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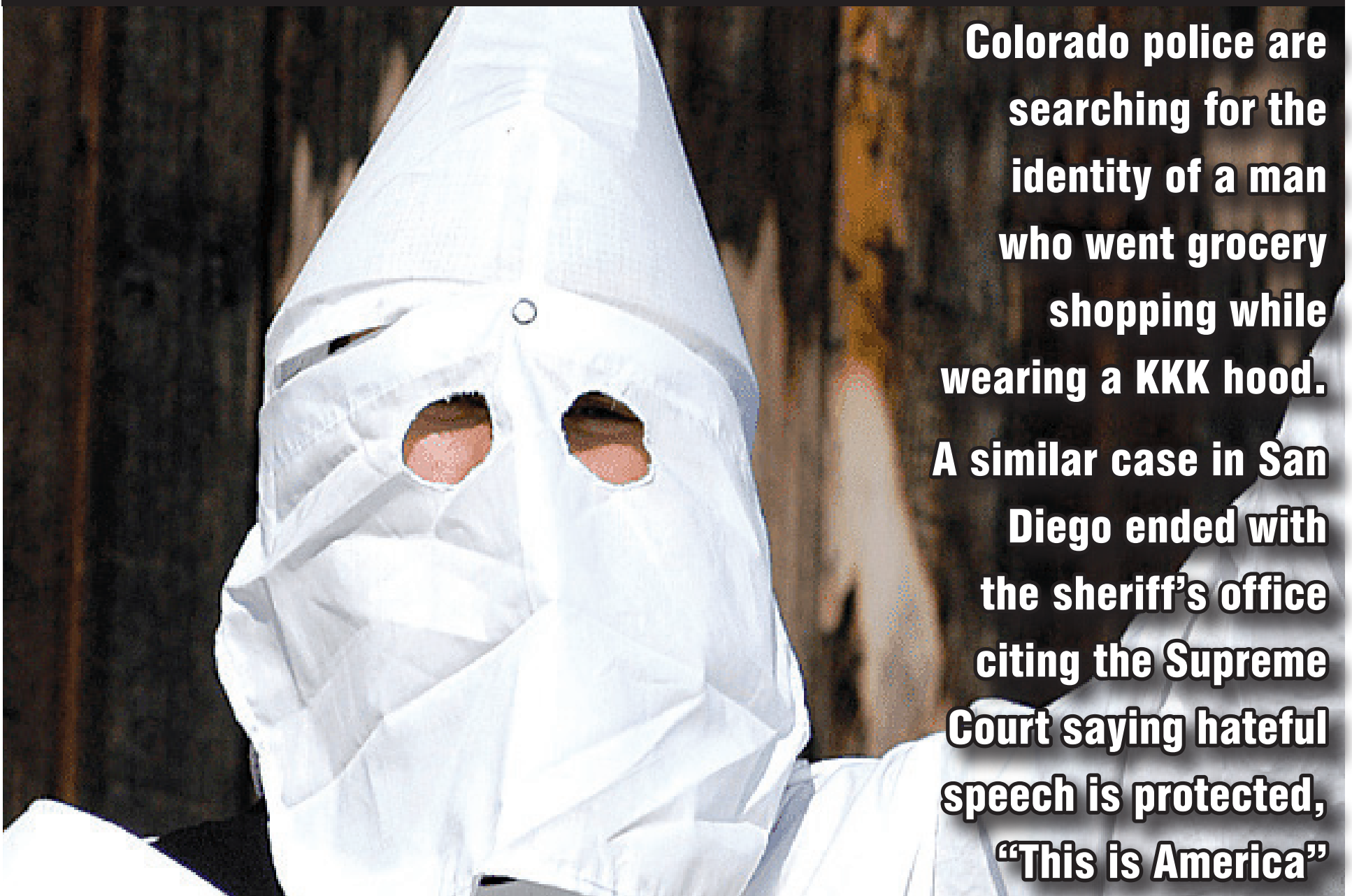
Speaking Truth to Justice

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NEW COVID-19 FASHION STATEMENT?



Colorado police are searching for the identity of a man who went grocery shopping while wearing a KKK hood. A similar case in San Diego ended with the sheriff's office citing the Supreme Court saying hateful speech is protected, "This is America"

Many are simply turning masks into emblems of their white supremacist desires, pg3.



Newborn babies and mothers killed in attack on Kabul hospital

Kabul, Afghanistan (CNN)

At least 11 people have been killed in an attack on a hospital in Kabul, including two newborn babies, mothers and nurses, Afghanistan's interior ministry said Tuesday.

Fifteen others were wounded during the Tuesday morning attack on the hospital compound in the capital, which includes a maternity ward run by aid group Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF).

Three gunmen entered the 100-bed hospital at 10 a.m. local time (1.30 a.m. ET) in an attack that has not yet been claimed by any group.

Explosions and gunfire were reported after the hospital in the Dasht-e Barchi area of Kabul was attacked, MSF said on Twitter, and an eyewitness near the scene earlier told CNN that they heard sporadic gunfire. At least 80 patients and staff were evacuated and the first floor of the hospital was cleared.



All three attackers were eventually killed by police, ending the assault, the interior ministry said.

Afghan security personnel arrive at the site of the attack on the west side of the Afghan capital.

Special forces blocked the area around the hospital, which is located on the west side of Kabul in police district 13, after arriving on the scene, according to interior ministry spokeswoman Marwa Amini.

The hospital massacre hap-

pened within hours of a suicide blast at a funeral ceremony in the country's Nangarhar province that left at least 24 dead and 68 injured, according to the provincial media office.

Government and parliament officials were attending the funeral of police officer Sheikh Akram in eastern Afghanistan when an attacker detonated explosives in the crowd, said provincial spokesman Atahullah Khogyani.

Anti-Asian hate crimes up 21% in UK during coronavirus crisis

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A session of the home affairs select committee on online harm since the onset of the pandemic also heard that incidents of revenge porn – the sharing of private sexual material of another person without their consent either online and offline – had increased.

Susan Williams, the Home Office minister for countering extremism, told the committee that extremism generally had not increased, but there had been a rise in specific types of hate crime.

She said: "I've been speaking to our hate crime lead, and there's been a 21% uptick in hate incidents against the IC4 and IC5 community."

Police use IC codes in radio communications and crime recording systems to describe the apparent ethnicity of a suspect

or victim. IC4 relates to south Asia and IC5 to east Asia.

Incidents of hate crime against Chinese people in the UK have been well-documented in the run up to and during the lockdown period, including individuals being spat on and assaulted.

Police estimates suggest a threefold increase in such incidents in the first three months of 2020 compared with the same period last year.

Lady Williams's answer jars with information provided by another Home Office minister, Kit Malthouse, in answer to a parliamentary question from the Liberal Democrats about the proportion of hate crime incidents against people of Chinese ethnicity. Malthouse did not provide a figure in his response, and said: "Information is not routinely collected on the ethnicity of victims."

Paul Manafort released from prison years early because of Coronavirus

Philadelphiaobserver.com

WASHINGTON — President Trump's former campaign chairman Paul Manafort has been released from prison to home confinement over fears about the coronavirus.

The move marks a new twist in one of the most high-profile cases of the investigation into Trump's ties to Russia, which sent Manafort and others in Trump's inner circle to prison.

Manafort was charged with financial crimes and failing to register as a foreign agent in relation to his work as a consultant for the Russia-friendly former president of Ukraine, Viktor Yanukovich, but he wasn't accused of any criminal wrongdoing in direct connection with his role with the Trump campaign.

Manafort, 71, was released from FCI Loretto in central Pennsylvania early Wednesday morning, a person familiar with his situation confirmed to VICE News, following a report from ABC News citing two sources.

Manafort and his lawyers have repeatedly complained of his failing health during his trial, sentencing and incarceration. Manafort appeared in court in a wheelchair during the latter days of his 2018 trial, and his attorneys said he suffered from



gout and severe depression.

Manafort's lawyer, Todd Blanche, said in December that Manafort had been hospitalized for reasons that weren't entirely clear, and that neither his attorney nor family had been able to get updates about what was going on.

His attorneys sent a letter to the Bureau of Prisons last month asking that he be moved to home confinement because he's at high risk of contracting COVID-19 due to his age and pre-existing conditions. His attorneys have said those include high blood pressure, liver disease and respiratory ailments.

Manafort had been due for release in 2024. He'd been incarcerated since the judge in his case revoked his bail in the summer of 2018 over accusations that he tried to reach out to witnesses in the case against him.

EU could reopen borders to tourists in Covid-19 recovery plan

Philadelphiaobserver.com

European countries will be advised to open borders to countries with similar coronavirus-risk profiles, under a plan to bolster the ailing tourist industry being discussed in Brussels.

The European commission is expected on Wednesday to recommend a three-phase approach to reopening borders that suggests EU countries with "similar overall risk profiles" on the

pandemic open to tourists from each other's countries, according to a leaked version of the draft seen by the website Euractiv.

The EU executive has previously voiced unease about "tourism corridors", whereby member states make bilateral deals to open to each other's tourists, but now appears ready to accept these arrangements in practice.

The EU includes some of the countries worst hit by the pandemic – notably Spain and Italy – but oth-

ers such as Greece and the Czech Republic that limited its impact.

Now officials are scrambling to rescue Europe's tourism industry, which accounts for 10% of EU economic output, more in Italy, Spain, Croatia and Greece.

Austria's chancellor, Sebastian Kurz, announced last week that he intended to open the borders to visitors from safe countries, such as Germany and the Czech Republic, as part of efforts to protect the Alpine state's tourism

industry.

Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia will reopen their borders to each other from 15 May, creating a Baltic "travel bubble".

"We showed a good example by stating, very clearly, that only countries which successfully dealt with the situation can open themselves up," Lithuania's prime minister, Saulius Skvernelis, has said.

Senior EU officials acknowledge they cannot stop governments from striking such bilat-

eral or trilateral deals, but argue against selective treatment. If Austria opens to Germany, it would be expected to permit entry to all residents in Germany.

The commission's acceptance of national border controls contrasts with earlier unease. "Member states cannot open borders for citizens from one EU country, but not from others. This is essential," the EU home affairs commissioner, Ylva Johansson, told MEPs last week.

Philly makes it easier to turn your block into places for play this summer

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Lora-Lee Contreras has started every summer weekday for the past roughly 15 years exactly the same way: by placing an orange cone at the entrance of her block of Hope Street, in North Philadelphia, and closing it to traffic.

A few minutes later, she takes toys and a couple of tables out to her closed-to-traffic street and receives, at her door, a delivery of boxes filled with lunches and snacks. The food, served at noon, comes from the city.

The veritable block party that ensues? That comes from the kids who, with the street closed off Monday to Friday, until 4 pm, play ball, dance, hula-hoop, paint the asphalt with chalk or relieve the summer heat with a water hose.

And then at noon, Contreras, also known as Ms. Lory or the lunch lady, serves them food.

"I would get a group of I'll say 25 to 30, or maybe even 50 at one shot — keep up with them, wait for my next group, until all my lunches are done. And then I will reopen at 3," Contreras said. "But they stay playing on the street from 10 to 4."

Contreras is one of about 350 Philly residents who volunteers to supervise a Playstreet on their block. Philadelphia has run the program for more than 50 years as an extension of the federal free lunch program designed to provide meals to kids during the summer.

But this year, with public pools not opening and access to recre-

ation centers limited because of the coronavirus pandemic and budget cuts, the city wants to expand the initiative to provide more spaces for kids to play and get fed.

But to expand, the city needs volunteers like Contreras. And this year, the numbers are down, which is why the Parks and Recreation Department, which manages the program, is making some changes.

"Residents who lead Playstreets are the definition of the everyday Philly hero: Taking the lead to feed their community, keep kids safe, and offer safe ways to play right on their front stoop," Parks and Rec Commissioner Kathryn Ott Lovell said. "This summer, families are facing a lot of unknowns, but getting healthy meals to kids shouldn't be one of them."

To make it easier to enroll your block in the program, the department is relaxing one of its requirements.

Until this year, 75% of the block's residents had to sign a petition agreeing to participate in the program. Now, considering the difficulties of going door-to-door to get neighbors to sign a form, residents who don't want to participate will have to submit an objection. Blocks with more than 25% of residents opting out, won't qualify.

But that's not the only requirement that might be limiting the program. For once, only small, one-way streets qualified for the program — no numbered, lettered or bus route blocks.

Most importantly, because the

program is tied to the meals program, a Playstreet has to include lunches and snacks and can't be within two blocks of another approved block, a playground or a rec center where food is being distributed. That's because the program, which costs about \$4 million a year, is entirely funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, through the Pennsylvania Department of Education, as a way to feed kids when they're out of school.

Advocates pushing Mayor Jim Kenney to expand the number of streets closed to traffic for pedestrian use during the pandemic say those restrictions create unnecessary hurdles.

When applying for Playstreets, residents have to fill out two applications — one for the summer food program and one for a Playstreets activity permit. What if people could just get the permit to close the street without applying for the food program? That's a suggestion from Jon Geeting, who is a Fishtown resident and the co-founder of 5th Square, an urbanist PAC, and Open Streets PHL.

Or, could the city come up with a different permit that allows residents to close streets temporarily, like Seattle does, asks Geeting, to create more opportunities for people to be outside, especially during the pandemic.

"They need to come up with something that's sort of similar, but more attuned to the details of the situation right now," Geeting said.



Stacey Abrams endorses Joe Biden

(CNN)

Stacey Abrams, who has publicly made the case for why she believes she is well positioned to be Joe Biden's running mate, endorsed the former vice president on Tuesday, calling him the "leader America needs."

Biden is "a leader who will restore dignity, competence and compassion to the Oval Office while restoring America's moral leadership around the world. His commitment to fighting climate change, leading an economic recovery for all, and protecting every eligible American's right to vote are among the many reasons

why he must be the next President of the United States," she said in a statement Tuesday.

Abrams, the former top Democrat in the Georgia House, has praised Biden for several weeks since he became the presumptive Democratic nominee, but she had not formally endorsed his candidacy until Tuesday.

"While marginalized communities struggle under Donald Trump's failed leadership and people of color face disproportionate consequences of COVID-19, Joe Biden will take no one for granted. I look forward to continuing my strong support for his candidacy and doing all I can to make sure he is elected this November."



KKK hoods are apparently the new COVID-19 fashion statement

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Police in Colorado are seeking the public's help to identify a man who went grocery shopping while wearing a Ku Klux Klan hood this weekend, though a similar case in San Diego recently ended with the police throwing up their hands and going, "This is America."

Some white people have used their privilege to respond to the current COVID-19 pandemic by refusing to follow public health orders to wear masks and not go out to get bad haircuts.

Others, like this man who went out to get some milk while wearing a wrinkled KKK hood, have responded by turning masks into

emblems of their white supremacist desires:

Others, like this man who went out to get some milk while wearing a wrinkled KKK hood, have responded by turning masks into emblems of their white supremacist desires:

According to Summit Daily, employees of the grocery store called the police after they told the man to leave and he refused.

From Summit Daily:

Dillon Police Chief Mark Heminghaus said officers were dispatched on a report of trespassing at 12:41 p.m. but that the man had left the area just before they arrived at 12:45 p.m. The department is working to identify the man using surveillance footage to determine his vehicle.



Family of EMT worker killed at home by Louisville cops hires Ahmaud Arbery attorney

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Civil rights attorney Benjamin Crump is the latest addition to the legal team representing the family of Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old black EMT worker who was shot eight times by Louisville Metro Police officers in her own apartment, according to USA Today.

The Taylor family hired Crump, a Tallahassee, Florida-based attorney who is known for his involvement in high-profile cases of black Americans who were killed in controversial shootings, including Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, and Tamir Rice. Crump has also taken on the case of Ahmaud Arbery, the 25-year-old black man who was shot and killed by two white men in Georgia in late February.

Taylor was shot by Louisville Metro Police officers who had entered her apartment around 1 AM on March 13. Police claim the officers were there to serve a search warrant as part of a narcotics investigation, but there



were no drugs found at the EMT's home.

"We stand with the family of this young woman in demanding answers from the Louisville Police Department," Crump said. "Despite the tragic circumstances surrounding her death, the department has not provided any answers regarding the facts and circumstances of how this tragedy occurred, nor have they taken responsibility for her senseless killing."

Crump joins local attorneys Sam Aguiar and Lonita Baker in representing the family. Crump, who called Taylor's death "inexcusable" said no one from Louisville police has been held accountable for her death.

Black conservatives denounce Candace Owens after hateful comments about Ahmaud Arbery

Philadelphiaobserver.com

You know it's bad when Candace Owens has managed to offend the very people she's been unsuccessfully trying to galvanize over the past few years in her efforts to sink even deeper into the sunken place. But that precisely the scenario she's created for Black conservatives with her relentless criminalization of Ahmaud Arbery, the Black man who was jogging when two white men armed themselves, hunted him down and killed him in the middle of a road in broad daylight.

Owens — the same person who sympathized with Adolf Hitler and tried to convince Congress that white supremacy doesn't exist — has been on a mission to discredit Arbery and blame him for his own death. She has accused Arbery of "breaking into" a property, referred to the notion that he was jogging as a "bullshit narrative" and questioned whether he was really jogging on that fateful February day he was gunned down by accused murderers, Gregory and Travis McMichael.

The attacks on a man who, in death, cannot defend himself proved to be too much for Owens' fellow Black conservatives, who seem to be united in finally denouncing her hate. Red State, a conservative news website, compiled reactions to Owens' stance on Arbery from various Black conservatives who have previously worked with and aligned themselves with her work supporting Donald Trump. All eight of them distanced themselves from Owens' toxicity in no uncertain terms, leaving her on a hateful island all by her lonely.



Johnathan Throwe, the former South Carolina director for BLEXIT, the failed (and Columbus) movement started by Owens to encourage Black people to leave the Democratic Party, reportedly said she would do anything to please white people, including criminalizing a Black man in death.

"BLEXIT could never get any traction going into the Black community trying to speak with residents with the rhetoric and energy Candace is currently exhibiting," Red State quoted Throwe as saying. "Her facts she presents are only to paint Black America negatively in the face of white supporters. She will blatantly ignore the facts that would equally cause White America to have to look in the mirror themselves on key issues. I decided to resign from BLEXIT to prevent being associated with someone who doesn't speak for Black people, but speaks against Black people."

Black man shot, killed by officer during traffic stop identified as Houston gospel artist

By Victor Omondi

The man gunned down by a Houston police officer on Friday has been identified as Adrian Medearis. He's a famous gospel singer and a former director for the Prairie View A&M Baptist Student Movement gospel choir and founder of God's Anointed People, according to friends.

The 48-year-old black singer was shot during an alleged tussle with a police officer who stopped him suspecting that he was drunk driving on Friday morning. In a statement, the Houston Police Department said Medearis was pulled over for speeding.

An officer by the name J. Ramos conducted a field sobriety test and tried to arrest Medearis on suspicion of drunk driving, according to a police statement. However, Medearis allegedly resisted and began to wrestle with the police. It was at this point that the officer fired four times, striking and killing the black gospel singer in two rounds.

According to police, no other



officer was involved and there were not any witnesses to the incident.

During the alleged tussle, the officer's camera was knocked off, but the incident was captured by footage from other cameras.

Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo said that before the tussle, the 48-year-old complained to the officer about the shooting and killing of Ahmaud Arbery who was gunned down by a father and son while jogging Brunswick, Georgia.

According to Acevedo, the struggle between Medearis and the police officer lasted for less than 3 minutes. At some point, the officer pinned Medearis to the ground and lifted one hand to call for help. However, Medearis flipped him over and the fight continued.

"What's sad about this is that by all accounts what occurred is conduct that is not consistent with who Mr. Medearis is," Acevedo said.

Six Black patients who died from coronavirus — after being denied a test!

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Federal data has already confirmed that most of the deadly victims of COVID-19 in the United States are African American. However, many news reports are failing to report that many of those who have died from the virus were also denied tests. In fact, some were denied a test multiple times. Here are six cases:

#1 – Bassey Offiong: a 25-year old Nigerian American college student at Western Michigan University who died from the virus just a few weeks before his graduation. Detroit News reports that he was denied a test multiple times.

#2 – Gary Fowler: a 56-year old from Detroit who died at home

from the virus. USA Today reports that he literally "begged" for a test, but was rejected on multiple occasions.

#3 – Rana Zoe Mungin: a 30-year old social studies teacher from Brooklyn who died from the virus after being on life support for almost a month. CBS News reports that she was rushed to the hospital three different times and was denied a test each and every time.

#4 – Kayla Williams: a 36-year old mother from London, UK with three children who died from the virus just 24 hours after she called for an ambulance. The Guardian reports that was initially told that she was not a "priority".

#5 – Deborah Gatewood: a 63-year old from Detroit who died

from the virus just two weeks after testing positive. NBC News reports that she was denied a test three times from the very hospital where she worked.

#6 – Thomas Fields Jr: a 32-year old Navy sailor who was stationed in Norfolk, Virginia, who died from the virus. However, his story is a bit different. He himself was not denied a test, but prior to him feeling sick, his mom began to show the symptoms of the virus and was denied a test. WTKR reports that Thomas took care of his mom when she was sent home untested, but sadly he contracted the virus from her. As she got better, he got worse. Had she been given a test, she would have been in the hospital and would not have exposed her son to the virus.



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Editorial

Philadelphia Observer



By Julianne Malveaux,

Old, sick and incarcerated

their sentence or have less than eighteen months of jail time left to serve. Manafort meets none of these criteria, but he apparently had enough high-priced lawyers to push his case aggressively.

I'm not as outraged at Manafort's early release as I am disturbed about the other 4622 elderly inmates, most who lack the resources and access that Manafort had. Nearly forty percent of those incarcerated in federal prisons are African American, many serving very long sentences for drug-related crimes. Many have some of the same underlying medical conditions and "fear of coronavirus" that Manafort had. How many of them will get an early release and the relative luxury of home confinement? The treatment of a wealthy, older white man and a poor, older Black man is vastly different.

Prisons are a breeding ground for the coronavirus. Prisons are overcrowded with social distancing an impossibility since an average cell, about five feet by five, does not allow six feet of distancing. Recent studies show that the COVID-19 germs from a loud

conversation or a cough linger for minutes, sufficient time to infect another person. The notorious Riker's Island prison has eight times the COVID-19 infection rate of the New York City rate. Infection is not a possibility, but a near-certainty. Prison infections are so widespread that some activists describe them as "death camps."

Older people don't commit violent crimes (although they commit financial crimes and perjury). Releasing those over 65 who were convicted of drug crimes and other nonviolent crimes saves money and has little social cost. But incarceration is an economic driver for some communities. Federal prisons employ tens of thousands of people. In some isolated communities, these prisons are a significant source of employment. Releasing prisoners early may cause layoffs. Is this why we insist on keeping so many people locked up for such long periods?

Parole was eliminated in federal prison in the mid-1980s, allowing "good behavior" only after 85 percent of a sentence has been served. But Manafort, citing "fear of coronavirus," ended up

servicing less than a quarter of his sentence. Can an old Black man get the Manafort treatment and serve the rest of his sentence in a cushy condo in Northern Virginia? Manafort had a lot less to fear, at his minimum-security prison, than a Black inmate might.

Other countries have reacted to coronavirus crowding by releasing inmates in the tens of thousands. According to David Anderson of the International Legal Foundation, Iran released more than half of its prisoners – 100,000 of 189,000. Palestine is holding emergency court sessions to allow inmates to petition for release. Other countries seem to understand that COVID-19 and crowding don't work and are releasing prisoners.

Meanwhile, our country, in Anderson's words, is "addicted to punishment." In keeping nonviolent inmates incarcerated, we are "prioritizing punishment over public health." The inmates aren't the only ones at risk. Correctional officers, lawyers, and visiting family members are also vulnerable. We are so committed to getting a "pound of flesh" from those incar-

cerated that we refuse to consider the high costs of incarceration.

Consider the case of former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick. Convicted of perjury, obstruction of justice, and other crimes, Kilpatrick was sentenced to 28 years for his crimes. He is not scheduled to be released until 2037! While Kilpatrick certainly deserved to be convicted, a 28-year sentence is excessive. Recently an inmate at his Oakdale, Louisiana prison died from the coronavirus. I'm sure Kilpatrick is as frightened of the coronavirus as Manafort is. He is not likely to be allowed home confinement.

Unless there is intervention, Kilpatrick will be eligible for Social Security before he is released! What is the purpose of such a long sentence? How much does it cost to incarcerate someone for 28 years? Is it worth it?

The coronavirus magnified our nation's inequality. Manafort is out after less than two years' incarceration. Thousands who are old and poor remain incarcerated and vulnerable to coronavirus. Our criminal injustice system is in dire need of reform.

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Without more help, Black-owned businesses might not survive the pandemic

By Eugene Cornelius Jr. (TriceEdneyWire.com) –

Black communities in the United States not only represent a disproportionate share of casualties from coronavirus, but they have also been deeply affected by the economic impact of the disease. Longstanding racial discrimination in economic and housing policy has increased their risk for exposure to the virus, as well as the resulting financial crisis. The economic effects of the pandemic on Black communities can be explained by several factors. Almost half of Black-owned businesses are in industries - such as administrative and support services, health care and social assistance and retail - that are bearing the brunt of this pandemic. These industries not only pose a health risk because of the interaction between workers and customers, but they are also especially vulnerable to lower consumer demand due to social distancing measures.

Over 90 percent of small businesses in majority Black communities hold cash reserves of fewer

than 14 days, so they are more likely to run out of operating funds when customers stay at home. And the most recently available Federal Reserve data shows that Black business owners are denied loans at twice the rate of white owners, so they are more likely to have trouble finding capital to survive the pandemic.

In the face of large-scale shutdowns caused by the COVID-19 crisis, there is a clear need for policies to support small business. But the spending programs passed by Congress thus far have ignored the challenges of capital access facing Black-owned firms.

During the first round of funding provided for small businesses, borrowers seeking Paycheck Protection Program loans were required to work with banks already participating in the US Small Business Administration's (SBA) primary loan program, thereby excluding firms that worked with smaller community banks. Moreover, Congress allocated just \$10 million to the Minority Business Development Agency. According to the Center for Responsible Lending, these

conditions may have prevented 95 percent of Black-owned businesses from receiving loans.

The second round of small business funding assistance specifically set aside \$60 billion for community banks and credit unions that are traditionally a key source of capital for minority-owned firms. However, the measure did not stipulate that minority-owned businesses would have priority access to those funds.

Addressing these short-term lending gaps is crucial to ensuring that Black-owned businesses will stay in business long enough to survive the pandemic. But we must also plan for a long-term recovery that emphasizes inclusion. This will require us to remove historic inequities through targeted support for Black-owned businesses and Black workers.

We can begin by taking three key steps:

First, federal and state governments should enact robust credit enhancement programs for minority borrowers. These programs provide incentives for banks to lend to businesses in low- and mid-

dle-income areas, allowing more firms to remain open and refrain from laying off workers. In states with existing loan programs that provide credit enhancement, treasury officials should make loans more flexible, easier to access and increase loan guarantees. In others, where credit enhancement programs do not yet exist, treasury officials should create loss reserve funds and collateral support mechanisms, as well as a marketplace to pair pre-qualified lenders with borrowers in need of working capital. State governments can also authorize one-to-one matches for philanthropic funding to expand the pool of available capital.

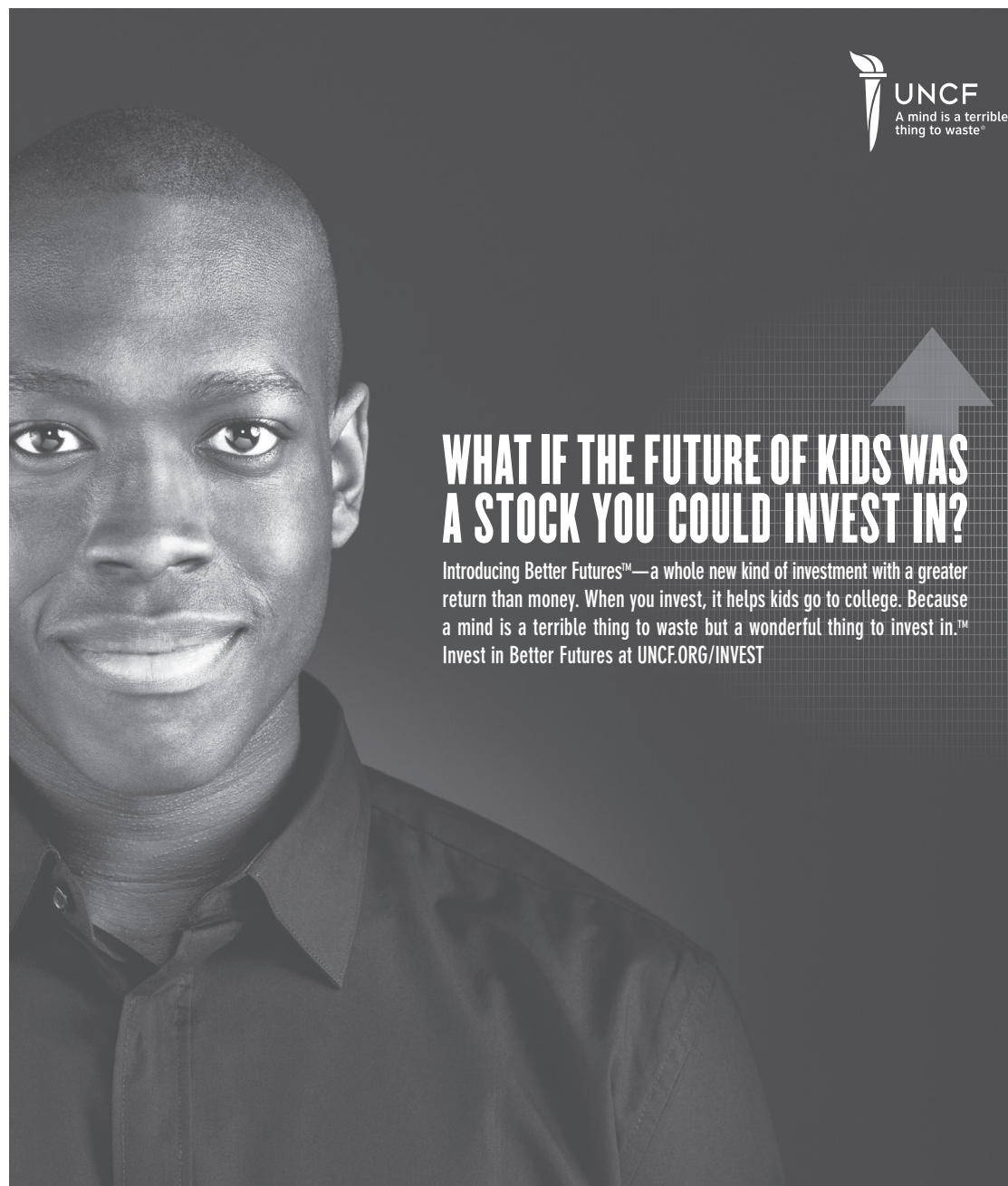
Second, credit enhancement programs should also be used to support place-based investment, with a priority on housing and infrastructure in low-income areas. For example, officials can increase loan guarantees to support construction of housing for individuals earning from 80 percent to 200 percent of the local average median income, or offer special collateral guarantees for minority-owned businesses with

revenues under \$5 million to invest in long-term assets.

Third, place-based investments should emphasize environmental quality in low-income and minority communities through special support for projects with higher air and water quality standards - including the remediation of outdated water infrastructure. Using federal and state loan guarantees to fund these investments will simultaneously support improvements to the health of minority populations and reduce their vulnerability to future health crises.

As we look beyond the pandemic, these steps are crucial for ensuring the American dream is within reach of minorities across the country. By addressing fundamental inequities in our economic system, we can begin to pave a new avenue toward a more prosperous future.

Eugene Cornelius Jr. is senior director for the Milken Institute Center for Regional Economics. He previously served as a senior official in the U.S. Small Business Administration. This commentary first appeared on CNN.com.



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UK fashion industry pleads for more aid to survive Covid-19 crisis

Philadelphiaobserver.com

On the day the British Fashion Council (BFC) announced the recipients of its £1m emergency fund, the organization said the amount was meagre in light of the sum needed to help small, independent fashion companies.

"One million pounds sounds like a lot of money, but when you split it among so many businesses, it is just a drop in the ocean," Caroline Rush, the BFC chief executive, told the trade website Business of Fashion. "Much more needs to be done."

Alongside the threat of closure, fashion designers have experienced massive financial losses from production changes,

cancelled orders and rescheduled catwalk shows. Retailers have suffered an 80% decline in footfall, the sector's "greatest ever" drop, in the four weeks between 5 April and 2 May.

Thirty-seven labels, including Craig Green, Bethany Williams and Ahluwalia, are due to receive the financial help from the BFC Foundation fashion fund of up to £50,000 each. "It will allow our team to have stability during this time," said Eden Loweth of Art School, one of the recipients of the fund. He added that the money will be used to "invest in our direct team of assistants and manufacturers, supporting them and therefore the company infrastructure over the course of the coming months".

On the scene

By Audrey J. Bernard

New on OWN — All-female star-studded virtual series 'Girlfriends Check In'

CCOVID-19 has changed our lives forever. Now more than ever we cling to things we once took for granted including friendships. No more. The once popular girl's night out where we met at our favorite watering hole to vent about "life" has been replaced with girl chit-chat via conference calls where the libation of choice served is Quarantinis – shaken not stirred!

The once Queen of Daytime talk, **Oprah Winfrey**, has come up

with a majestic idea! OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network will host a new all-female Saturday night virtual reality show "**Girlfriends Check In**" featuring a host of Hollywood royalty — actors, singers and television celebrities.

In each episode of the series, viewers will be invited into the homes of different groups of celebrity friends who will come together virtually for an uplifting and light-hearted conversation

focusing on love, friendship and wellness – spilling tea about past and present relationships along the way.

Good girlfriends can get you through anything in life—especially during quarantine. With the help of a little tech and a lot of sisterhood, each week different female celebrity friends will hold a virtual chat room "check in" — spilling the tea about their relationships, their families, shar-

ing new recipes, and reminding us that we are truly all in this together. The six-episode series is produced by Critical Content. For more information, visit www.criticalcontent.com

Girlfriends checking in include: **Meagan Good, La'Myia Good Bellinger, Tasha Smith, Grace Byers, Loni Love, B. Simone, Tami Roman, Robbi Rogers, Tisha Campbell, Kym Whitley, Holly Robinson Peete, AJ Johnson, Car-**

la Hall, Anika Noni Rose, Kim Fields, Lisa Silvera, Tika Sumpter, Thai Randolph, Ryan Michelle Bathe, Susan Kelechi Watson, and gospel music legends **Yolanda Adams, Tamela Mann, Erica Campbell** and **Tasha Cobbs Leonard**.

The new series premiered Saturday, May 16 at 10 p.m. ET/PT. **Check out a first-look of "Girlfriends Check In" HERE. The official episode breakdown is as follows:**



Yolanda Adams



Ryan Michelle Bathe



Grace Byers



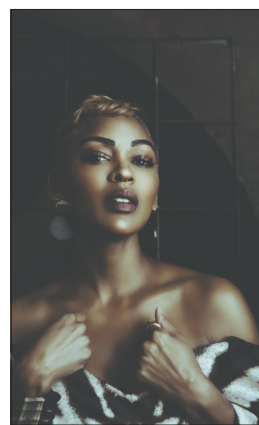
Erica Campbell



Tisha Campbell



Kim Fields



Meagan Good

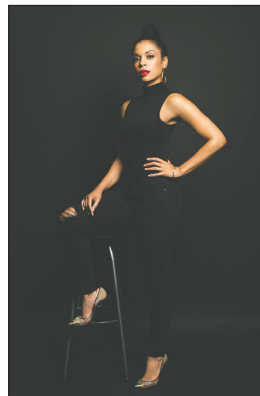
Episode 101: Saturday, May 16 (10 p.m. – 11 p.m. ET/PT): Girlfriends: Tamela Mann, Yolanda Adams, Erica Campbell, Tasha Cobbs Leonard. Queens of gospel share their secrets to keeping romance alive, how to maintain beauty while in lockdown, a funny gospel twist to nurse rhymes, and keeping the kids in check.



Carla Hall



A.J. Johnson



Susan Kelechi



Tasha Cobbs Leonard



Loni Love



Tamela Mann



Thai Randolph

Episode 102: Saturday, May 23 (10 p.m. – 11 p.m. ET/PT): Girlfriends: Loni Love, Tami Roman, B. Simone, Robbi Rogers. Talk show host Loni Love gathers her girlfriends for a fun night of cocktails and conversation surrounding fashion, hair and being overworked during lockdown. Hidden abilities are also revealed in a fun, impromptu talent show.



Robbi Rogers



Tami Roman



Lisa Silvers



B Simone



Tasha Smith



Tika Sumpter



Susan Kelechi Watson

Kym Whitley

Episode 103: Saturday, May 30 (10 p.m. – 11 p.m. ET/PT): Girlfriends: Carla Hall, Anika Noni Rose, Kim Fields, Lisa Silvera. Celebrity chef Carla Hall rounds up her crew in different cities to swap recipes, inspiration and compassion during a time when the outside world is off limits.

Episode 104: Saturday, June 6 (10 p.m. – 11 p.m. ET/PT): Girlfriends: Meagan Good, La'Myia Good Bellinger, Tasha Smith, Grace Byers, with guest appearances by DeVon Franklin, Trai Byers & Eric Bellinger. Meagan Good catches up with her sister and friends to talk beauty regimens and staying faith centered during uncertain times, with surprise pop-ins from the husbands.

Episode 105: Saturday, June 13 (10 p.m. – 11 p.m. ET/PT): Girlfriends: Tika Sumpter, Ryan Michelle Bathe, Susan Kelechi Watson, Thai Randolph. Tika and Susan bring their girlfriends together from coast to coast to chat about motherhood, career and life balance, as they share beauty secrets and how-to tips on staying relaxed during quarantine.

Episode 106: Saturday, June 20 (10 p.m. – 11 p.m. ET/PT): Girlfriends: Tisha Campbell, Kym Whitley, Holly Robinson Peete, AJ Johnson. Tisha and her gal pals dish on men, dating, loving yourself and raising your family in a hilarious girls night in you don't want to miss.



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

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Health

Pros and cons of COVID-19 testing

By Glenn Ellis

Late last month, the American Medical Association issued the following statement: “No therapies have yet to conclusively show effectiveness against COVID-19.”

According to information on the CDC website, “Two kinds of tests are available for COVID-19: viral tests and antibody tests. A viral test tells you if you have a current infection. An antibody test tells you if you had a previous infection.

Antibodies are produced by a person’s immune system, and these antibodies are critical for control and clearance of the virus. An antibody test may not be able to show if you have a current infection, because it can take 1-3 weeks after infection to make antibodies. We do not know yet if having antibodies to the virus can protect someone from getting infected with the virus again, or how long that protection might last.

With so much still unknown about immunity to COVID-19 and a dozens and dozens of antibody tests that have not been rigorously validated, experts worry that widespread antibody screening may give those who test positive a false sense of security.

The whole idea of antibody testing goes back to around the time of the influenza pandemic in 1918. Medical experts at the time thought that you could take serum (or plasma) from people who have had the infectious disease and have recovered. You then take their antibodies and inject them into someone who is having a severe case, or rapidly deteriorating, and protect them. Sounds reasonable.

With other diseases, the presence of antibodies often means you have acquired immunity against re-infection, for at least some period of time, but that is not known yet in the case of COVID-19. That means that a positive antibody test doesn’t guar-

antee immunity. It has not been proven that the antibodies that are being produced are in fact neutralizing antibodies. It’s possible that an antibody may bind to a part of the virus that the virus doesn’t need to infect our cells. In order to be neutralizing, an antibody must prevent the virus from infecting our cells.

Just recently, the FDA cracked down on the nearly 200 commercial antibody tests that have hit the market, citing that some test kits are fraudulent and show inaccurate results. An accurate antibody test would help the scientists and researchers gather the data on who has gotten the virus, including those who’ve showed no symptoms of being sick. It could even help develop a treatment to fight the virus. But experts warn that they have not been able to determine if someone is immune once they’ve had it. We now know from all of this that a positive antibody test may not necessarily mean you’re safe from ever getting the virus again.

Swab testing, despite being the “gold standard” for COVID-19 testing has its own drawbacks. The sample needs to be collected carefully from the correct area. It’s estimated that errors can occur about eight to ten percent of the time, which contributes to false negatives. Labs also need specialized equipment and skilled staff. Lab officials say the amount of virus in the upper respiratory tract seems to peak in the first week of symptoms and could fall too low to be detected later.

Another thing about the swab test. It doesn’t end with just getting tested. Let me remind you that knowing if you are infected with the virus starts a whole series of questions for you and your healthcare team. If you are positive, decisions have to be made (sometimes, this can be without your agreement). Do you need to be hospitalized and separated from other patients? If you can



go home, how should you isolate yourself?

Many people are anxious to get tested so that they can get back to their normal lives. Just know that there is a strong possibility, based the way this virus is spreading, that you might come up with a positive result! You should be prepared for the results; no matter what they conclude.

According to the COVID Tracking Project, only about 8.4 million Americans, or 2.5% of the total U.S. population, were tested for COVID-19 as of May 9. This reflects, to a large degree, the strain the demand for testing has placed on manufacturers and labs. Some diagnostic test suppliers have deliberately stopped testing for certain diseases, for example, to enable them to allocate more resources to manufacturing and

supplying COVID-19 tests.

COVID-19 has forced us all to have to consider things that we never imagined. But it is for our benefit that we get good information to inform our decisions.

One last work about the “re-opening of the country”. My friend, Rev. John E. King, Jr., told me that there are three types of people: one-third can’t wait to get back out there; another third of the people are waiting to see what happens to the first third before going back out; and the last third are those who don’t care what happens to the first or second third, they ain’t going back out there! Which third are you?

We need to know that testing is not the be all, end all, that we think they are. Some scientists believe that tests for the coronavirus are only about 70 percent accurate.

A false negative is problematic because it tells the patient they don’t have the virus.

Remember, I’m not a doctor. I just sound like one. Take good care of yourself and live the best life possible! The information included in this column is for educational purposes only. I do not dispense medical advice or prescribe the use of any technique as a replacement form of treatment for physical, mental or medical problems by your doctor either directly or indirectly.

Glenn Ellis, is 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 Health Equity and Medical Ethics.

For more good health information visit: www.glennellis.com

#DadJokesRule

Massive die-off of fish on Nigerian coastline linked to toxic discharge

(GIN) –

An immense blanket of dead fish stretching across three states has sparked anger and frustration among communities along the Atlantic Ocean coastline in Nigeria. The area is known for oil spills that have polluted the waters and left fish and other wildlife inedible.

The massive die-off was first reported in February when community people in Delta State complained of the schools of dead fish floating and littering their shores. The silvery fish graveyard stretched from Delta State through Bayelsa State to Rivers State.

Samples of the fish were taken by the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA).

Idris Musa, head of NOSDRA, declared the die-off had nothing to do with the continual oil leakages from offshore platforms as claimed over the years by Amnesty International, the U.N. Environmental Program, the Fishnet Alliance, and dozens of other groups in and outside of Nigeria.

Musa confessed that the values of cadmium and iron were higher than the regulatory limit.

But environmentalists including Ako Amadi and Nnimmo Bassey of the Health of the Mother Earth Foundation, disagreed with



the NOSDRA report, finding it too superficial to be taken seriously.

They accused NOSDRA of questioning the fact of the massive fish kill that was evident in many locations.

"The Ministry of Environment and relevant agencies have a duty to tell Nigerians what killed the fish so that we know how to respond to this and future incidents," said activist Nnimmo Bassey. "We are not satisfied with NOSDRA's report as this does not bring a closure to the saga."

Udengs Eradiri, the state's commissioner for the environment, after a spill last December, recalled that "[Bayelsa] used to be green, you could farm or fish..."

"We used to have very impressive harvests. You would spend just an

hour in the water and you have a lot of fish."

"Today, you can spend the whole day without catching anything."

About 40 million liters of oil are spilled every year across the Niger Delta, according to the activist group Rise for Bayelsa.

Bayelsa accounts for 40% of Nigeria's oil wealth, and hosts several large multinational oil companies. None of the companies operating in the area have admitted to having an oil or gas leak.

Meanwhile, the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) this month said that the dead fishes floating and littering the Niger Delta coastline had nothing to do with its operations.

Traditional elections will test Africa's resistance to the virus

(GIN)

Africa's infection rates are still relatively low to the wonderment of some in the western world who predicted infection rates in the billions.

In fact, African governments in many cases took preventative steps – from closing borders, social distancing, shutting educational institutions and banning mass gatherings.

By April 19, the Africa CDC reported that 34 countries had gone further and brought in night-time curfews or partial lockdowns. Eleven brought in rules requiring people to wear face masks in public.

Still, there is a growing sense of urgency given the acute absence of health-care infrastructure on the continent and the prospect of 20 national elections scheduled in Africa during 2020.

"Let's start, for instance, with voter registration," she says. "Most countries still require you to come in person. Countries are doing biometric registration but what kinds of sanitary processes do you put in place?"

"In Africa," continues Kadima, "the only way of campaigning that people know is to bring the crowd around the candidate to pass the message. Who is likely to win? It's the person who is filling up the stadium!"

"I don't see a political party or a candidate that's serious about winning not resorting to the traditional ways of campaigning."

"Postal voting or online voting could be a solution in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic. However in the context of Africa, this would be new, untested and untrusted."

"Does everyone have access to the internet across the conti-



With many countries banning public gatherings and restricting people's freedom of movement, can these votes go ahead as planned?

Denis Kadima of the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy shared some worrying thoughts keeping him up at night.

"The big test case is Burundi because they're holding their election on May 20. In the traditional manner of elections, there have been big rallies by the ruling party and the opposition. They have not used the social distance requirements."

"That's a big test because we don't know what will happen after a few weeks. If after the vote there is an escalation of the disease, that will be a lesson everyone will have to draw."

Olufunto Akinduro, at the Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, considers the structure of the election itself.

ment?" Akinduro asks.

But if a country cancels elections established by the constitution, it could lead to violence, suggests Kadima, "because when the legitimacy of the rulers has run out, then they can't stand there and tell people what to do."

Meanwhile, African governments are generally maintaining the pace of testing and contract tracing with a goal of 15 million tests over the next three months. Lockdowns have been instituted, travel restricted, research funding redirected and donations from local and international funders directed to buy medicines, testing kits, ventilators and protective gear.

Upcoming elections within the next 12 months include Tanzania (Oct.), Cote d'Ivoire (Oct.), Egypt (Nov), Ghana (Dec) Chad (Dec), Central African Republic (Dec), Niger (Dec), Guinea, Somalia, Liberia and Gabon.

Museum dedicated to a vaccination pioneer may be permanently closed due to coronavirus

(CNN) —

The fight against the coronavirus continues, and the world faces an uncertain future as scientists race to find a vaccine to mark the end of the crippling pandemic. But as we adjust to today's new normal, businesses are scrambling to find a way to survive.

In an unfortunate — and ironic — turn of events, a museum, formerly the home of physician and vaccination pioneer Edward Jenner, may have to permanently close its doors due to financial issues caused by the pandemic.

Dr Jenner's House, Museum and Garden — the doctor's home-turned-museum in Berkeley, England — commemorates the efforts of Jenner, who changed the world after introducing the smallpox vaccine in 1798.

Like most museums, Dr. Jenner's House was required to shut down because of the pandemic. The museum, which costs about \$92,000 a year to keep it running, is losing its only source of revenue: the income generated between April and September while the museum is open to visitors.

"We have made some significant changes in recent years and planned this year to carry out further work to diversify our income and increase our resilience," the museum said on its official website in a plea for donations.

"If we were able to achieve our planned visitor



income then we would have been on course for another successful year. With each passing day of closure, however, this is looking less likely. A prolonged closure puts our future at risk."

Even when closed, the museum costs around \$250 per day to preserve the home. As an independent charity, 70% of their annual income comes from visitors.

Now the museum is urging supporters to help keep Dr. Jenner's House running through donations. In return, donors can choose various rewards — such as a ticket to the museum for a \$7 donation or three science books for a \$55 donation.

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Culture



“Twilight” actor Gregory Tyree Boyce has died at age 30.

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The actor and his girlfriend, Natalie Adepoju, 27, were found dead in a Las Vegas condo on May 13, the Las Vegas Medical Examiner’s Office confirmed to ET and E! News, which first reported the death.

Boyce is best known for his role as Tyler Crowley in the “Twilight” franchise. Over the weekend, his mother, Lisa Wayne, shared the news in a heartbreaking post to social media.

She said her son was an incredible chef and was chasing his passion and starting a chicken wing business, West Wings.

“He created the flavors to his perfection and named them after

west coast rappers,” she wrote. “Snoop Dog, Kendrick Lamar, Roddy Ricch, The Game, etc. He had flavors like, Tequila Lime Agave... those were my favorite.”

She added: “I’m sick without you. I’m torn, I’m lost. I’m in pain. I’d text you or call you when I was broken or worried about something, and you’d tell me, Ma, I got you, we’ll get thru this together.”

Wayne said she last saw her son on Mother’s Day. “I went to your house to eat leftovers from Mother’s day, we watched a Dave Chappelle show and you walked me to my car, hugged me, kissed me on my cheek and told me that you love me and to call you when I got home,” she wrote.

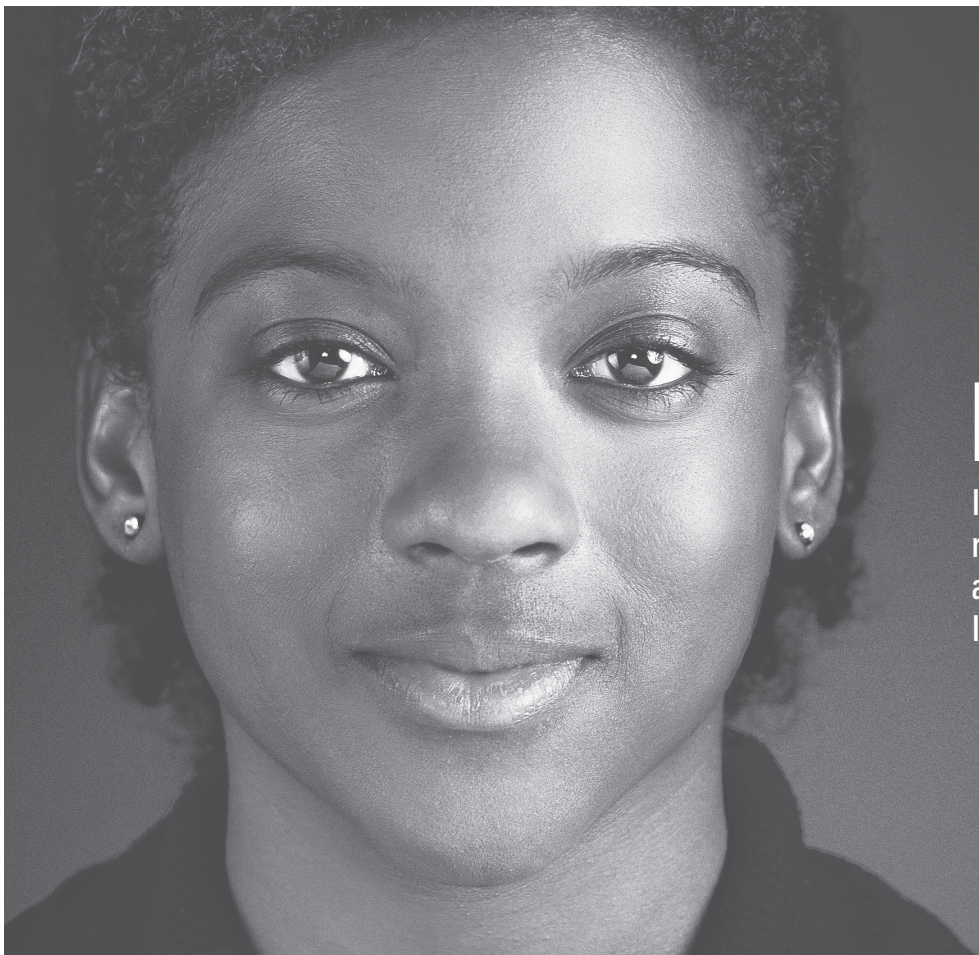
Michael B. Jordan is rumored to play Tony Montana in new ‘Scarface’ movie

Philadelphiaobserver.com

One of the most celebrated films of any genre is about to be brought back to life. If the hearsay is correct we could possibly get a melanin version of one of the most iconic gangsters in cinema history.

As spotted on High Snob-ety things are moving quickly for the movie reboot of Scarface. Last week was formally announced that the reboot is officially back on track with the appointment of Luca Guadagnino (Call Me By Your Name) as the director. According to Newsweek Michael B. Jordan is now being considered to play Tony Montana. The Black Panther actor would potentially reprise the role, that while was originally conceived in the original 1983 version, was made famous by Al Pacino in 1983.

This reboot has been in the works for some time dating back to 2011. Over the years both David Ayer (End of Watch and Suicide Squad) and Antoine Fuqua (Training Day and Southpaw) had been appointed to direct the new adaptation. The screenplay has also been through several revisions from several different writing teams including Gareth Dunnet-Alcocer (Miss Bala), Jonathan Herman (Straight Outta Compton), and Paul Attanasio (Quiz Show and Donnie Brasco). In addition, Diego Luna of Narcos: Mexico fame was tapped to play the lead role of Tony but revealed that back in February he was no longer apart of the film.



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Ponder This!

When President Barack Obama Speaks...



By Hazel Rosetta Smith
Contributing Scribe

You may think I am a cockeyed optimist always striving to see the positive side of life at first glance. Taking into consideration how we may be imagined by others, the only important aspect of being alive is to be true to how you perceive and know thy self.

To be able to rejoice in the accomplishments of others, to rally support for those who are adventurous enough to believe they can achieve their hopes and dreams, is what I know. But, if you know me at all, then you have probably experienced a phone call from me so excited, I could not hide it, when I hear about something amazing about to kick off.

Such was the case, Saturday, May 16th when I got the word to attend, virtually that is, two commencement addresses scheduled to broadcast featuring the world's renowned shining star, President Barack Obama.

Surely, when the word went out across the nation and beyond our borders that the former President of the United States would



President Barack Obama

address the people, in this case, the 2020 graduates of Historically Black Colleges and Universities at 2:00 p.m. and high school graduates at 8 p.m., folks shut in houses, caves and tunnels were looking to tune in.

When I thought about seeing and hearing somebody presidential, with dignity, intelligence, empathy and common sense, my joy was heightened to near hysterical

levels of anticipation.

Where have you been Black knight of conscience and correctness? Lincoln Debenham, 17 year old senior at Eagle Rock High School, Los Angeles, is said to be the first to tweet a direct request to the President stating, "...in an unprecedented time, it would give us great comfort to hear your voice" and added "hearing that voice of hope again." You said it,

Debenham and a whole bunch of people shouted their thanks for the suggestion and the response that made it happen.

Listening to the sound of his voice echoing soothing words, seeing kind expressions of care and concern on his face, President Barack Obama revealed again to our country what we had witnessed and now miss so deeply after eight years under his

leadership. It was so refreshing and uplifting that for just a few moments, I could take my mind away from the devastation of our present circumstances, COVID-19, and Trump.

The commencement addresses, though similar in agenda, were equally presented in an aura of encouragement, understanding and compassion to engage a generation that deserved to be acknowledged and congratulated for what they have attained thus far.

President Obama spoke words of truth through wisdom from his experiences under the calmness of sane leadership, so desperately needed at such a time as this.

Quoting from the speeches would not suffice in capturing what President Obama's mindset was when he accepted the invitation from J.P. Morgan and LeBron James. Both addresses are available on YouTube and probably by now on other media circuits.

Listen to it for yourself and perhaps download it for your children and children's children to get some small reflection of what once was so wonderful and powerful in the political arena under a man with character who did not let his ego take the lead from the needs of the country and the people he served.

If two commencement addresses are not enough, coming up live streaming on YouTube, June 6th "Dear Class of 2020" will bring another opportunity for graduates to hear from President Obama, featuring First Lady Michelle Obama, Lady Gaga and other prominent guests. Touché!

[Hazel Rosetta Smith, journalist, playwright, and director of Help Somebody Theatrical Ministries, retired former Managing Editor & Woman's Editor of the New York Beacon and current columnist of Harlem Community News, Inc. Contact: misshazel@twc.com]



First Lady Michelle Obama



Lady Gaga



By Victoria Horsford

What's going on

COVID19 UPDATES

On May 19, COVID19 stats: More than 1,523,780 Americans have been infected; and more than 91,000 Americans have died, out of a population of 330 million. While most of the nation is lifting its lockdown directives and people are back at the malls, restaurants, fitness centers, normalcy is elusive in our society.

COVID19 remains the world's top story. It is a story still unfolding as a public health menace married to economy downturns, and thanks to the American White House, it is politicized during this all important election year. The virus crisis will figure prominently in 11/3 election outcome. A race for the coronavirus cure is more important than any NFL, MLB, NBA game. The World Health Organization, WHO, and its members are working ensemble to find a treatment and a vaccine, despite the US suspension of funds totaling \$500 million. More than \$2 billion is needed for a COVID19 vaccine. The antiviral Remdesivir is the most popular treatment for non-severe COVID19 cases. Meanwhile, American epidemiology and medical schools, including MeHarry, and big Pharma join the family of nations in Europe, Japan, Cuba and China, in search of THE miracle drug!

On May 17, "60 Minutes," focused understandably on COVID19, packed a wallop. The guests were scientists included Dr. Rick Bright, Bill McKibben and Frank Snowden and US Federal Reserve head, Jerome Powell, head of the Federal Reserve. Dr Bright repeated his remarks to Congress last week saying that the Feds knew about COVID19 horrors months ago. Powell spoke about the need for a massive federal stimulus, benefiting small business as well as working and middle class American to jumpstart the economy and for a speedier recovery. He suggested that the \$3 trillion stimulus advanced last week by the Democrats is just a



Barack Obama

fraction of what is needed.

Last week President Barack Obama, de facto Democratic Party head, belatedly re-entered national politics with two powerful talks, which were streamed to America's GenZers – the Class of 2020 HBCUs and HS seniors, people who would be voting in November. One of his more benign remarks was. "The novel coronavirus pandemic has more than anything fully finally torn the curtain on the idea that so many of the folks in charge know what they are doing."

COVID19 SURVIVAL OPS

Home bodies with time to spare may be interested in WORK-FROM HOME opportunities to supplement revenues during the COVID19 economic downturn.

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Express jobs. americanexpress.com, US-Report us-reports.com/jobs; University of Maryland. Also check #WORKFROMHOME and check related youtube videos.

COVID19/ ELECTIONS 2020

From May 17, there are 168 days until the 11/3 US elections. The last four years were akin to living in Dante's Inferno while Nero fiddled. Living through this virus pandemic has been a study in survival and of the resiliency of the human spirit. On to voting matters, Susan Rice, former US Ambassador to the UN and former National Security Advisor under President Obama, is under VEEP consideration by Joe Biden, the presumptive Democratic Presidential nominee.

The Democrats must forego their aversion to deep pocketed donors and PACs in order to compete with the Republican war chest in the hundreds of millions, some of which is targeted to the removal of Congressional Democrats like African American Nevadan Steven Horsford, and New Yorker. Al-



Steven Horsford

exandria Ocasio Cortez, Bronx, NY. The Democratic brass needs to conquer at least four US GOP seats to win a Senate majority.

ARTS AND CULTURE

Internationally renown fashion deity Andre Leon Talley delivers the story many have longed for, in *The Chiffon Trenches*, A Memoir. NYTimes reviewer opens "In America, if you are Black and aim higher than the reach history has set for you, the white gaze will try to leech your spirit of its racial identity. Memoir, she adds is "summing up of his decades long career and a pointed commentary on how whiteness works." Talley grew up in Durham, NC, got an MA at Yale and was snatched from that reality by the lure of NY where he worked for Women's Wear Daily before relocating to Paris as its bureau chief where he rubbed shoulders with international fashion elites, the back to the USA where he worked at Ebony Magazine, then with Anna Wintour as Vogue's as editor at large. He got what he wanted, at a cost, his identity. His memoir sounds like confessional destined for bestseller lists.

The Ntozake Shange choreopoem theatre piece, "FOR COLORED GIRLS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE/When The Rainbow is Enuf," which was revived in 2019 at the Public Theater, racks up awards, Outer Critics Circle and nominations Drama Desk and Off Broadway Alliance. A 2020 revival is in the works.

Hollywood Reporter, one of the entertainment world's trade bibles, names Nekesa Mumbi Moody as its top editor. Brooklyn-based native New Yorker, Moody moved up through the ranks during her 12 year tenure at Associated Press, serving as its global entertainment and lifestyle editor. She relocates to Los Angeles for her new post.

New York Black scholar/author Jill Nelson, 67, on April 16

NEWSMAKERS

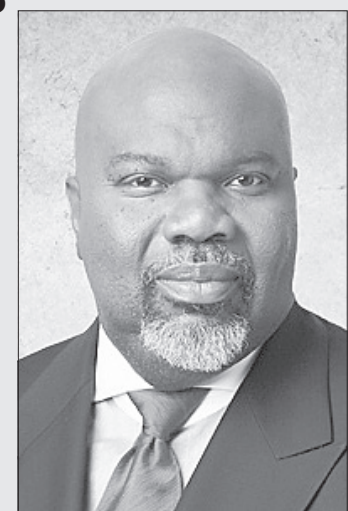
A celebrity-friendly sign, Gemini is a zodiac air sign represented by the twins. Birthday greetings to Gemini natives: Carmelo Anthony; Wayne Brady; Roslyn Woods Cabbagestalk, RN;

Ice Cube; James Dillahunt, holistic health practitioner; Dr. Sandra Epps educator/fine arts curator; Morgan Freeman; Ronnie Grant, actor; Ceelo Green; Dennis Haysbert; Lauren Hill; Cynthia Horner, Right On! Magazine; Maya Horsford; Naomi Horsford college coed; Karyn Jackson; Gladys Knight; Lenny Kravitz; Bishop TD Jakes; Kendrick Lamar; Aaron McGruder, writer/cartoonist, The Boondocks; Mamadou Niang, TV Journalist/Producer; Lionel Richie; Edgar Ridley, Semiotics Scholar, author of *The Golden Apple: Changing the Structure of Civilization*, Volume 3; Kai Sidberry; Sherry Smith, Goldman Sachs, VP; Entrepreneur Karen Soltan, "Real Estate Lady" and Entertainment impresario; Octavia Spencer; Bob Tate,



Jill Nelson

left her home in Washington Heights, Manhattan to run some essential errands to the local supermarket and pharmacy, was arrested by NYPD for writing "TRUMP = PLAGUE" in chalk, on an abandoned building. She was frisked, handcuffed and taken to the 33rd precinct, where she spent a nightmarish five hours, initially being denied a phone call and being readied for Central booking. When she called her husband requesting that he bring her ID to precinct, she was cut off before giving an address. He brought papers to precinct unbeknownst to her. When leaving the precinct, the desk sergeant warned her "Be sure to show up for your desk appearance ticket or else we'll come to your house and arrest you." Nelson wrote the book "VOLUNTEER SLAVERY, My Authentic Negro Experience" which won an American Book Award; and she has retained Attorney Norman Siegal.



Bishop TD Jakes

special events curator; Pierre Thiam, Teranga Restaurant and author of "The Fonio Cookbook: An Ancient Grain Rediscovered"; Franklin Thomas, first African American Ford Foundation CEO; Donald Trump; Kanye West; Patti LaBelle and Sundra Williams, actress.

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Bob Watson Pioneer

By Andrew Rosario

The New York Yankees, arguably sports most successful organization and baseball's best in winning the most World Series titles (27) has never really been a model when it comes to their treatment of African American players. In fact, they were one of the last teams to add a black player when catcher Elston Howard was signed in 1955. Howard had the unenviable task of backing up Hall of Famer Yogi Berra. When his career ended, Howard hit .274, 167 hr, 762 rbi and was the 1963 American League Most Valuable Player. Howard was a 12 time All Star. Not many black players followed in his footsteps. There was second baseman Horace Clark and pitcher Al Downing (most notably know for giving up Hank Aaron's 715th home run). The best African American player to ever don the pinstripes (before Derek Jeter) was a guy named Reginald Martinez Jackson signed as a free agent from the Baltimore Orioles where he played for only one year after leading the Oakland Athletics to three straight World Series titles. Jackson, known as "Mr. October" for his postseason heroics, took New York and the baseball world by storm. The Yankees made it to the World Series in 1976 only to get swept by the mighty Cincinnati Reds. Jackson was an integral part as the team won World Series title the next two years proving that he was the "straw that stirs the drink."

Owner George Steinbrenner, frustrated the team failed to make the playoffs in 1979 (the year in which Thurman Munson died in a airplane crash) went out and signed Dave Winfield from the San Diego Padres. The team went to the World Series in 1981 only to lose to the Los Angeles Dodgers. Steinbrenner dubbing Winfield "Mr. April" as Winfield only had one hit in 22 at-bats. Before his career with the Yankees was over, the saga involving Steinbrenner, Winfield and Howie Spira would be front and back page fodder for the rest of his Yankees career. It resulted in then commissioner Fay Vincent initially banning Steinbrenner for life which was reduced to two years. Said Vincent, "it was a pretty sordid and very unattractive story of George trying to destroy Dave Winfield. It was not Steinbrenner at his best."

Both Jackson and Winfield would continue their careers elsewhere. Jackson came back as a member of the Angels and hit a home run at Yankee Stadium against Ron Guidry. Winfield would win a World Series with Toronto driving in the winning runs as the Yankees doldrums continued.

Their fortunes would turn as Steinbrenner hired Bob Watson who played for the team for three years (1980-1982) as General Manager. Managed by Buck Showalter the team made the playoffs after a



Bob Watson: First African American General Manger To Win World Series
Photo: special to the Philadelphia Observer

long drought in 1995 only to lose to Seattle in 5 games. Steinbrenner gave Buck his walking papers and hired Joe Torre (recommended by Watson) the following year. The Yankees would win their first World

Series since 1978. Integral African American players players included Dwight Golden, Charlie Hayes (he caught the last out of the 1996 World Series), Darryl Strawberry, Cecil Fiedler, Gerald Williams and

then rookie Derek Jeter.

Bob Watson put that roster together and watched as the team would win the World Series three years in a row (1998-2000) after he moved on with Brian Cashman

taking over. The team has one only one World Series since his Watson's departure.

There have been other notable African Americans that have been on the Bronx Bombers roster. Roy White, Oscar Gamble, Mickey (Gozzle Head) Rivers, Willie Randolph, (third base, bench coach and manager of the New York Mets) Chili Davis and Hall of Farmer Tim (Rock) Lincecum.

Bob Watson passed away last Friday at the age of 74. He was the first African American General Manager to win a World Series title. Current General Manager Brian Cashman issued a statement in part saying, "Bob was a gentle giant. He was an incredibly kind person and a mentor who I looked up to and admired. He shared his wealth of experience and deep knowledge of the game freely and with everyone he came in contact with and I was one of those beneficiaries."

Major league sports, particularly baseball, basketball and football's inclusion of African Americans in leadership roles continue to struggle. Football continues to make excuses when it comes to black quarterbacks. Baseball and basketball recycle individuals in the dugouts, sidelines and front office. Bob Watson was given a chance by a tyrant owner and quietly did something no other African American had ever done. "He was a mentor," said Randolph who as popular as he was, was never considered or offered the manager's position by Steinbrenner. "A lot of people don't realize what a great player Bob Watson was."



Winfield Felt the Wrath of Steinbrenner
Photo: special to the Philadelphia Observer