

Available at your local



Philadelphia *Observer*

50 Cents

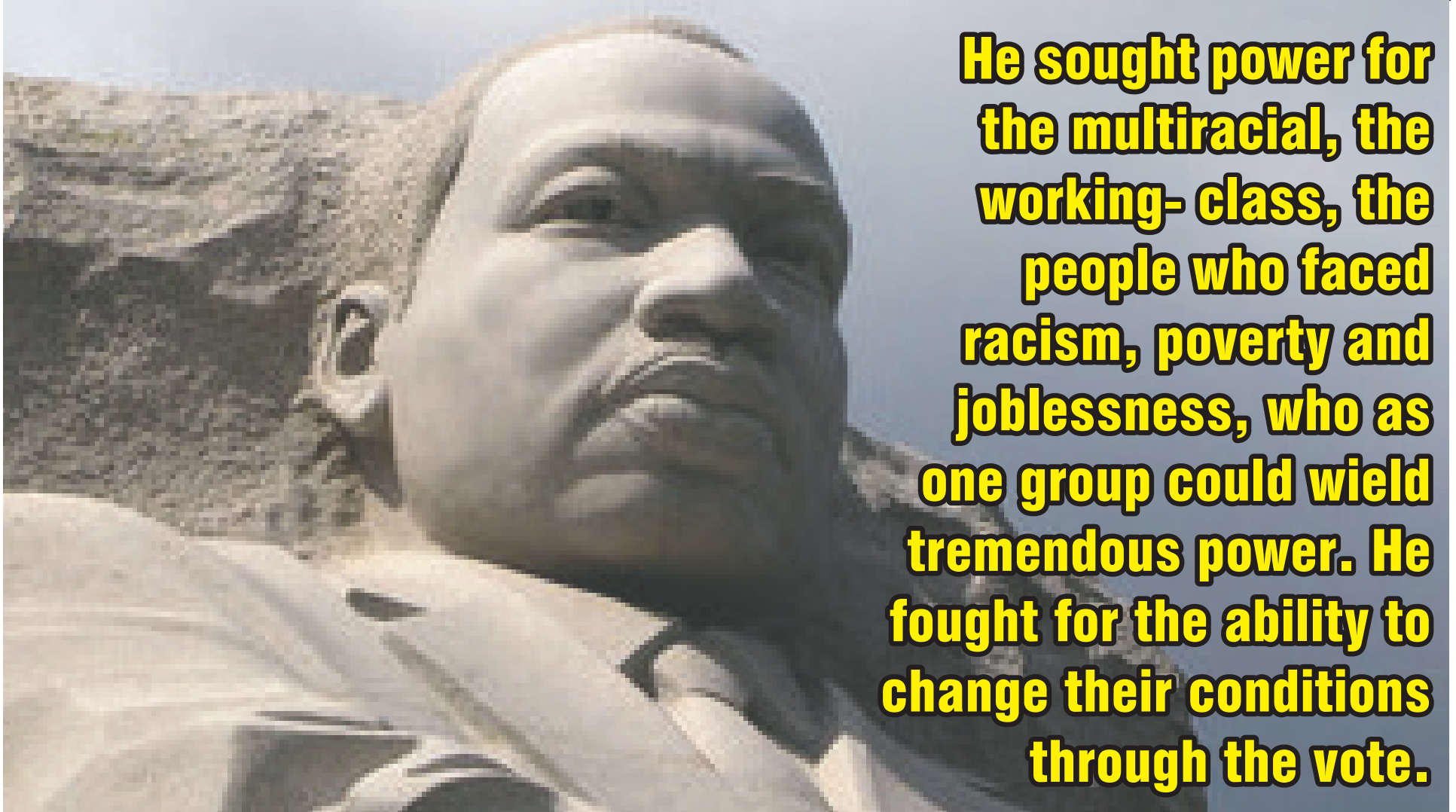
Speaking Truth to Justice

PhiladelphiaObserver.com

Vol. 27 • No. 4

January 30 – February 5, 2020

DR KING, HIS QUEST FOR POWER



He sought power for the multiracial, the working-class, the people who faced racism, poverty and joblessness, who as one group could wield tremendous power. He fought for the ability to change their conditions through the vote.

That power has become fragile through voter suppression and gerrymandering. Let's keep the power! Let's Answer the Census! Let's vote, page 3

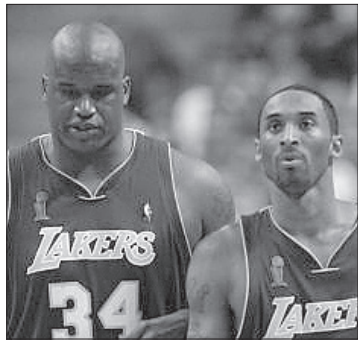
Shaquille O'Neal says he's 'sick right now' - mourns Kobe Bryant's death

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Shaquille O'Neal has reacted to the shocking death of his NBA legend Kobe Bryant and daughter Gianna Maria Onore.

O'Neal responded to the passing of his former 41-year-old teammate and 13-year-old daughter. He paid to the father and died who died Sunday in a helicopter crash in a series of tweets. Officials stated that nine people were on board and no survivors.

"There's no words to express the pain I'm going through with this tragedy of loosing my niece Gigi & my brother @kobebryant



I love u and u will be missed. My condolences goes out to the Bryant family and the families of the other passengers on board. IM SICK RIGHT NOW," he [tweeted](#).

She had next: Gianna Bryant was going to carry on her father's legacy

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Her name was Gianna Maria Onore Bryant. The world, now and forever, knows her as Gigi. Her dad, Kobe Bryant, called her Mambacita. He was Mamba, of course, and she was going to be basketball's female version of him. She was going to play at Connecticut and head to the WNBA. That was the plan.

Over the years, the world watched her grow from a baby in her father's arms, to a small child trying to hold his Finals MVP trophy, to his companion at WNBA, college and NBA games around the country, listening to her father break down play and watching



every detail on the court, just as he always did.

"Gigi was really turning into a special player," said Russ Davis, the women's basketball coach at Vanguard University in Southern California and someone who became close with Bryant in recent years. "It's hard to predict her future, but with the way she was improving and the way she understood the game, she was going to have a bright one."

In memoriam: Lakers legend Kobe Bryant killed in helicopter crash

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

Los Angeles Lakers legend Kobe Bryant and his daughter, Gianna Maria Onore, were among nine people killed in a helicopter crash on Sunday, January 26, 2020.

Bryant was 41, and his daughter, affectionately known as GiGi, who was only 13.

"As the reports came in on the death of Kobe Bryant, his daughter and the other passengers on board his helicopter we all were shocked and saddened by the news of a life gone far too soon," stated Danny J. Bakewell, Sr., the chairman and executive publisher of NNPA member newspaper, the Los Angeles Sentinel. "Whether you were a Laker fan or not, the news seemed surreal."

Bakewell continued: "This tragic death of a young man dying in the prime of his life is a reminder to us all of just how precious life really is and how we must all embrace life, love and family and never forget what is really important."

"Kobe was a warrior on the basketball court, and he seemed to ease his way into retirement life with the same passion and enthusiasm that we all admired when he was playing in the NBA."

"My thoughts and prayers go out to his parents, his wife, his children and all those who admired Kobe Bryant not only as a basketball



star but as a Man, a Son, a Husband and Father"

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., the president and CEO of the NNPA, said the Black Press joins with the rest of America in mourning Bryant's death.

"The National Newspaper Publishers Association expresses our profound sympathy and sincerest condolences to the family of Kobe Bryant," Chavis stated.

Denise Rolark Barnes, the publisher of the Washington Informer also offered her condolences to the Bryant family. "Our hearts cry out for Kobe Bryant and his family," Rolark Barnes stated. "Our memories of his phenomenal life and career will never die."

TMZ reported that the 5-time NBA Champion was en route to his Mamba Academy for a basketball practice when the crash occurred.

The academy is north of Los Angeles in the city of Thousand Oaks.

In a statement, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said Bryant was a giant who inspired, amazed and thrilled people everywhere. "He will live forever in the heart of Los Angeles and will be remembered through the ages as one of our greatest heroes," Garcetti stated.

"This is a moment that leaves us struggling to find words that express the magnitude of shock and sorrow we are all feeling right now, and I am keeping Kobe's entire family in my prayers at this time of unimaginable grief."

The helicopter, an S-76 owned by Bryant, crashed and caught fire at about 10 a.m. Pacific time, according to the Los Angeles County

Continued on page 7

'Thank you, Kobe': Howard University student tells how Kobe Bryant impacted him, Los Angeles, and the world

By Arthur Cribbs(TriceEdneyWire.com)

When I heard of the passing of Kobe Bryant and his daughter, Gianna, along with seven others in a helicopter crash in Calabasas, California, I had an initial feeling of shock, disbelief and numbness. And in the hours since hearing the news, that feeling has not gone away. For a lot of us in this world, this feeling isn't going away anytime soon. It truly felt like losing someone close.

In this time of mourning, I just want to say thank you, Kobe.

Growing up in Los Angeles, you were everything for me. You introduced me to winning at an extremely young age. When I was born in 1999, you were a three-year veteran in the NBA and in my first three years of life, you helped the Lakers win three straight league finals. Although I was too young to remember those championship years, I do remember you leading the Lakers to two more NBA finals in 2009 and 2010.

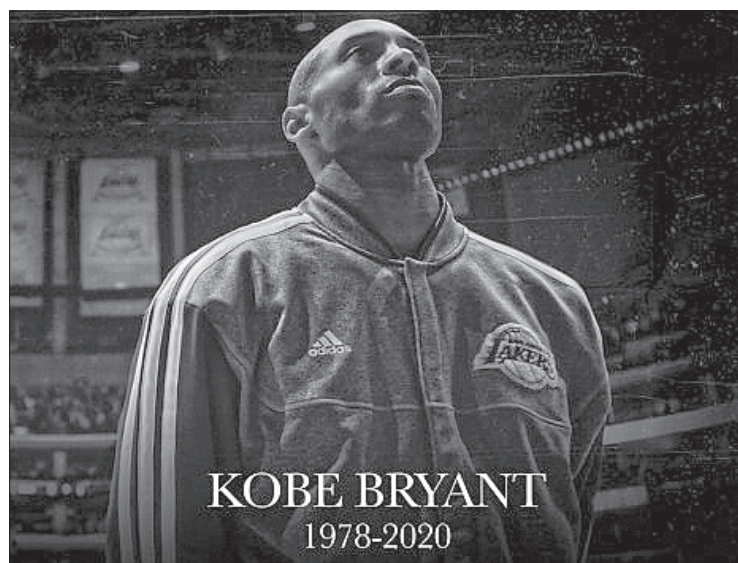
Your ability to be a winner inspired my interest in sports and competition, and it has been a passion of mine ever since. And while winning is great, it was the

way you won that stuck with me. Your "Mamba Mentality" of being your best self and making sure nobody worked harder than you is a work ethic you consistently lived by, and I have been aiming to emulate you in that regard.

You also had infectious confidence in your game that gave viewers confidence in themselves. I remember when you played your final game on April 13, 2016. Everyone remembers the 60-point performance, but people may forget that you struggled early on in that game, going just 7-20 from the field in the first half. Several players would have just stopped shooting at that point, but you remained confident in your training and took 30 more shot attempts.

Your confidence influenced a generation of kids who watched you play. When I started playing organized basketball, you were in the midst of your MVP season and all I could hear at practice was "Kobe!" every time someone attempted a shot. When it came to shooting a fadeaway jumper or having a pre-free throw ritual, every kid tried to emulate your style.

You also were a symbol that brought unity in the city of Los An-



geles. When the Lakers won their championships, you brought the city together at the championship parades. I personally remember waiting for several hours just to see a glimpse of you.

When you played your final game, the country was heading into a heated presidential election. Watching you play though, people were able to detach from the stress of the real world and en-

joy your play. Whether it was your first game or your last, you always put on a show and you gave your fans everything you could offer.

As someone who uses sports to connect with people, you helped me find the confidence to have conversations. With you being such a global figure, it didn't matter how much the other person was invested in sports. We could always have a conversation about

Kobe. With deeply rooted sports fans, I have formed so many close relationships that started by debating where Kobe stands as the greatest of all time (GOAT).

Beyond my life though, you meant so much more to the world. You helped globalize the game of basketball, making the NBA popular in China. At a time when WNBA players struggle to receive support, you served as an advocate for the league. As a family man, you showed what it means to be a father, taking interest in your daughters' passions and putting them in positions to succeed. When Gianna's favorite player was Atlanta Hawks guard Trae Young, you took her to Hawks games to watch Young firsthand.

Thank you, Kobe, for all the memories. You, Gianna and the seven others were taken way too soon, and this world will never be the same.

Arthur Cribbs is a junior journalism major from Los Angeles. He is a Rhoden Fellow at ESPN for TheUndeclared.com. He also works with the Department of Athletics at Howard University and was a production manager for WHUT's Spotlight Network.

Let's not censor Dr. King's life even as we glorify him



By Jesse Jackson

As another year passes with celebrations marking the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, I worry about the dangers of neutering Dr. King's life, turning him into a "dreamer" who became a martyr. We shouldn't forget that Dr. King was a leader, a man of conscience and of action.

He sought to transform America and that forced him to be a disrupter — and to bear the wounds of being unpopular in a just cause. With segregation the law of the land and

voting rights suppressed, Dr. King understood the only way change would come would be by disrupting an unjust system. He believed in nonviolence, but not in passivity. One of my favorite quotes of Dr. King was when he was asked what his favorite demonstration was.

"This week's," he responded, even as he planned for the next week's demonstrations. Dr. King opposed those who equated quiet with peace. We were told to be quiet at the back of the bus, quiet in the face of oppression. He understood that true peace came only with justice, and justice could not be achieved without disruption. He was not an idle dreamer; he was clear about wanting to amass power. He emphasized the drive for the Voting Rights Act, to protect the power of the vote, because that would give African Americans the power to change their conditions.

Consider the 2016 election, where Donald Trump lost the popular vote nationally, but won the electoral college by the margin of less than 80,000 votes in three key states — Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. In Michigan, 10,704; 22,177 in Wisconsin; 46,765 in Pennsylvania. In each state, eligible African American voters could have changed the election if they had

turned out to vote. In 2020, Dr. King would be leading efforts to register new voters in numbers larger than those margins as a measure of their power.

There are more 18-year-old voters than 81-year-old voters. If they register and vote, they can change the course of history. Dr. King was fearless in the cause of justice. He realized early that the war in Vietnam was an unjust folly that would not be won. The cost of that war was draining the funds from the war on poverty at home. He came out publicly against the war in a dramatic speech at Riverside Church, publicly criticizing the Democratic president, Lyndon Johnson, with whom he had worked to achieve the end of segregation and the Voting Rights Bill.

He was savaged by the establishment media, criticized by leading liberals. Black leaders spoke out against him. At the height of the controversy, he was seen unfavorably by three-fourths of whites, and as "irrelevant" by a majority of blacks. The FBI intensified its covert operations against him, deeming him a national security threat. He was deluged with threats of assassination. He knew he would spark a fierce reaction but realized that he had no choice but to speak.



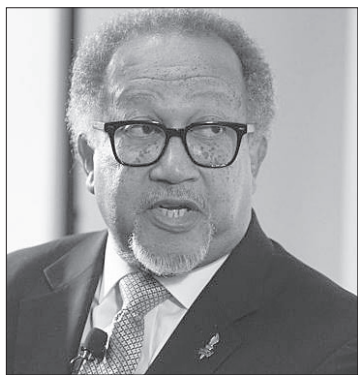
The Vietnam debacle would divide the country and eliminate any hope of rebuilding at home. Dr. King, of course, was proved right. He was right about the injustice of segregation and of efforts to suppress voting rights.

He was right about the need for economic justice in the United States, for basic economic rights that would extend to people of all races. He was right about the need for a war on poverty rather than war abroad. And he was right that the Vietnam War was a costly, unjust debacle that could never be won. Many more knew

that he was right, but too few had the courage of their convictions, the courage to speak out, the commitment to action to make things better.

Let us not censor Dr. King's life even as we glorify him. What made him remarkable wasn't his dream, but his willingness to sacrifice, to act, to work to make that dream real. Those who would seek to emulate Dr. King would be well advised to launch voter registration and get out the vote drives. Use the power that he helped provide to build even more power, and more justice.

Hidden tax increases on airlines tickets won't fly



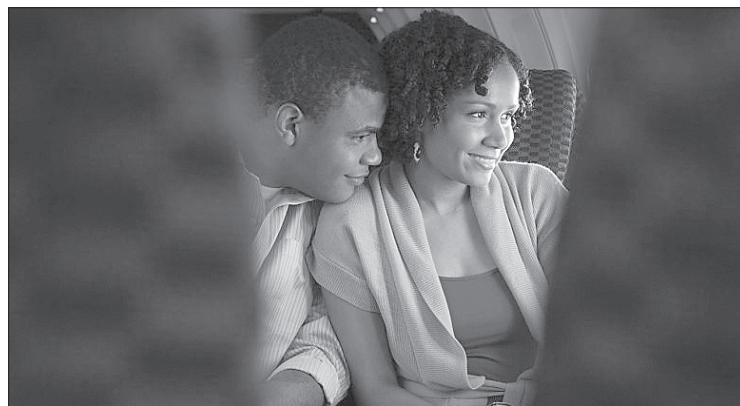
By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., President, CEO, NNPA

This week, Democratic leaders are expected to unveil their broad infrastructure agenda for the coming year — a plan that is sorely needed given our aging highways, railways and other transportation needs.

But here is what is galling: sources tell me that buried in the broad array of transportation initiatives is a proposal to raise the so-called Passenger Facility Charge (PFC), a hidden fee on airline travelers that Congress enacted long ago to help pay for renovation projects at airports around the country.

Most Americans have probably never heard of the PFC, now capped at about \$4.50 per person for each leg of a flight. But working families across the country, including our readers, may soon feel the impact if some members of Congress have their way.

Here is how the fee works. Passengers are charged the fee at the ticket counter, allowing the airport that collects it to keep it for local repairs and renovations. Current proposals in Congress include one to nearly double the fee to \$8.50 per person for each leg of a flight. Another possibility is eliminating the cap entirely, thereby allowing airports to charge whatever they like.



If the fee is raised to \$8.50, a family of four on a trip with a connecting flight would pay nearly \$150 in this tax alone — a tax that is layered on top of the price of the ticket itself, a major reason people don't notice it. Such a substantial increase could be the deciding factor between that family taking a much-deserved vacation or staying home.

While most people agree that it is in the public's best interest to have safe and efficient airports that can accommodate increased passenger travel, proponents of increasing the passenger fee have been a little misleading about the condition of the nation's airports.

In reality, airports are undergoing something of a revitalization, particularly when compared to rail or highway travel. Passengers are traveling at record rates, airport revenues are at all-time highs, and infrastructure upgrades are booming across the nation.

Just take a look at the balance sheets of our nation's airports. U.S. airports have over \$16 billion of unrestricted cash and investments on hand, with \$7 billion sitting in the aviation trust fund. And, in the last decade, more than \$165 billion in federal aid has been directed to airports for improvement projects at America's largest 30 airports alone.

Some of these projects have been

completed, others are currently underway, and some have received approval to move forward in the coming months. For example, Los Angeles International Airport and New York's John F. Kennedy Airport are both undergoing multi-billion-dollar upgrades. Smaller facilities like the Long Island MacArthur Airport and the Shawnee Regional Airport are also upgrading their terminals and runways.

The bottom line, then, is that there is no substantive basis for a fee hike. And it makes even less sense politically.

With Election Day just months away, most lawmakers will likely make the safe calculation and reject any proposed hike presented on the floor for a vote, lest they stir a voter backlash. Yet it should be worrisome that House Democratic leaders appear willing to put a fee hike on the table for consideration.

It could be nothing more than a trial balloon released in an attempt to test whether rank-and-file lawmakers have the stomach for taking up such a measure in an election year. But even if it is just that, there's still reason for concern, given that even unpopular ideas have a way of gaining sudden momentum in the topsy-turvy politics of Congress.

Continued on page 7

African Americans are 40 percent of the nation's homeless population

(TriceEdneyWire.com)

The total number of homeless is 567,715 and 40 percent or 225,735 are African-American, although only 13 percent of the nation's population is Black, according to "The 2019 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress."

The numbers are based on "Point-In-Time Estimates of Homelessness" taken one night in January 2020. The Point-In-Time Estimates reported that 27 percent of the 56,381 who were unsheltered were Black. Unsheltered homeless means they are sleeping in cars, on the streets or in parks or on buses, subways and elevated trains.

"African Americans have remained considerably overrepresented among the homeless population compared to the U.S. population," according to the report.

Blacks represented 52 percent of the homeless population with



children. About 48 percent or 270,607 of the homeless are White. They also comprised just over half of the unsheltered population or 57 percent of 119,487.

Asians were 1.3 percent or 7,228 of the homeless population. Hispanics or Latinos were 22 percent or 124,615 of the homeless population. Native Americans were 3.2 percent or 17,966 of the homeless population.

Men and boys comprise 343,187 or 60.5 percent of the homeless compared with women who comprise 219,911 or 38.7 percent of homeless.

Steyer aims criminal justice plan at taking on racial bias

Newyorkbeacon.com

Democratic presidential candidate Tom Steyer is proposing a criminal justice reform plan that would reduce the costs of incarceration by redirecting funds to education, community policing and rehabilitation in an effort to amend a system he sees as prejudiced against lower-income communities and people of color.

"Racial bias permeates the system, really from policing to after they've been incarcerated," Steyer told The Associated Press before the planned release of his proposal Thursday.



Steyer, a billionaire environmental activist, spent the weekend in South Carolina, holding several town hall-style events and, along with more than a half-dozen of his Democratic rivals, marching in Columbia to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



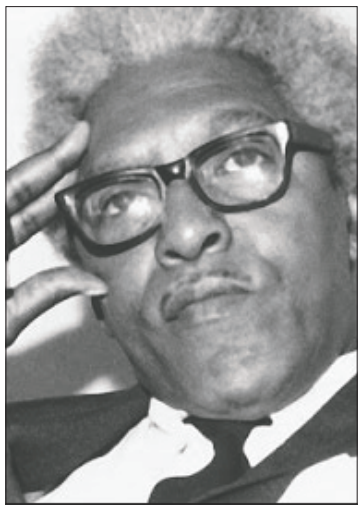
Civil rights activist Bayard Rustin, who was arrested under a law punishing homosexuality, might finally be pardoned

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Bayard Rustin may receive a posthumous pardon from California legislators for a charge of lewd vagrancy. Due to the “morals charge” which was used to target homosexuals, Rustin was forced to register as a sex offender. He died in 1987 while still bearing the label, reports the Washington Post.

In January 1953, Rustin was charged when he was caught having sex with two men in a parked car. He’d just completed a speech in Pasadena as part of a lecture tour centered on anti-colonialism advocacy in West Africa, according to HuffPost. He served 60 days in a Los Angeles County jail before returning back to his home base located in New York.

The anniversary of his arrest was marked on January 21. To highlight that day, State Sen. Scott Wiener, chair of California’s legislative LGBTQ caucus, and Assemblywoman Shirley Weber, chair of the state’s Legislative Black Caucus,



formally asked Gov. Gavin Newsom during a news conference to pardon Rustin.

As a result of Rustin’s arrest and charge, many publicly distanced themselves from the activist. Subsequently, he was removed as a member from the Fellowship of Reconciliation, an interfaith peace organization. It didn’t help matters when Sen. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina read Rustin’s Pasadena’s arrest file into the Congressional Record.

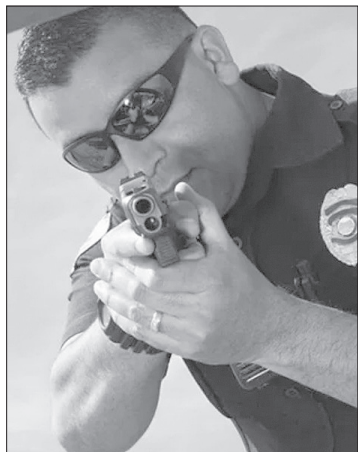
Somali American teens held at gunpoint by cops reach \$170,000 settlement

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The families of four Somali American teens have reached a settlement with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board over an encounter with park police that the boys said left them terrified they were going to die.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board agreed to pay \$170,000 to settle a discrimination complaint filed with the state Department of Human Rights over a July 2018 incident in which officers held the boys at gunpoint but did not arrest them, according to the Minnesota chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

“The families went through a lot and the young people also went through a lot from this incident,” CAIR-MN executive director Jaylani Hussein said at a press conference Wednesday. “We are happy today to report that this incident is behind them, but they



are still traumatized from what took place.”

The court settlement was reportedly finalized in November and paid out soon after, according to the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Each of the boys reportedly received \$40,000, while \$10,000 went to CAIR for attorney services.

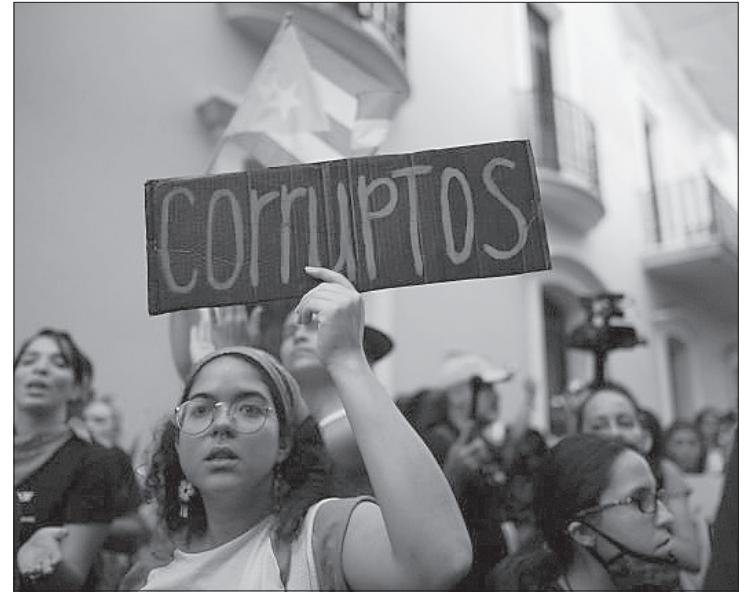
Fallout continues in Puerto Rico after warehouse full of unused relief supplies is discovered

Philadelphiaobserver.com

A video showing a Puerto Rican warehouse full of unused supplies—allegedly given to aid survivors in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria—has set off a political firestorm on the island, currently reeling from a series of earthquakes.

The footage, streamed on Saturday by Lorenzo Delgado Torres, instantly went viral, showing a warehouse in the southern coastal city of Ponce full of unused emergency supplies: bottled water (now expired), propane gas tanks, portable stoves, diapers, and baby formula. The supplies are believed to have been sitting at the 43,000 square-foot warehouse since September 2017.

As the New York Times reports, word of the unused emergency supplies spread quickly through Ponce, where thousands remain in shelters following the 6.4 magnitude earthquake that hit the island two weeks ago. Angry residents showed up at the warehouse to “demand an explanation,



jeer at government officials and take some of the supplies,” writes the Times.

Gov. Wanda Vázquez attempted to move quickly to quell the crisis. In an official statement given after the enraging discovery, she called the unused resources

“unforgivable.” By Sunday, she had fired three cabinet officials: Carlos Acevedo, director of Puerto Rico’s Office of Emergency Management, was the first to go, followed by Housing Secretary Fernando Gil and Department of Family Secretary Glorimar Andújar.

Iranian student legally here on visa gets deported

Philadelphiaobserver.com

It feels like just Monday night I was talking about how U.S immigration policy is being drafted and enforced by white nationalists. Wait, it was just Monday? Aw shit, here we go again.

CNN reports that Mohammad Shahab Dehghani Hossein, a 24-year-old student admitted to Northeastern University, was arrested at Boston Logan Interna-

tional Airport and deported from the U.S. According to attorney Kerry Doyle; this happened in spite of an emergency stay granted by a Massachusetts district court judge.

Hossein was issued a student visa by the State Department just last week but U.S. Customs and Border Protection revoked it and gave him an expedited removal order upon his arrival. An emergency petition filed by



Doyle states: “Rather than being based in legitimate concerns over Plaintiff’s admissibility to the United States, this revocation and expedited removal is a result of additional scrutiny targeting Iranian citizens.”

Justice for Paitin Fields: 5-year-old raped, killed; no charges have ever been filed

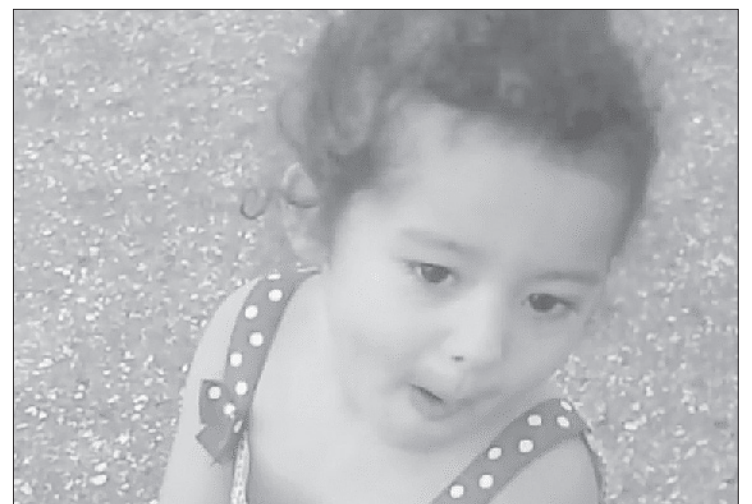
Philadelphiaobserver.com

On November 13, 2017, five-year-old Paitin Fields was taken to Pender Memorial Hospital after being sexually assaulted and strangled.

Paitin Fields died at New Haven Regional Medical Hospital on November 16, 2017. To this day, no one has been charged with the violent and malicious attack of this precious young child which led to her untimely death.

According to news reports, Paitin Field’s uncle, David Prevatte, was a suspect in the case but this information was not revealed to the public until he threatened the lead investigator of the homicide case.

Prevatte has a history of violence and multiple criminal charges- including arson and larceny-which he pled guilty to. Furthermore, David -who was



there at the time of her death- has shown multiple expressions of racial hatred. This is extremely concerning as we know Paitin was of mixed ancestry living in a home with a man who had “KKK” on his wall at the time of the incident.

David Prevatte stated in an interview that he does not think Paitin was murdered even though

autopsy results show evidence of strangulation and rape. He also failed a polygraph test on the day of her death. There are many shocking details in this case- some of which have now been released to the public. Despite the evidence obtained (including a rape kit), no one has been charged for Paitin’s murder or rape.

YOU DON'T NEED TO BE FAMOUS TO BE UNFORGETTABLE.

MAKE MORE. TEACH.

Make classrooms exciting and your lessons unforgettable. Become a teacher and make more. [Teach.org](https://www.teach.org)



Editorial

Philadelphia Observer



By Marc H. Morial

New Jersey does the right thing for diverse communities

“When districts with prisons receive enhanced representation, every other district in the state without a prison sees its votes diluted. And this vote dilution is even larger in the districts with the highest incarceration rates. Thus, the communities that bear the most direct costs of crime are therefore the communities that are the biggest victims of prison-based gerrymandering. The Census Bureau’s decision to count incarcerated people in the wrong place interferes with

equal representation in virtually every state.” – Prison Policy Initiative, The Prison Gerrymandering Project

The Census is one of the most powerful tools the African American community has to claim our rightful voice in the political, legislative and social institutions of our nation.

Unfortunately, it also is one of the most abused.

One of the ways the Census is abused is prison gerrymandering. Our mass incarceration crisis has thrust 2.3 million Americans into correctional facilities – nearly one in 100. Black people are incarcerated at five times the rate of whites, so more than half of the incarcerated are Black, most from urban communities. Most of these prisons are located in overwhelmingly white, rural communities. And when it comes to the Census, Black, urban Americans who are

incarcerated – and who can’t vote — are counted as residents of those white rural communities rather than the diverse urban communities where they live.

Hundreds of prison communities around the country counties have a 10-to-1 ratio of racial over-representation— in other words, the portion of the prison that is Black – and can’t vote — is at least 10 times larger than the Black portion of the surrounding county.

This siphoning of Black urban political power into white, rural communities is the modern-day version of the Three-Fifths Compromise, and violates the principle of One Person, One Vote.

Some states are rejecting this relic of the racist past, and I’m pleased to congratulate New Jersey for becoming the latest to reject prison gerrymandering. Governor Phil Murphy this week

signed a bill requiring incarcerated persons to be counted in their home districts when legislative boundaries are redrawn. Congratulations also to the bill’s co-sponsors, Senators Sandra Cunningham and Nilsa Cruz-Perez and Assembly members Shavonda Sumter, Raj Mukherji, and Annette Quijano.

According to the Newark Star-Ledger, more New Jersey inmates come from Essex than any other county, but most of the state’s correctional facilities are located in counties to the south. That meant more than 1,600 Camden residents were counted as residents of other counties.

The problem is even worse in other states. According to the Prison Gerrymandering Project, 60 percent of Illinois’ prisoners are from Cook County (Chicago), yet 99 percent of them are counted outside the county. In Texas, one

rural district’s population is almost 12 percent prisoners. Eighty-eight residents from that district, then, are represented in the State House as if they were 100 residents from urban Houston or Dallas.

New Jersey is the 7th state to end prison gerrymandering – the other states are New York, California, Maryland, Delaware, Nevada, and Washington. More than one in four Americans now live in a jurisdiction that has ended prison gerrymandering.

State action, while vitally important, won’t solve the problem at the federal level, or affect the unfair allocation of federal resources that results from unfair Census practices, but it is a step closer to the ideal of One Person, One Vote.

Every state should follow the New Jersey’s lead and end prison gerrymandering to ensure equal representation for every American.

Will a woman be president in 2020



By Julianne Malveaux

Sanders (VT), who allegedly told Warren that a woman could not win the Presidency. I’d love to see the right woman in the White House, but I’ve been among the many who have wondered openly if, in a polarized and sexist United States, a woman can win both the nomination and the Presidency.

Though polls are not a definitive measure of who will win an election, Warren and Klobuchar tend to poll more weakly than the men in the race – Vice President Biden, Sanders, and former Mayor Pete Buttigieg. Have we come such a long way since 2016 that a woman is electable? Can so-called progressive men who want to get 45 out of the White House overcome their gender bias to vote for a woman?

Clearly, the Times not only thinks a woman can win, but in endorsing two women for the Democratic nomination, they are saying that women are the best of the Democrats in the race. And, in the past two years, we’ve seen signs that women are gaining po-

litically. The women’s sweep of the 2018 elections certainly bodes well for women. At the same time, is gender a sufficient qualification for the Presidency? Three years after the first flawed but overwhelmingly successful Women’s March in 2017, the realignment of the March “movement” has illustrated cracks in the foundations of feminism.

These flaws perhaps go back to the scuffle over who should get the vote first between our nation’s first feminists like Elizabeth Cady Stanton and civil rights activists like Frederick Douglass. In resenting the fact that Black men got the vote before white women, those early feminists used extremely disparaging language against Black men, using terms like “savage” to suggest these men did not deserve to vote.

Can anybody say “intersectionality”? Or to make it more clear, use the words of Sojourner Truth and say, “Ain’t I A Woman.” The women’s march movement fell apart because women were not on the same page. Accusations

against Tamika Mallory and Linda Sarsour, two of the co-chairs of the March caused much discussion and rancor, so much so that the second Women’s March attracted a fraction of the people who showed up to the first one. And the third March was operated on a different model. It did not equal the excitement or momentum of the first March, although there were many more local marches and other activities associated with the marches.

Women can’t “come together” unless they acknowledge our differences, as well as our similarities. Thanks to Tarana Burke and folks like Professor Kimberly Crenshaw, some Black women are openly addressing issues of race and class in feminism. But I’ve heard few white women, either politicians or intellectuals, deal with issues of racism in the women’s movement. Is there really “a women’s movement”? There are women’s issues, and women’s marches, and an exhilarating display of anti-Trump sentiment three years ago (don’t

forget that 53 percent of white women voted for that man), but when do women come together?

In other words, gender is not a qualification for higher office. And if the women endorsed by the New York Times do not fully explore the concept of intersectionality and speak on it, they will likely sideline some votes, even though many others would vote for Bubba the Fool to get rid of 45. Both Warren and Klobuchar are exciting candidates. Warren’s progressive ideas endear her to the left, and Klobuchar’s more moderate approach to social and economic challenges appeals to others. The Times did a good job of contrasting the two women.

But can either win the Presidency? When then one-term Senator Barack Obama ran for President, I liked him very much but didn’t think a Black man could succeed in this racist nation. Thankfully, I was wrong. Can a woman win in 2020? I’m hoping the best candidate will win, and the best candidate may well be a woman.

Subscribe Philadelphia Observer
 600 Third Avenue, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10016
 212-213-8585.
philadelphiaobserver.com

Obama portraits to begin 5-city tour in Chicago

TriceEdneyWire.com) –

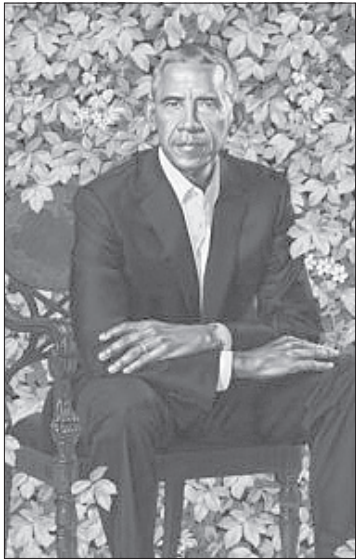
Portraits of former President Barack Obama and former First Lady Michelle Obama will go on display at the Art Institute of Chicago as the first stop in a five-city tour beginning in the summer of 2021.

Chicago is where the Obamas began their historical ascension to the White House.

The paintings, on loan from the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery, are Kehinde Wiley's painting of President Obama and Amy Sberald's portrait of Michelle Obama.

The former First Lady, a Chicago native who grew up on the city's South Side, visited the museum with her family. The Art Institute also was the site of the couple's first date.

Wiley and Sberald are the first African American artists commissioned by the National Gallery to create official portraits of a President and a First Lady.



Wiley placed President Obama in a chair against a backdrop of flowers, including chrysanthemums, Chicago's official flower.

Sberald painted the First Lady against a light-blue ground, gazing directly at the viewer.



After the Art Institute, the portraits will travel to The Brooklyn Museum, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, High Museum of Art in Atlanta and the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston.

When she learned from her mother that other kids don't have money to put on their lunch account, she decided that "I need to do a fundraiser so I can get more money for kids," she added.

2nd grader raises money for classmates who can't afford school lunch

Philadelphiaobserver.com

When EmauniJ Manley, a 7-year old girl, noticed that some of her classmates couldn't afford school lunch, she immediately thought of a way to help them. She then created an online fundraiser, and hundreds of people helped her surpass her goal.

"I saw some kids just eating a cheese sandwich," EmauniJ told NBC.

When she learned from her mother that other kids don't have money to put on their lunch account, she decided that "I need to do a fundraiser so I can get more money for kids," she added.

EmauniJ and her mother, who also works at her school, started the fundraiser on Facebook to raise money to pay the unpaid lunch accounts of as many students as possible.

The initial goal of the fundraiser was \$800, but a week after it was started, it has already reached more than \$4,300.



Principal Ben Harrington praised EmauniJ for her efforts. He said, "It's really cool to see a student who's 7 taking the initiative to impact other students at the school."

According to Harrington, out of 500 students, about 100 receive alternative lunches, even though the school system is doing its best to avoid it.

"Elementary school students have a \$25 deficit," Harrington said. "They can go \$25 before they get the alternative meal. Once you get into that deficit, sometimes it's difficult to come back."

Shocker: Serena Williams knocked out of Australian by China's Wang Qiang

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Serena Williams tumbled out of the Australian Open in the third round on Friday, eliminated by an opponent who had previously been one of her least daunting.

The eighth-seeded Williams, a seven-time Australian Open champion, lost to 27th-seeded Wang Qiang of China, 6-4, 6-7 (2), 7-5. It was their first meeting since last September in the United States Open quarterfinals, when Williams had routed Wang, 6-1, 6-0, in only 44 minutes, one of the easiest victories of her long career.

Wang, 28, who normally tries to dictate play with her flat, aggressive groundstrokes, did not hit a single winner in that match, seemingly frozen with fear under the floodlights in New York.



Serena Williams Australian open loss reaction

In Friday's rematch, Wang's readiness to battle was quickly apparent. She hung tough on her serve, saving four break points before breaking the 38-year-old Williams in the ninth game for a 5-4 lead, and then holding serve a game later to claim the opening set. Wang hit 10 winners in the set, and only five unforced errors. Williams hit 13 winners, but 18 unforced errors.

Williams hit 13 winners, but 18 unforced errors.



American teenager Gauff stuns Osaka in Melbourne

Philadelphiaobserver.com

American teenager Coco Gauff stunned defending champion Naomi Osaka in straight sets to reach the fourth round of the Australian Open.

The 15-year-old excelled at the Rod Laver Arena and eased to a 6-3

6-4 victory in 67 minutes.

Osaka, the world number four, struggled with unforced errors throughout – making 30 compared to Gauff's 17.

"I don't know where that came from," the American said after the match. "Honestly, like, what is my life?"

In memoriam: Lakers legend Kobe Bryant killed in helicopter crash

From page 2

Sheriff's Department.

Rescue crews were on location within moments, but officials said it was too late to save anyone aboard.

"He's way too young," Laker legend Earvin "Magic" Johnson stated. "I was supposed to pass away before him. He's gone way too soon. It's a devastating loss for all of us."

Another Lakers legend, Kareem Abdul Jabbar, who played against Bryant's father, Joe "Jellybean" Bryant, said he was stunned.

"Most people will remember Kobe as the magnificent athlete who inspired a whole generation of basketball players," Jabbar tweeted. "But I will always remember him as

a man who was much more than an athlete."

Shaquille O'Neal, who won three NBA titles with Bryant and the Lakers from 2000 to 2002, tweeted that his late and former teammate was much more than an athlete. "He was a family man. That was what we had most in common," O'Neal wrote. "I would hug his children like they were my own and he would embrace my kids like they were his. His baby girl Gigi was born on the same day as my youngest daughter, Me'Arah."

Current Lakers star LeBron James was seen leaving the team's airplane in tears. He didn't address reporters.

A spokesperson for the Lakers said the team plans to address the heartbreaking matter "soon."

Ken Miller, the publisher of the Inglewood, California-based NNPA member newspaper, Inglewood Today, said he was also in shock and devastated by the news.

Miller covered Bryant for years for the Los Angeles Sentinel and said the superstar had previously given him his personal cell phone number.

"We are going to do a special edition of our newspaper that will be totally dedicated to Kobe Bryant," stated Miller, who coincidentally wore a Westchester High School basketball sweatshirt during last week's NNPA Mid-Winter Training Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The

Continued on page 10

Hidden tax increases on airlines tickets won't fly

From page 3

But make no mistake about it: this is a tax hike, even though backers of this plan won't call it a tax hike, for obvious reasons. And it's one that hits relatively low-wage workers harder than it hits those who make a lot more money. And it hits those who routinely fly for business especially hard too.

Why is it that poor people are always asked to pay more in America? Last year, I warned about the possibility that Congress might try to impose a new tax on air travelers. Well, it's 2020 — and here we go again.

Even in the midst of a historic impeachment trial and potential military conflict abroad, lawmakers on Capitol Hill have managed to find time to dust off its plan to soak air travelers, including working people

who struggle everyday just to make ends meet.

Air travel remains one of the most popular and necessary forms of transportation because it is relatively safe and convenient. But it should not become more expensive because a hidden tax that few people expected is added.

Congress should not put air travel out of the reach of American families who are still trying to get out of poverty. Thus, increasing taxes on airline tickets won't fly for Black Americans and won't fly for all others who believe in economic fairness and equality of opportunity.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) representing the Black Press of America. He can be reached at dr.bchavis@nnpa.org.

Basketball legend Kobe Bryant—constructing a 2nd act – had transcended sports

By Barrington M. Salmon(TriceEdneyWire.com) –

Sports fans in the United States and around the world – plus people who are not necessarily sports-oriented – are mourning the sudden death of NBA legend Kobe Bryant at the age of 41.

Two years removed from retirement after 20 years in the NBA, the five-time NBA champion and Los Angeles Lakers superstar was settling into retirement and immersing himself in sports, entertainment, his family and business ventures when he was killed in a helicopter crash, Sunday, Jan. 26, near Calabasas, Calif.

The crash also killed eight other passengers, including his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna, a budding basketball phenom. In addition to millions of adoring fans, he leaves to mourn him Vanessa Laine Bryant, his wife of 19 years, and three other daughters: Natalia Bryant, 17, Bianka Bryant, 3, and Capri Bryant, 7 months.

The group was on their way to Bryant's Mamba Sports Academy in Thousand Oaks, Calif., where Bryant was to coach a game in which Gianna was to play. Federal investigators are trying to determine what specifically caused the crash which occurred in dense fog.

Bryant's death has triggered an outpouring of grief, shock and disbelief among devastated players, fans, celebrities and just those who equated his name with excellence. A common theme offered by tributes is that he had transcended basketball and had become larger than sports.

"Kobe was a legend on the court and just getting started in what would have been just as meaningful a second act," tweeted President Barack Obama. "To lose Gianna is even more heart-



breaking to us as parents. Michelle and I send love and prayers to Vanessa and the entire Bryant family on an unthinkable day."

President Trump deflected from his tweeting on impeachment to call the reports on the basketball star "terrible news". He later released a tweet that critics observed was strikingly similar to President Obama's:

"Kobe Bryant, despite being one of the truly great basketball players of all time, was just getting started in life. He loved his family so much, and had such strong passion for the future. The loss of his beautiful daughter, Gianna, makes this moment

even more devastating," Trump tweeted. "Melania and I send our warmest condolences to Vanessa and the wonderful Bryant family. May God be with you all!"

Many struggled to find deeper meaning in the sudden death of a person so beloved who had become a symbol of excellence.

"I didn't know him well. I only met him a couple of times," said former Vice President Biden on the presidential campaign trail in Iowa as reported by the Washington Examiner. "It makes you realize that you gotta make every day count, every single solid day, every single day count."

Jalen Rose, a former college

and professional basketball player and sports analyst with ESPN described his friend, Bryant, in terms beyond basketball.

"He is remembered for his dedication to his craft, educated, speaker of multiple languages, father, husband, disciplined hard-working, always gracious and respectful," he said in a tribute. "He was always the hardest working guy in the room ... he was Industry tastemaker, gave so much to humanity and is gone too soon."

Kobe Bryant was born in Philadelphia, the only boy and youngest of three children of former NBA player Joe Bryant and

Pamela Cox Bryant. He was first drafted by the Charlotte Hornets in 1996 straight out of Lower Merion High School.

Through hard work and extraordinary dedication to the game, he was seen as a transcendent player, unquestionably one among the best to ever play the game of basketball. But his success impacted beyond the game. In post-game retirement, he inspired hundreds of thousands of young people to aim high, push past their limits, whether it was on a court, a football pitch or in the creative arts.

Continued on page 13

Reel

France's critically acclaimed Les Misérables is Oscar-worthy

By Audrey J. Bernard

Last year the French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF) and Amazon Studios hosted an exclusive preview screening of Ladj Ly's ambitious debut feature, *Les Misérables* which was inspired by the 2005 riots in Paris with a nod to Victor Hugo's famous novel following Stéphane (Damien Bonnard), a recent transplant to the impoverished Paris suburb of Montfermeil, where portions of Hugo's novel was set, as he joins the local anti-crime squad. Working alongside his unscrupulous colleagues Chris (Alexis Manenti) and Gwada (Djebriil Zonga), whose methods are sometimes unorthodox, he rapidly discovers the tensions between the various neighborhood groups. Stéphane struggles to maintain order in this sensitive district of the Paris

projects amidst the mounting tensions between local gangs. When an arrest turns unexpectedly violent, the three officers must reckon with the aftermath and keep the neighborhood from spiraling out of control. When the trio finds themselves overrun during the course of an arrest, a drone begins filming every move they make.

Writer/director Ly mixed and mingled with guests after a robust Q&A following the standing room only screening co-hosted by FIAF, Unifrance and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, on Fri-day, November 22, 2019. A convivial wine&food reception followed in the Tinker Auditorium at FIAF. Whether he was enthusiastically bombarded with thanks for bringing the incendiary condition of Parisian slums in French or English, Ly was the evening's hero.

SYNOPSIS: The thief of a baby lion

from the circus by a little thief named Issa erupts into a gang war between the gypsies, led by the combative Zorro (Raymond Lopez), and the locals, led by their self-pronounced crime boss of a "Mayor" (Steve Tien-tcheu). The 3 cops assigned to diffuse the situation has a turn for the worst when one of them fires a flash-ball gun that almost takes Issa's eye out sparking an outright war between the cops and the . The cops intervene in the hope of staving off the chaos, but when Gwada fires a flash-ball gun and nearly takes Issa's eye out, things go from bad to worse to explosive in the course of a few hours, especially when they try to cover up the shooting only to find out that it was filmed by a drone operated by a local nerd (Al-Hassan Ly).

ASSETS: *Les Misérables* stars Damien Bonnard, Alexis Manenti, Djibril Zonga, Issa Percia, Al-Has-



Actors Damien Bonnard, from left, Djebriil Zonga, director Ladj Ly and actor Alexis Manenti pose for photographers at the photo call for the film 'Les Misérables' at the 72nd international film festival, Cannes, southern France, (Photo by Vianney Le Caer/Invision/AP)

san Ly, Steve Tientcheu, Almany Kanoute, and Nizar Ben Fatma. The movie — which is in French with English subtitles and the winner of the Jury Prize at the 2019 Cannes Film

Festival, and has been selected to represent France for the Best International Feature Film Oscar at the 92nd Academy Awards taking place in February 2020. DEETS:

Reel

Bad Boys for Life

By Dwight Brown, NNPA Newswire Film Critic

Twenty-five years later, their romance is as fresh as the day they met. Smith, as the mercurial, perpetual bachelor exhibits his best swagger in years. His Mike is like an old club goer who hasn't realized the crowd around him is young enough to be his children. Lawrence's curmudgeon and sensitive character plays perfectly against Smith's brash attitude. He's hysterical in ways only true comedians can be. The characters' bond is easy to like and has been cherished by filmgoers who will likely follow them into old age even as these bad boys start to solve crimes in nursing homes.

They first teamed up for *Bad Boys* in 1995, to great box office success. There was an encore in 2003, *Bad Boys II*, which was distinguished by incredible stunts. Now, Will Smith and Martin Lawrence go back to the same well one more time. Is there any water left?

Michael Bay (*Transformers*, *Armageddon*) directed the first two films, with an over-the-top, over-produced style that seems dated by today's standards. The smartest choice franchise producer Jerry Bruckheimer made was to hire two new young directors to guide the series into the 2020s. Moroccan-born Belgian film-

makers Adil El Arbi and Bilall Fallah (*Black, Gangsta*) put their own spin on the footage aided by cinematographer Robrecht Heyvaert (*Black, Gangsta*). What's on view looks like an ultra-hip extended music video that captures your eyeballs and takes them hostage.

A sporty looking, deep blue 992-Generation Porsche speeds through the streets of sunny Miami. If a reckless twentysomething was behind the wheel, you'd call the car a chick magnet. Instead it's 51-year-old Detective Mike Lowrey (Smith) steering the vehicle with his lead foot on the accelerator. In his hands the sports

car is more a middle-ager's last grasp at youth. Lowrey's 54-year-old partner Detective Marcus Burnett (Lawrence) sits petrified in the passenger seat, holding on for dear life and nauseated by the hyper-dangerous ride.

Burnett: "I'm about to throw up." Lowrey: "You better not. That's hand-stitched Italian leather. You better drink that s—t!" And so, it begins. Edge of your seat action scenes, perfectly shot. Thrills and chills. Two old friends: One, a swinger, clearly still in the game. The other, a family man a whisper away from retirement with an accountant's nervous stomach and no love left for a cop's



Directors ADIL EL ARBI and BILALL FALLAH

perilous life.

According to the blueprint drawn by screenwriters Chris Bremner, Peter Craig (*The Town*) and Joe Carnahan (*Narc*, TV's *The Blacklist*), this is how the film will play out: A plot involving revenge from a former Mexican assailant Isabel Aretas (Kate del Castillo, *All About Nina*) and her minion (Jacob Scipio, *Hunter Killer*) evolves. Assassinations of lawyers and judges rain down on Miami like a summer storm.

A new police unit named AMMO takes charge of the investigation, headed by a tough captain named Rita (Paola Nuñez, TV's *The Purge*) and her elite group: tech wizard Dorn (Alexander Ludwig, *The Hunger Games*), weapons expert Kelly (Vanessa Hudgens, *Spring Breakers*) and the very sarcastic Rafe (Charles Melton, TV's *Riverdale*). Can they do

the job? Will Mike and Marcus hurt or help them?

Subtly and brazenly, in humor and family drama, the script rips into the ages of the two protagonists like someone pouring salt on an open wound. The "boys" have lost a few steps and added gray hairs industrial strength Grecian Formula can't fix. The contrasts between the veterans and the new justice league gets played for laughs persistently, especially between Smith and Melton.

Though the script is solid in most aspects, its dialogue, its rapid-fire banter is its strongest asset. When Smith and Lawrence exchange verbal jabs nothing is off the table. Viagra, becoming a grandparent, the last time either one had sex... The two are extremely competitive and well

Continued on page 10



If it were up to me, we'd have all the healthcare we need.

The 2020 Census informs funding for walk-in clinics, Medicare and all types of health services. Rest assured your answers are safe and secure.

Learn more at:

2020CENSUS.GOV

Paid for by U.S. Census Bureau.

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States®
Census
2020

Health

Just being Black Is a health risk

By Glenn Ellis

Health risk: an adverse event or negative health consequence due to a specific event, disease, or condition. A health risk is something that increases your chance of developing a disease. Just being Black in America is one of the greatest risk factors for your health.

Some won't find this as news, or hard to believe; others will understandably be shocked, or even offended by that statement. Still others (I included) are clear that by continuously minimizing, or outright ignoring, this reality does great harm to every part of our society. The human and financial costs of this racial disparity are enormous, and a price that we are not prepared to pay. Lost workdays, loss wages, and the needless loss of life.

Like you, I struggle to accept that all things considered equal, the fact that I was born as a Black man, automatically compromises my ability to live a full, healthy life; makes me live sicker and die sooner. Undeniable growing mounds of research and evidence from studies, ultimately, persuaded me to accept this harsh reality.

In the U.S., health disparities between Blacks and Whites are consistent across the board. Blacks have higher rates of diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease than any other groups. The death from asthma rate for Black children is 500 percent higher than White children. HIV/AIDS is still an epidemic in Black communities, while for Whites across this country, it's

being treated like high blood pressure or diabetes; take a pill a day and live a full, normal life. To put this in more perspective, if Blacks and Whites had the same mortality rate, nearly 100,000 fewer Black people would die each year in the United States.

Even educated African Americans are sicker and die younger than their educated White peers. Black patients are both less likely to be prescribed pain medication, and doctors are twice as likely to underestimate black patients' pain "compared to all other ethnicities combined. Based on research on health inequalities at the University of California, San Francisco, "a black person will live on average about three fewer years than a white person with the same income."

Look, I get it. Being a doctor, from any racial/ethnic background, requires you to work in a nonstop, stressful environment; providing healthcare to a range of sick people. Oft times, this requires a doctor to make quick, intuitive medical decisions or judgements. This frequently results in implicit medical bias.

A Journal of Clinical Oncology study of Black cancer patients and their physicians found that doctors with implicit bias are less supportive and spend less time with their Black patients. And hopefully they understand that black patients pick up on these attitudes. This results in Black patients having more difficulty remembering what the doctor told them; had less trust their treatment plans would work, and

thought it was going to be too difficult to follow the recommended treatments. Think this won't lead to poorer health outcomes?

A 2018 study confirmed the impact on the doctors who treat these Black patients: "American clinicians rated a hypothetical White patient, compared to an identical Black patient, as significantly more likely to improve, adhere to treatment, and be personally responsible for his health."

Sadly, this isn't just about being a "Black person living in poverty". A study of the 171 largest U.S. cities found that Whites living in the worst conditions in urban areas—in terms of poverty rates and single-parent households—are nonetheless living in circumstances that are much better than those of the average Black person.

Segregation is considered a fundamental cause of differences in health status between Blacks and Whites because it shapes socioeconomic conditions at the individual, household and neighborhood levels, ultimately determining Blacks' socioeconomic mobility and residential/environmental risk factor

For many older African-Americans, education, income, and even wealth do not necessarily translate into less stress exposure due to the unique conditions of living in Black neighborhoods.

Bias is a topic that is receiving a lot of attention these days. We have studies that have demonstrated how, for Black people, discrimination/racism plays a role in unhealthy behaviors such as ciga-



rette smoking, alcohol/substance use, improper nutrition and refusal to seek medical services

Bottom line? Black folks get sick at younger ages, have more severe illnesses throughout life, and age, biologically, more rapidly than Whites. Scientists call this the "weathering effect," or the result of cumulative stress. So, no there's nothing wrong with our being Black, there's something wrong with the society in which we live.

Surely, with all of the studies, anecdotal experiences, and all of

the research confirming this inequity in health outcomes for Blacks, something can be done...if only we had the political will".

Remember, I'm not a doctor. I just sound like one. Take good care of yourself and live the best life possible!

Glenn Ellis, is Research Bioethics Fellow at Harvard Medical School and author of *Which Doctor?*, and *Information is the Best Medicine*. Ellis is an active media contributor on Health Equity and Medical Ethics.

Bad Boys for Life

From page 9

aware that father time could beat them in a foot race.

Equally strong is the chemistry between the two leads. Twenty-five years later, their bromance is as fresh as the day they met. Smith, as the mercurial, perpetual bachelor exhibits his best swagger in years. His Mike is like an old club goer who hasn't realized the crowd around him is young enough to be his children. Lawrence's curmudgeon and sensitive character plays perfectly against Smith's brash attitude. He's hysterical in ways only true comedians can be. The characters' bond is easy to like and has been cherished by filmgoers who will likely follow them into old age even as these bad boys start to solve crimes in nursing homes.

Every member of the cast shines brightly: Joe Pantoliano as the very manic Captain Howard; Kate del Castillo is so evil she would make a witch blush. As Aretas, she sneers: "A bullet is mercy for that son of a bitch." Paola Nunez makes Rita brave and sensual. A very fluid cameo performance by DJ Khaled, as a smarmy crook, should win him more roles. Jacob Scipio as the evil, coldblooded assassin puts his stamp on this movie. Theresa Randle, Nicky Jam, Massi

Furlan, José Alfredo Fernandez and John West Jr. fill out the ensemble.

So, what's the flaw? The finale looks too artificial: The camera focuses on an empty building, the lens targets two rats. The rodents are so clean and white they look like they came from central casting with personal hairdressers and makeup artists. The building is entirely too majestic (production designer Jon Billington, set decoration Lori Mazuer and Daniela Rojas), like an opera set not an abandoned facility. The sequence seems phony—almost corny.

This final battle is saved by the quick edits (Dan Leental and Petr McNulty), which have given the entire 2H 3M film a very modern, tight and forceful rhythm. The musical score by Lorne Balfe, with brazen horns during action scenes and soft violins during drama, also helps to counteract this imperfection.

Crime/action/thriller fans will be in their glory with this orgy of violence, blue language, sexy flirtations and good versus evil battles. It's fun. There's a strong verve that is completely contagious and will likely help this sequel achieve record-breaking box-office success.

Bad Boys for Life is all it needs to be. And then some! Get ready for it. "What you gonna do when it comes for you?"

In memoriam: Lakers legend Kobe Bryant killed in helicopter crash

From page 7

conference concluded just one day before the Bryant tragedy.

Years earlier, Nike outfitted Westchester High School's basketball players with Kobe Bryant's Zoom Kobe IV sneakers that matched the Westchester's black and red colors.

"When Jerry West drafted Kobe at the age of 17, no one knew exactly what the franchise was getting," Miller stated. "He evolved to [become], I would say, the greatest Laker of them all, and I had the opportunity to cover and meet him personally and at one time just out of the blue as a reporter. I was so starstruck by him by his air, by his intelligence, and he had a reclusiveness to him as well, that I just walked up to him and asked him for his personal cell phone. He gave it to me, and it was at a time when Shaquille O'Neal was gone, and the Lakers had just won three championships. He ultimately wanted to connect with the African American community."

Born in Philadelphia in 1978, Bryant was initially drafted by the

Charlotte Hornets with the 13th overall pick of the 1996 NBA draft, but forced a post-draft trade to the Lakers, stating it was the only team he'd join.

Bryant spent his entire career with the Lakers, winning five NBA championships and the 2008 MVP Award. He topped Michael Jordan for third place on the NBA all-time scoring list in December 2014 and retired in 2016 after scoring 60 points in his final game.

His uniform numbers 8 and 24 were both retired by the franchise, making him the only NBA star to have two numbers retired with the same team. In 2018, Bryant earned an Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film for *Dear Basketball*.

The late superstar supported at least seven charities and foundations, including After-School All-Stars, Aid Still Required, Cathy's Kids Foundation, and the Kobe and Vanessa Bryant Family Foundation, where he and his wife are dedicated to improving the lives of youth and families in need, both domestically and globally.

The foundation provides fi-

nancial resources and develops unique programs that serve to strengthen communities through educational and cultural enrichment opportunities.

Even as a lifelong New York Knicks fan, a team that saw Bryant crush their hopes on many a night, the death of the man known as "The Black Mamba" is as stunning as any this reporter has seen. In 1979, in a similarly shocking tragedy, during a season in which they were trying to defend their World Series title, the New York Yankees lost their beloved captain, Thurman Munson, in a plane crash.

While Munson was only one of the cogs in a Yankee team that had captured back-to-back titles in 1977 and 1978, Bryant was the unquestioned leader of the Lakers, one of the most storied franchises in sports, who turned out such superstars as Magic Johnson, Kareem Abdul Jabbar, James Worthy, and Shaquille O'Neal.

"He was the greatest of all Lakers," Magic Johnson stated

Bryant is survived by his wife, Vanessa Laine Bryant, and children Natalia, Bianca, and Capri.

AP News Wire issues apology for cutting the only Black activist from a group shot

(GIN) –

A group shot of young environmental activists at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, appeared in final form without one of the activists. Vanessa Nakate of Uganda was missing from the photo of Greta Thunberg, Luisa Neubauer, Loukina Tille and Isabelle Axelsson. All the young women in the photo were white.

Nakate confronted AP about the incident on Twitter. “Why did you remove me from the photo? I was part of the group!”

“My message was left out, and my photo was left out as well,” she said.

“We don’t deserve this,” continued Nakate. “Africa is the least emitter of carbons, but we are the most affected by the climate crisis,” she said. “You erasing our voices won’t change anything. You erasing our stories won’t change anything.”

“You didn’t just erase a photo. You erased a continent. But I am stronger than ever,” Nakate said later on Twitter.

In a statement released on Friday, AP Executive Editor Sally Buzbee apologized for the incident. “We regret publishing a photo this morning that cropped out Ugandan climate activist Vanessa Nakate, the only person of color in the photo. As a news organization, we care deeply about accurately representing the world that we cover,” Buzbee said.

“We train our journalists to be sensitive to issues of inclusion and omission. We have spoken internally with our journalists and we will learn from this error in judgment,” she added.

Unfortunately it wasn’t the only media error. Other agencies, including Reuters, misidentified



Nakate as Zambian activist Natasha Mwansa. Reuters’ currently available version of the photograph identifies the other four activists in the picture but not Nakate.

Nakate is the founder of the Youth for Future Africa and the Africa-based Rise Up Movement.

In December 2019, Nakate was one of a handful of youth activists to speak at the COP25 gathering in Spain.

In early January 2020, she joined around 20 other youth climate activists from around the world to publish a letter to participants at the World Economic Forum, calling on companies, banks and governments to immediately stop subsidizing fossil fuels.

She was one of five international delegates invited by Arctic Basecamp to camp with them in Davos during the World Economic Forum; the delegates later joined a climate march on the last day of the Forum. w/pix of V. Nakate



Authorities in Ivory Coast launch demolition of shantytowns housing thousands

(GIN) –

Bulldozers have begun demolishing homes built in the shantytowns of Abidjan, the commercial capital of the Ivory Coast, leaving thousands without shelter as authorities carry out plans to build a buffer zone around an international airport.

This comes as large numbers of Ivorians are leaving remote farms and villages for a better life.

The demolitions even destroyed the neighborhood mosque, charged Imam Issa Sankoudouma.

“We said at least leave the mosque, smash the homes, but they smashed everything,” he said. “So the mosque has gone, we are here, we got what we could from our homes.”

Residents of Adjouffou, with some 200,000 residents, said they were notified just days before the evictions. Many did not know where to go next.

“We’re leaving, but where are we going?” high school student Epiphanie Djossou asked a reporter. “I had to leave my stuff with family members and I don’t know how to get it back so I can go to school.”

Habitat for Humanity estimates the housing deficit to be

20,000 houses per year. Urbanization is adding to the problem, with almost half of the country’s growing population now living in towns or cities. In rural areas, the need is also immense.

Communications Minister Sidy Toure defended the evictions, saying the squatters posed air safety and security problems.

Evictions are frequently the government’s tool of choice to eliminate slums in areas slated for development. Last November, bulldozers demolished part of Boribana, one of the biggest slums in Abidjan city with a population of nearly 60,000 in order to build a bridge. A small compensation was paid to the displaced. It is not clear where their relocation took place.

Meanwhile, President Alassane Ouattara is hinting he might run for a third term in elections later this year despite a pledge to step down as required. Addressing thousands of supporters at a rally, Ouattara said: “I want everyone in my generation to step aside.”

But “if they decide to be a candidate, then I will be a candidate,” he said, referring to Laurent Gbagbo, 74, and 85-year-old former president and ally, Henri Konan Bedie. w/pix of family evicted from Adjouffou

Subscribe Philadelphia Observer

600 Third Avenue, 2nd Floor,
New York, NY 10016

212-213-8585.

philadelphiaobserver.com

Isabel dos Santos: Africa’s richest woman ‘ripped off Angola’ to enrich herself

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Africa’s richest woman, Isabel dos Santos — the daughter of Angola’s former president — is under investigation by the Angolan government for allegedly exploiting the country’s wealth to enrich herself.

After a leak of more than 700,000 documents that support that accu-

sations against her, dos Santos’ bank, EuroBic, said on Monday that it was ending its “commercial relationship” with her and investigating tens of millions of dollars worth of suspicious transfers and transactions, The New York Times reports.

The billionaire businesswoman holds a 42.5% stake in EuroBic, making her the bank’s main shareholder, BBC reports.

Her father, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, ruled oil-rich Angola for almost 40 years until he retired as president in 2017. His daughter was then sacked as chairwoman of Angola’s state oil company Sonangol. According to the leaked documents, as she left the company, Dos Santos approved \$58m (\$44m) worth of payments, the report states.



Culture

Beyoncé, Sony/ATV Music Publishing sign global agreement

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Beyoncé and Sony/ATV Music Publishing today announced a global agreement covering the music icon's entire song catalog, including seminal hits from her start with Destiny's Child, through her unparalleled collection of solo works written throughout her career.

"I am excited for what's to come with my continued partnership with Jon Platt in his new leadership role at Sony/ATV," said Beyoncé. "Jon's the executive who understands the creative mindset and continues to be both an advocate and protector. It has been an honor working with Jon from the start of my career."

Sony/ATV Chairman and CEO Jon Platt said: "Beyond all of her well-deserved accolades and accomplishments, Beyoncé is simply one of the most driven and impactful talents I know. I've had the privilege of making incredible music with her throughout her career and she continues to set the bar for creative expression in



all forms. Beyoncé inspires generations through her songs and I am honored to reunite with her at Sony/ATV."

Beyoncé is the most critically acclaimed music artist of her generation. With a fearless focus on feminism, advocacy and empowerment, Beyoncé has revolutionized the global entertainment industry with singular, culture-shifting albums such as *Lemonade* and *Homecoming*. In 2013, with the surprise release of her eponymous visual album, Beyoncé disrupted the music industry's standard, ultimately impacting the timing of album releases from Tuesdays to Fridays.

Howard University receives \$2.5M gift of African American art

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Patricia Turner Walters has donated her coveted collection of African American art, valued at \$2,519,950, to Howard University recently. Her husband, the renowned scholar and activist Ronald W. Walters, Ph.D., was recognized as a leading political strategist and expert on issues affecting the African diaspora.

Walters had served as a professor in Howard University's Department of Political Science for 25 years and was the department chair for almost a decade. In order to continue and expand Walters' legacy, Howard University will establish the Ronald W. Walters

Endowed Chair for Race and Black Politics. The chair will be housed in the Ronald W. Walters Leadership and Public Policy Center at Howard University. It will spur interdisciplinary collaborations across the school on many of the diverse issues of race and black politics, especially those issues that affect Americans of the African diaspora.

"It is an incredible honor to receive this generous gift of precious art from the Walters family," said President Wayne A. I. Frederick in a press release. "This collection of sculptures and portraits and paintings will be an excellent complement to our gallery and a beneficial focus of training in our art history courses."



Glory sculpture by Elizabeth Catlett

Lenny Kravitz music part of Complexions Ballet

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The Complexions Contemporary Ballet opened its 26th anniversary season at the Joyce Theater, located at 175 Eighth Avenue (corner of 19th Street), in NYC. Ballet aficionados will be both surprised and pleased to find this season presents the World premiere of coordinated movement to the compositions of Grammy Award winner, singer/songwriter, Lenny Kravitz.

Known for their ballet choreography of musicians like David

Bowie and Metallica, co-artistic directors Dwight Rhoden and Desmond Richardson will delight their audience this season via a ballet of Kravitz's music entitled "Love Rocks." "Love Rocks" utilizes the full company of 18 dancers and Bach 25 is a ballet choreographed to the music of Johann Sebastian and Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach as part of Program A. In Bach 25, the company moves to the dramatic compositions of the Baroque period. An era that saw an explosion of new musical styles that introduced the concerto, sonata



and opera. This will take place in both part one and part two of the program.

Program B will feature "Woke," a socially conscious one act ballet examining social consciousness in the present political climate. As well as offering "Essential Parts" a compilation of repertory favorites.

Complexions Contemporary Ballet's opened its season at the Joyce Theatre on Tuesday, January 21 and will run through Sunday, February 2nd. Beginning with Bach 25 and premiering Lenny Kravitz's "Love Rocks."

Kanye West wants a white actor to portray him in his biopic

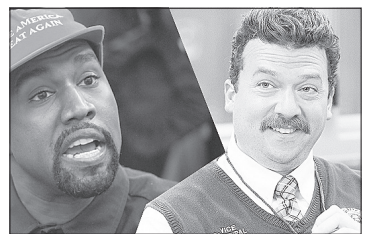
By Victor Omondi

Kanye West is well known for controversies. In recent years, Kanye's life has been a wild ride, from taking a religious approach to his music to his open support for Donald Trump. Almost every news headline involving the 42-year-old artist is underlined by some dissension, and the biopic he's working on is no exception.

Kanye West has reportedly chosen an unlikely candidate to portray him in the biopic. The

artist wants Danny McBride, the Pineapple Express star to star as him despite being white. Nobody knows why the 42-year-old would choose a white to portray him, but that's just a glimpse of what Kanye is capable of doing.

Everyone can see their huge difference in appearance, and even Danny McBride wondered why Kanye thought about him at this point. McBride is known for comedy hits such as *The Foot Fist Way*, and so, this is one of the most unlikely roles Kanye tasked



him with.

"Kanye asked me to play him in a movie of his life," said McBride, according to *The Guardian*. "That was a pretty stunning phone call to get. I don't know why he wanted me to do it. Maybe that sense of ego I'm able to portray? I have no clue."

Meghan Markle's choice of independence, self-respect reflects legacies of African-American women's resistance

Philadelphiaobserver.com

When I saw photos of Queen Elizabeth II wearing a headscarf and a bewildered, vaguely hostile expression in the wake of the bombshell departure of the Duchess and Duke of Sussex, my first thought was: They didn't know who they were messing with.

Most coverage of Meghan Markle's and Prince Harry's decision to step back from their royal duties—including their latest decision to not use their "royal highness" titles and repay public funds—has framed the move as evidence of Prince Harry's effort to protect his family from the same tragic fate that his mother fa-

tally suffered at the hands of pariah paparazzi. But the couple's maneuvers also bear the distinct imprint of the historical legacies of African American women's resistance.

Meghan Markle did not silently abide the increasingly outrageous, unceasing torrents of racism unleashed upon her and her new family (likening baby Archie to a monkey, for example). She did what African American women have been doing for centuries: She fought back. And she stunned the royal family and the British press in the process.

By talking about the difficulties she experienced in a recent interview, she used her voice to address unmitigated bias. This is



in line with black women like Addie Waites Hunton, who, in 1904, used her words in *The Voice of the Negro* to denounce white stereotypes of black womanhood. According to Addie, "Everywhere her moral defects are being portrayed by her enemies; sometimes veiled in hypocritical pity, and again, in language bitter and unrelenting."

Basketball legend Kobe Bryant—constructing a 2nd act – had transcended sports

From page 8

Kobe, who won five NBA titles and who was an 18-time All-Star, won an Oscar for Best Animated Short in 2019 for the film “Dear Basketball.” The six-minute film is based on a poem Bryant wrote in 2015 announcing his retirement from the NBA. Bryant wrote and narrated the short, in which he shares his love of the sport for basketball.

Bryant considered himself to be a storyteller and had been moving into the film and entertainment industry since his retirement from basketball in 2016. He wrote, produced and presented a series for ESPN called Detail, in which he explained the intricacies of athletes in their respective sports. His multimedia company, Granity Studios, produced the ESPN+ series Detail and the podcast “The Punies.” In addition, he helped create four sports fantasy children’s books. According to media reports, the second volume of The Wizenard

Series: Season 1, is set to hit bookstores on March 31.

Still it was basketball for which he will always be world renown. Sports lawyer and businessman Michael Huyghue said an icon of the industry has been lost.

“What he stood for is an early example of an athlete transcending his sport,” said Huyghue, author, sports agent and president of Michael Huyghue and Associates, LLC. “His work in the community, building a brand, his eclectic nature and speaking several languages are a part of his legacy. “He was a very rare breed. He set the bar at a place where a lot of athletes could aspire to.”

Sports Journalist Elton Hayes, Jr. said what sticks out to him is his involvement with children and young people.

“I have been watching all these years. He’s a global icon,” said Hayes, who writes for CNHI News in State College, Pennsylvania. “What sticks out after

retirement is the role he played with kids. He showed us his paternal side and the passion he had for women’s basketball. The WNBA is the sister organization to the NBA but there are discrepancies in salary and viewership. He was an active participant and took several women under his wing. I would consider him an ambassador for Women’s basketball... I think a part of his legacy is the impact on a generation of aspiring athletes. With his Mamba Foundation, we will continue to see his legacy grow and will continue to see the impact.”

For the past two years, Bryant had focused on coaching Gianna’s AAU team.

“Coaching youth sports is so important to take very seriously because you’re helping the emotional [development] of young kids,” he said in a recent interview. “So it’s understanding not to be overcritical and understanding that [there] are going to be mistakes.”

And in an interview with

People magazine, published online two days before his death, Bryant said he launched Granity Studios “as a way of teaching valuable life lessons to the next generation, with whatever they hope to do. The goal is to encourage children to develop their own inner magic and believe they can achieve the impossible and do so in a fun way.”

Bryant added, “Storytelling has always been an interest of mine, so the transition was an exciting one. I’m being challenged in a completely new way and have really loved the opportunity to exercise my creative muscles.”

Nearly everyone killed in the crash shared a love for basketball, reported the Los Angeles Times. They were Bryant and Gianna, “a budding basketball player who was ready to follow in her father’s footsteps; baseball coach John Altobelli, his wife Keri and their basketball-playing daughter Alyssa; mother and daughter Sarah and Payton Chester; Mam-

ba Academy basketball coach Christina Mauser and pilot Ara Zobayan,” the Times reported.

The beloved Bryant had a reputation as egotistical, a talented super-achiever, driven and difficult. But friends and colleagues spoke of all the good he’s done and the impact he had in his 41 years.

“Devastation, heartbroken describes how I feel,” said ESPN Analyst Stephen A. Smith. “I saw him on New Year’s Eve. He was full of life, happier than I’ve ever seen him. He was loving life in a peaceful place, euphoric of what laid ahead. He was looking forward to and planning on having a life more prosperous and illustrious than what he had accomplished as a basketball player.”

Smith concluded with a thought that’s been on the minds of millions since Sunday: “Never in our wildest dreams did we ever believe that the brilliant savant, a man at least trilingual, would leave like this ...”



Ad Council

UNCF
A mind is a terrible thing to waste®

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO INVEST IN A GOOD THING.

Introducing Better Futures™—a whole new kind of investment with a greater return than money. When you invest, it helps kids go to college. Because a mind is a terrible thing to waste but a wonderful thing to invest in.™

Invest in Better Futures at [UNCF.ORG/INVEST](https://www.uncf.org/invest)

Ahhhhhhh. That “be your own boss” feeling. Join the Cricket Authorized Retailer Network!



Why Join?

Location, Location, Location:

- We have 4,800+ stores.
- 98% of them are independently owned and operated by Authorized Retailers.

Development and Expansion:

- Cricket Wireless is one of the fastest-growing prepaid wireless companies.
- We now have over 9 million subscribers, which is double our subscriber base from 2014.

Cricket is looking for exclusive authorized retailers across the nation who want to be part of an extraordinary team. With nationwide coverage, unlimited talk & text, various data options, an exceptional lineup of smartphones, and no annual contract, we pride ourselves on providing a simple, delightful customer experience—and you can, too.

If you think you have the drive to be part of our amazing Cricket Authorized Retailer Team, contact us today!

Take the next step by contacting us at:
becomeacricketdealer@cricketwireless.com

Smile, You're on

cricket
wireless