There's power in darkness in shielding the defendant."

"This represents a redistribution of power from the plaintiff to the defendant. He'll be able to get access to emails, correspondence ... this forces them (Comcast) to deliver into the public sphere in-

Continued on page 7

Trump lures GOP senators on impeachment with cold cash

Newyorkbeacon.com

President Donald Trump is rewarding senators who have his back on impeachment — and sending a message to those who don't to get on board.

Trump is tapping his vast fundraising network for a handful of loyal senators facing tough reelection bids in 2020. Each of them has signed onto a Republican-backed resolution condemning the inquiry as "unprecedented and undemocratic."

Conspicuously absent from the group is Maine Sen. Susan Collins, a politically vulnerable Republican who's refused to support the resolution and avoided taking a stance on impeachment. With his new push, Trump is exerting leverage over a group he badly needs in his corner with an impeachment trial likely coming soon to the Senate — but that also needs him.

Republican senators on the ballot next year are lagging in fundraising, stoking uncertainty about the GOP's hold on the cham-



ber, and could use the fundraising might of the president. Trump's political operation has raked in over \$300 million this year.

On Wednesday, the Trump reelection campaign sent a fundraising appeal to its massive email list urging donors to provide a contribution that would be divided between the president and Colorado Sen. Cory Gardner, Iowa Sen. Joni Ernst, and North Carolina Sen. Thom Tillis. Each of the senators are supporting the anti-impeachment resolution despite being endangered in 2020.

"If we don't post strong fundraising numbers," the message warned, "we won't be able to defend the President from this baseless Impeachment WITCH HUNT."

Brown: California fires show 'the horror' world will face from climate change



SAN FRANCISCO — As Californians suffer widespread power outages and mass evacuations due to wildfire dangers, former Gov. Jerry Brown is warning that the dark scenario may be "only the beginning" for Americans across the country — unless officials in Washington seriously tackle the issue of climate change.

"I said it was the new normal a few years ago," Brown said in an exclusive interview with POLITICO. "This is serious ... but this is only the beginning. This is only a taste of the horror and the terror that will occur in decades."

"And it will occur in various spots: in America, in Africa, in Canada," said Brown, who will travel to Washington this week to speak on climate change issues. "It's unpredictable, other than the fact that it will get worse in present trajectory. Washington, under Trump, is doing very little — and even the

Congress has been unable to mobilize under Washington."

"It's a real threat, but it has to be managed. This is the world we live in. And it will get more dangerous."

Northern California grappled again this weekend with widespread power outages that affected as many as 2 million Californians, a preemptive effort by Pacific Gas & Electric to avoid sparking another massive wildfire after its wires started the state's deadliest conflagration last year.

The shut-offs, which began in the middle of last week and persist Monday, may not have been enough. One of the biggest fires of the year has engulfed popular wine areas in Sonoma County and forced mass evacuations from vineyards to the coast. The Kincadee Fire began last Wednesday near where PG&E says it suffered a wire failure around the same time.

Illinois prison bans black history books

By Stacy M. Brown,
NNPA Newswire Senior
Correspondent

In the 1800s, many states in the Union adopted laws that prohibited teaching African American slaves how to read and write.

Thirty lashes or even death would be the punishment for blacks who learned to read or write. Whites who taught blacks would incur fines or even a short jail sentence.

Perhaps, someone forgot to tell Illinois prison officials that it's 2020, not 1820.

Officials at the Danville Correctional Center removed about 200 books from a prison library and banned their use in an inmate education program because they said the books were "too racial."

The catalog ban included



several classic books related to African American history like, "The Souls of Black Folk," and "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

According to published reports, three out of every four inmates in Illinois prisons are African American, causing some to

conclude that banning the books was a means for prison officials to deprive blacks of learning their history.

The books are part of an education program initiated by

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Georgetown's goal to raise \$400,000 to fund reparations gets side eye

Newyorkbeacon.com

When Georgetown University students voted this spring to use student fees to pay reparations to descendants of the enslaved people Georgetown sold to keep its doors open in the 1800s, they made headlines in what's become a national conversation on how to repay a very real debt owed to African Americans.

But student activists at the forefront of the issue are expressing their displeasure with the university after the school's announcement this week that it planned to fund reparations not through student fees, but through donations.

As the New York Times reports, Georgetown announced that it planned to raise \$400,000 to fund

community health projects that would benefit the descendants of the 272 enslaved people the university sold in 1838 to keep Georgetown afloat.

The figure is about what would have been raised annually by student fees, according to the university—without requiring students to pay additional monies. Instead, Georgetown says, it will seek voluntary donations from members of the university community: alumni, professors, and students, as well as from philanthropists.

Georgetown President John DeGioia, in a statement, said that the school would "ensure that the initiative has resources commensurate with, or exceeding the amount that would have been raised annually through the student fee."

Democratic presidential debate to be held at Tyler Perry Studios in Atlanta

Newyorkbeacon.com

Just weeks after its grand opening, Tyler Perry Studios will host the next Democratic Debate on Nov. 20. Former Georgia gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams made the announcement via her Twitter account on Friday.

Democratic Debate site is set: @TPStudios is a model for Georgia's vibrant film industry, an engaged corporate citizen and an exceptional location for our #DemDebate. Looking forward to welcoming the candidates to Georgia on November 20. #gapol

— Stacey Abrams (@staceyabrams) October 26, 2019

Candidates in the upcoming debate will include Joe Biden, Julian Castro, Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, Kamala Harris, Cory Booker, Pete Buttigieg, Andrew Yang, and Tom Seyer. The debate will be hosted by MSNBC and The Washington Post and be facilitated by four female moderators: MSNBC hosts Rachel Maddow and Andrea Mitchell, NBC News' White House correspondent Kristen Welker, and Ashley Parker, a White House



reporter for The Washington Post.

As reported by The Atlanta Voice, Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms fought for the debate to be held in Atlanta and began campaigning for the November debate to be held in Georgia following the Sept. 21 debate in Houston. "With people of color being the cornerstone of the Democratic Party, Atlanta remains set to provide a large portion of votes for our eventual nominee," Lance Bottoms wrote, a reminder that African Americans made up roughly 60% of primary voters in the 2018 vote.

In a statement, Lance Bottoms said she is "proud that Atlanta has been chosen as the next debate site. Out of respect for the party and the network, it would be inappropriate to speak on a location before they have issued a formal announcement," she said.

Princeton to pay \$27m in reparations for ties to slavery

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Correspondent

The Princeton Theological Seminary, in Princeton, NJ, has set aside \$27 million to pay reparations for its ties to slavery.

Among the institutions of higher education, the more than two-hundred-year-old Seminary joined Rutgers and Princeton Universities to publicly disclose their ties to the slave trade.

However, neither Rutgers nor Princeton have pledged reparations.

The Seminary recently began a study of its history with the enslavement of African Americans after three Black seminarians launched a petition calling for reparations.

"These payments are an act of repentance," M. Craig Barnes, president of the Seminary, said in a statement. "We are committed to telling the truth," Barnes said.

later known as Princeton University, was supportive of this plan, historians stated.

With fewer than a dozen students, in 1812, Archibald Alexander was the first—and for one year the only—professor at the Seminary. He was joined the following year by a second professor, Samuel Miller, who came to Princeton from the ministry of the Wall Street Church in New York.

John White, the dean of students and vice president of student relations, said in a statement that the reparations decision came after a lengthy historical audit and the formation of a task force to investigate the Seminary's past.

"This is the beginning of the process of repair that will be ongoing," White stated.

White served as chair of the task force, which included trustees, faculty, administrators, students, and alumni.

He noted that they took part

of the Center for Black Church Studies

Hiring a new faculty member whose research and teaching will give critical attention to African American experience and ecclesial life

Changes in the Seminary curriculum, including a required cross-cultural component and integrating into the first-year curriculum for every master's student, sustained academic engagement with the implications of the historical audit

Designating five doctoral fellowships for students who are descendants of slaves or from underrepresented groups

Naming the library after Theodore Sedgwick Wright, the first African American to attend and graduate from Princeton Seminary

Naming the Center for Black Church Studies after Betsey Stockton, a prominent African American educator in Princeton during the



Although he noted that the Seminary never owned slaves, it was complicit in the slave trade.

Barnes said Princeton Theological Seminary benefitted from the slave economy when it invested in Southern banks. They also received funds from donors who directly profited from slavery, and the founding fathers of the academy used slave labor.

Faculty leaders also once advocated for sending free Black people to Liberia.

"The Seminary's ties to slavery are a part of our story," Barnes stated. "It is important to acknowledge that our founders were entangled with slavery and could not envision a fully integrated society. We did not want to shy away from the uncomfortable part of our history and the difficult conversations that revealing the truth would produce."

The Princeton Theological Seminary was the first Seminary founded by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in 1812. The establishment of The Theological Seminary at Princeton marked a turning point in American theological education, according to historians at the school.

The College of New Jersey,

in a deliberative process to provide opportunities for the campus community to discuss and respond to the audit report.

The task force hosted more than 25 events, meetings, and conversations on the campus in the previous academic year.

Feedback gathered from students, faculty, administrators, and alumni were incorporated in the recommendations presented to the Seminary's board. The Board of Trustees also conducted a year-long process of study, the Seminary's website reported.

"From the beginning, the Board of Trustees has encouraged a thorough process of understanding our history that would lead to a meaningful response," White stated.

With an immediate rollout of the plan and continuation through 2024, the Seminary intends to make a "meaningful and lasting change" with the more than 20 approved initiatives, including:

Offering 30 new scholarships, valued at the cost of tuition plus \$15,000, for students who are descendants of slaves or from underrepresented groups

Hiring a full-time director

antebellum North and a Presbyterian missionary in the Sandwich Islands (present-day Hawaii). Before gaining freedom, Stockton was a slave to the chair of Princeton Seminary's Board of Trustees.

Enhancing community partnerships and supporting historically disenfranchised communities in and around Princeton

Ensuring every member of the Princeton Seminary community understands its history

A committee has been established to oversee the implementation of the plan and will regularly report progress to the board.

The program costs for the responses represent a commitment of more than \$1 million annually on an ongoing basis.

To sustain this programming in perpetuity, \$27.6 million will be reserved in the endowment.

"Seminary's ties to slavery are a part of our story. It is important to acknowledge that our founders were entangled with slavery and could not envision a fully integrated society," Barnes stated.

"We did not want to shy away from the uncomfortable part of our history and the difficult conversations that revealing the truth would produce."

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Editorial

Philadelphia Observer

The homelessness crisis—we are better than this

By Julianne Malveaux

I was returning from an errand when the skies opened up. The punishing rain came down with such vigor that despite an umbrella, the bottom inches of my pants were soaked. With my wash and wear hair, and just half a block more to walk, I shrugged the rain off, until I saw a woman sheltering herself from the rain in a narrow but covered side entrance to a church. The opening could not have been more than 4 feet wide, and sister was easily five feet tall. She had wedged herself, somehow, into the space and was lying horizontally with a newspaper over her head. From across the street, I could see her beautiful dark chocolate skin, but also her disheveled clothing, and no layers to shelter her from the rain. Watching her reminded me that we are going into the season of high risk for those who have no shelter. Many can make it during the warmer months sleeping comfortably outside, but as temperatures drop and precipitation increases, thousands are vulnerable because they have no shelter.

When we elect a clown, expect a circus.

Too many urgent national concerns are being swallowed by this man who lacks the gravitas to behave as President. The man who calls his colleagues “scum,” who attacks Black people, especially Black women, with impunity, who dodges the Constitution every chance he gets, who might spark a major crisis by stomping over oversight, and who might cause a government shutdown

later this year if he doesn't get his way.

And then there are the human needs that are being ignored. According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, during a “point in time” survey on a night in January 2018, more than half a million homeless people were counted. (<https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2018-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>). While there are flaws in this methodology, it is as close as we can get to a scientific measurement of the homeless. There are half a million people, mostly men, mostly white, but way too many African Americans. African Americans are 13 percent of the population and 40 percent of the homeless. The homeless are primarily concentrated in California, New York, Florida, and Texas, but you can find them in almost any community. Two-thirds of the homeless are sheltered on a given night, but a third are sleeping on the streets, on park benches, in alleys, under awnings. To quote the late great Congressman Elijah Cummings, “we are better than this.”

Nearly 40,000 of these homeless are veterans. Nearly 40,000 are youth. Their homelessness flies in the face of our values as a country. Those who have served our country should not have to sleep on the streets. Those who have not have had a chance at life should not find their chances on a park bench. This is not just about homelessness. It is about an economic crisis that has made affordable housing difficult to obtain, with jobs and economic security even more difficult to obtain. While

45 crows about our healthy economy, the Fed has lowered interest rates because it is concerned about the health of the economy.

And low unemployment rates belie the absolute angst that millions of our fellow citizens are experiencing.

The homeless data are daunting enough, but there is also hidden homelessness. Too many – 4.4 million – are living in other people's houses because they have no homes of their own. While there is nothing wrong with “doubling up” families when it is voluntary, involuntary doubling up is a prescription for disaster. Compound this with the number of young people who are “couch surfing” because they have no place to go. I've met young people who are living in storage units because they have no homes, managing their sanitation needs in gyms and hotel bathrooms. Some of these folks have full-time jobs that pay so little that they can't afford housing. We are better than this.

The specter of homelessness is incompatible with the rhetoric of economic progress and economic expansion. From San Francisco, where people with tents live underneath freeways, to Washington, DC, where homeless people sleep on streets that appear to be prosperous, to New York City, where some of the homeless have mental health issues, and nowhere to go. Our compassion compass is off because we are so focused on shenanigans that we have ignored people.

Still, about 552,000 people were shel-



ter-challenged when HUD executed their “point in time” survey. It's a flawed methodology, but one that challenges the nature of predatory capitalism in our society and in our economy. No one should have to sleep in the street, wedge herself into an awning, or stand in line for temporary shelter. We are so much better than this.

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest project MALVEAUX! On UDCTV is available on youtube.com. For booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit www.juliannemalveaux.com

Trump is not alone among Americans in failing to understand what a real lynching is



By Jesse Jackson

Donald Trump's use of the term “lynching” to describe the ongoing impeachment inquiry in the House naturally sparked bipartisan outrage. The president and his shameless apologist, South Carolina's Sen. Lindsey Graham, defended the use of the word, with Graham calling the investigation a “lynching in every sense.”

Surely Graham, who comes from a state that, the Equal Justice Initiative reports, lynched 187 Black people between 1877 and 1950, should know better. He was a member of the Senate when it voted unanimously in December 2018 to make lynching a federal crime, calling it “the ultimate expression of racism in the U.S.,” and classifying it as a hate crime.

Trump's casual use of the word is an indication of the sad reality that America has largely failed to address the role of racial terror and violence in our history, and its legacy in distorting our criminal justice system. The myths of Black criminality that were used to justify racial terror have never been adequately confronted and are reflected in the unprecedented — and still racially skewed — mass incarceration in America. To this day, no Congress has passed, and no president has signed into law, a bill to outlaw lynching as a federal hate crime. Trump defended himself, saying that lynching is a “word that many Democrats have used.”

That's true, but that only reinforces the need to confront the truth of the past. Lynching — and racial terror — was used purposefully after the Civil War in the former states of the Confederacy to reimpose racial subordination and segregation. In its compelling report, “Lynching in America: Confronting the Legacy of Racial Terror,” the Equal Justice Initiative compiled records of 4,075 “racial terror lynchings” of African Americans in 12 states of the South from the post-Civil War

Reconstruction era to World War II. The report shows that “terror lynchings in the American South were not isolated hate crimes committed by rogue vigilantes. Lynching was targeted racial violence at the core of a systematic campaign of terror perpetrated in furtherance of an unjust social order.”

Whatever complaints Republicans may have about an impeachment hearing convened in Congress under its constitutional authority, it surely is not a lynching. Lynching in the South was not done by fringes of the society taking the law in their own hands. It was often organized by the community's most prominent people and condoned by officials. Lynchings were often gruesome public spectacles, with victims tortured and murdered in front of picnicking spectators. Their intent was not simply to terrorize blacks, but to reinforce among Whites the myth that blacks were sub-human. They were not about controlling crime, but about racial control. Their perpetrators were celebrated, not prosecuted.

The Equal Justice Initiative reports that only 1 percent of those committing lynchings were convicted of a criminal offense after 1900. Racial terror in the South succeeded in re-establishing white rule and black subordination after the Civil War. With whites in control of the criminal justice system, lynching became less prevalent, with mass incarceration and capital punishment taking its place. Bryan Stevenson of the Equal Justice Initiative has led the

effort to create a process for remembering and confronting this shameful past and understanding its legacies in our present. He notes that communities across the South have memorials to the leaders of the Confederacy and of the Klan, but have failed to memorialize the innocent victims of racial terror. The contrast with countries like Germany and even South Africa that have sought to learn from the horrors of their history is dramatic.

For 100 years, the NAACP campaigned to make lynching a federal crime, initially in the hope that federal intervention would bring the perpetrators to justice, and finally as an expression of truth-telling. The efforts were always blocked by filibusters organized by Southern senators. In 2005, the Senate passed a resolution apologizing to the victims of lynching for their failure to pass anti-lynching legislation. In 2018, the Senate finally unanimously passed anti-lynching legislation for the first time.

In June of this year, the House Judiciary Committee put forth HR 35, the Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act, for a vote before the House. Trump's egregious comment provides the occasion for truth-telling. The House and the Senate should finally act together to put the anti-lynching bill on the president's desk for his signature, and join in a national teach-in, perhaps a joint session of the Congress, to educate Americans about the reality of lynching and the lies it spread that still need to be dispelled.

Second annual photography conference exclusively celebrates Black photographers

Newyorkbeacon.com

Tomayia Colvin Education (TCE), an online education platform for photographers that features Black speakers and celebrates diversity, hosted its second The Photo Cookout photography conference in New Orleans, Louisiana on October 6-8, 2019. More than 225 photographers from all backgrounds, from all over the United States, gathered in New Orleans to learn technical and business skills and to network with like-minded creatives sponsored by Sony. The full video recap by Smitha Lee showcases the love and community that attendees felt for three days while attending the conference.

The event held in New Orleans at the Ace Hotel featured a lineup of all-Black presenters, each professional photographers acclaimed in their fields. But more than just a photography conference, the Photo Cookout is like a family reunion of cousins. Attendees enjoyed a welcome cookout & meet-and-greet in City Park, followed immediately hands-on demonstrations and courses to up their photography skills.

On Monday & Tuesday, attendees gathered at the Ace Hotel, to hear keynote and breakout speakers cover topics ranging from professional lighting, posing, commercial photography, book-keeping and sales, marketing, and more. Conference attendees were able to apply what they've learned



throughout each day to dedicated photography walks and styled photoshoots each afternoon, led by industry leaders. Also, photography software vendors demonstrated software solutions for editing, bookkeeping, album prints, and more during the conference's on-site expo.

Tomayia Colvin, Founder and Doctoral Candidate studying Executive Leadership with a research interest in Black Women Photographers said, "Creating The Photo Cookout was everything I knew our community needed."

Speaker Ramonica Plishett shared, "The community and the event are simply amazing! There is no other photography conference that allows you up close and personal access to speakers. They genuinely want to help you grow!"

Attendee Tina Stickland

echoed Plishett's sentiments and stated, "The Photo Cookout places a high value on inclusion, excellence, and support."

"Opportunities for minority speakers to speak at large conferences and black photographers to network don't come every day," says Colvin. After years of attending conferences where the sessions were often lacking even a single panelist of color or were missing voices from marginalized communities, Colvin created the online teaching platform, with an accompanying Facebook community for open discussion; the Photo Cookout was a natural expansion of those efforts, providing a rare opportunity to share knowledge one-on-one. She hopes to give speakers of color an opportunity to teach and empower their community.

Running 2 hours and 5 minutes, the Debra Martin Chase-produced epic opened in a little over 2,000 theaters and outpaced big-budgeted box office juggernauts such as *Malificent: Mistress of Evil* and an animated adaptation of *The Addams Family* TV series.

Despite controversies, Cynthia Erivo as Harriet Tubman proves a winner at box office

Newyorkbeacon.com

There's a famous quote that has been attributed — perhaps falsely — to Harriet Tubman through the years about how she would've been able to free many more slaves only if they realized they were actually enslaved.

Or something like that.

I bring that up to say that despite some racially-charged, micro-aggressive attitudes (by some blacks) towards the new big picture biopic chronicling the legacy of the trailblazing abolitionist, the Kasi Lemmons-helmed *Harriet* has proven to be a winner at the box office.

According to *Forbes*, audiences turned out in a big way for the Focus Features film starring Broadway star Cynthia Erivo in the leading role as the legendary Black History Month figure — a freedom fighter who helped free hundreds of enslaved black people during the 19th century through a secret network known as The Underground Railroad.

"I'm happy to note that audiences seem to be showing up, with the film netting a solid \$12 million opening weekend," film industry writer Scott Mendelson wrote on Sunday.

"That's a promising 3.07x multiplier from an A+ Cinemascore grade," he added.

Running 2 hours and 5 min-



utes, the Debra Martin Chase-produced epic opened in a little over 2,000 theaters and outpaced big-budgeted box office juggernauts such as *Malificent: Mistress of Evil* and an animated adaptation of *The Addams Family* TV series.

Harriet, which also stars Tony Award winner Leslie Odoms, Jr., Vanessa Bell Calloway, Clarke Peters, Vondie Curtis-Hall, Janelle Monae and country superstar Jennifer Nettles, trampled Edward Norton's much-hyped drama, *Motherless Brooklyn*, and the animated *Arctic Dogs*, which also opened on Friday.

"Audiences have been unanimous for their love of this film, which is clear from its A+ CinemaScore and 98% Audience rating on *Rotten Tomatoes*," Focus distribution president Lisa Bunnell said in a statement today.

"With the story of one woman's strength that literally change the world we all live in today, it is the feel-great movie people are looking for — becoming an event for friends and families going to see together," she added.

Lawsuit for black media inclusion to be heard by US Supreme Court Nov. 13

From page 3

formation previously hidden. The Ninth Circuit gave Mr. Allen a shot. It forces Comcast to open secret chambers. That doesn't happen too often. The ability to shield and hide equals power. This leaves Comcast exposed and vulnerable."

Comcast officials have dismissed Mr. Allen's claims, saying race had nothing to do with rejecting Allen's channels, noting that they had low ratings and were of low quality. Comcast spokesperson Sena Fitzmaurice responding to a reporter's query said: "This case arises from a frivolous discrimination claim that cannot detract from Comcast's strong civil rights and diversity record or our outstanding record of supporting and fostering diverse programming from African American-owned channels. We have been forced to appeal this decision to defend against a meritless \$20 billion claim but have kept our argument narrowly focused. We are not seeking to roll back the civil rights laws — all we are asking is that the court apply Section 1981 in our case the same way it has been interpreted for decades across the country."

A slew of Civil Rights organizations, the National Association of Black Journalists, presidential candidates Sens. Kamala Harris and Cory Booker, plus eight of the 55 members of the Congressional Black Caucus, have signed on as

friends of the court.

Kristen Clarke, president and executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, said on Twitter "Section 1981 of the Civil Rights Act of 1866 is literally one of the nation's oldest civil rights statutes. We are proud to stand with @NAACP@NAACP_LDF & @civilrightsorg in calling on the #SCOTUS to reject Comcast's attempt to cut the heart of this historic law. @LawyersComm."

Clarke described the case elsewhere as "the most important civil rights case to be heard by the Supreme Court in term. A negative ruling stands to all but shut the courthouse door on a vast number of victims of discrimination all across the country."

Los Angeles Urban League President and CEO Michael Lawson said what Comcast is doing is a clear violation of a clear violation of the 1866 act which prohibits racial discrimination in business dealings.

"We are appalled by your decision to challenge and destroy the federal civil rights statute of 1866 in the U.S. Supreme Court and do so in partnership with the Trump Administration's Department of Justice," Lawson said in a recent letter sent to Comcast chairman Brian Roberts and senior executive vice president David Cohen. "If you choose to continue your attempt to eviscerate this civil rights law, we will have no choice but to call for a boycott of everything Comcast, effective immediately."

Doors open for college athletes to make their own coins

Newyorkbeacon.com

The NCAA on Tuesday opened the door to college athletes being able to profit from their own names and likenesses, and finally share in the billions of dollars their athletic prowess brings to colleges and universities across the country.

In a news release, the college sports governing body indicated that it was willing to discuss the opportunity for college athletes "to benefit from the use of their name, image and likeness in a manner consistent with the collegiate model," according to the *Washington Post*.

The body voted unanimously to begin figuring out how to update their rules, but it was not clear what the way forward would entail to allow college ballers to get the bag.

In fact, on Tuesday, the organization reiterated its opposition to recent California legislation that would allow college athletes to get corporate sponsorship deals, charge for autographs and the like.

It stated, per the *Post*:

"The California law and other proposed measures ultimately



would lead to pay for play and turn college athletes into employees," the NCAA said Tuesday after a meeting of its leadership in Emory University in Atlanta. "This directly contradicts the mission of college sports within higher education — that student-athletes are students first and choose to play a sport they love against other students while earning a degree."

The NCAA's move, however, is seen as a step forward on an issue that has garnered the attention of lawmakers and activists, who say the current system exploits student athletes to the benefit of the schools for which they play.

As ESPN reports, the NCAA is looking to have new rules for college athletes to play by in place by January 2021:

The board members said in a release Tuesday that all changes should make sure student-athletes have the same opportunities to make money as all other students, maintain the priorities of education and the collegiate experience, and ensure that rules are "transparent, focused and enforceable" and do not create a competitive imbalance. The board wants each division to implement new rules by January 2021.

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On the scene

The Apollo documentary debuts November 6 exclusively on HBO



Iconic Apollo Theater marquee

HARLEM, NEW YORK — **THE APOLLO**, directed by Oscar® and Emmy® winner **Roger Ross Williams**, chronicles the legacy of New York City's landmark Apollo Theater, covering the rich history of the storied performance space over its 85 years. What began as a refuge for marginalized artists emerged as a hallowed hall of black excellence and empowerment. In the film, Williams reflects on the struggle of black lives in America, the role that art plays in that struggle, and the part the Apollo Theater continues to play in the cultural conversation.

THE APOLLO, which had its world premiere on Opening Night of the 2019 Tribeca Film Festival, debuts Wednesday, November 6 (9:00-10:45 p.m. ET/PT). The documentary will also be available on HBO NOW, HBO GO, HBO On Demand and partners' streaming platforms.

Weaving together archival footage of music, comedy and dance performances with behind-the-scenes verité footage of the team that makes the theater run, the film features interviews with such artists as **Angela Bassett, Common, Jamie Foxx, Doug E. Fresh, Savion Glover, Patti LaBelle, Paul McCartney, Smokey Robinson, and Pharrell Williams**. Parallel to the historical narrative, THE APOLLO examines the current state of race in America, chronicling the multimedia stage adaptation of Ta-Nehisi Coates' acclaimed *Between the World and Me* as it comes together on the theater's grand stage.

Williams brings a kaleidoscope of voices together to tell the story



Production shot from Apollo doc



Cassidy Hartman, Lisa Cortes, Jeanne Elfant Festa, Roger Ross Williams



Roger Ross Williams, Jonelle Procope, Smokey Robinson, Jane Rosenthal



Chris Clements, Julie Goldman, Jenny Raskin, Dan Cogan

of The Apollo, including members of the Harlem community, beloved audience devotees such as **Eva Isaac** and behind-the-scenes notables including in-house historian/tour guide **Billy Mitchell**, who has worked at the theater for more than 50 years and is now affectionately known as "Mr. Apollo." THE APOLLO features insights from prominent journalists, historians and others including: journalist **Herb Boyd**, writer **Ta-Nehisi Coates**, and cultural historian **Farah Griffin**; **Apollo Theater President & CEO Jonelle Procope**, **Apollo Theater Executive Producer Kamillah Forbes**, **Apollo Theater Chairman of the Board Richard Parsons**, former owner **Bobby Schiffman**; and former **Congressman Charles Rangel**.

The rich history of The Apollo's renowned "Amateur Night", a tradition created by producer **Ralph Cooper** dating back to 1930s, is also explored. With its discerning audience known for booing subpar acts, Amateur Night has been paving ground for many performers and to this day, people travel from all over the country to audition.

The Apollo has served as a

launchpad for such legendary talents as **Billie Holiday, Aretha Franklin, Ella Fitzgerald, The Supremes, Stevie Wonder, Jimi Hendrix, Smokey Robinson and Ray Charles**. **Patti LaBelle** recalls that the backstage atmosphere in those years was "competitive as hell, but close like a family." Showcased comedians included **Redd Foxx, Dick Gregory, Richard Pryor, and Moms Mabley**, who actor **Jamie Foxx** notes were all "making jokes out of struggle." The artist perhaps most synonymous with The Apollo was **James Brown**, whose 1963 album "Live at the Apollo" and song "Say It Loud – I'm Black and I'm Proud," gave voice to the Black Pride movement. In more recent years, the theater hosted then **President Barack Obama**, the first sitting president to speak at The Apollo.

The film recounts more difficult times in the life of the Apollo such as when the theater went into bankruptcy during the 70's. But in 1983, the theater was bought by civil rights attorney **Percy Sutton**, who eventually made an arrangement with the state to create a foundation and

establish The Apollo as a New York City landmark. Though the building and its ownership have evolved over the years, the cultural vibrance and symbolic connotations remain consistent and grounded.

Directed by Roger Ross Williams ("Music By Prudence," "Life Animated") THE APOLLO is produced by **Lisa Cortes, Jeanne Elfant Festa, Cassidy Hartmann** along with Williams. The film is a presentation of HBO, Impact Partners, The Apollo Theater Foundation, and is a White Horse Pictures production. Executive producers are **Nigel Sinclair, Dan Cogan, Nicholas Ferrall and Julie Goldman** among others.

A digital edition of THE APOLLO: Original Motion Picture Soundtrack will be released by Universal Music Group/Blue Note Records/Polygram Entertainment/Universal Music Enterprises on Nov. 1, and the soundtrack's CD and 2LP vinyl editions, featuring liner notes written by Roger Ross Williams, will be released on December 20. The soundtrack also debuts a new original song, "Don't Turn Back Now" by Robert Glasper with vocals by Ledisi, plus selections from Glasper's original score for the film.

HBO Documentary Films, Impact Partners and The Apollo Theater Foundation present in association with Polygram Entertainment, 164 OWR, Chicago Media Project, MACRO, Bert Marcus Productions, JustFilms | Ford Foundation, Another Chapter Productions and Motto Pictures, A White Horse Pictures production and a film by Roger Ross Williams.

THE APOLLO executive producers are **Jonelle Procope, Geryl White Dreyfous, Jenny Raskin, Ken Pelletier, the Embrey Family Foundation, Lagralane Group, David Blackman, Cynthia Sexton, Charles King, Kim Roth, Poppy Hanks, Carlene C. Laughlin, Dave Knott, Lynda Weinman and Jayson Jackson**. Music Supervisors **G. Marq Roswell, Dondi Bastone**; Composer **Robert Glasper**; Director of Photography **Michael Dwyer**; Written by **Cassidy Hartmann, Jean Tsien**; Edited by **Jean Tsien, ACE, John S. Fisher**; Executive Producers **Nigel Sinclair, Dan Cogan, Nicholas Ferrall, Julie Goldman**; Executive Producers for HBO: **Nancy Abraham, Lisa Heller**. Produced by **Lisa Cortes, p.g.a.; Jeanne Elfant Festa, p.g.a.; Cassidy Hartmann, p.g.a.**; and Produced and Directed by **Roger Ross Williams**. (Photos courtesy HBO)



Smokey Robinson, Nigel Sinclair



TFF Founders Robert De Niro, Jane Rosenthal



Jamie Lincoln Smith, Susan Kelechi Watson



Angela Bassett



Phoebe Robinson



Keegan-Michael Key, Elisa Pugliese



Dominique Fishback

Health

Urine tests and antibiotics in the elderly

By Glenn Ellis(TriceEdneyWire.com) –

Regardless of how healthy you may be otherwise, the most common infection that affect seniors and the elderly are in the urinary tract.

This can range from urinary incontinence; bladder infection; to even increasing the risk of kidney problems.

Now, before you get carried away, please keep in mind that we are talking about issues associated with aging...in other words, it only happens if you live long enough. Sure, people can have urinary issues at any point in life, but, again, we're talking about aging and the elderly.

In fact, the urinary tract isn't the only thing that comes along with aging. As you grow older, you will have other changes, including: the bones, muscles, and joints; the male reproductive system; the female reproductive system; and in most of your organs, tissues, and cells.

Specifically, I'd like to address new finding that look at the problem with urine tests that result in elderly patients being prescribed and antibiotic. It seems that we are now finding out, that in most cases, this is not only of little to no benefit, it can actually cause problems.

It's no secret that we have a serious problem with the over-prescribing of antibiotics in this country. In some situations, when a goes to the doctor, and before the test results are back, they are

already prescribed and taking an antibiotic. The problem has gotten so out of hand that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) says that more than 70% of the bacteria responsible the 2 million infections you can get while in a US hospital are resistant to at least one commonly used antibiotic. It gets worse; 20% to 50% of antibiotics prescribed in hospitals are found (after the fact) to be unnecessary or inappropriate.

With the overuse or overprescribing of antibiotics, we can not only increase our resistance to antibiotics when you really need them, but can increase the severity of the condition you first complained about, how long you'll be sick, increasing your risk of complications, and most importantly, prevent a situation that may have resolved itself on its own without an antibiotic.

Which leads me to the original point of this column.

The latest research on the topic has found that seniors and the elderly are asked to provide and urine sample for are routinely prescribed an antibiotic. In the past, when a urine specimen tested positive—even when no symptoms of infection were present—doctors were taught that treatment with antibiotics was the right approach. We know now that is wrong.

As first reported in the New York Times, a task force concluded last month that for virtually everyone except pregnant women, screening for and treating asymptomatic bacteriuria provides



no benefit and has potential harms.

What we are learning now is that many urine samples will reveal results showing the presence of bacteria, but this does not mean there is an infection. This practice happens all too often in the elderly, especially those in nursing homes.

It doesn't help when most of us, like most doctors, expect to use an antibiotic on the slightest hint that there could be an infection of any kind; whether it's a cold, sinus infection, rash, and yes, a urinary tract infection.

Urinary tract infections happen when germs get into the urethra and travel up into the bladder and

kidneys. When you have a UTI, the lining of the bladder and urethra become red and irritated just as your throat does when you have a cold. The irritation can cause pain in your lower abdomen pelvic area and even lower back, and will usually make you feel like urinating more often. Burning or pain when urinating is the most common symptom. You may even feel a strong urge or need to urinate but only get a few drops. This is because the bladder is so irritated that it makes you feel like you have to urinate, even when you don't have much urine in your bladder. At times, you may lose control and leak urine. You may also find

that your urine smells bad and is cloudy.

Further complicating things is the fact that somewhere between 40 percent-60 percent of all women will experience at least one urinary tract infection during their lifetime. Add to that, is the connection between urinary tract infections and dementia.

Often, a senior of elderly person may suddenly become confused, hallucinate, or have a drastic change in behavior. Mistakenly, this can be considered to be dementia or Alzheimer's. even though urinary tract infections can make dementia or Alzheimer's worse, it is not necessarily the case.

In a younger person, the urinary tract infection would likely reveal itself with painful symptoms. In older people, it shows up as confusion, agitation or withdrawal.

So, as you can see, there is a plethora of reasons why the medical profession, as well as patients and families can find themselves on an antibiotic to treat a "urinary tract infection".

The takeaway is to know that we have reached a point in routine healthcare where we have to ask questions; even when it comes to being asked by a doctor to "pee in a cup".

In addition, you want to make sure that the next antibiotic that you really need will work, and you work experience antibiotic resistance. Taking unnecessary antibiotics is a problem for many reasons. Not the least of them being that it could be harmful to your health.

Illinois prison bans black history books

From page 3

the Education Justice Project (EJP) and run by the University of Illinois.

The Chicago Tribune, which first reported the dispute, noted that the flap between the program and prison officials started last year when the Education Justice Project began the review process for the upcoming semester's books and course materials.

That's when a corrections lieutenant told program officials that the problem with the materials was that they were "racial," according to testimony by EJP Director Rebecca Ginsburg.

The EJP library is separate from the prison library, and it follows a different review process than the process that governs how reading materials are distributed to inmates through the prison's mailroom. But Ginsburg told lawmakers

[at a July hearing] the review policy has gone through seven revisions over the past four years.

"In this case, records show EJP submitted 25 books for approval. Of those, four were denied outright, nine were allowed in for review but then denied, and 12 were approved," The Tribune reported.

"Among the books not allowed in for review was 'The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America.' Books denied after review for the spring semester deal primarily with race and social issues, including 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' by Harriet Beecher Stowe and 'Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl' by Harriet Jacobs, both written in the 1800s," according to the newspaper.

"Censorship in prisons is the biggest First Amendment violation in America. Yet, it remains one of the least talked about and least examined," Kelly Jensen, a

former librarian, wrote in a blog for Book Riot.

The criminal justice system is no longer primarily concerned with the prevention and punishment of crime, but rather with the management and control of the dispossessed, D. Gilson, a writer for ExpertInsuranceReviews.com, told NNPA Newswire.

"Education empowers individuals to rise above their dispossession," stated Gilson, who has taught writing and popular culture studies at the university level for more than a decade.

"Thus, it is no surprise the state of Illinois had banned black history books — books that explain the injustices that have been brutally forced on black and brown bodies since the first African slaves were brought to the Americas," Gilson stated.

"By disallowing black inmates to learn about their specific history,

the state reinforces the incarceration cycle instead of empowering folks to thrive outside the system as free members of society."

Social media influencer Kenny Screven told NNPA Newswire that removing books on black history from prisons where the population is predominately African American is unfair.

"It has forbidden people to learn about their history. As a black man, it's really bizarre to hear this," Screven stated.

"Throughout school, we are constantly talking about white folks and how they've influenced society. They rarely ever talk about black people doing amazing things in the world. We're only ever taught about slavery, but there's so much more to our history than slavery," he stated.

Screven continued: "I don't think it's humane to stop someone from learning

about their culture. Being aware of our past helps open doors for the future. If those inmates learn more about our history, maybe they will have a change of heart. If we are not able to learn about our history, we increase the risk of being forgotten. Knowledge is power, and the more we know, the better off we will be."

Bruce Mirken, a spokesman for The Greenlining Institute, said removing the books does reflect racism.

"All of American history has 'racial content,' from the Constitution's accommodation of slavery to the ethnic cleansing of Native Americans to Japanese internment during World War II," Mirken stated in an email to NNPA Newswire.

"To ignore black perspectives doesn't eliminate racial content, it just ensures that only white points of view get included."

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Market grows in Africa for weaponized spyware aimed at activists

(GIN) –

If you're worried about robocalls offering a dubious sale of bitcoins, a new technology aimed at political dissidents will chill you to the bone.

Pegasus, an all-seeing spyware, worms its way into phones and starts transmitting the owner's location, encrypted chats, travel plans – and even the voices of people you meet – to servers around the world.

Citizen Lab, a Toronto-based internet watchdog, is notifying journalists, human rights activists and other members of civil society whose phones have been targeted using the spyware.

On the list of targeted individuals, many are said to be from Rwanda and include a journalist living in exile in Uganda; a senior member of the Rwanda National Congress, an opposition group in exile; and an army officer who fled the country in 2008 and testified against members of the Rwandan

government in a French court in 2017.

"It's a grave violation," says Placide Kayumba, a Belgium-based member of Rwanda's FDU-Inkingi opposition party, who was informed by Citizen Lab that his phone was targeted.

"It's scary, not only due to the information I exchange as a human-rights activist and politician, but my conversations with family, friends, all the private details I have shared on the phone."

"All of my colleagues at the center of the party are monitored and threatened on a daily basis with assassination, disappearance, imprisonment," he says.

Last year, Citizen Lab, in a report titled 'Hide and Seek' identified 45 countries in which infected devices had been traced. Twelve African countries were on the list: Algeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Kenya, Libya, Morocco, Rwanda, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and South Africa.

The NY-based Committee to

Protect Journalists issued a safety advisory: "This spyware gives the attacker the ability to monitor, record, and collect existing and future data from the phone... The spyware can remotely activate the camera and microphone to surveil the target and their surroundings... Journalists will likely only know if their phone has been infected if the device is inspected by a tech expert."

"The threat this poses to journalists can't be overstated," said Avi Ascher-Shapiro, a NY-based technology and foreign affairs journalist at the Columbia Journalism Review.

Developed by the Israeli cyberarms firm, NSO Group, Pegasus is not alone in the domestic spying field. In Uganda, the Chinese firm Huawei developed spyware to break into opposition leader Bobi Wine's WhatsApp chat group, causing cancellation of street rallies and the arrests of Wine and dozens of his supporters.

British Museum – World's largest receiver of stolen goods, says book author

(GIN) –

An outspoken human rights lawyer in a new book is calling for European and US institutions to return treasures taken from subjugated peoples by "conquerors or colonial masters."

In the new book by Geoffrey Robertson, the British Museum is accused of exhibiting "pilfered cultural property" and urged to 'wash its hands of blood and return Elgin's loot.'

"The trustees of the British Museum have become the world's largest receivers of stolen property, and the great majority of their loot is not even on public display," Robertson charges.

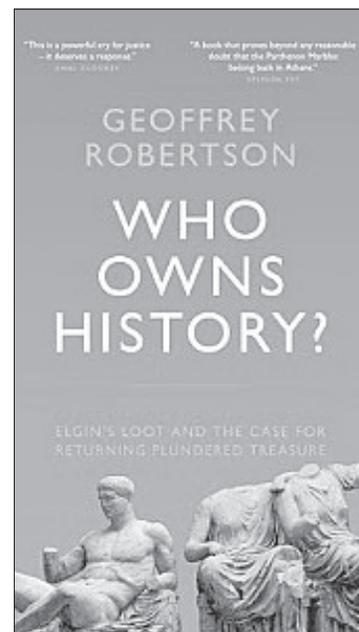
His views appear in the book, "Who Owns History? Elgin's Loot and the Case for Returning Plundered Treasure."

Along with a distinguished career as a trial lawyer, human rights advocate and United Nations judge, Robertson has appeared in many celebrated trials, defending Salman Rushdie and Julian Assange, prosecuting Hastings Banda and representing Human Rights Watch in the proceedings against General Pinochet.

In his just released book, he scores the British Museum for allowing an unofficial "stolen goods tour," "which stops at the Elgin marbles, Hoa Hakananai'a, the Benin bronzes and other pilfered cultural property". The three items he mentioned are wanted by Greece, Easter Island and Nigeria respectively.

"That these rebel itineraries are allowed is a tribute to the tolerance of this great institution, which would be even greater if it washed its hands of the blood and returned Elgin's loot," he wrote.

He accused the museum of telling "a string of carefully-constructed lies and half-truths" about how the marbles "were 'saved' or 'salvaged' or 'rescued' by Lord Elgin, who came into possession of them lawfully



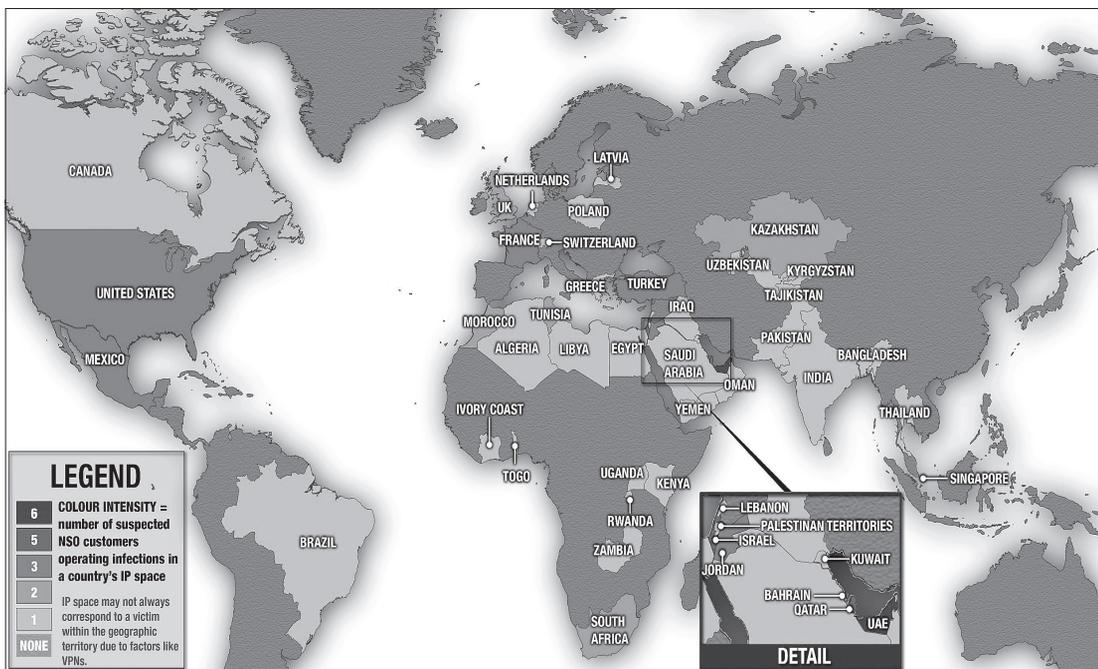
He criticized "encyclopedic museums" such as the British Museum, the Louvre in Paris and the Metropolitan in New York that "lock up the precious legacy of other lands, stolen from their people by wars of aggression, theft and duplicity".

"This is a time for humility," he observed, "something the British, still yearning for the era when they ruled the world do not do very well. Before it releases any of its share of other people's cultural heritage, the British Museum could mount an exhibition – 'The Spoils of Empire'."

Advocating the return of cultural property based on human rights law principles, Robertson observes that the French president, Emmanuel Macron has "galvanized the debate" by declaring that "African cultural heritage can no longer remain a prisoner of European museums".

"Politicians may make more or less sincere apologies for the crimes of their former empires, but the only way now available to redress them is to return the spoils of the rape of Egypt and China and the destruction of African and Asian and South American societies," he writes.

"We cannot right historical wrongs – but we can no longer, without shame, profit from them."



Bill Marczak, John Scott-Railton, Sarah McKune, Bahr Abdul Razzak & Ron Deibert

CITIZEN LAB 2018

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Culture

Black history fact: Ebony/Jet Magazines



Newyorkbeacon.com

November was a particularly significant month for the Johnson Publishing Company, which debuted its magazines Ebony and Jet on November 1 in 1945 and 1951, respectively. Also in November, publisher John H. Johnson debuted the Negro Digest publication.

Ebony's debut was published on November 1, 1945, selling 25,000 copies at twenty-five cents per copy. Banking on Ebony's success and its focus on Black excellence, Jet magazine debuted six years after on the same date in 1951. It was billed the "Weekly Negro News Magazine" and was a small-format, quick read magazine that featured the popular "Jet Beauty of the Week" centerfold.

Also in November 1942, the Johnson Publishing Company debuted Negro Digest, styled as an African-American counter to

Reader's Digest. The publication first fell out of print in 1951 but was revived and then renamed Black World in 1970 before ceasing publication in 1976.

In the 21st Century, the Johnson Publishing Company saw more competition and the shift from print to digital. Around 2010, the company began selling off portions of its business holdings. In 2014, Jet ceased magazine publication and becoming solely a digital outlet.

In 2016, Ebony, after 71 years, and largely diminished in value, was sold to a group of investors.

To help offset debt, the company auctioned off its massive photo archives which was purchased by a collective of foundations, including the National Museum of African American History And Culture. The final sale of the archives was \$30 million, and the images will eventually be made available to the public in digital format.

Tiger Woods ties PGA record for most wins

By Stacy M. Brown,
NNPA Newswire Senior
Correspondent
@StacyBrownMedia

Tiger Woods' fantastic year continued in Japan, where he set another record.

The 43-year-old captured the Zozo Championship in Japan with a dominating wire-to-wire victory and tying Hall of Famer Sam Snead for the most career PGA Tour wins with 83.

Woods also became just the 5th player to win a major championship plus an additional PGA Tour event in the same calendar year at age 43 or older.

Woods shot -19 under par to claim a three-stroke victory over Japanese favorite, Hideki Matsuyama on Monday, Oct. 28.

His record-tying victory was no easy feat.

Woods and the rest of the field had to endure rain and wind throughout the week, forcing golfers to play 29 holes on Sunday.

The Zozo Championships didn't conclude until early Monday, but Woods, who has endured multiple back and knee surgeries, never let up.

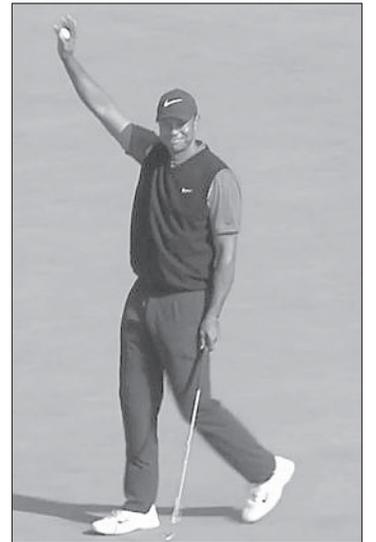
"Five days at the top of the board is a long time, man," Woods told reporters after his stunning victory. "It was definitely stressful."

In May, after an 11-year drought, Woods finally won his 15th major championship. He came back from a 2-shot deficit to defeat frontrunners Dustin Johnson, Brooks Koepka, and Xander Schauffele to win the Masters.

In Japan, Woods made 27 birdies and finished among the leaders in fairways and greens hit and putts made per green in regulation.

"This was big. Hideki made it tight," Woods told a CBS Sports reporter. "It was a lot closer than what people probably thought. Hideki did what he needed to do to put heat on me. It came down to the last hole."

Commentators for CBS Sports,



which broadcast the tournament, stated that the match wasn't "Woods simply getting hot with the flat stick for a week, it was a legit win against a loaded field that will undoubtedly result in Woods picking himself for the President's Cup team at the beginning of next month."

Woods is serving as captain of the team this year.

"What is true about Tiger now has always been true about Tiger: If his body is healthy, he will win events," CBS' Kyle Porter stated.

Four African American academics named MacArthur "Genius" fellows in 2019

Newyorkbeacon.com

The Chicago-based MacArthur Foundation announced the selection of 26 individuals in this year's class of MacArthur Fellows. The honors, frequently referred to as the "Genius Awards," include a \$625,000 stipend over the next five years which the individuals can use as they see fit.

Fellows are chosen for their "extraordinary originality and dedication in their creative pursuits." The goal of the awards is to "encourage people of outstanding talent to pursue their own creative, intellectual, and professional inclinations" without the burden of having to worry about their financial situation.

This year, five of the 26 MacArthur Fellows are Black and four have current ties to academia:

Saidiya Hartman is a professor of English and comparative literature at Columbia University in New York City. Professor Hartman's major fields of interest are African American and American literature and cultural history, slavery, law and literature, and performance studies.

She is the author of Lose Your Mother: A Journey Along the Atlantic Slave Route (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007) and Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments: Intimate Histories of Social Upheaval (W.W. Norton, 2019). Dr. Hartman is a graduate of Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut.



Walter Hood is a professor of landscape architecture and environmental planning and urban design in the College of Environmental Design at the University of California, Berkeley. He is the author of Blues & Jazz Landscape Improvisations (Poltrone Press, 1993).

Professor Hood is a graduate of North Carolina A&T State University. He holds two master's degrees from the University of California, Berkeley, and a master of fine arts degree from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Kelly Lytle Hernandez is a professor of history at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Professor Lytle Hernandez is the author of the award-winning books, Migra! A History of the U.S. Border Patrol (University of California Press, 2010), and City of Inmates: Conquest, Rebellion, and the Rise of Human Caging in Los Angeles (University of North Carolina Press, 2017).

Emmanuel Pratt is an urban designer and co-founder and executive director of the Sweet Water Foundation, a nonprofit organization based on Chicago's South Side that engages local residents in the cultivation and regeneration of social, environmental, and economic resources in their neighborhoods.





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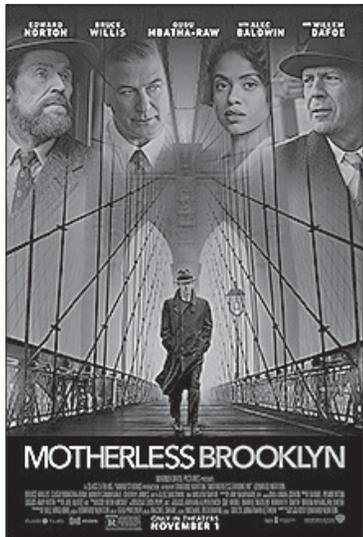
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Audrey's reel whirl

By Audrey J. Bernard

Edward Norton and Gugu Mbatha-Raw amaze in dramatic crime noir



Motherless Brooklyn poster



Featured Image: (L-R) Gugu Mbatha-Raw as Laura Rose and Edward Norton as Lionel Essrog in Warner Bros. Pictures' drama *Motherless Brooklyn*, A Warner Bros. Pictures Release. (Photo by Glen Wilson)



Featured Image: Michael Kenneth Williams as Trumpet Man in Warner Bros. Pictures' Drama *Motherless Brooklyn*, A Warner Bros. Pictures Release (Photo by Glen Wilson)

From Warner Bros. Pictures comes the stylishly beautiful *Motherless Brooklyn* starring Edward Norton, with an All-Star cast comprised of Bruce Willis, Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Bobby Cannavale, Cherry Jones, Michael Kenneth Williams, Leslie Mann, Ethan Suplee, Dallas Roberts, Josh Pais, Robert Ray Wisdom, Fisher Stevens, with Alec Baldwin and Willem Dafoe, which opened nationwide on Friday, November 1, 2019, to favorable reviews.

This is one of the most glamorous movies of 2019 and Mbatha-Raw's beauty is mesmerizing! The remarkable cast was elegant and their chemistry lent credibility to the mystery. Additionally, smoky sets and an amazing ambiance of Brooklyn and Harlem neighborhoods in the 1950s captured the essence of New York City and how ravishing it was back then. Pope's cinematography layered with Pemberton's titillating sound and solid acting added to this nuanced masterpiece. Baldwin, Dafoe, Cannavale and Willis brought it! And no one does justice to a dramatic detective period piece better than Williams, and he slays in his role as trumpet man.

STORY: Set against the backdrop of 1950s New York, *Motherless Brooklyn* follows Lionel Essrog (Edward Norton), a lonely

private detective living with Tourette Syndrome, as he ventures to solve the murder of his mentor and only friend, Frank Minna (Bruce Willis). Armed only with a few clues and the engine of his obsessive mind, Lionel unravels closely-guarded secrets that hold the fate of the whole city in the balance. In a mystery that carries him from gin-soaked jazz clubs in Harlem to the hard-edged slums of Brooklyn and, finally, into the gilded halls of New York's power brokers, Lionel contends with

thugs, corruption and the most dangerous man in the city to honor his friend and save the woman who might be his own salvation.

DEETS: Based on "Motherless Brooklyn" by Jonathan Lethem, *Motherless Brooklyn* was directed, written and produced by Edward Norton; Bill Migliore, Gigi Pritzker, Rachel Shane, Michael Bederman (producers); Adrian Alperovich, Sue Kroll, Daniel Nadler, Robert F. Smith, Brian Niranjan Sheth (executive



Wynton Marsalis (left) and his band perform (Photo by Dolly Faibyshev)



Motherless Brooklyn Cast members arrive on the red carpet to attend the premiere of *Motherless Brooklyn* at the 57th New York Film Festival on Friday, October 11, 2019, in New York City (L-R) Bobby Cannavale, Willem Dafoe, Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Josh Pais, Bruce Willis and Edward Norton (Photo by JustJared)

producers); Daniel Pemberton (music); Dick Pope (cinematography); Joe Klotz (editor); Class 5 Films, MWM Studios (production company); and Warner Bros. Pictures (distributor).

The film was one of the most buzzed about screenings at the 57th New York Film Festival where it premiered on Friday, October 11, 2019, and attended by cast members Edward Norton, Bruce Willis, Willem Dafoe, Bobby Can-

navale and others. Gugu Mbatha-Raw dazzled on the red carpet in a canary yellow designer's gown. The plush afterparty took place at the swanky Jazz At Lincoln Center where guests hobnobbed until way past midnight and were treated to a marvelous performance by JALC's artistic director Wynton Marsalis and his band. Marsalis contributed to the film's music. (Photos by Getty Images for Warner Bros. Pictures)



Edward Norton, Gugu Mbatha-Raw



Gugu Mbatha-Raw



Willem Dafoe



Edward Norton and wife Shauna Robertson



Bruce Willis and wife Emma Heming Willis



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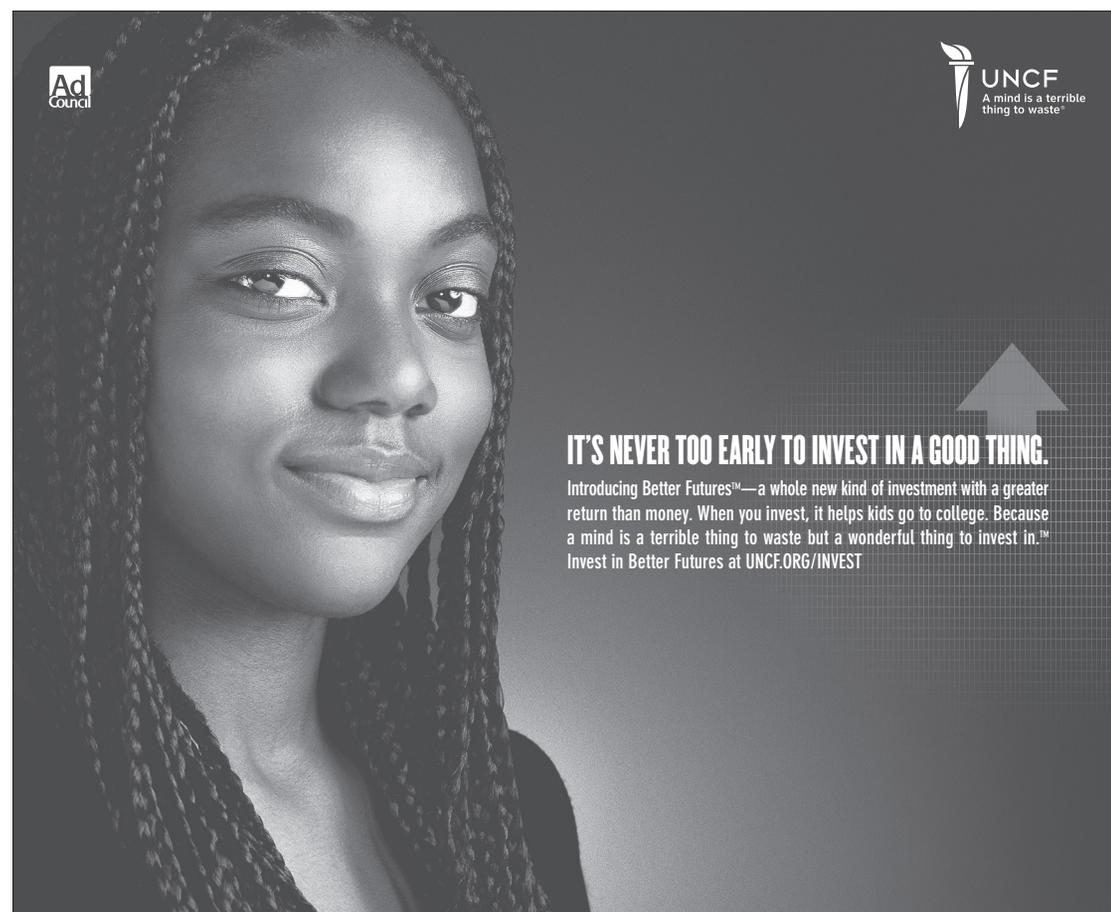
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