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Allen says:

THE FIGHT CONTINUES

In a unanimous vote, the Supreme Court sided with Comcast in a discrimination dispute against Byron Allen.

“This is a very bad day for our country. We will continue our fight by going to Congress and the presidential candidates to revise the statute to overcome this decision by the United States Supreme Court, which significantly diminishes our civil rights,” Allen said, page 3.



Anger builds over virus dangers in immigration courts

Philadelphiaobserver.com

President Donald Trump's increasingly urgent campaign to attack the coronavirus outbreak is having a notably meager impact in the immigration courts, where dramatic moves could undercut his signature policy of getting tough on undocumented immigrants and asylum seekers.

As state and federal courts around the country scale back sharply due to the pandemic, most immigration courts have pressed on with only minor adjustments, prompting growing outrage from immigration judges, lawyers for immigrants facing deportation and even the attorneys who serve as prosecutors.

Court observers said proceedings continued Tuesday with vulnerable immigrants being called in for hearings and some being funneled into crowded holding

rooms. And even as places like California moved to a near-lockdown status, the immigration courts pressed on largely as usual, triggering bitter complaints and dire warnings.

Some of the most pointed complaints came from lawyers involved in hearings stemming from President Donald Trump's remain-in-Mexico policy instituted last year, which requires most asylum seekers who enter from Mexico to return to that country to await a chance to appear before a U.S. immigration judge.

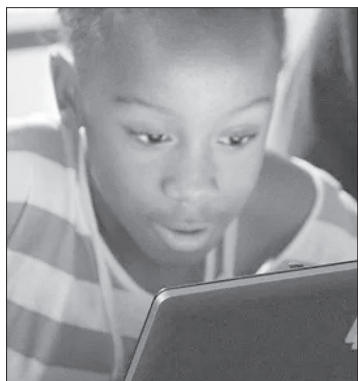
"Update from SD #MPP court: we are the only attys here so far w 50 asylum seekers filing in to the small waiting room," Human Rights First lawyer Robyn Barnard wrote on Twitter. "No hand sanitizer. One paper sign telling ppl to wash hands. So many little babies here today. #COVID19 #shutitdown #parolethem in"

Coronavirus exposes America's internet inequality problem, report says

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The outbreak of COVID-19, known as the coronavirus has exposed problems the U.S. has been sitting on for a long time. With the recent closures of schools across the country, educators are quickly learning that as they move toward a remote system to engage with their students during the quarantine, many do not have access to wireless internet at home.

It's hard to imagine that in the age of popular platforms like TikTok and Instagram that there are young kids and adults with no internet access; for a large majority of low-income residents, that's exactly the case. While the internet offers a lifeline for many to continue life as normal during this global pandemic, for others, it limits their movement even more. Depending on where you live, broadband may not be readily available to you. According to the FCC, more than 21 million Americans do not have access to high-speed Internet, according to the Federal



Communications Commission's latest data. The numbers have improved in recent years, though the gaps remain pervasive, despite heavy investment by government regulators and private companies.

"With coronavirus, we're about to expose just how challenging our digital divide is, and just how unequal access to broadband is," said Jessica Rosenworcel, a Democrat on the Federal Communications Commission, to The Washington Post. "We're going to have a reckoning."

Philly 'stay at home' order to start Monday morning

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Philadelphia is issuing a new "stay at home" order for all residents starting at 8 a.m. Monday, the city's managing director Brian Abernathy said Sunday.

The city's emergency restrictions will no longer expire on March 27, and will remain in effect "until further notice," Abernathy said.

The order also bans all public and private gatherings of any number of people outside a single household except for limited purposes, including shopping for or

delivering essential goods, going to work at an essential business, and exercising while maintaining social distancing.

Walk-in takeout orders will also be prohibited, and food and ice cream trucks will not be allowed to operate. All to-go food orders must be paid online in advance. Food delivery services can also continue.

"Stay home," Abernathy said. "Now is not the time for a meetup in a parking lot, a party or a basketball game."

During a statewide update, Pennsylvania Health Secretary Rachel Levine could not say with

certainty if stricter restrictions like the ones in Philadelphia were coming statewide.

"Discussions are being had with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, with PEMA, with local officials, and of course, with the governor's office on the possibilities of 'stay at home' or 'shelter in place,'" said Levine. "So I don't have any new information at this time except that conversations are occurring."

Still, she emphasized that a shelter-in-place order would still allow people to go out and purchase food and other essentials.



Spit on, yelled at, attacked: Chinese Americans fear for their safety

Philadelphiaobserver.com

As the coronavirus upends American life, Chinese Americans face a double threat. Not only are they grappling like everyone else with how to avoid the virus itself, they are also contending with growing racism in the form of verbal and physical attacks. Other Asian-Americans — with families from Korea, Vietnam, the Philippines, Myanmar and other places — are facing threats, too, lumped together with Chinese-Americans by a bigotry that does not know the difference.

In interviews over the past week, nearly two dozen Asian-Americans across the country said they were afraid — to go grocery shopping, to travel alone on subways or buses, to let their children go outside. Many described being yelled at in public — a sudden spasm of hate that is reminiscent of the kind faced by Muslim-Americans after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

But unlike 2001, when President George W. Bush urged tolerance of Muslim-Americans, this time President Trump is using language that Asian-Americans say is inciting racist attacks.

Trump and his republican allies are intent on calling the coronavirus "the Chinese virus," rejecting the World Health Organization's guidance against using geographic locations when naming illnesses, since past names have provoked a backlash.

Trump told reporters on Tuesday that he was calling the virus "Chinese" to combat a disinformation campaign by Beijing officials saying the American military was the source of the outbreak. He dismissed concerns that his language would lead to any harm.

"If they keep using these terms, the kids are going to pick it up," said Tony Du, an epidemiologist in Howard County, Md., who fears for his son, Larry. "They are going to call my 8-year-old son a Chinese virus. It's serious."

Du said he posted on Facebook that "this is the darkest day in my 20-plus years of life in the United States," referring to Mr. Trump's doubling down on use of the term.

While no firm numbers exist yet, Asian-American advocacy groups and researchers say there has been a surge of verbal and physical assaults reported in newspapers and to tip lines.



Byron Allen issues statement following high court loss to Comcast



Philadelphiaobserver.com

Byron Allen, founder of Entertainment Studios Network has lost a legal battle with an American broadcasting conglomerate. This contentious litigation process was officiated by the U.S. Supreme Court.

In August of 2019, Byron Allen sued the Comcast Corporation in a landmark lawsuit, which accused the multi-media giant of racial bias. Allen, 58, claimed throughout the course of his historic legal struggle that in a discriminatory fashion, Comcast swiftly rejected a television distribution proposal offered by the Entertainment Studios Network.

The Comedy Central creator said that during the negotiation process with Comcast, several of his television production channels were pitched to be included in what would have been an epic media distribution deal. However,

Comcast rejected Allen's attempt to broker a deal. Allen believes the company made its decision based on race.

Oral arguments on both sides began before the U.S. Supreme Court in November 2019. The storied legal battle between Allen and Comcast made a key U.S. law the focal point of litigation and research, which has been on the books for over 150 years (The U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1866). Allen insisted in public statements about the case that the historical ramifications in his suit are "bigger than him."

Comcast maintained that its refusal to do business with Allen was based on the low ratings of his television channels.

"In discovery, we could've shown the world that [Comcast] has over 100 networks on their platform...that are white-owned that have a lower rating than ours. Then they'll say things like [I

don't have good quality]. Well, our networks are Emmy Award-nominated and Emmy Award-winning," Allen told Roland Martin on the commentator's daily digital show.

However, in a unanimous vote, the U.S. Supreme Court's judges disagreed with Allen's claim that race played a part in Comcast's decision to reject his proposal.

On Monday (March 23), Allen exclusively sent a statement to The Grio (owned by Entertainment Studios) to express his thoughts on the High Court's sketchy ruling.

"Unfortunately, the Supreme Court has rendered a ruling that is harmful to the civil rights of millions of Americans. This is a very bad day for our country. We will continue our fight by going to Congress and the presidential candidates to revise the statute to overcome this decision by the United States Supreme Court, which significantly diminishes our civil rights," Allen said.

Sanders will 'assess his campaign' after recent losses, campaign manager says

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders' campaign manager said Wednesday that the Vermont senator will assess the state of his White House bid following another string of primary losses Tuesday night.

"The next primary contest is at least three weeks away. Sen. Sanders is going to be having conversations with supporters to assess his campaign," Faiz Shakir said in a statement.

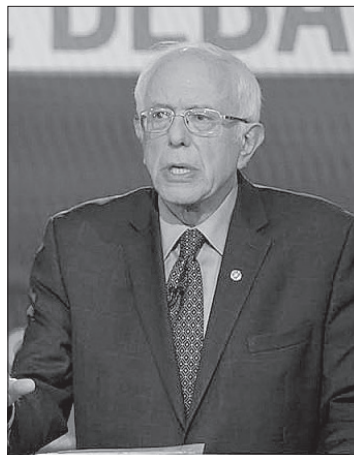
"In the immediate term, however, he is focused on the government response to the coronavirus outbreak and ensuring that we take care of working people and the most vulnerable," Shakir added.

The announcement from Sanders' top staffer represents the most stark signal yet that the progressive

icon is considering ending his presidential campaign after losing the most recent round of nominating contests in Arizona, Florida and Illinois to his Democratic rival, former Vice President Joe Biden.

Another potential indicator of the Vermont senator's presidential campaign is its advertising activity. Sanders launched digital fundraising ads on Facebook Tuesday, and they have all been pulled. He also has no active ads up on Facebook today, according to Advertising Analytics.

Previous failed White House hopefuls have issued similarly solemn remarks before inevitably dropping out of the 2020 race, including Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, whose campaign manager said earlier this month that she would be "talking to the team to assess the path forward." Warren exited the primary fight the next day.



An hour after Shakir released his statement, President Donald Trump again weighed in on the battle to challenge him in November's general election, predicting that Sanders would concede the nomination to Biden in short order. Trump has long sought to stoke discord among Democrats during the primary campaign, apparently eager to reopen old party wounds from 2016.

Pfizer, BioNTech SE collaborate to develop and distribute Coronavirus vaccine

By Stacy M. Brown,
NNPA Newswire Senior
Correspondent

Pfizer has announced the signing of a letter of intent with BioNTech SE for the co-development and distribution of a coronavirus vaccine aimed at preventing COVID-19 infection.

The companies have a head-start on working together, since the partnership builds on a 2018 agreement to jointly develop an mRNA-based influenza vaccine, according to a March 17, 2020 report in Forbes Magazine.

The agreement covers co-development and co-commercialization aimed at accelerating the development of BioNTech's potential first-in-class COVID-19 mRNA vaccine program, BNT162, which is expected to enter clinical testing by the end of next month.

The New York-headquartered Pfizer counts as one of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies. BioNTech SE is based in Germany and works to individualize cancer treatments and other medicines by pioneering patient-specific immunotherapies.

"Many companies, including Pfizer, are working to develop

antiviral therapies to help infected patients fight this emerging virus as well as new vaccines to prevent infection and halt further spread of this disease," Pfizer Chairman and CEO Albert Bourla stated in a news release.

"We are committed to working as one team across the industry to harness our scientific expertise, technical skills, and manufacturing capabilities to combat this evolving crisis," added Bourla.

Pfizer and BioNTech SE have immediately begun work on a new vaccine despite not having finalized the financial, development, and manufacturing aspects of their arrangement.

The companies have executed a Material Transfer and Collaboration agreement.

"We believe that by pairing Pfizer's development, regulatory and commercial capabilities with BioNTech's mRNA vaccine technology and expertise as one of the industry leaders, we are reinforcing our commitment to do everything we can to combat this escalating pandemic, as quickly as possible," Mikael Dolsten, Pfizer's Chief Scientific Officer and President, Worldwide Research, Development & Medical, added in a release.



Angela Merkel's first coronavirus test result is negative

Philadelphiaobserver.com

German Chancellor Angela Merkel's first coronavirus test came back negative, her spokesperson said on Monday.

"The test result of today's test is negative," Germany's government spokesperson Steffen Seibert told the German press agency DPA in Berlin. "Further tests will be carried out in the next few days."

A single negative test result does not necessarily mean a

person is not carrying the virus, as the specimen might have been collected at a very early stage of the infection.

The German chancellor is currently working from home in self-isolation after being informed late Sunday that a doctor who gave her a pneumococcal vaccination last Friday tested positive for the virus over the weekend.

As of Monday, Germany registered 22,672 confirmed cases and 86 deaths, according to the country's Robert Koch Institute.



Gun sales surge as Coronavirus cases climb

Philadelphiaobserver.com

As his nearly 2-hour wait to climb the narrow steps and go through the heavily fortified door of the Philadelphia Archery & Gun Club in South Philadelphia came to an end, Andrew Thomas made what would shortly come to sound like a prophecy.

"I see a lot of people in this line and I question, 'Are they coherent? Are they sane? Are they responsible? Will they be reckless?'" Thomas asked. "I'm just a little concerned that people will not be responsible with their firearms and not be respectful."

Thomas, a 42-year-old barber-shop owner and trained shooter from Mount Airy, waited in line with at least 40 others — all of them standing much closer than the CDC's recommended 6 feet, and

many of them African Americans.

The line to the gun store and range in the 800 block of Ellsworth Street snaked to the end of the block. A security guard who spoke on condition of anonymity said business at the store has increased in the week since the World Health Organization declared coronavirus a global pandemic.

"We always have a good number of African-American customers," the security guard said. "But business is not like this regularly, not with the lines out the door and up to 9th Street."

The Philadelphia Archery & Gun Club is not the only gun store in the area — or the state, or nation — to see a dramatic increase in business in the last few days.

Ammo.com has reported sales up nearly 70% from Feb. 23 to March 4 over the previous 11 days.

Social distancing pushes Zoom's founder's net worth over \$2 Million

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Eric Yuan, the founder of Zoom Video Communications Inc., added more than \$2 billion to his net worth as the coronavirus outbreak and social distancing have led to a significant rise in video-conferencing.

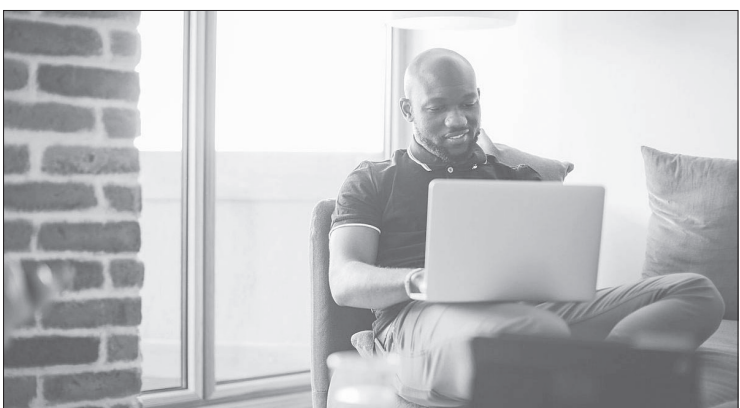
While the stock markets around the world are in freefall and governments have to grapple with bailing out entire industries, the demand for Zoom's software, which facilitates virtual conferences and web meetings, is skyrocketing.

With social distancing becoming the standard for the next few months, many jobs have made the switch to telephone or video con-

ferencing in lieu of meeting in an office. Educators at all grade levels for teachers and students have made the switch. Even non-emergency doctor's appointments have also made the move to online video conferencing as people worldwide heed calls to stay away from one another.

Social activities such as watch parties and physical fitness classes have moved to the internet.

Shares of Zoom grew an additional 3.5% in early stock trading Tuesday after Needham & Co. analyst Richard Valera recommended that investors buy the stock. After starting the year unranked on Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Yuan is now at No. 274 on the list with a \$5.6 billion fortune



This market crash is even crazier than 1929

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Monday was the worst day for US stocks since 1987's "Black Monday" — and there's no real recovery in sight.

What happened: The Dow fell 12.9% as fear about the coronavirus pandemic and the ensuing global recession escalated, wiping out three years of gains. The S&P 500 dropped 12%. US stock futures are up slightly on Tuesday, but the market mood remains grim.

The VIX, a gauge of stock market volatility, spiked 43% to 82.69 on Monday as coronavirus fears ripped through Wall Street. That takes out the previous record set in 2008.

It's the VIX's fastest spike since the 1987 crash, according to Bram Kaplan, executive director of equity derivatives strategy at JPMorgan.

"The Covid-19 pandemic sparked the fastest reassessment of equity market fundamentals and risk in the last 30 years," Kaplan told clients on Monday.

He noted that the S&P 500 recorded its quickest bear market ever, falling 20% from its peak in just 15 trading days. That's twice as fast as the next quickest meltdown. That was in 1929, and it took 30 trading days.

Feeding the volatility is the rapid thinning out of markets, which is making it difficult for buyers and sellers to put a price

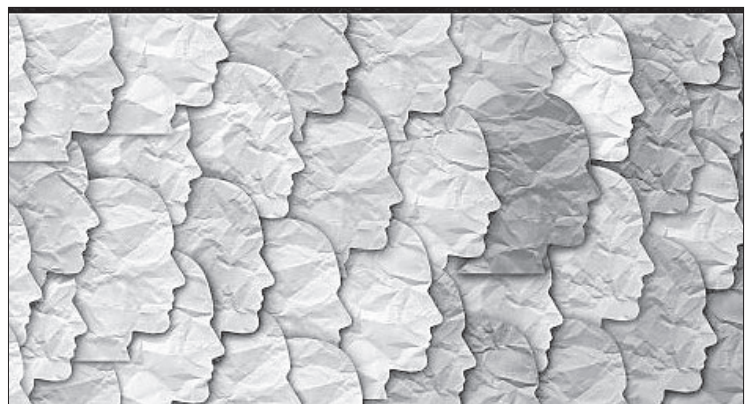
on assets. Kaplan notes that open orders for S&P 500 futures have plunged about 90% to record lows since the start of the Covid-19 panic.

Investors have woken up to the fact that the world is entering a sharp recession as curfews and lockdowns ripple across the United States and Europe. The question now is just how bad the economic contraction will be.

"Whereas 10 days ago there was some legitimate uncertainty about whether the global economy was in the process of going into recession — 10 days later, there's no question that it is," said David Wilcox, former head of research and statistics at the Federal Reserve Board.



Census bureau delays decennial count



By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

The U.S. Census Bureau announced that it would delay its decennial count by at least two weeks because of the coronavirus pandemic.

In a conference call on Friday, March 20, Tim Olsen, the associated director for field operations at the Census Bureau, noted that the original end date for the 2020 census was in July. However, because of the pandemic and resulting delays, the deadline now extends to the middle of August.

Al Fontenot, the Census Bureau's associated director for de-

cennial programs, added that 18.6 million households have already answered questionnaires, many of them doing so online. Fontenot stated that the bureau's website went live a week ago, and residents began receiving notices to participate either online or by mail.

Fontenot did lament the unforeseeable outbreak of the coronavirus.

"Of all of our worst nightmares of things that could have gone wrong with the census, we did not anticipate this set of actions," Fontenot said. "But our staff has been extremely resilient about looking for solutions."

During the call, bureau officials noted that field operations had

been suspended because of measures taken to protect workers and the public during the pandemic.

The bureau has received over 2.8 million job applicants for temporary positions to help with the count. More than 600,000 applicants had accepted job offers, and officials said they're seeking to hire at least another 500,000 people.

The census count determines how much money a community gets from the estimated \$675 billion in federal funds distributed locally for the programs that protect the health and overall well-being of citizens.

The results of the census directly determine the amount of funding communities will receive for the next ten years for essential services to senior citizens, public education, heating assistance, road improvements, public transportation, police and fire departments, community block grants, and other services.

For every person who is not counted, the municipality must cover the cost of these essential programs without the benefit of federal dollars.

To respond to the census, visit www.2020Census.gov.

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Editorial

Philadelphia Observer

Will the Coronavirus hit Black folks harder



By Julianne Malveaux

Restaurants, museums, libraries, gyms, and bars are closed. So are schools, from K-12 to higher education. Classes will be conducted online or not at all. A local vendor told me her receipts were down by 85 percent, and she hopes not to close before the “national emergency” is over. Our streets are deserted, with some

cities asking people to “self-quarantine”, or in the words of several mayors, “stay home unless it is urgent.” The shutdowns have impacted our economy. Consumer spending is more than two-thirds of GDP. If people aren’t working, people aren’t spending.

Treasury Secretary Mnuchin estimates that unemployment will rise to a scary 20 percent, just a bit lower than depression rate unemployment levels. And when America gets a cold, Black America gets the flu. Black unemployment has been twice the white unemployment rate. That means the Black community might experience unemployment of around 40 percent. That’s frightening! Why are Black folks more vulnerable? We are more likely to work in the service occupations and in the gig economy. While jurisdictions are exploring the possibility of paying people who cannot work because of quarantines, it is not clear how many will be excluded from this relief. There are talks of giving everyone with an income under \$85,000 a \$1000 cash payment. And then what?

Meanwhile, government is planning a big bailout for airlines, hotels, cruise lines, the auto industry, and others. If these folks get a bailout, it ought to be a loan, not a gift. After all, some of these industries, notably the auto industry, got bailouts in 2008, but they were loans, not grants. Those who got grants, like the “too big to fail” banks, were supposed to use it

to pump money into the economy. Instead, they tightened credit requirements, so few could qualify for loans. The 2008 bailout was unevenly applied, and industries that didn’t have effective lobbyists did much worse than others. Many of the companies paid the government back. We need to make sure they all pay it back this time.

My greatest concern is the medically vulnerable, people who have diabetes, lung disease, and heart disease, as well as those who are over 60. This includes nearly half of all African American women (47.3 percent), along with 44.8 percent of African American men. The incidence of heart disease for white women (33.8 percent) and men (37.4 percent) is significantly lower.

There are racial differences in the incidence of diabetes, as well. African Americans are 60 percent more likely to be diagnosed with diabetes than whites and twice as likely to die from the disease. African Americans are also far more likely to contract lung disease than whites, and four times more likely to die from asthma. Tests for the coronavirus seem to be in short supply. Will there be any targeted outreach to African Americans to ensure they are tested for the virus, especially because African Americans often delay doctor’s visits even when they are sick?

Coronavirus knows no race, gender, or age. When the virus first hit, medical professionals, said that older people were more

vulnerable than younger ones. Now, the numbers are rising for young people, and even some children have been diagnosed with the virus. It may be churlish to point out that African Americans are likely to be harder hit than other populations. When white America gets a cold, Black America gets a fever. Inequality is hard woven into our nation’s very fabric. Thus, it is hard to imagine the hardest coronavirus relief will be race neutral. African Americans are more likely than others to be unemployed, part of the gig economy, or otherwise at the economic periphery.

Furthermore, recession is inevitable. Except for grocery stores, pharmacies, and banks, nothing is open. People aren’t spending because there is no place for them to spend. We don’t know how long this emergency will last – some say as long as 18 months. But we do know that recession hits Black folk, poor folk, and marginalized folk harder than it hits others. We won’t see the impact of this pandemic until after the fact. But if the past is any indication, our nation will experience a harsh blow, and for African Americans, the impact will be even more jarring.

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



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Black Press establishes Coronavirus pandemic task force, resource center

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), the trade association of African American-owned newspapers and media companies, is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by establishing the NNPA Coronavirus Task Force and Resource Center.

The task force will include publishers, editors, physicians, nurses, corporate partners, sponsors, associates and supporters of the Black Press of America.

The national resource center will be structured to provide timely and accurate information to stakeholders and the African American community.

"It is well documented that African Americans get sick more frequently, are screened for illness less often, are diagnosed for disease later, are treated less aggressively and buried earlier than those in other ethnic groups in America," said Sheila Thorne, president and CEO of Multicultural Healthcare Marketing Group, LLC.

"The reasons for health disparities are complex. The deadly spread of the coronavirus in the United States exacerbates not only the poor health status of African Americans but it exposes their persistent lack of access to quality, culturally competent healthcare from testing to diagnosis to treatment," Thorne stated.

"I applaud the NNPA for taking a leadership position to disseminate accurate and culturally relevant health information to black Americans that will protect all in the community and save lives, especially those who are underserved and underrepresented."

Congressional Black Caucus Chair Karen Bass (D-Calif.) said she was pleased that the NNPA has established a task force and resource center and she's looking forward to contributing.

"The NNPA Coronavirus Task Force and Resource Center is a one-stop spot for curated news and resources specific to Black people in America," Bass stated.

"Since 1940, the NNPA has built a network of member publications across the country that covers news and issues most important to Black people in America. The NNPA is a trusted source to reach the Black community, often times overlooked by mainstream media."



Robert W. Bogle, the chairman, president and CEO of the Philadelphia Tribune, the nation's oldest and the Greater Philadelphia region's largest audited newspaper serving the African American community, stated that the mission of the Black Press is being carried out despite the current crisis.

"We became an independent voice to speak up and speak out and deliberately embracing and telling our story," Bogle offered. "It's part of our history, and it's who we are."

He continued:

"It doesn't mean that others don't write about us, but are they writing to us and for us? I say, 'No.' People in our business have to understand and recommit themselves and reaffirm who we are and the critical role that we play."

"For a lot of businesses, this is a short interruption. Newspapers will be hurt in a critical and severe way. We've experienced a day where we didn't do a dollar's worth of business. We had cancellations. We have to stop and think about who we are doing business with. If they don't support us, we should not support them."

In a memo circulated by NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., and on behalf of NNPA Chair Karen Carter Richards and the NNPA Board of Directors, the trade association noted that all are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Continued on page 12



Philly schools forbid 'remote instruction' during shutdown for equity concerns

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The School District of Philadelphia will not allow teachers to do "remote instruction" with students while schools are closed during the coronavirus outbreak, according to a letter sent to principals Tuesday night.

Because the district cannot ensure equal access to technology among students, it's barring individual schools from providing graded virtual instruction.

"To ensure equity, remote instruction should not be provided to students, including through the internet, technology at home, by phone, or otherwise," the letter read.

On Wednesday afternoon, after backlash and confusion among teachers, Superintendent William Hite clarified the district's position, saying that teachers cannot require students to do work remotely or grade them on that work.

At a city press briefing on

COVID-19, Hite said that the district would update its guidance and stressed that it is not prohibiting teachers from contacting students and their families, but rather encouraging it. However, due to access concerns, the district would prohibit "a requirement to log in, a requirement to take attendance, and a requirement to distribute grades. If that's not available to all children, we cannot make that available to some," Hite said.

In the Tuesday letter to principals, administrators said:

"Students should not be required to complete new assignments or homework activities. Schools may not make independent decisions to offer remote instruction at this time. As guidance and circumstances continue to unfold, we will provide updates when necessary."

The letter was signed by Naomi Wyatt, the district's chief of staff, and Malika Savoy-Brooks, chief of academic support.

Coronavirus pandemic leading to huge drop in air pollution

Newyorkbeacon.com

The coronavirus pandemic is shutting down industrial activity and temporarily slashing air pollution levels around the world, satellite imagery from the European Space Agency shows.

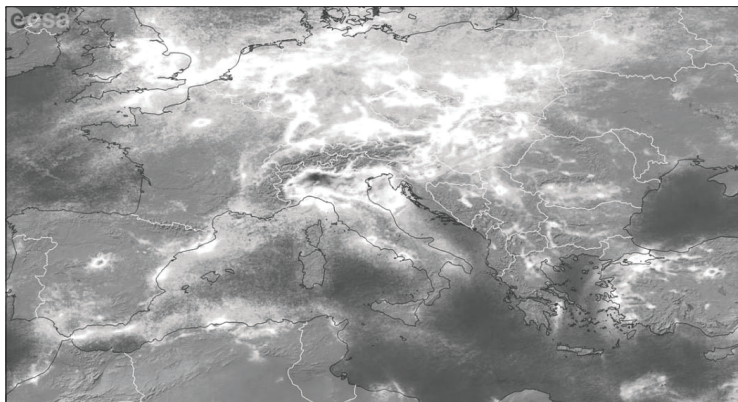
One expert said the sudden shift represented the "largest scale experiment ever" in terms of the reduction of industrial emissions.

Readings from ESA's Sentinel-5P satellite show that over the past six weeks, levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) over cities and industrial clusters in Asia and Europe were markedly lower than in the same period last year.

Nitrogen dioxide is produced from car engines, power plants and other industrial processes and is thought to exacerbate respiratory illnesses such as asthma.

While not a greenhouse gas itself, the pollutant originates from the same activities and industrial sectors that are responsible for a large share of the world's carbon emissions and that drive global heating.

Paul Monks, professor of air pollution at the University of Leicester, predicted there will be important lessons to learn. "We are now, inadvertently, conducting the largest-scale experiment ever seen," he said. "Are we looking at what we might see in the future if we can move to a low-carbon



economy? Not to denigrate the loss of life, but this might give us some hope from something terrible. To see what can be achieved."

Monks, the former chair of the UK government's science advisory committee on air quality, said that a reduction in air pollution could bring some health benefits, though they were unlikely to offset loss of life from the disease.

"It seems entirely probable that a reduction in air pollution will be beneficial to people in susceptible categories, for example some asthma sufferers," he said. "It could reduce the spread of disease. A high level of air pollution exacerbates viral uptake because it inflames and lowers immunity." Agriculture could also get a boost because pollution stunts plant growth, he added.

The World Health Organization describes NO₂ as "a toxic gas which

causes significant inflammation of the airways" at concentrations above 200 micrograms per cubic metre. Pollution particles may also be a vector for pathogens, as well as exacerbating existing health problems. The WHO is now investigating whether airborne pollution particles may be a vector that spreads Covid-19 and makes it more virulent.

One of the largest drops in pollution levels could be seen over the city of Wuhan, in central China, which was put under a strict lockdown in late January. The city of 11 million people serves as a major transportation hub and is home to hundreds of factories supplying car parts and other hardware to global supply chains. According to Nasa, nitrogen dioxide levels across eastern and central China have been 10-30% lower than normal.

Ground zero: China to lift lockdown on Wuhan

Philadelphiaobserver.com

China has announced it will lift the lockdown on Wuhan, the city at the epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic, on April 8, marking a significant milestone in its battle against the deadly outbreak.

The date comes more than two months after the city was first sealed off from the outside world, in an unprecedented bid to contain the fast spreading virus. Similar lockdown measures will be lifted Wednesday for other cities in Hubei province, of which Wuhan is the capital, provincial authorities announced Tuesday.

The easing of travel restrictions follows a significant reduction in new infections in Hubei, with new cases dropping to zero for five consecutive days from March 19 — down from thousands of daily new cases at the height of the epidemic in February. On Tuesday, the province reported one new case in Wuhan, a doctor at the Hubei General Hospital.

Staff members line up as they prepare to disinfect Wuhan Railway Station on Tuesday, March 24.

The province has accounted for the majority of infections and deaths in China, with 67,801 cases and 3,160 fatalities reported as of Monday.

In a precursor to the types of measures that would later be introduced throughout the world, Wuhan, a city of some 11 million people, was placed under state-imposed lockdown on January 23, with all flights, trains and buses canceled and highways entrances blocked. Other cities in Hubei province soon followed suit, adopting similar restrictions.

The sweeping measures, which have affected more than 60 million Hubei residents, have been heralded in China as having allowed the country to turn a corner in its fight against the outbreak. In a major show of confidence, Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Wuhan on March 10, three months after the outbreak was first detected in the city.



On the scene

DJ-Nice hosts awesome #ClubQuarantine bash

By Sonaiya Kelley

Celebrity DJ **D-Nice**, producer/rapper recently hosted Saturday's #ClubQuarantine, also known as "Homeschool," the hottest party on Instagram Live. More than 100,000 people tuned into #ClubQuarantine.

Dozens of stars, as varied as **Michelle Obama**, Rihanna and Mark Zuckerberg and even presidential contenders Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders and onetime hopefuls Kamala Harris and Elizabeth Warren showed up virtually for the social-distancing dance party, which lasted nine hours.

"It's become a place for us to virtually dance together and stay connected," D-Nice said in a post on Instagram. "From my kitchen, I'm able to send positive vibrations to each of you. Thank you for rocking with me."

Nice, who emceed the afterparty at the final musical event hosted by the Obamas at the White House in 2016, was also joined by Oprah Winfrey, Ava DuVernay, Missy Elliott, Tracee Ellis Ross, Jada Pinkett Smith, **Will Smith**, Jennifer Lopez, Diddy, Snoop Dogg, Lenny Kravitz, Mike Tyson.

Also at the event were Gabrielle Union, Steph Curry, Model Tyson Beckford, Bruno Mars, Quincy Jones, Usher, Janet Jackson, Common, Dave Chappelle, Fat Joe, John Legend, Lena Waithe, LL Cool J, Mary J. Blige, Michael Ealy, Russell



DJ D-Nice (Getty Images)

Simmons, Naomi Campbell and others for the virtual dance party.



Michelle Obama



Will Smith



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On the scene

EMERGE! 9TH season is a 'Global Runway' success



Dionne Williams, Fern Mallis, Bibhu Mohapatra

By Audrey J. Bernard

EMERGE! A Fashion Runway Show which was created and produced by **Dionne Williams of D. Williams Public Relations Group** presented a historic runway staging during Fashion week featuring collections from African based designers for the first time in the United States. *EMERGE!* was this season's most diverse showcase, bringing rich and unique colors, design and textiles to the runway. Now in its 9th year, *EMERGE!* has consistently provided diverse talent from across the country throughout its history. This year they featured 8 designers from Africa—showcas-

ing their collections for the first time in the United States — **VanVorsh** (Bespoke Women's Wear); **Jesu Segun** (Hand crafted Luxury shoes); **Clarence Clottey** (Men's Wear); **Muggs Jewellery** (Men & Women jewelry); **Senyo Foli** (Men's Wear); **Yetroselane Couture** (Women's Wear); **Nyonuvi** (Women's Wear); **Wearable Art Collective** (Women's accessories) – special guest designer: **Catou Designs** (Men & Women's Wear). In addition, **Fern Mallis**, creator of New York Fashion week received the *EMERGE!* coveted Fashion Innovator Award. The Award was presented to her by designer **Bibhu Mohapatra**. (Photo credit: *Flashlyfe Photography*)



Catou Designs



Catou Designs



Nyonuvi



Jesu Segun Shoes



Clarence Clottey



VanVorsh



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If I could do one thing, I'd have a daycare closer to work.

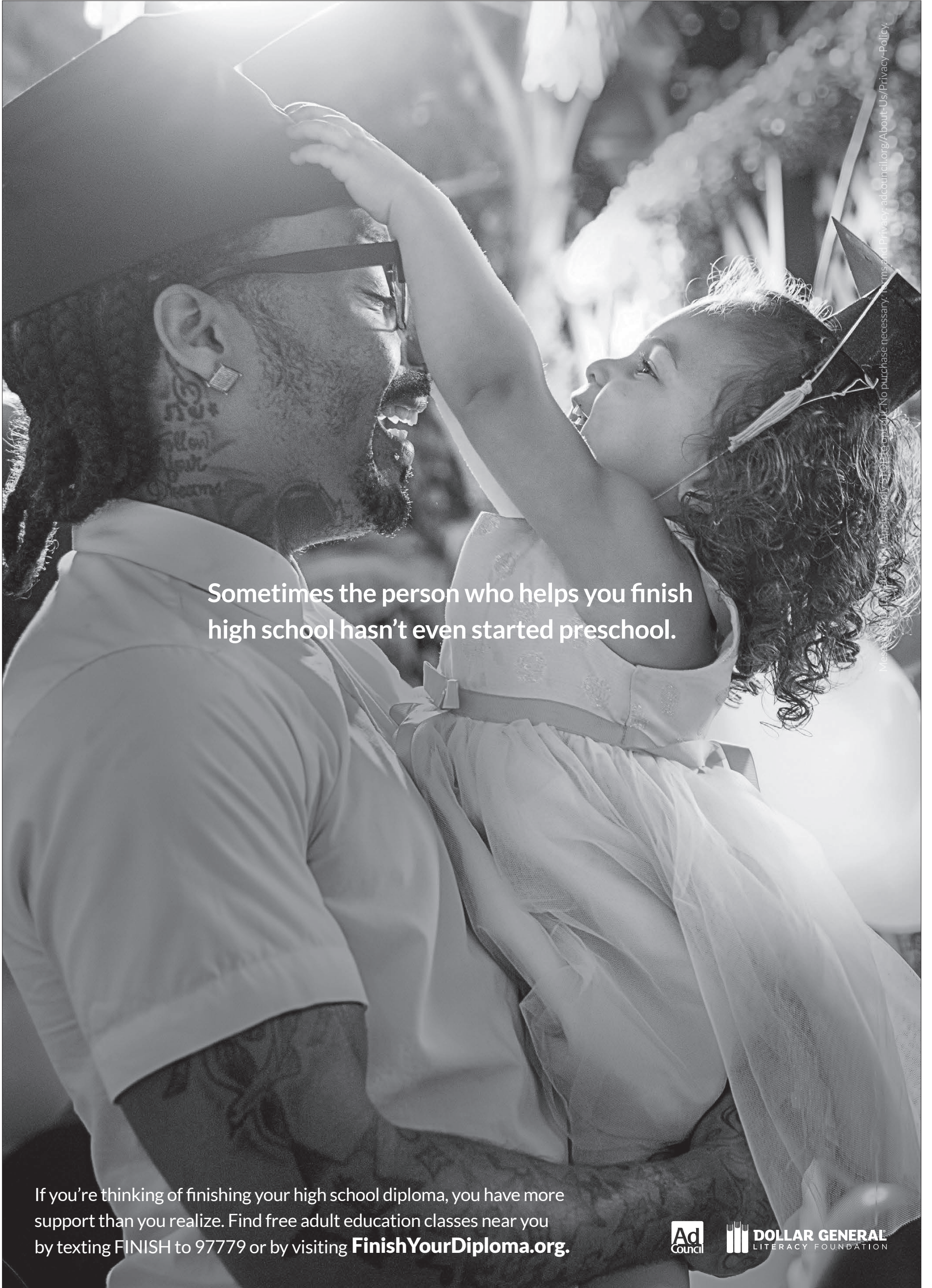
If you could do one thing for your community, what would it be? More daycare centers? More funding for Head Start? Completing the 2020 Census is a safe and easy way to inform how billions of dollars in funding flow into your community for hundreds of services. **Respond online, by phone, or by mail.**

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Health and diseases of the prostate

By Glenn Ellis(TriceEdneyWire.com) –

Every man (and every woman in their life), who lives long enough will have to deal with prostate issues.

Prostate cancer is one of the most common cancer types in men. The good news is that there are many treatment and management options, even if the cancer is caught at a later stage.

Beginning this topic with a small introduction of the prostate gland; what it is and what it does might be helpful. The prostate (not prostrate) is a small, squishy gland about the size of a ping-pong ball, located deep inside the groin, between the base of the penis and the rectum. It is important for reproduction, because it supplies the seminal fluid, which mixes with sperm from the testes. Seminal fluid helps the sperm to travel and survive.

The prostate undergoes two main growth spurts. The first is fueled by sex hormones made by the testicles during puberty. For reasons that are unclear, the second growth spurt of the prostate gland begins when men are in their 30s. It continues to enlarge with age to an average weight of 40 grams in men in their 70s. Many men experience urinary changes as they age, which may be caused by inflammation or enlargement of the prostate gland.

As men age, their prostates enlarge. By the time men are in their 40s or 50s, many are already experiencing symptoms, such as having to get up at night to urinate. As they reach their 60s and 70s, many men may have to get up two or three times during the night to urinate.

The three most common prostate problems are inflammation (prostatitis), enlarged prostate (BPH), and prostate cancer.

Prostatitis is an inflammation of the prostate gland, often resulting in swelling or pain. Prostatitis can result in four significant symptoms: pain, urination problems, sexual dysfunction, and general health problems, such as feeling tired and depressed. Inflammation of the prostate gland is a common cause of men's visits to their doctors for genital and urinary problems. Men of any age can develop prostatitis, but older men are more likely to experience it than younger men. If you (or a man in your life) are over age 50 and have an enlarged prostate, there is an increased risk of developing this condition. Half of all men experience prostatitis at some time in their life. The most common symptoms have to do with problems with urination. Problems with urination makes sense, given that urine passes through the prostate as it flows out of the body.

BPH stands for benign prostatic hyperplasia. Benign means "not cancer," and hyperplasia means abnormal cell growth. The result is that the prostate becomes enlarged. An infection or a tumor can also make the prostate larger. Some men with BPH eventually find their symptoms to be bothersome enough to need treatment. BPH cannot be cured, but drugs or surgery can often relieve its symptoms. Treatment is started only if symptoms become too much of a problem.

Often, men with mild to moderate BPH symptoms choose prescription drugs over surgery. Three main types of drugs are used. Two types relax muscles near the prostate, and the other type shrinks the prostate gland. There is some evidence shows that taking drugs together may work best to keep BPH symptoms from getting worse. Surgery for BPH are still among the most common procedures for American men.

That being said, there are few, if any, health diagnoses that bring fear, confusion, and misinformation as prostate cancer. There are often no symptoms during the early stages of prostate cancer; only medical screening can detect changes that can indicate cancer.

For more almost 40 years, the PSA test has been the "gold standard" in prostate cancer screening. This is a simple blood test that measures how much prostate-specific antigen is in your blood. If you have an abnormal PSA score, your doctor may recommend another newer test, prostate health index (PHI), that gives a better sense of your prostate cancer risk. The PHI is a more accurate blood test, and measures your risk for having prostate cancer, as well as resulting in fewer unnecessary biopsies. The FDA approved it for men who have PSA scores between 4 and 10.

As cancers go, even though it is the most common cancer in men, and does kill (30,000 die annually), prostate cancer is slow growing and not generally life threatening. Many more men die with prostate cancer than from prostate cancer.

There's no sure way to prevent prostate cancer, but if you're concerned about your risk of prostate cancer, you may be interested in prostate cancer prevention. The Mayo Clinic suggests that men: choose a healthy diet; maintain a healthy weight; exercise most days of the week; and if you think you have a high risk of prostate cancer, discuss it with your doctor. This is good advice in maintaining good prostate health throughout life.

Hopefully, this information will lead you to learn more about the prostate. Remember, I'm not a doctor. I just sound like one. Take good care of yourself and live the best



life possible!

The information included in this column is for educational purposes only. I do not dispense medical advice or prescribe the use of any technique as a replacement form of treatment for physical, mental or medical problems by your doctor either directly or indirectly. 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*. For more good health information visit: www.glennellis.com

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International



UK supermarkets limit sales of all food items

Newyorkbeacon.com

Online shopping delivery service Ocado has suspended its online food delivery service, blaming higher demand than it can meet.

Ocado said existing customers with orders would still receive them.

Meanwhile, supermarkets have introduced strict limits on how many goods people can buy to try to curb stockpiling as the coronavirus pandemic escalates.

Tesco, Sainsbury's and Asda will now stop shoppers buying

more than three of any particular food item.

Sainsbury's has also said it will prioritise vulnerable and elderly people for online deliveries.

Ocado said it was experiencing "a simply staggering amount of traffic" to its website and more demand for products and deliveries than it could meet.

"This temporary closure will allow us to complete essential work that will help to make sure distribution of products and delivery slots is as fair and accessible as possible for all our loyal customers," it added.

China heeds global demand for anti-Coronavirus masks

Mar. 23, 2020 (GIN) –

As much of the world attempts to source much needed face masks, Africa has been offered 5.4 million masks, more than a million testing kits and other items in a donation from Chinese billionaire Jack Ma.

Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea and Djibouti will be the first countries to receive the consignment to be shipped out of Ethiopia this week.

The supplies are being donated by China's Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. and Jack Ma. More medical supplies are expected over the next few weeks.

"Getting these donations to all 54 African countries, with diverse geographic conditions and different levels of infrastructure, is a great logistical and transportation challenge," the foundation said. "We are working around the clock to make the delivery as fast as possible."

Ethiopia's Health Ministry will coordinate the distribution together with the national carrier, Ethiopian Airlines, and with support from the World Food Program and the Africa Centres for



Ethiopian Aripport

Disease Control and Prevention, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said. Abiy announced a week ago he'd struck a deal with Ma.

A Chinese aid package is also being sent to the European Union, including masks and test kits for Italy, as Rome faces the most urgent needs among member states in the coronavirus crisis.

"China has not forgotten that in January ... the EU helped," Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Union, said in a video posted on Twitter. "Today, we are the centre of the coronavirus outbreak pandemic, and we need protective equipment ourselves."

Meanwhile, some health professionals have begun reusing masks and gloves. Others have taken to social media with public pleas for help using the hashtag #GetMePPE, an acronym for personal protective equipment. Without proper covering, every new bedside visit might prove fatal, especially for older physicians and their families.

"The sky is falling," one doctor wrote in an opinion piece for The New York Times.

"We're heading into the abyss," wrote another.

The short supply of masks in particular is dire.

Black Press establishes Coronavirus pandemic task force, resource center

From page 7

"It is important to note that the majority of the NNPA member publishers across the nation are remaining on the frontline of providing vital and crucial information to African Americans and others who are challenged by the expanding and growing public health crisis confronting our families and communities," Chavis wrote.

"Our member newspapers are still printing, and our online and digital distributions of vital life-saving accurate information on COVID-19 are all being done responsibly and effectively. Yet, many of our newspapers are facing a reduction in advertising at a time

during this crisis when our news businesses are crucially needed."

NNPA's national office has put out an urgent call to federal, state, and local public health officials to immediately increase their outreach to Black America via NNPA member publications.

Through the unprecedented public health crisis, personnel at the NNPA's main office in Washington, D.C., have worked nonstop to find additional ways to help Black America push through the pandemic.

The task force, which will include top infectious disease doctors, medical and health experts from various organizations, and public officials, will aggregate

facts and update information about how COVID-19 is impacting Black America in all age categories across the nation.

The task force will send out periodic national COVID-19 alerts to all in the NNPA database, and establish daily coordination between the NNPA and the National Medical Association (NMA), National Black Nurses Association (NBNA), and medical schools at HBCUs to collaborate on best practices and other vital information to assist Black America throughout the pandemic.

Chavis said Bass, the CBC Chair, has been instrumental in the drafting of the stimulus bill that's now before the U.S. Congress and she's

worked diligently to ensure that the legislation would include some form of assistance for the Black Press.

"At a time like this, our people cannot afford to be ill-informed," Bass stated. "The creation of the NNPA Coronavirus Taskforce and Resource Center is a great step in the right direction to ensuring Black people get the pertinent information not just at the national level, but at the local and community level. When we leave out the Black Press, we leave a gap, and miss out on effectively safeguarding our community during this global pandemic."

Chavis noted that daily briefings of the pandemic and original and pertinent content about

COVID-19 would be published at www.BlackPressUSA.com.

"The Black Press of America has always taken a frontline position during a time of crisis to keep Black America informed about the truth and facts," Chavis said.

The leadership of the NNPA established the Coronavirus Task Force and National Resource Center as a responsible action to inform and to engage millions of Black Americans and others in response to the coronavirus pandemic, Chavis added.

"We want to contribute to the saving of Black lives and to protect our families, businesses, and communities from this fatally contagious virus," Chavis stated.

Kenya surges on U.N. 'Happiness' report

(GIN) –

As Mae West once said, "I've been rich, and I've been poor; believe me, rich is better."

But could there be more to the story? A landmark survey of the state of global happiness designates Kenya as more positive and hopeful than its neighbors despite the challenges that the country faces. In fact, Kenya is ranked as the happiest nation in East and Central Africa in the World Happiness Report of 2020.

"It's not just wealth that makes people happy," write the authors of the report based at the Earth Institute at Columbia University. "Political freedom, strong social networks and an absence of cor-

ruption are together more important than income in explaining well-being differences between the top and bottom countries. Good mental and physical health, someone to count on, job security and stable families are also crucial."

Findings of the scholarly report will be disputed, certainly. In 2018, Human Rights Watch found a lack of accountability for serious rights violations, perpetrated largely by security forces. The 2017 presidential election period saw abusive police operations in opposition strongholds, with police beating and shooting to death at least 100 opposition protesters and bystanders.

Many women and girls were raped and sexually harassed by police during these operations.



Kenyan family

Last December, the governor of Nairobi was charged with economic crimes involving millions of dollars.

Life expectancy was nothing to write home about in 2016 according to the World Health Organization. Life expectancy

was 64 years while total expenditure on health was 5.7 percent in 2014. Switzerland spent 12 percent of GDP and the UK spent 9.8%.

To make a long story short, Kenya invests the bare minimum in hospital beds (1.4 per 1,000 in 2010), and shows high numbers for malaria, malnutrition, TB, and under-five deaths.

Still, there are Kenyans who will assure you: "I have what I need to be happy. I don't stress. I have a nice family and I love my job."

With a blend of Christian and Muslim inhabitants, everyone greets one another. "People here are safe, they feel free, they help each other. I am Christian, my two brothers are Muslim, and that is OK. There is free will".



Steph, Ayesha Curry to donate 1 Million meals to Oakland students during Coronavirus school closures

Newyorkbeacon.com

Steph Curry and his wife Ayesha Curry posted a Twitter message on Friday, March 13, and said they'll give 1 million meals to students in Oakland, California, who won't be going to school because of the coronavirus.

Last week the Oakland Unified School District announced that schools will close until April 5, including child development centers.

An extremely large number of students depend on the National School Lunch Program's free and

low-cost meals. Reportedly, out of the Oakland schools that are closed, 12 of them will hand out meals to students that they'll be able to pick up and take home during the closures.

"We know the world is changing before our eyes in terms of dealing with the spread of coronavirus, and we just found out that the Oakland Unified School District is closing the doors for the foreseeable future," said Steph. "So we want to intercede on behalf of the kids that rely on the daily services and try to help anyway we can."

"The statistics are really stag-

gering," Ayesha followed. "At least 18,000 kids rely on at least two meals a day from the school system, so we want to make sure that we rally around everyone and ensure that these kids are not wondering where their next meal is coming from."

Last year, the Currys announced the start of their organization Eat. Learn. Play., which they hope will end childhood hunger in low-income areas.

Eat. Learn. Play. will work with the Alameda County Community Food Bank and Oakland Unified School District to give out the meals.



Erykah Badu to charge fans \$1 to live stream a concert at her house

Newyorkbeacon.com

Singer-songwriter Erykah Badu has announced that she is planning to perform a concert through a live stream from her bedroom in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. The event will cost \$1 each to fans who want to watch and have a chance to pick what songs she will perform.

"Peace and love. The show must go on," Badu said in an Instagram video. "Introducing the quarantine concert series live from my bedroom. We will be performing here live this weekend."

The Grammy Award-winning singer was originally set to do a concert tour in different states from February to November 2020

but was canceled due to the coronavirus.

As an alternative, Badu decided to live stream a concert from her bedroom in Dallas, Texas. The interactive Apocalypse One event will include a poll where attendees who paid their \$1 admission could choose which songs she will perform.

Prior to Badu, some artists like John Legend and Chris Martin also did a live stream concert for their fans for free.

Last week, Badu also caught public attention when she received the Filmmakers & Soundtrack Award at Texas Film Awards wearing a hazmat suit with Louis Vuitton logo, which she called "social distancing couture" in her Instagram post.



Rihanna donates \$5M to relief efforts

Newyorkbeacon.com

From finding ways to help others cope to sheltering in place to canceling events, here's a look at some of the ways the entertainment industry is reacting to the spread of the coronavirus, which most people recover from but can cause severe illness in the elderly and those with preexisting medical conditions.

The money will support "on-the-ground partners working on the frontlines of disaster response especially those focused on protecting and serving marginalized communities — helping the most vulnerable in the United States, the Caribbean and in Africa prepare for what is to come," the

foundation said in a statement.

The funding will be channeled through Direct Relief, Partners In Health, Feeding America, the International Rescue Committee, the World Health Organization's COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund and others.

"Never has it been more important or urgent to protect and prepare marginalized and underserved communities — those who will be hit hardest by this pandemic," CLF's executive director Justine Lucas said in the statement.

The money will go to food banks, testing, healthcare worker training, virus prevention and distribution of critical respiratory supplies.

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Reel

'Slay the Dragon' uncovers tribulations of gerrymandering



Scene from "Slay the Dragon"



Katie Fahey in "Slay the Dragon"

Posted by Audrey J. Bernard

Magnolia Pictures will release one of the most explosive political documentaries to date, "Slay the Dragon," which will be released on April 3, 2020 on VOD and digital platforms and before the upcoming elections. Timing is everything! Produced by **Participant Media** (*American Factory*, *Just Mercy*) and directed and produced by **Barak Goodman** and **Chris Durrance**, "Slay the Dragon" traces the real world impact of partisan gerrymandering for everyday Americans and follows several activists working to end the practice, including **Katie Fahey**, who led an anti-gerrymandering ballot measure campaign in Michigan, and a team of lawyers who brought a case to the Supreme Court.

Given the current political climate and heightened concerns about the coronavirus, Magnolia Pictures delayed the film's March 13 release in order to make the film widely available in theaters and on demand, giving audiences everywhere the opportunity to see this important movie. The film has received critical acclaim and is considered the most powerful



Barak Goodman, co-director



Chris Durrance, co-director

political film of the year, and perhaps the most important political film of the decade. "We saw what was happening with the spread of coronavirus and sat down with Magnolia to discuss a last-minute change in our release plan," said directors Goodman and Durrance. "They took the concerns seriously and moved quickly, ensuring that nearly every home in America will have access to our film."

After the 2008 election, a secretive, well-funded partisan initiative poured money into state legislative races in key swing states to gain control of their redistricting processes and used high-tech analytics to dramatically skew voting maps based on demographic data.

The result is one of the greatest electoral manipulations in U.S. history, one that poses a fundamental threat to our democracy and exacerbates the already polarized atmosphere in Congress and state houses across the country.

Gerrymandering, the practice of redrawing electoral maps to serve a single party, has been around for centuries. But in today's hyperpartisan political environment it has been taken to unprecedented extremes, fueled by the elimination of corporate campaign contribution limits and the availability of vast amounts of personal information. The effects of this audacious plan have continued to bear fruit through the

2018 midterms. But voters, fed up with cynical efforts to sidestep the will of the majority, have begun fighting back. In one example, a grassroots movement led by a young woman with no political experience gathered hundreds of thousands of signatures to put an anti-gerrymandering initiative on the ballot in Michigan.

The new documentary "Slay the Dragon" traces the real world impact of partisan gerrymandering for everyday Americans and follows several activists working to end the practice, including Fahey, who led an anti-gerrymandering ballot measure campaign in Michigan, and a team of lawyers who brought a case to the Supreme Court.

In collaboration with grassroots partners, Participant will be launching an impact campaign timed to the film's release, which will conduct a series of strategic screenings and conversations in key battleground states, especially where there is active state legislation or ballot measures to reign in gerrymandering and support the creation of independent redistricting commissions.

Fahey, a 20-something with no political experience, is the founder

of Voters Not Politicians, a grassroots organization dedicated to wresting redistricting control in Michigan away from political parties and putting it into the hands of a citizens' commission comprising people from across the ideological spectrum. The group's argument that voters should choose their politicians — rather than the other way around — struck a chord with Michiganders: the group collected nearly 500,000 signatures, far more than they needed to get the anti-gerrymandering initiative Proposal 2 on the 2018 midterm ballot. "That one person with no experience in the political world was able to get the signatures needed for a ballot initiative, despite all the big-money forces opposing her, is incredibly inspiring," says executive producer **William von Mueffling**.

"Slay the Dragon" is a Participant presentation, in association with React Films, an Ark Media Production. The film is executive produced by Jeff Skoll, Diane Weyermann, Coralie Charriol Paul, and William von Mueffling. Grace McNally is co-producer. Co-executive producers are Daniel Simon and James Simon. (Photos courtesy Magnolia Pictures)

The life & career of Civil Rights icon John Lewis headed to the big screen

Participant and **Magnolia Pictures** have acquired North American rights to "John Lewis: Good Trouble," directed by acclaimed filmmaker **Dawn Porter** (*Trapped*, *Gideon's Army*). The film chronicles the life and career of the legendary civil rights activist and Democratic Representative from Georgia, **Honorable John Lewis**. Porter and **Laura Michalchyshyn** produced the film, which was executive produced and financed by **CNN Films**, **AGC Studios** and **TIME Studios**. CNN Films will retain North American broadcast rights, while AGC International, the international sales and distribution arm of AGC Studios, will oversee international distribution rights. Magnolia is planning a Spring 2020 theatrical release.

Using interviews and rare archival footage, "John Lewis: Good Trouble" chronicles Lewis' 60-plus years of social activism and legislative action on civil rights, voting rights, gun control, health-care reform and immigration. Using present-day interviews with Lewis, now 80 years old, Porter explores his childhood experiences, his inspiring family and his fateful meeting with **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** in 1957. In addition to her interviews with Lewis and his family, Porter's primarily cinéma vérité film also includes interviews with political leaders, Congressional colleagues, and other people who figure prominently in his life.

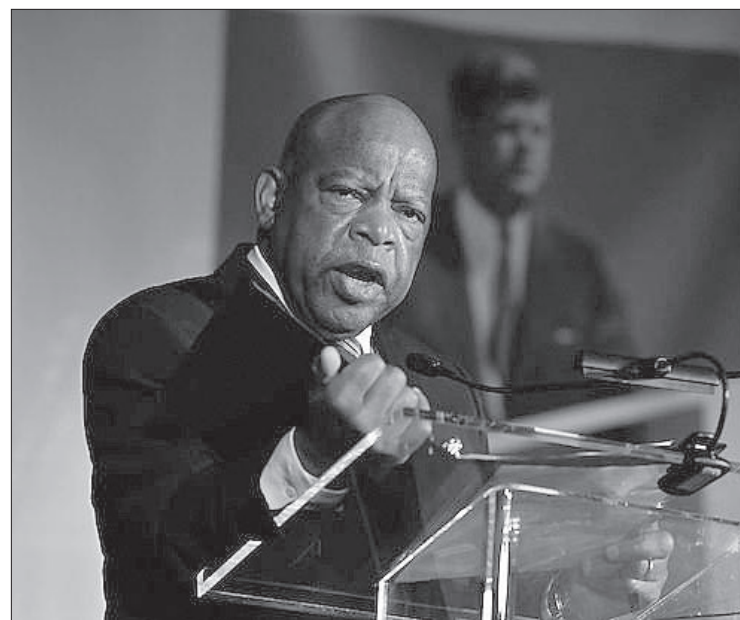
Most recently, CNN Films, Magnolia and Participant partnered on Oscar-nominated "RBG," which went on to gross more than \$14

million at the global box office and was sold to over 30 territories worldwide.

"John Lewis is a shining example of what is great about this country and Dawn Porter has done a wonderful job chronicling his journey," said Magnolia President **Eamonn Bowles**. "We're proud to be bringing this film to the public."

"John Lewis' unwavering commitment to public service is legendary," said Porter. "He is the voice of reason in a turbulent time, and we need his leadership today as much as we ever have. It is thrilling to have so many skilled and prestigious partners to launch this film into the world. I am incredibly grateful to them all."

"John Lewis: Good Trouble" is produced by Porter and **Michal-**



The Honorable John Lewis (Getty Images)

chyshyn for Trilogy Films, with **Errika Alexander** and **Ben Arnon** of Color Farm Media. Executive producers are **Jeff Skoll** and **Diane Weyermann** for Partici-

participant; **Amy Entelis** and **Courtney Sexton** for CNN Films; **Stuart Ford** for AGC Studios; **Rachel Traub**; and **Ian Orefice** and **Mike Beck** for TIME Studios.

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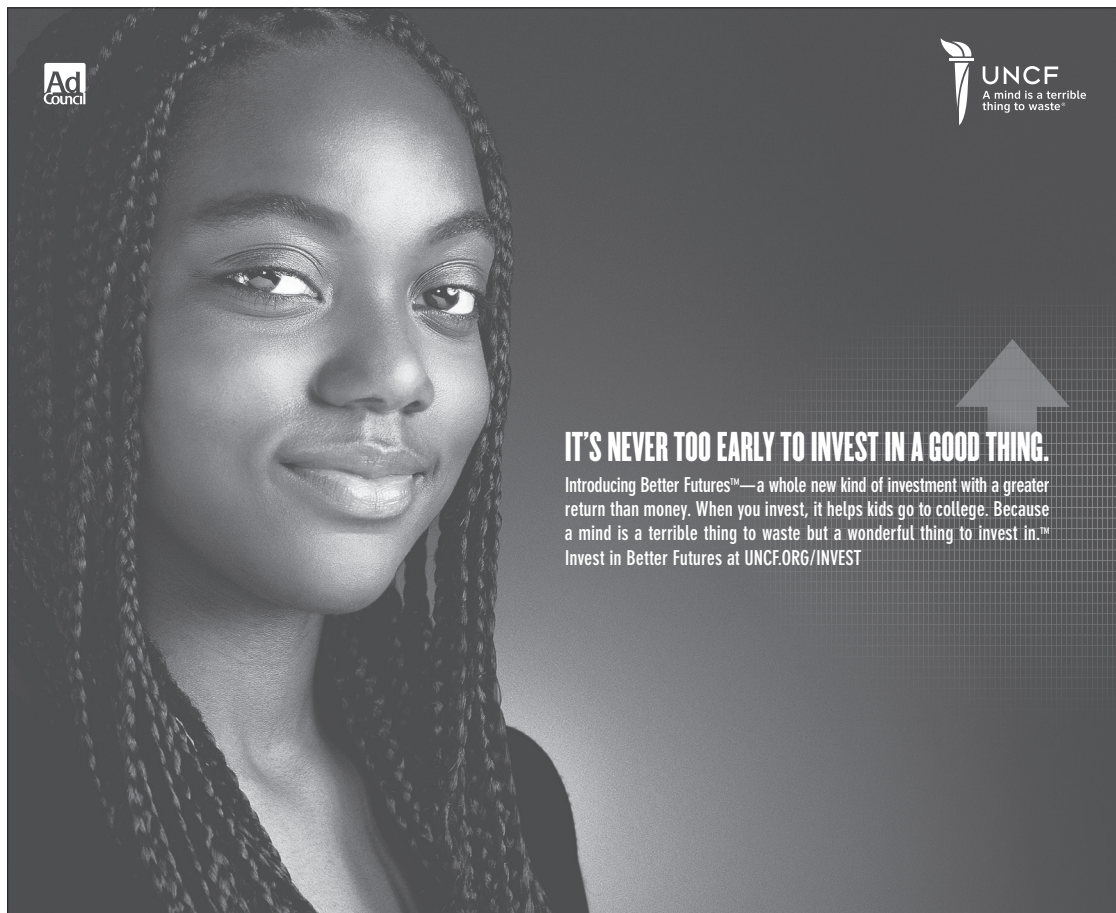
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Sports

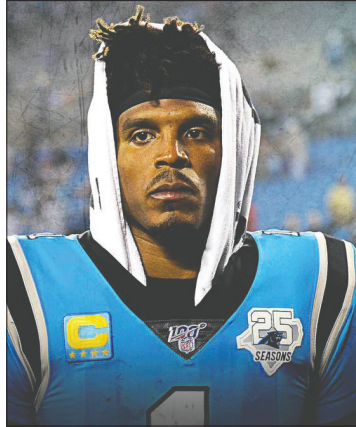
Virus doesn't stop NFL free agents

By Andrew Rosario

The NFL free agency period began officially at 4pm last week. The Coronavirus pandemic which has crippled the nation was only a speed bump when it came for teams to make a splash in the free agent market. The biggest name on the market, New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, broke the hearts of Patriots fans when he announced he would not re-sign with the team he spent the last 20 years, winning 6 Super Bowl titles. Speculation then began what city TB12 would be throwing his next pass. Would he stay in the AFC? Would he go home to the west coast? When the guessing game was over, Brady selected a team he felt was on the cusp of going to the next level and making a run at the Super Bowl. That team turned out to be the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Brady signed a 2-year deal for \$50 million which could earn him as much as \$10 million more based on incentives.

"Excited and humble," Brady posted on his Instagram page. "If there's one thing I have learned, is that no cares what you did last year or the year before that. You earn the trust and respect of those around you through your commitment every single day." Brady will be coached by second year head coach Bruce Arians as the team finished with a 7-9 record. The organization decided not to go forward with Jameis Winston who was their #1 draft pick in the 2015 draft. Winston was coming off a year in which he threw 33 touchdown passes but also threw 30 interceptions. He led the league throwing for 5,109 yards leading many to think he did enough to return. When Brady declared himself a free agent, that door closed. So Tom Brady takes his talent to Florida to a team that has not won a playoff game since 1992. Tampa host the 2021 Super Bowl. No team has ever played in the Super Bowl in their own city.

Another quarterback who spent his entire career, is moving on as



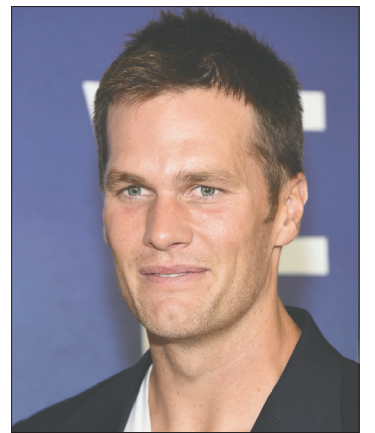
Cam Looking For A New Team
Photo: Special to the NY Beacon

well. Phillip rivers who threw for more than 59,000 yards and 397 touchdowns for the Chargers signed a 1 year deal with the Indianapolis Colts for \$25 million. Rivers could not overcome a Chargers shaky defense as they gave up 30 or more points in 4 of their last 5 games. The ever

durable Rivers played in all 16 games for the 14th straight season.

The Carolina Panthers parted ways with quarterback Cam Newton as they signed Teddy Bridgewater from the New Orleans Saints. Newton was the league MVP in 2015 leading the Panthers to the Super Bowl but injuries have been a big part of his career. He only played in 2 games last year after suffering an ankle injury. Bridgewater gets \$63 million for 3 years as the Saints decided to sign veteran Drew Brees to a 2-year deal for close to \$25 million each year.

Perhaps the biggest surprise coming out of the league had nothing to do with free agency. The Jacksonville Jaguars, two years removed from the AFC championship game, traded quarterback Nick Foles to the Chicago Bears for a 4th round compensatory pick. Foles was named Super Bowl MVP (LII) when he led the Philadelphia Eagles to their first Super Bowl taking out the New England Patriots. Foles has 3 years left at \$21 per year.



Brady Taking His Talent To Tampa
Photo: Special to the NY Beacon

The NFL draft is scheduled to take place beginning April 23rd in Las Vegas. For precautionary measures due to the virus, it will not be open to the public. Players like Winston, Newton and Jadeveon Clowney, who still have plenty to offer, are hoping to sign a deal before then. The virus has shut down games across the world but for the National Football league it's business as usual.



Jackson Has Concerns For College Draft Prospects
Photo: Special to the NY Beacon

The draft effect on college players

By Shara Talia Taylor

Following the cancellation and postponing of multiple professional and collegiate competitions as a result of COVID-19, a lingering question is, what now happens for college basketball students with NBA Hopes?

The NBA suspended the season March 11th and the NCAA Tournament canceled March 12th. The postponing of future NBA activities leaves NBA hopeful college students awaiting direction for their possible future careers.

"NBA teams are evaluating these players throughout the season and even prior seasons for certain prospects," said Stu Jackson, the Executive Associate Commissioner for Men's Basketball for the Big East Conference. "Its not just the tournament itself, but the entire season, NBA personnel are out evaluating prospects throughout the year. It gives them an opportunity to see the players compete against the highest level of competition in the NCAA tournament, particularly in the second round into the sweet 16 an elite 8."

The Big East Tournament was in session 2 on March 12th and COVID-19 had already started to effect college sports. St. Johns played Creighton at Madison Square Gar-

den with limited guests. It was announced that the Big East tournament would be canceled at half time following several other cancelled college basketball tournaments that morning. Shortly afterwards the NCAA canceled the Division I men's and women's 2020 basketball tournaments and the remainder of the season on March 12th.

The NCAA sent out this tweet: "This decision is based on the evolving COVID-19 public health threat, our ability to ensure events do not contribute to spread of the pandemic, and the impracticality of hosting such events at any time during this academic year given ongoing decisions by other entities"

Jackson said now college basketball students await their future with the uncertainty of other NBA events. "With the NBA canceling or postponing their season, it's put a lot of the events of the spring in flux with respect to the NBA Draft, the NBA G League Elite camp, and the NBA Draft combine as well as the actual NBA Draft itself," said Jackson.

Jackson said NBA personnel will have to rely on the information they gathered through out the season and alter the evaluation process in order to select players, while college players in the meantime will have to try to figure out conditioning without availability of private gyms and NBA facilities.

MLB and NBA have tough post virus decisions

By Joshua Garcia

Amid one to the strangest times in not only sports, but human history, professional sports leagues scramble to create some type of attack strategies going forward with their respective games. Innovation and retrospect become the first of the available lines of thinking and while Adam Silver and the NBA are in the core of their schedule, Rob Manfred and MLB were luckily able to stop the show in dress rehearsal.

Although under different circumstances, the 1981 Major League Baseball season was forced into an alternative format of games due to a work stoppage. 2020 baseball has been stopped to a halt from the Coronavirus, but in the early 80s disagreements between the league owners and player's association came to a head in CBA discussions causing a walk out by players a mere 55 games into the 1981 season.

Finally in agreement on issues like compensation for small market teams losing free agents like Dave Winfield from San Diego to New York, the players eventually went back to work. In an attempt to make the newly commenced baseball season more interesting, competitive, and fair after the long layoff MLB decided to start with clean records when play resumed.

Essentially baseball would split the 1981 season into two separate seasons and the four division winners of each half would face each other in the playoffs for the 1981 World Series. Oddly, the season's first game upon return was the 1981 All-Star Game, and with the 2020 AS Game set for July 14th, we may possibly see something similar in the future.

Using that blueprint, ideally a 92 game MLB regular season could be enacted starting June 1st where Major Leaguers can report to their spring training facilities and start to prepare for the MLB season around May 1st. Four playoff teams would



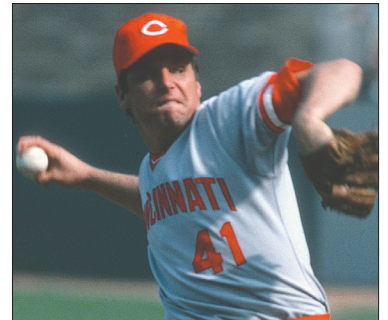
What Will Manfred's Season Look Like? Photo: Special to the NY Beacon

emerge from the 100 game schedule which would feature 48 division games consisting of two, three game home-road series between each team and 44 non-division games comprised of two home-road series against every team in respective league. There will be no interleague play in 2020 allowing for shorter travel throughout condensed schedule, as well as recreate the old World Series sensation of only seeing AL vs NL with a championship on the line.

Other ideas have involved keeping the 162 game schedule as is and just pushing it back two months into the Christmas season. This is a rather absurd idea and it's only intrigue involves using neutral site domes such as Marlins Park or Chase Field in Arizona with controlled climate during winter months creating a never seen before environment for the World Series.

Hesitation on the part of the owners and league should not be shared out of the fear of never going back to 162 games. In 2021 there is no reason why baseball should be any different than it always has, but desperate times call for desperate measures and a shortened schedule full of high level baseball will more than make up for two lost months to the baseball loving public.

Emphasis on shortening the schedule and adapting to the situations is unique to each league.



Seaver's Reds Did Not Make The Playoffs. Photo: Special to the NY Beacon

Whereas MLB needs to regroup, the NBA already 60 games into its 82 game schedule should pull the plug and start with the playoffs if possible come summertime. Players on playoff teams when safe, should have a few weeks to prepare and once and for all decide the NBA champion for 2020.

NBA teams like the Portland Trail Blazers, New Orleans Pelicans, and Sacramento Kings all were on the verge of possibly making a playoff run, but all sit significantly below .500 and the Eastern conference has been decided for a month already, so there is little to gripe about. In 1981 the Cincinnati Reds who narrowly missed winning the division in the first half of the split season, by half a game which was never played, and despite having baseball's best record overall at 66-42 failed to make the playoffs under the adopted season format.

It is a tragedy what happened to the 1981 Cincinnati Reds having MLB's best record and having to sit home and watch their division rivals at the time represent the NL West in the playoffs. Said tragedy is the main reason for a contiguous 92 game MLB format and the reason why the NBA should forgo its regular season and head straight to the post-season. Everyone involved wants the health of the public, the sport they love, and themselves, these formats may be just the way to accomplish all three.