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LET'S NOT CREATE

ANOTHER REASON TO INCARCERATE, KILL BLACK PEOPLE

**California's Senate Bill
793 would ban menthol
products.**

**89 percent of Black
smokers prefer menthol
cigarettes, filtermag.org.**

**A ban on menthols would
create a black-market
bringing police into the
matter.**



Opponents of the ban say if the issue were about American citizens' health, legislature would ban all cigarettes, not just those preferred in the African American community, pg3

Ex-FBI lawyer pleads guilty in review of Russia inquiry

By Adam Goldman

WASHINGTON — A former F.B.I. lawyer pleaded guilty after he was charged with falsifying a document as part of a deal with prosecutors conducting their own criminal inquiry of the Russia investigation, according to his lawyer and court documents made public on Friday.

The lawyer, Kevin Clinesmith, 38, who was assigned to the Russia investigation, plans to admit that he altered an email from the C.I.A. that investigators relied on to seek renewed court permission in 2017 for a secret wiretap on the former Trump campaign adviser Carter Page, who had at times provided information to the spy agency. Mr. Clinesmith's lawyer said he made a mistake while trying to clarify facts for a colleague.

President Trump immediately promoted the plea agreement as proof that the Russia investigation was illegitimate and politically motivated, opening a White House news conference by calling Mr. Clinesmith "corrupt" and the deal "just the beginning." Mr. Trump has long been blunt about viewing the investigation by the prosecutor examining the earlier inquiry, John H. Durham, as political payback whose fruits he would like to see revealed in the weeks before the election.

Attorney General William P. Barr has portrayed Mr. Durham's work as rectifying what he sees as injustices by officials who sought in 2016 to understand links between the Trump campaign and



Russia's covert operation to interfere in the election.

Mr. Clinesmith had written texts expressing opposition to Mr. Trump. But prosecutors did not reveal any evidence in charging documents that showed Mr. Clinesmith's actions were part of any broader conspiracy to undermine Mr. Trump. And the Justice Department's independent inspector general, Michael E. Horowitz, has found that law enforcement officials had sufficient reason to open the Russia investigation, known inside the F.B.I. as Crossfire Hurricane, and found no evidence that they acted with political bias.

As part of their efforts to dissuade prosecutors from charging Mr. Clinesmith, his lawyers argued that his motives were benign, and other evidence indicated that he had not tried to hide the C.I.A. email from his colleagues,

"Kevin deeply regrets having altered the email," Mr. Clinesmith's lawyer, Justin Shur, said in a statement. "It was never his intent to mislead the court or his colleagues as he believed the information he relayed was accurate. But Kevin understands what he did was wrong and accepts responsibility."

Joe Biden: I was not pressured to choose Kamala Harris

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Many prominent Black voices urged Biden to pick a Black woman as his running mate.

In an interview with ABC News set to air on Sunday night, Democratic Presidential nominee Joe Biden asserts that his decision to pick Kamala Harris as his vice presidential nominee is genuine.

"No, I didn't feel pressure to select a Black woman," Biden told ABC's Robin Roberts. "But I – what I do think and I've said it before, and you've heard me say it. I've probably said it on your show with you, is that the government should look like the people, look like the country."

"Fifty-one percent of the people in this country are women," Biden continued. "As that old expression goes, women hold up half the sky, and in order to be able to succeed, you've got to be dealt



in across the board, and no matter what you say, you cannot, I cannot understand and fully appreciate what it means to walk in her shoes, to be an African American woman, with [an] Indian American background, child of immigrants."

The claim that Biden got pressured into picking Harris may stem from the many prominent Black voices, such as Diddy and Charlamagne tha God, that urged Biden to pick a Black woman as his running mate.

As the first Black and South Asian woman to accept a vice presidential nominee, Harris' candidacy made history.



Jacob Blake, 29, was shot seven times in the back by police right in front of his children.

Another police shooting of Black man sparks protests as "Knee off our necks" march is scheduled for Friday

By Hazel Trice Edney

- A 29-year-old Black man remains paralyzed from the waist down after being shot seven times in the back by a White police officer for unknown reasons on Monday, Aug. 24.

Jacob Blake, shot by a Kenosha, Wisconsin policeman, was reportedly leaving the scene of an altercation between two women as police followed him on foot, one holding a gun to his back. Blake had reportedly broken up the fight between the two women.

When Blake attempted to get into the driver's seat of the car where his 8, 5, and 3-year-old sons were seated, the officer with the gun grabbed the back of his t-shirt; then opened fire, appearing to shoot Blake seven times in the back.

According to reports, Blake was paralyzed from the waste down after undergoing several surgeries but remained in stable condition. Two of the officers involved have been placed on administrative leave pending investigations.

Wisconsin's governor called on the National Guard in anticipation of possible violent protests. This incident comes after a summer of heated protests after the killings of George Floyd and Brianna Taylor both killed by police. It also comes just before the Rev. Al Sharpton's National Action Network's "Get Your Knee Off Our Necks" march this Saturday, August 28, "citing racial climate as the urgent need to still mobilize."

Sharpton and Martin Luther King III, along with Attorney Benjamin Crump and the Families of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Eric Garner and others will convene with NAN, NAACP and others for the march on Washington in protest of police brutality. For more information on this march, go to <https://nationalactionnetwork.net/commitment-march-get-your-knee-off-our-necks/>.

Protestors quickly hit streets around the country as the Blake family pleaded for peaceful demonstrations only. Despite their pleas, buildings were set afire in Kenosha. Nothing was mentioned of the shooting by President Donald Trump during the first day of the Republican National Convention. Democratic Presidential Candidate Joseph Biden issued a statement. "This morning, the nation wakes up yet again with grief and outrage that yet another Black American is a victim of excessive force," Biden said. "This calls for an immediate, full and transparent investigation and the officers must be held accountable."

DNC Chairman Tom Perez concluded, "A bullet in the back. A knee on the neck. When will it end? Yet again, our nation is hurting. Yet again, Black communities are hurting. Our hearts go out to Jacob Blake and his family as we pray for his recovery. Sadly, we know he is not the first to be viciously gunned down by law enforcement. He is one of countless Black Americans who have suffered at the hands of bigotry with a badge."

Michigan AG announces \$600m settlement to victims of Flint water crisis

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The state of Michigan will pay a \$600 million settlement to residents who were affected by the contaminated water in Flint. State Attorney General Dana Nessel announced the development in a press release on Thursday, Aug. 20.

"Providing relief for the peo-

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Kamala Harris sets the tone in first interview since Biden's VP announcement

"Why don't they want us to vote? Because when we vote things change."

**By Katherine C. Gilyard
Howard University News Service**

U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris discussed the power and importance

of electing the right person in November in her first interview after Joe Biden's long-awaited announcement that she would be his running mate in the 2020 presidential race.

"I fear that if we don't correct course, the damage will be irreversible," Harris said. "Everything is on the line in this election."

"This is probably one of the

most important elections in our lifetime," she told Errin Haines, editor-at-large of 19thnews.org. "This is a battle for the soul of our country."

"When we look at someone like the current occupant in the White House again, he has not been lifting folks up. The strength of a

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Gwendolyn Carr
Mother of Eric Garner

Eric Garner's mother denounces proposed menthol ban

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire

"A bad law has consequences for mothers like me."

The heartfelt and courageous words of Gwen Carr, the mother of Eric Garner, who was killed by a police officer in Staten Island, New York, after the cop claimed Garner was selling illegal cigarettes.

Carr is speaking out in a new video against proposed legislation in California that would make it illegal to possess or smoke menthol cigarettes.

The goal of SB793 is to ban the sale of flavored tobacco, prohibiting e-cigarettes and vaping. However, menthol cigarettes are also included in the ban while excluding hookah. The inclusion of menthol has led groups like Law

Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP) and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement (NOBLE) to call the proposed law racist.

The groups said its discriminatory exclusion.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) has also denounced the proposal, which legislators plan to take a vote on Monday, Aug. 24.

In the 30-second video, Carr especially takes exception.

"A new law would criminalize menthol cigarettes which Black people smoke almost exclusively, giving police officers another excuse to harass and harm any Black man, woman or child they choose," Carr states. "Our leaders should know better. A bad law has consequences for mothers like me."

LEAP warns potential menthol ban would increase police interaction with Black community

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire

There is little question that cigarette smoking is harmful.

However, a growing number of organizations led by Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP) and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) believe a ban would further endanger Black lives because it could potentially increase interaction with the police.

Many within the African American community have voiced concern over California's Senate Bill 793.

This measure would ban menthol products, but critics said it would probably increase racial profiling by law enforcement, based on statistics suggesting that menthol cigarettes are overwhelmingly preferred by African Americans who chose to smoke.

"Whether it is real or perceived, there is a distrust of local police," said Commissioner Jiles Shipp, the president of NOBLE.

"The ban will have a counter effect and further damage community-police relations."

Shipp recommends that com-

munities concerned about smoking continue to use education, limited smoke-free areas, and tobacco cessation campaigns, all of which he said has drastically decreased smoking rates over the past few decades.

Major Neill Franklin, executive director of LEAP, noted that if convenience stores and gas stations are prevented from selling menthol, most people will purchase the cigarettes from neighboring jurisdictions and sell them in the prohibited area for a higher price.

"We know that laws are enforced in a way that targets people of color. [Menthol bans] create more space for that to happen," Major Franklin declared.

"We know [these bans] will result in an illicit underground market of menthol cigarettes in the black community. If you have a robust underground market for these products, your health problems will double, triple within a matter of days."

LEAP has commissioned ads in several California newspapers denouncing the proposed ban.

"That LEAP is trusting NNPA member newspapers for delivering this essential information to those

it has impacted the most speaks volumes about our organization's reach, power and influence on all matters relating to Black people," stated Kenneth Miller, the publisher of Inglewood Today.

"There is truth to the fact that lives will be saved because of the number of African Americans who smoke menthol cigarettes, but that doesn't address the black market it creates for menthol cigarettes, which brings police into the situation and is what happened in the Eric Garner case," added John Warren, the publisher of The San Diego Voice & Viewpoint. "People don't need to be killed by police because of cigarettes. It's not worth it."

In an op-ed published this month, National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., said while he doesn't smoke, he supports any effort that will improve the health and quality of life of Black Americans, as well as the health of all people regardless of race.

"But I am profoundly aware that the overwhelming majority of Black Americans who smoke cigarettes prefer to smoke men-



thol-flavored cigarettes," Chavis wrote.

"For me, this is an issue that needs to be better understood by public policymakers who are contemplating passing legislation that will ultimately add to the often-fatal interactions between Black Americans and law enforcement officers."

According to the website, filtermag.org, menthol is a mint-flavored compound that reduces the harsh taste of smoke inhalation. While menthols make up 35 percent of the overall cigarette market, an entrenched racial disparity exists, at least partly due to targeted marketing by tobacco companies: 89 percent of black smokers prefer menthols.

"Smokers, like any people who use drugs, are unlikely to respond

to bans by suddenly changing their preferences. Prohibiting the sale of these cigarettes could, therefore, further criminalize communities of color," the website noted.

Opponents of the ban have noted that if the issue were about American citizens' health, the legislature would seek to ban all forms of cigarettes, not just those preferred in the African American community.

"We can't criminalize our way out of social problems," said Jody Armour, the Roy P. Crocker Professor of Law at the University of Southern California. "What lessons have we learned from the last 30 years as we have evolved from Jim Crow to mass incarceration, which has become the vanguard of civil rights issues?"

Michigan official defends N-word against Black Lives Matter: 'It is not racism'

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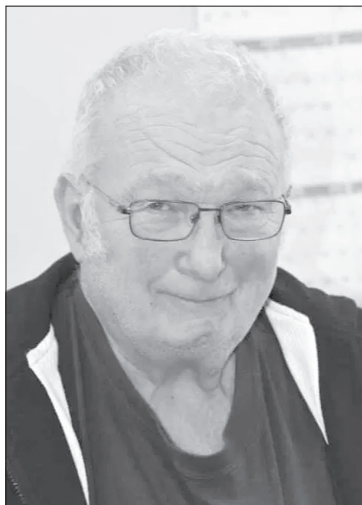
An elected official from north-west lower Michigan has caused outrage due to his repeated use of the N-word.

According to The Detroit News, Leelanau County road commissioner Tom Eckerle was first reported as spewing the racial slur at a public meeting on Tuesday. He is accused of saying the word after he went on a "tirade" about why he refused to wear a mask amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eckerle, a Republican, is quoted as saying, "Well, this whole thing is because of them ni**ers in Detroit."

"I can say anything that I want," he continued, according to the Leelanau Enterprise. "Black Lives Matter has everything to do with taking the country away from us."

Bob Joyce, the chairman of the Leelanau Road Commission, explained to The Detroit News that he heard Eckerle say the N-word and he's calling on him to resign. Joyce said he quickly condemned Eckerle for using the racial slur,



which Eckerle used after Joyce asked his thoughts about kids returning to school amid COVID-19.

"(Eckerle) said 'I can say whatever I want' and I said 'no you can't,'" Joyce said. "It's horrible. It's absolutely horrific."

Joyce said that he and the three other commissioners had planned to give Eckerle a letter on Thursday requesting he step down from his post. "We do not tolerate that," Joyce said. "That's not who we are."

NEWS UPDATE: Eckerle has now resigned

Michigan AG announces \$600m settlement to victims of Flint water crisis

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ple of Flint and resolving these long-standing legal disputes has been a top priority for me since taking office," Nessel said. "Flint residents have endured more than most, and to draw out the legal back-and-forth even longer would have achieved nothing but continued hardship."

About 80 percent of the settlement will go to children or people who were minors when they were exposed to the water. Children under the age of six are expected to get most of the money and two percent of the funds will be allocated to special education programs.

"This settlement focuses on the children and the future of Flint, and the State will do all it can to make this a step forward in the healing process for one of Michigan's most resilient cities," the attorney general said. "Ultimately, by reaching this agreement, I hope we can begin the process of closing one of the most difficult chapters in our State's history

and writing a new one that starts with a government that works on behalf of all of its people."

An additional 18 percent will go to claims of adults and for property damage during the crisis and 1 percent will go to businesses that faced loss as a result of the crisis.

The water crisis started in 2014 after Flint's water supply was switched from Lake Huron to the Flint River to save money. After the change, residents noticed changes in the water's taste, smell and color. As time progressed, there were reports of illness among children. Tests conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency and Virginia Tech detected unsafe amounts of lead in the water, per CNN.

The settlement is expected to resolve over 100 lawsuits against the state, reported The Detroit News. However, litigation against Veolia and LAN, the engineering firms that worked on the water switch, is pending. The state of Michigan is among the plaintiffs targeting the companies.

California hit by 10,000 lightning strikes in 72 hours

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Wildfires tore through Northern California overnight, spreading quickly and engulfing homes as firefighters battled to get control of the blazes, which have forced a growing number of evacuations and were likely caused by lightning strikes in recent days.

People were ordered to flee neighborhoods in Vacaville, a city of about 100,000 residents near Sacramento, as a combination of uncontrolled fires northwest of the city began to overtake homes. That group of fires, known together as the LNU Lightning Complex, has destroyed more than 50 buildings or structures and is threatening nearly 2,000 more, the authorities said.

It grew more than 14,000 acres overnight and now covers 46,225 acres in Napa and Sonoma Counties — larger than the size of Washington, D.C. — and is completely uncontained, the authorities said. Four people have been injured in the fire.

Videos from Vacaville showed flames leaping through one neighborhood, from trees to homes to picket fences.

Philip Galbraith, 52, said he and his 20-year-old son received no warning of the approaching fire until a neighbor began "desper-



ately banging" on his door around 2:45 a.m.

"I got out of the house in pretty much what I had on," he said. "I got my son and we left."

The authorities have also ordered residents to evacuate in several other areas where groups of fires, also likely caused by lightning, are spreading quickly. The SCU Lightning Complex, a group of about 20 different fires, more than doubled in size overnight, and is now burning over 85,000 acres across five counties — largely in unpopulated regions near the Bay Area — and is just 5 percent

contained. A third combination of fires, known as the CZU August Lightning Complex, has grown to 10,000 acres and forced evacuations in Santa Cruz County.

Firefighters had hoped for calmer weather overnight, but gusty winds arrived instead, pushing the fire toward vegetation and other fresh fuel, said Lynnette Round, a spokeswoman for California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or Cal Fire.

"Today they're going to be in for another firefight," she said, as the winds and dry, hot weather continue.

Open letter to Dave Chappelle on use of N-word

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Dear Mr. Chappelle:

I write to you as a Black man who is nearly 30 years your senior. I have admired your social and political commentary over the years. I recently watched 8:46 and found it to be very provocative and informative. Nevertheless, I have only one question: Why do you and so many other Black rappers and comedians feel it necessary to lace your profound messages with the N-word?

May I remind you that all groups in America, including Italians, Irish, Jews, Japanese, Chinese, Native Americans, and Mexicans have been victims of racial epithets; yet WE ARE THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO TOLERATE AND EVEN FLAUNT OUR DEGRADATION! (Lest we forget, the N-word was the last utterance of sneering White mobs before they lynched over four thousand Black people in this country. The N-word was also the term that Travis McMichael spoke over the dead body of jogger Amandla Arbery after McMichael shot him three times in cold blood in Georgia. Furthermore, Mary Trump, whose recent bestselling book reveals secrets about her family, has stated that the president has contempt for Black people and has used the N-word in her presence. As a matter of fact, Brother Chappelle, during this Age of Trump, the Internet is filled with hostile exchanges between Black people and Whites in which White people spew forth the N-word with hatred and bitterness. So why must you use it?)

I understand that you have a lovely Asian wife. I have never heard you speak of Asian people as Flips, Chinks or Japs. That of course, would be very disrespectful. Can't you see that many Black people find your use of the N-word to be disrespectful to us? We cannot condemn White people for the use of that word while we flaunt it so shamelessly.

It's gotten so bad here in California that youths of all races now routinely address each other with the rap endorsed and promoted N-word. As a matter of fact, I have often thought that, if a White man



approaches me and shouts, "You damn Ni-ger," I will not take offense. I will simply ask, "Sir, are you a rapper or a comedian?"

Seriously, one of our most renowned comedians, Richard Pryor, often used the N-word during his career. But after visiting the continent of Africa and marveling over our magnificent history and cultures, he vowed to cease using the word and maintained that commitment to the end of his life.

During this time when two Black men have been hung in California, several have been killed by policemen and a global uprising is affirming our dignity and cries for justice, there simply is no justification for casual use of the N-word. It has been weaponized against our people for centuries, and it boggles the mind as to why prominent Black comedians and rappers are so fascinated by its use.

I realize that the decision you make regarding this matter is personal; however, please bear in mind that as a public figure your influence reaches far and wide; and may well have an impact not only on how we and our children view us as a people but also on how the broader world perceives us.

You are a valuable Black spokesperson who has pricked the conscience of this nation. I humbly suggest that your message may be even more profound and persuasive if it is conveyed without the use of a word that has caused so much such pain and suffering to the masses of our people.

Sincerely,
Legrand H. Clegg, II

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The truth sometimes is Black and White



By Rev. Professor Keith Magee (TriceEdneyWire.com) –

Before I belong to a race, party, or gender, I belong to God. I believe that we're all made in the image of God. As a follower of Jesus, I'm committed to the greatest of his commandments: to love the Lord my God with all thy heart soul and mind, and to love my neighbor.

America has long suffered from

the sin of racism. Race is a social construct that was designed to create powerlessness, division, and fear amongst those who had been enslaved and deemed soulless. Today, as the election approaches, we stand at what I hope will be a key turning point in history. In the midst of the terrible division, sickness, fear, and grief we have experienced in recent months, we have a real chance to unite all America's people in the causes of civility, healing, hope, and justice. To do this, we must remove Trump from office.

On Wednesday, August 19, Kamala Harris, an American-born, Jamaican-Indian United States Senator, became the first woman of color to be the vice-presidential nominee to a major US political party. As we celebrate this important moment, let us also rejoice in the myriad things that make us all so different and yet all so alike, all so unique, and yet all God's children.

Although 60.3 percent of Americans are white, and 52.9 percent of them are women, no white woman has ever been President. However, it is now crucial that white women are galvanized to vote overwhelmingly for a male

Democrat to take that office and perhaps pass the mantle on to a Black woman (in what would be another historic first). I believe that, as running mates, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris embody the unity and solidarity we all long for. Women understand perhaps more than anyone our country's need for togetherness right now. But we have to ensure that all women feel part of our movement, and that must include white women.

I am a Black man for whom many pivotal moments in life have come through white women believing in me. Marie Bennett hired me, in spite of my dyslexia, to work on a project of federal significance. Caroline Cracraft, whom I adore as my British Mum, is the reason why I have a life in the United Kingdom. It was a 'Karen' who gave me courage to soar beyond where I was eight years ago and to flourish, fulfilling what I thought at the time were unrealistic expectations.

My first "granddaughter", Eleanor Irene, was born on 07/07/2020. She happens to be white. She's the daughter of my Jordan, who came to work for me as an intern in 2009. Jordan had lost both of her parents and was navigating her life as a beautiful soul without

them. Ever since, I have loved her, and her growing family, as my own, because that is what they are.

I want our Democratic party to reflect all their hopes, needs, and aspirations, just as it must those of their Black sisters and friends.

I am so grateful to the white women who did and do understand the call of justice and equality within their hearts and souls. Many have stood beside us in the fight for equal rights, including Juliette Morgan and NAACP founders Mary White Ovington and Florence Kelly. Countless white women played an active role in recent anti-racism demonstrations, not just in the US, but all over the world. They give me hope.

But I am also afraid. We are at a daunting place. Our opponents may outnumber us in some of the states we need to carry, and they may well not play fair. I am worried for the America that our ancestors died to build, where our parents endured so much for us to have fairer opportunities and where is so much still to overcome. I am worried that as we rejoice in Biden's choice of a Black woman as his running mate, we may forget to open our arms to the white women whose support we so badly need.

We must do everything in our power to maximize the impact of the Biden-Harris symbol of unity and hope. We must ensure that white women of every age and socio-economic group also see themselves reflected in our messaging, our campaigning, and in those whom we ask to endorse us.

So here is my prayer, my Lord: Let this be a moment to heal the soul of America with love, compassion, equality and dignity. Let us be careful not to create another divide, but instead build a bridge to our collective humanity. Let us not make this a polarizing moment, but let us be all-inclusive and united. Let us inspire every single voter to join us, whatever their gender, and whatever the color of their skin happens to be. Let us beat Trump together.

Rev. Professor Keith Magee is a public intellectual with a focus on social justice and public theology. He is Visiting Professor of Social Justice at Newcastle University, Senior Fellow in Culture and Justice at the University College London and Lead Pastor at The Living Room at The Berachah Church. For more information visit www.4justicesake.org or follow him on social media @keithlmagee.

Kamala Harris sets the tone in first interview since Biden's VP announcement

From page 3

leader is not based on who you beat down, but who you lift up. And these are the things that are at stake right now."

The California senator participated in the closing keynote conversation on Friday during "The 19th Represents: 2020 Virtual Summit." The 19th is a nonprofit newsroom named for the U.S. constitutional amendment that granted white women the right to vote a century ago in 1919. It wouldn't be until 1965 when the Voting Rights Act was passed that everyone — regardless of sex, socioeconomic status or color — would gain the right to vote.

During the talk, Harris shared insights from her tenure on the crowded campaign trail as a Democratic presidential candidate, until Biden's historic announcement three days earlier.

She also reflected on her time with the other female candidates, many of whom she'd worked alongside for many years. "We weren't in competition with each

other," Harris said. "We knew we were representing a picture of what the country is and should be moving forward."

Harris, an Oakland, California native, is the daughter of Indian and Jamaican immigrants. This makes her the first Black, Asian-American and woman on a presidential election ticket for a major political party, but she sees her selection as "a statement of affirmation."

"I am not unique," she explains. "There are a lot of people like me."

While never missing an opportunity to speak about the Biden-Harris ticket, she highlighted the presidential hopeful's courage in selecting her and what it means for the future of the country.

"Joe Biden had the audacity to choose a Black woman to be his running mate," Harris said. "How incredible is that? And what a statement that says about Joe Biden. That he decided that he was going to do that thing that was about breaking one of the most substantial barriers that

have existed in our country and that he made that decision with whatever risks that brings.

"I think as much as anything, it's a statement about the man that we're going to elect as the next president of the United States."

Harris also discussed what it would take to motivate Black women to vote. "When you have one ticket that can say #BlackLivesMatter, and another who has been full time sowing hate and division in our country, those are the things that are gonna motivate Black women to vote.

"You don't want to have any false modesty about a Black woman being on the ticket, but it takes more than just that to motivate Black women to vote. People have to speak to their issues, and the Biden-Harris ticket does that."

She also acknowledged the challenge of voter suppression and other obstacles. In a recent poll by the Pew Research Center, Black voters were less likely to say that voting would be easy:

35 percent for African Americans compared to 53 percent of white voters.

"There are states and there are state legislatures who, especially after the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act, have put in place laws that have been designed to suppress the vote — in particular the black vote, [to keep] students from voting, indigenous people from voting," Harris said. "Some of them we're gonna fight against and get rid of before the election; some of them are still going to be in place.

"We know how to get around the obstacles that for many of us have been in place since we were born. And that's gonna be the job ahead of us in the next 80-something days."

To work around obstacles, Black women are working through organizations such as Black Voters Matter, Higher Heights for America and Fair Fight, founded by Stacey Abrams, a fellow speaker for "The 19th Represents," who ran for governor of Georgia and was also a contender as Biden's

running mate.

Challenges include the difficulty of voting during the coronavirus pandemic and President Trump's threats to weaken the U.S. Postal Service in light of his fears about mail-in ballots.

According to a Pew survey conducted between July 27 and Aug. 2, 37 percent of Black registered voters prefer to cast their ballots by mail for the general election in November; 33 percent in person on Election Day; and 25 percent in person at early-voting locations. Five percent said that they didn't plan to vote.

In her closing remarks, Harris posed questions to the audience: "Why don't they want us to vote? Why are they creating obstacles to us voting?"

"Well, the answer is, because when we vote, things change. When we vote, things get better. When we vote, we address the disparities we've been talking about. We address the need of all people to be treated with dignity and respect. These are the things that are on the line in this election."

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As Republicans make their pitch this week, Democrats must ace the agenda test



News Analysis

By Jesse Jackson
 - In last week's Democratic National Convention, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris passed the character test. Now as Trump rolls out his virtual convention, the Democrats must ace the agenda test. They need to argue the case for the bold agenda that this country desperately needs, and challenge Trump for his policy failures.

The Democratic National Convention focused on the character test. Speaker after speaker contrasted the decency of Joe Biden against what Trump's own sister called the "phoniness" of Donald Trump, a man she said of "no principles, none." The convention introduced Kamala Harris to the country, highlighting her remarkable journey from the child of immigrants, the student at Howard University, California attorney general and senator to the presidential ticket. Jill Biden demonstrated her commitment to family and to teaching.

The convention displayed the character of the party — its diversity, its inclusiveness, its concern for justice. In powerful presentations, Michelle and Barack Obama made the case about why Trump is just not up to the job of president, particularly in a time of crisis. "It is what it is," as Michelle concluded. That left little time to address the agenda. It's not that it does not exist.

The Democratic platform — largely a product of the task forces put together by Biden



and Bernie Sanders — details a broad, progressive agenda for change. Biden's own web page and speeches over the course of the nominating process have presented elements of his program. But no one but political junkies read party platforms, and few probe candidate websites. It is now up to Biden and Harris to lay out their case — and contrast it with Trump's failed administration. The priorities are clear. In the immediate short-term, Trump's catastrophic mismanagement of the pandemic must be replaced by a comprehensive national strategy to get the pandemic under control so lives are saved and the economy can start up again.

The 30 million people who have been forced onto unemployment — disproportionately lower wage workers, disproportionately Black and Hispanic — need immediate assistance. Trump and the Republican Senate stood in the way of the needed rescue package, objecting to continuing the \$600 a week enhancement to unemployment insurance, aid to the U.S. Postal Service to manage the expected surge in voting by mail, aid to cities and states facing

massive layoffs of police, teachers, transit workers and more after their budgets were busted by the economic collapse and the costs of dealing with the pandemic.

Already another round of layoffs is expected, and 20 to 30 million families are threatened with eviction or foreclosure in a pandemic. Schools are struggling with reopening without the resources needed to pay for the protections health officials say are necessary. Yet Trump and McConnell refused even to meet Democratic House leaders halfway to get a bill done. In the longer run, major changes are needed to make this economy work for working people.

We need a bold initiative to rebuild America's infrastructure and make it sustainable, a transition to renewable energy to fend off already costly climate change and create millions of good jobs. We need major investment in science and technology so America can regain its lead in innovation and job growth. We need a new trade strategy and industrial policy that rebuilds good jobs at home, ensures we make essential products here in the U.S., and demands a balanced playing field from China

and other countries that trample trading rules.

At the same time, we need to ensure that workers gain a fair share of the profits and productivity that they help generate. Biden has promised to lift the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. We need to empower workers to organize and crack down on labor rights abuses by corporate managers. The economic bill of rights for essential workers should be detailed and readied for passage.

Paid family leave and sick leave is vital. Affordable, high-quality child care essential for working parents and their children. The health care gap must be closed, with affordable health care for all guaranteed. The education gap must be closed, with resources for public schools from pre-K through college. Biden has promised tuition-free education for all students whose families earn less than \$125,000 a year in contrast to Trump's lack of concern for the burden mounting student debt. The wealth gap must be addressed, with progressive taxes helping to reverse the extreme inequality that now threatens our democracy.

We must address the consti-

tutional right to vote. The right to vote should be protected, with restoration of the Voting Rights Act, automatic voter registration, expanded vote by mail and early voting, an end to partisan gerrymandering, and limits on big money in politics. Biden should support the constitutional amendment to guarantee the right to vote in America. The systemic racism built into our criminal justice system must be redressed.

Equal pay for women should no longer be an issue. The priorities are many. Biden and Harris must be aggressive in putting forth their agenda, explaining its import and defending its elements. Trump has already made it clear that his campaign will be based on lies and libels about the Democratic agenda. He has already called Biden the "puppet of the radical left," who wants to "defund the police" and "abolish the suburbs." He'll burlesque the Democratic agenda across the country. It is vital that Biden and Harris argue their case. If they do, there is no question that they will ace the agenda test that Trump has already failed. They have little more than two months to get that done.



On the scene

Hip Hop legend Mary J. Blige is Ambassador for 2020 ABFF

By Audrey J. Bernard

Iconic Grammy Award-winning and Academy Award-nominated singer, songwriter, actress, producer and philanthropist **Mary J. Blige** is the ambassador for the 2020 **American Black Film Festival (ABFF)**, which will be held online from August 19 through August 30, 2020. Blige is a figure of inspiration, transformation and empowerment making her one of the defining voices of the contemporary music era. As ambassador, Blige will help bring media awareness to the ABFF's mission and its 24-year legacy, as well as headline a one-on-one conversation during the Center Stage Talk series. "So many incredibly talented Black filmmakers have come out of the American Black Film Festival, many of whom I've had the pleasure to work with and many I can't wait to collaborate with," said Blige. "As an actress

and producer, there couldn't be a more important event to be a part of. I am a longtime supporter and admirer of ABFF and I am honored to be an ambassador and continue to help foster new talent." Previous ambassadors include **Idris Elba, Tracee Ellis Ross, Regina Hall, La La Anthony, Jay Ellis, Morris Chestnut, Omari Hardwick, Common** and **Taraji P. Henson**. "Mary J. Blige is a hip hop legend whose artistry has transcended into the film and TV industries. Her body of work personifies the ABFF mission, which is to celebrate and uplift the African American community through entertainment," said **Nicole Friday**, General Manager of ABFF Ventures LLC. For more information on ABFF and up-to-date news, go to abff.com and follow @ABFF on Twitter and @AmericanBlackFilmFestival on Instagram and Facebook. Join in on the conversation by using #ABFF20 and #WeAreABFF.



Ambassador Mary J. Blige



MC Lyte



Nicole Ari Parker & Boris Kodjoe



Legendary White Partygoers



ABFF Producers Nicole & Jeff Friday



The 2021 TUCSON,
it's like dancing in
the streets.



#1 Compact SUV
in Initial Quality

-J.D. Power, 2020

With a bold design and advanced technology, it has smoother moves than others in its class. Built for comfort and depended upon for reliability, this is an SUV that busy people like you can count on. Just relax and let the music play. The Tucson is better at its best.



International

Dirty oil floods pristine African beach in second major spill this year

(GIN) –

An Indian Ocean island nation, beloved for its sandy beaches, pristine lagoons and reefs, its tropical climate and its multi-ethnic population, has become another world treasure soiled by the relentless trade in oil, shipped by tankers, unsafe at any speed.

The ship that ran aground off the shores of Mauritius began spilling oil into the country's famed blue lagoons this week, setting off an environmental crisis in a tiny island nation that relies on its waters for fishing, food and tourism.

It was the second major spill globally this year but one that may leave its mark for decades – as has the BP Deepwater Horizon of 2010 which is still harming wildlife – especially dolphins – in the Gulf of Mexico, according to the National Marine Mammal Foundation.

This year's earlier spill took place May 29, when an oil tank collapsed in northern Siberia, polluting about 180,000 square meters.

Supertanker freight rates have been skyrocketing in recent months – from \$90,000 daily to \$180,000 a day – as producers, refiners and traders scramble to secure ships to transport crude or store a fast-growing global glut of oil, industry sources said.

Desperation to secure transport may have led some oil producers to consider unseaworthy large crude-oil carriers.

The Wakashio, a Japanese-owned and Panama-flagged bulk carrier, had been carrying 4,000 tons of fuel oil and 200 tons of diesel on board when a crack in the hull began to leak its dirty cargo.

The ship ran aground at Pointe d'Esny, a known sanctuary for rare wildlife. The area also contains wetlands designated as a site of international importance by the Ramsar convention on wetlands.

Happy Khamule from Greenpeace Africa warned that "thousands" of animal species were "at risk of drowning in a sea of pollution, with dire consequences for Mauritius' economy, food security and health". The country is also home to world-renowned coral reefs

The Republic of Mauritius, 1,200 miles off the eastern coast of Africa, is part of the African continent geographically, and makes up Africa's small island nations together with Comoros and Seychelles, according to the WorldAtlas. It is a member of the African Union and the Commonwealth of Nations.

The French took control of Mauritius in 1715, renaming it Isle de France.

In a news conference, Akihiro Ono, executive vice president of Mitsui OSK Lines "profusely" apologized for the spill and vowed that the company would do "everything in their power to resolve the issue".

German offer of \$12M for genocide reparations is tossed as "unacceptable" by Namibian leader



Hereros

(GIN) –

The Namibian government has turned thumbs down to a German offer of US\$11.8 million (\$10 million Euros) as reparations for Germany's genocidal extermination of indigenous Herero and Nama people from 1904-1908.

The reparations offer for mass killings by Germany in the colony known as German South West Africa were "not acceptable", declared President Hage Geingob, adding that the figure was "an insult to Namibia."

Geingob's retort was affirmed by Claus Stacker, editor at the German news service DW. "The figure is so shameful and ridiculously low that it in no way resembles a serious offer of reparations," Stacker said. "Ten million euros can in no way be the result of five years of interrupted negotiations over the mass murder of the Herero and

Nama people exactly 116 years ago."

"One thing remains clear and cannot be glossed over," he continued. "The negotiations must be concluded and an official German apology is long overdue."

According to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, German military forces, called Schutztruppe, exterminated hundreds of thousands of indigenous people in present-day Namibia through starvation and thirst in the Omaheke Desert, through forced labor, sexual violence, medical experiments and disease in concentration camps. The goal was to rid the colony of people viewed as expendable and thus gain access to their land.

"This genocide, the first of the twentieth century, was a prelude to the Holocaust in both the ideology of racial hierarchy that justified the genocide and the methods employed," the Museum

entry reads.

"Historians estimate that approximately 80,000 indigenous people were killed in the genocide. While these numbers are difficult to confirm, this figure represents about 80 percent of the Herero people and 50 percent of the Nama people."

In 1985, the U.N.'s Whitaker Report on the crime of genocide concluded that the German massacre of the Hereros qualified as genocide and was one of the earliest attempts at genocide in the 20th century.

In July 2015, the German government and the speaker of the Bundestag officially called the events "genocide" but refused to consider reparations.

A half century after Germany's war on the Herero, the all-white government of South Africa extended its brutal policies of segregation to Namibia. Decades after the country gained independence, the Herero are still fighting to regain what they once had.

This week, in a related development, the East African nation of Burundi announced it will seek reparations from both Germany and Belgium in the sum of \$42.6 billion for damages done during colonialism and for the return of historical artifacts and archive material believed stolen by the two European countries.

From 1890, Germany colonized Burundi, which became part of German East Africa. After WWI, the country was ruled by Belgium, until it gained its independence in 1962.

Muslim songwriter facing death penalty for blasphemy revives bitter debate in Nigeria

(GIN) –

Death sentences are rare in northern Nigeria where Sharia law is implemented alongside secular law in most states.

But the recent sentence of a 22-year-old singer to die by hanging has revived an emotional debate in the West African nation. An upper Sharia court in the Hausawa Filin Hockey area of Kano state ruled on August 10 that Yahaya Sharif-Aminu, 22, should die by hanging for the crime of blasphemy for a song he circulated via WhatsApp in March.

Sharif-Aminu allegedly blasphemed the Prophet Muhammad in a song praising an imam to the extent that it elevated him above the Holy Prophet. The song had been viewed as completely acceptable by some fellow followers of the Tijaniya Muslim brotherhood.

Offended members of the community took to the streets and burned down the singer's family home. Marching to Islamic police headquarters, known as the Hisbah, they demanded action against him.

Even the singer's father, Aminu Sharif, disowned him. "Blasphemy is not my ideology, he said, "and I promise to arrest (my son) and hand him over to security agents whenever he is found."

Not all Nigerians – Muslim or others – agree with the harsh sentence however and they filled the online pages of the Premium Times, a Nigerian news outlet, appealing for compassion and the rule of law.

"Lawyers in the house, please, under which section of the Penal Code will the guy be charged by police?" asked Unite2013. Added Blessing Ekpere Ogbu: "One country, two systems. What happens to those criminals who burnt the

house of a citizen? What are the security agencies doing about that?"

And at the recent 6th Annual Legal Workshop organized by the Nigeria Association of Muslim Law Students, Lagos State University, guest speaker Akin Ibidapo-Obe, called for the abolition of death penalty in Nigeria, saying it was abused by the powers that be "to advance their hegemony over their enemies."

More than 2,000 people sit on death row in Nigeria, according to Amnesty International. Sentences include stoning, shooting and lethal injection.

Governors must sign off on the executions, which happen behind closed doors. Some quietly disagree with the punishments or fear public backlash so they avoid the signatures, letting the accused exhaust their chance at an appeal and languish in prison for years.

Also sitting on death row is



Anti-death penalty protestor

Maryam Sanda, a mother of three, for allegedly stabbing her husband over infidelity. A petition to reverse

the sentence can be found on Change.org where over 800 have now signed.

COVID-19's 'Latest victim'— Our mental health

By Glenn Ellis

COVID-19 has now been found to have another deadly effect on our health: a study from the Commonwealth Fund reports that one-third of all Americans are now documented as reporting mental health issues. A whopping 70% of Americans cited the “government response” to COVID-19 as a significant source of this stress. According to a poll by the Kaiser Family Foundation, almost half of all Americans say worry or stress tied to the pandemic has negatively affected their mental health, according to a poll by the Kaiser Family Foundation.

The toll of the grief and loss related to death, related to loss of jobs and loss of income during this pandemic has touched each and every one of us. Even though everyone in this country is impacted, particularly hard hit (as with everything else from this virus) are Black and Brown communities. The old folks used to say, “when America catches a cold, black folks get pneumonia”.

And like everything else, member of these parts of our nation have to figure it out for themselves. The virus will be with us for years to come, so we must get serious about how we are going to survive this thing moving forward. Mental health and always been a challenge to access in this country, and COVID-19 has made it worse. For the millions who comprise

Black and Brown communities in this country, the Primary Care system is our first point of contact for people experiencing mental health concerns. We can foresee the challenges the primary care networks are going to have providing services in the aftermath of the pandemic, and it is likely that the historical inequities in mental and behavioral services will not only continue but get worse.

The central focus of our attention has to be to learn how to protect our ourselves, and our families', health by just paying close attention to exactly what the facts are. I would like to point a few areas of concern that will not only help to navigate your survival, but also help to guide your decisions about the best way, if any, for you to move forward, as the “government response” continues to leave us with doubt, uncertainty, and fear.

All of us are starting to see the “cracks” in the relationships with our families, friends, and other relationships. Many of us are admitting that we are starting to feel “depressed” and “exhausted”

One of the most important things to make sure you have a grip on is your understanding of how the virus spreads. Even though the experts don't know all of the ways the virus that causes COVID-19 spreads, it is important for you to know as much as possible about how you can best protect yourself, when you should

be concerned, and how to make a safe decision when, and if, you return to work; accept a particular job, in a particular environment or under certain conditions; or attend or engage in social activities with other people.

Based on the current research, every person who is infected with COVID-19 will infect 2 or 2.5 others. This infection rate can be as high as one sick person infecting between 4.7 and 6.6 others! To put it into context, someone who has the flu will probably give it to an average of 1.1 to 2.3 others, and one person with measles might spread it to 12 to 18 others!

So, if you find out that someone in your home, your job, or at the last funeral, cook-out; or any social interaction is infected, you can get an idea of the increased risk you could be facing.

If you go out food shopping, or other situations where you must be around other people, getting infected from packages, groceries, or food is statistically unlikely, your greatest concern should always be coming into direct contact with other people. When they say 6-foot distance, make it 10-feet.

And then there are those dog-gone face masks!

For most of us, those things can cause things like rapid heart rate, difficulty breathing, chest tightness, dizziness, feeling hot or sweating, or other symptoms like anxiety. No, face masks aren't 100% effective, but wearing



them means less virus is coming in from other people and you're inhaling less. The bottom line is that wearing a cloth face covering is estimated to screen out between 65% and 85% of viral particles. So, the next time, you don't feel like going back to get your mask, or you're around some of your favorite family or friends and feel “comfortable”, think again. The smaller the amount of virus you have to deal with, the better chance your body's immune system has a of mounting a defense.

Lastly, a word about the children. Words can't describe how concerned I am about what this pandemic will do to our children. In addition to being at the center of the greatest human experiment in history, by us allowing them to be tossed like sacrificial lambs into the political war over the reopening of schools. Be clear; children of

all ages can still catch this virus... and spread it. Some have become seriously ill and even died.

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 Visiting Scholar at The National Bioethics Center at Tuskegee University and a Harvard Medical School Research Bioethics Fellow. He is 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

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.



Culture



Getty Image

Cardi B wants Rep. AOC to run for president in 2024

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The rap star says she wants to see her fellow New Yorker in the Oval Office

Cardi B wants to see a fellow Bronx native in the White House. The rapper took to her social media on Saturday, Aug. 15, to share her endorsement of Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) for the 2024 election.

Rep. Ocasio-Cortez, nicknamed AOC, posted a video of herself on her Instagram stories speaking about dental care access. Cardi B's number one hit "Bodak Yellow" was playing in the background of the clip.

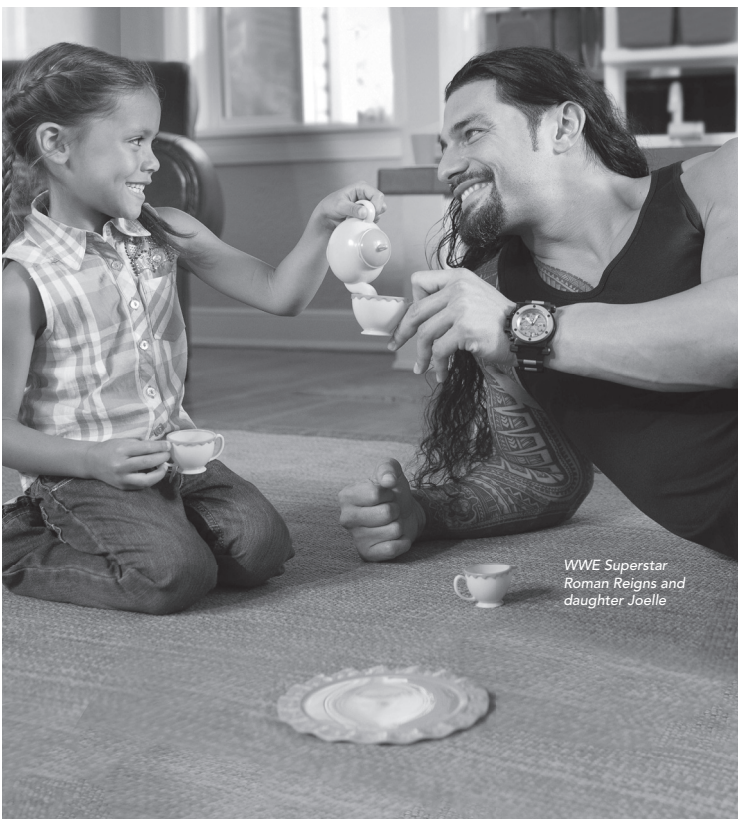
Cardi posted the video to her Twitter with the caption, "She better run for president when she turns 35." AOC later replied to Car-

di's tweet with "Women Against Patriarchy (WAP) 2020," a play off of Cardi's smash duet with Megan The Stallion, "WAP," which actually stands for "wet a** p****."

The congresswoman took to her Instagram stories on Aug. 14 to share how important it is that everyone has fair access to health and dental care.

"I had to GET ELECTED TO CONGRESS for me to afford dental treatment," AOC posted. "This is my first time having health insurance in years, and even THEN it didn't really cover the cost of this — but it did cover other doc appts so I could more easily save."

She added a line from "Bodak Yellow" — "In other words, 'I got a bag and fixed my teeth.' EXCEPT YOU SHOULDN'T NEED A BAG TO FIX YOUR TEETH, GET INSULIN, GET HEALTHCARE."



WWE Superstar Roman Reigns and daughter Joelle

Take time to
be a dad today.

Charlotta Bass was first Black woman to run for VP

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Charlotta Bass ran on the Progressive Party ticket in 1952 and homage was paid to her after Sen. Kamala Harris was picked to be Joe Biden's VP

Sen. Kamala Harris is the first Black woman and Asian American to be a running mate on a major ticket but Charlotta Bass is actually the first Black woman to run for vice president more than a half-century ago.

Bass, a political activist and journalist was the first African American woman to solely own a newspaper, The California Eagle. She ran for VP of the Progressive Party in 1952 alongside Vincent Hallinan in the longshot bid.

"This is a historic moment in American political life," Bass told the crowd at the Chicago convention. "Historic for myself, for my people, for all women. For the first time in the history of this nation, a political party has chosen a Negro woman for the second-highest office in the land."

Bass began her career as a conservative Republican but her



politics changed by the 1940s. She became more progressive but ultimately abandoned the Democratic party because of its failure to address the concerns of Black and women's rights.

Jurnee Smollett reveals that she's been sexually harassed on almost every set since age 12

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Actress and activist Jurnee Smollett's career in Hollywood has spanned more than three decades. The star made her first television appearance in a commercial at just 10 months old. However, despite her longevity, the actress still found herself dealing with the dark hardships of the business.

During an interview with The Hollywood Reporter, the "Eve's Bayou" actress revealed that she had been sexually harassed on almost every film and television production set she was on since she was a preteen. "I don't know that I can confidently say that I worked on one job prior to 'Lovecraft [Country]' from the time I was 12 on where I hadn't been sexually harassed, whether it was by an AD, a co-star, director, producer," the actress explained.

Smollett later reportedly asked that THR, where she appeared on the cover of its Aug. 5 issue, amend her statement after she was able to recall a small number of productions where she was not made to feel uncomfortable at work.

However, the actress did give detail about a time where a co-star made a rude comment regarding her body shortly before they were set to shoot an intimate scene together. "Like, a guy saying before we're about to do this love scene, 'Hey, your tits are going to be hanging in the wind,' is not OK," the actress explained.

"The Great Debaters" star also recalled a time where the sexual harassment she experienced was so intolerable that she was left with no choice but to ask to be released from her contract. "And they let me out," Smollett said.



Getty Image

Ponder this

2020 Mix of hot mess



By Hazel Rosetta Smith
Contributing Scribe

I know you have heard it said, "We are all in the same boat." I say, "We are all in the same mess." Some folks have a yacht, while others do not have a raft to hold them afloat. I believe; nobody wants to be impoverished and nobody is foolish enough to think they can run on empty. Surviving and thriving are not the same across the board.

We agree COVID-19 hit everybody hard in health, housing, employment, business, psychologically and emotionally, but certainly not in the same way. The haves and the have nots may share the same trauma of unexpected deaths due to the virus, but not the same drama of trying to make it on a dime.

January 2020 seemed like just another entry into a new year. Out of the blue, shock waves catapulted our new year resolutions into how to handle an invasion of an unseen enemy. We started out bumping elbows and minimizing hugs and kisses, hoping that would win the battle. The infectious COVID war took hold, we were ordered to stay home and shut down.

We have moved from confusion to crisis to chaos and then head on into calamity under the leadership of a president who comes up out of an imaginary tunnel when he chooses, rambling on with trivial nonsense, boosting his ego by

way of arrogance and insult, barely offering any assistance when we need it the most.

If anyone is thinking the 2020 mess is subsiding, stay ready for what is yet to come. Do not deceive yourself, the TRUMP will be taking advantage of every moment of every day leading to the election to flaunt his form of patriotism to his platform and to those who still cannot see the forest for the trees that are standing before their eyes.

Confusion and distraction have been the name of his game from early on in this administration. There is more to come. First, they wanted more time for the Census, now rushing to an early end in the count that could hinder the numbers needed in communities for budgets and fair political representation.

The wishy washy of what is going on with USPS is a part of the chaos TRUMP validates. It does not take a wizard to know a slowdown in postal operations will delay mail in ballots and curtail the count. This is warranting damage control to assure what is the law, every citizen has the right to expect their vote to get counted.

There is no shame in accepting the fact that a stagnant postal service creates dangerously late delivery of medical supplies, which has already been reported. And there is still a large majority of citizens who receive monthly checks by mail from social security, pensions, and other forms of assistance.

From good help, to no help, to a little bit of something, the unemployed are jockeyed back and forth with threats of evictions from landlords as the rules seemingly change from week to week. Are evictions legal during this time or is it up to the individual landlord according to their personal needs, which can be valid.

Unemployment across this nation is flying over the roof, while the bartering continues. \$600, no; \$400, maybe, could be



Joe Biden and Kamala Harris wearing masks are stepping into the mess

merely \$300. How long will it take to resolve that insensitivity? You will not know until the check is in your hand. A second stimulus check is far-fetched, when some are still reporting they did not receive the first.

September is just a step away and parents shiver at the thought of their children returning to unsafe school buildings and teachers fear what the children will spread to them and their families if they return. The struggle is real.

If the need to clear the white house of this ineffective governing body is as urgent as it is obvious, we must take a stance to trust team BIDEN/HARRIS to be the best

they can be under great duress in the mess they will step into come January 2021.

Yes, Joe Biden's choice of Senator Kamala Harris as his VP nominee was a proud day for African American women and the country. As Harris accepted the nomination, I could hear Marvin Gaye singing "Let's Get it On." I say, hold up, the White House has an occupant who could be shady to the end.

Nothing must hold us back from climbing out of the pit of discontentment, disorder and various degrees of disgust that is exhibited for the world to see from the current resident of the house the slaves built.

As we sift our way through all the messiness of what we heard and saw this week from the TRUMP family caravan and others who refuse to see clearly the reality show they helped to create and continue to support, we the people must be about getting everybody's vote, young and old, to the polls or the post office. God bless America, please!

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

Bounce partners with NAACP to stream 2020 Virtual March on Washington

Bounce will partner with the NAACP to live stream the 2020 Virtual March on Washington. The two-day event will take place on August 27-28, the 57th anniversary of the first March on Washington which was highlighted by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. The 2020 Virtual March on Washington will feature speakers and performances that prioritize equity, justice, and opportunity for all, with speakers including **Rev. William Barber II, Stacey Abrams, Congresswoman Bren-**

da Lawrence, Mayor Steve Benjamin, Yusef Salaam and Tamika Mallory with performances by **B.B. Winans, Lisa Ramey, Alvin Ailey Dance Company, H.E.R. and Macy Gray.**

"Bounce was founded to serve the African-American community with a focus on educating our viewers on issues that matter most to them. Our partnership with the NAACP and live streaming of the 2020 Virtual March on Washington will bring awareness to the policy changes needed to end police brutality and racial discrimination

but with an urgent call-to-action to vote," commented Bounce General Manager **Cheryle Harrison.** "Bounce is committed to fighting systemic racism and racial injustice and the launch of our Your Vote, Your Voice campaign provides actionable information for our viewers, from registering to volunteering. Black voices need to be heard and counted in this upcoming election; this is not the time to be silent."

"The NAACP is incredibly grateful to Bounce for live streaming the Virtual March on Washing-

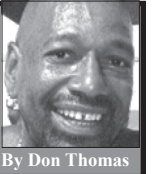
ton and ensuring that programming from the event reaches a larger audience within the African American community," said **Aba Blankson,** Senior Vice President of Marketing and Communications for NAACP. "We are in a critical moment in our nation's history, and now more than ever we must show our collective power in putting forth a bold new Black agenda that promotes equity, justice, and equal opportunity for all."

About the NAACP

Founded in 1909 in response to

the ongoing violence against Black people around the country, the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) is the largest and most pre-eminent civil rights organization in the nation. We have over 2,200 units and branches across the nation, along with well over 2M activists. Our mission is to secure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all

Entertainment



By Don Thomas



Maya Angelou

There are a handful of important people kids learn about in school and during Black History Month: **Martin Luther King Jr.**, **Harriet Tubman** and **George Washington Carver**, just to name a few. But while these Black history figures have certainly made significant cultural contributions, there are many more that have fallen under the radar. In order to give your kids an ever-widening view of the world, we've found Black History Heroes that have left a legacy for generations to come.

(Photos: [Wikimedia Commons](#))

With more than 30 bestselling titles, **Maya Angelou** wrote 36 books, not the least of which was her first book "I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings." Although she died in 2014, Ms. Angelou is remembered as a brilliant writer, poet and Civil Rights activist. Oprah Winfrey said of her friend, "Maya Angelou is not what she has done or written or spoken, it's how she did it all. She moved through the world with unshakable calm, confidence, and a fiery, fierce grace and abounding love."

Gwendolyn Brooks, was an American teacher, poet and author. During her life, Brooks authored over 20 books of poetry and one novel. In 1968, Brooks was named poet laureate for the state of Illinois, and in 1950 she was the first African American to

win the Pulitzer Prize.

Charles Drew, is considered a pioneer in blood plasma research, and the modern blood bank. While in attendance at Columbia University, Charles Drew discovered the "shelf life" of blood could be extended by as much as seven days by separating and storing whole blood and plasma separately. Before that, blood could only be stored for up to two days. Charles Drew also wrote a dissertation "Banked Blood: A Study in Blood Preservation," where he described the technique he developed and the logistics involved for the long-term preservation of blood plasma. Today Charles Drew is revered as the Father of Blood Banking.

Daisy Bates, When the Supreme Court ruled that segregated schools were unconstitutional, Daisy Bates stepped up to help a group of Black students integrate into an all-white high school—that group is known as The Little Rock Nine. In the face of constant fear and intimidation, Bates worked tirelessly to escort those young men and women to school every day and protect them from violent crowds. Daisy Bates was a lifelong Civil Rights activist, and her work is still recognized and today. In the state of Arkansas, every third Monday in February is observed as Daisy Gatson Bates Day, and in 1999 she was Posthumously awarded

Black Heroes kids should know by name

the Medal Of Freedom.

In 1877 **Henry Ossian Flipper** became the first African American to graduate from West Point. Upon his completion, Flipper was also the first Black man to be commissioned in the Army (or any branch of the military for that matter). **Alice Allison Dunnigan**, was the first Black female White House Correspondent. She was also chief of the Associated Negro Press, and in 1948 she became the first Black woman to follow a Presidential campaign (Harry Truman's) on the road. Years later, she served as an education consultant on JFK's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity.

Arturo Schomburg, was a writer, historian and activist. As a leader of the Harlem renaissance, he collected art literature and other artifacts belonging to people of African descent. In 1926 his collection was purchased by the New York Public Library, and today the Schomburg Center is a research division of the NY public library. With more than 11 million items in the collection, the Schomburg center is devoted to the preservation and exhibition of Black history, and the arts and culture of the African diaspora.

Claudette Colvin, was an early activist in the Civil Rights move-

ment in Alabama. Nine months before Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white woman, Claudette Colvin did the same. At the young age of 15, Colvin was later arrested; violating the city's segregation laws were among the many charges leveled against her. Colvin later told Newsweek, "I felt like Sojourner Truth was pushing down on one shoulder, and Harriet Tubman was pushing down on the other—saying, 'Sit down girl! I was glued to my seat.'"

Ron Finley, a young man growing up in South Central LA, was all too familiar with the lack of fresh produce. Determined to change that, Finley started a garden on a dirt patch in the sidewalk outside of his home. When the city cited him for gardening without a permit, he rallied other "green activists" and petitioned for the right to grow food in his neighborhood. Finley won, and today he is affectionately known as "The Gangsta Gardener." Now a community leader, he is determined to help urban communities break out of their "food prisons." Ron has traveled extensively, speaking publicly on the topic, and he has even done a TEDTalk that has been watched by more than 3 million people.

Shirley Chisholm, a true pi-

oneer in both race and gender, she was the first Black woman elected to Congress representing NY's 12th District. In 1972, she was also the first woman to run for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination. During her time in Congress, Chisholm fought for improved education, health and human services and women's rights. She famously said, "If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair."

In 1938, **Fred Jones** designed and patented a portable air-conditioning unit for trucks, which was largely used to transport perishable foods. Jones' invention became invaluable during WWII when the refrigeration units were used to preserve and transport food, blood and medicine to hospitals and soldiers on the battlefield. **Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler**, was the first female African American physician. She also wrote "Book of Medical Discourses in Two Parts" in 1883, which is considered one of the first medical texts written by an African American author. After the Civil War, she also worked for the Freedman's Bureau for the State of Virginia, the federal agency that helped more than 4,000,000 slaves make the transition from slavery to freedom.



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