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# DUTY BOUND TO SPREAD THE VIRUUS

**White supremacists groups say they are obligated to spread the deadly disease to Black people, Jews and members of law enforcement**



**Members are encouraging one another to spread the coronavirus, if contracted, through bodily fluids and personal interactions., FBI says, pg 3**



## Boris Johnson warns against relaxing UK lockdown

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The first world leader known to have had coronavirus is now leading his nation's response to it, and in a speech outside 10 Downing Street, the British Prime Minister had a clear message: Don't give up on the lockdown yet.

In his first remarks after returning to work Monday, Johnson acknowledged that the restrictions were hard to bear and risked taking a heavy toll on the economy.

But he warned that the UK was at "the moment of maximum risk" and suggested restrictions would need to remain in place for the time being in to avoid a second peak of infection. The UK's lockdown measures are due to be reviewed again by May 7.

Johnson struck a characteristically upbeat tone in his address, drawing on his own brush with the virus to offer a message of hope to a country which has endured at least 20,000 deaths from the virus and where the government has faced heavy criticism for its early response.

"If this virus were a physical assailant, an unexpected and



invisible mugger, which I can tell you from personal experience it is, then this is the moment when we are beginning to wrestle it to the floor," Johnson said.

Johnson returns to the helm at a pivotal moment. His government has faced criticism for its handling of the disease, particularly whether it took the virus seriously enough in the early stages of transmission in the UK; the availability of protective clothing for health workers; and the country's low rate of testing.

## COVID-19 ravaging one of the richest Black counties in the U.S.

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The coronavirus has been disproportionately impacting the Black community and Prince George's County, Md. has become a prime example.

The predominantly African American suburb of Washington, D.C., where the average African American income is \$100K, has seen a surge in cases and in deaths.

The Washington Post recently reported that the county has been inundated with the sick. Parking lots have been turned into makeshift trauma centers to offer care as the ICU's are full. Funeral directors are running out of places to store the increase of bodies as the death toll from COVID-19 rises.

Medics wearing personal protection equipment (PPE), transport an African American patient show-

ing COVID-19 symptoms from his apartment on April 04, 2020 in Stamford, Connecticut. (Photo by John Moore/Getty Images)

Seventy percent of the county's 900,000 residents are from a minority background. Many of them are front-line workers in professions like maintenance workers and education who have been exposed to the virus. Others have underlying health issues such as diabetes, hypertension, and obesity.

To date, 130 African American, 15 Latino, and 19 white people have died because of the novel coronavirus in PG County, according to current data.

"It's served as a magnifying glass for challenges we knew we had," said county executive Angela D. Alsobrooks (D). "We know that when this is over, we can't return to business as usual."



## Macy's plans to reopen all its 775 stores in 6 to 8 weeks

Philadelphiaobserver.com

"No touch" consultations will be the rule at beauty counters. Ear piercing, bra fittings and alterations will be temporarily suspended. Fitting rooms will be limited. Employees will wear company-issued cloth masks. And trying on dress shirts? Forget about it.

Macy's, one of the biggest department store chains in the United States, announced these steps Thursday as part of an ambitious reopening plan. The company aims to reopen all of its 775 stores, including Bloomingdale's, Bluemercury and its major flagships in Manhattan, in the next six to eight

weeks, the latest sign of how eager the nation's largest retailers are to return to business.

It also brought into sharper focus what retail shopping could look like in the pandemic era.

The reopenings are expected to start on Monday, with 68 stores in Georgia, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas. Macy's will reopen 50 more locations on May 11. The company's stores have been closed since March 18 because of the coronavirus pandemic, causing the majority of its sales to disappear.

Macy's expects its reopened stores to bring in only about 15 to 20 percent of their typical business

at first and "slowly build" from there, the company's chief executive, Jeff Gennette, said during a presentation. Whether shoppers would return, he acknowledged, was an open question.

"We'll see how they respond, and based on that, we'll be a lot smarter," he said. "So I'm going to know a lot more by Tuesday of next week."

Mr. Gennette sought to strike an optimistic note about the health of Macy's business — he noted that April sales were "stronger than we expected" — but he acknowledged that the company was simply not built to sustain the complete closing of its stores for a prolonged period.



## Venezuela claims to have captured two Americans involved in failed invasion

(CNN)

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro says two American "mercenaries" have been apprehended after a failed coup attempt launched over the weekend.

In a live address on state television late Monday, Maduro brandished what he claimed were the US passports and drivers licenses of the two men, along with what he said were their ID cards for Silvercorp, a Florida-based security services company.

Maduro also showed what he said was a photo of the two men after they were captured, and accused the pair of playing "Rambo" in a failed attack intended to unseat him.

Footage posted on Maduro's official Twitter account shows several unidentifiable men in a boat with their hands in the air and a helicopter overhead. The men in the boat were not identifiable in one video, but a separate photo more clearly depicted two men who Maduro claimed were American.



The CEO of Silvercorp, Jordan Goudreau, told the Washington Post that two Americans acting within a larger force were captured Monday, along with six Venezuelans, after launching an operation to infiltrate Venezuela. Goudreau said other members of what he called "Operation Gideon" were captured or killed on Sunday.

Goudreau identified the Americans as Airan Berry and Luke Denman, whose names match those on the Silvercorp IDs displayed by Maduro. Goudreau, a former US

Army Green Beret, said the two men were fellow former Special Forces members like himself.

CNN has reached out to the US State Department and Silvercorp for comment but has not yet heard back.

Juan Guaido — the opposition leader who is recognized by the US and more than 50 countries as Venezuela's interim president — denied any connection to Silvercorp on Monday, and called for the human rights of those captured to be respected, Reuters reported.



# 'This never happened,' former Vice President Joe Biden speaks on sexual assault allegation

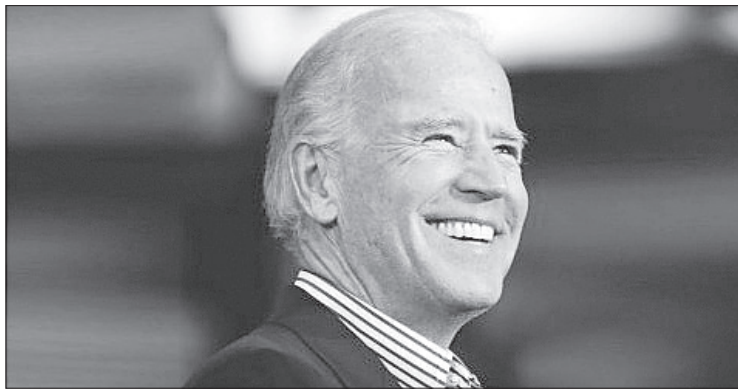
By Lauren Victoria Burke, NNPA Newswire Contributor

Former Vice President Joseph Biden denied an allegation of sexual assault by a former Senate aide, Tara Reade, breaking a month of silence on the allegation.

Biden was vetted before being selected as President Obama's Vice President in 2008. Biden served in the Senate for 36 years and also served as Vice President for eight years. The first time Reade's allegation became public was March of 2020. However, Reade has four people corroborating that she told them of the alleged assault in the 1990s.

MSNBC anchor Mika Brzezinski asked Biden to unseal his Senate records at the University of Delaware and asked, "Are you certain there was nothing about Tara Reade in those records?" Are you preparing us for a complaint that might be revealed in some way? Are you confident there is nothing?"

"I'm confident there's nothing. No one ever brought it to the attention of me 27 years ago. This is — any assertion at all. No one that I'm aware of in my campaign, actually my Senate office at the time, is aware of any such request or any such complaint, and so I'm not worried about it at all. If there is a complaint, that's where it would be. That's where it would be filed, and if it's there, put it out. But I've



never seen it. No one has that I'm aware of," Biden answered.

Biden is the presumptive Democratic nominee and has committed to selecting a woman as his vice presidential nominee.

Women's groups have remained silent on the Tara Reade allegations even though they were very vocal in late 2018 during the confirmation hearings for Brett Kavanaugh after he was accused by Christine Blasey Ford of sexual assault when they were teenagers in the 1980s.

The Biden allegations have forced many feminists to shift position away from what they were saying during the Kavanaugh hearings. The slogan "believe all women" was repeated and used on social media throughout. Now Biden is pushing for "hearing" women and pushing for investigations of claims.

Actress Alyssa Milano, who

acted as a de facto spokeswoman for MeToo during the Kavanaugh hearings, called for "due process" for Biden weeks ago when the Reade allegations first surfaced.

"I believe that, even though we should believe women... for so long, the go-to has been not to believe them. So really, we have to sort of societally change that mindset to believing women, but that does not mean at the expense of not giving men their due process," Milano tweeted last month.

"I don't feel comfortable throwing away a decent man that I've known for 15 years," she said of Biden.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist for NNPA and the host of the podcast BURKEFILE. She is also a political strategist as Principal of Win Digital Media LLC. She may be contacted at LBurke007@gmail.com and on twitter at @LVBurke

# Rep. Jim Clyburn will lead House Oversight Committee on Coronavirus

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent



House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn (D-South Carolina) will chair a newly established oversight panel with broad authority to oversee the federal response to the coronavirus.

During an exclusive live broadcast, Clyburn told National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi decided to impanel a committee after she recalled a similar body selected by President Harry S. Truman after World War II.

"Speaker Pelosi called me several weeks ago, and we got into this discussion about what we need to do and how we needed to make sure that this is done in such a way that it will meet with our vision of making sure that the greatness of this country is accessible and affordable for all," Clyburn told Chavis.

"This pandemic has opened up some fault lines in this great country, and primary among them is healthcare. Healthcare is not accessible and affordable to all, and this pandemic has shown that to be the case."

Clyburn continued:

"America's greatness has always been because it's been able to repair its faults. Speaker Pelosi said she'd given a lot of thought to what happened as this country was moving toward World War II and Truman told the Senate about the 116 committees who after World War I looked at all of the

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# Coalition of civil rights leaders support CBC in protecting Black health

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 3, 2020 – National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., National Action Network (NAN) Founder Rev. Al Sharpton, Dr. Julianne Malveaux, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), National Coalition of 100 Black Women, and the Black Women's Health Imperative, are up in arms because they say too many Washington politicians are protecting insurance company profits over health care for African Americans.

Collectively, they argue that too often, insurance companies refuse to cover emergency services, and either patients are forced to pay bills they cannot afford, or hospitals are shuttering.

Congress claims to be tackling this challenge, but until the Congressional Black Caucus got involved, Congress focused only on protecting insurer profits, not people, according to the coalition.

Chavis, Sharpton, and others are throwing their support behind the CBC.

They're asking that others also support the CBC.

Led by Chair Karen Bass (D-Calif.), the 55-member CBC has



worked almost non-stop in fighting for health equity in the African American community.

The CBC works to protect and expand voting rights, comprehensive criminal justice reform, building a more inclusive economy, and ensuring access to quality and affordable healthcare.

A primary focus of the CBC remains to target insurance companies that have disproportionately neglected the needs of African Americans while also providing below standard care.

"This outrageous situation benefits one group and one group alone: powerful insurance executives, who have managed to get off the financial hook for such bills, even as insurers shrink insurance coverage networks to wring more and more profits out of the system," Chavis has stated.

He and the other leaders have continued to express strong op-

position to any legislation that would give insurers more control over health care prices.

In their continued push for health equality, the group is working to ensure that insurance companies

expand their networks and cover more emergency services. This will maintain access to care in hard-hit Black communities. "The status quo means hospitals in our communities close first," the group noted in a statement.

"We cannot let this happen. Together, we can ensure that the old way of doing business – putting insurance company profits over people – STOPS."

They continued: "Join us and support the CBC. Help us work to make sure Congress passes a bill that keeps us healthy and alive by allowing insurance networks to grow and cover lifesaving services."

# White supremacists urging members to spread coronavirus to Blacks, Jews, cops: FBI

Philadelphiaobserver.com

African Americans have been hit hardest by the coronavirus, contracting and dying of the virus at disproportionate rates. Now the FBI reports that white supremacists, neo-Nazis and other extremist groups are encouraging followers infected with the coronavirus to spread the deadly disease to Black people, Jews and members of law enforcement.

ABC News recently obtained an alert sent by the FBI's New York office that warned that "members of extremist groups are encouraging one another to spread the virus, if contracted, through bodily fluids and personal interactions."

The alert, which was sent to local police departments, said that

extremist groups were directing members to use spray bottles to spread infectious fluids, People reported.

The groups also advised members to leave "saliva on door handles" at FBI offices throughout the country, spit on elevator buttons and spread the virus in "nonwhite neighborhoods," the brief states according to MSNBC.

"White Racially Motivated Violent Extremists have recently commented on the coronavirus stating that it is an 'OBLIGATION' to spread it should any of them contract the virus," the FBI brief said.

The discussions between extremist groups took place on a Telegram app channel that focused on "siege culture," EUR Web reported.





## Rep. Jim Clyburn will lead House Oversight Committee on Coronavirus

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profiteering, the price gauging, and the kind of fraud that these fly-by-night groups had done.”

Clyburn noted that healthcare and other fraud has run rampant during the current novel coronavirus pandemic and, more than ever, African Americans are being victimized.

“This pandemic is visting family after family after family. We know from all of the data that it is being visited more harshly and more prevalent among African American communities, and some Latino communities all over the country,” Clyburn stated.

The new panel is expected to enjoy far-reaching power to investigate how the trillions of dollars already approved by Congress for coronavirus relief are being used, Clyburn added.

It will be able to issue subpoenas, review America’s preparedness for the crisis, and examine decisions about the crisis within the administration.

The panel will probe the “efficiency, effectiveness, equity and transparency” of taxpayer funds used to respond to the crisis and will investigate reports of waste, fraud, and abuse of funds being spent, according to the establishing resolution.

It will also be able to study the economic impact and disparate impacts of the crisis on different communities.

“This is about transparency and accountability,” stated Cly-

burn during the live stream titled, “Black America and COVID-19: Saving and Empowering Black Lives.”

Clyburn also talked with Chavis about the NNPA’s Coronavirus Task Force and Resource Center, the first media-related entity in the United States to declare a “State of Emergency for Black America” as the fatalities among Black Americans have continued to rise alarmingly across the nation.

Using social media to increase public awareness about COVID-19, the NNPA continues to encourage the use of the hashtags: #SaveBlackLives, and #NNPACoronavirusTaskForce.

Clyburn, a 14-term U.S. Congressman and the dean of the South Carolina congressional delegation has spent his career working to improve and empower the lives of African Americans. Former President Barack Obama once noted that Clyburn is “one of a handful of people who, when they speak, the entire Congress listens.”

As Assistant Democratic Leader in the 112th Congress, the number three ranking Democrat in the House, Clyburn is the leadership liaison to the Appropriations Committee and one of the Democratic Caucus’ primary liaisons to the White House.

He plays a prominent role in messaging and outreach.

The Clyburn-Chavis interview can be viewed at [www.facebook.com/blackpressusa](http://www.facebook.com/blackpressusa).

## 103 veterans have died between 2 facilities in Massachusetts

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Between two Massachusetts residential and long-term care facilities, 103 veterans have died — 85 of whom tested positive for coronavirus.

As of Monday, Soldiers’ Home in Chelsea lost 26 veteran residents, with 19 testing positive for the virus. Holyoke Soldier’s Home, which is currently under federal investigation, has lost 77 veteran residents. Of those, 66 tested positive for Covid-19.

Another 83 veterans and 81 employees of Holyoke and 28 residents and 53 staff at the Chelsea facility have tested positive.

A tent sits idle beside the entrance to the Soldiers’ Home in Chelsea.

Gov. Charlie Baker announced an additional \$130 million in funding for nursing homes and long-term care facilities in the state to provide additional staff, personal protective equipment and cleaning and disinfecting of the facilities. It will also be mandatory for residents and staff to be tested and facilities will be audited to make sure they are meeting infection control requirements.

“Clearly protecting our most

vulnerable citizens in nursing homes, rest homes and assisted living residence has emerged as one of the greatest challenges we face in our fight against Covid-19,” Baker said.

The outbreak at Holyoke Soldiers’ home could be due in part of to systemic issues that have plagued the facility for years, according to staff and union accounts. Now, it is under a federal investigation.

The US attorney’s office in Massachusetts announced an investigation with the Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division earlier this month into “whether the Soldiers’ Home violated the rights of residents by failing to provide them adequate medical care generally, and during, the coronavirus pandemic.”



## Over 3,300 inmates test positive for Covid-19 in four U.S. state prisons, 96% show no symptoms

By Victor Omondi

When the first case of the novel Coronavirus was reported in Ohio’s prisons, the director in charge found it hard to believe what was happening. The question was, how did it get to the inmates? Even tracing the roots of the spread was a bit difficult.

“We weren’t always able to pinpoint where all the cases were coming from,” said Annette Chambers-Smith, director of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction.

Soon after the outbreak, they began mass testing. They started with the Marion Correctional Institution that houses more than 2500 prisoners in north-central Ohio. Most of the inmates were older with pre-existing medical conditions.

Soon after testing 2300 inmates, they were shocked to discover that, out of 2028 who tested positive for the virus, more than 95% showed no symptoms.

“It was very surprising,” said Chambers-Smith, who oversees the state’s 28 correctional facilities.

As mass testing continues across the prisons, a larger number of inmates are showing no symptoms.



In at least four state prison systems, including Arkansas, North Carolina, Ohio, and Virginia, at least 96% of 3277 inmates who tested positive for the virus showed no symptoms, according to interviews with officials and records reviewed by Reuters. That’s out of the 4,693 tests that included results on symptoms.

These numbers contribute to the latest evidence suggesting that people who show no symptoms for the disease may be fueling the

spread, not only in state prisons that house more than 1.3 million inmates across the country but also in communities across the globe.

“It adds to the understanding that we have a severe undercount of cases in the U.S.,” said Dr. Leana Wen, adjunct associate professor of emergency medicine at George Washington University, said of the Reuters findings. “The case count is likely much, much higher than we currently know because of the lack of testing and surveillance.”



## Mother dies during childbirth after tweeting about hospital complaints

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Amber Isaac, a 26-year old first-time mother, reportedly died shortly after giving birth to her son, Elias, at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx. She apparently feared it might happen and even tweeted about it days before her unfortunate death.

“She had mentioned to me that she feels like she’s not gonna make it,” her 28-year old partner, Bruce McIntyre, told The City. “And I would try my best to cheer her up. She would tell her mom she’s really glad the baby is healthy, but she’s scared that she’s not gonna make it.”

Sadly, what Amber feared came true on April 21 when her heart stopped as the medical staff removed her son via emergency C-section, where her husband was prohibited to enter because of the general anesthetic used.

“As soon as they took the baby out, her heart stopped,” McIntyre said. “And she bled out. Her platelet levels were so low that her blood was like water, so nothing was clotting.”

According to reports, Amber’s platelet levels had been dropping since February and even though she wanted to see the doctor, they were only able to meet via video call due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Having researched that the maternal mortality rate among Black women is higher, she expressed her frustration about it on Twitter. On April 17, she wrote on Twitter, “Can’t wait to write a tell all about my experience during my last two trimesters dealing with incompetent doctors at Montefiore.”

She was only asked to come to the hospital on April 21 after calling and sending numerous emails. That day, Amber gave birth when doctors realized she had HELLP syndrome, a condition that could lead to pregnancy complications.

Amber delivered a healthy baby boy, Elias. However, she did not survive.



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# Editorial

# Philadelphia Observer

## Role of the Black church during a pandemic



**By Pastor Jamal Bryant,  
Senior Pastor of New Birth  
Missionary Baptist Church**

I recently came across an article on NewsOne.com that highlighted a furor on several social media platforms regarding whether wealthy pastors are contributing enough to COVID-19 relief efforts.

Admittedly, some of the social media memes and tropes were amusing and of course, some were

outright mean-spirited, sophomoric and disrespectful but that's the complex mosaic of the social media space and if you're the public square at all, you have to be able to stomach the bitter and the sweet.

As I processed the article and the dialogue it generated, my personal and pastoral PTSD was kicked into overdrive recalling the pummeling my church (New Birth) and I took just a few weeks earlier when we announced that we'd formulated a partnership with a

telemedicine firm and a community health clinic to provide coronavirus testing to our community.

Without bothering to do any due diligence, we were labeled as "opportunists," "vultures," "ungodly" and worse.

And while it is always painful to be insulted and castigated, it hurts even more when it's the African American community leading the campaign of misinformation. Of course, New Birth and I were confident in our intent and execution of the testing initiative and fortunately, local affiliate C BS 46, cleared the issue up nicely and we're moving forward.

Rather than get lost in trying to salve healing wounds, I believe our focus should turn to the larger question of what exactly the role of the church should be, not only in this season of a global pandemic but as the core societal anchor of the African American community.

I've preached many times that 93 percent of what Jesus did was outside of the walls of the church as he healed, fed, evangelized and organized.

Admittedly, if you were to honestly assess the 21st century church, that dynamic has been completely flipped. Far too many churches and pastors are concerned with what happens inside of the building and not concerned or active enough with affecting

the greater community, and those who need to be ministered to beyond the opulence and comfort of gleaming wood floors and the immaculate stained glass.

We indeed have a conundrum. Should the church be doing more? Yes; and if you look closely many churches are doing plenty.

I am blessed to pastor at New Birth, where we have the capacity and more importantly, an engaged, committed church family who take seriously our mandate to love, lead and live like Christ. Our goal is to be a church that does 93 percent or more of our ministry beyond the walls of our beautiful sanctuary.

In a little over a year, we have provided meals for furloughed federal workers; we have provided 5 000 pairs of free shoes for school-aged kids in the DeKalb/Atlanta community; we have bailed out first time, non-violent offenders; and married 30 couples free of charge in two mass weddings.

Even as we are all in the chaos and calamity of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have decided that even if church has stopped, ministry doesn't.

Consequently, we are providing free groceries to 1000 families each week and we have entered a partnership with local hotels to provide free lodging and meals to our beleaguered doctors, nurses

and allied health professionals.

This is the work of the church and it is not only having a major impact in the community; it is helping to attract souls to Christ and members to our church. To God be the glory for over 300 new members who have joined New Birth since we suspended our in-person worship a month ago.

I am proud of what we are doing at New Birth but there are plenty of other churches who have stepped up in a major way even if they are less heralded, barely noticed and never celebrated.

It is disheartening to see so much misinformation gain momentum and to see the church chastised and rebuked in haste and seemingly at will.

The church is needed now more than ever and as we emerge from this recent Easter holiday, I am praying for my comrades of the gospel and I am hopeful that we as a people will be less antagonistic towards the body of Christ and that God will resurrect our hopes, restore our compassion and revive our love and interdependency on one another.

These times are challenging, stressful and unprecedented; it calls for all of us to raise our game and our consciousness in the hopes that we will emerge as a stronger, better connected community.

## Let prisoners go during COVID-19 pandemic



**By Jesse Jackson**

Across the United States and across the world, prisoners are among the most vulnerable to the coronavirus. Overcrowded facilities, shortages of food and medicine, and totally inadequate testing expose prisoners who are disproportionately poor and afflicted with prior

conditions that render them vulnerable to the disease.

Prisoners increasingly are protesting their conditions, objecting to being sentenced to die in prison.

Experts across the world are urging governments to reduce their prison populations swiftly. Michelle Bachelet, the United Nations high commissioner for Human Rights, warned that "The consequences of neglecting [overcrowded conditions] are potentially catastrophic."

Many countries have begun to act. Turkey's parliament authorized the release of 45,000 prisoners. Indonesia has released at least 30,000. Even Iran's dictatorial regime has released roughly 85,000 detainees, while dealing harshly with those protesting the risks.

The United States locks up more people than any other country in the world, largely because of harsh and wrong-headed policies. Fifty-five thousand are detained in jail awaiting trials, too poor to pay for their freedom under the current cash bail system that is prevalent in many states.

The Prison Policy Initiative reports that 48,000 children are incarcerated on any given day. Many are charged only with "status offenses," such as truancy or homelessness. The Health and Human Services office in

charge of the custody of unaccompanied undocumented minors reports that 2,000 are locked up. The New York Times reports that 59 in custody have already tested positive for COVID-19.

In California, The Marshall Project notes, more than one in seven prisoners are over the age of 55. The percentage of those 55 and older in prison in the country has tripled over the course of this century.

As Piper Kerman, author of "Orange is the New Black," wrote in the Washington Post, this is largely the result of prison sentences that are longer than those imposed by any other country. "Elderly probationers and parolees have some of the lowest recidivism rates of all former inmates. Releasing such people poses very low public safety risks and will have a dramatic effect on preserving public health."

After an outbreak killed six inmates in a federal prison in Lisbon, Ohio, U.S. District Court Judge James Gwin decried the "shockingly limited" amount of testing, noting that the prison has received fewer than 100 tests, while a state prison of similar size had done about 4,000 tests. Two federal prisons in New York City reported that they had tested a total of only 19 inmates since the outbreak began; 11 were positive.

This has to change before the pandemic

spreads, and prisons across the country go up in flames as prisoners' riot against their conditions.

Inmates awaiting trial, the elderly, the afflicted, and those who have served much of their sentence should get early release, if possible quarantined at home to ensure they are safe.

The space freed up should be used to provide more "social distancing," while emergency steps are taken to provide adequate medicine, protective equipment like masks and gloves, and food.

Correctional officials need particular priority, for they are most at risk and, if infected, could spread the virus in the local communities. And the failure to provide adequate testing in prisons and jails, as well as in society as a whole, is utterly inexcusable at this late date.

The crisis should also lead to larger reforms—drastically reducing sentences while expanding alternatives to incarceration, ending the cash bail system and the practice of locking poor people up while they await trial, expanding parole, reducing the overcrowded and primitive conditions of too many jails and prisons.

The virus is like getting hit by a club across the head. Perhaps that might help bring us to our senses.

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## Irrfan Khan, Bollywood icon, dies at 53

Philadelphiaobserver.com

**B**ollywood star Irrfan Khan, known internationally for his roles in “Life Of Pi” and “Slumdog Millionaire,” died Wednesday, his representatives confirmed. He was 53.

“It’s saddening that this day, we have to bring forward the news of him passing away,” read a statement from Khan’s PR agency, Hardly Anonymous Communications. “Irrfan was a strong soul, someone who fought till the very end and always inspired everyone who came close to him.”

Khan, one of India’s best-known and most beloved actors, revealed

in March 2018 that he had been diagnosed with a rare neuroendocrine tumor — an abnormal growth that begins in the body’s specialized neuroendocrine cells, according to the Mayo Clinic.

Irrfan Khan and Saba Qamar in Hindi Medium (2017).

Earlier this week, Khan was admitted to the ICU in Mumbai’s Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital due to a colon infection, according to his PR agency.

Khan’s mother died last week, but Khan was unable to attend her last rites owing to India’s ongoing nationwide coronavirus lockdown restricting citizens’ movements, the agency said.



## Former radio personality creates social media app for African Americans ‘Marcel’ to Debut his New App on Chuck D’s RapStation

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

**O**n Friday, May 1, legendary Public Enemy front man Chuck D will host a “Hip-Hop Earthizen Town Hall,” with Dr. Khan, one of today’s most relevant rappers.

The Town Hall will take place via livestream at Chuck D’s Rapstation.com and on the station’s new app, built by the 30-year radio personality, Marcel.

“This app is bigger than just a way for people to have freedom of speech, or monetize their content,” Marcel told NNPA Newswire of his Nu Media Tech app.

“Those are truly important things, but bigger than that, we need to look at this app as a country. Our own country, in digital form,” he stated.

Expected to rival Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook the Nu Media Tech app is in the final stages of readiness, and those interested will be able to get it soon from the Apple Store or Google.

“It’s an app that will rival the majors that we deal with,” Marcel stated. “I told Chuck that I’m on Mars, and everybody else is on planet Earth because I keep hearing that we need this. I wanted to have an app where I can control it. You saw Teddy Riley and Babyface do their thing, but they’re not getting paid, Facebook got paid. My app is about freedom of speech, and it does what these others do and more. And, we won’t curb anyone’s free speech, and you should be paid when

you use it.”

The app will provide a personal social media platform for users who can determine themselves what content they’d like to monetize and get paid instantly, Marcel said.

He added that he’d invested much to make the app a reality.

“It’s about putting forth an effort to be a part of the solution to our problem as a people. People always say, ‘we need to come together and support one another,’” Marcel explained.

One of the benefits of the app is that it provides a place where everyone in the black community can all come together, Marcel said.

“Never before in the history of the world have we been able to come together in real-time, instantly. Information is knowledge, and knowledge is power. We need to share information in real-time,” he stated.

If an African American is unlawfully and wrongfully “shot in the back by the police or a Zimmerman type, we need to know this when it happens, and for those who organize, we can organize immediately,” Marcel noted.

His app will then allow African Americans to “use our collective voice and say ‘This is wrong and we aren’t allowing it.’”

“And then take it out to social media and blow it up with this kind of atrocity,” he said.

Like other social media platforms, the message can reach communities quickly.

“This, as I see it, is truly going to be a powerful platform for us, and yes, we have to support it.

Yes, it’s hard to do, yes it is very expensive and nearly impossible but so what. It has to exist. We can do it. It’s already here,” Marcel offered.

Chuck D told NNPA Newswire that he’s excited about Marcel’s invention.

“I’ve been having Rapstation.com, a 10-station channel portal that gets into the curation and total eloquence and narration of hip hop, and I met Marcel through the general manager,” Chuck stated.

“He’s one of those geniuses, and when people look around and say how come we don’t have these portals to get our content around, he ends up partnering with a super mega-company (Apple), and he keeps making inventions and innovations. What’s great is that he’s got one name, Marcel, like Prince.”

Marcel recently received a notice from his Apple submission team that there were still a few bugs that need working through that could delay the app for another week, but that won’t affect Chuck D’s scheduled Town Hall on Rapstation.

“Every time I fix a bug, I have to test with my team as well, and it usually takes a week for just the beta testers to have it,” Marcel stated.

“I am glad to be getting the word out about the app coming, but at the end of the day, I care about the app being done right more than a timetable of completion. It has to be right. As an African American, I don’t get to get it wrong. It has to be perfect or better. Especially in this space.”

## Wells Fargo waives collection of negative balances, provides stimulus check tips

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

**M**illions of U.S. residents have begun receiving government stimulus payments under the federal CARES Act.

Payments to eligible recipients will arrive by either direct deposit or a paper check, and Wells Fargo has issued six helpful tips that may help individuals access their funds as soon as possible.

The bank also has made some adjustments to ensure customers who are struggling financially, receive full payment.

In an email, Michael McCoy, who works in the bank’s corporate communications department, said Wells Fargo is pausing for 30 days

the collection of negative balances existing at the time when stimulus payments are deposited.

“Many customers will automatically receive stimulus payments in their accounts. We encourage customers who receive a stimulus payment paper check to use mobile deposits or ATMs to deposit the checks, if possible,” McCoy wrote.

“We will also cash stimulus payment checks for non-customers in our branches, with no fees charged,” he stated.

Determine if you qualify for a government stimulus payment Your eligibility is determined by the federal government

To learn more about eligibility and payment amounts, visit IRS.gov/coronavirus under the “Economic Impact Payments” link





# On the scene

By Audrey J. Bernard

## Ray J is all *pumped* up in new UrbanFlix TV series

From UrbanFlix TV comes “Pump” starring Ray J and produced by Grant, Phaedra Harris, and Angela White. The vivacious cast also stars Jennifer Freeman, McKinley Freeman, Lanett Tachel, Redaric Williams, Cynthia Rodriguez, Christian Torres Villalobos, Michael Jai White, and Masika Kalysha.

As the story goes, when trainer, Sean Ford (Ray J) gets the opportunity of a lifetime, he leaves his job high and dry as his *power punch* videos transform him from Fitness Trainer into “Fitness God.” But after his supplement line causes spastic bouts of diarrhea, he and his videos are banished

from the industry.

With no endorsements, no friends, and flat out broke, Sean must crawl back with his tail between his legs to gentrified Inglewood, to a gym that started it all — “Pump.” And as he clamors to piece his life back together, he’s forced to rely on the only family he has left, his co-workers at the gym, and they are dysfunctional to the max.

There’s a nutritionist who eats his emotions, a front desk receptionist who slangs hair by the ounce and gossip by the minute, a yoga teacher with bouts of Tourette’s, and a spin instructor who exudes equal

amounts of sexiness and sensitivity leaving every student equally...confused. This was the dysfunctional family that Sean left as soon as fame came knocking.

And now that he’s back, not everybody’s happy. Especially an old flame turned Supervisor that Sean left behind. And to make matters worse, a new foe has stepped into his once coveted top-spot and is besting him in every area of life. But Sean’s inflated ego won’t let him settle for second best and he’s coming to reclaim his throne, even if he has to *power punch* his way back to the top. *Stream Now on UrbanFlixTV.com*



Cast of “Pump”

## OWN ends ‘Greenleaf’ after five seasons

Oprah Winfrey’s OWN network is saying farewell to the church drama “Greenleaf” after a fifth and final season for 2020-21 Season. The dramatic TV show revolves around the unscrupulous world of the Greenleaf family and their sprawling Memphis megachurch. Scandalous secrets and lies are as numerous as the faithful.

In the final episodes premiering in June 2020, the Greenleafs attempt to maintain a united front in the face of losing their church to Bob Whitmore and Harmony and Hope Ministries, but secrets past and present create what could be fatal fractures in the family’s fragile foundation.

“Greenleaf” reigned as the number one scripted show on cable among Black viewers and averaged 1.1 million viewers in Season 4. “Greenleaf” is “described as the center of the community for the thousands of predominantly



Cast of “Greenleaf”

African American members who attend services there. But beneath its steeple lies a den of iniquity — greed, adultery, sibling rivalry, and

conflicting values.”

The cast includes Keith David, Lynn Whitfield, Lamman Rucker, Kim Hawthorne, Lovie Sim-

one, Merle Dandridge, Desiree Ross, Deborah Joy Winans, Tye White, Rick Fox, Beau Bridges, and Oprah Winfrey. The series

also stars Desiree Ross, Lovie Simone, Jason Dirden, Oprah Winfrey, Rick Fox and Tye White.

## OWN pulls plug on ‘If Loving You Is Wrong’

Oprah Winfrey Network also announced that the fifth season of Tyler Perry’s “If Loving You Is Wrong” will be the final season of the Georgia-filmed series. OWN says the final season “promises to be explosive and sexier than ever.” The TV series is created, written, directed and executive produced by Perry.

This sexy, sleek drama takes viewers into the lives of a group of husbands, wives and friends that live and love in the same middle class neighborhood. On the surface they are true-to-life, relatable people — raising children, working jobs, finding and maintaining romance — but just below the veneer of happiness, their lives are entangled by heartbreak, deceit and lies that threaten to destroy everything. The show premiered on OWN

in September 2014 to record numbers for the network. The premiere averaged 1.93 million viewers, beating 1.77 million who watched the premiere of Tyler Perry’s “Haves and Have Nots.”

“We are grateful to Tyler Perry and the talented cast and crew for giving us five incredibly entertaining seasons,” said Tina Perry, president of OWN. “We can’t wait for fans to see the jaw-dropping storylines that are going to unfold this season. It delivers all the juicy drama like only Tyler Perry can.”

The fêted cast for “If Loving You Is Wrong” includes April Parker-Jones, Amanda Clayton, Edwina Findley Dickerson, Zulay Henao, Heather Hemmens, Charles Malik Whitfield, Elton Williams, Joel Rush, Aiden Turner, and Octavio Pizano.



Cast of “If Loving You Is Wrong”



## Beyoncé's BeyGOOD Foundation announces \$6M COVID-19 for relief efforts

By Audrey J. Bernard

**M**egastar **Beyoncé** is throwing her support behind COVID-19 relief efforts by providing medical resources and increased access to mental health services in the country's hardest hit areas. The 24-time Grammy winner's BeyGOOD Foundation has announced a largescale plan of support to alleviate the impact of the coronavirus pandemic with the help of local organizations and

non-profits.

In a statement on her website, the foundation wrote, "Communities of color are suffering by epic proportions due to COVID-19. Many families live in underserved areas with homes that make it harder to practice social distancing. Communities were already lacking funds for education; health and housing are now faced with alarming infection rates and fatalities. And these communities lack access to testing and equitable healthcare."

As a result, the artist's BeyGOOD foundation will support organizations working on-the-ground towards coronavirus relief initiatives, including providing necessities like food, water, cleaning supplies, medicines, face masks and personal hygiene products to some of the country's hardest hit areas.

Organizations benefitting from BeyGOOD's magnanimous support include Matthew 25, No Kid Hungry, United Memorial Medical

Center, World Central Kitchen, and others. In addition to supporting community-based organizations, BeyGOOD is collaborating alongside Twitter co-founder and CEO Jack Dorsey's Start Small Fund to donate \$6M to mental health and wellness services in Houston, New York, Detroit and New Orleans through partnerships with UCLA and the National Alliance in Mental Illness (NAMI). Dorsey's Start Small fund put forth \$1B to COVID-19 relief funds last month.



Beyoncé (Photo by Getty Images)

"These are unprecedented times and it will take our collective effort to make a difference," they concluded.

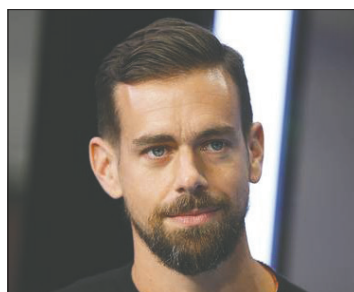
## Rihanna, Jack Dorsey & Jay-Z donate \$6.2M to COVID-19

**P**opstar **Rihanna's** Clara Lionel Foundation (CLF), Twitter & Square CEO **Jack Dorsey** and **Jay-Z's** Shawn Carter Foundation (SCF) released \$6.2 million in grants for COVID-19 rapid response efforts, both in the U.S and abroad. The grants, distributed across eleven organizations, will support efforts that include providing shelter, food and healthcare services to homeless youth in New Orleans, to building virus testing capacity across the Caribbean and to the



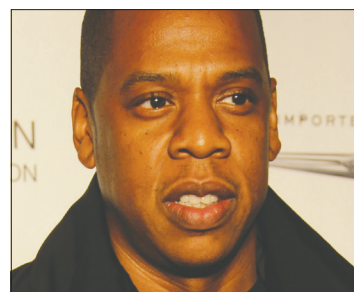
Rihanna

set-up of ICUs, hospital beds and isolation units in sub-Saharan Afri-



Jack Dorsey

ca, among others. This latest joint effort follows multiple additional



Jay Z

rounds of COVID-19 response grants, including a co-funded

\$4.2 million round by CLF and Jack Dorsey and a \$2 million matching grant commitment by CLF and the SCF. Earlier in March, CLF announced \$5 million to on-the-ground partners working to protect and prepare vulnerable and marginalized communities in the United States, Caribbean and in Africa. Previously, Rihanna and Dorsey had donated \$4.2 million to help victims of domestic violence in Los Angeles during the COVID-19 stay-at-home order. (Photos by Getty Images)



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

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

Complete the census at:  
**2020CENSUS.GOV**

Paid for by U.S. Census Bureau.

Shape  
your future  
START HERE >

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**2020**



# Health

## Angelina Jolie offers parenting advice during the pandemic

Newyorkbeacon.com

**A**ward-winning actress Angelina Jolie has penned a letter to parents, offering advice during the coronavirus pandemic.

"I am thinking of you. I am imagining how hard each of you is trying to get through your days," reads the letter published in Time magazine's Parents newsletter.

"How much you want to lead your loved ones through this. How you worry. How you plan. How you smile for them, when inside you feel at times you are breaking."

Jolie, a mother of six, joined the magazine as a contributing editor last year. She writes monthly on topics including displacement and human rights.

Angelina Jolie with her children.

In the letter published Friday, she opened up about her childhood and her decision to become a mother.

"I was not a very stable youth. In fact, I never thought I could be

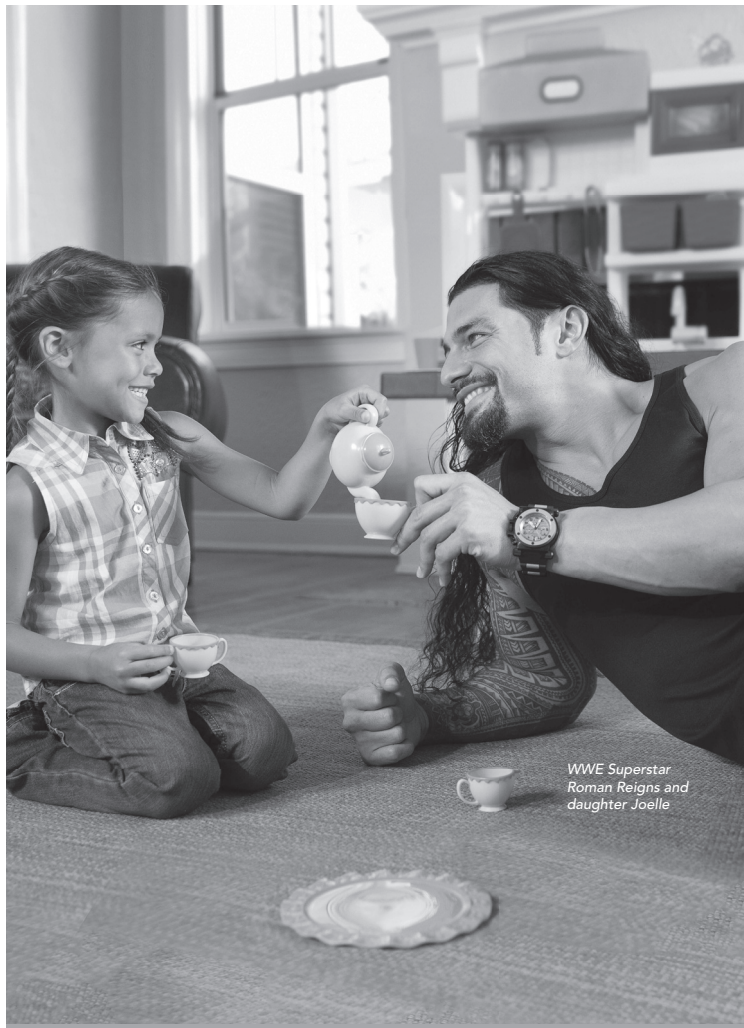


anyone's mom. I remember the decision to become a parent. It wasn't hard to love. It wasn't hard to dedicate myself to someone and something greater than my life. What was hard was knowing that from now on I needed to be the one to make sure everything was okay."

The 44-year-old continued about parents at home with their children during the pandemic, "all hoping they can do everything right, answer all needs, and stay calm and positive."

One thing that has helped her is realizing it's impossible to be perfect.

"It is a lovely thing to discover that your children don't want you perfect. They just want you honest. And doing your best."



WWE Superstar Roman Reigns and daughter Joelle

Take time to  
be a dad today.



fatherhood.gov  
877-4DAD411



## Open letter to Black America on COVID-19

By Glenn Ellis(TriceEdneyWire.com) –

**D**ear Black America: By now, you seen or heard that it has been validated once again: when white America gets a cold, black people get pneumonia!

The early data emerging from the coronavirus pandemic in the United States has laid bare the disparities many public-health specialists are all too familiar with: Racial minorities are disproportionately affected by health crises such as this one. And in the case of COVID-19, more of them have died. As of this writing, there are over half-million confirmed cases, and over 20,000 dead. According to some experts, blacks, no matter where they live in this country, are thought to represent half of all those who have died, and upwards of 60-70% of confirmed cases.

In every one of the recent stories highlighting COVID-19, and its' impact on African American communities all over this country, images, video, and commentary all magnify the "widespread" lack of compliance, the extreme vulnerability, and the disbelief that the virus is real. To the uninformed, it appears that black folks are just that "trifling". If we buy into it, looking at the widespread devastation across this country, we could easily be made to feel that it our "fault". Don't let them make you mess with your sense of self-worth!

Somewhere, sooner or later, someone's got to talk about institutional racism.

Everyone can agree that African Americans, have been slow be tested; have difficulty complying with social distancing; tend to be "frontline" workers, without the ability to "work from home"; and are carrying a disproportionate burden of the full range of chronic diseases. As all of these points, certainly, are major contributing factors to the high infection and death rates from COVID-19 among African Americans, few acknowledge the link to institutional racism. While America was being built into the world's greatest power, the disadvantages and marginalization of 400 years has left African Americans (for the most part) sicker, poorer, less educated; and more vulnerable at a time like this. "You can't drive a bus or wash dishes on Zoom."

I felt an obligation to share some insights to help make sure that this does not become a "blame the victim" moment, or worse another effort to chip away at our collective sense of self-worth and/or self-esteem.

We have not historically been included in mainstream society. We lived within the framework of our cultural patterns and behaviors. Almost without exception, every area where we have worse



outcomes, has at its core, the impact of having built a society, with its' tenets grounded in institutional racism.

Let me give you an example.

When the CDC guidelines were established, African American communities, by and large, were disadvantaged before the first test was conducted. The country was told not to go to the hospital or doctor's office; call your doctor! Well...no one considered that a significant number of the black folks in this county don't have a doctor! Newly insured under Obamacare, state exchanges, or Medicaid expansion often do not have a specific individual they can call. As a result, a large percentage of the entire black community was disadvantaged before the first test was even conducted. So, the first to tested were the first to be hospitalized, and the first to get a ventilator. In addition, no testing means we were contagious longer and exposed larger numbers of other people who in turn infected others. Thus, the huge infection and death rates in our communities and families.

Another unacknowledged issue is the management of chronic diseases for African American patients. We were generally sicker with a disproportionate rate of diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease (look at all the dialysis centers), and the usual suspects, before COVID-19 hit. Now, not only are we seeing a strain on the medical workforce to care for those hit with the virus. What are the provisions to insure that adequate, quality primary care will continue to widely available to care for this segment of our population? If there is nothing done, coming out of this we will continue to be sicker and more vulnerable to whatever may hit us in the future. Then, we will really feel like we did something wrong. Don't let them make you mess with your sense of self-worth!

Add to that the cultural behaviors in African American communities.

Webster's defines social distancing as, "the practice of maintaining a greater than usual physical distance from other people or of avoiding direct contact with people or objects in public places during the outbreak of a contagious disease in order to minimize exposure and reduce the transmission of infection." Every culture is a world of its own. Verbal communication and day to day way of life are the true expression of what the culture of a certain place is like. Italians are typically a very social, and physically affectionate people.

You know, the same cultural behaviors that (in my opinion) almost wiped out Italy: close families; celebrations; funerals; physically affectionate. No one singled them out for their behavior. Now, can we do better? Should we be doing better? You absolutely right. We can and we should; and I believe we are, and we will. Don't let them make you mess with your sense of self-worth! We're smarter than that, and better than that.

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

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

Glenn Ellis, MPH, is a Harvard Medical School Research Bioethics Fellow and author of *Which Doctor?*, and *Information is the Best Medicine*. Ellis is an active media contributor on Public Health Equity and Medical Ethics. For more good health information visit: [www.glennellis.com](http://www.glennellis.com)



# International

## Floods, human activities submerge Lake Victoria region

(GIN) –

**P**ounding rains over the last two months have set off catastrophic flooding of biblical proportions, surging over the weekend into some 20 of the 47 Kenyan counties bordering Lake Victoria—a massive trans-boundary body of water shared by Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Some 23 rivers empty water into the lake.

“These floods are the worst to hit the country since 1997 when heavy rains linked to the El Niño phenomenon killed more than 80 people in 24 hours”, said Abbas Gullet, Secretary General of the Kenya Red Cross after viewing the disaster area.

Hundreds have been displaced and farmland is underwater, ruining prospects for food self-sufficiency.

For decades, scientists have warned of the impact of human

activities and climate variability causing unusual levels of rainfall.

“Loss of forest cover, encroachment on wetlands, lake-shores and river banks including poor land use practices, have resulted in soil erosion leading to siltation of our water bodies,” Uganda’s water and environment minister, Sam Cheptoris, said. “This has resulted in the rapid movement of water into the lakes and rivers with a lot of silt, which reduced water storage capacities of our water bodies.”

“The level is going up. We cannot stop the water,” warned Dr. Callist Tindimugaya, Ugandan commissioner for water resources planning. “Move to other areas if you are near the shores. Because water levels will increase as we release the water (from the Nalubaale Power Station) in Jinja.”

“People have built all around the lake because the level had

gone down previously,” he continued. “People encroached on the protection zone... The water is coming back to reclaim its position.”

“It is eroding shorelines, altering ecosystems and causing flooding and economic damage,” Raphael Kapiyo, an environmental scientist in Kenya, told the Standard Media.

There is special concern about villages and towns near the Tana River where three hydroelectric dams could be topped over by water running down from Mount Kenya.

Waterfront properties, luxury hotels and a Protea Hotel, part of Marriott International, have also been submerged in the last few weeks.

Leonard Ogolla, a village elder, is still counting losses incurred from the flooding.

“Everything I owned, includ-



ing my house, has been swept away. We are hoping that we can get some help to get back on our feet,” he said.

Kenya’s meteorological department has warned the rains could continue for the next two months.

## May they rest in peace

### ANC military leader Denis Goldberg—who shared prison time with Madiba—passes

(GIN) –

**O**ne time ANC military leader Denis Goldberg was one of Nelson Mandela’s two co-defendants from the 1963-64 Rivonia trial at which 10 men were on trial for their lives for conspiring to overthrow the apartheid regime by force.

Goldberg was sentenced to life imprisonment alongside Mandela for the crime of sabotage, serving 22 years at Pretoria Central prison, rather than Robben Island because of his color.

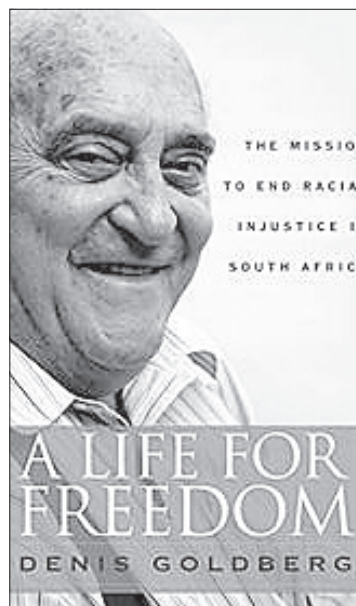
He was a mainstay of the ANC’s military operation in Cape Town, obtaining bomb ingredients and instructing recruits on how to handle them. After the Sharpeville massacre

in 1960, he was recruited by Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), the armed wing of the ANC, and took part in its campaign of sabotage against installations and rose to run its first military training camp.

He fought against corruption but for years only within the ANC. Eventually, on a visit to London in 2016 to receive the freedom of the City of London, he publicly called on the Zuma government to resign.

His last campaign was to create the House of Hope, an arts and educational center in Hout Bay for deprived children, to which he left his collection of vibrant African art.

He died at his home near Cape Town. He was 87.



### First Kenyan PhD marine scientist, Prof Mohamed Hyder dead at 88

(GIN) –

**K**enya’s first PhD marine scientist, Prof Mohamed Hyder, died at his home in Kizingo, Mombasa, after a long illness. The 88-year-old leaves behind a wife and three children.

After completing his undergraduate work at Makerere University, Professor Hyder moved to Scotland where he took up biology, which was his passion.

While teaching at Makerere, he conducted research in marine life and fisheries. He later got a job at the University of Nairobi where he set up and headed the College of Biological Sciences.

“Mombasa mourns the loss of one of its great sons,” commented Mombasa Gov. Hassan Joho.



“A great scholar and known to many across the world for his knowledge, wisdom, kindness and humility.”

Communication scientist Julius Kirigha, who also wrote a film about Hyder, added: “His contributions in the field of academics were great and we wish he could have stayed longer.”

### Fela Kuti with drummer Tony Allen responsible for Afrobeat sound

(GIN) –

**P**ioneering drummer for many decades, Tony Allen was a musical partner of the Nigerian singer, composer and activist Fela Anikulapo-Kuti. He passed away in Paris at age 79.

Allen was the drummer and musical director of Fela’s band

Africa ’70 and was one of the primary co-founders of the Afrobeat sound.

As Fela sharpened his attacks on corruption in politics, Allen took a different direction, collaborating with many of the world’s top musicians. This year, Allen released Rejoice, a CD of music he created with late

South African trumpeter Hugh Masekela.

“Rest In Power to Tony Allen, The Godfather of Afrobeat Rhythms,” wrote Nigerian-American rapper

Jidenna on Twitter. “Thank you for giving us the sound that would change our lives and our destiny as a people.”





# Culture

## Michael Jordan is donating 'The Last Dance' proceeds to charity

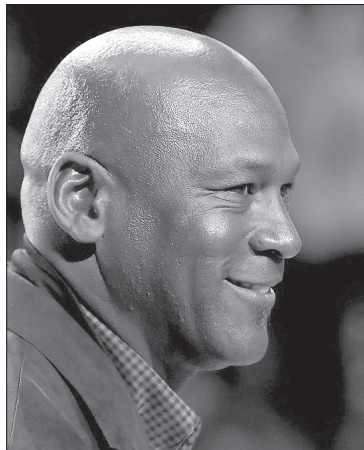
Newyorkbeacon.com

**M**ichael Jordan and NBA fans have been glued to the TV ever since ESPN started airing its 10-part miniseries *The Last Dance*.

According to multiple reports, the billionaire NBA legend is donating his share of the proceeds from the docuseries to various charities. He has reportedly earned up to \$4 million from the highly-rated project.

"\$0: The amount Jordan will bank from *The Last Dance*. He's donating his entire share of the proceeds, which should reach at least \$3 million to \$4 million, to charitable causes," *Forbes'* Kurt Badenhausen reported.

The *Last Dance* continues to attract tons of viewers to ESPN and is spilling all of the hot tea about Jordan and his Bulls teammates in his last championship



season with the team.

In one of two episodes that aired on Sunday, Jordan shared that he once had to fly to Vegas to retrieve his teammate, the brash and outspoken Dennis Rodman, from the bed of his then girlfriend, Carmen Electra. The former MTV video host and actress stated that it could be "hazardous" being Rodman's girlfriend due to his off-court antics. (They eventually married, but it only lasted six months.)

## Oprah Winfrey to deliver virtual commencement speech for Class of 2020

Newyorkbeacon.com

**O**prah Winfrey is lending her voice and inspiration to help the graduating class of 2020 have at least one memorable moment.

According to *Deadline*, Oprah will be the featured commencement speaker for #Graduation2020: Facebook and Instagram Celebrate the Class of 2020, a multi-hour streaming event set for May 15 on both platforms.

Aimed at this year's seniors whose commencement ceremonies have been canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic, Facebook and Instagram will be honoring the class of 2020 with a virtual graduation event. It also will feature words of wisdom from Awkwafina, Jennifer Garner, Lil Nas X, Simone Biles, among many others.

The idea comes after 43 states and Washington DC issued orders that will keep students at home for the remainder of the



academic year, and many schools have turned to remote learning. The decision to help fight the coronavirus pandemic has canceled countless high-school and university graduations across the world, with a number of universities considering the possibility that in-person classes may not resume until 2021.

Miley Cyrus is also scheduled to appear for a special performance of her hit song, "The Climb."

In addition Facebook is providing tools for graduates to host their own virtual graduation ceremony and parties. The company is adding special features such as a virtual graduation hub, custom filters, and celebrations enabled by Messenger Rooms.

The video will be broadcast on Facebook Watch and available at facebook.com or via the app with individual segments being posted to the official @instagram account on Instagram.

# NO ONE GETS A DIPLOMA ALONE.

If you're thinking of finishing your high school diploma, you have more support than you realize. Find teachers and free adult education classes near you at [FinishYourDiploma.org](https://FinishYourDiploma.org).







By Victoria Horsford

# What's going on

## COVID19

**The worldwide total of COVID19 infections through May 4 is 3, 483, 055 with 251,537 deaths. For same period, in the United States, there were 1.2 million cases of COVID-19 with 68,843 deaths. The New York State COVID19 infections totaled 324, 357 cases with 24,788 deaths, including NYC stats of 181,034 cases with 18,580 deaths. Why does the United States total 1/3 of the COVID19 cases?**

The COVID19 coronavirus pandemic is the new academic discipline, a required course for all students of planet earth. The pandemic has touched down on almost all continents delivering a power punch of fear, sorrow and suffering. COVID19 also underscored the abundant fault lines in global society: racial inequities and disparities in income, education, health care, and class. The public health crisis has impacted international economies, and brought the world to a discomfoting standstill. Closer to home, look at the republic of the United States unable to summon the national leadership necessary to manage a bona fide crisis, having claimed the lives of almost 69,000 Americans. The only defense Americans have against the dreaded public health menace are strong, intelligent proactive governors like Governor Andrew Cuomo, ready to do battle with the limited resources at their disposal. Since mid March, many states have run billion dollar deficits battling the carnage brought by COVID19. The Federal government has enacted stimulus initiatives to corporations, to Americans, but no financial aid to the states. A new paradigm for the social order is in order once COVID19 is vanquished.



Gavin Newsom,

On May 4, President Donald Trump officially politicizes his administration's mismanaged COVID19 crisis when he tells the New York Post. "Blue state coronavirus bailouts are unfair to Republicans. A bailout is different than reimbursement for the plague." He predicted that an economic rebound from coronavirus by the end of the year. Is he saying that chief executives, the Governors Andrew Cuomo, NY; Phil Murphy, New Jersey; Gavin Newsom, California; JB Pritzker, Illinois and their constituents are not legitimate stakeholders in the USA. Either of the above governors would be a good VEEP running mate for Biden! Trump is unwittingly writing his downfall in November. Moreover, he will take down most of the 23 GOP US Senators up for re-election.

A note on the Trump blue state bias, many southern red states are the next COVID19 hotspots. Presumably, he will not bail them out. States like Texas, Georgia and Florida, who adopted the Trump call for "reopening the economy" are experiencing surges in COVID19 cases and deaths.

A gradual return to states' reopening would be more prudent. And social distancing and the face masks are not to be abandoned yet. Most of the red states do not have infrastructure in place to accommodate runaway virus pandemic. What is happening in those early reopen the economy states? In Utah, officials closed tattoo parlors and salons after 500 complaints were filed. In Wisconsin a cardiologist was suspended from work after attending a rally without his mask. In Alabama, police were called to remove teens hanging out in front of a bowling alley.

America, America, the land of the free who do not want to wear face masks and the home of many fools unable to cope with cabin fever.



Andrew Cuomo

## US/COVID19 RAPID RECOVERY

Top priority must be given to an effective COVID19 treatment and to a COVID19 vaccine. Science researchers the world over are poised on a cure. More than 40 scientists and Big Pharma are working on cures. A team of National Institutes of Health scientists are working on a vaccine as is Oxford University which is running clinical trials. Both are guestimating a breakthrough by year's end.

Meanwhile, read COVID19 survival tips. An Essence magazine online news brief written by a medical doctor lists the disadvantages of social isolation, which increases sedentary behavior, spending lots of time sitting while working at home. The lack of physical movement can lead to decreases blood flow and allows gravity to cause blood to pool in the legs, putting one at risk for two conditions 1)

deep vein thrombosis DVT which a blood clot in the legs with symptoms like pain, redness or swelling of the calves and 2) pulmonary embolism, PE, a blood clot in the lungs that may have traveled from the legs with symptoms like sharp chest pain, trouble breathing or sudden death without warning. Prevention tip walking, bicycling, don't stay still for long stretches, and drink lots of water. Work the legs!

## US ELECTIONS/2020

FOR YOUR INFO: New York City registered voters can request a written ballot for the New York June 23 Primary, go to <https://nycabsentee.com>. Primary for US Congressmembers, NYS Assembly and NYS and NYS Senate. Board of Elections will start to mail ballots on May 8.

Presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden did not keep his promise to name a running mate by May 1. He named a 4 member committee to help determine a VEEP, which will probably be announced at the live Democratic Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 17 to 20. Will he consider candidates other than women? His polls against Trump look good in blue, red and battleground states. His campaign is marred by an ex Senate aide Tara Reade



Tom Perez

who alleged that he sexually assaulted her 27 years ago. Hello Tom Perez, Democratic National Committee Chair, please no more major changes or surprises before August 17.

## ARTS/CULTURE

The 2020 Pulitzer Awards were announced on May 4. African Americans artists fared well. Colson Whitehead won Fiction Award for THE NICKEL BOYS based on the real horrors extant at the "Dozier School for Boys, in Florida, for 111 years, which warped the lives of thousands of boys." Whitehead won 2017 Pulitzer award for fiction for THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD. Nikole Hannah-Jones, NY Times journalist for won award for Best Commentary for her report on the Times Magazine's "The 1619 Project," a single- issue about "the contributions of African Americans, including enslaved Africans, to American history." Jericko Brown won for Poetry, "The Tradition," a collection which runs the gamut from "the Trojan War to James Baldwin to the unpunished violence that police commit against African Americans." Anthony Davis won for MUSIC for "The Central Park Five" a jazz-infused opera with libretto by Richard Wesley, about "The Latino and African American teenagers wrongfully convicted of a 1989 group rape of a white woman." A special citation was awarded posthumously to African-American Ida B. Wells (1862-1931) for her role as investigative journalist/founder of the Memphis Free Speech, who dealt with racist violence and lynchings in America." Michael R. Jackson, wins for DRAMA, "A Strange Loop by Michael R. Jackson," about a gay, Black musical theater writer, which played at NY Off Broadway house, Playwright Horizons. Founded in 1917, the Pulitzers are US Awards for achievement in newspapers, online journalism, literature, and musical composition.

Iconic model and business woman Naomi Campbell dons the Essence May/June cover for



Nikole Hannah-Jones

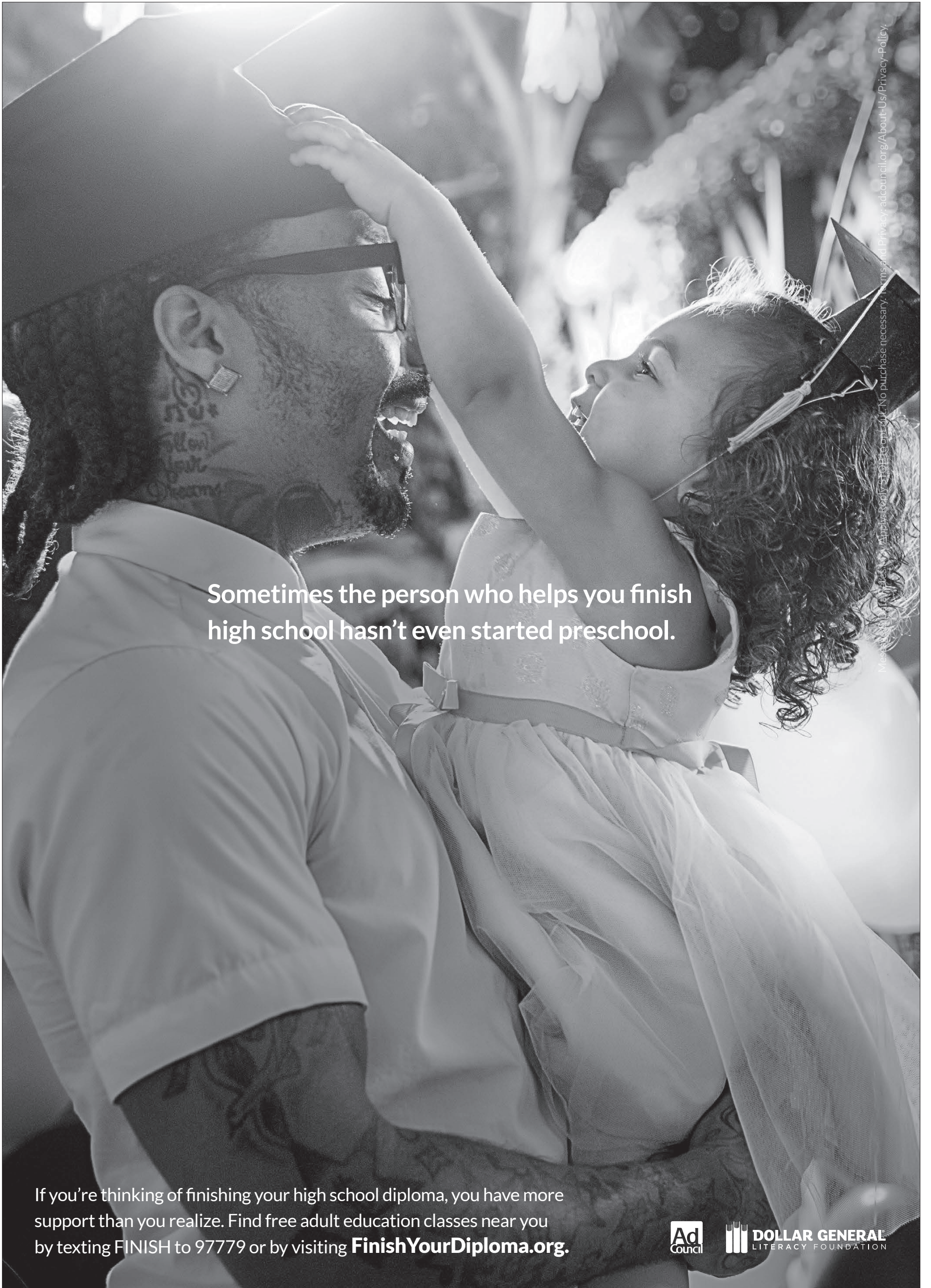
its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary issue. This



Naomi Campbell

golden anniversary issue included stories relevant to its audience of African American women and the effects of COVID 19 on their lives. Issue is first in Essence issue curated by its cover personality. Campbell did her own makeup and executed the cover photo shoot with her Iphone owing to COVID19 travel restrictions. Founded and financed in 1970 by African American entrepreneurs, Essence Communications and Travel Fest were sold to media giant Time Warner Warner between 2000 to 2005. Billionaire Liberia-born investor Richelieu Dennis, acquired Essence package in 2018.





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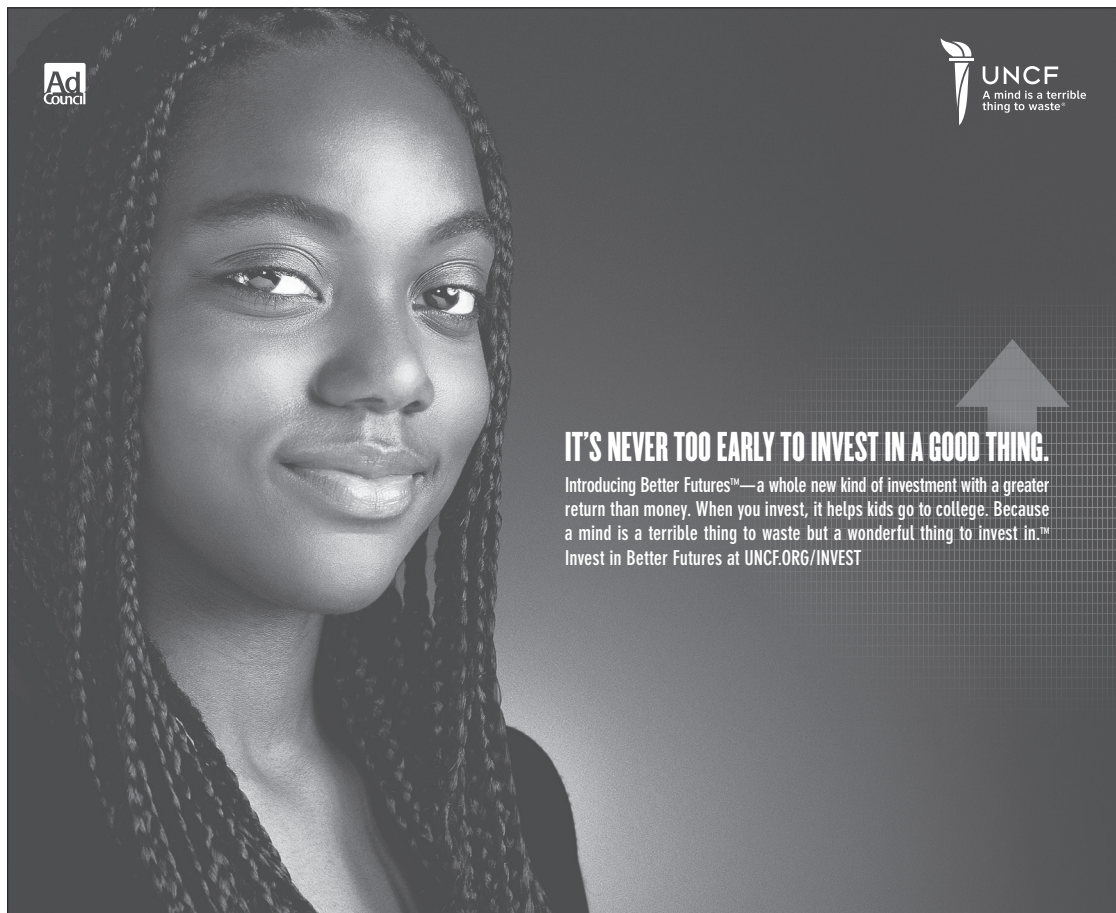
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# Job well done, George!



George Willis (L) With Sports Editor Andrew Rosario  
Photo: Michael Henriquez

By Andrew Rosario

After 23 distinguished years as one of the best columnists/sportswriters in the country, the New York Post said goodbye to George Willis. To say it is their loss is an extreme understatement.

I began reading the New York Post in High School playing baseball in my junior and senior year. My first year in junior college (Sullivan County) one of my teammates was Yankees second basemen Willie Randolph's brother. Another story all together. I continued to read the paper when I could, following the New York sports teams.

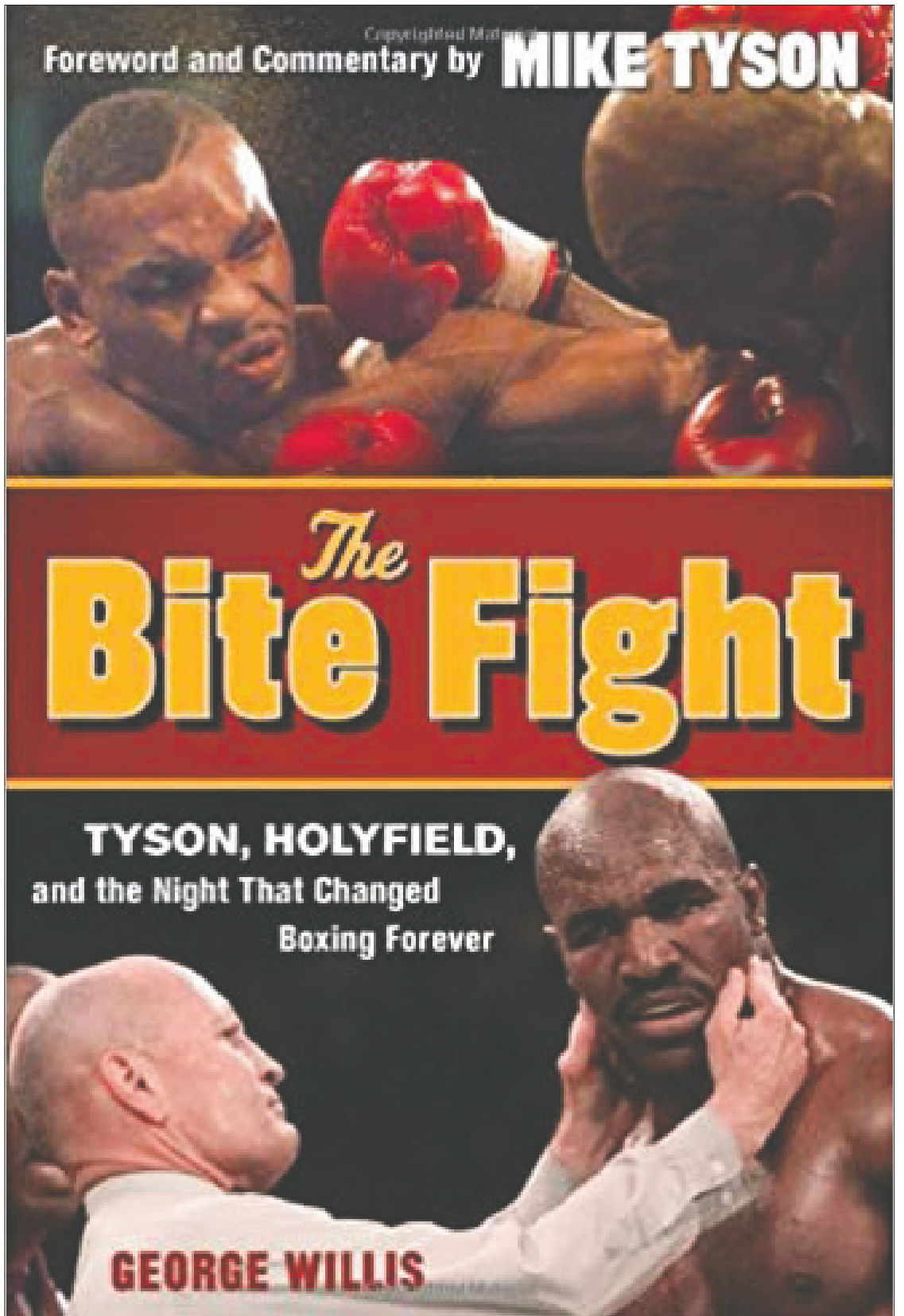
Fast forward to 1984 and I was employed in corporate America for the next 12 years. Sports had always been a part of my life. My parents raised 5 of us, my sister being the oldest. We played every sport. My older brother Charlie was the point guard his freshman year at Baruch college. My younger brother came within one game of going to the college World Series as a member of Wagner College losing to St. John's that had John Franco and Frank Viola in their rotation. Gene made the NCAA College All Star team and started at third base. We sat front row at Shea Stadium watching Gene play in a stadium that saw the Metropolitan win the 1969 and 1973 World Series.

All the while I had been reading the writings of George Willis as he covered the most important sporting events both locally and nationally. I left corporate America in 1997 not sure what my future had in store. As an undergrad at the New York Institute of Technology, I was part of WTNY the school radio station. Because it was a cable radio station we were granted credentials. I covered the Knicks and Yankees. To this day, stories of Billy Martin and Hubie Brown resonate. The

number of sports writers of color were few. Then came November of that fall.

I was in South Beach Miami when I received a call from radio station 98.7 Kiss FM. The New York Knicks were in town and they asked if I could get pre and post game sound. I decided to stay in Miami and cover the Heat for the rest of the regular season not knowing they would face the Knicks in the first round of the playoffs. Walking into the Knicks locker room, the very first person I saw was George Willis. My comfort level went through the roof and this was before I introduced myself to him. After practice, I asked George what he had planned for the rest of the day. Knowing South Beach, I suggested Ocean Drive and the beach. Along with Anthony Gargano, we met, had drinks and began a friendship that has last to this day.

I have had the pleasure of knowing George both personally and professionally. He has covered football, baseball and basketball always bringing more to the story than the fine score. When it came to golf and boxing, he is the "go to" guy. I interviewed on many occasions for the various outlets I worked for. He authored the book, *The Bite Fight: Tyson, Holyfield and the Night That Changed Boxing Forever*. When he had the book signing party in a Manhattan sports bar, Mike Tyson made an appearance. Tyson wrote the forward in the book saying in part, "when I look on my second fight with Evander, I still can't believe I bit his ear." Thanks to George, I was able to interview Tyson one on one. A testament to the kind of person George is, other luminaries attended the event most notably, Rob Gronkowski who was still a member of the New England Patriots.



In Depth Book Of A Historic Night  
Photo: Special to the NY Beacon

What stands out more than anything else about George is the fact that he never has forgotten where he came from. He attended Mayfield High School in Las Cruces, New Mexico before studying journalism at New Mexico State. George recently posted a photo of a game between his Aggies when they hosted Larry Bird and Indiana who were ranked #2 in the country at the time. George was sitting courtside. "One of the best games I ever witnessed," he would say.

"George has been a staple of New York sports and the culture of sports for many years," said Jamie Harris sports editor of the New York Amsterdam News. "He's embodied

the ideals of sports journalism and has been an exemplary model for many young black journalist who have emerged in part as a result of the path George has helped pave."

George has been more than a friend. I was fortunate enough to attend the wedding to his lovely wife Janelle. I have learned more about boxing and golf because of his writings. In a ego filled industry where everyone is "a sports expert" and can only get their point across by screaming, yelling and cutting people off, George has been a calming writer who brings a human element aside from the results.

Queens native Rob Parker

wrote for both the Daily News and Newsday. Currently with Fox Sports1 Parker said, "the loss of George Willis from the New York Post is a big blow to the NYC landscape. GW is a talented writer with a strong voice. his commentary will be missed by many."

Given his resume and reputation great things are in store for George Willis. His writing talent and personality have been well established. When this Coronavirus/Covid19 fiasco ends and sports are back, George Willis will be on the scene. Sports fans will be waiting for his take. I look forward to standing next to him at the next press conference.