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Speaking Truth to Justice

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IT'S TRUE: WHEN WHITE PEOPLE CATCH A COLD, BLACK PEOPLE GET PNEUMONIA

**Black people disproportionately
dying of COVID19**

“... Black folks are getting infected more because they are exposed more....., they're dying more because their bodies -- our bodies -- have born the burden of chronic disinvestment (and) active neglect of the community,” said Dr. Camara Phyllis Jones, a family physician, epidemiologist

MASKOT/GETTY IMAGES

COVID19: A view across Black America, page 3



20 people test positive for Coronavirus after attending funerals; pastor who gave eulogy dies

Philadelphiaobserver.com

A local Black-owned funeral home in Albany, Georgia is shocked to learn they unknowingly hosted two funerals that reportedly infected at least 20 people with coronavirus including the pastor who delivered one of the eulogies. Sadly, that pastor has since died from COVID-19.

Local health officials say that the outbreak began shortly after the funerals for 64-year old retired janitor Andrew J. Mitchell and another unnamed man. Both funerals were attended by their relatives and friends, and at least one person who attended was infected causing others to also become infected.

As of Wednesday afternoon, there are at least 490 confirmed

coronavirus cases and at least 29 coronavirus-related deaths reported in Dougherty County, which is home to Albany, according to the Georgia Department of Public Health.

"It took one person, whoever that was, and there was no intent," Scott Steiner, CEO of Albany's largest hospital told CNN. "It shows this virus can quickly spread."

The Georgia Department of Health confirmed that the virus spread among "individuals who attended a number of events in Albany." The department added, however, that it is not yet 100% clear "where or with whom it all started."

Mitchell's 75-year old long-time partner Emell Murray was one of those infected with the coronavirus. She was hospitalized for fever and high blood pressure a few days after Mitchell's funeral.



At Least 848 African Americans in Illinois have COVID-19

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Chicago, IL — The coronavirus has reportedly infected at least 848 African Americans in the state of Illinois, sadly making this demographic the second-highest ethnic group infected with the virus in the state. It further disproves earlier misconceptions that Blacks are immune from the virus because of their genetic structure.

According to the figures released by the Illinois Department of Public Health on March 27, out of the 3,026 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Illinois last week, Black patients comprised 28 percent. White patients with 1,180 cases make up 39 percent of all the cases during the same time period.

Asians comprised 4 percent with 121 cases, 9 percent includ-

ed other races, and 20 percent were unidentified. There are no available figures on the number of COVID-19 deaths by race.

As of the latest report, there have been 157 COVID-19 related deaths and known cases increased to 7,695 statewide.

At least 12 of those cases were from Cook County Circuit Court Clerk Dorothy Brown's office. Brown said that among her 1,400 employees, 12 tested positive for the coronavirus and 8 of them are Black.

"We have to be careful. This thing is very serious, and we have to take it more seriously," Brown said, noting that the affected employees were sent home and the areas were disinfected.

Lori Lightfoot Mayor of Chi-

Coronavirus restrictions stoke tensions in lock-ups across U.S.

Newyorkbeacon.com

In the grainy cell phone video, the prison block is dim and the shouting muffled—but the sight of wafting, gray smoke is unmistakable.

"It's a nonviolent protest going on right now because the officers, in the middle of the coronavirus, have refused us electricity for several hours, no showers or anything," a man says in the recording, apparently made last week. The smoke, he explains, is from fires set by Texas prisoners desperately hoping to attract attention from higher-ups because they couldn't turn on their cell fans or clean themselves during the pandemic. The Marshall Project is not publishing the video or naming the prison out of concern for the man's safety.

Afterward, a prison spokesman said he had no record of the incident or its resolution. But some worry this sort of unrest could escalate in lock-ups across the country, especially as restrictions tighten. The federal Bureau of Prisons, for example, announced Tuesday a 14-day lockdown at all its facilities to slow down the virus. Prisoners and guards nationwide are fretting, and some say fears

will skyrocket as more people inside begin testing positive.

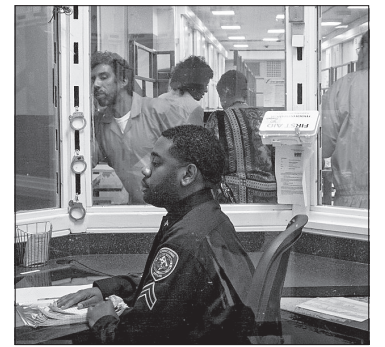
"Word of that is going to spread like wildfire and that's when you're going to have the panic and the problems," said Frank AuBuchon, a criminal justice consultant and former Texas prison official. "This is truly unprecedented, having to lockdown a prison for an absolutely unknown amount of time due to a medical emergency."

Across the U.S., prison and jail officials have shut down visits and programs as the pandemic grows, leaving those inside with severely limited access to their families, attorneys and educational opportunities—all the things that might help ease tensions in an already anxious time.

Authorities say they are seeking to limit the risk of an outbreak inside their facilities, for the benefit of both staff and those they guard. In some areas, they are allowing those detained more calls to family. Some locations have released hundreds of people.

Similar heightened restrictions led to riots and mass escapes in countries like Italy, Colombia and Thailand.

There have not been widespread outbursts of violence in



the U.S., though signs of stress are beginning to show. In Washington state, a dozen people escaped from a county jail last week over fears of coronavirus, and in South Dakota the Rapid City Journal reported that a prison warden resigned after nine incarcerated women fled a unit where another woman tested positive for the virus. The head of the prison oversight authority in Nebraska said there was an uptick in illicit drinking and drug use last weekend in the state's largest prison. Meanwhile, in Alabama, widely-shared cell phone footage showed two ICE detainees in the Etowah County jail apparently threatening to jump off a second-tier walkway and hang themselves with makeshift nooses, allegedly because they believed three newly booked people had the virus.

Some in Wisconsin faced lines that stretched for hours to vote in their state's primary

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Long lines of voters, many of them wearing face masks, stretched for blocks through Milwaukee early Tuesday as Wisconsin held its primary in the middle of a pandemic.

Republicans who have insisted on keeping the election on schedule won two legal battles Monday, as the state Supreme Court blocked Democratic Gov. Tony Evers' bid to delay it until June and the US Supreme Court reversed a lower court's ruling that gave voters six extra days to return their ballots by mail.

Every other state with an election scheduled for April postponed their contest or shifted it to by-mail voting only. But Monday's court decisions mean



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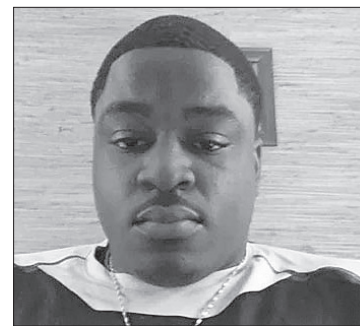
Michigan college student dies from Coronavirus weeks before graduation

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Bassey Offiong, a 25-year old student at Western Michigan University, was one of the first 3 confirmed cases of Coronavirus on the university's campus after he was denied a test multiple times. He died fighting the virus just a few weeks before he was set to graduate.

According to reports, Offiong, who was majoring in chemical engineering, had no known underlying health issues prior to being infected with the COVID-19.

He experienced symptoms such as shortness of breath, fatigue, and a fever while living



off-campus in the Kalamazoo area. However, he was rejected for coronavirus testing multiple times and was apparently just diagnosed with bronchitis.

He was on a ventilator for a week at a hospital in Royal Oak

before his death, his sister Asari Offiong told The Detroit News.

Meanwhile, people have expressed their grief with the unfortunate death of Offiong, who was described as a "young man of enormous potential," according to a statement released by the university's president.

"On behalf of the entire Bronco community, I want to extend my deepest condolences to his entire family, including his sister Asari, who has been generous in communicating with us regularly. They are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time," said WMU President Edward Montgomery.

Rev. Joseph Lowery: One of the most influential leaders of the latter 20th century

By Deric Gilliard

It took the most life altering event of the 21st century to finally mute the importance of one of the most significant figures of the second half of the 20th century. Joseph Echols Lowery, co-founder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), the direct action civil rights organization that served as the firing pin that used non-violent protest to push Congress to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and coordinated movements across the nation that led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, has finally expired. He was 98. Due to social distancing requirements from COVID-19, a public celebration of his life and legacy will be postponed until fall.

Lowery, born in Huntsville, Alabama, was one of the inner circle of preachers credited with launching the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1957, along with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, and Rev. C.K. Steele of Tallahassee.

Unlike the bombastic Rev. Hosea Williams, who served as King's fiery field general, agitating and igniting movements, or Andy Young, known as the great negotiator and someone who knew how to deal with white intransigents resisting change, or Shuttlesworth, whose bravery is legendary after his home was bombed several times and he



was beaten repeatedly — along with his pregnant wife, Ruby — while trying to enroll their children in school in 1957, Lowery's legacy is more nuanced.

Primarily an administrator until the time of King's assassination, when Lowery was chairman of the SCLC's national board of directors, he was not known as someone who had repeatedly been battered or terrorized on the front lines in the fifties and sixties, though he did have scrapes with racist leaders. In fact, in 1979, in Decatur, Alabama, Lowery and the SCLC-led protesters, while challenging the arrest of a docile, retarded black man, Tommie Lee Lines, for allegedly raping two white women, were confronted by armed Klansmen, who shot at the non-violent protesters, including Mrs. Evelyn Lowery. She narrowly escaped a bullet through her windshield while seeking cover in the floorboard of her car.

Lowery was arrested numerous times, including while protesting our government's support of apartheid South African regime in 1984, and challenging the dumping of toxic waste in black communities in North Carolina in 1983, along with Dr. Ben Chavis. He also led the successful integration of the bus lines in Mobile, AL before the seismic, 381-day boycott triggered by Rosa Parks in Montgomery in 1955. In 1965, King delegated him to present the movement rights' marchers' demands to intransigent Alabama governor and avowed segregationist George Wallace.

Lowery's enduring legacy, I believe, is that he led the SCLC back from near death, to vibrancy and noteworthy relevance, after taking over in 1977, nine years after the King assassination, following the rocky and uncertain tenure of

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Dean of the civil rights movement, Dr. Joseph Lowery, dead at 98

By Hazel Trice Edney

Only a few hours after Barack Obama was declared the first Black president of the United States, Nov. 8, 2008, a reporter — on the phone with the Rev. Joseph Lowery, dean of the civil rights movement — asked him how he thought Black leaders and the Black press should hold President Obama accountable.

Known for his deep wisdom and quick wit whether preaching or conversing, Lowery — long time president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference — was clear and concise in his answer. He said, "We must speak truth to power no matter what color power is."

His lifetime of that wise counsel, fiery sermons and dynamic civil rights leadership came to an end on Friday, March 27, as Lowery died, leaving his civil rights contemporaries, his family, loved ones, students and many protégés, students and followers around the world to celebrate and carry on his legacy. He was 98 years old.

"The Reverend Joseph Lowery was born and raised in Jim Crow Alabama with no power or privilege to speak of. But he had preaching in his blood. He had a conviction that he could join and inspire others to push for change. And he huddled with Dr. King and

a few others in Montgomery to write the playbook and lay the groundwork for the movement that was to come," wrote President Obama in a release responding to Lowery's death. "From those early days of the movement to his long leadership of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, he did so much to carry us ever closer to the just, fair, inclusive, and generous America promised in our founding ideals. With boundless generosity, patience, and moral courage, he mentored and encouraged a whole new generation of activists and leaders."

None would know more about his leadership and example than his three daughters, Yvonne, Karen, and Cheryl, and his 12 grandchildren who are receiving prayers and condolences from Americans and people of other nations this week.

"Our entire family is humbled and blessed by the overwhelming outpouring of love and support that has come from around the globe. We thank you for loving our father, Dr. Joseph E. Lowery, and for your continuous prayers during this time," the family said in a statement. "Dr. Lowery's life was driven by a sense of obligation to our global community and desire to champion love over hate; inclusion over exclusion."

While respecting the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-



tion's guidelines on COVID-19 prevention and social distancing, the Lowery family announced that plans are underway for a private family service with a public memorial to be held in late summer or early fall.

Meanwhile, the family has asked that donations be made to The Joseph & Evelyn Lowery Institute for Justice & Human Rights. Donations can be sent to The Joseph & Evelyn Lowery Institute, P.O. Box 92801, Atlanta, GA 30314. After nearly 70 years of marriage, his beloved Evelyn Lowery died on Sept. 26, 2013.

Dr. Lowery's tireless life and works were recalled this week by multiple civil rights colleagues

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Japan to declare state of emergency

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Much of Japan will enter a state of emergency Tuesday, as the country struggles to rein in the coronavirus pandemic, months after the first domestic cases were reported.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said that "basic economic activity" will continue in Tokyo, Kanagawa, Saitama, Chiba, Osaka, Hyogo and Fukuoka, the seven affected prefectures, with public transport and supermarkets remaining open, but urged people to exercise social distancing and avoid unnecessary trips.

The state of emergency, which is expected to be formally announced at a press conference Tuesday, will last for approximately one month.

The declaration comes as Japan reported 252 new cases of the coronavirus and seven more deaths Monday, bringing the total number of infections to over 4,600, with 91 deaths.

Abe has faced criticism for not activating emergency measures earlier, as experts warned the true number of cases could be far higher than the official statistics suggest, due to a lack of widespread testing.



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has warned people to stay inside and avoid unnecessary trips.

The Japanese capital Tokyo is among one of the country's worst hit areas, and on Monday doctors in the city declared a state of medical emergency, citing a possible collapse of the healthcare system.

Ozaki Haruo, president of the Tokyo Medical Association, told reporters Monday that the rising number of coronavirus cases could result in a shortage of beds and the spreading of the virus within hospitals, according to Japanese public broadcaster NHK.

When this happens, medical staff will be unable to provide services to critically ill patients, Ozaki said, adding that the next six weeks will be critical in preventing an "explosive spread" of the virus.

Japan only has seven intensive care beds for every 100,000 people, a fifth of the proportion available in the US.

COVID-19: A view across Black America

By Jon Jeter,

Similar to Hurricane Katrina 15 years ago, the global coronavirus pandemic is shining a light on America's racial fault lines. By whatever trope you choose to deploy—"last hired, first fired," "When White America catches a cold, Black America has the flu," or "Your Blues ain't like mine"—People of Color generally, and the 42 million descendants of chattel slaves, specifically, will experience this almost Biblical scourge in ways that are very different from Whites.

A nurse reports that White nurses began disappearing from her central New Jersey hospital around the first week of March, applying for vacation and leaves of absence just as the number of coronavirus cases in the U.S. was beginning to skyrocket.

As the hospital admitted more and more infected patients, they announced that all time-off requests would be denied, leaving mostly Black and Brown nurses to cope with the worst global health crisis in more than a century.

But that's not all. Running short of surgical masks and hand sanitizer, a nurse at the hospital recently was exposed to a patient infected with the coronavirus; her coworkers are on pins and needles, nervously awaiting her test results.

"While most facilities like the one I work at have turned away any new

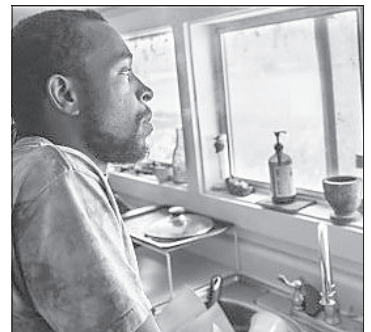
admissions, we're still taking admissions," wrote one nurse, a Latina with 15 years of experience. She surmised that hospital executives hope to profit from the growing caseload.

While Washington, D.C.'s Metrorail has been largely emptied of its professional class of passengers, reductions in the city's bus service have made it difficult for its darker and poorer customers—many of whom work in government jobs considered "essential" or the service sector and either do not have sick pay or cannot afford to take the day off—to practice social distancing on buses teeming with riders. Near the end of March, a Metrobus driver tested positive for the novel coronavirus.

"It's impossible to socially isolate in a sardine can," said Rohan Edmonson, 40, who lives in the D.C. suburb of Silver Spring and works on Embassy Row.

The buses in South Florida are considerably less crowded than usual, said one African American resident, Roger Williams. After revelers and spring breakers—mostly but not entirely White —posted photographs and videos last week of large gatherings on boats and beaches, Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez ordered the closure of all public beaches, parks, marinas, and recreational facilities.

The measures are beginning to take: Williams said he rode his bicycle on a typically bustling roadway near his suburban Miami home last week and only encountered one vehicle on the road, a scene that is redolent of post-hurricane Florida. The challenge, however, is that "a lot of very low-income Miamians live in motels, and many are now being asked to leave because of the shutdown," said Williams. This is "creating another crisis, since they will now add to the



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Earl Graves Sr., founder of Black Enterprise dies at 85

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Black Enterprise founder and publisher Earl G. Graves, Sr., who created a vehicle of information and advocacy that has inspired four generations of African Americans to build wealth through entrepreneurship, career advancement and money management, has died. According to his son, Black Enterprise CEO Earl “Butch” Graves Jr., he passed away quietly at 9:22 p.m. on April 6, after a long battle with Alzheimer’s. Graves was 85.



Graves was widely considered to be the ultimate champion of black business, launching Black Enterprise in 1970 to not only chronicle the rise of African American entrepreneurs, but also provide the tools for African Americans to succeed in the business mainstream and “achieve their measure of the American dream.”

In his award-winning, now classic, business bestseller, *How To Succeed In Business Without Being White*, Graves stated his life-defining purpose for founding Black Enterprise in simple, direct terms: “The time was ripe for a magazine devoted to economic development in the African American community. The publication was committed to the task of educating, inspiring and uplifting its readers. My goal was to show them how to thrive professionally,

economically and as proactive, empowered citizens.”

Driven by that mission, Graves became a trailblazing entrepreneur in his own right, building Black Enterprise from a single-magazine publishing company 50 years ago, to a diversified multimedia business spreading the message of financial empowerment to more than 6 million African Americans through print, digital, broadcast and live-event platforms. As such, Black Enterprise was one of two companies that would appear on the BE 100s—the publication’s annual rankings of the nation’s largest black-owned businesses—each of its 47 years. At one point, Graves would operate two companies on the list, including Pepsi-Cola of Washington, DC, one of the nation’s largest soft-drink distributors owned by African Americans.

Ellis Marsalis Jr., jazz pianist, patriarch of New Orleans musical clan, dead at 85

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Ellis Marsalis Jr., jazz pianist, teacher and patriarch of a New Orleans musical clan that includes famed performer sons Wynton and Branford, has died after battling pneumonia brought on by the new coronavirus, one of his sons said late Wednesday.

He was 85.

Ellis Marsalis III confirmed in an Associated Press phone interview that his father’s death was sparked by the virus that is causing the global pandemic. “Pneumonia was the actual thing that caused his demise. But it was pneumonia brought on by COVID-19,” he said.

He said he drove Sunday from Baltimore to be with his father as he was hospitalized in Louisiana, which has been hit hard by the outbreak. Others in the family spent time with him, too.

Four of the jazz patriarch’s

six sons are musicians: Wynton, trumpeter, is America’s most prominent jazz spokesman as artistic director of jazz at New York’s Lincoln Center. Branford, saxophonist, led The Tonight Show band and toured with Sting. Delfeayo, a trombonist, is a prominent recording producer and performer. And Jason, a percussionist, has made a name for himself with his own band and as an accompanist. Ellis III, who decided music wasn’t his gig, is a photographer-poet in Baltimore.

In a statement, Mayor LaToya Cantrell said of the man who’d continued to perform regularly in New Orleans until December: “Ellis Marsalis was a legend. He was the prototype of what we mean when we talk about New Orleans jazz. He was a teacher, a father, and an icon — and words aren’t sufficient to describe the art, the joy and the wonder he showed the world.”



Philadelphia District Attorney eliminates cash bail for majority of non-violent crimes

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Larry Krasner, Philadelphia’s District Attorney, moved on Wednesday to eliminate the policy of seeking cash bail for 25 non-violent offenses, including driving while intoxicated, marijuana possession, and forgery. This move comes as the latest in a series of similar cases in states like California, New York, and Texas aimed at reducing the use of monetary bail, which criminal justice advocates have long argued places an unfair burden on communities of color and the poor.

During his election campaign, Krasner promised to eliminate bail for non-violent offenses, and this step in that direction ensures that defendants are not essentially imprisoned because they don’t have the money to pay bail, which in many cases was set as high as ten thousand dollars. Krasner released a statement on Wednesday stating his views on the previous policy:

“There is absolutely no reason why someone who will show up for court, is not a flight risk, and is no



threat to their neighbors and community needs to sit in jail for days because they can’t post a small amount of bail... It’s simply not fair. We don’t imprison the poor for poverty.”

Krasner also made mention of the racial and economic factors that come into play when cities and states demand that non-violent offenses carry a bail fee, saying: “This new cash bail policy will not only save the taxpayers money by allowing low-level defendants to maintain their freedom, but it will begin to level the economic and racial playing field in our courtrooms.”

Some in Wisconsin faced lines that stretched for hours to vote in their state’s primary

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Wisconsin — with 2,511 reported cases of coronavirus and 85 dead as of late Monday night — is pressing forward, though votes won’t be counted until at least April 13.

It has positioned Wisconsin as the first battleground over voting rights in a year in which the question of how elections are conducted could be shaped by the coronavirus pandemic, as Democrats seek funding for expanded vote-by-mail options across the nation and Republicans express concerns about election security.

Voters line up outside of a permanently closed Sears before

polls open at the Janesville Mall on Tuesday, April 7, 2020, in Janesville, Wis.

Lines early Tuesday as voting began were long: So many poll workers quit that Milwaukee consolidated its 180 polling places down to just five locations — and in those locations, voters stretched around multiple blocks. Staffing at polling places looks different: Nearly 300 of the state’s National Guard troops will be replacing volunteers who quit.

And thousands of people requested absentee ballots ahead of last week’s deadline, but they won’t receive those ballots in time to mail them back, according to data reported by local clerks to the Wisconsin Elections Commission.

Those people will be forced to choose between voting in person or skipping the election.

Dressed in full medical protective gear — a mask, gloves and a gown — Republican state Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, who said he’d been instructed to wear the equipment, volunteered at a polling place in Burlington. Vos had opposed efforts to make Wisconsin’s election a by-mail-only contest and successfully fought in court to force the election to take place without delay. He told reporters Tuesday that “you are incredibly safe to go out.”

He blamed Milwaukee city officials for failing to open more polling places as lines stretched for hours there

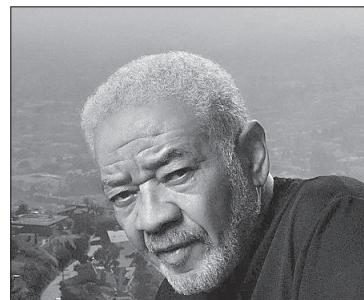
Legendary ‘Lean on me’ singer Bill Withers dies at 81

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Bill Withers, who wrote and sang a string of soulful songs in the 1970s that have stood the test of time, including “Lean On Me,” “Lovely Day” and “Ain’t No Sunshine,” has died from heart complications, his family said in a statement to The Associated Press. He was 81.

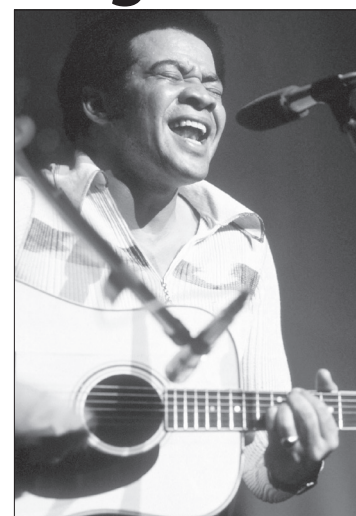
The three-time Grammy Award winner, who withdrew from making music in the mid-1980s, died on Monday in Los Angeles, the statement said. His death comes as the public has drawn inspiration from his music during the coronavirus pandemic, with health care workers, choirs, artists and more posting their own renditions on “Lean on Me” to help get through the difficult times.

“We are devastated by the loss of our beloved, devoted husband and father. A solitary man with a heart-driven to connect to the world at large, with his poetry and music, he spoke honestly



to people and connected them to each other,” the family statement read. “As private a life as he lived close to intimate family and friends, his music forever belongs to the world. In this difficult time, we pray his music offers comfort and entertainment as fans hold tight to loved ones.”

Withers’ songs during his brief career have become the soundtracks of countless engagements, weddings and backyard parties. They have powerful melodies and perfect grooves melded with a smooth voice that conveys honesty and complex emotions without vocal acrobatics.



“Lean On Me,” a paean to friendship, was performed at the inaugurations of both Barack Obama and Bill Clinton. “Ain’t No Sunshine” and “Lean on Me” are among Rolling Stone’s list of the 500 Greatest Songs of All Time.

“He’s the last African-American Everyman,” musician and band leader Questlove told Rolling Stone in 2015. “Bill Withers is the closest thing black people have to a Bruce Springsteen.”

Dean of the civil rights movement, Dr. Joseph Lowery, dead at 98

From page 3

who issued statements.

“He was an exceptional visionary with tremendous follow through and he was very successful in taking the SCLC to the next level in terms of entrepreneurship, building the worldwide recognition of the organization and educating society about Dr. King’s philosophy and contributions. He was a highly effective leader,” said Dr. Charles Steele, current president and CEO of the SCLC. “He had the gift of understanding people and working with individuals from all sectors of society. He was recognized as a great orator for delivering some powerful speeches, but he was just as gifted at motivating people from different cultures, religions and agendas to convene at the table to work together for the common good. With the problems we are addressing today around the world, he would continue to be that catalyst to bring folks together. He was that glue that kept us at the table until we found the solutions.”

Lowery was known and loved for his sacrificial heart for others. Heads of civil rights organizations generations behind him, learned from his style of leadership.

“I was blessed to be mentored by Dr. Lowery as he served as a founding board member for the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, that was found-

ed in May 1976,” said Melanie Campbell, president/CEO of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation and Convener of the Black Women’s Roundtable. What I remember most about Dr. Lowery was he taught me and so many others—the power of unity, the power of working together and the power of coalitions, to move our Black agenda forward in good times and in bad times. My favorite quote by Dr. Lowery, that motivated generations to keep up the fight for justice was: ‘We ain’t going back. We’ve come too far, marched too long, prayed too hard, wept too bitterly, bled too profusely and died too young, to let anybody turn back the clock on our journey to justice.’

National Urban League President/CEO Marc Morial described Lowery as a “bridge between the civil rights movement of the mid-20th century and the current era, working side by side with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and speaking at the inauguration of President Barack Obama. The loss of a voice of his stature during a time of intense crisis in the nation is especially wrenching.”

The following is just a part of Dr. Lowery’s biography from <http://www.loweryinstitute.org/about-joseph-lowery/>:

Hailed as the “Dean of the Civil Rights Movement” upon his receipt of the NAACP’s “Life-

time Achievement Award,” Rev. Dr. Joseph Echols Lowery has assumed and executed a broad and diverse series of roles over the span of his eight decades: leader, pastor/preacher, servant, father, husband, freedom fighter, and advocate.

One milestone in this remarkable journey took place on August 12, 2009 when President Barack Obama awarded him the nation’s highest civilian honor: The Presidential Medal of Freedom, in recognition of his lifelong commitment to the non-violent struggle for the causes of justice, human rights, economic equality, voting rights, peace and human dignity. Prior to that, on January 20, 2009, in his inimitable style; Dr. Lowery delivered the Benediction on the occasion of President Obama’s inauguration as the 44th President of the United States.

Born in Huntsville, Alabama, on October 6th, 1921, Rev. Dr. Lowery’s legacy of service and struggle is long and rich. His genesis as a Civil Rights advocate dates to the early 1950s where, in Mobile, Alabama he headed the Alabama Civic Affairs Association; the organization which led the movement to desegregate buses and public accommodations. In 1957, with friend and colleague, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. he was a Co-founder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference

(SCLC), where served in an array of leadership positions, including: Vice President (1957-67); Chairman of the Board (1967-77); and as President and Chief Executive Officer from (1977-1998).

In 1961, he was one of four Alabama pastors whose property was seized by the Alabama Courts in an historic, precedent setting libel suit, *Sullivan v. NY Times, Abernathy, Lowery, Shuttlesworth, & Seay*, because of their civil rights work. The United States Supreme Court vindicated the ministers in a landmark ruling which remains an important element in the protections afforded the free speech rights of the press, and of citizens advocating and protesting for justice and societal change.

In March of 1965, he was chosen by Dr. King to chair the Delegation delivering the demands of the Selma-to-Montgomery March. As the world witnessed, Wallace ordered the marchers beaten in the incident that came to be known as “Bloody Sunday”, which ultimately led to enactment of the Voting Rights Act.

Throughout his career, Rev. Dr. Lowery’s commitment to human rights and social justice exists on a global scale. His work resulted in the desegregation of Nashville, Tennessee schools, presenting Nelson Mandela with the Martin Luther King Jr. Human Rights Award following his release from

prison in 1990, leading a peace delegation to Lebanon and nations in Central America to seek justice by nonviolent means, and securing millions of dollars in contracts for minority businesses in the Southern region of the United States.

His efforts also emphasize the need to uplift and empower historically disenfranchised communities. Ranging from supporting the families affected by the Atlanta “Missing and Murdered Children Crisis” through setting up funds with Citizen Trust Bank, demanding election reform and economic justice as Convener of the Georgia Coalition for the People’s Agenda (GCPA), to advocating for the rights of Black farmers discriminated against by the Department of Agriculture – Rev. Dr. Joseph Lowery remains committed to cultivating the Beloved Community and reminds us to “turn TO each other not ON each other!” *Ebony Magazine*, in recognizing Rev. Dr. Lowery as one of the nation’s “15 Greatest Black Preachers,” described him as the “consummate voice of biblical social relevancy, a focused prophetic voice, speaking truth to power”, and his strong dedication to faith and inclusion is evident in all of his work.

As Obama concluded this week, “He was a giant who let so many of us stand on his shoulders.”

NO ONE GETS A DIPLOMA ALONE.

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Editorial

Philadelphia Observer

Who gets the ventilators?

By Julianne Malveaux

The “big and bad” United States is seeing its world dominance recede. We are being vanquished both by a virus and by the ignorance of the “Commander in Chief”. We now know that there are not enough tests to detect the coronavirus, nor enough ventilators to treat all of those who are ill. Medical professionals are talking openly about the choices they will make and the fact that some people will be judged more likely to survive than others. Through which lens will these medical professionals decide who gets a ventilator? Will age be the only lens, advantaging a 30-year-old over an 80-year-old? Will there be other filters? Will a man with children get preference over a single woman? An author over a homeless person? A white person over a person of color? Medical professionals are being asked to choose and to judge.

How will their conscious or unconscious bias play a role in their judgments?

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) describes itself as “an independent, nonprofit organization that works outside of government to provide unbiased and authoritative advice to decision-makers and the public” On its website, it acknowledges “evidence of racial and ethnic disparities in health care.” Will this evidence influence the distribution of ventilators?

People will need these ventilators to breathe. They may need them for weeks, not days. Some will survive, and some won't. The survival rate is a function of the bizarre avoidance our so-called leaders make decisions about this pandemic. But who will be saved? An innocent infant or the despot who lives in the house that enslaved people built?

Dr. Dorothy Irene Height was 98 when she died in 2010. She was productive until her final days. In

her own words, she was “dressed and in her right mind” until the end. Would the doctor choosing who got a ventilator see the history contained in that precious black body? Or would he make choices based on stereotypes? I know that by Black 92-year-old mama, disabled by a stroke, still gives her children strength and love, smiles, and sharp reprimands (yes, the lady hit me when I used profanity in her presence. Whose life would I trade that for?)

We must not forget the many ways that Black bodies were used for medical experiments, from the use of Black women's genitalia to develop gynecology through the Tuskegee syphilis studies that lasted from 1932 through 1972. Black people's lives have too often been white people's experiments. It is not paranoid, but merely cautious, to wonder who will get the ventilators, and whose needs will be sidelined. Now the words “Black Lives Matter take on a more

pointed meaning.

This coronavirus illustrates our nation's faultlines by class race and gender. The coronavirus also refutes the notion of our nation's exceptionalism. The United States just ain't all that, despite our “greatest” rhetoric. We are stumbling compared to other countries – Italy, China, Spain – who have attempted, generously, to show us the way forward.

One of the populations I've heard very little about is incarcerated people. How do you socially distance when you are confined, with another person, in a small cell? Given our collective disdain for the incarcerated, will an incarcerated person with coronavirus have a chance?

Incarcerated people aren't the only people at risk. All marginalized people are, in one way or another, at risk. Ventilators cost between \$25,000 and \$50,000 and even more when there is competition to obtain them. Will hospitals



with limited resources be able to obtain ventilators? Those who are income-challenged are more likely to go to hospitals that are under-resourced. Lower-income people are at greater risk and have less access to quality health care.

The coronavirus will hit princes and paupers, members of Congress and embers of the clergy, computer whizzes and those who don't have computers. We may all be at risk from the coronavirus, but class, race, and gender will likely determine who has the best

COVID-19: A view across Black America

From page 3

already striking numbers of homeless people on Miami's streets.”

A Haitian-born American woman who works for a major healthcare provider agreed, saying that she has found that the pandemic is exacerbating problems such as homelessness and unemployment and health conditions such as diabetes. This is dramatically increasing anxiety levels for many in South Florida's African American and Afro-Caribbean communities.

At ground zero of the U.S. pandemic, New York City, only essential services are allowed to remain open: groceries, drug stores, liquor stores, hardware stores, and restaurants that offer delivery. Grocery store shelves remain well-stocked, but cold and flu medicines are in short supply in drug stores.

In Harlem, Margaret Kimberley, an author and columnist for Black Agenda Report, wrote on Facebook: “People are riding the subway, but there are so few that you really can practice social distancing even on public transportation. I'd say half of the people I see outside are wearing masks, myself included. Some are makeshift affairs, scarves tightly tied around the mouth for example. . .

“To prevent people crowding onto buses,” Kimberley continued, “we are now allowed to enter through the back door. This is something poor people always did. Now everyone can ride for free. . . I got my hair braided yesterday, the last day before beauty shops had to close. I wasn't alone, but there were a lot fewer people than you would see there on a normal Saturday. I went but wore my mask.”

Perhaps the most jarring description from Kimberley was the gallows humor that has descended on Harlem's Black community as

many discuss the Trump administration's plans for emergency grants. “Lots of folks are out of work. People are making jokes about getting checks from Trump but I think it is no joke. Folks were struggling before this, and the \$1,000 they're expecting will come in handy.”

It is by no means strictly doom and gloom, however. Across the country, communities are banding together to help each other weather the storm.

Activists with the Community Ready Corps are distributing Corona Kits—hand sanitizer, N95 masks, and brochures—immune-boosting care packages of garlic, ginger, turmeric, lentils and oats, and even books to Oakland's Black community focusing on the elderly, the sickly, and even stir-crazy kids.

Opened four years ago amid a food desert on Indianapolis' east side, the Trap has pivoted sharply to a web-only eatery that is preparing to ship its shrink-wrapped healthy seafood nationwide. A retired school-teacher in New Jersey volunteered to knit surgical masks for mostly nurses of color treating coronavirus patients at a local hospital.

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Blacks are joining Whites in long lines to buy ammunition, preparing, it would seem, for violent racial conflict. Fittingly perhaps, several Blacks say that the least difficult adjustment in confronting the scourge is social distancing, particularly as it pertains to White people.

Said one African American man in Indianapolis, “I been trying to keep my distance from White people my entire life.”

Jon Jeter is a freelance journalist writer and social critic He formerly worked for several major newspapers, including the Washington Post before becoming an independent

Rev. Joseph Lowery: One of the most influential leaders of the latter 20th century

From page 3

Abernathy's presidency. No one could be expected to replicate the charisma, dynamism, and eloquence of King. Indeed, Abernathy never found his footing during a period when fellow SCLC insiders Young and Rev. C.T. Vivian say he tried too hard to be King, instead of himself. And even when Lowery edged out Williams for the presidency in 1977, it was a struggle to regain momentum.

Gradually, however, despite being in the midst of what King historian and Pulitzer Prize winner David Garrow deemed a “post-civil rights era,” Lowery grabbed hold of a series of critical issues and made them his and the SCLC's own. Gun violence, voting rights, hate crimes, economic injustice, affirmative action, educational tracking, redistricting, disparities in sentencing, black-on-black violence: you name the issue, Lowery battled long-time rival Rev. Jesse Jackson for national leadership as the clarion voice speaking for black activism and justice throughout the last quarter of the 20th century. Whatever the topic, Lowery spoke to it with eloquence, precise insight and passion.

On the 25th anniversary of the King assassination, April 4, 1993, Lowery and the SCLC launched the Stop the Killing/End the Violence campaign. Urging Americans to “turn to each other, not on each other,” the campaign ultimately took tens of thousands of guns off the streets through a controversial gun buy-back program frequently supported by corporations.

Along the way, he challenged Presidents Reagan, Carter, Bush 41 and 43 and Bill Clinton, who credited Lowery with being the leader who

moved him to raise the black church burnings to a national state of emergency. He pointedly criticized the U.S. bombing in Kosovo and angered the SCLC's many Jewish supporters by agreeing to meet with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

The Methodist minister also picketed Atlanta's Prior Tire, over its challenge to the city's landmark affirmative action stand and went toe-to-toe against hometown corporate giant Coca-Cola to pressure it to pull out of its investments in the from a racist South African regime. Lowery and the SCLC signed hundred million-dollar economic covenants with Publix, Shoney's, which required they promise to hire more black managers, utilize more black vendors and place more stores in minority neighborhoods.

Rooted and grounded in voting rights and education, Lowery and the SCLC established and kept alive dozens of chapters throughout the country and the world while registering hundreds of thousands of voters throughout the years, via motor voter campaigns. Adept at working with groups focused on LGBTQ, environmental, anti-war and economic justice issues, he and the SCLC were broadly criticized as the first “mainstream” civil rights organization to actively support Min. Farrakhan's 1995 Million Man March.

First and foremost a minister of the gospel, Lowery, who refused to separate his ministry from his activism, also pastored United Methodist churches for over 40 years. Along the way, Ebony selected him as one of America's top 15 preachers.

It would not be possible to salute the legacy of Lowery without including the laudable contributions of his wife, Evelyn. Founder of the SCLC/W.O.M.E.N., she instituted

the annual Drum Major for Justice Awards, launched the Wings of Hope anti-drug initiative, introduced the annual civil rights tours throughout the south and erected monuments to honor the valiant foot soldiers who labored non-violently To Redeem the Soul of America, the SCLC's motto. Together, they were one of America's most influential couples of their era, and significantly improved the arc of social justice in the South.

Never resistant to go against the grain, Lowery backed the upstart, the little-known senator from Illinois, Barack Hussein Obama, against the chosen one, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination. Lowery did so despite the fact that most liberals, and virtually all black leaders, backed Clinton.

Lowery campaigned vigorously for Obama, and in 2009, brought the fiery, controversial benediction at the conclusion of the inauguration of the nation's first black president. Obama awarded Lowery with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, later that year.

Lowery was no King, but he never missed a payroll while reinvigorating the SCLC and ensuring that it remained a powerful force speaking truth to power during his twenty-year tenure at the helm from 1977-1997. After his time at the SCLC, he founded the Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda, a 501C-3 that boasts chapters and affiliates through nine states, still focusing on voter rights and registration. Farewell to the “Dean” of the civil rights movement.

Deric Gilliard is former communications for the SCLC and the author of “Living in the Shadows of A Legend: Unsung Heroes and ‘Sheroes’ who

Van Gogh painting stolen from museum shuttered by pandemic

Philadelphiaobserver.com

A painting by Vincent van Gogh was stolen during the early hours of Monday morning from a Dutch museum that is currently closed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Singer Laren museum in the town of Laren, just outside Amsterdam, said Van Gogh's "The Parsonage Garden at Nuenen in Spring" was stolen in an overnight

raid.

The painting — created by the Dutch master in 1884 — was on loan from another art institution, the Groninger Museum in the city of Groningen. A police statement said that the theft took place at around 3.15 a.m. local time, and that intruders entered the premises by breaking through a glass door.

"I am shocked and unbelievably pissed off," museum director

Jan Rudolph de Lorm said during a press conference Monday afternoon. "It is very bad for the Groninger Museum. It's also very bad for Singer."

"But above all it is horrible for all of us, because art is there to be seen and shared by all of us, for society as a whole, to bring enjoyment, to bring inspiration, and also to bring comfort. Especially in this difficult time," he added.



Tourist sites packed as China comes out of lockdown, but experts say risk still high

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Large numbers of people flocked to popular tourist sites and major cities across China over the country's holiday weekend, despite warnings from health authorities that the risk posed by the coronavirus pandemic remains far from over.

Images from the Huangshan mountain park in Anhui province on Saturday April 4 showed thousands of people crammed together, many wearing face masks, eager to experience the great outdoors after months of travel restrictions and strict lockdown measures.

Such was the rush to get into the popular tourist spot, that at 7.48 a.m., authorities took the unusual step of issuing a notice

declaring that the park had reached its 20,000 person daily capacity, and would not be accepting any more visitors, according to state media Global Times.

Meanwhile in Shanghai, the famous Bund waterfront was once again packed with shoppers and tourists, after weeks of being near deserted. Many of the city's restaurants that were shuttered only days ago also appeared to be doing a brisk trade, with several requiring reservations to enter.

Visitors pack Anhui province's Huangshan mountain park on April 4, exceeding the visitor limit of 20,000.

A similar story played out in the capital Beijing, with locals flocking to the city's parks and open spaces.

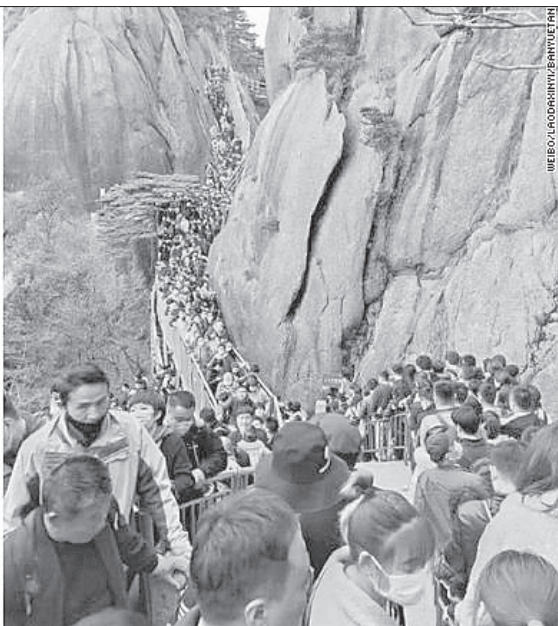
The abrupt return to apparent normality comes more than three

months after the virus was first detected in the Chinese city of Wuhan. The outbreak, which has since spread around the world infecting more than a million people, saw much of China brought to a near standstill in an effort to contain transmissions.

At its peak, thousands of new cases were recorded in China everyday.

However, in recent weeks the rate of infection has slowed significantly. On Monday, China reported just 39 new cases, all but one of which were imported. To date, China has recorded 82,641 cases and 3,335 deaths.

But while the government is slowly relaxing restrictions, Chinese health experts have urged the public to continue to practice caution.



Ailing N.R.A. finds new rallying cry: Keep gun shops open

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Faced with budget pressures and an invigorated gun control movement, the National Rifle Association has found a new cause amid the pandemic — fighting to keep gun stores open as its fund-raising appeals depict the government's coronavirus response as a threat to Second Amendment rights.

On Thursday, the group sued the State of New York over its decision to include gun retailers among the many businesses that have been forced to close during the crisis. The N.R.A. had already filed two suits against California, where the governor had left the decision to counties.

The suits come as the N.R.A.

and other gun groups have successfully lobbied the White House to get the Department of Homeland Security to add firearms vendors to its list of essential businesses. That prompted states like New Jersey to reverse course and allow such stores to remain open. But New York, the epicenter of the outbreak in the United States, has resisted, viewing the shutdown of businesses across the state as a vital safety measure.

"There isn't a single person who has ever used a gun in self-defense who would consider it non-essential," the N.R.A.'s chief executive, Wayne LaPierre, said in a statement, calling the shutdown of gun stores an assault "on our Second Amendment freedoms."



Airbnb will pay hosts \$250M to help cover cancellations due to COVID-19

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Airbnb is committing \$250 million to put toward hosts who have been impacted by COVID-19. That means if a guest cancels a reservation for check-in between March 14 and May 31 due to a COVID-19-related reason, Airbnb will pay the host 25% of what they would normally receive through their cancellation policy. Airbnb says this policy will apply retroactively to all cancellations during that period.

This is Airbnb's way of making amends to its hosts — who may have felt blindsided by Airbnb's policy that would enable guests to cancel reservations and receive a full refund. That policy, which is still active, lets guests who booked reservations on or before March 14 that begin anytime on or before May 31 to cancel and receive a standard refund or travel credit.

"We determined that we had to allow your guests to cancel and

receive a full refund—including all our fees," Airbnb CEO Brian Chesky wrote in a letter to hosts today. "Please know this decision was not a business decision but based on protecting public health. However, while I believe we did the right thing in prioritizing health and safety, I'm sorry that we communicated this decision to guests without consulting you—like partners should. We have heard from you and we know we could have been better partners."

Beyond that, Airbnb is creating a \$10 million fund for its superhosts and experience hosts. Employees contributed the first \$1 million and Airbnb co-founders Joe Gebbia, Brian Chesky and Nate Blecharczyk are personally providing the other \$9 million. Beginning in April, hosts can apply for grants up to \$5,000. And for guests who want to show hosts their support during this time, they will soon be able to make payments directly to hosts.

Reel

First crime thriller of 2020 is a mobster's symphony!



Cast of "Clover"

Freestyle Digital Media presents the quirky crime thriller "Clover" written, directed and co-starring **Jon Abrahams**. This dramedy is likened to many other mob thrillers (Casino, A Bronx Tale, Pulp Fiction) and pulls you in from the beginning with stylized violence. Abrahams and co-stars **Mark Webber** and **Nicole Elizabeth Berger** take moviegoers on a wild ride trying to elude a band of hired mobsters lead by mob boss **Chazz Palminteri**. No one does mobster better than Palminteri who is as frightening as ever fueled by a gang of goons that elevate his mobster appeal. Classic Palminteri. Fans of **Tichina Arnold** (See Page 15 for more information on Arnold) will love her sassy tough talking role as Pat. Adding a touch of class to the movie is an original Don, **Ron Perlman**, an actor's actor! Filled with rage, outrageous mob action and bloody beat downs, "Clover" is no Godfather but a close relative and worth seeing.

DEETS: The Callaghan brothers Mickey and Jackie are "Irish twins," born just under 12 months apart. They've been running the neighborhood bar that has been in the family for nearly a hundred years. But now Jackie's unlucky gambling streak has left them in debt to the local wiseguy loanshark, Tony Davolo, and forced them to close their bar for good. Summoned to Tony's by a couple of goons, the boss gives Mickey and Jackie a chance to wipe the slate clean, if they will do a little dirty work for him. Having no choice, the brothers agree.

They accompany Tony's hot-



Tuff talkin' Pat (Tichina Arnold)

headed son Crazy Joey Davolo to "rough up" a guy who owes even more money than Jackie. But when they get there, it becomes clear that "rough up" means eliminate. The brothers try to weasel their way out of it, but Joey opens fire. He is about to turn his gun on the brothers when he himself is shot in the head. Mickey and Jackie turn to see the gun was fired by a 14 year old girl, who starts screaming that her Daddy has been shot.

With no time to think, and Davolo's goons seemingly everywhere, Mickey and Jackie grab the girl, Clover, and proceed through the seedy bars and streets of the big city, always barely a bumbling step ahead of the mob. What they don't know is that a rival crime kingpin, Mister Wiley, has hired two no-nonsense female assassins, Virginia And Gertie, to take vengeance out on anyone associated with Tony Davolo.

With the way-too-mature-for-her-age Clover often acting more rationally and sensibly than the Callaghan brothers, the trio manages to elude getting whacked, although anyone who helps them also ends up in the line of fire (or worse). Finally, when it looks like they have a plan to escape and end Tony's reign of terror once and for all, a last-minute betrayal – and revelation – force the brothers to reconsider how they have been played by forces way beyond their control.

ASSETS: Production company: **Virtuoso Films**; Distributor: **Freestyle Digital Media**; Cast: **Jon Abrahams, Mark Webber, Nicole Elizabeth Berger, Chazz Palminteri, Ron Perlman, Erika Christensen, Julia Jones, Tichina Arnold, Jessica Szohr, Michael Godere, Jake Weber**; Director: **Jon Abrahams**; Screenwriter: **Michael Testone**; Pro-



Mickey (Jon Abrahams), Jackie (Mark Webber), Clover (Nicole Elizabeth Berger)



Tony Davolo's goons



Mob Boss Chazz Palminteri

ducers: **Jon Abrahams, Richard Guay**; Director of photography: **Matthew Quinn**; Production designer: **Giles Masters**; Editor: **Aaron Yanes**; Composer: **Leon**

Michels, Matthieu Scheyer; Costume designer: **Amy Stofsky**; and Casting: **Billy Hopkins, Ashley Ingram**. (Photos courtesy Freestyle Digital Media)



Crime boss Tony Davolo (Chazz Palminteri), Mickey (Jon Abrahams)



Rival crime boss Ron Perlman (Mr. Wiley)



Sassy Tichina Arnold is tuff as nails

On the scene

Get off the couch and do something worthwhile

By Dwight Brown
Guest Scribe

They're making a lot of noise up in Nova Scotia. Local activists of African and Native American descent are holding big businesses and the government accountable for polluting their water and causing an uptick in cancer cases. They're sounding the alarm and applying pressure.

The surprising but very worthy champion of their efforts to expose environmental racism is Actress Ellen Page (*Juno*, *Inception*), who hails from Nova Scotia. She partners with Co-Director Ian Daniel and with camera in hand interviews some very special women who are fighting the good fight.

Louise Delisle, an African Nova Scotian, cites the many cancer deaths in her town of Shelburne, once a thriving refuge for freed slaves, of whom she is a proud descendant. With a folksy, homespun and welcoming manner, she takes viewers on tours through her South Shelburne district, a largely Black neighborhood.

As she explains how a garbage dump filled with debris (from hospital equipment to animal carcasses) has leaked contaminants like arsenic into their water system, you take her seriously—like a government official handling a crisis or a professor teaching.

She counts and names all her

neighbors who've had untimely deaths, often from multiple myeloma. "It's killing us." She points to a house and continues: "All the family members that lived in that house died of cancer."

On her side of town, locals use well water. On the white side of town, clean and safe water is piped into their houses. "Why are we any less than the people of their community?" The mayor doesn't want Louise to talk about the problem, but there she is on camera. Fearless and uncovering everything.

Next, Ellen and Ian visit Michelle Francis-Deny, who lives in the Boat Harbor region. Her area, a water basin, was once a haven for her indigenous people who fished there. Not anymore. In 1965, the Scott Paper company hoodwinked her granddad, a chief, and misinformed him about the impact of their future pulp and paper mill's sewage.

The mill opened, the waters became polluted and the fish died right away. Michelle's relatives started dying of cancer. A way of life was gone. Now, Michelle is at the forefront of getting the mill to stop releasing their poison. Challenging Scott and the government and leading demonstrations against those who misled them with broken promises is showing results. Michelle, "I always felt I wasn't going to get a chance to

grow old."

A trio of heroines is complete when Ellen and Ian journey to the indigenous Mi'kmaq lands near Halifax. Their cameras turn to the very spiritual and determined activists, the "Grassroots Grandmas," Native American women who have the wisdom of village elders.

They have taken on the huge responsibility of saving the environment from a gas company planning to spew brine waste (extremely high concentrations of sodium chloride) into their sacred Shubenacadie River. That petroleum business will encroach on land that belongs to them due to treaties.

Through the ages, in their culture, women have protected their land. Led by Michelle Paul, these courageous advocates confront politicians, hold press conferences, protest and homestead on land by setting up cabins.

The river was once a superhighway for their nation, they know the value of the water: "If we don't take care of our water, one day an ounce of water will be worth more than an ounce of gold. You can't drink gold." They're giving the gas company an eviction notice.

This kind of refreshing, grassroots, low-budget filmmaking reminds viewers of the power of documentaries. Anyone can grab a camera, find a noteworthy subject



Activist Louise Delisle and Director Ellen Page

and share their findings with an audience. This time Nova Scotian activists and movie fans are lucky that that someone is Ellen Page.

In the most humble but revealing way, she captures the fighting spirit of Louise and the two Michelles, sharing their stories, giving them an international platform and chronicling achievements. In the most basic way, Page is leaving a trail behind her that anyone can follow, in any kind of way.

The blueprint for this galvanizing doc is the book by Canadian social/science Author Ingrid Waldron, *There's Something in the Water: Environmental Racism in Indigenous and Black Communities*. Waldron introduces the film brilliantly, laying out her observations, concerns and the thesis that government and business is choosing profits over people—especially people of color.

"Certain people are more susceptible to living near landfills and

hazardous sites," says Waldron. Precise editing by Xavier Coleman and Hugo Perez cut to the heart of each challenge, the most important conversations, the core of the arguments and does so in just 70 minutes.

The footage very judiciously displays photos, maps, newspaper headlines and footage that is eye-opening.

Page and Daniel focus on the right people and crucial situations. Humanizing the activists, yet also making them appear saintly. After all, with their fierce determination and social activist strategies, they're the chosen ones. The messengers.

It's good when grassroots documentary filmmaking makes you want to *get off your couch and do something worthwhile*. Ellen Page sounds an alarm. Time to get active. Time to rise up. Visit **NNPA News Wire Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrownInk.com and BlackPressUSA.com**



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

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Health

F.D.A. approves first coronavirus antibody test in U.S.

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The Food and Drug Administration on Thursday approved a new test for coronavirus antibodies, the first for use in the United States.

Currently available tests are designed to find fragments of viral genes indicating an ongoing infection. Doctors swab the nose and throat, and amplify any genetic material from the virus found there.

The new test, by contrast, looks for protective antibodies in a finger prick of blood. It tells doctors whether a patient has ever been exposed to the virus and now may have some immunity.

That is important for several reasons. People with immunity might be able to venture safely from their homes and help shore up the work force. It may be particularly important for doctors and nurses to know whether they have antibodies.

Antibody testing eventually should give scientists a better sense of how widespread the infection is in the population — and help researchers calculate more

precisely the death rate.

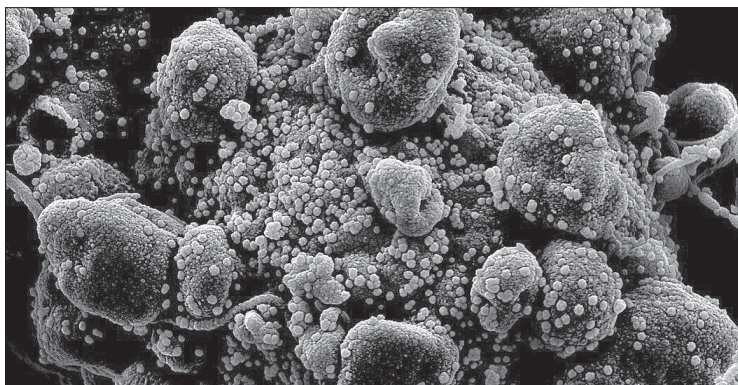
“If we don’t know the asymptomatic or mild cases, we won’t know if it’s killing a sizable fraction of the people who have it, or only people who have underlying conditions or are very unlucky,” said Dr. Carl Bergstrom, an infectious diseases expert at the University of Washington in Seattle.

Antibody tests already are used in China, Singapore and a handful of other countries. Public Health England has purchased millions of antibody tests and hopes to make them available for home use in the United Kingdom.

Sign up to receive our daily Coronavirus Briefing, an informed guide with the latest developments and expert advice.

The new test, made by Cellex, looks for two types of antibodies: immunoglobulin M, made by the body a few days into an infection; and immunoglobulin G, made later but created specifically to neutralize a particular invader.

The test delivers results in about 15 minutes. But just having antibodies does not guarantee immunity from the coronavirus.



Now's the time to quit smoking: It could increase your odds of beating Covid-19

Philadelphiaobserver.com

If you've been thinking about quitting smoking, there's no time like the present pandemic.

With the novel coronavirus sweeping the globe, the science on quitting smoking offers welcome news for smokers who want to build up their defenses in case they contract Covid-19.

Though it may still take many months for a smoker's lungs to heal from damage caused by long-term smoking, your health can noticeably improve in the days and weeks after quitting in ways that could make a difference against the virus.

Although you can't reverse scarring to your lungs caused by smoking, there are a number of ways your lung health can

improve in the short term, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Every lung doctor in America will be preaching that everyone should quit smoking." Dr. Brian Christman, a volunteer spokesman with the American Lung Association and a professor of medicine at Vanderbilt University, told CNN.

While this message isn't new, it's more relevant than ever.

Covid-19 creates an added sense of urgency, and there's ample reason to believe that quitting smoking during the pandemic could increase your odds of fighting off the virus.

If you make the decision to quit, the cilia in your lungs are one of the first parts of your body to heal. These hair-like projections

wave back and forth like a brush as air moves in and out of your lungs.

They help your body fight off colds and infection, the CDC says. They also help clear mucus, so if they're not functioning as well as they should, mucus can build up in the lungs.

Your body's inclination to cough during an infection helps activate the bodily process of clearing out mucus, called the mucociliary escalator. That's vital in fighting the Covid-19 condition.

The elderly are at a greater risk for excessive lung fluid that often limits breathing following coronavirus infection because "old folks don't have a strong enough cough to clear it up," Christman said.

#DadJokesRule

fatherhood.gov

French doctor displaying 'colonial mentality' suggests testing drugs on Africans

(GIN) –

During a debate on drug testing on French TV, Jean-Paul Mira, head of intensive care at a Parisian hospital said: "If I can be provocative, shouldn't we be doing this vaccine trial in Africa, where there are no masks, no treatments, no resuscitation?"

He continued: "It's a little bit like it's been done for certain AIDS studies, where among prostitutes, we try things, because we know that they are highly exposed and don't protect themselves..."

The response was explosive. World Health Organization head Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus called the remark a hangover from the "colonial mentality."

"It was a disgrace, appalling, to hear during the 21st century, to hear from scientists, that kind of remark. We condemn this in the strongest terms possible, and we assure you that this will not happen," Tedros said.

"Africa can't and won't be a testing ground for any vaccine," he added.

"Africa isn't a testing lab," Ivo-

rian professional football player Didier Drogba, who used to play for Chelsea, wrote on Twitter. "I would like to vividly denounce those demeaning, false and most of all deeply racist words."

Olivier Faure, of France's Socialist Party, said the marks were hardly a provocation. "It's not provocation, it's just racism," he wrote on Twitter. "Africa is not the laboratory of Europe. Africans are not rats!"

The anti-racism group SOS Racisme called on France's media regulator, the Conseil Supérieur de L'Audiovisuel (CSA), to formally condemn the remarks.

"It's scandalous to see that not a single regulatory authority has come out to publicly denounce these statements," Amar Thioune, a member of SOS Racisme, told Al Jazeera.

Meanwhile, Le Club des avocats au Maroc, a Moroccan lawyers' collective, said it was suing Jean-Paul Mira for racial defamation.

Mira later apologized in a statement published by his employer.



Jean-Paul Mira

"I want to present all my apologies to those who were hurt, shocked and felt insulted by the remarks that I clumsily expressed on LCI this week," he said.



Desperate US relief agency seeks personal protective gear from poor countries

(GIN) –

An unexpected "urgent request" from the USAID relief agency has popped up where least expected – on the desks of aid groups around the world that work with refugees and poor people.

The U.S. agency asked them to find medical supplies and personal protective gear against the coronavirus that could be made available to the U.S. government. The unusual request was uncovered by reporters with the investigative unit of NBC News and CNN.

It is not known if the relief groups, including many in Africa, have supplies to spare or how their work with refugees and other vulnerable populations would be affected.

A task force led by Vice President Pence last month ordered a freeze on shipments of personal protective equipment abroad to safeguard supplies needed in the U.S., despite the scarcity of medical equipment across Africa. Until February, there were only two laboratories on the continent able to test for the virus—in Senegal and South Africa.

Since then, the World Health Organization has supplied approximately 40 countries with testing equipment and more is reportedly on the way.

WHO director Tedros Adha-

nom Ghebrey said some countries in Africa, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, were using systems developed for the deadly Ebola virus to now test for the coronavirus.

"This is a great example of how investing in health systems can pay dividends for health security," Tedros said.

In the USAID email, titled "Urgent Request for Inventory of Available PPE and Medical Equipment Resources," groups that carry out USAID-funded projects overseas were asked to take stock of all medical supplies that could be of use to the U.S. government in its fight against the coronavirus outbreak and inform USAID within 24 hours.

As of this week, the number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Africa was 9,867 – with 947 recoveries and 482 deaths.

The Kenya Medical Research Institute conducts tests at no cost to the patient, but it hasn't been easy to get tested for coronavirus. Dr. Ahmed Kalebi, a lead consultant pathologist, said this was because there were only a couple hundred test kits left in Kenya.

So he sent his sample to a laboratory in South Africa. Even there, Kalebi said, there was a backlog of 7,000 samples.

"Not many countries have commercial or large-scale production of these kits, and certainly in Africa we don't have that," he said.

Team of Chinese coronavirus specialists meet wall of opposition in Nigeria

(GIN) –

A small team of China medical specialists headed for Nigeria is meeting stiff opposition from Nigerian medical groups who call the visit "an embarrassment" to hard-working doctors in the country.

The visit by the Chinese specialists was announced last Friday by the Nigerian Minister of Health, Dr. Osagie Ehanire. He said they were coming to combat the COVID-19 outbreak in Nigeria.

But in a surprising turn of events, the announcement was vigorously rebuffed by Nigerian professionals starting with the Nigerian Union of Journalists whose president, Chris Isiguzo, called it an opportunity for Nigerians to be used as experimental guinea pigs.

The Nigerian Medical Association (NMA)—the premier medical association in Nigeria—joined the journalists in kicking against the government's plan to bring in Chinese experts.

It's "a thing of embarrassment to the membership of the Association and other health workers who are giving their best in the fight against Covid-19 pandemic under deplorable working conditions," they said.

"We are ... profoundly dismayed to learn that the Federal Government is ... inviting the Chinese who from available accounts are not out of the woods themselves... Even the United Nations



has just recently commended the efforts of Nigeria so far," read the NMA statement published by the Premium Times.

The Trade Union Congress of Nigeria also advised against the plan, saying Nigeria was already handling the crisis effectively.

Harsher criticism was leveled by Capt. Jerry Ogbonna, Rtd of the ruling party.

"There is always this inferiority complex with white skin people," he said, referring to the Asian health experts. "Nigerian doctors are some of the best in America and Europe. The ones here are doing very well even in this coronavirus pandemic. What magic does the president think Chinese doctors will perform here?"

"It won't be surprising that the Chinese doctors will be made to be on top of the Nigerian doctors. Please stop these doctors from China until our doctors have failed".

The criticism forced the government to respond, sending

spokesman Dr. Garba Abari, who noted that the government was not inviting the Chinese medical experts to take charge of the fight against COVID-19 but simply to share experiences on how the pandemic was handled in China.

Nigeria currently has 232 cases of Covid-19 of which 33 have recovered and five deaths.

Meanwhile, a contingent of Cuban doctors is expected to join the fight against the coronavirus in South Africa.

The proposed medical team will be in addition to some 200 Cuban doctors already deployed in eight South African provinces except for the Western Cape, which declined to participate in the South Africa-Cuba- medical doctors' training program.

The doctors have been providing assistance including patient care, medical examinations, transferring of samples and other services to stem the spread of the virus.

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Culture



Oprah Winfrey donates \$10 million to coronavirus relief

Newyorkbeacon.com

Oprah Winfrey joined the growing list of celebrities who are donating money to coronavirus relief efforts.

The media mogul announced on Thursday that she donated \$10 million “to help Americans during this pandemic in cities across the country.”

Of her total donation, \$1 million will go toward America’s Food Fund to alleviate food insecurity.

The rest will be donated to other groups helping Americans during the pandemic.

“I was struck by the work these organizations are doing and while everyone’s priority right now is to stay safer at home, I know there are many of us looking for ways to help,” Winfrey said on Instagram.

“I believe that America’s Food Fund will be a powerful way to make a difference for our neighbors in need.”

Dolly Parton pledges \$1m to Coronavirus vaccine research

Newyorkbeacon.com

Dolly Parton has donated \$1m (£800,000) to research into a coronavirus vaccine, as she begins a new storytelling series for children in lockdown.

The country music star wrote on Instagram:

“My longtime friend Dr Naji Abumrad, who’s been involved in research at Vanderbilt for many years, informed me that they were making some exciting advancements towards that research of the coronavirus for a cure. I am making a donation of \$1 million to Vanderbilt towards that research and to encourage people that can afford it to make donations.”

Abumrad works at the Vanderbilt Institute for Infection, Immunology and Inflammation at Vanderbilt University hospital in Nashville, Tennessee. He and Parton became friends in 2014 after the singer was involved in a car accident and was treated at Vanderbilt. His son, Jad, subsequently interviewed Parton for the podcast Dolly Parton’s America.

Numerous teams are working on research into a coronavirus vaccine. US biotech firm Moder-

na began trials for a vaccine on 16 March, with Chinese firm CanSino Biologics launching its own trials the same day. The World Health Organization lists 52 other firms developing potential vaccines.

Parton is fighting another front of the coronavirus crisis: bored children. On Thursday she is launching Goodnight With Dolly, a bedtime story series on YouTube,

beginning with a reading of The Little Engine That Could. She said she hoped the series would be “a welcome distraction during a time of unrest, and inspire a love of reading and books”.

Parton has long championed reading, with her charity, Imagination Library, having given more than 130m books to children.



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Wednesday's Woman

By Audrey J. Bernard

13 Philadelphia Observer • April 9 – April 15, 2020 • Philadelphiaobserver.com

White House Correspondent Yammiche Alcindor holds the president accountable for his actions



White House Correspondent Yammiche Alcindor at press conference

Yammiche Alcindor is the White House Correspondent at PBS NewsHour in Washington, D.C. since January 2018 where she reports live on-air about developments involving the White House and the administration of President Donald Trump, and works on feature stories about social issues affecting the national political discourse. In this role, the feisty journalist has become as popular as her subject (the president) which has elevated her to national rock star status. Her poise, professionalism and aplomb have earned her the respect of the American people and fellow journalists. Becoming an arc enemy of the president is not what she signed up for but she is determined to do her job especially now when the coronavirus calls on journalists to hold our elected officials accountable for providing accurate information which makes her perfect for the job!

In his contempt to disparage her during a recent White House press briefing to discuss America's next steps to fight the pandemic coronavirus she asked the President about his previous comments on *The Sean Hannity Show*. He went ballistic!

"Why can't you people act ... why don't you act in a little more positive ... it's always trying to getcha, getcha, getcha. It's why nobody trusts the media anymore. That's why you used to work for the Times and now you work for somebody else." Continuing to cut off Alcindor's questioning, which concerned the number of ventilators needed in New York, Trump chastised her, "Be nice. Don't be threatening. Be nice."

Alcindor was referring to a direct quote from Trump's call-in appearance on Sean Hannity's Fox News show where in response to New York's urgent need for ventilators, he voiced skepticism about the amount. "I have a feeling that a lot of the numbers that are being

said in some areas are just bigger than they're going to be. I don't believe you need 40,000 or 30,000 ventilators."

This did not deter Alcindor from pushing forward. In an attempt to get an answer to her question, her mic was cut and Trump moved along to the next reporter. However, when it was time for CNN's Jeremy Diamond to speak, he passed the microphone back to Alcindor so she could finally finish asking her question. He was applauded by Twitter users online for sticking up for a fellow reporter.

Alcindor stood her ground and insisted she was merely quoting to Trump exactly what he had said on Fox News. "You said repeatedly that some of the equipment that governors are requesting, that they don't actually need ..." she repeated. He shot back, "That's such a nasty question," before turning off her mic. After being muted Alcindor tweeted out the exact quote she was referring to.

As one of a few Black correspondents in the White House pool, this award-winning journalist is admired for her tenacity and holding the President accountable for his actions. Out of admiration for her doing her job and the president not doing his, the hashtag #WeLoveYammiche was launched!

In addition to performing her duties at PBS NewsHour, Alcindor is also a political analyst for NBC News and MSNBC often appearing on a number of shows including Morning Joe, Andrea Mitchell Reports, The Rachel Maddow Show, Hardball with Chris Matthews, and Meet the Press with Chuck Todd.

In the past this venerable journalist has worked as a national political reporter for *The New York Times* where she covered the presidential campaigns of Mr. Trump and Senator Bernie Sanders as well as Congress. She also wrote about the impact of President Donald Trump's poli-



Yammiche & Nathaniel's wedding picture

cies on working class people and people of color. She wrote stories and produced multimedia packages about Congress and the 2016 presidential election as well as covered social issues affecting the national political discourse and shot and edited videos on deadline for stories as well as appeared on-air live for national networks such as MSNBC.

Before joining *The New York Times*, Alcindor worked as a national multimedia political reporter for *USA Today* where she produced multimedia packages on national breaking news stories such as the Boston Marathon bombing, the school shooting in Newtown, Conn., the death of

Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Fla. followed by the trial of George Zimmerman and the police related protests and civil unrest in Ferguson, Mo. and Baltimore, Md.

As a writer, videographer and on-camera journalist, Alcindor has split her time covering quickly developing incidents and stories about the social issues affecting the United States. She travels across the country to cover stories and spends time writing about societal concerns such as wrongful convictions, human trafficking, civil rights violations, gun violence and poverty as well as fatal police encounters.

Alcindor shot and edited videos on deadline and explained stories on-air live for both *USA*

Today and local Gannett television stations as well as regularly report live on national networks such as MSNBC, CNN, Fox News and PBS; developed enterprise stories about national trends such as the lack of resources provided to wrongfully convicted individuals; anti-human trafficking initiatives; and proposals to drug test welfare recipients.

Alcindor was born to two Haitian-born parents and grew up in Miami. When she was in high school, she was an intern at the *Westside Gazette*, a local African American newspaper, and *The Miami Herald* (2005). She interned at *The Seattle Times* (2006), *The Miami Herald* (2007), the Botswana newspaper *Mmegi* (2008), *The Washington Post* (2009), and the *washingtonpost.com* (2009).

She aspired to become a civil rights journalist, and was inspired by African-American journalist Gwen Ifill and contemporary newspaper reporting surrounding Emmett Till.

Alcindor is active in several organizations including: George F. Baker Scholar, Patrick Healy Fellow, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Patrick Healy Fellowship Alumni Group, CIEE Alumni Global Network, Georgetown University Alumni Group, Georgetown University Black Alumni Summit, and the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) which named her the organization's "Emerging Journalist of the Year" in 2013. In addition, she was named 13th in *The Root* 100 Most Influential African Americans Between 25-45.

Alcindor earned a master's degree in broadcast news and documentary filmmaking from New York University and a bachelor's in English, government and African American studies from Georgetown University. A native of Miami, Fla., Yammiche is married to a fellow journalist Nathaniel Cline and is the daughter of Haitian immigrants who met while attending Boston College. (Photos courtesy Getty Images)



Yammiche & Nathaniel attend 29th Annual GLAAD Media Awards



By Victoria Horsford

What's going on

COVID19 UPDATE

The Coronavirus has infected 1,359,398 people worldwide and killed 74,565. Effective April 7, the United States leads the world in coronapandemic with 368,449 cases and more than 10,000 deaths. NYC: 72,324 cases in the five boroughs with 2,475 deaths, which is greater than the 2977 killed at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11. NY Governor Cuomo has extended the state shutdown to April 30. Many other US States follow suit as does POTUS 45, who is eager to open America for business, the status of COVID19 notwithstanding.



Ibram X Kendi

Americans discombobulated from the effects of shutdowns and cabin fever have not dealt with the coronavirus effect and Black America. Professor Ibram X Kendi addressed that matter in his Atlantic Magazine essay, "What the Racial Data Show. Pandemic seems to be hitting people of color hardest." He supports his subject with scant but alarming data about the virus as it plowed across the lower 48s. He looked at the percentage of Blacks living in states like Illinois, North Carolina, Michigan, NY and their infection rates. In NC Mecklenburg County which includes Charlotte, where 32.9% of the residents were Blacks, represent 43.9% of the coronavirus cases. In Milwaukee, Blacks represent 26% of the county, but their infection rate was 50% and 81% of the deaths. In Illinois the infection rate among Blacks is twice the percentage of their population. In Louisiana, 70% of the COVID19 deaths are Black residents. In Michigan, Blacks comprise 14.1% of state population, they are 40% of the COVID10 deaths. NYT published a report of COVID19 cases by zip codes and yes, there were high incidents in Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx. Professor Kendi is the Director of Antiracist Research and Policy Center at the American University and he wrote the acclaimed 2019 book "How To Be Antiracist." Moreover, New York based friends and relatives revealed that they had a mild case of the virus which they self treated at home. More Americans of all colors must be tested.

While the rest of the world is battling the perilous virus, China's Wuhan province, an industrial corridor, with a population of 11 million was sealed off in late January to contain the COVID19 contagion, is coming out of its 10-week lockdown and opens for business and normalcy on April 8.

The search for treatments and a vaccine continues worldwide. Almost 70 drugs and experimental compounds are being used to treat covid19. Scientists like Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of that National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, the most vital arm of the White House's Coronavirus Task Force, talks about an 18 month time line for clinical trials for a Covid19 vaccine. The Federal Drug Administration has approved at least 24 drugs, some used to treat cancer, hypertension, Parkinsons disease, schizophrenia and diabetes,



Anthony Fauci

as treatments for COVID19. The drugs are used in combination in the US and are quite potent. Why does Trump continues to promote hydroxychloroquine a drug used with efficacy to treat malaria, lupus and rheumatoid arthritis?

According to 4/7 media reports, it is alleged that has financial interests in the French company Sanofi which manufactures the drug.

Visit the Atlantic.com essay by Ed Yong "HOW THE PANDEMIC WILL END; The U.S. May end with the worst COVID19 outbreak in the Western World. This is How it's Going To Play Out." Yong writes with laser like precision about the genesis and anatomy of COVID19 and observes that pandemics are democratizing experience., people whose privilege and power would normally shield them from a crisis are faced with quarantines testing positive and losing loved ones." More importantly, he delineates the virus' endgame options with occasional lights at the end of the tunnel for America to rebound and to regain its prestige as a world class power in all matters, military dominance, technology and public health protocols.

Some good news if you are disposed to astrology, which some consider a pseudo science. A 14 year-old Indian guru/astrologer Abighya Anand predicts that the coronavirus peril ends on May 29. Last August, he correctly predicted its start date which was November. He says that coronaries is a global war- a war between the virus and humanity. The war is a result of a conjunction of the planets March, Saturn, Jupiter, the moon and its nodes which climaxed on March 29. The moon, he opines is considered the planet of watery spreading: i.e. coughing and spreading...disease. Don't take my word. Listen to him walk you through the end of coronavirus on youtube using phrases like "World's youngest astrologer may have predicted the

End of Covid19" "14 Year old Abighya Anand says coronavirus to end May 29th. You listen to the DC Task Force everyday, see what Anand says in 15 minutes.



Abighya Anand

COVID19/ AFRICA

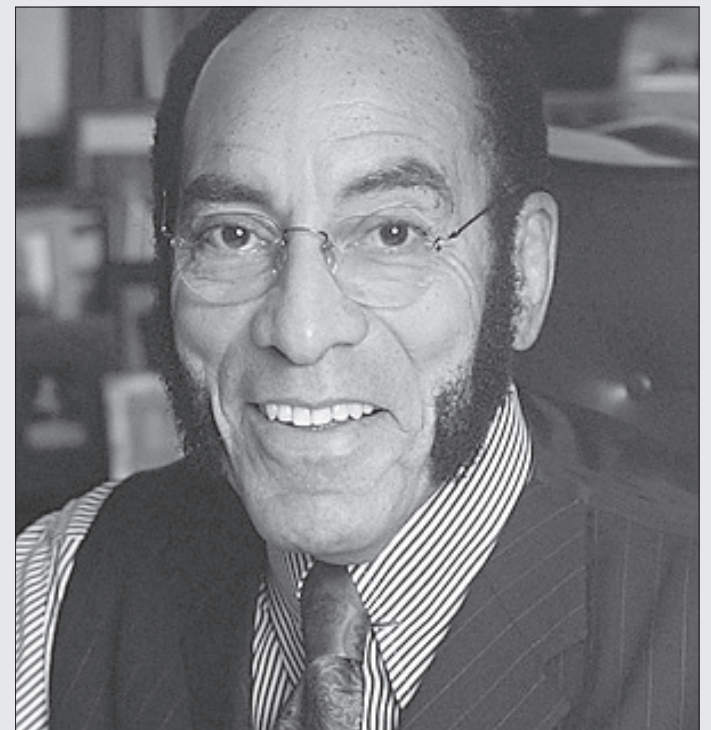
COVID19 has touched down in 34 of Africa's 54 nations as of March 19. but not with a vengeance. Ethiopian Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO, World Health Organization General Secretary reports that Africa will not be the testing ground for any COVID19 tests, a plan proposed by the French. Many countries throughout the Continent have been in lockdown. By March 19 more than 600 cases of COVID19 were reported in Sub Saharan Africa. To date, virus related fatalities in Africa have not exceeded 60. Nationals who defy curfews run the risk of being shot by police. Africa has been proactive in dealing with COVID19. Many countries were buying antivirals from Cuba and Japan, following

the Chinese lead. Nations like South Africa and Nigeria sent planes to China to collect their nationals. Africa's wealthiest man, Nigerian billionaire Aliko Dangote donated \$200 million naira from his eponymous Foundation, to support COVID19 testing in Nigeria. In Youpangan, a town near Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire, people burned down a half-built testing facility recently. And Kenyan fisherman are enjoying a resurgence of popularity since locals are averse to Chinese fish imports. An excellent \$64,000 opinion piece, a must read is "Why Are There Few Coronavirus Cases in Africa and Russia?" Could the hemisphere provide an answer?

NEWSMAKERS

RIP: Earl Graves, Sr., 85, founder/publisher of Black Enterprise Magazine died on April 6 after a battle with Alzheimers. Capitalized at \$250,000 in 1970, Black Enterprise quickly became the Black business bible, which has served four generations of African American business denizens. Black Enterprise and Earl Graves Enterprises evolved into a multi million dollar enterprise. The annual BE 100 List was the Graves' response to the Fortune 500 list. It was something to which most Black entrepreneurs in the United States aspired. The BE 100 list included a multiplicity of businesses from oil companies, to savings and commercial banks, Wall Street firms, advertising

agencies and the hospitality industry. BE was about Black business imperative, ownership, money management and sustainability. The son of Caribbean parents from Barbados, Graves was born and bred in Brooklyn and attended Morgan State University. He married His book, "How to Succeed in Business Without Being White," was a NYT and Wall Street Journal bestseller. The consummate businessman, he supported presidential candidates such as Jessie Jackson and Barack Obama Graves; and he sat on corporate boards of American Airlines, Daimler Chrysler and Federated Department Stores and he was well-known for his philanthropy.



Earl Graves

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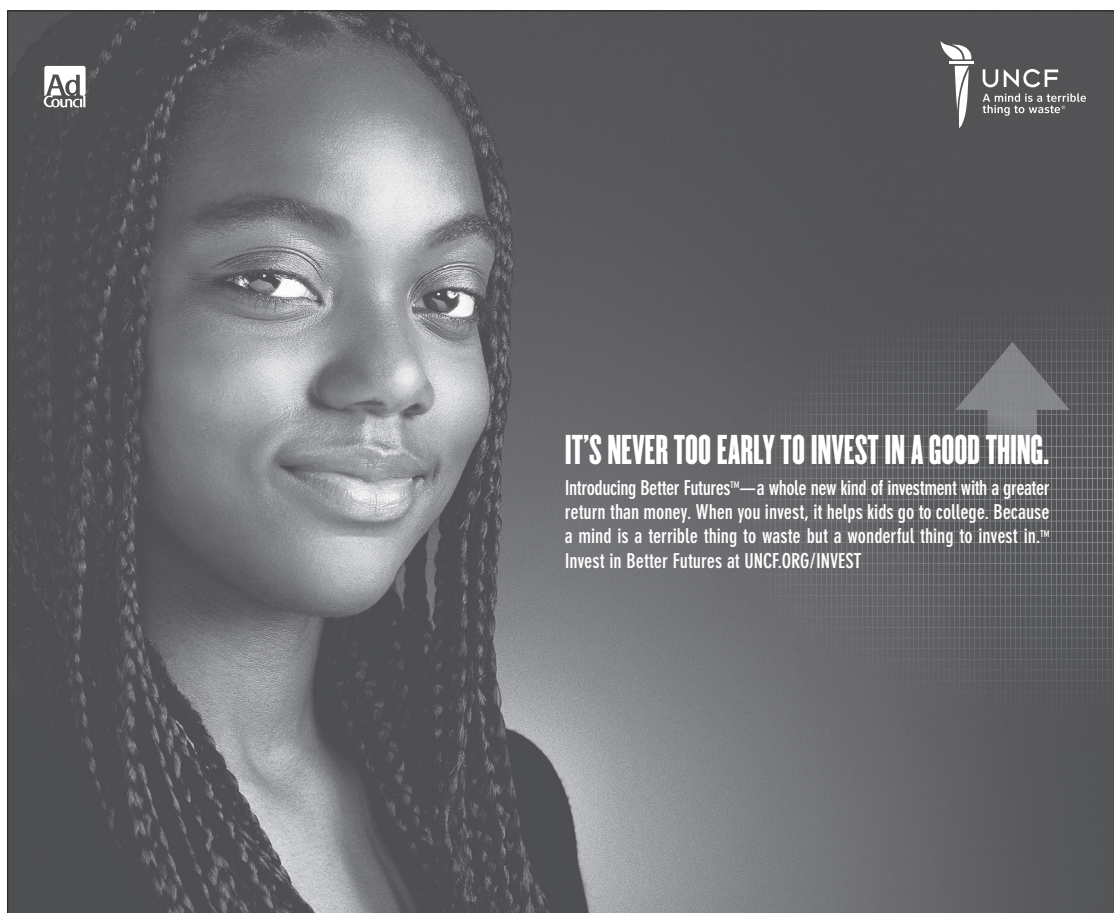
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White says fights will go on

By Joshua Garcia

Being a fly on the wall during last week's conference call between President Donald J. Trump and the commissioners of all of the United States professional sports leagues must have been quite the privilege. Leaders from the NBA, NHL, NFL etc joined together to discuss how to go forward during the Covid 19 pandemic, one man left the conversation more motivated than ever to start his sport up again.

Dana White the head of the Ultimate Fighting Championship of mixed martial arts has used his time in quarantine to come up solutions to all of his problems facing the Coronavirus outbreak. After facing tons of criticism for his canceling of his highly touted event, White went back to the drawing board and in an interview with TMZ Sports revealed some of his remedies.

Organizing events during the current pandemic are nightmarish, as Dana White eluded to coming up with contingency plans only to have them unravel the next morning as more information was provided from the CDC and more restrictions we're enacted. White as of now has managed to save one of his scheduled events which will take place on April 18th of this month.

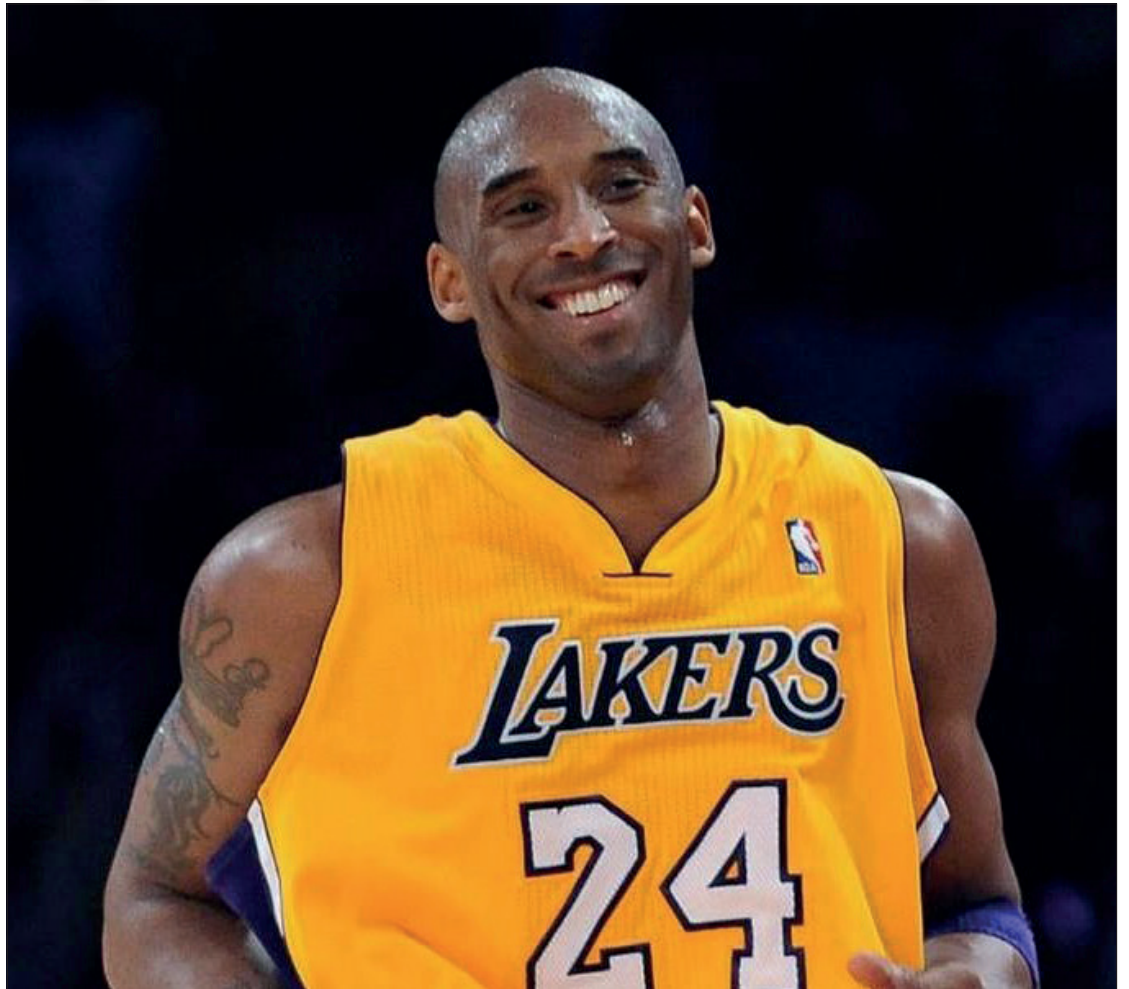
When asked about the venue for UFC 249 on April 18th in a mere couple weeks, Dana White smirked and said "ESPN", as in the only revelation at this time is where it will be televised. White went on to reveal that one of his biggest



hindrances to putting fight cards together is the United States travel restrictions which would prevent international fighters from entering the US at this time. Dana has that too, under control.

In order to provide the UFC crowd with entertaining events from fighters around the world, Dana White has allegedly secured a remote private island for the next two months in which he will be "pumping out fights every week". White has put in place the necessary private planes to bring the combatants to what is being called 'fight island', and has medical hurdles all fighters, production staff, and all involved must pass before boarding the plane to the island.

The UFC commish if you will, says he is just days away from tying all the loose ends and finally announcing not only the location of said private island, but the cards and events which will take place there. Joe Rogan, who famously color commentates for the UFC was recently shared his reluctance to go back to any type of venue during this outbreak. White when asked about Rogan's potential absence from fight island replied much like his good friend in the White House, "you can't listen to anything the media says...Rogan will be there."



NBA Hall of Fame calls Kobe

By Andrew Rosario

It was inevitable. Only a matter of time. Unfortunately, not the way Kobe Bryant, his organization, fans and players wanted to see him inducted into the National Basketball Association Hall of Fame. On Sunday January 26th on his way to coach his daughter's Gianna's basketball tournament, Kobe's helicopter crashed killing all 9 aboard.

His path to the Hall of Fame was set the minute he played his last game as a member of the Los Angeles Lakers, the only team he ever player for. Bryant wore numbers 8 and 24 with both numbers retired hanging in the rafters at the Staples Center never to be worn by anyone else.

On April 14th 2016, Bryant would play his last game at the Staples Center when they hosted the Utah Jazz. Head coach Byron Scott had one message to the team: "Get KB the ball!" They did just that. By night's end in the 101-96 come from behind win, Kobe scorched Utah scoring 60 points. He needed 50 shots to get there but added his 6th 60 point game of his career. Ten years earlier, Kobe scored 81 points against the Toronto Raptors. The second most points Behind Wilt Chamberlain's 100 points against the New York Knicks.

Kobe Bryant was drafted out of high school by the Charlotte Hornets and was immediately traded to the Lakers for Vlade Divac becoming the youngest player in NBA history. He had an immediate impact on the league. He was named NBA Rookie of the Year and at the end of his his career put up numbers that compare to some of the greatest of all time. 18 time All Star, 12 time all

defensive player, 2 time scoring champ, 4 time All Star MVP and 5 time NBA Champion. His goal was to at least tie his mentor and idol Michael Jordan for 6 rings. It did not happen although Kobe passed Jordan for more career points.

Kobe Bryant was not the most cordial player with the media during his playing days. Arrogant and cocky was some of the words used to describe him by writers who covered him on a regular basis. Bryant had to deal with rape allegations at one point during his career although he was never charged. It was a turning point not only for his personal life but for his professional life as well.

Life after basketball for Kobe was a new challenge something he embraced the way he attacked opponents on the court. He was a "hands on" dad to his three girls. He became a author of children's books starting Granity Studios in 2016. In 2018, Bryant and

company won an Oscar for his best animated short film "Dear Basketball."

Kobe Bryant second act after basketball was just beginning. There was a new found acceptance in dealing with the media and the general public. He sought out advise from professionals in the entertainment industry. Kobe's wife Vanessa recently announced the release of book two of the "Wizenard" series "Training Camp" the sequel to "Season One."

Kobe was torn when asked who he would like to introduce him the day of his induction. Michael Jordan? Phil Jackson? We will find out this August 23rd when the full 2020 class will be inducted. It will be a bittersweet day as Bryant will be represented by his wife and family remembering a man, world class athlete and father taking from this world at a time when his second act was just beginning.



No Laker Will Ever Wear These Numbers
Photos: Special to the NY Beacon



CORY, stroke survivor.

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